# Up There,
# Down There,
# &
# Over There

A Poke of Kentucky Trivia
from the
Musings of Hal King

Presented to the Athenaeum Society
Thursday, March 3, 2005

# Opening Remarks

Four score and ten years ago my father wanted to get transferred out of the Chicago office of Peabody Coal Company so much that he said he would even go to Kentucky or West Virginia. He flipped a coin. It came up "heads" and that's why we moved to Kentucky.

So, in May, 1945, we headed south. Louisville appeared to be just another midwestern city...that's fine. Then, Lexington....also fine.

Then, we got to Corbin and I clearly remember my father saying,"we'll be be out of here in a couple of years'. Then, we got to Harlan, and I clearly remember my father saying, "We'll be out of here in a year".

A few minutes later we arrived at Evarts, where I eventually would attend high school. I clearly remember my father saying, "We'll be out of here in six months".

And, a few minutes later we arrived at the company town, officially known as Kenvir, but commonly called Black Mountain. He just sat in the old Buick, in front of the company office for a few minutes, and I clearly remember my father uttering a four letter expletive followed by "I think I'll just turn around and go back now".

And, today I clearly remember how we all grew to love Kentucky and the mountains.

There was a period of adjustment in getting used to the mountain accent and new terminology. For example, I went to the company store one day to get a loaf of bread for Mother. The young lady behind the counter if wanted anything else, I replied, "No thank you" Then she asked me if I wanted a poke. I didn't understand her and we went through a routine of me not understanding her.....turned out that a "poke" is a sack or bag to carry the groceries. "Youans" is another term for "y'all"...neither of which we had ever heard before. And, there are many such stories.

Transportation was excellent in those days; buses ran the county roads as if it was big city line.....never had to wait more than 15 minutes for a bus. Just stand alongside the road and soon there would be a VTC or Cumberland Coach on the way to Harlan or back home. One day, as I was ready to get a bus from Harlan back home, I couldn't figure out which bus I needed to board. I asked the driver about getting the bus down to Kenvir. He informed me that the bus was going **up** to Black Mountain. And nobody called it Kenvir....always Black Mountain and it was definitely **up** the mountain. Going to Harlan was always going **down** the mountain. So, it was up there, down there and sometimes over there. like "over in 'tother holler" or "over cross the mountain to Big Stone Gap or Pennington Gap or over to Knoxville" or wherever. We were in triangle just minutes from Virginia and Tennessee.

Living in the mountains was so much different than the flat plains of Central and northern Illinois. We could still see a "fur piece" but it was mostly up.

In a short while I began high school. Studies and sports brought new friends, and sparked an interest in names and places. An interest that grew as I got older. Seems like one name or place leads to another and keeps on growing. Just give me some books and maps and let me be.

So, here we go...up there, down there, over there.

# JONANCY
## Harlan - Hazard - Hyden
## Hell-Fer-Certain — Kingdom Come

Jonancy is in southwest Pike County.

On or near Highway #610

south of Ellwood and Virgie

north of Myra

east of Hi Hat

west of Lookout

all of which are a few miles west of the Breaks Interstate Park on the

Kentucky-Virginia border, sometimes referred to as the

Grand Canyon of the South.

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**Then there is the case of the three H's — Harlan, Hazard and Hyden.**
Contrary to what some people think, they are not all the same or interchangeable.

Yes, they are all "over there" and close together.

**Harlan** is the county seat of Harlan County and borders on Virginia. Harlan is named after Major Silas Harlan.

Just over the mountain to the east and north is **Hyden** (state senator John Hyden), the county seat of **Leslie** County (Gov. Preston Leslie).

and adjoining Leslie County on the north is

**Perry County,** named after Naval hero Oliver Hazard Perry. The county seat is **Hazard** (Perry's middle name). Harlan, Hazard, Hyden.

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One can even go to hell in Kentucky.

You'll find Hell's Half Acre in Harrison County —or—

you go to Hell Fer Certain in Leslie County —or—

Helechwa in Wolfe County. (pronounced hell each way).

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One would think there would be several place names with the name "heaven" but the only one I found was Heaven Hill Distillery, on the southern edge of Bardstown in Nelson County. I'm sure that would be heaven for some.

We can even accomdate you in one of my all time favorites—because I've been there—Kingdom Come at the northern edge of Harlan County and Southern edge of Letcher County.

Kentucky was once a county of Virginia.  On June 30, 1780, the legislature of the Commonwealth of Virginia passed a law creating the three counties of Jefferson, Fayette and Lincoln. The first was named for the governor of Virginia, Thomas Jefferson. Fayette was named for the young French General LaFayette, who was only 23 years old at the time. The third was named for General Benjamin Lincoln, one of General George Washington's chief generals and who received the sword of surrender from the British at Yorktown in 1781.

The County seats were: Louisville, Lexington and St. Asaph (now Stanford).

When Kentucky became the 15th state, on June 1, 1792, there were 9 counties: Jefferson, Fayette, Lincoln, Mercer, Mason, Madison, Bourbon, Woodford and Nelson—plus the far western Indian Lands that later became known  as the Jackson Purchase.

Of Kentucky's 120 counties:

41 were established between 1792-1799.

78 were established between 1800-1899.

Only 1, was established after 1900, McCreary in 1912.

Christian County was the 21st  county established , March 1, 1797.

Caldwell County was established May 1, 1809. Todd & Trigg Counties  April 1, 1820.

Kentucky covers 40,409 square miles, the 37th largest state in area.

Of Kentucky's 120 counties,  10 are larger than 500 square miles in area.

The largest is Pike County at 786 square miles.

Christian County is second at 726 square miles.

Kentucky has ten counties that are less than  200 square miles in area.

The smallest County in area is Gallatin County at 98 square miles and

Robertson County has only 100 square miles.

When it comes to measuring in acres, Kentucky has 25,863,000 acres.
1,950,000 acres in developed land.
1,800,000 acres in federal land.
About 21,000,000 acres in rural cropland, pastureland and forest lands.

Kentucky  measures 458 miles east to west and 171 miles north to south.

The geographic center of the state is in Marion County, about three miles from Lebanon. If you need some incentive  to look itup The Makers Mark distillery is nearby.

Christian County ranks 2nd largest Kentucky county in size in area at 726 square miles
and measures 25 miles east to west and 45 miles north to south.
From the Tennessee line to the Indiana line, going thru Christian County, is 84 miles.

Kentucky ranks 25th  in U.S. population at 4,042,000.
Only three Kentucky counties have a population over 100,000.
They are Jefferson, Fayette and Kenton.
Christian County ranks 9th in Kentucky population at 73,000.

