

The Timeline

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junior
historical
society

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Conference Workshop Proposals

The Kentucky Historical Society (KHS) is currently accepting proposals for presentations and workshops for the 2012 KJHS Conference on April 27. KHS is seeking to highlight projects and accomplishments that KJHS clubs have completed over the past year, or projects that they are planning to do in the upcoming year. If you are interested in making a proposal for one of these slots, please have your sponsor contact Tim Talbott at tim.talbott@ky.gov for an application.

KJHS Turns 50!

By Derrick Ranostaj – KJHS Intern

The 2011-2012 school year marks the Kentucky Junior Historical Society's 50th year of existence. The quest to create a program connecting Kentucky's youth with their history began when the Kentucky Historical Society (KHS) published a magazine in 1957 called "The Junior Historian." Simultaneously, Gov. A.B. "Happy" Chandler wrote letters to history and English teachers to promote interest in forming Junior Historical Society chapters at their schools. Gov. Bert T. Combs continued Chandler's work by helping to pass legislation that created the Kentucky Young Historians Association (KYHA).

In 1961, the first issue of "Kentucky Heritage" was published, featuring the work of KYHA chapter members and the projects they created. During the early years, KYHA had 720 members and 28 clubs in Kentucky; membership was open to any student in primary or secondary school and dues were 50 cents for club members and one dollar for individual members. Two important early achievements for members were creating the first constitution and electing the first officers (president, first vice-president, second vice-president, secretary and historian).

Like today's KJHS, the KYHA met yearly at state conventions. These conventions were held at locations approved by the executive committees of KHS and KYHA. In 1962, members first participated in the essay contest, and ribbons were given out to the winners. By 1966, KYHA membership had grown to 5,016 students and 110 clubs. In the 1970s, KYHA changed its name to KJHS and formed relationships with other state junior historical societies such as the Indiana Junior Historical Society and the Tar Heel Junior Historical Association from North Carolina. The IJHS and the KJHS met frequently during the 1970s to exchange ideas and form friendships.

During the 1980s, the state convention flourished with many new events for students: art, photography, research, scrapbook, video, exhibits, crafts, speeches, performances and the ever popular History Bowl. By 1987, KJHS consisted of 3,700 students and 175 clubs. Kentucky celebrated its bicentennial in 1992 and KJHS members participated with local programs and activities. In 1997, KJHS members were introduced to Kentucky History Day, the state affiliate for the National History Day program, to increase opportunities for competition beyond the state level.

KJHS has continued to evolve since its creation nearly 50 years ago. But, while many of the functions of KJHS have changed over the years, its main role remains the same: to provide new ways to help connect K-12 students to Kentucky's rich history. What's past is prologue for KJHS. Undoubtedly, the next 50 years will continue to provide productive and rewarding experiences for KJHS members.

2012
**REVOLUTION,
 REACTION,
 REFORM
 IN HISTORY**
 NATIONAL HISTORY DAY

2011-2012 Kentucky History Day Topics

Kentucky History Day (KHD) for the junior (6th-8th grade) and senior (9th-12th grade) divisions allows students the opportunity to explore any facet of history so long as it in some way relates to the overarching theme. This year's theme is "Revolution, Reaction and Reform in History." Students are free to choose local, state, national or even world history topics, but some of the most interesting and successful projects are ones that involve local and state history.

One should not necessarily approach the theme too literally. Revolution topics do not necessarily have to involve wars. Revolutions have also occurred in technology, communications and transportation. Issues that caused reactions and generated reform efforts can be easily explored as well.

Kentucky's rich history is filled with numerous examples that fall under this year's broad theme. Start asking questions to help find the topic that interests you.

The following are just a small sample of potential Kentucky topics to spark your creativity:

- Did the Battle of Blue Licks affect the settlement of Kentucky?
- What caused protests on Kentucky's campuses in 1960s-1970s?
- Why was Kentucky involved in the 1850 invasion of Cuba?
- How did Kentucky experience post-Civil War Readjustment/ Reconstruction?
- How did the steamboat change Kentucky?
- How important were trains in antebellum Kentucky?
- What motivated Cassius Marcellus Clay, Kentucky emancipationist?
- How did New Deal programs in Kentucky help or hurt?
- What motivated the 1833 slave non-importation law in Kentucky?
- Who were the Kentucky Shakers?
- Was Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Frankfort march effective?
- How effective was the Freedmen's Bureau in Kentucky?
- What opposition did Kentucky abolitionist John G. Fee encounter?
- What changes did Camp Nelson mean for Kentucky?
- How did Lyman Johnson help end segregation at UK?
- Why did Kentuckians go fight at the Battle of New Orleans?
- How did TVA relocations affect Kentuckians?
- Why was the Lincoln Institute founded?
- Why did Kentuckians vote against Abraham Lincoln in 1860 and 1864?
- Why did Kentuckians oppose African American enlistments in Civil War?
- Why did Muhammad Ali refuse to enter the military during Vietnam?
- What were the effects of the Cane Ridge Revival?
- What caused the Will Lockett riot in Lexington (1920)?





