



## **DIOCESE OF OWENSBORO ARCHIVES**

600 LOCUST STREET, OWENSBORO, KY 42301

PHONE: 270-683-1545

FAX: 270-229-4127

[ARCHIVES@PASTORAL.ORG](mailto:ARCHIVES@PASTORAL.ORG)

## **Resources for Genealogists and Family Historians Researching Kentucky Catholic Ancestors**

### ARCHIVES

#### **Archdiocese of Louisville Archives**

Maloney Center

1200 South Shelby Street

Louisville, Kentucky 40203-2600

Phone: (502) 636-0296

Website:

<https://www.archlou.org/services-directory/archdiocesan-agencies-facilities/archives/>

The Archdiocese of Louisville Archives is the repository for the official and historical records of the Archdiocese of Louisville. The boundaries of the Archdiocese of Louisville include 24 counties in central Kentucky: Adair, Barren, Bullitt, Casey, Clinton, Cumberland, Green, Hardin, Hart, Henry, Jefferson, LaRue, Marion, Meade, Metcalfe, Monroe, Nelson, Oldham, Russell, Shelby, Spencer, Taylor, Trimble, and Washington.

#### **Diocese of Covington Archives**

1125 Madison Avenue

Covington, Kentucky 41011-3115

Phone: (859) 392-1500

Website: <https://www.covdio.org/archives/>

The Diocese of Covington Archives is the repository for the official and historical records of the Diocese of Covington. The boundaries of the Diocese of Covington include the city of Covington and 14 counties in northern Kentucky: Boone, Kenton, Campbell, Gallatin, Carroll, Grant, Owen, Pendleton, Harrison, Bracken, Robertson, Mason, Fleming, and Lewis.

#### **Diocese of Lexington Chancellor's Office**

Catholic Center

1310 West Main Street

Lexington, Kentucky 40508



## **DIOCESE OF OWENSBORO ARCHIVES**

600 LOCUST STREET, OWENSBORO, KY 42301

PHONE: 270-683-1545

FAX: 270-229-4127

[ARCHIVES@PASTORAL.ORG](mailto:ARCHIVES@PASTORAL.ORG)

Phone: (859) 253-1993

Website: <https://www.cdlex.org/sacramental-records>

The boundaries of the Diocese of Lexington include the city of Lexington and 50 counties in southeastern Kentucky: Anderson, Bath, Bell, Bourbon, Boyd, Boyle, Breathitt, Carter, Clark, Clay, Elliott, Estill, Fayette, Floyd, Franklin, Garrard, Greenup, Harlan, Jackson, Jessamine, Johnson, Knott, Knox, Laurel, Lawrence, Lee, Leslie, Letcher, Lincoln, Madison, Magoffin, Martin, McCreary, Menifee, Mercer, Montgomery, Morgan, Nicholas, Owsley, Perry, Pike, Powell, Pulaski, Rockcastle, Rowan, Scott, Wayne, Whitley, Wolfe, Woodford.

### **Diocese of Owensboro Office of Archives**

600 Locust Street

Owensboro, Kentucky 42301

Telephone: (270) 683-1545, ext. 333

Email: [archives@pastoral.org](mailto:archives@pastoral.org)

Website: <https://owensborodiocese.org/archives/>

The Diocese of Owensboro Archives is the repository for the official and historical records of the Diocese of Owensboro. The boundaries of the Diocese of Owensboro include 32 counties in western Kentucky: Allen, Ballard, Breckinridge, Butler, Caldwell, Calloway, Carlisle, Christian, Crittenden, Daviess, Edmonson, Fulton, Graves, Grayson, Hancock, Henderson, Hickman, Hopkins, Livingston, Logan, Lyon, McCracken, McLean, Marshall, Muhlenberg, Ohio, Simpson, Todd, Trigg, Union, Warren, and Webster.

NOTE: Open by appointment only. To schedule an appointment, please contact the diocesan archivist by telephone at 270-683-1545 or by email at [archives@pastoral.org](mailto:archives@pastoral.org) at least two weeks before your intended visit.

