



My Drift

Title: Kentucky

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As far as I know, I have no “My Drift” readers residing in Kentucky. My research already has shown me just how interesting the state of Kentucky really is. When you think of Kentucky, what pops into your mind? I thought about it and here’s my list:

The Kentucky Derby - Thoroughbred horses – Bluegrass Music - College Basketball – Bourbon – Moonshine Liquor – Hillbillies - Kentucky Fried Chicken



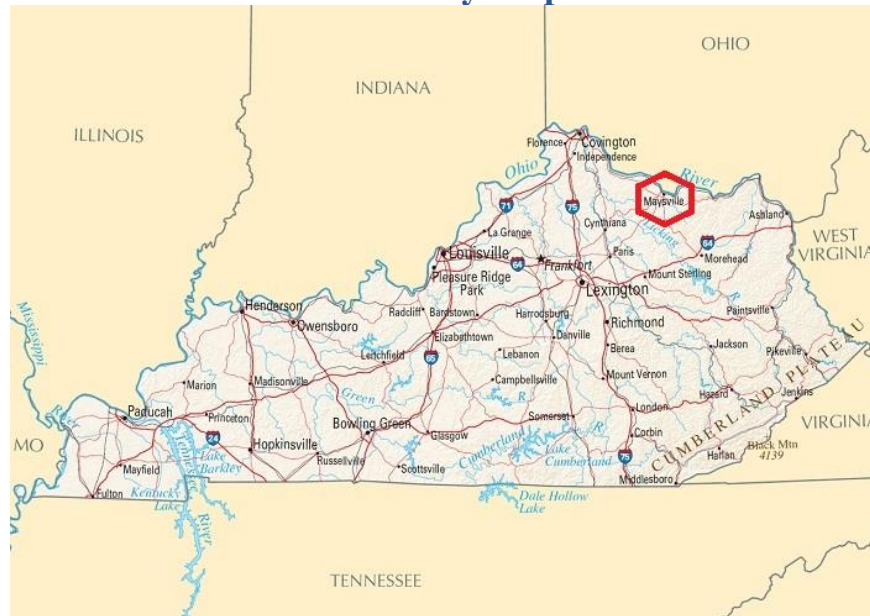
Kentucky Bluegrass and Thoroughbred Horses

Why am I writing about Kentucky? As you probably don’t know, before I drop dead and stop writing, I want to write something about every state in these United States. If you were to browse through my 298 articles, you would find out that I have written

something for about half of the states. There are many articles about Hawaii and Utah since they are my “home” states where I have lived and have family.

I thought about Kentucky the other day when I was taking a second look at my “Family Tree”. More about this at the end of this article.

Kentucky Map



General Information

Kentucky, officially the Commonwealth of Kentucky, is a state located in the east south-central region of the United States. Kentucky is one of four U.S. states constituted as a commonwealth (the others being Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Massachusetts). Originally a part of Virginia, in 1792 Kentucky became the 15th state to join the Union. Kentucky is the 37th largest in area and the 26th most populous of the 50 States.

Kentucky is known as the "Bluegrass State," a nickname based on the bluegrass found in many of its pastures due to the fertile soil. One of the major regions in Kentucky is the Bluegrass Region in central Kentucky, which houses two of its major cities, Louisville and Lexington. It is a land with diverse environments and abundant resources, including the world's longest cave system, Mammoth Cave National Park, the greatest length of navigable waterways and streams in the contiguous United States, and the two largest man-made lakes east of the Mississippi River. The largest artificial lake in water volume (Lake Cumberland) and surface area (Kentucky Lake).



Lake Cumberland



Kentucky Lake

Kentucky is the only U.S. state to have a continuous border of rivers running along three of its sides—the Mississippi River to the west, the Ohio River to the north, and the Big Sandy River and Tug Fork to the east. Its major internal rivers include the Kentucky River, Tennessee River, Cumberland River, Green River and Licking River. Kentucky's 90,000 miles of streams provides one of the most expansive and complex stream systems in the nation.

Kentucky can be divided into five primary regions: the Cumberland Plateau in the east, the north-central Bluegrass region, the south-central Mississippi Plateau, the Western Coal Fields and the far-west Jackson Purchase.



Capital and Largest Cities and Towns in Kentucky

| City | Population (Metro Pop.) |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Frankfort (Capital) | 28,000 |
| Louisville | 622,000 (1,300,000) |
| Lexington | 323,000 (735,000) |
| Bowling Green | 68,000 |
| Owensboro | 60,000 |
| Covington | 41,000 |

Kentucky is subdivided into 120 counties, the largest being Pike County at 788 square miles and the most populous being Jefferson County (which includes part of Louisville Metro – 765,000). The population of the entire state is 4,460,000.

More General Info....

