

# Tips To Trace Your Own History While Researching America's

Millions of Americans will spend some time in 2026 commemorating 250 years of United States history. The U.S. turns 250 in July 2026, and the summer figures to be an especially celebratory time across the 50 states.

As Americans engage with their nation's history, they might be compelled to learn more about their personal history as well. Genealogy has become a popular pastime in the twenty-first century, and the National Archives offers these tips to anyone looking to do some digging into their personal history as they celebrate 250 years of the United States.

- Start with yourself. The National Archives recommends starting with the person you know best: yourself. Your own personal details can serve as a starting point as you work toward more unknown facets of your family history. After you note all of your own details, learn and document all you can about your parents and then do the same in relation to your grandparents.

- Emphasize four vital components. The National Archive notes that names, dates, places, and relationships are the tools of the family researcher. That's because these nuggets of information have long been used to identify people in public re-

ords.

- Peruse any existing family archives. Many families have kept their own archives over the years, even if that record-keeping was not widely known within a family. A relative might have kept various types of documents that help to paint a picture of your genealogy. Ask around in the family to see if anyone has kept records, which might include:

- Newspaper clippings
- Birth and death certificates
- Military certificates
- Marriage licenses
- Letters
- Diaries
- Photographs/photo books
- Scrapbooks

- Let others know. Inform family members near and far that you're working on a genealogy project. A relative might have beaten you to it, and that person could have lots of valuable information and documents to share. Others might be able to point you toward a relative who has become the unofficial family historian. In addition, cousins and aunts and uncles might have records from their own immediate families, which can help you as you conduct your own research.

- Access government records. The U.S. federal census dates all the way back to 1790, which makes it a poten-



tially excellent source of information for your project. State and county archives also can be wonderful resources that keep records of births, deaths, marriages, and other notable events that can help people trace their family histories. Even local libraries might have records of your family, especially if your family

has been settled in the same area for a significant amount of time.

American history might be the focal point in the United States in 2026. But that renewed emphasis on history also makes 2026 a great time to study your own family's part in helping the nation make it to its 250th birthday.

## Deaths And Funerals

### Deborah Townsell

Deborah "Debbie" Townsell, 73, of Providence died on Wednesday, June 23 at Deaconess Midtown Hospital in Evansville, Indiana.

She worked at Carhartt for over 20 years and owned and operated Deb's Smoke Shop in Providence for several years.

She was an active member of Star Hope General Baptist Church in Liberty, Kentucky. She was also a past member of Dixon Eastern Star, No. 382. She enjoyed gardening, canning, shopping, and volunteering at Common Garments in Nebo, Kentucky.

She was the daughter of the late Jimmy and Wilma George. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Lucian Townsell; a daughter, Candy Lynn Townsell; and a brother, James Everett "Porkey" George, Jr.

She is survived by two sons, Lucian Scott Townsell (Chelsea Smitson) of Robards, Kentucky and James Michael Townsell of Providence; four sisters, Sandra Corutney and Nancy Bumpus, both of Dixon, Trisha Atherton of Rumsey, Kentucky, and Kristie Stills of Slaughters; six grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; and nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held on Monday, June 8 at Townsend Funeral Home in Dixon with Bro. Adam Barry officiating.

Burial was in Oak Grove Cemetery in Dixon.

Online condolences at [www.townsendfuneral-homeinc.com](http://www.townsendfuneral-homeinc.com).

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Michelle Pettit, 5745 U.S. 41-South, Se4bree, KY, was appointed Executrix of the Estate of Carol L. Craig, who died Testate, a resident of Webster County, KY on February 28, 2026. Date of qualification May 5, 2026. Attorney: Jessica Larew, K. T. Williams Law, PLLC, 324-A North Elm Street, P.O. Box 561, Henderson, KY 42420-0561. Inventory due July 14, 2026. Settlement due May 9, 2028. All claims must be filed within six months of appointment.

