

## The Land Between the Lakes Heritage Geocache Challenge 2025 Grocery Stores in LBL

In each geocache box, you should find a sign in sheet, date logbook and 150 aluminum tree tags. We have stamped each tag with numbering specific to that cache location. Collect 1 tree tag per geocache from each of the 7 locations.

- Bring your 7 different tree tags to the Golden Pond Visitor Center.
- Exchange them for a special Challenge Coin created just for this event.
- For extra bragging rights, each Challenge Coin is individually numbered from 1-150.
- Once participants have redeemed all tree tags and collected all Challenge Coins, this years geocache challenge ends.
- After closing the challenge, we collect the boxes to prepare for next years event.

Contact Chris Thornock with any suggestions and comments 270-924-2015 or christopher.thornock@usda.gov



### GEOCACHING

Congratulations, you've found it! (Intentionally or not)

It's part of a worldwide game loved by GPS (Global Positioning System) users who are on the internet. It's like a scavenger hunt—its called geocaching. A GPS user hides a "treasure" (this container) and publishes the exact coordinates so other GPS users can go on a "treasure hunt" to find it.

#### IF YOU FOUND THIS CONTAINER BY ACCIDENT

Great! You can join us! We only ask:

- Please don't move or vandalize the container. The real fun is just finding it and recording the visit.
- Go ahead and take something if you like. But also leave something too.

[www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com)

Please respect and protect our local heritage by leaving all the cultural material in its current location. Do not remove or disturb the artifacts.



## Watkin's General Store 1924-1967



**Figure: M.T. Watkins in front of his store**

The store was owned and operated for 43 years by Maura T. and Dora Watkins. Maura used money he had saved from working in the steel mills in Alton Illinois to open the first store in the Star Lime Works community. They stocked their store with purchases made from M. Livingston & Co. for a grand total of \$234.35. The stock included a vast array of items from household goods, clothing, medicine, grocery items, and farm supplies. Ice was kept in the ice house or sold by #25, #50, and #100 blocks.

### Star Lime Works Community Origins

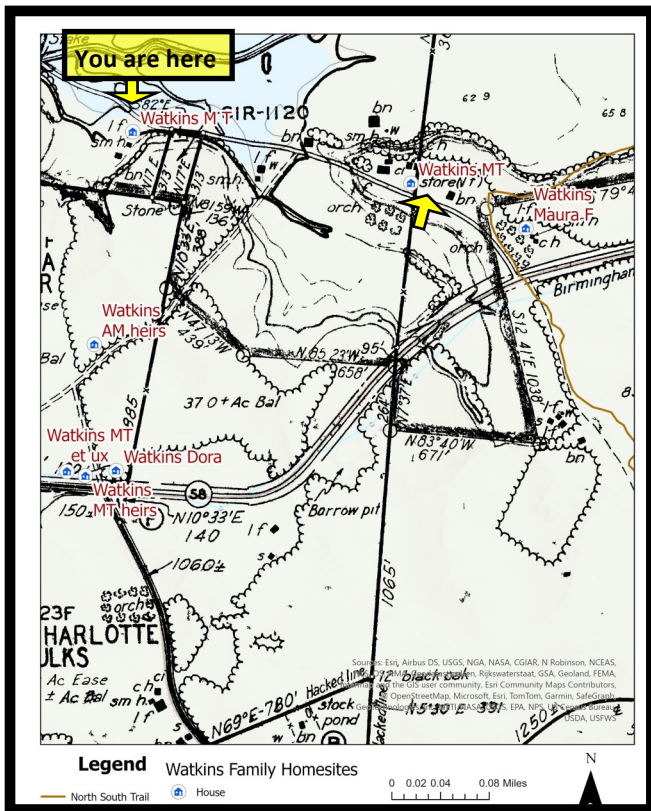
Louis A. Vogel began Star Lime Works in the late 1860s, which produced lime for the iron industry and for a network of distributors. Because of its location on the Tennessee river, the lime could be shipped to ports across the nation. The Hillman Heritage Trail which is accessible through Hillman Ferry campground, takes you to historic sites throughout the Star Lime Works community.



**M.T. Watkins store in Lime Works Community**

However, the stores that supported the workers were spread out. The Watkins store was actually located across the bay, likely where workers established their homes.

## A Community of Family



## Imagine times gone by . . .

You are standing at one of the many locations of the Watkins family homesites. On your way to this geocache you may have noticed old road beds lined with large old trees, frozen in time by decaying wire fences. As the map to the left indicates, there are several homesites along the way that may reveal themselves in foundation stones that are laid out in squares or yucca plants that stay green year round. Cisterns or wells may only be revealed by small depressions.

One of the most fulfilling things that Land Between the Lakes has to offer is its history, which is imbedded in the landscape. If you pay attention, you may be able to see what it once was. Notice unnaturally flat areas, and the placement of large wolf trees and you may just get a glimpse of the past. You may be able to

here children playing, see family members and neighbors walking these roads to visit loved ones, to bring them news, or get goods from Watkin's store just around the bend. Maybe you can even hear a huckster truck coming down the road.



M.T. Watkin's Huckster Truck.

## Hard work and Hard realities



Maura T. and Dora Watkins

It seems that store owners in the BTR worked hard to build a foundation to not only support their large families, but they also created a support system for their neighbors and friends which highlights the true meaning of community.

Mr. Watkins was one of the first groups of people in the Land Between the Rivers to have to move due to TVA acquiring land for the construction of Kentucky Dam. As a result, in 1943 Mr. Watkins relocated his store to hwy 58. Watkins then established cabins and stocked supplies for fisherman and tourists that had started coming to the BTR for recreation. His store was closed in 1967 when the BTR became LBL.

## A Community of Stores



DePriest's Store

The Star Lime works community is interesting because it highlights patterns like other areas like Model and Golden Pond, where there were often multiple stores within a few miles of one another. DePriest's store in Demumbers Bay area was considered a part of the SLW community. To add another layer of complexity, these stores often moved around the landscape due to the growth of families or TVA impounding the land for the creation of the lakes. Many stores were also operated from individuals' homes. The Pinnegar store may be an example of this. It is identified in the 1930s TVA map as being a part of the SLW community.

The image on the bottom right is labeled as the Pinnegar store and was in the Nickell cem. area. However, many former residents do not recall it ever being a store, only a house.

