# KENTUCKY'S CIVIL WAR HERITAGE GUIDE

## SESQUICENTENNIAL

Pulitzer-Prize winning historian Dr. James M. McPherson summarized Kentucky's role during the American Civil War (1861-1865):

> *"It is scarcely an exaggeration to say that the Confederacy would have won the war if it could have gained Kentucky," McPherson writes, "and, conversely, that the Union's success in retaining Kentucky as a base for invasions of the Confederate heartland brought eventual Union victory."*

When planning for Kentucky's observance of the 150th anniversary of the Civil War, Kentucky Governor Steve Beshear said, "This will be a four-year commemoration and not a celebration. We don't want to glorify war. We want to remember the Kentuckians who fought and died in the conflict, the suffering of its people and the changes brought by the war, especially the freedom of African-American slaves."

Today, through the development of more and better visitor opportunities in a combination of heritage tourism, education, events and activities, Kentucky is highlighting the Bluegrass State's importance during America's most significant conflict. Kentucky offers a great combination of venues for exploring Civil War history including libraries, museums, historic sites, and more which are sponsoring presentations, living history demonstrations, reenactments, and a host of other programs and events to showcase the state's unique Civil War history.

Kentucky's Civil War sites are varied and nationally important. They include significant battlefields like Sacramento, Mill Springs, Camp Wildcat, Richmond, Munfordville, Perryville, and more; well-interpreted historic sites and house museums like Kentucky's Old State Capitol, the Kentucky Military History Museum at the State Arsenal, Camp Nelson, White Hall, and Farmington; the Jefferson Davis Birthplace and important sites related to Lincoln, including the Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historical Park, Ashland: the Henry Clay Estate, the Mary Todd Lincoln House, and more.

All of these sites can be explored through the Kentucky Civil War Heritage Trails, which has comprehensively linked more than 50 of Kentucky's interpreted Civil War sites for the first time. Visitors now have the opportunity to more easily explore the commonwealth's important Civil War past, and by experiencing these sites, visitors can better understand Kentucky's importance to our nation's Civil War history.

Visit these websites for more information:

*Kentucky Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission*

*Kentucky Civil War Sites Association*
kycivilwarsites.org

*Kentucky Military Heritage*
heritage.ky.gov/milsites.htm

# Kentucky Civil War Heritage Trails Sites

**Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site**
2996 Lincoln Farm Road, Hodgenville
(270) 358-3137
nps.gov/abli

**Ashland, The Henry Clay Estate**
120 Sycamore Road, Lexington
(859) 266-8581
henryclay.org

**Battle of Ivy Mountain**
Prestonsburg Convention & Visitors Bureau
113 South Central Ave., Prestonsburg
(606) 886-1341

**Battle of Richmond**
101 Battlefield Memorial Highway, Richmond
(859) 624-0013
battleofrichmond.org

**Battle of Sacramento**
Sacramento
(270) 736-5114
battleofsac.com

**Battles of Cynthiana**
Cynthiana City Hall
117 Court Street, Cynthiana
(859) 234-7153

**Camp Nelson Heritage Park**
6614 Danville Road, Nicholasville
(859) 881-5716
campnelson.org

**Camp Wildcat**
(606) 864-9776
wildcatreenactment.org

**Cave Hill Cemetery, Lincoln Memorial at Waterfront Park**
Louisville Convention & Visitors Bureau
One Riverfront Plaza,
401 W Main Street, Suite 2300, Louisville
(502) 584-2121
gotolouisville.com

**Civil War Fort at Boonesboro**
Winchester-Clark County Tourism Commission
2 South Maple Street, Winchester
(859) 744-0556
civilwarfortatboonesboro.com

**Columbus-Belmont State Park**
350 Park Road, Columbus
(270) 677-2327
parks.ky.gov

**Cumberland Gap National Historical Park**
91 Bartlett Park Road, Middlesboro
(606) 248-2817
nps.gov/cuga

**Farmington Historic Plantation**
3033 Bardstown Road, Louisville
(502) 452-9920

**Fort Duffield**
16706 Abbott's Beach Road, West Point
fortduffield.com

**Fort Heiman** (part of )
Fort Donaldson National Battlefield, Murray
(931) 232-5706
nps.gov/fodo

**Fort Hill**
c/o Capital City Museum
325 Ann Street, Frankfort
(502) 696-0607

**Fort Smith**
Smithland
(270) 928-2919

**Frankfort Cemetery**
Frankfort/Franklin County Tourist & Convention Commission
100 Capital Avenue, Frankfort
(800) 960-7200
visitfrankfort.com

**Frazier History Museum**
829 West Main Street, Louisville
(502) 753-5663
fraziermuseum.org

**Green Hill Cemetery**
Frankfort/Franklin County Tourist & Convention Commission
100 Capitol Ave, Frankfort
(502) 875-8687
visitfrankfort.com

**Hardin County History Museum**
201 West Dixie Ave., Elizabethtown
(270) 763-8339
hardinkyhistory.org

**Hunt Morgan House**
Bluegrass Trust for Historic Preservation
253 Market Street, Lexington
(859) 253-0362
bluegrasstrust.org/
hunt-morgan.html

**James A. Ramage Civil War Museum/Battery Hooper**
Fort Wright City Hall
1402 Highland Avenue, Ft. Wright
(859) 344-1145

**Jefferson Davis State Historic Site**
258 Pembroke-Fairview Rd., Fairview
(270) 889-6100
parks.ky.gov

**Lexington History Museum**
215 W. Main Street, Lexington
(859) 254-0530
lexingtonhistorymuseum.org

**Lincoln Homestead State Park**
5079 Lincoln Park Road, Springfield
(859) 336-7461
parks.ky.gov

**Lincoln Memorial at Waterfront Park**
Louisville Waterfront Development Corporation
129 East River Road, Louisville
(502) 574-3768
gotolouisville.com

**Lincoln Statue**
Springfield Kentucky Tourism Commission
127 W. Main Street, Springfield
(859) 336-5440
seespringfieldky.com

