

Poor Widow's Act (1820)

CHAPTER CXXXIII.

An ACT for the benefit of poor Widows.

Approved, December 21, 1820

WHEREAS, it is represented to the present General Assembly, that there are many poor widows in this state, with numerous helpless children, destitute of homes; and as there is vacant land now in this state, which might be of great utility to the poor and indigent; and inasmuch as it is consistent with good policy, for the legislature to protect the poor widows and fatherless: **Therefore**,

Section 1. **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky**, that any widow in this state, who shall make satisfactory proof to the county or circuit court of the county wherein she or they may reside, that she has not estate in her own right to the value of one hundred dollars; which fact shall be proved in open court, by the testimony of two or more credible witnesses; which application and evidence shall be entered of record in said court, and upon the applicant procuring a certified copy from the clerk of said court, and upon the same being produced to the auditor of public accounts, he shall issue his warrant to the treasurer for one hundred acres of land, and the treasurer shall give his quietus for the same; and the same being produced to the register of the Land Office, he shall issue a land warrant for one hundred acres of land, in favor of the applicant, without fee for the same: which warrant shall and be may located on any waste and unappropriated land in this state, except the land west of the Tennessee River and south of Walker's line, upon which patents shall issue as in other cases.

Section 2. The land obtained by the provisions of this act, shall not be liable to sale by execution, nor shall it be subject to tenancy by the courtesy; but the same shall vest in the widow who acquires the title, for her life, with remainder to her children, if she have any; and if she have none, then the land shall revert to the Commonwealth: and the land aforesaid shall not be alienable during the life of the person who obtains the patent.

REF: "Acts of the Kentucky General Assembly", 1820, pp. 159-160.