

DAYS IN HISTORY

1769, February 4, Lewis Wernwag, born Altenburg, Wittenberg, Germany, designs Cheat River Covered Bridge.

1778, April 11, Raiding Indians attack cabins of Hugh and William Morgan along Cheat River.

1784, October 18, Hezekiah Frazee obtains a deed from Patrick Henry, Esq. Governor of Virginia for 441 acres of land along Cheat River.

1793, November 22, Birth of David Wonderly, an early settler and land holder.

September 6, 1800 Hezekiah Frazee deeds his 441 acres to James Goff.

1825 David Wonderly obtains the 441 acres from Salathiel Goff, a descendant of James Goff.

1827 Town is first plotted.

1831 A. A. Perry builds River House which stood for over 100 years.

1831, March 17, James Hollis marries Eliza Paschall.

1831, Riverhouse built in by J.J. Perry.

1833, April 19, Construction of Northwestern Turnpike authorized by Virginia General Assembly.

1836 National Highway built through Preston County, three miles south of Rowlesburg.

1836 Covered bridge built.

1847 Mr. James Rowles, Chief Engineer of the B & O R. R. opens office here. Town named for him.

1849 First public school started.

1850 First store in town operated by Mrs. Offut

1850 First doctor in Rowlesburg, Dr. Owens.

1850 First hotel run by Postmaster John Hooton as Col. Hooton Tavern Stand, later Commercial House, then Commercial Hotel, and Howard Hotel.

1851 First school opened in the building now owned by the Nassif family.

1852, December 25, The first train crosses the Railroad Overhead Bridge located on Saltlick Road on Christmas Day.

1852 Bridge built across Cheat River by B&O.

1852 Riverview Cemetery opens.

1852, January 15, Sarah Hollis, daughter of James and Eliza Hollis, marries James S. Knotts.

1852, April 5, Charles M. Bishop is appointed Rowlesburg Postmaster.

1853, Easter Sunday, Terrible train wreck near Rowlesburg in which 7 persons died and 25 seriously injured.

1855, July 11, First Flood known visits the community washing away the Brakley tannery.

1858, February 27, Rowlesburg is incorporated on

1858, February 27, The Charter is created by a number of individuals. A plat book shows the original owners. David Wonderly makes plan for the town.

1858, Saturday in April, The Act of the General Assembly gives David Wonderly, Jr., Russell Finnel, H.H. Wheeler, T.T. Hebb and William Hall authorization to

hold the first election the first Virginia General Assembly authorized an election be held.

1858, March 4, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Aerie Lodge No. 17, chartered.

1863 Railroad telegraph service brought here.

1863, April 26, Confederate raiders led by General William E. Jones invade Preston County. Worshippers alerted of possible raid on Rowlesburg in present Nassif Building. The Jones army of 2000 men tore up one side of the covered bridge. Traffic continued on the other side of the bridge for the next two years.

1863, September 23, WV Legislature decrees that the Tray Run Viaduct be presented on the reverse side of the state seal.

1867 St Philomena Church constructed.

1867, April 30, Deed to the Old Rowlesburg Church Property, now present Nassif building, is granted to Rowlesburg Methodist Church.

1867, April 30, David Wonderly deeds property for Methodist Episcopal Church.

1868, January 15, Jock Menefee, future athlete, is born in Rowlesburg.

1868 Catholic school founded. Teacher Michael Hoefer assisted by Rev. Joesph Mever.

1870, February 27, David Wonderly dies. He was married to Nancy Laman, had seven children and was buried in Riverview Cemetery. His daughter, who drowned, was the first person to be buried in Riverview.

1870, July 1, First M. E. Church completed.

1872, March 24, A fireman and engineer are killed on Engine No. 143 in Rowlesburg in a boiler explosion.

1872, June 1, The Reno School Board buys land for Rowlesburg School from Adam H. Bowman.

1873, December 8, Colonel Charles G. Hooten dies, and is buried in Riverview Cemetery.

1875 Catholic school closed.

1877, October 19, Brig. General Carleton Custer Pierce is born.

1878 First baseball team organized and known as The Deltas.

1881, May 23, Lumber mill destroyed by fire. First Methodist Protestant

1882, August 15, Church dedicated.

1883, May 30, Wilson and Hooton Addition Laid Out.

1884, March 20, Doctor Milton Proudfoot of Rowlesburg began his medical practice.