**Lincoln Statues**
City of Hodgenville
200 S. Lincoln Blvd., Hodgenville
(270) 358-3832

**Lloyd Tilghman House and Civil War Museum**
121 South Second St., Paducah
(270) 443-7759

**Mammoth Cave National Park**
1 Mammoth Cave Pkwy., Mammoth Cave
(270) 758-2180
nps.gov/maca

**Mary Todd Lincoln House**
578 West Main St., Lexington
(859) 233-9999
mtlhouse.org

**Middle Creek National Battlefield**
Prestonsburg
middlecreek.org/foundation.htm

# Kentucky Civil War Heritage Trails Sites

**Mill Springs Battlefield**
**Association**
Nancy
(606) 636-4045
millsprings.net

**Battle for the Bridge**
**Historic Preserve**
449 Charlie Dowling Road,
Munfordville
(270) 774-2098
battleforthebridge.org

**National Underground**
**Railroad Museum**
38 West Fourth Street, Maysville
(606) 564-3200
bierbower.org

**Old Bardstown Village**
**Civil War Museum**
310 E. Broadway, Bardstown
(502) 349-0291
civil-war-museum.org

**Old Fort Harrod State Park**
100 South College Street,
Harrodsburg
(859) 734-3314
parks.ky.gov

**Old State Arsenal**
Thomas D. Clark Center
for Kentucky History
100 W. Broadway Street, Frankfort
(502) 564-1792
history.ky.gov

**Old State Capitol**
Thomas D. Clark Center
for Kentucky History
101 W. Broadway Street, Frankfort
(502) 564-1792
history.ky.gov

**Perryville Battlefield**
**State Historic Site**
1825 Battlefield Road, Perryville
(859) 332-8631
perryvillebattlefield.org

**Riverview at Hobson Grove**
Bowling Green Area
Convention & Visitors Bureau
352 Three Springs Road,
Bowling Green
(800) 326-7465
bgky.org/riverview

**Shaker Village at Pleasant Hill**
3501 Lexington Road,
Harrodsburg
(859) 734-5411
shakervillageky.org

**Spalding Hall**
Bardstown-Nelson County
Tourist & Convention
Commission
One Court Square, Bardstown
(502) 348-4877
whiskeymuseum.com

**State Capitol Rotunda**
Capitol Avenue, Frankfort
(502) 564-0900
historicproperties.ky.gov/hp/
capitol

**Tebbs Bend Battlefield**
2218 Tebbs Bend Road,
Campbellsville
(270) 789-3025
tebbsbend.com

**The Lexington Cemetery**
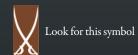833 West Main Street, Lexington
(859) 255-5522

**The Lincoln Museum**
66 Lincoln Sq., Hodgenville
(270) 358-3163
lincolnmuseum-ky.org

**Thomas D. Clark Center**
**for Kentucky History**
100 W. Broadway, Frankfort
(502) 564-1792
history.ky.gov

**Waveland State Historic Site**
225 Waveland Museum Lane,
Lexington
(859) 272-3611
parks.ky.gov

**White Hall State Historic Site**
500 White Hall Shrine Road,
Richmond
(859) 623-9178
parks.ky.gov

**Women of the Civil War Museum**
310 E. Broadway, Bardstown
(502) 349-0291
civil-war-museum.org

 Look for this symbol

# Abraham Lincoln

Although it could have been a mere footnote in the biography of a most acclaimed individual in our nation's history, Kentucky was much more than that in the life of Abraham Lincoln.
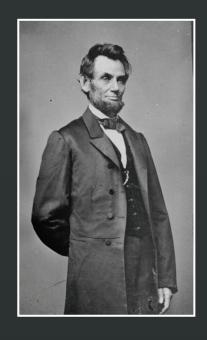
Born February 12, 1809 in a log cabin at Sinking Spring near Hodgenville, Kentucky, Mr. Lincoln's humble beginnings became a symbol of the potential and opportunity that America offers its citizens, even today. And as he grew into adulthood, Lincoln's Kentucky connections were extensive. His family, business, and political associations were closely aligned to the commonwealth, and Kentuckians influenced Lincoln throughout his life.

As a child, Lincoln moved to Indiana with his family, and eventually to Illinois. It was there Lincoln met his wife, Mary Todd, who was from Lexington.

After practicing law for several years, Lincoln became a state legislator and served in the U.S. Congress. During these years, the country grew further apart as a result of differences in politics, policy and the practice of slavery and moved closer toward a civil war. When Lincoln was elected president in 1860, southern states quickly began seceding, and secession soon led to the Civil War - violent and bloody.
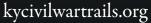
As Lincoln led the Union through its greatest conflict, he was not personally spared its consequences. His family experienced the divisions of war firsthand as several of his wife's brothers, his in-laws, fought for the Confederacy – some even killed during the war. And on April 14, 1865, as the Civil War drew to a close, Lincoln was assassinated at Ford's Theater in Washington, D.C.

Today, Kentucky commemorates Lincoln's life and legacy at a number of sites open to visitors.

For more information, visit:

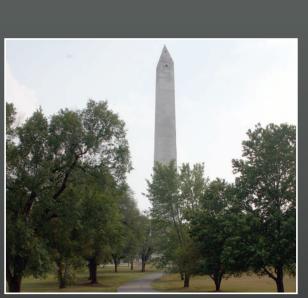kycivilwartrails.org          kylincolntrail.com

# Jefferson Davis

The uniqueness of Kentucky's Civil War experience is showcased by the fact that both President Lincoln and Jefferson Davis, the president of the Confederacy, were born less than one year and one hundred miles apart – both in Kentucky. Since Kentucky produced the Civil War's warring presidents, it is emblematic of the divisions that tore apart our nation during the conflict.
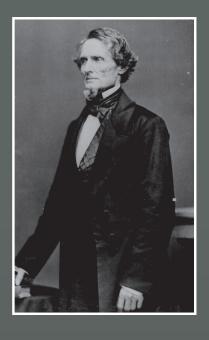
Davis was born at Fairview, Kentucky (in present-day Todd County), on June 3, 1808. Although his family moved to Mississippi shortly after, Jefferson received his education at Springfield, Kentucky, and later Transylvania University in Lexington before he entered the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. Davis ultimately became a planter in Mississippi, fought in the Mexican War, was a U.S. congressman and senator, and served as U.S. Secretary of War.

After Mississippi seceded from the Union, Davis resigned from the U.S. Senate. On February 9, 1861, he was appointed President of the Confederate States of America. The only president of the Confederacy, Davis' relationship with the Confederate Congress and his generals in the field was sometimes contentious. When Richmond fell at war's end, he fled the Confederate capital, was captured in Georgia, and was imprisoned for nearly two years.

