

Historic & Memorial Timeline

Which Will Also Include:

Social Clubs - Fun Facts - Springfield Firsts - Amazing Stories

General Information - Helpful Photographs - City Mayors

Significant Information on the Early School System

Many Of The Entries Are Not Specific To Springfield, i.e. Telephones, But Will Have A Very Direct Effect On The City



The Population of Springfield Continues To Grow Over It's Many Years

1805 - 2,767 1810 - 2,832 1817 - 3,000 1820 - 3,970 1830 - 6,784 1840 - 10,985

1850 - 11,330 1852 - 12,489 1861 - 15,200 1885 - 37,575 1895 - 51,512

1900 - 62,059 1905 - 73,484 1910 - 88,926 1920 - 129,614 1930 - 149,900 1940 - 149,554

1950 - 162,399 1960 - 174,463 1970 - 163,905 1990 - 156,964 2000 - 151,895

2005 - 152,255 2010 - 153,570 2015 - 154,620 2020 - 152,646 2025 - 152,600

This Springfield Timeline was compiled over a period of 12 years by *Paul J. Meagher* with the assistance of **Jim Boone**.

***** The Following Information Is From Sources We Believe To Be Accurate.

Note: There are approx. 1,800 dated entries, not counting the block box entries at the very end. We have gone over all of these entries at least 3 times to try and make sure they are accurate, but total accuracy certainly cannot be guaranteed, so please be kind in your judgements.

1590 **William Pynchon** is born in England.

1635 **Massachusetts Bay Colony** commissions a scouting expedition, led by John Cable and John Woodcock to find the Conn. River Valleys most suitable site for both agriculture and trading. It concluded that the area where the Agawam (Westfield) River met the Connecticut River would meet their needs.

1636 Springfield was established as "**Agawam Plantation**" during the administration of the Connecticut Colony.

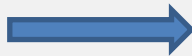
1636 Springfield is founded on land purchased by William Pynchon, Henry Smith and John Burr, it was **then known as Agawam**.

1636 **Hassocky Marsh** is a remnant of an older Connecticut River Channel.

1636 The **typical lot size** for the earliest Springfield settlers was 4 acres. Each lot would have direct access to the Connecticut River.

1636 May 25: Springfield has its **first recorded town meeting**.

1636 William Pynchon **paid Native Americans** with 20 coats, 18 hoes and knives along with 18 fathoms of wampum, for land from Enfield, East Longmeadow, Longmeadow and on up to the Chicopee R. Early Springfield residents going over the new deed that William Pynchon has made with the Agawam Native tribe.



1636 The town's Main Street **followed the path** of the Town's Brook until it broke off east as the Garden Brook, or continued on before reaching the Connecticut River as the Plain Brook.

1637 Rev. George Moxon begins service as **Springfield's First Minister**. He has a house built for him, while his starting salary is forty pounds sterling.

1638 William Pynchon is appointed the **First Magistrate of Springfield**.

1640 The **first marriage** is recorded in Springfield. Elizur Holyoke and Mary Pynchon, who is Williams daughter, are wed.

1640 By a vote of the town, the name of **Agawam was changed to Springfield**.

1640 **First accusation** of witchcraft in the New World (Mary and Hugh Parsons).

c1640 Deacon **Samuel Chapin arrives** in Springfield.

1641 Springfield is **incorporated as a town** on June 2nd.

1641 **First meat packer** (exporting barrels of salt pork) - William Pynchon.

1643 March: **Springfield's settlers vote** to build a bridge over the Mill River.

1644 Springfield's **First Board of Selectman** takes office for terms lasting two years. The first board members were, Henry Smith, Thomas Cooper, Henry Burt and Richard and Samuel Chapin.

1645 The **First Meeting House** for church services outside of Boston is built in Springfield just east of the current location of First Church in Court Square. This is at the corners of Main and Elm Street.

1645 It was **decided that Elm Street**, which was on the south side of Court Square, would be 16 feet wide. Elm Street was also called "the lane to the middle landing" or "lane to the training place".

1645 Springfield experiences America's **first accusation of witchcraft** when Mary Parson's accuses

Widow Marshfield of Windsor of witchcraft. It resulted in Mary Parson being found guilty of slander. The famous Salem witch trials would occur 45 years later.

1646 September: Miles Morgan and George Colton set up Francis Ball to be the **towns first blacksmith**.

1647 The **Massachusetts General Court** adds the areas of Westfield, West Springfield, Agawam, Chicopee, Holyoke, Wilbraham, Hampden, Ludlow, Longmeadow, Southwick, Suffield, Somers and Enfield to the territories of Spfld.

1648 March: **part of Springfield** is annexed to create Westfield from the Woronoko area of Springfield.

1648 State Street at this time is referred to as either **Stone Pit Road or the Middle Causeway**.

It was also a corduroy road that used logs placed up the hill for traction.

1648 A **ledge of sandstone** was found near the area that would become Benton Street.

This sandstone would be used to construct building foundations.

1648 Main Street would be extended south past what would become York Street where it would turn west to the Connecticut River. This area was called the **"lower causway"**.

1648 William Pynchon's **trading house** would be constructed at the bottom of Longhill Street.

1649 Springfield is caught up in the increasing **witchcraft hysteria** of the era.

1651 **Mary Parsons is tried and acquitted** of charges that she bewitched the Rev. Moxon's two daughters. She was later charged and convicted in the death of her young son, Joshua. Too sick to be hanged on the scheduled day, Mary was found dead in her cell the next day.

1651 **William Pynchon** is relieved of his position as magistrate after angering the General Court. Accused of heresy, he returns to England shortly after.

1651 The first work to ever be officially **"Banned in Boston"** is William Pynchon's "The Meritorious Price of Redemption."

1651 The Sixteen Acres area is **established from a royal land grant** given to farmers Thomas Rowland, John and Thomas Stebbins and Francis Pepper.

1652 **William Pynchon returns to England** after incurring the displeasure of the General Court.

1654 Trade with Native people involved Native Pelts that were traded for wampum, cloth and metal devices (i.e. knives, hatchets, shovels and the like). In 1654 the colonists received 3,723 pelts, but just 10 years later, the pelt count had dropped to 191.

1655 John Pynchon, William's son, **launches America's first cattle drive** from Spfld to Boston along old Bay Path Road.

1659 Jan. 27: Springfield forms its **"Police Department"**.

1659 Rev. Peletiah Glover becomes **Spfld's second minister**. Glover served until his passing in 1692.

c1660 The **Pynchon House, also known as "The Fort"** is constructed with brick from Northampton.

The two foot thick walls built on the west side of Main Street, will provide needed safety for the area settlers being harrassed by the Native Americans. This house served as a residence for the Pynchon family for over 170 years before finally being razed around 1831.

c1660



Nathaniel Ely Tavern builds his once famous "House of Entertaynment" at the southwest corner of Dwight and Sanford Streets. During the Revolutionary War it was a noted resort for the officers and soldiers of the Continental Army. It was to survive well into the 1800's, at which time it was serving as a laundry as can be seen on the sign over the front door.

- 1660 **Quince Smith**, a newcomer to the town, **is ordered to leave**. Although Springfield was careful to whom it admitted, it appears that Mr. Smith's general conduct was the reason for his dismissal.
- 1662 **Hampshire County** is established with Springfield being selected as the county's shire town.
- c1662 Springfield's **First Jail is built on Maple Street**, which was then known as "The road on the brow of the hill". It was burnt down in 1675, along with much of the town, during King Philip's War.
- c1664 Springfield's **first cemetery** was established at the end of Elm Street, next to the Connecticut R.
- c1664 Springfield's **first training ground for its militia** was located near and/or on its first cemetery.
- 1665 The **natives discovered that they had bartered away** so much of their land, that they were now unable to plant their corn, which was their most important food source.
- 1666 **John Pynchon builds the natives** a fort on the top of long hill, on land that had once belonged to the Agawam tribe. On credit, the natives were able to buy English blankets, cloths, food, tools along with illegal guns and liquor.
- 1673 Jan.: **First post rider** from New York to Boston passes through Springfield on the new Post Road.
- 1674 In March, **a ferry service is established** between Springfield and what would later become Agawam. This service crossed the river just south of the Agawam (now Westfield) River. It served this area for almost 200 years, until the construction of the first South End Bridge in 1879.
- 1675 **Toto, a Native American**, AKA: "Windsor Indian", ran 20 miles from Windsor, CT. to warn the residents of Springfield of the pending attack.
- 1675 October 16: The village of **Springfield is burned** by Native American's during the King Philip's War. Other than the three established "Forts", all the buildings are burned by the fire-arrows and fireballs aimed for the villagers roofs. Only 15 of 60 buildings survived. The ashes from the great fires were used to fertilize the next years plantings of Indian Corn and potatoes.
- 1675 October: The Native American attack resulted in the **death of 3 men and one woman**.
- 1675 **Deacon Samuel Chapin dies** shortly after the burning of Springfield.
- 1677 **A new jail is constructed** to replace the one burned during the 1675, King Philip's War. The new jail is now to be located at the corners of Main and Bliss Streets.
- 1677 First Church constructs its **second meeting house** a little farther west on Elm Street at Court Square. It is surrounded by a 10 foot palisade.
- c1678 Town records show that there was a **school located in the tower of the meetinghouse**. At this time, some education was also provided in private homes.
- 1679 In June, the town of **Springfield hires Thomas Stebbins** to construct the First Schoolhouse, at a cost of 14 pounds.
- 1679 There is an early unnamed school that is located on what would become Cypress Street, although at that time it was just called "the lane going to the upper wharf". This was the towns **first specifically constructed schoolhouse**, which is probably the one built by Thomas Stebbins. Younger children were sometimes taught by married women in their homes. These schools were called **"Dame Schools"**.
- 1685 The **boundary between Springfield** and Northampton is established.
- 1685 **All parents and householders** were required to send their children and servants to school. A vote had been passed that all persons living between Round Hill and the Mill River who failed to send their children between the ages of 5 and 9 years, should "pay 2 pence per week for the space of half a year". This was definitely compulsory education.
- 1697 **John Pynchon is granted** permission to set up an iron works on the Mill River below the corn mill. This modest pre-industrial age iron works created jobs for ore gatherers, charcoal makers and iron workers.
- 1697 **John Pynchon** needed a 'firestone'

for the operation of his blast furnace, and it was found in Sixteen Acres. The red sandstone was perfect to serve the purpose for the 30-foot tall blast furnace. NOTE: Sixteen Acres and East Longmeadow areas were perfect for sandstone mines.

Image is similar to Pynchon's Blast Furnace.



1699 May 28: Springfield hero, **Captain Miles Morgan dies**. The city will later construct a monument in his honor.

Late 1600's: If the **Agawams could not pay** their debts they had to mortgage future crops or lose their lands.

Late 1600's: **John Pynchon ruled the area**. He owned a cider mill, turpentine plant, blast furnace and a foundry for producing iron goods. He also owned a saw mill and a grist mill.

1700+/-



This is a sketch of what the Bliss Mill on the Mill River could have looked like. It may have been built to replace the earlier Pynchon Mill although the Pynchon Mill was a blast furnace mill. It's hard to say exactly what type of mill the Bliss Mill was, perhaps a saw mill.

1700+/- **Springfield's first traffic law for speeding**: "it is therefor ordered that is any person be observed to Run his horse or to ride faster that any ordinary gallop in ye streets of this town, except upon such urgent occasions as shall by ye Selectmen be judged unwarrantable so to do, he shall be liable to a fine of 3s 4d, to be paid, one shilling to the informer and ye rest to ye town". Well into the 1900's, signs very much like this were placed at the entrances of the bridges.

1702 **John Pynchon died** following the general decline of Springfield as a trading post.

1708 **Each person sending** a child to school was ordered to "send a load of wood within 2 weeks" or pay equivalent price.

by 1710 A **third corduroy road** was built near what is now Carew Street, it was called the "upper causway".

by 1710 **Garden Brook** was a branch of the Town Brook, which continued around Round Hill before before reaching the Connecticut River as the Plain Brook. The water source for Garden Brook was the ponds located at Winchester Park.

1723 The **first Hampshire County Courthouse** is constructed on Sanford Street, which was located across Main Street from Elm Street. Note: Hampden County was not formed until the 1800's.

1730's State St. **around Blunt Park** is basically just swampland & out to Five Mile Pond is all unimproved.

1750 The **rooster weathervane** is placed on top of the 3rd First Church. It weighs 49 pounds and measures four feet from tail to beak. It's current location is unknown, but Forest Park is believed to be it's current location.

1763 The boundary between **Springfield and Wilbraham** is established on June 15th.

1763 The **"Boston Stone"** is placed on what is now known as State Street by Joseph Wait, a Brookfield merchant, who had lost his way in a snowstorm on this spot.

1769 **Wilbraham Road** out to Sixteen Acres is improved.

1769 **Sumner Avenue** out from Long Hill is improved.

1769 A **new Ferry System** now serves the town,



with the north ferry on Elm Street, another at Court Street and the south ferry at York Street.

- 1773 **Thomas Bates** builds a popular stagecoach tavern near the corners of Main and State Street it also served as a stop for the Underground Railroad.



Thomas Bates Tavern

- 1774 The **boundary between Springfield** and West Springfield is established on February 23rd.
- 1774 **The town of Ludlow is created** from the Stony Hill section of Springfield on February 28th.
- 1775 Winter: **Col. Henry Knox** passes through Springfield with a load of cannon captured in New York at Fort Ticonderoga. The cannon will be used to free Boston from British control.
- 1775 **George Washington** is ferried across the Connecticut River to Springfield.
- 1775 Moses Church is appointed postmaster.

- 1776 Map: **Captain Joseph Carew** has a tannery at the corner of Main and Carew Streets. Carew and Stebbins had a deal going. Whenever a customer would come to Carew for leather products, he would tell them that he didn't have any currently ready, but it could be ready by the next day. Since in many cases the person would have to stay in the area overnight, Carew would suggest staying at the nearby Stebbins tavern, where the person could partake in a few drinks, and have a comfortable nights sleep. In the meantime, Capt. Carew would keep the finished leather products soaking in the nearby town brook, and adding more weight to the item. Since you would be charged by the pound, the soaking would make for additional profit.
- 1776 Map: **Major Joseph Stebbins** has his tavern on Main Street across from the Carew tannery. Stebbins profit would come from the extra drinks and another nights lodging.

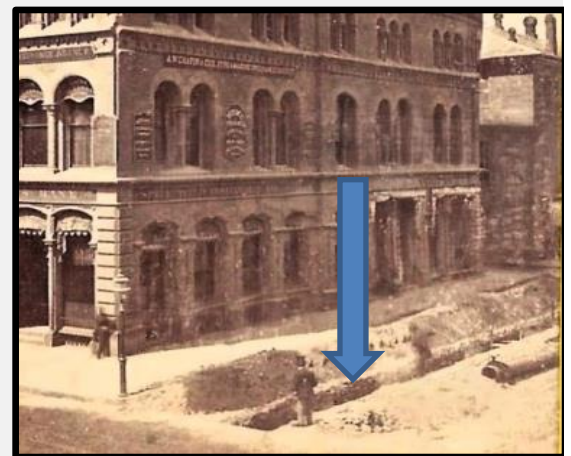
- 1776 Map: **Ferry Lane** is now called Cypress Street.
- 1776 Map: There is an **apothecary shop** at the corner of Main and Cypress Street.
- 1776 Map: **Colonel John Worthington** has a tavern on Main Street about where Worthington Street would later be located.

- 1776 Map: An early **Parson's Tavern** would be located at the corner of Elm and Main Streets. This is the Parson's Tavern after it had been dismantled and moved to 72 Court Street. The tavern has the distinction of saying that General Washington really did sleep here on October 21, 1789. Back in November of 1775, George Washington, then a Colonel, had dined here with John Adams.



- 1776 **Meetinghouse Lane** would later become Elm Street.
- 1776 There was a **whipping post** on Main Street across from Elm Street.
- 1776 Map: The **lower landing** is now known as York Street.
- 1776 Map: Maple Street was known as the **"Road to Charles Brewer's House"**.
- 1776 Map: **Josiah Dwight's distillery** was on the east side of Main St., a short distance from State St.
- 1776 Map: Shows the **Bay Path** is now State Street.
- 1777 **First Federal Arsenal** established by George Washington and Henry Knox.
- c1777 The **National Arsenal** in Springfield stored muskets, cannons and paper cartridges.
- 1782 **Springfield's first newspaper**, The Massachusetts Gazette and General Advertiser, goes into circulation. The paper was published by Babcock and Haswell.
- 1782 **First book published** in Springfield is Goldsmith's "Deserted Village".

- 1783 **The town of Longmeadow** is established on former Springfield land on October 13th.
- 1787 **Shay's Rebellion**, the attempt to capture the U.S. Arsenal, fails.
- 1789 **George Washington** visits Springfield to review and approve the current location of the arsenal.
- 1790 Population of the town of Springfield is 2,767.
- c1790 The first bridge to **connect Indian Orchard** with Ludlow was constructed by Eli Putnam. This is where the bridge rec'd its name of **Put's Bridge**. Over many years, this bridge was reconstructed numerous times in an attempt to keep it safe and up to date.
- c1790 **General Motto** of the Fire Department:
"To preserve lives and property of each other from destruction by fire".
- c1790 Unlike some cities, Springfield **never had private protection** by insurance backed fire fighters.
- c1790 **Fire Dept:** Made up of men of stature in the community, sort of an exclusive club.
- c1790 The Fire Departments main goal is to **protect other buildings** from burning, contain the fire.
- c1790 Fire Dept had the ability to use **speaking tubes** to communicate.
- 1792 Ezra Weld is appointed postmaster.
- 1792 Businessmen Jonathan Dwight and Colonel Thomas Dwight and **partners, open a gin distillery** on Main Street.
- c1792 Springfield purchases its **first fire engine**, the Lion. It is a hand-pumper that took 20 men pushing up and down to operate. It was retired in 1840.
- 1792 Over the next few yrs the town would purchase units with names like the **Tiger and Cataract**.
- 1793 James R. Hutchins is appointer postmaster.
- 1794 John W. Hooker is appointed postmaster.
- 1794 The **Spfld Fire Club** is formed, the forerunner to the fire department. Members manned the fire engine and were expected to keep 2 buckets and two fire bags (used to move possessions away from the fire) each in their homes. This group consisted of 50 men, all volunteer.
- 1794 In April the **arsenal at Springfield** is established by an act of Congress.
- 1795 With forty workers on the payroll, the arsenal starts to produce small arms.
The first year saw **245 muskets produced**.
- 1796 **Springfield Library Company** founded with 320 volumes.
- 1797 On June 11th, **Wilbraham annexes a section** of Springfield known as "The Elbows".
- 1798 Firefighting is the **earliest community enterprice** in the city. One of the first water supply systems in the country provided for a big debate about who's responsibility it was to provide the water. Springfield's first company to provide water for firefighting was the Springfield Aqueduct Company, which drew water from the Van Horn Reservoir. Water was transported by hollowed out logs as late as 1839 when the system was still in the process of being installed. This water was not intended for human consumption, only for firefighting.



Installing hollowed out logs for water at the corner of State and Main Streets.

- 19th & early 20th Century: Springfield had the nickname of **The City of Progress . The City of Homes** nickname wouldn't come about until the later 1800's.
- c1800 The **David Ames Paper Mill** is established. By 1832 it is the largest paper producer in Mass.
- c1800 When it was decided that the island on Main Street **needed to have Elm trees planted**, a few hearty residents boated over to West Springfield to dig the Elms up, and replant

them along the islands. Old photos show how well the Elms did on Main Street

1800 James Byers Jr. is appointed postmaster on January 1st.

1802 When David Ames retired as the first superintendent of the Springfield Armory in 1802, he entered the paper manufacturing business **where he perfected a procedure** for adding gypsum to pulp to make a heavier premium paper. This process made Ames a very wealthy man.

1803 On October 30th the **first toll-bridge** across the Connecticut River is opened. It was razed 9 years later due to the relentless current, flooding and heavy loads that eventually made the bridge too unstable. The right to construct and operate the toll-bridge was decided by lottery. Construction costs came to \$36,270.

1805 Merriam Webster publishes the **First American-English dictionary**.

1806 Daniel Lombard is appointed postmaster on July 29th.

1806 **First American Edition of the Koran** by Henry Brewer and Isaiah Thomas.

1809 The army helps to form **Lake Massasoit** (Watershops Pond) by damming the Mill River.

1810 The population of Springfield is 2,767 while West Springfield has 3,109 residents.

1811



The amazing **Alexander House** is constructed on State Street between Elliot and Spring Street. In 2003, the 6,000 sq. ft. house is moved around the corner onto Elliot Street. In its long history it has been home to many people, including it's original occupant, James Byers, followed by Colonel Israel Trask in 1820, then Chester Harding who was a famed portrait artist, then Springfield mayor Henry Alexander. Many others would follow this distinguest line.

1812 A portion of **Hampshire County** is portioned off to create Hampden county. Springfield remains the shire town.

c1812 Spfld appoints its first **School Committee**, which is headed by William Calhoun, a Yale graduate.

1813 The county erects a **new house of correction** on State Street where the former Classical High School now stands. The cost of the project was \$14,164. The jail served the county for 74 years, until the York Street Jail was opened in 1887. The old jail was demolished in the late 1890's.

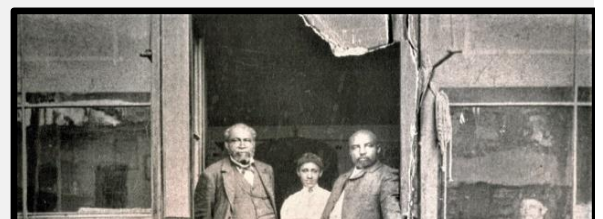
1814 The **Springfield Bank** is incorporated with \$200,000 in capital stock.

1816 The **second toll-bridge** is opened on October 1st at a cost of \$22,000. This bridge became toll-free in 1872. The bridge was known as 'Damon's Bridge' after its Northampton builder, Isaac Damon. You may or may not ask, how were the bridge supports able to reach bedrock. Well the town would build movable platforms, attach a revolving platform near to the top. In the spring the town would bring a horse over to the platform and attach it to a revolving arm. The revolving arm would raise a very heavy block to a point where the block would drop down off the pillars, continuously driving the pillar deeper and deeper until it hit bedrock. The horse would stay on the platform for the entire construction season.

1816 The **first jail breakout** in city history occurs from the new jail on State Street.

1817 The population of the town of Springfield is now at 3,000.

1817 **Thomas Thomas** was born in Oxford, Maryland and spent much of his life as a person who was meant to stand out in the crowd. Being a great story-teller only enhanced his like-ability in whatever community he was living at the time. After traveling around the



safe areas (meaning non-slave), he would eventually settle down (c1844) in Springfield. He worked in a number of dining businesses in Springfield, before opening his own establishment at 59 Worthington Street. Thomas had met a number of influential people during his life, including Abraham Lincoln and John Brown. He was very active in the abolitionist movement, using both his restaurant and his home, a short distance away, to allow runaway's a safe passage.



