

Mammoth Cave National Park



Mammoth Cave Guide

Mat Bransford

Although cave guide Mat Bransford's father was white, he was still enslaved. President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation freed slaves living in states that seceded from the Union. Kentucky did not leave the Union, so Mat remained a slave until the Civil War ended.

Four generations of Bransfords worked as Mammoth Cave Guides from 1838 to 1939.

To learn more, visit: www.nps.gov/maca

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