### **Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives**

Archives Research Room

300 Coffee Tree Road

Frankfort, KY 40601

Telephone: (502) 564-1770 or (800) 928-7000 (toll-free)

Website: <http://www.kdla.ky.gov/>

Mailing address: P.O. Box 537, Frankfort, KY 40601-0537

The Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives is the central repository for Kentucky's city, county and state government records. Records include wills and deeds,



## **DIOCESE OF OWENSBORO ARCHIVES**

600 LOCUST STREET, OWENSBORO, KY 42301

PHONE: 270-683-1545

FAX: 270-229-4127

[ARCHIVES@PASTORAL.ORG](mailto:ARCHIVES@PASTORAL.ORG)

judicial records, census and military records, death certificates for 1911-1960, birth and death city registers for the cities of Covington, Lexington, Louisville, and Newport, and birth and death records for 1852 through 1910.

### **Mount Saint Joseph Archives**

8001 Cummings Road

Maple Mount, Kentucky 42356

Telephone: (270) 229-4103

Email: [archives.msj@maplemount.org](mailto:archives.msj@maplemount.org)

Website: <http://ursulinesmsj.org/about-us/archives>

The Mount Saint Joseph Archives is the repository for the permanent historical records of the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph (Maple Mount, Kentucky), the Ursuline Sisters of Belleville (Belleville, Illinois), and the Ursuline Sisters of Paola (Paola, Kansas).

NOTE: Open by appointment only. To schedule an appointment, please contact the archivist by telephone at (270) 229-4103 or by email at [archives@pastoral.org](mailto:archives@pastoral.org) at least two weeks before your intended visit.

### **National Archives at Atlanta**

5780 Jonesboro Road

Morrow, Georgia 30260

Telephone: (770) 968-2100

Website: <http://www.archives.gov/atlanta/>

The National Archives at Atlanta holds records from over 100 federal agencies and courts in Kentucky, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee. Records include microfilms for censuses, diplomatic missions, military service records, bounty-land applications, passenger arrival lists, naturalizations, American Indians, and African Americans.

## LIBRARIES

### **Daviess County Public Library**

#### **Kentucky Room**

2020 Frederica Street

Owensboro, Kentucky 42301

Telephone: (270) 684-0211

Website: <http://www.dcplibrary.org/genealogy>



## **DIOCESE OF OWENSBORO ARCHIVES**

600 LOCUST STREET, OWENSBORO, KY 42301

PHONE: 270-683-1545

FAX: 270-229-4127

[ARCHIVES@PASTORAL.ORG](mailto:ARCHIVES@PASTORAL.ORG)

The Kentucky Room of Daviess County Public Library contains special materials on local history, state history, and genealogy. The collection includes over 140 year of local newspapers on microfilm, an obituary index from 1890 to the present, Daviess County marriage records, deeds, and Kentucky Civil War Military records.

### **Draper Manuscript Collection**

#### **Wisconsin Historical Society**

816 State Street

Madison, Wisconsin 53706

Website: <http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/>

The Draper Collection consists of 491 volumes of records collected by Lyman Copeland Draper on the history of the trans-Allegheny West, a region that includes portions of the Carolinas, Virginia, Georgia, Alabama, all of the Ohio River Valley, and the Mississippi Valley. Most of the materials in the collection cover the time period of the 1740s through the 1810s.

### **Durrett Collection**

#### **University of Chicago Library**

#### **Regenstein Library**

1100 East 57th Street

Chicago, Illinois 60637

Telephone: (773) 702-4685

Website: <http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/index.html>

The Durrett Collection consists of historical materials on the settlement of Kentucky and the Ohio River Valley.

### **Filson Historical Society Library**

1310 South Third Street

Louisville, Kentucky 40208

Telephone: (502) 635-5083

Website: <http://filsonhistorical.org/>

The Filson Historical Society has an extensive collection of materials on early Kentucky history and genealogy.

### **Kentucky Historical Society**

#### **Martin F. Schmidt Research Library**

100 West Broadway



## **DIOCESE OF OWENSBORO ARCHIVES**

600 LOCUST STREET, OWENSBORO, KY 42301

PHONE: 270-683-1545

FAX: 270-229-4127

[ARCHIVES@PASTORAL.ORG](mailto:ARCHIVES@PASTORAL.ORG)

Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

Telephone: (502) 564-1792, ext. 4460

Website: <http://history.ky.gov>

The Martin F. Schmidt Research Library offers many resources for genealogists and local historians, including printed biographies and family histories, Bible records, surname collections, cemetery and church records, photographs, maps, city directories, manuscripts, and oral histories. The Kentucky Historical Society also hosts an online database of cemetery records with over 150,000 names transcribed by volunteers from cemeteries across Kentucky.

