



for the Record

Devoted to Kentucky's State Archives and the Historical Record

Spring/Summer 2009

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KDLA: Focused on Mission in Tight Budget Times

The Public Records Division of the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives continues to carry out its important functions of documenting the work of government and securing the rights of citizens by ensuring that public records are well managed and that permanent records are safely preserved. Since the late Dr. Thomas D. Clark succeeded in having the Public Records Law passed in 1958, the State Archives has focused on records management and archival services for government agencies, and on providing access to information. Despite the severe budget situation in the Commonwealth, and the nearly 20% budget cut that KDLA endured in the 2009 fiscal year, the Public Records Division continues to focus on its mission and to provide these essential services to state and local governments and to our citizens.

One of the biggest impacts of the state budget cuts has been our inability to fill positions as they become vacant. We currently have eleven vacant positions in the Public Records Division. Because of our remaining dedicated staff, we

have been able to continue to provide high quality service to the agencies and citizens who rely on us for research and for records management assistance.

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Kentucky Archives Month

Planning for Kentucky's annual celebration of Archives Month is well underway. The Archives Month Coordinating Committee, under the direction of the Kentucky State Historical Records Advisory Board, met in March to begin preparations for this year's celebration which will be held in October 2009. The theme for this year is Abraham Lincoln in honor of his 200th birthday.

The committee is excited to announce two competitions for this year's celebration: the Kentucky Archives Month Poster Contest and the Kentucky Archives Month Video Contest. We are working with the Kentucky Junior Historical Society and the Kentucky National History Day Celebration to announce these contests.

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"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

The Archives Research Room is open to the public from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.
Free parking is provided outside the KDLA building.

Upcoming closures, please mark your calendars!

July 3	Friday	Independence Day
July 10	Friday	Archives Institute
September 7	Monday	Labor Day

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Research Opportunities at the State Archives Lincoln Records

The year 2009 is the bicentennial of the birth of Abraham Lincoln, and celebrations are ongoing throughout the Commonwealth and the nation to commemorate this noteworthy event. Lincoln was born in Kentucky, but moved to Indiana as a child and then on to Illinois. Although he is a native son, one might expect there to be few public records documenting Lincoln's connection to Kentucky since he left at such an early age. However, one collection of judicial records containing a significant amount of material which relates to Lincoln and his family is available in the State Archives.

Prior to the creation of the Kentucky State Archives, records from the Circuit Courts were generally stored in each county courthouse, often with minimal security. Case files involving prominent historical figures were sometimes removed from the courthouses over the years. At some point during the 1980s, Dr. Thomas D. Clark received a number of case files that had been taken from the Fayette County Circuit Clerk's Office. These cases were probably included in the estate papers of a collector of historic documents. Dr. Clark turned these records over to the State Archives, since the early Fayette Circuit Court records are now maintained here. Included in this collection were a number of cases involving Abraham Lincoln and his family.

Abraham Lincoln's great uncle, Thomas Lincoln, was a resident of Fayette County in the early 1800s. Thomas was involved in a number of lawsuits over the period of about fifteen years, from around 1803 to 1819. In most of these cases, Thomas was the plaintiff, meaning that he was bringing suits against other people, for a variety of causes, including non-payment of debts and broken contracts.

Several of the Fayette Circuit case files directly involve Abraham Lincoln. He had married Mary Todd, of a prominent Lexington family, in 1842. Mary's father Robert Todd died in 1849, and a number of lawsuits were filed over his estate. Since they were among Robert Todd's heirs, Abraham and Mary were parties in four of these suits, even though they were residents of Illinois at the time. One of the cases is of particular interest, since it contains a four-page document in Lincoln's own handwriting, and with his signature. Robert Todd's business partners alleged that Lincoln had collected a debt owed to Todd's firm in Illinois, but had not turned over the money. The document in Lincoln's handwriting includes his sharp rebuttal to this accusation against his honor. The court found in Lincoln's favor.

All of the original Lincoln case files have been photocopied for security and preservation purposes. These copies are available to researchers through the Archives Research Room. This recently accessioned collection of previously missing Lincoln records is an important and particularly timely addition to the holdings of the State Archives.

For The Record*
Vol. 10, No. 1
A publication of the
Friends of Kentucky
Public Archives, Inc.
P.O. Box 4224
Frankfort, KY 40604
*For The Record will be
printed twice annually.

Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc.

