

Timeline of Greenfield Events 1820 - 1849

1820 – most businesses in Greenfield were along Main Street east of the public square.

1820 – First doctor came to town, Dr. Garvin Johnson. Lived at Travellers Rest and later married Noble Crawford's daughter.

1822 – A pamphlet at the time described Greenfield as “contains a postoffice, two stores, four taverns, a tanyard, a sadler, a blacksmith and cabinet maker's shop, a carding machine and 250 inhabitants.”

1824 – Abe Freshour started a saddler shop and later switched to a general store. in 1835 eggs were selling for 3 cents a dozen, chickens at 5 cents each, bacon at 12 cents a pound butter at 8 $\frac{3}{4}$ cents a pound and whisky at 12cents a quart or 6 $\frac{1}{4}$ cents a glass.

1824- Hugh Smart settled in Greenfield, became a prosperous merchant, and built a home at the northeast corner of Fourth and Main. He later became Greenfield's first mayor.

1825 – Greenup Campbell bought a building from David Bonner and operated a general store and the National Hotel. Bonner moved his carding business to larger quarters.

1825 – Dr. Chapan A. Harris came to town. He became one of the first students of Dr. John Harris, his brother, at the first dental school in Bainbridge. Chapan later went on to co found the Baltimore College of Dental Surgery and become editor of the first dental magazine.

1828 – A Methodist church was built on the south side of Mirabeau and east of Second. The building was made of brick, cost \$150 and was 25 feet by 35 feet. The plaster and floor were never finished and families had to provide their own pews. In 1832 the first missionary collection was \$8.25. In 1833 a larger church was built on the same site and has since served as a garage, skating rink and basketball court where the high school played their first games.

1829. Dr Milton Dunlap, aged 22 and just out of medical school, moved to Greenfield and joined the practice of Dr. Thomas McGarrough who now owned Travellers Rest as his home and office. Dunlap later married Frances Kinkead in 1838 and was joined in his practice b his brother, Dr. Alexander Dunlap.

1829 – The Walnut Creek Baptist Church was organized and held one meeting a month. In 1830 Hugh Smart became a member and gave the church a building on a lot North Washington. in 1840 the name was changed to the First Regular Baptist Church of Greenfield and later build a larger brick church that incorporated the stone walls of the old church.

1834 – Land was selling at \$15 per acre. This was up from \$3 per acre in 1818.

1834 – David Bonner replaced horse and oxen power in his carding mill with steam power.

1835 A wooden covered bridge was built across the Paint Creek at the foot of Main Street. It stood on stone piers.

1836 – A brass band was in the July 4th celebration. James Easterbrook was the director with thirteen members. They practiced on the porch of Vass's Tavern. The same band was involved in the 1840 Presidential campaign touring all over the state for Harrison.

1836 – Brothers, Charles and James Robinson, after having worked for David Bonner, built a stone building on the southwest corner of fourth and Main. They did wool carding there until 1848 when they moved to a larger water powered building across Paint Creek. Their first building later became apartments.

1837 – A frame building was built on Mirabeau and used as a schoolhouse. The old log schoolhouse at the burying grounds had served the community well. One former student said it was not unusual to have seventy-five students, ages five to twenty-one, all at one time.

1837 – David Bonner's carding mill was destroyed by fire. He built a new three-story stone building at the northeast corner of fifth and Main. It was the largest in the town and was considered out in the country, as the only building farther was a log cabin just across Fifth Street. He later sold the building to the Odd Fellows who use the third floor for meetings and rented the other floors.

1837 – Albert G. Franklin settled in Greenfield and established the Franklin House hotel.

1840 – apples were 20 cents a bushel, corn 25 cents a bushel, oats 15 cents. A load of wool was 93 cents, palm hat 25 cents, pug of tobacco 6 1/3 cents. A spelling book was 12 1/2 cents while a container of snuff for the ladies was 31 cents.

1840 – The first piano came to town with a German by the name of Tribbet. He worked in the tannery by day and taught music at night.

