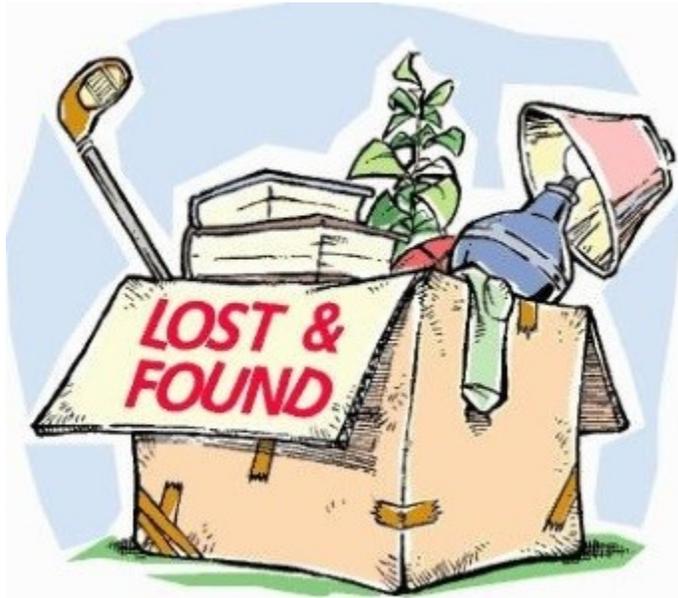


## Remember. Each Generation Loses Something



lost and found items

We might be losing our writing skills. Especially in this era of punching buttons, automatic payments and deposits, machines in stores which quickly register our consent, and so on. Already, there is the mere touch of our thumb print on the iphone doubling as identification. We are slowly but surely moving into the digital age of touch permission.

Although we have some awareness of the changes which occur during each generation, we do not realize how much is being lost, or has been lost to the ages. When I used to visit court houses to acquire records (they were not microfilmed), there were still certain original documents scattered around in filing cabinets.

But these records soon disappeared into storage, or faded away into mildew or age. Yet, finding the actual original documents written by our ancestors is virtually impossible today. Instead, we have to rely upon the handwritten copy entered by the clerk in the records. And there are errors. In Kentucky, I have encountered many wills and estates which spell the

testator two different ways in the same document.

The name at the beginning is different from the name designated at the end! As in most old documents, the spelling and writing style is always an issue.

One must become familiar with colonial letters in order to make the proper interpretation. "S", "F" and "P" are frequently transcribed incorrectly. Remember the "double S?" It looks like a "P".

Names like Ross get interpreted as Rop.

The days of penmanship in the schools is ended. Remember when we sat for hours on end perfecting our letters? Penmanship was an art form during colonial days. Anyone who has admired the grace, charm and elegance of the letters would be pleased to frame it! Nonetheless, we can become more familiar with old records by incorporating some of those beautiful letters into our own penmanship. Once you acquire the gist of the flow, it is easier to understand.