



The Individual in History: Actions and Legacies

Listed in this document are Kentuckians for this year's NHD theme, The Individual in History: Actions and Legacies.

Sources are listed in some cases, but four good places to get students started on any Kentucky topics are:

- Kentucky Historical Society (KHS), <http://history.ky.gov/>
- Kentuckiana Digital Library, <http://kdl.kyvl.org/>
- Kentucky Department of Libraries and Archives: <http://www.kdla.ky.gov/>
- Kentucky Encyclopedia, <http://www.kyenc.org/>
- University of Kentucky (UK) Libraries, www.uky.edu

1) Muhammad Ali

Summary: Boxer Muhammad Ali of Louisville was the world heavyweight champion from 1964-1967, 1974-1978 and 1978-1979. Also, a spokesperson for civil rights. Was a conscientious objector during the Vietnam War.

Sources:

- David Remnick, *King of the world : Muhammad Ali and the rise of an American Hero*. (Random House 1998)
- Howard L. Bingham and Max Wallace, *Muhammad Ali's Greatest Fight : Cassius Clay vs. the United States of America*. (Robson Books Ltd 2001)
- Thomas Hauser, *Muhammad Ali : His Life and Times*. (Simon & Schuster 1992)
- Museum: Muhammad Ali Center, Louisville

2) Harriette Arnow

Summary: A writer whose parents were school teachers, Arnow captured the regional dialogue of the KY mountains with panache and accuracy in her novel, *The Dollmaker*.

Sources:

- Harriette Louisa Simpson Arnow letters, Kentucky Historical Society special collections.

3) John James Audubon

Summary: Audubon moved to KY from France. In KY he painted his famous fine bird portraits. He was not a good businessman and his stores failed. He was jailed briefly for not paying his bills. He moved to England where he had his pictures printed in a book.

Sources:

- Alice Ford, *John James Audubon*, (Norman, OK, 1964).
- L. Clark Keating, *Audubon, The Kentucky Years* (Lexington, 1976).
- John James Audubon, *Birds of America* (New York, 1950).
- Historic Site: John James Audubon State Park, Henderson

4) Alben Barkley

Summary: U.S. congressman, Senator, and Vice President from Paducah.

Sources: Jane R. Barkley, *I married the Veep*. (Vanguard Press 1958)

5) John Bibb

Summary: Inventor. Cultivated Bibb lettuce.

Sources: John B. Bibb certificate, KHS.

6) Anne Braden

Summary: Journalist and local integration activist was jailed and charged with sedition against the state of KY for helping black friends purchase a house in a white suburb of Louisville. She was charged with being a "Red" (communist).

Sources:

- Catherine Fosl, *Subversive Southerner: Anne Braden and the Struggle for Racial Justice in the Cold War South*, (Palgrave Macmillan, 2002)
- Video: *Living the Story: The Civil Rights Movement in Kentucky* (available through the Kentucky Historical Society).
- Civil Rights Movement web site (www.history.ky.gov)

7) Mary Carson Breckinridge

Summary: Midwifery and child care service pioneer, she founded the Frontier Nursing Service in Leslie County, providing pre and post-natal care

for women and babies. She trained hundreds of women to be midwives to provide medical service to women in E. KY.

Sources:

- Video: *The Forgotten Frontier* (1928 B&W silent movie)
- Mary Breckinridge, *Midwifery in the Kentucky Mountains: An Investigation*, KHS special collections 1923.
- Carol Crowe-Carraco, "Mary Breckinridge and the Frontier Nursing Service," *The Register* 76, 1978.

8) A.B. "Happy" Chandler

Summary: Governor Chandler's first administration was one of the most productive in the state's history.

Sources: John Thomas Salter, *The American Politician*. (Greenwood Press 1975)

9) Laura Clay

Summary: Daughter of Cassius M. Clay, she joined the suffrage movement when her father divorced her mother and left her with no property rights. She supported herself by becoming a farm manager, and joined the Women's Christian Temperance Union.

