
The Kentucky Archivist

Volume 23, Number 1

Newsletter of the Kentucky Council on Archives

Spring 2001

KCA Administrative Board Members for 2000-2001

Betsy Morelock
Kentucky State University
Chair, 2000-2001
(term 1999-2001)

Delinda Buie
University of Louisville
(term 1999-2001)

Glen McAninch
Kentucky Department
for Libraries and Archives
(term 1999-2001)

Jeffrey Suchanek
University of Kentucky
(term 2000-2002)

Glen Taul
Georgetown College
(term 2000-2002)

Charles Hay
Eastern Kentucky University
Ex officio Member
Past Chair

Lynne Hollingsworth
Kentucky Historical Society
Treasurer
(term 1998-2001)

Deborah Whalen
Eastern Kentucky University
Newsletter Editor
(term 2000-2003)

Mary Margaret Bell
University of Louisville
Web Editor
[http://www.louisville.edu/
library/uarc/kca/index.htm](http://www.louisville.edu/library/uarc/kca/index.htm)

In celebration of

The Kentucky Council on Archives: 25 Years of Professionalism

The Kentucky Council on Archives, organized in 1976, is an association of archivists, historians, librarians, records managers, and individuals interested in the advancement of archives. KCA's mission, as stated in the constitution, is to promote cooperation and materials. Its meetings and publications offer opportunities for exchanging ideas between members. KCA also provides organizational support for the aims and goals of records repositories in the Commonwealth, including business and religious archives, public and academic libraries, historical societies and museums, and government records centers.

KCA meets twice a year, in the spring and fall. Programs of general professional interest are offered at each session and organizational business is discussed at the spring meeting.

The organization also publishes a biannual newsletter, *The Kentucky Archivist*, which is issued prior to each meeting. It contains articles on archival activities in the state, and news of national and local events affecting archives, as well as previews of the upcoming meetings.

Membership is open to any interested individual or institution. Institutions are non-voting members.

Origins

In 1976 archivists around Kentucky gathered to discuss the creation of an association in the state to promote archives and the work of archivists. Some of these charter KCA members included Lew Bellardo, KDLA; Sr. Mary Micheal Creamer, SCN, Spalding University; Penny Harrison, WKU; Pat Hodges, WKU; Bill Marshall, UK; and Charles Hay, ECU.

The newly formed Kentucky Council on Archives held its first meeting March 28, 1977, at Western.

Archives

Penny Harrison served ten years as both KCA treasurer and KCA archivist. The records of the organization resided at her repository, Western Kentucky University, from 1976 to 1986. With Penny's retirement from WKU, she relinquished the KCA positions as well. In 1986 the University of Louisville's University Archives and Records Center accepted responsibility for the archives. They remained at U of L until April 1997, when WKU agreed to host them again. At that time U of L became the KCA web page host and creator.

KCA Fellows

In 1985 the KCA Administrative Board instituted a special recognition to be awarded at the Board's discretion. This award is the KCA Fellowship. The Board intended from the first that the award would not be made on a regular schedule, as it is given only to individuals culminating exemplary careers in archives, in promoting archives, or in service to Kentucky.

The fellowship has been awarded three times. The initial award was made to **Dr. Thomas D. Clark** in 1985 in recognition of the singular role he has played in the development of archives in the state. The second recipient was **Penny Harrison** at the time of her retirement,

continued on page 3

AGENDA

Spring Meeting, Friday, April 20, 2001
Western Kentucky University, Kentucky Building
Bowling Green, KY

TIMES LISTED are in CENTRAL STANDARD TIME – MAP & DIRECTIONS ON BACK PAGE

- 8:30 - 9:00** Registration & Continental Breakfast
- 9:00 - 9:15** Welcome
- 9:15 - 9:45** *Past is Prologue - Exploring 25 years of KCA's past.*
Charles Hay, Moderator. To be videotaped
- 9:45 - 10:30** *Listening for a Change*
Professional Genealogists provide some insight into they perceive archives and archivists. Mark Lowe and Gail Miller
- 10:30 - 10:45** Break
- 10:45 - 11:15** *Scrapbooking for the Ages*
A look a your grandmother's scrapbook and the modern scrapbook movement. Jonathan Jeffrey and Sue Lynn Stone
- 11:15 - 12:30** *The Kentucky Guide Project: A Look at the Past.*
Panel discussion with Mary Margaret Bell, Richard Belding, Margaret Merrick, Barbara Teague, Jane Minder, and Marie Rogers
- 12:30 - 1:10** Lunch Menu: Lemon Pepper Chicken, Sliced Roast Beef, Southern Style Green Beans, Potatoes Au Gratin, Corn Pudding, Tossed Green Salad, Rolls, Beverage and a special celebration cake
- 1:10 - 1:40** *From Ragtime to Jazz: Ernest Hogan*
Hogan, a Bowling Green native was a popular minstrel singe, composer, and lyricist at the turn of the century. Ray Buckberry

