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COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
JUSTICE CENTER-WARREN COUNTY  
POST OFFICE BOX 3000  
BOWLING GREEN, KENTUCKY 42101

JAMES R. GILDERSLEEVE  
COURT ADMINISTRATOR

TELEPHONE  
(502) 843-5411

August 9, 1988

Mr. Riley Handy  
Kentucky Library & Museum  
Western Kentucky University  
Bowling Green, Kentucky 42101

Re: Court Seal  
Warren Circuit Court

Dear Riley:

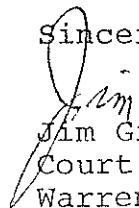
I was delighted to open today's mail and find the photograph of the court seal of the Warren Circuit Court which was found by your staff on a Circuit Court document (Clerk's certification) dated July 13, 1827.\* The circuit courts of Kentucky were established in 1802, so this seal was formulated and in use during the first 23 years of the Warren Circuit Court.

Judge Henry P. Brodnax was the judge at the time, having served from 1819 to 1830. He lived to 1857, dying in Logan County. Enclosed is the article that I mentioned on my visit to the Kentucky Library and Museum. I have had the article for some period of time, and do not recall its origin although it gives credit for the information to your museum.

I am going to try to either have the seal reproduced in larger scale on wood, or by artist's rendering as previously discussed. When the court seal from the 1840's is found (again) I'll attempt to do likewise.

Once again, thank you for your continued interest in this endeavor.

Sincerely,

  
Jim Gildersleeve  
Court Administrator  
Warren Circuit Court

\* see MSS 137, B21, F22,  
item 35

WARREN COUNTY COURT

The Court of Quarter Sessions was established in Warren County, Kentucky, on April 4, 1797, at the place of Robert Moore. The order recites that said court was constitutional in pursuance to the Act of the General Assembly forming a county from the county of Logan.

Burwell Jackson, John Shannon and John Hall, Esqs., produced a commission of the peace from the Governor, appointing them Justices of the Court of Quarter Sessions of Warren County, Burwell Jackson being first sworn by one of the Justices of the County Court, and the said Jackson administering the oaths required by law to the said John Shannon and John Hall, Esqs.

William Chaplaine, upon his producing from the Court of Appeals a certificate of his being duly qualified to act as clerk of said Quarter Sessions Court in any county, "The Court doth appoint him clerk to take the following oaths prescribed by law." Edwin Harris was the first County Attorney of Warren County. George Moore was the jailor at that time and Elijah M. Covington was the Sheriff. Both remained in office for sometime, and Chaplaine remained Clerk of the Quarter Sessions Court for a long number of years. He wrote a splendid hand, as the records in the present Circuit Court Clerk's Office will attest.

John Curd was the foreman of the first Grand Jury constituted at said Quarter Sessions Court. They returned in open court six indictments, all of the save one being for fighting, and that one being against Christian Wakefield, charging him with having a base-born child.

Among these six indictments was one against Andrew McFadden and Daniel Boone for fighting, the first Tuesday in April, 1797, known by Alexander Stuart and Gladdon Gorin. It is the surmise of the writer that Daniel Boone was down here visiting his relatives. It does not appear from the records that he was arrested on this indictment, and the indictment was dismissed on motion of the Commonwealth. The original warrant is now a part of the records preserved in the Warren Circuit Court Clerk's Office.

There were a number of Boones living in this county. In the record book of said Quarter Sessions Court appear the names of Jesse Boone, Joseph Boone and Jonathon Boone. Just what relation they bore to Daniel the writer is not informed. They disappear at an early date. All lawyers know that, among the great common people, is an idea that there is such a thing as a "lie Bill"; that is to say, a defendant may place on the record a confession that he is a liar and that the slander he had uttered is untrue. In a trial in this Quarter Sessions Court in 1797 appears what might be called a "Lie Bill"

It was an action of slander brought by James Stuart against William McFadden, as follows: "Ordered that this suit be dismissed upon the defendant coming into Court and saying he does not believe the plaintiff to be a thief, but, on the contrary, an honest man; and said defendant agrees to pay \$10.00 of the costs of this action."

Among other indictments returned in this year, 1797, was one against Thomas Chapman, for retailing liquor contrary to law. He was the first white child born south of Green River. His grave is now near the old Chapman homestead, on Drake's Creek. This indictment was dismissed on motion of the Commonwealth. This Thomas Chapman was the grandfather of Mr. Thomas Chapman, now of the City of Bowling Green, Kentucky. On February 8, 1798, the County Attorney was allowed his salary as follows: "On motion of Edwain Harris it is the opinion of this Court that it be certified to the County Court that he is entitled to \$50.00 for his services as State's Attorney for the year 1797, and \$60.00 for the year 1798."

The preceding was compiled from the material at the Kentucky Library concerning the History of Bowling Green-Warren County, 1700-1799