

# ***Riding through History, with RHS and Bikecentennial Route 76***

## **19 Questions on Local History & Geography, Bikes → (with a .76 tiebreaker)**

\*Complete from your own prior knowledge (however many points, this earns extra pride)

\*Visit [bike76-va.vt.domains](http://bike76-va.vt.domains) or [Email the Rockbridge Historical Society](mailto:Email the Rockbridge Historical Society) for hints

\*Talk with a neighbor, friend or parent ... or search online (all are legit modes of learning!!)

**Hand in or email your answers by May 15 to [Director@RockbridgeHistory.org](mailto:Director@RockbridgeHistory.org)**

**Top 10 Adult respondents → Free Local History Book**

**Top 3 responses (Under 18) → Gift Certificates to your choice of VA Bike Shop:**

**\$17.76 → \$19.76 → \$20.26**

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\*When was **Rockbridge County**, VA legally founded? (hint: signed into law by Governor Patrick Henry)

\*When was **Lexington, VA** legally founded? (hint: signed into law by Governor Patrick Henry)

\*When was **Buena Vista**, VA legally incorporated as an independent city?

\* **Who was the first “American”** owner of Natural Bridge, having purchased it from King George III, for 20 shillings on July 5, 1774, and later used his political influence to name Rockbridge County ... in 1778.  
(hint: he owned Natural Bridge until his death, July 4, 1826, exactly 50 years after drafting the Declaration of Independence)

\* **What Treaty** - and in **What Year** - was the “American Revolution” formally ended: when signed by political representatives of Great Britain, France, Spain, and the newly recognized United States of America?

\* In what year was the **American Bicentennial** most broadly celebrated?

\*Before the local completion of Interstate 81 in the 1960s, Rockbridge County’s central North~South road has been variously called (fill in the blanks):

The Great \_\_\_\_\_ Road                      The Valley \_\_\_\_\_

U.S. Route \_\_\_\_\_ ... aka ... \_\_\_\_\_ Highway

(hint: named for two former Lexington residents)

- \* In northeastern Rockbridge County, the 3.7 mile stretch of US-Bicycle Route 76 climbs from Vesuvius, winding up to The Blue Ridge Parkway: the steepest grade along the entire stretch of the TransAmerica Bike Trail (including the Rocky Mountains):

Why do you think people here **chose the name “Vesuvius,”** located at this particular site?  
(fun fact: it’s the only city in the United States to be named for that ancient, explosive reference)

- \* **During what decade** was **The Blue Ridge Parkway** constructed?

- \* Approximately **how many miles of the US Bicycle Route 76** run through **Rockbridge County**?

- \* Write a sentence using the word **Appalachian** (spelling counts!) ... **AND** →  
**What two states** hold the southern and northern terminus of the ~2,190 mile **Appalachian Trail**?

- \* Write a sentence using the word **derailleur** (spelling counts!) ... **AND** →  
**In what century/country** was the derailleur first patented?

- \* What major international **bike touring company** was ‘born’ by the Bikecentennial, still thriving today?

**True or false:**

According to Virginia law, cyclists may proceed through a red light, straight, if they stop first. \_\_\_\_\_

According to Virginia law, cyclists under the age of 18 must wear a helmet when riding. \_\_\_\_\_

According to Virginia law, local governments may pass ordinances requiring adults to wear a helmet. \_\_\_\_\_

***.76 Point Tie-Breaker: WHY do you enjoy riding your bike?*** (or did you, in earlier years?)

What does riding a bike “*do*” for you, that **feels different than other activities?**

Hand in or email your answers by **May 15** to **[Director@RockbridgeHistory.org](mailto:Director@RockbridgeHistory.org)**

# ***Looking ahead to 2026 ...***

***What would appeal to you/ people you know ???***

***(fellow riders, kids, family & friends)***

**\*July 4: Annual Kids' Bike Parade: Main Street Lexington (which is part of Route 76)**

**\* An organized group-ride, along full or partial stretches of US-76 in Rockbridge**  
offering "Goldilocks sections" from Plank Road to Lexington → Lexington to South River

**\*September 2025-6: "Bike Your Park" Day**

Ride to or through your favorite national, state, local park

We have options from Natural Bridge State Park, Blue Ridge Parkway, Douthat State Park, Jordan's Point, Glen Maury Park, Green Pastures, Lake Robertson, Washington and Jefferson National Forests among many others!)

**"Bike Your Park" Day (History & Context)**

National Park Service: <https://www.nps.gov/articles/bike-your-park.htm>

Virginia Resources: <https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/bike-your-park-day>:

***"Bike Your Park" Day: September 2025?***

***As a trial run for a broader launch: September 2026?!***

**Write if you're interested in sharing ideas, or helping to organize!**  
**Director@RockbridgeHistory.org**