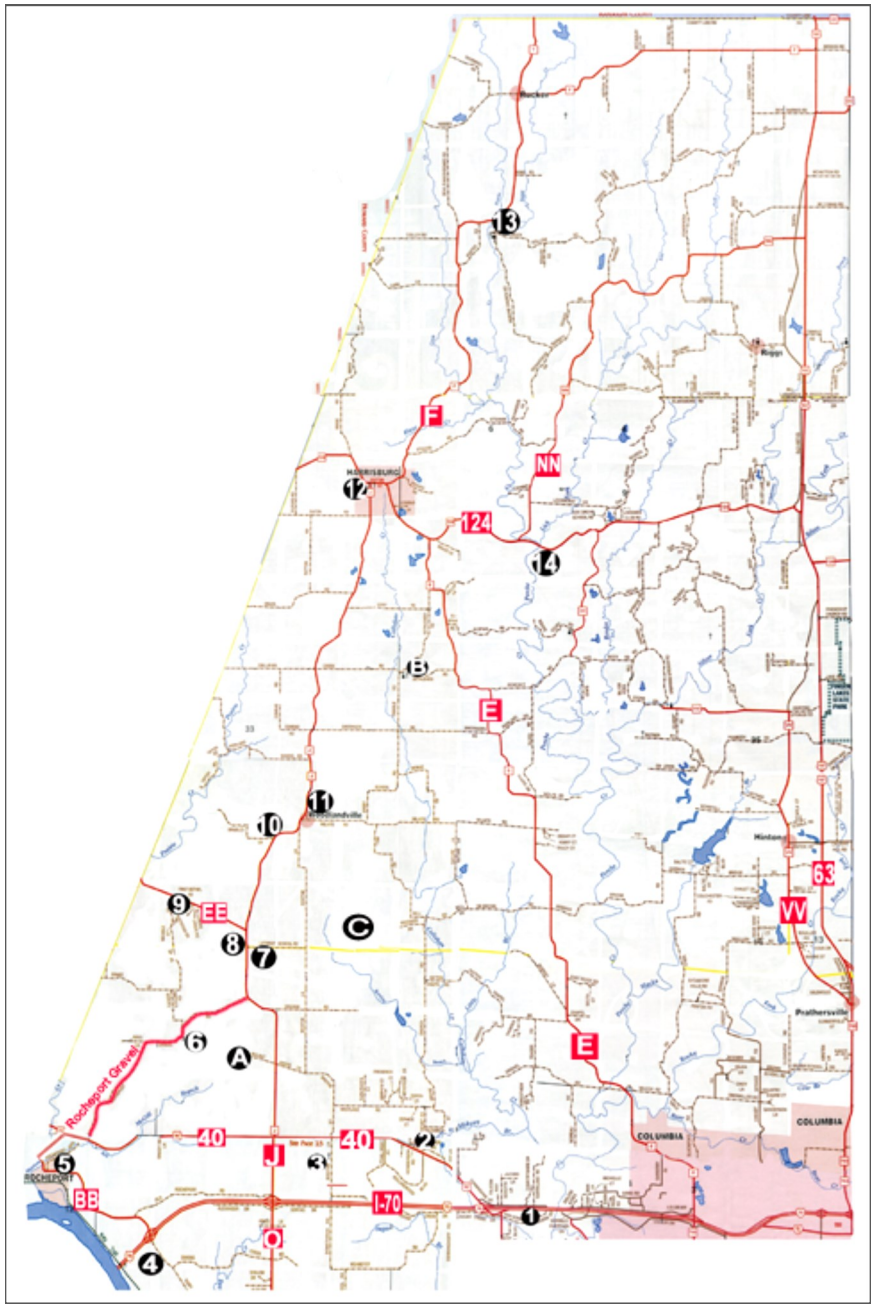
Tour #3

Northwest Boone County map

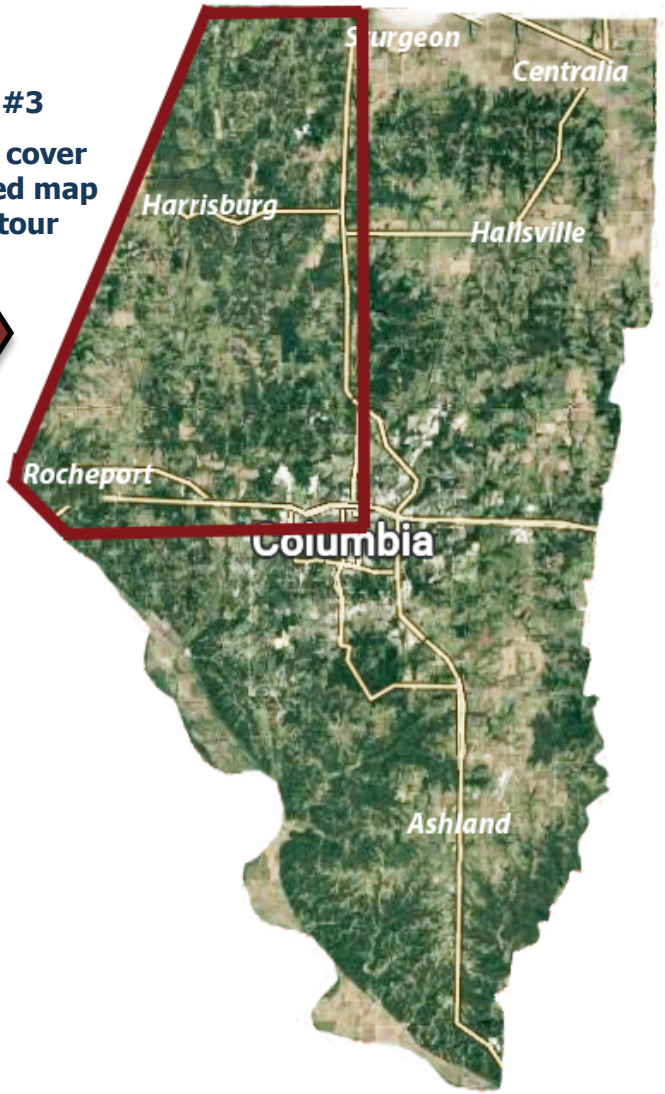


A Driving Tour of

Northwest Boone County

TOUR #3

See back cover for detailed map of this tour



BOON History

Boone County Historical Society

Historic Sites Committee

The Historic Sites Program of the Boone County Historical Society

Inaugurated in 1994, the Boone County Historical Society's Historic Sites program identifies and recognizes historic sites in Boone County. The program also attempts to compile information on all historic sites in Boone County.

Sites are nominated by the general public and by members of the Boone County Historical Society's Historic Sites Committee. The Committee then selects, from these nominations, sites to be included on the *Register of Boone County Historic Sites.* Sites are selected for one, several, or all of the following reasons:

Associative significance: The site is associated with events or with the lives of persons significant to the history of Boone County.

