

# for the Record

Devoted to Kentucky's State Archives and the Historical Record

Spring 2007

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I N S I D E

**Register Now!**  
**KY Archives Institute**

**Archives Addition**  
**Need is Critical**

**New Research**  
**Opportunities**

**E-mail Management**  
**is New Challenge**



## KDLA Hosts Regional Conference

*Nine States Participate in 2007 Southeastern Archives and Records Conference*

Archivists and records managers from nine southeastern state archives met in Frankfort recently for the 2007 Southeastern Archives and Records Conference (SARC). The April 24-26 event, hosted each year in a different state, brings together key staff from each institution for an exchange of ideas and a discussion of best practices. It's also a chance to discuss current challenges which state archives face in common and provides a forum to identify potential solutions and opportunities to work in common.

This year's SARC meeting brought together fifty-one attendees, with representatives from Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia. Participants were divided into groups according to their responsibilities in their home institutions. Separate group sessions were held on records management, digital access, emergency management, and reference services. State archives directors also met as a group. In addition to the scheduled business sessions, out of state attendees also had an opportunity to tour local sites of interest, including the special collections department of the Thomas D. Clark Center for Kentucky History. The SARC planning committee received many favorable comments from conference participants.

Staff of KDLA's Public Records Division express special thanks to the Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc., for their sponsorship of the SARC dinner at the History Center and to local businesses for their support of this year's conference. The 2008 SARC meeting will be held in Montgomery, Alabama.

### Archives Addition: A Critical Need

*KDLA Commissioner Makes Case  
in CPAB Testimony*

Appearing at the May 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Capital Planning Advisory Board (CPAB), KDLA Commissioner and State Librarian Wayne Onkst advised Board members of the critical need for construction of an archival facility addition to KDLA's main building. Onkst emphasized that without this action, KDLA cannot meet its specific statutory responsibility to preserve and make accessible the state's permanent public records. He noted that KDLA is by law the state's official repository for records of

*Cont. on pg. 3*

*"The keeping of the public record of a civilized people is a continuing responsibility where properly the task is never completed. The vigilance necessary to preserve the record is synonymous with that of preserving the freedom of an open and democratic society." Dr. Thomas D. Clark, former Historian Laureate of Kentucky*

## Archives Research Room Hours and Closings

KDLA's Archives Research Room is located at 300 Coffee Tree Road, off State Highway 676 in Frankfort. The Archives Research Room is open to the public from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. It is closed on Saturday and Sunday, all official state holidays, and special events. Free parking is provided outside the KDLA building.

Upcoming closures, please mark your calendars!

May 28 – Monday	Memorial Day
July 4 – Wednesday	Independence Day
July 13 – Friday	Kentucky Archives Institute

## Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc. Board of Directors

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For The Record  
Vol. 7, No. 4  
A publication of the  
Friends of Kentucky  
Public Archives, Inc.  
P.O. Box 4224  
Frankfort, KY 40604

# Research Opportunities at the State Archives

## Papers of Governor William S. Taylor

The gubernatorial election of 1899 in Kentucky set off a chain of events that ranks as one of the great stories in the history of the Commonwealth, and nearly resulted in a civil war within the state. The State Archives holds records from several different sources that help to document these events, but one of the most interesting collections consists of the **papers of Governor William S. Taylor.**

The two main contestants in the 1899 election were the Republican, William S. Taylor, and the Democrat, William Goebel. The vote totals were very close, but the Board of Election Commissioners finally decided that Taylor was the winner by a slim 2400 vote margin. Governor-elect Taylor was inaugurated on December 12, 1899. However, the Democrats in the General Assembly contested the results, and a committee was appointed to study the election. Tempers ran high on both sides, and then, on January 30, 1900, William Goebel was shot not far from the front entrance to the Capitol. Governor Taylor called out the State Guard and armed men supporting both parties gathered in Frankfort. The Democrats in the General Assembly were able to garner enough votes to invalidate Taylor's election, and Goebel was sworn in as Governor on January 31 on his deathbed. He died on February 3. Taylor refused to relinquish his office, and for a time both he and Goebel's Democratic Lieutenant Governor, J.C.W. Beckham, claimed to be the legitimate Governor. The courts eventually decided in favor of Beckham, and Taylor fled to Indiana after being indicted as an accessory to Goebel's murder. He was never tried, and in 1909 Governor Augustus Willson granted him a pardon covering any charges.

