

The Kentucky Archivist

Newsletter of the Kentucky Council on Archives



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LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Rusty Heckaman, KCA Chair 2023-2024

Throughout my professional career as an Archivist, I've often found myself feeling like I am walking on a balance beam, staggering my way forward as I hope to find some equilibrium among the various components of my professional responsibilities. Daily reference interactions are so often interposed between processing projects that they threaten my balance as I sway between my joint responsibility to the record and to the patron. I am sure my personal commitment to reference and access adds some unintentional prioritization to the patron side of this fundamental binary we all face as professional archivists. My responsibilities to the archivist profession can further weaken my precarious stability as they are balanced against the expectations of my employer—who, as so many of us can attest, makes few, if any, allowances for professional service.

Occasionally events transpire that sharply focus our thoughts. Events like those experienced in western Kentucky in December of 2021 when a violent tornado wreaked havoc through Graves County. Or those of July the following year when portions of eastern Kentucky, particularly in Hazard County, experienced historic flooding.



LETTER FROM THE CHAIR *continued*

Emergencies like these leave no room for doubt in their requirement for immediate response and action. Best efforts to house and conserve records and to adhere to security protocols to ensure the safe use and handling of archival materials provide no guarantees of the safety of records in the face of an emergency. Suddenly our responsibilities to the records entrusted to our care are paramount. The best we can do is to be prepared to minimize the impact and react to recover as quickly, safely, and effectively as possible.

With this in mind, KCA organized the two-part series **No Archives Unawares**, the first of which occurred on May 19 and focused on *Disaster Planning and Response*. *Part 2: Practical Emergency Response Training* is scheduled to be held in tandem with the [MAC Fall Symposium](#) at the Filson Historical Society in Louisville, on Saturday, November 4th. The

workshop will feature a hands-on salvage exercise led by National Archives and Records Conservator Sara Holmes. Those attending will work in teams with a variety of wet materials, including papers, books, photographs, textiles, and objects. The experience will allow experimentation and observation through disaster scenarios of how different media are damaged, and to understand how to organize and react to an actual disaster. This will be a physically active exercise and participants should dress comfortably to move around and be prepared to get dirty!

These KCA and MAC programs demonstrate that it is not always through dire circumstances that we determine our professional responsibilities. Dedicating time to any professional organization is challenging but can be equally rewarding when we are able to participate in the realization of development opportunities like these. Outside of academia most of us are not incentivized by our organizations to serve our profession. Quite the contrary, we are instead forced to sacrifice as our service comes with no additional compensation or allowance of time. It is a challenge and not one that anyone should take lightly.

Colleagues in the Southwest Society of Archivists summarized this issue well in their [Fall Newsletter](#), which I recommend reading to anyone debating volunteering for professional service. Awareness of the obstacles so many of us face when asked to participate is important, and I intend to make sure that the KCA Board recognizes these challenges. On the other hand, our acknowledgment of the importance of service and appreciation for what we can accomplish through contributions to our profession is equally as important. I hope that by both taking into consideration the effort required and the positive outcomes of that effort, you'll be encouraged to consider your own future professional responsibilities balancing act!

- Rusty

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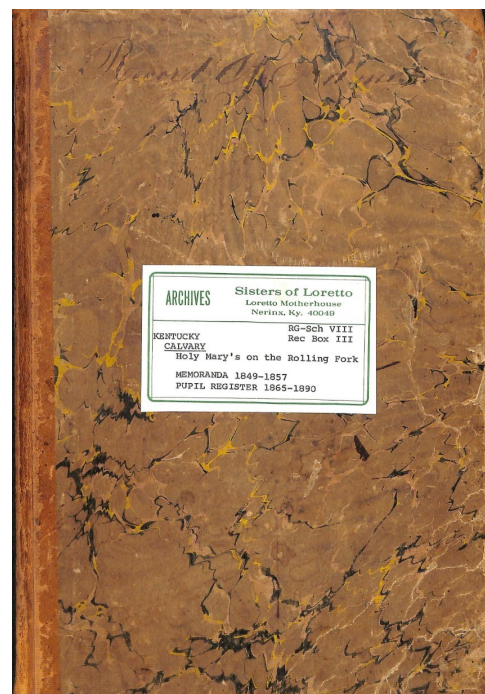
KCA MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Loretto Heritage Center

