



LEXINGTON HISTORY MUSEUM

Our heritage lives here.

Fall 2016

Recent Acquisitions: A Pioneer Swung this Axe

Some families pass down genealogical histories and old Bibles marked with names and dates. In the Foley family, there was also the broadaxe.

The Lexington History Museum recently acquired the axe that pioneer Richard Foley carried from Virginia to Kentucky in 1779. It is heavy and, well, broad. And oh, the stories it could tell.

Broadaxes were critical tools for the earliest pioneers—they could be used to chop down trees and also hew fallen trees into timbers for building stockades and cabins.

The axe is a gift from Nancy Foley Johnson, Richard Foley's 4th great-granddaughter, who lives in Lexington.

"He cleared the land with it at Bowman's Station and again when he came to Lexington," Mrs. Johnson said.

She has extensively researched her family's history and said Richard Foley first settled in Bowman's Station in Mercer County near Burgin during the bitterly cold winter of 1779. Eight years later, he came to Lexington, where he and his descendants built several houses in the South Elkhorn community near what now is Higbee Mill Road,

Man o' War Boulevard and Millpond Shopping Center. Several residential streets in the area have "Foley" in their names.

The old broadaxe was passed down through the generations. Mrs.

Johnson, 78, says that when she was a girl, her father kept it in his workshop. After she inherited it 25 years ago, it always leaned in a corner near her front door.

She laughed when asked why she parted with it.

"I got tired of having it in a corner where some mass murderer could come in and grab it, so I decided to get rid of it," she said.

But, turning serious, she said she decided the broadaxe "should go where people can see it."

It currently is on display at the LexHistory offices in The Square. Thanks, Mrs. Johnson, for sharing this important artifact with future generations.

...

If you have a piece of Lexington history and are considering donating it, contact LexHistory President Foster Ockerman, Jr., at director@lexhistory.org. Donations may be tax-deductible in accordance with IRS guidelines.



LexHistory Summer Intern Laurin Hisle hoists the pioneer broadaxe donated by Nancy Foley Johnson. The axe is currently on display in the LexHistory office at Suite 312 at The Square in downtown Lexington.

What We've Been Doing Since We Left the Old Courthouse

Four years after asbestos issues forced us from the Old Fayette County Courthouse, the Lexington History Museum is alive and getting stronger. We have new offices in Suite 312 at The Square (formerly known as Victorian Square) at 401 West Main Street. It is not a formal museum space, but we opened our first exhibit there in September.

In the last few months, we have moved our collection into new storage and begun rebuilding our collection database.

Our first major project of the year was raising private funds to commission oil portraits for the three former mayors—Scotty Baesler, Teresa Isaac, and Jim Newberry—for whom there were

See "What We've Been Doing" continued on page 2

What We've Been Doing

(Continued from page 1)

none. Painted by **Stephen Sawyer**, the portraits have been formally presented and hang in the Council Chambers. (Shown at right.)

What's next? Lots. Here's a sampling:

- Raised an alarm that led to the **rescue of the 1900 Circuit Court judge's bench from the Old Fayette County Courthouse**, which is undergoing renovation. The bench will be installed in the community room of the current Circuit Court building.
- Initiated a fundraising program to become a sponsor of a documentary on Belle Brezing, a nationally known Lexington madam. (See article on page 4.)



• Continued **adding to our collection**. Recent acquisitions include a broadaxe brought to Kentucky in 1779 (see story on page 1) and door hardware from the Old Courthouse.



Mayor Scotty Baesler 1982-1993

- The hardware features the initials FC for Fayette County (at left).
- Brought the **Kentucky HistoryMobile and our own booth to the Fourth of July Festival** in downtown Lexington.
- Started a **college intern program**, now in its second semester.
- Made plans to join the **Gallery Hop** starting in January 2017.



Mayor Teresa Isaac 2002-2006

- Continuing its emphasis on educational programs, LexHistory is sponsoring the **Kentucky Historical Society's HistoryMobile visits to five Lexington middle schools** this year with an exhibit titled "Torn Within and Threatened Without: Kentucky in the Civil War Era." The HistoryMobile uses interactive touch-screen technology to tell the stories of eight real people making difficult choices about war and slavery. For more, see <http://history.ky.gov/history-mobile/>.

Yes, I want to support the work of the Lexington History Museum!

