

# KENTUCKY

## 1 Marion Welcome Center

213 S. Main Street  
(270)965-5015 director@marionkentucky.org

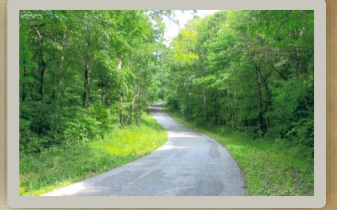
The Marion Welcome Center is the gateway to Marion and Crittenden County, Kentucky. Learn about the history and heritage of the region including information about Edgar Casey, Black Patch Wars, Civil War History, Native Americans, Land Between the Lakes, the Cave in Rock Ferry, the Clement Mineral Collection and the local Amish Community. Local crafts, Amish hand made items, cookbooks and history journals are featured and for sale.



## 2 Pickering Hill

Pickering Hill Road, Crittenden County, KY

A hill named for William Pickering who, according to tradition, was murdered by the Ford Gang over a dispute concerning the portion of Ford's Ferry Road that passed through his land. The Ford Gang in the guise of fellow travelers, met pioneers at the base of the hill to accompany them to Ferry Ohio. In route, the gang would determine if the travelers were a good prospect for robbing.



## 3 Murder's Cave (Private Property)

Ford's Ferry Road, Crittenden County, KY

About a mile up Crooked Creek and just off Ford's Ferry Road, Murder's Cave is a large shelter bluff adjacent to the creek. An opening at the top of the bluff is said to be where the Ford Gang disposed of victims they robbed along the road from Pickering Hill to Ferry Ohio. This photo depicts the hole at the top of the cave.



## 4 Ford's Ferry Road

Ford's Ferry Road, Crittenden County, KY

A road James Ford cleared and maintained for several miles leading to and from his ferry on the Ohio River. Ford dispatched riders throughout the region to hang posters advertising his all-weather crossing at Ferry Ohio. This greatly increased the number of travelers through the area.



## 5 Ferry Ohio (Private Property)

Ford's Ferry Road, Crittenden County, KY

Ferry operation started by James Ford in 1823 from a Kentucky-based ferry house that also served as an inn for travelers. Sometime after 1840 the prosperous village of Ford's Ferry was built on the site with several stores, a drug store, post office, hotel, and wharf facilities. After the 1937 flood many of the families didn't return to rebuild and the town vanished.



## 6 Ford's Cemetery (Private Property)

Highway 135, Tolu, KY

Once a part of the Ford Plantation, this is the final resting place of James Ford, his sons Phillip and William, and Phillip's wife, Almira (Alma). Other unmarked graves may also be present. According to legend, a storm was rolling in when the enslaved workers were lowering James Ford's casket into the grave. A loud thunderclap caused them to momentarily let go of the ropes, wedging Ford's casket head first diagonally across the grave. With rain coming, the grave was quickly covered, and Ford was buried in that position.



# ILLINOIS

## 7 Cave-In-Rock Ferry

Crossing the Ohio River from Highway 91 in Kentucky to Route 1, Illinois

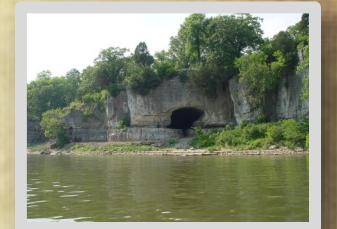
A free Ohio River ferry operating daily from 6:00AM to 10:00PM connecting Kentucky Route 91 to Illinois Route 1 in the village of Cave-in-Rock, Illinois. Cave-in-Rock was settled in 1816 by Lewis Barker who also operated a ferry at the site.



## 8 The Cave at Cave-In-Rock State Park

1 New State Park Rd, Cave-In-Rock, IL

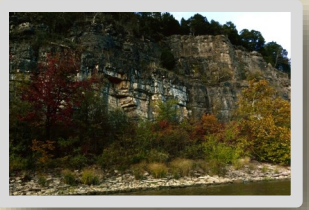
Refuge and hideout for many notorious river pirates and outlaws: Philip Alston, John Duff, Samuel Mason, the Harpe brothers, Sturdivant's, and the Ford's Ferry Gang. Once used as a dance hall, church services, potato cellar, and boat dry dock. Carvings on the cave's interior show it has been visited for generations. The Cave has been an Illinois State Park since 1929.