Intrinsic significance: The site embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction; or represents the work of a master; or possesses high aesthetic value.

Informational significance: The site yields or may likely yield information important to the history or prehistory of Boone County.

BOONE COUNTY History & Culture CENTER

Boone County History & Culture Center

3801 Ponderosa Street, Columbia, MO 65201

BooneHistory.org | (573) 443-8936 | Info@BooneHistory.org

@BooneHistory on social media

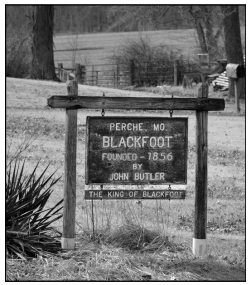
For current hours, check website or call

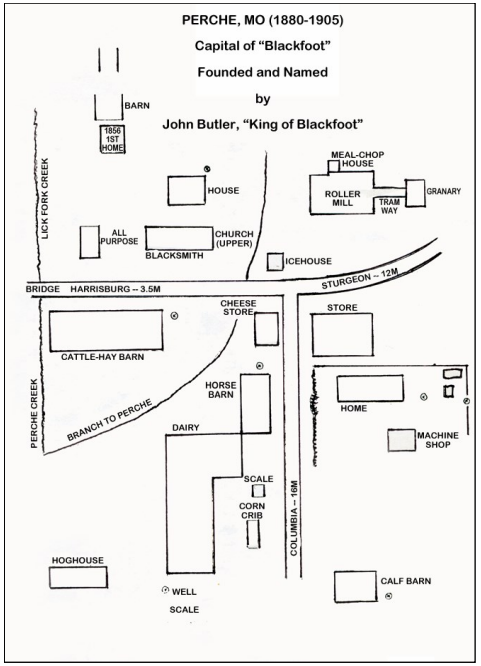
14 Perche and Blackfoot

GPS: 39.07306, -92.408497

The area known to the early citizens of Boone County as "Blackfoot" was located in Perche Township in the area of Perche Creek and Lick Fork, where Highway 124 crosses Perche Creek. The town Perche, established in 1880, the location of Butler's Store, was called the capitol of Blackfoot and John Butler was known as the "King of Blackfoot."

