

1999 Join Us in Commemorating the 20th Anniversary! 2019



Our Fair City: The 1999 Lexington Fairness Ordinance

Planned Special Events are...

Visit Our Exhibit:

The Gallery, Lexington Central Public Library,
June 17 - July 19, 2019 (normal library hours)

Timeline of local, state and national LGBTQ history that places the passage of the Fairness Ordinance in its historical context.

Images and artifacts from the Lexington Fairness Campaign and the passage of the Fairness Ordinance on July 8, 1999

Video excerpts from public comment on the proposed Fairness Ordinance during the July 1, 1999 meeting of the LFUCG Council

This Exhibit and Speakers' Series were planned with the collaboration of The Lexington History Museum, Lexington Public Library, Faulkner Morgan Archive, and Lexington Fairness. Support for this project was provided by JustFundKY, Kentucky Local History Trust Fund, and Allegra Print & Imaging.

Attend Our Speakers' Series:

The Farish Theater
Lexington Central Public Library

1. We Were There: The Lexington Fairness Ordinance of 1999, Sunday, June 23, 2019

4:00 - 5:15 pm with a reception following
Focusing on the passage of the 1999 ordinance, this panel of speakers will feature players involved in the passing of the ordinance and their experience of that passage.

2. Where Are We Now? Fairness in 2019 Sunday, July 7, 4:00 - 5:15 pm with a reception following

Focusing on the state of LGBTQ equality in Lexington, this panel will discuss the successes of the ordinance, the challenges (such as the Hands On Originals case), and contemplate how we move Lexington towards greater equality.



LexHistory • P.O. Box 748 • Lexington, KY 40588-0748

Spring 2019



Lexington Fairness Facebook page

Celebrating 20 years of Fairness in our fair city LexHistory partners with others for look at Fairness ordinance

In June and July, the Lexington History Museum, in collaboration with the Lexington Public Library, the Faulkner Morgan Archive, and Lexington Fairness, will commemorate the Lexington Fairness Campaign and the passage of the Fairness Ordinance on July 8, 1999 (Ordinance # 201-99).

This ordinance, coming just six months after Louisville passed Kentucky's first Fairness Ordinance, provided protection from discrimination in employment, housing, and public accommodations for reasons of an individual's sexual orientation or gender identity.

An exhibit will display a timeline of local, state, and national LGBTQ history that places the Lexington Fairness Ordinance in its larger historical context.

Also on display will be historic photographs and artifacts from the 1999 Lexington Fairness Campaign. In addition, visitors will be able to view video excerpts from public comment on the proposed Fairness Ordinance, which were recorded live by GTV Channel 3 at the July 1, 1999, Lexington-Fayette Urban County Council meeting.

These displays will be open to the public from June 17 through July 19 in the Gallery

of the Lexington Central Public Library, 140 East Main Street, during normal library hours.

In addition, LexHistory Talks! will present two programs, both in the Farish Theater in the Lexington Central Public Library, 140 E. Main St. Dr. Jonathan Coleman, historian and curator of the Faulkner Morgan Archive, and curator and assistant director of the Mary Todd Lincoln House, will moderate the presentations.

The first LexHistory Talks! is at 4 p.m. Sunday, June 23. A panel of speakers will address the topic, "We Were There: The Lexington Fairness Ordinance of 1999." The speakers will focus on the passage of the 1999 ordinance and their personal experiences as players in this historic process.

The second event, titled "Where are We Now? Fairness in 2019." is at 4 p.m. Sunday, July 7. Focusing on the current state of LGBTQ equality in Lexington, this panel will discuss the successes of the ordinance, the challenges, and contemplate how we move Lexington toward greater equality.

The exhibit and speakers' series are made possible by support received from JustFundKY, Kentucky Local History Trust Fund, and Allegra Print & Imaging.

How it happened

By Anonymous

Twenty years ago, some Lexingtonians were struggling to gain the rights that all Lexington citizens expected to have—unless they were gay, lesbian, or transgendered. In 1999, a person could be fired, kicked out of their apartment, or denied service at a restaurant simply for being or even perceived as being gay.

Inspired by Louisville, which in January 1999, had managed to add "sexual orientation" to its civil rights ordinance, the Lexington Fairness Committee decided it was time to advocate for an ordinance in Lexington.

