

This is Rinard Covered Bridge, built in 1875, Take a few minutes to look around and make your wish!

*Ghost stories and legends are part of the legacy of some covered bridges. Ten miles north at stop #8 you'll have a chance to "bridge" past to present. Turn right at the sign for Knowlton Bridge.*

### STOP #8 - Knowlton Bridge

Remember the legend of Sleepy Hollow? The sight of some back-road covered bridges today reminds us of the ghost stories and legends that tingled the scalp of many a small child who walked its gloomy length as the sun was sinking from sight. For some, it recalls old yarns, like the one about the "rube heading into Pittsburgh from a small town in Ohio who, upon reaching a covered bridge over the Allegheny, saw that the entrance was large enough for his load, but considered the hole at the other end entirely too small, and headed back home again!" What memories or feelings do covered bridges bring out in you?

*To reach Stop #9 turn right in 0.7 mile at the sign for Ring Mill. Follow the road approximately 4 miles. You will return to SR 26 after this stop.*

### STOP #9 - Ring Mill House

A miller by trade, Walter Ring and his wife Margaret purchased this land in 1840, when they started working on the stone house you see here. In 1848 they replaced an old grist mill on this site with a new one. They also added a sawmill in 1850, and operated it until the 1920's when the mills were both damaged by floods. The house is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



*To reach Stop #10, turn left at the sign for Lamping Homestead (SR 537). Continue approximately 1 mile, then turn left on Township Rd. 307. Turn left again into the parking lot.*

### STOP #10

For the Lamping family, life was hard. Imagine, you would have to build your own house, clear your land for farming, grow your own food, and create your own entertainment. With no doctors nearby, what would you do if someone became really ill? New beginnings were a lot of hard work and not always successful. The small cemetery located nearby is all that remains as testimony to the hardships of trying to raise a family on an early homestead.



*Stop #10 (Lamping Homestead) is the end of the tour. Return to Marietta along SR 26, or take SR 260 east to SR 7 South, which follows the Ohio River, or continue north on SR 26 to Woodsfield.*

**The Land Speaks?** As you drive along, you have seen forests mixed with farm land. Once in the late 1800's there was an active logging industry here, and most of the trees were cut down.

After the area was logged, farmers plowed and planted the denuded hill tops. The soil quickly eroded away, and within a few decades, the farms could not produce on worn out eroded soils.

Today, with a good knowledge of soil and water conservation, forestry, and vegetation management, these problems are under control.

**The End** - You saw and learned about the rich heritage of many communities that the Covered Bridge Scenic Byway travels through. You saw one of Harley Warricks' "national treasures" and learned why covered bridges are covered. We hope that you enjoyed your visit and will come again.

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### For More Information:

The Marietta Unit office of the Athens Ranger District is open from 8 - 4:30 Monday through Friday.

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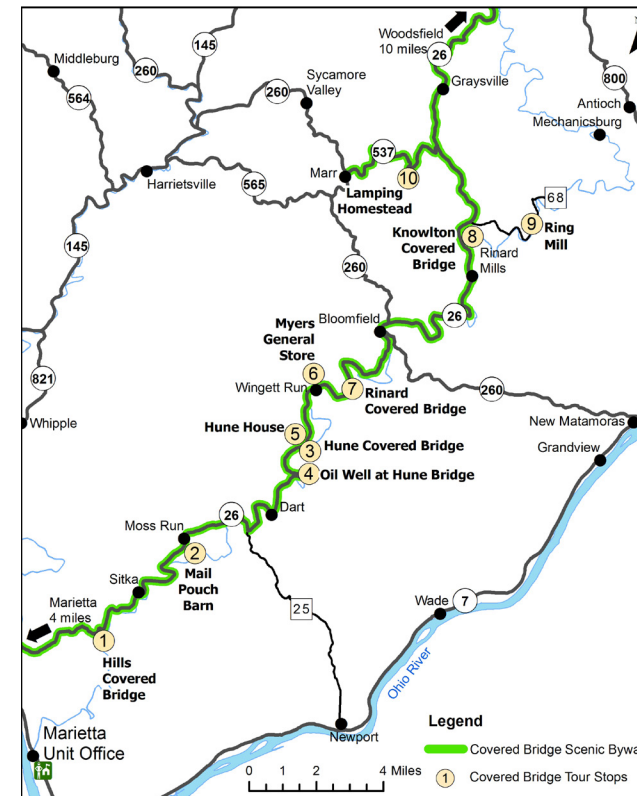
website: [www.usda.gov/wayne](http://www.usda.gov/wayne)

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### Vicinity Map



# Wayne National Forest National Forest Covered Bridge Scenic Byway



Forest Service

FS-R9-056  
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## Welcome to the National Forest Covered Bridge Scenic Byway!

What do Mail Pouch Tobacco barns, oil wells, and covered bridges have in common? They are part of southeast Ohio's landscape, and things you can discover along the Covered Bridge Scenic Byway.

**Introduction.** This brochure is a guide to 35 miles of scenery and history along the Little Muskingum River. Look for tour markers to lead you to each of the ten stops. The route map shows the approximate location of each stop.



**Length?** The tour takes about 4 hours, plus 1 hour to return to Marietta. For a shorter tour omit Stops #9 and #10 and return by State Route (SR) 260.

