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Lexington's Bluegrass Region

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THIS SPREAD

The view from Darby Dan Farm layers Bluegrass countryside over a thriving cityscape. *Photo by Jeff Rogers*

PORTRAIT SERIES cityreports@paceco.com

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Six Trips to Times Past

Get a glimpse of the people who first settled the Bluegrass region and the times that shaped them.

by Alice H. Davis

1 “History is who we are in the Bluegrass,” says Kay Berggren, president and CEO of the Kentucky Tourism Council. She believes that history is not only an important part of what people are, but also what the area will be. Get an overview of this area’s rich heritage at the **Thomas D. Clark Center for Kentucky History** in Frankfort, 25 miles northwest of Lexington. The center, opened in April 1999, features a permanent exhibition showcasing 12,000 years of state history as well as memorabilia from such famous Kentuckians as bluegrass pioneer Bill Monroe and actor George Clooney.

These dolls are part of an exhibit at the Thomas D. Clark Center.



To get a more personal look of the Bluegrass, seek out restored homes and communities. On Gratz Park, a city square just north of Lexington’s downtown, are two historic homes: the **Hunt-Morgan House** and the **Bodley-Bullock House**. The Hunt-Morgan House is a Federal-style house built in 1814 by the first millionaire of the new west, John Wesley Hunt. Also housed there: Civil War artifacts belonging to John Hunt Morgan, a Confederate general and cavalry officer. The Bodley-Bullock House, built in 1814, was the home of General Thomas Bodley and sculptor Walter O. Bullock. Used for meetings and other special events, the house is open for tours by appointment.

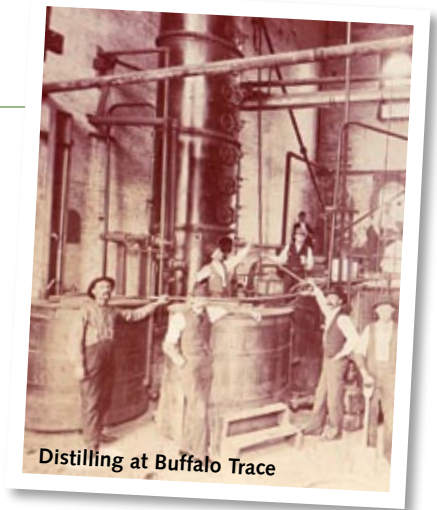
In Lexington’s downtown, just west of Rupp Arena, is the **Mary Todd Lincoln House**, girlhood home of the wife of President Abraham Lincoln. It was the first house museum in America to honor a first lady when it opened as a museum in 1997.

From her father’s home, Mary Todd Lincoln traveled about two miles east to Ashland, home of family friend, Henry Clay. Ashland is now a National Historic Landmark and houses the **Henry Clay Memorial Foundation** and a historic house museum. The 18-room mansion and 17 acres of wooded parkland around it were owned by Clay, a 19th-century statesman and orator who represented Kentucky as both a congressman and senator.

3

Visitors interested in a glimpse of a more “spirited” Bluegrass area can find it in tours of local bourbon distilleries and vineyards. Kentucky produces 95 percent of the world’s bourbon; most of that is produced in distilleries within 50 miles of Lexington. The Kentucky Distillers Association established the **Bourbon Trail** to give visitors a close-up look into the 200-year-old history of America’s only native spirit. The trail features stops at seven distilleries in and around Lexington, offering history, samples, and other production details, says Eric Gregory, association president.

Wine, along with bourbon, is also the subject of tours by **Wine and Spirits Circle Tour of the Bluegrass**. Included in a tour are two vineyards, one in Midway and the other, Kentucky’s largest, in Lawrenceburg.



4



Re-enactment participant

Those interested in the Civil War and its history will find battlefields and forts aplenty. The **Perryville Battlefield State Historic Site** is a museum and park on the 300-acre battlefield which was the site of the state’s largest—and bloodiest—Civil War battle. (Each fall the site is the scene of a massive re-enactment of the October 1862 battle.) The **Camp Nelson Civil War Heritage Park**, 23 miles southwest of Lexington, was once a former Union Army supply depot and training camp. The **Civil War Fort at Boonesboro**, in Madison County 22 miles south of Lexington, watched over the Kentucky River and is said to have been built by African American soldiers.

