

For their report, the Frankfort statistics folks asked someone from each county to come up with a history of their county. They got more of a description than a history from most authors, but they can be interesting, nonetheless.

TRIMBLE COUNTY.

H. C. Black, Bedford, Ky.

Trimble county was created by an act of the Kentucky Legislature in December, 1836, and was formed in 1837 out of a part each of Oldham, Henry and Gallatin counties. It is situated in the northern part of the State on the Ohio river, which forms its northern and western boundaries, with a nine foot water stage and numerous landings, which are conveniently accessible to four-fifths of the county. Being located between Louisville and Cincinnati, 35 miles from the former and 100 miles from the latter, cheap transportation can be obtained, for many boats both large and small ply between these cities and the many smaller cities that lie between.

Water Courses.

The Little Kentucky river rises in Henry county, flows through Trimble county in a general northern direction and empties into the Ohio river. Canip, Spring Creek, Corn Creek, Barebone and Middle Creek lie wholly within the county and empty into the Ohio river. Patton's Creek forms the boundary line between Trimble and Oldham county. Carmon, Daugherty, Hardy and Buck Run, are the more important creeks that empty into the Little Kentucky river, while George's creek, another tributary forms a part of the boundary between Trimble and Carroll county.

Topography.

Trimble county is known as a river hill county, and does have some rather steep hills, though only a small portion is too steep for successful cultivation, and these are admirably adapted to bluegrass, which by reason of the warmth created by an abundance of lime, produces a luxuriant growth in early spring and late autumn, when uplands, being colder, are failing to produce at all.

The ridges are broad level table lands with a light gray soil and clay subsoil which forms a pan, and holds all fertilizers. This clay subsoil is underlaid with limestone.

These ridges were once considered the poor land of the county, but in recent years our farmers have discovered that they are superior to the hillsides or bottom lands for small grain, clover, etc., and their equal in almost all other crops.

The creek bottoms as well as those of the Little Kentucky and Ohio rivers have a deep, rich, limestone soil, and produce in abundance all kinds of crops.

The hillsides that are not in grass are principally cultivated in burley tobacco, and the soil being a mixture of decayed leaves and disintegrated limestone, produces a quality of tobacco, which for beauty, color and fine texture is unexcelled.

A high ridge extends through the county from south to north and divides that portion which lies between the Ohio and the Little Kentucky rivers into almost two equal parts, and all the soil in the county, except the top of this ridge, is limestone. This is known as freestone, and is of the upper silurian formation. This high ridge with its projecting spurs is admirably adapted and extensively cultivated in fruits, and having excellent air and water drainage, produces never failing crops of the richest color and finest flavor. These fruits are shipped all over the United States and command the highest prices. The sign, "Trimble county, Ky., Peaches," is frequently seen during the fruit season in our large eastern and western cities.

Bedford, the county seat, is situated in the center of the county and was founded in 1808, incorporated into a town in 1815 and has about 300 inhabitants, but its stores would be a credit to towns of more than 3,000. Milton, on the Ohio river, opposite Madison, Ind., was founded about the same time that Bedford was, and has about the same population. It has a flour mill, several stores and one of the largest distilleries in the State. Bedford and Milton are the only two postoffices in the county and are supplied by mail three times a day and they in turn supply the county by rural routes. Wise's Ldg., the only other town in the county, has about 200 inhabitants and receives its mail by rural route from Bedford.

Shipping Facilities.

Trimble county has a little over 100,000 acres of land. Its greatest length is twenty miles, and greatest width 10 miles, and surrounded as it is on the north and west by the Ohio river and on the east by the L. & N. railroad (the short line between Louisville and Cincinnati), which runs closely along and near the county line, there is no point in the county over seven miles distant from a shipping point, where produce can be delivered daily to either the great cities of Louisville or Cincinnati.

Roads.

All the principal roads of this county are macadamized, being built under the old system before the advent of modern machinery, and while they furnish a great improvement over the dirt road the people were not satisfied. The demand of the people has been answered by the purchase of modern machinery which is being used to reconstruct these roads into water bound, smooth surface, macadam roads, and in addition thereto State aid inter-county seat roads are being constructed, connecting Bedford with LaGrange, New Castle, Carrollton and Madison, Indiana.

Schools.

The Bedford High and graded school located at the county seat furnishes a four-year course, and with its efficient principal and assistants together with the up-to-date equipment is the equal of any High school in the State. The Milton graded school and the public schools of the county have a corps of excellent teachers, many of whom have university and normal training. These schools together with the many churches of the county have built up a citizenship of whom the State might well be proud.

Farms.

There are about fourteen hundred farms in the county with a general average of about eighty acres, though several own as much as four hundred acres and one man over two thousand. The great majority of the farmers own and cultivate their own land and in the last few years have more than doubled the production of all kinds of crops which has had a great tendency to increase the salable value of the land. There is probably less than 10 per cent. of our people of the tenant class. There is neither extreme wealth nor poverty, and the great majority are in a position to have the comforts of life and educate their children, which they are doing. The price of land ranges from \$20.00 to \$100.00, owing to location and improvements, with a general average of about \$45.00 per acre.

The early settlers of this county came from Culpepper and Prince Edward counties, Virginia, and the present population are mostly their descendants, and are of Scotch, Irish and English descent. There are a few Germans in the northern part of the county who are an industrious, frugal and thrifty people. The negro population consists of less than 100 inhabitants, and are chiefly located around Milton and Bedford.