

The Genealogy Box



A supplemental newsletter for genealogy and family history research in Harrison County, Kentucky.

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Local Treasures

With regards to genealogical and family research I always say that the best stuff to be found is always local, but not everyone has time or money to travel the distances between your home and where you ancestors lived, and even if you do, you just don't have the time to spend looking through all the documents to be found at the courthouse or in the library. It is nice sometimes, just to find that someone has done a little bit of the work for you before you arrive, and, "whadya know," a couple of people have done just that!

The E.E. Barton Papers: First and foremost among the unique genealogical resources for Harrison County is the E.E. Barton Collection of Northern Kentucky Families, a collection of genealogical and family history files and records compiled in the pre-World War II era by Edward E. Barton, a Pendleton County, Kentucky lawyer, and which contain information on a great number of Harrison County families. All of his

papers have been preserved and microfilmed and are available to the public only at a few libraries in Kentucky, of which the Cynthiana-Harrison County Public Library is one, and the Pendleton County Public Library in Falmouth (Pendleton County) is another. Both libraries possess an index (comb-bound as well as in a three-ring-binder) which will help you determine if there are any records regarding the surname you are researching. If you care to check in advance, the index is also available online at the USGenWeb.org site for Pendleton County, Kentucky.

What kind of information is included in the E.E. Barton Papers? You never can tell until you look, but depending on how much work you have already done, they will either be full of surprises or just corroborate the facts in the research you have already done. My first experience with the E.E. Barton papers was one revelation after another, some of which I may still not have known about had I not examined these important papers. Certainly there will be family group sheets, transcripts of interviews, questionnaires filled out by family members, texts and transcripts of court records, and excerpts from local histories. If you would like to see a sampling, please go to www.CumminsFamily.Info, click on "Research Notes," and then "E.E. Barton Papers." There you will find a discussion and presentation of those E.E. Barton files that I have found regarding my 4th-great-grandparents, Joseph & Lydia (Fleming) Cummins, and their son, George Cummins, Sr., and his siblings.

The Pease Abstracts: Whether you can make it to the Harrison County Court Clerk's office in Cynthiana or not, one resource which is invaluable to the genealogist from near and far is a multi-volume series entitled *Abstracted Court Records of Grant,*

Harrison, Pendleton Counties Kentucky, more simply known as the "Pease Abstracts." This series was compiled by Janet K. Pease beginning in the 1990s and is sold under the auspices of the Grant County (Ky.) Historical Society. The series of abstracted county court records not only includes sections devoted to Grant County, Kentucky court records, but those of Harrison and Pendleton Counties, Kentucky as well.

In addition to making the information contained in court records available to genealogists near and far, and thus providing information that might not be obtainable otherwise, one important use for these books is to find parties to marriages, land transactions, and probates of estates, besides the bride and groom, the grantee and grantor, and parties to the settlements or sales of estates, whose names are not typically indexed in court record books. The indexes for these abstracted record books are every-name indexes, and can be very useful when most other indexes of court records do not index these ancillary participants involved in legal transactions.

The Harrison County Court Clerk's office also maintains a set in their offices at 313 Oddville Avenue in Cynthiana and so these abstracted records can be used during any visit to supplement the court clerk's indexes of records.

This multi-volume set is available in several regional county libraries, including the Cynthiana-Harrison County Public Library, the Pendleton County Public Library in Falmouth, Ky., and the Grant County Public Library in Williamstown, Ky. Larger regional libraries usually have a few volumes, but not necessarily the complete set.