Sources:

- Clavia Goodman, *Bitter Harvest: Laura Clay's Suffrage Work*. (Bur Press, 1946)
- Paul E. Fuller, *Laura Clay and The Woman's Rights Movement*. (University Press of Kentucky, 1975)
- Laura Clay Papers, UK Library Special Collections.

10) Daniel Boone

Summary: Boone established Boonesborough and led groups through the Cumberland Gap. His son was killed by Indians and his daughter was captured by Indians along with the Callaway daughters. He rescued them, but was then captured himself.

Sources:

- Lyman Copeland, *The Life of Daniel Boone Draper* (Stackpole Books; 1st edition 1998)
- Michael Lofaro, *Daniel Boone : An American Life* (University Press of Kentucky 2003)

11) Madeline Breckinridge

Summary: One of the founders of the Associated Charities and the Lexington Civic League. She led programs for civic improvements, helped establish a juvenile court system, and fought for full suffrage for women.

Sources:

- Sophonisba P. Breckinridge, *Madeline McDowell Breckinridge, A Leader in the New South* (Chicago 1921).
- James C. Klotter, *The Breckinridges of Kentucky, 1760-1981* (UK Press Lexington 1986).
- Melba Porter Hays, *Madeline McDowell Breckinridge: Kentucky Suffragist and Progressive Reformer*, Ph.D. Diss, UK, 1980.

12) Harry Caudill

Summary: Caudill's book 'Night Comes to the Cumberlands' was generally credited with sparking the creation in 1964 of the Appalachian Regional Commission, a federal agency to assist KY and 12 other states in the Appalachian Mtns. He emerged as a symbol of E. KY.

Sources:

- David G. McCullough, *The Lonely War of a Good Angry Man*. (American Heritage Pub. Co.1969)
- Anne and Harry Caudill Collection, 1854-1996, UK library.
- Tylinea Jo Mullins, A "Good Angry Man" [electronic resource]: Harry Caudill, the formative years, 1922-1960, www.uky.edu library website.

13) Anna Mac Clarke

Summary: First black woman in KY to enlist during WWII. She joined the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps in 1942 and was commissioned as a 1st Lieutenant. She led a fight to desegregate the base theatre at Douglas Air Field in Arizona.

Sources:

- John M. Trowbridge, *Anna Mac Clarke, A Pioneer in Military Leadership*. (Kentucky African American Heritage Commission 1996)
- Eugenia K. Potter, editor. *Kentucky Women: Two Centuries of Indomitable Spirit and Vision*, 1997. (Big Tree Press, 1997)

14) Henry Clay

Summary: Known as the great compromiser, Clay was an important political leader, but his personal life was tragic. Helped draft the Compromise of 1850.

Sources:

- Clement Eaton, *Henry Clay and the art of American politics*. (Little Brown & Co. 1957)
- Maurice G. Baxter, *Henry Clay and the American system*. (University Press of Kentucky 2004)
- Merrill D. Peterson, *The Great Triumvirate, Webster, Clay and Calhoun* (Oxford University Press 1988).

15) Floyd Collins

Summary: Collins was exploring Sand Cave, near Mammoth Cave, in 1925 when he got trapped. His failed rescue and death received national attention.

Sources:

- Robert K. Murray and Roger W. Brucker, *Trapped!: The Story of Floyd Collins*. (University Press of Kentucky; Revised edition 1982)
- Howard W. Hartley, *Tragedy of Sand Cave*. (The Standard Printing Company Incorporated; 2nd edition 1925)
- Dr. Carl Clifford Howard oral history project, KHS.

16) Martha Layne Collins

Summary: Kentucky's first and only female governor.

Sources:

- The public papers of governor Martha Layne Collins, 1983-1987.
- Frances Smith, *The Little Girl Who Grew Up to be Governor*. (Denham Pub. Co. 1991)
- Oral History interview, UK.