Adjournment

PLEASE SEND \$16 REGISTRATION FEE (for members) or \$20 (for non-members) TO:

**Lynne Hollingsworth
Kentucky History Center
100 West Broadway
Frankfort, KY 40601-1931**

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Please register by **APRIL 16**. Make checks payable to: **KENTUCKY COUNCIL ON ARCHIVES**

(25 Years of Professionalism continued)

in appreciation of her distinguished career at Western Kentucky University and particularly her efforts on behalf of KCA in assisting its creation and service as KCA treasurer and archivist for ten years. The third fellowship was given to **Dr. Lewis "Lew" Bellardo** in 1987, following his departure from the position of state archivist with the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives to go to the Georgia Historical Society. Lew received acknowledgment for the advances the state archives had made in his tenure and for the leadership he had given to several cooperative projects among Kentucky archival repositories in those years as well.

KCA Memories, Folklore and Other Tall Tales

From Mary Margaret Bell:

Happy birthday to KCA at 25! I wasn't a member at the beginning, but my first meeting was spring 1980 at Transylvania, so that's only four years later. I was a student when I attended my first meeting and from the beginning, I found this to be an open, friendly, and collegial group. I recommend to students all the time that they attend KCA meetings, it's a wonderful way to enter the world of archives in Kentucky and meet the veterans! And you certainly get a lot for your few bucks.

I've been fortunate to have the chance to participate in KCA in many ways over the years, including my current work as the webmaster. I have a vivid memory of serving as KCA's representative to a SAA committee on regionals and saying "you just don't understand" when they kept asking me for the next three years' meeting schedule and the group's long-term education program.

We might not be as large and active as some of the regionals, but it's easy to participate and meet your friendly fellow members, as long as there's dessert . . . I remember one meeting where planners inexplicably forgot dessert (the *only* time that happened). I was thankful that I wasn't on tap that day to address the mumbling multitudes who were still looking for their dessert. If you look at the upcoming program, it's not a coincidence my group is before lunch!

From Sue Lynn Stone:

Like any good professional organization, KCA has always been more about the members than the organization. Granted we learned a lot together, but we've learned more from each other through the years. Early in my career, we had an appraisal discussion at a meeting held at UK. Janet Hodgson of UofL's declaration "pitch it, pitch it, pitch it" seemed extreme that afternoon; having been Western's University Archivist for four years, I would now join her in

the chorus. The mentoring which has always been available through this group of colleagues has been priceless for me. I can not think of KCA meetings past without thoughts of shared experiences. How many of you remember the KDLA crew arriving at the joint meeting at Paris Landing State Park, having struck a deer with a state vehicle, and their chief source of anxiety being the mountains of paperwork they expected from the State? What about the reception conversation when we compared *The Southern Belle Primer* to life as we knew it growing up Southern -- I can still hear Ellen Garrison laughing about not having attended a wedding in a while and her surprise at being one of only two guests wearing white gloves that day. When I lived in Tennessee, the heartwarming smiles from friends when I attended KCA meetings made them real homecoming experiences. So, on our 25th anniversary, I simply want to say thanks to all of you who have enriched my career by your professionalism and your friendship.



