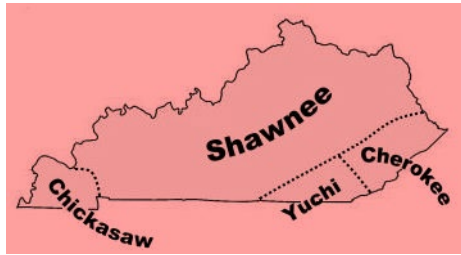


# Kentucky Genealogy Research



The most prominent early Indian tribes in Kentucky were the Cherokee, Chickasaws, Yuchi and Shawnee. Most of these tribes were eliminated from Kentucky by the early 1800s due to contagious diseases, warfare or their forced resettlement in Oklahoma by the federal government. No separate U.S. records were kept for people with American Indian blood.

The State of Kentucky was formed in 1792.

Some of Kentucky was formed from part of Virginia. Thus records of early settlers may be in Virginia.

## Kentucky Birth Records

### Indexes of Kentucky birth records:

- *Ancestry.com - FamilySearch.org*
- View microfilms of births, various KY counties at *The Kentucky Department of Libraries and Archives*

### Records

Before 1852, no births were recorded by the counties or the state.

Births from 1852 thru 1910 were recorded sporadically in the counties due to laws that were passed and then repealed and the varying degrees of compliance.

Some delayed birth records were compiled for this time period.

**Order a copy of a Kentucky Birth Record, any year, from the Kentucky Department of Public Health, Office of Vital Statistics.** The office has a few records between 1852 and 1910; most are from 1911 to the present.

## Kentucky Marriage Records

### Indexes of Kentucky marriage records cover varying counties and years:

- *FamilySearch.org - Ancestry.com*
- University of Kentucky Special Collections Research Center - <https://exploreuk.uky.edu/catalog/?q=marriage+notices+in+Religious+Herald>
  - Marriage index and marriage records of people of color in Fayette County, VA, varying years
  - Marriage notices in *The Religious Herald* of Richmond, VA, 1828 - 1938

### Records

Counties have the earliest and most complete collection of vital records for Kentucky.

**Obtain a Kentucky Marriage Record** from the **Office of the County Clerk** in the county where the marriage occurred.

NOTE: Eloping couples went to Mason Co. or Pike Co. to avoid waiting to marry.

## Kentucky Death Records

### Indexes of Kentucky death records:

- *Ancestry.com - FamilySearch.org*
- University of Kentucky Special Collections Research Center - obituary notices in *The Religious Herald* of Richmond, VA 1828 - 1938 - <https://exploreuk.uky.edu/catalog/?q=marriage+notices+in+Religious+Herald>

### Records

In 1852, Kentucky law required counties to record deaths: the records are incomplete.

In 1911, a new state law required registration of all deaths.

**Obtain a Kentucky Death Record** from the **County Clerk's Office** or the **Kentucky Office of Vital Statistics.**

## Other Sources of Birth, Marriage, and Death Information:

- Family Bible Records
- Church Records
- Newspaper birth and marriage announcements, obituaries
- Military Records
- Censuses and Mortality Schedules
- Funeral Home/Cemetery Records/Wills/Probate Records

