

Northern Kentucky Views Presents:

---

# Kenton County

from

The Thirteenth Biennial Report of the Bureau of Agriculture,  
Labor and Statistics of the State of Kentucky, 1898-1899

## KENTON COUNTY.

Kenton County was separated from Campbell in 1840. It lies in the extreme northern part of the State, at the mouth of the Licking river. It is bounded on the north by the Ohio river; east, by Campbell, the Licking being the boundary between the mother county and Kenton; south, by Pendleton and Grant, and west by Boone. It is a narrow county, being about six to twelve miles wide and about twenty-five miles long.

The land is broken and hilly in many parts. The scenery approaches the grand. The bluffs overlooking the Licking presents one of the finest views in the State, and the heights back of Covington, the metropolis, look down on half a dozen cities, a number of towns and five monster bridges spanning the Ohio and two over the Licking.

Kenton bears no small part in supplying the wants of this great aggregation of human beings. From this point of view stretch out before the observer as if one city, Cincinnati and suburbs, Newport, Bellevue, Dayton, Covington, Milldale, Ludlow, West Covington, Central Covington, Mullingsville, Crescent Spring, the Latonia Agricultural

grounds and buildings and "The Lagoon," a summer resort which attracts large numbers of visitors during the summer.

The fertile valleys of Kenton are market gardens for this population, and this industry, together with the growing of small fruits and berries, gives employment to a large part of the population. Tomatoes and pickles are grown to supply the immense factories of Cincinnati, Covington, Milldale, Visalia and Walton. The facilities for transportation are excellent, especially since the turnpike law changed all the dirt roads into pikes.

The K. C. railroad runs the full length of the county on the eastern border and the Cincinnati Southern on the western. The L. & N. Short Line runs through the county about twenty miles, from northeast to southwest. The Lexington pike runs the full western boundary, and the Bank Lick & Independence & Colemansville pike runs through the center. There are fifty-one miles of turnpike on which toll is taken at moderate rates. And there are 152 miles of free turnpikes in this county. It will be seen at a glance that there is a perfect net-work of good roads, making it practicable at all seasons of the year to market products.

The cities and towns on the Kentucky side of the Ohio river south of Cincinnati have exceptionally fine street car facilities. From Fountain Square in Cincinnati the cars run to Fort Thomas, four miles east of Newport, to Bellevue, Dayton, Newport, Covington, Milldale, Rosedale (one mile and a half south of Milldale;) Latonia Jockey Club race course, West Covington, Ludlow, The Lagoon and intermediate points at a five cent fare from and to Fountain Square. The enterprising and liberal management of the electric line of street railway is fast populating the suburbs of Covington and Newport. A company has been incorporated to extend the line to Erlanger and it will probably be completed and running within the next eighteen months.

Bank Lick creek is the principal affluent of the Licking. There are numerous other small streams that give an excellent natural water supply for stock.

Wheat, corn and tobacco are extensively grown on the highlands and rich hillsides. The soil is excellent and the famous bluegrass thrives on it. Butter and milk dairies are numbered by the hundred and a large areage of land is devoted to grass in order to supply this demand and also to ship sweet and butternilk and butter to the cities. All kinds of fruit do well, especially pears, which seldom fail. Much attention is paid to growing strawberries, dewberries, raspberries, gooseberries, currants and blackberries. With the immense population at its door to be supplied, there is a great future for a county so well located and that has such land and facilities for market. An effort has been made to find gas and oil, but so far only a limited amount of gas has been found, which supplies light in a brewery located near the western bluff of the city.

Kenton has no extensive timber tracts left. The woodmen and the civil war of the past generation did not spare the trees.

The Ohio skirting the northern boundary for six or eight miles and the Licking in fair water form all the navigable water courses. The latter, however, with a system of locks and dams could be made navigable all the year. A government appropriation has been made for a survey of the Licking with the object in view of building a dam which will afford navigation to Falmouth in Pendleton county.

The roads are under the care of supervisors, one for each road district, and they are appointed by the fiscal court. This court consists of the county judge and five magistrates. A tax of fifteen cents on the \$100 is levied for the purpose of keeping the bridges and turnpikes in repair, and persons in the various districts are required to

work six days in a year. The road supervisors have charge of the county dirt roads as well as the pikes.

There are about fifty-three miles of completed railroad in the county. "Keomezer," mineral springs on the Southern railroad about nine miles from Covington, are attracting great notice. They were discovered only a few years ago and under good management are becoming rapidly well known and patronized.

Lands in the river bottoms near the city are moderate in price, but vary greatly on account of locality and altitude. Probably \$60 an acre for improved land and \$25 for unimproved land would be an average price.

The laboring class is composed of Americans, Irish, Germans and negroes. The negro population is not as numerous as in the counties of Central Kentucky. There is no distinct colony of foreigners in the county. The German population of Covington and Newport is large. Laborers on the farms receive an average price of \$15 per month and board. The hands in the various factories, mills, etc., in our city population receive the usual wages varying with the general laws of supply and demand. There is an opening for a creamery and cheese factory, as we have nothing of the kind in the county. A great deal of butter is made by the small dairies.

The county seat is the town of Independence. This is a village of about 200 inhabitants. The city of Covington is the metropolis and there are virtually two seats of government. Double sessions of all the courts are held. All the business of the first district is transacted at Independence. There are two courthouses and two clerks' offices. The rest of the business that within the city corporation, is transacted at Covington. The county judge, circuit clerk and county clerk appoint a deputy who takes charge of the Independence clerk's office. There are likewise two jails, the deputy serving at Independence. There are three hotels, two stores, a blacksmith shop, butcher shop, barber shop, shoemaker shop, Odd Fellows' hall and Catholic church in the town. A Union Protestant church was built in 1884, and burned in 1896. A Protestant church has been erected in the place of the one destroyed. There are also licensed saloons in the town.

The public schools in the county are in average condition and the houses very good. Covington is noted for its excellent school system. Ludlow, Milldale, West Covington, Central Covington and Erlanger have ten months' school, graded and supported by additional taxation. Covington and Ludlow support free high schools likewise. At Independence there is conducted for five months a free school with two teachers. There is also located at Independence a private institution of considerable merit known as the "Independence high school." It has prepared many pupils for entering college and receiving certificates to teach in the public schools.

The bonded indebtedness of the county is \$295,000, and the rate of taxation sixty cents on the \$100.

L. E. CASEY.

Kenton county is in the Sixth Congressional, Sixth Appellate, Sixteenth Judicial, Twenty-fourth Senatorial and Eightieth, Eighty-first and Eighty-second Legislative Districts.

POSTOFFICES:—Atwood, Banklick, Burlington, Covington, Crescent Springs, Erlanger, Fiskburg, Independence, Kenton, Keywest, Ludlow, Milldale, Morgansville, Morningview, Mullinsville, Nicholson, Piner, Pruett, Sanfordtown, Scott, Springlake, Staffordsburg, Visalia.