

18TH CENTURY WILLS ARE NOW A DIGITAL COLLECTION

Washington County's pre-1800 wills have been scanned and can now be viewed on the website's "Digital Collections" sub-page at the following link: [Digital Collections](#)

A total of 67 hand-written wills in digital form are available stretching from the Watauga Association era (John Wood's will of 1773) into early Tennessee statehood in 1799. The wills document the dying wishes of some of the county's earliest and most prominent residents, including William Bean, Sr. (1782), the first permanent white settler in Tennessee; Charles Robertson, Sr. (1798), trustee of the Watauga Association; Andrew Taylor (1787), ancestor of Tennessee governors Bob and Alf Taylor; Robert Young, Sr. (1792), Revolutionary War patriot; and many others. Four women are represented, including the earliest will written by a woman in Tennessee, Rebeka Vanderpool's in 1779.

Because of the prominent role played by many of these figures in the county's early history, the wills provide not only genealogical interest but are of interest to students of history as well. One can make connections to early Tennessee citizens on the frontier and to possible Revolutionary War ancestors. We hope researchers of both families and regional history find these wills a useful tool in their research.

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