

Hopkinsville Kentuckian.

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CITY OF HOPKINSVILLE.

The Seat of Government and the Metropolis of Christian County.

Great Educational Advantages—Large Mercantile Resources—Handsome Public and Private Buildings.

Its Magnificent Water System and Electric Light Plant—Its Natural Advantages for Manufacturing and Resided City—Large Financial Resources.

City of Churches, Colleges and Public Schools, Cultured Society and Happy Homes—A Glimpse of Her Business Men.

"Come, my friends; 'tis not too late to seek a new world."

Custom, with an insistence of sumptuous rhetoric and an extravagance of literary expression, has thrown around descriptive narrative such an aroma of quaint and poetic interest that any attempt to ignore it is treated by the reading public as an act of presumption.

Those "airy nothings" of the writer must be given a nomenclature, even at the expense of accurate statement. Indeed, the somnolent traditions of our early history, with their weird and romantic settings, possess such a fascination in their occasional awakenings that the recital of present day conditions grow homely and uninteresting. Hopkinsville is as rich in this ancient lore as any section in the "New South." In many a grove and sequestered surrounding still lurks the inspiration for historic revery or enduring fiction. They still possess a mute eloquence, a tragic mystery and a furtive charm, over which the glamour of research throws its softest light. But those are matters not within the purview of today; time preserving them for archeological quest and diversion. The present mission is of deeper import and concerns those conditions which make life profitable and happy.

The formulation of Hopkinsville is a matter of secondary interest. It suffices to know, that to-day it is a city of between six and seven thousand inhabitants, the county seat of Christian county, and the center of a locality that has for its chief inducement home attractions and educational advantages; and where also, in combination with these, proper attention is given to legitimate and acceptable enterprises.

As a people, the citizens of Hopkinsville are persevering, progressive and enterprising, vouchsafing proper consideration and attention to manufacturers and business men of every type who may be seeking a location for the establishment of their several branches of industry, yet positively requiring unalloyed integrity as the passport. To all responsible persons, a cordial invitation is extended to join us; and the following brief summary will demonstrate why we feel justified in a tempered pride over the inducement offered. The career of cities is as the life of individuals, full of little incidents that are of minor importance in themselves, but when taken in connection as links in a chain of circumstances passes as value that is not to be discarded. But of the thousands of everyday happenings there are many that are of no significance; and it is, perhaps, more the conditions which exist as a general result of these small things, that should be taken as the pulse of the living corporate body. Causes produce these conditions, however, and, while further on, and, in various portions of this paper, will be found many circumstances arising secondarily from conditions, the object of this is to recount, in brief, the successive steps that have placed Hopkins-

ville in the position she now occupies.

Hopkinsville—the city whose merits we record—has never had a "boom." Its growth has been steady and natural. If the spiders of conservatism are al-

lone from any direction, the traveler is entertained by scenes which increase in beauty, until the city is reached. This prosperous locality rests upon the banks of Little River—a silver thread that winds its way through a fertile and beautiful valley where many prosperous farmers live, till the soil, harvest their golden grain, and bear it to the great mills, and the splendid markets of Hopkinsville.

From some high eminence in Hopkinsville, gazing on the thickly-wooded bluffs and hills, intersecting green valleys and meadowlands, that hug the opposite shore of this beautiful stream, one stands as in a dream, enchanted by the gorgeous panorama of nature, which is there unrolled before him. Far as the eye can reach, it feasts on beauty. Myriads of giant oaks and forest trees, in unbroken hedge, out-line the horizon for miles and miles—lifting one's thoughts in the direction of the skies they seem to kiss.

Low, quiet valleys, rich in verdure, and breathing of peace, remind us that life has lowlier walks, which we must tread ere we reach the promised heights. Undulating, velvety hills dotted, here and there, with clumps of trees, and shrubs of nature's favorite shades, rising and receding, fading away in the distance, as do our hopes and dreams on

necessary, as Hardin county, which was some four years older than Christian county, adopted the name Elizabethtown for her seat of justice, and, being the younger, Christian county was obliged to give way and the name of "Hopkinsville" was adopted in honor of Gen. Samuel Hopkins, a gallant officer of the Revolution.

