

Carschooling

An enormous resource directory for **U.S. Historical Markers** that stretches from sea to shining sea. Compiled by Diane Flynn Keith, Author of Carschooling (www.carschooling.com) and Founder of Homefires, The Journal of Homeschooling, Parenting and Family Activities Online (www.homefires.com).

Hit the Brakes! It's a Historical Marker!

My kids used to think of history as irrelevant because it happened long ago to people with whom they had no connection. That misconception stopped during our carschooling travels as historical highway markers shouted at us, "Something important happened right here!"

As I hit the brakes and pulled over to read the marker, it gave my kids a place in their own world that they could connect to the history that had occurred there.

Highway historical markers exist along interstates and byways in America and on the roads of other countries as well. **They offer an informative trip back in time to the era and events they commemorate.** Your carschoolers can learn a lot by reading these roadside history mini-textbooks.

You don't have to drive aimlessly around searching for historical markers. Many are indicated on maps provided by historical societies, automobile clubs, and in some cases, various government departments of transportation. Or, **simply consult this directory for websites and/or guidebooks for each state in the U.S.** where you can find information on the location of historical markers.

Editor's Note: Every effort has been made to assure the accuracy of this information.

If you find a bad link to a website, please email us and let us know.

Alabama —

From the Civil War to Civil Rights, historical markers commemorate Alabama history. You will find a directory of markers by county at this site, with brief descriptions of the markers and their locations.

©Carschooling, Inc., ©Carschooling.com. **Take the whine out of drive time!** Go to www.carschooling.com for fun, educational activities you can do in the car. And, if you're looking for all-around family activities and learning curriculum that's fun for your kids (you know – table-size volcanos that you just can't make in a car) , go to www.homefires.com. You won't believe all the innovative, educational fun you'll find there!

Alaska —

At this website you can find a list of Alaska's 11 designated Scenic Byways, that include historic sites. When you get to the website, run your cursor over the words "Traveler Info" at the top of the screen. Then the words "Travel by Land" will appear below it. Put your cursor over those words, and a link to "Scenic Byways" appears. Click on "Scenic Byways" and a new screen appears, with a menu. Click on "Alaska Byways" and a new screen appears with a directory of the 11 scenic byways with historic sites.

Arizona —

Arizona is celebrated for its inspiring natural landscapes and historic people and events such as Fort Apache, Zane Grey, Route 66, Geronimo, and the OK Corral. Get to know the stories behind the names by visiting the heritage sites featured here.

Arkansas —

Among the stories told at historic sites indicated here are tales of Native Americans, pioneers, Civil War battles, blues and folk music, diamond mines, the civil rights movement, and a native son who rose to the U.S. Presidency.

California —

Scroll down to the listing of historical markers by county. Click on a county of interest, and then click on the title of a landmark that interests you (i.e., Spanish missions, the Gold Rush, earthquakes, and Hollywood legends). Locations of all California historical markers are contained in the publication "California Historical Landmarks," which is published by the California Department of Parks and Recreation. You can order it at their website.

Colorado —

This site, sponsored by The Colorado Historical Society, highlights 12 historic sites and museums at 10 locations around the state that include information on early Hispanic life and settlement, the Ute Indians, the Clear Creek gold rush, the Leadville silver boom, and the growth of Denver.

Connecticut —

Dinosaurs, Native Americans, The Revolutionary War, and a history rich in seafaring are all commemorated at museums and historical sites throughout Connecticut.

Delaware —

This website offers a listing of historical markers by county that commemorate events from the American Revolution to the Civil War and more.

Florida —

The Florida Scenic Highways Program website, provides information to plan a road trip into Florida's heritage, history, cultural, scenic, archeological, recreational and natural resources. There's also a [simple list of Florida Historical Markers](#) by County.