There are 23 Kentucky counties with less than 10,000 population.
The smallest is Robertson at  2,209.

There are 16  Kentucky **county seats** with a population of less than 1,000 and
5 of those have a population of less than 500.
The smallest is Booneville in Owsley County at 241.
Second is Hyden with 365 in Leslie  County and
Third is Smithland with 385 in Livingston County.
Fourth is Mt. Olivet  with 393 in Robertson County.
Fifth is Inez at 498 in Martin.

Nine Kentucky **County seats** have a population over 20,000.
Louisville is the largest at 700,000.
Second is Lexington at 262,000.
Third is Owensboro at 54,350.
Fourth is Bowling Green at 44,208 and
Fifth is Hopkinsville at 33,000.

## Kentucky's 10 Largest Cities

| # | City | Population |
|---|------|------------|
| 1 | Louisville | 700,000 |
| 2 | Lexington | 262,000 |
| 3 | Owensboro | 54,000 |
| 4 | Bowling Green | 49,000 |
| 5 | Covington | 42,000 |
| 6 | Hopkinsville | 32,200 |
| 7 | Richmond | 29,000 |
| 8 | Fankfort | 27,000 |
| 9 | Henderson | 26,600 |
| 10 | Paducah | 26,000 |

## How The Countie s Got Their Names

6 Presidents
18 Governor
26 Generals (1 Commodore)
30 Other military
4 Rivers—Ohio, Cumberland, Rockcastle, Laurel

# Kentucky Counties — By the Letter

The shortest county name is **Lee** with only three letters.
The longest county name is **Breckinridge** with 12 letters.

One county begins with the letter U — Union.
One county begins with the letter D — Daviess.
No county begins with the letters— I, Q, V, X, Y, Z.

A — 3 — Adair, Allen, Anderson.

B — 13 — Ballard, Barren, Bath, Bell, Boone, Bourbon, Boyd, Boyle, Bracken, Breathitt, Breckinridge, Bullitt, Butler.

C —14 — Caldwell, Calloway, Campbell, Carlisle, Carroll, Carter, Casey, Christian, Clark, Clay, Clinton, Crittenden, Cumberland.

D — 1 — Daviess.

E — 3 — Edmonson, Elliott, Estill.

F — 5 — Fayette, Fleming, Floyd, Franklin, Fulton.

G — 7 — Gallatin, Garrard, Grant, Graves, Grayson, Green, Greenup.

H — 9 — Hancock, Hardin, Harlan, Harrison, Hart, Henderson, Henry, Hickman, Hopkins.

I — 0 —

J — 4 — Jackson, Jefferson, Jessamine, Johnson.

K — 3 — Kenton, Knott, Knox.

L — 11 — Larue, Laurel, Lawrence, Lee, Leslie, Letcher, Lewis, Lincoln, Livingston, Logan, Lyon.

M — 17 —McCracken, McCreary, McLean, Madison, Magoffin, Marion, Marshall, Martin, Mason, Meade, Menifee, Mercer, Metcalfe, Monroe, Montgomery, Morgan, Muhlenberg.

N — 2 — Nelson, Nicholas.

O — 4 — Ohio, Oldham, Owen, Owsley.

P — 5 — Pendleton, Perry, Pike, Powell, Pulaski.

Q — 0 —

R — 4 — Robertson, Rockcastle, Rowan, Russell.

S — 4 — Scott, Shelby, Simpson, Spencer.

T — 4 — Taylor, Todd, Trigg, Trimble.

U — 1 — Union.

V — 0 —

W — 7 — Warren, Washingrton, Wayne, Webster, Whitley, Wolfe, Woodford.

X — 0

Y — 0

Z — 0

# County Seat Oddities

The names of Kentucky county seats sometimes correspond to the name of the county — and sometimes they do not. For example:

Carrollton is the seat of Carroll County.
Greensburg is the seat of Green County.
Greenup is the seat of Greenup County.
Harlan is Harlan.
Henderson is Henderson.
Owenton is Owen Co.
Pikeville is Pike.
Shelbyville is Shelby.
Flemingsburg is Fleming.

However.........

Scottsville is the seat of Allen County.
Georgetown is the seat of Scott County.

Hopkinsville is the seat of Christian County, not Hopkins Co.
Madisonville is the seat of Hopkins Co., not Madison County.
Richmond is the seat of Madison Co.

Fulton is in Fulton Co. but...
Hickman is the seat of Fulton Co.
Clinton is the seat of neighboring Hickman Co. while
Albany is the seat of Clinton Co. far to the east.

Marion is the seat of Crittenden Co. while
Lebanon is the seat of Marion Co.

Russellville is the seat of Logan Co.,
Jamestown is the seat of Russell Co.

West Liberty is the seat of Morgan Co., not Morganfield or Morgantown.
Morganfield is the seat of Union Co.
Morgantown is the seat of Butler Co.

Elizabethtown is the seat of Hardin Co.
Hardinsburg is the seat of Breckinridge Co.

Burkesville is the seat of Cumberland Co., not Cumberland.

Leitchfield is the seat of Grayson Co. and
Grayson is the seat of Carter Co.

Frankfort is the seat of Franklin Co.
Franklin is the seat of Simpson Co.

# The Name Kentucky

There are many theories and legends about how this state became known as Kentucky. Most stories came from old Indian words or corruptions of words from various tribes. According to the Kentucky Encyclopedia the name does come from some form of Indian word but just which one or more than one, no one really knows.

• Historians have dismissed the old idea that it came from a Cherokee word meaning "Dark and bloody ground".

• An Algonquin name for river or river bottom;

• An Iroquois word that means "Land of Meadows" sounds nice but the one I like best is the

• Wyandot word that translates into "Land of Tomorrow"

And, there are other stories; some sound reasonable, some sound far-fetched but the fact is, according to the Kentucky Encyclopedia, no one really knows how we got the name, "Kentucky".

Let's think some more about that "Land of Tomorrow" while we enjoy it today.

And, nowt here is a slogan, Unbridled Spirit.

# Commonwealth

# Border State

What do you call Kentucky.......state or commonwealth?

The two designations were synonymous back in the late 1700's. The term Commonwealth goes back to the time when England created the Commonwealth of States or Colonies.

Commonwealth is derived from the word Commonweal which implies unity and for the good of all.

Virginia, Massachusetts and Pennsylvania were commonwealths of Great Britain. A commonwealth in America is a state having its immediate growth from one of the original thirteen colonies. When Kentucky gained independance from Virginia in 1792, it chose to keep the term Commonwealth.

So, are we a state or a commonwealth?

