

TRIMBLE COUNTY.

TRIMBLE county, the 86th formed in the state, was established in 1836, out of parts of Gallatin, Henry, and Oldham counties, and named in honor of Judge Robert Trimble. It is situated in the northern part of the state, immediately on the Ohio river; is bounded w. and n. by the Ohio river for 21 miles, n. e. by Carroll, and s. e. and s. by Henry and Oldham counties; and contains about 145 square miles, being one of the smallest counties (there are but *six* smaller). Little Kentucky river flows northward entirely across or through the e. part of the county, and empties into the Ohio, in Carroll county, one mile below the mouth of the Kentucky river; among the other streams are Spring, Corn, Barebone, Middle, and Patton creeks. The valleys on the Ohio river are unsurpassed in fertility; and the uplands, though hilly and broken, are quite productive. The principal productions and exports are tobacco, blackberries, corn, wheat, oats, hogs, and cattle.

Towns.—The county seat, *Bedford*, near the center of the county, about 50 miles from Frankfort, and 14 miles from the Ohio river at Milton; besides the usual public buildings, has 3 churches (Methodist, Baptist, and Reformed or Christian), 3 hotels, 4 lawyers, 4 physicians, 3 stores, 4 mechanics' shops, a wool carding factory, and a steam grist mill; population in 1870, 200—a falling off of one-fifth since 1860; incorporated Feb. 6, 1816. *Milton*, on the Ohio river, opposite Madison, Indiana, 46 miles above Louisville and 96 below Cincinnati, is one of the oldest towns in the state, having been established by law of Virginia in 1789, three years before Kentucky became a state; it has 2 stores; population in 1870, 223, a falling off since 1860

of 36. *Kingslon*, on the Ohio river, had 59 inhabitants in 1870, and 3 stores. *Palmyra*, 6 miles from Bedford and 8 from Milton, is a small village; its post office name is *Winona*.

STATISTICS OF TRIMBLE COUNTY.

When formed.....	See page 26	Tobacco, hay, corn, wheat.....	pp. 266, 268
Population, from 1840 to 1870.....	p. 258	Horses, mules, cattle, hogs.....	p. 268
“ whites and colored.....	p. 260	Taxable property in 1846 and 1870....	p. 270
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“ white males over 21.....	p. 266	Latitude and longitude.....	p. 257
“ children bet. 6 and 20 yrs. p.	266	Distinguished citizens.....	see Index.

MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE FROM TRIMBLE COUNTY.

Senate.—Evan M. Garriott, 1865–69. [See Henry co.]

House of Representatives.—Daniel B. Johnson, 1841, '42, '43, '45, '53–55; Robert B. Gray, 1844; Samuel S. English, 1846; John B. Floyd, 1847; Benj. H. Logan, 1848; Benj. P. McConnell, 1849; Ambrose H. Talbott, 1850, '57–59; Evan M. Garriott, 1861–65; George W. Lemon, 1865–67, resigned 1866, succeeded by Richard Bell; J. R. Sanders, 1871–73. From Trimble and Carroll counties—Benj. Gullion, 1855–57. From Trimble—John Preston, 1873–77.

The Conchitic Marble, from a quarry on Corn creek, near or at the Ohio river, in Trimble county, is of a drab-gray color, and contains many fragments of shells, and very small portions of coral cemented by pure minute crystals of calcareous spar. It receives a very good polish, and has indications of great durability. Part of it is quite variegated in color—with pink, pinkish brown, or flesh colored spots or patches. The corresponding vein in Indiana was worked to some extent in 1853, and then pronounced by an able geologist “the best and most beautiful material for constructions and ornamental purposes that had come within his notice from any western locality.”

Battle of the Fire-Brands.—The following is from the autobiography of Rev. Jacob Young, a Methodist minister:

“The costume of the Kentuckians was a hunting shirt, buckskin pantaloons, a leathern belt around their middle, a scabbard, and a big knife fastened to their belt; some of them wore hats and some caps. Their feet were covered with moccasins, made of dressed deer-skins. They did not think themselves dressed without their powder-horn and shot-pouch, or the gun and tomahawk. They were ready, then, for all alarms. They knew but little. They could clear ground, raise corn, and kill turkeys, deer, bears, and buffalo; and, when it became necessary, they understood the art of fighting the Indians as well as any men in the United States.