After the war, Davis owned a large plantation near Biloxi, Mississippi. He died on December 6, 1889, and is now buried in Richmond, Virginia. Davis' life can be further explored at the Jefferson Davis Birthplace State Historic Site at Fairview.

Jefferson Davis Birthplace State Historic Site

# USCT/Camp Nelson

Camp Nelson Civil War site served as a Union military base and recruiting ground for African-American Union soldiers. It was the largest African-American recruitment camp in Kentucky, and the third largest in the nation.

The original base, named in honor of Kentucky-born General William "Bull" Nelson, encompassed four thousand acres, and contained nearly three hundred buildings and fortifications. It served as an important base of support for offensive campaigns into Tennessee and Virginia, and its location along the palisades (cliffs) of the Kentucky River made it an ideal defensive position.

Because Kentucky did not secede from the Union but was a slave state, the Emancipation Proclamation did not legally affect slavery here. President Abraham Lincoln attempted to persuade Kentuckians to support the enlistment of free blacks into the Union Army, but initially the policy was rejected.

One Kentucky Union general told the president that African-American recruitment "will revolutionize the state and do infinite and inconceivable harm." President Lincoln realized that the mere sight of African-Americans in uniform was an experience that would affect the war and forever change the nation. He wrote that, "The bare sight of fifty thousand armed and drilled black soldiers on the banks of the Mississippi would end the rebellion at once."

Despite complaints, the enlistment of United States Colored Troops (USCT)—both slave and free—began in earnest in February 1864.

In all, eight regiments of black troops were organized at Camp Nelson, many of whom gained their freedom upon enlistment. This self-emancipation was dangerous. In one instance, as a group of potential recruits marched toward the camp, angry residents shot at them and pelted them with stones. Eventually, more than 23,700 African-American Kentuckians joined the Union army. Of all states, only Louisiana enlisted more troops into the USCT.

Recruits who traveled to Camp Nelson often brought their families, and soon a refugee crisis developed. The refugees, women and children, had no legal status, no legal freedom, and Camp Nelson was not legally responsible to provide for them. Sadly, one winter night in November of 1864, Union Camp commanders forced refugee families away from the area. Dozens of women and children died as a result. This created a national outcry, and the camp's leaders were ordered to make adequate provisions including building proper shelters for the families of enlisted men.

Today, Camp Nelson Heritage Park features a museum, research library, and nearly four miles of interpreted walking trails. The Oliver Perry House, also known as the "White House," has period furnishings and offers guided tours. The Camp Nelson National Cemetery, where hundreds of Civil War casualties are buried, is immediately south of the Civil War site.

Visit campnelson.org for more information.



Photo Courtesy of Camp Nelson Heritage Park

# Battle of Mill Springs

The Battle of Mill Springs, fought on January 19, 1862, was an early Union victory that helped break a Confederate defensive line that spanned across southern Kentucky.

With Confederate troops entrenched at Beech Grove, located along the Cumberland River southwest of Somerset, Union Brigadier General George Thomas moved his four thousand soldiers to Logan's Crossroads, ten miles north of the rebel position. The Confederates, hoping to strike Thomas before he was reinforced, decided to attack.

The day was rainy and foggy and Union forces were initially pushed back. The Federals, however, managed to stabilize their lines, and Confederate hopes for a victory faded when Confederate Gen. Felix Zollicoffer was killed. The Confederates' antiquated flintlock muskets failed to fire because of the rain, and after a Union bayonet charge against the rebels' left flank, the Confederates were driven from the field.

The Confederates, who lost more than 500 troops killed and wounded, crossed the Cumberland River and left Kentucky. Their failure at Mill Springs—also called the Battle of Fishing Creek, Logan's Crossroads, and Beech Grove—was an early turning point in the Civil War. It was also one of the Union army's first major victories.

Today, this important battle is interpreted at the Mill Springs Battlefield Visitors Center and Museum in Nancy, Kentucky. The site also includes monuments, a walking tour, a driving tour, and more.

Visit millsprings.net for more information.

Mill Springs Battlefield Visitor Center & Museum

# A House Divided

The Civil War in Kentucky was a fratricidal conflict that broke up thousands of Kentucky families, including that of President Abraham Lincoln.

Although Lincoln was the Union commander-in-chief, most of his in-laws, the Todd family of Lexington, supported the Confederacy. Lincoln's brother-in-law, Confederate General Ben Hardin Helm, was killed at the Battle of Chickamauga in September 1863. Upon learning of Helm's death, Lincoln reputedly wept and said, "I feel as David of old did when he was told of the death of Absalom."

Mary Lincoln lost several family members during the war, including her half-brother, Samuel, who was killed at the Battle of Shiloh, Tennessee, and another half-brother, Alexander, who was killed at the Battle of New Orleans. Several more of her siblings were Confederate soldiers or sympathizers.

In addition to the Lincolns, many other families suffered as well.

U. S. Senator John J. Crittenden had one son who was a Union general and another who was a Confederate general. Union Colonel Charles Hanson had two brothers fight for the Confederacy, including Brigadier General Roger Hanson, who was mortally wounded at the Battle of Stones River, Tennessee. The Reverend Robert J. Breckinridge, a staunch Unionist who helped sway Federal military policy in Kentucky, had two sons fight for the North and two fight for the South.

These scenarios were repeated in scores of Kentucky families as few families were immune from the divisions of the Civil War.

The Thomas D. Clark Center for Kentucky History is a great place to find out more about Kentucky families during the Civil War conflict.

Visit history.ky.gov for more information.

# Morgan's Raids

During the Civil War, one of Kentucky's most controversial individuals was Confederate cavalryman John Hunt Morgan. Although he was born in Huntsville, Alabama, Morgan was raised in Lexington, Kentucky. A Mexican War veteran, he was also a successful businessman and community leader.

