Genealogical Research in LSC & WKU Archives

**WKU Library Special Collections & Kentucky Museum Research Strategies** – use One-Search the library’s online catalog, KenCat the special collections and museum online catalog and TopScholar WKU’s institutional repository in your research.

**Databases** – use academic research databases for genealogical research. These are available to all students, faculty and staff on and off campus. They are available to all researchers who visit Special Collections & WKU Archives. Researchers may obtain a [Friends of the Library card](http://www.wku.edu/library/archive/) in order to gain access to databases off campus. Here is a sampling of what is available:


- **EBSCOhost** contains indexes to journals such as the *Journal of Family History*, *Journal of Negro History*, *American Nineteenth Century History*, *Black History Bulletin*, *Kansas History*, *Women’s History Review*, *Journal of Military History*, *German History*, *Hawaiian Journal of History*, *Naval History*, *American Jewish History*, and *Indiana Magazine of History*.

- **EBSCO Historical Abstracts** database containing bibliographic records and links to full-text documents.

America’s Obituaries & Death Notices
American Civil War: Letters & Diaries
Biography & Genealogy Master Index
Bowling Green Daily News
Chicago Tribune 1849-1988
Kentucky Newspapers
Los Angeles Times 1881-1986
London Times Digital Archive
Washington Post: 1976-present
Washington Post Historical: 1877-1996

U.S. Census Indexes 1790-1850 – available on campus

Vital Records
Kentucky Birth & Death Indexes
Kentucky Death Certificates – microfilm
Bowling Green / Warren County
   Funeral Home Records
   Marriage Records Index 1797-1984
   Park City Daily News Obituary Index D-Z, 1998-2007 available on campus
Cemeteries – search KenCat by cemetery name for list of records available
County record abstracts – search KenCat by county, e.g. “Warren County” for list of records available

Microfilm – the Special Collections Library maintains an extensive microfilm collection which includes city directories, census, church, court, immigration, manuscripts, marriage, maps, military, newspapers, tax lists and vital records. See Research Guides below for some more detailed lists of selected microfilm collections.

Resources
   African Americans
   Autobiographies
   Biographies
County Histories & Records – search KenCat and One-Search using county name e.g. “Butler County”
   Court Records
   Deeds
   Divorce
   Marriage
   Naturalizations
   Order Books
   Poor Houses
   Probate
   Tax Lists
   Wills
   Diaries
   Emigration & Immigration
Funeral records
Genealogies – search KenCat and One-Search using surnames
Heraldry
Jews
Maps
Melungeons
Military
Afghan War
American Revolution
Civil War in Kentucky
Confederate States of America
Grand Army of the Republic
Gulf War aka Persian Gulf War aka Operation Desert Storm
Iraq War
Korean War
Mexican War
Spanish-American War
Vietnam
War of 1812
World War I
World War II
Miners
Native Americans or Indians of North America
Oral Histories / Interviews
Orphans
Prison & Prisoners
Religious Groups
Adventists
Baptist
Catholic
Church of God
Episcopalian
Judaism
Lutheran
Mennonite
Methodist
Missionaries
Nazarene
Presbyterian
Quaker
Shakers
Societies / Groups
Colonial Dames
Daughters of 1812
Daughters of the American Revolution
Huguenot Society
Sons of the American Revolution

Yearbooks – Kentucky high school and college yearbooks

*The Cardinal* – Ogden College – 1913, 1914, 1917

Golden Rod – Potter College

*Talismen* – Potter College – 1906, 1907, 1908

*Talismen* – WKU

*Towers* – Bowling Green Business University

*Vista* – WKU

*Xposure* - WKU

Warren County Equity Court Records

Warren County Marriage Records

WKU Personnel File

**Classes & Programs** – speakers are available and classes can be created for local book clubs, genealogical clubs, historical societies, etc., or adapted for one-to-one tutorials on the following topics:

**Beginning African American Genealogy**
An overview of the unique sources used in researching African American families. Contact Nancy Richey to schedule.

**Genealogy 100 - Finding Your Roots, Start Digging**
This class covers the basics of genealogy and the use of vital records and census records in documenting your genealogy. Contact Suellyn Lathrop to schedule.