Georgia —

This site provides a “virtual tour” of historical roadside markers in the state of Georgia. There is a comprehensive listing by county of over 2,000 historical markers from Pre-American Revolution to the Civil War and beyond. Click on a county that you will be traveling to and up pops a list of historical markers. Then, click on the marker name to see a picture and directions to its location. The books, [Historical Markers of North Georgia](#) and [Georgia Historical Markers Metro Atlanta, Vol. 1](#), by Kenneth W. Boyd highlight historical markers in Georgia and are available through libraries or bookstores.

Hawaii —

At this site you will find Hawaii's Register of Historical places organized by island. Click on a map of the particular island in the Hawaiian chain that you will be visiting, and you are able to download the historic register for that island. Then, you can select information about the sites you want to visit. Tourist maps of the islands feature many historical sites as well.

Idaho —

Historical markers listed at this site trace events from the caves of prehistoric man, to the ruts of the Oregon Trail, to the first U.S. city lights powered by atomic energy.

Illinois —

The Illinois State Historical Society provides a list of historical markers throughout the state, listed by title. Click on a title and read what the marker commemorates from Native Americans to French Explorers, to the birthplace of Abraham Lincoln, and the turmoil of the 1968 Democratic National Convention. The book, **Brevet's Illinois Historical Markers and Sites** by Lima S. Plucker & Kaye L. Roehrick is available at libraries and bookstores.

Indiana —

The Indiana Historical Bureau maintains this site that lists all state historical markers by county. Woodland Indians, French and Spanish explorers, and Indiana's role in times of war and peace are commemorated.

Iowa —

The State Historical Society of Iowa has a small listing of state historic sites at this website. Another website allows you to submit the city or area in Iowa that you are visiting, and **receive a list of attractions** (historical and modern) nearby.

Kansas —

This site contains a listing of historical markers in Kansas by county that include information about: President Dwight Eisenhower and his home and library in Abilene; the Civil War battlefield at Mine Creek; Charles Curtis, the first Native American to hold the second highest office in the land; the geodetic center of the United States; and the Tall Grass Prairie National Preserve. A free booklet containing Kansas Historical Markers can be obtained by writing to: **Markers Publication, Kansas State Historical Society, 6425 SW Sixth Avenue, Topeka KS 66615-1099.**

Kentucky —

This site maintains a complete list of historical markers by county that includes their location and a description of what they commemorate – from prehistoric mammals, to explorers, to pioneers like Daniel Boone, to the Civil War, and beyond.

Louisiana —

A complete listing of historical markers by “Parish” (similar to a County) that document French and Spanish explorers, sugar plantations, slavery, the Civil War, jazz in New Orleans, and more. The book, **Why Stop? A Guide to Louisiana's Roadside Historical Markers** by Marael Johnson is available through libraries and bookstores.

Maine —

This site is sponsored by the Maine Office of Tourism. When you get to the site, click on the word “Regions” on the menu. A new screen appears with a map. Click on the region of the map where you will be visiting, and a new screen appears with lists of sites of interest (including historical sites) and their locations.

Maryland —

The Maryland Office of Tourism Development offers a search engine to locate historic sites throughout the state that document Native Americans, explorers, The Revolutionary War, the Star Spangled Banner, tobacco, the Civil War, Johns Hopkin University and more. The book, **The Complete Guide to Maryland Historic Markers** by Joe A. Swisher is available through libraries and bookstores.

Massachusetts —

This site lists historical markers located throughout the state. Additionally, Boston is so rich in historical sites that there is a website devoted entirely to listing historical markers by neighborhood throughout the city.

Michigan —

Michigan offers a virtual tour of the state's historical markers. Just scroll to the bottom of the home page and click on the link to start the tour. A new screen appears that allows you to search by category (i.e., Early Settlers, Black History, Native Americans, etc.) or location (i.e., county, region).

Minnesota —

This site lists 25 historic sites in the state of Minnesota. Click on a site name, and a new screen appears with information, a picture, and location. Minnesota is the land of 10,000 lakes... Hiawatha... Paul Bunyan... and more!

