

## HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The History of Scioto County as far as the white settlers are concerned dates back to the discovery of the Ohio Valley by the French in 1749. A French expedition led by Cleron and Bonnacamps came down the Ohio River and landed on the east bank of the Scioto River, present site of the City of Portsmouth. The French visitors attempted to negotiate with the local Shawnee Indians but the Indians were closely allied with British traders in the area. This attempt at a French settlement failed. In 1763 this and the surrounding territory became a British possession.

Prior to this time, the history of the region is closely associated with the history of the Indians. The famous "Tremper Mound" from which a valuable collection of Indian relics was taken, is located three miles from Portsmouth, and within the city itself there is an Indian mound in the shape of a horseshoe in Mound Park. In 1799 a Major Belli laid out the town of Alexandria on the west bank of the Scioto. Four years later, Henry Massie founded the City of Portsmouth on the east bank of the Scioto. Soon, the citizens of Alexandria moved to the higher ground of the present City of Portsmouth. Portsmouth was incorporated as a town on December 29, 1814.

With the coming of the steamboat in 1810, and before the advent of railroads, Portsmouth was the center of a large canal and river traffic. The Ohio Canal, which extended from Portsmouth to Cleveland was begun in 1825 and was completed in 1832. Much produce was brought by canal to Portsmouth where it was transferred to steamboats bound for southern ports. In 1846, a shipload of shelled corn left Portsmouth for Ireland, and was one of the first boats to successfully carry corn across the Atlantic. As late as 1872, the steamboats carried mail up and down the Ohio River.

Smelting of iron ore was begun in Scioto County as early as 1818. The Gaylord Rolling Mill was established in 1832 for the production of iron bars and nails. In 1872 the first iron and steel factory was built at Portsmouth. The manufacture of firebrick was begun in Scioto County about the same time as the iron industry. In 1853 the first railroad came into the area. The Chesapeake & Ohio Railway bridge over the Ohio River, erected 1915-17, made a new record for span-length and established the continuous type in American bridge practice. It is a double-track cantilever truss with, at the time of its completion, the longest continuous spans in the world. It is still considered to be one of the ten most notable bridges in the world.

In 1869 the shoe industry came into being in Portsmouth and has steadily grown. Today, it is one of the city's major industries. Another major industry in Portsmouth is the Norfolk & Western Railroad. The N & W's facilities here include one of the largest classification yards in the world.

Forward progress in Portsmouth is inevitable because of its excellent location and transportation facilities. Portsmouth is located where iron and steel meet coal and ore, and in its environs all four are assimilated.

## PLACES OF INTEREST

Shawnee State Forest — Contains 56,000 acres of public land and is the largest forest in Ohio. There are three fire towers in the forest which offer the visitor a fine view of the area. The entire forest is open to hunting except for the area in the Roosevelt Game Preserve. There are approximately 120 miles of gravel roads throughout the forest. Also in the Shawnee Forest is Roosevelt Lake, with swimming, picnicking and fishing facilities.

Flood Wall — In 1937 Portsmouth suffered its worst flood when the river reached a crest of 74.23 feet. Flood damage exceeded \$16,500,000. 63% of Greater Portsmouth was inundated. The flood wall which protected Portsmouth in 1937 was capable of holding out only 62 feet of water. After this disastrous occurrence, a group of civic-minded citizens worked to obtain the present 77 foot flood wall at a cost of between 10 and 12 million dollars.

Mound Park — A public park in which is located the Horseshoe Mound and others — signal fire mounds used by the Indians in this area. Valuable collections have been taken from these and other mounds located in this region. Portsmouth Public Library has one of the most valuable relic collections in existence.

The Point — Located at the western boundry of the City where the mouth of the Scioto River joins the Ohio River. Originally there was a group of houses on this site and it was called Wendelken Point. After the City acquired this land it was converted into a park. A contest was held to choose the name for this park and the one chosen was Alexandria Point because it overlooks the original site of Alexandria.

Chesapeake & Ohio Railway Bridge — Located on Route 52 in Sciotoville. This bridge was completed in 1917. 27 million pounds of open hearth steel went into the twin central spans, which are 775-feet long, and the approaches makes the total length of the bridge two-thirds of a mile. Until 1935, this was the world's longest continuous truss structure. It is still considered one of the "Ten Wonders" of the bridge-building world. For nearly 50 years, the bridge has towered over Sciotoville, doing an important job of carrying rail traffic across the Ohio River. Although it usually take a century to get historical recognition, this bridge has attained it in 48 years, being dedicated an "Ohio-Historical Site" in 1965.

All Saints Episcopal Church — Located at 610 Fourth Street. This is the oldest church building still in use. They have built onto the original structure and only a portion of the old church is still in use. This is the portion known as the Guild Hall. There is a stone in the sidewalk in front of this Church inscribed with the dates of the construction of the old church.

