

The Kentucky Archivist

Newsletter of the Kentucky Council on Archives



LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Carol A. Street, KCA Chair 2024-2025

“Archives are for everybody!”

That is the answer I got recently when I asked my students what they would want people to know about the Learning Lab program here at UK. I was planning to give a talk at the Kentucky Philological Society annual meeting held at ECU and I wanted to share how current undergraduates perceive working directly with the archival record for their research. After one student said, “archives are for everybody!” another student chimed in to say that archives are meant to be looked at. Their focus on access is refreshing, particularly since so many of us archivists work to continually improve access—from digitization, improved descriptions, and making records available onsite—and consider it one of our top goals professionally.

The threat of losing access to the archival record is of great concern during a time of mass layoffs in the government sector—including archives staff—and while agencies are being shuttered. I think it is in all our best interests (as citizens and archivists) to be aware of what is happening at the local, state, and national levels, and to be active in voicing your opinions.

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LETTER FROM THE CHAIR *continued*

Here at KCA we are excited to launch our new Wild Apricot website soon and are working on planning the spring meeting to be held in Lexington on May 20. After our meeting in the fall themed on "Kentucky Vice" at the beautiful Kentucky Historical Society, this one will be an "open bar" with opportunities to discuss whatever you are researching or encountering at your shop. As a result of your feedback, we also intend to incorporate more formal networking opportunities to discuss with fellow archivists from across the state. We look forward to seeing your session proposals soon!

In the fall, we will cohost the Society of American Archivists course, Arrangement and Description of Digital Records: Parts 1 & 2, which will be a two-day course held at UK September 11-12, 2025. We're grateful to the UK SCRC, which will cover the costs of catering and technology required for the SAA course and we're hopeful that members will apply for our KCA Continuing Education Scholarship Award to help defray the costs of attending this course or other professional development opportunities.

We also have three open positions for the upcoming year: co-chair, secretary, and webmaster. If you're interested in volunteering or just want to know more about the positions, feel free to contact any of us on the KCA Board.

With appreciation for all you do,
Carol Street
KCA Chair 2024-2025

ARCHIVES ON THE MOVE

The Kentucky Council on Archives' records, which are currently housed by the Kentucky Library at Western Kentucky University, will soon be relocated to the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives. This move will also include electronic records, which will be preserved in the [Kentucky State Digital Archives](#).

We will keep you updated when the move is complete!

KCA BOARD

Carol Street, Chair
University of Kentucky

Rusty Heckaman, Past Chair
Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives

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Kevin Klesta, Interim Webmaster
Louisville Metro Air Pollution Control District

Cathrine Giles, Newsletter Editor
Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives

[Learn about KCA Governance here.](#)

KCA BOARD NEWS

KCA Continuing Education Scholarship Award

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.

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
- Secretary
- Webmaster

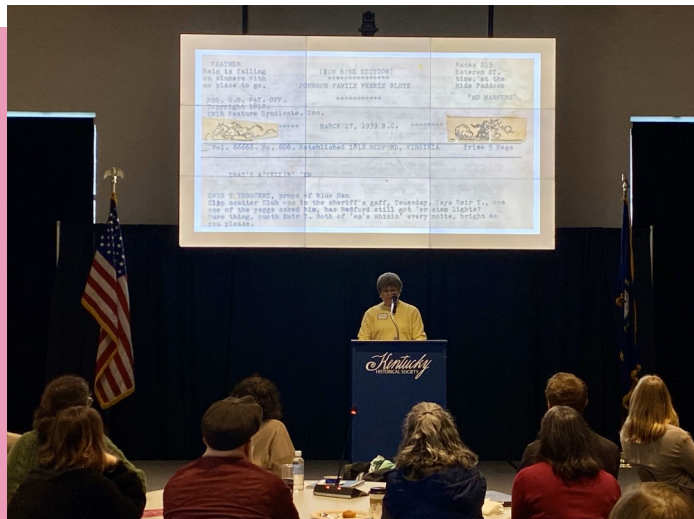
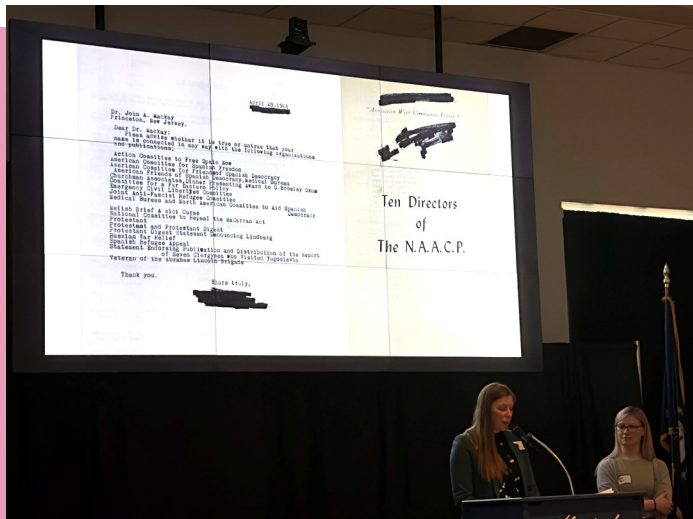
Each position is a three-year term. The elected Vice Chair will serve as Chair during the second year and Past Chair in the third year. In order to serve on the Board, you must be a KCA member in good standing. Board members are expected to attend business meetings and KCA events. Information about each position can [be found in the by-laws](#).

