

Early Ties To The Commonwealth: Use These Connections to Find the Whole Story.

J. Mark Lowe, FUGA
marklowe@kytnresearch.com

Early families found their way into prime lands seeking opportunities and freedom. These citizens included merchants, preachers, traders, speculators, hunters, and farmers. Early pioneers and settlers were a diverse group with family members across the country. Connecting these records to family within the Commonwealth often sheds light on hidden treasures and stories for the persistent researcher.

1793 Map of Kentucky published Nov 23, 1793, by John Stockdale, Piccadilly.

<https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metapht187541/m1/1/zoom/?resolution=1&lat=4966.792231774668&lon=4003.5663010334047>

- What records are we likely to find?
- Where will they be located?
- Compare Early Migration Trails, Steamboats and Railroads to travel Routes.
- Review Finding Aids and Resources of National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections (NUCMC); PERSI, WorldCAT, Google Books, Filson Club, Kentuckiana, Ky History Center, MO/TX/OH resources; East Tenn. History Center, Archives of Appalachia, TSLA, KDLA
- How did essential supplies inspire movement & migration throughout the Commonwealth and beyond. Gunpowder and Lead was necessary for the defense of the Colony and needed to put food on the table. During the years of the Revolution, the outlook for production was not bright. But powder kept coming in from outside, and these supplies, added to the quantities manufactured, at least partly filled the needs of the continent. Between January and July 1776, more powder was distributed for the rise of the troops operating in the different fields, and for the forts, than quantity manufactured from saltpeter extracted for the two previous years. Along with this great and demanding need, there were speculators looking for opportunity – in addition to Chiswell, there would be Moses Austin, William H. Ashley, Andrew Henry and others.
- Learn about the Pioneers, Speculators, and how your family might be involved.

Maps to help you understand location & surroundings (Google Earth)

Google Maps / Google Earth www.maps.google.com/

Maps created to convince – (New States Proposed in the West 1772-1789)

<https://www.libs.uga.edu/darchive/hargrett/maps/1895t8.jpg>

Part of Mintz, S., & McNeil, S. (2018). Digital History. Maps

<http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/maps/maps.cfm>

Thomas Walkers 1750 Exploration - <http://www.virginiaplaces.org/settleland/thomaswalker.html>

Walker's Journal <http://www.tngenweb.org/tnland/squabble/walker.html>

Maps created to show geographic boundaries and elements.

Maps to show specific elements.

<https://teva.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p15138coll23/id/412/>

Maps show local overview / Early maps show early roads.

<https://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~134~10021>

Maps to show property ownership / Maps to identify specific property boundaries (Plat)

