

TOPOGRAPHY.

The area of the county is 775 square miles. The average altitude of the county is 1,300 feet above tide. The population is about 33,000. Near three-fourths of the population are the descendants of eastern Pennsylvania, with some families from New Jersey. The balance are Scotch, Irish, German, Welch, and their descendants. The chief avocations are agriculture, lumbering, and the manufacture of iron and salt. The principal towns are Indiana, Blairsville, and Saltsburg.

Indiana, the county seat, is near the centre of the county, on an elevated piece of ground, about 1,320 feet above tide, with 1,500 inhabitants. Blairsville, sixteen miles south of Indiana, on the border of the county, with 1,000 inhabitants. Saltsburg, twenty miles southwest of Indiana, with 600 inhabitants.

The surface is rolling, cut into small valleys and hills by the numerous small streams. Along the larger streams, the valleys are very narrow. The principal eminences are elevated hills, called "*round tops*," throughout the county. The ascent of these elevations is from 15 degrees to 25 degrees, rising from 300 to 500 feet above the general surface of the county. The summits of these are from 100 square feet to one or two acres. On the top, of the surface is composed of sand and pebbles, with occasional sand-stone rocks. None of the surface is destitute of vegetation. About one half of the surface is cleared, the other half covered with the forest. About one-third of the improved, is in grass, the balance produces wheat, rye, corn, buckwheat, oats, barley, beans, peas, potatoes, turnips, pumpkins, &c., &c. In about one fourth of the county – the eastern part – the timber is principally white pine and spruce. The balance of the county is covered with white-oak, black-oak, chestnut-oak, red-oak, poplar, chestnut, hickory, sugar-maple, walnut, cherry, locust, cucumber, &c., &c.

Clearing off the forests had made our summers more dry and our winters more changeable.