Submitted by Reba Weatherford

The Loretto Heritage Center, the museum and archives of the Sisters of Loretto located in Nerinx, KY, has recently added scanned ledger books of Kentucky schools to its online collection. The ledger books detail student enrollment and account information for schools in Marion and Nelson Counties in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Eighteen books were scanned, and interns were engaged to transcribe some elements of the books using the transcription software, Transkribus. Users can access and download the pdfs, which are name searchable, by visiting our [online collections](#).

This project was made possible through grant funding by the Kentucky Genealogical Society. Schools included are Calvary School, Holy Mary's on the Rolling Fork; Loretto Academy, Loretto (Nerinx); St. Augustine School, Lebanon; and Gethsemani Academy, Pottinger Creek (Trappist).



Lexington History Museum

Submitted by Katrina Dixon



The Lexington History Museum is thrilled to welcome history lovers to Phase I of our Reimagined Exhibition. We are now located at 210 N Broadway, with offices in the Thomas Hunt Morgan House. The Museum entrance is through the church doors at 214 N Broadway.

We are open Thursday and Friday noon-4pm, and Saturday 10am-4pm. General Admission is \$10; Seniors and Military are \$8; Under 5 are free; Museums for All discounts are available, as well. Please find parking in the lot via the driveway at 210 N Broadway. See you soon!

KCA MEMBERSHIP NEWS

University of Louisville Archives and Special Collections

Submitted by Elizabeth Reilly

Archives and Special Collections (ASC) at the University of Louisville welcomes two new faculty members to the team.



Chad Kamen is assuming multiple roles as ASC's Special Collections Librarian / Edgar Rice Burroughs Curator. Chad holds responsibilities for processing, reference, and instruction across all areas of ASC's archival collections and rare books. Chad brings his interest and experience in reparative description, outreach and LGBTQ+ initiatives from his studies at University of Michigan, where he received Master of Science (Information) and University of Virginia, Bachelor of Arts (Media Studies).

Nick Shaner joins ASC as the Barry Bingham, Jr. Courier-Journal Photograph Collection Archivist. Most recently of the Archives of Appalachia at East Tennessee State University, Nick received his Master of Library and Information Studies from the University of Wisconsin. Nick will be heading up the physical processing of the massive Barry Bingham, Jr. Courier-Journal Photograph Collection and will then coordinate digitization and programming around the collection in the years to come.



KCA MEMBERSHIP NEWS

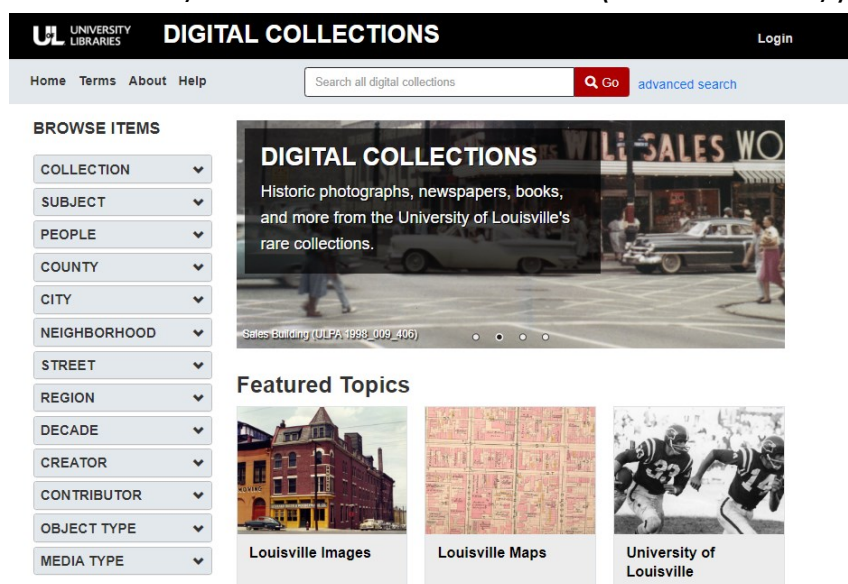
University of Louisville Archives and Special Collections *cont.*

