

## Timeline of Greenfield Events 1850 - 1870

1850's – John Freshour Waddell moved to Greenfield and established a large warehouse and elevator for buying and selling grain. Later he engaged in the hardware business.

1852 – Dr. Milton Dunlap started construction of a two-story brick home on the northeast corner of South Washington Street and Pine Street. It was sold in 1856 to John Hyer.

1852 – May 2 – Groundbreaking ceremonies for the Belpre and Cincinnati Railroad took place in Greenfield. There were two possible routes for the tracks, one through Greenfield and one through Hillsboro. Greenfield won the competition and was chosen for the groundbreaking because of the strong support the community.

1852 – James M. Murray established a funeral home on the southeast corner of Fourth and Main Streets.

1852 – In a letter printed in the June 11 edition of the Greenfield Republican, Harriet Pomeroy presented the case for the wearing of bloomers or pants as opposed to wearing “two to four pounds of calico around the waist.”

1854 – The first passenger train from Chillicothe stopped in Greenfield on September 23. In October the line to Blanchester was opened.

1854 – William Page McClain settled in Greenfield and entered the mercantile business later opening a saddlery shop on Washington Street. Three children were born to him and his wife, Edward, Arthur and Nellie.

1854 – G. I. Rucker, from Cincinnati, bought 85 acres in Ross County and 13 acres in Highland County. Rucker Quarries were begun. At one time he also owned and edited the Greenfield Republican and for a few years, owned a planing mill and flourmill.

1854 – The Dan Rice Circus visited the town. The newspaper editor called it a bogus circus.

1854 – Reverend John B. O'Donaghue visited Greenfield and celebrated the first Catholic mass. He began visiting once a month. Work was begun on a stone church on South Second Street in 1856 and dedicated in 1858. This building still stands and was once part of the Collins Meat Packing plant.

1854 – The Greenfield Schools were reorganized and opened under the new plan in September. The old Seminary on South Washington was bought and remodeled. The curriculum was revised and a professional superintendent was hired. By 1856 there were 5 classes with 302 pupils. Part time teachers were paid \$12.50 per month with full time paid \$25.00.

1855 – Younger men who were dissatisfied with the way the “Old Fogies” were running the town seized control in the election of 1855. They became known as the Shanghai Council.

1856 – Samuel Crothers died at his son's home in Oswego, Illinois.

1856 – The Tri-County Teachers Association was formed at a meeting held November 1. Horace Mann lectured at a teacher's institute held in Greenfield a year later.

1857 – The German Methodist congregation was formed and met in an old abandoned schoolhouse on Mirabeau.

1858 – An article in the Greenfield Republican described a "Big Game Hunt" that took place between two teams. Over 250 squirrels and 100 quail were killed. A great feast followed the hunt with 70 people taking part.

1858 – On July 4 a large feast was held at Davis Grove west of town on West Main Street. Kinkead's Sax Horn Band was present. A speech given by young Henry L. Dickey was described as a real "humdinger". The purpose of the feast was to organize the Greenfield Agricultural Society. The first fair was held in October of the same year. By the 1859 fair, cattle and horse stalls, an exhibition hall, dining hall and a 1/3-mile track had been constructed.

1859 – A Great picnic was held in Douglas Park north of town. There were 8 brass bands including Kinkead's Sax Horn Band and the Highland Horn Band from Rainsboro who won the Best of Show award. Over three thousand people attended with many of them arriving by train. There were all kinds of amusements for the participants. Douglas Park later became Chautauqua Park.

1859 – Judge Alfred Dickey moved to Greenfield and built on South Street at Seventh Street.

1859 – Daniel Hull started the construction of a home on South Street between Fifth and Sixth Streets. It was intended as a roadhouse. Before completion He sold it to Judge John Eckman who owned it for over 40 years. It eventually became the original Greenfield Hospital.

1859 – A Masonic Lodge was chartered on May 28. The IOOF had been organized in Greenfield in 1847.

