

Bibliography & Resume of Jerry Long



Jerry Long in the Kentucky Room, Daviess County Public Library,
2020 Federica Street, Owensboro, KY, on 19 July 2009



2023



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How I Discovered Genealogy:

All the way thru school – history was my first love. During my first two years at Brescia College in Owensboro, KY my major was History. Entering my junior year I decided to switch to Psychology. I had become discouraged with the way History was being taught. The way presented it seemed that all it consisted of was wars, causes of wars, results of wars, wars ad infinitum. I wanted something that dealt with the individual and it seemed Psychology was the logical choice. After obtaining my BA in Psychology. I completed several post-graduate courses here in Owensboro before I was accepted to Western Kentucky University to pursue a Masters in Psychology. I attended Western one week and dropped out. Psychology there was completely different from what Brescia had

presented; it was Behavioristic as opposed to Humanistic. Also it seemed every student had a career destination in mind and had some practical experience. I had developed no goals.

Soon after the opening of the Executive Inn Rivermont hotel in Owensboro I went to work there. During 1978-1986 I was employed in the room service department there. It was quite an experience. While there I served many of the stars, who performed there – the most personable and impressive being Johnny Cash, the man in Black! He shook my hand and engaged me in conversation. Also while working at the Big E I was fortunate in accidentally discovering genealogy as an avocation.

My closest friend at the Executive Inn was an older waitress, Dorothy Calloway Whitler (1924-2010). While talking one day I found out she was a native of the Hells Neck neighborhood of Ohio County, KY. I thought that something about her reminded me of my granddad Long, who was from the same area. Sometime later one of her patrons discussed genealogy with her and she got interested in it. She shortly discovered that she was a great-great-granddaughter of a Civil War soldier, Benjamin F. Long (1820-1909), of Ohio County. At that time I did not know who this was but having the same name as my grandfather and living in the same area I figured he had to be somehow related.

Mrs. Whitler sent off and got the Civil War pension file of the older Benjamin F. Long. The file listed one of his sons as J. H. Long and gave his birth date. In August 1979 I for the first time visited the Kentucky Room at the Owensboro Library in the hopes of learning, who this Civil War veteran was and to see what my connection to him was. I knew that my granddad's father was John Howard Long, but I did not know beyond that. I went through the 1900 census of Ohio County. I located granddad with his parents and his dad's birthday matched that of J. H. Long in the pension file.

To our astonishment Dorothy Whitler and I had discovered we were third cousins, both of us being great-great-grandchildren of Benjamin F. Long. Mrs. Whitler as a child had lived briefly in the old log cabin at Jingo in Ohio County, where the Civil War vet Benjamin F. Long (1820-1909) had died and was buried. It seemed that history and my ancestors had come in search of me.

Since my first visit to the Kentucky Room in August 1979 I have not once stopped doing genealogy. It matched up with my interest in history and all my skills. I was always a collector – baseball cards & stats, scrapbooks, stamps, etc. Also I liked to solve puzzles. My best scores on my college entrance exams was Deductive Reasoning. Genealogy fit like a glove. I was extremely fortunate to have discovered it. It also provided me with a bridge to more freely engage and communicate with others. I had always been extremely isolated and now I had something to share with others.

Thru my genealogy endeavors I have met thousands of interesting people and cousins! And it gave me a career I was extremely happy with – 3 years working for a history-genealogy book publisher, McDowell Publications; 3 years working as a professional genealogist; and 27 years as a library associate in the Kentucky Room at the Daviess County Public Library in Owensboro, KY (1989-2016).

I am a lifetime member of the Kentucky Historical Society, Kentucky Genealogical Society, Ancestral Trails Historical Society and Ohio County Historical Society. I was also a member of the former organizations: Daviess County Historical

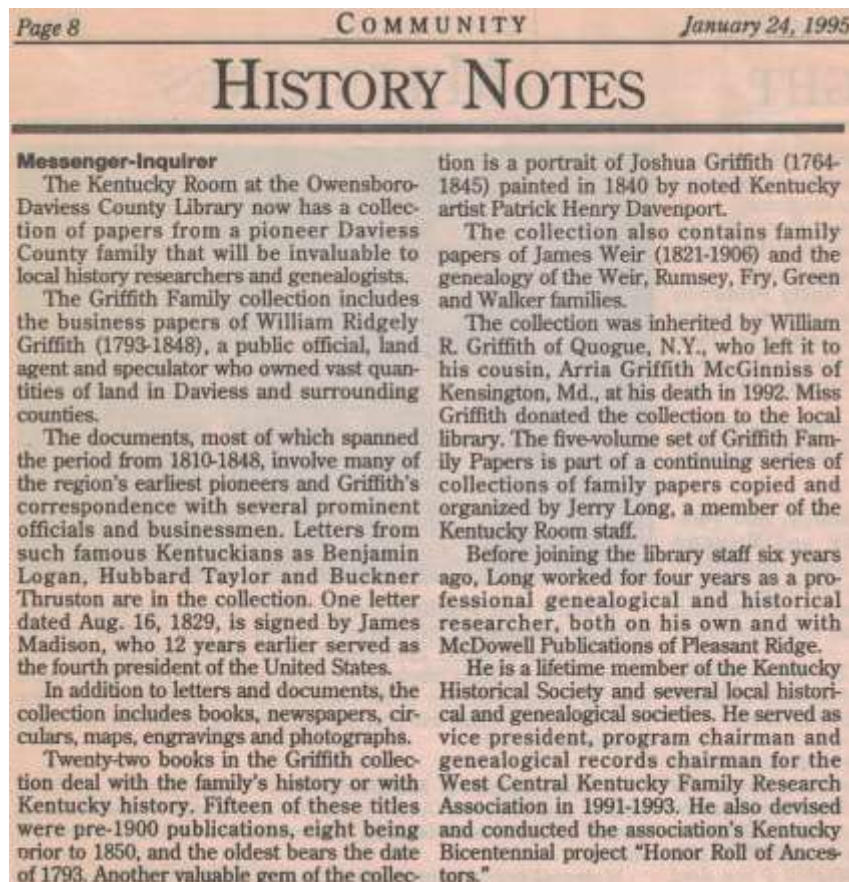
Society, Ohio County Genealogical Society and West-Central Kentucky Family Research Association.

In my career I have assisted thousands in their research. I have compiled, organized and published numerous sources on history and genealogy. These include 9 books in the Library of Congress, 30 titles in the card catalog of the Daviess County Public Library, over 200 articles in various genealogical & historical quarterlies and numerous other library resources, indexes and databases. I spent thousands of hours creating and compiling the "Owensboro Area Obituary Index" on the Daviess County Public Library's Internet site – their most utilized database. In 1990 I alerted the Kentucky Attorney General's office to the proposed destruction of the multi-volume set of books, Kentucky Register of Births and Deaths (1911-1969) and was victorious in saving this widely used library source. In 1998 I was a recipient of one of the Kentucky Genealogical Society's Outstanding Service to Genealogy Awards. In 2013-15 I served on Daviess County's Bicentennial Committee. In 2022 my website, "West-Central Kentucky History & Genealogy," went live on the Internet. Initially the site had over 300 articles and subsequently about 300 articles have been uploaded.



Jerry Long Scrapbook:

Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, 24 January 1995, Community, p.8:



Community

► In The Spotlight



Jerry Long

■ **Jerry Long**, a local genealogist and member of the Kentucky Room staff at the Daviess County Public Library, was honored recently for outstanding achievement in genealogy research.

He was presented the Western Kentucky Outstanding Service to Genealogy Award at the annual seminar of the Kentucky Genealogical Society held Aug. 14 at the Kentucky History Center in Frankfort.

The award is one of three given by the state genealogical society each year to outstanding genealogists in the western, central and eastern sections of Kentucky.

Long received the award for his contribution to the genealogy community in recent years, and for his article "Moving the Old Macedonia Baptist Church Cemetery" published in the state genealogical society publication *Bluegrass Roots*.

As recipient of the award, Long was given a brick on the "Pathway through History" at the entrance of the Kentucky History Center.

Long has done genealogical research for 20 years. He has been an employee of the Daviess County Public Library for 10 years. In the Kentucky Room, he assists patrons in their historical and genealogical research and compiles new data sources on the local level.

Prior to this, he worked four years as a professional genealogist, both on his own and with McDowell Publications of Pleasant Ridge. He is a lifetime member of the Kentucky Historical Society and the Ohio County Historical Society and is currently a member of the Kentucky Genealogical Society, the Ancestral Trails History Society, Genealogical Society of Hancock County and West-Central Family Research Association. He has served the latter group as vice president, and program and genealogical records chairman.

Three books published by Long are in the Library of Congress. In addition to these, he has compiled manuscripts on several other families and has published numerous articles in the publications of the Kentucky Historical Society, Society of Kentucky Pioneers, West-Central Kentucky Family Research Association, Daviess County Historical Society, Genealogical Society of Hancock County, Illinois State Genealogical Society and in the local newspapers at Calhoun, Hartford and Hawesville.

In September 1990 he was responsible for the initiation of efforts to stop the Kentucky Bureau of Vital Statistics' proposed destruction of its multivolume index to the Kentucky birth and death certificates of 1911-1969. In a widely publicized case, the Kentucky attorney general ruled that the books could not be destroyed. Long's letter to the attorney general notifying him of the ordered destruction was used in the hearing to present the arguments for the books' preservation.

ROAD TRIPS



Photos by Jerry Savick, Messenger-Inquirer/savick@messenger-inquirer.com, 926-0123 of 40-hour workweeks. "I think it could probably be more, but how much? I didn't keep track of the hours," he said.

Jerry Long said a conservative estimate of the time he spent compiling the three volumes of Ohio County obituaries is two years

Ohio County history detailed

Library's Long compiles 3 volumes on deaths after 25 years of research

Disциплиne may be in Jerry Long's genes. Thirty years ago, the assistant at the Daviess County Public Library's Kentucky Room became interested in genealogy, and for 25 years he worked on three volumes of Ohio County history compiled from newspaper obituaries and Kentucky death certificates.

Long, whose father is a native of Ohio County, spent a lot of his childhood at his grandparents' farm near Rosine. He said, conservatively



Suzi Bartholomy
Messenger-Inquirer

speaking, the time he spent on the tomes that are registered with the Library of Congress amounts to about two years' worth of 40-hour workweeks.

