Discovery Trail

Civil War

Coer mage: Frank Leile's Bloomed Newpaper, 15 March 1862, coursey of Sermony Lincory at WKI

800-225-TRIP, www.kentuckytourism.com. Paid in part by the Kentucky Dept of Travel & Tourism (I-65, Exit 28)

or the Info Center in the National Corvette Museum Convention & Visitors Bureau (I-65, Exit 22) Also visit the Bowling Green Area

call 270-782-0800 or 800-326-7465, or go to Visitbgky.com For more information about the Bowling Green area,

Convention & Visitors Bureau

Bowling Green

Area



Kentucki





found online at www.atlasquest.com. More information on "letterboxing" can be or can be downloaded from the website. Card included with the purchase of the Audio Tour the Visitors Bureau for a complimentary gift. along the trail and redeem your completed card at Also, enjoy a letterbox hunt at eight of the stops

oll the website at www.visitbgky.com/civilwar. Bureau gift shop, or the files can be downloaded free Audio Tour is available for purchase in the Visitors The accompanying Civil War Discovery Trail

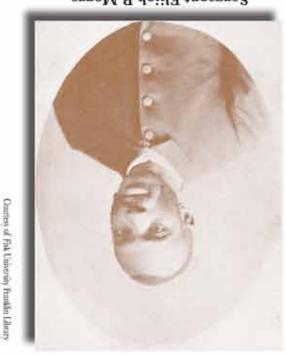
Sestis esent to more about many Interested in learning

Steven L. King, (Privately printed), 1997. The Confederate Dead at Bowling Green, Kentucky Reprinted by Landmark Association, 2000. Map of Bowling Green, KY Showing Its Approaches and Defenses, 1863 Elizabeth Coombs, Kentucky (Privately printed), 1962. The First Year of the Civil War in Bowling Green Nancy D. Baird, editor, (Lexington: University Press of Kembacky), 2009. Josie Underwood's Civil War Diary Recommended Further Reading:

former slave, Sergeant Edgalt P. Marra, writing about his experiences assesting were unable to hide their nakedries. prope for for per exercise or inform neares man in proper o williand crea a second garment, thats condition was וכונף בקיונותולי שעון שי יייעוב כן נוניבי איבייג איביאוב והבגב תעובעו איביעו Advinumely, the General Government the not provide them

refugees, sending many to Camp Nelson in Jessamine County, until 1866. clothing. The 12th United States Colored Amillery took care of these was not prepared. The majority of these slaves lacked food and adequate masters, flooded Bowling Green and the other camps but the government Union army. Their families, no longer welcome on the property of their Slaves by the hundreds made the break from their owners to enlist in the The African American Experience

### Sergeant Elijah P. Marrs



The Civil War in Bowling Green



(L) The Public Square in Bowling Green, (R) The Area Confederates Burned As They Retreated

Kentucky was of such great strategic importance, that Abraham Lincoln stated in an 1861 letter, "I think to lose Kentucky is nearly the same as to lose the whole game," With Kentuckians divided between North and South, the state adopted a policy of neutrality at the beginning of the Civil War. The status ended in early September 1861, when Confederate troops under General Leonidas Polk seized the Mississippi River town of Columbus, Kentucky. The Union army under General Ulysses S. Grant responded by taking the cities of Paducah and Smithland, Kentucky. Fully realizing its importance to the Southern cause, Confederate General Simon Bolivar Buckner led approximately 5000 troops to occupy Bowling Green on 18 September 1861.

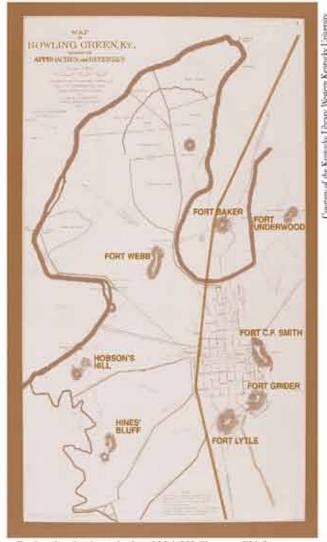
Both sides wanted control over Bowling Green and Warren County. The county's productive farms and its ample quantities of fresh water promised plentiful supplies for an army. The center of a reliable and defensible transportation network made Bowling Green one of the state's most strategic cities. The Louisville-Nashville Railroad, a system of roadways, and the Big Barren River could be relied upon to move men and supplies quickly and efficiently. Canon placed on the fortified hills around the city could easily defend these transportation routes. Confederate General Albert Sidney Johnston, commander of the Confederate defenses between the Appalachian Mountains and the Indian Territory, chose Bowling Green as his headquarters. A pro-Confederate state government formed in Russellville, the county seat of neighboring Logan County, in November 1861. It declared Kentucky to be a "free and independent state" and made Bowling Green the Capital of the Confederate State of Kentucky. By late 1861, Bowling Green became the heart of the Confederacy's efforts in Kentucky.

