

Report from Pendleton County Kentucky

From

The Handbook of Kentucky

From the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, 1908

PENDLETON COUNTY.

Pendleton county is situated in the northern part of the State, and is bounded on the north by Kenton and Campbell counties, on the west by Grant, on the south by Harrison, on the east by Bracken, and on the northeast for about three miles by the Ohio river. The county was organized in 1798 out of Campbell and Bracken counties and in 1900 had a population of 14,947.

The Licking river flows through the central part of the county, entering at the southeast corner and flowing out at Demossville, near the center of the northern boundary. The South Licking river enters the county at the southwest corner, and flowing northeast, joins the main Licking at Falmouth, near the center of the county.

The largest creeks are: Grassy creek, emptying into Licking river at Demossville, and draining the west and northwest part of the county; Fork Lick, emptying into South Licking at Morgan, draining the southwest part of the county; Kinkaid emptying into Licking at Catawba, and draining the east central part of the county; and Flower creek, emptying into Licking near Butler, and draining most of the northeast part of the county. Numerous other large creeks flow into the Licking, South Licking, and Ohio rivers.

The Kentucky Central Branch of the Louisville & Nashville Railway runs north and south through the central portion of the county, following the Licking from Demossville to Falmouth, and the South Licking to the southern boundary, a distance of twenty-six miles. The Chesapeake & Ohio railroad following the course of the Ohio river, crosses the northeastern part of the county, a distance of about three miles.

About one-fourth of the county is bottom land, along the rivers and larger creeks, and is very fertile; the remainder consists of smooth, rolling hills and long ridges, all susceptible of easy cultivation. The soil of the valley is rich alluvial, and the virgin soil of the hills is a black loam. The soil of the county covers a rich limestone clay sub-soil which rests upon stratified limestone, rich in phosphate.

There are 166,322 acres of land assessed in the county, only about 6,000 of which are in timber, though there is plenty of wood, fence posts and for farm use. The prices of land vary widely; bottom lands are worth from \$35 to \$100 per acre, hill lands from \$15 to \$50 per acre, except eroded hill lands which sell at \$5 to \$15 per acre. These eroded lands possess remarkable powers of recuperation, and when put in grass for a few years, are as good almost as any.

The county has 290 miles of macadamized roads, and 100 miles of good earth roads; with five wagon bridges across the two Licking rivers, and numerous smaller bridges across creeks, all affording excellent accommodation for travel. The roads are used by the public free of toll, except on one mile of turnpike near Demossville. The excellent condition of this road has encouraged the establishment of rural mail routes throughout the county, there being eighteen routes serving the citizens.

The county has a bonded indebtedness of \$132,500, the balance remaining unpaid out of a bonded indebtedness of \$200,000, incurred in the building of macadamized roads. There is a good two-story

brick court house, a brick jail and jailer's residence, and a farm upon which is located the county infirmary, a self-sustaining institution.

The county tax levy is fifty-seven and one-half cents on the hundred dollars, for all county purposes.

Falmouth, the county seat, is located on the Licking river at the mouth of the South Licking and on the L. & N. railway, forty miles south of Cincinnati, and sixty miles north of Lexington. The census population in 1900 was 1,134, which did not include a suburban population of about 500. But a part of this belongs to the city by an extension of the corporate limits in 1905. This is a beautiful town, situated in the valley of the two rivers, and is called the "Island City." The valley is fringed with hills, covered with blue-grass, and resembles a great amphitheatre. The streets are level and wide, and lined with luxuriant shade trees; and are kept clean and well lighted at nights. The city owns and operates an excellent system of water works, with two large reservoirs located on an adjacent hill two hundred feet above the town, thus affording unusual pressure for fire protection. The Western Union Telegraph and the Postal Cable Companies keep offices here, open day and night. There is a telephone exchange, having connection with nearly all the towns of the county, with many farm houses, and long distance connection with all large cities of the county.

The Falmouth graded and high schools maintain a high standard of education, and are patronized by many students throughout this part of the State. Its graduates are admitted without examination to most of the colleges of the country and to West Point Military Academy. There are two large and substantial brick school buildings, employing nine teachers for ten months in the year. There is also a school for colored children in the city, with two teachers.

There are nine church edifices, representing the Baptist, Methodist, Catholic, Presbyterian, Christian and Lutheran denominations, and three colored churches. The two banks are the Pendleton Bank, with a capital stock of \$50,000, and the Citizens' Bank, with a capital stock of \$32,500. There are two roller and grist mills, with a daily capacity of two hundred barrels each. There is one saw mill with a daily capacity of ——— feet of lumber. There are also a creamery, catsup factory and two harness and saddle factories. Falmouth is the trading center for a large surrounding territory, and supports numerous business houses with extensive trade. This is also an important leaf tobacco market, with a large purchasing

warehouse of the American Tobacco Company, and six other purchasing warehouses operated by independent leaf tobacco dealers.

The traveling public is well cared for by the three principal hotels having modern accommodation, also numerous boarding houses and restaurants. A substantial brick court house adorns the public square; and the town is growing in popularity as a market for stock on county court day. There are five rural mail routes starting from here, affording speedy and direct communication with a large surrounding territory. The "Pendletonian," a weekly newspaper, is published in the city, and the office, equipped with a power plant, does a large amount of commercial printing. The citizens of Falmouth have excellent accommodations for travel; the L. & N. Railway runs eight passengers daily to and from Cincinnati; and there are twelve macadamized roads and five dirt roads leading into the town.