## Major Kentucky Genealogical/Historical Repositories

Kentucky Archives & Library Special Collections, Louisville

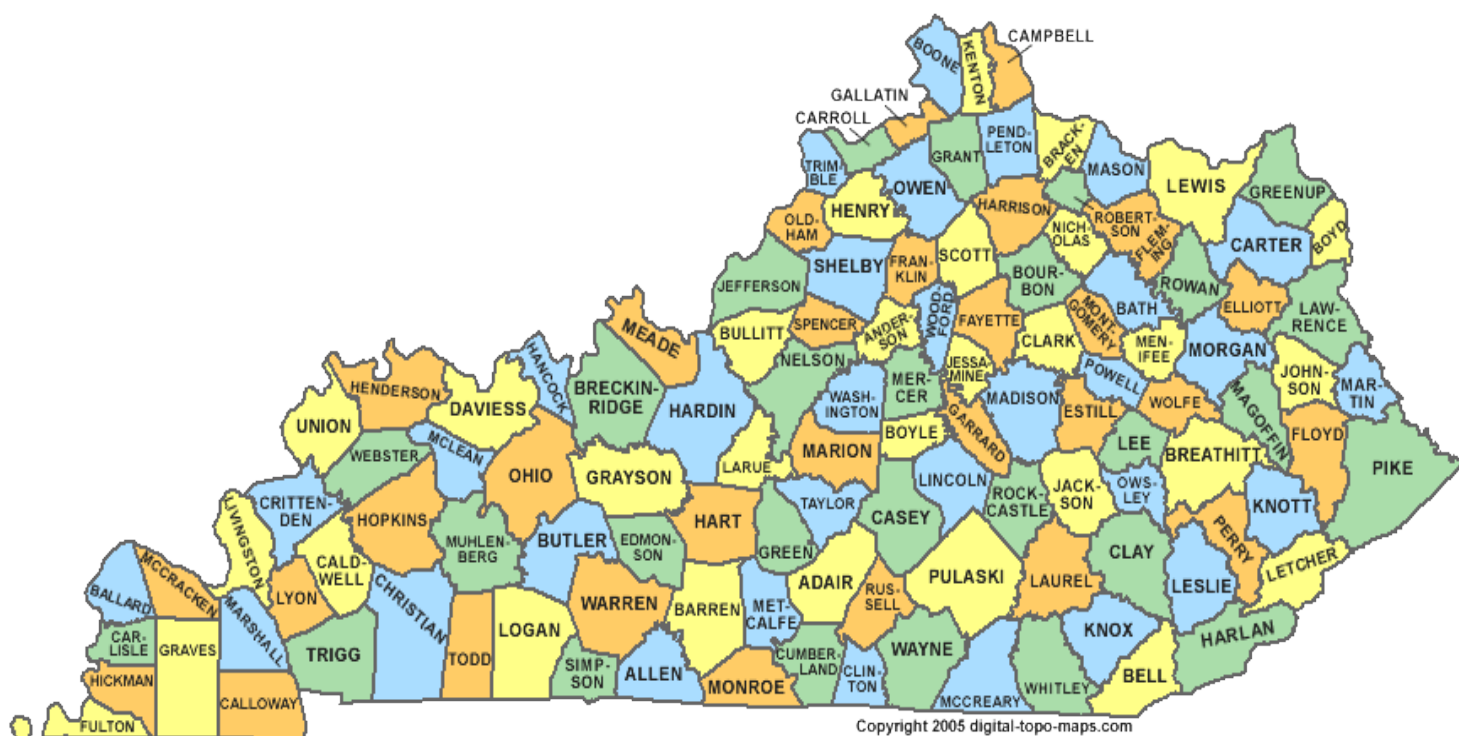
Kentucky Historical Society

Martin F. Schmidt Research Library, Frankfort

National Archives Southeast Region (Atlanta)

Special Collections Research Center, University of Kentucky

## Kentucky Counties



**The Atlas of Historical County Boundaries** – Interactive maps and text covering the historical boundaries, names, organization, and attachments of every county, extinct county and unsuccessful county proposal from the creation of the first county through December 31, 2000. -

<http://publications.newberry.org/ahcbp/index.html>

## Kentucky Migration Routes

Many of the earliest white settlers came down the Ohio River from Pennsylvania or through the Cumberland Gap from Virginia and North Carolina. 70,000 people walked/rode horseback to KY on the Wilderness Road before 1796.

Other routes included the Louisville and Portland Canal • Buffalo Trace • Catawba Trail • Cumberland and Great Lake Trail • Great Valley Road • Kentucky Road • Maysville Turnpike • Nashville-Saline River Trail • Russellville-Shawneetown Trail • Tennessee, Ohio and Great Lakes Trail • Warriors Path • Zane's Trace

## Kentucky Land Records

The KY/TN border was disputed till 1859 - look for family land records in both states.

