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## Mt. Sterling, the Gateway, Her People and Her Progress.

FOUNDED IN 1796--LOCATED AT THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE CELEBRATED BLUE GRASS COUNTRY AND PARTAKING OF THE RICH AND RESOURCEFUL REGION OF THE MOUNTAIN SECTION.

COUNTY SEAT OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, AND COMMERCIAL CENTER OF THIS SECTION OF THE STATE.

**A Progressive City of Beautiful Homes, Magnificent Public Buildings, Churches and Schools--Home of World's Greatest Live Stock and Agricultural Interests.**

**Best and Most Enterprising City of Its Size In the Commonwealth.**

Mt. Sterling, the county seat of Montgomery, situated on the outskirts of the Blue Grass Section, is the natural Gateway to the vast and wealth-producing section of Eastern Kentucky, while it partakes of all the richness and resourcefulness of the beautiful and prosperous district known as the Blue Grass country.

It is the most progressive and prosperous city of its population in the State. This is no idle boast or fancy, for its supremacy as a trade center of a most prosperous section, whose vastness and resourcefulness is a matter of record, places it foremost among the cities of its class in the State. It is without doubt or mere assertion the metropolis of the Eastern portion of our State, and enjoys a wonderful trade, drawing to its gates a wealth of patronage from the outlying counties, noted for their diversified interests and natural wealth. It is truly a great little metropolis and is constantly increasing its population, commercial and industrial interests, until now the people stand upon the very threshold of a greater and more prosperous era of development and activity. Those who have never visited Mr. Sterling have little conception of our many advantages, our splendid progress, and can never know until they pay us a visit and investigate.

It will pay the stranger, seeking an ideal locality, to come here and spend a few days, see for yourself what a real live, wide-awake city we have, get acquainted with a people noted for their progressiveness, culture, contentment and hospitality, and catch the spirit of a proud-minded, public-

spirited and broad-visioned citizenship.

Here you find an ambitious, energetic and substantial people engaged in the laudable task of maintaining and still further building a greater Mt. Sterling. Mt. Sterling today is extending its trade into still wider fields and has a prestige as a wholesale and retail center that few cities in the State enjoy. The stranger who comes will find a well governed municipality, a city possessed of every modern advantage, excellent water supply, splendid macadamized streets, magnificent schools, well governed and patronized, a beautifully located site, with the finest turnpikes in the State winding their way in every direction and leading the way into every prosperous community contiguous to our own. Then, the great C. & O. system affords the very best facilities for travel and transportation to all points, which has greatly accelerated our rapid growth as a commercial town.

From the main line of the C. & O., the Ky. & S. R. R., a branch line, threads its way into the mountainous region to the south of Mt. Sterling, where a vast supply of coal, lumber, ties and staves find means of transportation and a ready market to our city. Added to this, we have a wealth of interests, which have made ours a city of note as a great distributing point.

These interests are large and varied, among them being vast stores of tobacco and wheat, products of the soil and considered the finest in the nation. Then, from our fields and pastures come a vast and profitable sup-

ply of fine live stock, consisting of export cattle, hogs and sheep, which from our well-equipped and favorably located stock yards, large shipments of these are constantly being made, adding materially to the fame of Mt. Sterling and Montgomery county as a great live stock center as well as a prominent distributing point.

Mt. Sterling is also noted as the largest cattle producing market in the State, and perhaps no city in the State can lay claim to such a large and high-bred stock industry. Especially does this apply to fine thoroughbred horses, noted for their fine qualities and attractive mould.

Distinguished in that line, Mt. Sterling and Montgomery county have become a great mart for fine saddle and harness horses, many of which are in the blue ribbon class, earned through sheer merit, by the world's best judges, at State fairs and national exhibitions. Mt. Sterling claims and points with pardonable pride to the great product of her confines, the Queen of the Turf, Nancy Hanks, who first saw the light of day here in Mt. Sterling, and whose record and blood has left its impress in the hearts of our people, many of whom admire and cultivate thoroughbred horses with a view to excelling, if possible, achievements in that line.

Chronicling the progress of our present city, we trace back a half century ago, merely to state that Mt. Sterling was but a little struggling village when the iron horse plowed its way through this section; a new era in her development began, which has terminated in placing us in the proud position of being a business city of 8,000, without an equal in the State.

