

Northern Kentucky Views Presents:

Trimble County, Kentucky

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TRIMBLE COUNTY

KENTUCKY

RESOURCES ATTRACTIONS OPPORTUNITIES

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General Description. Trimble County is located in the northern part of the State and is one of the "Ohio River" counties. Indiana is on the north and west, the river making a sharp turn southward at this point. The county, which is in the outer Blue Grass region, was established in 1836 out of parts of Gallatin, Henry and Oldham counties, and was named in honor of Judge Robert Trimble. President Madison appointed him judge of the Kentucky district in 1816, an office he filled for 10 years, when President John Quincy Adams placed him on the Supreme Court bench. He died in 1828. With an area of only 98,560 acres, Trimble is the fifth smallest county in Kentucky. Nearly 89% of the district was in farm lands in 1925. Elevations range from 450 to about 900 feet above sea level.

Population. The number of inhabitants in 1920 was 6,011. Four-tenths of one per cent of the population was foreign-born. The number of males between the ages of 18 and 44 years was 1,076. There were 1,064 females in the same age group.

Mineral Resources.* The hard rocks of Trimble County consist of a sequence of limestones, sandy limestones and shales principally of Cincinnati (Ordovician) age. Limestones and shales of Niagaran (Silurian) age occur as outliers of considerable extent on the interior uplands. The bottoms of the Little Kentucky and of the Ohio River are deeply alluviated with sands, gravels, clays, and silts of Pleistocene and Recent age. The northern part of the county has been glaciated and glacial material including sands, gravels and boulders are not uncommon. This district exhibits frequently Canadian sourced

metamorphic erratics of the red Jasper conglomerate type. The structure of Trimble County is monoclinical, the dip being to the northwest from a low flank position on the Lexington dome of the Cincinnati arch. Anticlinal and synclinal flexures are recognizable from outcrop, but faulting and folding of major significance is not known to occur in this district.

The principal mineral resources of Trimble County are limestones, sands and gravels. Limestone is widely distributed and is available in quantity and quality adequate for highway, railroad bed and rural building construction. Sands and gravels in inexhaustible quantities are available from the channel of the Ohio River. Excellent deposits of moulding sands are available for export close to the Ohio River. Beds of clay suitable for cement materials are to be found in alluviated deposits on the Ohio River flood plain. Clays of both residual and transported character, suitable for the manufacture of tile and common brick, are also present.

Wells drilled to medium depths into the underlying Ordovician beds might, it is thought, produce mineral waters similar in quality to those found somewhat further to the northeast at Big Bone Lick. Trimble County was mapped geographically in 1925 to show the Illinoian glacial overlap, but the detail of its geology and topography has never been executed.

Bonded Indebtedness. Bonds in the total sum of \$184,000 have been authorized by citizens for improvement of the county's highway system. There have been sold to date \$140,000 of the issues, the remaining \$44,000 being dated for sale in 1932.

Surface and Soil. The usual local relief ranges from 150 to 250 feet with the soil fertile in most localities. Crop lands harvested in 1924 amounted to 24,023 acres. The aggregate area in pasture lands was 45,947 acres. There were only 3,478 acres in woodlands not used for pasture.

Water Supply. The Ohio River flows for 22

*Prepared by Willard R. Jillson, Director Kentucky Geological Survey.

miles along the northern and western county borders, receiving the waters of Corn Creek and other small tributaries. Little Kentucky River waters and drains the eastern and southern sections of the county.

Industries. Apples and peaches of an especially high quality are grown, soil and topography of the county seeming to be especially adapted to fruit culture. General farming and stock raising are the other outstanding industries.

Crops. The crops on which production figures were given for 1924 had an aggregate value of \$1,005,967. Almost 3,000,000 pounds represented the tobacco crop. The corn crop totaled 226,251 bushels, while the wheat crop amounted to 39,240 bushels. The harvest of oats was 17,281 bushels, and of rye about 2,000 bushels. The output of hay of all kinds was 5,284 tons. The yield of white potatoes was 12,134 bushels. The apple harvest amounted to 15,515 bushels, and that of peaches, to 1,955 bushels. There were 7,832 cords of firewood cut on the farms.

Cattle furnished the most valuable of the livestock groups when the census of 1925 was taken. Nearly \$150,000 represented the valuation of the county's cattle. Horses were valued at \$133,237; sheep were valued at \$42,830; mules, at \$29,050, and swine, at \$24,271.

Estimated production of milk in 1924 was 852,299 gallons, and dairy products that year brought a revenue of \$88,145. Chickens and eggs returned nearly \$140,000 to the farmers of the county.

Transportation. There are no railroads in the county. The Cincinnati and Louisville Division of the Louisville & Nashville Railroad operates within one-half mile of the southern county line, while Bedford, the county seat, is 8 miles removed from a railroad station. Milton and other Ohio River towns have the advantage of packet service.

Highways. Grading and draining have been completed of the highway crossing the county from Milton, opposite Madison, Ind., through Bedford to the Oldham County line near Sligo. The road is 20 miles in length and will probably be surfaced during 1928. The sector between Bedford and the Oldham County line is a part of the proposed "Airline" highway between Louisville and Cincinnati. Survey has been completed for the "Airline" route from Bedford to Carrollton. Grading has been completed on the highway from Bedford to the Henry County line near Campbellsburg. This road is 7 miles in length, and connects with the Shelbyville-Carrollton road.

Educational. The county has three white high schools employing 10 teachers, and 29 white elementary schools, employing 31 teachers. According to the 1926 census figures, 1,130 pupils were enrolled in the county schools during that school year. The Bedford High School, a Class A

school, had an average enrollment in the same year of approximately 90 pupils. No private schools or colleges are maintained.

Cities and Towns. Bedford, the county seat, is a village of about 300 inhabitants, situated in the center of the county. It is a banking town, with a newspaper, a commodious school building, several churches and 2 hotels. It is the center of a rather extensive trading district. Milton, with a population similar in size to that of Bedford, is a banking town and an important river shipping center.

Opportunities. Trimble County offers varied attractions for men and capital interested in agricultural pursuits. Its highways are being rapidly developed, placing every section of the county in easy access to the markets of Louisville, Lexington, Cincinnati and Indianapolis, Ind. Champions of the county stress the fruit growing possibilities abounding in every section. It is also pointed out that dairying and sheep raising may be followed with excellent prospects of profit. The soil in the river and creek bottoms is fertile and highly productive, making hog raising an attractive industry in those localities. There is an abundance of limestone and large numbers of high-testing marl beds. It is said these beds are so numerous as to make it possible to lime nine-tenths of the county with practically no other expense than that attached to the labor of spreading the marl. Those acquainted with the county point out that land which may now be secured at attractive figures will early enhance in value with the completion of the county's system of roads.

References. Inquiries for specific information regarding the county may be addressed to:

William B. Howell, County Agent, Bedford.

KENTUCKY AND OTHER SOUTH CENTRAL STATES

States of the South Central Division, as listed by the Bureau of the Census, are:

Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Texas.

Kentucky ranked first among States of the Division in production of corn in 1924.

Kentucky produced more than three times as much tobacco as all of the other States in the Division combined.

Kentucky ranked fourth among States of the Division in production of wheat.

Kentucky ranked first among States of the Division in production of white potatoes.

Kentucky ranked third among States of the Division in both value of dairy products and value of poultry and eggs.