Submitted by Rachel Howard

The University of Louisville has relaunched an expanded version of its Digital Collections site on its new platform at <https://digital.library.louisville.edu>.

The new site, built on open source Samvera Hyku technology, includes high-use collections such as The Louisville Leader, Kentucky map and atlas collection, and Caufield & Shook and Royal Photo Company photo collections. We have also begun to add new content, such as over 4,500 images from [South America](#) taken by the Standard Oil (New Jersey) documentary photography project in the 1940s-1950s.

Stay tuned for more improvements and additions to the site, and please contact digital@louisville.edu if you have any questions.



Western Kentucky University Library Special Collections

Submitted by Suellyn Lathrop

[WKU Library Special Collections](#) has moved from the Kentucky Building to Helm-Cravens Library. Hours are Tuesday through Thursday 10 – 4, by appointment. 270-745-5083 or spcol@wku.edu.

[WKU Archives](#) remains in the Kentucky Building. Hours are Monday through Thursday 9 to 4 by appointment: 270-745-4793 or archives@wku.edu

We would also like to welcome Andrew Adler as the new head of Collections & Discovery.

KCA MEMBERSHIP NEWS

The Filson Historical Society

Submitted by Jennifer Cole

Filson Awarded IMLS Grant

The Filson won a grant from the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS) for \$130,000 to support backlog inventory and processing. Kelly Hyberger will take the lead on this project, with the help of a grant-funded part-time position and the contributions of most of the collections staff. This project will create a detailed inventory of uncataloged manuscript collections and help the Filson provide access to these materials. The Filson has been collecting material culture since its founding in 1884 and over the years has amassed a backlog of unprocessed material. A 2020-21 NEH Preservation Assistance Grant identified the need for rebalancing the work of the collections department to center collections stewardship and identified our considerable backlog of unprocessed manuscript material as a significant barrier for increasing access.

Over the course of two and a half years, project staff will work through collections storage conducting minimal processing of manuscript collections, reconciling accessioning, and identifying prioritization for each item. Work completed by this project will identify collection-level, priority ranked manuscript collections for processing and cataloging, as well as potential deaccessions. This overdue work will be a step forward for the Filson in investing in access to its collections and will serve as a guide to create a multi-year plan to catalog the complete manuscript backlog. The Filson's work to access these unprocessed collections will meet a need within the community for more inclusive histories of Kentucky and the Ohio Valley region. Beneficiaries of this project will be the in-person and remote researchers, programming audiences, and consumers of scholarship and other interpretative works who will ultimately engage with newly processed materials from the Filson's backlog.

New Exhibit – Animals in the Archives!

In collaboration with the 2023 Louisville Photo Biennial, the Filson's latest exhibit, *Animals in the Archives*, features pet photography culled from our archives. From the inception of photography pets have been a common theme that can be found throughout family photograph collections. These images document and exemplify the unbreakable bond between people and animals throughout history. Join us as we explore pet

photography from the Filson's archives and learn more about the Ohio Valley families that owned them. The exhibit will be on display from September 8, 2023, through February 9, 2024. Help us support the mission of the Kentucky Humane Society! When you come to visit *Animals in the Archives* at the Filson, bring in an item from KHS's wish list for donation: <https://www.kyhumane.org/ways-to-give/wishlist/>.

