NHD WENT DIGITAL!
National History Day in Kentucky hosted a virtual state contest with 208 students and 45 teachers from 40 schools. More than 80 judges—including NHD fans from outside Kentucky—volunteered to evaluate projects and interview students via Zoom. Kentucky was one of, if not the only state to conduct interviews! Six special prizes were awarded from the 2020 Women’s Vote Centennial Project; Kentucky Foundation for Women; Frazier History Museum; Office of the Secretary of State; and Sons of the American Revolution. Seventy-five Kentucky students are moving on to the (virtual) NHD National Contest in June!

VIRTUAL TOURS A SUCCESS
KHS hosted nine virtual tours of our campus in April. Topics included Kentucky’s pioneer era, the Civil War, artist Paul Sawyier, Kentucky women, coal, and more. Viewers included 4th-grade classes from across Kentucky and people from Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Florida, Connecticut, and the United Arab Emirates!

APRIL SOCIAL MEDIA ENGAGEMENT
Facebook:
- New followers: 337
- Reach increase*: 40%
- Engagement increase*: 58%
- Comments: 849
- Shares: 139

YouTube:
- Views: 450 (78% increase*)
- Watch time: 127% increase*

Twitter:
- New followers: 58
- Clicks: 336 (261% increase*)
- Retweets: 249 (92% increase*)

* Denotes increase from March to April

VIRTUAL TOURS A SUCCESS
KHS hosted nine virtual tours of our campus in April. Topics included Kentucky’s pioneer era, the Civil War, artist Paul Sawyier, Kentucky women, coal, and more. Viewers included 4th-grade classes from across Kentucky and people from Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Florida, Connecticut, and the United Arab Emirates!

APRIL VIRTUAL ENGAGEMENT
Virtual Tours:
- Peak live views: 402
- People reached: 38,213
- Click to play: 4753
- Comments: 849
- Shares: 139

ExploreKYHistory App:
- Total installs: 2120 (53% increase over March)
- Users/sessions: 510 (460% increase over March)

CONNECTING TO LOCAL HISTORY
KHS continues to grow our ExploreKYHistory website and mobile app, which highlights historical markers across Kentucky. In April, the site had 14,325 users in 16,610 sessions!

CIVIL WAR GOVERNORS OF KENTUCKY CONTINUES GROWTH
April saw continued growth for KHS’s Civil War Governors of Kentucky Digital Documentary Edition, with page views jumping by 1,000. We also saw deeper public engagement on the site’s blog (http://civilwargovernors.org).

NEED RESEARCH HELP?
Want to dig into that new family history project? Our staff is helping with research requests! Call our reference desk at (502) 782-8080, or email khsrefdesk@ky.gov.

COLLECTING DURING CORONAVIRUS
The Kentucky Oral History Commission partnered with the Kentucky Folklife Program at Western Kentucky University to conduct recorded digital story circles about Kentuckians’ experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic. Those stories will inform future KHS collecting priorities around everyday life during the pandemic.
PROVIDING MORE ACCESS TO OUR COLLECTIONS

KHS continues to expand access to our collections. In April, our staff:

- Cataloged 146 oral histories and put them online
- Cataloged and digitized the Howe-Salyers family scrapbooks (nearly 60!)
- Cataloged more than 200 reels of microfilm
- Had 24 collaborators transcribing dozens of our collections for better online access

WANT MORE KENTUCKY HISTORY?

The Register of the Kentucky Historical Society, our quarterly, peer-reviewed journal, is now free on Project Muse! In April, there were 10,561 free downloads of Register articles. KHS also completed the first two rounds of the first-ever Register Derby, where 13 recent articles were pitted against each other in a three-week contest. The final results were posted to KHS Twitter on Derby Day and will be in the next report.

Find our digital collections at
history.ky.gov/resources/catalogs-research-tools

KHS SUMMER CAMPS GOING VIRTUAL

KHS summer camps are going virtual! Registration opens May 15, and campers’ activity kits can be shipped to your home or picked up at KHS. Our educators will meet with campers for 45 minutes each day to demonstrate activities, lead museum tours, and teach campers about Kentucky’s rich history. For information, contact Julie.Sawnor@ky.gov or visit history.ky.gov/camps.

TEACHER TRAINING CONTINUES

In partnership with the Kentucky Educational Development Corporation (KEDC), KHS Staff conducted a virtual professional development session for 34 teachers. Funding for the session was provided by the American Success through Purposeful Instruction and Rigorous Education (ASPIRE) grant and the KEDC.

HELPING KENTUCKY ORGANIZATIONS

Staff helped Kentucky museums and local history organizations apply for CARES Act funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Kentucky Humanities Council, providing support to organizations across the commonwealth.

BECOME A “VIRTUAL VISITOR”

Don’t forget to connect with KHS on our website’s Virtual Visitor page! In addition to showcasing KHS’s digital experiences, it also includes a listing of more than 25 museums and local history organizations offering online tours and more. See history.ky.gov/virtualvisitor.

VIRTUAL VISITOR

Kentucky