

NORTHERN KENTUCKY VIEWS PRESENTS:

Campbell County



W. D. Funkhouser and W.S. Webb



Excerpted From

Reports in Archeology and Anthropology, V. II
University of Kentucky
September, 1932

www.nkyviews.com

CAMPBELL COUNTY

Campbell County is one of the extreme northern counties of the Outer Bluegrass Region of Kentucky situated on the Ohio River, adjoining the state of Ohio. It is a small county with an area of only 145 square miles. The elevations range from 460 feet above sea level at the Ohio River to 850 feet at Alexandria, the county seat, on the dividing ridge between the Ohio River and Licking River drainage areas.

Physiographically the county represents a watershed with an undulating to hilly topography and considerable areas of flat lands along the rivers. The drainage to the east flows through local tributaries to the Ohio River while that on the west flows into the Licking River.

Geologically the outcrops are represented by Upper Ordovician limestones and shales on the crest of the Cincinnati Arch. Some alluviums of Pleistocene and Recent Ages are found in the river flood plains. The mineral resources of the county are limited to unimportant limestones, sands and gravels.

Archaeologically Campbell County is one of a group of five counties—Campbell, Kenton, Grant, Pendleton and Bracken—which seem to be almost entirely destitute of evidences of prehistoric occupation. Certainly this dearth of archaeological material can not be due to the topography of the county so far as Campbell County is concerned, for the beautiful Ohio River, known to be a famous aboriginal highway, forms its entire eastern and northern boundary while the Licking River, which in many of its reaches is rich in sites, forms the entire western boundary. Yet if the banks of either of these rivers were ever occupied by prehistoric peoples, all evidence of this occupation has long since disappeared.

Young reports¹ that Professor N. S. Shaler once found several stone graves on one of the river bluffs on the bank of the Ohio River four miles above Newport. So far as we know, this is the only authentic site ever recorded from the county.

¹ Young, Bennett, Prehistoric Men of Kentucky, p. 26. 1910.