Indexed Co Land Ownership Maps, 1860-1918
<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/1127/>
 Early Land Ownership & Township, 1785-1898
<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/2179/>
 Plat Maps of Missouri - <http://digital.shsmo.org/cdm/landingpage/collection/plat>
 Maps that show buildings and structures in towns & cities
<https://www.loc.gov/collections/sanborn-maps/>
 Maps that show geologic features and topography
 Carte de la Louisiane cours du Mississipi [Mississippi] et pais voisins [Jacque Nicolas Bellin], 1744;
 Dheulland sculp., Library of Congress.
<https://www.loc.gov/item/2001624910/>
 Atlas of Historical County Boundaries <http://publications.newberry.org/ahcbp/>
 Maps Showing Explorers' Routes, Trails & Early Roads in the United States; an annotated list. Richard S.
 Ladd, compiler: <https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=uc1.c3395136&seq=7>
 Agricultural Heritage
 Core Historical Literature of Agriculture <https://digital.library.cornell.edu/collections/chla>
 Census data: National Historical Geographic Information System <https://www.nhgis.org/>
 National Geologic Map Database https://ngmdb.usgs.gov/ngmdb/ngmdb_home.html
 Bureau of Land Management (GLO) <https://glorerecords.blm.gov/>
 American Memory – Lib of Congress – Maps www.memory.loc.gov/ammem/gmdhtml/gmdhome.html
 US Terrain Map: <https://pubs.usgs.gov/imap/i2720/>
 Phelps Travelers Guide Through the US, Published in New York by Ensign & Thayer, 1850
<http://www.usgwarchives.net/special/travellers/travelers.html>
 The Emigrants Guide to the Western and Southwestern States and Territories
<https://books.google.com/books?id=rH1NAAAAYAAJ>
<https://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/001264218>
 Tract Plotter – <http://www.tractplotter.com/>
 TopoZone - <https://ngmdb.usgs.gov/topoview/>
 DeedMapper - <http://www.directlinesoftware.com/home>
 ArcGIS - <http://www.arcgis.com>
 Modern Soil Maps - <http://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov/App/WebSoilSurvey.aspx>
 Historical Soil Survey Maps - <http://alabamamaps.ua.edu/historicalmaps/soilsurvey/>
 State Soil Surveys: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/soilsurvey/soils/survey/state/>
 David Rumsey Maps - www.davidrumsey.com
 Library of Congress Maps - <https://www.loc.gov/maps/> Search “cadastral”
 US Geographic Names (GNIS) www.geonames.usgs.gov/domestic/
 National Atlas of US www.nationalatlas.gov/natlas/Natlasstart.asp
 (\$) HistoryGeo – Arphax Publishing www.HistoryGeo.com USGS TopoBuilder
<https://topobuilder.nationalmap.gov>
 USGS Topoview – Topographic maps, current & historic <https://ngmdb.usgs.gov/topoview/>
 Texas Historic County Maps - <https://texashistory.unt.edu/explore/collections/GLOHCM/>
 Harvard Map Coll, Digital Maps <https://library.harvard.edu/libraries/harvard-map-collection>
 Digital Library of America <https://dp.la/>
 Historical Maps Online – Univ of Illinois <https://metadata.library.illinois.edu/collections>
 Perry-Castañeda Map Collection – UTexas <http://legacy.lib.utexas.edu/maps/historical/index.html>

Journals & Diaries provide the meat & potatoes for your planning. They don't have to be your ancestor's diary – a neighbor, an acquaintance, or a community leader.

Early County Histories of Kentucky - Morehead State

https://scholarworks.moreheadstate.edu/kentucky_county_histories/

<https://emptybranchesonthefamilytree.com/2021/06/kentucky-digitized-county-histories/>

Create a Profile

Link your ancestor & neighbors.

Understand the Neighborhood

Examine each piece of evidence!

Support your ideas with a research plan



Tax Records/Administrative Records (Road Crew, Jury Duty, etc.)

From the beginning of this country, there has been a need to collect taxes. The collection of property taxes was an annual event, like it is today. Although tax lists do not survive for every county and year, if extant they provide extensive information about the Farmers' crops and livestock. Tax Records also show the individual/family present each year. Tax lists will often help us determine when an ancestor arrived in or departed from a given location. This information coupled with deeds can help us trace an individual across the country.

Non-Population Schedules

Agricultural Schedules created for the years when the Federal Census was taken after 1840. These include all farms with Farm Income over one hundred dollars.

[Published Statistics: www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/Historical_Publications/index.asp]

Agricultural Statistics were compiled from the census records, which can help you compare your ancestor to a county or state average. Look for Compendiums [1870 – *Ninth Census of the United States, Statistics of Population* – Google Books] or Statistical Abstracts [1889 *Statistical Abstract of the United States* - Google Books]

Don't forget that Slave Schedules and Industry Schedules are also in this category. They may tell us more about sawmills, distilleries, tanneries, and other industrial businesses.

Homestead Act (when appropriate) / Consider other Land Options

The U.S. Congress passed the Homestead Act in May of 1862. This act provided 160 acres of land to citizens or individuals willing to become citizens. There were requirements to be followed. In most cases the homestead applicants were required to build a home on the land, cultivate it, and make a residence there for five years. Estimates range from 400,000 to 600,000 families who established a farm residence through the Homestead Act and later amendments.