November 15, 1884 First M. E. parsonage built.

1887, July 18, Last load of stone taken to Tray Run Bridge.

1888, July 10, 100 year flood in Rowlesburg. Many homes along the river were washed down river.

1890, September 1, Anetta Nowell is born in Shady Side, Maryland.

1890 First telephone company organized here with lines

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run to Terra Alta, Amboy, and Aurora.

1891 Rowlesburg largest community in the county.

1892, August 17, Jock Menefee was twenty four years of age when he broke into the big leagues and played for the Pittsburg Pirates, New York Giants, the Chicago Cubs, and other clubs.

1893, December 11 , Ellen Custer Pierce Verdin, aunt of General George Custer, buried in Riverview Cemetery.

1893 Knights of Pythias Lodge formed.

1899 First volunteer firemen organized and were known as the Bucket Brigade. Newt Dawson was first fire chief.

1900 Buckhorn Portland Cement established in Manheim

1900, July 14, Rachel Hostetter, daughter of John Albert and Margaret Knotts Hostetter, was born in the house that Agnes Fraley lived in at the current location of the Masonic Temple. The Fraley house was moved to the upper end of Commerce Street at the bottom of what is now known as Johnny Jumpup. At that time and before, Albert and Margaret were owners of the Riverhouse

1901 Davis and Proudfoot Addition Laid Out.

1902, August 30, Bishop & Brown Addition Laid Out.

1903 First shipment of cement leaves Manheim.

1905 Moore Store opens

1907 M&K Railroad reaches Rowlesburg.

1908 Electric lights turned on in Rowlesburg.

1908, April 30, The entire block of Main Street is destroyed by fire including a store building owned by Robert S. Hollis.

1909 Water plant installed.

1909 Buckhorn Portland Cement owned by Motts family sold to Alpha Portland Cement

1911, February 16, New town jail built.

1911 Natural gas comes to Rowlesburg.

1912 Water system completed in Rowlesburg.

1912 New school built.

1912, September 3, People's National Bank established in Rowlesburg.

1914 First students graduated from high school two year course.

1915, June 20, Methodist Episcopal Sunday school choir photograph take in front of RHS School Building. A large group of singers are dressed in their Sunday best.

1915, June 24, Anetta Nowell marries Doctor Foster Cannon Howard and soon after moved to Rowlesburg.

1915, October 17, Governor William Hatfield addresses citizens of Rowlesburg.

1915, December 16, The citizens of Rowlesburg dedicate the Methodist Episcopal Church.

1916 First three students graduated from four year course.

1918, August 20, Science wizards, Henry Ford, Thomas A. Edison, Harvey Firestone, H.S. Firestone,

Jr., John Burroughs, R.J. DeLoach, pass through Rowlesburg and camped out that evening on Horseshoe Run.

1919, August 15, Methodist Protestant Church purchases lot for parsonage.

1921, September, Typing, economics, and sociology added to high school curriculum.

1921, Land for park given by Randolph and Ellen McVicker.

1921, April 18, N. Joseph & Son established.

1923 First PTA organized.

1923 Mrs. Lee Sanders begins correspondence work for area newspapers.

1923 Rowlesburg Civic Club, sponsor for Riverview Cemetery, organized.

1923, April 15, New Methodist Protestant Church dedicated.

1923, June 1, Burke Garage opens.

1924, Glover's Drug Store opens, Douglas Glover born in Hutton, Maryland 1889-1970 owner

1924, September Geology and literary work courses added to high school curriculum.

1924 First football team at RHS.

1925 Mrs. Annette Howard becomes owner of the Howard Hotel.

1925 Masonic Lodge organized.

1925 Rowlesburg Gymnasium/auditorium/5 classrooms added to school.

1926 Alpha Portland Cement Club House housed single men only. School was held in club house until school was built in 1926 in Manheim

1926 Alpha Cement Co. builds new schoolhouse in Manheim.

1926, February 23, Foster Lipscomb, a descendant of President George Washington, is born on the second story of the Nassif building. Foster's father worked on the railroad at the time. Later on Foster was in the construction business, worked on the saw mill, and was a member of the local labor union for 40 years.