To commence at the beginning of Hopkinsville and give a true detail of the rise and progress of business and industry—when it was commenced, and by whom—is a task beyond the power of man to perform. Suffice it to say, that to the sound and unerring judgment and foresight of her sturdy pioneers, a solid and substantial foundation was laid, on which is now built one of the handsomest, wide-awake, and thoroughly progressive little cities in the State of Kentucky.

Referring to the early settlement of Hopkinsville, by way of comparison, we will just mention here that in 1804 the town was composed of a blacksmith shop, a tavern, a court house, one store and a few log cabins. In those early days the merchants bought their goods in the East about twice a year. Some times the goods were hauled in wagons all the way from Philadelphia, but most generally shipped from Pittsburg in flat-boats down the Ohio to the mouth of the Cumberland, thence up the river to

THE LATHAM HOTEL.

One of the Finest Hostelrys in Kentucky and a Model of Comfort and Hospitality—Erected in 1895.

A Large, Handsome Structure—Rich Interior Decorations—Modern in Every Respect—Splendidly Furnished—Best Accommodations—Excellent Cuisine and Model Service. W. A. Wilgus, Manager.

One of the most striking examples of modern evolution is presented to the eyes of our citizens and visitors in the spectacle of the magnificent hostelry known as the Latham Hotel, the premises of which occupy one block in the heart of the city, while the building proper fronts on three of the main thoroughfares. It is a three-story and a half structure, occupying two-thirds of a square, the remaining one-third being reserved for a hotel park, which is to be planted in walks, and ornamented with fountains, flower beds, and shrubs. Erected at a cost of \$100,000, with \$25,000 additional for furnishings, it is needless to say that few, if any, cities of comparative size to Hopkinsville, can boast of such an extensive and beautiful hotel. It is, at once, the wonder and admiration of all visitors; and has

fame and good name of such a house wherever his footsteps tend, or his voice is heard. The visitor who tarries for short or long at the Latham Hotel, will find, here, all that, in fact, goes to make up first-class hotel service; and still more, he will find true Southern hospitality and good will dispensed with a full heart and generous hand, where one and all in authority and attendance, combine to make the place a home for their guests, and where every attention is directed towards the promotion of the individual comfort of every one. In this respect, it stands pre-eminent. The accommodations are first-class in every particular, the cuisine is excellent, prepared by an accomplished chef, and served by polite and obliging attendants. The rooms are large, airy, and well furnished; and everything about the place wears an attractive, delightfully home-like air, while cleanliness pervades the house from top to basement.

The building itself is of cream pressed brick and dressed stone, with elegant terra cotta trimmings, and is of Italian Renaissance style of architecture. It is heated by steam, well lighted by gas and electricity, and has hot and cold water throughout. Eighty guest chambers are provided; and the parlors are richly furnished, containing, also, a magnificent Grand piano for the pleasure of patrons. It has accommodations for 200 guests, and the rates are from \$3.00 to \$3.50 per day.

The hotel is named for its founder, Mr. John C. Latham, of the banking firm of Latham, Alexander & Co., of New York City, who was an early resident of Hopkinsville, and has shown the deep loyalty and affection which "springs eternal in his breast" for the home of his early youth, through this and many other public enterprises in the city, which bear testimony to his public spirit and generosity. The hotel is managed by a Board of Directors, and is under the personal supervision of Mr. J. B. Boulware as Clerk, and Mr. H. E. Holton, Cashier, two affable and courteous young gentlemen, who are ideal hotel officials and deservedly popular with all.