Before these individuals received their patents, application and supporting documents were filed. Those documents include proof of residence on and improvements to the homestead, and sometimes proof of citizenship. The National Archives hold Land entry case files. (Use NATF Form 84, Request for Copies of Land Entry Files)

Agricultural Service and Fraternal Organizations / Community

The Grange or Order of Patrons in Husbandry < www.nationalgrange.org/> was the first major farm organization and was begun in 1867. The original purpose of this organization was to raise the occupational level of agriculture to those of other industries. During the depression of 1873, this group became an agency for political change. By 1875 the Grange boasted of over 800,000 members and 20,000 local lodges: claiming chapters in almost every state, being the strongest in the South and Midwest. The local records may generally be found in manuscript collections.

We tend to gather with people of similar character and interest. Fraternal organizations tell much about a community and often share insight into the individuals. Consider newspaper account of these organizations.

Look for Historic Homes and Farms

Many states and regions have recognition programs for family-owned farms. The application process for these farms in an area may provide additional insight for an agricultural profile. The Register of Historic Properties often include details about families and their history.

Finding Crop/Livestock Information

Once you know the crops your ancestor cultivated, there are many historical Agricultural Science books that will shed light on the processes and methods used by early farmers. The discussion of modern implements will make the story of your ancestor more complete. Look for historic Agricultural Science books in libraries, especially at College libraries with an Agricultural Degree offering.

Newspaper Collections

Newspapers are the voice of a community. They are used to announce newcomers, new children and the loss of valuable citizens. They also report information of interest to the citizens including advertising, farm prices, local supplies, and news of general interest.

County Histories - Although a particular ancestor might not have contributed a glowing biography to a county history, it will certainly share a great deal of information about his neighbors and his neighborhood. Often entire churches traveled together to establish settlements.

Church Records - If your ancestor was a member of a local church, it is possible that the records for that church are extant. Often, church records contain information about marriages, births, deaths, new members, problems with church members, ministers, and location changes.

Compiled Records - Once we have some specific information, we can utilize the multitude of submitted and compiled records on the internet to help us determine where to begin the focus of our research. Be sure to remember that records and references submitted by individuals are as accurate as the individual submitting the records.

Letters and Other Documents - A letter to a relative may reveal a location for other relatives and perhaps a place to begin. Many manuscript collections have catalogs online and some have online textual documents. . Consider the manuscripts of neighbors and others in the same community. These may often lead to the same origins or destinations.

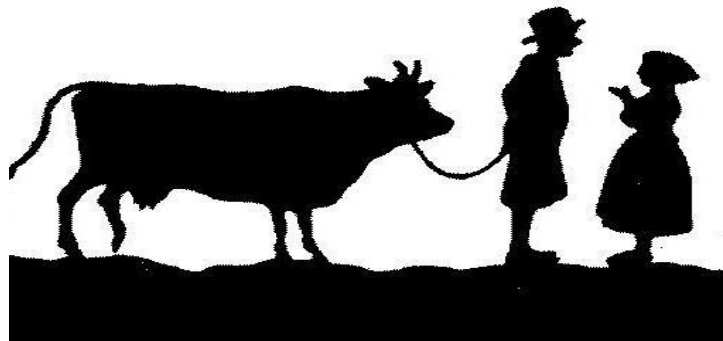
FOLKS WHO MOVED IN STEPS, LEAPS AND BOUNDS

The First Movers - Adult Males, usually already established, a leader in the community, moved in small numbers and associated with other early pioneers.

Regular Folk - This groups included professionals, farmers, ranchers, merchants, ministers and families.

Tag-a-longs & Stop-offs - This may include Millie, the miller's daughter or Bill, the farmer's son.

The Slow Movers - This group stayed behind to care for older parents or the land. They may be older and waiting for children to become established in a new location. Some individuals are non-adventurous.



Women, too. - Women were included in most of the other groups, although the records they generated may be distinct types.

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1915 edition: <https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=mdp.35112103943439>

A Century of Lawmaking for a New Nation: U.S. Congressional Docs and Debates, 1776-1875

<https://memory.loc.gov/ammem/amlaw/lawhome.html>

CaseLaw Access Project: <https://case.law/>

CourtListener: <https://www.courtlistener.com/>

FindLaw – State and Federal Cases: <https://caselaw.findlaw.com/>

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