

Northern Kentucky Views Presents:

Trimble County

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TRIMBLE COUNTY.

Trimble County, the eighty-sixth in order of formation, was established in 1837, from parts of the counties of Gallatin, Henry and Oldham, and was named in honor of Judge Robert Trimble, who at one time, was on the Supreme Bench of the United States. When first formed the extreme northeastern corner extended to the Big Kentucky river, but quite a large portion of this section was cut off in the following year (1838) in the formation of Carroll county. The Ohio river forms the northern and western boundaries of the county, a distance of about twenty miles, and is the only navigable stream within or on the border of the county. Oldham county forms the southern boundary, while Henry lies on the southeast, and Carroll on the northeast. The Little Kentucky river, Corn creek, Berebone creek, Middle creek, Patton's creek and Spring creek are the chief water courses. The Little Kentucky river flows through the eastern part of the county for quite a distance and possesses available water power to propel machinery. All of the others flow into the Ohio on the western boundary, and their water power

possibly might be utilized; but none of the streams can be made navigable by a system of locks and dams. The table land is four or five hundred feet above the level of the Ohio, and the surface of the county is very hilly. The rocks of the surface belong to the last part of the lower silurian group and later groups; that of the creek and brook beds being the blue limestone of the Cincinnati group, filled with fossils characteristic of that period. Above that is found a light-colored limestone, possibly the Niagara, and still higher and on the surface of the highlands is a layer of sandstone or freestone. All of these are excellent stone for building purposes, and are easily quarried. A kind of marble is found near the Ohio in the Corn creek neighborhood. It is known as chonchitic marble, and is susceptible of a high polish. A corresponding vein on the hills opposite, in Indiana, has been worked, quite advantageously. A marble of reddish brown color is found farther inland, but doubtless it is the continuation of the vein above spoken of. Crystalline quartz and calcite abound in the quartz rock and limestone respectively, and concretions or deposits of iron sulphide are found in small quantities. Small caves and sink-holes are quite numerous in certain sections of the county. A cave near the Carroll county line has been explored to some extent. The known portions of it consist of a room, perhaps twenty-five feet square, with a concave roof resembling a terrapin's back, and having numerous chimney-like holes extending upward.

The "Bedford Springs" was once a famous health resort, but of late years has not been open to the public. The chief ingredient of the water of this spring is Epsom salts, although analysis has revealed compounds of lime, soda, iron and sulphur. The water is pleasant to the taste and is peculiarly fitted for the relief of stomach troubles. The spring is located on the farm of Mr. Wm. Parker, about one mile south of Bedford. Several other springs of about the same quality of water have been discovered in the same locality, and at one place on Mr. Parker's farm the evaporation of water from a seepy place, leaves a deposit of epsomite.

The average price of farm land per acre is about \$12. The land is either freestone or limestone land, the limestone portion being more productive than the freestone, the freestone, however, being the best adapted to fruit growing. The soil is being improved by the free use of fertilizers and is increasing somewhat in fertility. General farm products are raised, but the chief exports are tobacco, wheat, and corn, tobacco being the greatest source of income. Red clover and timothy in the meadows, white clover and bluegrass in the pasture lands are the principal grasses grown and those best adapted to the soil. Stock raising is engaged in to considerable extent and is a source of no little income to the county.

The latest developed, most rapidly growing and most extensive industry is fruit growing. Fruits of all kinds, both large and small, thrive so well and are so abundant in Trimble county that it has acquired the reputation of being one of the foremost fruit-growing sections of the country. It has long been known as the "Blackberry county," having received this name because great abundance of this delightful and useful fruit grows wild on the uncultivated lands. The blackberry crop has for years been a source of great profit to the women and children who, during the blackberry season, realize quite a neat little sum for their labor in picking. Of late years the farmers of the northwestern portion of the county have extensively engaged in the cultivation of dewberries and have been amply repaid for the care and attention the vines require. Apples, pears, and grapes are very successfully raised, but for quantity and quality, of the larger fruits especially, Trimble's greatest success lies in the production of peaches.

This industry has grown rapidly, and hundreds of acres have been set in peach trees; in fact one might call the country northwest of Bedford one vast peach orchard. The total crop of an average year is approximately half a million bushels. The trees are thrifty, the fruit large, and well flavored and highly colored.

There are no vegetable or fruit canneries in the county. The nearest one is located at Madison, Indiana, and it receives much fruit from Trimble, as well as tomatoes, raised especially for it. The soil is well adapted to the production of tomatoes and vegetables in general, and considering the wonderful success of fruit growing, canneries would meet with undoubted success.

Probably 10 per cent. of the original timber growth remains. The principal species of timber available for lumber purposes are beech, oak, poplar, walnut, ash, lynn, sugar-maple and elm. The saw mills and peach box factories that convert this timber into lumber, box material, etc., a flouring mill located at Milton, a whisky distillery and two brandy distilleries constitute the county's manufactories. The average price paid for farm hands is about \$13 per month. The largest portion of labor employed is farm labor, with the exception of that employed in preparing our fruits for market, which is really a species of farm labor. The amount paid hands in peach orchards for picking packing, etc., ranges from fifty cents to one dollar, according to the character of work performed.

The "Short Line," a branch of the L. & N. railroad, runs for several miles near the extreme eastern boundary, but no railroad has ever been constructed within the borders of the county. Several have been proposed, and in some instances surveys were made. At one time work was begun in a neighboring county, but the work was abandoned, and has never been taken up again. There are now about sixty-five miles of turnpike in the county, on thirty-two miles of which toll is collected. Most of the road on which toll is collected is good, some of it is excellent, while that on which no toll is collected, there being no taxation for the maintenance of it, is only fair. Other county roads are indifferent, though reasonably good for the greater portion of the year.

There are no educational institutions in the county other than the public schools. These schools are in a much better condition than ever before, a marked progress having been made in the educational line during the last ten years. A number of the districts have supplemented the public fund by taxation or subscription.

The bonded indebtedness of the county is about \$27,000, and the rate of taxation for county purposes is forty-five cents on the one hundred dollars. According to the census of 1890 the population was 7,140, only a slight change from what it was at the previous census. No immigration of note has taken place in the last few years, and it is probable that the population has not materially changed since 1890. In Hunter's Bottom, embracing parts of Trimble and Carroll counties, is located what might be termed a foreign colony. The people are Germans, and are a thrifty, hard-working people, making good citizens.

Bedford, situated near the center of the county, is the county seat, and, owing to its central location, is quite a business place for its size. It has about 350 inhabitants. Milton, situated on the Ohio, opposite Madison, Indiana, has about the same number of inhabitants as Bedford.

D. H. PEAK.

Trimble county is situated in the Sixth Congressional, Fifth Appellate, Twelfth Judicial, Twenty-first Senatorial, and Fifty-second Legislative Districts.

POSTOFFICES.—Abbott, Bedford, Carmel, Cornereek, Ewingford, Gum, Hammels, Leepori, Milton, Mount Pleasant, Trout, Winoua.