
BRACKEN COUNTY.

BRACKEN county, the 23d in order of formation, was organized in 1796, out of parts of Mason and Campbell counties; is on the northern border; bounded N. by the Ohio river, E. by Mason county, S. by Robertson and Harrison, and W. by Pendleton. The lands are high, and the surface rolling and hilly; the richest lands are in the eastern part; the rest, back from the river, being strong oak land, and producing in large quantities the finest "*Mason County*" Tobacco.

Towns.—*Brooksville*, the county seat, 9 miles from Augusta, named after David Brooks, established 1839, has an excellent new brick court house and other public buildings; population in 1870, 348. *Augusta*, the principal town and former county seat, on the Ohio river, $18\frac{1}{2}$ miles below Maysville and $42\frac{1}{2}$ above Cincinnati, is one of the most beautiful situations on the Ohio river, with a fine harbor; it is important as a tobacco shipping point; population 960. *Germanatown*, a handsome village on the county line between Mason and Bracken, with the greater portion in Bracken, 6 miles from Brooksville and 11 from Maysville; population 351. *Foster*, on the Ohio river, 11 miles below Augusta and 31 above Cincinnati, population 191. *Berlin*, in W. part, population 125; and *Milford*, in S. part, population 108.

STATISTICS OF BRACKEN COUNTY.

When formed.....	See page 26	Tobacco, hay, corn, wheat..pages 266, 268
Population, from 1800 to 1870.....	p. 258	Horses, mules, cattle, and hogs.....p. 268
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MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE FROM BRACKEN COUNTY, SINCE 1859.

Senate.—Thornton F. Marshall, 1859-63; Francis L. Cleveland, 1863-67; John B. Clarke, 1867-71. [See page 772.]

House of Representatives.—Francis L. Cleveland, 1859-63; Wm. A. Pepper, 1863-65; John Stroube, 1865-67, but his seat declared vacant, Jan., 1866, and succeeded by Wm. H. Reynolds, 1866-67; Andrew J. Markley, 1867-69; Robert K. Smith, 1869-71; Adam C. Armstrong, 1871-73; Wm. T. Marshall, 1873-75; Wm. A. Moore, 1875-77.

The county derived its name from two creeks, Big and Little Bracken—which were called after Wm. Bracken, an old hunter and pioneer, who visited the county in 1773, afterwards settled upon one of those creeks, and met his death at an early day at the hands of the Indians.

Antiquities.—A scientific writer in Wm. Gibbes Hunt's *Western Review*, published at Lexington, in Feb., 1820, makes repeated allusions to “the large cemetery or burying ground at Augusta.” He mentions a clay rattle found therein, formed into the shape of a parrot or cockatoo's head, hollow within, and having a few loose balls of clay which produced the sound. He was in possession of two iron bracelets, four of which were found on the left arm of a female skeleton found there—conclusive proof that our Aborigines were acquainted with iron. They were formed with a loop at one extremity, and extended in an oval shape to a knob at the other end, which hitched into the loop. The elongated central part of the oval was the thickest, from which it gradually tapered towards the clasp. The bracelets were much corroded and the loops destroyed; but even their then state of preservation could only be accounted for by the fortunate circumstance that the alluvial soil of the burial ground was free from mineral acids. A few small beads obtained from this burying ground also fell into the hands of this writer, who did not analyze them, but after close examination judged that they were formed out of cyanite. They were of a light blue color, drilled and polished. They were much harder than glass, and the operation of drilling them must have been very tedious, without the use of steel instruments.

A letter to the author of the first edition of this work, written in 1846, by Gen. John Payne, then a venerable citizen of Augusta, gives the following singularly interesting account of the ancient remains discovered there. Gen. Payne was a very active and brave—not a few declared he was the most efficient cavalry—officer under Gen. Harrison at the battles of the Mississinawa towns and the Thames, and on the marches in the north-west, during the last war with Great Britain. He died Jan. 18, 1854.

The bottom on which Augusta is situated, is a large burying ground of the *ancients*. A post hole cannot be dug without turning up human bones. They have been found in great numbers, and of all sizes, every where between the mouths of Bracken and Locust creeks, a distance of about a mile and a half. From the cellar under my dwelling, sixty by seventy feet, one hundred and ten skeletons were taken. I numbered them by the *skulls*; and there might have been many more, whose skulls had crumbled into dust. My garden was a cemetery; it is full of bones, and the richest ground I ever saw. The skeletons were of all sizes, from seven feet to the infant. David Kilgour (who was a tall and very large man) passed our village at the time I was excavating my cellar, and we took him down and applied a thigh bone to his—the owner, if well proportioned, must have been some ten or twelve inches taller than Kilgour, and the lower jaw bone would slip on over his skin and all. Who were they? How came their bones there? Among the Indians there is no tradition that any town was located near here, or that any battle was ever fought near here. When I was in the army, I inquired of old Crane, a Wyandott, and of Anderson, a Delaware, both intelligent old chiefs, (the former died at camp Seneca in 1813,) and they could give no information in reference to these remains of antiquity. They knew the localities at the mouths of Locust, Turtle and Bracken creeks, but they knew nothing of any town or village near there. In my garden, Indian arrow heads of flint have been found, and an earthen ware of clay and pounded muscle. Some of the largest trees of the forest were growing over these remains when the land was cleared in 1792.