Enclosed is my donation of:

- \$25.00 \$50.00 \$100.00 Other Amount: _____ (Please specify.)
 Thomas D. Clark Society, \$1,000.00

Make checks payable to: Lexington History Museum or use your VISA Mastercard

Card Number _____ Exp. Date: MM/YY _____ 3-Digit Security Code _____

Signature _____

Name as it appears on your credit card. _____

Mailing address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Email Address (Providing your email address enables us to keep you better informed about LexHistory.) _____ (Area Code) Tel. Number _____

Send this card with your check or payment information to:

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

Help your donation go farther! See if your employer matches contributions for charitable gifts.

The Museum is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization. Donations are tax-deductible as allowed.



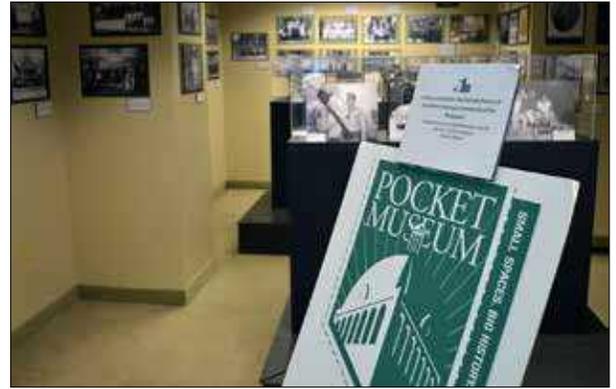
Mayor Jim Newberry 2006-2011

Pocket Museums provide snapshots of Lexington History

Although the Lexington History Museum no longer occupies space in the Old Fayette County Courthouse, it provides several pocket museums scattered among key locations in downtown Lexington. They are:

Central Bank, Kincaid Tower, 300 West Vine St.

"In Black and White: The Pictorial History of the African-American Community in the Bluegrass" There's room to walk through this exhibit (shown top right), which features photographs relating to the city's African-American history, starting before the Civil War and ending in the 1950s. The middle photo at right depicts workers under contract for the Works Progress Administration in 1934 to create a new sewer system in Lexington. (Photo courtesy of the University of Kentucky Special Collections.)



The Square, Suite 312, 401 West Main St.

"IBM" The company's 1956 decision to build a large typewriter factory off New Circle Road in North Lexington was pivotal to making the city what it is today. This exhibit of IBM products was a senior project by former LexHistory intern Madison Wheeler.



Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government Center, 200 East Main St.

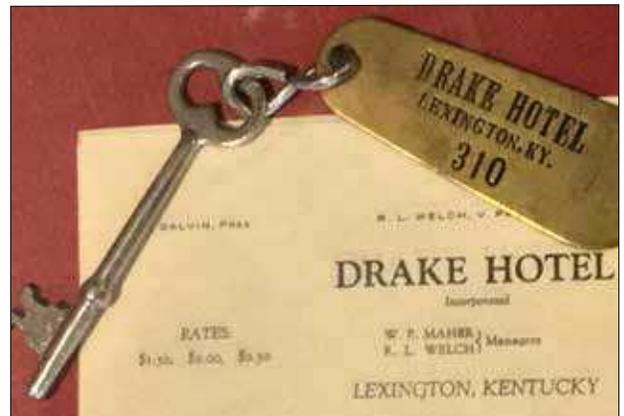
"Campaign Buttons and Voting Machines": This display case features campaign buttons for offices ranging from Urban County Council to the U.S. Senate. In the center is an "education model" voting machine that was used around 1970 by voters about to enter the voting booth, to show them how to use the machine. (Left side of lobby)



"IBM": This display case features IBM products and tells the history of IBM in Lexington. (Right side of lobby)

Fifth Third Bank Building, 250 West Main St.

"Hotel History": This case, located in a hallway to the right of the lobby, features artifacts from various hotels in Lexington, including the Campbell House, the Drake, Phoenix, and Lafayette. The pieces include dishes, serving pieces, silverware, room keys, stationery, and more. The 1931 letter on the Drake Hotel letterhead (shown at bottom right) lists nightly rates of \$1.50, \$2.00 and \$2.50!



Henry Clay High School History Club Steps into Action with LexHistory

The Henry Clay High School History Club was recently recognized by Lexington Mayor Jim Gray and the Urban County Council as the largest History Club in the United States—with 176 members. About one third of the members are helping LexHistory. Some are getting hands-on experience as they learn the principles of archiving; one group is researching events for a forthcoming publication and others are working on designs for the Pocket Museums celebrating the 225th anniversary of Kentucky statehood June 1, 2017.