Meet the Summer Interns

The Filson welcomed four interns this summer. Zachary Keown was the Filson's H. F. Boehl Intern, assisting with research services. He supported researchers by fielding reference questions related to house history, genealogy, and all kinds of other topics. He has also been working to enhance the Filson's research guides by providing better description to a variety of collections, such as the funeral home records, orphanage records, and Louisville City Directories, to make them more accessible to researchers.

Hayley Salo, the Filson's Archival Processing and Research Intern, worked with Curator of Jewish Collections Abby Glogower on processing the Baer Fabrics Collection. Baer Fabrics first opened in downtown Louisville in 1905 as a tailoring and drycleaning supply business run by Russian Jewish immigrant Nathan Baer, his son Abe Baer and later, Abe's son in law, Stuart Goldberg. Hayley has spent this summer organizing and cataloging the Baer Fabrics business materials, photographs, and fabric samples.

Katherine Chaudoin was the American Institute of Architects – Central Kentucky Chapter Fellow at the Filson this summer, cataloging architectural drawings by organizing and describing them for future researchers. Her cataloging work includes the Nevin & Morgan Architects Collection and an addition to the George Herbert Gray Collection. She also worked with recently digitized architecture projects, updating descriptions so they are more accessible to the public.

Alyssah Robinson, our digital intern for the summer, worked with the Plymouth Congregational Church Records. These records document a historic institution in Louisville's Russell neighborhood during the 1910s-1970s. Plymouth Congregational Church was located at the corner of West Chestnut and Seventeenth streets and had a primarily middle-class Black membership, including Dr. James Bond, Lyman T. Johnson, Hortense Houston Young, and other prominent Civil Rights activists. Alyssah prepared and created the digital scans of the records and produced the metadata for the digital files to make them searchable and accessible to researchers.

KCA MEMBERSHIP NEWS

University of Kentucky Libraries

Submitted by Kopana Terry

Kentucky & the National Digital Newspaper Program (NDNP)

In August 2023, the [University of Kentucky Libraries \(UKL\)](#) received funding from the [National Endowment for the Humanities \(NEH\)](#) for the [National Digital Newspaper Program \(NDNP\)](#). This award is UKL's fifth NDNP award.

UK Libraries has a long history with NDNP, beginning in 2005 as one of the first six original NDNP awardee states. UKL was the only institution at that time to produce keyword-searchable microfilm-to-digital newspaper content in-house, and this pioneering approach paved the way for future state awardees to do the same. The experience built newspaper digitization expertise at UKL that continues to influence the program and train other newspaper digitization efforts globally through [meta | morphosis: film-to-digital online tutorials](#).

This year, NEH awarded 12 states to digitize and make freely accessible historic American newspapers as part of the NDNP. The twenty-year program is a partnership between the NEH and the [Library of Congress \(LoC\)](#), intending to award every state and U.S. territory funding to digitize key newspaper titles from each state and territory for inclusion in the national database [Chronicling America](#), maintained at LoC. The NDNP began in 2005 when newspaper digitization was in its infancy. In September of 2023, the final state - New Hampshire - added content to *Chronicling America*, marking a significant milestone for the program. Today, *Chronicling America* preserves 20.8 million pages of historic American newspapers, 400,000 of which come from Kentucky, with an additional 100,000 on the horizon with this latest award.

Many things have changed for the NDNP over the years. The date range of content eligibility has expanded from a single decade in 2005, 1900-1910, to today's wide date range of 1690 to 1963. Additionally, digitizing newspapers in languages other than English is now possible, as are newspapers digitized from something other than print master microfilm such as source documents (some in color) and positive film. What hasn't changed is only one institution for every state or territory can participate in the NDNP. The University of Kentucky Libraries has proudly represented the Commonwealth's historic newspaper collections at Kentucky's representative state institution. Each two-year NDNP grant cycle digitizes 100,000 historic newspaper pages and is added to *Chronicling America*. The high standards that launched the NDNP remain in place and have become the standard by which many other global newspaper digitization efforts are compared. Finally, the LoC maintains the highly used [Directory U.S. Newspapers in America Libraries](#) database, which pulls newspaper records from World Cat to create this one-stop-shop of national newspaper holdings.