The professional genealogist began his trilogy when looking for his great-great-grandmother's death notice in the Ohio County newspapers.

"Since I was going through the papers I thought I might as well write down the information," he said.

More than two decades and 39,000 death notices later, Long completed



Jerry Long, an avid runner and an assistant in the Kentucky Room at the Daviess County Public Library, spent 25 years researching and typing three Ohio County obituary indexes. "The investigation search is my fun," Long said, "because I consider it a hobby."

volume I, which lists Ohio Countians who died between 1873 and 1899. Volumes II and III include obituaries and information from death

certificates dating 1900 to 1919 and 1920 to 1980.

"I like collecting information

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Long: He's dedicated to research, running

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and assembling it," Long said.

When he was a child, he followed baseball games through the newspaper; before players' statistics were reported, he already had them figured.

"I also collected stamps, he said. "I collect and organize, that's what I liked about writing the books. I'd abstract the articles" that were found in the papers.

The volumes are interesting reading even if one is not interested in genealogy.

Many people come to the Kentucky Room each year to research their families. Several years ago, Long impressed his co-workers when it was the Kentucky Room's turn to make a presentation to the other members of the library staff showing what he and his cohorts do.

"I showed them how one-third of the library employees or their spouses were related to me," Long said. The presentation was called "We Are Family," a takeoff on the song, he said.

When Long began his compilation of obits, he had already been delving into his own family tree. When he began reading the newspaper death notices, there was "hardly a page" to which he didn't have a connection, he said.

Long is a prolific writer. In addition to his obit indexes, over the years he has written a history of Owensboro's Greenwood Cemetery, more than 20 works for the Kentucky Room and has published 200 articles in genealogy periodicals.

"There are only 300 gravestones in Greenwood, but there are 2,200 people buried

there," Long said. Using Kentucky Room microfilm of the Messenger-Inquirer and its forerunners and with death certificates, he found the names of people buried in Greenwood.

Long said that during the 25 years he was writing about Ohio County, he would slack off occasionally, but when it comes to his other hobby — running — he's consistent.

For 25 years, the genealogist has been running every other day. "I keep a calendar and when I look at it, it motivates me not to break my streak," Long said. "I take my running gear on vacation and run wherever I am."

Not even bad weather or surgery could break his record. During the January ice storm, Long ran at a track at Seven Hills School, and just one day after gall bladder surgery he was up and running.

So far, Long has sold 50 copies of his obituary compilations and has received several testimonials.

"Wonderful," "good reading" and "worth every penny" are just a few of the accolades Long has received from readers.

The 59-year-old genealogist has not found his great-great-grandmother America Morgan

Long's obituary, but his work will benefit current and future residents looking up their family tree.

It's still a mystery why there was no obituary notice on his great-great-grandmother, Long said. "There are a lot of mysteries, and some are never solved," he said.

Long found stories on his great-great-grandfather, who was a veteran of the Civil War, but there was no mention of his wife, America. It's

still a mystery why there was no obituary notice on her, Long said.

"There are a lot of mysteries, and some are never solved," he said.

Volumes of the Ohio County obituary index are available by contacting Long at 684-6299 or j-long@prodigy.net.

Suzi Bartholomy, 691-7293, sbartholomy@messenger-inquirer.com



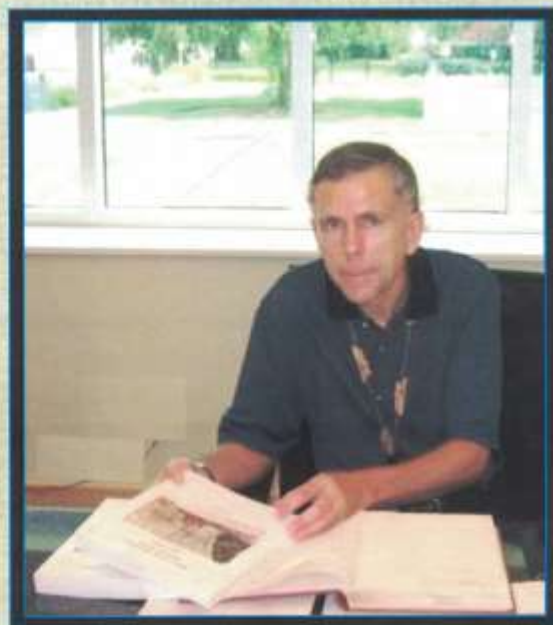
Kentucky Room Open House

Sunday, July 19, 2009

2 - 4 p.m.

HONORING
Jerry
Long

author/editor of over
30 genealogical books



Mr. Long's newest work is the 3-volume set,
Ohio County, Kentucky
Obituary Index 1873-1980

Sponsored by the Friends of the Daviess County Public Library

Tours of the Kentucky Room also available.



**Daviess County, Kentucky, 1815-2015, Celebrating Our Heritage,
Daviess County Bicentennial Committee, M. T. Publishing
Company, Inc., Evansville, IN, 2015, p.7:**



Daviess County Bicentennial Committee, December 2014: Bottom row (left to right) – Sr. Amelia Stenger, Aloma Dew, Lee Dew, Wesley Acton, Jerry Long. Middle row – Kathy Olson, Nancy Bradshaw, Sarah Patterson, Shirley Trunnel, Isaac Settle, Shelia Heflin, Forrest Roberts. Back row – David Smith, Whaylon Coleman, Ed Allen, Jim Lambert, Glenn Hodges, David Zachary, Grady Ebelhar.

Messenger-Inquirer. Owensboro, 5 February 2016, p.1C:



Jerry Long pulls a book from a shelf Wednesday in the Kentucky Room at the Daviess County Public Library. Long is retiring on Feb. 29 after 27 years at the library.

Long retiring from DCPL Kentucky Room

For nearly three decades, Jerry Long has been sharing what he has learned about genealogy research with patrons of the Kentucky Room at the Daviess County Public Library.

Long is retiring on Feb. 29.

"I've worked in the Kentucky Room for 27 years, but actually it feels more like 37," Long said.

While working at the Executive Inn in the culinary department from 1978 to 1986, he spent so much of his free time at the library he felt like he worked there, too.

One of his first research projects was for a co-worker at the hotel. "We were surprised to learn we were third cousins," Long said.

"I knew Jerry was an excellent researcher just from talking to him over the years," said Shelia Heflin, who retired as information services manager of DCPL.

Twenty-seven years ago, Heflin told Long there was a part-time position open and asked if he was interested in applying.

"He interviewed and was hired, which turned into a full-time job," Heflin said.

"Jerry is the most meticulous researcher and knows what he's talking about," Heflin said. "His mind is like a steel trap. He remembers event times and dates.

"If Jerry tells you a date, you can believe that's when it happened," Heflin said.



SUZI BARTHOLOMY
MESSENGER-INQUIRER

"I'm not a professional librarian," Long said. "I graduated from Brescia (University) with a degree in psychology," he said.

After graduating from Brescia, he moved on to Western Kentucky University for a master's in psychology. It didn't take but a short time for him to realize he had "no professional goals."

He came home content with his undergraduate degree and a desire to pursue history and genealogy.

"This has not been a job to me, but an avocation," Long said.

Long has an extensive list of accomplishments. He has nine books in the Library of Congress, 37 entries under his name in the DCPL card catalog, and more than 200 articles about public records

and family history in the Kentucky Room, as well as in various historical and genealogical publications.

He created an Owensboro obituary index database that's used extensively by genealogists. He has assisted thousands of residents in their family searches.

A history of "The Family of William Boucher and Milly Faris," printed by McDowell Publications, is a tome that has made him jealous of his own work. He spent three years on it and wishes he had a similar document for his own family.

When he retires, he may be adding his family history to the shelves of the Kentucky Room. In his research, he found that he is related to President Harry S. Truman, Kit Carson

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DCPL

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and department store founder J.C. Penney.

Long is a soft-spoken man who said he was a shy kid who read a lot. Of the people he found in his family tree, he was quite pleased to be related to Carson. He already had read a book about the frontiersman who died in 1868.

Not all research turns up good news. "A family named Jackson had been told they were related to President Andrew Jackson, but the data they gave me didn't match what I found," Long said. "It didn't pan out and they were somewhat disappointed.

"I love the research and solving (family) puzzles," he said.

Long, 66, likes the way his life is going. He does have one regret. When he was a student at Owensboro Catholic High School, he was invited to join the track team but declined.

"I was shy, I didn't participate in much at school," he said.

Of all his achievements, Long is most proud of his effort to save

the Kentucky Register of Births and Deaths from 1911 to 1968. In September 1990, the state registrar of vital records directed the county public health departments to destroy their set of books for those years.

They had previously been an open record that could be used by the public. On one of his many visits to research the records, he learned that they were going to be destroyed.

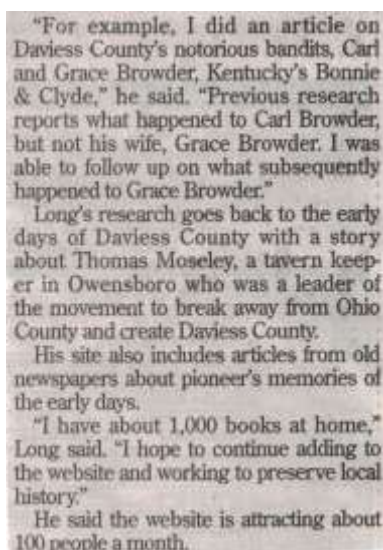
For several days, Long called and wrote to state officials and succeeded in getting "a stay of execution" for the documents. His actions saved the record books and a set was offered to any county or city library upon request. In 1992, the Kentucky Room received its set of Kentucky Register of Births and Deaths.

It has since been one of the most popular sources in the Kentucky Room, Long said.

Three months after Long retires, he'll be back at his former workplace as a volunteer. It would be hard for him to cut all ties with the Kentucky Room. He said has a lot more research and writing to do.

