
Friends of Kentucky Public Archives

Volume VII Number 2

Summer 1991

Civil War Ancestors Focus of Friends' April Workshop

The Northern raids of Confederate hero John Hunt Morgan were the subject of keynote speaker Dr. James Ramage at a Civil War-era records workshop held April 13 at the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives.

More than 50 participants attended "Finding Your Civil War Ancestors: An Introduction to the Archival Sources," which was sponsored by the Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc. The one-day program was conducted in cooperation with the Department for Libraries and Archives and the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

Dr. Ramage, professor of history at Northern Kentucky University, and three other speakers discussed the nature of public records created during that epochal period in American history, and their significance in family research. Dr. Thomas D. Clark talked about the unknown records of Kentucky's Civil War Governors. Union and Confederate federal records were addressed by Dr. Frank Levstik, Regional Administrator, KDLA. James Prichard, Supervisor of KDLA's Archives Research Room, discussed state and local government records from the era.

In conjunction with the workshop, an exhibit of some of these unique records was installed in the KDLA lobby and publicly opened at a reception held on April 12. The records are remaining on exhibit through the summer.



Attending a reception at the opening of a KDLA exhibit of Civil War records were, from left, Richard Belding, Anne L. Rodick, Donna Stark Thompson, Dr. James Ramage, Mary Doyle Johnson, and Jim Nelson.

Regional Archives and Records Conference Attracts 150 Attendees

More than 150 persons from Kentucky and six other states in the region met in Lexington during May for the Southeastern Archives and Records Conference.

Hosted by the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives, the three-day meeting featured workshops

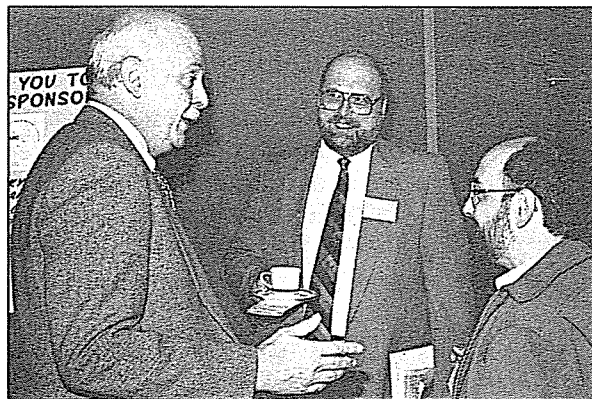
and programs on current issues in the fields of archival administration and records management. Topics such as grant writing, information resource planning, preservation programs, electronic records and oral history were among many subjects covered in a series of educational sessions.

Featured conference speakers were Daniel M. Sprague, Executive Director of the Council of State Governments, who discussed current records management initiatives of the council's member organizations, and Dr. Thomas D. Clark, Kentucky's Historian Laureate, who reflected on the many years he has been involved with the Southeast's archival institutions.

Conference attendees also enjoyed a reception at the Bodley-Bullock House in historic Gratz Park and an evening of food and fun at the Kentucky Horse Park.

The 1991 SARC meeting was jointly sponsored by the Department for Libraries and Archives, the Friends of Kentucky Public Archives and the Kentucky Council on Archives. Next year's conference will be conducted in Richmond, Virginia.

(Additional photographs from the May SARC meeting appear on page 5.)



KDLA Regional Administrator Frank Levstik talks during SARC registration to Richard Cameron of the National Historic Publications and Records Commission and Charles King of the Kenton County Public Library.

Records Profiles: Bankruptcy Case Files

an underutilized source for social and economic history

By
Gayle Peters & David Hilkert
National Archives—Southeastern Region

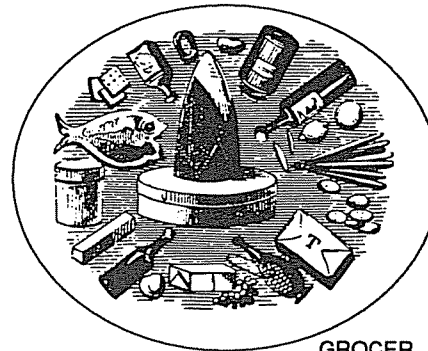
Second in a Two-Part Series

In the first part of this article, which appeared in the last issue of this newsletter, authors Gayle Peters and David Hilkert stated that bankruptcy case files provide a large pool of data for examining national trends or illuminating local studies. Various bankruptcy laws passed by Congress since 1800 reflect the economic and social conditions of the times. For nearly half our national life, the Act of 1898 provided a uniform law prescribing standard procedures and use of common forms. The records it engendered provide historians with an image of how Americans lived, struggled, and succeeded (or failed) in the economy of their community and the nation.

