





For Sound Issues:

- Click the purple pad in the bottom right 
- Click the My Settings gear 
- Click **Audio & video Settings** to set up your camera & mic, get a dial-in phone number, or adjust your volume
 - To use your computer for sound, you must use a computer that has a microphone

To Chat:

- Click the purple tab in the bottom right 
- Click the Chat bubble 

Beginning Genealogy Research

Jessica Herrington

Librarian

KDLA Archives Research Room

Genealogy

Where did we come from?



Family Trees/Charts

- Bare bones framework

Family Histories

- Stories, reasons, & memories

Original Records

- Proving the facts

Not likely to be
quick or easy

Family lore
is not fact

Not everything
is online

Records are
not immortal

Myths & Misconceptions

The Essentials



Skill

where, what, how to look



Persistence

keep trying many
approaches, many places,
many people



Serendipity

found by someone else,
buried in an attic, or
misfiled in boxes

First Steps



GATHER HOME & FAMILY
SOURCES: STORIES,
DOCUMENTS, PHOTOS,
ANYTHING!



TALK TO RELATIVES FOR
PRELIMINARY
INFORMATION, OTHER
DOCUMENTS OR PHOTOS

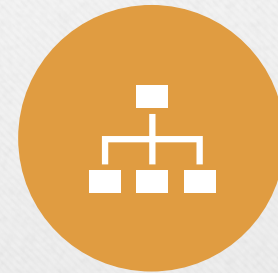


CHART THE FRAMEWORK,
BEGINNING WITH SELF &
WORKING BACKWARDS

Research Strategies



Objective: specific information wanted



Known Facts: additional information may help



Working Hypothesis: what seems likely?



Identify Sources: types of records, likely repositories, online resources



Planned Steps: start with most likely sources

Searching & Documenting

- Keep detailed notes of all searches, even the unsuccessful ones
- Document everything: photocopy records or keep handwritten notes if necessary
- Stay organized: keep information easy to access

Types of Records

- Vital Records: births, marriages, deaths
- US Census Records: locations of family over time
- Government Records: Land, Probate, Tax, Military, Court, Naturalizations
- Cemetery Records: burial locations
- Other: Church records, newspapers, family records, oral histories...

Vital Records

Births:

- Name
- Race
- Birthplace
- Birthdate
- Parents names & birthplaces

Marriages:

- Names
- Ages
- Marriage date & location
- Parents names, permissions

Deaths:

- Name
- Race
- Birth & death dates
- Location of birth & death
- Cause of death
- Burial information
- Marital status
- Spouse's name

Marriages

- Exist for most counties since their founding
- KDLA has microfilm copies for most counties; some County Clerks kept records

Marriage Bond
THE COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY. No. 92

County Court. Boyle

BE IT KNOWN, That we George Carter
as principal, and Ella M. Elroy
as surety, see jointly and severally bound to the Commonwealth of Kentucky, in the sum of ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS.

THIS BOND IS CONDITIONED AS FOLLOWS:

That, whereas Marriage is intended to be solemnized between
George Carter and Ella M. Elroy
Now, if there is no lawful cause to obstruct said Marriage, this bond shall be void, otherwise it shall be and remain in full force and effect.

Witness our hands, this 20th day of Jan 1924

Attest: J. A. Nichols Clerk. J. A. Nichols Principal.
J. A. Nichols Surety.

By: George Carter D. C.

REGISTER OF MARRIAGE No. _____

Full names of parties, Husband: George Carter
Wife: Ella M. Elroy

*By Whom Married _____

*Place of Marriage Boyle County of Boyle Kentucky.

*Date of Marriage Jan 20

*Witnesses _____ and _____

Age of Husband 25 years; Condition (single, widowed, divorced) single
Age of Wife 24 years; Condition (single, widowed, divorced) single

Race: (white or colored) white

Husband's Place of Birth Boyle Ky Residence Boyle Ky
Wife's Place of Birth Boyle Ky Residence Boyle Ky

Name of Parents of Husband _____ and _____
Names of Parents of Wife _____ and _____

Occupation of Husband _____
Date of License 20 day of Jan 1924

Subscribed and sworn to before me by George Carter
this 20 day of Jan 1924

By: J. A. Nichols Clerk.
George Carter D. C.

