Historic Bridges

The Big Darby Creek and Plains Scenic Byway, offer more than 40 miles of spectacular views. The route has access to the scenic river, nature preserves, parks, covered bridges, century farms, pioneer cemeteries and historic homes.

The beautiful Big Darby Plains Scenic Byway truly lives up to its name. Considered one of the most scenic views in the area, the byway gives travelers the chance to see not only the Big Darby Creek and farmland, but also historic sites.

The Big Darby Plains Scenic Byway is a wonderful place to snap photos, eat a picnic lunch, and learn about the history of Union County and surrounding areas.

Bridge Restoration Fund

The historic Pottersburg Bridge, built in 1868, was moved to its current home on a multi-use trail just off Inniskeep-Cratty Road in 2006. There are no dedicated public funds for the continued maintenance and preservation of the bridge.

Your tax-deductible donation to the Pottersburg Bridge Preservation Fund is a gift that helps to preserve this landmark for years to come. Every dollar you can donate will help!

Donations to the Pottersburg Bridge Preservation Fund are accepted through the Union County Foundation, a 501(c)(3) charitable organization serving Union County, Ohio. Donations can be made by check or online at [www.unioncountyfoundation.org](http://www.unioncountyfoundation.org).

Covered Bridge Bluegrass Festival

Each year the Union County Convention & Visitors Bureau hosts the Union County Covered Bridge Bluegrass Festival in September at the Pottersburg Bridge. Featured during this family friendly event are bridge tours, bluegrass bands, horse drawn wagons, country marketplace, kids zone, a dinner and breakfast on the bridge, community worship service and more visit [www.coveredbridgefestival.com](http://www.coveredbridgefestival.com) to learn more.

Covered Bridge Bluegrass Festival Map

Union County has five historic bridges. Four of these five are still in use on the county highway system and are well-maintained by the Union County Engineer. The historic covered bridges were designed and built by Marysville resident, Reuben L. Partridge. The Union County bridges as well as one in adjoining Franklin County are the only remaining bridges built with Partridge’s patented truss design.

Modern Bridges

Union County is ranked 6th in Ohio with the most covered bridges. Three of the seven bridges have been built in the 21st century.

Culbertson Bridge

This quaint bridge is Union County’s smallest covered bridge. In 2008 and 2016, the bridge was rehabilitated after heavy machinery damaged the overhead braces. Notice the “bridge-within-a-bridge” concept. This design allows the covered bridge to rest, while the bridge inside carries the weight of traffic. Spain Creek is designated an Exceptional Warm Water Habitat and Cold Water Habitat by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency.

Bigelow Bridge

This modern covered bridge was built on this site, first a steel truss bridge and now this modern two lane covered bridge. This bridge is currently the longest single-span wooden bridge in Ohio. At the request of the Federal Highway Administration and Ohio Department of Transportation, the Union County Engineer was challenged to prove that building a covered bridge is more economical than other bridge types.

North Lewisburg Road Bridge

This new bridge has a modified Pratt truss with substructures built out of the creek at a cost of $1.6 million. This is the original site of the Pottersburg Bridge. When the one lane Pottersburg Bridge could no longer handle the growing volume of traffic, it was decided to move the Pottersburg Bridge to a nearby multi-purpose trail. Once the original bridge was safely moved, it was promptly replaced with this modern covered bridge.

Thompson Road Bridge

This modern covered bridge was built on Thompson Road in Milkcreek Township near the Delaware County line. In 1881 a covered bridge was built on this location but was destroyed by a devastating flood in 1913. This modern day covered bridge is much different from its predecessor, in that it has two lanes and can carry all modern-day traffic loads. Local farm buildings inspired the architecture of this lovely bridge.
Reuben L. Partridge was born in Wilmington, NY in 1823. In 1836 Partidge moved to Marysville and began to learn the carpentry craft while building carriages with his brother. In 1855 Reuben accepted his first contract to build the first self-supporting bridge in Union County. By 1866 Partridge was building bridges full-time. In 1872 he received a patent for his truss design. By 1883 Partridge had built over 125 bridges, most of them in Union County and nearby counties.

Over the course of his life, Partridge served as a member of the Marysville City Council, as the Paris Township Clerk, and as a Paris Township Trustee. He was a part of the first militia formed in Union County. He also was very active in raising money and support for service groups from Union County who served in both the Mexican War and the Civil War. In 1896 he designed a Victorian-style home in Marysville as a 50th wedding anniversary gift for his wife. Partridge died in August 1900, as a result of injuries he sustained while removing a covered bridge.

1. The Honda Heritage Center showcases Honda’s history, featuring vintage and state of the art machines.
2. The Big Darby Creek was named for Wyandot Indian Chief Darby who once lived along the banks of the creek.
3. Milford Center was Union County’s first county seat. A replica of the first courthouse is located just north of town.
4. Reuben Partridge’s impressive Victorian-style home still stands at 245 W. 7th Street in Marysville.
5. The Pony Express ran along State Route 161 (Post Road) from Worthington to Urbana.
6. U.S. 26th Vice President Charles W. Fairbanks served under Teddy Roosevelt and was born in the quaint village of Unionville Center.
7. The famous Plain City Clock Tower was donated to the town in 1902. Presently, this Seth Thomas clock is one of two remaining in the country.
8. The Chickapin Oak Tree located in the pre-Civil War Milford Center Cemetery has been nominated as an Ohio Champion Tree.
11. Mitchell Cemetery is where Mary Hawn, the first white (nonIndian) female born in Ohio, is buried.
12. The Hathaway House built in 1839 has a secret room believed to be used as part of the Underground Railroad.
13. Plain City United Methodist Church built in 1902.
14. The Old Indian Trail was first blazed by Chief Tecumseh and was later used by the Pony Express.
15. Darby United Methodist Church built in 1895.
16. Milford Center United Methodist Church founded in 1831.
17. The Bigelow House built in 1846 by Russell Bigelow, one of the first pioneers to settle the Darby Plains.
18. The Farmers National Bank Building was built in 1902 and is on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Big Darby Plains Scenic Byway.