Economic historians will find a satisfactorily large population of case files from the 1898 Act, useful in developing quantitative studies based on time and/or place. For example, the Great Depression years show a noticeable jump in the volume of bankruptcy proceedings, while the post-World War II years show a dramatic drop in filings. Comparing national or local economic and fiscal policies and situations might provide useful insights for the economist, the historian, and the political scientist about the impact of governmental actions on perceived needs.

Because the records were created by specific courts, local historians will find they can easily study conditions over the entire eighty-year pe-

riod for localities from towns and counties to an entire state. Social historians, sociologists, and genealogists can find a wealth of information about family lifestyles and locations, community relationships, and community vulnerability to external forces.

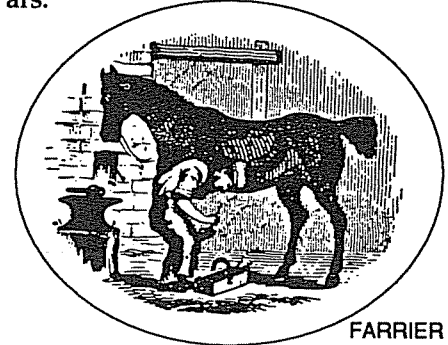


GROCER

Comparative regional studies can also prove rewarding, and comparing rural/urban, coastal/inland, North/South or East/West parings might provide insight into the diversity of the American economy and society at any given time.

Business historians can expect to find data on individual firms and whole industries — restructuring of organizations, commercial relationships, mercantile route and markets, and information on business operations. A general store in rural Mississippi, for instance, might reflect a variety of creditors, whereas a specialty business in an urban setting such as Cleveland or New York might produce a more homogeneous list of creditors.

Since the 1898 Act permitted some discretion by judges in encouraging residents of their districts to file for bankruptcy, these differences among the courts — as reflected in the records — can also be instructive to legal scholars.



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One caveat: While the 1898 Bankruptcy Act cases may aid researchers interested in demographic studies, information about ethnic origin is not specifically listed in the files and will have to be confirmed by consulting other sources such as the Federal population censuses, all of which indicate race and country of birth. The censuses are available on microfilm at all of the regional archives.

Bankruptcy case files offer a unique source of social and economic information. They contain vast amounts of data, they are certainly accessible, and they offer support to many scholarly disciplines. The National Archives invites researchers to the regional archives to explore the bankruptcy files.

For more information about bankruptcy case files in the regional archives, contact: The Regional Archives System (NNA) National Archives Washington, D.C. 20408 (202) 501-5340; FTS 241-5340.

*Reprinted with permission from
 The Court Historian, Vol. 1, No. 3, October 1990
 Federal Judicial History Program.*

A word to our Friends...

It is my pleasure to serve as your president for 1990-91 and I look forward to a year of growth and exciting activities for the Friends. The Friends, a not-for-profit corporation, is an independent group of private citizens concerned with proper management, preservation, and use of the Commonwealth's historic public records.

We will continue to publish this quarterly newsletter in order to increase public awareness of the State Archives, its mission, and collections.

On behalf of the Friends, I urge you join us today in this important work.

George M. Cunha,
 President

Grants Offer Continuing Assistance for Managing Local Agency Records

Public agencies across the Commonwealth continued to reap the benefits of KDLA's Local Records Grants Program this year as 48 units of local government received 1991-92 awards to improve the management and preservation of their records. Grant assistance totaling \$624,973 was provided through the program to 32 counties and 16 cities so far this year.



Gov. Wallace G. Wilkinson presents a Local Records Grant award for the Laurel County Clerk's Office to Clerk Dean Johnson and Peggy Johnson at a March ceremony at the Department for Libraries and Archives.

Most of the grants were awarded to officials representing 43 public agencies during a late-March ceremony at the Department for Libraries and Archives.

Presenting the grants to the officials, Gov. Wallace G. Wilkinson said, "Today we recognize that information is a critical resource and must be well-managed.

