

NORTHERN KENTUCKY VIEWS PRESENTS:

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# Kenton County



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## KENTON COUNTY

Kenton County is situated in the extreme northern tip of the state of Kentucky on the Ohio River adjacent to the state of Ohio. It is a part of the Outer Bluegrass Region of the state. The area of the county embraces about 163 square miles and the elevations range from 514 feet above sea level at Covington, the county seat on the Ohio River, to 920 feet on the highest parts of the uplands around Bract.

Physiographically the major part of the county is a maturely dissected upland with a topography which is rough and hilly throughout but considerable flat land is found along the flood plain of the Ohio River. Most of the drainage flows into the Licking River, which forms the eastern boundary of the county, through a number of local tributaries, including Bank Lick Creek, Cruises Creek and Grassy Creek.

Geologically the county is typical of the Outer Bluegrass Region with the outcrops limited to Upper Ordovician limestones, sandstones and shales. Pleistocene and Recent alluviums are found along the Ohio and Licking rivers and occasional glacial boulders have been discovered in the county. Structurally the area represents a monocline on the northern flank of the Cincinnati Arch with a dip toward the north and a few unimportant anticlines and synclines. The mineral resources of the county are limited to limestones, of only a fair grade but in almost inexhaustible quantities, gravel from the Ohio River and sands from both the Ohio and Licking rivers.

Archaeologically Kenton County is one of a group of five counties consisting of Campbell, Kenton, Grant, Pendleton and Bracken, in which practically no evidences of prehistoric occupation have ever been discovered. The reason for this is entirely conjectural since, in the case of Kenton County, its position adjacent to two master streams, the Ohio River and Licking River, and the fact that both of these waterways show, throughout most of their lengths, that they were favored by the aborigines, it would be expected that the geographical location would be conducive to prehistoric settlement. To be sure, the Ohio River boundary is very short and is now entirely covered with the rather dense popu-

lation of Covington, Ludlow and their environs so that all sites would probably have been long since destroyed, but this condition is not at all true of the territory along the Licking River. Even artifacts and surface finds, which often show evidences of aboriginal occupation after the definite sites have been obliterated, are very meagerly represented in the county, and we know of no collection which contains important pieces from this region.

Only two sites have been reported from the county. These are as follows:

1. A mound on the farm of T. W. Spink, five miles south of Covington. This mound is about fifteen feet in diameter and four feet high. It was opened in 1925 by L. O. Anderson and found to contain a triple walled stone grave in the center with a number of other burials, possibly intrusive, around the edge. Altogether fragmentary parts of twenty skeletons were taken from the mound. Associated with the burials were a number of artifacts, including pipes and pieces of mica. Reported by Archie Williams.
2. According to Mr. Ed F. Ehrlich, of Ludlow, there were formerly two mounds and the remains of a village site in what is now the Lagoon Park Subdivision of the city of Ludlow. Many years ago this site was a favored collecting place for arrowheads and other artifacts. The mounds have now been destroyed and the area has been covered with buildings.