Even though William S. Taylor only served for a few months and his papers are not extensive, they do offer an interesting view of his official activities and of the social and political climate of the times. As with most governors from this era, the majority of the governor's official correspondence file consists of **petitions for pardons.** Governor Taylor granted clemency to a number of applicants, for crimes ranging from carrying a concealed weapon to manslaughter. One typewritten petition from a fellow Republican from Mason County in January 1900, at the height of the election controversy but prior to Goebel's murder, contains a handwritten postscript advising the Governor to "be sure and hold the Goebel bluffers steady. If you want any help, call on the Maysville State Guards." In March 1900, Taylor pardoned several men charged with Goebel's murder, including Caleb Powers, his Secretary of State. Powers' petition states in part that "mobs have threatened to be formed. . .for the purpose of hanging and assassinating the Republican officials of this state," and that it is "very probable that the civil authorities of Franklin County are not sufficient to protect this affiant in his personal safety should a mob attempt to do him bodily harm."

## Papers of Governor William S. Taylor

All governors maintain an **Executive Journal**, which lists any official actions that the governor takes on a daily basis. The first month or so of Governor Taylor's Journal contains the usual entries for appointments, extraditions, and rewards.



Governor Taylor



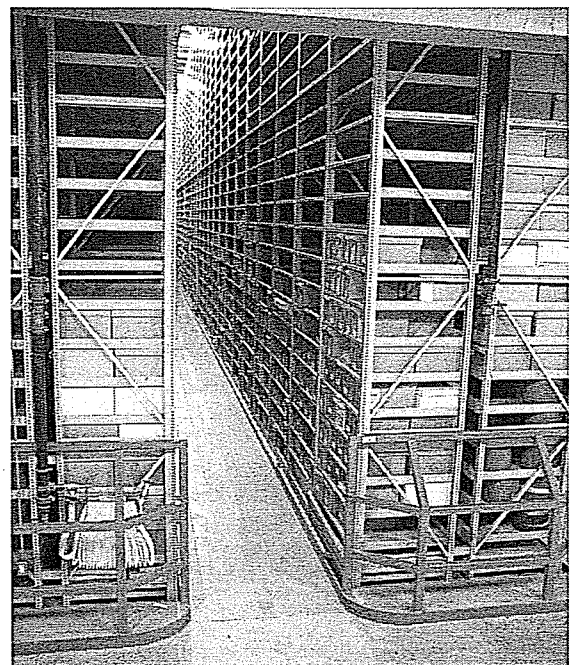
Governor Goebel

The entry for January 30, 1900 (the day that Goebel was shot) states only that "no bill, order, resolution or vote of the General Assembly was presented to the Governor today." This same entry is repeated for the next several days. No mention is made of the uproar resulting from the attack on Goebel or his swearing-in as Governor, or even his death. Interestingly, an entry dated January 30 but actually written in the Journal after the entry for February 3 consists of a proclamation directing the General Assembly to meet in London, Kentucky (a Republican stronghold) because the capital was in a "state of insurrection." This never happened, and after Goebel's death both sides agreed to allow the courts to decide who should be the legal occupant of the Governor's Office. For the next several months the state was faced with the strange circumstance of having two "governors" trying to perform the duties of the office at the same time. Governor Taylor's Executive Journal contains mainly a daily repetition of the statement that "no bill. . . was presented to the Governor today," which reflects the fact that the Democrat Beckham was working with a Democratic majority in the General Assembly, and Taylor basically had no real power at all. As noted above, he did issue pardons to several Republicans who had been charged in Goebel's murder, but these were in effect empty gestures. In April the courts decided once and for all in Beckham's favor. Then Taylor himself was indicted on charges related to the murder and soon decamped to Indiana, which had a Republican governor who declined to extradite him back to Kentucky. The entry in Taylor's Journal dated May 6, 1900 blandly states that "the Governor this day left the state."

Governor William S. Taylor's papers provide a unique perspective on one of the most interesting and controversial periods in Kentucky history. All of these records are open and available for use.

## Archives Addition is Critical

permanent value and that it has a stewardship responsibility on behalf of all citizens and public agencies to protect the state's documentary legacy. Continued growth in transfers of records to the State Archives has exhausted KDLA's available environmentally controlled storage. In fact, KDLA has been required to extend a moratorium on further records transfers to the State Archives first announced in June 2005, due to a lack of appropriate storage space. Onkst also noted the impact of construction of new county judicial facilities in 75 counties around the state. He said that these new facilities don't have the space for records storage, that they aren't designed for historical research, and that the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) is transferring all but the most recent local judicial records to KDLA for storage and research purposes. KDLA is committed to meeting the needs of AOC and other public agencies, but it must have additional capacity to do so. John B. Dobson, General Manager for the Department of Court Services, AOC, appeared with Onkst in support of the capital planning request. KDLA has submitted a capital construction proposal for a building addition for consideration in 2008 by the General Assembly. The addition is an essential part of KDLA's three part strategy for managing archival records in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, complementing its Electronic Records Archives and its Clark Center for Digital Imaging.