17) E.A. Diddle

Summary: Hall of Fame basketball coach who led Western Kentucky to 759 wins in 42 seasons (1922-1964). At the time of his retirement in 1964, Diddle was the winningest coach in college basketball and today still ranks #6.

Sources:

- William M. Jenkins, *The Man with the Red Towel*. (William Jenkins 2000)
- C. Harvey Gardiner, *Coach Diddle, Mister Diddle: Motivator of Men*. (Parthenon Press 1984)

18) Jefferson Davis

Summary: President of the Confederacy. Born in Todd County, KY. President Before that, President Franklin Pierce appointed Davis secretary of war in 1853. In this office he improved the system of infantry tactics, organized an engineers' company to explore railroad routes, and imported camels for use by the U.S. Army in the West. Davis was elected from Mississippi to the U.S. Senate for the term beginning March 4, 1857, and became a leading spokesman for strict constitutional interpretation.

Sources:

- Clement Eaton, *Jefferson Davis* (New York 1977)
- Robert Penn Warren, *Jefferson Davis Gets His Citizenship Back* (Lexington, Ky., 1980).
- Historic Site: Jefferson Davis Monument, Fairview

19) John Fitch

Summary: Inventor. Designed the steam powered paddle wheeler boat.

Sources:

- Thomas Boyd, *Poor John Fitch, Inventor of the Steamboat*. Kessinger (Publishing, LLC 2008)
- Thompson Westcott, *Life of John Fitch, the Inventor of the Steamboat*. (BookSurge Publishing 2001)

20) Mary Elliot Flanery

Summary: 1st woman to be elected to the KY legislature. Advocated for higher standards of living for women and children, helped create Morehead State Teachers College, and sponsored the Sheperd-Towner Maternity Act.

Sources:

- The Mary Elliott Flanery photographic collection, UK library.
- Flanery Family Papers, 1883-1972, UK library.

21) Janice Holt Giles

Summary: Prolific writer, she penned 24 books during her 36 years of marriage which sold over 3 million copies. Her books featured strong female characters.

Sources: Dianne Watkins Stuart, *Janice Holt Giles: A Writer's Life*. (University Press of Kentucky, c1998)

22) Sarah Ogan Gunning

Summary: Singer/songwriter in the Appalachian ballad style, she was raised in the coal mine camps of E. KY. Her life and her music was strongly influenced by her father's involvement with the Knights of Labor and the United Mine Workers of America.

Sources: Shelly Romalis, *Pistol packin' Mama : Aunt Molly Jackson and The Politics of Folksong*.(University of Illinois Press, c1999)

23) Eliza Calvert (Obenchain) Hall

Summary: Kentucky author and suffragist.

Sources: Lynn E. Niedermeier, *Eliza Calvert Hall: Kentucky Author and Suffragist*, 2007.

24) James Harrod

Summary: Led a small group down the Ohio River and up the Kentucky River to settle Harrodstown or Fort Harrod.

Sources:

- Dick Ruehrwein, *Fort Harrod*. (Creative Co., Inc. 1981)
- Kathryn Harrod Mason, *James Harrod of Kentucky*. (Louisiana State University Press 1951).
- Historic Site: Old Fort Harrod, Danville.

25) Duncan Hines

Summary: One of the most recognized names associated with food and hospitality, especially in bakery items found in grocery stores.

Sources: Louis Hatchett, *Duncan Hines : The Man Behind the Cake Mix*. (Mercer University Press 2001)

26) Abraham Lincoln

Summary: Lincoln was a shrewd politician and is remembered as one of the nation's best and well known presidents, but his life was tragically cut short. Moving from Kentucky at the age of 7, Lincoln's family moved to Indiana. Lincoln later moved to Springfield, Illinois where he became a lawyer and started his political career. He had many Kentucky connections from having good friends from KY and also marrying a fellow Kentuckian, Mary Todd. The border state of Kentucky also played an important role during the Civil War.