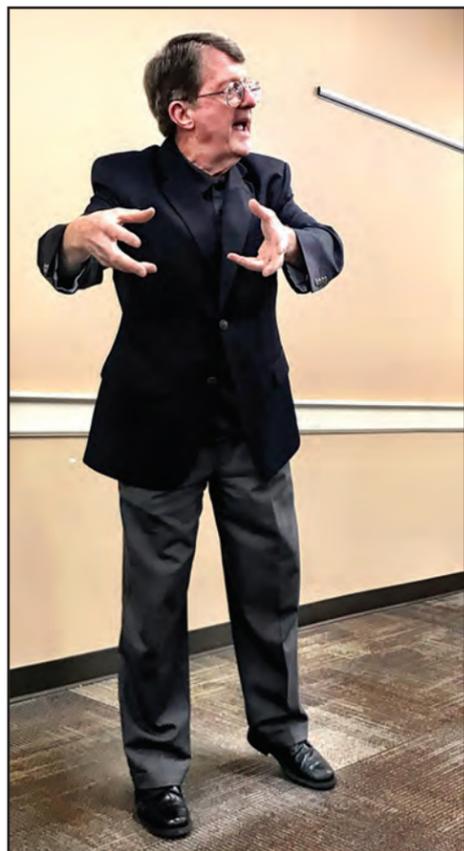
In February 1999, Lexington Fairness began a five-month campaign to explain what the ordinance would mean to LGBT people in Lexington.

From March through May, the committee lobbied Urban County Council members and were greeted with reactions that ran from supportive to hostile.

Continued on page 3

LexHistory Talks!

Speaker series now in its third year after revival



Randell Jones

Runyon is a descendent of Walde-
mar and Charlotte Mentelle, who came to Kentucky after the American
Revolution, falsely claiming to be refugees of the French Revolution. They
dazzled Lexingtonians for decades, but had secrets that Runyon was able
to reveal by using previously untranslated documents.

His talk was part of an arrangement with the University Press of Ken-
tucky.

The next two LexHistory Talks! are at 4 p.m. June 23 and July 7 in the
Farish Theater at the Lexington Central Public Library. They will focus on
the 20th anniversary of the Lexington Fairness Ordinance. (See story on
page 1.)

Be sure to “like” the Lexington History Museum’s Facebook page or
check the Museum’s homepage at www.lexhistory.org for dates, times, and
locations of future speakers. You can also sign up for the email newsletter
by clicking the link on the homepage, so you never miss an event.

Get involved

If you like talking with total strangers about history, then we have a job
for you. LexHistory Talks! relies on volunteers to plan and host events.
Join us. We also appreciate suggestions for future topics or speakers.

Direct your correspondence to info@lexhistory.org or to LexHistory
Talks! Committee Chairman Jay Prather at jprather@garmerprather.com.

The LexHistory Talks! speakers series is now in its
third year of presenting noted authors, historians, and
other speakers of historical interest. Generally held ev-
ery other month at rotating locations, each event is free
and open to everyone.

Since the series was revived and renamed in 2017,
the programs have averaged nearly 50 attendees, who
have been treated to engaging histories on topics as di-
verse as Kentucky’s statehood, ancient natural history,
and the history of professional baseball in Lexington.

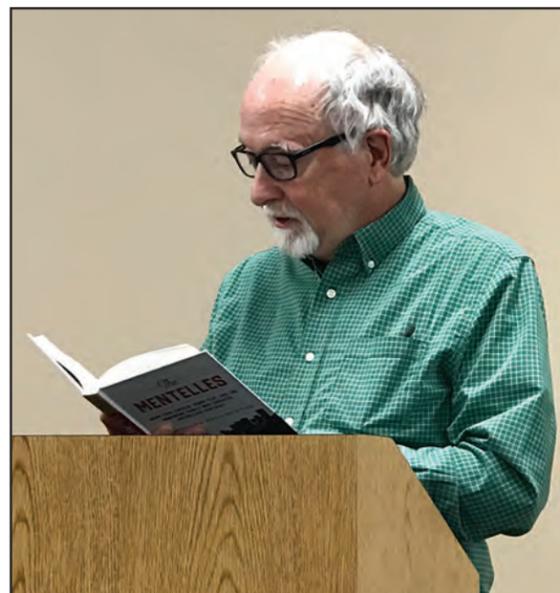
In celebration of Black History Month, the 2019
series began with “A Will and The Way: A History of
African American Education in Kentucky.”

Described in her introduction as “the Beyoncé of
history,” speaker Dr. Crystal deGregory is a noted sto-
ryteller and director of Kentucky State University’s At-
wood Institute for Race, Education and the Democratic
Ideal.

DeGregory shared the engaging story of the forma-
tion and growth of Kentucky’s only public, historically
black university. Her talk took the audience from the
university’s founding as a training ground for black
teachers for black schools, through its growth during
the era of Kentucky’s Day law, which prohibited integrat-
ed higher education for half a century, to its modern challenges in a changing culture.

March brought author and Daniel Boone authority Randell Jones, who retraced
Boone’s footsteps as he travelled from his North Carolina home. Jones regaled the
Lexington audience with stories from Boone’s life as he moved in and out of “Ken-
tuke,” as Boone called it in his day.

