

Vinton County History

Contributed by VC Man
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Vinton County was formed in 1850 from parts of Ross, Gallia, Jackson, Hocking and Athens counties. Vinton County was named for a nationally known Whig congressional leader named Samuel Vinton of Gallipolis, Ohio. The county seat, McArthur, has been in existence since 1815 and took its name from Duncan McArthur, an Army general in the War of 1812. The county contains 414 square miles, almost 263,000 acres and in 2000, had a population of 12,806.

Vinton County's wooded hills and natural scenery render it among the most attractive areas of the state. The rugged scenery, beautiful lakes, streams and creeks, hills and wildlife (especially whitetail deer and wild turkeys) have played important roles in attracting tourist, sportsmen and visitors to Vinton County, home of one of Ohio's first state parks, Lake Hope.

Vinton County is located in southeastern Ohio and is bordered by Ross, Hocking, Athens, Meigs, Galia and Jackson counties. Two major roadways run through the heart of Vinton, with U.S. Route 50 running east and west and intersecting Ohio Route 93 in the county seat of McArthur. U.S. Route 32 cuts through the lower half of the county in an east and west direction, while Ohio Route 56 does the same thing in the northern portion of the county. One other roadway very important to the county's timber industry is scenic State Route 278 which runs north and south through the Zaleski State Forest and the Lake Hope State Park.