"It is challenging but rewarding to have so many young men and women interested in our history," said Foster Ockerman Jr., LexHistory president and chief historian.

LexHistory

James L. Dickinson, Chair, Board of Trustees • Foster Ockerman, Jr., President & Chief Historian

Stacie Musser, Lead Archivist

Mailing address: P.O. Box 748, Lexington, KY 40588-0748

Office: The Square, 401 W. Main St., Suite 312, Lexington, KY 40507

Email: info@lexhistory.org • Website: www.lexhistory.org

Facebook: Lexington History Museum • Twitter: @LexHistory

Mission: The Lexington History Museum engages all people in the discovery and interpretation of the history of Lexington, Kentucky, and the Bluegrass Region.

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

Keeping Up with LexHistory: Now Easier than Ever

There's a lot happening with the organization dedicated to spreading the word about Lexington's history. LexHistory has plenty of news to share about what has happened in Lexington and what's happening now. And we're working to making it easier for you to keep up with us:

Newsletter and Notices via Email: Future issues of our newsletter will most often be electronic. Frankly, it's prohibitively expensive to distribute a regular printed newsletter. Plus, with so many events on the horizon, we need to be able to reach you in a more timely way. **Please help us get the electronic newsletter off the ground by signing up. Visit our website, www.lexhistory.org, and click on the link to subscribe.** We also will use the email list to send you timely invitations to events and other news. But we won't fill up your in-box, and we won't sell or share your address. You can unsubscribe at any time.

Please follow Lexington History Museum on **Facebook** for interesting historical facts and the latest news. To be sure you don't miss any posts, follow these steps: From the "Like Us" tab, pull down the Menu and choose "See First." We also encourage you to like and to share our posts to increase awareness of the organization.



Follow us on **Twitter** @LexHistory.

Our **website, www.lexhistory.org**, has a wealth of information, including locations of pocket museums, resources for education and links to the WikiLex.

You won't want to miss an issue, so take a minute now to visit www.lexhistory.org to sign up for our new electronic newsletter!

'Bawdy House' Proprietor Belle Brezing focus of new production

Documentary Brings Gilded Age in Bluegrass to Life

We've all seen the old black-and-white photos of Belle Brezing, the Lexington madam widely thought to be the inspiration for Belle Watley in "Gone with the Wind." Now, the Lexington History Museum is helping bring her to life in "Belle Brezing and the Gilded Age of the Bluegrass." The hour-long documentary is a High Impact Productions film produced by Post Time Studios of Lexington. The executive producer and director is Douglas High, whom you may recognize as the news anchor from "Good Morning Kentucky" on WTVQ-TV ABC 36. In addition to LexHistory, underwriters for the production are VISITLEX, the Kentucky Historical Society, and the Kentucky Employees Credit Union.

The documentary, narrated by Elizabeth Shatner, features re-enacted moments of Brezing's life, interviews with historians Mary-jean Wall, Doug Tattersall, and Foster Ockerman, Jr., and photographic treasures from the University of Kentucky Special Collections.

It will be shown on Kentucky Educational Television. Stay tuned for information on how you can see it first at a LexHistory fundraiser at the Kentucky Theatre. If you are interested in becoming a financial

facebook

LexHistory Posts Offer History Facts

We regularly serve up small bites of history or current ties to history on the Lexington History Museum Facebook page. Here are a couple of examples. "Like" us to see more.

"Last week a solid gold medal owned by Henry Clay sold at auction for \$348,000. Do you have items of historic value in your attic or the back of your closet relating to Lexington's history? A donation to the History Museum is tax deductible and an excellent way to preserve the item, paper, or portraits, etc., for future generations. Email director@lexhistory.org if you do. Thanks."
—Sept. 25, 2016

"UK played its first night football game—possibly the first in the South—in McLean Stadium on Euclid on October 4, 1930. UK beat Sewanee 37 - 0." —June 6, 2016

New Office at The Square Provides Display Space



Thomas D. Clark

The new LexHistory office at The Square, 401 West Main Street, Suite 312, provides both administrative and meeting space plus exhibit opportunities. Thanks to the large glass walls that open on the hallway, passers-by can see displays in our lobby area and the walls provide opportunities for more exhibits.

Among the many advantages of the new space is the opportunity to take part in GalleryHop, starting in January 2017.



Striking resemblance: Belle Brezing, left, and, right, title role actor Laurie Genet Preston in a still photo from the documentary.

backer and seeing your name listed as the credits roll on the silver screen, email Ockerman at director@lexhistory.org.