Photo above shows Thomas Thomas (left) in front of his restaurant on Worthington Street.

- 1817 The **Hampden Lodge of the Freemasons** becomes the first Masonic organization in the city.
- 1817 **President James Monroe** visits Springfield. The president crossed the river by walking across the Old Toll Bridge. The president rec'd a rousing welcome by the towns 3,000 residents and the level of drinking at Parson's Tavern was reported to have reached the "high rum mark".
- c1818 **Parsons' Tavern** is moved from the southeast corner of Court Square to 72 West Court Street.
- 1818 **"Damon's Bridge"** is damaged during spring flooding and requires a partial rebuild. This bridge, more commonly known as the "Old Covered Toll Bridge" operated until 1922 when the Hampden County Memorial Bridge opened.
- 1818 The current **Old First Church** is built. It is the fourth First Church to be built in Court Square.
- 1818 **First Church** institutes a Sabbath School.
- 1819 Thomas Blanchard patents his **"Blanchette Lathe"** which is used to cut out the irregular shapes of musket stocks for the armory. This machine paved the way for mass production and the industrial revolution.
- 1820 The **population of Springfield is 3,970**, now surpassing West Springfield which has 3,246 residents.
- 1820 Springfield had reached its **peak agricultural prosperity** between 1790 and 1815. The 1820 census classifies the town to be a manufacturing town with 58% of its people engaged in manufacturing.
- 1821 The **first county courthouse** is erected in Springfield at a cost of \$8,375.
- 1821 The city **rebuilds Court Square** with new turf, curbing and walks.
- 1822 The Hampden Coffee House is constructed at Court Square, it would proudly serve the town for the next 30 years. It would later be renamed **The Hampden House**.
- 1822 The **first American flint-lock gun** is produced at the arsenal.
- 1822 **John Ames**, the son of David, patented a type of "cylinder machine" that was perfect for printing books, news and writing paper.
- 1824 Springfield Republican newspaper **started by Samuel Bowles**.
- 1824 A side-brake **fire engine called "The Tiger"** joins the fire department's small fleet. It was purchased with money raised mostly through donations solicited by George Dwight.
- 1824 The **main Armory buildings burn down**. Every able bodied man in the town had a fire bucket and by passing water from the town brook, they managed to save part of the structure. This fire led the Commandant to develop better fire service, and to get the city more involved in those efforts.
- 1825 Thomas Blanchard discovers and **patents vulcanized rubber**.
- 1825 **Daniel Shays passes away** in New York on September 29th.
- 1825 **Thomas Blanchard's** wood turning lathes were partially destroyed in a fire in 1825.
- 1826 February 9: **Samuel Bowles**, editor of the Daily Republican Newspaper is born.
- 1826 Springfield's **First Engine House** was at the corners of Sanford and Market Street
- 1826 Thomas Blanchard invents the **first American horseless carriage**. It is a 2,000 lb steam powered giant.

1826 The Steamboat Barnet becomes the first **Connecticut River steamboat** to enter Mass. waters.

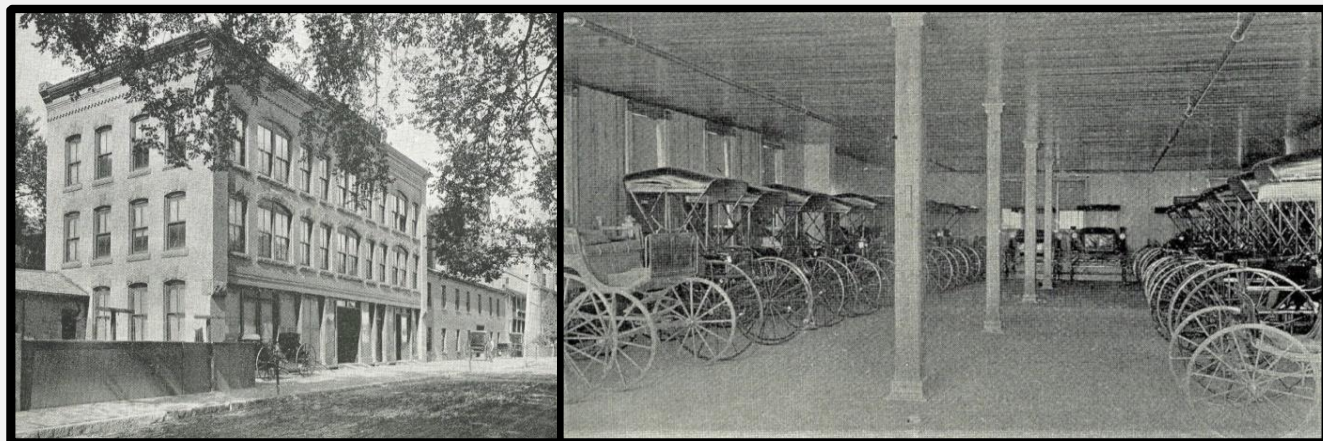
pre-1827 **Water Street** was just forming between Court and Bridge Street.

pre-1827 If you **happen to be traveling** on the Bay or Boston Road, and developed a vicious thirst, you could always stop at Dimmick's Tavern, located near Five Mile Pond.

pre-1827 **Stedman School** was located at the crossroad of what would become Carew Street & the Bay Rd.

pre 1827 What we knew as Round Hill, was then called **Lover's Grove**.

1827



These two images show us the **Smith Carriage Co.** that was started on Park Street in 1827, by David Smith. It was a very successful business because it was able to custom build your carriage, loan you carriages for a certain time frame or sell you new and used carriages from stock designs. The business was ever growing, and by 1856, David brought in his son William to help out. in 1873 his son William purchased the company.

1827 As early as 1827, Liberty St. was known as **The Road to Hogpen Dingle**. It traveled a slightly different route in 1827, as compared to today.

1827 In 1827, Wilbraham's Dipping Hole Road branched off of what would become Parker Street, and was called **"The Road by Peggy's Dipping Hole"**.

1827 As early as 1827, today's Pasco Road off of Boston Road, was the **road to Pasco's Old House**, which was on the Chicopee River.

1827 As early as 1827, Carew Street was known as **"The Road to Morgan's House"**.

1827 As early as 1827, St. James Avenue was known as **Factory Road**.

1827 The **Mutual Fire Assurance Company** is incorporated.

1827 The first person to be sentenced to death **committed suicide** before the sentence was carried out.

1827 **Springfield Institution for Savings (SIS)** is incorporated. Josiah Hooker was the banks president.

1827 Map:**Unnamed Schoolhouse** was near Main & Mill Streets. It did not appear on the 1835 City Map.

1827 Map: **District No. 12 Schoolhouse** was located on what would become Benton St. at Boston Road.

1827 Map: **District No. 10 Schoolhouse** - AKA Wachogue School was located on what would become Allen Street. It was on the left just after the modern day Wendy's.

1827 Map: **District No. 6 Schoolhouse** was located at the center of Sixteen Acres, approx. where the Fire Station is now. It is built on the same locations as the later Sixteen Acres Schoolhouse.

1828 The **"Old" High School** opens at 43 and 47 School Street. It is the First High School to be built in the town and it functions as a school until 1840. It is later turned into a residence. The school was for boy's only.

1828 **Springfield constructs its first town hall** at the corners of State and Market Streets.





Springfield's First Town Hall
Episcopal Services Held Here 1838-1840

- 1828 Thomas Blanchard **produces a steamboat**, called "Blanchard", to operate on the Connecticut River.
- 1829 Albert Morgan is appointed postmaster.
- 1829 One of the **oddest sites Springfield** will ever see, happens when the Springfield built, side-wheeled steamboat 'Vermont', travels from the boatyard, through Main and Elm Streets to the foot of Harvard Street where it is launched into the Connecticut River. The steamship is headed north to a Brattleboro company.
- c1830's **The Byers Block** on Elm Street at Court Square is constructed, still existing, it is one of the oldest building's in the downtown area.
- 1830 The population of Springfield is 6,784.
- 1830 **A formal Fire Department** is established in Springfield by an act of the Massachusetts legislature. The organization is to be by Elijah Blake.
- 1830 On March 12th the **Massachusetts Railroad Corporation** is established. Their mission is to build a railroad between Boston and the Hudson River near Albany or Troy by January 1, 1835, passing through Springfield.
- 1830 The boundary **between Springfield and Ludlow** is established on June 5th.
- 1830 **First Major American History Book** by George Bancroft.
- 1831 **Elijah Blake** is named the chief engineer of the Springfield Fire Department.
- 1831 **The Boston and Worcester Railroad** Corporation is established.
- 1831 **The Old Fort is razed.** It was built in 1660 as the Pynchon home and to protect Springfield's citizens from Indian attacks. The Old Fort measured 42 feet long, 21 feet wide and 21 feet high. The walls, which are made from 50,000 Northampton bricks, were 2 feet thick on the first floor.
- 1832 **The Female Seminary** is built on Maple Street. It served its original purpose only until 1843.
- 1833 **The Western Railroad Corporation** is established.
- 1834 **Kibbe Brothers** Candy Co. established.
- 1834 **First Kitchen Friction Match** by Chapin and Phillips Company.
- pre-1835 There were **3 damned areas of the Mill River**, these would form the Lower Watershops, Middle Watershops and the Main Upper Watershops.
- pre-1835 There was a brook, **then called the Small Brook**, that passed under Allen Street to be damned from an unnamed pond with a Saw Mill. Small Brook then proceeded north into the David Mill Pond which was formed by a damned section of the South Brance of the Mill River.
- pre-1835 The original **Put's Bridge** would cross the Chicopee River, allowing easy transit from Indian Orchard into Ludlow.
- pre-1835 Parker Street was then called **The Town & Country Road**.
- pre-1835 **There is a Grist Mill** across what would become Parker Street, at the waterfalls from the South Branch of the Mill River. Over the years, a number of different types of mills would be built here. This would include grist, wood and distilleries. Sometimes more than one would work at the the same time.
- pre-1835 **District No. 6 Schoolhouse** would exist at the center of Sixteen Acres. It would be replaced in 1861 with a new schoolhouse that would serve the city until 1961.
- 1835 **The three-story Byers Block** is constructed at 3-7 Elm Street facing Court Square.

It is one of the oldest buildings in Springfield, still existing as of 2025.

1835 **Everett Hosmer Barney is born.** He would later donate much of the land for Forest Park.

1835 Map: **District No. 7 Schoolhouse** was located on what would become the N.E. Corners of Carew Street and what would become North Street, and later, Dwight Street.

1835 Map: **District No. 13 Schoolhouse** was located at the corners of Central and Hancock Streets.

1835 Map: **District No. 17 Schoolhouse** was located at what is today, the N.W. corners of Boston Road & Parker Street.

1835 Tool manufacturer **Bemis Call Company** is established.

1836 Springfield's **first radical abolitionist** movement, the *American Colonization Society*, is formed.

1837 The population of Springfield is 9,234.

1837 The **Fire Department** is to select 162 men that are all volunteer.

1838 Solyman Merrick received a patent for the **first hand-held hole punch**.

1839 The Massachusetts Legislature passes an act establishing the Hartford and **Springfield Railroad Corporation**. Five years later the railroad is operational.

1839 The first train from **Worcester arrives in Springfield** in October.

1839 **The Elijah Blake House** is built on State Street. Blake was the chief engineer for the Springfield Fire Department and in the state legislature. After several moves the house now serves as the administrative offices and restaurant for the Quadrangle.

1839 The town opens its **First Railroad Station**. Constructed out of wood, this Egyptian styled structure would burn down in 1851.

1839 The local **Omnibus Stage** route opens to carry passengers from the train depot to the central business areas around Court Square. These routes would be expanded by the 1850's to include the North & South Ends and up to the Armory buildings on State St. They would function until 1869 when the system was converted to a horse-drawn street railway.

1840-50's **Irish Immigrants** begin arriving in large numbers because of the employment opportunities in the dangerous jobs of building the canals and railroads of Western Ma.

c1840's **St. John's Congregational Church** is established as the first African-American church in Springfield.

1840 The census shows Springfield with a population of 10,985.

1841 On May 24th, **trains start moving freight** between Springfield and the Chester factories, now that the Connecticut River Railroad Bridge has been constructed.

1841 Sept. 5: **Springfield Cemetery** is consecrated. The main address is given by William Bourne Peabody.

c1841 **Due to the intrusion** of the new railroad passing over **Springfield's first cemetery**, all the graves that could be located were moved to the new Springfield Cemetery on Maple Street. Some of those early graves were nothing more than, what was referred to as, "Sacred Dust".

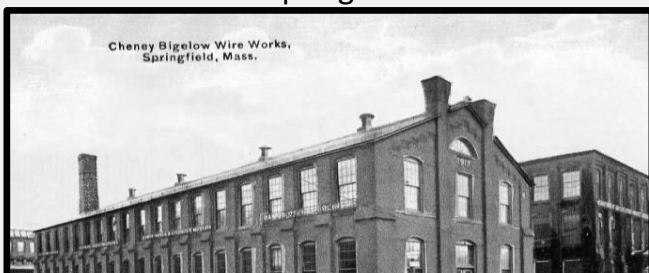
"Sacred Dust" was nothing more than a darkened area of dirt in lighter color.

The oldest gravestone that was removed from the old cemetery was in 1864.

A total of 2,434 graves were moved along with 517 gravestones. Oldest gravestone dated 1657.

1841 The railroad between **Springfield and Albany** is completed and operational, now that the railroad station in Springfield has been constructed.

1842

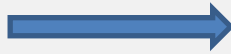


Cheney Bigelow Wire Works was established in 1842 and incorporated in 1887. Their original location was Taylor Street before moving to Liberty Street, where they would stay until closing sometime in the 1970's. During the 1940's they developed an Anti-Tank Bazooka



1940's they developed an Anti-Tank Bazooka that would be used in World War II and Korea.

- 1842 The **percussion-lock gun** takes the place of the flint-lock on the arsenal production line.
- 1842 Colonel Solomon Warriner is appointed postmaster.
- 1842 **Charles Dickens** and his wife Catherine arrive in Springfield, choosing to stay at the Hampden House, at the corner of Main and Court Streets. Springfield did not impress them.
- 1842 **Charles Dickens** travels from Springfield to Hartford on the Connecticut River via steamboat.
- 1842 The **Northampton and Springfield** Railroad Corporation is established on March 1st.
- 1842 March 23: **South Congregational Church** is established.
- 1843 The **population of Springfield** stands at 10,985.
- 1843 Colonel Harvey Chapin is appointed postmaster but is replaced shortly after by Galen Ames. Chapin regained the position in 1845.
- 1843 **The Massasoit House** is opened on Main Street next to the railroad station.
- 1843 Charles Stearns begins a **private water company** that supplies water for fires. The pipes are laid between Van Horn Reservoir and Main Street then travelling south as far as Bliss Street.
- 1843 **The Springfield Young Men's Institute** is established. The institute was a precursor to the city library and had its own library of 2,000 volumes.
- 1844 **Charles Goodyear** perfects and patents the first vulcanization of rubber.
- 1844 The town purchased an advanced **Waterman Fire Fighting Unit** that was called the Niagara.
- 1844 The **Homer Foot Mansion** is constructed on the hill at the corner of Maple and Central Streets. After the Foot families departure, the Wallace family would purchase it, prior to it becoming part of the MacDuffie School for Girls.



- 1844 Elisha Blake, the long-time Chief Engineer of the **Fire Department retires**, he was 90 years old.
- 1844 **The Hartford and Springfield Railroad** is fully operational.
- 1844 **The Hampden Agricultural Society** is incorporated.
- 1844 **The Springfield Light Guards**, Company E, 10th Regiment, 6th Brigade, 3rd Division M.V.M, makes its first public parade.
- 1844 On October 13th the corner of **Main and Sanford Streets goes up in flames**. Five building were destroyed, including eight stores.
- 1845 **Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's** poem 'The Arsenal at Springfield' is published.
- 1845 **Wason Manufacturing Company** is established. Wason train and trolley cars were world famous. It was founded by Charles Wason and Thomas Wason.
- 1845 Establishment of the **Springfield Fire Districts**.
- 1845 Springfield's population is 14,703.
- 1846 The **main arsenal building** at the armory is constructed. It's three floors are able to hold 100,000 guns each.
- 1846 **Court Street High School**, a two-story Greek Revival brick building is constructed next to city hall.
- 1846 Hotel and tavern proprietor, **Jeremy Warriner**, opens the

Wason Advertising from 1869-1870



Union House Hotel on Main Street, south of State Street.

In 1847, President James Polk stayed here along with future James Buchannan.

The building would exist until demolished for the M-G-M casino project.

1847 **Abolitionist John Brown** calls Springfield his home until 1851.

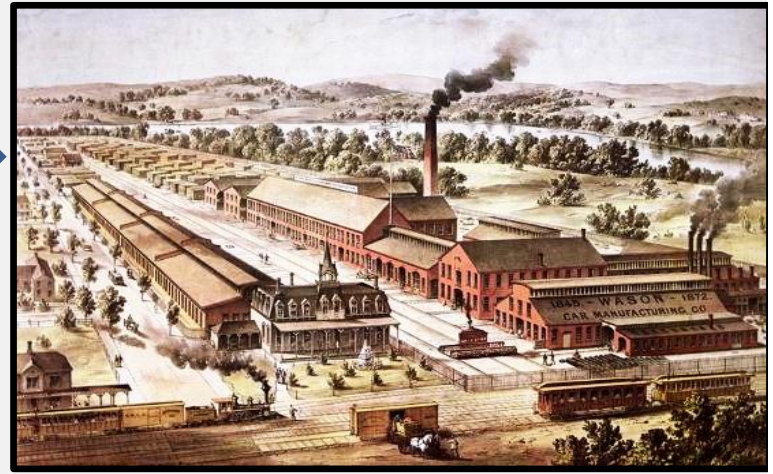
1847 August 9: The City Council and the Fire Commission draws up an ordinance to form the **first recorded Ladder Company** to serve Springfield. Those 17 men were to serve as volunteers, no pay, no uniforms or special gear to help them fight fires.

1847 **First Merriam-Webster Dictionary** is published.

1847 The **Springfield Gas Light Co.** is founded by James D. Brewer, Albert Morgan and Henry Gray.

1847 **Wason Manufacturing Co.** produces everything related to Trolley and Railroad Cars. At its peak, Wason was producing up to 100 or more cars per day.

The grounds of Wason Manufacturing Company as it appeared around 1872. Having the railroad pass right in front of their complex, along with their own little railroad station, bottom left, made any kind of shipping extremely convenient.



1848 The **Springfield Aqueduct Company** is established with Charles Stearns as one of its first officers. The company was charged with the water needs of Springfield until the city took over in 1860.

1848 March 9: The body of **President John Quincy Adams** proceeds down Main Street past mourning dignitaries, military companies, politicians and residents on its way to First Church at Court Square.

1848 On April 29th the **boundaries of Chicopee** are established.

1848-49 The early **First Congregational Church** was constructed in this timeframe on Main Street between Bridge and Worthington Street.

1849 Jan. 26: The **First Gas Street Light** begins lighting the southeast corner of State and Main Streets.

1849 William Stowe is appointed postmaster.

1849 **First Clamp-On Ice Skate** - Barney & Berry, Inc.

1849 The **Springfield and Longmeadow Railroad Company** is incorporated on May 2nd.



Haitsill Allis starts the Hampden Works in the Carew, Franklin and Congress Streets area. In 1867, Mr. Allis constructed a **Second French Empire Mansion** on the lower curve of Carew Street. Mr. Allis lived in the mansion until 1896 when it was sold to the Catholic Diocese to eventually become the home of Mercy Hospital. The Allis Mansion served until 2015, when the Roman Catholic Diocese decided to raze the structure.

← The Allis Second French Empire Mansion

1849 **Gas lights** are starting to be installed in Springfield homes and businesses. The corner of State and Main Streets actually received the first gas lights in the city on January 26, 1849.



1849 The famous **John Ames Italianate Villa** is constructed on Crescent Hill. As of 2025, it still stands.

1849 The **Springfield Fire and Marine** Insurance Company is incorporated.

1849 The railroad branch to the **Indian Orchard mills** is opened.

1850- 1880's. **French-Canadian immigrants** arrive in large numbers, attracted by the numerous mill jobs offered in the area.

1850's Court Square has to be **fenced off to protect** it from grazing horses, enjoying a great lunch.

1850 The population of Springfield reaches 11,330.

1850 **John Brown forms** his first militant anti-slavery organization in Spfld: The League of Gileadites. Their responsibility was to protect slaves who had escaped to Spfld from Southern slave-catchers.

By-1850 **Springfield housed 73 machine shops**, six cotton factories, three paper mills, four printing concerns, two tool factories, a saw mill, several saw and grist mills, two brass factories, two plow manufactories, and eight firms involved in the production of railroad cars and coaches. Also at the same time Springfield had machine tool builders, along with hundreds of small but highly skilled and specialized tool-and-die shops and foundries that provided fixtures tooling, gages, and made to order components.

1851 Chester Chapin is now the **wealthiest man in Springfield**. Chapin was once a teamster and stage driver who went on to become the president of the Connecticut River Railroad.

1851 March: **Springfield's first train station**, a wooden Egyptian style structure, burns beyond repair. It will be replaced by a half-barrel shaped metal building. Because of cinders given off by wood-burning train engines, train stations should not be constructed out of wood.

1851 **St. Benedicts Catholic Church** was finally located on Union Street at Willow St. It had taken Catholics many yrs. to find a proper location for their church, but that all changed in the late 1840's when a Baptist Church, then located at the corner of Mulberry Street and Maple St. came up for sale, it was immediately purchased & readied to be moved. The Catholics moved the church over to Union Street, then carefully down over to Union to Willow Street where it was rebuilt into the style preferable to Catholics.



1851 The **Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company** is incorporated. Their offices were located in the Foot's Block at the corner of Main and State Streets. The highest amount a person could be insured for was \$5,000.

1851

1851 Map: **District No. 1 Schoolhouse** was constructed on lower State Street, site of the future Municipal Courthouse.

1851 Map: **District No. 2 Schoolhouse**, AKA - Auburn Street School, can be found on the 1870 City Map.

1851 Map: **District No. 2 Schoolhouse**, AKA - Charles Street Primary School is located on Franklin Street, which is just across the street from the Charles Street Primary School.