Mississippi —

This website lists historical markers in Mississippi and their location. Another website displays photos of the historical markers of Adams County, Mississippi.

Missouri —

At this site you will find a map of the different regions in the state of Missouri. Double-click on the region you wish to visit, and a new screen appears with a map of the historic sites within that region indicated by number. Each number corresponds to the descriptions of historic sites listed below the map. Click on the description to see a photo and read about the historical significance.

Montana —

This site features areas of historical interest in Montana including extensive information on the Lewis & Clark expedition, as well as The Battle of Little Bighorn. Click on a map or use a search engine provided to find historic sites to travel along Montana's byways. The book, Montana's Historical Highway Markers, can be purchased from the Historical Society at 1-800-243-9900.

Nebraska —

Nebraska's history includes the Homestead Act of 1862 and, coincidentally, it is the home of the world's largest porch swing. This site provides a list of historical markers in Nebraska. Click on the title of the historical marker that interests you and a page appears with a picture of the marker, text explaining its significance, and its exact location.

Nevada —

This site offers a complete listing of historical markers by county. There are more than 250 historical markers in Nevada commemorating sites and buildings from the Pony Express to silver mining, to gambling.

New Hampshire —

This site lists all of the state's historical markers by region with the added feature of a "Topical Index" of the markers as well. Early American history is commemorated, including the birthplaces of Horace Greeley and Daniel Webster.

New Jersey —

One of the original 13 colonies, New Jersey is rife with history from George Washington and the Revolutionary War to Thomas Edison's laboratories. At the state's official website, you can read about the state's history and then click on the "Regional Historic Attractions" sidebar menu to get information and locations of historic sites throughout the state.

New Mexico —

The Highway and Transportation Department offers this site that maps New Mexico's scenic byways and the historic sites near them. Includes Native American cliff dwellings and the hideouts of outlaws of the old west – even Billy The Kid!

New York —

This site offers a search engine so that you can look for listings of historical markers by county. You will find markers for everything from early American to modern history.

North Carolina —

This site offers a listing of historical markers organized by district that includes information on Blackbeard the pirate, the Civil War, and more,

North Dakota —

This site lists the official state historic sites in North Dakota by region and topic that include Native Americans, explorers, pioneers, battlefields and more. The book, **Brevet's North Dakota Historical Markers and Sites** by Kaye L. Roehrick and Gail J. Smith is available at libraries and bookstores.

Ohio —

Ohio lists its historical markers by county that commemorate Johnny Appleseed, the Underground Railroad, and more.

Oklahoma —

This site lists state historic sites and history museums in Oklahoma. There is a great deal of information here about Native Americans, prairie life, the Chisholm Trail, and more.

Oregon —

This site lists all of Oregon's historical markers (by region) that include information from tsunami waves on the coast to the Oregon Trail in the east.

Pennsylvania —

At this site you can search for PA historical markers (on subjects from colonization to coal mines) by title, county, key words, or categories.

Rhode Island —

This site lists state historic sites and history museums from pre-colonial times to the recent past.

South Carolina –

This site maps the South Carolina National Heritage Corridor Discovery Route with historic sites dating from 1670. The route moves forward through time, visiting plantations, mill towns, and the Appalachian culture. **The South Carolina Highway Historical Marker Guide**, 2nd ed., may be purchased from the South Carolina Department of Archives and History. Historical markers are listed by county, and the book supplies the text on each, uses maps to pinpoint locations, and has an extensive name and subject index. To order, call 803-896-6191.

South Dakota —

At this site you can read a little about the history and heritage of South Dakota, and then click on a region (look for the tiny menu on left side of screen) to search for attractions and sites of historical significance. South Dakota's history includes the Plains Indians (in particular the Sioux Nation), and features names like Crazy Horse, Laura Ingalls Wilder, and Lewis and Clark. Mount Rushmore is also in South Dakota. The "*Places Worth Exploring*" curriculum guide can be purchased from the South Dakota State Historical Society, Historic Preservation Office at 605-773-3458.