1860 – On July 19, thirty people got off the midnight train armed with stones and implements and battered doors of saloons in the area around the depot. Liquor was poured into the gutters. The people reboarded the train and said Chillicothe and Frankfort were next.

1860 – The Methodists build the two-story brick church on the southeast corner of Mirabeau and Second Street. They moved from their old 1833 stone building on East Mirabeau, just a half block away.

1860 – Samuel Heidingsfeld's advertisement in the newspaper stated that he intended to make his store the leading clothing house in Greenfield.

1860 – The citizens approved a tax levy on April 2 to build a two-story brick town hall building. It was never build as the Civil War intervened.

1860 – The first Republican rally for Lincoln in Greenfield was held in June. In the fall election, Lincoln won Greenfield by a large majority.

1862 – *Maid of Shiloh Field*, a play by Henry L. Dickey, was presented in the old stone Methodist Episcopal church on east Mirabeau Street. The play ended with a patriotic tableau that included the Goddess of Liberty and George Washington.

1863 – Greenfield residents got the news of Morgan's Raid in Ohio and went on alert. Valuables were hidden and preparations for defense were made. The closest Morgan got to Greenfield was Adams County.

1864 – Greenfield council accepted plans for a new building to include a jail and office space. It was built where the present Midway Avenue meets Washington Street.

1864 – On February 14 a westbound train crashed on the trestle over Lees Creek. A support to the trestle had been weakened by floodwaters. Twelve people died and twelve were seriously injured. One of the dead was Tom McElroy who was carrying \$85,000 to Cincinnati to pay for substitutes for men who were drafted into the army but bought their way out of serving.

1864 – Young William Blackburn was killed by a stray bullet while walking in front of the Hern and Newbeck Saloon. Washington Street had many saloons and dives between Second Street and Washington. Many citizens were becoming upset with public drunkenness, fights, wife beatings and sale of liquor to minors.

1865 – The Free Soil Presbyterian Church building was sold to the African Methodist Episcopal congregation. The anti-slavery Free Soil Presbyterian congregation had been organized in 1848 by Reverend A. L. Rankin and the church built in 1849. The AME later renamed it the Shorter Chapel.

1865 – G. W. Sprung purchased the Greenfield Republican which was later renamed the Highland Chief and enlarged. Sprung's son, Rankin, was put in charge as editor. The father and son combination edited the paper for 35 years.

1865 – The Women's Crusade took place in Greenfield. A group of women met in the African Methodist Episcopal church on July 10. The ladies decided their plan of action and warned Mayor John Eckman who did not take their threat seriously. The women marched through town, confiscating the liquor and beer and dumping it into the streets. A suit brought against the ladies was brought to trial in the Highland County Common Pleas court in Hillsboro in January 1867. The ladies were found guilty. The case eventually ended with nominal sums being paid for the liquor.

1865 – The first pool table was brought to Greenfield by L. A. Allen, editor of the National Union newspaper.

1866 – Elder J. Powell and a group of colored citizens organized a Baptist congregation and met north of town until 1874 when they built the Shiloh Baptist Church on Lafayette between Fourth and Fifth streets.

1867 – The Old Seceders Church was sold by the United Presbyterians to the school board who remodeled it to hold two schoolrooms. The Old Seminary building was becoming inadequate for the number of students. Other buildings and rooms throughout town were eventually rented to house classes.

1867 – The school board bought a lot on North Street near Fifth Street and built a two-story frame schoolhouse for the colored citizens. It was used until 1888 when segregation ended in Greenfield.

1868 – C. W. Cole, Superintendent, announced that all students must earn three merit cards per month for “proficiency in studies and perfection in deportment.” One day, Cole made a surprise visit to the two-room schoolhouse and asked to see the students’ merit cards. Each girl was quick to show her three cards. Many boys felt the sting of the rod that day.

#### Bibliography:

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