

The Kentucky Archivist

Newsletter of the Kentucky Council on Archives



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LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Ruth Bryan, KCA Chair 2022-2023

Greetings, KCAers!

It's late January as I write this message, and the temperatures are in the low 30s degrees Fahrenheit. We've had some freezing rain overnight but so far not much snow. Of course, the entire state experienced the arctic blast December 22-26, 2022, with snow and temperatures below 0 degrees Fahrenheit. Many pipes burst here at the University of Kentucky while most of the academic employees were on holiday break, but luckily, no major impact to Special Collections (although many other buildings, labs, and offices across campus sustained major damage). I hope you fared OK during the terrible cold. Spring is coming! Our Northern Hemisphere vernal equinox will be on March 20 this year, when the length of daylight and night is almost exactly equal.



LETTER FROM THE CHAIR *continued*

Spring also heralds the Kentucky Council on Archives spring meeting, which will be focused on disaster preparedness and response. The Board is working on finding a good location, date, time, and speakers. We would like to meet in Eastern Kentucky and are exploring a variety of options. Mark Meade, KCA webmaster, has also uploaded to the KCA website the Board meeting minutes for the 2019-2020, 2021-2022 terms, as well as the current 2022-2023 minutes, so you can see what we've been up to. We welcome your questions and comments.

In addition, the loose group I've been coordinating that is brainstorming possible Kentucky-wide disaster preparedness and response network and training met four times in fall 2022 and will meet again in February. The group continues to grow and now includes Cathrine, Rusty, and myself from KCA (Cathrine also representing the State Historical Records Advisory Board, SHRAB); Emily Moses, Kentucky Arts Council; Alvey Scott, Jodi Lewis, and Deana Thomas, Kentucky Historical Society; Rebecca Halbmaier, Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives; Mandy Higgins, Lexington History Museum; Melissa Bond, Kentucky Cooperative Extension; Becky Ryder, Keeneland Library; and Craig Potts, Kentucky Heritage Council. Working with Jessica Evans, we have started preparing a leaflet on cultural heritage disaster preparedness and response for cooperative extension agents to go along with the initial set of Cooperative Extension Community Arts Disaster Recovery Series leaflets.

Finally, we're looking for a slate of candidates to fill a variety of KCA officer positions for the next few years. Please consider running! KCA is a vibrant, service-oriented organization. Serving on the Board is a great way to lead and support archival activities in the state as well as to meet and work with colleagues from various archival repositories.

- Ruth

KCA BOARD

Ruth Bryan, Chair
University of Kentucky

Megan Mummey, Past Chair
University of Kentucky

Rusty Heckaman, Vice Chair
Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives

Sandra Baird, Treasurer

Elizabeth Reilly, Secretary
University of Louisville

Dieter Ullrich, Member-at-Large
Morehead State University

Heidi Taylor-Caudill, Member-at-Large
John James Audubon State Park Museum

Mark C. Meade, Webmaster
Bellarmine University

Cathrine Giles, Newsletter Editor
Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives

[Learn about KCA Governance here.](#)

KCA BOARD NEWS

Call for Board Nominations

Are you interested in serving on the KCA Board? Consider nominating yourself (or someone you know!) for one of the following positions:

- Vice Chair/Chair Elect
- Treasurer
- Member-at-Large (1)
- Webmaster
- Newsletter Editor

Each position is a three-year term. The elected Vice Chair will serve as Chair during the second year and Past Chair in the third year. In order to serve on the Board, you must be a KCA member in good standing. Board members are expected to attend business meetings and KCA events. The Board facilitates the operations of the organization, plans membership meetings and events, and advocates for the professional interests of its members.

Information about each position can be found [in the bylaws](#).

Nominations should be sent to Ruth Bryan (Ruth.Bryan@uky.edu) or Rusty Heckaman (Rusty.Heckaman@ky.gov).