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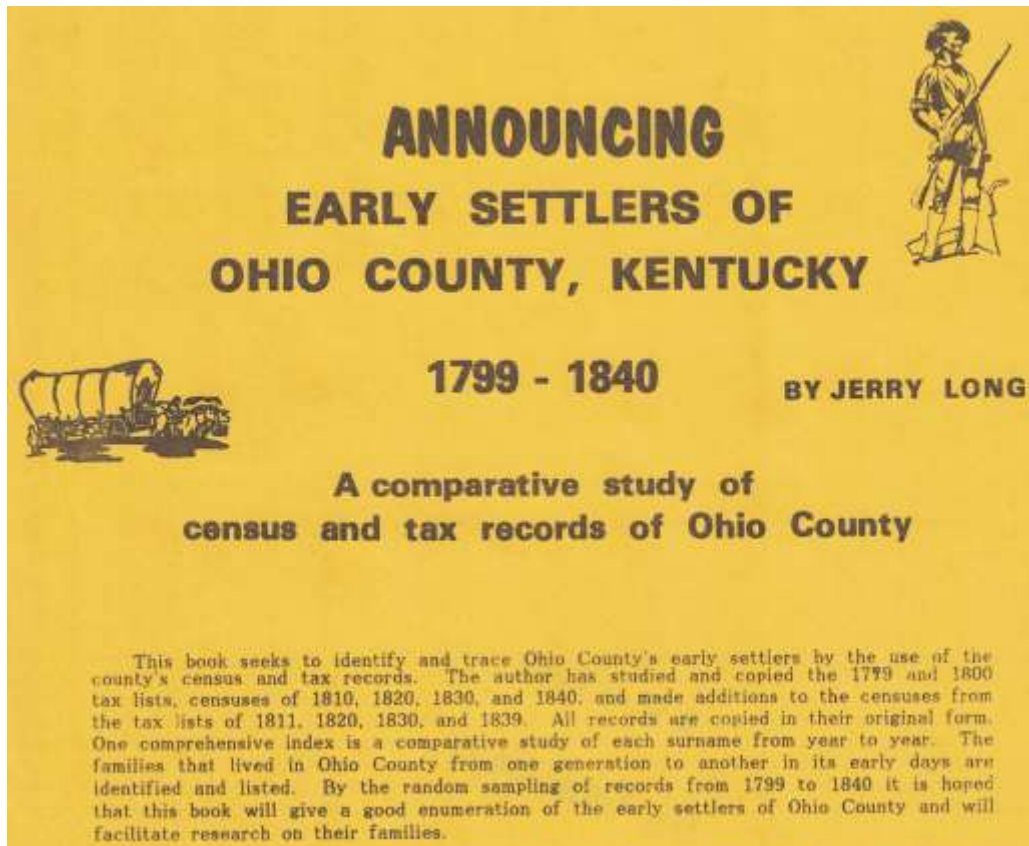


Books published by Jerry Long:

The Roots of Mabel Josephine Gratzner Long (Owensboro, KY: McDowell Publications, 1980), 62 pp. Library of Congress call number: CT274.G7 L66.

Early Settlers of Ohio County, Kentucky, 1799-1840: A Comparative Study of census and tax records of Ohio County (Utica, KY: McDowell Publications, 1983), 194 pp. Library of Congress call number: F457.02 L66 1983. [See reviews in The Bulletin, Vol. 16 (Owensboro, KY: West-Central Kentucky Family Research Association, Winter 1983), 62. Library Notes, Times-News (Hartford, KY: Thursday, 13 October 1983). "Lineage Lines", Harry D. Tinsley, Times-News (Hartford, KY: Thursday, 13 October 1983), 5B. "So It's Been Told", Jack Foster, Hancock Clarion (Hawesville, KY: Thursday, 13 October 1983). Kentucky Ancestors, Vol. 19, No. 4 (Frankfort, KY: Kentucky Historical Society, April 1984), 238. "Climb Your Family Tree", Dorothy Watkins, Hancock Clarion (Hawesville, KY: 22 October 1983). Forgotten Pathways,

Vol.1, No.1 (Hawesville, KY: Genealogical Society of Hancock County, Summer 1984), 13.]



The Family of Moses Sweeney (c1734-1813 (Utica, KY: McDowell Publications, 1990), 311 pp. Library of Congress call number: CS71.S9755 1990. [See reviews in The Bulletin, Vol. 25 (Owensboro, KY: West-Central Kentucky Family Research Association, Fall 1992), 34. Kentucky Ancestors, Vol. 30, No. 2 (Frankfort, KY: Kentucky Historical Society, Autumn 1994), 86.]

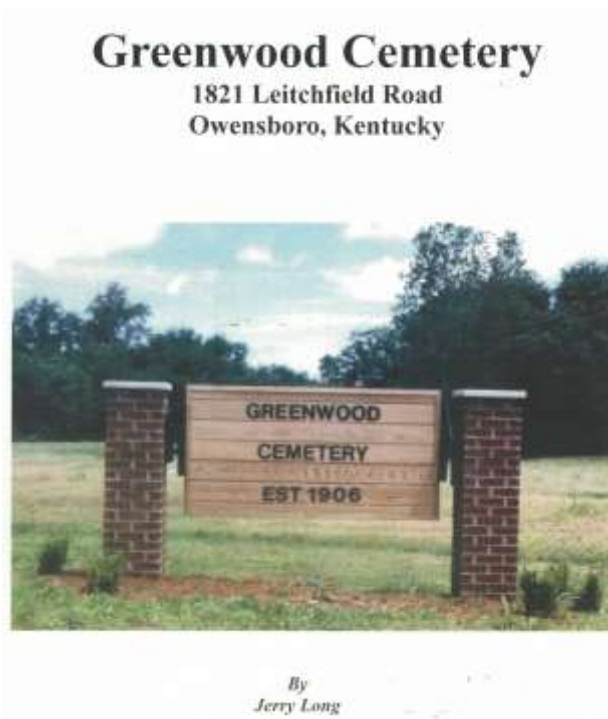
Jent – Schum – Weikel – Hochgesang – Risse – Kost (Utica, KY: McDowell Publications, 1994), 405 pp. Library of Congress call number CS71.J558 1994. [See review in The Bulletin, Vol. 27 (Owensboro, KY: West-Central Kentucky Family Research Association, Winter 1994), 39.]

The Family of William Boucher and Milly Faris (Utica, KY: McDowell Publications, 2002), 441 pp. Library of Congress call number: Cs71.B756 2002. [See review in The Bulletin, Vol. 35 (Owensboro, KY: West-Central Kentucky Family Research Association, Winter 2002), 41.]

Ohio County, Kentucky Obituary Index (1920-1980) (Utica, KY: McDowell Publications, 2004), 493 pp. Library of Congress call number: F457.02 L67 2004. [See reviews in The Bulletin, Vol. 37 (Owensboro, KY: West-Central Kentucky Family Research Association, Summer 2004), 20. Kentucky Ancestors, Vol. 41, No. 1

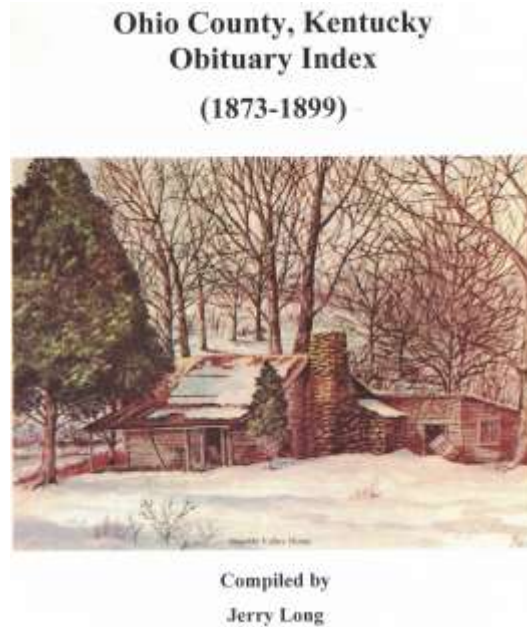
(Frankfort, KY: Kentucky Historical Society, Autumn 2005), 51; & Vol. 42, No. 1, (Autumn 2006), 53.]

Greenwood Cemetery: 1821 Leitchfield Road, Owensboro, Kentucky (Owensboro, KY: McDowell Publications, 2006), 188 pp. Library of Congress call number: F459.09 L65 2006. Complied for the Kentucky Room 12 other additional volumes (II-XIII) with documents proving each individual's internment at Greenwood Cemetery, Library catalog # KR-976.9864-Long. [See reviews in The Bulletin, Vol. 39 (Owensboro, KY: West-Central Kentucky Family Research Association, Fall 2006), 32-41. Bluegrass Roots, Vol. 34, No. 1 (Frankfort, KY: Kentucky Genealogical Society, Spring 2007), 54.]



Ohio County, Kentucky Obituary Index (1873-1899) (Utica, KY: McDowell Publications, 2009), 343 pp. Library of Congress call number: F457.02 L668 2009. And Ohio County, Kentucky Obituary Index (1900-1919) (Utica, KY: McDowell Publications, 2009), 431 pp. Library of Congress call number: F457.02 L669 2009. [See reviews in "McHenry Society News", by Betty Ford, Ohio County Times-News (Hartford, KY: 2 April 2009, p6B, 9 April 2009, p7B, 23 April 2009, p6B & 7 May 2009 p10B). Echoes, Vol. 40, No. 1 (Hartford, KY: Ohio County Historical Society, Summer 2009), 3. "Genealogy News", Euleen Rickard, McLean County News (Calhoun, KY: Thursday, 11 June 2009), 7A. "Ohio County history detailed: Library's Long compiles 3 volumes on deaths after 25 years of research", Suzi Bartholomy, Messenger-Inquirer (Owensboro, KY: Monday, 1 June 2009), 3A & 5A. "New book chronicles county deaths", Dave McBride, Ohio County Times-News (Hartford, KY: Thursday, 16 July 2009), 1A. "New Book By AHS Member Jerry Long", Ancestral News, Vol. 34, No. 3 (Vine Grove, KY: Ancestral Trails Historical Society, Fall 2009), 213-214. Kentucky

Ancestors, Vol. 44, No. 4 (Frankfort, KY: Kentucky Historical Society, Summer 2009), 197.]



Ashford Family of Rosine, Kentucky (Owensboro, KY, 2022), 80 pp.