When the Civil War erupted, Morgan joined the Confederacy and quickly earned a reputation for raiding Union supplies and railroad lines. His actions kept Federal troops guarding bridges and depots, rather than fighting with the main armies.
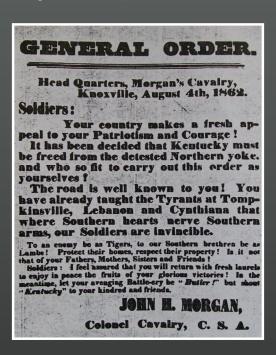
In July 1862, Morgan led 800 men on his first raid into Kentucky. As the raiders captured troops and destroyed supplies, Union authorities grew panicked. President Abraham Lincoln complained, "They are having a stampede in Kentucky. Please look to it!" In 24 days, Morgan's men rode more than 1,000 miles, captured and paroled 1,200 Union troops, and destroyed large amounts of Federal property. He lost fewer than 100 men.

When Confederate armies entered Kentucky in the autumn of 1862, Morgan joined them. During this campaign he rode into his hometown of Lexington. Pro-Confederate ladies greeted him with ringing church bells, banners, and flags. One Unionist resident, however, called Morgan's men "A nasty, dirty looking set . . ."

In December 1862, with Confederate armies pressing near Murfreesboro, Tennessee, Morgan again raided Kentucky. In what became known as the "Christmas Raid," his 4,000 troopers destroyed railroad lines and captured several Kentucky towns. His soldiers captured 1,887 Union prisoners, destroyed $2,000,000 in Federal property, and lost only two men killed and 24 wounded. That May, the Confederate Congress thanked Morgan for "varied, heroic and invaluable services in Tennessee and Kentucky . . ."

In July 1863, with Union troops threatening the vital railroad junction of Chattanooga, Morgan again entered Kentucky to strike Federal supply lines. After fighting at Tebbs Bend and Lebanon (where his younger brother was killed), Morgan disobeyed orders to stay in Kentucky and crossed the Ohio River into Indiana. He quickly rode into Ohio, where his men were chased by Union soldiers. Ultimately, Morgan and most of the Confederates were captured.

Although Morgan was imprisoned in the Ohio State Penitentiary, he eventually made a daring escape. Upon his return to Confederate lines, he led troops in East Tennessee. In September 1864, he was shot and killed in Greeneville, Tennessee. He now lies buried in the Lexington Cemetery.
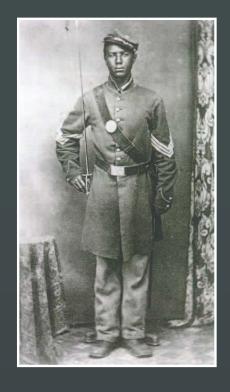
# Ultimately... Honor

The Kentucky Historical Society's Historical Marker program commemorates many people and events that contributed to the commonwealth's Civil War history. Historical Marker # 2107 in Lyon County (Land Between the Lakes area) commemorates Andrew Jackson Smith, an enslaved African-American who fought in the Civil War and earned the Medal of Honor.
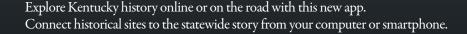
Born into slavery in Lyon County on Sept. 3, 1843, Smith escaped to Smithland, Kentucky at age 19, where he became a servant to an officer in the 41st Illinois Infantry Regiment. At the Battle of Shiloh, Tennessee, fought in April 1862, Smith was wounded while accompanying that officer.

While Smith recovered from his injury, he learned that African-Americans could join the Union army. So, in May 1863, he enlisted in the 55th Massachusetts Colored Infantry.

On Nov. 30, 1864, while fighting at the Battle of Honey Hill, S.C., Smith saved the regimental flag when the color-bearer was killed by an artillery shell. He bravely carried the colors for the remainder of the engagement. The 55th Massachusetts suffered heavily in the battle, and, for his actions, Smith was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor in 2001.

Smith died in 1932 and was buried in Mt. Pleasant Cemetery at Grand Rivers, Kentucky, in Livingston County. He well-represents thousands of enslaved Kentuckians who found their freedom by joining the Union army during the Civil War.
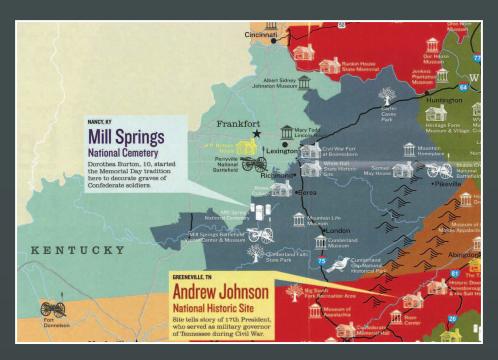
Explore Kentucky history online or on the road with this new app.
Connect historical sites to the statewide story from your computer or smartphone.

explorekyhistory.ky.gov

# Civil War: The Home Front



Within the rolling hills of Appalachia, compelling stories of bravery and strength wait to be discovered.

Kentucky has partnered with the Appalachian Regional Commission and member states of the ARC Tourism Advisory Council to bring you "Civil War: The Home Front" a story guide about the Civil War in Appalachia.

Learn about the resilient Appalachian spirit during the U.S. Civil War by visiting heritage farms, restored homes and historic downtowns, national parks and memorials, and history museums. Experience the people, places and events in Kentucky and other parts of Appalachia that shaped this pivotal era in American history.

To find out more about "Civil War: The Home Front" and the exciting destinations waiting for you, visit:



VisitAppalachia.com/visit.php

To learn more about Kentucky's Appalachian destinations,
go to VisitAppalachia.com

# Timeline of Notable Events

## 1860

*November 6,* Kentuckian Abraham Lincoln is elected 16th President of the United States.

*December 20,* South Carolina secedes from the Union. In January 1861, ten other states follow.

## 1861

*February 9,* Kentuckian Jefferson Davis is elected as the first President of the Confederate States of America.

*April 12,* Confederates open fire on Fort Sumter, at 4:30 a.m., commencing the Civil War. Kentuckian Major Robert Anderson surrenders the garrison the next day at 2:30 p.m.

*September 6,* Union troops under the command of General Grant move into Paducah and Smithland.

*September 18,* Kentucky's Pro Union legislature calls for the expulsion of the Confederates and gives command of the state volunteers to now General Robert Anderson, who won his fame by defending Fort Sumter.

*September 19,* The first engagement of the war in Kentucky occurs at Barbourville.

*October 21,* To counter the Confederate victory at Barbourville, federal forces repel an attack on Wildcat Mountain in Laurel County.

*November 18,* Some 115 delegates from 68 counties assemble in Russellville to establish the Provisional Government of Kentucky, and Bowling Green is designated as the capital. Kentucky's Confederate government remains in exile during the majority of the war.

