

Report from Mason County Kentucky

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MASON COUNTY.

(Revised, 1907, by C. D. Newell.)

Mason county is situated in the northern part of the State on the Ohio river. It is one of the nine counties formed before the State was admitted into the Union, having been organized in 1788 by the Legislature of Virginia. It is bounded on the north by the Ohio river, having a river boundary for eighteen miles; on the east by the county of Lewis; on the south by the counties of Fleming and Robertson, and on the west by Robertson and Bracken. The county is well watered and drained by its numerous streams and tributaries, the principal streams being Cabin, Bull, Limestone, Lawrence, Kennedy's, Beasley and Lee's creeks, which all drain the county on the north into the Ohio river, and the North Fork of Licking and its tributaries, Mill, Pummel, Bracken, Wells and Lee's creeks drain the central, western and southern portions of the county. This county has an area of about 220 square miles. The surface of the county along its water courses is hilly and as you approach the Ohio river this feature of the topography of the county becomes very pronounced. Back from the streams, however, widen out wonderful tracts of level and very fertile lands. In the southern part of the county the most fertile land is found; none probably in the State better.

The geological formation of this county is of the lower silurian and of that character recognized as the blue limestone, which is also composed of marine fossils, showing later life than those of Central Kentucky.

Most of the original unexcelled supply of timber has been taken from the lands of Mason county. The easy means for transporting it to market, the demands for domestic use and the great value of our lands have all contributed to denude the county of its timber, which at one time covered it so entirely. Diversified farming is engaged in to a considerable extent, especially in that section of the county in ready reach of the city of Maysville, which affords a good market for such productions, and also the city of Cincinnati is in ready reach of much of the county for the marketing of the produce from the truck farm. The Ohio river bordering on this county for eighteen miles gives it good water transportation. The turnpikes in Mason county are unexcelled by those anywhere, and there are about 300 miles of free pikes in this county kept up and maintained by taxation and free turnpike law of the State. The county is also well traversed by railroads. The Chesapeake & Ohio railroad runs along the entire length of its northern boundary and the Kentucky Central, now owned and controlled by the Louisville & Nashville system, runs through the central portion of the county from south to north, giving the county the very best of facilities for transportation. Good farm land can be purchased at reasonable prices in Mason, depending upon the location more than on the quality of the soil, good farm lands ranging from twenty to one hundred dollars per acre. The labor on the farm is most performed by native white and colored laborers, and they can be had for ten to fifteen dollars per month and board. The staples on the farm here are corn, wheat, oats, hay and tobacco. The very finest white Burley tobacco is grown in this county, this, in fact, being the home of that most magnificent species of tobacco, and that staple is produced in very large quantities. All the products of the farm are largely raised, and Mason county has an abundant surplus for market.

The educational facilities of this county are not surpassed by those of any other county in the State. The common schools are very superior in this county and well supported, the regular schools fund provided by the State is supplemented by a like sum raised by local taxation, thereby giving the county in each school district from seven to ten months of free school each year. New and good school houses have

been provided in each school district within the past few years and all the modern appliances for teaching supplied. The county also abounds with churches, about all of the regular orthodox denominations being represented.

Maysville is the county seat of Mason county. It is situated on the Ohio river, sixty-four miles above Cincinnati, and sixty-seven miles northeast of Frankfort. It is also on the Chesapeake & Ohio and the Kentucky Central railroads. Its population now is estimated to be about 8,000. Maysville has all the conveniences of modern times and is a delightful little city to reside in. It has many miles of nice paved streets, and elegant sidewalks. Has a line of electric street railway, fine system of waterworks, gas and electric light plants, telephone exchange and also connected by long distance telephones with all parts of the country. Large manufacturing establishments of various kinds, fine hotels, elegant churches and magnificent schools.

Tax rate for State and county purposes is one dollar on the one hundred dollar's valuation for the year 1907.

Mason county has nine rural free delivery routes: Five start from Maysville, two from Mayslick, one from Dover and one from Springdale.

Mason county is situated in the Ninth Congressional, Sixth Appellate, Nineteenth Judicial, Thirty-first Senatorial and Eighty-seventh Legislative Districts.