Nancy J. Coleman, 291 First Street, Clay, KY, was appointed Executrix of the Estate of William Douglas Noffsinger, who died Testate, a resident of Webster County on March 20, 2026. Date of appointment May 12, 2026. Inventory due: Already filed. Settlement due May 16, 2028. All claims must be filed within six months of appointment.

John L. Collins, 38 Bunker Road, Morganfield, KY was appointed Administrator of the Estate of William Earl Collins, who died Intestate, a resident of 100 Montgomery Street, Wheatcroft, KY on April 22, 2026. Date of qualification May 12, 2026. Inventory due July 14, 2026. Settlement due May 16, 2028. All claims must be filed within six months of appointment.

### -- PUBLIC HEARING --

#### LOCAL / STATE BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

The Webster County Board of Education and the Kentucky Board of Education have scheduled a local/state Board public hearing on the proposed Webster County District Facility Plan for Tuesday, June 16, 2026 at 5:30pm CDT in the Webster County Board of Education Boardroom, 28 State Route 1340, Dixon, KY 42409. The District Facility Plan lists the pending capital construction and/or renovation projects that the school district may undertake, and the priority order, if applicable, that projects will be initiated. Copies of the proposed District Facility Plan are available for examination by interested individuals at the Board of Education offices, 28 State Route 1340, Dixon, KY 42409, between 8:00 AM and 3:30 PM through June 16, 2026. Questions may be directed to Aaron Harrell, Superintendent of Webster County Schools, 928 State Route 1340, Dixon, KY 42409 at 270-639-5083.

Those individuals wishing to comment on the proposed District Facility Plan may present oral or written comments at the Local / State Board public hearing.

The local Board of Education, after due process, will forward the approved District Facility Plan to the Kentucky Department of Education for ultimate approval by the State Board of Education.

The local State Board public hearing is being scheduled in accordance with KRS 157.620, and regulated by 702 KAR 1:001. 6/10c

## Webster County Jailer's Report

Webster County Jailer Greg Sauls reports inmates worked a total of 1870 hours between May 31 and June 6, 2026. Hours worked include 520 hours at the detention center; 280 hours at the RCC; 80 hours mowing; 360 hours for Union County; 40 hours for the city of Clay; 80 hours for the city of Dixon; 160 hours for the city of Providence; 40 hours recycling; 40 hours for the road department shop 40 hours for the dog warden.

The total jail population is 175 with 33 county inmates, 28 Union County inmates and 114 state prisoners.

Thirty-five inmates participated in the Moral Recognition Therapy program with three graduating; 20 attended Anger Management with three graduating; 20 attended Thinking for Good and 13 attended Untangling Relationships. The GED program had 11 participants.

Incarcerated during the same period were

- Ira Billings
- Kaylee Brown
- Paul Courtney
- Adrian Curry
- Scott Dame
- Ryan Decker
- Jose Hernandez-Guille
- Amber Johnson
- Justin Nunez
- Mary O'Leary
- Joshua Sanders
- Jessica Settle
- Chloe Thomason
- Graham Watson
- Robert Wilson
- Tina Wood

### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### WEBSTER COUNTY FISCAL COURT FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027

The second reading and adoption of the Webster County Fiscal Court proposed budget ordinance for the fiscal year is scheduled to be held at the date, time and location listed below.

Monday, June 22, 2026  
9:00 A.M.

Webster County Senior Building

#### BUDGET SUMMARY

AN ORDINANCE Relating to the Annual Budget and Appropriations.

BE IT ORDAINED by the Webster County Fiscal Court, Kentucky:

WHEREAS, the proposed budget was tentatively approved by the Webster County Fiscal Court, and approved as to form and classification by the State Local Finance Officer, on the dates listed below:

Approved by the Fiscal Court May 26, 2026  
Approved by the State Local Finance Officer June 1, 2026

SECTION ONE: The following budget is adopted for the fiscal year specified herein, and the amounts stated are appropriated for the purposes indicated.