***RECORD OF MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE**

I, H. B. Martin Minister
of the Baptist Church,
or religious order of that name, do certify that on the 20th day of Jan 1924 at Boyle Kentucky, under
authority of the above License, I united in Marriage
George Carter and Ella M. Elroy
the persons named and described therein, in the presence of
Wm. H. Carter and Stella Elroy

I qualified and gave heed according to law, authorizing me to celebrate the rite of Marriage in the County (or city) of Boyle State of Kentucky.

Given under my hand, this 20th day of January 1924

A Copy, Attest: H. B. Martin Minister.
J. A. Nichols Clerk.
By: J. A. Nichols D. C.

*Bonds to be filed by Clerk after return of License.

Births & Deaths

- 1852-1910: at KDLA; records not consistent or complete, varies by county & years
- 1911-present: Office of Vital Statistics; specific requests only, not able to browse
- Deaths 1911-1965: also available at KDLA on microfilm

Census Records

- Count & description of the population
- Taken every 10 years since 1790
- Easiest way to locate where an ancestor lived at the time
- 1790 & 1800: lost, recreated from tax lists
- 1890: destroyed by fire in 1921
- 1950 Census was released to public in 2022 (72 years)
- KDLA has microfilm
- Ancestry & Family Search: better quality, searchable online

SCHEDULE of the whole number of Persons within the Division allotted to

NAME	FREE WHITE PERSONS, (INCLUDING HEADS OF FAMILIES)																	
	MALES							FEMALES										
HEADS OF FAMILIES	Under 10 yrs	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 25	25 to 30	30 to 40	40 to 50	50 to 60	60 to 70	70 to 80	80 to 90	90 to 100	100 to 110	110 to 120				
Jack Lee																		
John B. W. Lewis	1																	
Sam Brantley	1																	
Richard Summers	1																	
Wm & Sarah	1																	
John Davis	1																	
Thomas Rob	1																	
James Rob	1																	
William Brown																		
John Day																		
James L. Lewis	2																	
Lucy Ogden	2																	
Jessie Shannon	2																	
John Rogers	1																	
William D. Johnson	1																	
Edward B. Walker	1																	
Joseph S. Lawrence	1																	
Samuel S. Smith																		
Jessie A. Lee																		
John Daugherty																		
John S. Morgan	1																	
Edward S. Chapman	1																	
Franklin Rob	5																	
John S. Baker																		
John S. West																		
John S. Smith	2																	
Thomas Caldwell	2																	
TOTAL	22	1	5	9	17	14	6	2					12	16	6	6	17	4

What is shown by the Marshal of the District (or Territory) of Kentucky 178

NAME	SLAVES														FREE COLORED PERSONS														TOTAL	
	MALES							FEMALES							MALES							FEMALES								
HEADS OF FAMILIES	Under 10 yrs	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 25	25 to 30	30 to 40	40 to 50	50 to 60	60 to 70	70 to 80	80 to 90	90 to 100	100 to 110	110 to 120	Under 10 yrs	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 25	25 to 30	30 to 40	40 to 50	50 to 60	60 to 70	70 to 80	80 to 90	90 to 100	100 to 110	110 to 120		
																														3
																														6
																														18
																														14
																														4
																														11
																														9
																														6
																														2
																														5
																														7
																														8
																														12
																														7
																														9
																														24
																														7
																														8
																														6
																														12
																														5
																														6
																														15
																														3
TOTAL	14	7	7												8	5	6	7	2											236

Census Information

- Names, ages, birthplaces: 1850-1950
- Birthplaces of parents: 1880-1950
- Relationships: 1880-1950
- Family & Neighbors: All years
- Immigration Year: 1900-1930
- Citizenship: 1910-1940

Land Records

- **Deeds:** a record is created each time property was transferred
 - Exist for most counties since their founding
 - Recorded in County Clerk for county where land was located
 - NOTE! As new counties were formed or boundaries changed, older records stayed in the parent county
- **Land Grants:** issued by government for military service or cash payments
 - Secretary of State Land Office has indexes & original records
 - KDLA has copies for most records on microfilm

