

GRANT COUNTY.

GRANT county, erected in 1820 out of the western part of Pendleton county, was the 67th formed in the state. In shape it is a parallelogram, nearly a square—22½ miles from north to south, and 20 miles from east to west. It is situated in the northern part of the state, and bounded N. by Boone and Kenton counties, E. by Pendleton, S. E. by Harrison, S. by Scott and Owen, and W. by Owen and Gallatin counties. The streams are—Eagle creek, which flows northward through the western part of the county, and finally empties into the Kentucky river, and its tributaries, Clark's, Arnold's, and Ten Mile creeks; and on the eastern side of the county, Crooked, Fork Lick, and Grassy creeks, tributaries of the Licking river. The face of the country is undulating, seldom hilly; the soil north of Williamstown, along the Dry Ridge and the arms of the ridge, is very rich; south of that place it is thin, but in the western part moderately good. Wheat, corn, oats, and hogs are the largest productions.

Towns.—*Williamstown*, the county seat—so named after Wm. Arnold, probably the first settler, but previously called Philadelphia—was established in 1825; population in 1870, 281; is situated on the turnpike, 37 miles from Covington, 47 miles from Lexington, and 56 miles from Frankfort; contains a brick court house, and 5 lawyers, 5 physicians, 2 schools, 4 churches (Baptist, Reformed or Christian, Methodist, and Presbyterian, the latter dilapidated), a handsome 3-story brick town-hall, market house, 3 hotels, 6 mechanics' shops; 4 dry goods, 3 grocery, 2 drug, and 1 stove and tin, stores; and 1 livery stable. On county court days, many horses, mules, and cattle are disposed of by auction. *Crittenden*, (named after the Hon. John J. Crittenden,) on the turnpike, 11 miles N. of Williamstown, and 25 miles S. of Covington; established in 1831; population in 1870, 295; contains 3 churches (Reformed or Christian, Presbyterian, and Baptist), a school house, 2 hotels, 1 lawyer, 3 physicians, 1 drug store, 4 dry goods stores, 5 mechanics' shops. *Downingsville*, on Eagle creek, 12 miles W. of Williamstown, has a hotel, physician, and flouring and saw mill; population 30. *Dry Ridge*, 4 miles N. of Williamstown, has 2 stores, 2 saloons, a steam grist and saw mill, and blacksmith shop; and in the vicinity, 2 churches (Baptist and Methodist), a school, and a physician. *Sherman*, 8 miles N. of Williamstown, has a store, school house, blacksmith shop, and a physician.

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MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE FROM GRANT COUNTY.

Senate.—Benj. B. Johnson, 1841-44; Overton P. Hogan, 1848-50, '53-57; O. D. McMansina, 1871-75.

House of Representatives.—John Marksberry, 1824, '26; James Elliston, 1825; Nathaniel Henderson, 1827; Abraham Jonas, 1828, '29, '31, '33; Asa Vallandigham, 1830; Lewis Myers, 1835, '38, '45, '66-67; — Ruddle, 1836; Napoleon B. Stephens, 1839, '40; Peter Ireland, 1841, '46, '47; Overton P. Hogan, 1842, '43; Wm. Hendrix, 1844; H. Squire Lucas, 1848; Thos. J. McGinnis, 1849; Andrew S. Linn, 1850; Opie J. Lindsay, 1851-53; Alfred Kendall, 1853-55, '57-59, '67-69; Jas. Kinslaer, 1855-57; Alex. Dunlap, 1859-61; Wm. S. Rankin, 1861-63; E. H. Smith, 1863-65; Wm. G. Conrad, 1871-73; Jere. Poor, 1875-77.

First Settlers.—John Zinn, on Fork Lick creek; Wm. Arnold, at Williamstown; Wm. Layton, on Crooked creek; Mr. Howe, on the ridge, 4 miles s. of Williamstown; Mr. Clark, father of the late Judge Thos. Clark, in the forest 3 miles s. of Williamstown; and James Gouge, Philip Gaugh, Henry Childers, James Theobald, Charles Secrest, Chas. Daniel, and Littleton Robinson, at various points in the county.

The First County Court—held, April 10, 1820, at Henry Childers', 2 miles below Williamstown—was composed of the following magistrates, commissioned by lieutenant and acting Gov. Slaughter: Jediah Ashcraft, Wm. Layton, Nathaniel Henderson, Wm. Woodyard, Samuel Simpson, and Benj. McFarland. The first clerk was Hubbard B. Smith; first sheriff, Wm. Arnold.

Maj. James O'Hara, born about 1783, brother of the great teacher Kean O'Hara, and father of the present Judge James O'Hara, of the 12th or Covington circuit, was for many years the oldest and most eminent member of the bar at Williamstown, and resided here until his death.

Old Soldiers of 1812, yet living in Grant county: Wm. Cook, John Ferguson, Wm. Gray, — Lark, Jeremiah Morgan, Isaac Rutledge, Elijah Sturgeon, James Wilson, Geo. Williams, and Joseph Zinn. Recently deceased: Ichabod Ashcraft, James Ashcraft, Harmon Childers, John W. Holladay, John Page, and John White. (1872.)