Prepared by

Portsmouth Area Chamber of Commerce

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PORTSMOUTH, OHIO 45662

Serving the greater OHIO Metropolitan Area  
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THE  
PORTSMOUTH  
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AREA

## GENERAL INFORMATION

Area Scioto County, Ohio	609.0 Sq. Miles
Greenup County, Kentucky	350.0 Sq. Miles
Elevation	530 Ft.
Average Temperature	56°
Annual Precipitation	33.04"
Frost Free Period	April 12—Oct. 21
Government — Portsmouth	Council-Manager
Tax Rate — Portsmouth per \$1,000	\$44.10
Building Permits — Portsmouth	573
Valuation	\$2,612,972
Hospitals	4
Motels	12
Hotels	6
Airfield	Scioto County Airport
Flood Control	77 Ft. Flood Wall
Water Supply	Ohio River and Tributaries
Topography	Hilly

## COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

Retail Outlets — Portsmouth	444
Retail Sales — Portsmouth	\$74,797,000
Scioto County, Ohio	\$104,640,000
Greenup County, Kentucky	\$20,204,000
Total Cash Available for Spending	
Portsmouth	\$71,016,000
Scioto County, Ohio	\$154,810,000
Greenup County, Kentucky	\$58,546,000
Manufacturing Establishments	
Scioto County, Ohio	87
Greenup County, Kentucky	10
Manufacturing Employment	
Scioto County, Ohio	7,270
Greenup County, Kentucky	285
Manufacturing Payroll	
Scioto County, Ohio	\$43,765,712
Greenup County, Kentucky	\$1,713,000
Total Payroll	
Scioto County, Ohio	\$80,828,061
Greenup County, Kentucky	\$5,232,180
Gas Meter Customers, Monthly Average	
County	13,847
Electric Meter Customers, Monthly Average	
County	25,935
Water Service — Portsmouth	10,797
Telephone Customers, Monthly Average	
Scioto County, Ohio	25,932
Newspaper	The Portsmouth Times (Daily Except Sunday)
Radio Stations	WPAY, AM & FM WNXT, AM & FM, WIOI, AM
Television Stations	7 Channels From Huntington, Charleston, Columbus & Cincinnati

### Manufactured Products: (Partial List)

Daily products, flour, bread, and bakery products, decorative ceramics, bottled soft drinks, shoe laces, paperboard boxes and partitions, propane, butane, natural gasoline, adhesives, pesticide chemicals, paving mixtures, plastic products, shoe lasts, shoe heels, ladies shoes, brick and hollow tile, concrete blocks, brake drums, castings, grey iron castings, steel and steel products, and firebrick.

## Agriculture

Farms	
Scioto County, Ohio	1,046
Greenup County, Kentucky	930
Value of crops sold, including dairy products	
Scioto County, Ohio	\$4,042,000
Greenup County, Kentucky	\$2,276,000

## EDUCATION

Public Schools:	
High Schools	11
Jr. High Schools	4
Elementary Schools	37
Special Schools	1
Enrollment	19,645
Parochial Schools:	
High Schools	1
Elementary Schools	2
Enrollment	1,070
Colleges	Ohio University—Portsmouth
Business Schools	1
Trade Schools	3

## FINANCE

DECEMBER 31, 1967

Banks & Branch Banks	10
Bank Assets	\$95,317,006
Bank Debts	\$578,082,091
Bank Deposits	\$86,167,416
Insured Savings & Loan Ass'n. Members	3
Association Assets	\$54,387,544

## POPULATION BREAKDOWN

Scioto County, Ohio	85,600
Portsmouth	34,637
New Boston	5,030
Greenup County, Kentucky	30,400
Persons Per Family — Portsmouth	3.4
Households—Portsmouth 12-31-66	10,900
Households—Scioto County 12-31-66	25,100
Households—Greenup County, Ky. 12-31-66	8,500
Rank—Portsmouth Metropolitan Area in U. S.	274

## RELIGION

Churches, Protestant	39
Churches, Catholic	3
Synagogues	1

## CULTURE

Public Library	1 Central 2 Branch 1 County Mobile
Theatres	2 Downtown 4 Drive-In 1 New Boston

Music	
Portsmouth Male Chorus	
Mother Singers	
Park Concerts (Summer)	
Portsmouth Community Concert Association	

Dramatics	
Little Theatre	

Art	
Portsmouth Art League	

## RECREATION

17 Public Parks and Playgrounds	
Boy Scout Camp	
Girl Scout Camp	
Y. M. C. A.	
Boating Clubs	2
Bowling Lanes	4
Swimming Pools	5
Saddle Clubs	1
Little League Ball Parks	6
Tennis Courts	12
Square Dance Club	
Rifle Club	
Bowhunters Club	
Municipal Baseball Park	
Municipal Football Stadium	
Shawnee State Forest —	
Covering 56,000 acres providing places for bathing, picnicking, hunting, fishing and camping.	

Elks Country Club (Private golf course — 18 hole)
Golf City, U. S. A. (Public golf course — 9 hole)
Little Scioto Country Club (Public golf course — 9 hole)

## CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Civic (Partial List)	
Rotary — Kiwanis — Lions — YMCA — Soroptomist — Civic Forum — Jaycees — Exchange — Chamber of Commerce.	
There are also many fraternal organizations, garden clubs, church groups, etc. in the City and Counties.	

## TRANSPORTATION

Airline	Lake Central
Express	Air — Bus — Railway
Railroads	Norfolk & Western Chesapeake & Ohio Baltimore & Ohio
Motor Busses	1 City Line Greyhound
Motor Freight Lines	11
Ohio River	Barges
Taxi Service	1 Company Serving City 3 Companies Serving Outlying Communities

There are 84 miles of paved streets in Portsmouth.