Kentucky was a "state-land" state, meaning the state government appropriated all land within its borders. Land was surveyed in odd-sized lots in much of the state, but west of the Tennessee River it was surveyed in townships. Several types of land grants were issued in Kentucky. Warrants authorizing surveys of the desired land were issued to persons qualified to receive grants for military service (military warrants) or cash payments (treasury warrants.)

The following databases are available online at the **Kentucky Land Office website** -

<http://www.sos.ky.gov/admin/land/Pages/default.aspx>

- Virginia Patent Series and Old Kentucky Patent Series.
- Revolutionary War Warrants database.
- West of Tennessee River Military Patents database
- Certificates of Settlement and Preemption Warrants database.
- Virginia Treasury Warrants Register,
- Lincoln Entries database.
- County Court Order Patents database.
- Jackson Purchase database.
- West of Tennessee River Non-Military Patents Database.

## Kentucky Genealogy Research Websites

- Check online for the *GenWeb* and *Genealogy Trails* of the county in which your ancestor lived.
- Find links to genealogical websites for many states and counties on *Ancestor Hunt* and *Cyndi's List*

**Allen County Records** – click on database: indexes of births, marriages, deaths including some slaves, Land purchases/Deeds, Wills, Military records, Censuses, and more - <http://www.allencountyky.com/>

**Boyd County Public Library** – search databases of obituaries, cemetery burials, marriages, surname index, KY death index for years 2000 - 2012 - <http://thebookplace.org/genealogy/databases/>

**Explore UK** - view yearbooks, newspapers, city directories, listen to oral interviews – digital library of the University of Kentucky Special Collections - <https://exploreak.uky.edu/>

**Filson Historical Society** – view images of biographies and memoirs, family papers, diaries, funeral home records

**Kenton County Public Library** – search databases of cemetery burials, city directories, church, hospital, court, real estate records, newspapers and more -

**Kentucky Department of Libraries and Archives** – vital statistics on microfilm, online BMD indexes for some years

**Kentucky Digital Library** – read newspapers, maps, oral histories, books **Kentucky Land Office** – search land grants, military land bounty records, etc. - <http://www.sos.ky.gov/admin/land/Pages/default.aspx>

**Kentucky Historical Society Digital Collections** - oral histories, manuscripts, photos - <https://www.kyhistory.com/>

**My Genealogy Hound** – *biographies* of early citizens extracted from *pre-1900 county histories* of Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Missouri, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Tennessee -

**Kentucky Marriage Index** – indexes of KY marriages - <http://ukcc.uky.edu/vitalrec/>

**University of Louisville Digital Collections** - historical photos, documents about people, places, businesses, and floods primarily in Louisville, KY - <https://hyku.library.louisville.edu/>

## Kentucky African American Research

**Access Genealogy** – links by state to websites of African American genealogy, cemeteries, and censuses

**AfricaMap** – track the slave trade with historical overlays and geographical data - <http://worldmap.harvard.edu/africamap/>

**African Ancestry** - DNA testing of maternal and paternal lineages of African descent - results are specific countries and specific ethnic groups of origin - uses database of over 30,000 indigenous African DNA samples - <https://africanancestry.com/>

**Digital Library on American Slavery** – search database of slave petitions, runaway slave advertisements, bills of sale, transatlantic slave trade database; this compilation of various online collections started with a focus on records in North Carolina but the information includes people in all 15 slave states and Washington D.C.; more records are currently being digitized - <http://library.uncg.edu/slavery/>

**Fayette County African American Marriages** – search indexes of “Colored Marriages” records in Fayette County, KY, 1866 – 1882 and 1958 - 1968

**International African American Museum** - African American funeral programs, obituaries, marriage records, photos, historical documents and family histories – military records of the U.S. Colored Troops are currently being digitized - <https://cfh.iaamuseum.org/records/>

