



Digital Access Project (DAP) Records Being Digitized

- **Burnt Records.** When Kentucky became a state in 1792, Levi Todd was appointed as the first Fayette County Clerk. Todd recorded deeds, mortgages, wills, marriage records and other legal documents for Fayette County. Levi Todd stored the records for Fayette County in his office on his Ellerslie Estate. The office was a one-story building located on Richmond Road. On January 31, 1803 Todd's office was destroyed by fire. Most of the records stored were destroyed in the fire. A few documents were preserved. In 1818, under an Act of the Kentucky Legislature, those documents were copied into eight volumes and are filed as "Burnt Records" in the Fayette County Clerk's Office. Many citizens brought deeds and other documents to the Clerk's Office to be re-recorded.
- **Declaration of Marriages** is book created by a Kentucky Act approved on February 14, 1866 to recognize Black marriages by Declaration of Marriage that "*all negroes and mulattos may intermarry with each other in the same manner and under the same regulations that are provided by law for white persons.*" **Note:** Fayette County's history kept Black and White marriage records separated until the year of 1968.
- **Deed** is a document to convey, sell, transfer, or release ownership.
- **Deed Mortgage** is a document to secure a debt of a promissory note and collateral is used to secure it.
- **Fayette Survey** is a document that measures a tract of land and its boundaries and contents along with a map indicating such measurements.



- **General Index** is an alpha cross-index listing of grantor and grantee and basic metadata information for quick access to locate a record.

- **Order** is document issued out of County Court or Circuit Court and signed by a Judge rendering a judicial decision or determination regarding any issue at hand presented within the jurisdictional matters of the Court.

- **Probate** (also called estate administration) is the process of settling a person's legal real and personal property affairs after death.
 - **Appraisalment** is a document that is included in a Deceased Person's Estate that establishes the value of his inventory.

 - **Inventory** is a document that is included in a Deceased Person's Estate that list all personal and real property assets of the deceased at the time of his death.

 - **Settlement** (or Sale Bill Account) is a document process that involves winding up the financial matters of the decedent, collecting assets, paying debts, and distributing the remaining assets according to the terms of the will or according to the laws of descent that applies when there is no will. The final settlement document closes out the Estate of the Deceased.

 - **Will** is a document called Last Will and Testament that disposes one's property upon his death according to his wishes.



Key Word Glossary

BILL OF SALE—	A contractual sale receipt between an enslaver and a buyer for the purchase of an enslaved person.
COLORED—	A person of non-white ethnicity; however, predominantly refers to a person of African descent or of mixed heritage African descent.
EMANCIPATION—	Also called “ manumission ,” to set free or release from slavery or bondage.
ENSLAVED—	To cause or force a person to lose their freedom.
INDENTURE—	Also known as a deed, which refers to a legal contract or agreement made between two or more parties. Herein, the term indenture developed in the medieval England period.
MULATTO—	A reference to a mixed person of African and European ancestry (a person having both black and white biological parents).
NEGRO—	Term used for a Black person, a person of African descent, or a colored person.
POWER OF ATTORNEY—	Also called an ‘attorney-in-fact’ or ‘agent’. An instrument granting someone authority to act in place as an agent or attorney-in-fact for the grantor.



- ROD—** Also known as a **perch** or **pole** is a surveyor's tool measuring exactly 5 ½ yards (16.5 feet), which just happens to be ¼ the length of a surveyor's chain. The rod is useful as a unit of length because whole number multiples of it can form one acre of square measure. The perfect acre is a rectangular area of 43,560 square feet, bounded by sides 660 feet (a furlong) long and 66 feet wide or, equivalently, 40 rods and 4 rods. Therefore, an acre is 160 square rods.
- SERVITUDE—** The state of being subject to a master in forced labor or service.
- SHILLING—** A British coin and monetary currency unit equal to one twentieth of a pound or twelve pence (penny).
- SLAVE—** A person who is subject to another person or household by being bound in servitude as an instrument of labor.
- SLAVEHOLDER—** Ane who owns or holds slaves as being his/her master (also called **enslaver**).
- SLAVERY—** Property of a slaveholder; being in bondage to another.



Key Word Symbols

af^s

- aforesaid

atto

- attorney

J. d^o //

- ditto marks (*repeated information*)

f⁻ f₁

- female

p

- per

ff

- supra scriptum (letters written above the line on which the previous letters are written)

Test

- testament, testator, to testate

*Reference: Symbols compiled by Reed College
https://www.reed.edu/indianconverts/studyguides/colonial_american_handwriting/cultural_significance.html



Key Word Abbreviations

Att.	-	attest
C. C.	-	County Clerk
C. C. F. C.	-	County Clerk Fayette Court or County Court Fayette Clerk
C. F. C.	-	County Fayette Clerk
C. F. C. C.	-	Circuit Fayette Court Clerk or Court Fayette Circuit Clerk
C. F. D.	-	County Fayette Deputy
CL.D.C.	-	Clerk District Court
C.D.L.C.	-	Clerk District Lexington Court
Clk.	-	Clerk
Col.	-	Colonel
Ct.	-	Court
D.C.	-	Deputy Clerk
Est.	-	Estate
Sct.	-	Latin word scilicet, meaning "in particular" or "namely." Traditional element appearing after or to the right of the venue in a Notary certificate.
to wit or viz.	-	as follows