The origin of the name Blackfoot has several traditions, from Indian tribe to school children's barefoot dancing in the coal-rich soil. To some it was an insult, to others a source of great pride.





13 Perche Baptist Church

20301 N. Perche Church Road, Clark, MO 65243

GPS: 39.2007218, -92.4224715

The Disciples of Christ founded Perche Church June 14, 1835. A small log building was built with a fireplace in each end. In 1874 under the supervision of Bethlehem Baptist Church near Harrisburg, Missouri, the Baptist Organization was formed. The Baptist Organization later joined the Christian denomination in the use of the small log building. Each denomination had its own Sunday for worship.

In 1880, a frame structure was built. It was 34' X 50' in size and was built at a cost of $1200.On October 4, 1880, the Baptist's organized as a church with 23 charter members.

The present church was constructed in 1915 and 1916. Materials from the nearby creek were used to make the concrete blocks to construct the church. All of the sand at the creek would be used and the members felt that sand would have to be purchased to form the blocks but rains would come and more sand washed to the nearby creek to be used for the construction. Members of both the Baptist and the Christian denominations donated much of the labor. Sears Roebuck presented as a gift to the church, the bell that hangs in the tower. The stained glass windows were shipped here from England. They came to Sturgeon by rail and men from the church hauled the windows by horse and wagon from Sturgeon to the church.

Baptisms were held in the nearby creek for many years. The Christian denomination has not held services here for many years. Currently the Baptist denomination has services each Sunday with many other activities throughout the year.

Written by Mary Lou Shelnutt.

Return to Harrisburg. Go east on Highway 124 for 3.5 miles to the Perche Creek bridge. Just east of the bridge, on the right side of the highway, will be a small, weathered sign indicating the area of Blackfoot, described on the next page.

Sites on the Tour

See map on back cover

Site # Page

1. Van Horn Tavern *(site only)* 4
2. Midway Locust Grove United Methodist Church..... 5
3. Cochran-Blaylock Home and Farm 6
4. Moses U. Payne House 7
5. Rocheport Historic District…….8-9
6. Walnut Grove Cemetery 10
7. Boone's Lick Road..... 11
8. Thrall's Prairie 12
9. Old Bethel Cemetery..... 13
10. Goslin Lane Battle Site 14
11. Woodlandville United Methodist Church 15
12. Harrisburg, the town & cemetery 16
13. Perche Baptist Church..... 17
14. Perche and Blackfoot 18

Welcome to Your Tour

We live in a beautiful and historic part of a wonderful country. What better way to explore both than a historic driving tour? The Historic Sites Committee of the Boone County Historical Society urges all—the native, the newly-arrived, and the visitor—to take time to enjoy the legacy left by so many who have preceded us. Feel free to pick and choose segments of the tour and start anywhere that fits your fancy. Use the accompanying map to plan your trip.

Enjoy your trip,
Boone County Historical Society "Historic Sites Committee"

Look for the STAR symbol. It identifies properties recognized by the BCHS Historic Sites Committee, and the year of designation.

Don't forget to tag us in your social media posts when you share about your tour!

BOONE COUNTY History & Culture CENTER

#BooneHistory
@boonehistory

12 Harrisburg

GPS: 39.14134, -92.45532

Harrisburg, in northwest Boone County, is situated on a high point between Moniteau Creek and Perche Creek, at the headwaters of Callahan Creek. It is named in honor of John Woods Harris, an early county leader and owner of the nearby "Model Farm" on Thrall's Prairie.

The town was founded in 1871 to be an important depot on the anticipated Louisiana & Missouri River Railroad. Although the line was graded and work began on bridges the railroad was abandoned, to the surprise and disappointment of many; so Harrisburg remained small. A reminder, Depot Street still exists on the North side of town, though no depot was ever constructed. The location was also on the main road leading from Rocheport to Sturgeon.

The first church was a Christian (Disciples of Christ) Church, built in 1872, but replaced with a new building in 1980. The Harrisburg Baptist Church, built in 1887, is still in use. In 1882 Harrisburg had three stores, a confectionery shop, a church, a mill, a blacksmith, and most importantly a "fine" public school building with a Masonic hall above. That building, constructed by the Freemasons, served as Harrisburg's school and community center from 1878 to 1963. In 2013 it was placed on the National Register of Historic Places, but was shortly afterward demolished due to dilapidation.