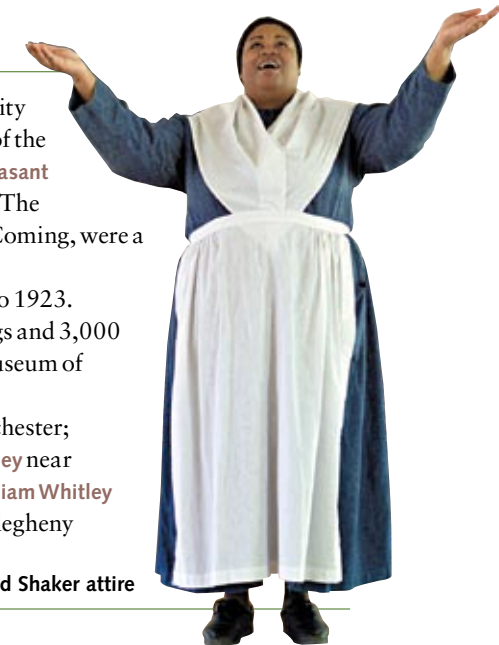
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Venture outside Lexington to see the largest restored Shaker community in the United States. A 25-mile drive south over the limestone palisades of the Kentucky River into Mercer County takes a visitor to **Shaker Village at Pleasant Hill**. Visitors step back to the early 19th century and into another world. The Shakers, known officially as the Society of Believers in Christ’s Second Coming, were a communal society that chose simplicity in both their work and personal lives. A group of as many as 500 Shakers lived on the 4,000 acres of farmland from 1805 to 1923.

Restoration began in 1961 at the village, which now includes 34 restored buildings and 3,000 acres of farmland. It features an inn, dining facilities, meeting space, and a living museum of Shaker life led by costumed interpreters and craftsmen.

Other historic homes outside Lexington include: **Holly Rood Historic Home** in Winchester; **Pleasant Retreat**, the restored and furnished house of **Kentucky Governor Williams Owsley** near Lancaster; the **Orlando Brown House**, a Greek-revival home in Frankfort; and the **William Whitley House State Historic Site**, a state-run historic site of the first brick house west of the Allegheny Mountains, in Stanford.

Music interpreter Donna Phillips in period Shaker attire



6



What visit to Bluegrass history would be complete without horses? The **Kentucky Horse Park** in Lexington is the only park of its kind. Set on 1,224 acres of historic horse farm, the park features nearly 50 different breeds of horses at work and two museums. The **International Museum of the Horse** is 52,000 square feet of exhibits on the history of the horse and its relationship to humans; and The **American Saddlebred Museum** is dedicated to Kentucky’s oldest native breed of horse.

FOLK DOLLS COURTESY OF THE KENTUCKY HISTORICAL SOCIETY; MARY TODD LINCOLN COURTESY OF THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS; COURTESY OF BUFFALO TRACE DISTILLERY; CIVIL WAR REENACTMENT PHOTO BY CLAY JACKSON; SHAKER PHOTO BY JEFF ROGERS; KENTUCKY HORSE PARK LOGO © KENTUCKY HORSE PARK

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Portrait LEXINGTON'S BLUEGRASS REGION



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE KENTUCKY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

HISTORIC SITES

Learn more or plan a visit to some of the Bluegrass' museums and restored homes.

Above, clockwise from top left: Liberty Hall; the John Hunt Morgan House; the Orlando Brown House; Ashland, Henry Clay's estate

- American Saddlebred Museum www.americansaddlebredmuseum.org
- Ashland: The Henry Clay Estate www.henryclay.org
- Camp Nelson Civil War Heritage Park www.campnelson.org
- Hunt-Morgan House www.bluegrasstrust.org
- International Museum of the Horse www.imh.org/museum
- Kentucky Bourbon Trail www.kentuckybourbontrail.com
- Kentucky Horse Park www.kyhorsepark.com

- Liberty Hall and the Orlando Brown House www.libertyhall.org
- Mary Todd Lincoln House www.mtlhouse.org
- Perryville Battlefield State Historic Site www.perryville.net
- Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill www.shakervillageky.org
- Thomas D. Clark Center for Kentucky History www.history.ky.gov
- Wine and Spirits Circle Tour of the Bluegrass www.bluegrasswineandspirits.com