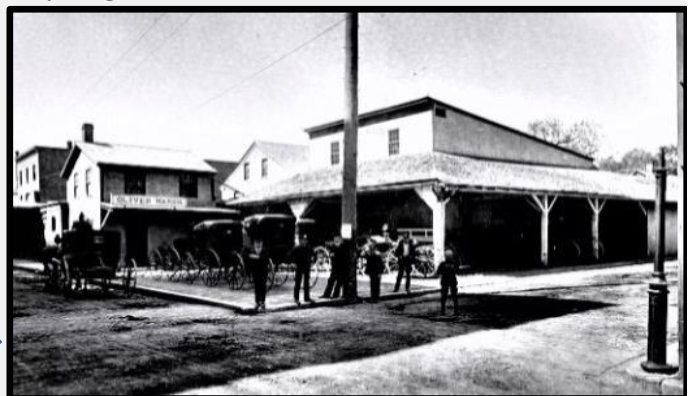
1851 Map: **Bridge Street Primary** & Grammar School is located on Bridge Street, halfway between Water and Main Street.

1851 Map: **District No. 1 Primary School**, AKA - West Union Street School, existed between Union and Wilcox Streets.

1851 Map: **District No. 3 Schoolhouse**, AKA - York Street School is located about halfway between Main Street and the Railroad Tracks.

- 1851 Map: **An unnamed school** is located on the right side of Harrison Avenue, behind Justice Willard's house
- 1851 Map: **District No. 5 Schoolhouse** was located at the intersection of Pine and Maple Streets.
- 1851 Map: **District No. 4 Schoolhouse** was located on Union Street, between Walnut and Pine Streets. This section of Pine Street would later be renamed Oak Street.
- 1851 Map: **District No. 4 Schoolhouse** was located at the corners of Union and Pine Streets.
- 1851 Map: **District No. 1 Schoolhouse** is located at the corners of High and School Streets.
- 1851 Map: **District No. 6 Schoolhouse** is located at the corners of Central and Hancock Streets.
- 1851 Map: **First Methodist Church** at corner of High and Mulberry Street owns a corner of the new Springfield Cemetery for their own burials.
- 1851 Map: The **south side of Central Street** between Main and Maple Street belongs to Gaius Bliss. Central Street Rowhouses are built here in c1871.
- 1851 Map: **Rifle Street** across from the Watershops Armory is then known as Mill Street.
- 1851 Map: The **U.S. Armory on State Street**, also know as the Hill Shops, has 4 Arsenal Buildings. One is the Arsenal Building that we know today, while the other 3 are smaller and backed up to State St. Arsenal Buildings are used to store completed munitions.
- 1851 Map: The **Eagle Hotel** is located on the south side of State Street across from the armory.
- 1851 Map: **John Hancock Bank** is located on the south side of State Street, a short distance west of the intersection of State and Walnut Street.
- 1851 Map: **Tyler & Company Machine Works** are located at the corners of Tyler and Orleans St. Small machine companies like this, that are located close to the armory, are used by the armory to manufacture small rifle parts to expedite total manufacture.
- 1851 Map: A **Card Mill** with a pond is located between the Springfield Cemetery entrance and Avon Street on Maple Street.
- 1851 Map: A **significant amount** of the South End is owned by various members of the Bliss family.
- 1851 Map: **South Church** is located on Union Street.
- 1851 Map: High Street between Ingraham Place and Walnut Street has come to be known as **Pleasant Street**.
- 1851 Map: A **foundry** has been constructed on land that was once used by Springfield for the burial of its early deceased. This land is bordered by Water and Elm Streets. All the deceased remains that could be found, had been moved to the Springfield Cemetery on Maple Street.
- 1851 Map: The **Free Church** is to be found on Sanford Street, just a short distance east of Market St.
- 1851 Map: An **early post office** is located on Elm Street, just west of the Main Street Chicopee Bank.
- 1851 Map: The **Springfield Bank** is located on the south side of State Street, across from Town Hall.
- 1851 Map: **Unitarian Church** can be found to the east of the Springfield Bank on State Street.
- 1851 Map: **Hampden Stables** at E. Court Street and Market Place is a rather large, full service facility. It was owned by Oliver Marsh. There are a number of other established stables in and around the Main Street area, but this is probably the largest and most convenient.

Hampden Stables



- 1851 Map: **D. L. Harris house** was located at Pearl and Chestnut Street. This large and beautiful

house was taken apart in the 1800's and moved down to Rhode Island.

1851 Map: **Columbia Mills** is located on Fairbank Street.

1851 Map: **Springfield Machine Shops** is a very large operation that was located at Lyman & Taylor Sts.

1851 Map: **Railroad Hotel** was once located at the corners of Main and Hampden Streets.

1851 Map: **City Hotel** was kept busy near the railroad station. It was located at Main & Lyman Streets.

1851 Map: **North Church** was located on the west side of Main Street between Bridge and Worthington Street. It was demolished because the town fathers wanted the land for commercial use.

1851 Map: **Western Hotel** did well by being located at the corners of Bridge and Water Streets.

1851 Map: **Heirs of William Pynchon** still owned land at the corners of Main and Fort Streets.

1851 Map: **Western Union Office** was located on Main Street next to the railroad tracks.

1851 Map: **Charles Street School** is located on Franklin Street opposite Charles Street.

1851 Map: **American House Hotel** is located on Main Street north of the railroad tracks.

1851 Map: The bulk of the land in Springfield that is located east and west of Main and Carew Street is still owned by the **heirs of the Carew and Stebbins families**.

1851 Map: **Huge portions of land** in Springfield is owned by a limited number of families.

These include the : Trask's - Phelps - Thompson's - Flagg's - Bangs - Bliss - Dwight - Warriner's Ames - Foster - Boyd's - Crook's - Cooley's - Lombard's - Sheldon's - Bontecou - Coombs - Chapin's

1851 **Jenny Lind**, the internationally known opera singer, stops in Springfield during her tour of the United States. She performed at the Old First Church to a huge crowd.

1852 The population of Springfield is now at 12,498.

1852 The **Hampden Savings Bank** is incorporated.

1852 1st Mayor - Caleb Rice


1852 Horace Smith and Daniel B. Wesson form their first firearm partnership in Norwich, Ct. They will later move the operation of **Smith & Wesson** firearms to Springfield.

1852 Springfield is **granted a city charter** on April 12th.

1852 On April 21 a vote on the city charter issue is held. The **charter is accepted**, 969 for, 454 against.

1852 On May 25th Springfield is incorporated as a city. **Caleb Rice becomes its first mayor**, while Joseph Ingraham begins his duties as the first city clerk.

1853 Abijah Chapin is appointed postmaster.

1853 Springfield constructs it's **second, more fire** resistant, metal railroad station. 

1853 **First National Horse Show** in the United States.

1854 **The Springfield Five Cents Savings Bank** is established and chartered.

1854 Second Mayor - Philos B. Tyler.

1854 May 1st: One of the **Great Floods** of Springfield occurs.

1855 **Watershops Armory** decides it no longer needs both the upper and middle watershops. It informs the city of their decision, and now only the Upper Watershops will be developed to its full potential.

1855 The **Second City Hall Building** on Court Street is dedicated. The previous town hall had been located at the corner of State and Market Streets. The new city hall cost \$100,000, with a clock set 130 feet above the street and a bell that weighed 2 tons.

1855 **First Show of School Colors** - Harvard vs Yale Rowing Race on Conn. River.

1855 The formation of the **Republican Party** is championed by Samuel Bowles III,



publisher of the influential Springfield daily newspaper, The Republican. The Republican Party took its name from Bowles newspaper.

1855 Third Mayor - Eliphalet Trask

1855 **Bemis & Call Hardware & Tool Company** is organized.

1855 **First Adjustable Monkey Wrench** by Bemis & Call.

1855 **Irish Catholics makeup 80%** of the foreign-born population of the new city.

1856 **Smith and Wesson Firearms** is established by Horace Smith and Daniel B. Wesson.

1856 Fourth Mayor - Ansel Phelps Jr.

1857 The citizen of Springfield create a **volunteer library** association using a room at the city hall for library space. It was referred to as the **City Library Association**.

1857 School Principals, both High and Grammar Schools, **receive a salary of \$1,000 per year**.

1857



Massasoit House Hotel is opened on Main Street, next to the railroad station. In 1926 the Massasoit House would be completely renovated into the magnificent Paramount Theater. In 1876, the Massasoit Convention was held here to work out the rules for intercollegiate American football.

1857 **Springfield Fire and Marine** constructs an office building at the corner of Main & Fort Streets. It would stay there until it constructs its well-known and still standing office building at the corners of State and Maple Streets in 1905. The building that they constructed at Main and Fort Streets still exists as the much renovated, Fort Restaurant.

1857 October: Ceremonies opening **Hampden Park** are held with the participation of many civic groups.

1857 **First American Railroad Sleeping Car**, A.K.A. Pullman Car - Wason Manufacturing Co.

1857 **Smith & Wesson** establishes its first arms manufacturing facility in Springfield, producing the first successful, self-primed metallic ammunition.

1857 Tilley Haynes opens his **Music Hall** at the corner of Main and Pyncheon streets. The Music Hall burns down in 1864 but is rebuilt.

1857 **Armory workers** that are creating the dam for Watershops Pond, discover the **first Dinosaur skeleton** to be found in either of the America's.

1858 The **Fort Block** is built at the corners of Main and Fort Streets by the Springfield Fire and Marine Insurance Company.

1858 The **Republican Block** is constructed on Main Street.

1850-60 **Sixteen Acres** becomes the primary farm area for the cities food production.

1859 The **Ward Manufacturing Company** starts producing cotton cloth using the power canals at the Indian Orchard Mills.

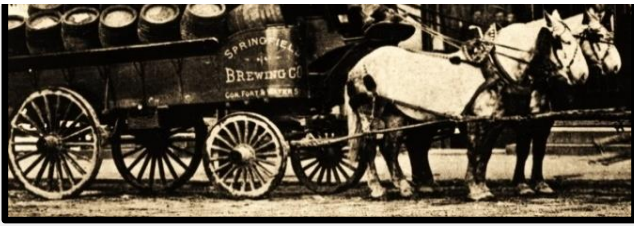
1859 Fifth Mayor - William Barron Calhoun

1859 The **City Library Association** is now located within our City Hall.

1860



Springfield Brewing Company was established in 1860 at 41 Water Street. Prior to adopting the Springfield Breweries Co. name, they would use four other names before finally adopting the Springfield name. The company also had a Highland Branch, well east of the city center, which would later be used as the



Above is a rarely seen wagon photo.

the city center, which would later be used as the main home for Mass Mutual Co. They were able to survive the depression and came back as the Commonwealth Brewing Corp. in 1933. In 1939 they had a capacity of 300,000 Barrels. In 1946 the name was changed back to Springfield Brewing Co. but they closed in 1948.

1860-61 **St. Michael's Church, later Cathedral**, is constructed at the corners of State and Elliot Street.

It is a beautiful brick building in the Romanesque Revival Style.

1860's **Hampden Park** is laid out as a horse racing track. In 1867 seating was constructed for 3,000 people at a cost of \$12,000. Over the years the park would be used for horse and bicycle racing, Yale football games were played, running events, circuses and fireworks. As far back as 1875, "The Game", meaning the Harvard vs Yale football games were played here. In the 1870's big league baseball was playing here, while in 1908 fences were built to enclose the park and grandstands were built.

1860 **Milton Bradley Company** is founded. The first game produced was *The Checkered Game of Life*, it was an immediate success, selling more than 45,000 copies by 1861. It was so successful, that it helped to establish the Milton Bradley Company.

1860 Census records show that there are **276 Blacks living in Springfield.**

1860 **Springfield lawyer, George Asmun**, was elected chairman of the Chicago Republican Presidential Convention. It would nominate Abraham Lincoln for president.

1860 Sixth Mayor - Daniel L. Harris

1860 Milton Bradley now sets up the state's first color lithograph shop. His graphic design of Abraham Lincoln sold well, until Lincoln went out and grew a beard, rendering his likeness out -of-date.

1861 The **destruction of the arsenal at Harper's Ferry**, Virginia, leaves the arsenal in Springfield the Union's main source for armaments. Springfield rapidly becomes a boom town.

1861 April: **A war rally** is held in Springfield in support of the Union, \$30,000 is appropriated by the city for volunteers. By the end of the war, in 1865, Springfield has lost 167 citizens.

1861 December 15: **Charles Edgar Duryea** is born. He will become the co-producer of the first gasoline powered automobile. James and his brother Charles will open the Duryea Motor Wagon Company in Springfield.

1861 **Sixteen Acres School**, was recently reconstructed on the site of the earlier Sixteen Acres School. It was torn down in 1961.

1861 Milton Bradley Company invents the **First Pocket-Size** Travel Games for soldiers.

1861 In a continued effort to improve the fire department, the town purchases the **Champion Hand-Pumper** and stations it at the Indian Orchard Fire Station.

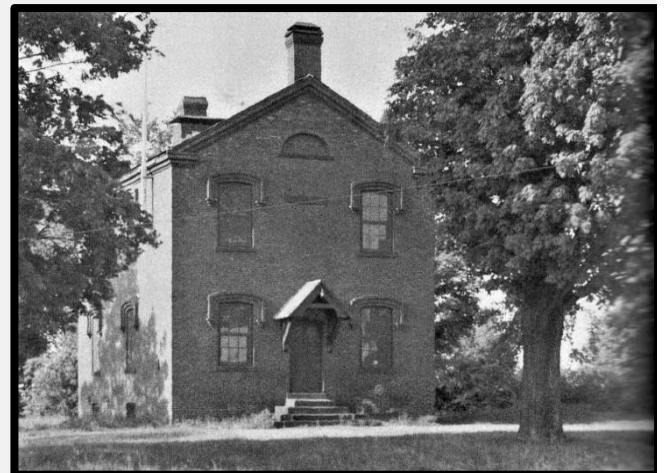
1861 Springfield, at the start of the Civil War, has a population of 15,200.

1861 June: **10th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry Regiment** musters for 1 month at Hampden Park.

1861 Seventh Mayor - Stephen C. Bemis

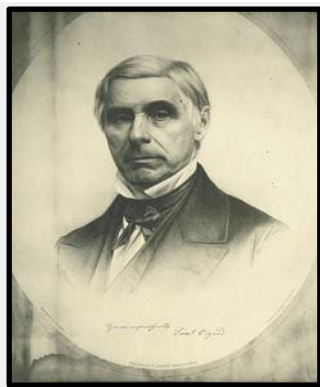
1862 Springfield purchases its first steam pumper fire apparatus called the Monitor.

The Monitor and all fire apparatus after it, will all be horse-drawn.



Sixteen Acres School

1862



Rev. Samuel Osgood
1784 - 1862

Rev. Samuel Osgood was to serve as one of the conductors along the Underground Railroad prior to the Civil War. The conductors helped with the transportation of escaping slaves from the south to freedom in the north and Canada. Osgood readily opened his Main Street home that was located near present day Hampden Street, to any and all escaping slaves. In one year alone, Rev. Osgood was to provide shelter for over fifty of the escaping slaves. He was so important to the Underground Railroad that his stop even gained a name, it was to be called "the prophet's chamber". Osgood also served at the First Church in Springfield.

1863 **First United States Registered Bank** - National Bank of Springfield, opens on Main Street across from Court Square.

1863 The **46th Infantry Regiment** musters at Hampden Park in preparation for their entry into the Civil War.

1863 **Belmont Avenue School** is opened at the corner of Belmont and Keith Streets. When the Sumner Avenue Grammar School is constructed, there is no longer a need for the Belmont Ave. School.

1863 8th Mayor - Henry Alexander Jr.

PLEASE NOTE: ALL THE FOLLOWING ENTRIES, STARTING WITH c1863, WERE FOUND ON THE 1863 CITY MAPS

c1863 Emery Street Grammar & Primary School was located at the corners of Emery & Boylston Streets.

c1863 Long Hill Mixed School was built on Long Hill Street and torn down by 1899.

c1863 Calhoun Street Mixed School was located in Brightwood.

c1863 Auburn Street Mixed School was located in the North End section of the city.

c1863 Put's Bridge area, the link between Indian Orchard and Ludlow had a mixed school in 1863.

c1863 Central Street Primary & Grammar School is located at 156 Central Street, opposite Spruce Street.
NOTE: this is the original Central Street Primary and Grammar School.

c1863 The Town Hall Grammar School is being used at this time.

c1863 The city Almhouse had a mixed school during this period.

c1863 The Five-Mile Pond area had a mixed school in this era.

c1863 Asbury Chapel on Hickory Street served as a city grammar school in the 1860's

1864 The **Springfield Library Association** is incorporated and starts to receive funding from the city.

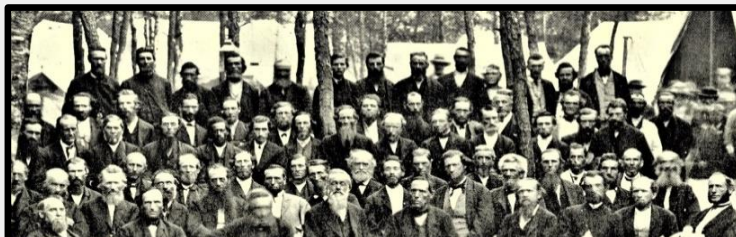
1864 The **Haynes Hotel** constructed at 1386-1402 Main Street was the first of Springfield grand hotels. This amazing hotel was located at the corners of Main and Pyncheon Street, and still exists. "Tilly" Haynes contracted to have the grand structure built, that was then sold to H.H. Waters in 1876.

1864 The U.S. Armory is now producing **1,000 muskets per week**.

1864 The **State Street Baptist Church, AKA: Second Baptist Church** is established. It will be formally dedicated on Dec. 18, 1867. It was demolished in 1927, to be replaced by the Arcade Theater.

1864 The **Patton Building**, owned by William Patton, is constructed as a 4 story commercial block at Main and Hampden St.

c1865 The **Adventist Campground** was located in the Hungry Hill section of the city, between Liberty, Carew and Nottingham Streets. These meetings were held at this location for over 50 years. Early on, tents were used



for shelter, but later small houses were built for a more comfortable place to live and worship.

Some of these small homes still exist, but were enlarged and modernized. Today they would be hard to recognize.



The above photo shows many of the Adventist Campground Ministers at a camp meeting that was held from August 24-31, 1868.

1865 **Barney and Berry Skate Co.** founded. They are the manufacturers of the **first clamp-on skates**. It would eventually make Barney one of the wealthiest men in the state.

1865 Springfield appoints it's **first superintendent of schools**, A. E. Hubbard. Hubbard served until his death in 1873.

1865 Rachel Merriam, the second wife of Charles Merriam, helps to establish the **Home for Friendless Women**. It was originally located on Union Street, later moving to Howard then Williams Street. Each move was required due to overcrowding.

1865 9th Mayor - Albert D. Briggs

1865 Tilley Haynes rebuilds his **Haynes Hotel** as one of the finest in the city. He had even included the city's first hydraulic elevator.

1865 Charles Gilbert and John Barker partner to build the **"Springfield Gas Machine"** that converted crude petroleum distillates into gas vapor used to light buildings.

1865 The **Lincoln Hall** building on Rifle Street was built during the Civil War era. It would serve a number of purposes over its 150 years in existence. It was used as a meeting house for the armory workers that worked just across the street, a convenient easy place to get a drink after work, a restaurant, and a grocery store.

c1865 The **York Street School** is constructed around this time. It contained 4 rooms and was closed in 1900. It was located across from the beginning of Pecousic Avenue, and stretched between York and Elmwood Streets.

1865 The **Home for Friendless Women and Children** is established at 62 Union St.

by 1865 The city's population has **expanded by 45%** because of jobs created by the Civil War.

1866 **Elm Street Grammar School** is constructed across the street from First Church.

1866 Construction of the beautiful **Church of the Unity** on State Street begins. It is completed in 1869.

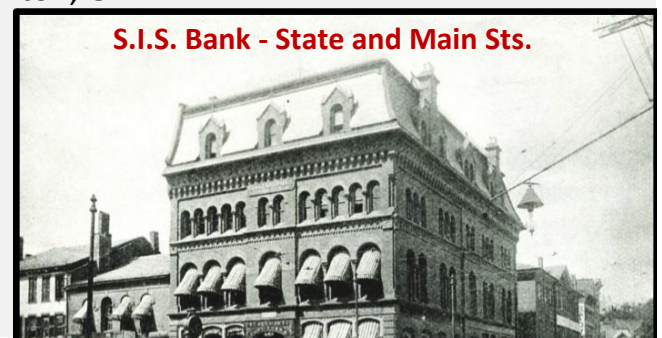
1866 Andrew Forbes partners with J.M. Smith to open a dry goods store at the southeast corner of Main and Vernon Sts. When Smith left the company in 1874, Andrew Wallace took his place. This partnership will eventually lead to the formation of **Forbes and Wallace Dept. Stores**.

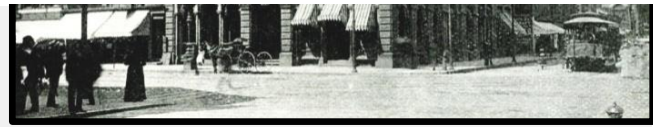
1866 **Hooker Primary & Grammar School** is opened on Main St. between Tenth & Greenwood Sts.

1866 The granite and brownstone Gothic Revival **Memorial Church** is constructed on North Main Street near Carew St.

1867 **Hampden Watch Company** starts production in Springfield. John Deuber purchased the company in 1888 and moved the company to Canton, OH.

1867 The new **Springfield Institution for Savings Bank** headquarters is built in a grand building at the corners of Main and State Streets. This is one of the busiest street corners in the city, not just in 1867, but in most of Springfield's history.





1867 The **State Street Baptist Church** is dedicated after construction is now complete.

1867 **Elm Street Grammar School** is constructed across the street from First Church.

It's demolition occurred sometime between 1900 and 1910.

1868 10th Mayor - Charles A. Winchester

1868 March 16: **Springfield Street Railway Co.**

begins operating horse-drawn trolleys.

Early trolley car in Springfield.

Photo dates to the 1872.



1868 **Indian Orchard Grammar School** is opened on Myrtle St. in the Orchard. After being expanded it became known as the Myrtle St. School. Still exists today after being converted to apartments.

1868 **First Flat-Bottomed Paper Bag** is invented by Margaret E. Knight for Columbia Paper Bag Co.

Having lost out on her first invention because she didn't realize what a patent was, she moved moved to patent the machine that she had invented, that would automatically cut, fold and glue flat-bottomed paper bags. She continued to invent throughout her life, and eventually received at least 26 patents. She was called "the most famous 19th century woman inventor".