The small Prewitt Family Cemetery is located behind Harrisburg Elementary School. The much larger **Harrisburg Cemetery** is located at the East end of town. The earliest burial was in 1863, and burials continue today, with an estimated 750 interments as of 2024.

11 Woodlandville United Methodist Church

GPS: 39.062612, -92.483297

BCHS *Historic Site,* designated in 2005

The origin of Woodlandville Church began in 1836 with land purchased for a square log building known as the Bethlehem Meeting House.

This was a shared church, alternating service for the Methodists, Baptists, and Presbyterians. The Methodists later built their own church in the town of Everett, which boasted a general store, blacksmith shop, and post office.

Everett no longer exists, but the remains of the town's one-room school house and the old cemetery can still be seen from Wilhite road.

After 41 years in Everett, the congregation decided to move the church to Woodlandville, a larger community with better roads, a general store, blacksmith shop, and post office. On May 11, 1901, the land was purchased for the current church. The church was dedicated in 1902.

The town of Woodlandville no longer supports any businesses, but the church has stayed strong throughout the last one hundred-plus years. It has served as a center of worship and a meeting place for many organizations in the community.

From Woodlandville, continue north on Route J to Harrisburg. The school and lodge is located on your right just before you get to the intersection

1 Van Horn Tavern (site only)

GPS: 38.968396, -92.420786

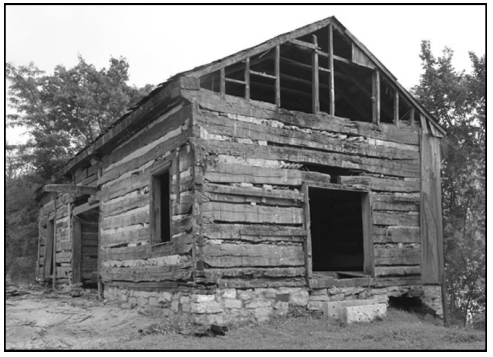
BCHS *Historic Site,* designated in 2008

Starting your NW Boone County tour at I-70 and Stadium Boulevard in Columbia, *drive west on I-70 to the Midway exit. Turn south on Old Highway 40 as if you were returning to Columbia; do not enter I-70, turn right on Route UU. Take first left onto Van Horn Tavern Road; continue 3/10 mile to DAR marker on left, just before crossing bridge to Perche Creek Golf Course. Tavern sat about where house is now, then was moved up the hill 100 yards.*

Image, Mrs. Lewis Sims Photograph collection, SHSMO.

Arguably the most historic site on the west bank of Perche Creek was the 19th century Van Horn Tavern, host to cross-country travelers passing through the Mid-Missouri wilderness.

According to legend, it was the favorite stopping place for Senator Thomas Hart Benton, a personal friend of proprietor Ishmael Van Horn, en route from Washington to his home in Kansas City. Author Washington Irving also spent the night at the tavern in 1832.



The log structure is thought to be the only remaining one on the Boone's Lick Trail, and was marked as a historic site by the DAR in 1913. The following year the building was moved a hundred yards up the hill, covered by a barn, until its dismantling in 2014 for reconstruction in Boone Monument Village in Marthasville, Missouri.

From Van Horn Tavern return to Route UU, turn right to Old Highway 40, turn left to the I-70 overpass and go 1.1 miles to Henderson Road (at the Fire Station). Turn right onto Henderson and go half a mile to Locust Grove Church Road. Turn right and you will see the church on your right.

2 Midway Locust Grove United Methodist Church

GPS: 38.986383, -92.448457

BCHS *Historic Site,* designated in 1998

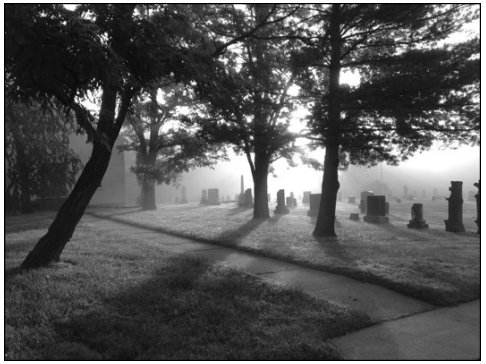
Locust Grove was founded in 1817 and is the oldest Methodist church west of the Mississippi still in continuous service.

Served by circuit riders, the first meetings were held in homes until 1830, when two and one-half acres were deeded to the congregation for the building and cemetery.

The first burial in the cemetery was in 1835. Those interred there include veterans of the War for Independence, the War of 1812, and the Civil War and more recent conflicts.

