

## RESEARCH SOURCES FOR CUMBERLAND COUNTY

Early Tax records: The following years are on microfilm at Cumberland Co. Public Library: 1799, 1805, 1833, 1837, 1840, 1841, 1842, 1843, 1844, 1845, 1846, 1847, 1848, 1849, and 1850.

U.S. Census records: 1800, 1810, 1820, 1830, 1840, 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880, 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930, 1940 abstracts at Cumberland Co. Public Library, as well as microfilm of most of these years. The 1850 Cumberland Co. slave census is also available there, as well as various mortality census schedules.

Vital Statistics: (Births, Deaths, Marriages) abstracted by R.N. Smith for most of the 1850's, some 1870's, 1894, 1904, and 1907. The microfilm from which these abstracts were taken is also available. Both sources are available at the Cumberland Co. Public Library. In addition, Mary and Joe Skipworth have made available in book form all known marriages of the county from 1882 to 2002. Due to the courthouse fire of 1933, the only early marriage records that are available from ca. 1800 to ca. 1817 are those copied and saved by Nora McGee. They are listed in 'History of Cumberland County', Wells. Missing marriage books are: 1889 to Oct., 1893; Aug., 1899 to Feb., 1909; July, 1914 to Jan., 1916; July, 1918 to Dec., 1921 and Sept., 1923 to Feb., 1926. Recently, death certificate images on CD's have been donated to the library for the period of 1911 to 1953, as well as an index book of information.

Wills: Wills and settlements for the period of 1800 to ca. 1906 have been abstracted by R.N. Smith and Laura Butler and are available in book form at the Cumberland Co. Library. Original will books from the beginning of the county to the present are intact and are housed in the office of the county court clerk.

County history: Three county histories are available at the Cumberland Co. Public Library: J.W. Wells' 'History of Cumberland County', 1947; Ernie Lawson's 'Awakening of Cumberland County', 1973; and Ruth Wooten's 'Cumberland Co., KY., Yesterday & Today', 1991. Each is unique: The Wells' history has no pictures but is a wealth of information on early ways of life in the area and has a genealogy section; Lawson's history has selected pictures and stories of the early days of the county and has a chronological history of the newspaper stories from the 1920's to the 1970's; and Wooten's history is a comprehensive work of stories and pictures of the county as well as family stories. In addition to these 3 histories, there are many books of family history in the 'Family Files' section of the library, and in the vertical files there. The library is also repository for many oral histories done in 1976, and the transcripts of several of them.

Cemetery records: R.N. Smith and Laura Butler compiled a list of all known cemeteries of the county in the period ending in the late 1950's to early 1960's. The list is available in book form (every-name index) in the Cumberland Co. Public Library and is supplemented by R.N. Smith's and Mary Skipworth's undertaker records that encompass the period of 1905 to 2004 and a copy of Gary Norris' book of Cumberland Co. cemeteries.

Land records: Early deeds and surveys have been abstracted by R.N. Smith and Laura Butler. The deed abstracts cover from ca. 1800 to the 1870's and all the early surveys are included in that abstract book. In addition, the original books are intact from the beginning of the county to the present day. The commissioner's deed books burned in the courthouse fire of 1933 but all others are intact and are available at the county court clerk's office.

Bible records: Smith and Butler collected many Bible records of the county and they are available in book form in the Cumberland Co. Public Library.

Court records: R.N. Smith abstracted the early civil order books from the period of the beginning of the county to ca. 1880. The abstracts are in book form at the Cumberland Co. Library. The original documents may be ordered from the KY. Dept. of Libraries and Archives in Frankfort, KY. The abstract book is a very good resource in that it provides the researcher with a beginning reference for ordering source documents.

Smith's card index: Over his many years of research in Cumberland Co., R.N. Smith sourced and saved information that he found. This collection consists of hundreds of index cards and was donated by Mr. Smith to the Cumberland Co. Public Library. In this collection, you will find many obscure items of information that may not be found elsewhere

Church records: Available in Cumberland Co. Public Library: Records of Casey Fork Baptist Church; Christian Chapel Church of Christ; Freedom Association of Baptist Church; Guthrie's Chapel Methodist Church; Hanover Church of Christ; Rock Springs Church of Christ; Stockton Valley Association Minutes (Baptist); and Willow Grove Church of Christ, Willow Grove, TN.

In addition to these sources listed specifically for Cumberland Co. research, the Randolph N. Smith Genealogy Library of Cumberland Co. Public Library has many resources for other Kentucky counties, and for many states, including VA, TN, NC, SC, MO, and PA.

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