Nominations should be sent to Carol Street (carolstreet@uky.edu) or Ida Lucille Sell Mangum (Ida.lucille.sell@uky.edu).

KCA MEMBERSHIP NEWS

KCA Fall Meeting Recap

Submitted by Cathrine Giles



From dueling to sex work to mobsters, Kentucky has a history steeped in vice. The 2024 Fall Meeting put a spotlight on these topics. But it wasn't a meeting about moral depravity and wickedness — presenters spoke on the privacy and ethics related to illegal material in collections, the un- and under-told stories of the Thoroughbred racing industry and the efforts to highlight these contributions, the difficulties in researching illegal professions, the relationships that can develop from that research, and the history of why Kentucky takes dueling so seriously. We also welcomed Sally Denton, author of *The Bluegrass Conspiracy: An Inside Story of Power, Greed, Drugs and Murder*, as our featured speaker.

Prior to the meeting, members were invited to highlight collections, tours, articles, and places of interest related to the theme on the Kentucky Vice Map! [Check out the map and feel free to add something!](#)



KCA MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Eastern Kentucky University Libraries

Submitted by Jackie Couture

Chemical Weapon Collections Highlight



Did you know that just outside of our small town of Richmond, Kentucky, there were literal tons of chemical weapons stored? Until quite recently, the Blue Grass Army Depot on the outskirts of Richmond was one of nine sites across the United States (U.S.) which stored mustard gas and nerve agents. In 1986, Congress passed PL 99-145 (50 USC 1521) that mandated destruction of the stockpile of lethal chemical warfare agents in the U.S. Since then, communities across the U.S. have had a variety of responses to the methods used to store and eventually destroy those agents.

On July 7, 2023, the Army completed destruction of 523.4 U.S. tons of chemical agents held at the Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (BGCAPP). As the plant enters its "closure" phase, we at the Research Center for Special Collections and Archives (RC-SCA) would like to highlight the collections that document the intricate history of efforts to develop safe alternatives to incineration and transportation. By showcasing these materials, we aim to inspire both dedicated researchers and curious citizens to explore them, deepening their understanding of how these collections intersect with themes of community, environment, and beyond.

Cont. on next page

KCA MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Eastern Kentucky University Libraries continued.

Currently, RC-SCA has [five collections that directly relate to the chemical weapon disposal at BGCAPP](#). These collections are representative of the outcry against chemical weapon destruction in Kentucky. Some are grassroots community groups, driven by concern for the environment, their families, their communities, and their futures to find a better disposal solution. Others were agencies established by Congress or the Department of Defense which served as liaisons with the community to address concerns of the community or provided educational outreach to the community. Each of these collections provides a unique perspective on the topic and would have different strengths based on the type of research an individual wanted to pursue.

- **Citizen Action for a Safe Environment (CASE)**, 1979-1982 was formed in December 1979 in Madison County, Kentucky to address recent incidents of mishandling of toxic and hazardous materials including a cloud of gas from the Blue Grass Army Depot (BGAD) which covered the community of Peytown. Their aim was a three-fold program of education, service and action aimed at finding solutions of problems attributed to the BGAD with the goal of protecting the community from the dangers of hazardous materials.
- **Concerned Citizens of Madison County (CCMC)**, 1983-1996 was a citizen activist group organized solely to convince the government that on-site incineration and transportation of aging chemical weapons/agents at the Lexington Blue Grass Army Depot (LBAD) were not ideal solutions to the problem. They felt both choices posed a threat to the environment as well as the citizens of Madison County and advocated for alternatives.
- **Kentucky Environmental Foundation (KEF)**, 1980-2016 is a citizen action group concerned with environmental issues. Their records document the community efforts of Madison County residents to encourage the safe disposal of chemical weapons in Madison County. Some of this information is centered on the work of Chemical Weapons Working Group and Kentucky disposal.
- **Kentucky Chemical Demilitarization Citizens Advisory Commission**, 1988-2013 was established by an act of Congress (Public Law No: 102-484) in 1992 to serve as a communication link between the communities surrounding the Blue Grass Army Depot and the Department of Defense relating to chemical demilitarization efforts. As a part of their mission their records consist of hundreds of publications and presentations documenting the process of determining a safe method of disposal of the chemical weapons at the Depot.
- **Blue Grass Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office Records**, 1966-2024 was established by the Army to educate the community about chemical weapons. These records highlight the community work and information sharing accomplished by the outreach office in Madison County. This collection displays the office's dedication to ensuring transparency and knowledge between the community and the military while dealing with a topic that many felt strongly about.

