Every Halloween, two thousand zombies rise up at the historic Kentucky Theatre and dance their way down Main Street. Lexington was the first city to launch a Michael Jackson Thriller reenactment, and it’s now a colossal, can’t-miss event.

Where has the Queen of England vacationed? Lexington, Kentucky my friend. It’s not exactly a timeshare situation, but Her Majesty has traditionally been involved in the world of Thoroughbred racing, and has housed horses at Lane’s End Farm.

Our town scored another serious musical scoop back in 1817. Bohemian émigré Anthony Philip Heinrich led the very first performance of Beethoven’s Symphony No. 1 ever heard in the United States, right here in the Bluegrass. The venue? A tavern.

You might bump into a few other celebrities here as well. Ashley Judd, a University of Kentucky alumna, is a fixture at Kentucky Wildcat basketball games. And Broadway musical star, Laura Bell Bundy, Johnny Depp and Sturgill Simpson were also born in or around Lexington.

You may also catch Food Network Chef Bobby Flay here several times a year checking out Thoroughbreds he owns at Ashford Stud or purchasing horses at Keeneland Sales.

Lexington has always accepted “wild Kentucky women” of all kinds. Gay African-American cross-dressing male “Sweet Evening Breeze” lived here openly in the early mid-twentieth century. Area vineyard Talon Winery carries a “Sweet Evening Breeze” wine and is reportedly haunted by Miss Sweets’ friendly ghost.

Since 1775, visitors to Lexington have found life in these parts pretty darn fascinating. Maybe it’s our quirky insistence that our grass is blue. Or our unhinged obsession with horses, bourbon and basketball. Maybe it’s pride in our local heroes like George Clooney (born here), Captain Kirk (vacations here) and Secretariat (buried here), or that we’re lauded by famous fans like Elizabeth Taylor and Queen Elizabeth II. Wherever your interests lie, there’s plenty of intrigue in this not-so-small and anything-but-sleepy Southern city.
Transylvania is here. No, not that one. Our Transylvania University, the first college west of the Alleghenies, was established here in 1780. “Transy” is consistently named one of the top liberal arts colleges in the nation.

When great Thoroughbred Man o’ War died in 1947 at the age of 30, over 2,000 people attended his funeral, which was broadcast on live radio (were ESPN around, we would have insisted on all-day coverage). See his memorial at the Kentucky Horse Park.

More champion Thoroughbred horses are discovered at the famous Keeneland sales than anywhere else in the world. Come over and pick up a couple for yourself, or as gifts for friends. Prices range from a few thousand to a few million.

A few international A-listers who own Thoroughbred farms in the Bluegrass include Will Farish, former Ambassador to Great Britain (Lane’s End); Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum of Dubai, Vice President and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates (Darley at Jonabell); and Barbara Banke, owner of Emirates (Darley at Jonabell); and Barbara Banke, owner of

Bourbon that’s become notorious as Moonshine or “white dog.” 9 distilleries within 35 minutes of Lexington, including two right aging in Kentucky – that’s more bourbon than people!

In the 9th Century the Shakers were so-named because they would “shake” during religious services. Today we remember them for their dedicated and careful furniture-making and architectural style. The largest restored Shaker community, Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill, is a scenic 30-minute drive from Lexington along the Palisades of the Kentucky River.

Garrett Morgan, born in next-door Paris, Kentucky, was an African-American inventor of note in the early 1900s. His inventions included the traffic signal we use today, and a breathing device that made news around the world when used to save men trapped in a tunnel under Lake Erie in 1916.

Still hungry? Try the spicy local delicacy Beer Cheese, which has its own annual festival in nearby Clark County. If you prefer grits over cheese, famed food writer Jonathon Gold (seen on shows like Top Chef Masters) has said he could live on the grits made at our own Weisenberger Mill.

We have more than 30 street murals (and counting!) around town, many commissioned by the organization PRHTBN. One of our most popular is the world’s largest mural of Abe Lincoln, a colorful piece of work from Brazilian artist Eduardo Kobra.

We even have our very own castle! The Castle Post, also known as the Martin Castle, was originally built in the 60’s by Rex and Caroline Martin, who divorced before its completion. It has since changed hands and become a sort of roadside photo-op for tourists, and also acts as an inn and special events venue.

Buffalo Trace Distillery, through the help of Colonel Albert B. Blanton, was one of four distilleries to obtain a special government license to produce “medicinal whiskey” during Prohibition. You can check out an original “prescription” at the Lexington Visitors Center. Blanton is honored today with Blanton’s Single-Barrel Bourbon at the distillery.

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One horse credited with solidifying Lexington’s title as the “Horse Capital of the World” was a racehorse aptly named “Lexington,” who went blind upon his retirement, but went on to lead America’s sire list for 14 consecutive years until his death (and twice more posthumously)!!

Fun fact: There are more than five million bourbon barrels aging in Kentucky – that’s more bourbon than people!

95% of the world’s Bourbon is aged in Kentucky, and there are 9 distilleries within 30 minutes of Lexington, including two right downtown. Take a distillery tour and you can sample the unaged Bourbon that’s become notorious as Moonshine or “white dog.”

Lexington is home to the headquarters for the Jockey Club, a national organization dedicated to the integrity of Thoroughbred breeding and racing. They are also responsible for reviewing and approving the names of every registered racehorse – and you can’t name your horse just anything!

African-American inventor of note in the early 1900s. His inventions included the traffic signal we use today, and a breathing device that made news around the world when used to save men trapped in a tunnel under Lake Erie in 1916.

Statesman Henry Clay’s cousin, Cassius Marcellus Clay, was a vibrant character from “back when.” So serious was he about ending slavery, he rigged his anti-slavery laws in his home state. He also exchanged hands and become a sort of roadside photo-op for tourists, and also acts as an inn and special events venue.

The Lexington Public Library is home to the world’s largest printing press in 1780. “Transy” is consistently named one of the top liberal arts colleges in the nation.