The new year brought serious worries to the Confederate occupation force. Union victories at Middle Creek and Mill Springs in Eastern Kentucky in January and General Grant's victories at Forts Henry and Donelson to the west in February 1862 made Bowling Green no longer defendable for the Confederates. Union General Don Carlos Buell advanced his Army of the Ohio southward from the Green River. Under the command of General Ormsby Mitchel, Bowling Green was bombarded from across the Barren River. The Confederate army evacuated the city, and by 14 February 1862, the city fell into Union hands. Federal troops controlled Bowling Green and Kentucky for the rest of the war.

By 1864, there was a vigorous effort by the federal government to recruit and enlist slaves in Kentucky. Bowling Green and seven other military camps were designated to receive and protect those recruits.

In cold Lecty rain father and brother on horseback and mother with little children in old carriage several negro women ... perched on top of a few things and some food we went down the hill as some of the officers and their wives Good in the door of our home laughing at the comical procession we made.

Josie Underwood's diary entry about the evacuation of her home,



Produced under the authority of Maj. J.H. Simpson, Chief Engineer, Dept. of the Ohio, Cincinnati, 1863

#### ■ Lost River Cave & Valley, Historical Marker and 2 Wayside Exhibits, 2818 Nashville Road (US 31W)

Lost River Cave and Valley served as a camp for both Union and Confederate troops in this area. Lost River offered a natural water supply and the beauty of the cave provided a diversion from the ugliness of war. On one of his "lightning raids" into Kentucky, John Hunt Morgan allegedly hid in the cave when escaping from pursuing troops. There is an admission fee to tour Lost River Cave. For more information call 270 393-0077 or visit www.lostrivercave.com.

From I-65, take exit #22, US231, heading north.

0.7 miles turn left at intersection # 9 on Cave Mill Rd./Dishman Lane

3 miles turn right on US31W North

0.1 miles turn right into visitor parking at Lost River Cave

Also visit Octagon Hall, about ten miles south of Lost River cave on US 31W. This is the site where the Confederate army camped after evacuating Bowling Green.

#### "Jonesville" Historical Marker, WKU Campus

This marker denotes the original site of Jonesville, an African American community that was founded in 1867 by Charles L. Jones, an emancipated slave. This reconstruction era settlement grew to include several hundred residents, an elementary school, businesses, and two churches. Turn right on US 31W North/Nashville Road

1.9 miles turn left on BUS 231/University Blvd.
0.5 miles continue straight at Hvvy 68/80/Big Red Way intersection
The marker is just ahead on the right and permitted parking on the left.

There is room for a short-term pull-off.

## THE KENTUCKY BUILDING & "CONFEDERATE STATE CAPITAL OF KENTUCKY" HISTORICAL MARKER, US 68

This building houses the Kentucky Library, the Kentucky Museum and the Civil War and Southern History Research Collection. In addition to the vast resources including manuscripts, books, newspapers and artifacts, the Museum hosts a permanent Civil War exhibit, "A Star in Each Flag: Conflict in Kentucky." A small admission fee is charged at the Museum. The marker is located outside the opposite corner of the building from the parking area. For more information, call 270-745-2592 or visit www.wku.edu/Library/kylm/.

Continue on Hwy 68/80/College Heights Blvd. intersection 0.7 miles, on right side

#### FORT LYTLE, WKU CAMPUS

Once known as Fort Vinegar, this fort is located at the summit of the hill on Western Kentucky University's campus. The Confederate army began construction of this fort during its occupation of Bowling Green, but it was completed by Union forces. There is no readily available parking on weekdays. 

1 Turn right lewing KY Building parking

0.3 miles turn **right** on E. 12th Ave.; turn **right** on Center St; turn **left** on E. 13th Ave.; turn **right** on College St.; 0.3 miles turn **right** on College Heights Blvd. stay **left** to enter hilltop campus at Gordon Wilson Hall;

0.1 miles take the first left, just past Van Meter Hall, to reach hilltop parking lot.

#### ▲ GRIDER HOUSE PRIVATE RESIDENCE, 1320 PARK St.

This antebellum home owned by a Union sympathizer, was captured by the Confederate Army. A garrison of soldiers was stationed to protect this house, which served as Kentucky's Confederate Capitol Building. It was the residence of the Confederate Governor, and provisional government meetings took place there as well. This hill also contained a "lunette fort" and three mounted cannon.

