

NORTHERN KENTUCKY VIEWS PRESENTS:

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# Pendleton County



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## PENDLETON COUNTY

Pendleton County is situated in the northern part of the Outer Bluegrass Region of the state with its northeastern corner touching the Ohio River. It has an area of about 280 square miles and an average elevation of about 550 feet above sea level with occasional hills which give local reliefs of between 150 and 200 feet.

The topography is rolling to rough, much broken and with the flat areas restricted to the river flood plains. The North and South Forks of the Licking River unite in about the center of the county and these streams before and after their confluence with many local tributaries furnish the drainage for the region.

The geology of the county is typical of the Outer Bluegrass and consists of Ordovician outcrops of limestones and shales with occasional thin sandstones with a monoclinial structure dipping to the northeast from the Cincinnati Arch. The river bottoms show large amounts of Pleistocene and Recent alluviums including sands, gravels and clays. Like most of the Outer Bluegrass counties the mineral resources are limited to limestones and clays.

Archaeologically Pendleton County is one of a group of counties, of which the others are Bracken, Harrison, Grant, Kenton and Campbell, in which very little of archaeological interest has ever been discovered. The reason for this is entirely conjectural, but the fact remains that this group of counties represents a section of the state in which fewer sites and artifacts have been found than any other region in Kentucky.

Rafinesque<sup>1</sup> mentions mounds near the fork of Licking River but we can not locate them.

Young<sup>2</sup> speaks of "significant traces" of "old battlefields" in Pendleton County but does not state where they have been found and states also<sup>3</sup> that "circles" which may represent fortification trenches have been reported from the same county, but we have not been able to discover them.

The authors know of but two undoubted sites in the county. These are as follows:

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<sup>1</sup> Rafinesque, C. S., *Ancient History of Kentucky*. 1824.

<sup>2</sup> Young, Bennett, *Prehistoric Men of Kentucky*, p. 5. 1910.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 74.

1. A small and unimportant shell mound on the farm of William Dennis in the southeastern corner of the county about a mile from the Harrison County line and two miles from the Bracken County line.
2. A workshop site on the farm of Mrs. Emma Rigg, a quarter of a mile north of Morgan and about three hundred yards from the east bank of the South Fork of Licking River. This site shows large amounts of fragmentary flint and broken and complete artifacts and spawls but no evidences of kitchen midden material, charcoal, shell, bones or pot shards which would indicate a village site. Reported by Bertram Rigg.