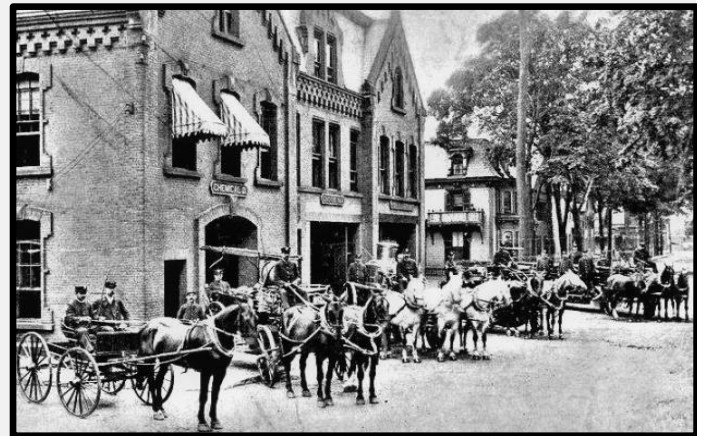
1868 **Oak Street School** is constructed.

1868 **Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company** moves into its first home office building, which was located on Main Street between East Court Street and Harrison Avenue. It is destroyed by a devastating fire on February 5, 1873. Saving the front of the building, the company would reopen by December, 1873.

1868 **Barrows Grammar School** opens at the corner of Oak and Tyler Streets. On the 1899 city map, this school is called the Oak Street Grammar School. It no longer exists.

1868 The **Pyncheon Street Fire Station** opens.

It would become one of the most important fire stations in Springfield due to it's very convenient location to central Springfield. During the devastating 1875 downtown fire, which had started on the eastern part of Lyman Street and traveled in a southwest direction through the center of the city, the Pyncheon Street Fire Station was the first able to respond.



1869 **Worthington Street Primary and Grammar School** is constructed on Worthington Street just a short distance east of Spring Street. It was used into the 1900's, but no longer exists.

1869 October 8: **James Frank Duryea** is born. He will become the co-producer of the first gasoline powered automobile. James and his brother Charles will open the Duryea Motor Wagon Company in Springfield.

1869 1st Producer of **Supplementary Education Material** for Kindergarten Education

- Milton Bradley Co.

1869 The cities original **Omnibus Transportation System** is converted to a horse-drawn street trolley street.

1870 Map: Newell Brothers Button Co. is located on the riverfront at the end of Howard Street. Nelson was the company president, while Samuel was the treasurer.

1870 Map: Charles Merriam (dictionary) lives at 12 Howard Street.

1870 Map: Coal Yard for the South End can be found between William and Margaret Streets.

1870 Map: Wilcox Drain Tile Works is near the riverbank on Margaret Street.

1870 Map: Fish & Company Soap Works is located at the Walker Street riverfront area.

1870 Map: Walker Sash & Blind Factory is located on Walker Street in the cities South End.

1870 Map: Swan Lumber Yard is on Hanover Street in the South End.

1870 Map: Olm Bros. Green House and Nursery is on York Street in the South End.

1870 Map: H. King & Son Brick Yard is on Long Hill Street.

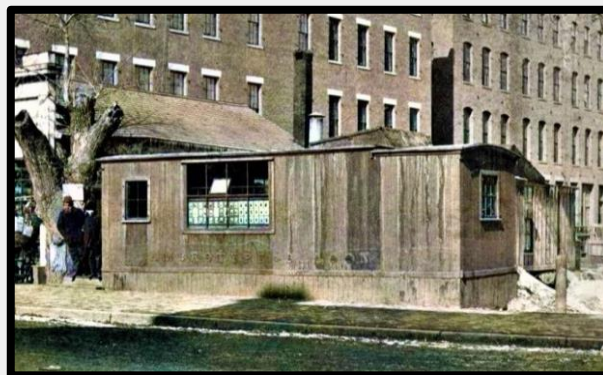
1870 Map: Barney & Berry Skate Factory is located on the Mill River. This is not their large factory.

1870 Map: Bemis & Call Machine Shop is located on the Mill River.

1870 Map: Howard Bros. Waste Factory is on the Mill River.

1870 Map: Smith & Wesson Fire Arm Co. is located on the Mill River.

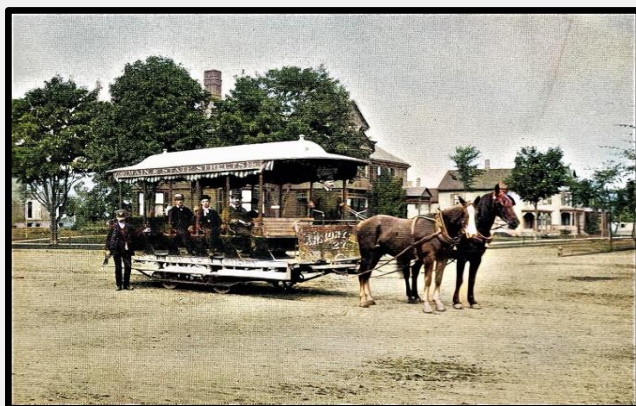
1870's **Ambrotype Saloons** would now be available to photograph Springfield residents. In the beginning daguerreotype images were the most popular, while later the change was made to ambrotype images then albumen prints. These "saloons" were constructed on wagons so that they could be moved from town to town. This Ambrotype Saloon was located on Main Street, between Bridge and Worthington Streets.



1870's Looking to capitalize on fads of this time, Bradley became the first manufacturer in America to make croquet sets.

1870 11th Mayor - William L. Smith

1870



Springfield Street Railway Company in operation with horse-drawn trolleys with just one line that traveled down Main Street from Hooker Street to State Street and then eastward up State Street to Oak Street. Eventually this line would travel all the way up to Winchester Square.

1870 **Gilbert & Barker Manufacturing Company** is incorporated. They were located at the corner of Lyman and Spring Streets.

1870 The population of Springfield reaches 26,703.

c1870 The **Cooley House** property on State Street, was located where Classical High Apartments are today. The Cooley property extended over to Temple Street and contained apple orchards and a large garden that was watered by Skunk's Misery. The house itself was torn down in the 1880's.

- c1870 **St. Joseph's Parochial School** on Union & Howard Streets is opened.
- 1870 The **Winchester Square** area starts to slowly develop. Prior to this time it was a sandy area, sparsely settled with a small pond. The area started rapid development when the trolley tracks from downtown ran thru the area in 1875 and connected with the Connecticut line. This led to businesses and residences to be built and a need for the trolley line to continue up State Street. The ponds were filled in, but even now, over 100 years later, houses in the area of the ponds still have water issues in their cellars.
- 1870 **Springfield Hospital** is officially opened on Boston Road at the current A.I.C. location. It would utilize an old farmhouse.
- 1870 The post Civil War population of Springfield has grown to 26,703.
- 1871 The **Athol and Enfield Railroad Line** ties into the Main Line in East Springfield.
- 1871 **Central Street Primary School** is built at the corners of Central and Spruce Streets. The building no longer exists and new residences are being built to replace those that were destroyed in the June 1st tornado.
- 1871 **St. Michael Cemetery** opens on Boston Road. There are over 68,430 burials currently.
- 1871 The **Massachusetts legislature** okays the construction of a new county courthouse on Elm St.
- 1871 The **city's first courthouse**, which was currently being used as a carriage shop, is demolished.
- 1871 The **City Library** is built with citizens' donations on State street, on a parcel of land donated by George Bliss. By 1905, the library's shelves hold 136,000 volumes, making it one of the largest public libraries in the country.
- 1872 The **Hampden County Truant School** was located on Armory Street at Van Horn Park. The Truant School would close in 1916.



- 1872 The development of the **Ludlow Reservoir** is planned to meet the water needs of the citizens of Springfield. This water will supply drinkable water to the city when finally opens in 1877.
- 1872 The **White Street Ungraded Schoolhouse** is opened. It was converted into a residence in the early 1900's, then razed in 2009 to make way for a new fire station.



The Original Springfield City Library from 1871





State Street High School - 1873

- 1872 The **Old Toll Bridge** stops charging tolls, but the name "toll" would remain to the end.
- 1872 January: General Horace C. Lee is appointed postmaster.
- 1872 12th Mayor - Samuel B. Spooner
- 1872 The **West Union Street Primary School** is constructed between Union and Wilcox Streets. After 1900 it was replaced by the Howard Street and William Street Schools.
- 1872 **Morgan Envelope Company** is incorporated. Starting out at corners of Hillman and Dwight St. they would soon move to larger facilities between Taylor and Worthington Streets. The initial key to their success was outbidding a significant number of competitors to win the federal contract to produce government-issued postcards.
- 1872 The **Fire Department** became the first to consist of all paid fire fighters.
- 1872 The city installed a **Central Telegraph System**.
- 1872 The city was now using the gravity-fed water reservoir at Van Horn Park for its water system to feed the cities fire hydrants. **It was not used for drinking water.**
- 1872 **Former volunteers** formed a fraternal organization called the Springfield Veteran Fireman's Association.
- 1873 **State Street High School (above)** is built on State Street next to the City Jail. This modern school replaces the high school that was once located on Court Street next to City Hall. Once Central High School was built next door, it was converted to serve the city as the State Street Grammar School. It will later be demolished to make way for an addition to Classical High School. See photo above.
- 1873 The Dennis Nelen Furniture Mfg. Store opens on Main Street. It would eventually come to be known as **Kavanaugh's Furniture**, with a location on State Street.
- 1873 **Current railroad bridge** crossing the Connecticut River from Springfield to West Spfld is built.
- 1873 The **North Congregational Church** is constructed at the corner of Salem and Mattoon Streets. It was disbanded in 1935 and became the Grace Baptist Church. Later it became the Hispanic Baptist Church.
- 1873 Admiral P. Stone is appointed the second superintendent of Spfld schools. Stone served til 1888.
- 1873 Men's choral group, **The Orpheus Club**, is founded in Springfield. The groups first leader was the talented musician, Louis Coenen. They would publically perform at many city occasions
- 1873 **First Postcard in the U.S.** - Morgan Envelope Factory.
- 1873 **The Brightwood section** of the city opens with the introduction of Wason Manufacturing Co. Wason had originally been located in a large complex between Lyman and Taylor Streets. It was named after Dr. J.G. Holland's swiss-style mansion "Brightwood" in Atwater Park.
- 1873 The **cities horse-drawn** trolley system expands into the South End.
- 1873 February 5: the famous **Mass Mutual fire** on Main Street completely destroys the block. The front of the building was saved, when rebuilt they would use the original front, rebuilding only the back part. Mass Mutual was able to have the bank reopened in December, 1873.
- 1873 The **State Street Methodist Episcopal Church** opens at the corner of State and Myrtle Streets. In 1899, it closed after a merger with another Methodist Episcopal Church and a large apartment building would be constructed in its place.
- by 1874 The **International Order of Odd Fellows (I.O.O.F.)** takes over the old Court House Building, which was located just north of Old First Church. In many old photos of Court Square you can see see the letters I.O.O.F above the front door.
- 1874 13th Mayor - John M. Stebbins

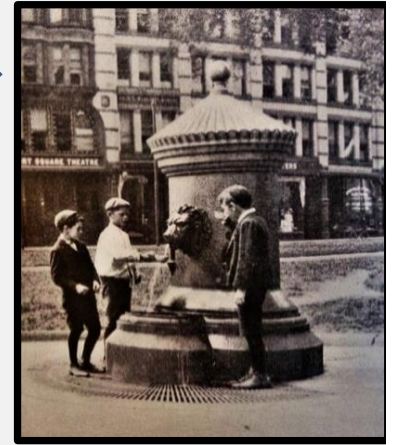
- BY 1874 **J.H. Banks & Sons Coal Dealers, Yard and Office** located at 38 Williams Street in the South End.
- 1874 The **Hampden County Courthouse** opens its new building in Springfield at a cost of \$304,543. This famous Springfield structure still serves the city.
- 1874 The state suited the city because it had not allowed for anyplace to secure important documents in the courthouse. The **Hall of Records Building** was not constructed until 1900 1910.
- 1874 **Springfield Brass Foundry** - AKA: E. Stebbins Manufacturing Company was located at 37 Taylor Street. On the 1899 City Map, they had moved to a significantly larger production facility on Fisk Avenue, with ready access to the railroad via their own spur line.
- 1874 Andrew B. Wallace of Scotland, partners with Alexander B. Forbes to form Forbes & Wallace Department Store. Forbes retires in 1896 but the Wallace family kept it going until 1976. The eight story **Forbes & Wallace Building** was constructed in 1905 and demolished in 1985. Andrew B. Wallace owned an early mansion that was on top of the hill, that was located where Orr Cadillac once stood.
- 1874 The **Kennedy Block** is constructed at the corner of Main and Taylor Streets. It still exists.
- 1874 **First Church Parish House** is constructed behind the church.
- 1874 The **original Brightwood School** opens at the corner of Plainfield and Talcot Streets. It was demolished sometime between 1899 and 1910.
- 1870's to mid 1880's: Most of the **Central Street Rowhouses** are constructed.
- 1875 Emerson Wight serves as the mayor of Springfield, his term ending in 1878.
- 1875 **First Dog Show** in the U.S. - is produced by the Springfield Rod & Gun Club.
- 1875 **South Congregational Church** open at 45 Maple Street. The congregation was started in 1842, and is still active today.
- 1875 The **Ludlow Water Reservoir** is constructed to finally provide adequate drinking water to Spfld, this could allow the city to grow. Prior to this, the Hill areas of the city could not get central water due to being at the same level or higher than the Van Horn Reservoir.
- 1875 **May 30: A massive fire engulfs** the center of Springfield. Originating at the H. M. Conkey & Company building on Taylor Street, the fire claims fifty buildings, including thirty homes, before finally being brought under control. Total losses were estimated at \$596,300. Portions of Main, Worthington, Bond Place, Vernon, Water and Wight Avenue were affected by the inferno.



GREAT FIRE OF MAY 30, 1875

- 1876 The **Union Relief Association** is established as a charitable organization by Rev. Washington Gladden and Samuel Bowles, publisher of the Springfield Republican.
- 1876 March 22: The city took **delivery of their new fire alarm bell**. The combined weight of the and clapper was an astounding 1,496 pounds. Prior to the arrival of the bell, gun shots had to be used to summon the bucket brigade.

- 1876 November 23: The **Massasoit Convention** was held in Springfield Mass, where a group of representatives from Harvard, Columbia, Princeton and Yale met to standardize intercollegiate football rules. This event is considered to be a pivotal moment in the development of American football. They met at the Massasoit House Hotel on Main Street.
- 1876 **East Union Street Primary School** opens. It would later be razed for the building of the DeBerry Elementary School.
- 1876 **Court Square Fountain** is constructed with funds donated by Daniel B. Wesson of Smith & Wesson Firearms. 
- 1877 The **North End Bridge** is constructed at a cost of \$170,904.
- 1877 **Safety sign** attached to the North End Bridge read:
 "No Person Shall Ride Or Drive A Horse
 Or Mule On Any Part Of This Bridge At A Rate Faster
 Than Walk Under A Penalty Of Two Dollars For Each Offense".
- 1877 **Sacred Heart Parochial School** opens for business. Initially it was girls only, but went coed in 1908. It was located on Everett Street.
- 1877 **First Social Service Agency** in the U.S. - Union Relief Association.
- 1878 January 16: Springfield's famous newsman, **Samuel Bowles** passes away.
- 1878 **First Commercial Telephone Line** (from Springfield to Holyoke) - Springfield Telephone and Automatic Signal Co. is established.
- 1878 Jan. 15: Springfield first received telephone service. This was through the District Telephone and Automatic Signal Company, a subsidiary of the Bell Telephone Company, which started operating in Springfield on January 15, 1878 when they had 79 telephones in operation in the city.
- 1878 This is the year that the **Three Graces** were built to be used at the Springfield Cemetery for the gravesite of Everett Barney's first wife, Katherine Murray Barney. After her family moved her body to Fall River, Barney had the Three Graces moved to Laurel Hill.
 If you look at the **Three Graces today, it has a "B" on two sides and letter "K" on two sides.**
- 1879 Purchasing much needed fire equipment was a major problem because of the lack of funds. The annual **Fireman's Ball** was started to help raise funds for the much needed new equipment.
- 1879 The **South End Bridge** is built for a total cost of \$116,188. It was used until c1954.
- 1879 15th Mayor - Lewis J. Powers
- 1879 The well-used **Agawam Ferry**, that traveled from Springfield's South End across the Connecticut River to Agawam, is discontinued due to the construction of the South End Bridge. The Ferry Agawam appears to have been a steam-powered side-wheeler.
- 1879 **Telephone** service comes to Springfield now with competition between District Telephone and Automatic Signal Co. and the Springfield Telephone Co. which began work on March 29, 1879.
- 1879 The city has begun operating a **public hospital** in a house on what is now the campus of American International College on State Street.
- 1879 The earlier **Hampden House** is converted to the Smith & Murray Retail Store, then the Poole Dry Goods Company and finally J.C. Penny.
- Early 1880's: The **Springfield Street Railway Company** has proved to be so popular since opening in 1870, it has now been offering travel services to more and more sections of the city. This expansion now requires the services of almost 200 people, 80 streetcars and 300 horses.
- c1880 **Van Horn Park** is established.
- by 1880 **Springfield factories** printed and published books, produced envelopes and fine writing papers, sewing machines, church organs, ice skates, paint and chemicals, steam boilers and fine watches.



- 1880 The cities population now stands at 33,340.
- 1880 **Springfield Daily News** is started by the Bellamy family.
- c1880's Although no specific date is available, the first telephone company book to be available would be around this date.
- 1881 **Springfield Electric Company** is formed.
- 1881 Springfield gets its **first electric light**, which is used downtown, in a factory. The first local streetlights went up in 1889.
- 1881 The **Dry Bridge Ungraded School** opens on St. James Circle. It still exists as a private residence.
- 1881 Dwight Gilmore buys Tilley Haynes Music Hall and renames it **Gilmore's Opera House**.
- 1881 **First Planned Residential Neighborhood** - McKnight Historic District by John & William McKnight. It is anchored in the Worthington Street, St. James Avenue and Bay Street areas.
- 1881 **Blunt Park and Oak Grove Cemetery** are opened.
- 1881 16th Mayor - William H. Haile
- pre-1882 **Charles Street Primary School** is opened on Franklin Street, across from Charles Street. This entire street taken in the 1960's by urban renewal.
- pre-1882 There was a **cemetery located** approximately where the Sumner Ave School is located today. The graves had to be moved prior to building the school, they were reinterred at the Springfield Cemetery on Maple Street.
- pre-1882 **Bridge Street School** exists on lower Bridge St. between Main and Water St. It is gone by 1899.
- pre-1882 **Howard School for Young Ladies** exists at the corner of School and Union Streets.
- pre-1882 **Oak Street Primary School** was located at the corners of Union and Oak Street. It closed as a school in 1938 and was sold to the city in 1946. The building was destroyed by fire in 2004. I have seen it also listed as the Strickland Primary and Grammar School.
- pre-1882 **"The Elms" Young Ladies School** is operating at the corner of High and Ingraham Streets.
- pre-1882 **Belmont Avenue** is known as Blake Street, while the area around it is known as Blake Woods.
- pre-1882 The South End area around Fort Pleasant Avenue and Longhill Street supplies the city with **much needed bricks**.
- pre-1882 The **Auburn Street School** building existed, but was not used as a school on the 1899 city maps.
- pre-1882 **Agawam Brick Yard** is a substantial operation at the bottom of Long Hill Street
- 1882 **Barney and Berry Skate Co.** constructs a large manufacturing building at 93 Broad Street.
- 1882 17th Mayor - Edwin W. Ladd
- 1882 The city opens two new **Charity Kindergartens**.
- 1882 **First Music Appreciation Course** - Springfield Public School System.
- 1882 **Dwight Street** does not pass under the railroad tracks. North Street would later become the extension of Dwight Street north of the railroad tracks.
- 1882 Map: **Some time between 1875 and 1882**, the Springfield Armory opened a gate that would allow entry into the Armory Grounds directly from State Street and over to the front of the Arsenal Building. That entry would be gone by the 1899 map.
- 1882 The bronze statue of **Captain Miles Morgan** (hero of the King Phillips War) is completed and placed in Court Square. It depicts him in huntsman's dress, jack-boots and cocked hat with a rifle over his shoulders.
- 1883 The **Springfield hospital trustees** are incorporated and charged with the task of expanding and improving the hospital. These trustees are mayoral appointees.
- 1883 **St. Michael's Parochial School** opens on Elliot Street.
- 1883 Everett Barney builds an elaborate , turreted, 2 1/2-story Victorian mansion, which **Barney called Pecousic Villa**. This includes a large carriage house.

1883 **Oak Street Primary School** was located at the corners of Union and Oak Street.

It closed as a school in 1938.

1883 18th Mayor - Henry M. Phillips

1884 There are so many great photos of Forest Park, that from this point on I will be posting groupings.



Taking A Walk Down To The Duck Ponds



Following Pecousic Brook To The Cool Bridge



The Babbling Sounds Of The Cascades



The Amazing Oxbox & Distant Laurel Hill

1884 City resident **Orick H. Greenleaf** offers Springfield 65 acres for the establishment of a park to be named Forest Park. Shortly after, 178 acres were donated by wealthy philanthropist Everett H. Barney. After this, there would be a determined effort by the cities wealthy to continue to add many more parcels of land for Forest Parks creation.

1884 **Gilbert & Barker Manufacturing Company** is acquired by Standard Oil Company.

1884 Edward P. Chapin is appointed postmaster.

1884 **Springfield had 93 firefighters**, 33 alarm boxes and 400 water hydrants. If needed, a backup fire engine could be called upon from the Armory

1884 **King's Handbook of Springfield** is published by James D. Gill of Springfield.

It is considered to be the best source for information on early Springfield.

1884 **Springfield had two Associations** for the relief of firefighters. Fireman's Mutual Relief-payment for injured firefighters, along with the Fireman's Aid Association in case of sickness.

1885 **Henry R. Johnson** starts his bookstore career in Northampton at the College Bookstore, making \$4.00 per week. Henry moved to Springfield in 1888 to work in James D. Gill's Art Store. He would open his own store in 1893.

1885 The **first public school to be built on Hungry Hill** was a one-room structure built on the west side of Armory Street just across the street from Sullivan Street. You could see it on the 1899 City Map.

1885 Springfield reaches a population of 37,575.

1885 July 18: The **French Protestant College** is established by Rev. Calvin E. Amaron.

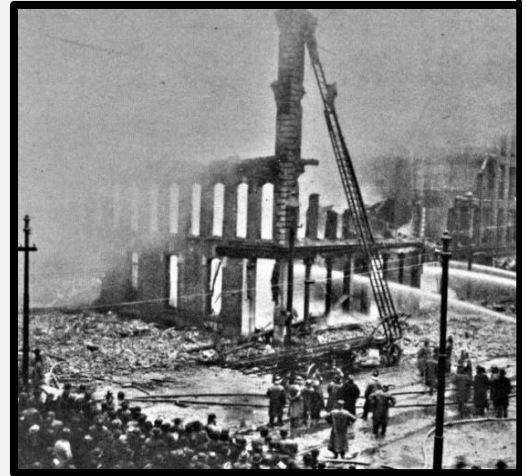
It would later become the multi-cultural college called **American International College**.

c1880's It is in this time period that Springfield gained its well-known nickname of "**City of Homes**".

