

# Greenfield History at A Glance

## GREENFIELD THROUGH THE YEARS

Compiled by Rev. Geo. A. W. Vogel

- 1833 Iowa opened for settlement.
- 1838 Iowa Territory established in Burlington.
- 1846 Iowa becomes the 29th state of the Union.  
Mormon trek through Iowa begins, eventually going through southern part of Adair County.
- 1849 Thomas Johnson, first settler arrives, followed by William McDonald in what is now Adair County.
- 1850 Another new settler, James R. Campbell arrives.
- 1851 Adair County organized.
- 1854 First settlers, Hillin and Hodgson, locate on site now the location of Greenfield.
- 1855 County Seat established in Summerset (now Fontanelle).
- 1856 First Courthouse built.  
Town of Greenfield laid out by Milton C. Munger.
- 1857 First building. Stage Coach Station, erected in Greenfield.
- 1858 First Methodist minister, Rev. J. M. Kust, preaches here.
- 1859 Greenfield Township established.  
First general store opened.  
First school held.
- 1860 Petition to locate County Seat in Greenfield shelved.
- 1861 Civil War breaks out. Eight-eight from here enlist. 20 never return.  
First public school built.
- 1865 Election defeats petition to locate County Seat in Greenfield.
- 1866 Efforts made to get railroad.
- 1867 Rock Island Railroad reaches north line of county.
- 1869 Petition to locate County Seat in Greenfield again defeated.
- 1874 Adair County voters locate County Seat in Greenfield. Greenfield folks get overanxious, haul records and furniture from Fontanelle to Greenfield. Forced to return them.  
Baptist Church organized.  
Presbyterian Church organized.
- 1875 Supreme Court rules Greenfield legal County Seat. First newspaper, Greenfield Transcript, started. Adair County Bank opens.  
Town of Greenfield becomes incorporated.
- 1877 Greenfield Independent School District created.  
South Ward School built.  
First grist mill begins operation.
- 1878 Father Foley conducts first Roman Catholic Mass. Odd Fellows and Masons organize.
- 1879 Burlington Railroad reaches Greenfield.  
First grain elevator built.
- 1880 Citizens Bank chartered.
- 1883 First creamery established.  
North Ward school built.  
First major fire destroys southeast quarter-block of square, including Courthouse.
- 1887 Adair County Mutual Insurance Association formed.
- 1889 Adair County Free Press founded by E. J. Sidey.
- 1890 First electric lights in town.
- 1891 Present Courthouse built.  
Adair County Fair Association organized.
- 1896 Public Library proposed—to no avail.  
Telephone service begins here.
- 1898 Spanish-American War. Thirty enlistments in Adair County, two die.
- 1900 Present creamery organized.
- 1903 Adair County Medical Association organized.
- 1906 New High School built (present grade school building). Roman Catholic congregation established and church built.  
Fire levels half-block including Heaton livery barn east of square.
- 1908 Chautauqua comes to Greenfield.
- 1909 First waterworks. Standpipe.
- 1911 Town square paved and hitching chain removed.
- 1912 One mile of Greenfield streets paved.
- 1912 First Lutheran Congregation organized by Rev. Frederick Starke.
- 1913 Greenfield Savings Bank chartered.  
Municipal Light Plant begins supplying electricity to Fontanelle.
- 1915 Public Library established.
- 1916 Public Library building erected.
- 1917 World War I breaks out. Adair County furnishes 70 men, 30 were killed.
- 1918 Lloyd Head, first war casualty from Adair County.
- 1919 "Lloyd Head Post" of American Legion organized.
- 1920 Greenfield businessmen build hotel at cost of \$60,000.
- 1921 First resident Lutheran pastor, Rev. Frederick Starke.
- 1923 Greenfield Golf Club organized.
- 1925 New High School building erected at cost of \$110,000.
- 1926 Volunteer Fire Department organized and fire truck acquired.  
Ku Klux Klan dedicate Klavern (now site of hospital).
- 1927 Immanuel Lutheran Church built.
- 1929 Chautauqua's last stand, after 22 years.  
City's deep well finished (deepest in state).
- 1930 Highway 92 (then No. 2) paved through Greenfield.
- 1931 Fairgrounds football field equipped with lights.  
Natural gas franchise voted.
- 1934 Severe drought thermometer reaches 113 degrees.
- 1935 Grand River Watershed Project begun with support from Service Club.
- 1936 Severe winter—25 below zero average during February. Lake Nodaway constructed.
- 1937 Athletic field acquired and equipped with lights.
- 1938 New modern fire truck acquired.
- 1939 First REA pole set at southwest edge of Greenfield.
- 1940 Soil Conservation District organized (fourth in state). Country Club erects clubhouse.  
New light plant and city hall completed.
- 1941 First Pan American Day attracts international attention to Greenfield.  
Municipal Swimming Pool constructed.  
Highway 25 blacktopped south.  
World War II breaks out at Pearl Harbor December 7. Adair County furnishes 1,380 soldiers, 44 gave their lives.
- 1942 Dean Endres, first boy from Adair County to die in the war.
- 1943 Seventh Day Adventist Church built.
- 1945 Airport bond issue defeated.
- 1946 Greenfield school acquires first two buses.
- 1948 Rural fire truck added to fire-fighting facilities.
- 1950 Adair County Memorial Hospital located here.
- 1951 New REA building dedicated.
- 1953 Sixty blocks of pavement added to city streets.
- 1955 Election carries to enlarge Greenfield School District.
- 1956 Highway 25 paved to U. S. Highway 6.  
Festival of "56". Second century begins.