Remember the term "synonymous"? Either way you are right.

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Because of Kentucky's position of being the state that was thought of as separating the north and south, Kentucky has long been known as the "border state" — at least since the Civil War — and, perhaps even longer. How many states border Kentucky?

If you guessed seven — you're right. Now name them.

Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, West Virginia, Virginia, Tennessee and Missouri.

Are there other states with that many neighbors?

Yes. Colorado also has seven while

Tennessee and Missouri have eight.

# Kentucky
## Highs & Lows

- According to the Atlas of Kentucky, published in 1998, most elevations in Kentucky are less than 350 feet above mean sea level but there are some extremes.

- The highest point in Kentucky is Big Black Mountain in Harlan County, on the Virginia border, at 4,145 feet.

- The highest point of the 125 mile long Pine Mountain range is 3,273 feet, near Whitesburg.

- The highest point of the Pinnacle at Cumberland Gap is 2,440 feet.

- The lowest point in Kentucky is 250 feet above mean sea level is in far western Kentucky in Fulton County along the Mississippi River.

- Most elevations in Kentucky are less than 350 feet above mean sea level. Hopkinsville elevation is estimated to be about 525 feet above mean sea level.

- **The highest point in Christian County** is located off Highway 507; that is Pine Knob at 863 feet, just west of Pilot Rock and a short distance east of Pleasent Hill.

- **The highest point in the area** is Pilot Rock in neighboring Todd County. Located off Highway 507, Pilot Rock is estimated to be 960 feet high.

**Other high points in the area include**:
Buie Knob in Trigg County at 813 feet.
Bald Knob in Caldwell County at 766 feet
Flat Knob in Caldwell County at 738 feet.

Kentucky has more registered vehicles, about 3 million, than licensed drivers, 2 1/2 million.
We drive on over 70,000 miles of state highways and 13,000 bridges.

Kentuckians also like to fly. There are 71 private and public airports in Kentucky.  There are four times more pilots than airplanes.  There are 1,500 private aircraft licensed and 6,200 licensed pilots.

The state has 2,400 miles of railroad track but it's basically all freight transportation. The good old days of passenger travel are long gone.

How do we travel in Christian County?
There are approximately _____vehicles  registered in Christian County........ _____cars and _____ trucks.
And, there are _____licensed drivers in Christian County.

Christian County has approximately 500 miles of roads and highways.and 175 bridges.
75 bridges are maintained by the county and 100 by the state.

By the way, when is a bridge not a bridge? When that span or whatever it is you cross is less than 20 feet it is not a bridge.
If it is 20 feet or more it is a bridge.

Kentuckians have many sources of information.

What are they? Listen!

In addition to our schools, information is provided by:

• 23 daily newspapers and

• Several weekly newspapers,

• Thousands of magazines,

• nearly 300 radio stations

• 34 commercial and educational TV stations,

• 300 cable TV systems,

• 188 main and branch libraries serving over 1 1/2 million borrowers,

• The telephone,

• Cell Phone

• FAX

• The old fashioned word-of-mouth.

• And, now the world encircling **internet.**

Information and knowledge. Go get it!

Kentuckians have many opportunities to receive an education.

For elementary and high school education there are:

120 county school systems,

56 independant school systems and

numerous private schools.


For higher education  there are:

8 state public universities,

28 community colleges and technical centers,

22 private colleges and universities,

numerous technical and vocational centers,

plus...

night and week-end courses,  educational TV courses,

and courses for continuing adult education.


Actually there may be even more.

Education....you can get it in Kentucky!

# Kentucky Waterways

Remember these lines from the Rhyme of the Ancient Mariner? "Water, water everywhere and all the boards did shrink.

Water, water everywhere and not a drop a to drink?"

Not around here!

- Kentucky has **31 rivers** inside or along its borders, more than any other state.
- 51 of Kentucky's 120 counties are located along rivers.
- Kentucky has 90,000 miles of streams,
- 1,500 square miles of water surface,
- 1,255 miles of navigable streams,
- **2,700 impoundments**, 1/3 of which are ten acres or more in size and over 50 are over 100 acres.
- It has been estimated that Kentucky has more miles of permanent streams than any state except Alaska, 11,000.

# Notable Bridges

The State of Kentucky has 13,000 bridges. Bridges connect Kentucky to four other states.
At least 20 bridges cross the Ohio River which borders Kentucky 665 miles northeast to
Southwest.
Three bridges connect Kentucky to Illinois.
Seven bridges connect Kentucky to Indiana and
Ten bridges connect to Ohio.
Three bridges connect to West Virginia, across the Big Sandy River and theTug Fork River.

The World Almanac List of the World's most notable bridges include 20 in Kentucky.
The oldest notable bridge is the John A. Roebling Bridge, built in 1867, spans the Ohio River
from Covington into Cincinnati.
It is 1,057 feet long.
Nearby is the Simon Kenton bridge, 3 feet longer, built in 1931.

Of these 20 notable bridges, 18 span the 665 mile Ohio River border along Kentucky.

The newest bridge of note is the William H. Natcher Bridge spanning the Ohio River, connecting
Kentucky with Indiana. The main span is 1,200 feet with a total length of 4,505 feet.
The $70 million four-lane bridge opened October 21, 2002.
(Maceo, just north east of Owensboro - Rockport, Indiana).

The other 2 notable bridges span the Cumberland River. One is the I-24 bridge across the
Cumberland at Barkley Lake and the other is in eastern Kentucky.

When it was built in 1877, the 308 foot High Bridge in Nelson County was the highest bridge in
North America.

# Covered Bridges

At one time Kentucky had over 400 covered bridges.

Today there are only 12 covered bridges and nearly all are listed as N-O-T-T...that means "not open to traffic." Most of the covered bridges are in the Bluegrass area and in Northeast Kentucky. None are listed in Western Kentucky.

The longest wooden covered bridge in the world was once in Kentucky located in Pendleton Co.

It was built in 1871, 465 feet in length, spanning the Licking River. It was damaged by wind and floods and torn down in1937.

Many covered bridges were destroyed during the Civil war. A statewide program to repair and preserve Kentucky's covered bridges started in 1996. All of Kentucky's remaining covered bridges are listed on the National Register of HistoricPlaces.

Beech Fork or Moorsville, 1865, Washington Co.

Bennetts Mill, 1856, Greenup Co.

Cabin Creek/Rectorville/Mackey-Hughes, 1873, Lewis Co.

Colville, 1877, Bourbon Co.

Dover, 1835, Mason Co.

Goddard, date unknown, Fleming Co.

Hillsboro/Grange City, 1865, Fleming Co.

