

DAY ONE

Session One

Centre College Archives: Preserving History, Connecting Communities

Beth Morgan – Head of Archives & Special Collections for Centre College

Adult Nonfiction (LOCATION: Level 5)

Archives can be a powerful tool for teaching history, making connections between the present and the past, and cultivating community engagement. This presentation will offer an inside look at the work of archives at Centre College, provide an overview of resources frequently utilized by the Centre archivist, and showcase archives projects that have connected the College and the local community.

Kentucky Land Patents: A Valuable Resource for Genealogists and Historians

Travis Horn- Manager and Lead Archivist at the Kentucky Land Office

Reading Room (LOCATION: Level 4)

Participants will learn about the history and fundamentals of the land patenting process in Kentucky, as established by the Virginia Land Laws of 1779 and continued after Kentucky's statehood in 1792; the significance of this topic regarding historical and genealogical research; and how to utilize additional resources the Kentucky Land Office and other institutions may have.

The Heart of the Turf: Racing's Black Pioneers

Roda Ferraro - Director of the Keeneland Library

Conference Room (LOCATION: Level 1)

Join Roda Ferraro, Director of the Keeneland Library, as she discusses The Heart of the Turf: Racing's Black Pioneers, a traveling exhibit that highlights the lives and careers of 80 African American horsemen and women from the mid-1800s to today. From racetrack superstars to behind-the-scenes caretakers, The Heart of the Turf showcases select stories of the countless African Americans who forged their way in Kentucky and beyond, making the racing industry what it is today. Ferraro will share free copies of the exhibit companion book, the first chronicle of its kind, with the first 20 session participants.

Forkland Heritage

Wayne Thurman- Forkland Community Center and Lincoln Museum Director

Community Room (LOCATION: Level 1)

Thurman will present a brief history of the Forkland community, discuss when the school became a community center, and how the center was sustained. He will also discuss Forkland's Lincoln Museum and the genealogy of Lucy Hanks, mother of Nancy Hanks, grandmother of Abe Lincoln, and the wealth of information they have available to genealogists.

Session Two

American Indians in Kentucky: Current Issues

Tressa Brown-Coordinator for the Kentucky Native American Heritage Commission

Adult Nonfiction (LOCATION: Level 5)

There is a myth that no American Indians ever lived in Kentucky. American Indian people have called Kentucky home for centuries, and more than 90,000 still do. The Commonwealth boasts many archaeological sites but is also home to many who identify as American Indians today. Dealing with these old myths and stereotypes as well as new political and legal issues are part of the lives of contemporary American Indian people. Join us for a discussion focused on these and other current issues in Native circles.

Solving Difficult Problems in Kentucky and Virginia With Tax Lists

Gail Miller- Professional Genealogist

Reading Room (LOCATION: Level 4)

Many beginning and even experienced researchers find research on families before 1850 to be difficult. Non-existent birth records, multiple men of the same name, and families that never owned land or settled an estate present significant challenges. Learn to use tax lists to effectively deal with these difficult challenges and to solve other difficult research problems.

From the Archive: An LGBTQ History of Kentucky

Josh Porter- Assistant Executive Director of the Faulkner Morgan Archive

Conference Room (LOCATION: Level 1)

Join Josh Porter of the Faulkner Morgan Archive as he presents an LGBTQ history of Kentucky, including artifacts, photos, and stories from the FMA collection. Highlighting key moments and figures in Lexington's LGBTQ history, from Sweet Evening Breeze's drag performances in the 1920s to the passage of the Fairness Ordinance in 1999, this presentation celebrates the resilience and contributions of the queer community.

Genealogy through Photography: Exploring Family Photographs

Heather Potter-Curator of Photographs & Prints at The Filson Historical Society

Community Room (LOCATION: Level 1)

The Filson Historical Society, located in Old Louisville, has over 100,000 photographic items within its collection. A large portion is composed of local Louisville and Southern Indiana family photographs. While you may be familiar with the Filson's library resources, many forget about visual resources. Filson's Curator of Photographs & Prints, Heather J. Potter, will give an overview of the Filson's Photographic Collections, an overview of 19th century photographic formats, and some tips on how to preserve your own family photographs.

