

ASSIGNMENT #1

Read about one of Kentucky's counties in:

Lewis Collins, HISTORY OF KENTUCKY, I
William R. Jillson, THE GEOLOGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES OF KY
John Kleber, THE KENTUCKY ENCYCLOPEDIA
Cotton Mather, etc., KENTUCKY ATLAS
Robert Rennick, KENTUCKY PLACE NAMES
an appropriate county history if such exists
county vertical files in the Kentucky Library
county highway map

Write a 2-3 page overview about the county that includes.

- date of creation and origin of name (does the creation date have any special significance, such as last before statehood, first after statehood, ect.)
- "parent" county
- relative size
- county seat and major population centers
- major industrial products
- major agricultural products
- major employers
- important tourist attractions
- noteworthy daughters and sons
- unique role in the state's or nation's history
- other interesting and important facts

Then write 3-4 pages which includes a look at 19th century and/or 20th court records and newspapers. If at all possible use court records and newspapers from the county that you are writing about. If not, the Kentucky Library has court records and newspapers for selected counties.

Court records divulge much information about Kentucky and Kentuckians. Wills and inventories prove that our ancestors got along quite well without most of the items we consider essential. Court Order Books trace the creation of roadways, mill dams, and ferries as well as the appointments of caretakers for orphaned children indigents, and other dependants. Minutes of town trustees indicate the problems of municipal administration (good water, adequate police and fire protection, etc.) Solutions are quite different from those of today.

[See 2nd page for some specifics which should be included in this part of your paper.]

ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR ASSIGNMENT#1

On the County History part of your paper, be sure to use the census to identify at least one person from your county, and then incorporate the material into your paper. HINT: the 1850 Census is the first to give the occupation of head of household. If you do not know a name, go to an index and choose one.

One the Local Records and Newspaper portion of your paper. Be sure to incorporate at least one example of each of the following [you may give more]:

1. Deed
2. Will
3. Inventory (or appraisal sale)
4. Marriage record
5. Tax record, school record, or license record
6. Some information from a County Order Book or City Minutes
7. Newspaper Ad
8. Newspaper foreign news
9. Newspaper local news
10. Newspaper--something funny or amusing

Check Rampolla, *A Pocket Guide to Writing in History* to see how to document footnote and bibliographical entries.