Sources:

- Stephen B. Oates, *With Malice Toward None: A Life of Abraham Lincoln* (Harper Perennial 1994)
- Harrison, *Lincoln of Kentucky*. (University Press of Kentucky 2000)
- Historic Site: NPS, Abraham Lincoln Birthplace, Hodgenville

27) Mary Todd Lincoln

Summary: Lexingtonian, Mary Todd Lincoln is the wife of the 16th President. Mary was from an influential Lexington family and was very well educated for the time period. Mary was very interested in politics and in her husband's career in politics. Marrying the well connected Mary Todd was a good social move for Abraham. This allegiance helped Lincoln rise politically and socially. Mary endured a lot of tragedy, losing 3 of her 4 sons and witnessing her husband's assassination.

Sources:

- Jean Baker, *Mary Todd Lincoln, A Biography* (New York 1987).
- Historic Site: Mary Todd Lincoln House, Lexington, KY.

28) Ephraim McDowell

Summary: Physician and surgeon who introduced pioneering techniques in abdominal surgery. McDowell performed the first successful ovariectomy, on Christmas Day 1890.

Sources:

- Laman A. Gray, Sr., "Ephraim McDowell: Father of Abdominal Surgery, Biographical Data," *Filson Club History Quarterly* 43 (July 1969): 216-29.
- Josephine Rich, *Pioneer Surgeon* (New York 1959).
- Historic Site: Ephraim McDowell Historic House Museum, Danville.

29) Beriah Magoffin

Summary: Magoffin was governor of KY at the outbreak of the Civil War. He supported the South and tried to get KY to secede. He could not agree with legislature and eventually resigned.

Sources:

- Message of Governor Magoffin to the General Assembly of Kentucky : December session, 1859, Kentucky Historical Society.
- Michael T. Dues, "Governor Beriah Magoffin of Kentucky," *Filson Club Historical Quarterly* 40 (Jan. 1966): 22-29.

30) Thomas Merton

Summary: A member of the monestary in Trappist, KY, he wrote a book about his life called 'The Seven Storey Mountain', which became an international bestseller. He grew critical of wealth, and wrote against war and waste.

Sources:

- Thomas Merton and Jonathan Greene, *On the Banks of Monks Ponds*. (Broadstone Books 2004).
- Thomas Merton, *Gethsemani; a Life of Praise*. (Abbey of Gethsemani 1966)

31) Garrett Morgan

Summary: Inventor. Patented the gas mask, and the electric stoplight.

Sources: Garrett A. Morgan technology & transportation futures program, KHS.

32) Carry Nation

Summary: Born in Garrard County, KY, she married Dr. Charles Gloyd in Missouri. The marriage was short-lived as her husband died from alcohol abuse shortly after the birth of their daughter. This event led Nation on a crusade to abolish the use of alcohol.

Sources:

- Robert Lewis Taylor, *Vessel of Wrath: The Life and Times of Carry Nation*. (New American Library 1966)
- Herbert Asbury, *Carry Nation*. (A. A. Knopf, 1929).
- Kansas Historical Society web site (www.kshs.org)

33) Katherine Pettit

Summary: Educator and founder of Pine Mountain Settlement School, she helped to educate Appalachian children on how to wrestle with their problems and find their own solutions. She interwove Christianity, patriotism and practical skills to help the children.

Sources:

- May Stone, *The Quare Women's Journals: May Stone & Katherine Pettit's summers in the Kentucky mountains and the Founding of the Hindman Settlement School*. (J. Stuart Foundation, 1997).
- Pine Mountain Settlement School Papers, Berea College Special Collections.

34) Georgia Davis Powers

Summary: The 1st black woman to serve in the Senate of Kentucky, where she served for more than 20 years. She helped to pass the Open Housing Law.

