

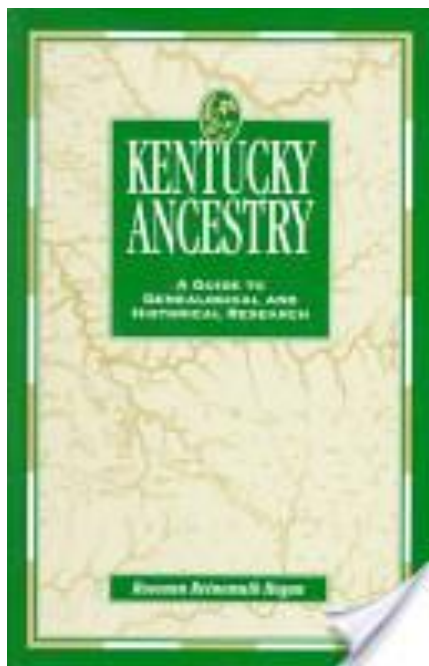
KENTUCKY PROBATE RECORDS

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Kentucky Ancestry



Kentucky ancestry : a guide to genealogical and historical research / by Roseann Reinemuth Hogan. 1992.
ISBN 0916489493

Definition of Probate

- Probate is the “court procedure by which a will is proved to be valid or invalid” and encompasses “all matters and proceedings pertaining to the administration of estates, guardianships, etc. (Blacks Law Dictionary)

Types of Probate Records

- Wills
- Bonds
- Petitions
- Accounts
- Inventories
- Administrations
- Orders
- Decrees
- Distributions

Will

- A document in which a person specifies the method to be applied in the management and distribution of his estate after his death.
- Filed in County Court

Order Books – Record the Activities of the Estate

- Date the Will was entered in to the Court
- Names of people appearing in Court
 - Presented the Will
 - Witnesses to the Will
- Settlements and Statements of associated Accounts
- Guardian of children (if necessary)

Executor and Administrator Bonds

- Executor: typically appointed by the deceased, if he left a will (includes relationship information)
- Administrator: court appointed
- Guardian: if minor children are involved
 - May not be the mother
 - Women could not always act for themselves legally
 - Doesn't necessarily mean that the mother was dead, unfit, or unable to care for her children

Appraisals and Inventories

- Appraisals – committee of 2-3 would be appointed if a settlement was necessary
- Men – often neighbors or “trusted citizens”
- Submit an inventory to the County Court
 - Included the value of each item in the estate
 - May be recorded w/ the will or in a separate volume called “Inventories and Settlements” or “Inventories and Appraisements”

Sales and Settlements

- Sale of the estate
- Record the items sold, its price, and the name of the purchaser
- Purchaser's were typically relatives and neighbors
 - Sale record may contain clues about relatives and the husbands of married daughters
- Once sale is complete, the estate will be settled
 - All heirs will be listed w/ their spouses
 - If land is involved, those would be recorded in deed records

Intestate Settlements

- Intestate = without a will
- May be records related to the estate
 - Administrator would still have to be appointed
 - Settlement if property was involved
 - Deed Records!
- Commissioner's Deeds
 - Power to settle estate if heirs are unwilling or unable to reach an agreement

Contesting a Will

- Suit would be filed in Circuit Court
- May include depositions
- Relationships established
- Suits for settlement of an estate were very common

Courthouse Disasters

<http://kdla.ky.gov/researchers/Pages/courthousedisasters.aspx>



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County Courthouse Disasters in Kentucky

| County Name | County Founding Date | (Approximate) Years Of Courthouse Disasters |
|-----------------|----------------------|---|
| Adair County | 1802 | |
| Allen County | 1815 | 1902 |
| Anderson County | 1827 | 1859, 1915 |
| Ballard County | 1842 | 1880 |
| Barren County | 1799 | |
| Bath County | 1811 | 1864 |
| Bell County | 1867 | 1914, 1918, 1944, 1976 |
| Boone County | 1799 | 1880s |
| Bourbon County | 1786 | 1872, 1901 |

- Home
- KDLA Catalog
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- Kentucky Talking Book Library

Archives Research Room Hours:
Open to the public, Monday - Friday
9:00 am - 4:00 pm ET;

KY Probate Records - Where to Find

- County Court
- Kentucky Dept. for Libraries and Archives
- Local Public library
- Kentucky Historical Society
 - <http://history.ky.gov>
- FamilySearch
 - <http://familysearch.org>
- Ancestry
 - <http://ancestry.com>

Any Questions

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