

Northern Kentucky Views Presents:

Boone County

from

The Thirteenth Biennial Report of the
Bureau of Agriculture, Labor and Statistics
of the State of Kentucky, 1898-1899

www.nkyviews.com

BOONE COUNTY.

Boone County, the thirtieth formed in the State, was organized in 1798, and was formed out of a part of Campbell county and was so named in honor of Daniel Boone. It is the most northern county in the State and is bounded on the north and west for a distance of forty-two miles by the Ohio river. It is bounded on the east by Kenton and on the south by Grant and Gallatin counties. The area of the county contains 152,869 acres. The principal water courses of the county are the Ohio river, which washes its northern and western border for forty-two miles, and Big Bone, Mud Lick, Gunpowder, Middle, Woolper and Ashby's Fork creeks. These creeks supply an abundance of stock water, but are not available for water power or navigation.

The soil of Boone county along the river bottoms is of almost inexhaustible fertility, and the hill lands are well adapted to the growth of all kinds of agricultural products that can be grown in this latitude. The crops now principally grown are corn, wheat, hay and tobacco.

There is about ten per cent. of the area of this county in timber land, including the varieties of oak, gum, poplar, hickory, ash, walnut, beech, sycamore, lynn and water and hill maple. There are no bodies of timber land in this county for sale. Our timber is mostly used for home consumption and a few trees occasionally sold to be manufactured into furniture and for veneering purposes.

In the way of natural curiosities this county has her Rock Springs, which are located on a branch of the same name, a fork of Middle creek, about six miles from the county seat. Clear, cold and pure water gushes forth from a large boulder-like stone in a cliff. Neither the rainy season or the drouths affect this natural water main, which for ages has poured forth its refreshing waters in profusion for the surrounding community, and slacks the thirst of the weary traveler, as it is but a few feet from the public highway. The noted Big Bone springs, situated near a hamlet of the same name, in the southern part of the county, was visited as early as 1773 by Capt. Thomas Bullitt, and the McAfee party. James Douglass, of this party, remained here for some time to explore these springs, examine and drink of their health-giving waters. Some of these springs are salt, some sulphur and others whose waters contain chalybeate, sulphur, magnesia and other minerals and possess properties of great medicinal virtues. There is a large hotel at the springs, and the place is now used to a considerable extent as a health resort and as a pleasure and picnicking ground. The accommodations for the entertainment of visitors are inadequate, meager, not up to date and altogether unsatisfactory. The right kind of a hotel, under the proper management, would be a money-making investment, for then people far and near would come to visit this place of national reputation and to drink of these healing waters. An electric railway from Covington, a distance of twenty-two miles, to these springs has been projected and is now much talked of, and doubtless will be built at no distant date. At one of these springs salt was manufactured by the early settlers and this was continued until a few years ago. One large spring and two acres of land is owned by the county. Anywhere here for acres around a well can be sunk and these same waters obtained.

The largest bones of the mastodon ever discovered in the world, of which history relates, were found here and are now in a museum in London, England. Some idea of the immensity of size of these gigantic animals of tradition can be realized when one has

seen a tusk over sixteen feet in length and fifteen inches in circumference, this being the size of one that was unearthed here just a few years ago. The ground for several acres around one of these springs is of a fullatious formation, in places upon which a man can stand and shake the surface for quite a distance around him. Other places a stone thrown on the surface sinks out of sight, or a fence rail can be started down endwise and it will immediately and forever disappear.

Split Rock, located on the banks of the Ohio river, three and a quarter miles below Petersburg, and over a quarter of a mile above the mouth of Woolper creek, is in all the term implies, a natural curiosity. At this place the river banks are high and precipitous and on a shell-like space in a bank is an immense stone, about 150 feet long, 50 feet wide and 50 feet high, which has in ages past, by some upheaval of the earth, cracked, split and separated so that there is now a space varying from eighteen inches to five feet, the entire length of the stone, that a man can, with all ease, walk through it. There are for several hundred yards cliffs of solid rock, numerous places which have split and separated so that a horse and buggy can be driven between them.

Several very brilliant sapphires, almost equalling the diamond in hardness and brilliancy, have been picked up here. Pleasure seekers and tourists for miles around visit this curiosity of nature every summer. In the immediate vicinity of Split Rock and situated on Taylor's creek are several caves, one of which is an almost square room, sixteen feet each way, in which a number of mummified pigmies of the human race have been found, some of which appear to be children but a few days old, petrified, retaining perfect form and features.