## 9 Tower Rock

Tower Rock Rd, Elizabethtown, IL

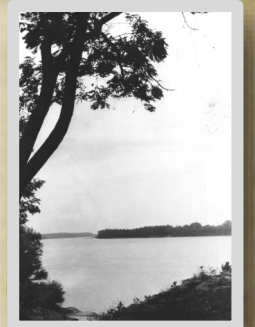
A quarter-mile trail at the riverfront leads to a bluff-top overlook that's said to be the highest point on the Ohio River. River pirates used this vantage point to spy on approaching boats. Across the river is the head of Hurricane Island and across the river was the location of James Ford's Kentucky plantation.



## 10 Hurricane Island (Private Property)

Ohio River at 37.4459° N, 88.2706° W

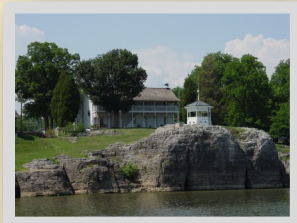
A nearly two-mile long island in the Ohio River. The original river channel was on the Kentucky side of the island. James Ford's plantation house was across from the head of the island. According to tradition, the Ford Gang stored stolen livestock and goods from flatboats on the island until it could be claimed as "found cargo." Samuel Mason often left river pirates on the island pretending to be marooned travelers to passing flatboats in order to rob them.



## 11 Historic Rose Hotel

195 S. Main Street, Elizabethtown, IL

James and Elizabeth McFarlan built the McFarlan Tavern in 1812 and operated a ferry here across from the end of Hurricane Island. McFarlan commanded a militia during the War of 1812, and although seemingly surrounded by river pirates and outlaws, there's never been any mention of him involved in criminal activity. Known as McFarlan's Ferry through his lifetime, the town was named for his wife Elizabeth when it was platted in 1840 by his son James McFarlan, Jr. The southwest corner of the hotel is the original building built by McFarlan. The hotel was added onto three different times to its current size and has been known as the Rose Hotel since the late 1800s.



## 12 Sturdivant's Fort (Private Property)

Rosiclare, IL

Standing at the Rose Hotel Gazebo look west to the nearby Rosiclare, Illinois water tower. Just to the right of the tower is a large yard devoid of trees. This was the location of Sturdivant's Fort, a two-generation counterfeiting operation by Azor and his two sons, Roswell and Merrick, Sturdivant. Sturdivant's Fort was a two-story blockhouse surrounded by a stockade on land owned by James Ford. A cannon was utilized for defense. The fort was raided three times by local authorities between 1822-1823 driving the counterfeiters from the region. According to tradition, money made at Sturdivant's Fort was traded at the Cave. The exchange rate was \$100 in counterfeit for \$16 legal tender.



## 13 Potts' Inn (Private Property)

Route 1, Hardin County, IL

Considered the northern reach of James Ford's gang of highwaymen. Isaiah Potts' Inn was a convenient day's journey from Ferry Ohio where travelers could stop for the night. An adjacent cold-water spring was where many pioneers were caught off-guard and murdered as they took a drink. The infamous Ford's Ferry Road ran between the inn and the spring. According to folklore, the Potts' murdering ways ended when they murdered a man at the spring not knowing it was their son who had lived far away for many years.



## 14 Crenshaw House (Not Open to the Public)

Equality, IL

Manor house built in the 1830s by John Crenshaw, a salt baron of the 1800s. Crenshaw made his fortune off the nearby salt works using slave-labor leased from surrounding slave states. Crenshaw had business dealings with James Ford. The site is recognized as a station on the Reverse Underground Railroad from Crenshaw's involvement kidnapping free blacks and selling them into slavery in slave states. In the winter, you can see the house through the trees from Rt. 1 approaching the intersection of Rt. 1 and Rt. 13.



## 15 Ohio River Visitor's Center

120 W Lane St, Equality, IL

Located at the corner of Lane and Calhoun Streets in Equality, this Ohio River Scenic Byway welcome center has information on the region and a collection of artifacts and displays from the nearby salt making operations from early Native Americans through the pioneers of the 1800s.



Funding for the Ohio River Outlaw Trail map is provided by Illinois Humanities, the Kentucky Local History Trust Fund, Hardin County, Illinois Tourism, and Marion, KY Tourism. For an audio tour of the Outlaw Trail, call the Crittenden County Public Library's Dial-A-Story line at (270)918-9900.

Please respect private property and do not visit non-public sites on this map without the express permission of the property owners.