Session Three: Keynote One

Lecture Description: History of Herrington Lake

Reading Room (LOCATION: Level 4)

Dr. Patrick will be exploring the rich and complicated history of Herrington Lake and the associated Dix Dam. He will begin with the lake's pre-history, when the Dix River formed and served as a vital resource for native groups and functioned as a lure for early white settlement in the region, and then move to the 19th century, when the river was a critical part of the development of the celebrated agricultural system and helped knit this area of Kentucky to the broader regional and national economy. Next, Dr. Patrick will examine the history of the Dix Dam that was constructed by Kentucky Utilities in 1925 to provide electricity to the Commonwealth. An engineering marvel that was the world's largest earth-filled dam at the time, the Dam's construction is a fascinating history that reveals a lot about the region including the racial dynamics of labor, the possibilities and limitations of private corporations modifying local waterways, and the desire for both recreation and development. Finally, Dr. Patrick will discuss the modern uses of Herrington Lake and the Dix Dam before ending with some thoughts on the future of the Lake. Along the way, he will touch on smaller scale stories as well, such as the tragic murder of a dam construction worker, sportsmen hauling in prize-winning fish, and the lingering rumor of a "monster" swimming in the depths of Kentucky's deepest lake.

About the Speaker: Andrew Patrick

Andrew Patrick is a graduate of Centre College and completed his MA and PhD in American History at the University of Kentucky. His research and writing has focused on the agricultural system of the central Bluegrass region from before the first crop was planted through the aftermath of the abolition of slavery in the 19th century. He has written on the cultural and environmental context of Kentucky agriculture, with a particular emphasis on the role of the hemp industry. He has published in academic journals including the *Register of the Kentucky Historical Society* and *The Journal of Southern History*, but prefers speaking about history with his students and the public. His working life has taken him on a tour of historical organizations and schools including stints at Shaker Village at Pleasant Hill, multiple roles at the Kentucky Historical Society, back to Centre as an Assistant Professor, and finally to his current position teaching at the Sayre School in Lexington.

Session Four

Kentucky's Black Patch Tobacco Wars

Will Critchfield - PhD Student at the College of William and Mary

Adult Nonfiction (LOCATION: Level 5)

Critchfield will discuss his research into the Black Patch Tobacco Wars, a series of raids that occurred on tobacco farms at the turn of the 20th century in western Kentucky and Tennessee. Extrajudicial violence thrived during the conflict, and over the past century commemoration of vigilantism fractured communities across the Black Patch. Using physical monuments, literature, festivals, and other historical celebrations, Critchfield traces the contested memory of the Black Patch Wars and explains its significance for this modern time.

A Ghost Town's Resurgence: Preservation and Placemaking in Perryville

Aly Huff - Executive Director of Main Street Perryville

Reading Room (LOCATION: Level 4)

Perryville, Kentucky was once a thriving, self-sustaining community. Like most small towns, attractions, and jobs pulled people away. But over the last few decades, Perryville has been making its way back to becoming a vibrant, and desirable community. Preservation, conservation, and economic development efforts are the reason for the substantial growth. Find out how this small "ghost town" is reviving its downtown.

The Barbers of D'Ville

Mike Denis - Treasurer of the Danville Boyle County African American Historical Society

Conference Room (LOCATION: Level 1)

"The Barbers of D'ville" was a civil rights action here in Danville, KY, which ensured that all barber shops and beauty salons in Kentucky were to be integrated. A group of students from Centre College, all Black, decided to test whether barber shops here were willing to cut their hair, with some surprising incidents. The result was a federal case that had an impact on the entire Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Research Tips for Kentucky Court Records

Jessica Herrington- Librarian in the Archives Research Room at the KY Dept for Libraries and Archives

Community Room (LOCATION: Level 1)

KDLA holds over 73,000 cu ft of court records in our Archives Center, and another nearly 79,000 cu ft at the State Records Center. These records are complex, full of fascinating details, and are often only available in original form. Join us for a basic overview of Kentucky's historical courts, their records, and learn tips & strategies to make the most of your research time.