Much time and care have been expended in making this issue of the KENTUCKIAN an attractive one, and we feel that our efforts have not been in vain. The paper contains a fund of valuable information concerning the varied resources of Hopkinsville and Christian county, and many handsome illustrations adorn its pages. After reading it, mail to some distant friend so that outsiders may get an idea of the importance of this growing city.

So many Gods, so many creeds;
So many paths that wind and wind—
While just the art of being kind
Is all this sad world needs.

—Ella Wheeler Wilcox.

There is no plausible excuse for the merest apology for a road from the county road to the farmhouse, but, on the contrary, such roads should be kept in first-class order. Good roads permit of hauling larger loads, save the wear and tear of the wagons and add greatly to the attractions of the farm.

Patronize the merchant, manufacturer and commercial man, who has aided you, through advertising your city to home-seekers and contemplating settlers. You will find his name in the columns of this Special Centennial Edition.

Are you seeking a College to which to send your sons and daughters? Then read the history of those reviewed in this Special Edition.



HOTEL LATHAM.

lowed to spin the webs of caution in the window of opportunity, the people of a city may become as oblivious to that which betokens a splendid future as the bats are to the oscillations of Jupiter.

CLIMATE AND SOIL.

The climate of Kentucky, and particularly of Hopkinsville, and its surrounding country, is delightful. The long, hot summers of the States to the South are not suffered here; and the rigid winters of the North and Northwest are unknown. The average temperature of the year is 58 degrees—the same as that of the Northern part of Spain, the Southern part of France, Northern Italy, Greece and the islands of Japan.

But the range of the thermometer is much greater, here, enabling the husbandman to lay in a supply of ice in winter, and to grow Indian corn and melons to perfection in summer. The atmosphere in summer is cool and bracing; and the lassitude so common to the lowlands during that season, is unfelt upon the elevated portions of Kentucky. Chills and fevers are strangers to this section. Consumption is very rare, and malaria, with its debilitating influence, is dissipated by breezes that sweep so delightfully over this city.

PICTURESQUE SURROUNDINGS.
Coming toward Hopkinsville,

life's uneven road. Over all, the heavenly dome, whose deep cerulean hue equals that of any far-famed Italian sky, mirrors each day "the ancient miracle of the sun's decline," and each setting lends an additional glory to the scene below. Nature was truly prodigal of her beauteous gifts, when she arranged this immediate section; and the deft touch of civilized man has completed this grand earthly picture. Long driveways, extend from the city in every direction through this beautiful country. Affording unlimited pleasure to the lovers of this delightful and healthful recreation. Many of these pikes extend through vistas of drooping elms and shady oaks stretching away, at varying intervals into the hazy distance, until they become lost in picturesque strips of woodland.

HISTORICAL.

On the 21st day of November, 1797, by a decree of Court, the location of the seat of justice for Christian county was fully established, and five acres of land was donated by Bartholomew Wood and was officially accepted by that body. The Embryo city was Christian Elizabeth, but just how and why it was so called the chronicler of that early day fails to enlighten us. By that name it was known until 1804, when a change became

Canton or Clarksville.

OUR POSTOFFICE.

In these fin de siècle days, there is, perhaps, no feature or department of the United States Government which appeals more forcibly to our admiration and respect, or which is under a more perfect system of management, than its postal service. Its business, in every detail, is in the hands of able and responsible parties from the Postmaster General at Washington to every member of the rank and file of his large army of assistants throughout the Union.

First, comes our unprecedented service in the transportation of the mails, and the high degree of perfection attained in the handling of mail enroute. Every necessary convenience is afforded the citizens of a town, and the post-office is systematized to a perfect degree. Contrasting this modus operandi of to-day, with that of yesterday, the old stage coach, and other primitive means of mail transportation, truly can we feel that time has opened up a new era, one of enlightenment, convenience, and system.

Hopkinsville's first post-office was established April 9, 1804, with George Brown as postmaster, with everything about it in a state of crudity. To-day, we enjoy the very best mail service

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