

# The Kentucky Archivist

Newsletter of the Kentucky Council on Archives



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## LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Carol A. Street KCA Chair 2024-2025

As I write this letter, I am returning home from the [International Council of Archives Section on University and Research Institution Archives section annual meeting](#), held this year in Glasgow. I may have been miles away from home, but in every restaurant was a reminder of Kentucky—typically in the form of a golden bottle of Woodford Reserve glowing from a wooden shelf behind the bar. Scotch whisky may be the preference here, but there seemed to always be a place for at least one Kentucky bourbon on their shelves. Every time I saw it, I was instantly reminded of home and what Kentucky shares with the world. When we met strangers—from the cab driver to the Second Citizen of Glasgow (that's a real title!)—the connection to bourbon and horse racing was often what sparked our initial conversations. You are probably well familiar with this phenomenon from your own travels, and I hope you enjoy the reminder of home as much as I do.



## LETTER FROM THE CHAIR *continued*

With the [KCA fall annual meeting](#) coming up with the theme of “Kentucky Vice,” I’ve been thinking a lot about vices, and how, while they can divide us in many ways, this trip has proved to me how they can also provide strong connectors across cultures. Even if the person isn’t a bourbon drinker or ever watched a horse race in person, they know many of the traditions and legacy behind hard work, perfecting a craft, and becoming the best. Vices can be negative, but they aren’t inherently so. Unfortunately I have yet to develop the taste for bourbon (except in my former rum, now bourbon, cake recipe), but every time people’s eyes lit up with the connection of place, I felt the joy of recognition that prompted stories about their own rich culture of distilling and horses.

Those of us on the KCA Board are looking forward to the Fall Meeting at the Kentucky Historical Society, where we will continue our shared connections over working with collections that challenge us and provide insight into our shared history. Many thanks to KHS for generously donating their facility for the day, and to the board for all the hard work they put into making events happen for our members. And, as we look ahead to the spring meeting, consider volunteering for a board position! More involvement from our members makes for a stronger KCA.

- Carol

## OPEN BOARD POSITIONS IN 2025

It’s never too early to consider serving on the KCA Board! These positions will be open for nominations in 2025:

- Vice Chair
- Secretary

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.

## KCA BOARD

Carol Street, Chair  
*University of Kentucky*

Rusty Heckaman, Past Chair  
*Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives*

Ida Mangum, Vice Chair  
*University of Kentucky*

Mark C. Meade, Treasurer  
*Thomas Merton Center*

Elizabeth Reilly, Secretary  
*University of Louisville*

Suellyn Lathrop, Member-at-Large  
*Western Kentucky University*

Matthew Strandmark, Member-at-Large  
*University of Kentucky*

Elisha Taylor, Webmaster  
*University of Pikeville*

Cathrine Giles, Newsletter Editor  
*Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives*

[Learn about KCA Governance here.](#)

## KCA BOARD NEWS

### KCA Continuing Education Scholarship Award

*Submitted by Suellyn Lathrop*

The KCA Board invites applications for the Continuing Education Scholarship Award. The awards are available to professional archivists, graduate students, and para-professionals who seek funds to pursue continuing education or professional development opportunities both within the Commonwealth and outside it, virtual or in-person. Those interested can apply for up to \$500 to offset registration, lodging, and/or travel expenses. Awards are open to any person engaged in archival work in Kentucky; applicants are not required to be members of KCA.

To apply for the Scholarship Award, please fill out and submit the [application form](#).

KCA particularly encourages graduate students, new professionals, para-professionals, and members of underrepresented groups to apply for the scholarship award.

Please contact Suellyn Lathrop with any questions or comments at [suellyn.lathrop@wku.edu](mailto:suellyn.lathrop@wku.edu).

## TREASURY REPORT

Mark Meade, Treasurer



Greetings!

20 members have renewed since May 1 (with 31 renewals over the entire previous year). 33 attended the Spring Meeting at the Sisters of Loretto. The organizational account received \$1,192.97 in dues and conference income since May 1, and earned \$32.04 in interest. Expenses in this period for the Spring meeting were \$799.99. There was a regular expense of \$43.34 for website domain renewal. There is a planned expense in December of \$648 to begin a pilot program for one year of using the WildApricot system to process membership, dues, and deliver the website in the future. If successful, KCA would renew in December 2025 for two years at \$1,224 (\$51/month). This would potentially replace a Bluehost website hosting platform at \$21.99/month. Though the price is higher, WildApricot includes more features for KCA officers to manage memberships and conference registrations, and it allows members to manage their own directory and renewal information. KCA's ending total funds were \$12,008.72, up from beginning total funds of \$11,627.04 at the end of last April.

