

David Bonner

David Bonner was born in Juniata County, Pennsylvania in 1776. David was an expert wool carder, cotton spinner, farmer, millwright, and engineer. He moved to Chillicothe, Ohio in 1798.

He then moved to Greenfield where he and his wife were among the earliest permanent settlers. David began negotiating in land at an early date and succeeded in putting over one of the largest land deals ever to take place in Greenfield. In 1813 he purchased 50 inlots in the eastern section for \$2.00 a lot. Within four years he sold four of the lots for \$750. For that era it was a tremendous land deal.

David acquired the lot next to Harper Hotel where he erected a carding mill. The farmers around Greenfield brought wool here to be carded, saving a somewhat longer trip to Chillicothe. The machinery was run by a horizontal treadmill run by horses and oxen.

In 1834 in Greenfield, Ohio, David Bonner replaced the horse and ox drawn power with the first steam engine known in the area. This factory was completely destroyed by fire in the summer of 1837.

He immediately started construction of a new three story stone building on the northeast corner of Fifth and Jefferson (later known as the Odd Fellows building). He added a pair of millstones to grind corn and burrs to make wheat flour.

Two years after this he also constructed a beautiful manor house on Jefferson Street, between Fourth and Fifth. He later gave up the mill and opened a bookstore around 1840 in a new brick building at 297 Jefferson Street.

David died on 31 March 1853 at Greenfield, Highland Co., OH. His body was interred at Greenfield, Highland Co., OH, at Old Burying Ground.

