

NORTHERN KENTUCKY VIEWS PRESENTS:

Trimble County



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TRIMBLE COUNTY

Trimble County is situated on the northern boundary of Kentucky, on the Ohio River adjacent to the state of Indiana, and on the extreme northeastern edge of the Outer Bluegrass Region. It is one of the smallest of the counties of the state and covers an area of only 154 square miles. Elevations in the county range from 450 feet above sea level at the mouth of Pattons Creek on the Ohio River to about 900 feet on the highest uplands.

Physiographically the county is rough and hilly with some undulating land on the upland plateau and a limited amount of flat land in the Ohio River bottoms. The plateau region is maturely dissected and the drainage flows through a number of streams, of which the most important are Pattons Creek, Middle Creek, Barebone Creek, Corn Creek and the Little Kentucky River, into the Ohio River on the north and west.

Geologically the hard rocks consist chiefly of Ordovician limestones and shales with a considerable Silurian outcrop in the center of the county. The river bottoms are rich in alluviums, chiefly Pleistocene and Recent sands, gravels, clays and silts and occasional glacial boulders have been found in the region. Structurally the county is a monocline tilted slightly to the northwest. The mineral resources of the county consist of limestones, sands and gravels.

We have been able to locate only a few archaeological sites in the county, but those investigated proved to be of considerable interest. Curiously enough, these sites were not located on the Ohio River, as might be expected, but in the upland part of the county. They are shown on the accompanying map and may be described as follows:

1. The best known site in the county is the remains of an ancient fortification, locally known as the "Indian Fort" on the farm of Gilbert Green, one and one-half miles south of Milton. At this place a spoon-shaped tongue of a ridge extends out into the valley and overlooks the river bottoms. The sides of the ridge are high, inaccessible cliffs and the only approach to the tip of the tongue is across a narrow neck, about five hundred feet in width which has been fortified by means of a trench and rough earth and stone work. The site is very well chosen, indeed, for defense. The projecting point

of the ridge is now in heavy timber which has obliterated any traces of occupation on that area.

2. A village site on the farm of Flora Miller, three miles east of Bedford. The site extends over a considerable area of bottom land along a small branch of the Little Kentucky River and has yielded many artifacts. When the authors visited the site in 1931 the owner of the property showed us a considerable collection, chiefly of flints, which had been plowed up in these fields, and which included, in addition to large numbers of arrowheads, some excellent celts and axes.
3. A site on the farm of Henry Dougherty, two and three-quarters miles east of Bedford and a quarter of a mile west of Number 2, is locally known as an Indian fortification. The structure seems to be merely a series of natural limestone outcrops and if they were ever used for defense there is now no evidence of the fact. However, there are several graves on the site and a considerable amount of broken flint on the surface. It may certainly be recorded as a burial site.
4. A number of graves on the farm of J. L. Rogers, four miles south of Milton. According to local tradition, skeletons have been taken from these graves, but the site had been so thoroughly obliterated that it could not be located by the authors.
5. A burial field on the top of a very interesting sugar-loaf ridge, locally known as "Bunker Hill," on the farm of Flora Miller, three and a quarter miles east of Bedford and a quarter of a mile east of Number 2, with which it is probably associated. The graves have been partially excavated and have yielded many artifacts.
6. A group of low mounds on the farm of Thomas Jackson, five miles northwest of Bedford. These mounds have never been excavated but many artifacts have been found in their immediate vicinity.

