

Northern Kentucky Views Presents:

Owen County

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OWEN COUNTY.

Owen was the sixty-seventh county organized, and was formed in 1819 out of parts of Franklin, Scott and Gallatin. It was named in honor of Col. Abraham Owen, a distinguished citizen and soldier of Shelby county who as aid-de-camp to Gen. Wm. Henry Harrison, fell bravely fighting for his country at the battle of Tippecanoe. The general character of the soil of Owen is limestone upon a clay foundation. It produces corn, all kinds of small grains and all kinds of grasses and fruits remarkably well and "Owen County Burley Tobacco" has long been celebrated for being constantly at the top of the market in Louisville and other tobacco markets. The county is also well adapted to stockraising, being admirably watered, and growing all the best grasses in perfection, bluegrass among the rest. Owenton, the county-seat, a prosperous and growing country town, is pleasantly situated in the center of the county. Besides Owenton, there are some eight or ten small towns and villages scattered over the county, most of which appear to be in a prosperous condition, with increasing populations. Though, as yet, without railroads of her own, Owen's fine turnpike system, connecting all parts of the county with the Kentucky River, which bounds the county on the south, and with the Short-line Branch of the Louisville & Nashville railroad, which runs on or near the line of the county for some twenty-odd miles on the northwest, gives her people easy access to the very best markets in the country. Quite a number of mineral springs are found in Owen county, the waters of which are of approved valuable medicinal properties. Owen has a very interesting history in connection with both war and politics. The "Jump-off" on Eagle Creek; "Point of Rocks" on Cedar Creek, with its "Deep Hole," or "Bottomless Pool," and "Pond Branch," with its "Island Mountain," are all interesting objects of note in this county. There are no railroads in Owen, and none as yet yet projected; however, by means of the Cincinnati branch of the Louisville & Nashville, which runs along the northern border for twenty-odd miles, and the Kentucky River, which bounds the county on the southwest, the people have ample facilities for travel and for reaching the best markets. The dirt roads of the county are kept in ordinarily good repair. Little difficulty is experienced in enforcing the road laws or in having the roads properly worked under them. There are two hundred miles of turnpike in Owen county—the principal thoroughfares being piked, free of toll charges. The Kentucky river, which is the only navigable stream in Owen, furnishes the county about thirty five miles (as the river runs) of navigation for good-sized steamers and towboats. Locks Nos. 2 and 3 are located on the line between Owen and Henry counties, and Lock No. 1 a few miles below the western line. Eagle creek, a large tributary of the Kentucky, forms the entire northern border of the county, and, with Cedar, Big Twin, Big Indian, Seven, and other creeks, furnish ample water-power for propelling machinery. There are all kinds of timber in Owen, but it is growing scarce. Most of the timber now left, valuable for sawing into lumber, is poplar, beech, and oak varieties. The principal agricultural pro-

ducts of the county of which there is a surplus produced for market, are tobacco, corn, wheat, rye, and oats. Owen is one of the largest Burley tobacco producing counties in the State, much of it being of the highest grade. The grasses best adapted to the soil of Owen county, and which are considered the most useful and profitable, are blue-grass, clover, and timothy. There is a tendency among the farmers to sow more grass, and thereby improve the land; but the great quantity of tobacco raised keeps the land from improving as it should and would. I think our county is slowly improving its methods of cultivation. The soil on account of the continuous tobacco-growing, is deteriorating, and some is being revived by sowing clover and other stimulating processes. We have had no noteworthy immigration in two years, and there has been no marked increase in our population in that time. No material additions have been made to the mill and manufacturing interests of the county recently. Probably not more than five per cent. of our original forest remains. No steps have ever been taken to check the indiscriminate waste of timber or to renew that already destroyed.

I. W. GREEN.

The county is situated in the Seventh Congressional, Fifth Appellate, Fifteenth Judicial, Twenty-third Senatorial and Sixteenth Legislative Districts.

POSTOFFICES:—Avery, Ball's Landing, Beechwood, Bethany, Breck, Bromley, Canby, Eaglehill, East Eagle, Ep. Gratz, Hallam, Harmony, Hargisburg, Hessler, Jonesville, Lusby, Mallorys, Monterey, Moxley, Natlee, New, New Columbus, New Liberty, Owenton, Pleasant Home, Poplar Grove, Rockdale, Slayton, Squiresville, Sweet Owen, Tackitts Mill, Truceville, Wheatley.