### **Murray State University Special Collections & Archives Forrest C. Pogue Library**

200 Pogue Library

Murray, Kentucky 42071

Telephone: (270) 809-6152

Website: [http://libguides.murraystate.edu/special\\_collections\\_index](http://libguides.murraystate.edu/special_collections_index)

The Special Collections Department holds collections of materials related to the cultural history of the Jackson Purchase area of southwestern Kentucky and northwestern Tennessee. These collections include regional and county histories, genealogical resources, local church records, regional newspapers, and other published materials.

### **University of Kentucky Special Collections Research Center**

179 Funkhouser Drive

Lexington, Kentucky 40506-0039

Telephone: (859) 257-8611

Website: [http://libraries.uky.edu/lib.php?lib\\_id=13](http://libraries.uky.edu/lib.php?lib_id=13)

The Special Collections Research Center contains rare books, archival and manuscript collections, Appalachian collections, newspapers, church records, genealogical collections, county and local histories, the Draper manuscripts, county, state, and federal records, and other materials related to Kentucky history.

### **Western Kentucky University Kentucky Library Research Collections**

1444 Kentucky Street

Bowling Green, Kentucky 42101



## **DIOCESE OF OWENSBORO ARCHIVES**

600 LOCUST STREET, OWENSBORO, KY 42301

PHONE: 270-683-1545

FAX: 270-229-4127

[ARCHIVES@PASTORAL.ORG](mailto:ARCHIVES@PASTORAL.ORG)

Telephone: (270) 745-5083

Website: <http://www.wku.edu/library/dlsc/index.php>

Mailing address: WKU Libraries Special Collections, Western Kentucky University, 1906 College Heights Boulevard, #11092, Bowling Green, Kentucky 42101

The Kentucky Library Research Collections houses extensive collections of genealogical records, church histories, court records, funeral records, deeds, wills, oral histories, and biographical files related to south central Kentucky and early settlers in the area.

### ONLINE RESOURCES

#### *Bible Records*

##### **Kentucky Bible Archives**

Browse transcriptions of Kentucky family bibles by county.

Website: <http://usgwarchives.net/ky/bibles/toc.html>

##### **Kentucky Bibles from KYGenWeb**

Browse transcriptions of Kentucky family bibles by family name.

Website: <http://www.kygenweb.net/bibles/index.html>

##### **Kentucky Bible Records from Kentucky Genealogy**

Browse transcriptions of Kentucky family bibles by county and family name.

Website: <http://www.kentuckygenealogy.org/bible>

#### *Cemeteries*

##### **Find A Grave**

Search an online database of more than 60 million grave records from around the world.

Website: <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gs&>

##### **Interment.net**

Search and browse cemetery burial records from thousands of cemeteries across the world.

Website: <http://www.interment.net/>

##### **Kentucky Cemetery Records at Interment.net**

Search and browse Kentucky cemetery burial records by county.



## **DIOCESE OF OWENSBORO ARCHIVES**

600 LOCUST STREET, OWENSBORO, KY 42301

PHONE: 270-683-1545

FAX: 270-229-4127

[ARCHIVES@PASTORAL.ORG](mailto:ARCHIVES@PASTORAL.ORG)

Website: <http://interment.net/us/ky/index.htm>

### **Kentucky Cemeteries from Kentucky Genealogy**

Browse Kentucky cemetery records by county and cemetery name.

Website: <http://www.kentuckygenealogy.org/cemeteries>

### **Kentucky Cemeteries: The Tombstone Transcription Project**

Search and browse Kentucky tombstone transcriptions by county.

Website: <http://usgwtombstones.org/kentucky/kentucky.html>

### **Kentucky Historical Society Cemetery Search**

Search a database of Kentucky cemetery records.

Website: <http://205.204.134.47/cemetery.asp>

### **Names in Stone**

Search and browse a database of cemetery records from around the world, including interactive maps of grave locations and grave groupings.

Website: <http://namesinstone.com/>

### *Genealogy Sites*

#### **AfriGeneas**

This site is devoted to African American genealogy, including researching African ancestry in the Americas and general genealogical research and resources.