Recognizing its importance as a distributing center, there is strong hope that a line will be constructed at no distant date which will penetrate the heart of the great coal-bearing counties to the east and south of us. Coming events cast their shadows before, and from the present activity in the mountains, development of their coal fields will soon be a reality. Then we may conclude that a railway will naturally connect us with the present inaccessible coal fields now awaiting development, because of no means of transportation.

Truly, from a civic standpoint, we are blest with a beautiful and ideal

site for an ideal city. Lying in the center of Montgomery county, of which we are the county seat, there is a diversified and pleasing perspective that is unique and ideal to say the least. Situated upon an elevation, whose soil is rich and fertile, it is surrounded on every hand with prolific fields, whose products furnish a large measure of wealth and prosperity, much of which finds investment in the varied channels of trade in our city. Situated upon an elevation in the heart of the business district, a beautiful and imposing court house, erected at a big outlay, stands as a

fitting monument to the enterprise and thrift of her citizenry. Looking southward from its dome, one beholds with admiring wonder the foothills of the mountains, and further on the distance the higher ranges of the Cumberland loom up before the vision, presenting a most pleasing and picturesque view and suggesting the close proximity to us of a yet undeveloped region, rich in coal and timber, which will eventually pour into our laps a vast store of wealth, stimulating our industrial life and building up a still greater commercial city.

Again, to the west and north, we

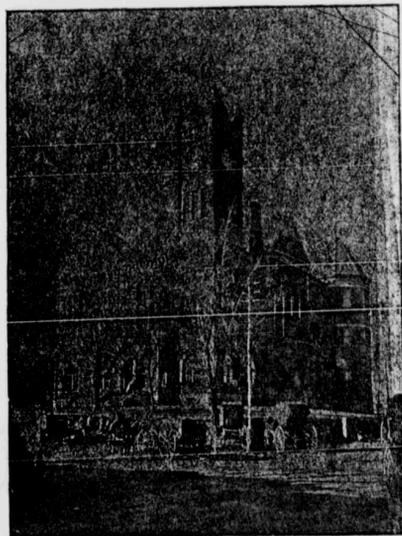
academy. It has a splendid water and electric light system, operated by men who are progressive and liberal in their views; two good hotels, a low rate of taxation and an abundant supply of coal, timber and products of the blue grass soil at her very threshold.

It must continue to grow and prosper because it has many industrial and other advantages. The eyes of the State are centered upon us, and with all these advantages, our city must naturally take its place at the forefront of industrial and commercial enterprise and thrift. In the future developing process, now in its infancy, in this end of the State. It has the money, the genius, the brains, and the energy necessary to make it one of the greatest inland cities in the Nation. Mt. Sterling of today, from a municipal point of view, is the outgrowth of excellent natural advantages, supplemented by the thrift, energy and enterprise of its citizens.

It has developed into a wide-awake and progressive town, of splendid commercial importance, and has manufacturing prospects the equal of any in the State.

It is essentially a Southern town, peopled with a highly cultured and intelligent citizenship, noted for their courteous demeanor and noble birth. Its system of improvements, schools, transportation, distilling interests, commercial relations, religious societies and other developments of a progressive and prosperous period, have been fostered and sustained by our citizens, who are now in the enjoyment of that steady growth which comes after years of laborious and persistent effort.

Herein lies one of the secrets of success which characterizes the present upbuilding of our city. It is building out of the knowledge and experience of widely diversified localities. Mt. Sterling lies ninety miles west of Ashland, 33 miles east of Lexington, 15 miles east of Winchester, and lies adjacent to many smaller towns whose interests are inimical to our own and whose industrial and agricultural activity furnish quite a large trade, enlarging our commercial interests and adding to our prestige as a trade cen-



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COURT HOUSE

view the undulating and expansive fields, dotted with peaceful and happy homes, surrounded by blue grass farms, where thrift and wealth abound on every hand. Thus we have a diversified scenery and interest, of unusual attractiveness, which cannot be excelled anywhere in the State. On the one hand we have within range of the natural eye lofty mountains, while on the other we behold the green fields of the Blue Grass Region, prolific with waving wheat, growing tobacco and blue grass pastures with

their large herds of high-bred cattle, sheep and hogs, which form quite an interesting panorama, especially to the stranger.

Here, then, we have all the natural beauty and wealth of nature blended together, from which source a bounteous supply of our commercial life is drawn, all of which have contributed so much to the prosperity and attractiveness of our city.

Mt. Sterling has four banks, five churches, three schools and one graded school, one normal and one