

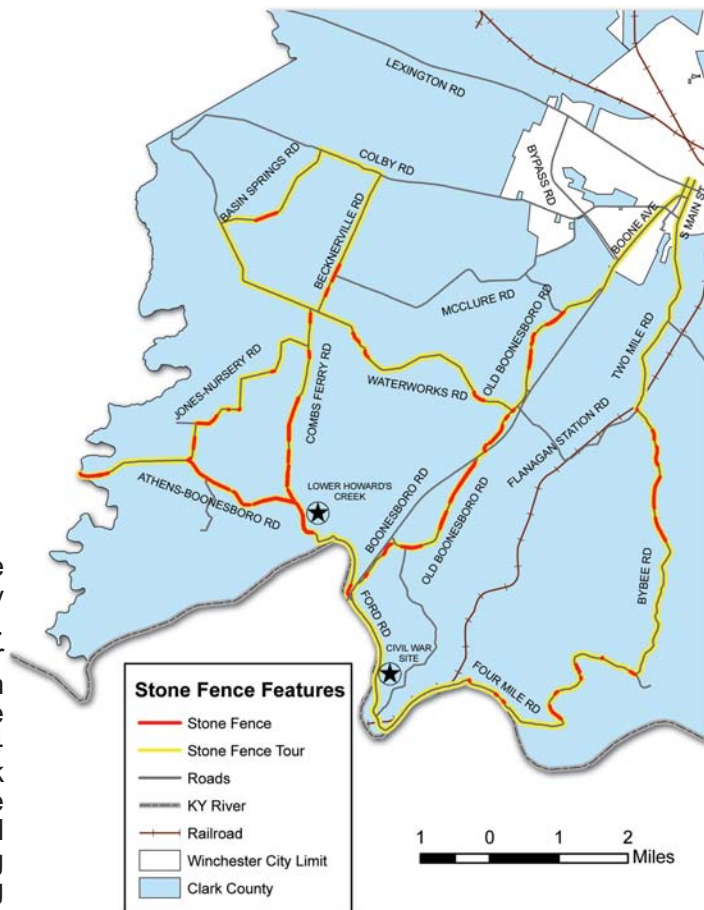


Field rock fence bordering pastures of Clark County.

TODAY

Training to construct stone fences can be received in vocational education schools, industry based programs, and apprenticeship programs. Industry based training lasts between two to four years and is offered at some construction companies. Apprenticeship programs require three years on the job training and a minimum of 144 hours of classroom time. Brick masons, block masons, and stonemasons must have knowledge of algebra, geometry, and mechanical drawing. Training begins with apprentices working along with laborers, carrying materials, mixing mortar, and building scaffolds. Apprentices then learn to lay, align, and join brick and block.

SW CLARK COUNTY Kentucky STONE FENCE TOUR



Winchester/Clark County Tourism
2 South Maple Street
Winchester, KY 40391
www.tourwinchester.com

STONE FENCES of Clark County



Printed in Cooperation with the Kentucky
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Large course boundary fence.

HISTORY

The art of Kentucky stone fences originated in Scotland and was later brought to the region by means of Scottish immigrants during the 18th and 19th centuries. After arriving, the immigrants passed the trade to many of Kentucky's slaves, in particular on large estates where estate owners had a large slave work force. After the emancipation, the number of Irish and Scottish stone masons declined while the number of black stonemasons slowly increased. Many of Kentucky's stone fences in the Bluegrass Region are referred to as slave fences.

In the 1790s, Kentucky and Virginia were seen as free range for many of the area's cattle producers. Grazing became an uncontrollable problem as herds of cattle would roam in open fields and defy property lines that had been established only on paper. Because appetite outweighed the invisible boundaries, there were numerous disputes between stockowners and those who suffered damaged crops.

The majority of Clark County fences are turnpike, plantation, and edge types.

In 1799, a law was passed requiring property owners to construct a barrier that was sufficient to detain their livestock. A well-constructed fence would keep a stock-owner from being blamed for the wanderings of his stock. If the cattle broke down such a barrier and damaged neighbor's crops, the cattleman would be liable for full damages. If the same stock were to trespass again, he would be assessed double damages, and if it occurred for a third time, the owner could kill the offending livestock and then sue for triple damages.



Thin course turnpike fence.

The majority of Clark County fences are turnpike, plantation, and edge types. The Clark County stonewalls consist of coursing of varying sizes. They are large course, thin course, large base course, flat coursing, projecting cap course, and edge coursing fence. The rocks used for the construction of the fences were collected from creek-bed quarries, ledge quarries, road cut quarries, field rock quarries and quarry floors.

The equipment used by the masons consisted of a three-pound rock hammer, 12-pound sledge hammer, rammer to tamp the soil, seven-pound sledge hammer, four-pound rock hammer, masonry hammer, and two knapping hammers.

The cost of labor for stone masons was \$1 a day in 1818 and rose to \$.50 per cubic yard in 1838. The wage eventually began to increase in the 1840s and 1850s to \$.37 per cubic yard plus \$2.50 to \$3.00 per rod. Approximately 16 1/2 feet or more could be completed each day.

The stone wall could not be constructed during rain or winter months when weather conditions could injure the stonemason's hands. Stone fences can also be found in other Kentucky Counties: Mason, Mercer, Scott, Shelby, Bourbon, Woodford, Boyle, Fayette, and Anderson



Edge fence with thin slab and wedging rocks or rocks with angled edges are inserted into the holes between the rocks.

