

For their report, the Frankfort statistics folks asked someone from each county to come up with a history of their county. They got more of a description than a history from most authors, but they can be interesting, nonetheless.

MASON COUNTY.

Revised, 1917, by John R. Cochran, Maysville, Ky.

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 Braeken. 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, Pummell, Braeken, 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. 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.

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 easy 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 over 300 miles of free pikes. 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 procured at reasonable prices in Mason, depending upon the location more than on the quality of the soil, ranging from twenty to one hundred dollars per acre. 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. Maysville is considered the second largest loose leaf tobacco market, handling nearly 20,000,000 pounds a year. 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 school 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 6,500. 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.

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