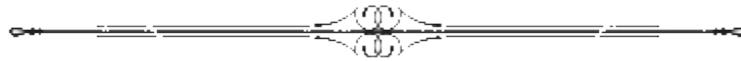


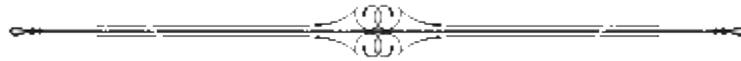
NORTHERN KENTUCKY VIEWS PRESENTS:

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# Bracken County



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## BRACKEN COUNTY

Bracken County is in the northern tier of counties of the state and is situated in the upper edge of the Outer Bluegrass Region on the Ohio River and adjacent to the state of Illinois. It has an area of 204 square miles. Brooksville, the county seat, in the upland part of the county has an elevation of 925 feet above sea level while lowlands along the Ohio River are not over 450 feet.

Physiographically the county is hilly throughout and represents a watershed between the Ohio and Licking rivers. Limited areas of flat alluvial lands occur in the flood plains of these rivers but the upland divide is undulating to hilly. The northern area of the county is drained by local tributaries of the Ohio River including Locust Creek, Bracken Creek and Turtle Creek. The southern area is drained by a large number of small creeks which flow into the North Fork of the Licking River.

Geologically the outcrops of hard rocks are limited entirely to Ordovician limestones, shaly limestones and shales, in this respect being typical of the Outer Bluegrass of which it is a part. The normal dip is eastward from the Cincinnati Arch and there are no important faults. In the bottoms of the river valleys, especially along the Ohio, are considerable deposits of Pleistocene and Recent alluviums. The mineral resources of the county are limited to limestones, some residual clays and the sands and gravels of the Ohio River.

A survey of the county by the authors failed to yield any evidence of aboriginal occupation and we have been unable to find anyone in the county who knew of any prehistoric sites. From its topography and particularly from its geography, with the Ohio River on one side and the North Fork of the Licking River on the other, and with the adjacent county of Mason one of the richest in the state in archaeological material, one would expect that Bracken County would contain numerous sites. This may prove to be the case but we have no evidence to that effect.

Rafinesque states<sup>1</sup> that the site of an ancient battleground could be recognized near Augusta but we have no other references to this site.

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<sup>1</sup> Rafinesque, C. S., *Ancient History of Kentucky*. 1824.

Young<sup>2</sup> states that in Bracken County somewhere west of Dover there were formerly stone graves but quotes Fowke<sup>3</sup> as stating that these graves had been torn up by white men to get the stone for the construction of roads.

Mr. W. J. Curtis advises us that the town of Augusta is believed to have been built on the site of an ancient cemetery and that when excavations were made for the Ford Garage in 1924, four skeletons were found with shell and bone beads and bone awls.

We are unable to report any other known sites from the county.

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<sup>2</sup> Young, Bennett, Prehistoric Men of Kentucky, p. 26. 1910.

<sup>3</sup> Fowke, Gerard, Ohio Archaeological Publication No. IX. 1900.