Revealing the Potential of Kentucky

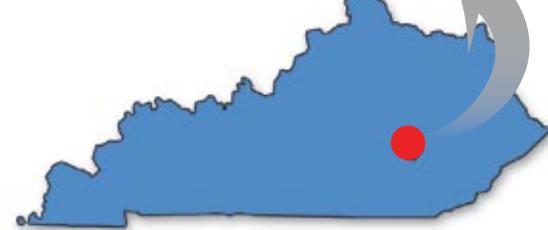
Homeland Security, Heartland Jobs



Reveal Imaging Technologies, Inc.
(EDS) Explosive Detection System

Where the Mountains and the Bluegrass Meet

Jackson County, Kentucky



Reveal Imaging Technologies, Inc. found a manufacturing partnership in the United States with Kentucky based **Precision Solutions, LLC**. Located in Annville, Kentucky in the Jackson County Industrial Park, Precision Solutions is one of the success stories resulting from the development of a government program to encourage new or expanding businesses to locate in the Kentucky Highlands area. The Highlands Empowerment Zone and the State of Kentucky provide tax incentives as well as employee education and training through University extensions in the area.

Precision Solutions saw this program as an opportunity to redefine contract manufacturing by combining a dedicated, highly skilled workforce with state of the art manufacturing operations. These advantages allow Precision Solutions to offer superior services at a globally competitive cost.

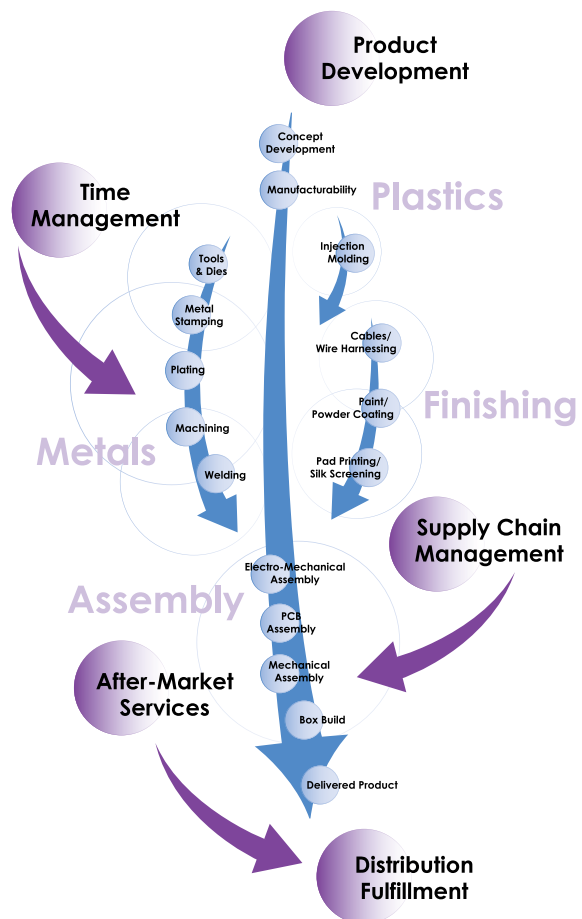
Precision Solutions is part of a larger family of privately held companies that are bringing manufacturing back to the Heartland.

Highland Diversified Services in London, KY and Mid South Industries, Inc. in Gadsden, Alabama are also part of this family of manufacturing companies. Along with Precision Solutions, these companies specialize in the manufacturing of:

- Stamped metal and plastic injection molded assemblies for the Automotive Industry
- Electronic, stamped metal and plastic injection molded assemblies for the Appliance Industry
- Electrical/Electronic assemblies for the Telecommunications and Homeland Security Industries
- Fully assembled products for the Commercial and Industrial Markets

Value Added Manufacturing

Lowest Total Cost to Market



Portrait LEXINGTON'S BLUEGRASS REGION

For the ultimate in luxury and privacy, the Gratz Park Inn offers the Mansion Suite.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JEFF ROGERS

Haute Hospitality

Spend the night in style at a contemporary hotel or sample Southern charm at an historic inn.

by Megan Seldon

Beaumont Inn

638 Beaumont Inn Drive, Harrodsburg
859-734-3381

www.beaumontinn.com
Experience fine Southern hospitality with roots that date back to 1845. In four buildings on spacious grounds, enjoy one of the 33 guestrooms, many of which include antiques or original furnishings. Check out the Beaumont Inn Restaurant, which has been featured in *USA Today* and *Southern Living* for its renowned Kentucky ham, corn pudding and orange-lemon cake.

Boone Tavern

100 Main Street, Berea
859-985-3700

www.boonetavernhotel.com
After a \$9.6 million renovation, this inn

is LEED-certified for its green practices, but it retains the historic charm that makes it a perfect fit for surrounding College Square. Find guestrooms filled with hand-crafted cherry, oak and pine furniture made by students at nearby Berea College. The Boone Tavern has earned international acclaim with dishes from Executive Chef Jeffrey Newman, a Lexington native.