**Amenities.** Restrooms (non-flush) are available at Lane Farm, Hune Bridge, Lamping Homestead, and Ring Mill Recreation Sites. The recreation sites do not have drinking water. Gas, food and beverages can be purchased in Marietta, Woodsfield, New Matamoras, and a local store, located approximately 0.5 miles up from Ohio 537 (towards Lamping Homestead).

**To begin.** From Interstate 77, take Exit 1 (SR 7). Go south towards Marietta. Turn right at Acme Street (the first light). Acme St ends at Greene Street. Turn right on Greene St (SR 26). Follow SR 26 approximately 5 miles. The Scenic Byway begins here. Turn right on County Road 333 to the first tour stop. A small parking area is at the south end of the bridge, at the corner of Zion Ridge Road.

### STOP#1 - Hills Covered Bridge

Covered bridges .... Ohio once had more of these than any other state: over 2000 of them! The national leader today is Pennsylvania. You'll be able to visit four covered bridges along this byway. The first is called Hills Covered Bridge, and was built in 1878 by Hocking Valley Bridge Works. It

features a Howe truss. To learn more about what a "truss" is, take a look at the interpretive exhibit panel located near the parking area. To return to the Scenic Byway, turn right on County Road 333, then right on SR 26. Follow SR 26 north for the rest of the tour.

*Your next stop will lead you past one of Harley Warrick's National Treasures, about 4 miles north on SR 26. This stop will give you something to chew on! Watch for tour stop marker #2.*

### STOP#2 - Mail Pouch Barn

Harley Warrick was discharged from the Army in 1946 at the end of World War II. About that time, Mail Pouch Tobacco barn painters came to paint the barn on his family's farm, and they had an opening on one of their teams: \$28 a week base pay plus 1.5 cents a square foot production incentive. His take home pay could be as much as \$32 a week! Two to three barns a day, six days a week was his pace for the first twenty years. Today, the barn paintings are considered "landmark signs" of historic or artistic significance.

*Our next stop will be 7 miles north at another covered bridge. Watch for tour marker #3 and #4. Turn right, cross the bridge, to the Forest Service parking area. The bridge height clearance is 6'8".*

### STOP#3 - Hune Covered Bridge

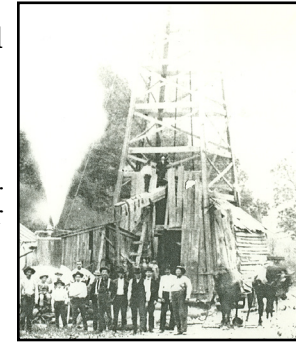
Do you know why covered bridges were covered? To keep the rain or snow off travelers, or perhaps to protect the plank roadways of the bridges? No... roofs were put on the bridges to keep the main structural timbers dry. Solid as they look, they would quickly rot if left exposed to rains, and then scorched by the sun.



This is Hune Covered Bridge, built in 1879, with a 12 panel long truss. Take some time to look around. Your next stop (Stop #4) is the oil pump located here in the parking area. After you visit the bridge take a few minutes to learn about our oil and gas history.

### STOP#4 - Oil Well

They weren't looking for oil, when Ohio's petroleum industry was launched in 1814. They were drilling for brine near the village of South Olive, not far from here. But brine and oil shot out of the hole. The well was a failure for brine, but the high gravity oil was used in lamps. In the early 1800's there wasn't a big market for oil, and some people called it "devil's grease."



As you have been driving along SR 26 you probably noticed the gas and oil wells that dot the landscape. Some of these wells go down into the ground one or two miles! You might also notice that the pumps are not always pumping. It takes the oil a little while to seep into the wells. The pump may run for only a few hours a day, producing a few barrels of oil each month. The oil is pumped to large storage tanks, then taken to refineries for processing.

*Your next stop is the Hune House, just a short drive from here. Return to SR 26 and turn right. You can't miss the large white house on the left side of the road, and tour stop marker #5. Turn left into the driveway of the Hune House. Immediately turn left again, and park.*

### STOP#5 - Hune House

Part of the Inn Crowd? If you were visiting this area in the late 1800's you might have been. At a time when most of their neighbors in this re-



mote area of the country were living in small log or frame buildings, the Hune house was a landmark. Built in two sections by William Hune, an early settler in the community of Lawrence, the first part of the house was built in 1885 and the addition built in 1889. The Hunes likely took in boarders, and the house was locally called "Hune Inn". The house has been restored as a private home.

*What's in store for you next? Stop #6 is the old Myers General Store, 2 miles north on the left side of the road. Look for the tour stop marker ad parking area on the right.*

### STOP#6 - General Store

A communications network was one of the many roles of the old country store. The Myers General Store served this community from 1865-2004. In the "old" days, residents could send and pick up their mail here, and use the only telephone in the area. Times have changed, but country stores are still important in small communities and this one is sorely missed.

*Your next stop is 1 mile up the road on the right. Discover more about covered bridge history. Look for tour stop marker #7.*

### STOP#7 - Rinard Covered Bridge

Covered bridges were masterpieces of engineering - but horse and buggy America called them "kissing bridges." Their dark interiors proved ideal for what a later generation was to refer to as "spooning." They were also called wishing bridges, since everyone knows that a wish made in a covered bridge always comes true. (cont.)