



The Sunup Initiative

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June 17, 2021

To Corbin City Commission,

We are thankful for your past support and continued work towards diversity and inclusion in Corbin and beyond. The City's October 2019 declaration of Diversity Week in Corbin affirming the City's commitment to Equality, Diversity & Inclusion was an important step in making citizens and visitors feel more included in their community, as well as showing the need for this kind of work going forward. We appreciate the successful partnerships we've been able to have over the past several years including the January 2020 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Brunch and the October 2020 film screening and discussion of the film [*The Corbin Expulsion of 1919*](#).

The Sunup Initiative has worked since early 2019 to promote constructive conversations around race in the community. We have had many productive events and community activities including community conversations, book clubs, and film screenings. We have focused on community outreach and educating local citizens and the public about the events of 1919 in hopes of moving forward and creating a more knowledgeable and inclusive community. As we envision the future, we believe we can all work together to make Corbin a more welcoming and inclusive place. Although there has been progress made, there is still work to be done.

The Sunup Initiative would like to request that the Corbin City Commission/City of Corbin submit an application to the [Kentucky Historical Society Historical Marker Program](#) for an historical marker recognizing the events of October 30th, 1919, to be displayed downtown at the railroad depot or adjacent to it. The application is available here: <https://history.ky.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Historical-Marker-Application-2020-FINAL.pdf> and included at the end of this letter. The Sunup Initiative would like to work with the City of Corbin and can assist with the application process and drafting language for the marker itself. The application is due **September 1st**.

The Sunup Initiative can provide a letter of support for the City's application and can help get more signatures and letters of support for the application from local community organizations and individual citizens.

A permanent, publicly displayed acknowledgement of the events of 1919 is an essential step in recognizing Corbin's past and charting its future. A historical marker will:

- Help acknowledge the events of the past in order to move forward. As we glance back into the history that built Corbin we see many beautiful events, but we also have to acknowledge the parts of our history that still affect the way we are seen today. Race continues to be a contested issue in the community and country and cities around the



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country are taking steps to bring to light the realities of historical events in order to chart a different future.

- Serve as an educational tool. A public marker will help educate the public and visitors about the true history of the events of 1919. Partnering with Kentucky Historical Society Historical Marker Program will help link and contextualize the events in Corbin in October 1919 with other events of the Red Summer and help recognize the contributions and history of African Americans in eastern Kentucky.
- Encourage future conversations and considerations of race in the community as Corbin strives to become a more welcoming and inclusive place. As we move towards the future, this acknowledgement would promote more diversity in the community and encourage people to visit a more welcoming Corbin.

We look forward to continuing to work with you to make Corbin a more welcoming and inclusive place. We look forward to further discussing this with you at the June 21st meeting of the Commission.

Sincerely,

Members of the Sunup Initiative
Sunupcorbin@gmail.com



Historical Marker Program Application

The Kentucky Historical Marker Program, administered by the Kentucky Historical Society in cooperation with the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, commemorates historic sites, events and personalities throughout the Commonwealth. This program connects events, people and communities in order to bring the past to life and to increase the public's awareness of Kentucky history. The subjects of the more than 2,500 markers vary widely, but all mark sites that local communities have recognized as being important to local, regional, state or national history.

How to Submit an Application for a Historical Marker

Taking a subject from an idea to a finished marker takes time, thought and the work of many people. Marker applications are reviewed by an advisory committee twice a year. The deadlines for applications to be submitted to KHS are March 1 and Sept. 1. The advisory committee reviews the application and makes recommendations as to whether it should be accepted, resubmitted or rejected.

Steps to completing a Marker Application

1. Complete a Historical Marker Application Package.

Each application must include:

- a. Cover sheet, including tax ID #/nonprofit status if applicable
- b. Information about proposed marker
- c. Documentation sheet
- d. Copies of the pages from each reference that documents marker text
- e. Letters of support for your historical marker request

2. Submit **ONE COMPLETE COPY** of the application and supporting materials to Alli Robic, Community Engagement Coordinator, Kentucky Historical Society, 100 W. Broadway, Frankfort KY 40601

3. **Community consensus.** Kentucky Historical Markers become highly visible, permanent features of the local sites where they are placed. It is, therefore, important for applicants to secure a significant degree of community consensus, preferably even before the formal application is made. You can show this by obtaining letters of support. Unanimity is difficult to achieve, but the significant local groups should be supportive. The identity of these groups may vary from place to place but should typically include local historical organizations, local government, patriotic societies, veterans' groups and organizations involved in historic preservation.

Cost of a Kentucky Historical Marker

Once a marker subject is approved, the applicant must provide monetary support for the marker's production, including fabrication and 6% Kentucky sales tax, if applicable. Contact Alli Robic Alli.Robic@ky.gov for pricing.