Respectfully submitted by Mark Meade, KCA Treasurer, October 9, 2024.



## KCA MEMBERSHIP NEWS

### KCA Spring Meeting Re-cap

*Submitted by Cathrine Giles*



On May 31, 33 of the archival-inclined flocked together at [Loretto Heritage Center](#) for the KCA Spring 2024 Meeting. The meeting began with an opportunity for members to introduce and speak about their institutions in a Pass the Mic keynote. Afterward, attendees broke out into discussion groups, each focused on a different topic, such as digital archives, outreach and engagement, and processing and preservation.

Moderated by Ruth Bryan, the afternoon's "Archival Migrations" panel featured speakers Ginny Daley, who worked with the Presbyterian Historical Foundation in Montreat, NC; Kyna Herzinger, who routinely transfers records from the Presbyterian Church headquarters in Louisville to the denominational archives in Philadelphia, PA; Suellyn Lathrop, who worked on moving part of the Western Kentucky University Special Collections to the Cravens Library; and Reba Weatherford, who is preparing to move the Loretto Heritage Center collections to the Women's Religious Archives Collaborative in Cleveland, OH. The panelists discussed the planning, practical steps, relationships, outcomes, challenges, and opportunities involved in relocating collections.

The archival flock concluded the day with an outdoor tour of the facilities, showing the Center's rich history and demonstrating their commitment to caring for the environment.



## KCA MEMBERSHIP NEWS

### Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives

*Submitted by Cathrine Giles*



#### **Kentucky Department for Libraries & Archives Appoints Rusty Heckaman to State Archivist**

Rusty Heckaman has been appointed State Archivist for the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives. The State Archivist is the Division Director for the Archives and Records Management Division. As the State Archivist, he will oversee the Archives and Records Management Division, which is comprised of the Archival Services Branch, Electronic Records Branch, Local Records Branch, and State Records Branch. The Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives (KDLA) look forward to having him in this role.

Prior to coming to KDLA, Rusty was an instructor librarian at Austin Community College, and an Archivist at the Austin History Center, American Academy of Pediatrics, and Abbot Laboratories. He has been the Research Room Supervisor since 2021 where he has worked to make the resources more accessible to researchers, genealogists, and patrons. Rusty has also championed KDLA's collaboration with FamilySearch. Rusty has a bachelor's degree in history from Indiana University South Bend and a master's degree in library science from Indiana University Purdue University of Indianapolis. He is actively involved in the professional archival community including the Kentucky Council on Archives and the Society of American Archivists.

"To hold a position entrusted with the continued preservation of Kentucky's history is a privilege I will not take for granted. I am fortunate not only to play a role in this work but to be supported in these efforts by a passionate group of professionals dedicated to the continued collection and access of the documents recording these stories," said Rusty.

#### **KDLA Partnering with FamilySearch**

KDLA has partnered with FamilySearch to digitize and preserve tens of thousands of primary records, such as birth, death and marriage certificates that are currently on microfilm reels.

KDLA and volunteers from the Kentucky Genealogical Society (KYGS) are reaching out to the state's county clerks, the official custodians of these records, to notify them of the opportunity to have their records digitized free of charge by FamilySearch. They can take advantage of this opportunity simply by advising KDLA that their records may be digitized using a records release form. In return, the clerks and KDLA will receive copies of the digitized records, and FamilySearch will post a copy on their free online database.

"Local records are some of the most irreplaceable resources for the discovery of documentation of the commonwealth's populace. Records like those of marriage, probate and land ownership have been created from each county's origins, resulting in some of the most continuous sources of the state's history," said Rusty Heckaman, state archivist for KDLA. "Together they are invaluable to the genealogist and researcher alike for the picture they can help paint of our ancestors' lives. The participation of FamilySearch in the digitization of these records presents a huge opportunity to make these records more accessible to the public. Their increased use can only further promote the value these records hold and increase awareness of the wealth of resources in repositories like KDLA and in the courthouses throughout our state."



