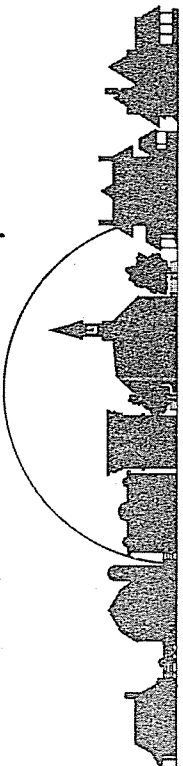


FRIENDS OF KENTUCKY PUBLIC ARCHIVES, Inc.



VOLUME IV

A NEWSLETTER

SPRING 1988

A Message from the President

The Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc., is an independent group of private citizens concerned with the proper management, preservation and use of the Commonwealth's historic public records. Articles of Incorporation are filed in Frankfort for this non-profit organization, bylaws are adopted, and membership is open.

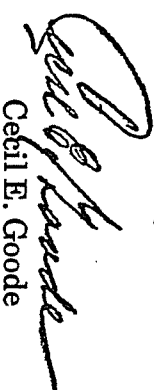
The Friends group provides support and assistance to the state's Public Records Division which houses state and local records of permanent value and makes them available for research. The group is raising funds to help preserve Kentucky's documentary heritage and to provide additional research services to the public.

Among our goals are the increased microfilming of state and local records; purchase of additional research material; preparation and publication of finding aids and other research tools for public use;

conservation of the records; and a statewide program of interest to all citizens interested in establishing local archives programs.

The Friends group needs you to join in this important work to assist in the support for the preservation and management of our Kentucky archives. Please join and ask your friends who love Kentucky's history to join, too.

Sincerely,



Cecil E. Goode

News'n Notes

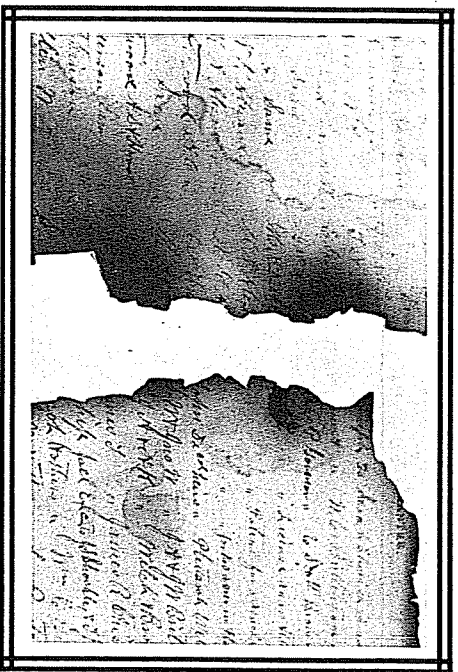
The fifth annual meeting and dinner of the Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc., was held at the Ramada Inn in Frankfort on November 20, 1987. The Friends business meeting was held at the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives and preceded the dinner.

Featured speaker, the Honorable J. William Howerton, Chief Justice of the Kentucky Court of Appeals, spoke on the historical value of Kentucky's judicial records and of the need for their sound

management and preservation. Judge Howerton, who was chair of the *Special Commission on Constitutional Review*, also spoke on the dynamic quality of the Kentucky Constitution and of our responsibility as citizens of the Commonwealth to constantly review and test this vital, legal instrument.

AFTER THE FIRE **Allen County Records Restored** **With Local Records Grant**

When the Allen County Courthouse was destroyed by fire in 1902, the only items salvaged were some of the county's vital records. These records, including deeds, marriage licenses, and probated wills, along with their corresponding indexes dated back to the 1800's. No means were available at the time to restore the records, but the fragments, many showing fire and water damage, were retained.



Fire and water damaged records

When the new courthouse was built, the records were returned to the county clerk's office in their damaged condition. For more than fifty years, attorneys and researchers in search of essential information have worked with the remnants of these early record books. As time passed, the damaged materials suffered further deterioration from mildew, mold, and the general wear and tear of everyday use. In many cases, burnt and frayed pages were disintegrating before the user's very eyes. In 1985, the records were

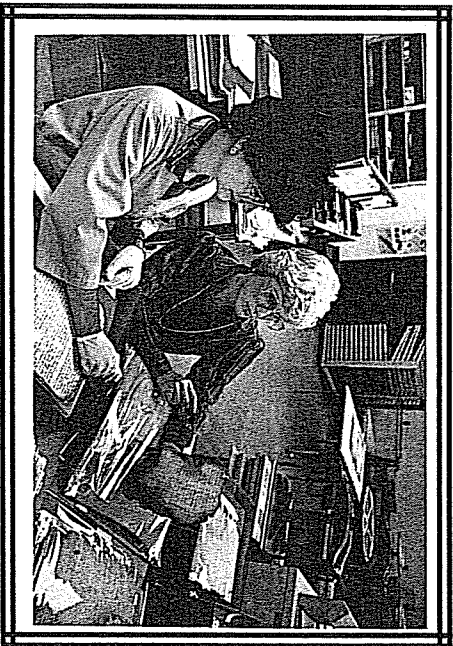
in too fragile a condition to be microfilmed without special arrangements.

