

## **Introduction of Kathy Nichols**

Kathy Nichols grew up in the German Hill Country Region of Texas, in a small town named Boerne. She worked in the local bakery through high school and when she was home from college. Later she had a short stint as a newspaper reporter before she became a public historian. After graduate school in Public History at IUPUI, she worked as Site-Supervisor for Riverside, the Farnsley-Moremeyen Landing, then became Associate Director at Farmington. In 2010, she moved to New Braunfels, Texas as Executive Director of the Heritage Society of New Braunfels and the Museum of Texas Handmade Furniture. She moved back to Louisville, in 2018 to take on the role of Executive Director of Farmington Historic Plantation.

During the Covid-19 crisis she has been able to walk her dog, Mollie, so often she hides when she sees her leash. Her walks through Louisville's Calvary Cemetery led to an unofficial count of the artists that created 19<sup>th</sup> century grave markers, which was a continuation of a Texas project. In April, after a few weeks of staring out her condo window, she became an avid participant of a Facebook group, View from My Window. She and the other 152,000 members across the world post photos while looking out their windows.

According to Nichols:

*Kentucky played an integral role in the Underground Railroad; we must make sure we discover and retain those stories. There is evidence of enslaved men and women attempting to escape Farmington. Some did not succeed; others may have been more fortunate. She is interested in giving the public accurate historic information to contextualize this aspect of the American experience.*

*She hopes everyone will support Kentucky's Lincoln Trail and the Kentucky Hemp Trail.*

Note: Although the Farmington museum remains closed until science says it is safe to open, visitors can still visit the site using Self-guided grounds tour brochures available on the Visitors Center porch.