

On the application of Abraham to establish the nuncupative will of Abraham Krantz Dec W ham & Abram Blankenship being called into court deposed & said that Abram Krantz D resided in Bedford county was at Smithfield in the state of Virginia on duty as a soldier und of Cap Mark Anthony in his last victory & only one day before he died declared that it wa sire that his brother Michael's son Abraham should heir his estate & called upon them to tal & that he died the next day & that they believed that he was of ___ senses & disposing min is ordered that the said will be established.

Source: Bedford County Circuit Court Records, transcribed from the original by Belle G (16 May 2008)

Will of Michael Krantz

Dated 20 March 1796, Proved 26 April 1802

Bedford Co., VA, WB2:352

In the name of God Amen. I Michael Krantz of Bedford County in the State of Virginia we of sound memory blessed be God do this day the 20th of March in the year of our Lord one t hundred and ninety-six make and publish this my last Will and Testament in manner follow say first I do give and bequeath to my son Jacob one hundred and fifty acres of land in Pitts Virginia for his portion also I give to my disobedient Daughter Mary twenty-five pounds in my decease. Also I give and bequeath to my beloved wife Mary the residue of all my lands goods and creatures that is to say horses, cattles, sheep flocks and personal Estate during the mains my widow she making no waste or destruction thereof—but if she should marry again relinquish all her rights and claim to the aforesaid bequeath as Dowry to her and my childre and ordain her my beloved wife and my friend ___ Executors of my Will and Testament in t tents and purposes in this my will contained in witness whereof I the said Michael Krantz ha last Will and Testament set my hand and seal the year and day above written. Michael Kran Signed, Sealed, and Delivered by said Michael Krantz as for his last Will and Testament in t us—Rob Snoddy and Sam Mitchell

At a Court held for Bedford the 26th day of April 1802 This last Will and Testament of Micl dec'd was exhibited in Court and the hand-writing proven by the oath of Robert Snoddy and Mitchell and ordered to be recorded and on the motion of Mary Krantz the Executrix named who made oath thereto Certificate is granted her for obtaining probate thereof in dur form or rity whereupon she together with Samuel Mitchell and Mrs. Crouch her Securities entered is knowledged her bond in the penalty of fifteen hundred dollars conditioned as the Law direct Steptoe CBC

Transcribed by Janie Garraghty Jordan



RECORDS AVAILABLE IN THE BEDFORD CIRCUIT COURT CLERK'S OFFICE

by Karen Owens Glover

OCUGS REFERENCE ONLY

Those who are fortunate enough to have ancestors who resided in Bedford County will find that there is a wealth of information at their fingertips when researching at the Circuit Court Clerk's Office. The court records have been well maintained over the years through the combined efforts of Carol Black, retired Circuit Court Clerk, and current Clerk, Cathy Hogan. Hogan is dedicated to continuing Mrs. Black's efforts by ensuring that the books and documents are preserved and remain accessible to the public. The record room is very user-friendly with a staff willing to help. There is a separate genealogy room, allowing researchers a quiet place to collect their thoughts. The following records are available: marriage bonds and licenses, birth and death records, deeds, wills/estates, surveyor's records, chancery court cases and various other loose papers.

Marriage records are available from 1754 to the present day. Bedford's earliest marriages were given in bond form. Bonds were used to insure against legal repercussions should the marriage not take place for any reason. Thus, the groom gives his pledge along with securities. These were prepared by the Clerk and given to the minister who performed the ceremony. Unfortunately, these bonds rarely give the names of the parents. Occasionally, a researcher will get lucky and come across a marriage bond that is accompanied by a consent form. These can be vital in determining the names of the parent and/or guardian. Ages, places of birth and birth dates are rarely given. The worst case scenario occurs when minister's returns are all that can be found. These returns show that a minister of the gospel actually married the couple. The only information that these documents provide is the name of the couple, their date of marriage and the minister's name. According to the Library of Virginia, these ministers' returns were sometimes returned late, incorrect, incomplete, or not at all.

Marriage licenses first made their appearance in 1853, the same year that Virginia began requiring the recordation of vital records. The researcher can breathe a sigh of relief because these records generally list much more information than marriage bonds. They can list the ages of the couple, their race, the occupation of the husband, their status (whether single, divorced or widowed), their place of birth, their residence and their parents' names. Some of these licenses appear on fancy paper, with intricate scrollwork and elaborate handwriting.

Other important finds for researchers are birth and death records. Unfortunately, there are no recorded birth or death records in Bedford before 1853. Prior to this time, one would have to consult another record such as a family Bible or church record. In addition to the above snag, there were no birth or death records kept between 1898 and 1911 when the state government concluded that there were no funds available for recording them. After 1911, birth and death records are no longer available in the register, but can be found in little certificate booklets. These booklets offer some information not found in the registers such as name of physician and place of burial.

Though the limited quantity of birth and death records can be a hindrance, they can unlock many doors and windows that were once tightly sealed. Birth records not only list the name of the child but can also give the date of birth and parents' names. Other information provided could in-

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