

BOONE COUNTY

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Burlington, pop. 600 (1930 census) - County seat of Boone Co. 101-120 Burlington lies in hilly country 13 miles SW. of Covington, in county predominantly concerned with agriculture and dairying. The elevation is 848 ft. 400-416 Transportation - It is connected by state highway 18 to Florence, 6 mi. to the east, where the combined national highways 25 and 42 lead into Covington. 500 - Accommodations - Burlington has a post office, banking facilities, and both Postal Telegraph and Western Union ~~connections~~ connections. There are four churches, and two small hotels. 200-250 -690 - History - Burlington's history has been overshadowed by the more exciting past of the other sections of the county. Site first occupied by Boswells' station, settled by James B. It was incorporated in 1824 and has been the county seat since 1798, when Boone Co. was formed from the western portion of Campbell Co. Burlington could not have escaped Indian raids and skirmishes in its early days, for Boone Co. was the scene of much activity for many years, but it did succeed in escaping any event of importance, and it is consequently overlooked in favor of its more interesting neighbors.

Ten miles northeast of Burlington is Petersburg, built on the site of an aboriginal burying ground. When the cellars of the present town were dug, a number of earthen vessels and stone utensils were recovered.

A little above Petersburg, on the Ohio River, are the remains of an ancient fortification, an embankment about four feet high, extending from the river to the bank of Taylor's creek, and enclosing an area of twenty acres.

Originally, Petersburg was known as Tanner's Station, and was the pioneer settlement established by the Rev. John Tanner, the first Baptist preacher resident in north-eastern Kentucky. Here was the first clearing in Boone Co., in 1785.

In 1790, the Rev. Tanner's son John, 9, was captured by Indians and in the next year another son, Edward, 15, was also captured. Edward escaped in two days, but John was not heard of for twenty-four years. In 1828, he was in Sault St. Marie, acting as an interpreter for the government. He spent his life among the Indians, and his account of his captivity is one of the most interesting in existence.

Boone county's most remarkable possession, from the standpoint of the historian and paleontologist, is Big Bone Lick, twelve miles west of south from Burlington, and a mile and a half from Hamilton on the Ohio River.

This ancient salt lick has figured prominently in Kentucky's history and pre-history, and at one time was the most famous spot in the New World west of the Atlantic states. Long before Europe ever heard of Big Bone Lick, however, and long before Europe had ever heard of the New World, this spring-fed valley bog was important for miles around to the animals who came here, as to other licks thru the state, for salt.

For centuries it was important to animals, and for centuries to Indians. Traditionally - and quite possibly - the first white man to visit it was the Sieur de la Salle, on his voyage of discovery down the Ohio. The first recorded visitor was another Frenchman, de Longueil, who stopped here in 1729.

In 1773, James Douglass, of Virginia, led by tales of the Indians, came here and found the valley, bare of trees and herbage, scattered with the bones of huge, unknown animals, some of them half buried, some lying in a heap where they had fallen as the skeletons disintegrated. These remains told of the visits of mastodons, polar oxen, and more recent bison, bear, and deer.



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Biography - Townsend, John Wilson, - Kentucky in American Letters