Session Five

Finding Your Female Ancestors:

Cierra Earl- Local History and Genealogy Librarian at the Kenton Co. Public Library

Adult Nonfiction (LOCATION: Level 5)

In this introductory session, Earl will discuss how to uncover the often-overlooked stories and histories of the women in our family trees.

Anatomy of a Duel: A Civil War Affair of Honor

Stuart Sanders - Director of Research and Publications, Kentucky Historical Society

Reading Room (LOCATION: Level 4)

During the Civil War, when thousands of soldiers were slaughtering one another on battlefields across the nation, Union Colonel Leonidas Metcalfe fought a formal duel with William T. Casto, a pro-Confederate civilian. The two duelists used rifles at sixty yards, and only one of them walked away. Stuart W. Sanders, author of *Anatomy of a Duel: Secession, Civil War, and the Evolution of Kentucky Violence*, will explore why Metcalfe and Casto engaged in this affair of honor, its ties to the secession crisis, and how it represents a compelling turning point in Kentucky history.

Cracking the Code: Cemetery Symbolism

Johnna Walden- Assistant Branch Manager of the Tates Creek Branch of the Lexington Public Library

Conference Room (LOCATION: Level 1)

Whether they appear on big grand monuments or the small simple field stones, headstones and their symbols reveal so much information about our ancestors' lives. Learn more about the various types of grave markers and the symbols that adorn them.

Peggy Oakley...and a PIG...Go to War!

Doris Settles- Author and Speaker

Community Room (LOCATION: Level 1)

While not a single battle of the War of 1812 was fought on Kentucky soil, Kentuckians were involved from beginning to end. Henry Clay and his War Hawks convinced Congress and President Madison to declare war and helped negotiate the Treaty of Ghent that ended it. After two massacres of Kentucky militia on the northwestern front, Governor Isaac Shelby (still the only sitting governor to lead troops into battle), more than four thousand locals (including ancestors of this speaker), and a pig marched to Canada to defeat the British and kill Tecumseh at the Battle of the Thames. Author Doris Dearen Settles speaks as her ancestor, Peggy Oakley, and explains how Kentuckians won the War of 1812 and why it is far more significant than textbooks record.

DAY TWO

Session Six

Heroes of the 1833 Cholera Epidemic

Terry Foody-Historian, author, and public speaker

Adult Nonfiction (LOCATION: Level 5)

Before there was Covid, there was Cholera! During the 19th century, cholera raged through the United States several times with high fatality rates. Drawing from her book, *The Pie Seller, the Drunk and the Lady: Heroes of the 1833 Cholera Epidemic in Lexington, Kentucky*, Foody poignantly describes this civic devastation and the crucial deeds of the formerly enslaved woman, the homeless workman, and the founder of the Orphan Asylum during a summer with 500 deaths. Despite great medical advances, cholera is still a worldwide killer. A former Public Health Nurse, Foody explains why by tracing repetitive patterns of epidemics from disease spread to national response, from Cholera to Covid-19, with lessons for our global health today.

Vital Sources: Birth, Death, and Archival Records of Kentucky

Rusty Heckaman-Research Room Supervisor of the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives

Reading Room (LOCATION: Level 4)

Vital Records present a unique challenge to the genealogist. Their sporadic creation in the past leaves many gaps or omissions and can be a source of frustration. However, when approached with the right context and understanding they can be a vital source of great genealogical value. A part of the collections of the Kentucky State Archives, Vital Records share attributes to many other government records. Participants will learn about the history of vital record keeping in Kentucky, methods of searching and access, and be provided illustrations through this example of the archival collections of KDLA to better familiarize themselves with what may be found there.

