

A KENTUCKY HISTORY MOMENT



South Fork and Kentucky River at Beattyville, by Willard Rouse Jillson, circa 1920. Kentucky Historical Society, Kentucky Geological Survey Photographs, Graphic8_Box1_F6_07.

LEE COUNTY: KENTUCKY RIVER FORMS HERE

The Kentucky River forms at Beattyville and flows 255 miles northwest to Carrollton where it empties into the Ohio. The river is a vital source of water for many Kentuckians. For Beattyville, and other cities, it also was important in the development of early commerce. Steamboats plied the river starting in 1816. Coal and timber shipped from Beattyville to other ports. The river level fluctuated before there were locks and dams. Once in place, river traffic increased.



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