Website: <http://www.afrigeneas.com/>

#### **Ancestry.com**

A subscription-based service that searches billions of genealogy records, including Census, SSDI and military records. Many public libraries have a subscription to the site and offer patrons free access through public computers at the library. Check with your local public library.

Website: <http://www.ancestry.com/>

#### **Archives.gov**

The website for the National Archives and Records Administration includes military records, naturalization records, land records, census records, and immigration records.

Website: <http://archives.gov/>



## **DIOCESE OF OWENSBORO ARCHIVES**

600 LOCUST STREET, OWENSBORO, KY 42301

PHONE: 270-683-1545

FAX: 270-229-4127

[ARCHIVES@PASTORAL.ORG](mailto:ARCHIVES@PASTORAL.ORG)

### **Family Search**

This site provides a free online searchable database of millions of genealogical records, including births, baptism and death records.

Website: <https://familysearch.org/>

### **Genealogy.com**

This site provides resources and information on genealogy research.

Website: <http://www.genealogy.com/>

### **Genealogy Buff Obituary Files**

This site provides resources and information on Kentucky genealogy data, including obituaries, death notices, and marriage licenses.

Website: <http://www.genealogybuff.com/ky/>

### **HeritageQuest**

An online collection of genealogical sources including local and family histories, research guides, interactive census maps, census records, books, periodicals, Revolutionary War service records, and Freedman's Bank depositor records. This is another service that many public libraries offer and it is usually accessible to patrons from home via the library's web site. Check with your local public library.

### **Kentucky Genealogy**

This site serves as a resource for locating online Kentucky genealogical and historical information including bible records, cemetery records, court records, maps, obituaries, and wills.

Website: <http://www.kentuckygenealogy.org/>

### **KYGenWeb**

This site serves as a resource for locating online Kentucky genealogical and historical information including maps, obituaries, Kentucky bibles, vital records, Kentucky school photos and yearbooks, and military records.

Website: <http://www.kygenweb.net/>

### **RootsWeb.com**

A free, volunteer-based project sponsored by Ancestry.com that includes local history, family trees, surname lists, gravestones and old church records.

Website: <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/>





## **DIOCESE OF OWENSBORO ARCHIVES**

600 LOCUST STREET, OWENSBORO, KY 42301

PHONE: 270-683-1545

FAX: 270-229-4127

[ARCHIVES@PASTORAL.ORG](mailto:ARCHIVES@PASTORAL.ORG)

### **The USGenWeb Project**

This volunteer-run site provides free online genealogy information for every U.S. state and county.

Website: <http://www.usgenweb.org/>

### *Historic Maps*

#### **Maps of Kentucky**

Search and browse historic Kentucky maps. Also includes links to map collections and other resources.

Website: <http://www.mapofus.org/kentucky/>

### *Historic Newspapers*

#### **Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers. Kentucky Newspapers**

Search digitized Kentucky newspaper pages from 1847-1922.

Website:

<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/newspapers/?state=Kentucky&ethnicity=&language=>

### *Land Records*

#### **Kentucky Land Office**

This site features searchable databases and resources for researching Kentucky land acquisitions and information about Kentucky's cities and counties.

Website: <http://www.sos.ky.gov/admin/land/Pages/default.aspx>

### *Military Records*

#### **Fold3**

Search and browse United States military records.

<https://www.fold3.com/>



## **DIOCESE OF OWENSBORO ARCHIVES**

600 LOCUST STREET, OWENSBORO, KY 42301

PHONE: 270-683-1545

FAX: 270-229-4127

[ARCHIVES@PASTORAL.ORG](mailto:ARCHIVES@PASTORAL.ORG)

### *Vital Records*

#### **Kentucky Office of Vital Statistics**

Order Kentucky vital records including birth, marriage, divorce, and death records.

<http://chfs.ky.gov/dph/vital/>

#### **Online Kentucky Death Records and Indexes**

Browse a list of online resources on Kentucky death indexes, obituaries, and cemeteries.

<http://www.deathindexes.com/kentucky/index.html>

#### **University of Kentucky Marriage Index for 1973-1993**

Search indexes to selected Kentucky vital records.

<http://ukcc.uky.edu/vitalrec/>

#### **University of Kentucky Death Index for 1911-1986**

Search indexes to selected Kentucky vital records.