**Genealogy 101 – Finding Your Roots, Continue Digging**
This class continues Genealogy 100 by adding immigration and naturalization records to your genealogical research skill set. Contact Suellyn Lathrop to schedule.

**Genealogy 102 – Sources in WKU Libraries**
This class explores resources unique to WKU Libraries, WKU Libraries Special Collections, Manuscripts & Folklife Archives and WKU Archives. Contact Suellyn Lathrop to schedule.

**Genealogy 200 – Organizing a Genealogical Research Project**
This class reviews the different types of forms used to collect genealogical data along with a variety of filing systems to keep your research organized and usable. Contact Suellyn Lathrop to schedule.

**Genealogy 201 – Writing Up Your Genealogical Research**
This class covers the elements of writing biographical sketches, genealogical numbering systems, preparation for publishing and alternatives to publishing. Contact Suellyn Lathrop to schedule.

**Top Things I Wish Someone Had Told Me About Genealogy Before . . .**
Advice, tips and tricks to move your genealogical research along. Contact Sue Lynn McDaniel to schedule.

**Research Guides**
**Census Records** – overview of existing census records and the questions asked

Civil War Unit Histories: Regimental Histories & Personal Narratives
- **Part 1. The Confederate States of America & Border States**
- **Part 2. The Union – New England**
- **Part 3. The Union – Mid-Atlantic**
- **Part 4. The Union – Midwest & West**
- **Part 5. The Union – Higher & Independent Commands and Naval Forces**

**Draper Manuscript Collection**

**Records of Ante-Bellum Southern Plantations Microfilm**

**Southern Women & Their Families in the 19th Century: Papers & Diaries**

**Genealogy Databases**

- 1810 Census – CD Rom
- 1910 Census, Eastern Kentucky Counties – CD Rom
- 1910 Census, Western Kentucky Counties – CD Rom
- 1910 Census, Kentucky Index – CD Rom
- 1920 Census, Kentucky Index – CD Rom
- [Atlas of Historical County Boundaries](#)
- Early Settlers 1700’s-1800s – CD rom
- Family Tree Maker’s, Family Archives 1600s-1800s – CD rom
- Kentucky Marriages 1780-1920, Selected Counties – CD rom
- [Selected Genealogy Databases](#)

**Visual Collections & Ephemera**

**Ephemera** – any transitory written or printed matter not meant to be retained or preserved, includes commencement programs, birth announcements, funeral cards, wedding invitations, etc.

- [Bible records](#)
- [Birth announcements / baptisms](#)
- [Commencement programs](#)
- [Diplomas](#)
- [Funeral cards](#)
- [Report cards](#)
- [Vertical File](#)
- [Wedding invitations](#)

**Photographs** – many, but not all of the photographs have been digitized in [KenCat](#).

Special Collections Library Collection – contains images from throughout Kentucky, portraits, family albums and city / landmark postcards, search for digitized images in [KenCat](#) using locations, surnames and subjects
WKU Archives Collection – contains images of students, staff, faculty, buildings and events related to WKU and its founding institutions

Scrapbooks

Bowling Green Business University Student Scrapbooks
College High Student Scrapbooks
Glasgow Normal School Student Scrapbooks
Henry Cherry Scrapbooks
Ogden College Student Scrapbooks
WKU Student Organization Scrapbooks
WKU Student Scrapbooks

Reference Correspondence Policy

General Reference
Special Collections Library & WKU Archives staff are able to do a limited amount of research regarding holdings, Kentucky history topics, obituary searches and genealogy. Please note the staff cannot engage in extensive research for correspondents. Requests which require more in-depth research will be provided a list of local professional genealogical researchers. klref@wku.edu.

Obituaries
For current obituaries consult the Park City Daily News online. See also Park City Daily News Obituary Index A-C, 1998-2007. To request photocopies of obituaries found in these indexes contact klref@wku.edu.

When requesting other obituaries please submit the person’s name, death date and county of death. Staff will search local area newspapers in our collection for an obituary or death notice up to seven days after date of death.

Photographs
Copies of digitized photographs may be ordered using KenCat, the online catalog, see Library Special Collections Services & Fees for more information.

Selected Internet Resources

Cyndi’s List – genealogical resources arranged by state, country, record type and many other categories

Genealogy – New York Public Library list of genealogical resources available online.

U.S. History – New York Public Library list of American history resources available online.