1885 September 29: Gurdon Bill's gift to the Grand Army, the **Soldiers' Monument in Court Square**, is dedicated with ceremonial speeches, music and parades.

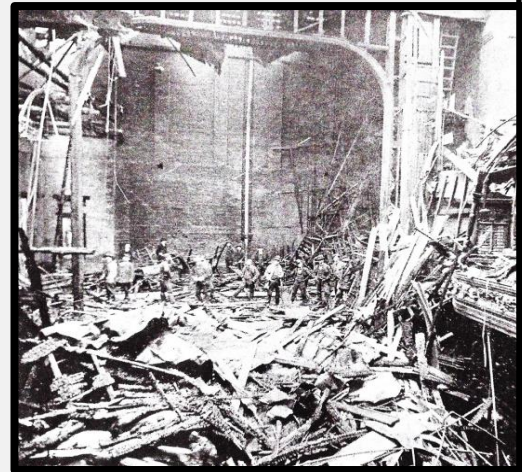
This list is just a few of **Springfield's Significant Fires** over its long history:

1824: United States Armory
1844: Hampden House at Court Square
1847: Western Railway Co. Depot
1869: Chase Planing Mill
1870: Watch Factory
1870: T.M. Walker
1871: Bemis & Call
1872: Alden's Woolen Mill
1872: Boston & Albany Round House
1874: Wight Block
1873: Mass Mutual Building Fire
1875: The Great Downtown Fire that started on Taylor St.
1876: Boston and Albany Car Shop
1886: Indian Orchard Mill
1887: Winthrop Club
1888: Union Newspaper
1893: Glendower Hotel
1897: Gilmore Opera House
1905: City Hall
1906: Highland Baptist Church
1906: The Bee Hive an eight-tenement fire.
1910: Springfield News Company
1912: Wason Car Company.



GLENDOWER HOTEL - TOTAL DEVASTATION

GILMORE OPERA HOUSE IS DESTROYED



1988: A very dangerous chemical fire broke out at Advanced Laboratories Inc that were located on the second floor of the old Watershops plant. It was caused by rainwater entering thru an open window and chemically interacting with the chlorine that was stored there. It resulted in 7 chemical burns and the evacuation of almost 2,000 people in the immediate area.

1885 **Myrtle Street School** is built in Indian Orchard. It was originally called the Indian Orchard Grammar, which opened in 1868.

1886 19th Mayor - Edwin D. Metcalf

1886 May 25-28: Springfield celebrates its **250th anniversary**. Festivities over the 3 days include commemorating speeches by Mayor Edwin D. Metcalf, Governor George D. Robinson and Judge William S. Shurtleff. There is music provided by the Orpheus Club, a banquet at the Massasoit House, 2,000 of the cities children gathered at Court Square to sing for the special day, parades, concerts and a formal ball.

1886 The Union House Hotel would be renamed the **Chandler Hotel**, which would survive until 1933.

1886 The **Springfield Home for Aged Women** opens its door for the less fortunate. Over many years, Springfield would have a number of Homes for Aged Woman locations.

1886 The **Winchester Square Fire Station** is built.

1886 **First Revolver Club - Springfield Revolver Club** organized by Smith & Wesson Firearms.

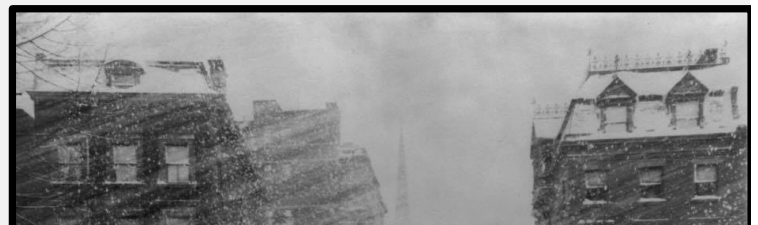
1887 The **Fuller Block** (Onion Dome) is constructed at 1531-1545 Main Street. It is the first building in



Springfield to have the modern amenities of steam heat, passenger elevators, mail chutes and running water on all floors. It was built by industrialist Frank Fuller at a cost of \$100,000. The domes which served for ventilation, were removed sometime in the 1920's. The building still exists as of 2025. This photo dates back to 1895.



- 1887 Aug. 27: **Julia Sanderson** is born in Springfield. During her long life, she was married 3 times, but always kept a close relation to her birth city. She was a teenage actress, chorus girl, theater actress and radio personality. She had a "country" home in Longmeadow called Dunrovin. For a time the Paramount Theater in Springfield was named The Julia Sanderson Theater. She died in Springfield in 1975, aged 87.
- 1887 The **electrification** of Springfield in general begins.
- 1887 **York Street Jail** opens in the cities South End. Total cost for the project was \$266,954.
- 1887 The **Kibbe's** family involvement with Kibbe Candy ends with the death of Horace Kibbe.
- c1887 **The elaborate fence** that surrounded Court Square is removed to be used around the York Street Jail. It was still being used when the jail was demolished.
- 1887 **Thanksgiving Day: Stearns Square opens.** It was designed by the famous sculptor Augustus Saint-Gaudens, along with renowned landscape architect Stanford White. Saint-Gaudens iconic statue of The Puritan was originally located here, before being moved to Merrick Park, which is at the corners of State and Chestnut Streets. Stearns Square, even after just a few yrs, had been destroyed by the rowdy nighttime crowds. The square had originally contained a number of fountains, but after they were removed into storage, many were just lost to time.
- 1887 20th Mayor - Elisha B. Maynard
- 1887 Fall: The trustees of Springfield City Hospital, with the significant financial help from Chester & Dorcas Chapin (Railroad Monies), and Daniel and Cynthia Wesson (Firearm Monies), decide to purchase 35 acres on **North Chestnut Street** to create a new hospital with 50 beds.
- 1887 The **First Spiritualist Church** is constructed at 33-37 Bliss Street. This was first a French Protestant Church to be built in the city, and it was done with the help of Daniel Wesson. Wesson helped other ethnic groups, including Italian Baptist and Black Protestant congregations. It was purchased by the First Spiritualist Society in 1919. The building itself was moved in 2016 to become part of the MGM Casinos properties.
- 1887 **Charles Merriam**, of dictionary fame, passes away.
- 1888 **Springfield Hospital** opens at the corners of Chestnut and Springfield Streets.
- 1888 March 7: **Springfield Daily Union** offices on the corner of Main and Worthington Streets are swept up in a rapid spreading & horrific fire that causes significant loss of life and other injuries. Victims were forced to jump from the upper floors or died in the blaze itself where the fire had trapped them. The fire prompted the city to buy the fire department's 1st aerial ladder truck.
- 1888 March 11: The disastrous **"Blizzard of 88"** strikes Springfield along with most of the East Coast. Springfield received between 40" and up to 50" of snow.
- 1888 April: Dr. Thomas M. Balliet is named superintendent of schools. During his tenure, which lasted until May 1904, more than 1 million dollars were invested in the educational infrastructure of Springfield.



1888 A new **Aerial Ladder Truck** is added to the Pyncheon Street Fire Station.

1888 The **Glenwood Ungraded School** opens at the corners of Springfield and Armory Sts. It was used as a school until 1930 when the new Glenwood School was built. It may have been demolished to serve as an extension of Silver Street.



A rare photo of the blinding snow taken during the Blizzard of '88 storm.

1888 George T. Warwick forms the **Warwick Cycle Mfg. Co.** They continued to build bicycles until 1899 when they reorganized to form the Warwick Cycle & Automobile Co. Warwick himself went bankrupt in 1890 and local capitalist stepped in to continue the company.

1888 January 1: **John Garand**, Springfield Armories famed rifle designer is born.

1888 The **Chicopee Bank Building** is constructed at the corners of Main and Elm Streets.

1888 The **Tapley School** is constructed on Bay Street. Closed as a school in 1975, it was then converted to apartments 1994.

1889 The **Jefferson Avenue Primary and Grammar School** opens at the corner of Jefferson Avenue and North (now Dwight) Street. It will serve the city as a school until 1976 and then be converted to apartments in 1988.

1889 21st Mayor - Edward S. Bradford

1889 **National Papeterie Company**, a significant stationery company, locates in Springfield. The site is on Orleans Street between Tyler and Quincy Streets.

1889 The **original Springfield Hospital** on Boston Road closes, prior to opening the new 50 bed hospital on North Chestnut Street.

1889 Springfield's **Third Railroad Station** is opened between Lyman and Liberty Streets.

c1890's Two river steamships plied the waters between Springfield and the Riverside Grove until at least 1927. The **Steamer Mascot** was a two-deck excursion steamer, smaller than the more common Steamer Sylvia, it frequently carried groups such as the Young Women's Guild or a Trinity Church Group. It was said that the Mascot ended its long career as a banana boat in South America. **Steamer Sylvia** was much larger than the Mascot, able to transport thousands of people to Riverside in a single day, since her capacity was 365 or more per cruise. Sylvia's demise came in 1927 when being wet docked at the mouth of Agawam's Three Mile Brook, a stray spark from the nightly fireworks set the Sylvia blazing brightly. She burned down to the waterline, and people still say that the Sylvia still rests at the mouth of the 3 Mile Brook.

1890 **The Arch** is constructed across Main Street to allow railroad traffic to pass above Main Street. This is much safer and allows for speedier transit to the railroad station.

1890 **Hampden Corundum Wheel Company** moves its headquarters to Springfield, it had originally been located in Chester. Their purpose was grinding wheels. They shut down operations in 1921.

1890 **Van Norman Machine Tool Company** moves to the city. Originally known as the Waltham Watch Tool Company, its founders, Charles E. and Fred D. Van Norman, decide to take the company in another direction. Their principal efforts now move to the design and manufacture of precision machine tools, initially milling machines. Van Norman operated until the mid-1980's.

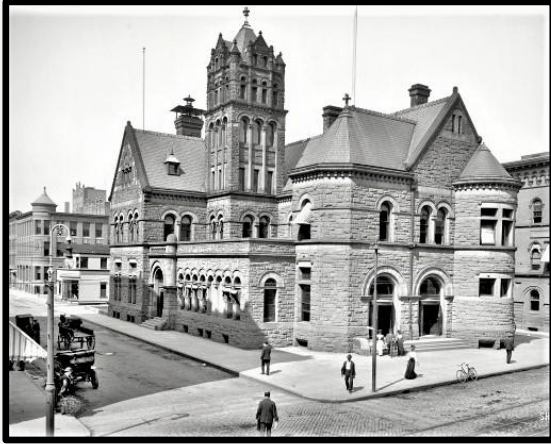
1890 Colonel Henry M. Phillips is appointed postmaster.

1890 **Alden Street School** is completed. Located just a few lots east of Hancock Street, the building may or may not, still exist. The city lists a church on that site in 1910, that may be the reconstructed school.

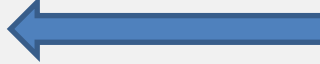
1890 The new **Hotel Charles** is opened, it will see a major renovation in 1928.

- 1890 June 2: Springfield acquires part of Longmeadow.
- 1890 June 6: The **first electric trolley** line travels to Forest Park. The cities last electric line would run in 1940 from Forest Park.

1891



The **first post office building** is constructed, it is located at the corner of Main and Worthington Streets. The city having been designated a port of entry around the same time, locates a custom house for the Port of Springfield in this beautiful and very ornate stone building. This is Springfield's first purposely built post office. It opened on March 1, 1891, serving until 1932.



- 1891 Canadian immigrant, **James Naismith**, a theology graduate, invents the sport of basketball at what was then known as the YMCA International Training School. It is now Springfield College. Naismith, a physical education instructor, **created basketball to provide an indoor game** for students to play during the winter months. The first game was played in December 1891, using soccer balls and peach baskets. Basketball quickly gained popularity and spread beyond Springfield, becoming a globally recognized sport.



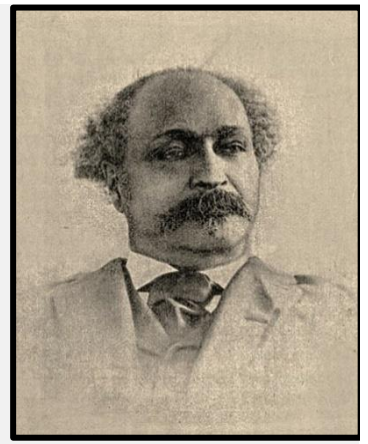
The first game of basketball was played in this building on December 21, 1891. It was located at the corners of State and Sherman Street. The historic building no longer exists.

James Naismith instructing basketball moves.

- 1891 The **Springfield Street Railway Co. completes electrification**. This is also at the time they constructed a service building at the corners of North Main and Carew Streets.
- 1891 **Blair Mfg. Co.** was in the business of making early lawnmowers. They were located on Birnie Avenue in the manufacturing part of Springfield, which was Brightwood. Their popular "Pilgrim" model was made until at least to 1949.
- 1891 **Pynchon Street Primary School** is opened on Pynchon Street. It served as the Municipal Building during the construction of the new Municipal Center. This area of Pynchon Street was completely razed for the construction of Route 91.
- 1891 Frank Perret opens **Elektron Manufacturing Company**. Perret, a former employee of Thomas Edison, manufactured small electric fans out of their factory at 48-52 Wilbraham Road. In 1906 Elektron was bought out by Otis Elevator.
- 1891 Nov. 19th: The **Springfield Boys Club** begins in a room above Lubitz's Bakery on Pynchon Street.
- 1891 **Buckingham Primary School** is opened at the corner of Wilbraham Road and Eastern Ave. It was razed in 1976.
- 1892 **Primus Mason passes away**. Mason left his \$25,000 estate, well over one million dollars today,

to establish a Home for Aged Men.

If any man could be called a "self-made" man, it would be Primus Mason. Beginning life as a free man of color, Mason would lose his parents at the tender age of just seven, and end up as an indentured servant to a cruel Monson family. At 20 yrs old, Mason would come to the Hayti section of Spfld (Bay St. Area). He was an industrious young man who worked at any available job that could improve his lot, and improve his lot, he did. He became a "thrifty and honest, but shrewd and calculating" businessman. He eventually earned the respect of the white businessmen, who welcomed him into their dubious company of "reliable businessmen". Mason along with Thomas Thomas and Rev. Dr. Osgood were active in helping members of their race, escape from slavery via the Underground Railroad.



Primus Mason
1817 - 1892

1892 **W.F. Young Company** is founded by Wilbur Fenlon Young and his wife Mary Ida. It is still a family owned business with a strong tradition of producing and innovation for both horses and human health markets. The names Absorbine Liniment and Absorbine Jr. are well known products.

1892 22nd Mayor - Lawson Sibley

1892 The famous **Court House Barber Shop** opens.

1892 Springfield City Hospital trustee Lucinda Howard works to encourage the development of the hospital staff. Lucinda is credited for **convincing the board to add a training school for nurses**.

1892 May 10: The **City Library** building is renamed 'The William Rice Building' in a dedication ceremony honoring librarian William Rice, whose service began in 1861 and spanned 36 years. Rice retired five years after the renaming, in 1897.

1892 Although not officially accepted yet, **Springfield City Hospital** has begun training interns for the future.

1892 June 1: In respect for the beloved clergyman, Bishop Patrick O'Reilly's passing, Mayor Lawson Sibley **requested city businesses remain closed**. O'Reilly had served the Sacred Heart Parish since 1870.



Sept. 5: The newly-constructed Court Square Theater Building on Elm Street, is dedicated. The building was owned by Dwight O. Gilmore and set him back \$250,000. The 2014 dollar price is \$6,710,000. The theater seated 1,800 patrons. The Court Square Theaters last performance was held on April 22, 1956. Remodeled and updated in 2024. The official Condo ribbon-cutting ceremony was held in April 2024.

Court Square Theater Building in the Early 1900's

1892 **Tapley & Tapley Manufacturing Company** opens on Willow Street. The company makes paper, cloth faced collars and cuffs at the rate of up to 100,000 per day. They supply product to North, Central and South America.

1892 The small **School Street School** is completed. Located at the corners of School and High Streets, the building was converted into an office building that still exists.

1892 The **Barney Mausoleum** is constructed in what would become Forest Park.


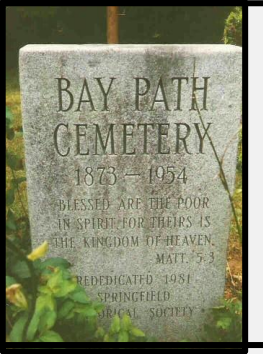
- 1893 The **Springfield Fire Commission** is established to oversee the Springfield Fire Department.
- 1893 23rd Mayor - Edmund P. Kendrick
- 1893 September 20: Charles and Frank Duryea **road-test the first-ever American**, gasoline powered car. This automobile was built in the Russell Machine Shop, located on Taylor Street. It was test-driven from its home plant up to Spruce Street.
- 1893 January: the **last horse-drawn trolley car** crosses over the Old Covered Bridge to West Springfield and retirement.
- 1893 November 22: The **Glendower Hotel Fire** occurred. The hotel was located at the corners of Main and Worthington Streets. Up to that point, it was the costliest fire the city had ever experienced, reaching a pricetag of \$450,000.
- 1893 **Henry Johnson** opens what would become Johnson's Bookstore. It would take a number of relocations around Main Street before it would become the Johnson's that we would all know and love while growing up.
- 1894 John H. Clune is appointed postmaster.
- 1894 Springfield purchases its **First Chemical Engine** for the fire department
- 1894 **Carew Street Grammar School** is opened on the south side of Carew Street between Main and North (now Dwight) Streets. It was closed in 1978 and demolished in 1999.
- 1894 Andrew Whitney begins construction on what would become the **Whitney Block**, located at the corners of Main and Worthington Streets. The six-story building would become the **first steel framed building in Springfield**.
- mid- 1890 - **Springfield Street Railway's** uses one of their buildings at Carew and Main Streets for nightly inspections of the trolleys undercarriages.
- 1895 The population of Springfield stands at 51,512.

c1895 **Bay Path Cemetery** [aka: Potter's Field; Almshouse Burying Grounds]. It is located on the left side of the entrance to Blunt Park from Roosevelt Ave. Only small round terracotta numbered markers are in the ground.

There is but one person who can be really thanked for her persistance at nagging the city powers to get this cemetery recognized.

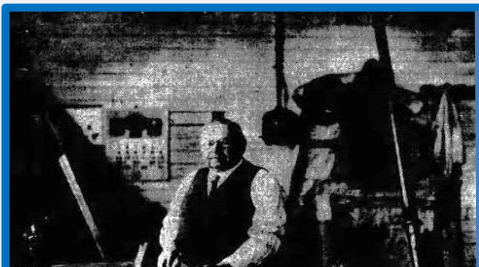
That is: Roberta (Schott) Cyr

As a kid growing up in Springfield, I had always been told that this area was reserved for Native Americans.

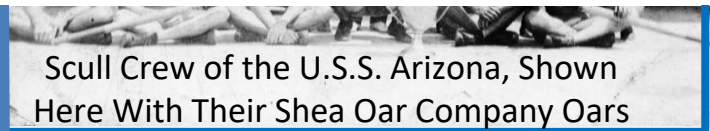
- 1895 The **Museum of Fine Art Building**, at what would become know as the Quadrangle, is completed.
- 1895 For safety reasons, **Springfield Street Railway puts every trolley car** into the shops at least one time every year, when it is completely disassembled to have all electrical and mechanical parts inspected. Once sure of it readiness to rejoin the fleet, it goes back on the rails.
- 1895 24th Mayor - Charles L. Long
- 1895 The amazing **Hotel Worthy** opens at the corners of Main and Worthington Streets.
- 1895 What was called the **Agawam Indian Fort**, was constructed by the English around 1670. This circular palisaded fort was build at the top of Long Hill Street, near Sumner Avenue. I'm using the 1895 date because that is when it was excavated, with much of what was found being donated to the Springfield Museums.
- 1895 **Springfield Fire and Marine** constructs an office building at the corners of State and Maple St.
- 1895 The **South Main Street School** is started, construction ends in 1896.

- 1895 The Duryea Motor Wagon wins **America's First-Ever Road Race**. A 54 mile race from Chicago to Evanston, Ill. The car ran on U.S. Rubber Co. tires, made in Chicopee. U.S. Rubber Co. would later be renamed Uniroyal.
- 1896 **Baush-Harris Machine Tool Company** moves from Holyoke to Brightwood area of Springfield.
- 1896 The Springfield Hospital's **Surgical Pavilion and surgical program** owes much to William Merrick, principal founder and owner of Spfld GasLight Company and Dr. F.W. Chapin, who bequeathed \$98,000 to the hospital for creation of all things related to surgery.
- 1896 **Frank Duryea takes 2 of their automobiles** to England to participate in the first London to Brighton road race. He not only wins, but finishes hours ahead of the second place car. The other Duryea car finishes in the top ten.
- 1896 The Catholic Church purchases the **Haitsill Hastings Allis mansion** on Carew Street, with the intention of turning the house into a hospital.
- 1896 to late 1980's: S&H (Sperry & Hutchinson) **Green Stamps** start to be handed out at supermarkets, department stores and gas stations among others. When their collection booklets are filled, they can be redeemed for merchandise from a catalog.
- 1896 The Mill Street Fire Station receives a new **Seagrave Ladder Truck**.
- 1896 **George Walter Vincent Smith Art Museum** becomes the 1st museum to open at the Quadrangle.
- 1896 It was estimated that Springfield had **about 600 varied** industries which created a great source of local jobs.
- 1896 **Alexander Forbes** retires from Forbes and Wallace.
- 1896 25th Mayor - Newrie D. Winter
- 1896 **South Main Street Primary and Grammar School** opens at the corners of Main and Acushnet Streets. It still stands, having been converted into apartments.
- 1896 **The First-ever Automobile accident** happens in New York City when Henry Wells hits a bicyclist, breaking his leg. Wells was driving his Duryea.
- 1896 Although **volleyball was invented** in Holyoke, the first exhibition match was held here in Springfield at the International YMCA Training School, now Springfield College.
- 1896 **Sacred Heart R.C. Church** of Springfield had its cornerstone laid in 1888, while the church itself was completed in October 1896.
- 1890's into the 1920's He was born **Timothy H. Shea**, but all oarsmen and coaches would know him as "Ted". He was a legend in his time for being "the" master paddle and oar maker for scull boats. He grew up living on the Connecticut River waterfront, at the end of Mechanic St. in the South End. He would run his fathers boat livery service, and learn how to make paddles and oars for his fathers business. His first listed success came in 1891 when Springfield resident, Emil Knapp won at the American Canoe Ass'n Championships using Shea made paddles. In 1892 the U.S. Team beat the Canadians at the International Competition at Lake Willoughby in Vermont. As his business and reputation grew, "Ted" would build oars for the U.S. Naval Academy, Yale, Columbia, Georgetown, Syracuse and Harvard. As his business grew, he would need more and more space, eventually operating out of space at the huge Wason Factory in Brightwood.