"Our local government records are really a statewide resource," he continued, "and Kentucky's local records grants program is working hard to assure that your permanently valuable records are secure and protected."

The grants will be used by recipients for microfilming, restoring damaged or deteriorating records, installing automated indexing systems, codifying ordinances or purchasing equipment and supplies to help them preserve and manage the records in their care.

To date, every county and 202 municipal governments have received one or more grants.

A number of other local agencies also have participated as grant recipients in the six years since the program began.

In addition to the grants program, the Department for Libraries and Archives, through its regional local records staff, provides technical assistance to local public agencies across the state.

❖
Be a Friend!
Join the Friends
of
Kentucky
Public Archives
today.



Kentucky Archives Institute Conducted

The seventh annual Kentucky Archives Institute was conducted July 12 at the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives in Frankfort.

Genealogists, local historians and others interested in using public records in their research took part in the day-long seminar.

Highlighting the program was luncheon speaker, Dr. Thomas Owen, Associate Archivist at the University of Louisville. Owen addressed new perspectives for researchers in his talk, "Your Family's Place in Community History."

Another featured speaker, Gayle Peters of the National Archives' Southeast Region office, gave an overview of research in federal records and discussed how Tennessee

Please see page 6.

Recent Accessions

By

James M. Prichard

*Archives Research Room Supervisor
 Department for Libraries & Archives*

New Genealogical Sources In the Research Room

In addition to the largest collection of public records in the state, the Archives also maintains a small, but valuable, collection of printed genealogical sources. Complementing the holdings of the Kentucky Genealogical Society, whose library is housed at the Archives, this collection consists of Kentucky county histories and published sources on general topics such as land and military records.

Two recent additions to our collection of county histories include Harrison D. Taylor's *Ohio County, Ky. in the Olden Days* and Dr. Thomas D. Clark's recently published *History of Laurel County*. A reprint of a 1926 edition, Taylor's work not only contains valuable historical information, but a list of Ohio County marriages for the years 1799 to 1840, as well. Dr. Clark's study represents a scholarly, well-written history of Laurel County from its creation in 1826 to the present day. This work is an excellent example of how local history should be written and offers a wealth of information to both genealogists and historians.

The Research Room has also acquired additional reference sources for those interested in finding their Revolutionary and Indian War ancestors. While many genealogists cringe at the thought, their colonial ancestors might have remained loyal to the King during the War for Independence. Paul J. Bunnell's *The New Loyalist Index* (Bowie, MD.: Heritage Books, Inc., 1989) may contain valuable information about one's Tory ancestors.

Please see page 6.

Records Rescue!

Dirt, mold and critter nests cleaned from records

Armed with face masks, gloves, brushes, rags and scalpels, staff from KDLA's Public Records Division took nine days off from regular duties this spring to perform emergency cleaning of nearly 325 volumes of records from a single Kentucky county.



Damaged court records such as these required emergency cleaning.

Preservation lab staff Bruce Brooks and Linda Arnett, aided by Martha Frois and Lee Forrest of the Technology Analysis and Support Branch, cleaned the books of dirt, mold and termite and mouse nests. The books were cleaned at a remote location because they could not be brought to the archives without treatment.

Most of the books—county court and some circuit court records—had been stored in an exhibition building of the county fairgrounds for the last couple of years. Others had been stored in a printing company's warehouse.

A portion of the records will be preserved by microfilming with the support of the Administrative Office of the Courts microfilm program. The county court records will be considered for preservation treatment with future local records grant money.

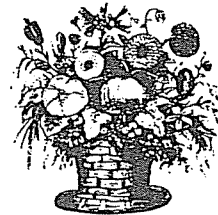
Kudos

Women's Commission Honors Maysville's Jean Calvert

Jean Calvert of Maysville, an active Friends' member who serves as a vice president of the organization, was among 55 women from throughout Kentucky who were recently honored for their meaningful contributions to the Commonwealth.

Mrs. Calvert was cited by the Kentucky Commission on Women and Gov. Wallace G. Wilkinson for her community service and for her work with the Maysville Community College and the Mason County Museum.

She and other nominees for "Kentucky Women of the Year" were guests at a banquet in June in Frankfort where the governor congratulated them as representative of women who, through their talents and accomplishments, have contributed to the quality of life in the state.