Families of Stephen Franklin (1761-1835) & Francis Long (c1783-after 1840) (Owensboro, KY, 2024), 139 pp.

Family of Benjamin Midkiff & Elizabeth Robinson (Owensboro, KY, 2022), 219 pp.

Family of Samuel Wilson & Winnie Lee (Owensboro, KY, 2022), 130 pp.

Young Family of Hancock County, KY (Owensboro, KY, 2022), 242 pp.



**Books / databases compiled for the Kentucky Room,
Daviss County Public Library, Owensboro, KY:**



Kentucky Room

Sketches of the Hines, Graves, Ford & Helm Families of Daviess & Ohio Counties, Ky. (1987), 110 pp. Library catalog # KR-G-Hine.

Mayors of Owensboro, Kentucky (1988), 279+ pp. Library catalog # KR-976.9865-Mayo.

County Judges of Daviess County, KY (1989), 154+ pp. Library catalog # KR-976.9865-Long.

Circuit Judges of Daviess County, KY (1990), 266+ pp. Library catalog # KR-976.9864-Circ.

Papers of Harold Franklin Powers (1921-1990), 3 volumes (1990), 910 pp. Vol. 1 – “Powers Family”, 412 pp; Vol. 2 – “Buck Family”, 266 pp; & Vol. 3 – “Williams, McMahon, Chambers Families”, 232 pp. Library catalog # KR-G-Powe.

Papers of Thomas W. Westerfield (1926-1980), 1 volume, (1990), 302 pp. Library catalog # KR-G-West.

Papers of Emma Dunn Mastin (1889-1973), 4 volumes, (1990), 751 pp. Vol. 1 – Bristow, Barnhill, Powell, Dunn, Stinnett, Stearman, Early, Hardin Families, 459 pp; Vol. 2 – Thomson and Bell Families, 166 pp; Vol. 3 – Monroe and Barnhill Families, 26 pp; & Vol. 4 – Mastin, Toler and Allied Families, 100 pp. Library catalog # KR-G-Mast.

1920 Ohio County, Kentucky Census Index (1992), 35 pp. Library catalog # KR-976.9835-Nine

Papers of M. J. Kelley (1903-1989), 3 volumes (1992), 830 pp. Vol. 1 – “Families of Kelley, Burks & Davis”, 235 pp; Vol. 2 – “Families of Flanagan & Floyd”, 311 pp; & Vol. 3 – “Families of Howard, Preston, Roach, Tinsley & Westerfield”, 284 pp; Library catalog # KR-G- Kell.

Papers of Bobbie H. O'Brien (1934-1982), 10 volumes (1992), circa 2500 pp. Vol. 1 – “A-B”; Vol. 2 – “C”; Vol. 3 – “Da-De”; Vol. 4 – “Do-Du”; Vol. 5 – “E-F”; Vol. 6 – “G-H”; Vol. 7 – “J-L”; Vol. 8 – “M”; Vol. 9 – “O-R”; & Vol. 10 – “S-W”. Library catalog # KR-G-O'Bri. [See The Bulletin, Vol. 25 (Owensboro, KY: West-Central Kentucky Family Research Association, Fall 1992), 26.]

Owensboro Messenger & Inquirer's Bicentennial Articles (1993), 116 pp. Library catalog # KR-976.9864-Long.

Birth & Death Certificates, Daviess County, Kentucky: 1852, 1853, 1860, 1875 & 1876 (1994), 316 pp. Library catalog # KR-976.9864-Birt.

Griffith Family Papers, 6 Volumes (1994), 1413 pp. Vol. 1 – “The Griffith Family”, 294 pp; Vol. 2 – “The Weir Family”, 245 pp; Vol. 3 – “Letters of William R. Griffith (1793-1848)”, 281 pp; Vol. 4 – “Lands Records of William R. Griffith (1793-1848)”, 316 pp; Vol. 5 – “Accounts of William R. Griffith (1793-1848)”, 204 pp; & Vol.

6 – “Addenda to the Griffith Family Papers”, 73 pp. Library catalog # KR-G-Grif. [See Community: History News, Messenger-Inquirer (Owensboro, KY: Tuesday, 24 January 1995, Community section, 7. Kentucky Ancestors, Vol. 30, No. 3 (Frankfort, KY: Kentucky Historical Society, Spring 1995), 179. “Griffith Family Papers: New Addition to the Family Papers Series at the Owensboro Library”, The Bulletin, Vol. 29 (Owensboro, KY: West-Central Kentucky Family Research Association, Summer 1996), 15-17.]

Papers of Juanita H. Lyons (1917-2000), 2 volumes (2000), 718 pp. Vol. 1 - “The Lyons and Rodgers Families”, 295 pp & Vol. 2 – “The Henton, Hinton and Boones Families”, 423 pp. Library catalog # KR-G-Lyon. [See The Bulletin, Vol. 33 (Owensboro, KY: West-Central Kentucky Family Research Association, Summer 2000), 15.]

Papers of William Foster Hayes (1868-1964): Including his memoirs and a record of the Haynes, Miller, Hayes & Kincheloe Families (2001), 108 pp. Library catalog # KR-G-Haye.

Papers of Mary Helen Denker (1910-2001), 3 volumes (2002), 875 pp. Vol. 1 - Smith, Pate, Crawford, Mason, Whittinghill, Gabbert, Marlow, Hall, Walker, 251 pp; Vol. 2 – Westerfield, 241 pp; & Vol. 3 – Demarest-Demaree, DeRuine, DeBaun, Mandeville, Cosine-Cozine, Quick, Blauvelt, 259 pp. Library catalog # KR-G-Denk. [See The Bulletin, Vol. 35 (Owensboro, KY: West-Central Kentucky Family Research Association, Fall 2002), 30.]

Papers of Mary Hale Dean (1857-1955): Traveling Library of the Gen. Evan Shelby Chapter D.A.R., Owensboro, KY, 3 volumes (2003), 690 pp. Vol. 1 – “Cemetery & Miscellaneous Records”, 150 pp. Vol. 2 – “Family Files”, 339 pp. Vol. 3 – “File of Laura Little Hawes”, 201 pp. Library catalog # KR-G-Dean.

Papers of Katharyn C. Leachman (1893-1976), 5 volumes (2003), 1185 pp. Vol. 1 – “Leachman Family”, 213 pp. Vol. 2 – “Whitaker & Houston Families”, 307 pp. Vol. 3 – “Families A – K”, 205 pp. Vol. 4 – “Families L – W”, 221 pp. Vol. 5 – “McLean County, KY Records & Letters of Edward M. Manley, 239 pp. Library catalog # KR-G-Leac.

Papers of Florence Thompson Lovejoy (1921-2008), 26 volumes (2010), approximately 18,000 pages. Library catalog # KR-G-Love. [See “Papers of Florence Thompson Lovejoy (1921-2008)”, 26 volumes, The Bulletin, Vol. 43 (Owensboro, KY: West-Central Kentucky Family Research Association, Winter 2010), 27.]

Papers of Finis B. Stroud (1910-1994), 3 volumes (2013), approximately 800 pages. Library catalog # KR-S-Stro.

Inventory of Daviess County, KY Cemeteries (2010), Word document.

Lineage Lines, Ohio County News, Hartford, KY: Columns By Harry D. Tinsley, 7 volumes (2011), Vol. 1 (1972-1976), Vol. 2 (1977-1981), Vol. 3 (1982-1986), Vol. 4 (1987-1989), Vol. 5 (1990-1992), Vol. 6 (1993-1995), Vol. 7 (1996-1998). Library catalog # KR 976.9835-Tins.

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Hancock Clarion Historical Articles, 1900-1968 (2013), 193pp. Library catalog # KR 976.9862-Hanc

Kentucky Room Research Tools Shelf (2013). Consists of eight notebooks with inventories, indexes, catalogs of files found in the Kentucky Room – including newspaper chronologies, Daviess County Cemetery inventory, map collection catalog, photograph collection, microfilm inventory, Kentucky Vital Statistics found in Kentucky periodicals, listings of Kentucky Room files, WVJS files, Investigator’s Club files.

Kentucky Room, Daviess County Public Library Scrapbook (2013), 251 pp. Library catalog # KR 027.4-Kent.

Presidential & V. I. P. Visits to Owensboro & Daviess County, KY (2015), 150+ pp. Library catalog # KR-976.9865-Long.

Articles by James Hines, 5 volumes (2015), 1000+ pp. Library catalog # KR-F-Hine.

Catalog of Art Collection, Kentucky Room, Daviess County Public Library (2015). Word document.

Yearly chronologies of local events from the Owensboro Newspapers for 1842-1919. Word document.

Catalog of Map Collection, Kentucky Room, Daviess County Public Library (2015). Word document.

Birth Announcements in Owensboro Newspapers, 1874-1909 (2015), 143 pp. Library catalog # KR-976.9864-Long.

Worked from 1989-2020 on the Kentucky Room, Daviess County Public Library’s continuing project of indexing the Owensboro newspapers for obituaries and death notices. I developed the design and format for the database; compiled data entries

for the years 1842-1919; proof read and standardized the abstracts made by other staff members for the years of 1980 to 2020. The Owensboro Obituary Index on the Daviess County Public Library's Internet page went live on the Internet (<https://obits.deplibrary.org/>) on 27 January 2006 (See "90,000 obituaries put online", by Keith Lawrence, Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, 24 Feb 2006, p3B). I continued as the editor – administrator of the database until December 2020. The database is the library's most extensively utilized electronic format. The standardization and search capabilities across a multitude of fields and keywords ranks it as one of the most sophisticated databases of its kind on the Internet.




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Kentucky Honor Roll of Ancestors, compiler & originator of book by West-Central Kentucky Family Research Association (Evansville, IN: Evansville Bindery, Inc., 1995), 278 pp. [See The Bulletin, vol. 25 (Owensboro, KY: West-Central Kentucky Family Research Association, Spring 1992) 4-5; The Bulletin, Vol. 26 (Owensboro, KY: West-Central Kentucky Family Research Association, Spring 1993), 4; The Bulletin, Vol. 28 (Owensboro, KY: West-Central Kentucky Family Research Association, Summer 1995), 19.]

