The Great Meadow  
by Elizabeth Madox Roberts  FIC ROBE  
Often called the best novel ever written on Kentucky frontier life, this epic describes the opening of the land beyond the Appalachian Mountains and provides a generous amount of family drama.

The Kentucky Cycle  
by Robert Schenkkan  812 SCHE  
This Pulitzer Prize–winning series of nine short plays chronicles the history of three fictional families beginning in 1775.

Kentucky Frontiersmen: The Adventures of Henry Ware, Hunter and Border Fighter  
by Joseph A. Altsheler  FIC ALTS  
Henry Ware’s family settles in Kain-tuck-ee, where he grows to adulthood and becomes an expert outdoorsman and the savior of the new pioneer settlement.

Tree of Freedom  
by Rebecca Caudill  FIC CAUD  
The Venables family leaves Carolina to experience the promise and hardships of 1780 Kentucky.

Dark Hills to Westward: The Saga of Jenny Wiley  
by Harry M. Caudill  FIC CAUD  
Based on Jenny Wiley’s personal account of her capture by a small band of Indians, their journey across the Kentucky wilderness, and her eventual escape.

Janice Holt Giles is a noted Kentucky author known primarily for her historical novels set in the Kentucky area or on the Western frontier. (She also wrote contemporary fiction set in the Kentucky hills.) Key historical selections include:

- The Kentuckians  – David Cooper, a frontiersman who had hunted with Daniel Boone, decides it is time to settle down only to discover that the woman he loves is the wife of his enemy. This is an account of the first settlers in Kentucky and only the three central characters are fictional.

- Hannah Fowler  – Hannah and her father are part of a party led by George Rogers Clark, but after her father’s death she decides to marry and must face the harsh realities of frontier life with her new husband.

- The Land Beyond the Mountains  – Cass Cartwright tries to achieve security and statehood for Kentucky.

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Fact or Fiction?

The Frontiersmen: A Narrative  
by Allan W. Eckert  977.02 ECKE  
A former selection of KET’s book club, The Frontiersmen is an extensively researched history of the period from 1770 to 1813. Although it is presented in narrative form, the book is structured as a dual biography of legendary explorer Simon Kenton and Shawnee chief Tecumseh. For more information, you can link to KET’s book club from the “Books, Movies & Music” page on our website. KET provides numerous Web links to discover further historical background on people and events of the period.

Online Resources

Kentucky Historical Society  
www.history.ky.gov

Kentucky Digital Library  
http://athena.uky.edu/kyleidoscope/kyleidoscope.htm

The Filson Historical Society  
www.filsonhistorical.org

Bullitt County History Museum  
www.bullittcountyhistory.org

At the library you can learn more about the Kentucky frontier and other topics from thousands of resources. Or visit our website (www.bcplib.org) to access our databases and find useful internet links.

The library is free. You can find everything from fun books for kids and adults to in-depth research materials. We can even access library collections around the country using our Interlibrary Loan network.

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Marianne: helpdesk@bcplib.org
Rhonda: information@bcplib.org

Want to know more about the early days of Kentucky?

Look inside to find all the facts—plus some great novels set in your favorite place and time!

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