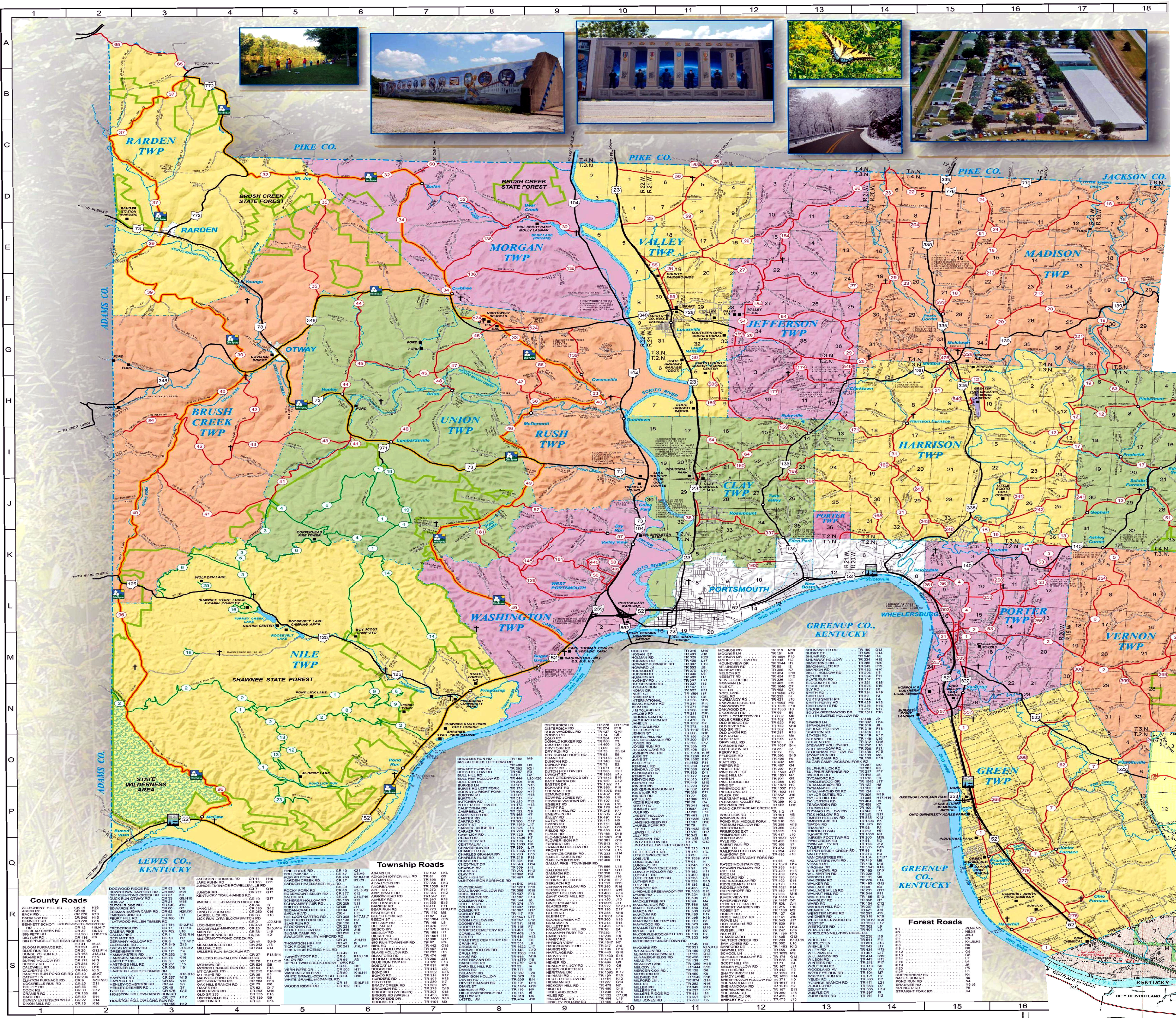

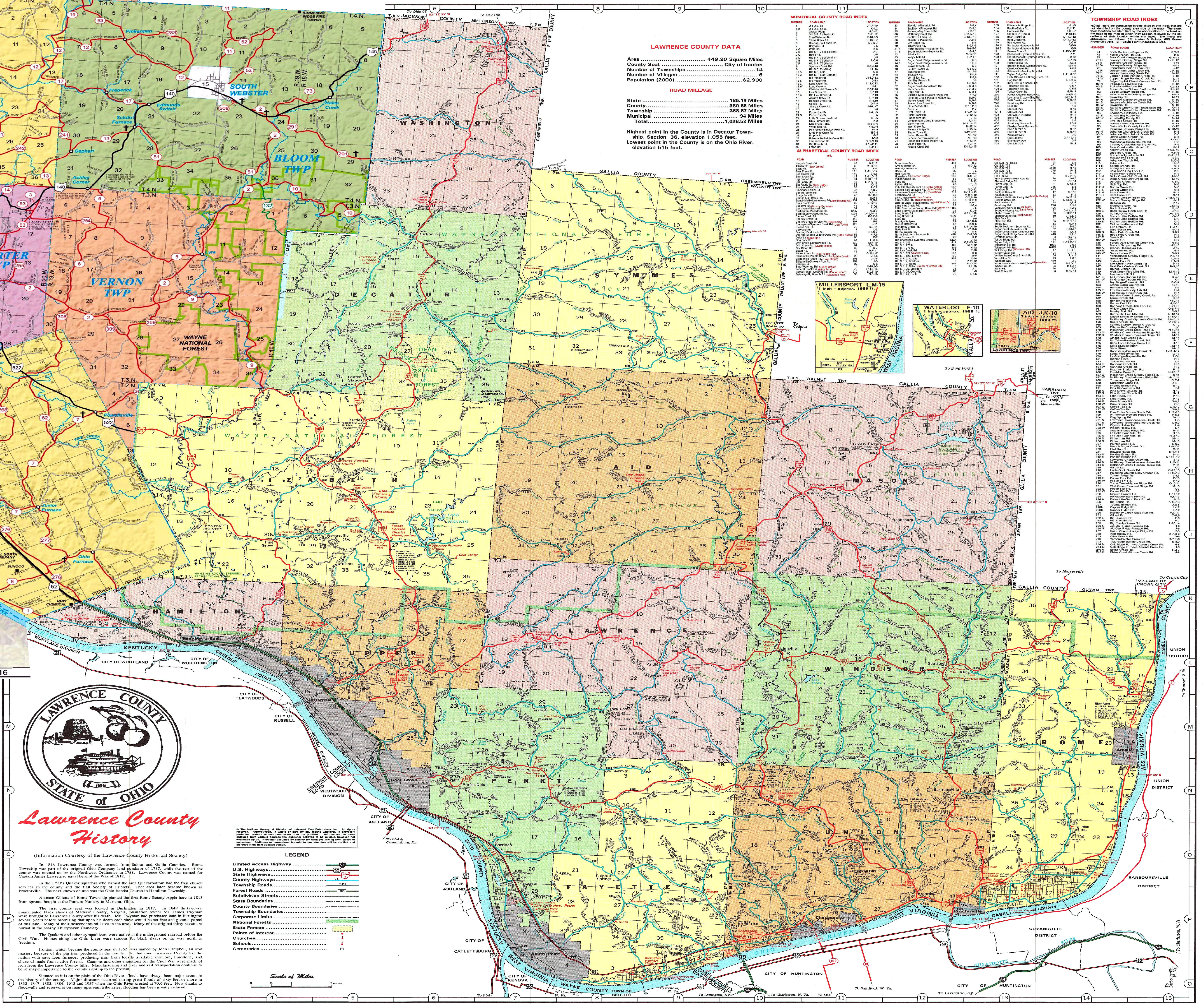

LAWRENCE COUNTY DATA

Area .... 449.90 Square Miles
County Seat .... City of Ironton
Number of Townships 14
Number of Villages 6
Population (2000) 62,900

ROAD MILEAGE

State .... 185.19 Miles
County .... 380.66 Miles
Township .... 368.67 Miles
Municipal .... 94 Miles
Total .... 1,028.52 Miles

Highest point in the County is in Decatur Township, Section 36, elevation 1,055 feet.
Lowest point in the County is on the Ohio River, elevation 515 feet.

LAWRENCE COUNTY
STATE of OHIO
1816

Lawrence County History

(Information Courtesy of the Lawrence County Historical Society)

In 1816 Lawrence County was formed from Scioto and Gallia Counties. Rome Township was part of the original Ohio Company land purchase of 1787, while the rest of the county was opened up by the Northwest Ordinance in 1788. Lawrence County was named for Captain James Lawrence, naval hero of the War of 1812.

In the 1790's Quaker squatters who named the area Quakerbottom had the first church services in the county and the first Society of Friends. That area later became known as Proctorville. The next known church was the Ohio Baptist Church in Hamilton Township.

Alanson Gillette of Rome Township planted the first Rome Beauty Apple here in 1818 from sprouts bought at the Putnam Nursery in Marietta, Ohio.

The first county seat was located in Burlington in 1817. In 1849 thirty-seven emancipated black slaves of Madison County, Virginia, plantation owner Mr. James Twyman were brought to Lawrence County after his death. Mr. Twyman had purchased land in