“Shortly after we had taken up our residence, I was called upon to assist in opening a road from the place where Newcastle now stands, to the mouth of Kentucky river. That country, then, was an unbroken forest; there was nothing but an Indian trail passing the wilderness. I met the company early in the morning, with my axe, three days' provisions, and my knapsack. Here I found a captain, with about 100 men, all prepared to labor; about as jovial a company as I ever saw, all good-natured and civil. This was about the last of November, 1797. The day was cold and clear. The country through which the company passed was delightful; it was not a flat country, but, what the Kentuckians called, rolling ground—was quite well stored with lofty timber, and the undergrowth was very pretty. The beautiful canebrakes gave it a peculiar charm. What rendered it most interesting was the great abundance of wild turkeys, deer, bears, and other wild animals. The company worked hard all day, in quiet, and every man obeyed the captain's orders punctually.

“About sundown, the captain, after a short address, told us the night was going to be very cold, and we must make very large fires. We felled the hickory trees in great abundance; made great log-heaps, mixing the dry wood with the green hickory; and, laying down a kind of sleepers under the pile, elevated the heap and caused it to burn rapidly. Every man had a water-vessel in his knapsack; we searched for and found a stream of water. By this time, the fires were showing to great advantage; so we warmed our cold victuals, ate our suppers, and spent the evening in hearing the hunter's

stories relative to the bloody scenes of the Indian war. We then heard some pretty fine singing, considering the circumstances.

"Thus far, well; but a change began to take place. They became very rude, and raised the war-whoop. Their shrill shrieks made me tremble. They chose two captains, divided the men into two companies, and commenced fighting with the fire-brands—the log-heaps having burned down. The only law for their government was, that no man should throw a brand without fire on it—so that they might know how to dodge. They fought, for two or three hours, in perfect good nature; till brands became scarce, and they began to violate the law. Some were severely wounded, blood began to flow freely, and they were in a fair way of commencing a fight in earnest. At this moment, the loud voice of the captain rang out above the din, ordering every man to retire to rest. They dropped their weapons of warfare, rekindled the fires, and laid down to sleep. We finished our road according to directions, and returned home in health and peace."

The Hon. ROBERT TRIMBLE, in honor of whom this county received its name, was born in Berkeley county, Virginia, and when three years old, his father emigrated to Kentucky. His parents were not affluent, but occupied a respectable position in the agricultural population of the country. He received but the imperfect rudiments of an education,—such only as could be had in a new settlement, so distant from the seats of learning in the older States. He, however, improved himself, by teaching for a few years, and reading carefully the scanty libraries afforded by his neighborhood. After so imperfect a probation, he commenced the study of the law, under George Nicholas. That eminent man dying before he had completed his studies, he continued them under James Brown; and, in 1803, was licensed by the court of appeals to practice his profession. He commenced his career in Paris, and in the same year was elected a member of the legislature from the county of Bourbon. But the stormy life of a politician not being congenial to his disposition or taste, he ever afterwards refused to be a candidate for political office—even to be nominated, on two occasions, for the United States' senate, when his assent only was necessary to secure his election. He devoted himself exclusively to his profession, and rapidly rose to the first class of jurists. In 1808, he was commissioned second judge of the court of appeals. He retained this place but a short time, but long enough to greatly distinguish himself in it by his rectitude, learning and ability. He was appointed chief justice of Kentucky in 1810, but, in consequence of his limited circumstances, declined the first judicial station in the commonwealth. After retiring from the bench, he resumed, with great assiduity, the practice of his profession; and, in 1813, was appointed a district attorney for the State. He continued at the bar, with eminent and profitable success, until 1816, when he was appointed by President Madison judge of the Kentucky district. He filled this office until 1826, when he was promoted by John Quincy Adams to the supreme court of the United States. He died the 25th day of August, 1828, in the fifty-second year of his age, and in the full vigor of his powers.

It is not often that the august tribunal to which he belonged, has sustained a greater loss. His mind was characterized by deliberation, clearness, expansion and force. As a forensic debater, he combined flowing eloquence and powerful argumentation. He studied law upon principle, and comprehended it as a science. Such was his ripe though early proficiency, that, in the year 1818, the sole professorship of law for Transylvania University was tendered to him by the board of trustees, and his acceptance earnestly urged upon him by Mr. Clay. A necessary change of residence induced him to decline a place so honorable and responsible.

As a judge of the highest State court, he had no superior in diligence, learning, ability and uprightness; and on being transferred to the supreme tribunal of the nation, both Chief Justice Marshall and Judge Story pronounced him to be not only a lawyer of the first order, but also one of the most improvable men they had ever known. Had Providence spared his life to ordinary old age, he would have fully vindicated his title to rank with those great jurists. But his private virtues, and his simple, noble nature, shed a lustre upon his name above all that which was derived from great intellect, ripe attainments, and high station.