The newspaper titles for UKL's 2023 award will be chosen by an advisory board comprised of genealogists, historians, archivists, librarians, and scholars and added to *Chronicling America* over the next two years. An NDNP project manager will be hired by UKL in the coming months. Watch the [UK Jobs site](#) for the opening. The desired candidate will oversee the various activities of the two-year project and must have demonstrable attention to detail, excellent writing skills, and the ability to manage project workflows with a high technological aptitude for software and applications, working knowledge of digitization and metadata practices, and excellent communication, organization, and management skills. The successful candidate will hold a master's degree in library science, history, or other humanities disciplines.

KCA MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Berea College Special Collections and Archives

Submitted by Lori Myers-Steele

Berea College Special Collections and Archives (SCA) is happy to welcome Caitlyn Rahschulte. Caitlyn joined SCA this past April as its Research Service Specialist. She holds a BA in journalism from Eastern Kentucky University where she caught the archive bug interning as an undergraduate. Most recently, Caitlyn served as Library Associate with ECU Special Collections and Archives.



Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives

Submitted by Jennifer Patterson

The 37th annual Kentucky Archives Institute, sponsored by the Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc., was held at the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives (KDLA) on July 14, 2023. Participants enjoyed a program of interesting and informative presentations focusing on African American genealogy research. Hilary Delany from the Boone County Public Library began the day with "African American & Underground Railroad Research in Antebellum Kentucky Records (and beyond)." Then Daniele Celano from the Kentucky Historical Society presented "Return Not Executed: Court Documents and the Paper Trail of Freedom-Seekers." Afternoon sessions came from Sharyn Mitchell: "Black History: It's Around Here Somewhere – History of the African American Genealogy Group of KY and Challenges Faced When Researching Black History" and Jerry Bedford, Jr: "DNA: Surprise, Surprise!!!" Many thanks to all of the speakers and to the staff of KDLA who helped to make this year's Institute a success.