## KCA MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives cont.

Submitted by Cathrine Giles



### Washington County Clerk Records Treated

A collection of records was returned to the Washington County Clerk's Office vault in October Thanks to funding from the Local Records Emergency and Disaster Assistance Grant, Washington County Clerk Brett Barry has been able to have the records successfully treated for continued preservation concerns. The records consisted of four marriage bonds books and four deed books dating as far back as 1820.

Any Kentucky local government agency that has suffered damage which endangers public records or access to those records as a result of an emergency, disaster, or ongoing climate crisis is eligible to apply for KDLA's [Local Records Emergency and Disaster Assistance Grant](#).

## ARCHIVES MONTH | OCT. 2024

### Rivers & Creeks & Lakes, OH MY!

**Streams of Kentucky**  
KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT FOR LIBRARIES AND ARCHIVES

LEARN MORE

**FLOODS**  
Usually occurring in the spring and summer, floods can have a devastating effect on Kentuckians.

FRANKFORT, 1978

**HERRINGTON LAKE**, undated  
The deepest lake in Kentucky at 249 feet, Herrington lake was formed in 1925 with the installation of the Dix Dam.

**HELL-FOR-CERTAIN CREEK**, LESLIE COUNTY, 1939  
A possibility for any holler, creeks form a core part of life in Eastern Kentucky.

**PAODOCAH**, 1917  
Three people walking on the frozen Ohio River.  
© Courtesy of McCracken County Public Library

**PAODOCAH**, 1937

**KENTUCKY LAKE**, 1968  
One of 42 man-made lakes in the state, Kentucky lake was created in 1944 with the installation of the Kentucky Dam. It is the largest artificial lake by surface area east of the Mississippi River.

**ECHO RIVER IN MAMMOTH CAVE**, undated  
Prior to the 1980s, tourists were able to boat along Echo River in Mammoth Cave, the longest cave system in the world.

**FERNS LAKE**, BELL COUNTY, 1939  
The people canon on Ferns Lake, a water source for nearby Highisboro.

**CUMBERLAND FALLS, MCCREARY & WHITLEY COUNTIES**, undated  
Known as the "Niagara of the South", Cumberland Falls is the only place in the Western Hemisphere where you can witness a "moonbow" or lunar rainbow.

### Kentucky Archives Month

Did you know that Kentucky has more miles of running water than any other state except Alaska? Water has played a significant role in shaping Kentucky's history, which is why the theme for this year's Kentucky Archives Month is *Waterways in Kentucky!* The poster is available for download on the [Kentucky Archives Month website](#). There is also a display with these featured photos at the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives.

2024 Kentucky Archives Month activities are supported by funds from the [Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc.](#) and the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives.

## KCA MEMBERSHIP NEWS

### University of Louisville

*Submitted by Elizabeth E. Reilly*

Cassidy Meurer has taken a new position as University of Louisville Archives and Special Collections' Barry Bingham, Jr. Courier-Journal Photograph Collection Archivist. Cassidy has been with ASC for nearly five years as Imaging Manager and Assistant Curator of the Photographic Archives. She earned a Master of Arts in Art History from the University of Louisville's Hite Art Institute in August. Cassidy will be leading 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.



### Appalachian Studies Association Special Collections Committee

*Submitted by Kopana Terry*

With the increase of extreme weather events in the Appalachian Region over the last three years, the [Appalachian Studies Association's Special Collection Committee](#) is building a disaster preparedness kit and phone tree service for regional cultural heritage institutions, large and small, to prepare for and utilize in the event of a man-made or natural disaster in their area. If you have information valuable to the cause or questions about the program, ASA SC committee member Kopana Terry from UK's Special Collections Research Center would be glad to hear from you.

In the meantime, ASA's Special Collections Committee would like to offer any support we can, whether directly or by connecting you or those you know who need help with recovery resources. We have archivists at institutional and community-based archives and special collections across Appalachia, including some in close proximity to or within the affected areas of the region. Please contact the committee chair Jed DeBruin ([jdebruin@jsu.edu](mailto:jdebruin@jsu.edu)) in order to begin the process.