0.2 miles follow one-way lane down from hilltop; turn left on Normal/State St.

0.1 miles turn right on 14th Ave.

0.1 miles turn **left** at Park St.

Go 1/2 block, 1320 Park St. on right. No public parking.

### 

Fort C.F. Smith was located south of town on College Hill, now know as Reservoir Hill. Still visible are some of the earthworks constructed under the command of Colonel Benjamin Harrison, who later became President. This was the largest and and most elaborate fort in the Bowling Green defensive system. It was described as a "bastion fort" and was designed to mount up to 25 cannon. A historical marker is located at the corner of Main and Park Streets, and a wayside exhibit is located to the right of the picnic pavilion at Fort C.F. Smith.

0.4 miles turn right at 4th stop sign onto Main Ave.

# TIVIL WAR OCCUPATIONS" HISTORICAL MARKER, MAIN ST. IN FOUNTAIN SQUARE PARK

continue 0.2 miles around reservoir to picnic pavilion (Fort C.F. Smith)

The marker describes the occupation of this area by both Confederate and Union troops. There is also a stone monument in Fountain Square Park that recognizes Bowling Green as the Confederate Capital of Kentucky. Turn around, return down Main Ave. for 0.2 miles

Turn around, return down Main Ave. for 0.2 miles Continue 0.1 miles on Main Ave. and keep **left** to circle Fountain Square Park

### ■ "Warren County's Chief USA Civil War Officers" Historical Marker, Warren County Courthouse, 429 10<sup>70</sup> Ave. East

This marker recognizes Warren County's Chief Union Civil War Officers and lists those who received the Confederate Medals of Honor in 1863. From the square, walk one block south on College Street to the Warren County Courthouse at the corner of College and 10th Streets.

## ■ M\*Baker Hill" Historical Marker, and Wayside Exhibit US 31W, Private Property

Fort Baker stood on a hill north of the city on Barren River to defend Bowling Green against the troops coming from the north and east. From here, Union General Ormsby Mitchel launched his bombardment of Bowling Green while the Confederate army evacuated the city. A Wayside Exhibit is located across US 31W near the entrance to Weldon Peete Park. From the square, turn left at Old Louisville Rd./State St./US 31W
1.4 miles to Fort Baker on left (parking on right at Weldon Peete Park)

## \*\*Defending the L&N Railroad" Wayside Exhibit, River Walk Park, E. Riverview Dr.

On this side of the Barren River, there once stood a fortified stockade to defend the L&N Railroad Trestle. The original trestle was destroyed by the Confederates to prevent the Union army from entering Bowling Green by rail. After the trestle was repaired by the Union army, a defensive stockade was also built to protect this important river crossing.

Turn left onto Old Louisville Rd.

0.6 miles, turn **right** on E. Riverview Dr./31W 0.1 mi., parking on **right**. Wayside Exhibit located near trestle.

### 1 HISTORIC RAILPARK & TRAIN MUSEUM, 401 KENTUCKY ST.

After confiscating ten locomotives and 200 boxcars in Nashville, General Buckner arrived in Bowling Green with 5,000 Confederate soldiers in mid-September 1861. The next February, Confederate forces burned the train depot as they evacuated Bowling Green before the Union advance. This Train Station, built in 1925, lies on the track bed of the original L&N Rail line. Permanent exhibits include: "The Great Locomotive Chase," with a replica of the first Congressional Medal of Honor ever awarded for stealing the Confederate locomotive known as 'The General,' and 'Lincoln, the Civil War and the Railroad' containing rare Matthew Brady Civil War Railroad photos.

For more information call 270-745-7317 or visit www.historicrailpark.com.

Turn right onto E. Riverview Dr., drive 0.1 miles to turn left on Louisville/KT St.

0.3 miles turn right into Historic Railpark & Train Museum

## \*\*A CIVIL WAR DEFENSE LINE," HISTORICAL MARKER AND WAYSIDE EXHIBIT, ROLAND BLAND PARK

This spot marks the end of a defensive rifle trench, first proposed by the Confederates then completed by the Union Army.

This trench began next to the L&N Railroad tracks and then zig-zagged its way to the center of this park. This rifle trench represented additional defense for the L&N Railroad itself, as well as another defensive position halfway between Forts Webb and C.F. Smith.

Turn right onto Kentucky St., drive 0.1 miles to turn left on 7th Ave.

0.1 miles left on Center St. cross over 6th. Ave.

0.1 miles, parking on left. Marker & Wayside Exhibit located just past paxilion.