Sources:

- Georgia Davis Powers, *I Shared the Dream : The Pride, Passion and Politics of the First Black Woman Senator from Kentucky*. (New Horizon Press, c1995)
- Video: *Living the Story: The Civil Rights Movement in Kentucky* (available through the Kentucky Historical Society).
- Civil Rights Movement web site (www.history.ky.gov)

35) Pee Wee Reese

Summary: Reese is credited with aiding Jackie Robinson's integration into Major League Baseball.

Sources: Gene Schoor, *The Pee Wee Reese Story*. (Julian Messner, Inc. 1957)

36) Adolph Rupp

Summary: In the history of college basketball, the University of Kentucky coach, Rupp won the most games. He also advocated for the recruitment of African American players into the Southeastern Conference which was segregated in the early 60s.

Sources:

- Russell Rice, *Adolph Rupp : Kentucky's Basketball Baron*. (Sagamore Publishing 1994)
- Tev Laudeman, *The Rupp Years; the University of Kentucky's Golden Era of Basketball*. (Courier Journal 1972)
- Dan Chandler and Vernon Hatton, *Rupp from Both Ends of the Bench*. (Dan Chandler and Vernon Hatton 1972)

37) Paul Sawyer

Summary: Born in 1865 in Ohio. His parents soon moved to KY. He studied with talented Impressionistic artists, then returned to Frankfort. He painted the river and Frankfort environs. During his life he lived in virtual poverty from the sales of his work.

Sources:

- Paul Sawyer letters (1911-1917), Kentucky Historical Society special collections.
- Willard Rouse Jillson, *Paul Sawyer: American artist (1865-1917)*, a brief biographical sketch. (Blue Grass Press 1971)

38) Cora Wilson Stewart

Summary: Stewart was a pioneer in adult education and started the Moonlight schools in 1911 to combat illiteracy in her home county. In 1923 she was elected to the executive committee of the National Education Association.

Sources:

- Yvonne Honeycutt Baldwin, *Cora Wilson Stewart and Kentucky's Moonlight Schools: Fighting for Literacy in America*. (University Press of Kentucky 2006)
- Cora Wilson Stewart, *Moonlight schools for the Emancipation of Adult Illiterates*. (BiblioBazaar 2008)

39) Franklin Sousley

Summary: One of the men who raised the American flag at Iwo Jima. He was also as Kentuckian, and died soon after the flag raising.

Sources: Wilma Greenhill, *Franklin Runyon Sousley*. (s.n.] 1982

40) Nathan Stubblefield

Summary: Inventor. First to broadcast and receive audio messages, later known as radio.

Sources:

- Keven McQueen, *Offbeat Kentuckians: Legends and Lunatics*. (McClanahan Publishing House 2001)
- Robert H. Lochte, *Kentucky Farmer Invents Wireless Telephone! : But Was it Radio?* (All about Wireless 2001)
- J. Winston Coleman, *Nathan B. Stubblefield : The Father of Radio*. (Winburn Press 1982)

41) Julia Ann H. Tevis

Summary: Established a school to educate young women from across the south. Located in Shelbyville, Science Hill Female School taught young ladies skills in math, science and languages. Tevis believed that women needed to be trained to be more than just wives.

Sources: Science Hill, Shelbyville, KY. Science Hill School handbook, Kentucky Historical Society special collections.

42) Delia Webster

Summary: A teacher in Lexington in 1843. In 1844 she accompanied abolitionist Calvin Fairbanks to northern KY. When they returned to Lexington 2 days later they were arrested and charged with assisting 3 slaves to escape to Ohio. She was sentenced to 2 yrs in jail.

Sources:

- Randolph Paul Runyon, *Delia Webster and the Underground Railroad*, (University Press of Kentucky 1999)

43) Jenny Wiley

Summary: Wiley was captured by Indians in 1789 and was a captive for 9 months. She escaped and settled in Johnson County.

Sources: Harry M. Caudill, *Dark Hills to Westward: The Saga of Jenny Wiley* (Jesse Stuart Foundation 1994)