20th Anniversary Cake. Western Kentucky University
Spring 1996 Meeting



WKU archives staff with the KCA archives: from left, Pat
Hodges, Sue Lynn Stone, and Jonathan Jeffrey
Spring 1996 Meeting

New Deal Records Accessioned at WKU

The call came in the late afternoon. “I know you’re interested in this kind of stuff, and we’ve found some records from some kind of local food commodity distribution program. Do you want them?” That was the gist of the conversation. Since our Manuscripts area already had a collection of U.S. Food Administration records from Marshall County and since these new found records apparently related to our own Warren County, I agreed to examine them. They had been stored in the city’s 1870s water intake facility that was about to be razed. Upon arrival I found seven fruit crates of records, covered in 60 years of coal dust, pigeon droppings, desiccated insects, and trash. The administrator of the water facility was glad to be relieved of the responsibility of the records, and upon closer examination I was glad she called. The records represent the work of the Warren County Relief Committee, the local group responsible for assisting various New Deal programs during the Great Depression. After cleaning the material, we ended up with nearly 2300 items dating from 1931 to 1936. Some of the most damaged materials had to be photocopied, and a few records had to be destroyed because they were no longer readable.

The Relief Committee’s work was eventually subverted by several professional social workers whose chief responsibility was to approve families for assistance and refer them to different relief agencies for help. The records are incomplete, but they do reflect the type of work being done in Warren County. Included in the collection are food distribution records, material related to medical assistance, initial interview forms used in processing families for assistance, occupational record forms, and the correspondence of social workers who were trying to verify residence for those seeking assistance. The records will be a treasure trove for genealogists, particularly the family interview forms that contain names of all family members in a household, their age, employment history, wages, information about home ownership, marital status, debt, value of real and personal property, monthly budget information, agencies to which referred, and occasionally additional reports from other agencies. If a home visit was required, even more details about the family’s home, financial condition and health were noted.

Another record created by the social workers, and found in this collection, are occupational classification forms used for those seeking employment with one of the New Deal programs. The collection contains 601 of these forms, which include information about the applicant such as: weight, height, marital status, address, general health, employment

history, educational background, and a listing of referrals made to different agencies. A treasure from this series, is the form for Pauline Tabor, who shortly thereafter became a madam in a bordello that operated in Bowling Green for over thirty years. Her work eventually led to an international reputation, with a published biography and appearances on the Dick Cavett show. At this time (1935) she was thirty-eight years old, divorced, had one dependent and listed her usual occupation as waitress and her alternate occupation as saleslady. Discrimination was strictly forbidden, and there seems to have been a corresponding representation of African Americans and women in the applications.

The medical records contain some correspondence related to specific cases, but the majority of this material consists of reports generated for the state office. An interesting series of letters relates to the distribution of Brewer’s yeast to pellagra victims in Warren and surrounding counties. Pellagra is a disease caused by lack of niacin and other B-complex vitamins in the diet. In filling out one report for the state medical relief office in Louisville, the local worker sorrowfully admitted that she had inspected the yeast on hand and found that “mice had invaded the storeroom and feasted on our yeast, and to our regret, we have healthy mice instead of healthy children.” The state office did ask them to examine the yeast and use any packages that had not been molested by the mice. The health nurse from the County Health Department “examined the yeast carefully” and deemed it contaminated. The weekly reports generated by the medical staff list the type of illnesses and conditions that were treated along with the doctor’s fee and drug cost for each case. Some of the maladies treated and corresponding fees included: malaria (\$1), abscessed tooth (\$2.50), flux (.75), spider bite (\$1.25), and a number of malaria cases (\$1 each).

From a social work viewpoint, the most interesting material in this collection is the correspondence generated by social workers that investigated the residency of clients and found relatives for displaced residents. One series of letters revolved around a twenty-year-old man who was stranded in Indianapolis. His family was from Warren County, although his mother and father had left in the late-1920s to search for work in Detroit. Since that time his father had died and the young man had lost contact with his mother. The Indiana Transient Service Bureau was attempting to locate uncles of the young man in hopes that one of them would provide a home for him. This led to several home visits with the uncles; all of the family members refused to accept the man into their homes. Two of the uncles were not financially capable of supporting another person. Another uncle refused because his wife “had a lot of trouble with him

her boy who is younger” when the young man had made previous visits. The social worker also added his personal comment: “In my opinion this boy will not stay at his Uncle’s should he return. He is a City boy and the family lives very poor and away out in the Country in a very lonesome backward place and too, it would be a very meager living.”

Now that Depression Era materials are a full generation old, archives will begin to accession more and more of these types of records. Three years ago, WKU’s Manuscripts and Archives accepted a similar set of records related to Civilian Conservation Corps applications from adjoining Edmonson County. These collections will assist our researchers in interpreting the economic and social conditions of south-central Kentuckians during the Great Depression and how the federal government assisted them.

