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Lexington, Kentucky

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Revival of Kentucky Almanac Links Kentucky's Past and Future

The Clark Group of Lexington, formerly known as Clark Publishing and Communications, a company renowned for assembling information about Kentucky, does it yet again with the introduction of its newest publication—**Clark's Kentucky Almanac and Book of Facts 2006. Reviving a Kentucky Tradition begun in 1788, Clark's Kentucky Almanac and Book of Facts returns to Kentucky after a 150 year absence.** Scheduled to hit shelves throughout Kentucky in retail establishments, bookstores, Kentucky State Park gift shops, and other venues this fall, Clark's Kentucky Almanac is all-new but will include a sampling of what the early almanac readers enjoyed. In addition, it will be replete with an astronomical calendar, facts, figures, essays and prose with one thing in common: everything between the covers is exclusively about Kentucky.

The 2006 almanac was officially announced Wednesday, June 1, on Kentucky Statehood Day at a reception at the Kentucky History Center in Frankfort hosted by The Clark Group, CEO Bobby Clark and President Florence Huffman. About 200 business, community, academic, and government leaders attended the reception presided over by honorary hosts Judith Clabes, President and CEO of the Scripps Howard Foundation in Cincinnati, O. Leonard Press, the founder of KET, and James Host, Secretary of the Kentucky Commerce Cabinet. A video presentation about the almanac produced by Michael Breeding of Americana Productions provided a snapshot of the comprehensive information about Kentucky that will be included in the almanac's 700-plus pages.

Clark's Kentucky Almanac will be introduced by a foreword written by Thomas D. Clark, Kentucky's treasured Historian Laureate, that crystallizes the state's colorful history. The almanac will pull numerous subjects from a vast array of sources, and will be published in a convenient, easy to read, format. With an exhaustive table of contents and growing list of contributors, expanded versions of the book will be available via the web and on DVD.

In addition to data and statistics about the Commonwealth, a wide variety of experts are contributing literary entries including material from the Kentucky Department of Libraries and Archives, the Kentucky Historical Society, the University of Kentucky Special Collections, and KET. Topical essays will be written by such notables as Dr. James Klotter, Kentucky's State Historian; Sylvia Lovely, Executive Director of the Kentucky League of Cities; Ed Bowen, President of the Grayson Jockey Club Research Foundation; Dr. Stuart Foster, Kentucky's State Climatologist; Governor Martha Layne Collins, now Executive Director and CEO of the Kentucky World Trade Center and John McGill, sports writer to name but a few.

The almanac scheduled to be produced annually.

To date, sponsors for the project include Americana Productions, Ashland, Business Lexington, Keeneland Magazine, Kentucky Farm Bureau, Kentucky Power, The Lane Report, LG&E Energy, Dea Riley and Meridian Communications, Tier1 Performance Solutions, Toyota Motor Manufacturing Kentucky, and WKYT-TV Lexington. Additional support for the reception came from Kathy Heltman with Clark Planning Services, Ruth Hunt Candy Company, Serafini Restaurant, Buffalo Trace Distillery and MSI Production Services.

Secretary Host, speaking on behalf of Governor Ernie Fletcher, read a proclamation at the reception designating June 1, 2005 as Kentucky Almanac Day and recognized The Clark Group's Vice President of Marketing and Advertising, Mr. Sam Stephens, for his persistence and leadership in making the almanac a reality. In the proclamation, Host read a quote from Thomas D. Clark, who said "the tapestry of Kentucky...is woven from a multiplicity of strands of natural and human elements."

"We've considered the possibility of an almanac since the spring of 1998," said Bobby Clark. "Sam is the one who convinced us all that it was the way to go. Since we made the decision to move ahead, every day that goes by proves it was absolutely the right decision to make," he said.

The Clark Group was founded in 1988 when it published the first version of The Kentucky Directory Gold Book, a compilation of government agencies, elected officials, schools and colleges, law firms, associations, and other data. The Clark Group also publishes a pocket-sized picture book of legislators, a media guide, and the only print directory of state government employees.

Printer John Bradford, a surveyor from Virginia who settled in Lexington, published the first Kentucky Almanac in 1788. Bradford, appointed as the official state printer, also published Kentucky's first newspaper, the Kentucky Gazette, and reported on Indian raids and Kentucky's efforts to obtain statehood. He helped to establish the Lexington Public Library and Transylvania University.

The Kentucky Almanac can be ordered in advance by calling 800-944-3995 or online at www.kyalmanac.com. It will be in bookstores and retail locations this fall.

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For more information about **Clark's Kentucky Almanac and Book of Facts 2006:**

Press Ops available

Video Reel available

Photo of the Kentucky Almanac Cover –www.clarkpublishing.com/kyalmanac300dpi.jpg

Sample of 1795 Kentucky Almanac - www.clarkpublishing.com/kyalmanac1795.pdf

Governor's Proclamation – www.clarkpublishing.com/proclamation.pdf

Photos of the June 1 event will be available