Burlington several years before promising that upon his death each slave would be set free and given a parcel of this land. Many of their descendants still live in the area. Many of the original thirty-seven are buried in the nearby Thirtyseven Cemetery.

The Quakers and other sympathizers were active in the underground railroad before the Civil War. Homes along the Ohio River were stations for black slaves on the way north to freedom.

Ironton, which became the county seat in 1852, was named by John Campbell, an iron master, because of the pig iron produced in the county. At that time Lawrence County led the nation with seventeen furnaces producing iron from locally available iron ore, limestone, and charcoal made from native forests. Cannons and other munitions for the Civil War were made of iron from the Lawrence County hills. Manufacturing and river and rail transportation continue to be of major importance to the county right up to the present.

Situated as it is on the plain of the Ohio River, floods have always been major events in the history of the county. Major disasters occurred during great floods of sixty feet or more in 1832, 1847, 1883, 1884, 1913 and 1937 when the Ohio River crested at 70.6 feet. Now thanks to floodwalls and reservoirs on many upstream tributaries, flooding has been greatly reduced.

LEGEND

Limited Access Highway
U.S. Highways
State Highways
County Highways
Township Roads
Forest Roads
Subdivision Streets
State Boundaries
County Boundaries
Township Boundaries
Corporate Limits
National Forests
State Forests
Points of Interest
Churches
Schools
Cemeteries

Scale of Miles