

PRESENTED BY

KentuckyHistoricalSociety

CIVIL WAR TO CIVIL RIGHTS: CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS



Courtesy of Goodman-Paxton Photographic Collection, PA64M1, Special Collections, University of Kentucky.

MAMMOTH CAVE PARK — Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal was a series of programs and laws aimed at ending the Great Depression. The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), one of Roosevelt's many "alphabet soup" agencies, was established by the Emergency Conservation Act of 1933. The CCC, also called Roosevelt's Tree Army, provided conservation work for unemployed young men during the Depression. The CCC helped combat environmental erosion and protected American natural resources and beauty from 1933 to 1945.

In Kentucky, the CCC built Mammoth Cave Park (opened 1941), laid and improved roads and ran telephone lines to isolated communities. The CCC was one of the most successful New Deal programs and was widely supported by most of the country. However, like most New Deal programs, the CCC was locally controlled and segregation was common on worksites. Some counties employed segregated units or kept African American employees in menial work. Yet, the New Deal opened new opportunities for black workers in some locations by providing training and job skills. The program helped keep millions of Americans employed during the Great Depression.

The Kentucky Oral History Commission (KOHC), administered by the Kentucky Historical Society, is dedicated to supporting documentation of Kentucky's rich history along with the issues confronting its people. Pass the Word (passtheword.khs.gov) is an online database from the KOHC that facilitates discovery of more than 30,000 oral history interviews from Kentuckians in all 120 counties, located in more than 100 repositories across Kentucky.

KentuckyHistoricalSociety

100 W. Broadway | Frankfort, KY 40601
502-564-1792 | www.history.ky.gov



The Kentucky Historical Society is an agency of the
Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet.