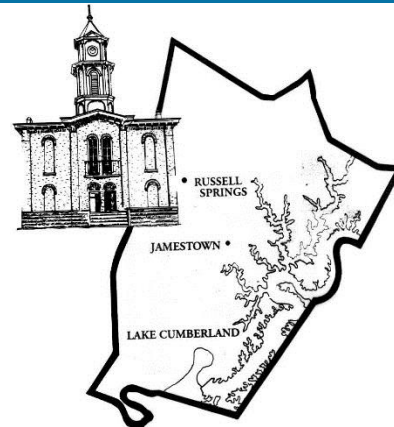


RESEARCH IN RUSSELL COUNTY, KENTUCKY

Russell County,
Kentucky

COUNTY FORMATION

Originally named for Colonel William Russell, a prominent soldier in the Battle of Kings Mountain during the Revolutionary War, Russell County is the eighty-first county to be formed upon Kentucky statehood on June 1, 1792 from territory that was formerly part of Augusta County, Virginia and any records pertaining to Kentucky prior to that time may be found there.

Formed on December 14, 1825 from portions of Adair, Cumberland and Wayne Counties, it currently contains more than 250 square miles of fertile, hilly farmland. Predominantly an agricultural community, the area south of Jamestown was established as a manufacturing center as early as the 1780s. At the time the county was formed, the area was already well known for the paper mill established about 1800 as well as early textile manufacturing.

In the early 1900s, Russell County experienced a brief oil boom in the town of Creelsboro and there was an iron foundry in operation for a short time. As construction of Wolf Creek Dam completed in 1952 and the valley flooded to form Lake Cumberland, Russell County quickly became a hub of tourism.

The county seat of Jacksonville was incorporated on December 23, 1827 but later renamed Jamestown in honor of James Wooldridge who donated the 100 acres used for the town.

There have been a total of four buildings that have acted as the county courthouse. The first courthouse was replaced in 1877, but due to a fire in 1976 the county sustained some record loss, although the extent of which is not entirely known. A new courthouse was constructed in 1977 but the circuit court and records were moved in 2011 with the construction of the new Judicial Center.

In August of 2015, the communities of Jamestown and Russell Springs were among the first in Kentucky to offer gigabit (1,000 mbps) fiber-optic internet service.

REPOSITORIES AND RECORDS

Russell County Courthouse

101 Monument Square

Post Office 579

Jamestown, Kentucky 42629-0579

(270) 343-2125

<http://www.russell.clerkinfo.net/>

Available records: deeds, marriages, probate records, tax records, court records from 1826 onward.

Russell County Historical Society, 1980-2006 (disbanded)

Rita Johnson

P.O. Box 544

Jamestown, Kentucky 42629

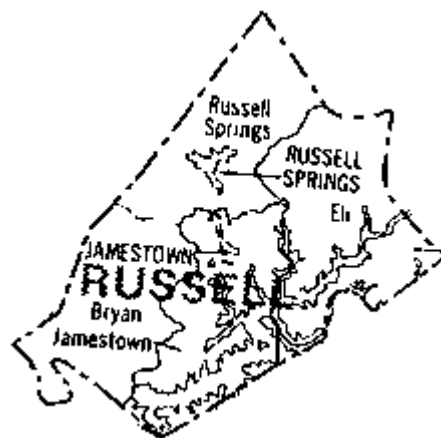
RussellCoGirl@hotmail.com

Russell County USGenWeb Project

Steve Conner, County Coordinator (2001-Present)

<http://russellcountykygenweb.com/>

Available records: biography, bible, cemetery, census, death, deeds, survey, funeral home, marriage, military, newspaper, obituaries, wills.



Russell County USGenWeb Archives

Steve Conner, County Coordinator (2008-Present)

<http://www.usgwarchives.net/ky/russell/russell.html>

Available records: biography, bible, cemetery, census, death, deeds, survey, funeral home, marriage, military, newspaper, obituaries, wills.

Blog Site:

<https://russellcountykygenweb.wordpress.com/>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/russellcountykygenweb>

Historical Photos:

<http://www.cityofjamestownky.com/Photo-Gallery.html>

Jamestown Mayors:

<http://www.cityofjamestownky.com/Mayors-past-and-present.html>

Russell County Public Library

Lindsey B. Westerfield, Director

<mailto:mdirector@russellcountylibrary.com>

(270) 343-1691

Main Jamestown location

Hours of operation:

8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. CST Monday-Friday

8 a.m. to 12 p.m. CST Saturday

Closed Sunday

(270) 343-READ

<http://russellcountylibrary.com/index.php>

Russell Springs location

Hours of operation:

8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. CST Monday, Wednesday,
Thursday and Friday

10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. CST Tuesday

Closed Saturday and Sunday

(270) 866-READ

The Russell County Public Library currently offers (for use only in the library on a library terminal):