The Twenty-Fifth Annual Kentucky Archives Institute

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

July 10, 2009

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

- 8:30–9:00 Registration/Pastries
- 9:00–9:15 Welcome
- 9:15–10:00 50th Anniversary of Kentucky’s Public Records Law
-Barbara Teague, Kentucky State Archivist and Records Administrator
- 10:00–10:15 Break
- 10:15–10:45 “Finding Our Way Home: Historical Records in Kentucky”
A documentary produced by the State Historical Records Advisory Board
- 10:45–11:30 Adoption and Juvenile Records
-Mike Grimes, Adoption Services Branch Manager,
Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services
- 11:30–12:30 Lunch
- 12:30–1:15 Embattled Capital – Frankfort in the Civil War
-Jim Prichard, Kentucky Author and Historian
- 1:15–2:15 Electronic Records Preservation
-Mark Myers, KDLA
- 2:15–2:30 Break
- 2:30–3:30 State Publications – Treasures from the Past and for the Future
-Lisa Thompson, KDLA
- 3:30–3:45 Conclusion

Please clip and mail the form below, along with registration fee(s), by July 2.

Space is limited to 50 attendees.

If you have any questions, please contact Tim Tingle at 502.564.8300 ext. 251 or tim.tingle@ky.gov

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., 2009.

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. _____

Archives Symposium 2008



Appalachia is Theme of the 20th Public Archives Symposium

The Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc. sponsored another successful Public Archives Symposium on October 23, 2008 at Shaker Village. The Friends' Board met in the morning for their annual business meeting and received a year in review report from President Jim Powers. State Archivist and Records Administrator Barbara Teague then discussed the accomplishments of the Public Records Division over the preceding year, and explained the impact of the budget crisis on KDLA. After a pleasant lunch at the Trustees' Office, the Symposium was held. Dr. Ronald D. Eller, Professor of History at the University of Kentucky and former Director of the Appalachian Center, spoke about his new book, **Uneven Ground: Appalachia Since 1945**. He was joined by Dr. Thomas Kiffmeyer, Associate Professor of History at Morehead State University, who discussed his book, **Reformers to Radicals: The Appalachian Volunteers and the War on Poverty**. Both presentations focused on post-World War II Appalachian history and were well-received by those in attendance.

Preserving the American Historical Record Act introduced in Congress

The Preserving the American Historical Record Act (PAHR), HR 2256, was introduced in the House of Representatives on May 5, 2009. PAHR would authorize \$50 million to preserve and provide access to historical records by supporting:

- Creation of a wide variety of access tools, including archival finding aids, documentary editions, indexes, and images of key records online;
- Preservation actions to protect historical records from harm, prolong their life, and preserve them for public use, including digitization projects, electronic records initiatives, and disaster preparedness and recovery;
- Initiatives to use historical records in new and creative ways to convey the importance of state, territorial, and community history, including the development of teaching materials for K-12 and college students, active participation in programs to provide education and training to archivists and others who care for historical records.

The bill authorizes base funding for each state or territory, with the remainder of funding distributed using a population/area-based formula. Kentucky's annual share would be over \$712,000, based on a \$50 million appropriation.

Kentucky Archives Institute Scheduled for July

The 25th Annual Kentucky Archives Institute will be held at KDLA on Friday, July 10. State Archivist and Records Administrator Barbara Teague will speak on the history and significance of the Public Records Law. The luncheon speaker will be Jim Prichard, who served as Archives Research Room Supervisor for over twenty years. Jim will speak about research on his current project, a history of Frankfort during the Civil War. Other presentations will include guidelines for accessing adoption and juvenile records in Kentucky, strategies for the preservation of personal electronic records resources, and a discussion of the state publications collection at KDLA. The agenda and registration form are included in this newsletter.

The Council of State Archivists, the Society of American Archivists, and the National Association of Government Archives and Records Administrators fully support this bipartisan bill. It would be of great benefit to have one or more of Kentucky's seven members of Congress to sign on as a co-sponsor to this legislation.

For more information on the bill, please see: <http://www.archivists.org/pahr/index.asp>.

For more information on contacting your representative in Congress, please see: <http://www.house.gov/house/MemberWWWbyState.shtml#ky>.

Please contact Barbara Teague if you have any questions, or would like to know more about how passage of this bill will help our Kentucky repositories.

The local records grant program was also affected, and was not able to award as many grants to county clerks and local officials as we had projected. This program has served local governments since 1984, with direct on-site records management assistance and monetary grant awards to secure and preserve local government records, such as deeds, marriages, and wills. The local records staff is able to provide essential records management and archival advice to local officials, despite the reduction in grants.