## 1862

*July 4,* Confederate General John Hunt Morgan leads 875 officers and men westward from Knoxville on his first major raid into Kentucky.

*August 29,* The Confederate offensive into Kentucky encounters Union troops as they move north from Big Hill to Richmond.

*September 17,* Confederate forces commanded by General Robert E. Lee and Union forces commanded by General George McClellan meet at Antietam near Sharpsburg, Maryland, in the single bloodiest day of the war.

*October 8,* Fighting north from the Cumberland Gap, as part of the 1862 "Kentucky Campaign," General E. Kirby Smith controls much of central Kentucky. While General Braxton Bragg, thwarted in his efforts to capture Louisville by Union General Don Carlos Buell, moves into central Kentucky to link the two armies.

*October 8,* At Perryville, during the largest battle fought in Kentucky and one of the bloodiest battles of the war, 4,200 Union and 3,400 Confederate troops were wounded or killed.

*December 22,* General John Hunt Morgan and 3,100 men cross the Cumberland River. This highly successful, 12-day adventure became known as Morgan's "Christmas Raid."

## 1863

*January 1,* On this date, President Lincoln enacts the Emancipation Proclamation.

## 1864

*November 8,* President Abraham Lincoln is reelected. His Vice President is Andrew Johnson of Tennessee.

## 1865

*April 9,* General Robert E. Lee surrenders the once great army of Virginia to General Grant at Appomattox Court House.

*April 14,* 1865 John Wilkes Booth mortally wounds President Abraham Lincoln. Lincoln dies the following morning and Andrew Johnson is sworn in as the 17th President of the United States.

*December 18,* The Secretary of State announces the ratification of the 13th Amendment to the United States Constitution, officially abolishing slavery.

# Kentucky Civil War Heritage Trails Sites

**Abraham Lincoln Birthplace**
**National Historic Site**
2996 Lincoln Farm Road,
Hodgenville
(270) 358-3137
nps.gov/abli

**Ashland, The Henry Clay Estate**
120 Sycamore Road, Lexington
(859) 266-8581
henryclay.org

**Battle of Ivy Mountain**
Prestonsburg Convention
& Visitors Bureau
113 South Central Ave.,
Prestonsburg
(606) 886-1341

**Battle of Richmond**
101 Battlefield Memorial Highway,
Richmond
(859) 624-0013
battleofrichmond.org

**Battle of Sacramento**
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battleofsac.com

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campnelson.org

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Louisville
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gotolouisville.com

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civilwarfortatboonesboro.com

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National Battlefield, Murray
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nps.gov/fodo

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hunt-morgan.html

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parks.ky.gov

**Lexington History Museum**
215 W. Main Street, Lexington
(859) 254-0530
lexingtonhistorymuseum.org

**Lincoln Homestead State Park**
5079 Lincoln Park Road,
Springfield
(859) 336-7461
parks.ky.gov

**Lincoln Memorial**
**at Waterfront Park**
Louisville Waterfront
Development Corporation
129 East River Road, Louisville
(502) 574-3768
gotolouisville.com

**Lincoln Statue**
Springfield Kentucky
Tourism Commission
127 W. Main Street, Springfield
(859) 336-5440
seespringfieldky.com

**Lincoln Statues**
City of Hodgenville
200 S. Lincoln Blvd.,
Hodgenville
(270) 358-3832

**Lloyd Tilghman House**
**and Civil War Museum**
121 South Second St., Paducah
(270) 443-7759

**Mammoth Cave National Park**
1 Mammoth Cave Pkwy.,
Mammoth Cave
(270) 758-2180
nps.gov/maca

**Mary Todd Lincoln House**
578 West Main St., Lexington
(859) 233-9999
mtlhouse.org

**Middle Creek**
**National Battlefield**
Prestonsburg
middlecreek.org/foundation.htm

# Kentucky Civil War Heritage Trails Sites

**Mill Springs Battlefield**
**Association**
Nancy
(606) 636-4045
millsprings.net

**Battle for the Bridge**
**Historic Preserve**
449 Charlie Dowling Road,
Munfordville
(270) 774-2098
battleforthebridge.org

**National Underground**
**Railroad Museum**
38 West Fourth Street, Maysville
(606) 564-3200
bierbower.org

**Old Bardstown Village**
**Civil War Museum**
310 E. Broadway, Bardstown
(502) 349-0291
civil-war-museum.org

**Old Fort Harrod State Park**
100 South College Street,
Harrodsburg
(859) 734-3314
parks.ky.gov

**Old State Arsenal**
Thomas D. Clark Center
for Kentucky History
100 W. Broadway Street, Frankfort
(502) 564-1792
history.ky.gov

**Old State Capitol**
Thomas D. Clark Center
for Kentucky History
101 W. Broadway Street, Frankfort
(502) 564-1792
history.ky.gov

**Perryville Battlefield**
**State Historic Site**
1825 Battlefield Road, Perryville
(859) 332-8631
perryvillebattlefield.org

**Riverview at Hobson Grove**
Bowling Green Area
Convention & Visitors Bureau
352 Three Springs Road,
Bowling Green
(800) 326-7465
bgky.org/riverview

**Shaker Village at Pleasant Hill**
3501 Lexington Road,
Harrodsburg
(859) 734-5411
shakervillageky.org

**Spalding Hall**
Bardstown-Nelson County
Tourist & Convention
Commission
One Court Square, Bardstown
(502) 348-4877
whiskeymuseum.com

