

Interesting and mostly true, Kentucky Facts

John K. Elling, Rector Hayden Realtors®

1. Starters in the KY Derby, the oldest continuously held horse race, have had names beginning with every letter of the alphabet except for “X”.

2. Man o’ War, one of the most famous horses ever born in KY, *never actually ran a race in the state.*

3. Thunder Over Louisville, the Derby festivities’ opening ceremony, has one of the world’s largest fireworks displays.



4. A typical Derby crowd guzzles **120,000 mint juleps** and **7,000 liters of bourbon.**

5. Internet lore would have you believe that **Bourbon County** is among the state’s 37 dry counties – but that is false.

6. Speaking of **Bourbon** – this beverage takes its name from Bourbon County where it was first distilled, not the other way around.

7. 1888 KY treasurer **Honest “Dick” Tate** embezzled nearly \$250k and fled the state – historical irony...



8. **Frederick Vinson**, who later became the 13th Chief Justice of the U.S. began life in a Louisa County jailhouse.

9. KY has the only memorial to Union soldiers killed during the Civil War south of the Ohio River – and just barely! It’s located in **Vanceburg, KY.**

10. KY governors still must swear an oath before taking office that they have never fought a duel with a deadly weapon.

11. **Frankfort** was the only Union state capital to be occupied by Confederate Troops

12. **Martin van Buren Bates**, a captain in the 7th KY Cavalry was so tall (about 7’9”) that his feet were said to drag on the ground when he sat in the saddle.

13. **Richmond, KY** was almost chosen to be the nation’s capital, but it lost out to Washington, D.C. due to lack of nearby seaports.

14. **Kaelin’s restaurant** in Louisville claims to have invented

the cheeseburger in 1934, although a Denver drive-in called Humpty Dumpty’s patented it a year later.



15. Unlike Uncle Ben, Aunt Jemima, and Betty Crocker – **Colonel Sanders** really did exist and he developed his “secret recipe” for fried chicken in Corbin, KY.

16. **Duncan Hines**, of cake mix fame, was also real. He hailed from **Bowling Green, KY.**



17. **Bowling Green** is also the only place in the world where **Corvettes** are made.

18. **Post-It** Notes are produced nowhere else but Cynthiana, KY

19. **Mammoth Cave** is the longest cave system in the world. It’s also the U.S.’s second-oldest tourist attraction behind Niagara Falls.



20. **Cumberland Falls** in the Daniel Boone Nat’l Forest is one of the few places on Earth you might be able to see a moonbow.

21. The nation’s first commercial oil well was NOT in Texas – but actually in McCreary County along the banks of the Cumberland River in 1819.

22. The melody of “**Happy Birthday**” was composed in 1893 by Patty & Mildred Hill, 2 Louisville sisters.

21. **Mother’s Day** began in KY when Henderson schoolteacher **Mary Towles Sasseen** created it to honor her own mother.

22. **The Hatfields and McCoys** were real families who carried on a real feud for a quarter century after the Civil War. While Devil Anse & Co. were from West Virginia, the McCoys were all from Pike



County, KY.

23. **Washington, KY** was the first town in the U.S. to be named for President George Washington.

24. Postlethwait's Tavern in **Lexington** (now Phoenix Park) hosted the nation's first performance of a Beethoven Symphony in 1817.

25. Saloon-smashing, alcohol suppressing crusader **Carrie Nation** was born in Garrard County.

26. Another KY notable, **Zerelda James** (mom to outlaw Jesse James) is rumored to have been born in a saloon – the Offutt-Cole Tavern, which still stands today at the intersection of Old Frankfort Pike and US 62 near Midway, KY.



27. In KY, it's illegal to release a feral hog into the wild.

28. **More than half** of all U.S. troops killed in the War of 1812 were **Kentuckians**.

29. One of the first U.S. casualties of WWI was KY-born: Corporal James Bethel Gresham from McLean County.

30. Mark Spitz's star spangled speedos – the hit of the 1972 Olympics – were the height of Paris couture...Paris, KY that is.



31. Covington's Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption boasts the world's largest **hand-blown stained glass window**, a 67' x 24' depiction of the Council of Ephesus.

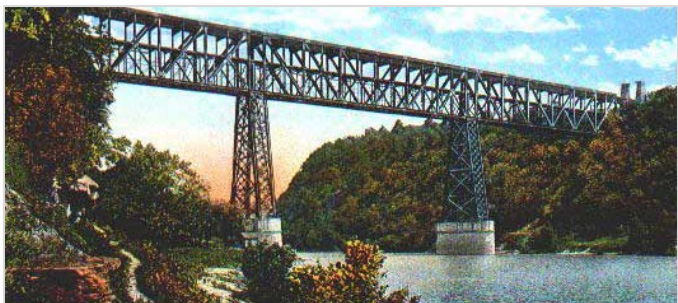
32. Fort Knox holds the largest store of gold in the world – **\$6 billion and some change**.

33. Middlesboro, KY is the only U.S. city built inside of a meteor crater.



34. Middlesboro is also home of the Coal House – built from 42 tons of bituminous coal and currently houses the Bell County Chamber of Commerce.

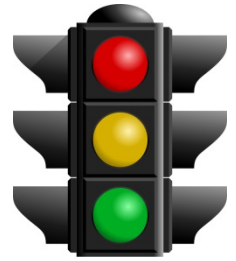
35. High Bridge, towering 275 feet over the Kentucky River in Jessamine County, is said to be the nation's tallest railroad bridge spanning navigable waters.



36. Bibb lettuce was developed and named for **John Bibb of Frankfort, KY**.

37. The world's first enamel bathtub was manufactured in Louisville in 1856.

38. **Traffic lights** were invented by Garrett Morgan, a former slave from Paris, KY.



39. The radio was actually invented by Murray, KY's own Nathan B. Stubblefield in 1892 – 3 years before Marconi claimed the patent for it.



40. **Thomas Edison** really lit things up at the 1893 Southern Exposition in Louisville, introducing the public to **the electric light bulb**.

41. Louisville was founded by George Rogers Clark, the older brother of the Clark whose name is usually preceded by "Lewis and..."

42. Old Louisville is the U.S.'s largest Victorian preservation district.

43. Students at **Lexington's Transylvania University** enter a lottery for a chance to spend the night in the on-campus tomb of a 19th-century botany professor.

44. KY has more miles of **running water** than any other state in the continental 48.

45. KY shares borders with **7** other states – Virginia, West Virginia, Tennessee, Indiana, Ohio, Illinois and Missouri.

46. **The Lost Mountain Coal Mine**, in rural Breathitt County, has been abandoned for over 40 years, but it isn't hard to find – Just look for billowing clouds of smoke – **underground coal fires** are nearly impossible to put out and continue to burn.

47. The Bourbon Industry and related jobs (barrel-making and farming) **employs over 15,000 people**.

Hope you have enjoyed,
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