"Ted" Shea



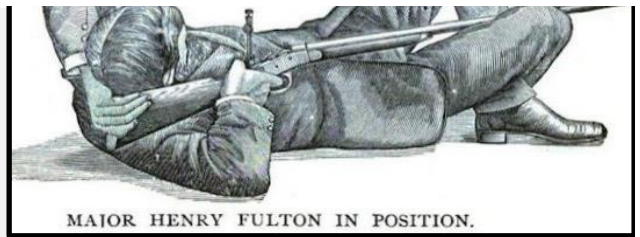
Scull Crew of the U.S.S. Arizona, Shown Here With Their Shea Oar Company Oars

- 1897 The **Nelson Theater** opens just south of what would become the Paramount Theater.
- 1897 George M. Hendee opens a bicycle production company called the **Hendee Manufacturing Co.** The bicycles carried brand names such as Silver King, Silver Queen and American Indian.
- 1897 The trustees for the **Home for Aged Men**, envisioned by Primus Mason before his death and financed by him, is incorporated.
- 1897 The **M.D. Stebbins Mfg Company** was one of the largest makers of wood-frame safety bicycles. The 1897 Chilion Bicycle used polished-hickory frame rods connected with aluminum-bronze lugs. The company claimed this distinctive bike would not buckle when riders hit obstructions, as metal rods would. Also, the bike would not rust.
- 1897 Springfield now has **10 fire stations.**
- 1897 **Bay Path Institute** opens on Main Street. It would later become Bay Path College then University.
- 1898 The **Mechanics Arts High School** is organized. In May 1904, the school's named was changed to **Technical High School.** The school rented space in Winchester Park at the Springfield Industrial Institute before its permanent home is constructed on Elliot Street.
- 1898 **Mercy Hospital** is opened. The Sisters of Providence would help to administer care.
- 1898 **Indian Orchard Primary School** opens. It was located between Main and Quebec Streets, and no longer exists.
- 1898 **Alden Street Primary School** is completed, it was located between Hancock and Eastern Ave. It was closed as a school in 1926.
- 1898 June: Louis C. Hyde is appointed postmaster.
- 1898 26th Mayor - Henry S. Dickinson
- 1898 September: **Classical High School** opens its doors for the first time. The building set the city back \$450,000. It closed as a school in 1986, and converted into housing units.
- 1898 The **Museum of Science Building** at the Quadrangle, is completed.
- 1898 The **Buxton Company** is formally organized by Dana and Julia Buxton. It would become a nationally respected company for leather products. The company was purchased in 1979.
- 1898 **Homer Street Primary School** is opened. It still stands at the corners of Wilbraham Road and Homer Street. It is still an active Springfield school.
- Misc: **Fifty-foot Extension Ladders** that were used by the fire department required at least 4 fireman to raise because the weighed 500 pounds.
- pre-1899 **Holyoke Card & Paper Co.** is a well-established business that opened before 1899, it was located on Fisk Avenue in Brightwood. It specializes in the production of high-quality paper products. It had a direct railroad spur line to the north - south main railroad lines.
- pre-1899 **H.L. Handy** was a meat wholesale company located at 45 Hampden Street. As it grew past 1910 it would take up at least 6 buildings located between Hampden and Fort Streets.
- pre-1899 **New England Card & Paper Co.** shows on the 1899 City Map. It was located at the railroad tracks on the riverfront on Broad Street.
- c1899 **Springfield held rifle shooting competitions** that shot across the Watershop Pond. There were two "ranges", one was the short range that shot from the south shore out to a floating target that was maybe 100 yards away. This target was almost under the Highland Branch Trestle.
- c1899 The **second rifle shooting competition** was the long range. It shot from the south shore of the



Watershops Pond, a little northeast and parallel to the eastern most section of the Watershop Pond. These distances were significantly longer, including 200 yards, 400 yards, 500 yards, 600 yards, 700 yards, 800 yards then ending with 900 yards that almost reached Wilbraham Rd.

All of these long distance targets were floating targets.



This position is called the "Fulton Position" It may look quite awkward, but it gives the shooter a very stable position at long distances.

c1899 **Holy Name Parochial School** opens on Dickinson Street near the "X".

c1899 **St. Joseph's Normal School** is located on Elliot Street as part of St. Michaels Cathedral property.

c1899 **St. Matthew's Parochial School**, the original, is located at the corners of Pine and Worcester St. in Indian Orchard.

c1899 **Ice Houses** were important businesses in Springfield in the later 1800's and well into the 1900's. They operated on a number of ponds located in Springfield, including Van Horn Reservoir, Loon Pond, but most of the businesses were able to extract ice from the Watershops Pond.

It was reported that in 1899, there were 9 active ice houses in Springfield.

1. Highland Ice Company cut and stored ice from Loon Pond.
2. Emery Ice House worked from the Van Horn Reservoir.
3. Van Horn Ice House was on the north shore of Watershops Pond.
4. Springfield Ice House had a large active presence on the north shore of Watershops Pond.
5. Massasoit Ice Company, like most of the Watershop Ice Houses, they were on the north side.
6. Cold Spring Ice Company, located on north side of the Watershops.
7. Fred Flagg Ice Company occupied a large piece of property on the Watershops.
8. Holland Ice Company
9. Liberty Ice & Fuel Company - Find out much more about Hungry Hill's once most popular Ice and Fuel Business, close to the end of this timeline. It cut ice from its own pond, Bass Pond in Six Acres and Haviland Pond in Ludlow.
10. Unnammed Ice House is located on the south side of the Watershops, just a little west of Highland Branch Trestle.

1899 Map: **Knitting Goods Mfg.** has three mills located together on Central Street.

1899 **Fisk Manufacturing Co.** - Soap Works is currently located in the South End on Walker Street.

1899 The **Forest Park School** opens at a cost of \$90,000. The original structure was three stories high but the concern for prompt fire exit for students prompted the city to remove the third floor with W.P.A. money during the depression. At the time of construction the school was located on Garfield Street because Oakland Street did not continue between Belmont Ave. and Sumner Ave.

1899 **Boston Road Ungraded School** opens. It was converted to the Pine Point Library in 1930 and burned down in 1970.

1899 **Springfield Street Railway Company** has a power station located in the South End between Margaret Street and Whitney Avenue.

1899 **Emery Street Primary School** existed at this time. It was located at the corner of Emery and Boyleston Streets. It was decommissioned by 1910.

1899 **First Public Swimming Pool** in the U.S. - Forest Park.

1899 27th Mayor - Dwight O. Gilmore

1899 June: **President McKinley** visits Springfield arriving from Holyoke on the Steamship 'Mascot'.



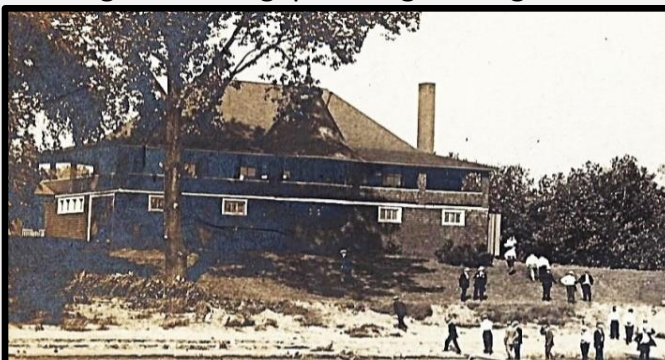


J. Frank Duryea Driving Around Springfield



Assembling A New Indian Motorcycle

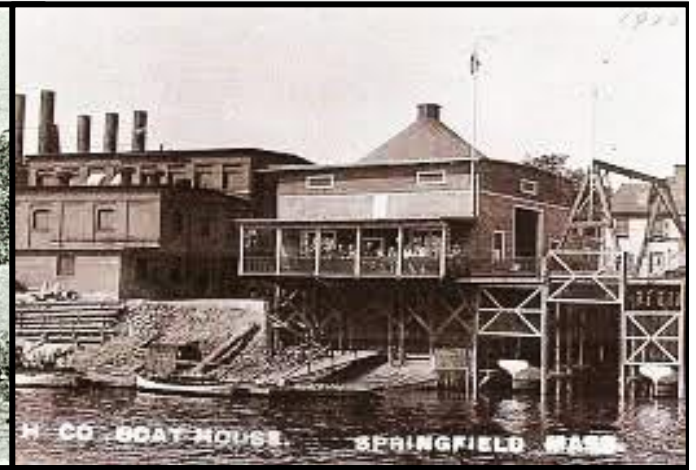
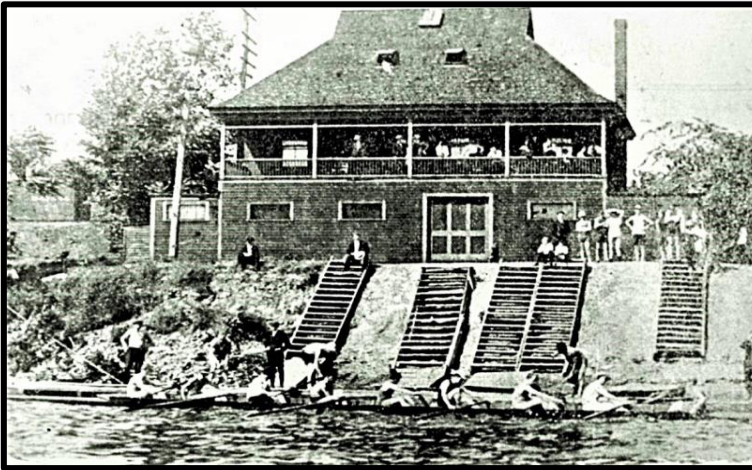
- 1899 **Brightwood Primary and Grammar School** opens, possibly to replace the smaller Brightwood School which had been built in 1874. It was located on Plainfield Street between Abbe and Rowland Ave.
- 1899 The **Auburn Street School** building existed, but was not used as a school on the 1899 city maps.
- 1899 Sixteen Acres has **four sandstone quarries** that date back far earlier than 1899.
- 1899 The part of Sumner Avenue between White Street and its connection with Allen Street was called **Warner Street**.
- 1899 **T.M. Walker & Co. Sash & Blind Manufacturing** Is located in the South End on Walker Street.
- 1899 **Wachoag Hill**, in the southern part of Sixteen Acres, has a summer house at the top that belongs to Harriet Corcoran. The hill is 190 feet tall. In 2025 it is called Treetop Park.
- 1899 The **Eastern Avenue Primary School** is opened.
- 1899 **New England Card & Paper Company** is located in the South End at the end of Norwood Street.
- 1899 The **Parker Street I.O. School** exists at this time. It was located on the Parker Street curve just north of Dimmock Pond. Cannot find a date for construction or demolition.
- 1899 The **Wachogue School** existed at this time. The school was located on the north side of Allen Street about 1/4 mile past Wendy's. I cannot find a construction or demolition date, but I must assume it was built c1820's.
- 1899 The little known **Longhill Street Schoolhouse** is torn down.
- 1899 **Hampden Savings Bank** moves into the Fort Building, followed by the Bay Path Institute and the Springfield Union.
- 1899 The **Knox Automobile Company** begins manufacturing cars, trucks and farm tractors. One of the first to be produced is a three-wheeled, 6hp, air cooled vehicle. Everett Barney was to purchase the third one that was produced. The Knox Automobile Factory was located at Winchester Square, across the street from the Indian Motorcycle Plant.
- c1900 The **Springfield Shoreline** in the summer months was a beehive of activity. Between scull racing, cruising, swimming, picnicing, rafting and sailing, it was the place to see and be seen.





Rockrimmon Boat Club was at the North End Bridge. It still exists as the Pioneer Valley Riverfront Club, although much remodeled.

Springfield Canoe Club was part of a group of boating clubs that existed before and after 1900. They were located south of Bridge Street.



Springfield Boat Club was part of a group of boating clubs that existed before and after 1900. They also was located south of Bridge Street.

H CO Boat House was part of a group of boating clubs that existed before and after 1900. This is probably the fanciest of clubs.

by 1900 At the turn of the century, Springfield was producing Duryea, Atlas, Bailey and Knox automobiles.

Springfield was the national leader in automobile manufacture and design. It would stay this way until Henry Ford began his mass-production in Detroit a decade later.

1900's Early: In Springfield, there was an **unofficial color line** that helped to keep African-Americans to living in the Willow and Cross Street areas of downtown. This also held true for work, which would include low-paying jobs such as janitors, house cleaners, hotel workers and chauffeurs.

1900 Arthur L. Moore founded the company that will highlight his name. The **Moore Drop Forging Co.** would start by producing bicycle frames before moving onto the production of quality wrenches. Moore would be responsible for producing toolkit wrenches for Ford. In the late 1930's they were contracted to supply Sears with tools, eventually producing most of the Craftsman hand tools. After much wheeling and dealing, and not a social care in the world, Sears Craftsman tools are now manufactured in China.

1900 Springfield's population is 62,059.

1900 28th Mayor - William P. Hayes

est.1900 This date is strictly arbitrary. **Island Pond** is located in the Roosevelt Avenue and Island Pond Rd. area of Springfield. Island Pond is also located directly behind what was once known as Cathedral High School, now Pope Francis Prep School on Surrey Road. The floating and moving island consists of sphagnum moss, gases from deteriorating plants, roots and moss, but is not attached to any solid ground. It moves at the will of the wind, and if it comes in contact with the shore, it might stay there for any number of years, but never permanently. When I attended Cathedral High School from 1964 to 1968, it was not unusual to notice that the island had moved, which is sort of cool in a way. No one knows how long this action has been going on, but if it's anything like the Tamarack Bog in Sixteen Acres, Island Pond may have been on the slow but constant move for thousands of years.

1900 **Balliet Elementary School** is located at 111 Seymour Avenue.
c2015: it would become the Spfld Virtual School.

- 1900 The **U.S. Post Office on Main Street** at Worthington and Fort Street is expanded.
- 1900 The city has over **500 manufacturing plants** operating, which is about 10% of the entire states production facilities.
- 1900 The five-story **Court Square Theater** building is topped off with a sixth floor and connected to the newly constructed Court Square Hotel.
- 1900 There is really no specific date to list here, but **Springfield's Five Mile Pond** area is home to a number of glacial lakes, including Lake Lorraine, Loon Pond, and Long Pond.
- 1900 The donation of a home at 132 High Street spurs the incorporation of the **Hampden Homeopathic Hospital**. Under the conditional agreement, the hospital received the building from Mr. and Mrs. D. B. Wesson after raising an additional \$10,000 from independant sources for the purchase of equipment.
- 1900 Oct. 23: The eagerly awaited 54th Annual Meeting of the **American Missionary Association** takes place in Springfield at the Court Square Theater Building.

C1900

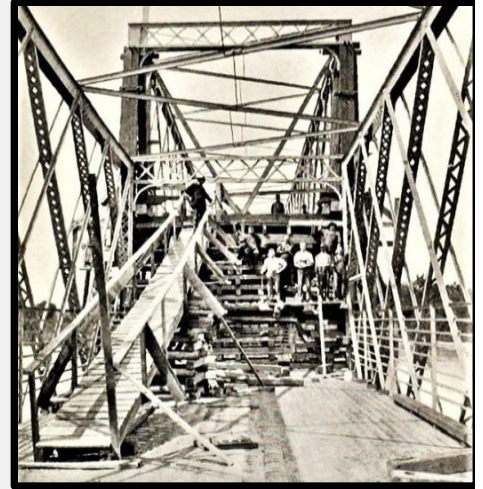


Duckworth Chain Company of Springfield, Mass. was located at 381 Plainfield Street, in the Brightwood area of the city. At this location they made motorcycle chains, originally for Indian Motocycle Co., while later they would expand to other companies. There was another company related to the above, it was called Baldwin-Duckworth Chain Belt Company, who built machinery gear drives.

← Line workers at Duckworth Chain Company

- 1901 **Stevens-Duryea produces automobiles** on Page Blvd in East Springfield. They built cars from 1901 to 1915 and then from 1919 to 1927.
- 1901 **Hendee Manufacturing Company** hires Oscar Hedstrom to build a gasoline engine-powered bicycle. Hendee opens the company's first factory on Worthington Street in downtown Springfield. Later he opens a much larger facility at Winchester Square. They were the First Successful Motorcycle Manufacturers in the United States. Unknown to many, they also produced aircraft engines, bicycles, boat motors and air conditioners.
- 1901 **Hendee tested new motorcycles** on the Cross Street hill in the cities South End.
- 1901 The first commercial truck to be **produced by Knox** was based on their three-wheeled automobile design. This truck was sold to the Smith & Murray Dry Goods Store that was located on Main Street at the corner of Court Street.
- 1901 **Knox Automobile Co.** produces a two-seated vehicle that sells for \$750.00.
- 1902 Officials from **New South Wales** visit Springfield for two days to study the cities excellent system. They leave with a favorable impression of the cities educational system.
- 1902 May 25: **Springfield celebrates** fifty years of incorporation with many special activities set at Court Square.
- 1902 The city reaches its **\$100,000 fund-raising goal** to extend Court Square all the way to the riverfront.
- 1902 29th Mayor - Ralph W. Ellis
- 1902 **Armory St. School** opens at 426 Armory Street. The Hungry Hill neighborhood that the school was located in, helped many new immigrants especially from Ireland adjust to their new life in America. The school offered these people access to services, like showers, when the school was not open for its students. It is replaced by the Edward P. Boland Learning Center in 2002.

- 1902 **First Window Envelope** - U.S. Envelope Company.
- 1903 **Knox Automobile Company** begins to use "wooden artillery wheels for spokes".
- 1903 **Chestnut Street Grammar School** is completed at a cost of \$135,961.
- 1903 30th Mayor - Everett E. Stone
- 1903 **South End Bridge** is raised to get it above flood stage and above the north-south railroad traffic.
- 1903 **Smith & Murray Department Store** was the first company to order the new 1903 Knox truck.
- 1903 Springfield Armory begins production of the famed **M1903 Springfield Rifle**.
- 1904 **Almost 19,000,000** passengers ride the 94 miles of rails of rails of the Springfield Street Railway system.
- 1904 The **United Electric Light Co.** opens a new plant in Indian Orchard.
- 1904 The **Knox Automobile Company** of Springfield, builds the first air-cooled gasoline engine.
- 1904 **1,430 foreign-born** residents of the city are enrolled in evening classes provided by the school system.
- 1904 **Fiberloid Corporation** moves to Springfield.
- 1904 **Springfield City Hospital** increases their bed space from 60 to 100.
- 1904 **Knox** makes available a vehicle that has a permanent roof and a windshield that can flip up and out of the way. Also available is the very handy new side curtains
- 1904 The post office records **gross receipts of \$294,724**, the highest of any New England city or town.
- 1904 **Primus Mason's** dream of a Home for Aged Men opens 12 years after his death at 94 Walnut St.
- 1904 **Springfield Gas & Light Co.** were great believers in what Knox produced, and over a period of years purchased many Knox vehicles.
- 1904 March 2: **Theodor Seuss Geisel**, better known as children's author Dr. Seuss, is born on Howard Street.
- 1904 June: Wilbur F. Gordy is named superintendent of schools.
- 1905 Springfield can now proudly proclaim the **existence of four playhouses**: the New Gilmore, the Nelson, the Poli and the Court Square Theater.
- 1905 **Knox Automobile Company produces America's first motorized fire engines**. They are sold to the Springfield Fire Department which was considered the first modern fire department in the world.
- 1905 July 27: **Leo Durocher born in Springfield**. Famous Baseball Player and Writer.
- c1905 **William Street School** opens at 83 William Street. This is between William and Margaret Streets.
- c1905 **Church of the Holy Name Parochial School** opens at the corner of King and Logan Streets.
- 1905 The population of Springfield is 73,484.
- 1905 **Howard Street School** opens next door to the St. Josephs Roman Catholic Church.
- 1905 Jan 6: **Springfield City Hall is destroyed** by a quick moving fire after a monkey knocks over a kerosene lamp during a city fair.
- 1905 The **Knox Automobile Company** Model F, is selling for \$1,900.
- c1905 By this time, with its constantly needed expansion, the **Springfield Street Railway Co.** now has 107 closed cars, 120 open cars, and close to 94 miles of track covering most of Springfield.
- 1905 31st Mayor - Francke W. Dickinson
- 1905 **Springfield Fire and Marine** constructs its well-known office building at the corners of State and Maple Streets.



- 1905 Students from the **Elm Street Grammar School** start a collection to raise money for a statue dedicated to Springfield's founder, William Pynchon. They manage to raise \$3.82.
- 1906 January 3: The **Highland Baptist Church** on State Street burns down in a massive fire.
- 1906 Springfield receives the first of many **Knox Fire Trucks**. This Knox Squad Truck carried eight firemen along with one battalion chief. The city has entered the motorized age.
- 1906 Daniel Baird Wesson realizes his dream of adding **homeopathic medicine** to the list of hospital specialties. Wesson donates his former residence at 132 High Street for that purpose. In under a half a year they are serving the cities needs with 30 beds.
- 1906 Daniel B. Wesson donates \$435,000 to the newly established **Hampden Homeopathic Hospital**, which was renamed Wesson Memorial Hospital. Later in 1906, Wesson passed away leaving an additional \$250,000 to the hospital. These monies were used to construct a new 100-bed building at 140 High Street.
- 1906 **Wesson donated another \$400,000** for the development of maternal medicine. The money was used to construct the Wesson Maternity Hospital at the corners of High and Myrtle Streets. Construction began in 1907 with dedication in November of 1908
- 1906 A Knox Truck became the **official baggage wagon** for vehicles involved in the Glidden Tour.
- 1906 A 20 member **Municipal Building Commision** is appointed by Mayor Francke W. Dickinson and set to the task of choosing a design for the new municipal buildings. After 82 designs are submitted for consideration, the ultimate winner is F. Livingston Pell and Harvey Corbett. The actual contract for construction is awarded in December, 1909.

1906



Albert Steiger opens the cities third large department store between Bridge and Hillman Streets. Steigers already had stores in Holyoke and New York. The other two major department stores were Forbes & Wallace and Meekins, Packard & Wheat. Steigers Art Deco facade started in 1930 on Hillman Street, and after World War II it was added to the remodeled Main Street side. Steigers closed its Main Street store in 1995.

Steiger's

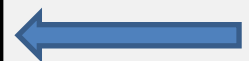
- 1906 **Technical High School** opens on Elliot Street to replace the Mechanical Arts High School.
- 1906 **Knox Automobile Co.** is producing a large variety of differently designed buses that will meet the demands of most every business.