The History of the Naturalization Process

Dr. Sara Egge - Associate Professor of History at Centre College

Conference Room (LOCATION: Level 1)

Follow Dr. Sara Egge as she walks listeners through the history of the naturalization process in the United States. The way people become citizens has changed over time and understanding how naturalization has changed is key to researching your ancestors and understanding their journey to citizenship.

Researching The History of Your House

Cierra Earl-Local History and Genealogy Librarian at the Kenton Co. Public Library

Community Room (LOCATION: Level 1)

In this introductory session, Earl will construct the historical foundation of a Kentucky home utilizing a variety of tools, resources and repositories,

Session Seven

DNA and Genealogy, How they work hand in hand

Linda Colston- Professional Genealogist

Adult Nonfiction (LOCATION: Level 5)

You took the DNA test, now you have the results, and suddenly you have all these matches. What do you do now? Genetic Genealogy and Traditional Genealogy work best when they are utilized together. This presentation will focus on a process of utilizing both, the DNA and your Family Tree, to identify how we find our matches.

Discovering Heritage on a Dime: Thrifty Genealogy Tips

Claire Graham-Reid- Local History Librarian at the Woodford County Library

Reading Room (LOCATION: Level 4)

Discover how to delve into your family history without breaking the bank. Clara Graham-Reid, Local History Librarian at the Woodford County Library, will share some strategies she uses to keep research costs low. This session will show you free resources available for genealogical research, focusing on how libraries can help speed your research along. This session is geared toward those just starting their genealogical journey, but it could be helpful for anyone on a tight research budget!

Genealogy Through the Records of the Sisters of Loretto

Reba Weatherford - Director, The Loretto Heritage Center

Conference Room (LOCATION: Level 1)

The Loretto Heritage Center serves as the records repository for the Sisters of Loretto, an order of Catholic women formed in Marion County, Kentucky in 1812. The records collection documents provide evidence from their personal and professional lives, as well as from the schools they ran and the convents in which they made their home. This presentation will provide detailed information about the records retained in the Loretto archives and explain how they can help you in your personal genealogy research using specific examples from the collection.

Documenting Local African American Experience Through Oral History

Dr. Jeffrey Shenton - Assistant Professor of Anthropology at Centre College

Santiago Lebron - Centre College Student

Community Room (LOCATION: Level 1)

Dr. Shenton and student assistant De la Paz will discuss their engagement in a long-term Danville-Centre College partnership in which African American residents and former residents of Danville/Boyle County have recorded oral histories of their experience of social change during the urban renewal and school desegregation period of the 1960s and 1970s. Centre students have been leaders in eliciting, documenting, interpreting, archiving, and presenting this history to the public before it was lost.

Session 8: Saturday's Keynote

Lecture Description: We Too, Were Here

Reading Room (LOCATION: Level 4)

As youngsters we were taught that history is a study of the past, particularly of people and events, a collection of stories, a documentary of facts. We were reminded that there are at least two sides to every story, often more. How those stories are told, by whom they are told, and how they are recorded matter. The history of people of color in Kentucky dates back centuries, from the Native American tribes who first inhabited the land to the African Americans who were brought to the region as enslaved individuals. Then and now, they were trailblazers. Recognizing and acknowledging their contributions is crucial. Their stories should be intertwined with the broader narrative of Kentucky's growth and progress. Kentucky history and its genealogies are incomplete without those stories and experiences. Yet, their stories have often not made it into its history books. Our mission should be to fill in those blank pages and to complete those unfinished chapters. Revised editions should tell "the rest of the story." We, too, are here!

Speaker Bio:

Sharyn Mitchell, a proud Berea, Kentucky native, embodies a fascinating blend of curiosity, heritage, and dedication to uncovering and preserving history. Her journey is deeply rooted in a background that combines education and faith, being the offspring of a high school science teacher and a Baptist minister. This unique combination has fueled her passion for historical research, or as she playfully describes it, her knack for being "nosey." Sharyn's quest for knowledge has led her through the halls of most libraries, archives, and courthouses across Central Kentucky, where she has meticulously pieced together the region's rich tapestry of stories and histories.