Johnson Creek, 1874, Robertson Co.

Oldtown, 1800, Greenup Co.

Ringos Mill, 1969, Fleming Co.

Switzer, 1855, Franklin Co.

Valley Pike,1864, Mason Co.

There is possibly one other surviving covered bridge in Kentucky. It lies at the bottom of Herrington Lake near the Boyle-Garrard Co. line. It was covered by the man-made lake in1925. The bridge and mill are completely covered in fresh water and it is likely that the 175 foot bridge and mill remain intact.

# Bridges of Christian County

The State of Kentucky has approximately 90,000 miles of streams, about 37,500 miles of them flow the year 'round.  And, 13,000 bridges to get across them.

By the way, the state highway department considers that a span must be at least 20 feet long to officially be considered a bridge.

• Christian County has 175 bridges,

• 100 of them are state maintained and 75 are county maintained.

• The longest bridge in Christian County is on the Striped Bridge Road, 83 feet long, and is likely the highest bridge with the wooden floor at 30 feet above water level.

• The oldest bridge in the county is the J. P Grace bridge built in 1894. It is located on highway 1914, northeast of Crofton.

Neighboring counties:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Hopkins | 400 miles | 174 bridges (131-43) |
| Muhlenberg | 312 miles | 104 bridges (71-33) |
| Todd | 203 miles | 72 bridges (40-32) |
| Trigg | 235 miles | 66 bridges (57-9) |
| Caldwell | 235 miles | |

Christian County Highway Garage
887-4122
Chuck Chambers - Jane

State - Madisonville District
824-7080

State - Paducah District
898-2431

Alan Thoms
Geoege Crump

| | |
|---|---|
| Rain | Whitley - e |
| Snow | Clinton - nw |
| Hail | Pulaski - s |
| Frost | Greenup - n |
| Frozen Creek | Pike, Laurel, Floyd |
| Ice | Letcher - c |
| Windy | Waayne - w |
| Cyclone | Metcalfe, Monroe |
| Hurricane | Branch - Creek - Hollow - Fork |
| Thunderstruck Knob | Pulaski - s |

| | |
|---|---|
| Cold | several Cold creeks, branches, etc. |
| Cold Spring | McCracken |
| Cold Stream | Jefferson |
| Cold Weather | Pulaski |
| Cold Water | Calloway |
| Coldiron | Harlan |
| Hot Spot/Premium | Letcher |
| Hot Water Creek | Marion |

| | |
|---|---|
| Wet | a few places with wet |
| Dry | several places with dry |
| Sunrise | Harrison - ne |
| Sunshine | Harlan - sw & Greenup - n |
| Sunset | Fleming - s |
| Moon | Morgan - e |
| Star | Carter - e & Henderson - nw |
| Black Star | Harlan - sw (Alva) |
| Rainbow | Branch, Gap, Rock, Knob |

# Men's names in Kentucky/Athenaeum

18 - 126

**Brooks -** northern Bullitt and south Larue.

**Charles** - not even one, although there are several Charleys. Perhaps in honor of Charles Tilley we could point to St. Charles in neighboring Hopkins County, (SW).

**David** - in Floyd and Letcher County.

**Delbert -**

**Edward** - several branches and hollows.

**Franklin** - county seat of Simpson and Franklin Co.

**Fred** - no, but there is a **Fredericktown** in Washington Co.

**George** - no, but several branches and hollows.

**Harold** - Central Floyd Co.

**James & Jim** - no but several branches & hollows.

**John** - NW Pike County

**Kendrick** - several ridges and hollows central Menefee.

**Logan** - SE Shelby Co. and Logan Co.

**Mark** - central Pulaski Co,

**Marvin -** Marvin Chapel - eastern Carroll & central Ohio.

**Mitchell** - northern Metcalfe Co.

**Peter** - NW Meade Co. & many branches, hollows, etc.

**Scott** - Scott Co. and several neighborhoods & branches

**Terry** - several branches

**Thomas** - N. Floyd Co.

**Robert** - no, but several Roberts branches & hollows.

**Thomas** - Northern Floyd Co.

**Wendell** - no

**William** - No, but several Williams.

**Wynn** - no, but there is a bridge & ditch in Union Co and Wynns cemetery in N. Christian Co.

# Kentucky Rivers

- The **Kentucky River** is nearly 255 miles in length.
- The **Green River** is the longest river within state boundaries, 370 miles in length and drains more of Kentucky than any other Ohio River tributary.
- The **Licking River** is 320 miles long from McGoffin County to the Ohio River near Newport.
- The **Dix River** is 45 miles long.
- The **Big Sandy River** is 27 miles long and has two forks that are longer.....
  - The **Levisa Fork** of the Big Sandy is 164 miles long.
  - The **Tug Fork** of the Big Sandy is 154 miles long.
- The **Salt River** is 140 miles long.

- The **Cumberland River** orginates in the mountains of eastern Kentucky (formed by Martins Fork, Clover Fork and Poor Fork), and flows over 700 miles thru Kentucky and Tennessee. The Cumberland River forms Lake Cumberland in eastern Kentucky and Lake Barkley in western Kentucky, and emptys into the Ohio River near Smithland.

- The **Tennessee River** is 652 miles long, flowing from K noxville, Tennessee, into Alabama, back into Tennessee, into Kentucky and forms Kentucky Lake, and finally empties into the Ohio River near Paducah.

- Kentucky has two **Red Rivers**. One is in Logan and Simpson Counties and one is in eastern Kentucky.

- **Cumberland Falls** is 150 feet wide and a fall of 67 feet.
- **76 Falls** in Clinton County, is now only 38 feet high because of backwaters of Lake Cumberland.

# Kentucky Lakes

Kentucky has more than fifty man-made impoundments, mostly created for flood control, recreation and for hydro-electric power generation.

The largest lakes and their seasonal pool acres are:

1 - Lake Cumberland, 50,250

2 - Kentucky Lake, 49,511 (160,309 in Kentucky & Tennessee)

3 - Lake Barkley, 42,000 (58,000)

4 - Dale Hollow, 27,700 (Kentucky's oldest major impoundment 1943)

5 - Reelfoot Lake, 27,000 (natural lake in Kentucky & Tennessee)

6 - Barren River Lake, 110,000

7 - Cave Run Lake, 8,270

8 - Green River Lake, 8,200

9 - Nolin River Lake, 5,800

10 - Laurel River Lake, 5,600

11 - Rough River Lake, 5,100

12 - Herrington Lake, 2,335


Largest natural lakes (besides Reelfoot) are both in Ballard County:

Swan Lake, 300 acres and Shelby Lake, 100 acres.