**WEST - CENTRAL KENTUCKY
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P. O. BOX 1932
OWENSBORO, KENTUCKY 42302

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A KENTUCKY BICENTENNIAL PROJECT
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KENTUCKY ANCESTORS!!



HONOR ROLL

NAME OF YOUR ANCESTOR _____

DATES (MAY BE APPROXIMATE) BIRTH _____ DEATH _____

HUSBAND OR WIFE (MAIDEN NAME) _____

PLACE SETTLED IN KENTUCKY _____

DATE SETTLED IN KENTUCKY _____

PLACE LIVED BEFORE _____

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (this may be a sketch of 10-100 words and may include genealogical data about descendants, accomplishments, any activities in settlement of Kentucky or other information (use back if needed.)

Kentucky Pioneer Genealogy and Records, Vol. 7, co-compiler for Society of Kentucky Pioneers (Utica, KY: McDowell Publications, 1988), 156 pp (compiled pages 1-120).

Kentucky Pioneer Genealogy and Records, Vol. 8, co-compiler for Society of Kentucky Pioneers (Utica, KY: McDowell Publications, 1988), 156 pp (compiled pages 1-120).

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Kentucky Pioneer Genealogy and Records, Vol. 10, co-compiler for Society of Kentucky Pioneers (Utica, KY: McDowell Publications, 1989), 160 pp (compiled pages 1-120).

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“Brickey Cemetery, **Breckinridge** County, KY”, Kentucky Family Records, Vol. 15, West-Central Kentucky Family Research Association (Utica, KY: McDowell Publications, 1991), 63-65.

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Provided data and pictures for the book, Dixon – McCallister Families, Thelma Caraway Landrum (Columbus, GA: Edgewood Printing Service, 1984), 201 pp. Pictures of McCallister Cemetery & barn on pages 24 & 28 and data on pages 40, 57-63 (descendants of Benedict Gratzler & Josephine McCallister), 122, 126-128, 131-135, 144-145 and 152 contributed by Jerry Long.

Supplied research on family of Robert Watson (pp101-104) for book, On The Boundary Line Between Ohio and Grayson Counties (Some Early Settlers of the Hopewell Community, Natalia Decker Mallisee (Leitchfield, KY: 1984), 121 pp.

Donated several articles and information on the Hale family for the book, Fearful Times: A History of the Civil War Years in Hancock County, Kentucky, Glenn Hodges (Owensboro, KY: Progress Printing Co., 1986), 89 pp. Credited on page 86.

Provided information on Rev. Marcus Voyles (1860-1947), "So It's Been Told", Jack Foster, Hancock Clarion (Hawesville, KY: Thursday, 5 February 1987).

Provided information on the Ezell family for the book, The Ezells On The Move, Tony Ezell (Neosho, MO, 1987), 130 pp. Pages 4 & 5 are a direct quote from a research report on Jeremiah Ezell by Jerry Long sent to Ezell researcher, Randi S. Reece of Dallas, TX on 26 April 1985.

Provided data on the descendants of Eldred John Hale (1849-1915) & Alice Powers for the book, Frederick Powers and Tresea Powers: Their Descendants, Ancestors and Related Families, Omegene Powers Powell (Utica, KY: McDowell Publications, 1987), 350 pp.

Provided historical-genealogical data for numerous local history articles by Glenn Hodges, published in the Messenger-Inquirer (Owensboro, KY, from 1989 to present).

Donated genealogical information on the Pate family for the book, Daybreak On Old Fortification Creek, Glenn Hodges (Hawesville, KY: Hancock County Historical Society, 1989), 157 pp. Credited on page 141.

Provided data on the descendants of Nathaniel Young & Arminda Etter Hale (pages 156-159) for the book, Some Descendants of Joseph Bruner and Cathrina Elizabetha Thomas, Henry & Harlan Bruner (Hawesville, KY: Bruner Printing Company, 1990), 715 pp.

Researched Richard Taylor's connections to Daviess County, KY (see pages 37 & 39) for the book, The History of Spencer County, Kentucky, Mary Frances Brown (Utica, KY: McDowell Publications, 1990), 299 pp. Taylorsville, the county seat of Spencer County, KY was named for Richard Taylor.

Helped on "Kentucky Portrait 1972-1992: Kentucky Bicentennial Edition", Messenger-Inquirer (Owensboro, KY: 30 May 1992), "These people helped paint our Kentucky Portrait", 32; suggested and supplied material for the following articles "Wild west gunfighter Wyatt Earp had roots in Ohio County", 24, "Tar Springs doesn't sound like a resort, but it was", 28, and "Historian chronicled Muhlenberg blacks" [Leslie Shively Smith], 62.

Provided several newspaper articles and picture of Judge George S. Wilson (taken by Jerry Long, page 104 xxii) for the book, The Last Public Execution In America, Perry T. Ryan (Lexington, KY: Alexandria Printing, 1992), 206 pp. Credited on page 205.

Provided data on the Midkiff family for Websites: Welcome to Daniel's Homepage, Internet, Daniel Mahard. "Benjamin Midkiff of Ohio County, KY", Ohio County, Kentucky History, Internet Blog by Charles A. Leach (search by keyword Midkiff).

Provided data on the descendants of William Pate & Agnes H. Bell for book, Early Landowners Near Greenfield, Virginia and The Bell Family Who Once Lived There, Ben H. Coke (Utica, KY: McDowell Publications, 1993), 153 pp. Credited on page 84.

Provided data for the book, Arthur & Mary Wallace and Their Descendants, Marian Waters Challender (Bozeman, MT: 1996), 659 pp. Credited on page 10. Following pages were contributed by Jerry Long: 37-39, 106-108, 140-144, 568, 571-573, 576, 579-584, 593, 608, 612, 628 & 646.

Donated information on the genealogy of the Monroe family for the article, "Monroes of Rosine, Kentucky", Richard D. Smith, Bluegrass Unlimited, Vol. 31, No. 7 (Warrenton, VA: Bluegrass Unlimited, Inc., January 1997), 24-29. Credited on page 24.

Donated information on the genealogy of the Monroe family for the book, Can't You Hear Me Callin': The Life of Bill Monroe, Father of Bluegrass, Richard D. Smith (Boston, New York, London: Little, Brown and Company, 2000), 365 pp. Credited on pages 294 and 350. Assisted Richard D. Smith on his visit to the Kentucky Room of the

Daviess County Public Library on 26 September 1996 and by telephone interviews of 22 October 1996 and 9 May 1997.

Provided several newspaper articles and biographies for the book, Tracks on the Road to St. Lawrence Church, Daniel P. Bowlds (Owensboro, KY: Greenwell-Chisholm Printing Company, 1998), 105 pp. Credited in preface (page ii).

Donated information on the genealogy of the Griffith family for the article “A Light Broke Out Over My Mind: Mattie Griffith, Madge Vertner, and Kentucky Abolitionism”, Joe Lockard, The Filson History Quarterly, Vol. 76, No. 3 (Louisville, KY: The Filson Club Historical Society, Summer 2002), 245-259. Credited on page 245.

Assisted with research on Sue Munday for the book, The Atonement of John Brooks: The Story of the True Johnny “Reb” Who Did Not Come Marching Home, James L. Head (Geneva, FL: Heritage Press, 2001), 288 pp. Credited on page i.



Articles about (or with references to) Jerry Long:

Two pictures of Jerry Long and others in the Hancock County Archives, Hancock Clarion (Hawesville, KY: Thursday, 11 November 1982), 8A.

Articles from the old issues of the Hancock Clarion copied by Jerry Long for use by the Clarion, “So It’s Been Told”, Jack Foster, Hancock Clarion (Hawesville, KY: Thursday, 19 July 1984; Thursday, 5 February 1987; Thursday, 22 August 1991).

“Street’s residents on road to new name”, Dan Heckel, Messenger-Inquirer (Owensboro, KY: 20 August 1989), 10B (quoted on naming of Lewis Street).

Comments about Jerry Long and his article on the Thrustons of Daviess County, “So It’s Been Told”, Jack Foster, Hancock Clarion (Hawesville, KY: Thursday, 24 November 1989).

“Historical photos part of Owensboro hospital display”, Perry County News (Tell City, IN: Monday, 27 June 1994), 1 & 11 (photo of Mabel & Mary Paulin).

“Community History”, Glenn Hodges, Messenger-Inquirer (Owensboro, KY: 14 February 1995), 3S. In his article on the Thruston community the author noted “Much of the biographical information about Algernon Thruston for this story came from an article in the Daviess County Historical Society Quarterly written by Jerry Long, a member of the Kentucky Room staff at the Owensboro-Daviess County Public Library. Long has done extensive genealogical and historical research on the Thruston family of Daviess County.”

“Other Works by Jerry Long”, The Bulletin, Vol. 29 (Owensboro, KY: West-Central Kentucky Family Research Association, Summer 1996), 17-19.

“Rosine Cemetery”, Bobby Anderson, Ohio County Messenger (Beaver Dam, KY: Wednesday, 18 September 1996).

“Getting to the roots: Genealogy finds your heritage”, Brenda R. Kocher, Prime (Owensboro, KY: Messenger-Inquirer, September-October 1997), 6-9 (quotes from interview by Brenda R. Kocher).

Jerry Long recipient of one of the Kentucky Genealogical Society’s 1998 Outstanding Service to Genealogy Awards, Bluegrass Roots, Vol. 26, No. 3 (Frankfort, KY: Kentucky Genealogical Society, Fall 1999), 85 & 87. “Community: In The Spotlight” - Jerry Long earns recognition for genealogy research, Messenger-Inquirer (Owensboro, KY: Tuesday, 7 September 1999), 3D. “Rough River Ripples”, Dorothy Gentry, Times-News (Hartford, KY: Thursday, 7 October 1999), 5A.



Left to right – Al Alfaro, president of the Kentucky Genealogical Society; Jerry Long, Betty Darnell and Sandra Stults, recipients of 1998 Outstanding Service to Genealogy Awards; at the Kentucky History Center in Frankfort, KY on 13 August 1999.

“Climbing your family tree: Genealogy a fast-growing hobby”, Keith Lawrence, Messenger-Inquirer (Owensboro, KY: Sunday, 22 July 2001), 1F (quotes from interview by Keith Lawrence).