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The editing process will not begin until the Kentucky Historical Marker Program receives these funds. Once support is received, the Kentucky Historical Society will begin working to finalize the text. Each side of the marker is limited to only one headline, 10 lines of text of up to 33 letters and spaces and a sponsorship line. (If you don't want a sponsorship/dedication line, you may have an extra line of text.) Once the facts are verified and the text is edited by the program office, you will be asked to review it before the marker is ordered.

Some suggestions for raising funds in your community include:

- Ask a business, corporation, local government, or civic organization in your community to contribute funds (we can include the name of one sponsoring organization on each side of the marker).
- Ask members of your community to contribute.
- If the marker is about a specific person, ask descendants of that person to contribute.
- Hold a special fundraising event.

Guidelines for the Kentucky Historical Marker Program

1. Marker applications are reviewed twice a year by a historical advisory committee. The initial acceptance is for the subject only. Once the subject has been accepted, the text of the marker and its accompanying documentation are thoroughly checked by the Kentucky Historical Society Marker Program staff to ensure that they meet the required standards for historical accuracy.
2. Markers cannot be approved for:
 - A living person or a person who died less than 15 years ago
 - ◆ Marker applications for a deceased individual whose historical contributions were made more than 30 years ago will be considered.
 - A purely genealogical or family subject
 - An individual or business if the primary value of the marker is to provide financial benefit to or advertising for that person or business
 - A cemetery, unless someone significant and well-known to Kentucky history is buried there, or unless a historically significant event is connected with it
 - A church, unless it meets at least one of these criteria:
 - ◆ The church is connected to a significant historical event or person that is meaningful to Kentucky's overall history.
 - ◆ The church congregation has existed, uninterrupted, for more than 150 years.
 - ◆ The church building is on the National Register of Historic Places.
3. Marker text commemorating the history of physical structures should emphasize their significance to Kentucky history, rather than their architectural features.
4. Marker *locations* will not be approved for places where they will create traffic hazards or where they are not acceptable to the property owner or the governmental agency having jurisdiction. Markers must be placed in locations that are easily accessible to the public. The final decision for placement of a marker on public highways rests with the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet.
5. Marker *topics* will not be approved unless the topic accurately presents verifiable historical information. The documentation supporting the marker application should be based on reliable, original sources whenever possible. *Wikipedia is not an acceptable source.* Applications that do not include documentation will not be accepted.

Please direct questions to Alli Robic, Alli.Robic@ky.gov

SAMPLE Documentation Sheet

Use this as a guide to submitting documentation (see page 3 of application).

<p>Facts</p> <p>List each important fact that is relevant to this marker subject. All places, dates, sites, names of people involved, etc. must be documented.</p>	<p>Sources</p> <p>Each fact must be verified with notation of the source material. <i>You must include a copy of the page from each document that was used.</i></p>
<p>First American to raise U.S. flag on foreign soil.</p>	<p>“Acts of Kentucky,” 1920, p. 734.</p>
<p>At Battle of Derne on shores of Tripoli, April 27, 1805.</p>	<p>The Register of the Kentucky Historical Society, vol. 18, no. 52, pp. 73-76 and vol. 54, pp. 21-23.</p>
<p>Led attack that overcame Barbary Coast pirates who were holding American seamen for ransom.</p>	<p>The Register of the Kentucky Historical Society, vol. 18, no. 54, pp. 21-23.</p>
<p>Served in state legislature 1812, 1817, 1820-21.</p>	<p>The Register of the Kentucky Historical Society, vol. 18, no. 52, pp. 480, 776. “The Story of Logan County,” Edward Coffman, p. 113.</p>
<p>Served in Senate 1824-26.</p>	<p>“Collins’s Historical Sketches of Kentucky,” p. 480.</p>
<p>Died in 1850.</p>	<p>Information on gravestone in Frankfort Cemetery. Photograph of stone attached.</p>

Historical Marker Application Cover Sheet

Information about applicant:

Deadline for: _March 1

_Sept. 1

Name of organization or individual submitting application:	
Address:	
Name and address of contact person for this application (if different from above):	
Phone number:	Email address:
Signature of person submitting application:	
Name of local newspaper:	Tax ID#/ Nonprofit status (if applicable)

Application Form Proposed Marker Information

Name of proposed marker:		This marker will have: <input type="radio"/> The same text on both sides <input type="radio"/> Different text on each side	
Please explain why this subject is significant to Kentucky history (up to 750 words):			
Suggested location: <input type="radio"/> On street, road or highway <input type="radio"/> On public grounds <input type="radio"/> On private grounds		Address and description of suggested location:	
County:	Nearest town:	Distance and direction from city/town:	
Is there space near the proposed site to pull off the road and read the marker text?	Is there a proposed date for the marker dedication? Is this date an anniversary or other special date appropriate for this marker dedication? (Please do not announce the dedication date for this marker until the Kentucky Historical Marker Program Office notifies you that the marker has been approved and that it will be ready in time for your proposed date.)		

Application Form Documentation Sheet

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