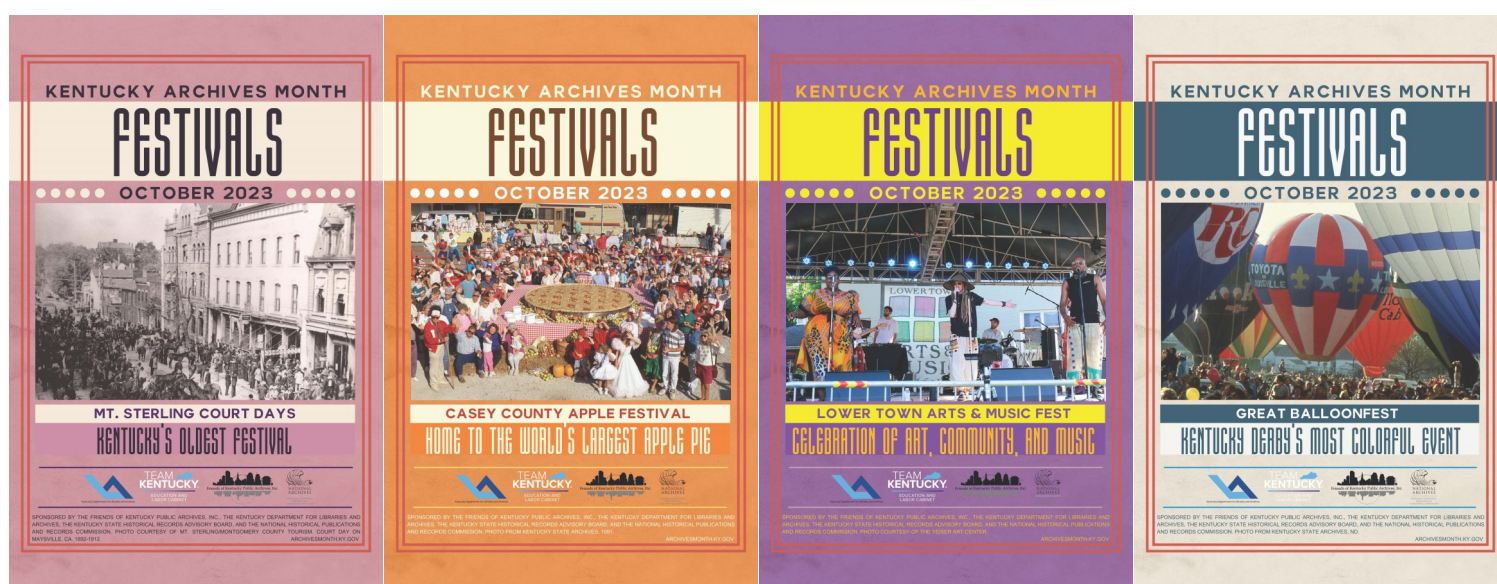
KCA MEMBERSHIP NEWS

State Historical Records Advisory Board

Submitted by Cathrine Giles

October is Archives Month!

The theme for 2023 Kentucky Archives Month is *Festivals*. This year, the 2023 Archives Month Committee designed four posters that each highlight a Kentucky festival! The posters are available for download on the [Kentucky Archives Month website](https://kentuckyarchives.org/2023/10/01/kentucky-archives-month-2023/).



Save the Date

On October 25, the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives will host a free presentation about the Lower Town Arts & Music Festival at 300 Coffee Tree Road, Frankfort, KY. More information and registration will be shared on <https://tinyurl.com/KAMEVENTS> soon!

Kentucky Archives Month activities are supported by funds from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission and the Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Midwest Archives Conference



November 3-4 | Louisville, Kentucky

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 Fall 2023 Meeting—Save the Date!

November 4 | Louisville, Kentucky

Taking place in person and at the [Filson Historical Society](#). The workshop will feature a hands-on salvage exercise led by National Archives and Records Conservator Sara Holmes. Those attending will work in teams with a variety of wet materials, including papers, books, photographs, textiles, and objects. The experience will allow experimentation and observation through disaster scenarios of how different media are damaged, and to understand how to organize and react to an actual disaster. This will be a physically active exercise and participants should dress comfortably to move around and be prepared to get dirty!

The workshop is being held in tandem with the [MAC Fall Symposium](#). Those who may have missed Part 1 of the KCA meetings might like to consider attending the MAC symposium where the two-day program will include content along the lines of that covered by KCA previously.

Details coming soon!

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

Image Credits

Submit photos to include in the newsletter!

Front Page: A packhorse librarian.

Source: *State Librarian Photo Collection, Kentucky Department of Public Information, Archives and Records Management Division — Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives, 1936-1938*

Page 3: Top right: Ledger book from the collection.

Submitted by: *Reba Weatherford, Loretto Heritage Center*

Bottom left: Phase I of the Reimagined Exhibition.