**State Capitol Rotunda**
Capitol Avenue, Frankfort
(502) 564-0900
historicproperties.ky.gov/hp/
capitol

**Tebbs Bend Battlefield**
2218 Tebbs Bend Road,
Campbellsville
(270) 789-3025
tebbsbend.com

**The Lexington Cemetery**
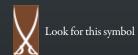833 West Main Street, Lexington
(859) 255-5522

**The Lincoln Museum**
66 Lincoln Sq., Hodgenville
(270) 358-3163
lincolnmuseum-ky.org

**Thomas D. Clark Center**
**for Kentucky History**
100 W. Broadway, Frankfort
(502) 564-1792
history.ky.gov

**Waveland State Historic Site**
225 Waveland Museum Lane,
Lexington
(859) 272-3611
parks.ky.gov

**White Hall State Historic Site**
500 White Hall Shrine Road,
Richmond
(859) 623-9178
parks.ky.gov

**Women of the Civil War Museum**
310 E. Broadway, Bardstown
(502) 349-0291
civil-war-museum.org

 Look for this symbol

# Abraham Lincoln

Although it could have been a mere footnote in the biography of a most acclaimed individual in our nation's history, Kentucky was much more than that in the life of Abraham Lincoln.
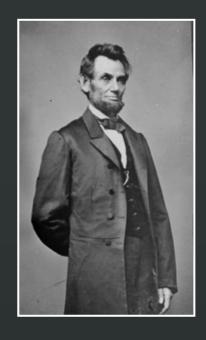
Born February 12, 1809 in a log cabin at Sinking Spring near Hodgenville, Kentucky, Mr. Lincoln's humble beginnings became a symbol of the potential and opportunity that America offers its citizens, even today. And as he grew into adulthood, Lincoln's Kentucky connections were extensive. His family, business, and political associations were closely aligned to the commonwealth, and Kentuckians influenced Lincoln throughout his life.

As a child, Lincoln moved to Indiana with his family, and eventually to Illinois. It was there Lincoln met his wife, Mary Todd, who was from Lexington.

After practicing law for several years, Lincoln became a state legislator and served in the U.S. Congress. During these years, the country grew further apart as a result of differences in politics, policy and the practice of slavery and moved closer toward a civil war. When Lincoln was elected president in 1860, southern states quickly began seceding, and secession soon led to the Civil War - violent and bloody.

As Lincoln led the Union through its greatest conflict, he was not personally spared its consequences. His family experienced the divisions of war firsthand as several of his wife's brothers, his in-laws, fought for the Confederacy – some even killed during the war. And on April 14, 1865, as the Civil War drew to a close, Lincoln was assassinated at Ford's Theater in Washington, D.C.

Today, Kentucky commemorates Lincoln's life and legacy at a number of sites open to visitors.

For more information, visit:

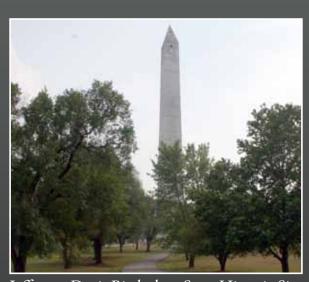kycivilwartrails.org          kylincolntrail.com

# Jefferson Davis

The uniqueness of Kentucky's Civil War experience is showcased by the fact that both President Lincoln and Jefferson Davis, the president of the Confederacy, were born less than one year and one hundred miles apart – both in Kentucky. Since Kentucky produced the Civil War's warring presidents, it is emblematic of the divisions that tore apart our nation during the conflict.
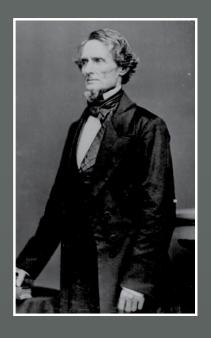
Davis was born at Fairview, Kentucky (in present-day Todd County), on June 3, 1808. Although his family moved to Mississippi shortly after, Jefferson received his education at Springfield, Kentucky, and later Transylvania University in Lexington before he entered the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. Davis ultimately became a planter in Mississippi, fought in the Mexican War, was a U.S. congressman and senator, and served as U.S. Secretary of War.

After Mississippi seceded from the Union, Davis resigned from the U.S. Senate. On February 9, 1861, he was appointed President of the Confederate States of America. The only president of the Confederacy, Davis' relationship with the Confederate Congress and his generals in the field was sometimes contentious. When Richmond fell at war's end, he fled the Confederate capital, was captured in Georgia, and was imprisoned for nearly two years.

After the war, Davis owned a large plantation near Biloxi, Mississippi. He died on December 6, 1889, and is now buried in Richmond, Virginia. Davis' life can be further explored at the Jefferson Davis Birthplace State Historic Site at Fairview.

Jefferson Davis Birthplace State Historic Site

# USCT/Camp Nelson

Camp Nelson Civil War site served as a Union military base and recruiting ground for African-American Union soldiers. It was the largest African-American recruitment camp in Kentucky, and the third largest in the nation.

The original base, named in honor of Kentucky-born General William "Bull" Nelson, encompassed four thousand acres, and contained nearly three hundred buildings and fortifications. It served as an important base of support for offensive campaigns into Tennessee and Virginia, and its location along the palisades (cliffs) of the Kentucky River made it an ideal defensive position.

Because Kentucky did not secede from the Union but was a slave state, the Emancipation Proclamation did not legally affect slavery here. President Abraham Lincoln attempted to persuade Kentuckians to support the enlistment of free blacks into the Union Army, but initially the policy was rejected.

One Kentucky Union general told the president that African-American recruitment "will revolutionize the state and do infinite and inconceivable harm." President Lincoln realized that the mere sight of African-Americans in uniform was an experience that would affect the war and forever change the nation. He wrote that, "The bare sight of fifty thousand armed and drilled black soldiers on the banks of the Mississippi would end the rebellion at once."

Despite complaints, the enlistment of United States Colored Troops (USCT)—both slave and free—began in earnest in February 1864.

In all, eight regiments of black troops were organized at Camp Nelson, many of whom gained their freedom upon enlistment. This self-emancipation was dangerous. In one instance, as a group of potential recruits marched toward the camp, angry residents shot at them and pelted them with stones. Eventually, more than 23,700 African-American Kentuckians joined the Union army. Of all states, only Louisiana enlisted more troops into the USCT.

Recruits who traveled to Camp Nelson often brought their families, and soon a refugee crisis developed. The refugees, women and children, had no legal status, no legal freedom, and Camp Nelson was not legally responsible to provide for them. Sadly, one winter night in November of 1864, Union Camp commanders forced refugee families away from the area. Dozens of women and children died as a result. This created a national outcry, and the camp's leaders were ordered to make adequate provisions including building proper shelters for the families of enlisted men.

Today, Camp Nelson Heritage Park features a museum, research library, and nearly four miles of interpreted walking trails. The Oliver Perry House, also known as the "White House," has period furnishings and offers guided tours. The Camp Nelson National Cemetery, where hundreds of Civil War casualties are buried, is immediately south of the Civil War site.

Visit campnelson.org for more information.