A Poplar Tree, 9 feet in diameter, was a notable object for many years. It grew near the present Baptist church, above the village of Dry Ridge, and was cut down in 1831. The late Philip S. Bush, then a candidate for the legislature, rode up on horseback, alongside of the tree as it lay prostrate, and found he could barely reach the top of it with his hand. Much of the timber, especially the poplar, walnut and beech, on the main ridge, was very large; this, with the unusual growth of the spice bush, indicated the remarkable fertility of the soil.

The Dry Ridge, which extends north and south through the eastern part of the county, is a rib of the great Cumberland mountain—its terminus at Covington, on the Ohio river, not a break interrupting its course. It divides the waters of Licking from those of the Kentucky river.

Springs.—Near the Pendleton county line, about 7 miles from Williamstown, are some fine mineral springs; the waters are composed of iron, magnesia and salts.

Hanging of Maythe and Crouch.—In June, 1841, Smith Maythe and Lyman Crouch—both adepts in crime, who had each served a term in the Ohio and Kentucky penitentiaries—had been apprehended and committed to jail in Williamstown, charged with the robbery and murder, a short distance from that place on the road leading to Paris, of Wm. S. Utterback. On July 10, 1841, about 350 persons from neighboring counties came to the jail, forced it open, and taking these prisoners to near the spot where the alleged crime was committed, hung them on a gallows already prepared. Their bodies, after being pronounced dead, were cut down and buried under the gallows. Strangest of all, Utterback recovered of his wounds, and was still living in 1847.

Mr. John M'Gill, who published a small gazetteer of Kentucky in 1832, states that this county was named in honor of Colonel JOHN GRANT, who was born and raised near the Shallow ford of the Yadkin river, North Carolina. He came to Kentucky in the year 1779, and settled a station within five miles of Bryan's station, in the direction where Paris now stands. When the Indians captured Martin's and Ruddle's stations, he removed back to North Carolina, and thence to Virginia. In the year 1784, he again moved to Kentucky, and settled at his

old station. He erected salt works on Licking river, but moved from that place to the United States' saline, in Illinois. He afterwards returned to his residence on the Licking, where he remained until he died. He served his country faithfully and ably in the field and council.

On the other hand, J. Worthing McCann, Esq., a very intelligent citizen of Grant, and a resident at the time the county was organized, states that Grant was named after SAMUEL GRANT, who was killed by the Indians near the Ohio river, in the present State of Indiana, in the year 1794. This gentleman, Mr. McCann, further states, that Samuel Grant was a brother of General Squire and Colonel John Grant. Major William K. Wall, of Harrison, who has been a practitioner at the Grant bar ever since the formation of the county, concurs in the opinion of Mr. McCann, that the county was named in honor of SAMUEL Grant, and not Colonel John Grant, his brother, as stated by Mr. McGill.

GRAVES COUNTY.

GRAVES county was the 75th of the counties of the state, formed in 1823, out of part of Hickman county, and named in honor of Capt. Benjamin Graves. It is situated in the s. w. part of the state, in the "Jackson's Purchase;" and is bounded N. by McCracken, E. by Calloway and Marshall, s. by the Tennessee state line, and w. by Ballard and Hickman counties. Its staple products are corn, tobacco, and live stock.

Towns.—*Mayfield*, the seat of justice, is on the Paducah and Gulf railroad, 26 miles from the Ohio river at Paducah, 253 from Louisville by railroad, and 284 from Frankfort; is a place of considerable business; has grown from 44 inhabitants in 1830, to 779 in 1870. The other towns are small—*Farmington*, *Feliciana*, *Duclom*; the latter is divided in half by the Tennessee state line.

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MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE FROM GRAVES COUNTY.

Senate.—John Eaker, 1848-51; J. D. Landrum, 1863-67; H. S. Hale, 1871-75.

House of Representatives.—Richard L. Mayes, 1836, '45; John Worthan, 1840, '41; Jos. R. E. Wilkinson, 1842, '43; John Eaker, 1844, '47; John A. Board, 1846; Wm. M. Cargill, 1848; Alex. H. Willingham, 1849, '51-53, '53-55, '66; John W. Cook, 1850, '59-61; Lucien Anderson, 1855-57; Samuel F. Morse, 1857-59; A. R. Boon, 1861-63, expelled Dec. 21, 1861, "because directly or indirectly connected with, and giving aid and comfort to, the Confederate army, repudiating and acting against the Government of the United States and the commonwealth of Kentucky," succeeded by Richard Neel, 1862-63; E. W. Smith, 1863-65; Wm. Beadles, 1865-67, resigned 1866; Wm. C. Clarke, 1868-69; Ervin Anderson, 1869-71; T. J. Jones, 1871-73; James D. Watson, 1873-75; J. H. Emerson, 1875-77.

Major BENJAMIN GRAVES, in honor of whom this county received its name, was a native of Virginia, and emigrated to Kentucky when quite young. He resided in Fayette county, and was engaged in agricultural pursuits. He was an amiable, shrewd, and intelligent man, and represented Fayette county for several years in the legislature of the state. In 1812, when war was declared by the United States against Great Britain, he was among the first to volunteer his services in defense of his country's rights. He received the appointment of Major in Colonel Lewis' regiment, and proved himself an active, vigilant, and gallant officer. He was killed in the ever memorable battle of Raisin, where his blood mingled with much of the best blood of Kentucky.