Submitted by: *Katrina Dixon, Lexington History Museum*

Page 4: Top left: Chad Kamen, University of Louisville

Bottom right: Nick Shaner, University of Louisville

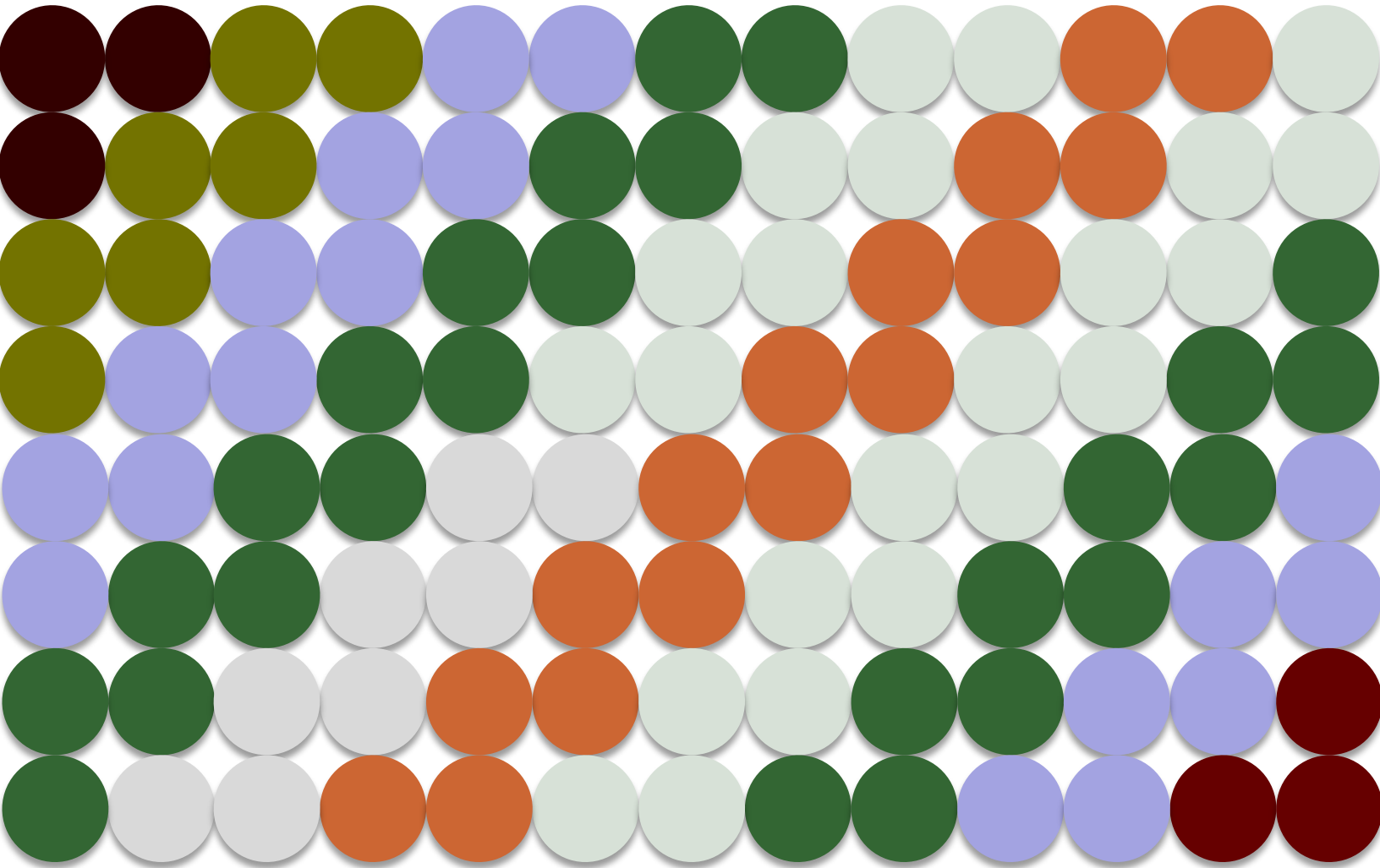
Submitted by: *Elizabeth Reilly, University of Louisville*

Page 8: Caitlyn Rahschulte, Berea College Special Collections and Archives

Submitted by: *Lori Myers-Steele, Berea College Special Collections and Archives*

Page 10: Photo of the Hearing Room at the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives. 2021.

Photo by: *Cathrine Giles, Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives*





Membership Form

KCA Dues (May 1, 2023 – April 30, 2024)

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, Mark C. Meade, at mmeade@bellarmine.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 \$1.50 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:

**Mark C. Meade
Thomas Merton Center
Bellarmine University
2001 Newburg Road
Louisville, KY 40205**

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.

NO ARCHIVES UNAWARES

Part 2: Practical Emergency Response Training

November 4, 2023

Filson Historical Society

Louisville, KY

Join us for a practical workshop that will feature a hands-on salvage exercise that will help us understand how to organize and react to an actual disaster

2023 FALL MEETING: REGISTRATION SOON