

## PREFACE

The Historical Records Survey was initiated as a nation-wide project in January 1936, as a part of the Federal Writers' Project of the Works Progress Administration. In Kentucky the Survey became an independent unit in December 1936, but continued to operate as a part of the nation-wide project under the technical supervision of Dr. Luther H. Evans, National Director, Historical Records Survey, and under the administrative supervision of the Division of Women's and Professional Projects of the Works Progress Administration. Work of the Survey in Fayette County, Kentucky, was started in February 1936, suspended for a time, and completed in May, 1937.

The objective of the Survey in Kentucky has been the preparation of complete inventories of the records of the State and of each county, city and other local governmental unit. Although a condensed form of entry is used, the information given includes certain historical facts which may furnish clues to historians and genealogists. Particular effort has been made to supply the inclusive dates of all series of records and to give such description of individual record series that the reader will readily know what information is available and where it is located.

The Inventory of County Archives in Kentucky will, when completed, consist of a separate number for each county in the State, with the units of the series numbered according to the respective alphabetical position of the county. Thus, the inventory herewith presented for Fayette County is No. 34. The inventory of the state archives and of municipal and other local records will constitute separate publications.

The State Office of the Historical Records Survey in Kentucky was originally located in Lexington, which made possible numerous experiments required in developing a thorough method of listing records, not only in Fayette County and the City of Lexington, but in the State of Kentucky as well. The forms used by the field workers in listing the required information were prepared by the National Office of the Survey. These forms, together with instructions from the same source, provided for the nation-wide uniformity of the work. A careful recheck against the actual records within their respective depositories has been made, so that the inventory would be trustworthy.

The historical sketch cites the original boundaries of the county from the statutes and follows this with citations of all subsequent changes. The discussion of governmental organization includes a complete chart of the current governmental set-up. A review of each office precedes the entries of the county offices and includes their history, functions and records. These reviews are predicated on definite constitutional and statutory citations tracing the evolution of the respective offices. Recommendations for improvement of the arrangement and care of public documents, incorporated in the section on "Housing, Care and Accessibility of the Records", have been made only after comprehensive and unbiased study.

The various units of the Inventory of County Archives will be issued in mimeographed form for free distribution to government offices, libraries, and historical societies in Kentucky and libraries in other states. Requests for information concerning particular units of the Inventory should be addressed to the State Director.

The field work in Fayette County was done by Mrs. Frances F. Cassidy and Miss Margaret Stevens. Mr. Abraham Freeman and Mr. Albert Green were responsible for the legal details, and Miss Virginia Foley did the typing. The work