Combs
to
Fisher

This Indenture made this day of April 1808, between William Combs and Deley his Wife of the County of Casey & State of Kentucky of the one part & Thomas Fisher of the County of Casey & State aforesaid of the other part Witnesseth that the said William Combs for and in consideration of one hundred pounds lawful money to money to him in hand paid by the said Thomas Fisher the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged by the said Combs and himself to be fully satisfied and paid hath bargained and sold aliened and confirmed and by these presents to the said Thomas Fisher his heirs and assigns all and singular that ^{part} part of or parcel of land being and lying in the County of Casey and State aforesaid and bounded as follows To wit Beginning at two Chestnut trees thence North 10 West 180 paces to a large poplar tree Sounded thence N 75 West 89 paces to a bunch of Chestnut Sprouts and a Log wood thence S 75 West 180 paces to near two Chestnut and a Oak in the old line thence S 75 West 89 paces to the Beginning the whole containing one hundred acres with the appertinances belonging to the said Party proper and of the said Fisher his heirs &c. and the said William Combs at the time of Sealing doth for himself his heirs &c. covenant with the said Thomas Fisher his heirs or assigns that all the

Said Combs is the lawful owner of all and singular the said tract of land with the appertinances and that he is lawfully seized of his own right of & Substantives in fee Simple of all and singular the tract aforesaid without any manner of condition Mortgage or charge to either or charge or detour in the same, and further the said William Combs his heirs Executors and Administrators will forever warrant and defend the Premises aforesaid hereby granted and conveyed to the said Thomas Fisher his heirs and assigns forever against all and every person whatsoever claiming or to claim In Witness whereof the said William Combs hereunto set his hand and affixed his Seal this

William Combs ^{Seal}
Elizabeth Combs ^{Seal}

Kentucky, Casey County Sit
I hereby certify that on the 4th day of April 1808 the within named William Combs & Elizabeth his wife acknowledged this Indenture of bargain

Probate Records

- Search multiple books & records; not usually collected into a single file (until 1978)
 - Wills
 - Estate Settlements
 - Inventories & Appraisements
 - Guardianships
 - Court Cases, if settlement was contested

GREEN CLAY SMITH
TO WILL

I, Green Clay Smith, of Krupp, Kentucky, do make and publish the following as my last will and testament, hereby revoking all former will made by me.

Item 1. I direct that all of my just debts and funeral expenses be first paid out of my estate, and here wish to acknowledge the amount of \$100.00 that I owe my sister, Sarah Smith, for which she holds a note.

Item 2. I hereby give, devise, and bequeath to each of my niece and nephews, to-wit: Rosa Hull, Archer Smith, Audie Frewitt, Allie Frewitt, Leonard Smith, Hester Sharp, Susan Smith and Opa Davis, the sum of Five Dollars each.

Item 3. After the payment of all debts as provided for in item number one and five Dollars each to my niece and nephews as mentioned in item number two of this will, I hereby give, devise and bequeath all other property that I possess of every kind and character to my brother, Perry Smith and my sister, Sarah Smith, to be divided equally between them.

Item 4. I make, nominate and appoint Frank Kerr, of Krupp, Kentucky, to be the executor of this my last will and testament.

In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand at Krupp, Ky. on this the 2nd day of November, 1926, in the presence of J. H. Taylor and Jess Frewitt.

Green Clay Smith.

The said Green Clay Smith at the home of Perry Smith at Krupp, Kentucky on the 2nd day of November, 1926, signed, executed and published and declared the foregoing as and for his last will and testament; and we at his request and in his presence and in the presence of each other, have hereto written our names as subscribing witnesses, this the 2nd day of November, 1926.

J. H. Taylor

Jess Frewitt

STATE OF KENTUCKY
COUNTY OF WHITLEY

I, T. H. Hickey, Clerk of the County Court for the County and State aforesaid, certify that the foregoing will was at the regular December Term, 1926, produced in open court for probate, whereupon same was probated, and ordered to lie over until the Regular January Term, for exceptions, at this regular January Term, no exceptions having been filed same was ordered recorded, whereupon the same the foregoing and this certificate has been duly recorded in my office.

Given under my hand this 15th day of January, 1927.

