

For Immediate Release - May – Evenings Upstairs

McCracken County Public Library

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If you would like to know about Wickliffe Mounds State Historic Site, here's your chance!

Learn more about the site in Wickliffe on Thursday, May 8th at 7 p.m. when Carla Hildebrand, Park Manager, speaks at the McCracken County Public Library's "Evenings Upstairs." Her program "Mounds, Mysteries and Marketing – A History of Wickliffe Mounds" will give you the story of the mounds, the Native People who once lived there, the development of the site into a tourist attraction and then into a protected state historic site.

Prehistoric Native Americans built the mounds and the village situated on a bluff overlooking the Mississippi river from approximately 1100 AD to 1350 AD. Their culture was called "Mississippian", and they lived in organized communities located near rivers. They used the river for trade as well as for a food source. Some mounds were built to bury their dead, others may have been used for ceremonial functions. The village was abandoned in the 1300s and was left to be found by early settlers.

Following the re-discovery of the mounds by a surveyor, the site was later purchased by Colonel Fain King, who collected antiquities and excavated some of the site. He opened it to the public as "Ancient Buried City" and attracted visitors from all over the country. The land was given to Western Baptist Hospital then donated to Murray State University. Now under the oversight of the Kentucky Department of Parks, it is protected and maintained as an educational and historical site.

If you would like to learn more about the mysteries of the mounds, come to the presentation. It is free and open to the public. For more information go to the library webpage at www.mc.lib.net or call Bobbie Wrinkle at 170-442-2510 ext. 117.