In the way of industries this county has a large distillery, cooper shop, flouring mill, saw and planing mill, steam and water grist mill, numerous tobacco warehouses and canning and preserving factories that sell their products not only in this country, but in Europe. On account of cheap sites, transportation facilities by water and rail and its close proximity to the best markets in the country, Cincinnati, Ohio, Covington and Newport, Ky., this county offers splendid inducements for factories and manufacturing establishments of various kinds.

The Ohio river, which runs almost two-thirds the way around the county, and the Cincinnati, New Orleans & Texas Pacific and the Louisville & Nashville railways, which run through the eastern edges of the county for a distance of 9.13 and 9.48 miles, respectively, furnish the county with ample transportation facilities. No other roads are projected at this time.

The county has eighty-four and three quarters miles macadam roads, maintained by the statutory charges of toll. The county has about 350 miles of dirt roads, which are maintained by a property tax of ten cents on the one hundred dollars worth of taxable property, and the working of these roads is supervised by overseers appointed by the county judges. The roads are fully up to the average, for such roads through the State; however, we do not find that the management of the road system in this county deserves any words of praise.

With the exception of a few negroes, the labor of this county is performed by native white men. The average price per month for farm labor with board is about twelve dollars; without board, about seventeen dollars per month.

The League Institute, of Verona, and the Walton Academy, of Walton, are both institutions of learning that are an honor and credit to the county. Our common schools are managed by an efficient and worthy superintendent and capable teachers.

Burlington, the county seat, is situated near the center of the county and eight miles

from the nearest railroad station, Erlanger. The town has about three hundred inhabitants, two general merchandise stores, one drug store, a bank, a good hotel, a printing office, which is owned and managed by W. L. Riddell, editor of the Boone County Recorder, one of the best papers in the State outside the city of Louisville, also four nice church buildings, Baptist, Presbyterian, Methodist and Universalist. The town is laid off in a square, with a beautiful court house in the center. All the county officials have their offices in the court house. The streets of the town are wide and well shaded, making it a beautiful and desirable place of residence. The town is connected with the outside world by long distance telephone. We have an omnibus line making two trips a day between here and Erlanger. This is a local option town and the law is rigidly enforced.

Petersburg, situated on the Ohio river, ten miles northwest of the county seat, has a population of about eight hundred people. The town is above high water mark and has an excellent steanboat landing. It has a distillery with a three hundred barrel per day capacity, and this distillery feeds hundreds of cattle every year. The distillery also has connected with it a large cooper shop. The town also has a flour mill that can make one hundred barrels a day of the best flour the county affords. There is a lumber yard and stores of all kinds to supply the trade of the surrounding country. The town is well lighted by oil lamps. There is also a good town hall with a seating capacity of eight hundred.

Bellevue, a town of about one hundred people, situated on the Ohio river, seven miles from Burlington, and about thirty miles below Cincinnati, Ohio, by water, is in a region of extremely fertile lands that raise an enormous amount of corn and hogs, and on account of these two products, cheap land sites and transportation facilities, this would be an ideal place for a pork-packing establishment.

Florence, six miles east of Burlington, is a nice little town of four hundred people. It has good hotels and is nicely located on the Lexington turnpike, and just two miles from a railroad station. The County Fair Grounds are situated at this place. It is a delightful place of residence for people engaged in business in Cincinnati, Covington or Newport. The town has first class accommodations for the traveling public to and from railway station and is connected with the world by long distance telephone.

Walton is located in the southeastern part of the county on a crossing of the C., N. O. & T. P. and L. & N. railways. Population about six hundred. Industries: Saw and planing mills, lumber yard, flour mill, tobacco warehouse and two tomato canneries and preserving companies that sell their products all over the civilized world.

Constance, located on the Ohio river, six miles northeast from the county seat and nine miles from Covington, Ky., by water, is a nice little village of one hundred and fifty people, with a good steam ferry connecting it with the Ohio side, where one can take an electric car and be in Cincinnati, Ohio, in thirty minutes.

P. E. CASON.

Boone county is situated in the Sixth Congressional, Sixth Appellate, Fifteenth Judicial, Twenty-third Senatorial and Seventy-eighth Legislative Districts.

POSTOFFICES:—Beaverlick, Berkshire, Bigbone, Bullittsville, Burlington, Constance, Crescent, Florence, Grant, Gunpowder, Hamilton, Hathaway, Hebron, Limaburg, Petersburg, Rabbit Hash, Richwood, Union, Utzinger, Verona, Walton.