T. H. Hickey Clerk

Thomas H. Hickey

ANDERSON BOULIN
TO WILL

I, ANDERSON BOULIN of Williamsburg, Whitley County, Kentucky, being of sound mind and memory do make, declare and publish this to be my last will and testament hereby revoking all wills by me heretofore made.

I. I direct that all my just debts and funeral expenses be paid out of my estate as soon as practicable after the time of my decease.

II. All the residue of my estate of every character and description (whether personal, real or mixed) I bequeath to Mart Boulina and Fies Boulina giving the said Mart Boulina and Fies Boulina as Executors and trustees of my will full power and authority to sell or dispose of my property or any part thereof. I further direct that after the real estate has been sold and debts has been paid the remainder of money from said sale of real estate shall be given to Opa Boulina, my wife.

III. If any of my estate should be undisposed of after carrying out the above bequest I direct the same to be divided among Mart Boulina and Fies Boulina equally.

IV. I nominate and appoint Mart Boulina and Fies Boulina executors and trustees of this my last will and testament, and I request that no bond be required of them.

This July 16- 1926.

his
Anderson K. Boulina
mark
his
Opa K. Boulina
mark

Witness Don Gambian
Mrs. J. A. Hollars

STATE OF KENTUCKY
COUNTY OF HANCOCK

AFFIANT, Mrs. J. A. Hollars after being duly sworn states that she did witness the same made to this will by Anderson Boulina and Opa Boulina who lived at Wofford, Ky. in Whitley County.

Subscribed and sworn to before me by Mrs. J. A. Hollars
This Dec. 31, 1926.

Isaac Pennington
Notary Public

Hanlin County, Kentucky.

My time expires July 19, 1927.

STATE OF KENTUCKY
COUNTY OF WHITLEY

I, T. H. Hickey, Clerk of the County Court, for the County and State aforesaid, certify that the foregoing will was at the regular Jan. Term of this court filed whereupon same was probated as the last will and testament of Anderson Boulina, dec., and continued until the February Term for exceptions, at this Regular Feb. Term, no exceptions same is now confirmed and ordered recorded whereupon the same together with this certificate has been duly recorded in my office.
Given under my hand this 8th day of Feb. 1927.

T. H. Hickey Clerk

Thomas H. Hickey

Tax Records

- Tax lists serve similar purpose as a census
- Help follow families between census years, or as alternative to missing years
- Owned property, militia volunteer, etc.
- Poll taxes: paid yearly by white males age 21+ for privilege of voting

Military Records

- Compiled service records
- Adjutant General Reports
- Pension records
- Bounty land records
- KDLA has some records, depending on the conflict

Military Records

- KY Dept of Military Affairs
Military Records & Research Branch
1700 Louisville Rd. Frankfort, KY 40601
502-607-6041
- National Archives (Revolutionary War – 1912)
Washington D.C.
www.archives.gov/veterans
- National Personnel Records Center (WWI – present)
1 Archives Dr. St. Louis, MO 63138
314-801-0800

Court Records

- Legal activities through life
- Divorce, civil disputes, criminal charges
- Relationships, character information, financial & business information, held court position
- Most records still in original form



The Deposition of Henry Boston
taken on the 6th day of May 1880
at the office for ~~W~~ of Isaac C. Burdick,
Examiner for Wayne County to be
read as evidence in action between
Wm Coleman & Off against Marvona
Coleman Deft now pending in the
Wayne Circuit Court

The witness being first duly
sworn deposes and says as follows
to wit:

I live in Wayne County Kentucky
and have lived here 23 years. I am
acquainted with the Off in this action
have known him 20 years. I know that
his wife abandoned him over a year
ago, without any fault on his part
as I know. I lived about three miles
from Wm Coleman at the time ^{he}

I stayed at Wm Coleman's ^{part} of the
time, he treated her like a faithful
and dutiful husband, she has lived
five or six years, that is in the State
and lived here when she left him,
she left ^{him} within five years next before
the commencement of this action.