The State Archives is also scrutinizing travel, supplies, and other costs very carefully. Our staff does not use state funds for out-of-state travel and is very judicious in undertaking only the most urgent in-state travel. We are saving paper, electricity, and other resources in order to be good stewards of Kentucky tax dollars. A great example of this is our recent change in the review process for retention schedules submitted to the State Archives and Records Commission. Previously, reviewing schedules involved sharing stacks of paper, usually four to five inches high, with an internal review group of eight or more people, then with the Commission's Advisory Committee of at least eight people, and then the Commission itself, a seventeen member body. At least six or seven reams of paper were used for each of these series of quarterly review meetings. Now, the staff provides the retention schedules and the supporting analysis information to individual members electronically, so that reviewers can see the documentation on their computers. The information is also projected on a screen at the two review meetings and at the Commission meeting, saving several thousand dollars per year in printing costs, and helping us "go green".

In these lean budget times, we are continuing our five decade tradition of doing good work at the State Archives: preserving the history of the Commonwealth, providing records management assistance to ensure efficient government, and guarding the rights of citizens through records preservation. We are

Mark Your Calendar!

Public Archives Symposium and Friends' Annual Meeting

Thursday, October 29, 2009
Shaker Village

Thank you!

The staff of the State Archives would like to express our gratitude to Friends' Board member Donna Stark Thompson for her generous financial support. Her assistance will allow us to microfilm an important collection of pre-statehood records, consisting of four Supreme Court of Virginia (District of Kentucky) Order Books, dated 1783-1789. The books are in fairly good condition, but handling any records that are over 220 years old is a preservation concern. Microfilming will allow us to provide access to the extremely significant historical information contained in the books while preserving the volumes themselves. Again, thank you Donna for your continuing and very generous support.

now doing it on a leaner budget than we would have imagined possible, and with the smallest staff we have had since the mid-1980s. In these days of frugality, when we are all looking for more value for each dollar, Kentucky taxpayers can be absolutely sure that they are getting their money's worth, and more, from the Kentucky State Archives.

-Barbara Teague

You Can Help!

The Archives Research Room always has equipment or supplemental resource needs for which state funds are not available. Private donations have long played an important role in permitting the State Archives to fill these gaps.

Please consider making a donation, large or small, to the Friends. Any amount - five, ten, or twenty dollars - will help make a difference. Your donations to the Friends are always tax deductible.

Please make your checks payable to: **Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc.**, and mail it to the address on the Friends' membership form below.

Many thanks to those of you who have renewed your membership in the Friends for 2009. We deeply appreciate your support of Friends' activities and of the services and mission of our State Archives.

If you have not yet renewed or 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. The State Archives is working for all of us, and in this small way, we can help the Archives advance its programs and services.

If you are currently a Friends member, please consider becoming a Life Member. All Life Memberships become part of the Friends' Clark Endowment Fund for internships in archival administration. Earnings from the Fund support graduate internships at the State Archives and help train those who will lead the Archives in the years ahead.

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The poster contest will be open to all Kentucky students, kindergarten through eighth grade, and the winning poster will be printed as part of this year's Kentucky Archives Month Poster. The poster must represent Abraham Lincoln. This poster will also be submitted to the American Archives Month poster contest, *Picture This!* which is held in conjunction with the Society of American Archivists annual meeting in August 2009. Information concerning the poster contest is available at <http://archivesmonth.ky.gov>.

The video contest will be open to all Kentucky high school students, grades 9-12, and the winning video will be made available for viewing on the Kentucky Archives Month website. The video must show documentation concerning the research process and the use of primary source material. A process paper and bibliography must also be submitted with the video. The winners will receive a certificate of merit presented at their high school as well as a gift card. Information concerning the video contest is also available at <http://archivesmonth.ky.gov>.

We encourage all Kentucky archival and manuscript repositories to commemorate Archives Month in some way, with an open house, a workshop, a featured speaker, an exhibit, a tour, or any other type of event.



Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc.

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 biannual 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.



"Relatives and friends of the family of the deceased going home from a memorial meeting in the mountains near Jackson, Kentucky" (August 1940), Marion Post Wolcott, Farm Security Administration (FSA) Photographer. *(This photograph is from the Work Projects Administration (WPA) Photo Collection in the State Archives holdings of the Public Records Division, Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives.)*

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Frankfort, Kentucky 40604