

Northern Kentucky Views Presents:

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Part 2

# History of Owenton

by

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OWENTON

Owenton, the county seat and largest town of Owen county, is located near the center of the county being sixteen miles from the Carroll county line at Sanders, thirteen miles from Gallatin at Sparta, ten miles from Grant at Needmore, fifteen miles from Scott near Minorsville, fifteen miles from Franklin near Swallowfield and nine miles from Henry county at Gratz. In Area the town contains slightly more than three square miles.

It is connected with the county seats of all the above named counties by high type roads. Highways 227 and U. S. 42 ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ connect it with Carrollton, State Highway 35 with Warsaw, the Taft Highway and U. S. 25 with Williamstown, State Highway 227 with Georgetown, the Taft with Frankfort and State highway 22 with New Castle.

The town of Owenton has an approximate population of twelve hundred, considering the outlying congested residence districts immediately adjacent to the town.

The business part of the town is on Seminary, Madison and Adams Streets, Court Place and Bryan Alley. The business houses are garages, restaurants, hardware and grocery stores, banks, drug stores, clothing stores, furniture and undertaking establishments, food stores, dry cleaning shops, hotels, offices of professional men, beauty parlors, picture shows, filling stations, cream stations, opticians and jewelers shops, variety stores, barber shops, ice houses, news paper plants, telephone exchanged, shoe repairing shops, black smith shops and county and city governmental buildings.



Adams, Seminary, Adair and Perry Streets and Roland Avenue are the main residence streets. It is on these streets that some of the finest and oldest dwellings are located.

The town has no park system within its limits, but this is largely offset by beautification projects of local clubs and by the park at Thomas Lake near the town and property of Owenton. This lake, the source of the water supply of the town, is easily reached by an improved road. A woodland, on the hill, above the lake is an ideal place for picnic parties. The scenery is beautiful and the air invigorating.

A picture show, running the latest and best pictures, is operated each night with matinees on Saturdays and Sundays and on special occasions. A pool room at Triangle Garden, just outside the town limits, but within a few minutes drive from the center of town provides diversion for others. A soft ball league operated three nights a week and is attended by good sized crowds. Churches, clubs and the high school provide entertainment and social opportunities.

The court house is located on a square in the center of Owenton. It is county property but the city has its fire department, and offices for the city attorney, the police court and the Town Council, housed in an annex to the court house. The post office is located in the Peoples Bank and Trust Company building in the center of town. Repeated efforts have been made in the past to have a Federal building erected, mainly for the purpose of providing room for the post office, but up to the present time all have failed. The business buildings of the town of course are privately owned. As a rule they are attractive and are kept in a good state of



repair. There are no skyscrapers most of them being of ~~xxx~~ no more than two stories in height.

Electric light and power is supplied by the Community Public Service Company. Full time, satisfactory service is rendered. Gas is not available and all business houses and homes are heated by coal burning, private systems. The town owns and operates its own water and sewage systems. The water system has been installed within the past few years with the aid of the P. W. A. It has proved a boon to the city and during the past few months to the farmers in the county as the drought has dried up many sources of drinking water and had water not been obtainable from the Owenton reservoir there would have been a great deal of inconvenience if not actual suffering to the folks in the country.

The religion of the town of Owenton is almost entirely Protestant, with Baptists, Methodists and Christians predominating. The white population is divided among the three named but the colored people have only the one church, the Baptist.

The Owenton Graded and High School has been described at length in a previous article. The colored school is not within the limits of town, but close enough to be easily accessible to those children living in the town and in a scheduled enough place to be comparatively free from traffic hazards. There is no high school maintained but transportation is offered to the high school maintained for colored children at New Liberty. The town has no public libraries other than that of the Owenton High School, which is open to the students only.

There are three banks in the town, two National and one state. All are in first class condition and do the Banking business of the town and community as well as that of quite a number of outside people and concerns who for various reasons prefer the Owenton banks.

All industry of Owenton depends entirely on agriculture. The merchants have in stock only those articles that are used by the farmer and those dependent on him for their support. The only manufacturing done in the town, such as milling and woodworkings, tinning, etc. is either for the farmer himself or for those living in Owenton, indirectly dependent on the farmer for a livelihood. Prosperity for the farmer means prosperity for the town dweller. The only other manufacturing done in the county is a cheese factory in Owenton, which is solely dependent on the farmer for its maintenance. The entire life of the town is so interwoven with the life of the country surrounding that it is nothing more than a rural trading center. Many of its citizens are retired farmers. The country and the town are each dependent upon the other and each should be deeply appreciative of the other.

## Bibliography

Personal observation of writer, John Forsee, Owenton, Kentucky.