Current County Clerk, Elvis Russell, realizing the situation had become critical, turned to the Department for Libraries and Archives' Public Records Division and its Local Records Program for advice and assistance. Gerald Thompson, the division's Local Records Regional Administrator serving the Allen County area, worked with Mr. Russell to assess his needs and recommend that he apply for a Local Records Grant. A grant proposal was developed to provide for restoration and preservation of the county's damaged records.

After the grant award to Allen County was announced in 1985, Mr. Russell began working with the division's Document Preservation Laboratory, which undertook the required preservation and restoration of 12,000 pages of original records. The first stage in that process involved fumigating or treating the records for insects, mold and mildew. Each page was then individually surface-cleaned. In instances where pages had been reduced to fragments, the remaining small pieces of paper had to be reassembled like the parts of a puzzle and reinforced with paper and non-acidic paste.

Since the natural acids in paper cause general deterioration of records, the final stage of preservation was the deacidification process. This involved dipping or spraying the pages with a magnesium or calcium carbonate solution. In some cases, non-water soluble deacidification solutions were used to avoid damaging the documents. After deacidification was completed, the 12,000 pages were encapsulated in clear mylar sleeves to protect them from further deterioration.

Mr. Russell and his deputy clerks worked with preservation laboratory staff to assemble the pages in proper order so they could be bound as actual record books. More than sixty hours have already been devoted to this time consuming process. The newly restored records are now being microfilmed for security purposes.



Document Encapsulation

The Allen County grant is one of more than 300 awarded by the Department for Libraries and Archives' Local Records Program since its inception in late 1984. Grants are available to local governments to ensure the preservation of vital public records and to encourage improved records management practices in local government offices. With the creation of the grant program, a significant step has been taken to secure vital local government records, but the work has just begun.

The Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc. continue to enhance these efforts through their local records workshops with city and county officials and with Public Records Division staff, taking an active role in voicing concerns about the maintenance and integrity of local records across the Commonwealth. Through such cooperative, grassroots efforts, we help to ensure that the state's documentary heritage remains secure for all Kentuckians.

ANNOUNCING

New Release: *A Guide to Kentucky Birth, Marriage, and Death Records, 1852 - 1910*
(Rev. ed.) 1988, Price, \$7.00

May be ordered from the Public Records Division, Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives.

**FRIENDS OF KENTUCKY
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Memberships received as of April 1,
1988, as a result of the current
membership drive.

(IM) Individual Membership
(FM) Family Membership
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The Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc. invites your support of the Thomas D. Clark Endowment Fund

You may do so by sending your contribution to

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 Frankfort, KY 40602-0537

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FRIENDS HOLD LOCAL RECORDS SEMINAR

FRIENDS OF KENTUCKY PUBLIC ARCHIVES, Inc.

I wish to become a member of the Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc., and to support the preservation and management of Kentucky's documentary history.

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Class of Membership:

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Please make checks payable to:

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Frankfort, Kentucky 40602**

The latest in a series of regional seminars sponsored by the Friends on the management and use of local government records was held April 19, 1988, at Thomas More College, Crestview Hills. As in previous seminars, speakers stressed the integral link between preservation and use of archival records of permanent value and their sound management in the offices where they are created. Without such management many records never reach an archival repository, or reach repositories in physical conditions which prevent their use or long-term retention.

Professor James Ramage of Northern Kentucky University, speaking on "Our Culture in Our Records," underscored this very point and recounted the many ways local public records mirror and give texture to the lives of Kentuckians. Local officials, including Newport City Clerk Frank Peluso, Boone County Clerk Jerry Rouse, and Kenton County Director of Pupil Personnel Bruce Clark discussed issues related to the management and use of records in their offices and of the positive impact KDLA's Local Records Grant Program has had on their operations.

KDLA Document Preservation Supervisor Mary Samples discussed the importance of conservation, identifying it as a clear responsibility of management. Seminar participants also viewed a videotape on planning and recovery procedures for disasters affecting records, regardless of medium.

Afternoon speakers, including Thomas More Academic Affairs Dean Dr. Ray Hebert, professional researcher Pat Donaldson, Charles King of the Kenton County Public Library, and Greg Harper of the Behringer Crawford Museum, spoke of the value and variety of local public records and other archival resources and of the many ways these materials can be used for teaching or personal research

The next seminar in this series is scheduled for Louisville on September 7, 1988. **Please plan to Attend!**

Friends' Calendar of Notable Events

- June 1 Executive Committee Meeting
- June 17 Archives Institute (*Tentative*)
- July 20 Board Meeting - Executive,
Committee Meeting at Lunch
- Sept. 7 Louisville Area Local Records
Workshop
- Oct. 19 Board Meeting - Executive
Committee Meeting at Lunch
- Nov. 18 Sixth Annual Meeting and
Dinner, Frankfort

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