The first building on the site was the Old Brick Chapel built in 1830. The present sanctuary dates to 1870. The bell tower was added in 1909. Of frame construction, Locust Grove has had several additions made, and continues to thrive. Some families have worshipped there for six generations.

That residence just down the road from the church was the Midway School until the 1956 consolidation of seven one-room schools and construction of the present Midway Heights Elementary School on Highway 40.



From Locust Grove UMC, return to Henderson Road, turn right to Highway 40. Turn right and go 1.3 miles to Boothe Lane. Turn left and go 7/10 of a mile. The property will be on your right.

10 Goslin Lane Battle Site

GPS: 39.058554, -92.493260

BCHS *Historic Site,* designated in 2004

On Friday, September 23, 1864, a Federal train of 14 wagons, of which four were government wagons, was en route from Sturgeon to Rocheport, escorted by about 70 Federal soldiers. The wagons were loaded with, among other items, ammunition, clothing and private property belonging to the soldiers.

The train stopped about sunset at Goslin's Lane. Some of the soldiers were relaxing in Sylvester Goslin's yard, others were in the orchard gathering apples; most of the command was with the wagons in the lane, 200 yards from the house.

Without warning, a force of about 100 mounted guerillas under the command of Thomas and George Todd and John Thrailkill charged down the lane, firing indiscriminately and with deadly effect upon the soldiers. The charge was so sudden the Federal troops had no time to form a line for battle.

Those who could scattered by foot into a corn field, others rode away on their horses; some were riding in the wagons and had no horses. The train was captured by the guerillas, along with 18,000 rounds of ammunition, clothing and baggage. The wagons were burned after the guerillas had taken all they wanted.

Eleven soldiers were found dead on the ground. After robbing and firing the wagon train, the guerrillas left the scene with none killed and only one wounded. Bill Anderson himself was not a participant in this raid, but his guerillas were. *(Excerpted from Switzler's History of Boone County.*

One of those who scattered was Henry Smith of Columbia, who died in May of 1911. He told of the rout: It was not a battle, for the Union soldiers made no resistance. They fled in every direction. Upon one side of the lane was a corn-field, on the other a meadow. Many fled to the corn-field and hid in the shocks. They were dragged out one by one by Anderson's men and shot, for Anderson took no prisoners. Those who fled to the meadow escaped. Mr. Smith escaped down the lane on his horse. He leaned far over the animal's neck, Indian fashion, to escape the bullets. Mr. Smith served during the rest of the war in Southern Missouri and Arkansas.

From Goslin Lane, continue north on Route J a short distance to the water tower and Woodlandville on the right. To see the remains of the school, go east on Wilhite Road (just south of the church) about one mile to the northwest corner of the intersection of Evert School Road.

9 Old Bethel Cemetery

GPS: 39.042117, -92.519626

BCHS *Historic Site,* designated in 2008

The Old Bethel Cemetery is also the site of Bethel Baptist Church, the first church organized in Boone County, although no trace of the church building itself has been found.

A building was erected and stood for many years, but the church passed out of existence before the Civil War, and Bethlehem and Walnut Grove churches were constituted largely from its membership. In 1819 Bonne Femme Church, southeast of Columbia, was organized from Bethel Church.

The first Bethel Meeting House was built of ash logs in 1817, on land purchased from William Boone. The preachers who conducted the organization were David McClain and William Tharp, who came to the Boonslick country with the original pioneers in 1810 and were in the old fort near Franklin from 1811 to 1815. Three denominations, Baptist, Presbyterian and Methodist, shared the meeting house and grounds in the first years, and burials began in 1818.

The cemetery now is a common ground in the Sycamore Creek Subdivision. The cemetery is among a grove of trees where tombstones are lying flat on the ground, leaning against trees, or propped up in various places. There are a few stones still legible, but on many the words have worn away. Some of the stones obviously were never engraved, as they look as if they were just pulled from the creek bed to mark a grave site.

The earliest burials probably were marked this way, or with wooden crosses which would have disappeared long ago.

From Old Bethel Cemetery, return to Route EE and turn right. Return to Route J and turn left. Go 1.6 miles to just past Bradley Road. To the left you will see a Civil War wayside marker which explains the event.

3 Cochran-Blaylock House and Farm

1861 N. Boothe Lane, near Midway

GPS: 38.979114, -92.476975

BCHS *Historic Site,* designated in 2003

William Cochran was born in 1754 in South Carolina and fought in the Revolutionary War. He married Margaret Gamble in 1789 in Kentucky and moved on to Missouri in 1818 with their eight adult children. The next year, he bought a 1/4 section of land, settled his family there, and began construction on a main home. William died in 1821 and the property came into the hands of his son, Robert.

