

Northern Kentucky Views Presents:

Gallatin County, Kentucky

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GALLATIN COUNTY

KENTUCKY

RESOURCES ATTRACTIONS OPPORTUNITIES

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General Description. Gallatin County, contending to the very acre with Robertson County for the distinction of being the smallest in area of the one hundred and twenty counties of the state; nestles along the shores of the Ohio River just south of the northernmost county of Boone. At one point where a corner of Grant County reaches northward towards a bend in the Ohio, a crow would have a scant two miles to fly in order to cross the county. Franklin and Shelby counties—from which it is now far removed—contributed to its formation in 1798, since which time it in turn gave of its area to the creation of three other counties until it is now left one of the twin smallest counties. The county was named for Albert Gallatin, a native of Switzerland, prominent in public life at the time of its formation, and Secretary of the Treasury under President Jefferson. The area is 69,760 acres, of which nearly 85% is in farms. Warsaw, the county seat, is 495 feet above sea level, with many of the uplands extending this elevation considerably.

Population. The number of inhabitants in 1920 was 4,664, with a little more than one-half of one percent of the population listed as foreign-born. There were 876 males between 18 and 44 years of age, and 867 females within the same age-range.

Mineral Resources.* The district is a part of the hilly outer Blue-Grass. Stratigraphically the hard rocks consist of Ordovician limestones and shales ranging upwards from the Trenton through the Maysville and Richmond formations. The Eden shale, washing badly here as elsewhere, is exposed on most of the steep slopes. Structurally, because of its location on the northwestern flank of the Lexington dome of the Cincinnati Arch, the normal inclination of the bedded rocks of this county is to the northwest. While minor folds are

found in Gallatin County, faults of major significance are not known to occur.

The principal mineral resource of Gallatin County is limestone. It occurs in wide distribution suitable for rural building construction, and highway, and railway-bed use. The Ohio River affords an inexhaustible supply of both sand and gravel, and each of these may also be secured from some few upland and flood-plain deposits of glacial origin. Springs emanating from the Middle Ordovician beds produce the well-known sulphur-saline mineral waters similar to those emanating from Big Bone Springs in Boone County adjoining. A geographic map of Gallatin County (scale: 1 inch equals 1 mile) is available.

Bonded Indebtedness. Citizens of this county have approved the issue of \$100,000 in bonds for improvement of the highway system.

Surface and Soil. A wide flood plain of marked fertility follows the Ohio River, while much fertile land is also found in the high ridges back from the river. Crop lands in 1925 totaled 12,232 acres. The area devoted to pasture was 43,991 acres. Fewer than 1,100 acres were in woodland not used for pasture. The size of the average farm was 75 acres.

Water Supply. Eagle Creek, a tributary of the Kentucky River, forms most of the southern boundary, and the Ohio River the entire northern border line. Minor tributaries of these streams add to the drainage. Numerous mineral springs are found in the county.

Industries. With the exception of 2 factories devoted to the manufacture of furniture, agriculture is practically the sole industry of Gallatin County. The value of all crops produced in 1924 was \$532,709.

Crops. Area considered, the county's production of corn is noteworthy. The harvest in 1924 amounted to 102,650 bushels. The tobacco crop

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

reached the equally imposing total of 1,621,200 pounds. The yield in hay was 4,717 tons, and 9,470 bushels was the white potato production. Cattle contributed almost one-third of the \$309,647 representing the value of all livestock in 1925. Sheep were valued at \$64,823, and the county's horses were worth a trifle more. Milk production in 1924 was estimated at 622,216 gallons. This was an increase of nearly 200,000 gallons over the estimated production of five years before, and the volume is believed to have had corresponding growth in the period following the last Federal agricultural census. Nearly \$90,000 was received by farmers for poultry and eggs in 1924.

Transportation. The Louisville-Cincinnati Division of the Louisville & Nashville Railroad crosses that entire portion of the southern side of the county which is bounded by Eagle Creek. Sparta and Glencoe are the principal shipping points. Warsaw and other towns on the Ohio River are served by packet lines. Bus service is maintained between Warsaw and Carrollton and points west.

Highways. Warsaw and other towns on the northern side of the county are on the "River Road," which will ere long connect Louisville and Cincinnati by a modern highway, which, it is said, will be shorter than any rail or other avenue of communication now existing between the two cities. This important artery for motor transportation traverses the county for a distance of 15½ miles. Contract for grading and draining the Gallatin sector of the road has been let, and construction at a rapid pace is anticipated. A state-maintained highway connects Warsaw with Sparta, its chief railroad outlet.

Educational. The county has 2 white high schools, one at Warsaw and another at Glencoe, and 18 white elementary schools with 18 teachers. There are also 2 colored elementary schools in the county with 2 teachers. The Warsaw High School is accredited as a Class A school. The school census figures for 1926 gave 686 pupils as the average attendance in county schools. No private schools or colleges are located in Gallatin County.

Cities and Towns. Warsaw, the county seat and chief town, has a population of over 800 inhabitants. It is a thriving community, where, in the fall of 1927, it is said, there was not a vacant house. Two banks, a newspaper, 7 churches, an electric power station, and well-kept streets are enumerated among its advantages and attractions. Two furniture factories, already mentioned, provide employment for numerous highly-skilled workers and are known in the markets of the entire country for the exceptional quality of their products. Glencoe and Sparta are also banking towns.

Opportunities. With agricultural enterprises generally regarded as those for which the county offers greatest opportunities, it is of interest to note the claim that land in Gallatin County may be purchased for about one-third the price asked for similar land located in other sections. It is said to be excellently adapted to the cultivation of corn and tobacco. Sheep raising and dairying can apparently be carried on so advantageously that systematic encouragement of these industries is now in progress. In the fall of 1927 there were 42 registered bucks in the county, Southdowns and Hampshires predominating. The returns from cream were said to be averaging \$2,500 per week. Six purebred dairy herds were established within a period of three months. A purebred poultry association is giving encouragement to the development of still another industry, a hatchery at Glencoe being added to the county's enterprises in the late fall of the current year. Cultivation of alfalfa has grown by leaps and bounds, a fact cited by champions of this territory as indicative of the agricultural development opportunities already realized and awaiting those interested in enterprises of like nature.

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

The Gallatin County News, Warsaw
R. J. Matson, County Agent, Warsaw

THE following classes of property are subject to taxation in Kentucky for State purposes only, the tax rate being 50 cents on each \$100 of value:

(1) Farm implements and farm machinery owned by a person actually engaged in farming and used in his farm operation.

(2) Live stock, domestic fowls, capital stock of building and loan associations, and bank deposits.

(3) Machinery and products in course of manufacture, of persons, firms, or corporations, actually engaged in manufacturing, and their raw material actually on hand at their plants for the purpose of manufacture, and unmanufactured agricultural products in the hands of the producer or in the hands of any agent or agency of the producer to which said products have been conveyed or assigned for the purpose of sale by the producer.

Numerous cities and towns in Kentucky exempt new industries from local taxation for varying periods ranging up to five years.