The Campbell House

1375 South Broadway
859-255-4281
www.thecampbellhouse.net
This historic property impresses from the very beginning; its striking white portico and groomed grounds put guests in the mood to relax. Continue that theme with a day on the nearby 18-hole golf course or a dip in the indoor pool. Unwind at Kilbern's, the in-house restaurant, or Bogart's, the Broadway-themed lounge; then retreat to one of the hotel's 15 suites.

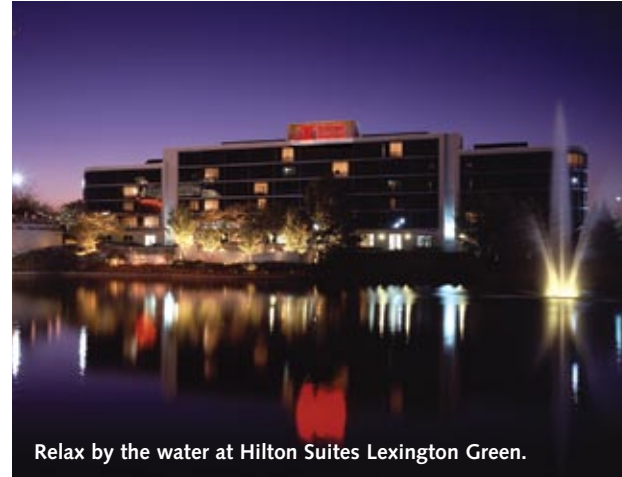
Gratz Park Inn

120 West Second Street
859-231-1777
www.gratzparkinn.com
This classic luxury boutique hotel prides itself on Southern charm and elegance, offering guests an escape from everyday life. The inn's 41 spacious guest rooms, including six luxury suites, feature mahogany furniture and regional artwork. Modern amenities spoil you, but history is key here, with a prime spot in the Gratz Park Historic District.

Griffin Gate Marriott Resort & Spa

1800 Newton Pike
859-231-5100
www.marriott.com
Located on rolling meadows four miles from downtown, this upscale hotel offers guests complete convenience. Treat yourself to a day of relaxation at

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE HILTON SUITES



Relax by the water at Hilton Suites Lexington Green.

The Spa at Griffin Gate or a round of golf on a course designed by Rees Jones. After a full day, retreat to your guest room and rest well with plush bedding and plenty of fluffy pillows.

Hilton Suites Lexington Green

245 Lexington Green Circle
859-271-4000
www.hilton.com

Take a break in south suburban Lexington. Each suite includes two rooms, a wet bar and two televisions and comes fully stocked with movies and video games. Take advantage of the on-site sauna and fitness center, or explore the outdoors in nearby Shillito Park. Then head to the hotel's cozy Chukker's Lounge to unwind with a well-deserved cocktail.

Hyatt Regency

401 West High Street
859-253-1234
www.lexington.hyatt.com
With views of historic Triangle Park or bustling downtown buildings, the Hyatt offers a bird's-eye view of the city. Inside, discover 365 state-of-the-art, newly renovated guest rooms with Hyatt Grand Beds and iHome stereos. Sports fans will appreciate the hotel's location next to the Lexington Convention Center, where the UK Wildcats play in Rupp Arena.

The Inn at Shaker Village

3501 Lexington Road, Harrodsburg
800-734-5611
www.shakervillageky.org
Take in 3,000 acres of countryside at the largest restored Shaker community in the United States. The inn includes 81 guestrooms, suites and cottages in 15 restored 19th-century buildings. Find hardwood flooring, private baths and Shaker reproduction furniture in all the guestrooms. Meals at the Trustees' Office Dining Room often include ingredients from the historic farm garden.

Radisson Plaza Hotel Lexington

369 West Vine Street
800-231-9000
www.radisson.com/lexingtonky
With a prime downtown location and 16,000 square feet of meeting and

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE HYATT REGENCY



Get a good night's rest at the Hyatt Regency.

banquet space, this hotel is fit for any business or social gathering. But it's right for getaways, too: Guests can explore the shops at nearby Victorian Square (connected by a covered skywalk), then enjoy dinner and a cocktail at Bigg Blue Martini before relaxing in Sleep Number beds. In the morning, have breakfast at Café on the Park, which has a view of Triangle Park.



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