Butler, with a population of about 800, is the second town in the county, situated on the Licking river, and on the L. & N. railway, twenty-nine miles from Cincinnati, and is the trading center of the northern part of this county, and of parts of Kenton and Campbell counties. A large and substantial wagon bridge spans the Licking here. There are four churches, representing the Methodist, Christian, Catholic and Baptist denominations. Butler has long enjoyed a reputation for educational facilities which are taken advantage of by students from the surrounding country, including parts of Kenton and Campbell counties. There is a graded common and high school, with four teachers employed nine months in the year. The Butler Deposit Bank has a capital stock of \$15,000. The large flour and lumber mills of C. C. Hagemeyer & Co., are located here and furnish employment for a large number of men. A stirrup factory ships its product all over this and to many foreign countries. A large dairying industry in the surrounding territory ships milk daily from Butler, and the products from several large peach, apple and plum orchards in the northern part of the county are shipped from this place. Four rural mail routes start from here. The "Pendleton Reformer," a weekly newspaper, is published at this place. There are two hotels.

Morgan, is situated on the L. & N. railway, eight miles south of Falmouth, and in the valley of the South Licking river at the mouth of Fork Lick Creek, among the most fertile lands of the county. It has a population of about one hundred, with two blacksmith shops,

two large general stores, two leaf tobacco warehouses, and the Farmers' Bank, with a paid up capital stock of \$17,000. There is a good graded school maintained six months in the year, with two teachers. There is one church here; and two rural mail routes start from this place.

Demossville, is situated in the northern part of the county, on the L. & N. railway, twenty-five miles from Cincinnati, and on the Licking river at the mouth of Grassy creek. It contains a population of about 150, has three general stores, a blacksmith shop, leaf tobacco warehouse, one church, and a graded school with two teachers, maintained six months in the year. Westerly from the town extends the beautiful valley of Grassy creek, containing a large body of fertile valley lands, well improved. Two rural mail routes start from here.

Boston Station, Catawba and Levengood are stations on the L. & N. railway, supporting stores, blacksmith shops, churches and schools. Carntown is situated on the C. & O. railway, thirty-one miles from Cincinnati, and on the Ohio river, and contains stores, a distillery, blacksmith shop, and is an important shipping point for coal and stock and farm products. Caddo, Gardnersville, Knoxville, Goforth, Doudton, McKinneysburg, Pindell and Mt. Auburn are inland villages where stores and shops are kept.

The principal agricultural product of the county is burley tobacco, about 4,000,000 pounds being produced annually. Corn, wheat, rye, oats, and most all field and garden products common to this climate, grow in abundance. Kentucky bluegrass is indigenous here and grows in luxuriance in every part of the county. Clover, timothy and orchard grass are also raised. In the last few years many farmers have been raising alfalfa, and find that it grows exceedingly well on the hill lands, yielding three to four cuttings annually, and one to three tons at each cutting. It is now raised extensively around Butler, where the dairying business has become an important industry.

Stock raising for a long time has been an important industry, and only improved stock is kept. The cattle consists of shorthorn and herefords. The hill lands afford ideal pasture for sheep raising, which is an important industry. Many car loads of hogs are shipped each year to the Cincinnati market, and quite a number of fine mules are raised and generally sold to local dealers and shippers. The standard-bred saddle and draft horses of Pendleton county receive recognition for their excellence wherever exhibited.

The excellent grasses growing here, and numerous springs and streams of pure water in abundance, make this a stock growing county that is hard to surpass. The farmers are getting their hill lands in grass and are raising more stock and less tobacco.

Perhaps no county in the State is better adapted to fruit growing though as yet, the industry is not extensive. In the northern part of the county are several large peach, apple, plum and pear orchards, from which large shipments are made to Cincinnati and other markets. Along the Ohio river a great many grapes are raised, and much of the crop is there manufactured into wine. Small fruits and berries grow well and yield good returns when grown for market. Poultry raising is an industry in this county of more importance than in most agricultural counties owing to its splendid market facilities.

There are seven distilleries in the county, all manufacturing old fashioned hand made sour mash whisky, and have combined capacity of about 5,000 barrels annually.

There are three large stone quarries, one on the L. & N. railway, near Menzies, and two on the C. & O. railway, and Ohio river near Carntown. Their product is a smoothly stratified and compact limestone, a very fine building stone and much used in Cincinnati and surrounding cities. Almost the entire northern part of the county is underlaid with the same material and affords excellent opportunities for numerous quarries.

Adjoining Butler, while a company was boring there for oil in the spring of 1905, a strong flow of gas was struck, but as yet there has been no disposition made of it. There is a well of Blue Lick Water at Boston Station, which possesses valuable medicinal properties. No further development of the property has been made than local use.

The grounds of the Pendleton County Fair Association are located adjacent to Falmouth, where the annual county fair is held. The meetings of this association have taken a prominent rank in the State, and have done much to encourage and improve the agricultural, horticultural and stock raising industries of the county. Pendleton county is becoming a popular summering country for city folks who want rest and recreation during the summer months. The streams and lakes afford good fishing and the good roads afford much pleasure in driving. Grant's Lakes, a notable summering place for camping parties, is located near Butler, where there are

several large artificial lakes close to the river, which are stocked with game, fish, and surrounded with picturesque and shady grounds. The grounds are occupied throughout the summer months by camping parties from various cities.

Pendleton county constitutes the Seventy-ninth Legislative District, and belongs to the Twenty-sixth Senatorial, Sixth Congressional, Eighteenth Judicial, Sixth Appellate Court, and Third Railroad Commissioners' District.

Postoffices: Boston Station, Butler, Carntown, Catawba, Demossville, Falmouth, Gardnersville, Goforth, Ivor, Knoxville, Levin-good, McKinneysburg, Morgan, and Peach Grove.