

## "Between the Rock and the Commonwealth"

Tyler York | Managing Editor / Morehead State Trail Blazer

It's not common for two states to fight over a rock, but it has happened.

Morehead State University communications faculty member Steven Middleton began researching last April about the famous Indian Head rock that resided in the middle of the Ohio River that caused a dispute between South Shore, KY and Portsmouth, OH in 2007.

His documentary titled "Between the Rock and the Commonwealth" explores the history of the rock and the legal feud that erupted between Kentucky and Ohio. It is set to premiere at Coffeetree Books on April 26 at 6:30 p.m.

"When you start making documentaries about our region they generally are about coal, poverty or you can get into racism and backwoodsness," said Middleton. "I think [my documentaries are] just an outpouring of what I'm interested in, which is kind of the strange and obscure, not really political or the stories that the national media looks on our region with."

The creation of lock and dam systems hid the 6-ton boulder under 16 feet of water for 87 years. In 2007, a group of Portsmouth historians discovered what is known as the Indian Rock and claimed it as Ohio's property. From there, a controversial dispute began between the two states.

After a legal settlement, the rock's ending home is now in a municipal garage in Greenup County. In Kentucky.

"It's an interesting story from a legal standpoint, from a state pride standpoint and it was amazing to me that it got so much national attention. Because at the end of the day it's a rock...But I think it's a fun story and I would highly recommend people to come see it. It's simple. It's not controversial."

Between the Rock and the Commonwealth will be shown on KET and the Ohio Public Television this June and July. Middleton has another documentary that is set to premiere in late July or early June on KET about the history of MSU titled "Far above the Rolling Campus".