The *First Surveys* in Bracken county were among the very first in the state; indeed, it is probable that they were only preceded by the two or more surveys made by Gen. George Washington in 1770, in what are now Lawrence and Greenup counties, and in 1773, by several small surveys made in Lewis county, by Capt. Thos. Bullitt's party, on their way to the falls at Louisville. Capt. John Hedges, with Capt. Thos. Young (who settled and died in Mason county) as chain-carrier—both afterwards officers of the Revolutionary army, in the Virginia line—in 1773 surveyed a tract of land, built an "improver's cabin," and cleared a small piece on the bank of the Ohio river, about 5 miles below Augusta, and just below the mouth of Locust creek.* Capt. Hedges was living on it again in 1775. Several other surveys were made, a few days after, in the same neighborhood, and by some of the same party. Capt. Thos. Bullitt, John Fitzpatrick, and others, in 1773, John Doran in 1774, and other visitors called this Turtle creek; in 1782 the name was changed to Locust.

The *First College* ever established in the world under the patronage of the Methodist Episcopal Church, was the old Augusta College; founded 1822; Rev. Martin Ruter, D.D., and Rev. Jos. S. Tomlinson, D.D., among its presidents; Rev. Henry B. Bascom, D.D. (afterwards a Bishop of the Methodist E. Church, South), and Rev. Burr H. McCown, D.D., among its professors; among its alumni many substantial and some distinguished men; library 2,500 volumes; for years, from 100 to 150 students; it went down several years before the war. The college building (of which the engraving is a good sketch) was destroyed by fire, Jan. 29, 1852, but rebuilt in plainer style; and has been occupied mainly as a high school.

Battle of Augusta.—See brief account, vol. i, p. 112. For other incidents, see title Bracken county, in *General Index*.

Dr. JOSHUA TAYLOR BRADFORD—probably the second most distinguished surgeon of Kentucky, and in one branch of surgery scarcely equaled in the world (as such, eminently worthy of a place in our engraving of Kentucky medical men)—was the son of Wm. Bradford, of Va., who in 1790 immigrated to Bracken county; was born Dec. 9, 1818, and died Oct. 31, 1871—aged nearly 53; was educated at Augusta College; graduated, Jan., 1839, at Transylvania Medical School, Lexington, Ky.; began, and through life continued, to practice medicine at Augusta, where he was raised. The capital operation for ovarian tumour, until a generation ago regarded as adventurous both in this country and in Europe, from its very rarity and danger invited his skill. His first operation stamped him as a great surgeon, and threw him into the front rank of his profession. In over 30 cases but 3 were fatal—a result favorable beyond the experience of any surgeon in America or Europe. Dr. Graves' great work on surgery reports many of these cases tabularly. Dr. Bradford's contributions to medical journals, always able, are on this point frequent, upon other points rare. A peculiar case of calculus in a child two years old, and a case of carious heel bones (*os calcis* and cuboid) extracted, which saved the limb and restored the boy to usefulness, almost without a limp, extorted high commendation, the latter as "one of the most remarkable cases of the kind on record." He projected a book on surgery, which it is hoped may be found so far completed as to justify its publication; it must be valuable, and probably great. Dr. B. was singularly unambitious and domestic—preferring the charms of his "Piedmont" home to the allurements of professional public life. He twice declined the chair of surgery in a medical school, and only a short time before his death was urged to become the successor of Dr. Blackman, of Cincinnati. In a monograph upon his favorite subject, he unites with Dr. Gross and other leading surgeons in ascribing to the late Dr. Ephraim McDowell, of Danville, Ky., the credit of originating the operation of ovariectomy. Of a large family, his elder brother, Dr. J. J. Bradford, the able physician with whom he studied and for years practiced, survives him; and another brother, Col. Laban J. Bradford, for years the energetic president of the state agricultural society, and now president of the board of visitors of the Kentucky University.

* Depositions of Simon Kenton, Thomas Young, and Wm. Triplett, in Aug., 1796.