Photo Courtesy of Camp Nelson Heritage Park

# Battle of Mill Springs

The Battle of Mill Springs, fought on January 19, 1862, was an early Union victory that helped break a Confederate defensive line that spanned across southern Kentucky.

With Confederate troops entrenched at Beech Grove, located along the Cumberland River southwest of Somerset, Union Brigadier General George Thomas moved his four thousand soldiers to Logan's Crossroads, ten miles north of the rebel position. The Confederates, hoping to strike Thomas before he was reinforced, decided to attack.

The day was rainy and foggy and Union forces were initially pushed back. The Federals, however, managed to stabilize their lines, and Confederate hopes for a victory faded when Confederate Gen. Felix Zollicoffer was killed. The Confederates' antiquated flintlock muskets failed to fire because of the rain, and after a Union bayonet charge against the rebels' left flank, the Confederates were driven from the field.

The Confederates, who lost more than 500 troops killed and wounded, crossed the Cumberland River and left Kentucky. Their failure at Mill Springs—also called the Battle of Fishing Creek, Logan's Crossroads, and Beech Grove—was an early turning point in the Civil War. It was also one of the Union army's first major victories.

Today, this important battle is interpreted at the Mill Springs Battlefield Visitors Center and Museum in Nancy, Kentucky. The site also includes monuments, a walking tour, a driving tour, and more.

Visit millsprings.net for more information.



Mill Springs Battlefield Visitor Center & Museum

# A House Divided

The Civil War in Kentucky was a fratricidal conflict that broke up thousands of Kentucky families, including that of President Abraham Lincoln.

Although Lincoln was the Union commander-in-chief, most of his in-laws, the Todd family of Lexington, supported the Confederacy. Lincoln's brother-in-law, Confederate General Ben Hardin Helm, was killed at the Battle of Chickamauga in September 1863. Upon learning of Helm's death, Lincoln reputedly wept and said, "I feel as David of old did when he was told of the death of Absalom."

Mary Lincoln lost several family members during the war, including her half-brother, Samuel, who was killed at the Battle of Shiloh, Tennessee, and another half-brother, Alexander, who was killed at the Battle of New Orleans. Several more of her siblings were Confederate soldiers or sympathizers.

In addition to the Lincolns, many other families suffered as well.

U. S. Senator John J. Crittenden had one son who was a Union general and another who was a Confederate general. Union Colonel Charles Hanson had two brothers fight for the Confederacy, including Brigadier General Roger Hanson, who was mortally wounded at the Battle of Stones River, Tennessee. The Reverend Robert J. Breckinridge, a staunch Unionist who helped sway Federal military policy in Kentucky, had two sons fight for the North and two fight for the South.

These scenarios were repeated in scores of Kentucky families as few families were immune from the divisions of the Civil War.

The Thomas D. Clark Center for Kentucky History is a great place to find out more about Kentucky families during the Civil War conflict.

Visit history.ky.gov for more information.

During the Civil War, one of Kentucky's most controversial individuals was Confederate cavalryman John Hunt Morgan. Although he was born in Huntsville, Alabama, Morgan was raised in Lexington, Kentucky. A Mexican War veteran, he was also a successful businessman and community leader.

When the Civil War erupted, Morgan joined the Confederacy and quickly earned a reputation for raiding Union supplies and railroad lines. His actions kept Federal troops guarding bridges and depots, rather than fighting with the main armies.
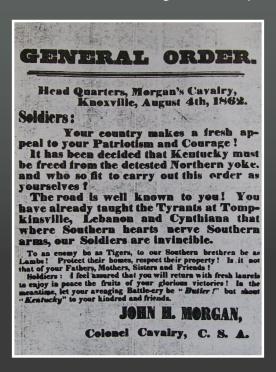
In July 1862, Morgan led 800 men on his first raid into Kentucky. As the raiders captured troops and destroyed supplies, Union authorities grew panicked. President Abraham Lincoln complained, "They are having a stampede in Kentucky. Please look to it!" In 24 days, Morgan's men rode more than 1,000 miles, captured and paroled 1,200 Union troops, and destroyed large amounts of Federal property. He lost fewer than 100 men.

When Confederate armies entered Kentucky in the autumn of 1862, Morgan joined them. During this campaign he rode into his hometown of Lexington. Pro-Confederate ladies greeted him with ringing church bells, banners, and flags. One Unionist resident, however, called Morgan's men "A nasty, dirty looking set . . ."

In December 1862, with Confederate armies pressing near Murfreesboro, Tennessee, Morgan again raided Kentucky. In what became known as the "Christmas Raid," his 4,000 troopers destroyed railroad lines and captured several Kentucky towns. His soldiers captured 1,887 Union prisoners, destroyed $2,000,000 in Federal property, and lost only two men killed and 24 wounded. That May, the Confederate Congress thanked Morgan for "varied, heroic and invaluable services in Tennessee and Kentucky . . ."

In July 1863, with Union troops threatening the vital railroad junction of Chattanooga, Morgan again entered Kentucky to strike Federal supply lines. After fighting at Tebbs Bend and Lebanon (where his younger brother was killed), Morgan disobeyed orders to stay in Kentucky and crossed the Ohio River into Indiana. He quickly rode into Ohio, where his men were chased by Union soldiers. Ultimately, Morgan and most of the Confederates were captured.

Although Morgan was imprisoned in the Ohio State Penitentiary, he eventually made a daring escape. Upon his return to Confederate lines, he led troops in East Tennessee. In September 1864, he was shot and killed in Greeneville, Tennessee. He now lies buried in the Lexington Cemetery.



GENERAL ORDER.

Head Quarters, Morgan's Cavalry,
Knoxville, August 4th, 1862.

Soldiers:

Your country makes a fresh appeal to your Patriotism and Courage!

It has been decided that Kentucky must be freed from the detested Northern yoke, and who so fit to carry out this order as yourselves?

The road is well known to you! You have already taught the Tyrants at Tompkinsville, Lebanon and Cynthiana that where Southern hearts nerve Southern arms, our Soldiers are invincible.

To an enemy be as Tigers, to our Southern brethren be as Lambs! Protect their homes, respect their property! Is it not that of your Fathers, Mothers, Sisters and Friends!

Soldiers: I feel assured that you will return with fresh laurels to enjoy in peace the fruits of your glorious victories! In the meantime, let your avenging Battle-cry be "Butler!" but shout "Kentucky" to your kindred and friends.

