

A Brief History of Newport, Kentucky

The City of Newport was laid off in 1790, a number of lots sold, and then became a Town by Act of the General Assembly in 1795, about three years after Kentucky was admitted into the Union. The first Board of Trustees was composed of Thomas Kennedy, Washington Berry, Henry Brasher, Thomas Lindsey, Nathan Kelly, and James McClure.*****The City of Newport, as is the City of Bellevue, and part of the City of Dayton, is built upon land patented to the original proprietor for services in the "Old French and Indian War", being one of those land grants of King George, and afterwards confirmed and patented by the State of Virginia when the Colonies had gained their Independence. Newport is considered the oldest city in Northern Kentucky, and is much older than Cincinnati.*****It was the site of a block-house in early days, and the rendezvous of Kentucky Pioneers when led by George Rogers Clark against the Indians at the time Old Chillicothe was burned.*****In 1804 an army post was instituted at Newport, and known as Newport Barracks. It remained an army post until 1894 when Fort Thomas, in the Highlands was created. Newport Barracks was then abandoned and the ground conveyed to the city for park purposes only, and for no other.*****After vainly trying to settle upon a County Seat Newport was selected and remained so until 1840 at which time Alexandria became the County Seat, and has remained so until the present time. Newport is the Seat of Justice for the Special Court House District which extends to about six miles back of Newport

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Troop Forty Five is trying to secure information pertaining to the early history of Newport and its neighboring cities in Campbell County. When this information has been gathered the troop will join with Troop Six of Covington in printing a "Boy Scout's History of Northern Kentucky."

Old citizens will be interviewed, and old records will be searched. Should you, or any one whom you may know, have in possession letters, maps, photographs, or perhaps unpublished manuscripts we will be glad to have access to them. This information will be helpful in securing the Pathfinding Merit Badge.