*KDLA's proposed high elevation, high volume addition, an economical option which maximizes storage in limited ground space, is a design in use in more than 40 U.S. and Canadian universities. It would complement KDLA's e-Archives and digital reformatting services and is modeled on the Provincial Archives of New Brunswick (Canada).*

## Kentucky Secretary of State Launches New Database

*VA Treasury Warrants Latest Addition  
to Land Office Website*

Kentucky Secretary of State Trey Grayson recently announced the addition of the Virginia Treasury Warrants Database to his agency's Land Office website at <http://sos.ky.gov/land>. In a taped message shared May 19<sup>th</sup> at the National Genealogical Society conference in Richmond, VA, Grayson said that the new database "is going to be an incredible resource for researchers and historians." The new database includes information for over 23,200 Treasury Warrants authorized by the May 1779 Land Law.

Historians, genealogists, and constituents can now access databases and view images of newly discovered records regarding "Corn and Cabin" patents authorized by "Certificates of Settlement & Preemption Warrants" issued by the Virginia Land Commissioners from 1779 to 1780. A second database, "Lincoln Entries," allows researchers to access information and view scanned images of over 4,700 Lincoln County Entries filed from 1779 to 1792 when Lincoln County was one-third of the Kentucky District of Virginia. The site also includes a Kentucky Land Office "Reference Library" which features an online Gazetteer, Glossary, Quick-Reference Guides, and an Online Seminar.

## Archives' Staff Conducts Training

*E-mail Management Focus of Broad Initiative*

Jim Cundy and Mark Myers, of KDLA's Public Records Division (PRD), have been spreading the word about e-mail management. Since last December, Cundy, manager of PRD's State Records Branch, and Myers, Electronic Records Specialist in PRD's Technology Analysis and Support Branch, have conducted numerous training sessions for state employees. These meetings are designed to make employees aware of their records management responsibilities under Kentucky law, to advise them of the issues surrounding the use of e-mail communications, and to demonstrate the tools already available that facilitate management of e-mail.

These sessions were prompted by a change approved to the **General Schedule for State Agencies** by the State Archives and Records Commission. The change is to *General* (or routine) *Correspondence*. Currently, the retention for that records series reads *Retain no longer than two years*, which allows agency staff to destroy *General Correspondence* at any point in that two year period. To facilitate consistency across state agencies, that retention period will be changed to two years. In the future, all agency staff will need to maintain their *General Correspondence* for two years. The Commission approved the change at its meeting on December 14, 2006, with a delayed implementation date of July 1, 2007.

The recommendation to delay implementation of the change was a result of Commission members' desire to ensure that affected employees had received appropriate training. There was significant concern that state agency employees might not be fully aware of their records management responsibilities, the change itself, and the tools they have to implement the change. The result was that PRD staff was charged with increasing awareness among state workers of their records management duties and the means at their disposal to implement the retention change to *General Correspondence*.

Cundy and Myers have conducted the training for over 300 state employees, representing over 100 different executive branch state agencies, all the public universities, and the legislative and judicial branches of government. Those in attendance have included agency senior executive management, information technology staff, numerous attorneys and supervisory personnel, state agency Records Officers, and several individuals who work on open records requests.



*Attendees at the 2007 Southeastern Archives and Records Conference enjoyed an opening dinner at the historic clubhouse at Buffalo Trace Distillery, Frankfort.*

# *Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc.*

## **The Twenty-Third Annual Kentucky Archives Institute**

Sponsored by: Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc., and  
Public Records Division, Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives

July 13, 2007

Activity Room, Second Floor, Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives

- 8:30-9:00 Registration
- 9:00-9:15 Welcome
- 9:15-10:15 *"Dr. William L. Sutton and Kentucky's First Vital Statistics Law"*  
Lisa Thompson, KDLA
- 10:15-10:30 Break
- 10:30-11:30 *Mexican Punitive Expedition*  
Brandon Slone, Military Records and Research Library
- 11:30-12:30 LUNCH
- 12:30-1:30 *"Men of Fortune: The Hidden History of Slave Trading in Kentucky"*  
Pen Bogert, The Filson Club Historical Society
- 1:30-2:15 *Kentucky's Colonial Wars*  
Walter Bowman, KDLA
- 2:15-2:30 Break
- 2:30-3:30 *Virginia Treasury Warrants in Kentucky*  
Kandie Adkinson, Land Office, Secretary of State's Office
- 3:30-3:45 Conclusion

