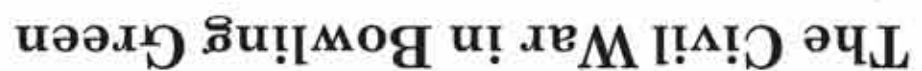


The new year brought serious worries to the Confederate occupation force. Union victories at Middle Creek and Mill Springs in Eastern Kentucky in January and General Grant's victories at Forts Henry and Donelson to the west in February 1862 made Bowling Green no longer defensible for the Confederates. Union General Don Carlos Buell advanced his Army of the Ohio southward from the Green River. Under the command of General Ormsby Mitchell, 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.

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.

Frank Lake's Illustrated Newspaper, 15 March 1862
Courtesy of the Kentucky Library, Western Kentucky University



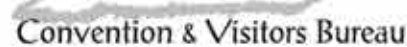
Also, enjoy a letterbox hunt at eight of the stops along the trail and redeem your completed card at the Visitors Bureau for a complimentary gift. Card included with the purchase of the Audio Tour or can be downloaded from the website. More information on "letterboxing" can be found online at www.atlasquest.com.



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

Former slave, Sergeant Elijah P. Marrs, writing about his experiences assisting black refugee families of soldiers

Steven L. King, (Privately printed), 1997.



*Paid in part by the Kentucky Dept of Travel & Tourism
800-225-TRIP, www.kentuckytourism.com.*

Cover image: Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper, 15 March 1862, courtesy of Kentucky Library at WKU

1 ■ **LOST RIVER CAVE & VALLEY, HISTORICAL MAKER 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.

2 ■ **“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 Hwy 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.

3 ■ **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*

4 ■ **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.
*I Turn **right** leaving 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.*

5 ■ **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.*

6 ■ **“COLLEGE HILL” HISTORICAL MARKER, MAIN & PARK STREETS AT ENTRANCE TO RESERVOIR PARK**
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.*
continue 0.2 miles around reservoir to picnic pavilion (Fort C.F. Smith)

7 ■ **“CIVIL WAR OCCUPATIONS” HISTORICAL MARKER, MAIN ST. IN FOUNTAIN SQUARE PARK**
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
*Continue 0.1 miles on Main Ave. and keep **left** to circle Fountain Square Park*

8 ■ **“WARREN COUNTY’S CHIEF USA CIVIL WAR OFFICERS” HISTORICAL MARKER, WARREN COUNTY COURTHOUSE, 429 10TH 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.

9 ■ **“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)*

10 ■ **“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.*

11 ■ **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/KY St.*
*0.3 miles turn **right** into Historic Railpark & Train Museum*

12 ■ **“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 pavilion.*

13 ■ **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)*

14 ■ **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**.*

15 ■ **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***

16 ■ **“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/Fairview Avenue*
*0.5 miles **left** into park*
*0.1 miles **right**, then immediate left. Wayside exhibit on **right**.*

17 ■ **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, “USCT” for U.S. Colored Infantry and “USCT” for Colored Troops. **Charcoal or other types of “rubblings” 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 Fairview Cemetery*
*Marker located immediately to **right** of entrance; parking where available.*

18 ■ **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 first **right** into Fairview Cemetery*
*Marker located immediately to **right** of entrance; parking where available.*

Bowling Green Area Map

