

Report from Grant County Kentucky

From

The Handbook of Kentucky

From the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, 1908

GRANT COUNTY.

Grant county was created a county of the Commonwealth of Kentucky on the 12th day of February, 1820. It was created from a part of Pendleton, and contained all of the territory now embraced within its boundaries, excepting a small strip added from Campbell county in 1830, and a larger strip secured from Harrison county in 1833, and a small cut-off from Boone in 1868, and a very considerable piece attached from Owen county in 1876. Grant county was the sixty-seventh county formed in the State.

At the time of the organization of the county more than eighty-five years ago, the territory embraced within its limits was almost a trackless forest. Its hills and valleys were covered with as fine a growth of hard wood timber as ever invited the woodman's

axe. Game of all varieties abounded. Its people were few and scattered, living in log cabins and leading an easy and thriftless existence. The land was practically valueless, measured by the prices then asked and accepted for it. Yet Grant county, even in the beginning, was a beautiful spot, her people, though few and poor, were honest and loyal to the flag and suffered untold hardships and dangers that their posterity might reap the harvest of riches and good government these pioneers had sown.

The forests of eighty-five years ago have been swept away before the onrolling tide of civilization. Where the hunter set his traps beautiful homes have been built, and a thrifty, provident and honest people have transformed Nature's wilderness into one of the most lovely agricultural communities in the State. Grant county is twenty miles east and west by eighteen miles north and south, and lies on both sides of the Dry Ridge, which extends in an unbroken upheaval from the Ohio river to the Kentucky. The country is broken upland, with a deep rich soil on a foundation of yellow clay, and that in turn underlaid with an inexhaustible supply of limestone. Nearly all of the county is in the highest state of cultivation.

Corn, wheat, rye, oats, potatoes and white burley tobacco are the chief crops cultivated. The tobacco crop varies from three to five million pounds annually, and the quality grown in the hills can hardly be equalled in the white burley belt.

Grant county is pre-eminently a stock raising county. There are thousands of acres of bluegrass scattered from one end of the county to the other, and timothy, clover and all other grasses do remarkably well on our soil. The stock raised in Grant county are fine cattle, sheep, horses, mules and hogs. Of each of these the county produces quite a surplus, and from one year's end to the other, there is a constant shipment out of the county of live stock.

During recent years the county has been greatly improved by better methods of farming, and the agricultural population have increased their wealth until most of the farmers of the county are well to do.

In every part of the county are to be found lovely homes, magnificent barns and all of the conveniences that go to make country life the best life on earth to live.

No county in the State has a better system of turnpike roads.

The mileage is a little under five hundred miles, and it all belongs to and is kept up by the county out of its treasury. The roads were made free about eight years ago and are now second to none in the State. Every neighborhood and nearly every home in the county is reached by a good turnpike road.

The county has thirty miles of railroad. The Cincinnati, New Orleans & Texas Pacific passes along the Dry Ridge for more than twenty miles within the limits of the county. This is one of the best roads in the South and has few equals in any State. The Louisville & Nashville passes through the northern part of the county for a distance of approximately nine miles, and has a perfect road bed and fine equipment.

Grant county has no navigable streams. Its creeks are Big Eagle, Grassy Run, Clark's creek, Arnold's creek, Ten Mile, Fork Lick, Grassy creek and Crooked creek.

Our schools are improving from year to year and are now second to those in no county in the State. At Williamstown, Dry Ridge, Corinth and Crittenden there are free graded schools, and in every neighborhood of the county a good public school, presided over by a competent teacher.

Williamstown is the county seat of the county. It was founded prior to 1820, and is a beautiful little city, situated in the center of the county on the Cincinnati, New Orleans & Texas Pacific railroad, and the Covington and Lexington turnpike.

The other towns of the county are Dry Ridge, Stewartsville, Downingsville, Jonesville, Holbrook, Lawrenceville, Keefer, Corinth, Mason, Blanchett, Cordova, Crittenden, Sherman, Mount Zion, Zion Station, Elliston, Folsom, New Eagle Mills, Hanks and Heckin.

Within the county there are more than sixty church organizations with that many places of public worship. The Baptist is the leading denomination with the Methodist Episcopal Church South, Christian or Church of Christ, Presbyterians, North and South, and Catholic next in order.

The annual tax rate for county purposes is 65 cents, apportioned as follows: For free turnpike fund, 25 cents; general expense fund, 15 cents; turnpike sinking fund, 15 cents; bridge fund, 5 cents, and pauper fund, 5 cents.

There are about 3,300 voters in the county and our citizens pay taxes on a total valuation of a little over \$3,500,000.

Grant county is in the Sixth Congressional, Fifteenth Judicial, Twenty-sixth Senatorial and Twenty-seventh Legislative districts.