State Flag



| | |
|----------------------|--|
| Nickname | Bluegrass State |
| State Song | My Old Kentucky Home |
| Total Area | 40,409 square miles |
| Length | 380 miles |
| Width | 170 miles |
| Highest Point | Black Mountain - 4,145 feet |
| Lowest Point | Mississippi River – 257 feet |
| Longest River | The Green River – 382 miles |
| Largest Lake | Kentucky Lake – 160,309 acres |
| Time Zones | Eastern half – Eastern time zone Western half – Central time zone |
| State Bird | Cardinal |
| State Fish | Kentucky spotted bass |
| State Flower | Goldenrod |
| State Fruit | Blackberry |
| State Gemstone | Freshwater pearl |
| State Grass | Kentucky bluegrass |
| Official State Horse | Thoroughbred |
| State Mineral | Coal |
| State Rock | Kentucky agate |
| State Tree | Tulip poplar |
| State Wild Animal | Gray squirrel |
| State Music | Bluegrass music |
| Official State Car | Chevrolet Corvette |



Six Places You Might Want to Visit if You ever get to Kentucky

#1 Mammoth Cave National Park

Located in central Kentucky, this is the longest cave system known in the world. Since the 1972 unification of Mammoth Cave with the even-longer system under Flint Ridge to the north, the official name of the system has been the Mammoth–Flint Ridge Cave System. With more than 400 miles of surveyed passageways, Mammoth Cave is by far the world's longest known cave system, being nearly twice as long as the second-longest cave system, Mexico's Sac Actun underwater cave. Sorry, if I ever get to Kentucky, I will pass on seeing its #1 attraction – I hate caves!



#2 The Kentucky Derby

Even if you can't get tickets for the Kentucky Derby, go to the horse races at Churchill Downs or one of the state's six race tracks. I will definitely do that!

Churchill Downs – Located in Louisville, it hosts the Kentucky Derby, Kentucky Oaks and other big races. The Kentucky Derby is considered the most exciting 2 minutes in all of sports.

Keeneland – Located in Lexington, it hosts the Blue Grass Stakes and the Breeders Cup Championship races.



Kentucky Downs – Located in Franklin, this track is one of the most beautiful and unique turf courses in the US.

Turfway Park – Located in Florence, this track offers live Thoroughbred racing during the fall, winter, and early spring.

Ellis Park – Located in Henderson, this is a mile and one eighth dirt outer track with a mile inner turf course.

The Red Mile – Located in Lexington, this unique track offers the only harness racing in Kentucky. Track features banked turns, allowing many world record times to be set here.

#3 Daniel Boone National Forest

The Daniel Boone National Forest includes 708,000 acres of federally owned land. The name of the forest was changed in 1966 in honor of the great Kentucky explorer Daniel Boone.



The terrain of the forest is generally rugged and includes multiple prominent lakes and rivers. It is home to a range of plant and animal species, trails, wilderness areas, and landmarks. This looks like a scenic place to visit.

#4 Red River Gorge

This intricate canyon system features an abundance of high sandstone cliffs, rock shelters, waterfalls, and natural bridges. There are more than 100 natural sandstone arches in the Red River Gorge Geological Area. The multitude of sandstone and cliff-lines have helped this area become one of the world's top rock-climbing destinations.

I won't be climbing any cliffs when I visit Kentucky.



Kentucky's Natural Bridge State Park is immediately adjacent to this area, featuring some of the nation's largest natural bridges.

#5 Cumberland Gap National Historical Park

This Park is located at the border between Kentucky, Tennessee, and Virginia, centered on the Cumberland Gap, a natural break in the Appalachian Mountains. This gap was very important for settlers and Native Americans traveling through the Appalachians.

It includes 24 known cave features ranging in size from around 20 feet to more than 16 miles in length. There are a number of large cliff systems in the park, the most prominent of which is the 500 feet cliffs of White Rocks, located in the eastern portion of the area.



#6 Visit Horse Country – The Claiborne Farm

The home of Secretariat, Claiborne is one of the most storied farms in Horse Country. Come and visit Claiborne Farm in Paris, Kentucky, a historic Thoroughbred operation for over 100 years. Behind their gates you will find thoroughbred holy ground with a storied history. Guests first will see our traditional breeding shed which has produced more than 80 Champion racehorses. Guests will then be able to walk the shed rows of our iconic stallion barns which have been home to a world-renowned list of horses and is home to many current champion stallions. Lastly, the tour will end in our cemetery boasting over 20 champions including the legendary Secretariat.



Interesting Things You Probably Didn't Know About Kentucky

The town of Murray is home to the Boy Scouts of America Scouting Museum located on the campus of Murray State University.

The Kentucky Derby is the oldest continuously held horse race in the country. It is held at Churchill Downs in Louisville on the first Saturday in May.