General Fund	
5000 General Government	\$3,064,573.00
5100 Protection to Persons and Property	\$809,637.00
5200 General Health and Sanitation	\$275,163.00
5300 Social Services	\$4,000.00
5400 Recreation and Culture	\$1,200.00
6400 Other Transportation Facilities/Service	\$24,098.00
9100 General Services	\$470,050.00
9200 Contingent Appropriations	\$158,188.00
9400 Fringe Benefits - Employer's Share	\$441,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5,247,909.00</b>

Road Fund	
5100 Protection to Persons and Property	\$20,000.00
6100 Roads	\$2,962,970.00
6400 Other Transportation Facilities/Service	\$266,973.00
7500 Borrowed Money	\$228,300.00
9100 General Services	\$46,762.00
9200 Contingent Appropriations	\$0.00
9400 Fringe Benefits - Employer's Share	\$415,312.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,940,317.00</b>

Jail Fund	
5100 Protection to Persons and Property	\$2,055,681.00
7700 Leases	\$343,050.00
9100 General Services	\$64,419.00
9200 Contingent Appropriations	\$0.00
9400 Fringe Benefits - Employer's Share	\$595,222.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,058,372.00</b>

Local Government Economic Assistance Fund	
5000 General Government	\$521,192.00
5100 Protection to Persons and Property	\$817,561.00
5200 General Health and Sanitation	\$614,655.00
5300 Social Services	\$314,714.00
5400 Recreation and Culture	\$814,461.00
6100 Roads	\$426,500.00
8000 Capital Projects	\$0.00
9200 Contingent Appropriations	\$148,555.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,657,638.00</b>

State Grant Fund	
5000 General Government	\$0.00
9200 Contingent Appropriations	\$125.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$125.00</b>

Federal Grants Fund	
5000 General Government	\$6,643,000.00
5300 Social Services	\$35,000.00
5400 Recreation and Culture	\$500,000.00
8000 Capital Projects	\$550,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$7,728,000.00</b>

Opoid Settlement Fund	
5300 Social Services	\$54,500.00
9200 Contingent Appropriations	\$288,347.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$347,847.00</b>

Sanitation Fund	
5200 General Health and Sanitation	\$230,408.00
9100 General Services	\$50.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$230,458.00</b>

Animal Shelter	
5200 General Health and Sanitation	\$500.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$500.00</b>

Sheriff Federal Asset Forfeiture Fund	
5000 General Government	\$10,000.00
9200 Contingent Appropriations	\$10,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$20,000.00</b>

Special Funds - Clerk Storage of Records	
5000 General Government	\$38,969.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$38,969.00</b>

**Total Budget Appropriations \$24,265,135.00**

SECTION TWO: This ordinance shall be published in The Sebree Banner by title and summary within thirty (30) days following adoption.

SECTION THREE: This ordinance becomes effective upon passage and publication.

#### Notice of Availability

All interested persons and organizations are hereby notified that a copy of the Webster County proposed budget in full is available for public inspection at the office of the County Judge/Executive during normal business hours.



## God Knows You

By Dr. Bob Hardison

### Our Daily Connections With People Are Opportunities To Share Christ

Q: I understand, as a Christian, God wants me to share Christ with those who do not know Him, but I don't recognize any opportunities to share Him. When and where can I share Christ with others?

A: The Apostle Paul used every opportunity opened to him to share Jesus with others. While waiting in Athens, he "reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and with those who worshiped God, as well as in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there" (Acts 17:17).

Like Paul, we should use every opportunity to share Christ with others. Following His resurrection and just before His ascension back into heaven, Jesus gave his followers this directive: "After that the Holy Spirit is come upon you, you shall be witnesses unto me in Jerusalem (city or town you live in), in Judea (your state), Samaria (region you live in) and unto the end of the earth (Acts 1:8). If we don't share Jesus with others, who will tell them about Him? We are just one generation away from becoming pagan people. Without question Jesus asked everyone of His disci-

ples to be oral witness for Him.

For the most part, we don't need to pray for more opportunities to share Christ, we need to pray for God to open our spiritual eyes and for us to be ready to share Jesus with those the Lord brings across our path. Every Christian has a personal life-story to tell of how God is working in our life. Don't put a bushel basket over those experiences. Let your light shine. Tell others about Christ.