

**FILSON CLUB PUBLICATIONS NO.  
27. PETITIONS OF THE EARLY  
INHABITANTS OF KENTUCKY TO  
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
VIRGINIA 1769 TO 1792**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649669745

Filson Club Publications No. 27. Petitions of the Early Inhabitants of Kentucky to the General Assembly of Virginia 1769 to 1792 by James Rood Robertson

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**JAMES ROOD ROBERTSON**

**FILSON CLUB PUBLICATIONS NO.  
27. PETITIONS OF THE EARLY  
INHABITANTS OF KENTUCKY TO  
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
VIRGINIA 1769 TO 1792**





**JAMES ROOD ROBERTSON, M.A. Ph.D.**  
Member of the Filson Club.

FILSON CLUB PUBLICATIONS No. 27

PETITIONS OF THE EARLY  
INHABITANTS OF  
KENTUCKY

TO THE

General Assembly of Virginia

1769 to 1792

BY

JAMES ROOD ROBERTSON, M.A.Ph.D.

Member of the American Historical Association, the Filson Club,  
the Ohio Valley Historical Society, and the Oregon  
Historical Society; Professor of History and  
Political Science in Berea College.

LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY  
JOHN P. MORTON & COMPANY  
(Incorporated)  
PRINTERS TO THE FILSON CLUB  
1914

US 24007.5.27

\*

2411-20



COPYRIGHT, 1916,  
BY  
THE FILSON CLUB  
—  
All Rights Reserved

N 23 1917

**DEDICATED TO  
THE PIONEERS OF KENTUCKY**

Men and women whose courage, endurance, and integrity  
laid well the foundations of our first common-  
wealth west of the Alleghany Mountains.

\_\_\_\_\_

## PREFACE

**T**HE petitions here printed are offered as a contribution to the early period of Kentucky history. During a visit of the editor to Richmond, Virginia, in the summer of 1910, they were found in the archives of that State. The archivist had recently segregated them from a large mass of other material and an examination of the contents showed their value as a source of information on the beginnings of Kentucky.

The petitions are printed verbatim, with the thought that they will be more useful and interesting to the student of history in the language of the pioneer inhabitants of our first Commonwealth west of the Alleghany Mountains. The editor has added foot-notes which may help to explain the purpose, the subject-matter, and the effect of the various petitions.

The names attached to the petitions have been separated from them and arranged in alphabetical order, with numbers referring to the petitions on which they appear. This saves considerable space, as many of the names are signed to two or more petitions. It also makes reference to them more easy.

The appearance of the original material from which these petitions were copied may be seen in the facsimile

### *Preface*

of a petition from the settlers of Lincoln County. This is, however, better than the average in form and state of preservation. Many of the petitions are worn, the writing faded, and the style not so good as the illustration given.

The wording of the petitions, though formal, is full of life and spirit, and in some cases reflects quaintness of expression. There is always a respectful deference for the authority of the Commonwealth of Virginia at the same time that freedom of speech is indulged.

The petitions are printed in chronological order rather than topical, with the thought that the development of community life can best be seen in that way. The first petition is dated 1769 and the last 1831. Only two are earlier than 1776 and six later than 1792. Thus they are seen to pertain to the period when Kentucky was a County of Virginia and those of earlier and later date are logically connected with that period. Thus the collection presents a unity that is valuable.

The collection does not include petitions which were sent to the National Government at Philadelphia or New York which have been used extensively in the printed histories of Kentucky, as they have been more accessible than the ones here printed. Nor is the collection entirely complete, as there are some laws, passed by the Assembly of Virginia, evidently based on petitions which have not been found. The collection, however, is essentially complete, and is fully representative of the activities of the pioneer population.