

HERE IS HOW TO ENJOY
OUR HISTORICAL TOUR



SCAN TO VISIT
POCKETSIGHTS.COM
HISTORICAL ROWAN TOUR



DOWNLOAD THE APP
POCKETSIGHTS TOUR GUIDE
(APP STORE OR GOOGLE PLAY)



www.visitmorehead.com



@visitmoreheadky



@visitmoreheadky

Provided in partnership by
Morehead-Rowan County Tourism,
Rowan County History and Railroad
Museum and Rowan County
Historical Society

HISTORICAL ROWAN WALKING TOUR

MOREHEAD, KENTUCKY

150 East First Street, Morehead, KY
606-780-4342



FLOOD

On July 4, 1939, a catastrophic downpour caused Triplett Creek to overflow, flooding Morehead, leaving hundreds homeless. The flood claimed 25 lives, half of them children, with water reaching 7 feet in some homes, forcing residents to seek refuge on rooftops. Morehead suffered \$2 million in damages, held a somber mass funeral for the victims, and received critical aid from the Red Cross to help the community recover.



MOONLIGHT SCHOOL

Cora Wilson Stewart, born in 1875, was an influential educator who served as Rowan County's school superintendent and was the first female president of the Kentucky Educational Association. In 1911, she established the Moonlight School to combat adult illiteracy, achieving remarkable success with enrollment increasing from 150 to over 1,600 students in its first two years.



ROWAN FEUD

The Rowan County War/Tolliver-Martin Feud began on August 4, 1884, sparked by political rivalries during an election day gathering at the Courthouse Square. An argument escalated into violence, resulting in one death. The feud deepened when John Martin shot John Tolliver in a confrontation at the Town Saloon. As the war continued, the Kentucky governor sent militia troops multiple times in an attempt to keep the peace. At least 20 people were killed and many more wounded.



COURTHOUSE SQUARE

Colonel John Hargis constructed Rowan County's first courthouse and hotel using local resources and served as Morehead's first lawyer, postmaster, and store owner. Before the town had a church, the courthouse was a central hub for weddings, funerals, worship services, and community gatherings for jury verdicts and election results. The current building, built in 1899, now serves as the Arts Center.



RAILROADS

The Elizabethtown, Lexington, and Big Sandy Railroad transformed Rowan County by completing its route in 1881, creating numerous job opportunities. It established the Morehead Depot and Freight Station on Railroad Street (now First Street), improving passenger and freight transport until its acquisition by the C&O Railroad in 1892.



CASKEY HOTEL

Built in the 1920s, The Caskey Hotel, owned by A.C. Caskey stood prominently on Main Street in downtown Morehead. The 32-room hotel was known as one of Morehead's most popular hotels. Take a walk through our history and learn about the fire that destroyed the hotel and what happened the following night.



OLD TOWN CEMETERY

The Old Town Cemetery, established in the late 1800s, was founded by Isabelle Abbey Oxley. She was the original owner of this site and one of Morehead's first pioneers. Oxley also donated land for the courthouse square, where the Rowan County Arts Center is now located.



MOREHEAD STATE UNIVERSITY

Morehead State University originated as the Morehead Normal School, founded in 1887, and became a state institution in 1923. The university's first president, Frank Button, and his mother, Phebe, were dedicated to bringing education to the region, founding the school as a church-sponsored institution to train teachers in Eastern Kentucky.