<http://ukcc.uky.edu/vitalrec/>

#### **University of Kentucky Death Index for 1987-1992**

Search indexes to selected Kentucky vital records.

<http://ukcc.uky.edu/vitalrec/>

#### **University of Kentucky Divorce Index for 1973-1993**

Search indexes to selected Kentucky vital records.

<http://ukcc.uky.edu/vitalrec/>

## RESEARCHING WOMEN RELIGIOUS

### **Archives of Women Religious**

One of the best sources of information on ancestors who served as Catholic nuns or sisters are the archives of her congregation. Typically the archives of women religious keep information on deceased members, such as baptismal and confirmation certificates, biographical information, photographs, correspondence and other writings, and mission lists.



## **DIOCESE OF OWENSBORO ARCHIVES**

600 LOCUST STREET, OWENSBORO, KY 42301

PHONE: 270-683-1545

FAX: 270-229-4127

[ARCHIVES@PASTORAL.ORG](mailto:ARCHIVES@PASTORAL.ORG)

### **Archivists for Congregations of Women Religious (ACWR)**

Website: <https://archivistsacwr.org/>

Archivists for Congregations of Women Religious (ACWR) assists lay and religious archivists in the management, interpretation, and preservation of the historical record of Catholic sisters and nuns in the United States and worldwide. One resource on the ACWR website is "[Women Religious History Sources: A Digital Guide to Repositories in North America](#)," which provides a comprehensive list of women religious archives with contact information and summaries of collection holdings. This document can be found at <https://archivistsacwr.org/women-religious-resource/>.

### **Catholic Directories**

The Official Catholic Directory was first published by P. J. Kenedy & Sons in 1817. It is an authoritative Catholic research resource, offering details about dioceses, parishes, missions, schools, and religious communities. Libraries and archives across the United States have started digitizing older editions of the Official Catholic Directory, making them available on [HathiTrust Digital Library](#) at <https://www.hathitrust.org/>.

### **Catholic Research Resources Alliance (CRRA)**

Website: <https://www.catholicresearch.org/>

The Catholic Research Resources Alliance (CRRA) provides enduring global access to Catholic research resources in the Americas, beginning with access to rare, unique, and uncommon research materials. Through the [Catholic Research Resources Portal](#) (also known as the "Catholic Portal"), the CRRA provides global, freely available access to materials in libraries, seminaries, special collections, and archives. The CRRA also manages the [Catholic Newspapers Program](#), which aims to provide access to North American Catholic newspapers for research use.

### **Census Records**

If you know your ancestor's religious name, you may be able to find her in census records. These records can enable you to discover what city or town she was working in at the time of the census. From this information, you can use Catholic directories to track down her congregation. Something to note is that census takers sometimes wrote "Sister" as the first name, so it is a good idea to include this word in your search.

### **Family Records**

Search family records – obituaries, letters, wills – for clues such as your ancestor's religious name and where/when she may have lived at a particular point in time. With information



## **DIOCESE OF OWENSBORO ARCHIVES**

600 LOCUST STREET, OWENSBORO, KY 42301

PHONE: 270-683-1545

FAX: 270-229-4127

[ARCHIVES@PASTORAL.ORG](mailto:ARCHIVES@PASTORAL.ORG)

such as a year and location, you can use Catholic directories to determine which congregation was working in a particular city or town during that time.

### **Cemetery Sites**

If you have information about your ancestor's death or her place of burial, you can use websites like [Find A Grave](#) to track down her tombstone. Tombstones often provide the initials of her congregation, which you can then use to locate the correct congregation to contact for more information.

### **Search Engines**

If you know your ancestor's religious name and her congregation, try to find information about her using Boolean search techniques on Google or another search engine. A Boolean search involves combining keywords with operators such as AND, NOT, and OR to produce more relevant results. For example, in tracking down information on Sister Jerome Cooper, an Ursuline Sister who served at Saint James Parish in Louisville, Kentucky, you could use these phrases:

"Sister Jerome Cooper"

"Sister Jerome Cooper AND Louisville OR Kentucky"

"Jerome Cooper AND St. James AND Louisville"

"Jerome Cooper AND Ursuline Sisters"

### **Parish Histories**

Old parish histories (before the 1960s) often list men and women religious who came from the parish. These lists usually include the person's religious name and congregation.