KCA 2022 Fall Meeting Recap

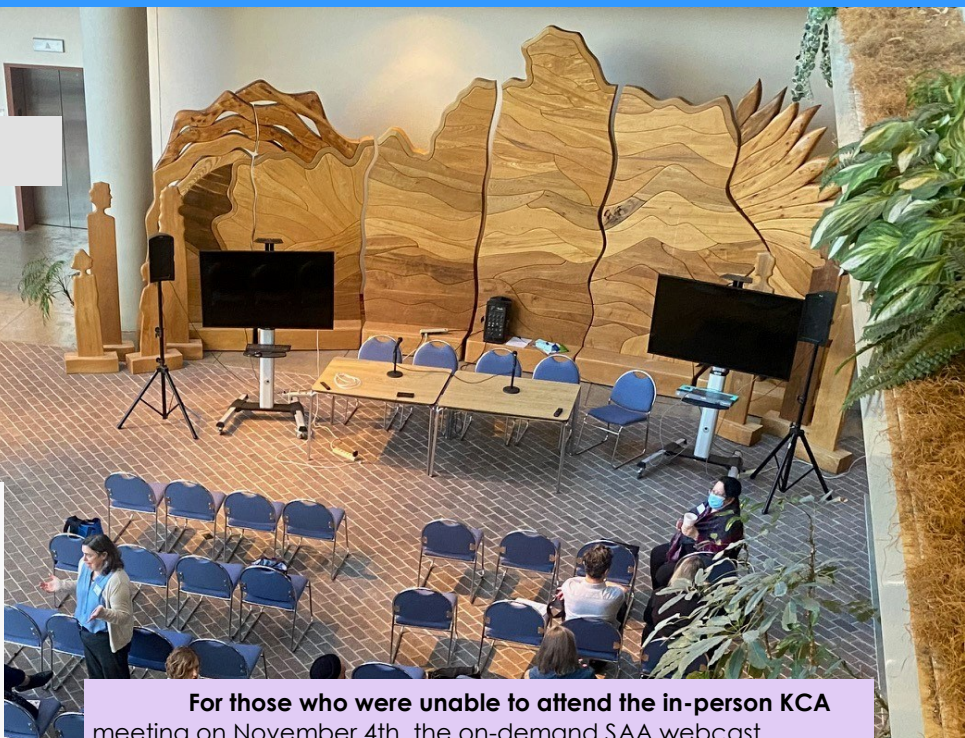


The fall meeting was held in person at the [Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives](#) in Frankfort, Kentucky. Participants attended one of two Society of American Archivists webcasts about managing digital records.

In the afternoon, the speakers were Chris Fenner, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary; Kopana Terry, University of Kentucky Libraries, Nunn Center for Oral History; Derek Clark, Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives; and Danielle Spalenka, Filson Historical Society. They each spoke on their respective digital preservation efforts and projects. KCA Chair Ruth Bryan led the Q&A sessions.

Participants were also able to tour the building and State Archives with KCA Vice Chair Rusty Heckaman.

KCA was able to fund the registration fee for four members to attend one of the webcasts for a Digital Archives Specialist credit. Jay-Marie Bravent and Alyssa Ollier share their experience.



For those who were unable to attend the in-person KCA meeting on November 4th, the on-demand SAA webcast provided an excellent opportunity to participate and engage in the workshop remotely.

"Digital Records: The Next Step," originally produced on September 20, 2017, combined a previous 8-hour in-person SAA workshop into this one-hour on-demand webcast in a two-part series. Having attended the prior in-person versions of these workshops in years past, the current webcast edition provided an appropriate overview of the content and a high-level view of digital archiving principles. With existing familiarity of the material, it was easy to pass the exam after watching the webcast. It was also great to hear Mark Myers' friendly voice again, having served with him on the KCA board when he was still at KDLA. The ability for Kentucky archivists to access this webcast through KCA served as a beneficial professional development experience; many thanks to the KCA board and programing team for offering this workshop!

- Jay-Marie Bravent, University of Kentucky

Alyssa Ollier, Digital Archivist at the Kentucky Historical Society, is excited to announce that she has completed all the necessary coursework and comprehensive exam for the Digital Archives Specialist (DAS) certificate from the Society of American Archivists (SAA). KCA was instrumental in helping Alyssa achieve this goal by providing funding for one of the courses, "Basics of Managing Digital Records," which Alyssa completed in December 2022. Alyssa is extremely grateful for the opportunity to continue her education and training through SAA as she has navigated her career path in the aftermath of the pandemic. Though her previous background focused almost entirely on physical rare books and manuscripts, she has come to appreciate the value of digital resources, especially their ability to facilitate encounters with history for users who may not be able to visit archives in person. She hopes that the DAS certificate will help her become a better steward of the Kentucky Historical Society's digital resources, as well as an advocate for the use of digital material in research and outreach.

