

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.

GALLATIN COUNTY.

By D. B. Wallace, Walton, Ky.

The county of Gallatin, the smallest county in area in Kentucky, was named after Hon. Albert Gallatin, who obtained distinction as a financier as Secretary of the United States Treasury under President Thomas Jefferson. Gallatin county was the twenty-third county organized in Kentucky, and was taken from parts of Franklin and Shelby in 1798. It was then one of the largest counties in Kentucky, but the formation of other counties from its territory has reduced it to the smallest, having only 61,533 acres. Owen county was formed from it in 1819; Trimble, in part, in 1836; Carroll took the western half in 1838, forming Carroll county, with Carrollton as the county seat, which was originally Port William, the county seat of Gallatin county. Warsaw, formerly known as Fredericksburg, became the county seat of Gallatin.

Gallatin county is situated at the lower end of the "great bend" of the Ohio river, and is midway between Cincinnati and Louisville. The county is not a wealthy county, but has always been self-supporting, its citizenship being composed of an industrious, law-abiding class, and very public spirited.

The surface of the county is generally hilly, though there is an extensive area of river bottom land, above high water mark. It is a limestone soil and very productive and is easily built up after extensive tilling. About two million pounds of burley tobacco is raised annually and it is of high quality. Corn, vegetables, fruit and live stock constitute the main agricultural production. The timber supply has been about exhausted though at one time the entire county was covered with the best of timber. The county is well watered by creeks. Eagle creek bounds it on the south and the Ohio river on the north with a distance of twenty-one miles. Warsaw, the county seat, is an up-to-date town of about 1,100 population, and has three furniture factories, the products of which are sold in nearly every State in the Union, South America and other foreign countries. Warsaw is sixty miles below Cincinnati by river and forty-five miles by railroad; eighty miles above Louisville by water and sixty-five miles by rail. Gallatin county has a population of about 5,500, and the land ranges in value from \$20 to \$150. The farm labor is both white and colored, but within the past few years most of the colored people have moved to other quarters. The farm wages range from \$20 to \$40 per month and labor is scarce. There is a good system of roadways in the county, consisting of about one hundred miles of turpikes and about one hundred miles of dirt roads, all kept up by taxation. The taxes are low, and the county debt is less than \$20,000. The county is well supplied with schools and churches and much public interest is manifested in every good work. Gallatin county is situated in the Sixth Congressional, Fifth Appellate, Fifteenth Judicial, Twenty-third Senatorial and Fifty-third Legislative districts.