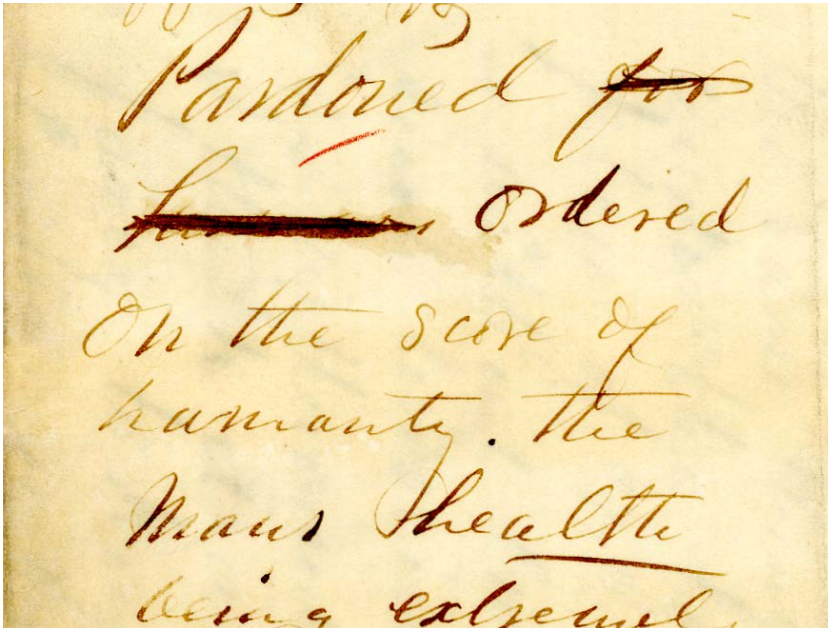


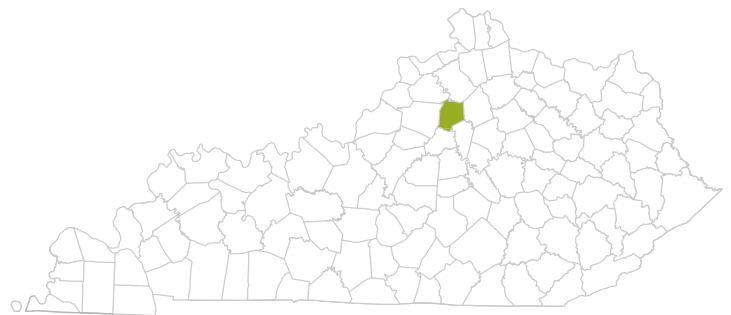
LEADERSHIP & LEGACY IN KENTUCKY HISTORY  
REV. CALVIN FAIRBANK | 1816-1898



Acting Gov. Richard T. Jacob issued the Rev. Calvin Fairbank's second pardon on April 15, 1864 – while Gov. Thomas E. Bramlette was in Washington, D.C. (Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives Collection, included in the Civil War Governors of Kentucky Digital Documentary Edition, a project of the Kentucky Historical Society)

**FREEING THE ENSLAVED** – The Rev. Calvin Fairbank, a New York abolitionist and Methodist minister, risked health and freedom by helping 47 people escape from the “Jaws of Hell” – slavery. He was arrested, convicted and served time in the state penitentiary in Frankfort – not once, but twice – for a total of 17 years. Pardoned on both occasions, Fairbank did not receive his freedom until Lt. Gov. Richard T. Jacob, serving as acting governor, pardoned him in 1864 “on the score of humanity.” The plea for humanity applied to Fairbank’s deteriorating health, not to his actions to free enslaved Kentuckians.

Fairbank’s pardon is one of the documents digitized for the Civil War Governors of Kentucky Digital Documentary Edition. [Learn more](#) about the KHS-led initiative.



Franklin County

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