1991's Thomas D. Clark Intern:

Matthew G. Schoenbachler Is Student of Southern History

The 1991 Thomas D. Clark intern is Matthew Gerard Schoenbachler, a graduate student in history at the University of Kentucky. A Louisville native who grew up in Alabama, Schoenbachler received a B.A. degree from the University of North Alabama in 1989. He received a Haggin Fellowship for 1990-1991 to pursue his master's degree at UK where he is studying antebellum Southern history with an emphasis on Kentucky.

During the course of his study during the past year, he said, "I had the opportunity to work with the papers of Brutus J. Clay (brother of Cassius Clay) in the university library's special collections. In doing so, I prepared an inventory for the family's 1861 correspondence as well

as wrote a paper exploring the antagonisms within the Clay family engendered by the coming of the Civil War."

dered by the coming of the Civil War."

Schoenbachler said that, although his experience with archival materials has been as a patron, he sought the internship because he has an interest in learning more about the selection, arrangement and description of primary source materials. "I believe the internship will be an excellent opportunity to learn about the internal workings of archival repositories," he said.

Following his completion of the internship, Schoenbachler plans to return to UK where he will continue studies toward the master's degree.



Clark Intern Matthew Schoenbachler discusses work with KDLA Archives Research Room staff member, Jane Julian.

A Welcome to New Members of the Friends

The Friends of Kentucky Public Archives wish to welcome those individuals who have joined the organization during the current year. The following is a partial listing of new members. Others will appear in future newsletters.

Doris E. Heyn
(Jefferson County Public Schools)
Louisville

Shirley J. Bôtkins
(Jefferson County Public Schools)
Louisville

Colonel James S. Corbitt
Martin, TN

Leona Hafling
Floyds Knobs, IN

Dr. Richard Hamilton
Marysville, CA

Nell Hamilton
Marysville, CA

Mr. & Mrs. Edward G. Jones
Dunnellon, FL

Mary Etta Kirby
Richmond

Mrs. Harold McKinney
West Liberty

Lenna E. Trief Wallace
Dayton, OH

Lillian H. Johnson
Louisville

Peggy Galloway
Danville

Anna Mae Hettinger
Louisville

Frances Redding Ravine
Lexington

Frances K. Barr
Lexington

Isaac M. Moore
Lexington

Doris Yeiser
(Kentucky Baptist Convention)
Middletown



Short Takes:

Kentucky Colonels Award Grant to Friends

In June the Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels again awarded a grant to the Friends to assist the organization in carrying out its goals. The recent grant of \$3,325 is being used for the purchase of three Dukane Microfilm Readers for the Archives Research Room. The new equipment will replace readers which had become badly worn due to extensive use by researchers, thereby enhancing Research Room services. Earlier grants from the Colonels to the Friends have been used for the purchase of other microfilm readers and for a security system for the State Archives.

Local Records Workshop Scheduled

The next workshop in a continuing series of programs on using local records for historical and genealogical research is set for September 20 in Somerset. The day-long program, featuring presentations by area officials with responsibility for public records and staff from the Public Records Division, will be held at the Holiday Inn.

SARC Participants Enjoy Local Hospitality



Attendees enjoyed a reception at the historic Bodley-Bullock House in Lexington's Gratz Park, left. Barbara Teague right, coordinator for the regional conference, waved from the group's hayride at "Olde Kentucky Night," which took place at the Kentucky Horse Park.



Archives Institute Conducted

Continued from page 3.

Valley Authority records can be effectively used in family history studies.

Jim Prichard, supervisor of the Department for Libraries and Archives' Research Room, informed participants about the wide variety of state agency records available for research.

"Preserving Your Family Records and Photographs," presented by KDLA's Document Preservation Lab Supervisor Mary Samples, offered attendees practical information about how to properly care for these irreplaceable documents.

Kandie Adkinson of the Secretary of State's Land Office once again joined the Institute lineup with her discussion on Kentucky's land records. Information on county clerk and local judicial records was provided by KDLA Local Records Regional Administrator Frank Levstik,

At the conclusion of the program, Institute attendees were awarded certificates of participation by Public Records Division Director and State Archivist Richard Belding.

New Genealogical Sources In the Research Room

Continued from page 3.

Based on sources in both Canadian and American archives, Bunnell's study contains the names of more than 5,000 Loyalists. Each entry provides the following information: name, unit, and rank of subject, brief data on residence, and date of birth, marriage or death.