The Bluegrass Country around Lexington is home to some of the world's finest racehorses.

Kentucky was a popular hunting ground for the Shawnee and Cherokee Indian nations prior to being settled by white settlers.

Chevrolet Corvettes are manufactured only in Bowling Green.

Mammoth Cave is the world's longest cave and was first promoted in 1816, making it the second oldest tourist attraction in the United States. Niagara Falls, New York is first.

Begun in 1819 the first commercial oil well was on the Cumberland River in McCreary County.

The first Miss America from Kentucky is Heather Renee French. She was crowned September 18, 1999.

The first Kentucky Fried Chicken restaurant that was owned and operated by Colonel Sanders is still located in Corbin.

Kentucky is the state where both Abraham Lincoln, President of the Union, and Jefferson Davis, President of the Confederacy, were born. They were born less than one hundred miles and one year apart.

Cumberland is the only waterfall in the world to regularly display a Moonbow. It is located just southwest of Corbin.

Fleming County is recognized as the Covered Bridge Capital of Kentucky.

Christian County is wet while Bourbon County is dry. Barren County has the most fertile land in the state.

Thunder Over Louisville is the opening ceremony for the Kentucky Derby Festival and is the world's largest fireworks display.

More than 100 native Kentuckians have been elected governors of other states.

In 1888, "Honest Dick" Tate the state treasurer embezzled \$247,000 and fled the state.

The song "Happy Birthday to You" was the creation of two Louisville sisters in 1893.

Teacher Mary S. Wilson held the first observance of Mother's Day in Henderson in 1887. It was made a national holiday in 1916.

The great Man o' War won all of his horse races except one which he lost to a horse named Upset.

The first town in the United States to be named for the first president was Washington. It was named in 1780.

Pikeville annually leads the nation in per capita consumption of Pepsi-Cola.

The first American performance of a Beethoven symphony was in Lexington in 1817.

Post-It Notes are manufactured exclusively in Cynthiana. The exact number made annually of these popular notes is a trade secret.

Kentucky was the 15th state to join the Union and the first on the western frontier.

Bluegrass is not really blue--its green--but in the spring bluegrass produces bluish purple buds that when seen in large fields give a blue cast to the grass. Today Kentucky is known as the Bluegrass State.

There is a legend that the inspiration for Stephen Foster's hymn like song "My Old Kentucky Home" was written in 1852 after an unverified trip to visit relatives in Kentucky.

Daniel Boone and his wife Rebecca are buried in the Frankfort Cemetery. Their son Isaac is buried at Blue Licks Battlefield near Carlisle, where he was killed in the last battle of the Revolutionary War fought in Kentucky.

The only monument south of the Ohio River dedicated to Union Soldiers who died in the Civil War is located in Vanceburg.

The public saw an electric light for the first time in Louisville. Thomas Edison introduced his incandescent light bulb to crowds at the Southern Exposition in 1883.

The radio was invented by a Kentuckian named Nathan B. Stubblefield of Murray in 1892. It was three years before Marconi made his claim to the invention.

The first enamel bathtub was made in Louisville in 1856.

In the War of 1812, more than half of all Americans killed in action were Kentuckians. Middlesboro is the only city in the United States built within a meteor crater.

Joe Bowen holds the world record for stilt walking endurance. He walked 3,008 miles on stilts between Bowen, Kentucky to Los Angeles, California.

The world's largest free-swinging bell known as the World Peace Bell is on permanent display in Newport.



High Bridge located near Nicholasville is the highest railroad bridge over navigable water in the United States.

More than \$6 billion worth of gold is held in the underground vaults of Fort Knox. This is the largest amount of gold stored anywhere in the world.

The Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption in Covington has 82 stained-glass windows including the world's largest hand-blown one. The window measures 24 feet wide by 67 feet high and depicts the Council of Ephesus with 134 life-sized figures.

The Lost River Cave and Valley Bowling Green includes a cave with the shortest and deepest underground river in the world. It contains the largest cave opening east of the Mississippi.

Pike County the world's largest producer of coal is famous for the Hatfield-McCoy feud, an Appalachian vendetta that lasted from the Civil War to the 1890s.

Moonshiners are people who produce (illegal) moonshine in the Appalachian Mountains of Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia.

Kentucky Bourbon whiskey is a type of American whiskey, a barrel-aged distilled spirit made primarily from corn.

My Family Tree and Kentucky

I lived my entire life thinking I was 50% Swedish (my mother's side) and 50% Danish (my father's side). That is until two years ago when my sister, who is actively researching our family's ancestry and genealogy with the LDS Church, sent me our "Family Tree". What a surprise!!