Henry Boston
Wm

Immigration & Naturalization

- Pre-1790: no federal laws, VA laws applied to KY
 - 1779: VA granted citizenship to any white individual born in territory & all living there for more than 2 years
 - 1783: must appear before a court to attain citizenship
- 1790-1906: federal naturalization act
 - immigrants generally eligible for naturalization after 5 years
 - Process handled in any court (city, county, state, or federal)
- 1906-present: federal naturalization process established
 - Still occurred in nonfederal courts, but documentation must be submitted to Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization
 - 1940-present: only federal district courts can grant citizenship

Immigration & Naturalization

- Not all immigrants completed citizenship
- Men were primary applicants for most early records
 - Children inherited citizenship of father
 - Women received citizenship from husband's status, even if they were US citizens already
 - 1922: Married Women's Act (Cable Act) granted women a nationality of their own, independent of her husband

Cemetery Records

- Headstone inscriptions
- Written records: information recorded by cemetery officials/caretakers
- May provide information on:
 - Deceased name, birth & death dates, related persons, military service, religion, occupation, marriage information or maiden name, etc.

Church Records

- Baptisms, Marriages, Burials
- Especially helpful if unable to locate official records
- Membership Lists
- Church History
- Will vary depending on denomination, activity, etc.

Newspapers

- Obituaries
- Court notices & reports
- Announcements
- Community involvement

Other Records

Know Your
Collections!



Family Records



Researcher Files



Local History Books



Oral Histories



Historical Maps

Research Guides

<https://kdla.ky.gov/Archives-and-Reference/Pages/Research-Guides.aspx>

Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives [Ask a Librarian](#) [Connect with us](#)

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Archives & Reference

[Visiting the Archives](#)

[Resources for Researchers](#)

[Requesting Records from the Archives](#)


Research Guides

The following handouts and guides detail KDLA resources for specific record types or topics. Refer to them to learn more about our holdings, methods of access, and to plan your research accordingly.

Records Inventory

- [County Records Inventory](#) (PDF)

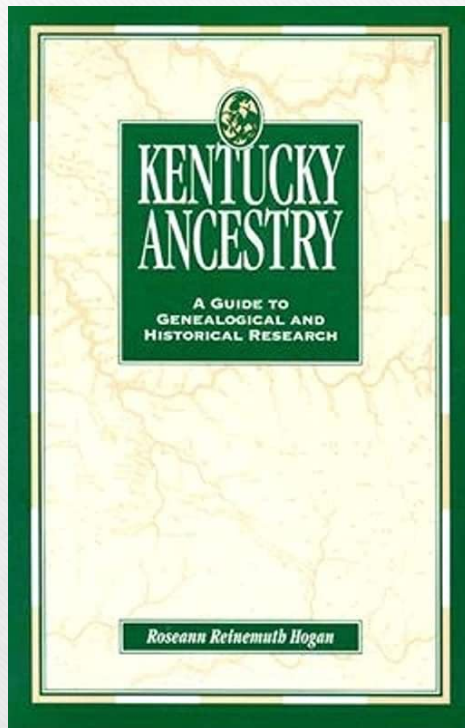
The inventory lists some of the most regularly used resources at KDLA including: birth, marriage, death, county order books, wills, deeds, and civil and criminal cases. Records vary greatly by County and type. Consult this list for a better idea of the availability of records for your research interests when planning to visit KDLA or when considering placing a records request order with us. This is not a comprehensive inventory, questions about the records listed, or other material not included here, should be directed to staff at KDLA.Archives@ky.gov or at (502) 564-1770.



Genealogy:

- [Birth and Death Records](#) (PDF)
 - [Vital Statistics \(Birth, Marriage, Death\) 1852-1910, Microfilm Rolls by County](#) (PDF)
 - [Vital Statistics \(Birth and Death\) Pre-1911, Microfilm by City, \(Covington, Lexington, Louisville, and Newport\)](#) (PDF)
- [Census Records](#) (PDF)
- [Divorce Records](#) (PDF)
- [Local County Records](#) (PDF)
- [Marriage Records](#) (PDF)

Suggested Reading



Kentucky Ancestry : A Guide to
Genealogical and Historical Research

By Roseann Reinemuth Hogan

Just a Reminder

- Research takes time, patience, & luck
- Resources are not always easy to access
- Information may not always be found
- Sometimes it's a puzzle with many pieces

Questions?

Contact: Jessica.Herrington@ky.gov



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Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)
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