# State Designations

Why does a state designate such things as a state bird,

a state flower, a state tree and such things?  I don't have the answer but I

can tell what they are in Kentucky.

The Kentucky Cardinal was designated as the state bird by the General

Assembly  February 17, 1926.

A month late the assembly got busy again and approved

the Goldenrod as the state flower.

Now we have....

The state tree is the Tulip Poplar  (replaced the Kentucky Coffeetree in 1994)

The state butterfly is the Viceroy,

The state wild animal is the gray squirrel,

The state fish is the bass,

The state fossil the state dead animal) is the Brachiopod,

The state gemstone is the Fresh Water Pearl,

The state song is My Old Kentucky Home,

The nickname is the Bluegrass State,

The state colors are blue and gold,

and, of course, we have a state flag and a state seal. The official state

flag was adopted in 1918 but the design was not finalized until 1928.

The flag  has a deep blue background with part of the state seal in the

center. In the center are the words *COMMONWEALTH OF*

*KENTUCKY* and *UNITED WE STAND, DIVIDED WE FALL.* On the

seal, a pioneer and a statesman are shaking hands. Goldenrod flowers

encircle the bottom half  of the seal.

# KENTUCKY PLACE NAMES #1

## MEN 182                                          WOMEN 126

| MEN | | WOMEN | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Aaron | Clinton | Abigail | Robertson |
| Adolphus | Allen | Adel | Morgan |
| Albert | Elliott | Adeline | Lawrence |
| Alex | Wayne | Agnes | Logan |
| Alexander | Kenton | Alberta | Scott-Harrison line |
| Alonzo | Allen • Floyd | Alexandria | Kenton |
| Alton | Anderson | Amelia | Knox |
| Alvin | Floyd | Anna | Warren |
| Ambrose | Jessamine | Annalee | Clark |
| Amos | Allen | | |
| Arnold | Henry • Ohio • Union | | |
| Arthur | Edmonson | | |
| Austin | Barren | | |
| | | | |
| Bart | Wayne | Bernice | Clark |
| Basil | Adair | Bethany | Jefferson • Wolfe |
| Bert | Laurel | Bethel | 5 counties |
| Bertis | Menifee | Betsey | Wayne |
| Blaine | Lawrence | Betsy Layne | Floyd |
| Blair | Harlan | Betty | Breckinridge • Knox |
| Boyd | Harrison • Powell | Beaulah | Hopkins • Hickman |
| Bradley | Magoffin | Beverly | Bell •Christian |
| Bruce | Lewis | Blanche | Bell |
| Bryan | Russell • Jefferson | Blythe | Monroe |
| | | Bonita | Woodford |
| | | Bonny | Morgan |
| Carl | Christian | | |
| Cary | Bell | Carrie | Knott |
| Cawood | Harlan | Cecilia | Hardin |
| Cecil | Marion • McCracken | Charline | Caldwell |
| Chad | Harlan | Christine | Adair |
| Charley | Lawrence | Clare | Allen |
| Chester | Calloway | Constance | Boone |
| Clarence | Pulaski | | |
| Clark | Jefferson | | |
| Clay | Webster | | |
| Cliff | Floyd | | |
| Clyde | Russell | | |
| Curt | Breathitt | | |
| Curtis | Metcalfe | | |
| | | | |
| Dale | Magoffin | Daisey | Perry |
| Dan | Menifee • Ohio | Dixie | Henderson • Magoffin |
| Dana | Floyd | | Whitley |
| David | Floyd • Letcher | Dorena | Pulaski |
| Deane | Letcher | | |
| Delmer | Pulaski | | |
| Dennis | Logan | | |
| Denny | Wayne | | |
| Denton | Carter | | |
| Dexter | Callaway | | |
| Dirk | Knox | | |
| Drew | Knox | | |

## MEN

| | |
|---|---|
| Ebenezer | Muhlenburg |
| Edgar | Floyd |
| Eli | Russell |
| Elihu | Pulaski |
| Ellis | Ohio |
| Emanuel | Knox |
| Emlyn | Whitley |
| Enoch | Lee |
| Ezra | Pendleton |
| | |
| Floyd | Pulaski |
| Franklin | Simpson |
| Fritz | Magoffin |
| | |
| Gabe | Green |
| Gilbert | Lincoln |
| Glenn | Perry |
| Gordon | Letcher |
| Graham | Muhlenburg |
| Gregory | McCreary • Wayne |
| Gus | Muhlenburg |
| | |
| Harlan | Harlan |
| Harold | Floyd |
| Harvey | Marshall |
| Henry | Daviess • Morgan |
| Herbert | Ohio |
| Herman | Union • Todd |
| Herschel | Butler |
| Hilliard | Letcher |
| Hiram | Harlan |
| Hobart | Clinton |
| Homer | Logan |
| Hosea | Leslie |
| Howard | Hardin |
| Humphrey | Casey |
| | |
| Irwin | Lewis |
| Ivan | Knox |
| | |
| Jason | Leslie • Todd |
| Jeff | Perry |
| Jeremiah | Letcher |
| John | Pike |
| Juan | Breathitt |
| Julien | Christian |
| | |
| Keith | Harlan |

## WOMEN

| | |
|---|---|
| Edna | Magoffin |
| Ella | Adair |
| Ellen | Lawrence |
| Elsie | Magoffin |
| Elva | Marshall |
| Elvira | Clark |
| Emma | Floyd |
| Emmelene | Knox |
| Essie | Leslie |
| Eunice | Adair |
| Eve | Green |
| Evelyn | Lee |
| | |
| Faith | McLean |
| Faye | Elliott |
| Florence | Boone |
| Frances | Crittenden |
| | |
| Geneva | Harlan • Lincoln |
| Gladys | Lawrence |
| Grace | Clark |
| Gracey | Christian |
| | |
| Hannah | Lawrence |
| Hazel | Calloway |
| Helene | Mason |
| Hilda | Rowan |
| | |
| Ida | Clinton |
| Ida May | Lee |
| Irma | Crittenden |
| | |
| Jean | Lawrence |
| Jonancy | Pike |
| Johnetta | Rockcastle |
| Josephine | Scott |
| Judy | Montgomery |
| | |
| Katharyn | Bullitt |