- Alyssa Ollier, Kentucky Historical Society

KCA MEMBERSHIP NEWS

University of Louisville's Archives and Special Collections

Submitted by Carrie Daniels, Elizabeth Reilly

University of Louisville's Archives and Special Collections is happy to welcome two wonderful colleagues!



Hannah Pryor joined us in June 2022 as Archivist for University Records. She holds an MLIS from the University of Alabama, where she worked as a graduate assistant in the Hoole Special Collections Library. Most recently, she served as Senior Archivist

for the Commissioners of the Land Office, an Oklahoma state agency.



Emma Beck joined University of Louisville Archives & Special Collections as Metadata Librarian in December 2022. She holds an MLIS from the University of Illinois-Urbana Champaign and a BA from Mount Holyoke

College, and has worked in Access Services at Mount Holyoke College's Library, Information and Technology Services as an undergraduate and full-time staff member.

The University of Louisville Archives and Special Collections seeks an archivist to process and provide access to the Barry Bingham Jr. Courier Journal Photograph Collection.

The Barry Bingham, Jr. Courier-Journal Photograph Collection comprises approximately three million images spanning the majority of the twentieth century and

documenting a wide-ranging variety of events and topics relating to Louisville and Kentucky. Coverage of everything from the Kentucky Derby to the life of hometown hero Muhammad Ali are included, as are local politics and visits by national politicians; a variety of social justice movements, high school, collegiate, and professional sports; celebrities, disasters and scandals; an extensive variety of intimate local-interest stories, and much more. The collection consists of photographic prints, negatives of various sizes, glass plate negatives, and slides that were shot for the Louisville Courier-Journal and Times newspapers from the early 1900s to the early 2000s (the bulk being post-1937). The material is labeled and mostly in order by date and photographer.

The CJ Collection Archivist will oversee the processing of the collection to a completed finding aid with a full print folder list and negative assignments list. This work will include culling prints, putting boxes in order, refiling out of order materials, rehousing materials into custom boxes, and providing reference services to the Courier-Journal staff.

Subsequent work will include a digitization project and the creation of programming around the collection.

Primary Responsibilities

The CJ Archivist's first responsibilities will be to coordinate the processing of the entire collection, which will include:

- Developing and implementing a collection processing plan
- Arranging materials for organization and ease of use by researchers, including Courier-Journal staff
- Re-housing materials into appropriate archival enclosures for preservation
- Compiling and maintaining a DACS-compliant finding aid in ArchivesSpace
- Hiring, training and supervising student assistants

KCA MEMBERSHIP NEWS

University of Louisville *continued*

Submitted by Elizabeth Reilly

- Providing reference services to Courier-Journal staff and other researchers

Subsequent responsibilities will include:

- Developing and coordinating programming around the collection, which may include exhibitions, lectures, and support for community projects taking inspiration from the collection
- Planning and executing a digitization project
- Developing and maintaining a relationship with the Courier Journal donor community

Required Qualifications:

- Master's degree in Library Science, History, or a related field with an emphasis on archival theory and practice
- Minimum of two years' experience processing archival materials, including photographic materials
- Knowledge of archival theory, practice, and national and international standards and best practices that govern the arrangement and description of primary source materials
- Ability to establish priorities, set and meet goals and deadlines, and manage project schedules
- Ability to communicate effectively, both verbally and in writing
- ability to work independently, collaboratively in a team environment
- Supervisory experience of students, volunteers, or staff
- Demonstrated attention to detail and highly organized
- Experience with common computer applications such as Microsoft Office Suite (Word, Excel, Access, Teams, etc.)

Desirable Qualifications

- Experience processing large collections
- Experience or familiarity with ArchivesSpace
- Experience or familiarity with DACS, Dublin Core, and other metadata standards
- Knowledge of preservation standards for photographic materials

An online information session to learn more about the position and working environment was held on February 10, 2023. A recording of the February 10th information session about this position can be viewed [here](#).

This is a full-time term faculty position at the rank of Instructor or Assistant Professor. The minimum starting salary for this position at Instructor is \$46,000/year and at Assistant Professor is \$50,000. Salary is negotiated at the time of offer and is dependent on the experience and professional achievements of the successful candidate. Term faculty positions are on 12-month contracts renewable each year. The position reports directly to the Archivist for Photographic Archives. The successful candidate will receive a [comprehensive benefits package](#), an annual vacation of 22 working days, and support for professional development.