**Please clip and mail the form below, along with registration fee(s), by July 6.  
Space is limited to 50 attendees.**

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Mail registration form with payment to: Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc.  
Kentucky Archives Institute  
P.O. Box 4224  
Frankfort, KY 40604

Registration fees: \$45 fee covers the cost of all Institute materials and lunch.  
\$50 fee covers Institute materials, lunch, and Friends membership for July-Dec., 2007.  
*Check here to reserve a vegetarian lunch.* \_\_\_\_\_

**Make checks payable to: Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc. (Fees are non-refundable.)**

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ I would like more information about the Friends. \_\_\_\_\_

*Many thanks to those of you who have renewed your membership in the Friends for 2007. We deeply appreciate your support of Friends' activities and of the services and mission of our State Archives.*

*If you are not yet a Friends' member, we urge you to become a member today by returning the membership strip at the bottom of this page. We need your help. The State Archives is working for all of us, and in this small way, we can help the Archives advance its programs and services.*

## Kentucky Council on Archives (KCA) Celebrates 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

On May 11, 2007, the Kentucky Council on Archives (KCA) celebrated its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary during its spring meeting held at Western Kentucky University. During this event, members shared recollections of the past, the present, and their hopes for the future of this archival organization. Members of a Founders Day panel discussed the history of KCA, memories of programs, and their thoughts on the first meeting. The panel included Bill Marshall, Bill Morison, Sister Emma Busam (representing Sister Mary Michael Creamer, who passed away several years ago), and Debbie Skaggs. Barbara Teague read a letter from Dr. Lewis J. Bellardo, Deputy Archivist of the United States and former Kentucky State Archivist, as he was unable to attend. Other items on the program included Mark Myers, Electronic Records Analyst with the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives presenting "Seeking Electronic Records Solutions" to the attendees. An Open Forum followed this presentation, and the group discussed archival work in their respective institutions. An anniversary reception followed the meeting.



Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc.

## Making a Difference: Acquiring Freedmen's Bureau Microfilm

The National Archives recently announced the release of the Field Office records for the Freedmen's Bureau in Kentucky, consisting of more than 133 rolls of microfilm. This collection documents the Bureau's efforts to assist, educate and protect Kentucky African Americans in the transition from slavery to freedom.

Created by offices located throughout the state, these records may include correspondence, contracts, marriage records, special censuses and numerous other documents that reflect the Civil War's aftermath for the freed slaves. An invaluable source on families, communities, schools and social conditions throughout Kentucky, the Freedmen's Bureau Field Office records would be a major complement to our Civil War era sources.

The entire collection may be purchased for \$8,645. The cost per roll is \$65.00. You can make a difference by helping the State Archives enrich its research offerings and enabling us to acquire this remarkable collection. Directed gifts of all sizes for purchase of this microfilm are most welcome. Please make your checks payable to the Friends of KY Public Archives, Inc., and write *Freedmen's Bureau microfilm* on the subject line of your check. All directed gifts identifying this project will be applied toward this purchase. Your assistance is deeply appreciated.

*The Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc., is a not for profit membership organization of private citizens concerned with helping the Public Records Division of Kentucky's Department for Libraries and Archives fulfill its role as a vital information link between people and government. The Friends' organization supports the management, preservation, and use of Kentucky's historic public records and serves as an advocate for the Kentucky State Archives, which the division manages. For further information, contact the Friends at P.O. Box 4224, Frankfort, KY 40604.*

### Yes, I would like to renew my membership in/become a member of the Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc.

My check for \_\_\_\_\_ made payable to the Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc., is enclosed. Membership benefits include a quarterly newsletter, a membership pin, and invitations to workshops, special events, the Kentucky Archives Institute, the Public Archives Symposium, and the annual meeting. Gifts to the Friends beyond the basic membership are tax deductible.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership levels: \_\_\_\_\_ \$15 Individual/Family \_\_\_\_\_ \$25 Libraries, Genealogical and Historical Societies \_\_\_\_\_ \$250 Life  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$50 Sustaining \_\_\_\_\_ \$1,000 Corporate \_\_\_\_\_ Gift to the Clark Endowment

Please clip and mail to: Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc., P.O. Box 4224, Frankfort, Kentucky 40604 \* We appreciate your support.



"Southern Harmony" singing was very popular in Kentucky in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Songbooks were written using the "shape note" system, in which geometrical figures (squares, circles, triangles, diamonds) replaced the musical notes. These singers are competing at the "Big Sing" held at Benton, Kentucky in the late 1930s. (This photograph is from records of the WPA Collection of the State Archives holdings, Public Records Division, Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives).

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P.O. Box 4224  
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