- ✓ Ancestry.com
- ✓ HeritageQuest.com

Available materials: Local resources, Family histories, Cemetery, church and county histories (for Adair, Boyle, Clark, Cumberland, Jefferson, Knox, Green, Madison, Mercer, McCreary, Nicholas, Pulaski, Shelby, Taylor, Wayne and Whitley counties), Beginning genealogy books, Birth, death and marriage index for Russell and surrounding counties, Past quarterlies from the Russell and Adair Historical & Genealogical Societies, Resources and index information for eastern and southern Kentucky, neighboring states such as Virginia, Tennessee and North and South Carolina, Books on specific family names, as well as handouts of Pedigree charts, ancestral charts, etc.

Genealogical Contact: _____ (TBD)

County Historian: _____ (TBD)

Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives

Archives Research Room Hours: Open to the public, Monday - Friday

9:00 am - 4:00 pm ET;

Research Room staff available by phone, Monday - Friday

8:00 am - 4:00 pm ET.

300 Coffee Tree Road

Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

Email: kdla.archives@ky.gov

Phone: (502) 564-1770

Toll Free: (800) 928-7000

<https://kdla.ky.gov/Pages/default.aspx>

Kentucky Historical Society

Thomas D. Clark Center for Kentucky History

Old State Capitol

Kentucky Military History Museum

(502) 564-1792

100 W. Broadway

Frankfort, KY 40601

<http://kyhistory.com/>

<mailto:khsrefdesk@ky.gov>

Museum Hours: Tuesday-Saturday 10am-5pm

Library Hours: Wednesday-Saturday 10am-5pm

Kentucky Land Office

Office of the Secretary of State

700 Capital Ave., Ste. 80

Frankfort, KY 40601

kandie.adkinson@ky.gov

Phone: (502) 564-3490

Fax: (502) 564-5687

Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., ET

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

Kentucky Land and Taxes Records (KLR)

<http://www.kycountyrecords.com/>

Kentucky Oral History Commission

<http://passtheword.ky.gov/>

THE HISTORICAL MARKER DATABASE

<https://www.hmdb.org/marker.asp?marker=83427>

Vital Records:

Russell County vital records are available for ordering through the Kentucky Department of Health.

Office of Vital Statistics

275 E. Main St., 1E-A

Frankfort, KY 40621

(502) 564-4212

Office hours: 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday-Friday, excluding official state holidays.

<http://chfs.ky.gov/dph/vital/>

As a fee-based service, the following records are available:

- ✓ Birth & Death certificates (1911 - present)
- ✓ Marriage licenses & divorce decrees (since June 1958)

The first statewide registrations of births and deaths began in 1852. These registrations occurred regularly for about ten years, then become sporadic. Please refer to Kentucky Department of Libraries for any records prior to the dates listed above.

Marriage Records for the county begin at county formation in 1826. Several marriages were recorded in adjacent counties, so be certain to check with court clerks in each county before exhausting search efforts. Divorces were granted by the state legislature beginning at statehood in 1792 through 1849, then delegated to the circuit courts. Statewide registration began in 1958.

*For transcriptions, indexes and abstracts, see also:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| ➤ Family Search | ➤ KENTUCKY VITAL RECORDS INDEX |
| ➤ Cyndi's List | ➤ Archives.com |
| ➤ Genealogy Trails | ➤ Kentucky Genealogical Society |

Russell Co. Mortality Schedules can be acquired for [1850](#), [1860](#), [1870](#) and 1880.

Cemetery Records:

Prior to construction of Wolf Creek Dam, many burials were re-interred at higher elevations. However, not all were moved. Carol L. Sanders published many of these in a book that is now out of print and found at: [LDS Genealogy](#)

In the late 1990's, relocated internments were available in an online database or by contacting the USACE at the following address:

Department of the Army, Nashville District Corps of Engineers, PO Box 1070, Nashville, TN 37202-1070.
I also have a telephone # for the then Chief, Planning & Control Branch, Real Estate Division, J. M. Neely: 615-736-7720.

See also: [RoadsideThoughts](#) for GPS coordinates to many county cemeteries.

Military Records:

There were two skirmishes that occurred in Russell County during the Civil War. Russell Co. Union Veterans Schedules can be obtained for 1890. See the link below for a transcription completed by Lisa Von Lanken at the *Shy Genealogist* blog:

<https://theshygenealogist.wordpress.com/category/1890-russell-co-ky/>

Newspaper records:

Russell County News (Published 1913 to the present)

The Times Journal (Published 1949 to the present)

Russell County Register (Published 1990 to the present)

See Also: [Library of Congress](#)

Church Records:

Church listings and their GPS coordinates can be found at the following locations:

<http://kentucky.hometownlocator.com/features/cultural,class,church,scfips,21207.cfm>

http://churches-and-cemeteries.com/index_pages/usky207.html

Russell County, KY Census Records

It is recommended to utilize tax records in Virginia as a census substitute for years prior to 1800 and Kentucky tax records beyond 1800. For the years 1810, and 1820 see census records in Cumberland or adjacent counties.