JOHN H. MORGAN,
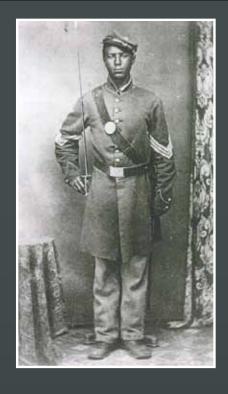Colonel Cavalry, C. S. A.

# Ultimately... Honor

The Kentucky Historical Society's Historical Marker program commemorates many people and events that contributed to the commonwealth's Civil War history. Historical Marker # 2107 in Lyon County (Land Between the Lakes area) commemorates Andrew Jackson Smith, an enslaved African-American who fought in the Civil War and earned the Medal of Honor.
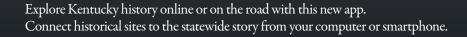
Born into slavery in Lyon County on Sept. 3, 1843, Smith escaped to Smithland, Kentucky at age 19, where he became a servant to an officer in the 41st Illinois Infantry Regiment. At the Battle of Shiloh, Tennessee, fought in April 1862, Smith was wounded while accompanying that officer.

While Smith recovered from his injury, he learned that African-Americans could join the Union army. So, in May 1863, he enlisted in the 55th Massachusetts Colored Infantry.

On Nov. 30, 1864, while fighting at the Battle of Honey Hill, S.C., Smith saved the regimental flag when the color-bearer was killed by an artillery shell. He bravely carried the colors for the remainder of the engagement. The 55th Massachusetts suffered heavily in the battle, and, for his actions, Smith was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor in 2001.

Smith died in 1932 and was buried in Mt. Pleasant Cemetery at Grand Rivers, Kentucky, in Livingston County. He well-represents thousands of enslaved Kentuckians who found their freedom by joining the Union army during the Civil War.

Explore Kentucky history online or on the road with this new app.
Connect historical sites to the statewide story from your computer or smartphone.

explorekyhistory.ky.gov

# Timeline of Notable Events

## 1860

*November 6,* Kentuckian Abraham Lincoln is elected 16th President of the United States.

*December 20,* South Carolina secedes from the Union. In January 1861, ten other states follow.

## 1861

*February 9,* Kentuckian Jefferson Davis is elected as the first President of the Confederate States of America.

*April 12,* Confederates open fire on Fort Sumter, at 4:30 a.m., commencing the Civil War. Kentuckian Major Robert Anderson surrenders the garrison the next day at 2:30 p.m.

*September 6,* Union troops under the command of General Grant move into Paducah and Smithland.

*September 18,* Kentucky's Pro Union legislature calls for the expulsion of the Confederates and gives command of the state volunteers to now General Robert Anderson, who won his fame by defending Fort Sumter.

*September 19,* The first engagement of the war in Kentucky occurs at Barbourville.

*October 21,* To counter the Confederate victory at Barbourville, federal forces repel an attack on Wildcat Mountain in Laurel County.

*November 18,* Some 115 delegates from 68 counties assemble in Russellville to establish the Provisional Government of Kentucky, and Bowling Green is designated as the capital. Kentucky's Confederate government remains in exile during the majority of the war.

## 1862

*July 4,* Confederate General John Hunt Morgan leads 875 officers and men westward from Knoxville on his first major raid into Kentucky.

*August 29,* The Confederate offensive into Kentucky encounters Union troops as they move north from Big Hill to Richmond.

*September 17,* Confederate forces commanded by General Robert E. Lee and Union forces commanded by General George McClellan meet at Antietam near Sharpsburg, Maryland, in the single bloodiest day of the war.

*October 8,* Fighting north from the Cumberland Gap, as part of the 1862 "Kentucky Campaign," General E. Kirby Smith controls much of central Kentucky. While General Braxton Bragg, thwarted in his efforts to capture Louisville by Union General Don Carlos Buell, moves into central Kentucky to link the two armies.

*October 8,* At Perryville, during the largest battle fought in Kentucky and one of the bloodiest battles of the war, 4,200 Union and 3,400 Confederate troops were wounded or killed.

*December 22,* General John Hunt Morgan and 3,100 men cross the Cumberland River. This highly successful, 12-day adventure became known as Morgan's "Christmas Raid."

## 1863

*January 1,* On this date, President Lincoln enacts the Emancipation Proclamation.

## 1864

*November 8,* President Abraham Lincoln is reelected. His Vice President is Andrew Johnson of Tennessee.
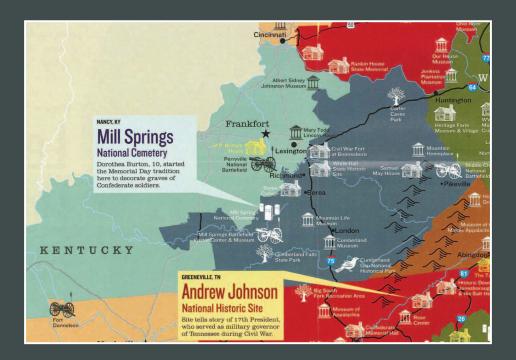
## 1865

*April 9,* General Robert E. Lee surrenders the once great army of Virginia to General Grant at Appomattox Court House.

*April 14,* 1865 John Wilkes Booth mortally wounds President Abraham Lincoln. Lincoln dies the following morning and Andrew Johnson is sworn in as the 17th President of the United States.

*December 18,* The Secretary of State announces the ratification of the 13th Amendment to the United States Constitution, officially abolishing slavery.

# Civil War: The Home Front



Within the rolling hills of Appalachia, compelling stories of bravery and strength wait to be discovered.

Kentucky has partnered with the Appalachian Regional Commission and member states of the ARC Tourism Advisory Council to bring you "Civil War: The Home Front" a story guide about the Civil War in Appalachia.

Learn about the resilient Appalachian spirit during the U.S. Civil War by visiting heritage farms, restored homes and historic downtowns, national parks and memorials, and history museums. Experience the people, places and events in Kentucky and other parts of Appalachia that shaped this pivotal era in American history.

To find out more about "Civil War: The Home Front" and the exciting destinations waiting for you, visit:



VisitAppalachia.com/visit.php

To learn more about Kentucky's Appalachian destinations, go to VisitAppalachia.com