Murtie June Clark's *American Militia in the Frontier Wars 1790-1796* is a compilation of state militia organizations which were authorized and paid by the newly formed federal government to fight in the post-Revolutionary Indian Wars. This guide includes rosters for the militia of Kentucky, Virginia, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Georgia, as well as the Ohio Territory and the old Southwest Territory. Entries generally include: name, unit, rank, term of service and any available "remarks," i.e., deserted, died, etc.

These sources, the collection of the Kentucky Genealogical Society and the largest collection of public records in the state are prime examples of the wealth of genealogical and local history sources available at the State Archives.

Coming this fall —

Local Records Workshop
Friday, September 20, 1991
Holiday Inn, Somerset

Research Room Volunteers Attend Document Preservation Workshop

Friends members who generously donate their time and expertise as volunteers serving the public in KDLA's Archives Research Room were treated to a special workshop at the department in June.

Mary Samples, supervisor of the department's document preservation laboratory, conducted the session for 15 volunteers. In demonstrating various preservation techniques to participants, Samples stressed the importance of restoring and preserving public records to serve as bridges from Kentucky's past to its future.

Following the morning workshop, volunteers were guests of Public Records staff at a cook-out lunch.

Join the Friends' Volunteers

Join your fellow researchers in a collegial atmosphere and lend your expertise to the Archives Research Room by volunteering.

For additional information, call the Public Records Division at 502-875-7000.

Reflections

Responding to public demand, the Public Records Division has reprinted the 1990 publication, *Reflections: Occasional Papers on Research in Kentucky Public Records*.

The first in a planned series of papers based on presentations at the Friends' annual Public Archives Symposium, the publication includes the 1989 Symposium address of Dr. George C. Wright, professor of History at the University of Texas. The research for his topic, "The Forced Removal of Afro-Americans from Rural Kentucky," relied heavily on information contained in public records.

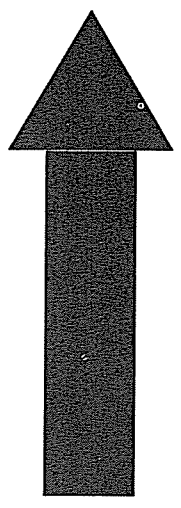
The *Reflections* paper also includes a section in which Dr. Wright discusses research he has conducted in public records for a number of his scholarly works. A final section of the paper details additional sources, available in the State Archives, which document the heritage of black Kentuckians.

To request a copy of *Reflections*, telephone 502-875-7000, extension 173.

Research on the rise

During the State Fiscal Year for 1990-91, which ended on June 30, Public Records Division access staff saw numbers of patrons and records usage continue their upward course.

- More than 6,600 walk-in researchers were served.
- Over 4,000 research requests by mail were answered.
- Nearly 4,700 telephone requests were answered.
- More than 24,500 rolls of microfilm were used.



- Almost 11,500 record request forms were processed for patrons.
- Total patron research requests for the year grew to 15,300, following four consecutive years when figures remained constant in the 14,000 range.
- Patron research requests from 1985 through 1991 topped 85,530.

Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc., Membership Form Box 4224, Frankfort, Kentucky 40604



My check for _____ made payable to the *Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc.*, is enclosed. Benefits include a quarterly newsletter and invitations to workshops, special events, the Kentucky Archives Institute, and the annual meeting. Gifts to the Friends are tax deductible.

Individual	\$10	<input type="checkbox"/>
Family	\$15	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sustaining	\$50	<input type="checkbox"/>
Life	\$250	<input type="checkbox"/>
Corporate	\$1000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gift \$	_____	
New Member		<input type="checkbox"/>
Renewal		<input type="checkbox"/>

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Telephone _____

I would like to receive a membership pin. _____

Please clip and mail to a friend along with a note about our work.



WPA Collection, State Archives

"Strawberries Ready for Market"

"Strawberries Ready for Market" is the caption on this ca. 1940 photo from the WPA Photo Collection. The collection contains more than 850 images photographed between 1926 and 1941 as part of the federal project to document life in Kentucky.

There is now a complete photocopy set of these photos for the public to view so the originals will not receive unnecessary handling. The archives will arrange for copies to be made of any print in the collection for a nominal fee.

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