These volumes have also been microfilmed and are available through local Family History Centers of the Church of the Latter Day Saints (LDS). To learn more

about their holdings and of how to access them visit FamilySearch.org and click on "Frequently Asked Questions about Family History Centers & Microfilm/fiche Loans" and/or "Find a Family History Center Near You" to find out more about using this resource through a local LDS Family History Center.:

The most recent newsletter of the Grant County (Ky.) Historical Society, which lists these abstracts among their current publications, notes that all of these books are out of print, but that they still may be special ordered at \$40.00 per volume (Add \$3.50 for shipping & \$2.40 tax for Kentucky residents). Contact the Grant County Historical Society, P.O. Box 33, Mason, Kentucky 41054-9998 for more information, or to the society's Book Publications Chairman Betty Barnes, 12 Charlotte Heights, Williamstown, Ky. 41097 to order.

The following list indicates which Harrison County records have been abstracted and published within each of the sixteen volumes compiled by Ms. Pease:

- Vol. 1 - Wills, 1795-1853.
- Vol. 2 - Records, 1794-1828.
- Vol. 3 - Records, 1828-1856.
- Vol. 4 - Minute Books, 1824-1850.
- Vol. 5 - Court Cases, 1794-1800.
- Vol. 6 - Bonds & Marriages, 1794-1813.
- Vol. 7 - Bonds & Marriages, 1814-1827.
- Vol. 8 - Bonds & Marriages, 1828-1839.
- Vol. 9 - Bonds & Marriages, 1840-1846.
- Vol. 10 - Bonds & Marriages, 1847-1852.
- Vol. 11 - Bonds & Marriages, 1852-1854.
- Vol. 12 - Bonds & Marriages, 1855-1859.
- Vol. 13 - Tax Lists, 1794-1799.
- Vol. 14 - Tax Lists, 1800-1805.
- Vol. 15 - Tax Lists, 1806-1810
- Vol. 16 - Tax Lists, 1811-1814

Climbing the Other Branches of the Family Tree

Many begin their research with an interest only their direct line of descent, their grandparents, great-grandparents, and so on. Inevitably, however, one will discover that most of our ancestors were not the only child of the family, but that they had brothers and sisters and lots of them, as well as aunts and uncles, and numerous cousins of varying degrees. One shouldn't dismiss these other relations out-of-hand, as the information you are looking for may lie in the details of the lives of the members of these other branches of the family tree, and not necessarily with just your own.

Of course, it will take more research time and a few more coins for the photocopier, but in tracing the family tree of family members of these other branches or collateral lines of the family, one would use the same standard list of indexes, books, records, and databases for a person's name to find the usual birth, marriage, and death information one needs.

As you are looking up references to the surnames of your ancestors, copy or make note of others who share the same surname within the same vicinity and/or record type.

In rural communities many families stayed together within a narrow region and shared a similar history with one another. Neighbors of known ancestors who are documented in decennial U.S. Census enumerations may turn out to be relations yet-to-be-discovered. Locating the graves of your ancestor's siblings may help you to discover where your own ancestor is buried, should his or her grave never have been so commemorated.

So if you seem to have gotten to the end of your branch, remember to shake the others a little bit. Who knows what might fall out! ;-)

Research . . . Free for the Asking!

Many people love genealogy and family research to the point of wanting to help other not even related to them with theirs; it is a type of madness, I am sure, but if you are sane, you will want to take advantage of it!

RAOGK! Sounds like the name of some Japanese monster which was always attacking Tokyo in all those B-monster-movies, but it is an acronym that you should remember. RAOGK stands for Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness, and it is a loose association of fellow genealogists from all over the United States who have volunteered to do some small bit of research for others and all you have to do is . . . just ask for it! The RAOGK website has an easy-to-remember URL at RAOGK.org, and after getting to the home page and reading the rules about RAOGK etiquette, just pick a state, and then look for whatever volunteers there are for the county which interests you. Only ask for information within the bounds of what the RAOGK volunteer has offered to do, and hopefully answers to your questions will flow from there.

Genealogy Quips & Quotes

A modern mother is explaining to her little girl about pictures in the family photo album. "This is the geneticist with your surrogate mother and here's your sperm donor and your father's clone. This is me holding you when you were just a frozen embryo. The lady with the very troubled look on her face is your aunt, a genealogist."

Anonymous

