

NORTHERN KENTUCKY VIEWS PRESENTS

Report from Kenton County Kentucky

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By

B. F. McGlasson

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KENTON COUNTY.

(Revised 1907 by B. F. McGlasson.)

Kenton county, one among the smallest counties in the State, was formed out of Campbell county in the year 1840. It contains ninety-seven thousand and two hundred and eighty acres of land, and was named for that grand old Indian fighter and pioneer Simon Kenton. The first actual white settlers of the county, it is claimed, was a man by the name of Rittenhouse, who with his family, settled on the waters of Bank Lick in the year 1793. The first white visitors as far as are known, was a company who crossed the Licking river at its mouth in 1751 and said to be the first whites known on its waters. The mouth of the Licking river was a great rendezvous of Kentucky troops in expeditions against the Ohio Indians. Kenton county is a very narrow county, being only six to twelve miles wide and twenty-five miles long. The K. C. division of the L. & N. R. R. runs the full length of it on the east, the Cincinnati Southern on the west and the Louisville Short Line about twenty miles from northeast to southwest through the county. Kenton county has for its boundary on the north the Ohio river, on the east the Licking river, on the south Pendleton and Grant counties and on the west Boone county. There are no rivers running through the county, but there are numerous creeks that afford a good supply of clear water for stock purposes. The county seat of Kenton is Independence, a village of two hundred fifty inhabitants, though there are virtually two county seats, two court houses and two jails. The Circuit Clerk, County Clerk, Jailer and Sheriff all appoint deputies, that take charge of the business at Independence, which includes the first district. The balance is transacted at Covington. Independence has good schools, churches, stores, blacksmith shop and a splendid creamery now in operation. The county has just completed a modern Infirmary near Rosedale, purchasing forty-seven acres of ground for sixteen hundred dollars. One building cost one hundred and six thousand, six hundred and eighty-seven dollars. It contains one hundred and seventeen rooms. There is a separate building for colored people connected with main building by inclosed and covered passage. The furnishing cost twelve hundred dollars. The cost of supporting the inmates per month is about nine dollars each, including salaries of

Superintendent, Matron, Nurses, Cook, etc. It is kept in first class order.

Kenton county has two hundred and eighty miles of good macadamized roads that form a complete net work throughout the county, enabling the farmers to haul their produce to market at any time of the year. Two hundred and forty miles of said pikes are free, forty miles are toll roads, with a moderately low rate. There is but little bottom land on the Ohio river, but it is very rich, while its uplands is rolling and produce the very best quality of white burley tobacco. The finest truck gardens in the State are located in the vicinity of Covington, while corn, oats, wheat meadows and potatoes do well. Blue-grass grows abundantly. Fruits of all kinds, such as peaches, pears, plums and berries of every description, are grown for the Cincinnati and Covington markets.

Dairying is carried on extensively and some of the best herds of dairy cows in the State furnish milk and butter to the adjacent cities. The farmers of the county seem to have adopted improved methods of farming by crop rotation and fertilizing as will be shown by the crops of 1906. 493,200 lbs. of tobacco, 2,948 tons of hay and 72,649 bushels of corn, besides a vast amount of potatoes, tomatoes, melons and pickles, raised and marketed during the year. The county has very little timber left excepting black locust, which affords an abundant supply of posts for fencing and with the present prices of wire fencing can be done very cheap. Land near the city of Covington is very high, ranging from one hundred and fifty dollars to five hundred dollars per acre, while the farms farther back range from thirty-five to sixty dollars per acre. Farm labor is very high. It is impossible to get the help desired to carry on farming successfully. The hands to be had are very poor and demand from one and a half to two dollars per day. Besides the great number of post offices in the county which are, Atwood, Banklick, Buffington, Covington, Crescent Springs, Erlanger, Fishburg, Grant's Bend, Independence, Kenton, Key West, Ludlow, Latonia, Morgansville, Mullinsville, Morningview, Nicholson, Piner, Pruett, Scott, Sanfordtown, Staffordsville and Visalia, it has rural free delivery throughout the county, delivering mail to nearly every door. Covington is the largest city in the county and second largest in the State. It is situated at the confluence of the Ohio and Licking rivers, and has a population of 50,000. It was established by an act of the legislature

in 1815 and named for Gen. Covington. The Custom House and Post Office building is centrally located in the business part of the city, and cost \$250,000. Covington is connected with Cincinnati by two splendid bridges, there is also one over Licking river connecting it with Newport. Covington also has a splendid court house, with court rooms for city and county courts, and all city and county offices. It has a number of flourishing banks, about thirty churches (white and colored) and is noted for its excellent school system, and its beautiful wide regularly laid out streets. It has good gas and water systems and splendid street car service to Fountain Square, Cincinnati.

Ludlow is situated a short distance below Covington on the Ohio river, and is the second city in size in the county. Its streets are wide, nicely laid out, ornamented with shade trees and paved with vitriolized brick, giving them a beautiful appearance. The Pullman and Cincinnati Southern R. R. shops are located in Ludlow and employ about one thousand men. The Pittsburg coal elevator is located on the river bank, and supplies Ludlow and the adjacent counties with coal. Ludlow has a splendid school building, good high school system, having a ten months school every year, two flourishing banks, numerous stores and other business houses. Also has electric light and water system, fine street car service with five cent fare through West Covington, and Covington to Fountain Square, Cincinnati, and churches representing all the leading denominations. It has a population of 4,500 and very little bonded debt. The Ludlow Lagoon, one of the greatest pleasure resorts in northern Kentucky is situated at the edge of the town.

Erlanger is situated on the Cincinnati Southern R. R. and the Covington and Lexington turnpike, seven and one-half miles from Covington, has a population of 1000. Sustains high school ten months in the year. One flourishing bank and other business houses. Erlanger is situated on a high plateau, above all fogs and malaria and is neatly laid out, and when the Covington traction line reaches it, will become one of the most popular suburbs of the three cities. Rosedale, Latonia, Mullinsville, and others are flourishing towns in the county. Kenton county is situated in the Sixth Congressional, Sixth Appellate, Sixteenth Judicial, Twenty-fourth Senatorial, and contains the eightieth, eighty-first and eighty-second legislative districts.