1840 – Nathaniel Pike started a hat shop where 297 Jefferson is today. He rented space to David Bonner who had a book and stationery store. Pike later bought out Bonner and moved up the street to the 300 block of Main. His son later sold the business to Harley Gossett.

1840 – The 1840 campaign for William Henry Harrison included a campaign song entitled "My Buckeye Cabin" written by Otway Curry, a native son of Greenfield.

1843 – Robert Buck brought a piano over the mountains in a wagon.

1843 – Dr. Alexander Dunlap and his brother, Dr. Milton Dunlap, operated on an ovarian tumor on Elizabeth Rose who lived on the Lyndon Good Hope Road. Anesthetic was a teaspoon of laudanum and a tablespoon of whisky. She later died of other complications. Dr. Alexander Dunlap later went on to perform the same operation successfully many times.

1843 – Dr. J. F. Wright described himself in the Hillsboro newspaper as being successful in "medicine and surgery and particularly of Midwifery." He did not believe in pills, instead using

the medicinal powers of certain herbs steeped in steam. He was known as the "steam doctor" He later set up a job printing business and gave Greenfield its first newspaper.

1841 – Greenfield became incorporated. It was described as having long rows of house, many with painted signs, and broad stone walks.

1841 – Dr. Milton Dunlap began a brick house on the site where the Harper House was later built.

1842 – A newspaper described Greenfield of having a population of about 1000.

1844 – Dr. John F. Wright started a newspaper called *Paint Valley Spectator*. It did not last long. Shortly after this, Strickland and Simmons began the *Buckeye Blade*. Early newspapers did not last long in Greenfield.

1845 – The town was divided into two districts with the students north of Main attending a school organized in rented rooms in the Odd Fellows building. There were "Select" schools during this time that were tuition schools.

1845 – A community meeting was held at the Baptist church to organize for the building of a seminary. Construction was begun on a site on South Washington in 1846. During the 1848-1849 term tuition for the eleven week was \$2.25 to \$5.25 with department of Natural Sciences lectures costing 12 to 15 cents each. Board was \$1.25 to \$150 per week. Courses included Latin, Greek and Hebrew while ladies could substitute the "ornamental branches" for the Latin and trigonometry. There were 180 students from up to fifty miles away with the first graduating class in 1849.

1846 – Dr. J. L. Wilson began his medical practice and was later joined by his brother, W. H. Wilson.

1848 – Greenfield volunteer fire department organized

1848 – boots were selling for \$3. a pair and better boots for \$5 a pair. Shoes were \$1.50 to \$3 a pair, while 10 dozen eggs were 40cents.

1849 – Jesse Harper left his tanning business on North Washington, purchased property on Main from Greenup Campbell and started a hotel.

Information from the session meetings of various churches showed that strict doctrine was enforced. Members were called up before the Session for many reasons. Punishment usually included the guilty had to admit wrong, confess sorrow and show repentance.

Women were chastised for excessive talking and gossiping. One man was accused of "swearing, cursing and stripping off to fight." Another man was accused of using the word "damn" but was acquitted when the witness admitted that he might have said "dong." "Over indulgence in spirituous liquors" was not tolerated.

One father called the schoolmaster up before the Session to accuse him of being prejudiced to his family and unmercifully flogging the son. The Session acquitted the schoolmaster and censured the father for “unseemly language.”

Samuel Strain was accused of traveling on the Sabbath during his trip to Indiana. He admitted traveling the first Sunday was wrong but explained the second by saying that he could not enjoy good Christian fellowship where he was staying so he traveled on.

Colonel Thomas Rogers was called to Session because as a magistrate candidate in a tied election, he agreed to decide the election by a flip of the coin.

Bibliography

A Greene Countrie Towne, Harris, Frank Raymond, Greenfield Printing and Publishing Company, 1954

Notebooks of Lillian Gossett at the Greenfield Branch Library and the First Presbyterian Church

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