Robert Cochran continued construction on the family home over several years, likely completing the first part in the late 1820s. This original house was a two-story brick home, probably built by slaves from site-fired brick. A porch on the south side greeted visitors. The oak framing and walnut floors were assembled with wood dowels.

The interior is simple. The woodwork is walnut and the floors are of oak. Two front doors gave entrance, one to the hall which also served for dining and the second to the parlor. Upstairs are two bedrooms. The parent's bedroom was entered from the stairs; the second, entered only through the first bedroom, served the girls and ensured that they did not leave to meet a suitor.

A log cabin behind the main house served as a kitchen and sat atop a huge icehouse. Outbuildings included a carriage house with tobacco drying loft and a large barn of notched logs.

Jack and Jo Ann Blaylock acquired the property in 1974 and have beautifully restored and added on to the original house.

From Boothe Lane return to Highway 40, turn left and go one mile to Route J. Turn left and go one mile to I-70. Turn right onto I-70 and go two miles to the Rocheport exit. Turn left on Route BB/Roby Farm Road. Go about half a mile to property on right. An interesting alternate route would be Rocheport Gravel from Route J just north of I-70 to Route BB, turn left across the I-70 overpass to the house.

4 Moses U. Payne House

201 North Roby Farm Road–Rocheport

GPS: 38.963455, -92.531163

The builder of this house, Moses U. Payne, was known throughout Boone county as a great philanthropist. He was a lay Methodist minister and co-founder of the first Union church of Columbia where members of the Baptist and Methodist congregations met for worship. His land holdings in Missouri, Kentucky and Iowa included tens of thousands of acres. Central Methodist University, Fayette, Missouri, along with other institutions of higher learning, were recipients of this man's generosity. Actively involved in several businesses in Columbia and Boone county, Moses U. Payne always considered this house in the vicinity of Rocheport to be his "home place." It is the last surviving dwelling in which he resided.

The house, a two-story frame, is built along a very common and traditional architectural plan often referred to as the Adam or Federal style, and encompasses what is known as the "I-Plan." Built upon a massive stone foundation, the structure has twelve- foot ceilings on the main floor, and ten-foot ceilings on the second. Two fireplaces flank either side of the house and provide hearths in three of the four main rooms, two of which are faced with marble original to the house. The front portico is of wrought iron in the "Passion Flower" design. Manufactured in New Orleans and transported to Rocheport by riverboat, the ironwork is considered one of the most outstanding features of the house.

The site was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on October 7, 1994.

From the Moses U. Payne house, return across I-70 and continue on Route BB into Rocheport. Be aware that most businesses and restaurants are closed on Monday, and Tuesday, so don't plan for lunch on those days.

8 Thrall's Prairie

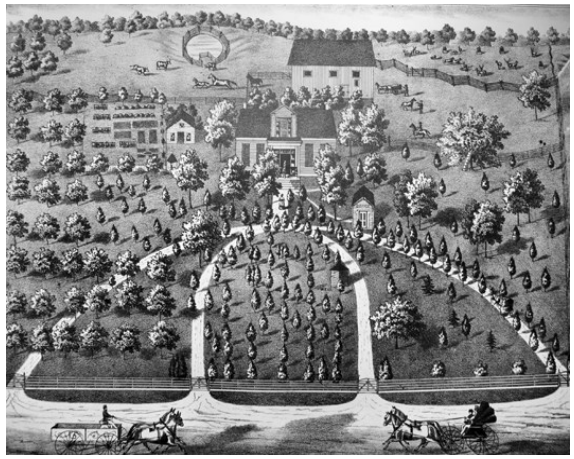
GPS: 39.033428, -92.502955

BCHS *Historic Site*

After the War of 1812, some of the men stationed at forts guarding the western frontier of the United States in Howard county chose to go east and began settling Boone county along the route of the Boone's Lick trail. New Madrid earthquake land grants were granted to some of these men and Augustus Thrall claimed 300 acres of rich prairie land in northwest Boone county. The early village of Lexington was located here. In 1830, Thrall received a tavern license and maintained a station on the trail.

Several county "firsts" occurred here: Bethel Church (whose cemetery still exists) was the earliest known church in the county; Lexington Post Office was the first post stop in the county and it is likely that the first store in Boone county was Oliver Parker's store at Lexington.

