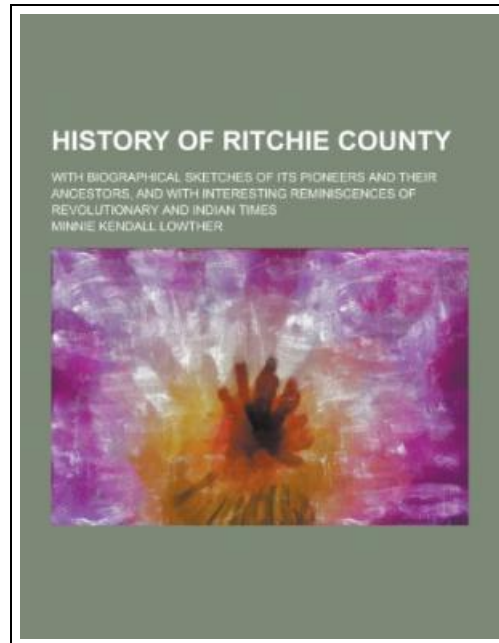


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***(Libbie Farrell)***

## HISTORY OF RITCHIE COUNTY; WITH BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF ITS PIONEERS AND THEIR ANCESTORS, AND WITH INTERESTING REMINISCENCES OF REVOLUTIONARY AND IND



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Theclassics.us, United States, 2013. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 246 x 189 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book \*\*\*\*\* Print on Demand \*\*\*\*\*.This historic book may have numerous typos and missing text. Purchasers can usually download a free scanned copy of the original book (without typos) from the publisher. Not indexed. Not illustrated. 1911 edition. Excerpt: . CHAPTER LV Natural Resources EST VIRGINIA now holds a second rank in the production of the higher grade of oil and gas, and Ritchie county is one of the leading oil-producing sections of the state. As has already been noted (in the Ritchie Mine chapter), this great industry had its beginning in our Commonwealth, in 1844, when George S. Lemon, discovered it while putting down a well for salt-water, near the mouth of Flint run. in Wirt county, and introduced it into the Marietta market as medicine. Then came the famous Burning Springs-field, in 1850. and from this time it has gradually grown into one of the richest resources of the state. The history of this industry in the county, dates back to the wild cat wells between the years 1865 and 70, when one of these wells, which gave a promising showing of oil, was drilled in on Big run, near Cairo. In these early days, the oil interest centered in the Volcano field, in the heavy lubricating oil, which sold as high as twenty dollars a barrel. But after the conflagration, on August 4, 1879, which destroyed most of the town, the development was carried southward past Petroleum to the California House, and on to Burning Springs. Ten years after the Volcano field commenced its decline, Cairo began to show signs of becoming a center for this development, and about 1880 prospecting was begun; and soon exaggerated stories were in...

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