Federal Population Schedules are available for Russell County in the years 1830, 1840, 1850, 1860, 1870, [1880](#) (free index), 1890 (fragment), 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930, 1940. Russell Co. Industry and Agriculture Schedules can be acquired for 1850, 1860, 1870 and 1880. Many of the census records have transcriptions available through [USGenWeb Census Project](#).

School Records:

State School Enumerations began in the state in 1888 and are held by the County Board of Health (unrestricted access) or the County Board of Education (restricted access).

Ethnic and Cultural:

The state Constitution of 1850, mandated that all those who were freed after its adoption leave the state within thirty days. Records are generally maintained at the county level, however, the following resources should also be consulted:

Filson Library 1310 S. Third Street Louisville, Kentucky 40205	KyHist Soc KentuckyAncestors.org AAGGKY.org	Freedmen's Bureau Explore History
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Russell Co. Slave Schedules can be obtained for 1850 & 1860 and have been transcribed and made available on Russell County USGenWeb Archives Project.

For Native American census records, see Indian Census of the United States - 1885-1940

<https://www.archives.gov/research/census/native-americans/1885-1940.html>

https://archive.org/details/indian_census

<http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=1059>

Court:

Russell County Clerk of the Circuit Court

Address: Russell County Judicial Center, 202 Monument Square, Suite 106, Jamestown, KY 42629

Phone: (270) 343-2185

Court Records: 1826

Will & Probate Records: 1826

Tax records:

Russell County PVA

410 Monument Sq, Suite 106

Jamestown, KY 42629

270-343-4395

Office Hours: M-F 8:00 a.m – 4:00 p.m

[Local Government](#)

[Russell County Elected Officials](#) (ky.gov)

Statutes and Law:

[All About Lawsuits](#)

[Tracing Legislative History](#)

[State Law Library](#)

[Kentucky Revised Statutes Wiki](#)

[Library of Congress](#)

[Archaeology and Antiquities](#)

[Slavery Laws in Old Kentucky](#)

Pioneer Migration Routes:

<https://www.geni.com/projects/The-Kentucky-Migration-1780-1820/15097>
<http://www.lfpl.org/pdf/GenDay2014/Migration-Routes-by-Don-Rightmyer.pdf>
<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~slhessick/peakeso4.htm>
<https://www.lineages.com/migration-routes/colonial-routes-to-kentucky-and-tennessee/>

Maps:

Russell County Historical Society

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~kyrussel/russell1.jpg>
http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~kyrussel/smaller_version_russell_county_map.jpg
<https://www.mapquest.com/us/ky/russell-springs-282032295>
Geology & Ecology

Bureau of Land Management

<https://glorerecords.blm.gov/search/default.aspx>

ArcGIS Online

<http://www.arcgis.com/features/index.html>

Population and Demographics:

<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/russellcountyalabama,russellcountykentucky/PST045216>
<http://places.mooseroots.com/l/312336/Russell-County-KY>

National Historical Geographic Information System (NHGIS) provides population, housing, agricultural, and economic data, along with GIS-compatible boundary files, for geographic units in the United States from 1790 to the present.

<https://www.nhgis.org/>

Land Use / Historical Aerial Imagery:

Aerial Imagery Catalog Listing

(2006, 2004, 2003, 1997, 1993, 1991, 1986, 1973, 1967, 1960, 1956)

USDA - FSA Aerial Photography Field Office

2222 West 2300 South

Salt Lake City, UT 84119-2020

sales@slc.usda.gov

Sales: 801.975.3503

Fax: 801.975.3532

TDD: 801.975.3502

https://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/kytxt.txt

The following companies also provide imagery and GIS services:

[MapMart](#)

[Rockford Map](#)

Tourism:[Weather](#)[News](#)[Radio](#)[Attractions](#)[Resorts](#)[Business](#)https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Creelsboro_Natural_Bridge**Periodicals:**<http://kentuckyexplorer.com/>**Research Materials:**[Link to Library Thing](#)

NGS Research in the States Series: Research in Kentucky (PDF)

Bettie Cummings Cook

NGS Special Publication Number 104

National Genealogical Society

Arlington, Virginia

2012

Red Book: American State, County & Town Sources, Third Edition 3rd Revised Edition

by Alice Eichholz (Editor)

The Researcher's Guide to American Genealogy. 3rd Edition paperback Edition

by Val D. Greenwood (Author)

Family Search Wiki

https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Russell_County,_Kentucky_Genealogy