Tennessee —

This site offers a search engine that allows you to find places of historical interest throughout Tennessee that includes the birth of the United States, the Civil War, The Smokey Mountains, and country music. There are many heritage trails (walks through history) identified at this site as well. The 9th edition of the **Tennessee Historical Markers Guide** can be purchased from Tennessee Historical Commission, Clover Bottom Mansion, 2941 Lebanon Road, Nashville, TN 37243-0442. Call: 615-532-1550.

Texas —

At this site you can search for Texas historical sites and markers by county or site name. Read about the sites and their historical significance from early Spanish explorers, to the Alamo, to the Civil War, to the assassination of President Kennedy.

The book, **Why Stop? A Guide to Texas Historical Roadside Markers** by Betty Dooley-Awbrey and Claude W. Dooley, et. al., is available at libraries and bookstores.

Utah —

At this site click on the words “searchable database” and look for historical markers and monuments throughout Utah by location and/or keyword. They include information on Native Americans, explorers, pioneers, mining, and railroads.

Vermont —

This site contains a listing of historical markers and sites by region. The listing contains information about each site and its location that include Native Americans, explorers, the Revolutionary War, and more.

Virginia —

This website features the tall, silver historical highway markers in Virginia. More than 2,300 of them bring bits of history to motorists in Virginia. As noted at the website, one history professor uses Civil War highway markers in his classes to track the movement of troops during battle campaigns! **A Guidebook to Virginia's Historical Markers** helps motorists locate highway markers by geographic region, theme, or title. The book can be purchased at bookstores and museums throughout Virginia or by contacting the University Press of Virginia at 1-800-831-3406.

Washington —

This is the state's official tourism site. Click on any region of the map of WA state, and then click on “Cultural Attractions” to find historical landmarks located throughout the state that commemorate Native Americans, explorers like Lewis and Clark, pioneers, volcanic activity and more.

West Virginia —

This site maintains a listing of historic sites by county. There is information about each site along with its location that includes information about explorers, pioneers, the Civil War, mining, and more.

Wisconsin —

This site lists Wisconsin Historical Landmarks – and if you scroll down you will see a directory of historical markers by region. Click on the region and a list of markers with a very brief (and in some cases incomplete) description appears along with the location. Wisconsin has an on-going curriculum project for students to help update the historical marker information. Details are also at this website. The book, **History Just Ahead: A Guide to Wisconsin's Historical Markers** by Sarah Davis McBride and the State Historical Society of Wisconsin Staff is available at libraries and bookstores.

Wyoming —

This site maintains a short list of historic sites in Wyoming (including Sacajawea's "burial" site). There are links to websites with detailed information, pictures, and information on visiting hours, and admission fees (in some cases) for some of the places listed. Two books offer extensive information on Wyoming Historical Markers: **Wyoming Historical Markers at 55 MPH: A Guide to Historical Markers and Monuments on Wyoming Highways** by Susan C. Carlson and Loren Jost is available at libraries and bookstores. **A Few Interested Residents: Wyoming Historical Markers & Monuments** by Mike Jording can be ordered by sending a check for \$21 (includes shipping) to: Buzzard Mountain Products, P.O. Box 594, Newcastle, WY 92701.

In the book, **Carschooling**, there are all kinds of great ideas for using roadside markers as springboards to history. Buy the book and check out chapter 3, pp 168-172, to find out how to:

1. Create field trips and vacations using historical markers;
2. Make wax and aluminum foil rubbings of historical markers, and
3. Help historical societies and agencies maintain the markers.

Looking for fun field trips to take? Go to www.homefires.com and sign in today for our **FREE Phenomenal Field Trips** for auto-updates right to your e-mail box!