# ■ RIVERVIEW AT HOBSON GROVE HISTORIC HOUSE MUSEUM & "HOBSON HOUSE" HISTORICAL MARKER, 1100 WEST MAIN ST.

Construction of Riverview began in 1857 but was not completed until after the Civil War. During the occupation by both Confederate and Union troops, the house's foundation and four walls were used as a fort, while the basement was used as an ammunition depot for the entire fortification system in Bowling Green. Today this house is fully restored and open to the public for a small admission fee. Interpretive panel by parking lot. For more information call 270-843-5565, www.bgky.org/riverview Return on Center St. for 0.1 miles to turn right on 6th Ave.

Take first **left** on Kentucky St. 0.2 miles **right** on Main Ave.

0.4 miles cross over Veterans Memorial Blvd.

Continue 0.7 miles, left at second stop sign on Jackson St.

Take an immediate right and enter "Hobson Grove Park" (Marker at entrance)

#### 4 HINES BOATLANDING PARK, BOATLANDING ROAD

The Big Barren River was a major contributing factor to making Bowling Green a strategic location for both armies. The river offered a plentiful supply of fresh water for the troops and it was an ideal way to move men and supplies quickly and efficiently. This area was protected by the cannons of Fort Baker. Nearby was one of several military hospitals located in the Bowling Green area. This small park beside the river offers opportunities for fishing, boating and picnics. Interpretive panel on site. A Wayside Exhibit is located overlooking the Barren River on the Greenway Trail.

Return to Jackson St. and turn left

0.2 miles turn left on Church St.

0.2 miles turn **right** on Power St.

0.4 miles turn left on Boatlanding Rd.

0.1 miles turn left at Boatlanding Park. Wayside Exhibit located up hill to left.

## ■ FORT WEBB PARK & "FORT WEBB" HISTORICAL MARKER, BEECH BEND ROAD & COUNTRY CLUB DRIVE

Now located in a city park, this fort has retained its original configuration since the time it was constructed by the Confederate army. A historical marker and an interpretive panel explains its unusual earthworks which were described as a "lunette fort with embankments" and three mounted cannon. This marker also includes a map of Civil War fortifications in Bowling Green.

Turn left on Boatlanding Road

0.1 miles turn left on Hwy 185/Richardsville Rd.

0.2 miles turn right on Garvin Lane (or turn left here to see a restored one-lane bridge)
1.7 miles turn right on Beech Bend Road (or turn left here to see Beech Bend Park)
0.8 miles turn right at Country Club Drive (not a private drive)
0.2 miles to Fort Webb on the left

#### (19) "Mt. Ayr & Fort Underwood," Wayside Exhibit, Kereiakes Park

Atop Underwood Hill to the northeast stood Mt. Ayr, the home of the Underwood family. Being supporters of the Union cause, the family was forced to evacuate their home in order to house Confederate Officers. Near the home, Fort Underwood was constructed to defend the Barren River and the Glasgow Road. Fort Underwood was described as a "lunette fort" and mounted six cannon.

Return on Country Club Drive to Beech Bend Road; turn right

0.7 miles, continue on 31W Bypass

0.6 miles turn left on 234/Fairciew Avenue

0.5 miles **left** into park

0.1 miles right, then immediate left. Wayside exhibit on right.

### 1 Mt. Moriah Cemetery, St. Joseph's Lane

Mt. Moriah Cemetery is an African-American graveyard established in the late 1870s. It includes several graves of Union soldiers. To locate the graves of Civil War soldiers, look for rectangular monuments with the inscription in a carved "shield." Common abbreviations are "C. Inf." for Colored Infantry, "Col" or "Col'd" for Colored, "USCC" for U.S. Colored Calvary, "USCHA" for U.S. Colored Heavy Artillery, "USCI" for U.S. Colored Infantry and "USCT" for Colored Troops. Charcoal or other types of "rubbings" of monuments causes deterioration of old stone.

Instead, please use photographs as your souvenir.

Return to take a **right** on 234/Fairview Avenue Take first **right** into St. Joseph Lane

# (3) CONFEDERATE MONUMENT & "HOME OF THOMAS HINES" HISTORICAL MARKER, 1209 FAIRVIEW AVENUE

The Confederate Monument, located in Fairview Cemetery's older section, was dedicated in 1876 before a crowd of 12,000. Several hundred bodies, moved to this site, are believed to be buried in concentric circles around the obelisk carved from local limestone. Outside the cemetery gates, a historical marker identifies Thomas Henry Hines, a Butler County native and Confederate spy who was once known as the most dangerous man of the Confederacy.

Return to take a right on 234/Fairview Avenue

Take fust **right** into Fairciew Cemetery

Marker located immediately to right of entrance; parking where available.

## Bowling Green Area Map