# UPCOMING EVENTS



## KCA Fall 2024 Meeting

November 14, 2024 | Frankfort, Kentucky

Join KCA at the [Kentucky Historical Society](#) to explore vices represented in our collections and archival work. From running moonshine during Prohibition to modern efforts to legalize marijuana, vices of all kinds inspired this look into exploring our shifting societal perceptions and legalities surrounding drugs, alcohol, sex work, crime, gambling, duels, and more! [Details here!](#)



## Harriet Beecher Stowe House & The Voice of Black Cincinnati Walking Tour

November 16, 2024 | Covington, KY & Cincinnati, OH

Explore the deep significance of the Ohio River for Cincinnati's African American history of resistance, achievement, and leadership from the 1800s through the 20th century. Connect to the history of Margaret Garner, Marian Spencer, James Bradley, Cincinnati's Black Brigade, and more. [Register at Eventbrite.](#)



## Kentucky Genealogical Society

November 19, 2024 | Webinar

"Kentucky's American Indian History, as Revealed Through Archaeology": Learn about Native peoples who lived in ancient times in Kentucky and whom are the ancestors of the Native Americans living in Kentucky today. Speaker: Gwynn Henderson, Education Director, Kentucky Archaeological Survey, Western Kentucky University. [Registration is free for members.](#)



## Association of Moving Image Archivists Conference

December 4-6, 2024 | Milwaukee, MI

AMIA provides an opportunity to interact with every facet of the field and a single forum to address the best ways to preserve and provide access to our media heritage in digital and analog formats. [Click here for more information!](#)

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



# 2024 FALL MEETING KENTUCKY

## VICE

*Moonshine, Red Lights, and Sin City in the  
Commonwealth*

*November 14, 2024*

Registration	9:00 a.m.
Welcome	9:30 - 10:00 a.m.
Session 1	10:00 - 10:50 a.m.
Session 2	10:50 - 11:40 a.m.
Lunch	11:40 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Speakers	1:00 - 1:50 p.m.
Break	1:50 - 2:00 p.m.
Session 3	2:00 - 2:50 p.m.
Break-Out Sessions	2:50 - 3:30 p.m.
Break	3:30 - 3:40 p.m.
Tour	3:40 - 4:15 p.m.

## Image Credits

Submit photos to include in the newsletter!

**Front Page:** Little Emmaline and Jamie singing "Paper of Pins," a Scottish flyting or answering back ballad, at the American Folk Song Festival.

Source: [Division of Community Services—Writers' Project Administration, Archives and Records Management Division — Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives, 1939-1941](#)

**Page 4:** Top left: Suellyn Lathrop, Kyna Herzinger, Ginny Daly, Reba Weatherford, and Ruth Bryan chatting with each other before the "Archival Migrations" panel.

Photo by: *Elizabeth Reilly, University of Louisville*

Top center: Exterior of Loretto Heritage Center.

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

Top right: Chair Rusty Heckaman kicks off the meeting.

Photo by: *Elizabeth Reilly, University of Louisville*

Bottom left: Rusty Heckaman "passes the gavel" to incoming Chair, Carol Street.

Photo by: *Elizabeth Reilly, University of Louisville*

Bottom center: Kyna Herzinger speaks about the transfer of records from Louisville to Philadelphia.

Photo by: *Elizabeth Reilly, University of Louisville*

Bottom right: Meeting attendees take a tour hayride!

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

**Page 5:** Rusty Heckaman, Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives

Photo by: *Nick Oatley, Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives*

**Page 6:** Top left: Washington County Clerk Brett Barry and HF Group Preservation Specialist Trace Kirkwood have a laugh over records.

Top center: Marriage bond books available at the Washington County Clerk's Office.

Top right: Brett Barry and KDLA Local Records Branch Manager Drew Preston listen to Trace Kirkwood tell a story.

Photos by: *Nick Oatley, Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives*

**Page 7:** Cassidy Meurer, University of Louisville

Submitted by: *Elizabeth Reilly, University of Louisville*

**Page 8:** Image of a person at a podium speaking to an audience.

Source: [Freepik](#) by storyset

Harriet Beecher Stowe House logo.

Source: [Harriet Beecher Stowe House](#)

Kentucky Genealogical Society logo.

Source: [Kentucky Genealogical Society](#)

**Page 6:** Palm Trees

Source: [Freepik](#) by freepik

Cannabis Leaves

Source: [Freepik](#) by pikisuperstar, [PixaBay](#) by Gordon Johnson

Barrels

Source: [Freepik](#) by brgfx



## Membership Form

### KCA Dues

(May 1, 2024 – April 30, 2025)

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](mailto: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.