Submitted by the Jonathan Jeffrey

Friends of Manuscripts Fund Makes South Union Shaker Materials Available

Several years ago, Dr. Lowell H. and Elaine M. Harrison and Mrs. Erleen Joiner Rogers established funds, under the jurisdiction of the College Heights Foundation, for the benefit of the Manuscripts unit of the Department of Library Special Collections. Resources, from these funds, were available for the recent purchase of a marvelous addition to our South Union Shaker Society holdings – a unique chronicle provided by the journal of John Rees Cooper. WKU’s Manuscripts has the largest amount of original extant materials about this Logan County, Kentucky utopian society, which was officially organized in 1808 and remained in existence until disbanding in 1922.

The story of how the journal found a home with us begins in the early 1990’s. Through my research, I discovered that Williams College in Williamstown, Massachusetts, had among their manuscript holding, a journal dating from 1872 to 1878 that was kept by John Rees Cooper at South Union. Initially, I inquired as to the possibility of obtaining a photocopy. Almost immediately, the archivist of Williams College responded by sending us a complimentary photocopy. She also stated that they had no record of the provenance of the item; and although they had eastern Shaker societies’ materials, this was the only item that they had from a Kentucky Shaker society.

In 1996, we undertook the project of having all our Shaker materials microfilmed. Again, I contacted Williams

College’s archivist, this time requesting permission to microfilm the photocopy of the Cooper journal. Permission was graciously given. In appreciation, a roll of the microfilm containing the journal was presented to Williams College.

Early this summer, Kentucky Librarian, Jonathon Jeffrey, a Shaker enthusiast and researcher, stated the he would like to index Cooper’s journal. I agreed that it would be a very worthwhile project. A few days later, I decided to contact the archivist at Williams College concerning the possibility of obtaining the original journal. I suggested that as this was their only South Union Shaker item that perhaps they would consider selling it to us. It would be an outstanding addition to our South Union Shaker collections.

Late one Monday afternoon in July, I received news that I had to instantly share with everyone!! The archivist had replied that, following much discussion and “in the spirit of cooperation,” they would let us have the journal for a specified sum. They realized that the journal would bring much more on the open market, but they felt that intrinsically it needed to return to its local region. I have tried to adequately express to Williams College’s archivist our tremendous gratitude for their willingness to cooperate with us on this matter.

The journal is in almost perfect condition and is very readable. An entry, June 25, 1876, voices the opinion, “in a few years we will be forgotten, but our influence will live forever...” How insightful this scribe was! We still have many researchers delving into the South Union Shaker ledgers and documents, and John Rees Cooper’s journal will continue to provide valuable historical insights.

We express our sincere thanks and appreciation to those making this purchase possible; and we also encourage others to join them in assisting us to make Manuscripts an even more important laboratory for our patrons.

Submitted by Patricia M. Hodges

Georgetown College Special Collections & Archives Web Site

Presidential biographies is the focus of the first active link on the new web site for Georgetown College’s Special Collections and Archives.

Georgetown College has had twenty-three presidents in its 172-year history. Of the twenty-three, sixteen biographies have been completed. The biographies are based on a variety of secondary sources. Two of Georgetown’s early presidents played instrumental roles in shaping present day

funds to keep the college alive and to complete its first permanent structure. And another was the son of an 1824 presidential candidate. Finding aids to the papers of three presidents are attached to their biographies.

“We have been very fortunate to locate and publish on the web an image of every president who served,” said Dr. Glen Taul, the college’s archivist.

Features to come include a link to biographies of graduates between 1829-1917, which will feature photographs of the class of 1857, a general history of the college, and virtual tour of the campus at different points in its history.

The address for the website is:

<http://spider.georgetowncollege.edu/library/Special%20Collections/Special%20Collections%20Homepage.htm>

Submitted by Glen Taul

Mount Saint Joseph Archives

In late September 2000 four of us were among the 200+ members who attended the three-day, ACWR (Archivists for Congregations of Women Religious), Third Triennial Conference at the Holiday Inn, Independence/Cleveland, Ohio. The keynote speaker, Kathryn Callahan, CSC entertained and challenged us with: **MEMORIES MILLENNIUM, THE MESSAGE**. Other topics explored were: oral history, our own records management guide, disaster preparedness and planning, archives on the move - moving an archives, web sites, Internet, making connections, and more routine topics about documents in general and photographs. Tours of Cleveland and specific archives were also offered.