# KENTUCKY PLACE NAMES  #3

## MEN

## WOMEN

| MEN | | WOMEN | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Lee | Butler | Laura | Martin |
| Leighton | Estill | Leatha | Magoffin |
| Leon | Carroll | Letitia | Letcher |
| Leslie | Cumberland | Lida | Laurel |
| Lester | Letcher | Lillian | Perry |
| Levi | Owsley | Lily | Laurel |
| Lewis | Jackson • Lewis • Morgan | Lola | Livingston |
| Lloyd | Greenup • Lewis | Louellen | Harlan |
| Lucas | Barren | Louisa | Lawrence |
| | | Lynn | Greenup |
| | | | |
| Major | Owsley | Marion | Crittenden |
| Manuel | Perry | Martha | Lawrence |
| Marcus | Pendleton | Mary | Wolfe |
| Mark | Pulaski | Mary Alice | Harlan |
| Marshall | Mason | Mary Helen | Harlan |
| Martin | Butler • Floyd | Mattie | Lawrence |
| Mason | Graves • Magoffin | Maud | Washington |
| Matthew | Morgan | Maxine | Larue |
| Maynard | Allen | May | Knox |
| Melvin | Floyd | Mazie | Lawrence |
| Milo | Martin | Minerva | Mason |
| Milton | Trimble | Minnie | Floyd |
| | | Monica | Lee |
| Napoleon | Gallatin | Myra | Pike |
| Ned | Breathitt | Myrtle | Floyd |
| Nelson | Muhlenburg | | |
| Nero | Johnson | Nancy | Pulaski |
| Nevin | Anderson | Naomi | Pulaski |
| Newt | Green | Nell | Adair |
| Nick | Edmonson | Nina | Garrard |
| Noble | Breathitt | Nora | Clinton |
| | | | |
| Ollie | Edmonson | Olga | Russell |
| Oscar | Ballard | Olive | Marshall |
| Ovil | Christian | Olympia | Bath |
| | | | |
| Patrick | Estill • Johnson • Lawrence | Pansy | Harlan |
| Peter | McCreary | Patsy | Estill |
| Phil | Meade | Pauline | Logan |
| Plato | Casey | Phyllis | Pike |
| Price | Pulaski | Polly | Letcher |
| | Floyd | Polly Ann | Lincoln |
| | | | |
| Quinn | Lewis | | |
| Quinn | Caldwell | | |
| Quinton | Pulaski | | |

NO Q's

# KENTUCKY PLACE NAMES #4

| MEN | | WOMEN | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Ralph | Ohio | Rella | Bell |
| Randolph | Metcalfe | Rhea | Harlan |
| Ray | Edmonson | Rhoda | Edmonson |
| Raymond | Breckinridge | Roberta | Meade |
| Renfrow | Ohio | Rosetta | Breckinridge |
| Rex | Hart • Harlan | Rosslyn | Powell |
| Reynolds | Ohio | Rowena | Russell |
| Richard | Hancock | Roxana | Letcher |
| Richie | Knox | Ruth | Caldwell • Pulaski |
| Rob Roy | Ohio | | |
| Roscoe | Elliott | | |
| Ross | Campbell • Monroe | | |
| Rufus | Caldwell | | |
| Russell | Greenup • Green | | |
| Ryan | Fleming | | |
| | | Sarah | Elliott |
| | | Sonia | Perry |
| Sampson | Harlan | Sophie | Carroll |
| Saul | Perry | Stella | Calloway • Magoffin |
| Scott | Casey • Cumberland • Hickman | Susie | Wayne |
| Seth | Clark | | |
| Seymoure | Hart | | |
| Sherman | Johnson | | |
| Sidney | Pike | | |
| Stanley | Daviess | Tillie | Letcher |
| | | Tina | Knox |
| Teddy | Casey | Trixie | Clay |
| Thomas | Estsill • Floyd | Twila | Harlan |
| Trent | Wolfe | | |
| Tyler | Fulton • McCreary | | |
| Tyrone | Anderson | Ula | Pulaski |
| Ulysses | Lawrence | | |
| | | Venus | Harrison |
| | | Verda | Harlan |
| Van | Letcher | Victoria | Hopkins |
| Vernon | Monroe | Viola | Graves |
| Verne | Whitley | Virginia | Webster |
| | | Viva | Laurel |
| Waldo | Magoffin | | |
| Wallace | Woodford | | |
| Walton | Bone | | |
| Warren | Knox | | |
| Watson | Adair | | |
| Wilbur | Lawrence | Winifred | Johnson |
| Wiley | Marshall | | |
| Willard | Carroll • Leslie | | |
| Wilton | Knox | | |
| Winford | Ballard | Zelda | Lawrence |
| Winifred | Johnson | Zoe | Lee |
| Inslow | Boyd | | |
| Winston | Estill | | |
| Woodrow | Breckinridge | | |
| | | | |
| Zacahariah | Wolfe-Lee line | | |
| Zebulon | Pike | | |

## 10 Largest Counties in Area

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Pike | 786 |
| 2 | Christian | 726 |
| 3 | Pulaski | 630 |
| 4 | Hardin | 616 |
| 5 | Ohio | 596 |
| 6 | Breckinridge | 566 |
| 7 | Logan | 563 |
| 8 | Graves | 560 |
| 9 | Hopkins | 555 |
| 10 | Warren | 546 |

## 10 Largest Counties in Population

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Jefferson | 672,000 |
| 2 | Fayette | 242,000 |
| 3 | Kenton | 146,732 |
| 4 | Hardin | 91,462 |
| 5 | Daviess | 91,139 |
| 6 | Campbell | 87,400 |
| 7 | Warren | 87,323 |
| 8 | Boone | 79,700 |
| 9 | Christian | 72,500 |
| 10 | Pike | 72,121 |

## 10 Smallest Counties in Area
### (Square Miles)

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 - 120 | Gallatin | 98 |
| 2 - 119 | Robertson | 100 |
| 3 - 118 | Carroll | 131 |
| 4 - 117 | Trimble | 146 |
| 5 - 116 | Campbell | 151 |
| 6 - 115 | Boyd | 159 |
| 7 - 114 | Kenton | 165 |
| 8 - 113 | Powell | 173 |
| 9 - 112 | Jessamine | 177 |
| 10 - 111 | Boyle | 182 |

## 10 Smallest Counties in Population
(There are 23 counties under 10,000 population)

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 - 120 | Robertson | 2,209 |
| 2 - 119 | Hickman | 5,247 |
| 3 - 118 | Carlisle | 5,300 |
| 4 - 117 | Owsley | 5,404 |
| 5 - 116 | Menifee | 5,736 |
| 6 - 115 | Cumberland | 6,800 |
| 7 - 114 | Nicholas | 6,998 |
| 8 - 113 | Gallatin | 7,182 |
| 9 - 112 | Wolfe | 7,366 |
| 10 - 111 | Fulton | 7,542 |