Thrall's Prairie proved a prosperous area and remains agricultural. It was the site of the John Woods Harris farm, known as the "Model Farm of Missouri" after winning a statewide competition in 1873.



The John Harris Model Farm. This drawing appeared in the 1875 Atlas of Boone County.

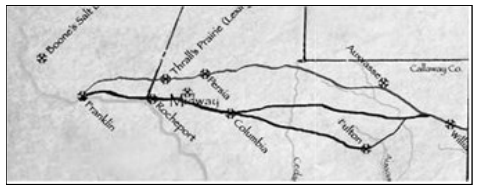
From Route J and Lathrop School Road, continue .2 miles north to Route EE. Turn left and go about a mile to Sycamore Creek on the left. Enter the residential area and at the top of the hill on the right is the cemetery at the intersection of Sycamore Creek Road and First Bethel Road.. You will need to walk up the hill to view what remains of the cemetery.

7 Boone's Lick Road

GPS: 39.033428, -92.502955

BCHS *Historic Site,* designated in 2001

The Boone's Lick Trail (now Road) was named for the salt lick developed by Daniel Boone's sons, Nathan and Daniel Morgan, in western Howard county. The Boones and later operators used overland travel back and forth to St. Charles in addition to down-river trips for getting salt to market.



The part of the historic trail that spanned Boone county was well defined by 1820. Dating from around 1806, it was increasingly used after 1815. Tavern stops were well known. The village of Lexington and the town of Persia had been laid by 1820. The period of heaviest traffic for the original trail was from 1815 to around 1830, though it probably peaked about 1822.

The end of the war with the Indians in 1815 instantly allowed the pent up migration pressure to be relieved. By 1818, the U.S. Land Office opened in Franklin and land sales began. The Missouri River was treacherous and navigated mostly by small craft. Nearly all of the traffic between St. Charles and Franklin passed along the land route. By 1820, as many as 20,000 people had passed through or stopped in Boone county, most of them arriving on the Boone's Lick Road.

The formation of Smithton (later Columbia) and Fulton several miles to the south began a gradual decline in traffic on the original route. About half of the original route through Boone county was incorporated into the new county's never-ending need for new roads.

The Don Sanders family donated a segment of the old trail, shown in the lower photo above. The site is in development for public use as a historic site. It is marked as Site C on the map, in the vicinity east of Lathrop School Road.

Continue to next page for information on Thrall's Prairie.

5 Rocheport Historic District

Western Boone County at the confluence of the Missouri River and Moniteau Creek

GPS: 38.979103, -92.566441

The Rocheport Historic District encompasses the entire town of Rocheport and contains approximately 80 architecturally or historically significant structures dating from the first quarter of the 19th through the first quarter of the 20th centuries.

Rocheport was first settled in 1825 and soon became a busy shipping port for central Missouri. In 1840 Rocheport was selected as the site for the Whig state convention. The noted Missouri artist George Caleb Bingham and Fletcher Webster, son of Daniel Webster, were among the speakers who addressed the thousands of party faithful. Steamboat traffic was the major transportation method and totaled 500 landings at Rocheport in 1849. During the Civil War, business nearly came to a standstill as both Union and Confederate troops raided the town and burned buildings.

By the late 1800s, railroads had supplanted steamboats. In 1892, the Missouri, Kansas and Eastern Railroad Company (later the Missouri, Kansas and Texas) built a cross-state railroad which ran through Rocheport. The railroad's only tunnel, and a replica of the Rocheport station, can be seen today. Construction of a cross-state paved highway in the twentieth century bypassed Rocheport, causing merchants to leave, the bank to close, and many antebellum homes to deteriorate.

In 1967 a group of citizens organized the Friends of Rocheport to restore and maintain the town's historic structures. The Friends acquired several buildings and spurred interest in historic preservation. The town now hosts many visitors with numerous antique shops, a country store, an art gallery, B and B's, restaurants, and access to the beautiful "Katy" trail for hiking and biking.

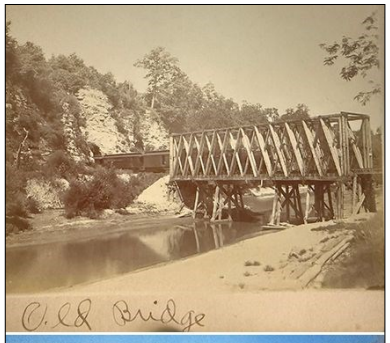
Friends of Rocheport Historic Museum.