KCA MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Filson Historical Society

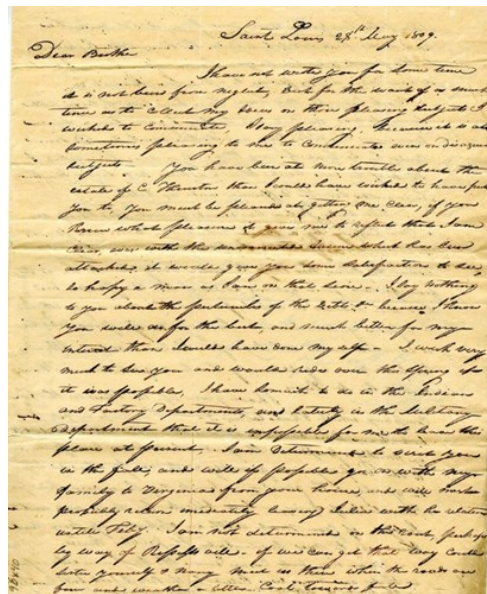
Submitted by Danielle Spalenka

With support from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Filson Historical Society is excited to announce the re-launch of the *First American West*, an online collection of letters, financial records, maps, and objects relating to the Ohio River Valley in the mid-1700s through the early 1800s. Originally a collaboration with the Library of Congress and the University of Chicago, [The First American West: The Ohio River Valley, 1750-1820](https://www.filsonhistorical.org/first-american-west) (FAW) was an early digitization project that launched in 2000. While it was an early standard bearer for digital history, it became unavailable in 2016 when the Library of Congress ended support for the project.

In our relaunch, an NEH-funded research team (Hailey Brangers, Marissa Coleman, and Jade Wigglesworth) has expanded the project to highlight the experiences of those originally excluded, including the voices of women, those enslaved, and the Indigenous communities that called our region home.

The files that were returned to the Filson from the Library of Congress (LOC) had been named using an internal system, and a spreadsheet helped map the files to the description of each object. However, the metadata was very minimal, with the title and a very short description of each digital object provided in non-standard format. The files could not be traced to the original collections. Hailey Brangers and Marissa Coleman were hired for the year to conduct research on the original finds as well as identify new materials for inclusion. They worked diligently to convert the existing metadata into the Dublin Core Metadata Standard to increase accessibility of the materials to closely follow the NISO Framework for Building Good Digital Collections. Jade Wigglesworth was brought on in the summer 2022 to identify objects from the Filson's Museum collections for inclusion in the project.

In addition to cleaning up metadata and selecting additional materials for digitization, the project incorporated a crowdsourcing transcription project. Initial explorations of the FAW metadata have located 38 transcriptions created according to the guidelines of the Text Encoding Initiative (TEI) P2, but the project allowed us convert to the current TEI P5 standard. The Filson is using the transcription platform FromThePage to crowdsource transcriptions of the documents that will go into the new *First American West*. At time of this publication, we have over 1800 pages of materials transcribed from volunteers. Those transcriptions will continue to be added to the digital resource.



We invite you to explore and learn more at <https://filsonhistorical.omeka.net/first-american-west>

KCA MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Thomas Merton Center

Submitted by Mark Meade

2023 marks the 75th anniversary of the publication of *The Seven Storey Mountain*, the autobiography of Kentucky writer and Trappist monk, Thomas Merton. Merton joined the monastery of Our Lady of Gethsemani Abbey near Bardstown on December 10, 1941 at 26 years of age. He was asked by his abbot to write his uniquely cosmopolitan story taking him from France, Bermuda, England, and New York to his eventual religious conversion and decision to enter a monastery known for its strict silence, hard work, and prayer. Published in 1948 as the world recovered from the sustained violence and destruction of the Second World War, Merton's discovery of meaning in a broken world made it an instant sensation, remaining at the top portions of *The New York Times* nonfiction bestseller list well into 1949. Acclaimed English novelist Evelyn Waugh edited a version for the British public under the title *Elected Silence*. *The Seven Storey Mountain* remains a spiritual classic of the past century.



exhibit of scans of many unique editions, signed copies, and rare printings of the autobiography. 99 books from the Merton Center collection are featured in the exhibit. Of the over 30 translations in which Merton appears in print, the exhibit represents 22 languages and publication in South America, North America, Europe, and eastern Asia. The scanned editions range in time from the first editions in 1948 through a Vietnamese edition in 2020.