“Names & Notes – Tombstone belongs at Panther Creek”, Suzi Bartholomy, Messenger-Inquirer (Owensboro, KY: Wednesday, 28 January 2004), 2B (Noted that I discovered the location of C. M. Ragsdale in response to a query in her column of 21 January 2004).

“City asked to take over old cemetery”, Joy Campbell, Messenger-Inquirer (Owensboro, KY: Monday, 1 March 2004), 1A (Credited for my 1998 research on the

Kelly Cemetery. Also provided information and sources on several early cemeteries of Owensboro, including newspaper articles published in 1942 on first cemeteries of Owensboro and 1991 moving of the Coomes family cemetery.)

“Greenwood Cemetery is more crowded than thought: Graveyard likely has more than 2,000 graves”, Keith Lawrence, Messenger-Inquirer (Owensboro, KY: Thursday, 3 March 2005), 1C (Corrections to past articles about Greenwood Cemetery that were sent to Keith Lawrence on 24 Feb 2005) and The Bulletin, Vol. 38 (Owensboro, KY: West-Central Kentucky Family Research Association, Summer 2005), 12-13.

“Cemetery project in the works: Volunteers needed to work on list of burials at Greenwood”, Renee Beasley Jones, Messenger-Inquirer (Owensboro, KY: Wednesday, 28 December 2005), 1B (listing of burials at Greenwood from death certificates noted).

“90,000 obituaries put online Available death notices date back to 1890”, Keith Lawrence, Messenger-Inquirer (Owensboro, KY: 24 February 2006), 3B. Cited as helping to create the Daviess County Public Library’s online obituary database.

“News & Notes: Book on Greenwood Cemetery on sale”, Suzi Bartholomy, Messenger-Inquirer (Owensboro, KY: Wednesday, 22 August 2006), 1B & 3 B.

“Family Sleuths: Library’s Kentucky Room draws thousands each year”, Keith Lawrence, Messenger-Inquirer (Owensboro, KY: Saturday, 16 June 2007), 1A & 2AB (quotes from interview by Keith Lawrence).

“Ohio County history detailed: Library’s Long compiles 3 volumes on deaths after 25 years of research”, Suzi Bartholomy, Messenger-Inquirer (Owensboro, KY: Monday, 1 June 2009), 3A & 5A.

“Library assistant Long to be honored at event”, Messenger-Inquirer (Owensboro, KY: Tuesday, 14 July 2009), 3A.

“New book chronicles county deaths”, Dave McBride, Ohio County Times-News (Hartford, KY: Thursday, 16 July 2009), 1A.

“Al Mattingly will be 25th Daviess judge-executive”, Keith Lawrence, Messenger-Inquirer (Owensboro, KY: Sunday, 26 Dec 2010), 1E (quoted on data on Daviess County Judge-executives).

“1940 census can help fill in family history”, Keith Lawrence, Messenger-Inquirer (Owensboro, KY: Sunday, 15 April 2012), 1A. (interviewed & quoted on the 1940 US Federal Census that was released for public viewing on 2 April 2012).

“First list of Owensboro residents appeared in 1821”, Keith Lawrence, Messenger-Inquirer (Owensboro, KY: Thursday, 26 July 2012), 1C&2C. (quoted about

the first censuses of Owensboro; also credited with providing information that was used in the recent episode of the PBS TV show, “History Detectives”).

“History fair coming to library: Saturday’s event to celebrate county’s 200th anniversary”, Keith Lawrence, Messenger-Inquirer (Owensboro, KY: Sunday, 5 July 2015), 1C. Article about Daviess County Memorabilia Day that I had organized as the Daviess County Public Library’s main event in celebration of the Daviess County Bicentennial.

Book, Greenwood Cemetery: 1821 Leitchfield Road, Owensboro, Kentucky, noted in entry on Greenwood Cemetery in book, The African American Encyclopedia, edited by Gerald L. Smith et al (Lexington, KY: University Press of Kentucky, 2015), 216-217.

“County history book signing Saturday”, Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, 6 November 2015, p1C. Interviewed about my part in compiling the book. Daviess County, Kentucky, 1815-2015: Celebrating Our Heritage.

Correction and letter to the Owensboro Messenger-Inquirer was published in the newspaper on Wednesday, 23 December 2015, pp.1A & 7A. In article, “Payne says he’ll seek third term” of Tuesday, 22 December 2015, p1A it was erroneously stated that if he was elected Mayor Payne would be the first Owensboro mayor to serve three consecutive terms. Two other mayors had accomplished this.

“Long retiring from DCPL Kentucky Room”, Suzi Bartholomy, Messenger-Inquirer (Owensboro, KY: Friday, 5 January 2016), 1C.



Other accomplishments and work projects:

In August 1979 began doing genealogical research by visiting the Kentucky Room at the Owensboro Public Library.

On 12 July 1982 I was the first visitor to sign the ledger at the new Hancock County Archives, at the Courthouse at Hawesville, KY. The research room had just been opened by archivist, Claribel Phillips. I had visited the old records room several times in the previous two years when it was unattended, locked and you had to request admittance. I had helped sort and organize old records there. I was in two pictures of researchers at the Hancock County Archives that was published in the newspaper, Hancock Clarion, Hawesville, KY on 11 November 1982. Several times during the 1980’s & 90’s I was mentioned in the columns, “So Its Been Told” by Jack Foster and “Climb Your Family Tree” by Dorothy Watkins, in the Hancock Clarion.

On 7 December 1983 Don Wimmer, owner and editor of the Hawesville, KY newspaper, Hancock Clarion, let me borrow microfilms of the old issues of the Clarion.

Over several months went through all of the 1900-1979 papers and copied articles related to the history of Hancock County. On 29 May 1984 gave copies of a notebook of all of these articles to Mr. Wimmer, Jack Foster, author of the Clarion history column, “So It’s Been Told”, and Claribel Phillips, archivist for the Hancock County Archives. Subsequently many of these articles appeared in the Hancock Clarion. See “So It’s Been Told”, by Jack Foster, Hancock Clarion (Hawesville, KY: Thursday, 19 July 1984; Thursday, 5 February 1987; and Thursday, 22 August 1991).

During 1984-1988 worked as a professional genealogist both privately and in 1987-1988 as a member of the staff of McDowell Publications, Utica, KY. For McDowell Publications compiled periodical, Kentucky Pioneer Genealogy & Records; maintained records of the Society of Kentucky Pioneers; and operated Sam McDowell’s branch store at 203 E. 2nd Street in downtown Owensboro in 1988.

In 1987 researched the F. A. Ames (Buggy) Company for the pictorial history display in the gallery of the Sun Windows Company at 1515 East 18th Street in Owensboro, KY.

Began working in the Kentucky Room of the Daviess County Public Library, Owensboro, KY, on 2 January 1989. After 27 years of employment there retired on 29 February 2016.



Researched application data for Kentucky Historical Highway Marker honoring Col. Algernon S. Thruston (1801-1864). The marker was approved and dedicated at Thruston, Daviess County, KY, on 28 April 1989.

On 1 May 1990 presented books I had compiled on the Owensboro Mayors, Daviess County Judges and Daviess County Circuit Judges to those respective offices. The Mayors' book shortly afterwards became the nucleus for developing the photo gallery of the mayors on the fourth floor of the Owensboro City Hall. Because of my role in the development of the gallery I was invited to its dedication at City Hall on 4 September 1990. See "Owensboro mayors recalled, honored in portrait gallery", Keith Lawrence, Messenger-Inquirer (Owensboro, KY: Tuesday, 4 September 1990), 4C. While researching the book on the Owensboro Mayors discovered on a visit to City Hall on 4 May 1989 a plaque listing the Owensboro Mayors and their terms contained an error listing a couple of the mayors out of order – the plaque was subsequently corrected. In 2011 assisted Joe Castlen, Daviess County Circuit Judge, in finding pictures of the circuit judges for gallery to be displayed in the Daviess County Circuit Court room. In 2013 my name was added to plaque in the circuit court room acknowledging my assistance in finding data and pictures of the circuit court judges. I was credited in article, "Judge's portraits return to court" in the 17 June 2013 issue of the Messenger-Inquirer (p1A). The article stated "The history of each of the judges was researched and compiled by Jerry Long in the Daviess County Public Library's Kentucky Room." On 15 November 2013 Judge Joe Castlen presented me with a plaque in recognition of my helping to locate pictures and information on the Daviess County Circuit Judges. It was a figurine of the goddess of justice sitting on a throne with a balancing scale in one hand and a sword in the other. The inscription read: "With Grateful Appreciation To Jerry Long For His Contribution To The Circuit Court Portrait Restoration, 2010-2013"

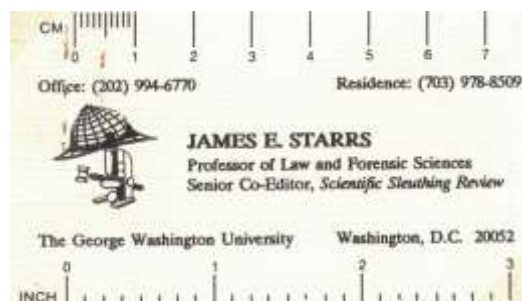
Responsible for alerting the public to the proposed destruction of the multi-volume set of books, Kentucky Register of Births and Deaths (1911-1969) and initiating efforts to save them. Robert N. Hurst, Kentucky State Registrar of Vital Records sent a directive on 4 September 1990 to the County Public Health Departments to destroy their set of these books. Mr. Hurst was concerned that information on subsequent adoptions could be ascertained by studying the published volumes. The books had previously been an open record that could be used by the public in each of the County Public Health Departments. For about ten years I had frequently visited the Daviess County Public Health Department to use this resource for genealogical research. On one of these visits about a week prior to their ordered destruction I discovered that the books had been ordered to be boxed up to await a decision on whether they should be returned to Frankfort, transferred elsewhere or be destroyed. In the next few days I kept in close communication with the local registrar in hopes that the Kentucky Room at the Owensboro Library, where I was an employee, might be able to obtain a set of the books for our patrons.

