

Kentucky Room Scrapbook

Daviess County Public Library

By Jerry Long

From book, Kentucky Room, Daviess County Public Library Scrapbook, by Jerry Long, (2013), 251 pages, Daviess County Public Library, Owensboro, KY, Library catalog # KR 027.4 Kent.

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Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY - Tuesday, 23 October 2012, p4B :

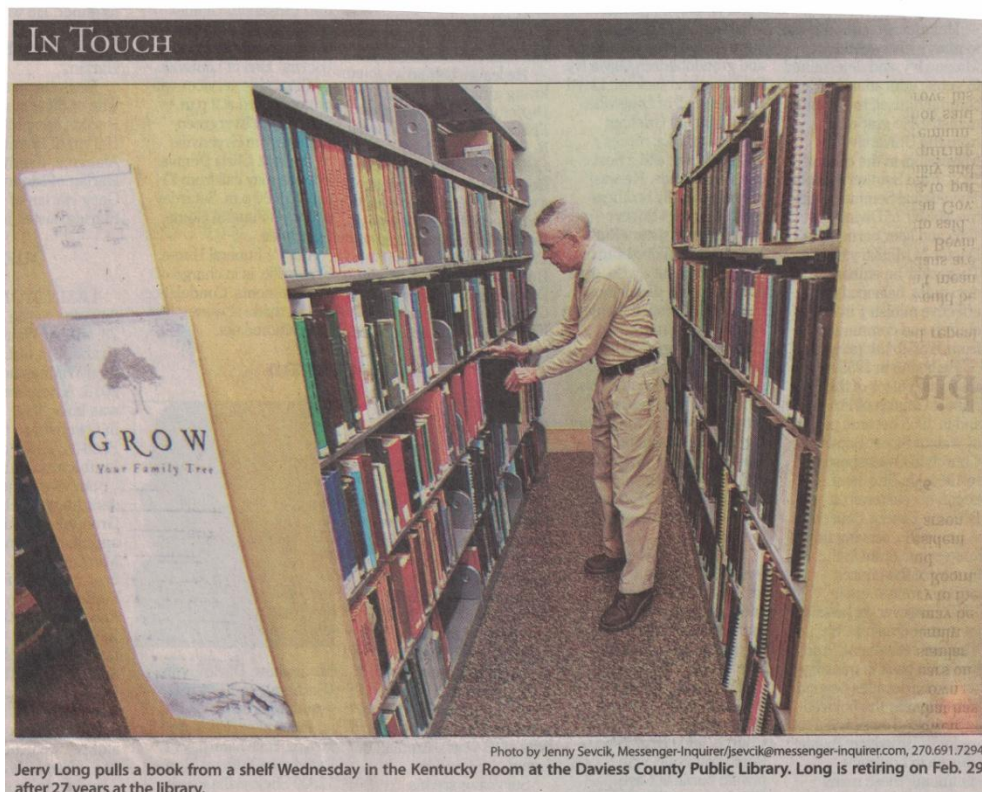
Heflin retirement party Tuesday

Library to honor Heflin

Library administrators are hosting a reception for Information Services Manager Shelia Heflin from 2 to 4 p.m. Tuesday in the Kentucky Room. A McLean County resident, Heflin will retire from the Daviess County Public Library effective Oct. 31. She spent much of her 33-year career in the Kentucky Room, a special collection featuring local and state history as well as resources for genealogists.

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Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, 5 February 2016, p1C:



Long retiring from DCPL Kentucky Room

For nearly three decades, Jerry Long has been sharing what he has learned about genealogy research with patrons of the Kentucky Room at the Daviess County Public Library.

Long is retiring on Feb. 29.

"I've worked in the Kentucky Room for 27 years, but actually it feels more like 37," Long said.

While working at the Executive Inn in the culinary department from 1978 to 1986, he spent so much of his free time at the library he felt like he worked there, too.

One of his first research projects was for a co-worker at the hotel. "We were surprised to learn we were third cousins," Long said.

"I knew Jerry was an excellent researcher just from talking to him over the years," said Shelia Heflin, who retired as information services manager of DCPL.

Twenty-seven years ago, Heflin told Long there was a part-time position open and asked if he was interested in applying.

"He interviewed and was hired, which turned into a full-time job," Heflin said.

"Jerry is the most meticulous researcher and knows what he's talking about," Heflin said. "His mind is like a steel trap. He remembers event times and dates."

"If Jerry tells you a date, you can believe that's when it happened," Heflin said.



SUZI
BARTHOLOMY
MESSENGER-INQUIRER

"I'm not a professional librarian," Long said. "I graduated from Brescia (University) with a degree in psychology," he said.

After graduating from Brescia, he moved on to Western Kentucky University for a master's in psychology. It didn't take but a short time for him to realize he had "no professional goals."

He came home content with his undergraduate degree and a desire to pursue history and genealogy.

"This has not been a job to me, but an avocation," Long said.

Long has an extensive list of accomplishments. He has nine books in the Library of Congress, 37 entries under his name in the DCPL card catalog, and more than 200 articles about public records

and family history in the Kentucky Room, as well as in various historical and genealogical publications.

He created an Owensboro obituary index database that's used extensively by genealogists. He has assisted thousands of residents in their family searches.

A history of "The Family of William Boucher and Milly Faris," printed by McDowell Publications, is a tome that has made him jealous of his own work. He spent three years on it and wishes he had a similar document for his own family.

When he retires, he may be adding his family history to the shelves of the Kentucky Room. In his research, he found that he is related to President Harry S. Truman, Kit Carson

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and department store founder J.C. Penney.

Long is a soft-spoken man who said he was a shy kid who read a lot. Of the people he found in his family tree, he was quite pleased to be related to Carson. He already had read a book about the frontiersman who died in 1868.

Not all research turns up good news. "A family named Jackson had been told they were related to President Andrew Jackson, but the data they gave me didn't match what I found," Long said. "It didn't pan out and they were somewhat disappointed."

"I love the research and solving (family) puzzles," he said.

Long, 66, likes the way his life is going. He does have one regret. When he was a student at Owensboro Catholic High School, he was invited to join the track team but declined.

"I was shy, I didn't participate in much at school," he said.

Of all his achievements, Long is most proud of his effort to save

the Kentucky Register of Births and Deaths from 1911 to 1969. In September 1990, the state registrar of vital records directed the county public health departments to destroy their set of books for those years.

They had previously been an open record that could be used by the public. On one of his many visits to research the records, he learned that they were going to be destroyed.

For several days, Long called and wrote to state officials and succeeded in getting "a stay of execution" for the documents. His actions saved the record books and a set was offered to any county or city library upon request. In 1992, the Kentucky Room received its set of Kentucky Register of Births and Deaths.

It has since been one of the most popular sources in the Kentucky Room, Long said.

Three months after Long retires, he'll be back at his former workplace as a volunteer. It would be hard for him to cut all ties with the Kentucky Room. He said has a lot more research and writing to do.

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Kentucky Room, Daviess County Public Library



Kentucky Room, 450 Griffith Avenue, Owensboro, 1985



Kentucky Room, 2020 Frederica Street, Owensboro, 2007



Kentucky Room staff, 2012: Jerry Long,
Leslie McCarty, Shelia Heflin & Bettie Spratt