2011 KJHS Fall Rally Dates Set

To observe of the beginning of Civil War Sesquicentennial commemoration, this year's rallies will be held at Kentucky sites related to that conflict. Agendas and offerings will vary by location, but a great lineup of sites across the state is available.

Columbus-Belmont State Park,
Columbus (Friday, October 7)

Camp Nelson Heritage Park,
Nicholasville (Wednesday, October 26)

Camp Wildcat,
Laurel County (Friday, October 14)

Tebbs Bend Battlefield,
Campbellsville (Tuesday, November 1)

Jefferson Davis Monument State Park,
Fairview (Tuesday, October 18)

Cumberland Gap National Historical Park,
Middlesboro, (Thursday, November 3)

Bardstown Civil War Museum,
Bowling Green, (Saturday, March 19)

For more information contact Tim Talbott at tim.talbott@ky.gov or 502-564-1792, ext. 4428.

KJHS Executive Committee

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Kentucky Commemorates Civil War Sesquicentennial

Now that nearly 150 years have passed since the contending armies battled on the fields around Richmond, Perryville, Mill Springs, Middle Creek, Munfordville, Cumberland Gap and more, efforts across the state are being made to commemorate the commonwealth's role in America's greatest conflict.

If one stops to think about it, it is easy to see that Kentucky's Civil War history is a compelling and complex story. A Unionist, slave-owning state, Kentucky was the birthplace to both U.S. President Abraham Lincoln and Confederate President Jefferson Davis. Although Kentucky initially tried to remain neutral in the conflict, it became the site of major military campaigns and crucial turning points. In addition, the commonwealth was one of the few slave-owning states not legally affected by the Emancipation Proclamation. Kentucky families were divided, and the war, from cavalry raids to guerilla raids, scoured every corner of the commonwealth. The bluegrass state had the second highest number of African American enlistments, and while campaigning in Kentucky, many Northern soldiers experienced slavery for the first time and were shocked by the institution. With compelling homefront stories from unionist and secessionist civilians, heavy-handed federal military policies alienated Kentuckians and led many in the state to embrace Confederate ideals after the war. Today, Kentucky has some of the most pristine and well-preserved battlefields in the nation, as well as unique sites like Camp Nelson and Kentucky's Old State Capitol, which was the only pro-Union statehouse to fall into Confederate hands during the war. Kentucky's role is well-summarized by Pulitzer-Prize winning historian James M. McPherson. "It is scarcely an exaggeration to say that the Confederacy would have won the war if it could have gained Kentucky," McPherson writes, "and, conversely, that the Union's success in retaining Kentucky as a base for invasions of the Confederate heartland brought eventual Union victory."

The Civil War touched every Kentucky county and Kentuckians played major roles as national military and political figures. Now, 150 years later, those interested in the state's history have an unparalleled opportunity to learn this compelling story. KJHS encourages you to research, and tell your family or community's Civil War story. Kentucky's special connections to the Civil War provide us with perspective on this tragic past. As we Kentuckians discover together the story of how the Civil War forged a modern Kentucky, we can draw new lessons and inspiration for our future.

For more information on Kentucky's Civil War Sesquicentennial initiatives check out www.history.ky.gov/civilwar.



Submit an Article

The Timeline would like to encourage KJHS members and clubs to submit articles to be included in future issues. If you or your club has done something to promote Kentucky history or visited a historic Kentucky site, we would like to know about it so we can share it with other KJHS members. Submitted articles should be 150-200 words and can be emailed to tim.talbott@ky.gov or mailed to KJHS, 100 W. Broadway, Frankfort, KY 40601. Accompanying pictures are also appreciated.



KJHS is a program administered by the **Kentucky Historical Society**, an agency of the Kentucky Tourism, Arts & Heritage Cabinet.

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