On August 6, 2001 the Roman Catholic Diocese of Owensboro Archives will host the Catholic Archivists of Kentucky, Southern Indiana and Tennessee for a day of sharing resources and strategies.

It is interesting how things just happen. Recently I was asked to write some entries for an Encyclopedia of American Catholic Women. While doing research I found that the first teacher in “our” Kentucky was Jane Coomes. Among her accomplishments was the school she opened in 1775 which proves the “high regard for education possessed by Harrodsburg’s founders” and the roots of our foundations.

Submitted by Sister Emma Cecilia Busam, OSU

KCA Recent Happenings

Charles Hay will be retiring from the Eastern Kentucky University Library as Team Leader for Special Collections and Archives and University Archivist on July 1st. Charles established Eastern’s first formal university archives, oral history, and records management programs. He is a charter member of KCA, having co-edited *The Kentucky Archivist* with Gerald Roberts of Berea College for the first five years of the organization. Charles also served on the KCA Board from 1998 to 2000 and was Chair in 1999.

Reagan Grimsley is the new Special Collections Librarian at Pikeville College. Reagan is a 2000 graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi, with a dual MA in History and a MLIS in Library and Information Science. He comes to Pikeville from Virginia Tech University, where he served as a paid archival intern, processing manuscript collections for addition to the Virginia Heritage Project. Reagan has also served as a practicum student for the University of Southern Mississippi’s McCain Archives, and has done contract work as a historian for the United States Forest Service.

IN MEMORIAM

The Kentucky Council on Archives joins the Sisters of Loretto, the Archives and the local archival community in mourning the passing of Sisters of Loretto assistant archivist and KCA member Sister Betty McGrath. The following is Sister’s obituary reprinted from the *Record*, the newspaper of the Archdiocese of Louisville.

Loretto Sister Betty McGrath, an assistant archivist for her religious community and a former teacher and health-care professional, died Jan. 22 at her home in Lebanon, Ky. She was 61 and had been a religious for 38 years. The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Jan. 25 at the Loretto Motherhouse in Nerinx, Ky. Burial was in the motherhouse cemetery. Sister McGrath, a native of New Hampton, Iowa, was formerly known as Sister Peter Damian. She had been the Loretto assistant archivist for the past three years. Sister McGrath, a certified medical technologist, was active in health-care ministries at Loretto Infirmary, Nerinx, from 1967 to 1971, and at Ephraim McDowell Memorial Hospital, Danville, Ky., from 1971 to 1973. She also served as administrator of the Loretto sisters’ retirement center in St. Louis, Mo., and did parish

KCA Dues Notice

KCA dues are based on the calendar year. Please send this notice and a check or money order for ten dollars (per membership) to:

Lynne Hollingsworth
Kentucky Historical Society
POB 1792
Frankfort, KY 40602-1792

Checks should be made out to KCA or Kentucky Council on Archives. Please fill this form out as if it were a mailing label to you. If your membership is for an organization, please indicate on the name line the person who should receive the newsletter and correspondence. **PLEASE DO NOT USE PERSONAL INFORMATION YOU WOULD NOT WANT ON THE KCA WEBSITE!**

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/ _____
STATE/ _____
ZIP _____

For directory (optional)

PHONE: _____

FAX: _____

E-MAIL: _____

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.

