

Edmund  
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## James Edmund's Will

"I, James Edmunds of Warren county do hereby make my last will and testament in manner and form following that is to say. I devise that all my perishable part of my estate be immediately sold after my decease and out of the money arising there from all my just debts and funeral expenses be paid and after my just debts and funeral expenses be paid I give to my wife Jane Edmunds all my estate both real and personal for and during the term of her natural life and widowhood and after her decease. I give to my son Lavender L. Edmunds the tract of land he now lives on where he now lives viz beginning at Ages corner on line thence running with sd. Ages line to a conditional corner thence a N. West course to Absolum Stratton's line thence with sd. line till it strikes Pattons line thence with sd. Pattons line till it strikes sd Strattons line thence with sd. Strattons line to on or near Agees [sic] corner and I also give my son Lavender a Negro man named Neely and Negro woman named Maria and a girl named Perine. 3rdly I give to my son John I. Edmunds a Negro boy named Henry and a Negro boy named Peter and a girl named Mary Ann, and a boy named Hary, and an old woman named Lucy and all that tract and parcel of land whereon my son John I. now lives and a part of the tract I purchased of Price Prater beginning at a Cherry tree corner between myself & the widow Moody thence running a little West of \_\_\_ to a post oak corner near a small spring between myself and Admiral Reynolds thence with said Reynolds line back to a tract of land John J now lives on and also fifty acres (turn over) acres on Barren River adjoining Lapsley's survey. 4thly I give to my granddaughter Martha Martin all the tract of land whereon I now live between my son Lavender and John J that is belonging to me and I also give her two Negro girls the one named Harriet and the other Armena. 5thly I give to my daughter Jane Witherspoon one Negro woman Rhodia and a boy named Anthony and a boy named John. 6thly I give to my son in law John Martin 100 acres of land which land was sold under execution as John Martins and purchased by me and I also give to said Martin all debts dues and demands existing between and the said Martin until him forever and lastly all my perishable property not above devised or named to be equally divided or sold & the money equally divided between my sons daughters. Lavender, John J. Jane Witherspoon and Martha Martin, and I do hereby revoke all former wills or testaments by me heretofore made. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal this 29<sup>th</sup> of July 1834. Signed in the presence of Samuel Vontress, Maria Vontress and Simon Williams. Produced in court and proved by the oath of Samuel Ventress and Simon Williams two of the subscribing witnesses thereto and ordered to be recorded which is accordingly done. Test: Jona. Hobson, Clerk. (Warren County KY Deed Book D, pp. 69-71.

### Historical Records Survey – the W. P. A.

By Sandi Gorin.

Did you ever wonder why records in the County Clerk's and Circuit Court Clerk's office are typed up in massive books in index format? Or why deeds, wills or other records were typed out? Did you ever scream when the record shown in that index book wasn't where it was supposed to be in the master book? Did you ever feel anger towards the typing abilities of whoever typed up the indexes? Did you ever wonder why your ancestor's names were misspelled when it was obvious from the original that it was not spelled that way?

Well, just be thankful they are there to help us and I'll explain how they got there.

**Historical Records Survey, continued:**

During the administration of Franklin D. Roosevelt, the New Deal program was instituted. This was to combat the Great Depression and find work for the millions of people without work. In March 1933 until the early days of WW II, the WPA (Works Progress Administration) offered the unemployed work. There were projects in many fields providing \$35 million dollars jobs for 500,000 Kentuckians. The result included 14,000 miles of new or improved highways, 9,000 public buildings and packhorse libraries. The WPA in Kentucky also employed artists and writers who produced books such as "Kentucky, A Guide to the Bluegrass State" (1939); it found part-time jobs for high schoolers and college students. Other programs were instituted including the NYA – National Youth Organization; PWA (Public Works Administration) and the CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps). Camps were established providing training in forestry, fire fighting and construction. The Farm Credit Administration (FCA) helped rural Kentuckians in refinancing their farms. The USHA (U S Housing Authority) cleared slums. The AAA (Agricultural Adjustment Administration) handled the destruction of crops and animals – a controversial program. The Rural Electrification Administration (REA) brought power and light to rural Kentuckians.

Another project during this time frame was the Historical Records Survey which was a very short program, part of the Works Progress Administration (WPA) and Federal Writers Project. The idea was conceived at the annual meeting of the American Historical Association in Chattanooga, TN in 1936. It set up five WPA administrative districts in the state and was headed by our great historian, Thomas D. Clark who served as temporary state director. The aim of this Historical Records Survey was to "inventory, analyze and preserve public documents of all the states and counties". Teams were set in all of our 120 Kentucky counties with a sub-director over each of the five districts. Who was chosen to do this noble project?

The workers were those in need of a job and according to the Kentucky Encyclopedia "varied from almost totally illiterate to the moderately well educated but inexperienced in archival research." Add to this fact that many of the county officers were not doing handstands over this project ... they felt it possibly an intrusion of their time and the privacy of the records – which were in public domain anyway.

Thomas Clark served until late 1936, on loan from the University of Kentucky. Oren B. Wilder took his place briefly, then Walter M. Hoepelman, Earl D Hale and Clifford Rader who served until 1941. The project fairly well ended then with officials leaning more towards special war services. By its close, there was a goodly amount of data handled in 63 of the counties. Nine reports were produced which can be found at the Kentucky Department of Libraries and Archives in Frankfort and the Special Collections Division of the Margaret I. King Library at the University of Kentucky.

Many of the typists who handled the records at the courthouse likely had never seen a typewriter before, but I bless them for the hours and hours they spent! They would have worked with the original old hand-written records and if they didn't know the names and couldn't read them, they guessed them often. I have been working with the marriage index books and there are mistakes. They were taught to do an unusual indexing too, putting names that they thought were the same together – often they were different families. One might find the Garretts and Garnetts together in fairly good alphabetical order, the Clark's and Clarke's, the Smiths and the Smythes, etc. They also had to indicate whether the individual was black or white and one can find a bride and groom listed as black in one place, and if either remarried, shown as white. If some of you