Every Hedgerow Has a History:
Using Archives to Discover Local Heritage

Kentucky Archives Institute
June 17, 2016
WHAT THE HECK?

- Where do I start?
- Who do I contact?
- Where do I go?
- Who, what, when, why, and how many?
Property Valuation Administrator (PVA)

- Start with the map of the county:

COUNTY CLERK’S OFFICE

- Electronic Indexes and Imaging
  - Search by Name
  - Not Comprehensive in Most Counties

- Index Books
  - Grantor/Grantee Indexes
  - General Cross Indexes

COUNTY CLERK’S OFFICE

- DEED BOOKS
  - Property Descriptions
  - Chain of Title

COUNTY CLERK’S OFFICE

- Real Estate Records
  - Deed Books
  - Commissioner’s Deed Books
  - Surveyors Books
  - Mortgage Books
  - Right-of-Way Books
  - Drainage Books
  - (aka “Ditch Books”)

COUNTY CLERK’S OFFICE

- COUNTY COURT ORDER BOOKS
  - All the business of the county court
  - Road Orders
  - Condemnation Orders
COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE

- PROBATE RECORDS
  - Wills
  - Executor, Guardian, etc. Records
  - Inventory and Settlements

Kentucky Dept. for Libraries and Archives (KDLA)

- County Clerk Records
  - Security Microfilm
  - Original Records

- Circuit Court Case Files
  - Criminal
  - Civil

- U.S. Census Records
  - General Census
  - Agricultural
  - Manufacturing
CONTACT INFORMATION

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