We are excited to see how researchers will utilize these collections. Researchers can use the unique perspectives from each collection to paint a bigger picture of the impact that the destruction of these chemical weapons had on our community, our environment, our legislature, and our future.

KCA MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives

Submitted by Cathrine Giles

KDLA Strategic Plan Survey

As the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives (KDLA) develops its new strategic plan, we want to hear from you! Please take five minutes to answer our planning survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/KDLA> — we are looking for input from all of our stakeholders, including library staff, state employees, county records clerks, and more. The survey will be open through Monday, March 31.

Archives Staff to Participate in Panel

Zach Jameson, Archivist I, will participate in an Alumni Panel hosted by the Murray State University History Department on April 7, 2025, at 3:30 pm in Faculty Hall 202. The panel will share their experiences in applying the skills and knowledge that they developed during their degrees to their current careers. For more information, contact Dr. Christine Lindner at clindner1@murraystate.edu.

Murray State University

History Department

ALUMNI PANEL

The History Department welcomes three alumni to share their experiences in applying the skills and knowledge that they developed during their degrees to their current careers. The discussion will highlight the diverse career opportunities available to History majors and ways that recent graduates have navigated the professional market.



Zach Jameson

BA History 2019*
MA History 2021*
Archivist



Laura Guebert

BA History 2018*
MA History & Library Science 2021
*Grant Writer &
Research Administrator*



Nick Jackson

BA History 2019*
Law Student

*denotes degrees obtained at Murray State University



Midwest Archives Conference 2025 Annual Meeting

April 10-12, 2025 | Minneapolis, Minnesota



The conference theme is "Serving it Up!" You are invited to join MAC in exploring how archivists preserve the histories and stories of communities we serve, reach across the table and collaborate, use technologies to update policies and practices to serve up accessible collections, and stretch budgets and resources to find creative solutions to archival issues. [Meeting and registration information here.](#)

KCA 2025 Spring Meeting

May 20, 2025 | Lexington, KY



Plan to join your local colleagues at the KCA 2025 Spring Meeting! Registration will be announced soon!

Kentucky Archives Institute

July 25, 2025 | Frankfort, Kentucky



Save the date! Sponsored by the Friends of Kentucky Public Archives, Inc., the Kentucky Archives Institute provides information for scholars, researchers, and genealogists interested in archival research. Agenda and registration information will be [available at here](#) and sent to the KCA group once finalized.

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

KCA 2025 SPRING MEETING

Call for proposals!

The Kentucky Council on Archives invites you to submit a proposal for Collect[ive]: Creating Community and Preserving our Past in the Commonwealth, which will be held May 20, 2025, at the University of Kentucky Special Collections Research Center. Our theme is intentionally broad to encourage submissions on a wide range of archival topics. Please share research and projects you are working on, such as (but not limited to):

- AI impact on archives
- Community archiving approaches and practices
- Practical workflows that have made your work easier
- Digital archiving tools
- Managing born-digital records
- Advocacy for archives
- Primary source literacy pedagogy
- Leadership and management roles in archives
- Navigating change in the workplace
- Space planning, off-site storage issues, or designing a new archives space
- Approaches to collecting, outreach, reference, and access
- Programmatic assessments

[Submit your proposal here!](#)

Deadline to submit is May 1.



Image Credits

Submit photos to include in the newsletter!

Page 1: A bagpiper plays at the 2016 Highland Games.

Source: E2017-011, Office of Creative Services—Archives and Records Management Division, Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives

Page 4: Top left: Megan Mummey and Sarah Coblenz present case studies on problems encountered when processing and making archival collections available to the public in the University of Kentucky Special Collections.

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

Top right: Delinda Buie provides a look at the work done by Dr. David Maurer, who specialized in the field of sociolinguistics.

Photo by: Elizabeth Reilly, University of Louisville

Bottom: Kentucky Historical Society staff provide a tour of the stacks and discuss their collections.

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

Page 5: Protesters outside holding signs. The visible signs read, "STOP INCENERATION [sic]", "Incineration Emitts [sic] a thousand of untested, unidentified CHEMICALS," and "NEURALIZATION PROCLAMATION."

Submitted by: Jackie Couture, Eastern Kentucky University Libraries

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

Source: [Freepik](#) by storyset



Membership Form

KCA Dues (May 1, 2025 – April 30, 2026)

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.