Directions to Western Kentucky University, Kentucky Library & Museum

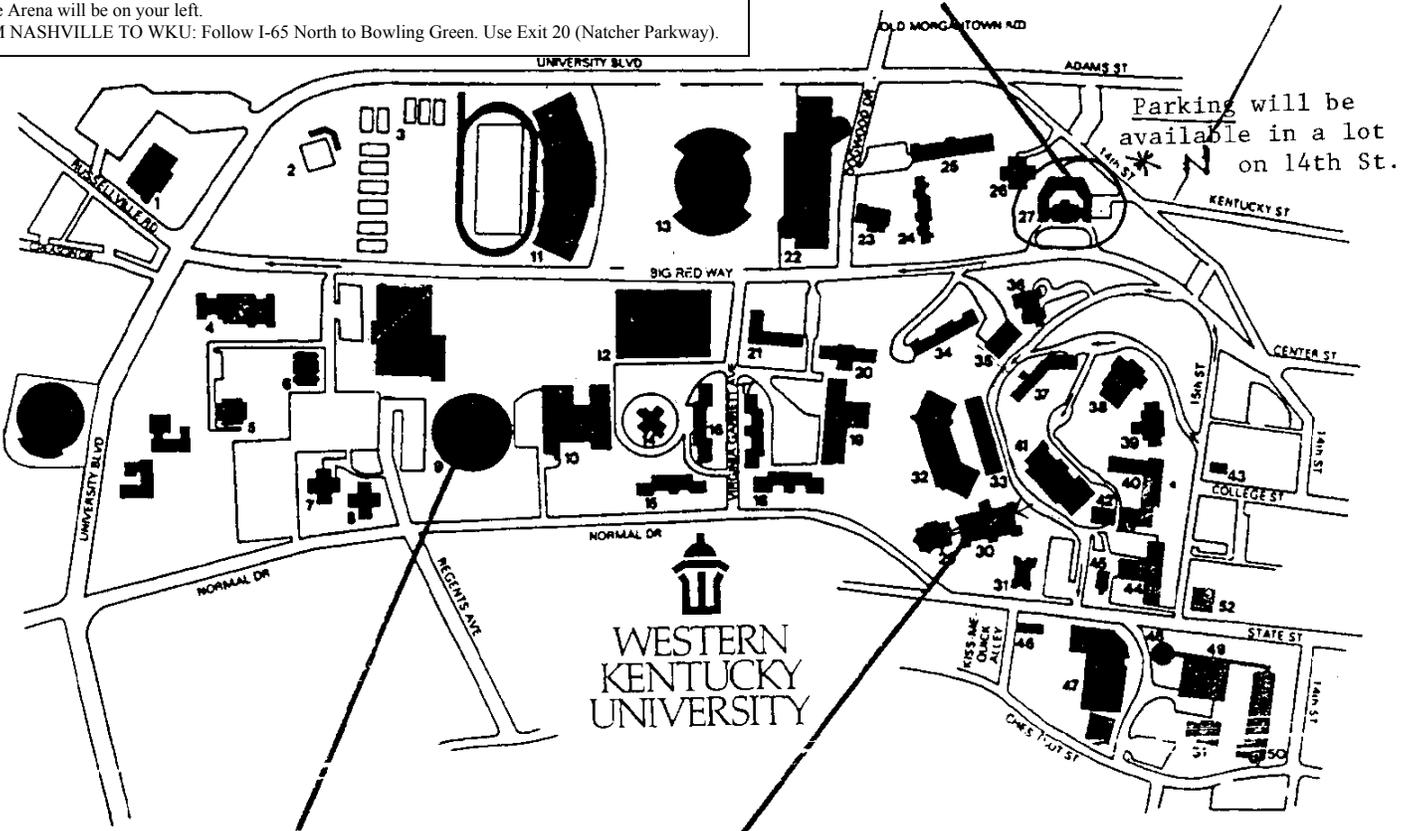
FROM OWENSBORO TO WKU: Exit Natcher Parkway on US 231. Follow Morgantown Rd. to Russellville Rd. (3 miles), turn left on Russellville Rd., travel about 2/3 of a mile to University Blvd., turn left on University Blvd. Smith Stadium and Diddle Arena will be on your right. An alternative is to turn right on University Blvd., travel to first light and turn left at corner of Normal Dr. and University Blvd.

FROM LOUISVILLE TO WKU: Follow I-65 South to Bowling Green. Use Exit 28 at Corvette Plant, use connector road to 68-80 & 31-W to Bowling Green. Follow 68-80 to WKU. Smith Stadium and Diddle Arena will be on your left.

FROM NASHVILLE TO WKU: Follow I-65 North to Bowling Green. Use Exit 20 (Natcher Parkway).

For area map, see <http://www.wku.edu/Tour/directions.html>

Kentucky Library & Museum



SPECIAL COLLECTIONS & ARCHIVES
LIBRARIES COMPLEX ROOM 126
EASTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY
521 LANCASTER AVENUE
RICHMOND, KY 40475-3102

230200