In a phone call to our local registrar on September 4th I was informed that they had just received the final order to have the books destroyed by burning or shredding. I immediately called Mr. Hurst to plead against the decision. He refused to delay his order. At that point there had been no public announcement about the decision and the general public was totally unaware. Realizing that the books were soon to be no more I decided to do what I could to get the word out in hopes that a stay of execution could be obtained. I spent the next several days calling and writing government officials, libraries (Kentucky Archives, Kentucky Historical Society Library, Filson Club, Western Kentucky

University), genealogical societies and numerous genealogical acquaintances, to ask for their help. None that I spoke to knew of the decision and most were concerned about it.

In a call on September 4th, 1990 to Donald G. Dixon, Deputy Secretary of the Kentucky Department of Human Resources (of which the Vital Records office is a subsidiary of) he agreed to issue a temporary stay pending the reception of a letter from me presenting the arguments against the destruction of the records. In the following week the story of the ordered destruction of the books became widely publicized by the media. A letter I had drafted and mailed to the offices of US Senator Wendell H. Ford, the Kentucky Governor, Kentucky Attorney General, Kentucky State Archivist, Kentucky Speaker of the House, local State Senator and Representatives and Secretary of the Kentucky Department for Human Resources was used as the cornerstone of a subsequent trial initiated by the Kentucky Attorney General. On 8 February 1991 the Kentucky Attorney General's office ruled that the Vital Records office had acted illegally in ordering the destruction of a public record; any such decision could be rendered only by the Kentucky State Archives. The books which had been returned to Frankfort were turned over to the Kentucky Department for Libraries & Archives, who subsequently released them to any county or city library across the state that requested a set for their county. In February 1992 the Kentucky Room of the Daviess County Library received their set of the 130 volumes of the Kentucky Register of Births and Deaths. It has since been one of the most popular sources there.

In November 1990 assisted James E. Starrs on his visit to the Kentucky Room of the Owensboro Library. Mr. Starrs is a professor of Law and Forensic Sciences at the George Washington University in Washington, D.C. He is one of the most recognized forensic scientists in the world. He is co-editor of the Scientific Sleuthing Review and co-author of the book, Scientific Evidence in Civil and Criminal Cases. He has gained national attention for his exhumation of the bodies of several noted individuals, including Jesse James in 1995, Lizzie Borden in 1992, Dr. Carl Austin Weiss in 1991 (accused assassin of Louisiana Gov. Huey Long) and Alfred Packer in 1989 (accused of cannibalizing party in the mountains of Colorado). He has appeared in numerous TV interviews related to many criminal investigations, including the O. J. Simpson case. See following associated press articles in the Messenger-Inquirer (Owensboro, KY): "Exhumations raising questions" (Sunday, 21 July 1991), 4F, "'Expert takes whack at Borden case" (Tuesday, 4 February 1992), 2A, & "Judge orders exhumation of Jesse James' body" (Saturday, 8 July 1995), 3A. Biographies of Mr. Starrs can be found on the Internet sites for the George Washington University Law School and the Cyril H. Wecht Institute of Forensic Science and Law.



Business card given to me by James E. Starrs

James E. Starrs stopped at the Owensboro Library to research Wilson Bell, one of the alleged victims of Alfred Packer and who he thought may have resided in Ohio County, KY for awhile. I was able to find several things about his family – Wilson Bell (age 17, born Ohio) was in the household of his parents in the 1860 census of Ohio County in the Point Pleasant neighborhood, his father was listed in the Ohio County tax lists during 1860-1862 and Wilson enlisted in Company B, 26th KY Infantry of the Union Army during the Civil War. This group consisted of several Ohio County residents. He was mustered in 18 March 1862 and was reported as deserting at Mt. Washington, KY on 6 Oct 1862. Mr. Starrs praised my ability as a researcher saying it was very comprehensive and professional and was far above what he has found in most research facilities.

In the Fall of 1990 I suggested to Glenn Hodges, a local history writer for the Owensboro newspaper, Messenger-Inquirer, that the newspaper should allow the names of a decedent's parents to be included in their obituaries. In several newspapers in the region this was an option but not in Owensboro. Shortly after our conversation the Messenger-Inquirer in December 1990 began allowing the names of parents to be published in obituaries.

Responsible for the microfilming of the earliest issues of the Ohio County, KY newspaper, Hartford Herald. The original copies of seven years of the newspaper were owned by Mrs. Lyman G. Barrett of Hartford and had never been microfilmed. In 1990 and 1991 I visited Mrs. Barrett and inquired about the original papers and asked that they be preserved and made available to the public. She agreed to donate the newspapers to the University of Kentucky. UK subsequently microfilmed them and placed complimentary copies of the 1875-1880 and 1885 editions of the Hartford Herald, formerly in the possession of Mrs. Barrett, in the Kentucky Room of the Owensboro Library.

Provided research for the Hancock County Fiscal Court's application for a Kentucky Historical Highway marker for the town of Patesville. The marker was dedicated at Patesville, KY on 31 March 2001.

Wrote and sent several e-mails about the reprinting of Harry D. Tinsley's book, History of No Creek, Ohio County, Kentucky. The book had been out of print for many years and I promised Mr. Tinsley I would help to get the word out that it was available. Posted notices on the Internet on the Ohio County GenWeb and Ohio County Genforum message pages. Sent e-mails to the editors of The Bulletin (WCK:FRA), Kentucky Ancestors, Bluegrass Roots and Kentucky Explorer. Notices were published in The Bulletin, Vol. 34 (Owensboro, KY: West-Central Kentucky Family Research Association, Summer 2001), 18. Kentucky Ancestors, Vol. 36, No. 1 (Frankfort, KY: Kentucky Historical Society, Autumn 2000), 53-54. The Kentucky Explorer, Vol.16, No. 2 (Jackson, KY: June 2001), 107.

On 20 April 2001 a film crew from ABC's World News Tonight was in Owensboro shooting footage for a segment about the last public hanging in America –

Rainey Bethea in 1936. The segment was to air in connection with the upcoming execution (May 16) of Timothy McVeigh. The segment was broadcast on ABC's World News Tonight with Peter Jennings on Thursday, 26 April 2001. It featured three Owensboro residents – Keith Lawrence, Morton Holbrook & Hubert McFarland. I assisted them on their visit to the Kentucky Room of the Daviess County Public Library. I had recommended Mr. McFarland as an eye-witness. A copy of the death certificate of Rainey Bethea was shown in the episode. I had suggested this and had made the copy for them.

Listed and indexed death notices and obituaries in all of the Ohio County, KY newspapers from 1875-1980. It took me twenty-five years to complete the project.

In 2005 originated and compiled database on burials at Owensboro's African American, Greenwood Cemetery. The project began from my listing of Greenwood burials from the Kentucky Death certificates that were available in the Kentucky Room of the Daviess County Public Library. This list was added to from my listing of the monuments at the cemetery, Owensboro newspaper obituaries and records of the McFarland & Young Funeral Homes. In addition to the names on the cemetery's gravestones over 2,000 other burials were identified. All of the original sources, death certificates and obituaries, that proved burial were compiled into a 12-volume set of books that were catalogued and placed in the Kentucky Room.

In 2006 plans were announced to erect a veteran's memorial at Greenwood Cemetery in Owensboro. The cemetery was Owensboro's African American burial grounds for over 70 years. On 7 March 2007 I submitted to the Greenwood Cemetery Restoration Committee a list of 84 veteran's that I could document were interred at Greenwood, including 21 who were buried in unmarked graves. I did the additional research to correct numerous errors that appeared in previous listings. My listing as presented was used on the monument that was dedicated at Memorial Day services at the cemetery on 26 May 2007.

I was interviewed by Sarah Lovett, Western Kentucky Reporter for Channel 7 – WTVW, Evansville, IN on Thursday, Nov 5, 2009. Ms. Lovett stopped at the Kentucky Room of the Daviess County Public Library to prepare a segment on the history of the Executive Inn Rivermont. The Inn is scheduled to be brought down by implosion on November 9th. She filmed views of the old newspapers on microfilm showing the opening of the Big E and various ads and flyers that the Kentucky Room had on file. When she learned that I had worked there for eight years she asked if she could interview me. The segment was shown on Channel 7's News on Saturday, November 7th at 6 & 9 p.m. and on Sunday, November 8th at 9:00 p.m. For several days the interview was viewable on the station's internet site. It was part of their report on the Inn's last day. From my interview several parts were used – I said it was very sad. It is hard to believe after having worked there and seen it in its heyday. At times lines to the Dining Room Lounge were backed up to the front door. She reported that I had worked there in Room Service and had waited on my share of stars. I listed several that I had served, including

John & June Carter Cash, Donny & Marie Osmond, Jerry Lee Lewis, Fats Domino and many others.

I was interviewed at the Daviess County Public Library by Laura McNutt, a reporter for 14 WFIE TV News, Evansville, IN on, 14 August 2011. Later the same day they aired a report on the 75th anniversary of the hanging of Rainey Bethea in Owensboro, the last public execution in America. In her report she used several pictures and documents that I had provided. The report also showed me saying that the hanging was the most popular topic chosen by students for reports.

In December 2011 representatives of the PBS TV show, "History Detectives", contacted the Kentucky Room at the Daviess County Public Library. They were preparing an episode about the Civil War derringers of Captain John P. Thompson of Owensboro, KY. The main question they presented was: "What happened to John P. Thompson?" "When and where did he die and where was he buried?" They had not been able to discover this from their prior contacts, including members of his family, the Virginia Historical and Kentucky Historical Societies. I was able to document that he died here in Owensboro on 3 April 1872 and was buried in an unmarked grave at Owensboro's Elmwood Cemetery. I also provided other biographical information to the PBS show about John P. Thompson, including data on his parentage and their prominent role in the history of this county; location of his family's residence in Owensboro; articles that provided data about the Civil War unit, the Dixie Guards, that he organized; article from the "Owensboro Monitor" about his capture in 1863; information on his service as Daviess County Circuit Court clerk; and several scans of the two Daviess County courthouses, where John P. Thompson served. The episode aired on Tuesday, 24 July 2012. They stated that John P. Thompson died in 1872 but did comment about where he died or where he was buried. They also utilized the scan I sent of the Daviess County Courthouse from the 1876 "Historical Atlas Map of Daviess County, KY". Additional biographical items I provided were utilized on their write-up about the "Civil War Derringers" episode on the History Detectives website.