**Last Seen: Finding Family After Slavery** - search thousands of “Information Wanted” advertisements taken out by former slaves in all states searching for family members lost by sale, flight, or enlistment – the collection currently includes newspapers from 1853 to 1911 - <http://www.informationwanted.org/>

**Marriage index and Records** - marriage bonds and licenses of people of color in Fayette County, VA, varying years - <https://exploreuk.uky.edu/catalog/?q=colored+marriage+indexes>

**Slave Confederate Payrolls** - digitized payrolls list names of slaves of 10 southern states who worked for the Confederate Army and whose pay went to their masters - <https://catalog.archives.gov/search?q=719477>

**Slave Voyages** - the *Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade Database* documents vessels along the Atlantic slave routes from 1514 to 1866; *Intra-American Slave Trade Database* documents vessels traveling between the Atlantic and Pacific ports ranging from the United States to Brazil; the *African Names Database* gives names, ages, possible origins of slaves liberated from captured slave ships between 1808 and 1862

### **Kentucky Cemetery Research**

*Graves County, KY:* List of **Graves County Cemeteries** and their locations - links to a few burial listings - <http://mayfieldky.gov/cemeteries.php>

**Kenton County Public Library** – search databases of cemetery burials, city directories, church, hospital, court, real estate records, newspapers and more

**Kentucky Historical Society Cemetery Search** – search index by name and cemetery - <http://www.kyhistory.com/cdm/ref/collection/LIB/id/493>

*Lexington-Fayette Urban County, KY:* **Lexington Cemetery** – searchable database of burials -

*Lincoln County, KY:* **Shelby City African-American Cemetery** – as of Nov. 2013: cemetery is being cleared and graves are being found

*McCracken County, KY:* **Oak Grove Cemetery** in Paducah, KY – links to alphabetical burial lists and to cemetery maps

*Shelbyville, KY:* **Grove Hill Cemetery** – search burials by name, click View to access all information

**Tennessee Valley Authority Cemeteries** – index of over 30,000 graves originally in TN, AL, MS, KY, GA, NC, and VA that were flooded or relocated when the dams were built -

<https://www.tva.com/environment/environmental-stewardship/land-management/cultural-resource-management/relocated-cemeteries>

### **Kentucky Military Research**

**Grand Army of the Republic Records Project** – developing database - histories of posts, reports of officers and members if available, search by state - <http://suvchw.org/garrecords/>

**Kentucky Revolutionary War Warrants** – search index - <http://apps.sos.ky.gov/land/military/revwar/>

## Kentucky Native American Research

**Carlisle Indian School Digital Resource Center** – student records, cemetery information, much related to one of the Sioux tribes

**First People** - Links to State Recognized Tribes, sorted by state - <http://www.firstpeople.us/FP-HTML-Links/state-recognized-tribes-in-usa-by-state.html>

**Native American Tribes of Kentucky** - <http://www.native-languages.org/kentucky.htm>

## Kentucky Newspaper Research

**Kentucky Digital Library** – read newspaper pages

**Kentucky Online Historical Newspapers** – names and dates of newspapers, where they can be read online

**University of Kentucky Special Collections Research Center** - Obituary notices in The Religious Herald of Richmond, VA 1828 - 1938 - Marriage notices in The Religious Herald of Richmond, VA, 1828 - 1938 - <https://exploreuk.uky.edu/catalog/?q=marriage+notices+in+Religious+Herald>

Information on these pages is compiled from information in:

- *FamilySearch.org* Wiki
- Family Tree Magazine
- *The Weekly Genealogist, NEHGS; Dick Eastman Genealogy Newsletter; Genealogy Gems from the Allen County Public Library*
- *Online Military Indexes and Records* - <http://www.militaryindexes.com/index.html>
- *University of Kentucky Special Collections Research Center* - Catalog and Digital Collections  
<https://exploreuk.uky.edu/catalog/?q=colored+marriage+indexes>  
<https://exploreuk.uky.edu/catalog/?q=marriage+notices+in+Religious+Herald>
- *University of Louisville Archive and Special collections - Digital Center* - <https://hyku.library.louisville.edu/>