1927 Sewage systems become available.

1927 First motor fire truck was obtained.

1928 Governor William Conley dedicates Manheim's industrial safety monument.

1929, August 19, Joseph and Bertha Nassif are celebrated for three days after their August 16 wedding in Rowlesburg. Mayor John Felty addressed the couple in front of N. Joseph & Son. Mr. Joseph had an open house

and served soft drinks, sandwiches, candy, pop, cake. Dick Baumgardner and others paraded Joe and Bertha in a horse and buggy and threatened to put them in the river.

1931, March 1, Nettie Ford Burke, son, Joseph William, and Nelson Bever pose for photograph in front of Burke's garage, operated by Joseph Burke, Sr. for 60

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years, 1923-1983.

1932, January 1 5, First County recorded overtime basketball game played by Rowlesburg and Tunnelton.

1932 Town Hall built.

1934, April 1 5, The Veterans' of Foreign Wars Cannon Hill Post 3008 is chartered.

1937, June 29, Dr. & Mrs. Milton Proudfoot Golden Wedding Anniversary. Hammond electric organ presented to M. E. Church.

1938, July Dial phones come to Rowlesburg.

1939, September 1 5, The Sanders family business begins when Ray K. Sanders purchased a tract of land south of Etam containing 800 plus acres for \$1.00 per acre. It was first used for manufacture of mine crops. Ray's brother joined Oscar in this venture. Mike Calhoun moved a saw mill to the property, and began contract sawing for the Sanders Brothers for a year or less. Eventually, Ray purchased his own sawmill.

1940 Census shows Rowlesburg population at 1,452.

1944, October 1 , Honor Roll dedicated.

1945, July 28, The Rowlesburg Lion's Club is instituted at a Charter Night Banquet in Christ Methodist Church.

1945, September 1, Dallas & Virginia Wolfe purchase Eshelman Bar and open Wolfe's Motel. All was washed away in flood of 1985.

1946, October 9, Mary Milslagle crowned Queen Ceres V.

1947, February 12, Trinity M. E. Church and St. Paul's M. P. Church unite to form Christ Methodist Church.

1949 - 1960 Hathway Shoe Repair Shop on Church Street owned by Glen Hathaway.

1951, March, Rowlesburg High School is Preston County Basketball League Champion.

1952, April 18, The VFW Ladies Auxiliary is reinstated with 32 members following the Korean War.

1954, October Large part of town flooded.

1954 Business & Professional Women's Club organized.

1956 New modern fire truck purchased.

1956, September 27, Judy Kimble crowned Queen Ceres XV.

1957, February 28, John Joseph passes away after serving as owner of the John Restaurant.

1958, February 3, Schools are closed in Preston and 21 counties due to a first big snow.

1958, February 27. Centennial year of incorporation of the town of Rowlesburg.

1958, July 1, Alpha-Portland Cement Co. begins process to move to Frederick, Maryland.

1959 Alpha Portland Cement Closes in Manheim.

1959 The quarry in Manheim known as Alpha Portland Cement has reached the dimensions of 2 miles deep and 30 feet high.

1963 First "OxRoast" held in the Rowlesburg Community Park

1964, May 23, The Cheat River Covered Bridge is ruined by fire at Cheat Bridge. Later, some of the timber pieces were made into plaques and sold. One big timber at least 1 6' x 1 2', was rescued, sawed in half and used as part of the arched roof of the old sun deck in the Rowlesburg Park.

1964, August 26, Burke Funeral Home opens.

1965, September 22, Diana Parker crowned Queen Ceres XXIV.

1967 Mrs. Lee Sanders ends 44 years newspaper correspondence work when she leaves Rowlesburg.

1967 Rowlesburg Home & Appliance moves from the old Moore Building to the old Glover Drug store.

1968, September 27, Dedication of the Etam Earth Station. Governor Hulett Smith spoke via telephone to the Governor of Puerto Rico who opened an earth station in Puerto Rico on the same day.

1970, July 7, Mrs. Della Joseph passes away after serving as partner in the John Restaurant.

1974, September 26, Janet Wolford crowned Queen Ceres XXXIII.

1975, August 22, Mrs. Annetta Howard, 85 year old owner of the New Howard Hotel and dining room, grants interview to Golden Seal where she tells about her life.

1978 Harmon Construction Green Briar Agregrates purchase Alpha Cement Properties

1980, September 24, Victoria Burns crowned Queen Ceres XXXIX.

1981, September 23, Paula Sisler crowned Queen Ceres XL.