In 2021, the Merton Center completed a digitization project and exhibit showcasing books kept by Merton with his marginal notes and with inscriptions by other authors and friends (available here: merton.org/Research/Marginalia). Users browse books from an image of a bookshelf and can inspect the cover, selected front and back matter, and pages that contains notations by Merton. The new exhibit features a browsable bookshelf; however, *The Seven Storey Mountain* 75th Anniversary exhibit has a greater focus on the binding, dust jacket, cover art, and unique characteristics of variant editions. The exhibit includes a range from leather-bound collector's editions to mass-market thrift paperbacks that flourished in the mid-20th century and that included eye-catching cover art.

The exhibit may be accessed from the front page of the Merton Center webpage (merton.org) or from the direct link: <http://merton.org/research/Mountain/>.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Midwest Archives Conference



April 13—15 | Chicago, Illinois

Join hundreds of archivists, curators and information professionals from a 13-state region and beyond to find out what MAC has to offer you. There are a number of tools available on this site to help current MAC members connect to other members, learn about upcoming events, manage their online profiles, and much more! [Details](#)



KCA Spring 2023 Meeting

May 12 or May 19 | Location TBD

This meeting will be an overview of disaster planning and response for cultural heritage institutions. Meeting details and agenda will be announced soon!



ARCHIVES * RECORDS 2023

July 26—29 | Washington, DC

The annual meeting of the Society of American Archivists, held in late summer in different cities throughout the country, includes a wide array of informative education sessions, pre-conference workshops, networking opportunities, special events, exhibits, and tours of local repositories. [Details here!](#)

Have an event or know of one that might be of interest? Email mmeade@bellarmine.edu to include it on the [KCA online events calendar!](#)

Image Credits

Submit photos to include in the newsletter!

Front Page: A watercolor of Alice A. Dunnigan, journalist and civil rights activist, from the Kentucky Women Remembered exhibit.

Source: *Kentucky Commission on Women Collection, Archives and Records Management Division — Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives, 2007.*

Page 4: Photo of the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archive atrium, set up for the KCA Fall Meeting.
Photo by: *Cathrine Giles, Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives*

Page 7: Top Right — Letter from William Clark to Jonathan Clark, 28 May 1809. Clark writes his brother Jonathan from St. Louis regarding plans to travel east for a visit in the fall and their likely route.

Bottom Right — This sampler (c. 1813) was made by Mary Ann Logan in Shakertown, Kentucky. Samplers were a staple in the education of girls. The samplers were designed to teach needlework skills needed for household duties and could be a symbol of the girl's culture, religion, social class, and personal accomplishments. Sampler making was seen as the groundwork for civic, social, and familial responsibility.

Bottom Left — Pictured are Hailey Brangers (left) and Marissa Coleman (right) who served in major roles on the research team for this project.