Here is a summary of my true ancestry:

My mother's side of the family is 100% Swedish, so I must be 50% Swedish. On my Dad's side of the family, his dad (Charles Petersen - my grandfather) and both of his parents are 100% Danish. My dad's mother (Josephine Cambron - my grandmother) whose mother (Anne Marie Clausen – my Great Grandmother) is 100% Danish. However, that leaves my dad's mother's father (Joseph Cambron – my Great Grandfather) who is not Swedish or Danish. His father (Benedict Cambron - my Great Great Grandfather) is from the town of Washington in the state of Kentucky but his nationality appears to be English. My dad's mother's mother (Sarah Anna Ashbaugh – my Great Great Grandmother) was born in Nelson County, Kentucky and her nationality appears to be German.

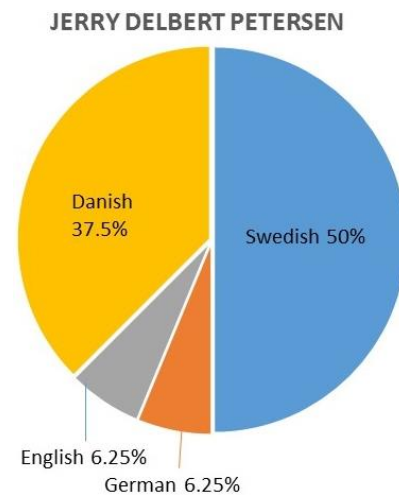
Here is the breakdown:

My Great Grandmother Anne Marie Clausen is 100% Danish My Great Grandfather Joseph Cambron is 50% English and 50% German.

That makes my Grandmother Josephine Cambron 50% Danish, 25% English, and 25% German. Remember, my Grandfather Charles Petersen was 100% Danish.

That should make my Dad (Delbert Petersen) 75% Danish, 12.5% English and 12.5% German. Remember, my mother Dorothy Nelson is 100% Swedish.

If I calculated this correctly, I'm 50% Swedish, 37.5% Danish, 6.25% English and 6.25% German.



I'm good with this new finding. A little English and a little German ancestry is okay. Let's face it, it could have been much worse!!

So, my Great-Great Grandfather, Benedict Cambron, is from the town of Washington, Kentucky. Here is a little history lesson:

Washington was founded in 1786 by Arthur Fox, a Revolutionary War soldier from Virginia, and William Wood, a Baptist preacher, also from Virginia. The first trustees included Daniel Boone. The land on which it was laid out was purchased by Fox and Wood from Simon Kenton, the original explorer and settler of the area who at that time lived close by. The town was founded as Washington, Virginia since in 1786 Kentucky did not yet exist as a separate state. It is believed that Washington is the first settlement named for George Washington.

Many of the original settlers were revolutionary war veterans and 17 such veterans are known to be buried in Washington. The 1790 Census listed 462 residents, including 21 slaves and was the second largest town in the future state of Kentucky. Only Lexington was larger. One of the early settlers was Captain Thomas Marshall, a revolutionary war soldier and brother of John Marshall, who later became Chief Justice. Captain Marshall's father and mother later joined him in Washington and they all lived and eventually died at the Marshall Home, which is still standing on Green Street.

Washington is now a neighborhood of the city of Maysville located near the Ohio River in Mason County. (Note: you can find Maysville on the Kentucky Map on page 2 of this article – it is circled in “red”) It is one of the earliest settlements in Kentucky and also one of the earliest American settlements west of the Appalachian Mountains. It played a significant role in the lead-up to the Civil War, producing two civil war generals (one Union and one Confederate). It has since been annexed by Maysville and is sometimes now referred to as “Old Washington”.

Here is some additional information about Great-Great Grandpa Benedict Cambron and Great-Great Grandma Sarah Anna Ashbaugh:

Benedict Cambron

Born on 27 March 1810 in Washington, KY

Married to Sarah Anna Ashbaugh on 15 January 1832

Died in 1868 (age 58 or 59) in Miller Township, Scotland County, MO

Sarah Anna Ashbaugh

Born on 10 April 1807 in Nelson County, KY

Married to Benedict Cambron on 15 January 1832

Died in 1868 (age 61 or 62) in Miller Township, Scotland County, MO

My Great-Great Grandmother, Sarah Anna Ashbaugh, was born in Nelson County which is shown in “red” on the map and it has a population of about 44,000.



Scotland County, Missouri is shown in “red” on the map and it has a population of about 4,800. As far as I can tell, Miller Township no longer exists. Nobody seems to know how long Benedict and Sarah lived in Miller Township or where they are buried.



Well, there you have it – my connection to Kentucky (and Missouri). Just for the record, I have never been in the great state of Kentucky. Yes, I like horses and Bourbon – I wouldn’t mind going since I’m sure I would have a good time!!

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