## County Seats Under 1,000 Population

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Booneville | 241 | Owsley |
| 2 | Hyden | 365 | Leslie |
| 3 | Smithland | 385 | Livingston |
| 4 | Mt. Olivet | 393 | Robertson |
| 5 | Inez | 498 | Martin |
| 6 | Campton | 541 | Wolfe |
| 7 | Sandy Hook | 552 | Elliott |
| 8 | Frenchburg | 670 | Menifee |
| 9 | Hindman | 784 | Knott |
| 10 | Bardwell | 820 | Carlisle |
| 11 | Calhoun | 823 | McLean |
| 12 | Bedford | 881 | Trimble |
| 13 | Wickliffe | 890 | Ballard |
| 14 | New Castle | 931 | Henry |
| 15 | Brownsville | 936 | Edmonson |
| 16 | McKee | 969 | Jackson |

## Largest County Seat Population

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Louisville | 700,000 | Jefferson |
| 2 | Lexington | 262,000 | Fayette |
| 3 | Owensboro | 54,350 | Daviess |
| 4 | Bowling Green | 49,000 | Warren |
| 5 | Hopkinsville | 33,000 | Christian |
| 6 | Frankfort | 27,000 | Franklin |
| 7 | Paducah | 26,601 | McCracken |
| 8 | Richmond | 29,000 | Madison |
| 9 | Henderson | 26,600 | Henderson |
| 10 | Elizabethtown | 19,500 | Hardin |

| County | Date of Creation | Area Sq.Miles | Population | County Seat | Population | Other Info |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Adair | 1801 | 400 | 16,500 | Columbia | 4,097 | |
| Allen | 1815 | 394 | 16,600 | Scottsville | 4,653 | |
| Anderson | 1827 | 201 | 18,600 | Lawrenceburg | 7,593 | |
| | | | | | | |
| Ballard | 1842 | 251 | 8,500 | Wickliffe | 890 | |
| Barren | 1798 | 485 | 37,000 | Glasgow | 13,739 | |
| Bath | 1811 | 270 | 10,600 | Owingsville | 1,501 | |
| Bell | 1867 | 384 | 29,200 | Pineville | 1,557 | |
| Boone | 1798 | 251 | 79,700 | Burlington | 6,070 | |
| Bourbon | 1785 | 304 | 19,400 | Paris | 8,788 | |
| Boyd | 1860 | 159 | 49,600 | Catlettsburg | 2,119 | |
| Boyle | 1842 | 186 | 27,200 | Danville | 16,059 | |
| Bracken | 1796 | 204 | 8,500 | Brooksville | 1,299 | |
| Breathitt | 1839 | 483 | 15,700 | Jackson | 2,519 | |
| Breckinridge | 1799 | 568 | 17,500 | Hardinsburg | 2,134 | |
| Bullitt | 1796 | 308 | 59,300 | Sheperdsville | 4,661 | |
| Butler | 1810 | 417 | 11,900 | Morgantown | 2,483 | |
| | | | | | | |
| Caldwell | 1809 | 322 | 13,300 | Princeton | 6,929 | |
| Calloway | 1822 | 412 | 33,478 | Murray | 15,316 | |
| Campbell | 1794 | 145 | 87,400 | Alexandria | 7,158 | |
| Carlisle | 1886 | 198 | 5,300 | Bardwell | 820 | |
| Carroll | 1838 | 132 | 9,600 | Carrollton | 3,639 | |
| Carter | 1838 | 413 | 26,850 | Grayson | 4014 | |
| Casey | 1806 | 379 | 14,800 | Liberty | 1,971 | |
| Christian | 1796 | 725 | 72,500 | Hopkinsville | 33,000 | |
| Clark | 1792 | 265 | 32,000 | Winchester | 16,021 | |
| Clay | 1806 | 478 | 22,800 | Manchester | 1,795 | |
| Clinton | 1835 | 233 | 9,350 | Albany | 2,166 | |
| Crittenden | 1842 | 391 | 9,600 | Marion | 3,385 | |
| Cumberland | 1798 | 387 | 6,800 | Burkesville | 1,890 | |
| | | | | | | |
| Daviess | 1815 | 478 | 91,139 | Owensboro | 54,350 | |
| | | | | | | |
| Edmonson | 1825 | 308 | 11,350 | Brownsville | 936 | |
| Elliott | 1869 | 263 | 6,600 | Sandy Hook | 552 | |
| Estill | 1808 | 254 | 15,600 | Irvine | 2,961 | |
| | | | | | | |
| Fayette | 1780 | 269 | 242,000 | Lexington | 240,000 | |
| Fleming | 1798 | 325 | 13,400 | Flemingsburg | 3,246 | |
| Floyd | 1799 | 399 | 43,300 | Prestonsburg | 3,654 | |
| Franklin | 1794 | 199 | 46,900 | Frankfort | 26,695 | |
| Fulton | 1843 | 193 | 7,542 | Hickman | 2,600 | |
| | | | | | | |
| Gallatin | 1798 | 109 | 7,182 | Warsaw | 1,591 | |
| Garrard | 1796 | 237 | 13,916 | Lancaster | 3,991 | |
| Grant | 1820 | 264 | 20,300 | Williamstown | 3,480 | |
| Graves | 1823 | 551 | 35,850 | Mayfield | 10,343 | |
| Grayson | 1810 | 497 | 23,763 | Leitchfield | 5,308 | |
| Green | 1792 | 279 | 10,650 | Greensburg | 2,035 | |
| Greenup | 1803 | 346 | 36,874 | Greenup | 1,130 | |

