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CIVIL WAR TO CIVIL RIGHTS: FRANK STANLEY JR. AND THE LOUISVILLE DEFENDER



University of Kentucky

LOUISVILLE — The Louisville Defender was one of three local, African American newspapers in Louisville. First published in 1933, the Defender reported black Louisville's news, which often went unreported in the white newspapers.

In 1936, Frank Stanley Jr. purchased the Defender, raising its readership and broadening coverage to include Lexington and surrounding areas. His editorial column, "Being Frank," was nationally syndicated among African American newspapers.

Outside his editorial work, Stanley was chair of the Allied Organization for Civil Rights in Louisville and, in 1964, helped plan the March on Frankfort.

Stanley's work in the community and through The Louisville Defender provided African Americans in Kentucky with community news, a place to publically acknowledge their accomplishments and a voice in the development of their cities.

Although no longer owned by the Stanley family, The Louisville Defender continues to be published on a weekly basis.

The Kentucky Historical Society (KHS) links Kentuckians with their past via archival collections that document people from every walk of life, reaching back to 1509. Letters, diaries, oral histories and photographs, as well as the first and second Kentucky Constitutions, are included. Find these and other KHS collections online at khscatalog.kyvl.org

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