I have suggested several characters and provided research for the annual Voices of Elmwood Cemetery program that commenced in 2008. Among these were Colin Milne, Algernon S. Thruston, William N. Sweeney, Zach Terrell, Robert W. Weir, Mary Hale Dean, Jerome Helm, Carl Browder, Thruston Cabell and John P. Thompson. The "Owensboro Obituary Index" of the Daviess County Public Library has been the starting point for developing the characterization of the historic personages.

In November 2012 I notified David Smith, Daviess County Court official, and the Kentucky Historical Society of an error on the recently installed memorial to Daviess County's Congressional Medal of Honor winners at the Daviess County Courthouse. Brig. Gen. Thomas Cruse was noted as receiving his commendation for his actions of July 17, 1872. The correct date should have been July 17, 1882. The monument could not be corrected.

On 20 June 2013 I was appointed by the Daviess County Fiscal Court to the planning committee for the 2015 Daviess County Bicentennial. Several weeks before Professor Lee Dew had asked if I would serve and I agreed to. See Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, 21 June 2013, p2A. During the next two years I attended all the meetings and spent many hours planning activities for the 2015 celebration.

Submitted data on the Ohio County Poor Farm for a proposed historical highway monument to be erected at its site. On 19 August 2014 researcher, Helen McKeown, copied 25 pages from my file of newspaper articles, deeds, census reports and death certificates I had compiled on the Ohio County Poor Farm.

From 1 to 5 p.m. on Saturday, 11 July 2015 Daviess County Memorabilia Day was held at the Daviess County Public Library. As a member of Daviess County's Bicentennial Committee I presented my ideas to the library on January 14 for five programs that the library could host in celebration of the county's bicentennial. Over the next six months I spent many hours at the library and of my own time in organizing Daviess County Memorabilia Day. I had visualized and hoped it would be one of the most successful and well attended programs that have been hosted at the library. It indeed was. For the first three hours of the event the library's parking lot stayed full and many people had to walk from blocks away. Library staff estimated the attendance at 468. On the average there were three or more people standing at each booth for the first couple of hours. On my first full pass through the library displays I counted 153 in about the first 20 minutes. All thirty-five presenters, who had been invited, arrived and packed both floors of the library with antiques, art work and memorabilia. The number of presenters and their assistants alone exceeded any other previous program at the library. The parking lot display of an Owensboro Wagon, 1925 Ames auto, 1956 Owensboro police cruiser and a 1926 Seagrave Fire engine were a popular and impressive site. When the Fire Department arrived with the latter they also came with and parked two other fire engines. The library staff and I got many comments of praise and thank-yous for the event. Lee & Aloma Dew, chair persons for the Bicentennial Committee and Karen Porter, who was in charge of publicity for the committee, said we had no idea it was going to be so extensive and successful.

My new year's resolution in 2021 was to commence working on developing a website where some of my 40 years of research could be presented. The first twenty years of my research is handwritten or typed. Thus I began scanning, proof-reading, formatting, adding additions and converting into PDF files some of my work that was already in electronic format. I contacted a local programmer on 8 July 2021 and presented my blueprint for a website. All of my layout down to the color scheme she was able to achieve.

On 6 August 2021 my website, "West-Central Kentucky History & Genealogy" went live on the Internet (<https://wckyhistory-genealogy.org/>). Initially the site had about 300 articles uploaded. Subsequently I have been compiling and adding new articles. Bout 300 additional articles have been added to the site so far (these articles are not cataloged in this file, see website for listing). My goal in creating new files for the website is to organize and present sources on a particular subject and to add one or two

details that was not previously known or published on that topic. See “Long creates website for local history”, Keith Lawrence, Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, 26 October 2023, pp. 1B & 3B; “New Online Resource for Researching West-Central Kentucky Counties”, Bluegrass Roots (Frankfort, KY: Kentucky Genealogical Society, October 2021), 5; “ATHS Library Corner”, Ann Sipes, Ancestral News, Vol. 47, No. 2 (Elizabethtown, KY: Ancestral Trails Historical Society, Summer 2022), 82.

West-Central Kentucky History & Genealogy **Compiled by Jerry Long**



LOG CABIN AT JINGO IN OHIO COUNTY, KY

My name is Jerry Long. I have worked as a professional genealogist and historian since 1979. This website presents some of my research and published work. The articles are arranged under the following seven categories:

**Home – Daviess County – Hancock County – Ohio County – KY Records
Biographies & Collections –Black KY Pioneers –Families**

In 2024 while compiling an article on James Hardin Hickman (1852-1931), former Owensboro mayor and originator of Owensboro’s Legion Park I visited Legion Park to take a picture of a historical marker commemorating him that had been erected in 1994. To my surprise I discovered it was not there. After contacting the mayor’s office we learned that the memorial had been taken down in 2008 while renovations were being

done at the park. The marker was forgotten about and failed to be re-installed. After a 15-year absence it was returned to Legion Park.

The Lexington Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution Chapter, Lexington, KY awarded me their 2024 “Historic Preservation Award.” The award was presented on 22 March 2024 at their meeting in Lexington, KY.

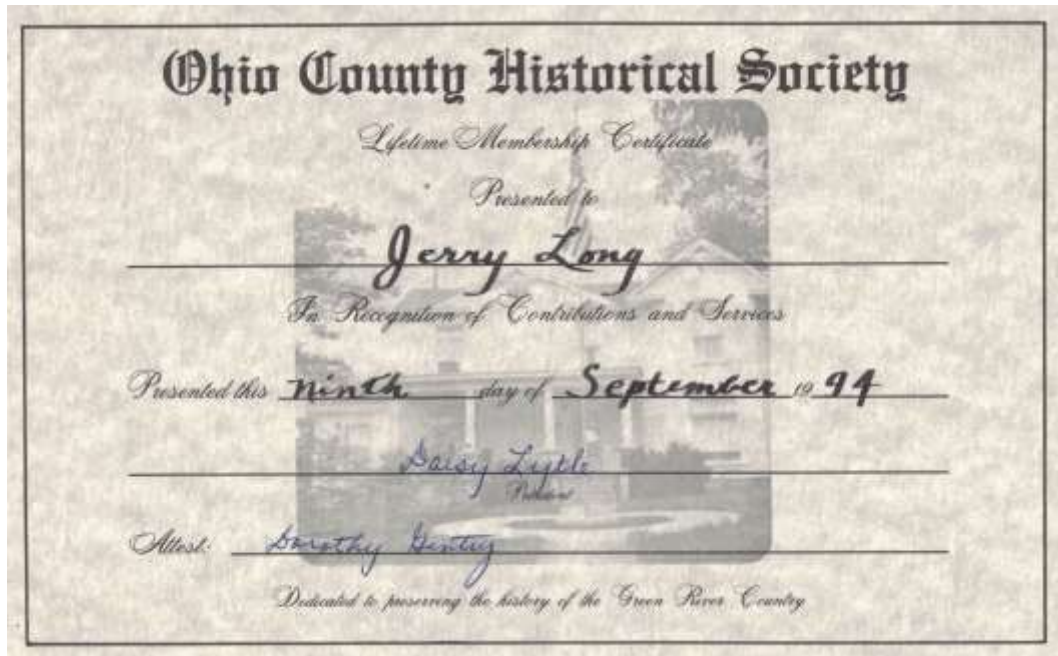


Memberships:

- Ancestral Trails Historical Society, Vine Grove, KY: Member 1988 to present (member #1042). Became lifetime member in July 2008.
- Commonwealth of Kentucky certified librarian, 1989-2016.
- Daviess County Historical Society, Owensboro, KY: Member 1983-1996 (group disbanded in 1996).
- Dubois Family Association, New Paltz, NY: Member 1980-1984.
- Genealogical Society of Hancock County, Kentucky, Hawesville, KY (organized 1984): Member 1984 (member #22); until group disbanded about 2013.
- Hancock County Historical Society, Hawesville, KY: Member 17 March 1980 through 1985.
- Kentucky Genealogical Society, Frankfort, KY: Member 1995 to present (became lifetime member in December 2005).
- Kentucky Historical Society, Frankfort, KY: Member 1981 to present (became lifetime member in February 1991).



- Ohio County Genealogical Society, Hartford, KY: Member from its organization in 2002 until group disbanded in 2012.
- Ohio County Historical Society, Hartford, KY: Member 1981 to present (became lifetime member on 9 September 1994).



- West-Central Kentucky Family Research Association, Owensboro, KY: Member from February 1980 (member #1206), until group disbanded in 2014. Served on Records & Editorial Committee May 1989 – 2003. Served as Vice-President 1991-1993 (elected 13 December 1990, 12 December 1991 and 10 December 1992, served until 9 December 1993). Suggested and conducted WCK:FRA's Bicentennial project, "Kentucky Honor Roll of Ancestors". [See The Bulletin, vol. 25 (Owensboro, KY: West-Central Kentucky Family Research Association, Spring 1992) 4-5; The Bulletin, Vol. 26 (Owensboro, KY: West-Central Kentucky Family Research Association, Spring 1993), 4; The Bulletin, Vol. 28 (Owensboro, KY: West-Central Kentucky Family Research Association, Summer 1995), 19.]



Jerry Long in Kentucky Room, Daviess County Public Library, 450 Griffith Ave., Owensboro, KY in 1996



Kentucky Room staff, Daviess County Public Library, Owensboro, KY: Jerry Long on left, Shelia Heflin in center and Bettie Spratt on right, with Anna & Maria, two visiting librarians from the Czech Republic. Picture was taken in the Kentucky Room in May 2000.



Jerry Long in Kentucky Room, Daviess County Public Library, 450 Griffith Ave., Owensboro, KY in December 2005



Kentucky Room staff , left to right – Jerry Long, Leslie McCarty, Shelia Heflin and Bettie Spratt. Picture taken at retirement reception for Shelia on 23 October 2012 in Kentucky Room, Daviess County Public Library, 2020 Frederica St., Owensboro, KY.



Jerry Long in the Kentucky Room, Daviess County Public Library, 2020 Frederica St., Owensboro, KY. Picture taken in September 2013. Books by Jerry Long displayed on book rack on the left.



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