1906-08 The third floor of the **1874 Hampden County Courthouse** has been removed.

The Hampden County Courthouse as it was originally constructed in 1871.



The Hampden Courthouse after its 1906-1908 remode



- 1907 The **Atlas Motor Car Co.** is formed by Harry Knox and produces vehicles from 1907 to 1911. In 1912 Knox adds a Knight engine and the vehicles become Atlas-Knights, which were five or

seven passenger cars that cost about \$3,500. Besides cars, the company also produces trucks and taxicabs. Atlas-Knight went bankrupt in 1913.

1907 32nd Mayor - William E. Sanderson

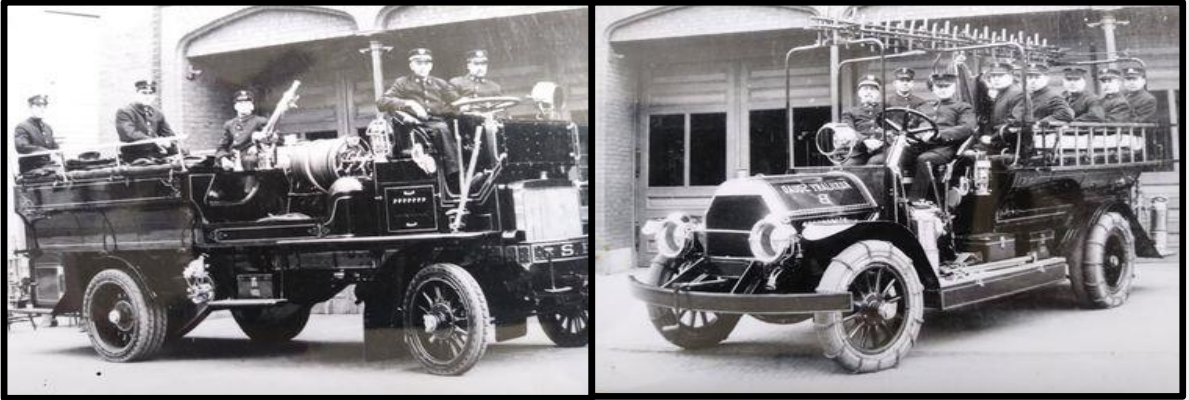
1907 George Hendee moves his **Indian Motorcycle Co. factory** to a larger facility at the junction of State Street and Wilbraham Road in the Winchester Square area of Springfield.

1907 The **Springfield Homestead publishes** the fascinating recollections of Julia Lee, who was the daughter of Mary Sly. Lee's story tells about life in Springfield in the mid-1800's and what it was like for runaway slaves trying to stay free.

1907 The ornate **Union Trust Company Building** is completed on Main Street between Harrison Avenue and East Court Street.

1907 The **YWCA building** is completed on Howard Street.

1907 Springfield officially has the **First Modern, Motorized Fire Department in the country..**



1908 **Johnson's Bookstore** moves to its final and much enlarged store on Main Street. Its located between East Court Street and Harrison Avenue. This would become "our" Johnson's Bookstore.

1908 Oct. 9: **Mass Mutual** occupies it's new home offices at the southwest corner of State and Main St.

1908 **Kensington Avenue Elementary School** opens at 31 Kensington Avenue.

1908 Dr. John Breck develops one of the **first liquid shampoos** while trying to find a cure for baldness.

c1909 The **Grand Theater** was located on Main Street in Indian Orchard. It was a neighborhood theater that had approx. 690 seats on one floor. It closed in early 1990's.

1909 The **cities original library** is moved on rollers to a position just north and into the quadrangle. This move was necessitated by the new library's location at the same location as the earlier library.

1909 **Armory Street School** adds a rear wing extension to the school.

1909 The city purchases **five Knox Fire Trucks** that offer a variety of new services..

1909 **Luigi Curto, AKA: Billy Curtis** is born in Spfld. He was a midget (4ft 2in) who acted for 50 years in many well known films such as "The Wizard of Oz", and Clint Eastwood's feature "High Plains Drifter", where he portrayed Mordecai, a friendly dwarf that was sympathetic to Clint Eastwood's character.

1909 The **first Indianapolis Race** was for motorcycles. It was won by Erwin "Cannonball" Baker on his Indian Motorcycle. Indian also took the second and third place honors.

c1910 The Watershops and the Hill Shops were connected by a **private rail line** that allowed for a much more convenient transportation of parts between the two shops. i.e. rifle barrels were produced at the Watershops Armory, but were transported up to the hill shops for full rifle assembly.



- c1910 **Immaculate Conception Parochial School** opens at the corners of West and Parker Streets in Indian Orchard.
- c1910 **St. Aloysius Parochial School** opens at the corner of Worcester and East Streets in Indian Orchard.
- c1910 Exact dates for the **Palace Theater**, located at 41 Oak Street in Indian Orchard are unknown. It was a very small neighborhood theater, with only 300 seats.
- c1910 There was a private railroad line that ran between the **Watershops Armory** that produced rifle parts, i.e. rifle barrels, and moved these parts up to the Hill Shops on Federal Street. The engines and cars were owned by the government, **but they ran on Spfld Trolley tracks.**
- 1910 Map: **Springfield Yacht Club** is located on the river to the right after crossing under Elm Street. This club started in 1850, and in 1935 moved to Agawam's waterfront next to the South End Bridge.
- 1910 Map: **Springfield Canoe Club** is located with the Springfield Yacht Club. This club started in 1850, and in 1929 merged with the Spfld Yacht Club.
- 1910 Map: **Springfield Boat Club** is located to the right after passing under the Elm St. RR Underpass.
- 1910 Map: **Rockrimmon Canoe Club** is located at the south side of the North End Bridge. Its been around for 150 years and is now known as the Pioneer Valley Riverfront Club.
- 1910 Map: **Water Street** was one of the oldest streets in Springfield, and over many years it was to make connections with different streets. In 1910 it ran from Gardner Street in the South End, north up to Railroad Row, which was next to the soon to be built, Paramount Theater.
- 1910 **Bosch Magneto Company** opens a new factory to produce reliable ignition systems for automobiles and trucks.
- 1910 The **New Bijou Theater** (the original Bijou had only 250-seats). It was the local presenter for newly released Columbia Pictures. It was the only Springfield theater without a marquee. It closed in 1975 after unsuccessful runs of Disney movies then porn.
- 1910 The **Little River Water System** is built west of Springfield, in the Berkshires. This system was at a distance and height that could provide good water pressure to serve all of Springfield.
- 1910 The **High School of Commerce** opens at 415 State Street.
- 1910 **Price to ride the trolley** was .08 cents or 16 rides for \$1.00.



Everett Barney's Cozy Cottage - Pecousic Villa



Barney's New Knox 3-Wheel, At Museum





Laurel Hill By Michael Cavanaugh

Bowles Drinking Fountain On Meadow Road In 1895

1910 33rd Mayor - Edward H. Lathrop

1910 The **Lincoln Elementary School** is constructed across the street from Baystate Medical Center.

1910 Luther Gulick M.D. and his wife Charlotte help to create the **Camp Fire Girls** on Sebago Lake, ME. Gulick was the founding superintendant of the physical education department at the International Training School.

1910 **Washington Elementary School** opens.

c1910 **Tire Chains** that were used with the cities fire trucks were not used for snow and ice travel but for better traction over dirt and muddy roadways.

1910 Springfield has a **huge number of machine tool makers** along with electrical machinery firms.

1910 The **U.S. Spring Bed Company** was advertising their superior comfort "Climax Couch". The company was located in Brightwood on Birnie Avenue.

1911 **First Factory Air Conditioning** - Bosch Magneto Company.

1911 October 1: Edward Patrick Boland, Massachusetts Congressman from 1953 to 1989, is born in Spfld.

1911 The **Hotel Kimball**, once described as the "Finest Hotel in Western Massachusetts" is opened. It is now in the National Register of Historic Places.

1911 With its many years experience in building commercial buses, **Knox Automobile** can now claim to have available the **Ultimate "Closed" Bus**.

1911 **Gilbert & Barker Company** introduces the first measuring gasoline pump.

In 1912 they move to West Spfld. Eventually becoming an affiliate of Exxon.

1911 The **Dwight Street Fire Station** opens.

1911 **Standard Electric Time Company**, whose plant was tucked away on Logan Street, which was a small side street, which runs between Alden and King Streets, moved to Springfield in 1911. They were the **oldest maker of electric clocks in the United States**, and at its peak would be employing 400 to 500 people. They were known for their high quality products, which included clocks, timing devices, fire alarm systems, meter testing equipment and laboratory panels.

1911 The Tuscan Romanesque designed church, **Our Lady of Mt. Carmel** is opened in the cities South End.

1912 April 25: **President Taft visits Springfield**, and gives a speech to a huge crowd at the Court Square Extension.

1912 Victor Sporting Goods Co. of Spfld produces the **First-Ever Specifically Crafted Basketball**.

1912 January: The main branch of the **Springfield City Library** on State Street, opens in a new building replacing the former 1871 structure. The new library was financed with donations from steel magnate Andrew Carnegie (\$200,000) along with Springfield citizens.

1912 **First Agricultural Course** - Hampden County Improvement League.

1912 **First Physical Education Course**-International Y.M.C.A. College, Now Know As Springfield College.

1912 **Two Mile Pond**, which had been shrinking for many years is finally filled in. It was located in the angle of Sumner Avenue and White Streets. West Alvord Street now passes over the site.

1912 cMay: The original 1871 library is demolished.

1912 **Indian Motorcycle Co.** starts buying Knox trucks for their delivery purposes.

1912 Nov. 21: **Eleanor Powell** is born in Springfield.- Singer, Stage Actress, TV and Film Actress.

1913 Dec. 22: **Poli's Palace** was opened at 196 Worthington Street. It featured vaudeville theater with movies on Poliscope. Starting in the mid-1920's, it was taken over by Loew's Inc. and renamed **Loew's-Poli Theater**. It became Springfield's premiere first run showcase for M-G-M films. It closed on June 30, 1964.

- 1913 A minister at St. John's Church, **Dr. John DeBerry**, started what was to be called the Dunbar Community League. This group for African-American boys and girls would include low-income housing projects, youth clubs and a summer camp called Camp Atwater.
- 1913 Springfield had **eight firms making automobiles**, six companies manufacturing electrical machinery along with forty firms building machine tool and machine-shop products in the city.
- 1913 October: The **Springfield Municipal Group**, consisting of City hall, Symphony Hall and the 300 foot tall Campanile is completed.
- 1913 **Motorized pumpers** are being added to Springfield's fire fleet.
- 1913 **Indian Motorcycle** production was sending sales thru the roof, with 19,000 in 1912 and an amazing 35,000 in 1913. Sales for 1914 models were predicted to reach 60,000.
- 1913 April 28: The **Broadway Theater** at 161 Bridge Street opens with the comedy play "Green Stockings". It was part of the Western Mass Theaters Inc. group, which included the Paramount, and the State Street theater, along with the Arcade. It was a large theater with 2,000 seats.
- 1913 The **Edisonia Theater** was located just south of Court Square on Main Street at the corner of Bliss Street. It was named as a tribute to Thomas Edison, and was one on the cities earliest "moving picture houses". By 1926 it had been renamed the Garden Theater. During the 1940's it was operated by the Herman Rifkin Theaters chain. It closed in 1940'S. It seated just 630 patrons.
- 1913 December 8-9: **The Springfield Municipal Group**, considered one of the most distinctive civic centers in the nation is dedicated with all the typical fanfare Springfield had become noted for.



Here we have an early auto race track in Springfield. It was referred to as the "Old Imperial Race Track Course". It was located on Liberty Street, at what would become the Springfield Airport. This old photo dates to July, 1914.

- 1914 September 15: **Creighton Williams Abrams Jr.** is born in Springfield. Abrams will become a U.S. Army General, Army Chief of Staff and namesake for the M1A1 Abrams Tank. He passes away on September 4, 1974 and is buried at Arlington National Cemetery.
- 1914 **Knox Automobile Company** stops producing automobiles but continues making trucks and farm tractors until 1924.
- 1914 The American Medical Association began the process of formally approving hospital training programs with **Springfield City Hospital** being accepted, even though they had been training interns since 1892.
- 1914 **Indian Motorcycle** had become the largest motorcycle-maker in the world, with 2500 dealers worldwide, a manufacturing plant the covered over 11 acres, and 35,000 in annual sales.
- 1914 James M. Gill acquires the rights to George Carney's design of a lightweight, swing-through handcuff establishing the Peerless Handcuff Company. Carney's design became the world-wide standard.
- Peerless Handcuff Company's** production was taken over by the William's family of Springfield in 1939. Now in the 3rd generation, the family is still producing handcuffs and related products.
- 1914 The **Memorial Square Library** is constructed.
- c1915 The **State and later the Plaza Theater** is opened on Lyman Street. I cannot find an exact address but I know that it was on the left side of the street when going down from Main Street. It was both a movie and a burlesque house. More info cannot be found.

- 1915 **New England Westinghouse Company** purchases the Stevens-Duryea plant on Page Blvd in East Springfield. By 1930 they employed 4,500 people. They were one of Springfield's major employers into the 1950's when a union contract dispute resulted in Westinghouse permanently closing the facility down. When founded, their primary purpose was to produce 1.8 million Mosin-nagant rifles for Czar Nicholas II of Russia during World War I.
- 1915 **Dorman, Hiram Elementary School** opens at 20 Lydia Street in Pine Point.
- 1915 The **last log run** is held on the Conn. River. The 65 million board feet primarily consist of spruce.
- 1915 Due to a significant increase in surgical cases, the Springfield City Hospital constructs the **Frederick Wilcox Chapin Memorial Surgical Building**.
- 1915 The **Colony Club** opens in the former Wesson Mansion on Maple Street.
- 1915 35th Mayor - Frank E. Stacy
- 1916 April 1: **Everett Barney** passes away.
- 1916 November: The **Phillips Theater** was located on Sumner Ave., as a 916-seat neighborhood theater. In November, 1963 it was renamed Cinema-X and showcased "art" type films. It was closed on December 14, 1985. This Rifkin Theater, showed second run, double feature films.
- 1916 **Springfield City Hospital** starts to operate its own ambulance service to take care of its entire service area.
- 1916 The **Willys-Overland Motor Company** opens at 151-157 Chestnut Street. From 1912 to 1918 Willys was the second largest producer of automobiles in the United States after Ford Motor Co. The Springfield location was used as a distribution center for Willys-Overland products.
- 1916 Oct. 7: **The Strand Theater** was a neighborhood theater located at 24 Eastern Avenue at Winchester Square.
- 1917 During the time period that the U.S. was actively involved in fighting during World War 1, **firemen in the city** would help out by knitting woolen scarves or whatever else was needed to help our servicemen cope with conditions on the fighting front.
- 1917 The **Chapin Bank Building** is constructed.
- 1917 July 7: **Larry O'Brien** is born in Springfield - Worked in Politics under President Kennedy
U.S. Postmaster General - the Postal Area Codes start in Agawam, 01001, because of O'Brien.
- 1917 Sept. 18: **June Foray** - Movie actress, star on Hollywood Walk of Fame, Classical & Central High.
- 1917 March 6: **Donald Davidson** (philosopher) is born in Springfield
- 1917 **Our Lady of Hope Parochial School** opens at the corners of Carew and Armory Streets.
The original school closed in 1964 when the new school opened across the street.

1918-19



This photo is pretty exciting for Springfield residents. The Ted Shea Oar Company started out at 35 Mechanic Street in the South End. The property was located right on the river, and included 4 buildings. Over the years, and as Shea's reputation as an oar builder spread, he would need to expand his production facilities to a number of addresses, eventually occupying a large expanse of the Wason Manufacturing's Buildings in Brightwood. This photo was taken on the U.S.S. Arizona, that was to sink on December 7, 1941.

- 1918 The **104th Infantry Regiment** was the First American Military Regiment Decorated by a Foreign Power-French Croix de Guerre.
- 1918 The **flu epidemic** kills over 600,000 people across the country including 710 in Springfield.
- 1918 **Hampden Savings Bank** is completed.

- 1918 **First Community Chest** in the country opens in Springfield.
- 1918 **Liberty Grammar School** opens at 962 Carew Street in the Hungry Hill section of Springfield.
Being 107 years old (2025) Liberty Grammar School is still able to attract a crowd when they have a multi-year class reunion. Of all the schools that I have attended, grammar (2), high school and college, this is the only one that is still standing and fully functional.
- c1919 The **Winchester Company** acquires Barney and Berry Skate Company.
- 1919 **First Junior Achievement Program** - Horace A. Moses is one of the founders.
- 1919 The **Nelson Theater** changes its name to the Fox Theater. It was a large theater at the time, with 1,300 seats by 1926.
- 1919 36th Mayor - Arthur A. Adams
- 1920 Map: **Atlantic Boat Club** was located at the riverfront between Wilcox & William Street.
- 1920's The **addresses for Main Street are reversed**. Originally the lowest numbers on Main Street started at Carew Street and worked up to the highest numbers in the South End. Sometime in the 1920's the lowest numbers on Main Street started in the South End and continued getting higher until they reached the Chicopee line. There was no longer a North Main Street.
- c1920's The **Cleveland Theater** was unique in that it was located in a structure behind a house. The theater would have a wild time on Saturday afternoons as neighborhood children would go crazy watching the next installment of their favorite serial. You had to be careful and duck all the flying popcorn that filled the air in the small "cinema".
- 1920's Ice hockey has been played professionally in Spfld since the 1920's. Springfield is home to the league **headquarters of the American Hockey League**.
The Springfield Indians of the American Hockey League is the **oldest minor league** hockey franchise in existence.
- 1920's Springfield Armory's famed firearm designer, **John Garand, develops the M1 Rifle**.
- 1920's The **Fuller Block** on Main Street has its Onion Dome removed.
- 1920's The **Springfield Body Company** becomes the originator of the convertible, or more precisely, the convertible hardtop body.

1920



The sculls with which American oarsmen won supremacy in the finals of the Olympic regatta at Brussels yesterday were made in Springfield by the "Ted" Shea Oar Company. Jack Kelly of the Vesper Boat Club of Philadelphia and Paul Costello both used Shea Company Oars, with Kelly winning in the singles, and Costello taking the doubles. Annapolis Naval Academy's eight-oar crew defeated the powerful British crew in a close race while using Shea Oars from Springfield.

- 1920-21 **Skene** is a short lived steam powered automobile manufacturer that had its only showroom here in Springfield. They were manufactured in Lewiston ME.
- 1920's The **Rialto Theater** was located at the corner of Carew and Newbury Streets. It was considered a typical neighborhood theater, closing in December 1930.
- by 1920 The **Bosch Plant** is employing 3,000 workers that are turning out 50 percent of the electrical starter parts required by the U.S. vehicle industry.
- c1920's **Gasoline Alley** or more properly Albany Street had received its unofficial name sometime around

1920 when large fuel storage tanks were constructed, mostly along the south side of the street. Over the years there was a lumber yard, scrap metal yards and offices for companies that dealt with fuel oriented products. A few of the companies located on Gasoline Alley in 1920 include Hampden Paint & Chemical, Tidewater Oil, The Texas Company and Standard Oil. Currently Gasoline Alley has expanded into a variety of small businesses including a café & bakery, Hair Salon and Discount Auto Parts & Supplies.

1920 April 3: The contract to build the 1,515 foot long **Hampden County Memorial Bridge** is awarded to H. P. Converse & Company.

1920 Even today, 2025, this area of **East Springfield** is sometimes referred to as **Athol Junction**. The rail-line used to run thru many small towns on its way north to Athol MA. It no longer exists.

1920 Oct. 22: **Timothy Leary** is born in Springfield.

1920 April 18: The **Capitol Theater** opens on Main Street. It was the premiere first run showcase theater for Warner Brothers films. The Capitol falls victim to Springfield's 1960's era urban renewal, and closes in 1968. The famed building is demolished in 1972. I imagine that all of us here have fond memories of the fabulous cinemas that we had access to when we were children growing up in Springfield.

Capitol or Paramount, how do you decide?



1921 **Carlo Siniscalchi** - Caporegimes in the areas organized crime - gundowned by a rival.

1921 One of America's first commercial radio stations, **WBZ**, commences broadcasting from the Hotel Kimball.

1921 Oct. 2: The **Jefferson Theater** opened at 2645 Main Street. It was one of the neighborhood theaters operated by Herman Rifkin Theaters. It closed in 1962.

1921 37th Mayor - Edwin F. Leonard

c1921 The **Liberty Theater** is a neighborhood theater at 739 Liberty Street. It seats 966 and features M-G-M Pictures.

1921 **Rolls-Royce America** opens it's only foreign plant in the world sighting "The artisans of Springfield, from long experience in fine precision work, were found to possess the same pride in workmanship as the craftsman of England." The Rolls-Royce factory was adjacent to the Indian Motorcycle plant off Hendee Street. During the Rolls-Royce production years of 1921 to 1931, the plant assembled nearly three-thousand *Silver Ghosts* and *Phantoms*.

1921 **Johnson's Bookstore** opens the Second-Hand Bookstore on Market Street with stock that exceeded 40,000 volumes. Over the years Johnson's would add an Antique Shop in 1927, enlarge their Gift and Toy Shop in 1928 and continuously update all departments as more family members enhanced their number of employees past 100.

1922 The **Shriners** wanted to establish a hospital for crippled children in New England, either in Boston or Springfield. Six Rolls-Royces, chartered by Springfield Shriner and motorcycle inventor, George Hendee met the selection committee at Springfield's Union Station. The delegation was wine, dined, and put up at the Colony Club (originally the Wesson Mansion on Maple Street). When they traveled to Boston, no one met them or showed them around. They then decided to located the hospital in Springfield.

1922 **Classical High School** is expanded with the addition of a 115 foot-long junior high annex to its west end.

