

# Preserving & Digitizing the *Kent Tribune* Newspaper

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# ABOUT THE PROJECT



# About the *Kent Tribune*

- Published 1915-1929
- Edited and published John G. Paxton (1915-1923), Samuel W. Baker (1915-1929) and James B. Holm (1923-1929)
- Documents Kent's "new era of prosperity and growth"
- Intended to serve all constituents as best as possible
- Focus on Kent and nearby rural towns



# Why now?

- **KHS holds only extant volumes covering 1917-1929**
- **Poor condition meant access to originals no longer possible**
- **OHC/Ohio Memory trustworthy and experienced partner for preservation and digitization**
- **Making content available to new readership aligns with KHS mission to document Kent history**



# FUNDING



# Spreading the word

- **Published information in multiple places**
  - The Kent Historian (KHS newsletter)
  - *Record-Courier* (local newspaper)
  - KHS website & social media
- **Encouraged members, readers and others to share information**

# Appealing to the community

- **Partnership with OHC to provide professional guidance and state-of-the-art expertise**
- **Importance of creating microfilm and digital copies**
- **Clear description of costs for project**
- **Link to existing collection from another institution on Ohio Memory**
- **Gifts included with each donation (membership, discounts, free book, free historic photo print)**



# Appealing to the community

- **Described historical significance of *Kent Tribune*—something for everyone!**
  - WWI aftermath
  - Social, service, women’s clubs activities & membership
  - Kent companies
  - Ads for local stores/popular products
  - Kent Masonic Center
  - Beginning of St. Patrick’s School
  - Local, state, national political coverage
  - Women’s suffrage
  - Growth of Kent Normal (Kent State University)
  - Genealogical information (“Social Events”; “People You Know”)





# Fundraiser success!

- **Raised nearly \$10,000 in three months**
- **Numerous small donations**
- **Couple large anonymous/private contributions**
- **Foundation support from Kent Rotary and The Davey Tree Expert Co.**

# PROJECT METHODOLOGY



# Microfilming vs. digitization

## Microfilm

- One-time project, lasts 500 years
- Storage in cool, dry place
- Access requires light and lens
- **Preservation!**

## Digital

- Relies on continuous funding
- Changing and unstable technologies require migration and backup
- Access requires hardware, software, network, etc.
- **Access!**



# Why microfilm?

- **Create preservation copy**
  - Long-term, compact, durable, true facsimile
- **Relatively inexpensive**
- **Recognized standards and national support**
- **Current processes and technology provides high-quality product and high-quality experience for user**

# Why digitize?

- **Increased access**
- **Contributes to conservation and preservation of collections**
- **Recognized standards and national support**
- **With newspapers:**
  - Fundamental part of historical record
  - Variety of information, unique stories, enhanced details
  - Convenient
  - Time-saving

# Microfilming AND digitization



- **Microfilm and digitize your newspapers!**
- **Both processes serve different purposes**
- **Often less expensive to microfilm than digitize**

# Selection

- **Choose what is important to your:**
  - Institution
  - Audience
  - Partners
  - Funders

**I Want what I Want when I Want It**

# Copyright

## Public domain

- Before 1923
- 1923-1977, without copyright notice
- 1923-1963, with copyright notice if copyright was not renewed

## Under copyright

- 1923-1963, with copyright notice if copyright was renewed
- 1964-1977, with copyright notice
- 1977-current



# Format

## Hardcopy

- **Pros**
  - Better image quality
- **Cons**
  - More costly
  - More time-consuming

## Microfilm

- **Pros**
  - Less costly
  - More efficient
  - Preserve hardcopy
- **Cons**
  - Some quality issues
  - Permission needed from microfilm creator
  - Access to negatives



# Incorporating standards: microfilming

- **Material preparation (inventory, reel programming, collation, target creation)\***
- **American National Standards Institute (ANSI) standards ensure high-quality image capture and reel production**
- **Least damaging method to disbind materials (if applicable)**
- **Quality control at all stages**
- **Preservation storage (cool, dry, secure)\***

\*Can also be done in-house to save on project costs



# Incorporating standards: digitization

- **High-quality images and keyword searching**
- **Interoperability between multiple digital library platforms**
- **Structural and descriptive metadata**
- **Sustainable, long-term access**

# NDNP technical specifications

- **Scanning from second-generation negative microfilm**
- **Intellectual and structural metadata**
  - Information about original, microfilm, digital editions of newspapers
  - Page and issue order
- **Image files**
  - Archival TIFF (grayscale, uncompressed)
  - JP2 (web access)
  - PDF (with embedded OCR)
- **XML files for pages, issues, reels, batches containing metadata**
- **For more info, see: [www.loc.gov/ndnp](http://www.loc.gov/ndnp)**
- **Also see NDIG technical specifications: <https://sites.google.com/site/digitalnewspaperspractices/technical-specifications>**

# Storage and access

- In-house vs. regional/state repository vs. vendor solution
- **Considerations**
  - Cost (including staff time)
  - Security
  - Access
  - User-friendly features
  - Sustainability
  - Interoperability



# Final thoughts

- **Microfilm and digitize to provide preservation and access**
- **Know why project is important to your institution and your community**
- **Consider copyright and property rights**
- **Use standards to ensure high-quality, user-friendly and sustainable product**
- **Partner within your (local & state) community**
- **Rely on vendors that incorporate standards to allow for project longevity**

# Thank you! Questions? Comments?

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