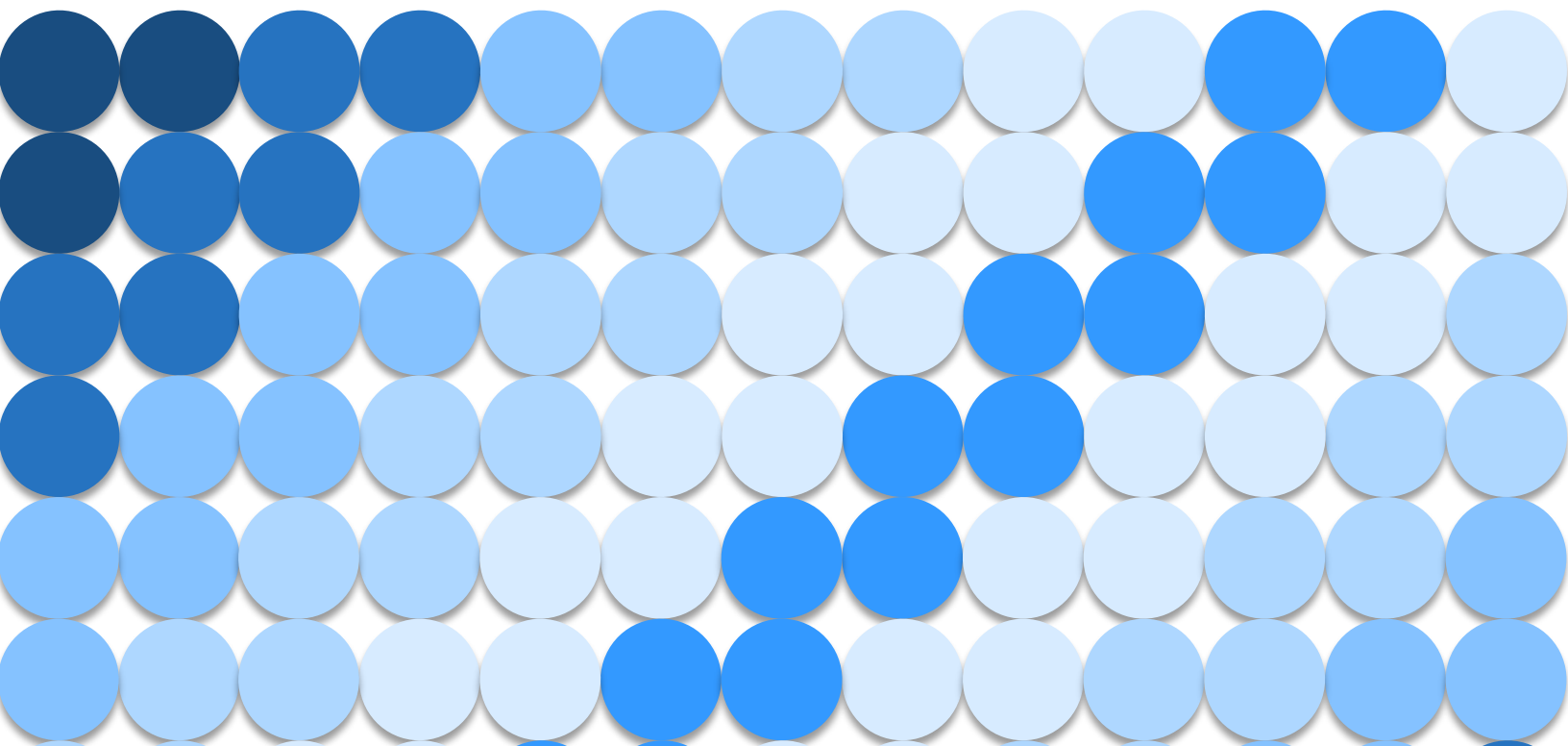
Submitted by: *Danielle Spalenka, Filson Historical Society*

Page 8: A collection of covers of Thomas Merton books.
Submitted by: *Mark Meade, Thomas Merton Center*

Page 9: Photo of the Hearing Room at the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives. 2021.
Photo by: *Cathrine Giles, Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives*

Washington DC vector image.

Source: [Freepik](#)





Membership Form

KCA Dues (May 1, 2022 – April 30, 2023)

KCA membership cycle goes from May 1-April 30 and is **\$20**.

Please fill out this form as if it were a mailing label to you. You can email the form to the KCA treasurer, Sandra Baird, at Sandra_Baird@georgetowncollege.edu or you can mail it to the address at the bottom of the page.

PLEASE DO NOT USE PERSONAL INFORMATION YOU WOULD NOT WANT ON THE KCA WEBSITE!

We accept membership dues via PayPal, although there is an additional \$1 convenience fee. Please see the membership page of the KCA website to pay your dues electronically. <http://www.kyarchivists.com/membership/>

Name: _____

Institution: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

_____ Include my name and contact information on the KCA website membership directory.

_____ Do not include my name and contact information on the KCA website membership directory.

Send dues checks to:

**Sandra Baird
154 Woodlark Rd.
Versailles, KY 40383**

Make Checks Payable to: Kentucky Council on Archives

The Kentucky Council on Archives, a professional membership organization, does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, or disability and provides, on request, reasonable accommodation including auxiliary aids and services necessary to afford an individual with a disability an equal opportunity to participate in all services, programs, and activities. Persons requiring special accommodation or auxiliary aids must notify a member of the KCA board thirty (30) days prior to a meeting so that the proper arrangements can be made.