Session Nine

Julia Perry, Composer

David Bryant- Manager of the Central Library of the Lexington Public Library

Adult Nonfiction (LOCATION: Level 5)

In recent years, there has been a renewed interest in the career and music of composer Julia Amanda Perry. An African American, woman composer, Perry was born in Lexington, KY in 1924. She studied and worked in the major musical centers in the United States and Europe, studied with leading composers, won numerous awards, and composed music in a diverse array of compositional styles and genres, including thirteen symphonies and three operas. In this presentation, Bryant will discuss Perry's early life in Lexington, KY and Akron OH, the development of her musical style, and musical compositions.

Discovering the Pleasant Hill Shakers

Rebecca Soules- Collections & Education Director at Pleasant Hill

Reading Room (LOCATION: Level 4)

This year, 2024, marks the 250th anniversary of the Shakers' arrival in America, making them one of America's longest-lasting and most successful societies from the utopian movement. We'll explore the history of Mercer County's own Shaker community – Pleasant Hill - using a variety of primary source resources to tell stories about the many unique individuals who once lived there.

Restoration of the Shelby City African American Cemetery: Its History and Impact

Cindy Peck- Member of the Central Kentucky African American Cemetery Association

Conference Room (LOCATION: Level 1)

Peck discusses the preservation of a large cemetery that was originally established for the enslaved workers on the plantations of Gov. Isaac Shelby, Capt. George Givens, and William Warren. After being abandoned and neglected for at least 60 years, the cemetery is being restored and maintained by volunteers from the Central Kentucky African American Cemetery Association (CKAACA).

Mystery of a Garden: History of the Gardens at the Ephraim McDowell House

Linda Porter - Garden Committee Chair for Ephraim McDowell House

Lauren Clontz - McDowell House Associate Director

Community Room (LOCATION: Level 1)

Come hear about the history of an early Kentucky garden at the Ephraim McDowell House. What does its beauty tell us about the life of a wealthy doctor and his family in the early 1800s? How was it restored to its former glory and what does it look like now?

Session Ten

Introducing the Story Center: Preserving Stories Together

Maggie McAdams - BCPL Story Center Manager

Adult Nonfiction (LOCATION: Level 5)

Join us to learn about the Boyle County Public Library's newest addition, the Story Center. Born out of the Memory Lab, the Story Center has been established to preserve and share stories of local life. Explore the ways in which we will be working with the community to preserve the memories of Boyle County through digitization and storytelling.

Finding Family History Using Newspapers

Johnna Walden- Librarian with Lexington Public Library

Reading Room (LOCATION: Level 4)

Newspapers contain a wealth of family history from obituaries to community happenings. Learn how to find and access newspapers plus tips for researching like a pro.

The History of the Perryville Battlefield: 1862-2024

Bryan Bush - Director of The Perryville Battlefield State Historic Site

Conference Room (LOCATION: Level 1)

In honor of the 100th Anniversary of Kentucky State Parks, follow Bryan Bush, Director of the Perryville Battlefield State Historic Site, as he walks you through the history of the battlefield after the Civil War. Bush will tell this story through the use of rare photographs from the 1870's and 1880's.

The Digital Access Project - Digitizing Records in Fayette County

Shea Brown - Special Projects Deputy in Land Records and Supervising Director of DAP - Fayette County Clerk's Office

Community Room (LOCATION: Level 1)

Over 70,000 pages of record books have been digitized through the Digital Access Project in Fayette County. Many of these books include deed records identifying the names of enslaved people who were sold, purchased, transferred, or emancipated. Follow DAP Supervising Director Shea Brown as he discusses this project, its purpose, and its impact as a newly accessible resource to research people who were enslaved in Kentucky from 1770 to 1865.