1984 Rowlesburg Home and Appliance closes.

1984 Whistle Stop Restaurant is opened by Michael Britner and his wife.

1985 November Flood wipes out school and several homes plus the trailer park along the river.

1985, November 5, The flood of 1985 is the worst in 20th century history.

1985 Senator Ted Kennedy held a meeting at St. Philomena's following the flood.

1986 Senior Class Rowlesburg High School graduates from front steps of building

1987 Last Rowlesburg High School Senior class graduates from the Rowlesburg Community Park.

1987, July 26, Rowlesburg Baptist Church is established.

1987 Appalachian Wildwater buys old Rowlesburg High School Building.

1990, April 25, Si Faris passes away after serving the public in the Faris Restaurant since 1947.

1994, June 4, Freida Fans passes after working as a partner since 1947 in the Faris Restaurant.

1995 Rowlesburg Area Historical Society forms.

1996, May 22, St. Philomena closes after having been

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in existence since 1867. George Nassif composes "The Last Ringing of the Bell" a poem in tribute.

1997, May 15, George Herold Weaver, maintenance supervisor at the M. K. Shop where he worked on repairs for Steam Engines and Diesels, passes away.

1998 Martin Marrietta takes over Green Brier Aggregates in Manheim.

2002 Sander's Mill Closed

2002 Rowlesburg Revitalization Committee Inc. is organized

2005, January 9, Rowlesburg featured in Dominion Post in Our Town series.

2005, April 15, Dale Martin, former Rowlesburg area citizen, is inducted into the Academy of Distinguished Alumni of Mechanical Engineering and Engineering Mechanics.

2005, May, R.A.H.S. takes first tours to Canon Hill.

2005, November 11, Greatest Generation Museum opens Jef Verswyvel and Maggie DeWeirdt

2005, October 7. The Archives and History Commission of the state of West Virginia accepts the nomination of the Downtown Rowlesburg Historic District to be placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

2005, November 30, The Downtown Rowlesburg Historic District is placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

2006 June First WWII Reinactment sponsored by The Greatest Generation Museum.

2006. September 25, George Nassif book is published: Homeward Bound: Road to My Cheat River Valley. Cheat River Valley Publishing Company. Editor and publisher Anna Nassif.

2007, March 10, Phone Bandits for Life Team sponsors Basket Bingo in the Ambulance Building.

2007, April 28. World War II Women honored as part of WWII Exhibit.

2007, April 28, 100th Celebration of Tray Run Viaduct.

2007, April 28, Presentation by Tim Weaver of artistic rendering of Tray Run Bridge by Jeff Verswyvel for Centennial Birthday Celebration of Tray Run Bridge on display at the Railroad Depot Museum.

2007, May 11, A courtyard Town Clock is installed in the Main Street Garden on Buffalo Street.

2007, June 30, WWII Living History reenactments, socializing, ziti dinners served by PTO, and dance in the old RHS gymnasium with Maestros of Swing.

2007, July 1, VFW Post 3008 serves breakfast on WWII event weekend with area politicians in attendance followed by a wreath laying ceremony at the WWII Monument.

2007, September 5, Rowlesburg Revitalization Committee, Inc. meets. Notes its five year anniversary.

2007 Greer Assc. Take over from Martin Marrietta in Manheim.

2008 January Greer Assc. As Cheat River Limestone

becomes new plant at Manheim with Joseph Dean as Superintendent.

by Anna R. Nassif and Catherine C. Burke

FUTURES DATES IN ROWLESBURG

March 1, 2008 150 Gala Birthday Dinner

May 3-4, 2008 150 History in Review/Old Time Hoe-Down

May 4, 2008 May Day

May 23-24-25, 2008 150 River City Festival

June 28-29, 2008 WWII Living History Weekend

August 30, 2008 Railroad Day

August 31, 2008 Pedal Day

September 1, 2008 Ox Roast

October 12, 2008 150 Chestnut Festival

December 13, 2008 150 Christmas in the Park.

December 31, 2008 150 Wrap-Up and Burial of Sesquicentennial Documents

From Mrs. Lee Sanders Archives (1949)

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ROWLESBURG, W. Va., March 13
--A new stop light, the first to be installed in Rowlesburg, has been placed at the corner of Main and Buffalo streets. It is the three-light variety, with amber light for pedestrians, and the red and green light for cars and other vehicles, and works on a 45`second cycle. This type of light was selected by the town authorities due to the fact that both streets are two-way streets, and that approximately 480 school children pass that crossing every school day.