



OVERVIEW OF THE COLLECTIONS OF THE KENTUCKY STATE ARCHIVES

AVAILABLE FROM THE ARCHIVES RESEARCH
ROOM AND THE KENTUCKY STATE ARCHIVES

ACCESSING RECORDS FROM THE STATE ARCHIVES

Archives Research Room

- Provides access to walk-in patrons
- Responds to requests received through mail, email, or online
- Maintains over 60,000 rolls of microfilm
- Provides access to the State Publications collection

Archives Center

- Responds to requests received through mail, email, or online
- Physical storage of over 125,000 cubic feet of original records
- Pulls original records for walk-in patrons to view in the Research Room

ARCHIVES RESEARCH ROOM/MICROFILM SIDE



ARCHIVES RESEARCH ROOM/MICROFILM SIDE

- This room is where the public accesses the microfilmed public records within our collection
- Seven microfilm reader/printers are available for use (copies are 50¢ per page)
- Multiple computer terminals are available for viewing the microfilm guide sheets and databases, as well as web research including FamilySearch.org and Ancestry.com (using our paid subscription). Prints are 25¢ per page
- Our staff can assist you in getting started with your legal or genealogical research

ARCHIVES RESEARCH ROOM/ORIGINALS SIDE



ARCHIVES RESEARCH ROOM/ORIGINALS SIDE

- This room is where the public accesses the original public records within our collection
- Original copies of court cases, agency records, county records not available on microfilm, and State Publications records are viewed in this room.
- Our staff can make photocopies, but we encourage the use of cameras or hand-held scanners (copies are 25¢ per page)

STATE ARCHIVES CENTER



STATE ARCHIVES CENTER

- Secure area, not accessible to the public
- Provides temperature- and humidity-controlled storage for state government records with permanent retention
- Sends original records back to state agencies and Circuit/District Clerk's offices
- Pulls original records for patrons to view on the Originals Side of the Archives Research Room

WHAT DO WE HAVE IN THE STATE ARCHIVES?

- Vital records (births and deaths)
- County Court or Local records (tax books, deeds, wills, marriages, etc)
- Military records (only certain sets)
- Other special collections on microfilm (census records, city directories, etc)
- Circuit Court records (civil/divorce cases, criminal cases, appellate cases)
- State Agency records (minutes, official correspondence, etc)
- Historic newspapers (Kentucky Gazette, Courier-Journal, Herald-Leader, State Journal)

VITAL RECORDS

- Births and Deaths 1852-1910: These years are not inclusive!! There are many gaps in the years for these records due to the lack of a vital statistics law in KY for most years before 1911. Our website has a list of which years we have for each county on our Request Form page.
- Births 1911-1999: We have an index to these records but they are maintained by the Dept. of Vital Statistics (502-564-4212)
- Deaths 1911-1965: We have an index to these records and we have them on microfilm.
- Deaths 1966-1999: We have an index but the certificates are at Vital Statistics.

COUNTY COURT/LOCAL RECORDS

- The majority of these records are available on microfilm, but some remain in original format in the Archives Center
- These include but are not limited to:
- Probate related records: most counties did not create probate case files until 1978, but will books, administrator and executor bonds, county court order books, estate settlement books, and inventory/appraisal/sale bill books may exist
- Deeds
- Tax lists
- Marriages
- Voter registration and/or election return records
- And others: these records vary by county and by years

MILITARY RECORDS

- Militia Muster Rolls for Indian Wars (1791-1811)
- War of 1812 Adjutant General's Report
- Mexican War Adjutant General's Report
- Civil War Service Records (Union and Confederate Kentucky units)
- Civil War Adjutant General's Report
- Confederate Pension Applications
- Spanish American War Adjutant General's Report
- World War I Draft Registration Card
- World War I Service Cards
- Kentucky Veterans' Bonus Applications (for service from SAW to Korea)
- Kentucky State/National Guard 1875-1940

OTHER SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

- Federal Population Census (1790-1810, Kentucky not always available) (many of these are available on Ancestry)
- Federal Mortality Census (1850-1880)
- Veterans Census (1840)
- Slave Census (1850, 1860)
- Agricultural Census (1850-1880)
- Manufacturing Census (1820, 1850-1880)
- Feel free to ask us about other collections!

CIRCUIT/DISTRICT COURT RECORDS

- Civil and criminal case files for most counties from statehood or county creation up to 1977.
- Indexes and order books are also available for most of these records.
- Some case files, including some Probate cases, from 1978 up to the mid-1980s are available, but we do not have indexes. You will need the case number from the Circuit or District Court. You can find contact information for those clerks here:
<https://courts.ky.gov/courts/clerks/Pages/default.aspx>
- Our Request Form page has a listing of the counties and what years we have for each type of case file:
<https://kdla.ky.gov/researchers/Pages/recordsrequestforms.aspx>

CIRCUIT/DISTRICT COURT RECORDS CONTINUED

- Our State Records Center maintains Circuit and District case files from many counties from 1978 to the early 2000s but again, they will need the case number from the county. They can be reached at (502) 564-3617 or (502) 564-1715.
- We have Court of Appeals cases from 1864 to 2007 (2008-2010 at the State Records Center)
- We have Supreme Court cases from 1978 to 2010 (2011-2013 at the State Records Center)
- We hold some adoption cases at both facilities, but they are restricted! Contact the Circuit Clerk's Office or the Cabinet for Health and Family Services if you are looking for adoption records.

STATE AGENCY RECORDS

- These types of records vary greatly depending on the agency: we do not have all records from all agencies
- Most of these records are open to the public, but some may be restricted by Statute or Regulation
- It is often best to contact an agency's Records Officer first in order to determine if the records are available
- They can provide you with identification numbers (if applicable), and the location, box number, and accession number for those records in our State Archives Center
- Contact information for Records Officers can be found here:
<https://kdla.ky.gov/records/recmgmtservices/Pages/StateAgencyRecordsManagementContacts.aspx>

COME VISIT US!
FIND OUT MORE AT

[HTTPS://KDLA.KY.GOV/RESEARCHERS/PAGES/DEFAULT.ASPX](https://kdla.ky.gov/researchers/pages/default.t.aspx)

IF YOU CANNOT VISIT OUR FACILITY...

- You can email or call with general questions:
- kdla.archives@ky.gov
- Research Room (for vital and local records): (502) 564-1770
- Archives Center (for court cases and agency records): (502) 564-1787
- You can also submit an online request or find PDF request forms to mail in on our website (research fees apply):
<https://kdla.ky.gov/researchers/Pages/recordsrequestforms.aspx>

DON'T HESITATE TO ASK!

- If you did not see the records you need, please feel free to ask us.
- kdla.archives@ky.gov
- Research Room (for vital and local records): (502) 564-1770
- Archives Center (for court cases and agency records): (502) 564-1787
- <http://kdla.ky.gov>
- We cannot perform research over the phone, but we can try our best to determine whether or not we have records to search for your information



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