

KENTUCKY

Marriage Records

From The Register of the
Kentucky Historical Society

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With an Index by Eleanor Antoniak

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•Note

EXCEPT FOR A SERIES of newspaper abstracts by G. Glenn Clift, this volume contains every list of marriages known to have been published in *The Register of the Kentucky Historical Society*, the official organ of the Society since 1903. While these lists represent only a portion of the marriages recorded in Kentucky through the mid-nineteenth century, their range is still quite substantial. Nineteen of Kentucky's oldest counties are represented, some of which, either in whole or in part, spawned a great many later counties and therefore claim an increased measure of importance.

Based on courthouse records—primarily marriage bonds, licenses, ministers' returns, and marriage registers—the records gathered here represent possibly the largest collection of Kentucky marriages in print. Owing to fire and other forces of destruction, however, they are necessarily uneven in coverage—an unhappy testimony to the periodic calamities visited upon the old courthouses across the state. Nevertheless, a substantial amount of material managed to elude destruction, and some of the marriage records included in this volume—the records of Madison and Shelby counties, for instance—are surprisingly complete.

Although compiled by various hands, including the Kentucky historian and genealogist Willard Rouse Jillson, the reader will note that several of the marriage lists were arranged for publication by Nina M. Visscher, then librarian of the Kentucky Historical Society. To Miss Visscher and Mr. Jillson, then, and to a number of lesser-known personalities, as well as the Kentucky Historical Society itself, genealogists owe a debt of gratitude for preserving some of the most important genealogical records of the state of Kentucky.

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