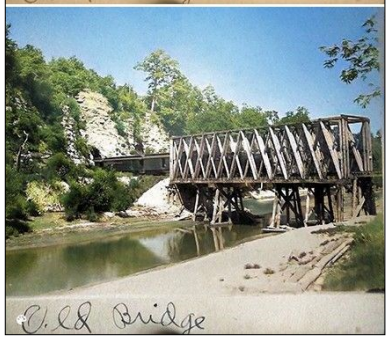
101 Moniteau St

Rocheport, MO

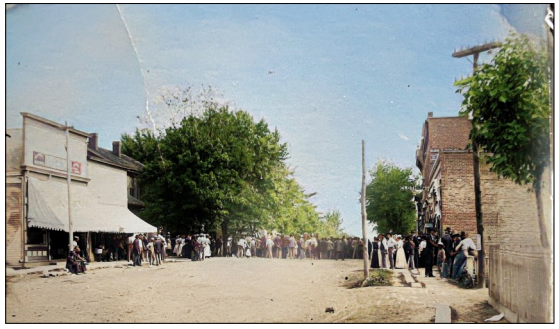
Historic photos of Rocheport. Digitally colorized for clarity and interest.
Originals are part of Boone County Historical Society's collection

Historic photo of Rocheport, early 1900's, showing the "new" railroad bridge., built in 1898. The ice houses can be seen in lower right.





Comparison of an original photo of the "old bridge" at Rocheport, left, to the digitally colorized version , below left. Notice the train on the bridge, just coming out of the tunnel.



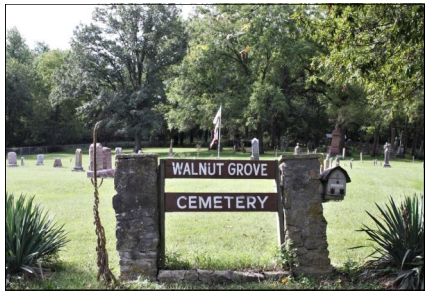
Historic photo of Rocheport, probably during a Fourth of July celebration, early 1900's. (Digitally colorized)

From Rocheport, take the 240 spur north to Highway 40. Turn right and go about one mile to Rocheport Gravel Road. Turn left and go 2.9 miles to mailbox 12345 on your left. Turn into the lane on your right to the cemetery, across from that mailbox.

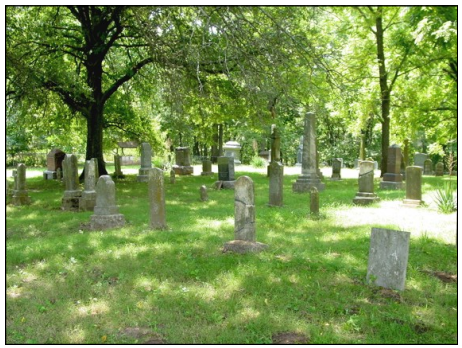
❻ Walnut Grove Cemetery

GPS: 39.013489, -92.523314

BCHS *Historic Site,* designated in 2005



Walnut Grove Baptist Church was formed in 1835. In 1836, William Wilhite donated one acre of land for the original church site. Fielding Wilhite was the first pastor. In 1838 the congregation erected a brick church building, 20' by 50', plain but substantially finished and furnished. Services were held there until 1847 when a frame structure was built, 40' x 60', without a spire or bell. Within that same location, which eventually expanded to three acres, was located the Walnut Grove Cemetery. The first interments were of Mrs. Enoch Taylor in 1836, and Sampson Wilhite, Sr. in 1837.



The church was a member of the Mt. Pleasant Association of the Missionary Baptist Church. It was one of the few rural churches in the state which possessed a pipe organ. The building was torn down around 1941, as the church disbanded around 1936. The land sold to George Ballew of Columbia. The concrete baptistry of the church remains, and the outline of the building's foundation can still be seen. Smith Chapel Methodist in Howard County obtained the church pews.

The cemetery was abandoned sometime after 1948, the date of the most recent funeral before the 1990's.

*Information above comes from Switzler's 1882 *History of Boone County,* and the brochure created when the cemetery was dedicated as an historic site by the Boone County Historical Society's "Historic Sites Committee" in 2005. Mary Helen Catlett Allen provided much of the research.

From Walnut Grove Cemetery, continue north on Rocheport Gravel to Route J. Turn left and go about .8 of a mile to Lathrop School Road. Just to the right of Route J is a sign indicating the Boone's Lick Road. Thrall's Prairie occupied a large area west of here. You are in the same location as for the Thrall's Prairie site.