| County | Date of Creation | Area Sq.Miles | Population | County Seat | Population | Other Info |
|--------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Hancock | 1829 | 193 | 8,941 | Hawesville | 1,132 | |
| Hardin | 1792 | 606 | 91,462 | Elizabethtown | 19,434 | |
| Harlan | 1819 | 478 | 34,950 | Harlan | 2,420 | |
| Harrison | 1793 | 311 | 17,565 | Cynthiana | 6,399 | |
| Hart | 1819 | 430 | 16,738 | Munfordville | 1,628 | |
| Henderson | 1798 | 435 | 44,457 | Henderson | 24,456 | |
| Henry | 1798 | 303 | 14,765 | New Castle | 931 | |
| Hickman | 1821 | 225 | 5,247 | Clinton | 1,471 | |
| Hopkins | 1806 | 546 | 46,364 | Madisonville | 19,059 | |
| | | | | | | |
| Jackson | 1858 | 333 | 12,908 | McKee | 969 | |
| Jefferson | 1780 | 387 | 672,104 | Louisville | 262,000 | |
| Jessamine | 1798 | 172 | 36,533 | Nicholasville | 16,603 | |
| Johnson | 1843 | 268 | 24,022 | Paintsville | 4,476 | |
| | | | | | | |
| Kenton | 1840 | 163 | 146,732 | Independence | 12,567 | |
| Knott | 1844 | 348 | 17,989 | Hindman | 784 | |
| Knox | 1799 | 356 | 31,890 | Barbourville | 3,948 | |
| | | | | | | |
| Larue | 1843 | 288 | 13,058 | Hodgenville | 2,935 | |
| Laurel | 1825 | 447 | 50,734 | London | 6,797 | |
| Lawrence | 1825 | 422 | 15,647 | Louisa | 2,067 | |
| Lee | 1870 | 199 | 8,021 | Beattyville | 1,558 | |
| Leslie | 1878 | 373 | 13,582 | Hyden | 365 | |
| Letcher | 1842 | 355 | 26,185 | Whitesburg | 1,489 | |
| Lewis | 1806 | 491 | 13,584 | Vanceburg | 1,731 | |
| Lincoln | 1780 | 338 | 22,367 | Stanford | 2,971 | |
| Livingston | 1798 | 392 | 9,432 | Smithland | 385 | |
| Logan | 1792 | 643 | 26,145 | Russellville | 7,851 | |
| Lyon | 1854 | 277 | 8,052 | Eddyville | 2,375 | |
| | | | | | | |
| McCracken | 1824 | 239 | 64,460 | Paducah | 26,601 | |
| McCreary | 1912 | 406 | 16,659 | Whitley City | 1,133 | |
| McLean | 1854 | 253 | 9,845 | Calhoun | 823 | |
| Madison | 1785 | 446 | 66,502 | Richmond | 26,227 | |
| Magoffin | 1860 | 302 | 13,638 | Salyersville | 1,962 | |
| Marion | 1834 | 345 | 17,018 | Lebanon | 5,744 | |
| Marshall | 1842 | 327 | 30,312 | Benton | 3,997 | |
| Martin | 1870 | 227 | 12,120 | Inez | 498 | |
| Mason | 1788 | 227 | 17,021 | Maysville | 8,417 | |
| Meade | 1823 | 301 | 28,809 | Brandenburg | 2,155 | |
| Menifee | 1869 | 203 | 5,736 | Frenchburg | 670 | |
| Mercer | 1785 | 253 | 20,704 | Harrodsburg | 7,768 | |
| Mercalfe | 1860 | 303 | 9,561 | Edmonton | 1,533 | |
| Monroe | 1820 | 441 | 11,201 | Tompkinsville | 2,827 | |
| Montgomery | 1796 | 198 | 20,932 | Mt. Sterling | 5,332 | |
| Morgan | 1822 | 365 | 13,559 | West Liberty | 2,904 | |
| Muhlenberg | 1798 | 472 | 32,173 | Greenville | 4,573 | |
| | | | | | | |
| Nelson | 1784 | 411 | 35,884 | Bardstown | 7,594 | |
| Nicholas | 1800 | 208 | 6,998 | Carlisle | 1,691 | |
| | | | | | | |
| Ohio | 1798 | 584 | 22,005 | Hartford | 2,516 | |
| Oldham | 1823 | 180 | 44,395 | La Grange | 5,040 | |
| Owen | 1819 | 367 | 10,264 | Owenton | 1,467 | |
| Owsley | 1843 | 216 | 5,404 | Booneville | 241 | |

| County | Date of Creation | Area Sq.Miles | Population | County Seat | Population | Other Info |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Pendleton | 1798 | 279 | 13,170 | Falmouth | 2,642 | |
| Perry | 1820 | 335 | 31,049 | Hazard | 5,540 | |
| Pike | 1821 | 779 | 72,121 | Pikeville | 63,76 | |
| Powell | 1852 | 181 | 12,945 | Stanton | 2,984 | |
| Pulaski | 1798 | 628 | 56,294 | Somerset | 12,236 | |
| Robertson | 1869 | 109 | 2,209 | Mt. Olivet | 393 | |
| Rockcastle | 1810 | 310 | 15,951 | Mount Vernon | 2,607 | |
| Rowan | 1856 | 272 | 22,196 | Morehead | 8,730 | |
| Russell | 1825 | 329 | 16,233 | Jamestown | 1,771 | |
| Scott | 1792 | 289 | 30,685 | Georgetown | 13,614 | |
| Shelby | 1792 | 427 | 29,583 | Shelbyville | 6,954 | |
| Simpson | 1819 | 216 | 16,401 | Franklin | 7,240 | |
| Spencer | 1824 | 186 | 9,660 | Taylorsville | 1,030 | |
| Taylor | 1848 | 279 | 22,943 | Campbellsville | 10,666 | |
| Todd | 1819 | 367 | 11,222 | Elkton | 1,782 | |
| Trigg | 1820 | 428 | 12,399 | Cadiz | 2,493 | |
| Trimble | 1836 | 154 | 7,621 | Bedford | 881 | |
| Union | 1811 | 325 | 16,577 | Morganfield | 3,714 | |
| Warren | 1796 | 530 | 87,323 | Bowling Green | 44,208 | |
| Washington | 1792 | 299 | 10,918 | Springfield | 2,926 | |
| Wayne | 1800 | 478 | 19,107 | Monticello | 5,630 | |
| Webster | 1860 | 344 | 13,482 | Dixon | 542 | |
| Whitley | 1818 | 442 | 35,938 | Williamsburg | 5,960 | |
| Wolfe | 1860 | 230 | 7,366 | Campton | 541 | |
| Woodford | 1788 | 195 | 22,830 | Versailles | 6,882 | |

Kentucky was once a county of Virginia. On June 30, 1780, the legislature of the Commonwealth of Virginia passed a law creating the three counties of Jefferson, Fayette and Lincoln. The first was named for the governor of Virginia, Thomas Jefferson. Fayette was named for the young French General LaFayette, who was only 23 years old at the time. The third was named for General Benjamin Lincoln, one of General George Washington's chief generals and who received the sword of surrender from the British at Yorktown in 1781.
The County seats were: Louisville, Lexington and St. Asaph (now Stanford).

When Kentucky became a state in 1792 there were 9 counties: Jefferson, Fayette, Lincoln, Mercer, Mason, Madison, Bourbon, Woodford and Nelson—plus the far western Indian Lands known as the Jackson Purchase.

Of Kentucky's 120 counties:
41 were established between 1792-1799.
78 were established between 1800-1899.
Only 1, was established after 1900, McCreary in 1912.