In April, Randolph Paul Runyon talked about his book *The Mentelles: Mary Todd
Lincoln, Henry Clay, and the Immigrant Family who Educated Antebellum Kentucky*.



Randolph Paul Runyon

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Dr. Crystal deGregory

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New book by LexHistory president looks at horse racing in Kentucky

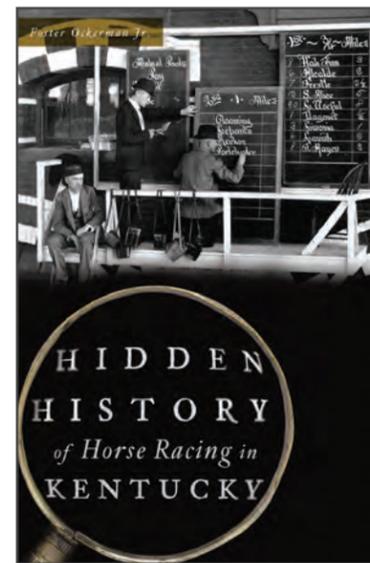
Are you taking a gamble when you push money
through a pari-mutuel window at Keeneland or
Churchill Downs?

Nope, not according to the Kentucky
Constitution.

That sage document, adopted in 1891,
“prohibited gambling but allowed wagering on
horse racing,” Foster Ockerman Jr. writes in his
latest book *Hidden History of Horse Racing in
Kentucky*.

Ockerman, a Lexington lawyer who also is
president and chief historian of the Lexington
History Museum, says the evolution of betting
was one of the things that most intrigued him as he
researched the book.

Ockerman used books, old newspapers, and
articles found on the Internet for his book. The
most fun, he said, was time spent in the Keeneland



Library, which has an enormous collection of
thoroughbred-related books, photographs, and
newspaper and magazine articles

His research found that in the early days, horses
were raced on a town’s Main Street, and that
Henry Clay was as good at horse breeding as he
was in politics.

The book contains information on the African-
American jockeys who were important in the
sport’s early years, the history of race tracks, and
now-forgotten farms that were associated with the
equine industry.

Hidden History of Horse Racing is published
by The History Press, a subsidiary of Arcadia
Publishing. It is available at bookstores or online.
The list price is \$21.99, and a portion of each sale
benefits the Lexington History Museum.

Take a tour of high school basketball at Lexington’s Fourth of July Festival

LexHistory is bringing high school basketball to Lexington’s Fourth of July Festival. We will host the Kentucky Historical Society’s HistoryMobile, with its new exhibit “100 Years of Kentucky High School Basketball.” The free walk-through exhibit is the result of a partnership between KHS and the Kentucky High School Basketball Hall of Fame. Look for our table and the huge HistoryMobile basketball graphic at the festival. We expect to be in Phoenix Park.

How it Happened from page 1

In May, the Human Rights Commission
passed a resolution asking the council to
enact a fairness ordinance. An ordinance was
introduced in June, with a public comment
session scheduled for July 1 and a final vote
July 8.

The public comments lasted for six hours,
with speakers on both sides being given two
or five minutes to state their case. Supporters
of the ordinance argued that all Lexingtonians
had the right to be free of discrimination
in housing, public accommodation, and
employment. For some, speaking to the
council was their coming out.

The public comment session brought out

true stories of people getting fired, being
beaten, and even finding an unlit Molotov
cocktail on a porch.

The opposition came with equal signs stuck
on their shirts. But when they began talking,
the hatred spewed. Many of the ugliest words
came from the out-of-town speakers called
in by one of Lexington’s largest and most
conservative churches. (That church has since
welcomed LGBT members.)

Then came the final reading and vote. This
time the crowd came out not to comment but
to witness history. So many people showed
up that hundreds had to watch on television
monitors from a ballroom on the floor below.
As the council considered amendments, the
roaring of LGBT people below lifted the

spirits of those who spoke.

When it was time for the last council
member to speak before voting, Robert
Jefferson, 2nd District, noted that Lexington
had a civil rights ordinance before the federal
government did in the 1960s.

“It wasn’t right then, and it’s not right now
to discriminate,” he said.

Amendments to weaken the ordinance were
defeated, and in a 12-3 vote the ordinance was
passed.

On July 15, 1999, it became law.

Although there have been setbacks, and we
are still hearing words of hate, we celebrate
the efforts 20 years ago that made Lexington
“Our Fair City.”

Lexington History Museum, Inc.

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Mission: We bring Lexington’s past to life, preserve our artifacts, engage all people in our shared story and present a story that is accessible to everyone.

The Lexington History Museum, Inc., is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation.

Newsletter written and designed by Andy Mead and Laura Cullen Glasscock.