- 1922 August 3: Traffic starts to flow across the **Hampden County Memorial Bridge** connecting Springfield to West Springfield. This bridge has been built to replace the aging "Damon's Bridge", more commonly known as the "Old Toll Bridge" which had been in service since 1816. The new bridge is a little south of the Toll Bridge of Springfield's Bridge Street naming and no longer retains the meaning for it's original naming.
- 1922 A wooden grandstand, seating 1,200, was erected at the main baseball diamond at Van Horn Park.
- 1922 **Springfield Airport** officially opens on Liberty Street between St. James Avenue.
- 1923 September 8: The **North End Bridge**, which was built in 1877, is completely destroyed by fire after almost every bridge span drops into the Connecticut River.
- 1923 **Andrew Wallace** passes away, leaving Forbes and Wallace to his son, Andrew B. Wallace Jr.
- 1923 **Indian Motorcycle Company** didn't actually come to use that name until 1923. Prior to that it was known as the Hendee Manufacturing Company.
- 1923 The Doric-Temple derived façade of the **Trinity Block is constructed.**
- 1924 Springfield reaches its "**High Watermark**", from this point on it will see a very slow but steady decline in manufacturing jobs, national prominence and all important self-esteem.
- 1924 **Knox Automobile Company** goes out of business.
- 1925 Feb. 21: **Shriners Hospital** is opened on Carew Street. The 6.5 acre, \$300,000 site was donated by the Melha Shriners. In 1959 they treated their 10,000 patient. In 1990 they constructed a much larger building which cost \$27,000,000 and all taken care of by the Melha Shriners. In 2023, due to changing times, the facility only takes care of patients on and outpatient basis.
- 1925 July 1st: The new, and current **North End Bridge** is opened.
- 1925 July 1st: The cities **4th railroad station**, which is located on Liberty Street, includes 4 through tracks, and handles 1,400 traffic movements per day. Nowhere in the world is traffic per track, more dense. Just the station costs \$1,500,000.
- c1925 A.G. Miller Co. of **Precision Metal Fabricators** is still in the business of working with sheet metal fabrication.
- 1925 38th Mayor - Fordis C. Parker
- 1925 The **Elias Brookings Middle School** is opened. It is severely damaged by the June 1st tornado. A new school was opened across the street and the old school was rehabed for senior housing.
- 1926 The **White Street Ungraded Schoolhouse** is opened. It was converted into a residence in the early 1900's.
- 1926 The **Paramount Theater**, a magnificent theater hall in its day, opens on Main Street next to the Arch. It had a seating capacity of 3,755, more than double the size of the competing Court Square Theater.



Grand Opening Ad

Paramount Theater Entrance

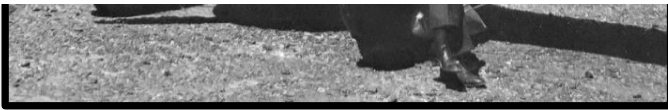
Balconey Grand Entrance & Lobby

- 1927 **Mass Mutual** opens its new home office on upper State St. which is way out in the country by standards of the time.

- 1927 The **State Street Baptist Church** is demolished, to be replaced by the Arcade Theater.
- 1927 Nov.: The **Flood of 1927** occurs, dropping 6 to 15 inches of rain in Western Mass and Vt.
- 1927 The **Franklin Street Grammar School** is opened.
- 1927 **Connecticut Valley Historical Museum** is constructed.
- 1928 **First Experimental Airplane-Motorcycle Courier Service** (Holyoke-Northampton-Westfield-Springfield-Hartford) United States Post Office Department with Indian Motorcycles.
- 1928 Longtime toolmaker, **Bemis & Call**, acquire the Coes Wrench Company rights to to manufacture its monkey wrench.
- c1928 Connecticut River steamship '**Sylvia**' burns while docked at Riverside Park.
- 1929 The Granville Brothers, Robert, Thomas, Edward, Mark and Zantford, set up shop at the Springfield Airport on Liberty Street, to begin building their famous **GeeBee** airplanes.
- 1929 Feb. 22: The **Franklin Theater** was a third-tier movie house that never really found its audience. It was located at 343 Chestnut Street, in an old A&P warehouse. It closed around 1939.
- 1929 The **Frederick Harris Elementary School** opens at 58 Hartford Terrace in East Forest Park.
- 1930/40s **African-Americans** were beginning to be more accepted and find better jobs as barbers, tailors, machinists, carpenters and masons. Access to better schools as the years past, would help move them into the growing middle class. Those that developed the skills to earn college degrees were becoming teachers, lawyers, ministers, and entering the medical fields.
- 1930 **The Breck Company** is officially founded. At first just a local company, John Breck's son Edward, would take the company national in 1946 with the introduction of the Breck Girls Ads. Just a few of the famous Breck Girls included Kim Basinger, Brooke Shields, Jaclyn Smith, Cybill Shepherd, Christie Brinkley, Cheryl Tiegs and Farrah Fawcett. Many of the Breck Girls were hometown girls from Springfield.
- 1930's **Police & Fire Engines** will start using red warning lights.
- 1930's Electric refrigerators were seeing widespread adoption due to lower prices and widespread availability of freon. By the 1940's, 85% of homes in Springfield had refrigerators.
- 1930's The **Court Square Hotel** primarily consists of business offices.
- 1930 **Warner Elementary School** opens at 493 Parker Street, corner of Boston Road.
- 1930 May 7: **Memorial Bridge** is severely damaged by a gas explosion. Over 400 ft of sidewalk is destroyed.
- 1930 39th Mayor - Dwight R. Winter
- 1930 **Glenwood Elementary School** opens at 50 Morrison Terrace.
- 1930 **Van Sickle Jr. High School** is opened at 1170 Carew Street.
- 1930 March 6: **Clarence Birdseye's Frozen Foods** makes its worldwide debut at several markets here in Springfield.
- 1931 Nov. 2: **Phil Woods** - famous musician and composer born in Springfield.



This is famed Gee Bee pilot Lowell Bayles, with his National Championship Gee Bee Z. In 1931 "The City of Springfield" and Bayles would win every race they entered. This included the Shell Speed Dash at 267.34 mph and the famous Thompson Trophy pilon race. Bayles was killed on December 5, 1931 while attempting to set the landplane speed record. He was flying a Model Z when he crashed at over 300 mph. In 1932, Jimmy



Doolittle, flying a Gee Bee R-1, won the National Air Races in Cleveland, while also setting a world speed record of 296mph.

The Granville Brothers (GB) were based at the Springfield Airport in East Springfield. They were Zantford, Thomas, Robert, Mark and Edward. Their most memorable models were the Z, R-1, R-2. I've seen varying numbers for how many Gee Bees were actually built, but it is approx. 25.

There were Gee Bee racers known to be still flying into the late 1930's.

- 1931 Springfield's famous female flyer was **Maude Tait**. She won female speed records at the national air show in Cleveland while flying her Gee Bee Senior Sportster, even beating Amelia Earhart . In 1928, Maude achieved an unofficial women's altitude record of 16,500 feet.
- 1931 The **Arcade Theater** opens as part of the Western Mass Theaters Inc. Group. It was the only downtown Springfield theater that was designed to play films in 70mm projection. Closed in 1971.
- 1931 Oct. 11: **Trolley** crashes into the Indian Orchard Fire Station. There were a number of people injured. From what I have been told, it was an arsonist who placed metal bolts in the tracks that caused the derailment.
- 1931 With the cornerstone being placed, **Springfield City Hospital** begins to plan four new buildings. This massive new project would be the home for the Harris and Chapin Wings, which would formally open to patients in 1932.
- 1931 **Richard Heck** is born in Springfield. He was a chemist who discovered the Heck Reaction, which earned him a **Nobel Prize** in 2015.
- 1932 Sept 17: **Robert B. Parker** is born in Springfield - Multi-Award Winning Writer & Novelist.
- 1932 Springfield Armory produces the first **M1 semiautomatic rifle**, designed by John Garand.
- 1933 The **Federal Post Office** at Main and Worthington Streets is torn down. It had been built in 1882.
- 1933 A close associate of the now dead, Carlo Siniscalchi, was gundowned in a South End barbershop.
- 1934 **Granville Brothers Aircraft Company** goes bankrupt.
- 1934 The original **Nelson Theater**, again changes its name, this time to the **Art Theater**.
- 1934 40th Mayor - Henry Martens
- 1935 **Friendly's Ice Cream** founded by Prestley and Curtis Blake Brothers opens its first location in the Pine Point section of Springfield.
- 1936 **Basketball** becomes an Olympic Sport.
- 1936 First Standard-Issue Semi-Automatic Military Rifle - the **M1 Garand** designed by John Garand for Springfield Armory.
- 1936 March 21: Springfield suffers near **catastrophic flooding**. Nearly two feet of rain fell killing more than 100 people and dollar estimates adjusted for inflation exceeded \$9 billion.
- 1936 The **Court Square Theater** is sold to the E. M. Loew's chain of theaters.
- 1936 Oct. 9: The dirigible **Hindenburg** passes over Springfield, swastika and all.
- 1937 **First American Built Planetarium** opens at the Springfield Science Museum.
- 1937 The **Sheraton Hotel** chain is founded in Springfield, with its purchase of the Stonehaven Hotel.
- pre-1938 The **Original Trade High School** is located at 1300 State Street.
- 1938 September 28: **Charles Edgar Duryea** passes away.
- 1938 **Monsanto** merges with Fiberloid Corporation.
- 1938 41st Mayor - Roger L. Putnam
- 1938 **Albert Steiger passes away**.
- 1939 **First Fluorescent Lighting System Installation** in the country is used by the Springfield Armory.
- 1939 to 1947: Springfield's **production workforce** grows by almost 62 percent.

1940 The old Hampden Park, now known as League Park, is renovated with a steel grandstand and renamed **Pyncheon Park**. The 1940 capacity was 4,000, in 1948 it was 4,500, 5,500 in 1949 and 6,500 in 1965.

1940 **Springfield Street Railway** decides to discontinue it's use of trolley cars, and switch over to buses. There was a short period of time that both were used at the same time, and photos of Main Street show a death-defying sprint needed to avoid getting run over, while crossing Main Street. Hundreds of miles of track are left all around the city.

This photo shows the large variety of vehicles and people, all trying to use Main Street effectively.



1940 May 17: **Alan Kay** is born in Springfield. Computer Scientist, Programmer, Musician.

1940 **Mary M. Walsh Elementary School** is built at 50 Empress Street in Sixteen Acres.

1940 **October 30th: President Franklin Roosevelt** visits Springfield.

1940 **Nick Buoniconti**, American NFL linebacker and sportscaster is born in Springfield.

1940's During World War II, the Milton Bradley Company was being run by James Shea, a Springfield businessman. At this time the company **started producing a universal joint** that was created by Shea and used on the landing gear of fighter planes.

1941 **Milton Bradley keeps producing** new games, such as the patriotic Game of the States, Chutes & Ladders and Candyland.

1941 When the **city drew down the level of the Watershops Pond**, they were surprised to find a car with the remains of David and Alicia Lee and family. When the Lee family disappeared c1936, a nationwide search was done to no avail. This was the first time it had been drained.

1943 42nd Mayor - J. Albin Anderson Jr.

1944 **Springfield Symphony Orchestra** is founded.

1945 **Holy Cross Parochial School** opens at 153 Eddywood Street.

1945 The Walker Grandstand is constructed at Forest Park. In 2025 a much needed update was given.

1945 The **First Black Police Officer**, Joseph Budd, was added to the police department. He was to serve the city for 32 years. In 2023 the Spfld Police Dept is 54% minority.

1946 43rd Mayor - Daniel B. Brunton

1947 **Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parochial School** opens at 36 Margaret Street in the South End. It is now the South End Middle School.

1947 **Radio Station WHYN**. It would start broadcasting the Top 40 Rock and Roll in the early 1950's.

1947 **Our Lady of Sacred Heart Parochial School** locates at the corners of Boston Road and Breckwood Blvd. It is now known as the Thomas M. Balliet Elementary School.

1948 **President Harry S. Truman** addresses a crowd of 75,000 from the Dwight Street railroad crossing.

1948 **John Ashton**, American actor in Beverly Hills Cop and Midnight Run is born in Springfield.

1949 **First American Discount Store** - King's at Winchester Square in the old Indian Motorcycle Building. They were the first to provide shopping carts.

1949 The **original Wesson Mansion** is overhauled with a new structure. It retained the historic and elaborate iron fence that had encircled the original Wesson Mansion on Maple Street but also added an additional 50 inpatient beds.

1949 **Jerome "Jay" Apt**, American astronaut for STS 37, 47, 59, 79 is born in Springfield.

1950 **William N. DeBerry Elementary School** opens at 670 Union Street to replace

the old Union Street School.

1950 to 1987: **In a massive turndown**, half of all Springfield manufacturing facilities closed between 1950 and 1987.

1950 **Samuel Bowles Elementary School** is located at 24 Bowles Park in East Springfield.

1951 March 17: **Actor Kurt Russell** is born in Springfield.

1951 August 1: The **Bing Theater** opens just east of the "X" section of Springfield. A lack of adequate parking and competition from the areas megaplexes, would finally doom the theater.

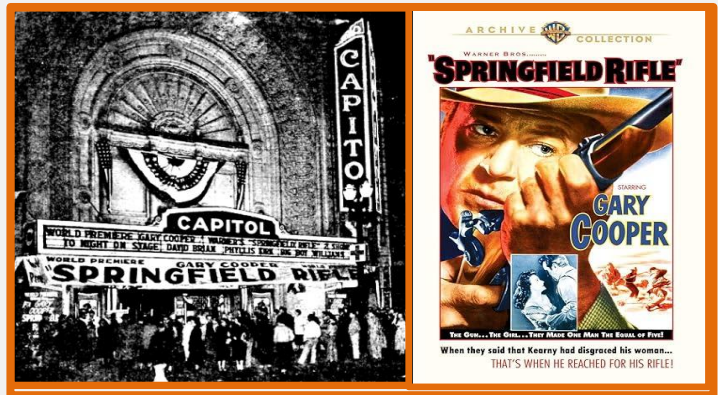
1951 Money-raising efforts allowed for the purchase of land on Pratt Street and the construction of a new 81 bed **Springfield Maternity** facility began, opening in September of 1953.

1951 August 8: The **Round Hill Drive-In** was the only drive-in theater located in Springfield. The theater could accomodate 800 cars with a walk-in seating area for 300 patrons. Closed at the end of summer, 1966, for construction of Route 91.

1952 The First Barcode Patent was granted. It was basic and a bit impracticable for Springfield Grocery Stores. It was finally improved to todays UPC Barcode in 1973.

1952 **General Eisenhower** addresses 25,000 people in Court Square during his successful presidential run.

1952 The Gary Cooper film_ "**Springfield Rifle**"
premieres at the Capitol Theater.
Gary Cooper is in attendance.
Premiere Date: 10-25-1952



1952 **Mary O. Pottenger Elementary School** opens at 1435 Carew Street in East Springfield.

1953 **WWLP-Channel 22** becomes the First UHF TV Station in the United States.

1953 The wooden grandstand at Van Horn Park is replaced with bleachers.

1953 **Indian Motorcycle** goes out of business.

1953/54 The current **South End Bridge** is built.

1954 **First Municipal Council on Aging in the country.**

1950'S- 1960'S: **Worcester Federal Savings and Loan Association** occupies the lot on the east side of Main Street, across from Court Square. It would be replaced by the Civic Center.

1954 The **Arthur T. Talmadge Elementary School** opens at 1395 Allen Street in Sixteen Acres.

1954 **Watershops Pond** is drained for the second time for dam repairs and maintenance.

1955 April: Springfield starts to give **Polio Vaccine Injections**. The initial vaccine had been produced by Dr. Jonas Salk. Springfield becomes one of the cities to be involved in the early field trials of the vaccine. The field trials had involved 1.8 million children in the United States, Canada and Finland. The trials proved that the vaccine was safe. The vaccine was used in Springfield and given at the old Public Health Hospital on State Street. I remember standing in long lines outside the hospital to be given my injection.

1955 **Dryden Memorial Elementary School**, formerly the Memorial Elementary School opens at 190 Surrey Road.

1955 August: The area was hit by two hurricanes within a short period. **Hurricane Connie** dropped 4-6 inches of rain, and within a week the supersaturated ground was hit with up to 20 inches of rain from **Hurricane Diane**. These two weather systems created The 1955 Flood.



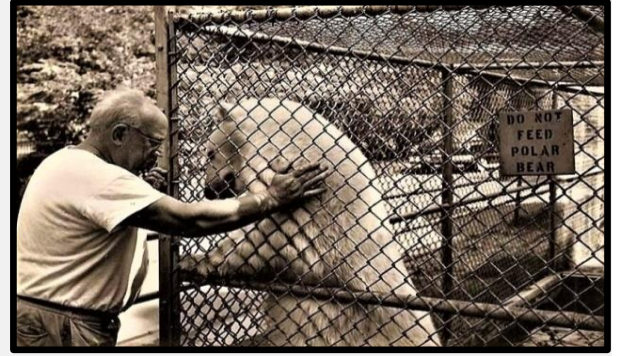
The Monkey House - Phew!!



The Gentility Of Tennis In c1908



Pecousic Villa & The Carriage House



Did We All Feel Kind Of Sorry For "Snowball"

mid-'50s **About 65 acres of Forest Park** are taken to construct the Springfield/Longmeadow sections of Route 91. Ultimately, the construction of Route 91 severed Forest Parks connection to the Connecticut River.

1956 April 22: The **Court Square Theater** on Elm Street closes.

1956 **Marcus M. Kiley Middle School** opens. It is located at a former pig farm at 180 Cooley Street in Sixteen Acres.

1956 **Duggan Middle School** opens at 1015 Wilbraham Road. It was built over a former city dump, which would later create issues for the city.

1957 Springfield native, **Theodore Geisel**, better known as Dr. Seuss, publishes ***The Cat In The Hat***. He would publish 44 childrens books and work on numerous film and TV productions. He would win a Pulitzer Prize, a Peabody Award, 2 Academy Awards and 2 Emmy Awards.

1957 **Alfred Glickman Elementary School** is located at 120 Ashland Avenue.

1958 44th Mayor - Thomas J. O'connor

1958 **Westinghouse Plant** in East Springfield loses 1,500 employees to new plant opening in Ohio.

1958 **Gus & Paul's Delicatessen** opens in Springfield. Brothers Gus and Paul Weissman had moved to Springfield from the Bronx to find their retail niche in the city. They closed in December 2013.

1959 **Cathedral High School** opens at 260 Surrey Road. It was destroyed during the June 1st, 2011, EF3 Tornado. It took away so many high school memories.

1959 Milton Bradley releases ***Concentration***, a memory game that was based on a television game. The game was such a success that new editions were released yearly until 1982. This new game success was also used for the games of *Password* and *Jeopardy!*

1959 Who can remember the joy of hopping into their parents car for a trip over to Blunt Park for a couple of hours of wide open **ice skating on the park made skating rink**.

c1960 The **Daniel B. Brunton Elementary School** opens at 1801 Parker Street in Sixteen Acres.

c1960 The **Margaret C. Ells Elementary School** opens at 319 Cortland Street. Building no longer exists.

c1960 I would imagine that every Springfield resident that grew up in the city, would have their own favorite hill to go sledding or tobogganing down. Since I am writing this timeline, I'm going to give a personal opinion of mine. Hogan's Hill at the west end of the Springfield Plaza was,

in my opinion, the best hill in Spfld. It had a gentle but long start and while picking up speed as you rushed down the long and wide hill, all you had to watch out for was all those other sledders trying to find a safe path back up that magnificent hill. For me, that excitement was about 65 years ago, and I can still see the eye-opening view as I crested the slow part of the hill and guided my Flexible-Flyer screaming down, while trying to avoid the kids that walked back up in the center of that marvelous hill.

1960's Milton Bradley celebrated their centennial with a modernized version of The Checkered Game of Life by simply calling it **The Game of Life**. *Twister* also came out in the 1960's, and instantly became a phenomenal hit.

1960 **Springfield Plaza** is located between Liberty Street and St. James Avenue. This area was once the home of the Springfield Airport which closed in the 1950's. It has had many different stores since opening, including a Friendly's Restaurant (now closed), Stop & Shop and a 99 Restaurant (now closed). When it opened it boasted a J.M. Fields Department Store which is now long gone. It was sold in 2004 for \$35M, the new owners are planning \$4-5M in upgrades.

1960 Early: As Route 91 construction made its way into Springfield from Hartford, the early Water Street and later Columbus Avenue were split in half, creating **East and West Columbus Avenue**.

1960's **Springfield Plaze Cinemas** were constructed at 1225 Liberty Street and has 3 screens. Theater was demolished in the late 1980's for construction of a new Stop & Shop supermarket.

1960 Tim Mayotte is an American tennis player who won an **Olympic Silver Medal** in 1988. The 1988 Summer Olympics were held in Seoul, Korea.

1961 The beautiful **Church of the Unity** on State Street is demolished.

1961 **Wesson Memorial Hospital** opens the first area intensive care unit.

1962 45th Mayor - Charles V. Ryan

1963 The **new St. Matthews Parochial School** opens at the corners of Berkshire and Myrtle Streets. The school is now known as the Springfield Public Day High School.

1963 **Edward Tsang Lu** is an American physicist and NASA astronaut on STS 84, born in Springfield.

1963 **Mary M. Lynch Elementary School** opens at 315 North Branch Parkway.

1963 **Academy Hill School** opens at 1190 Liberty Street.

1963



Seen here is Springfield Native, 13 year old, **James 'Red' Donohue**. He has just won the **1963 National Marble Championship** in Wildwood, N.J. and is being presented with the trophy by none other than Ed McMahon. He is the third Springfield resident that has won since the championship started in 1922. McMahon then invites 'Red' to accompon him to NYC in a limosine with the female winner, and to appear on the "Tonight Show with Johnny Carson". When our young "nibster" gets back to Springfield, he will be presented with a 'Key to the City' by Mayor Charles Ryan, along with many other honors.

1963 **Alice B. Beal Elementary School** opens at 285 Tiffany Street, near Forest Park.

1963 **Frank H. Freedman Elementary School** opens at 90 Cherokee Drive.

1964 The new **Our Lady of Hope Grammar School** opens at 474 Armory Street. It is now the **Alfred G. Zanetti Montessori Magnet School**.

1965 Nov. 9: The **Great Northeastern Blackout** occurs. It affected over 30,000,000 people in New York, Massachusetts, Vermont, Rhode Island, Pennsylvania, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Delaware,

Connecticut, Maryland along with parts of Ontario. 80,000 square miles were affected. It started at 5:27p.m. and lasted as long as 13 hours. It brought on scares of Russian invasion.

c1965 **First McDonald's** in Springfield opens at 809 Boston Road, just a few years after the first McDonalds in the area opens on Riverdale Road in West Springfield. Menu included, Hamburger for 15 cents, Cheeseburger for 19 cents, Fries for 10 cents Coke for 10 cents and a Milkshake for a whopping 20 cents.

Mid-'60s We are first introduced to what came to be called the **Mutual Ford Giant**. He was all dressed up in patriotic red, white and blue. Over the next 60 or so years, he would travel from town to town with various paint schemes. The statue was built by International Fiberglass in Venice, CA, as a pizza man. Then in the mid to late '60's he came to a pizza shop in Framingham, then in 1970 he moved here to Mutual Ford. His second to last stop was at the Plantation Inn in Chicopee, Today he is at Nathan Bill's on Island Pond Road, all white.



1965 The **Milton Bradley Elementary School** opens at 22 Mulberry Street.

1966 September 11: **Pyncheon Park** burns to the ground. Never to be rebuilt.

1966 Aug. 9: **Vinny Del Negro** born in Springfield - Basketball Player and Coach

1967 February 15: **James Frank Duryea** passes away.

1960 Mid: To work for **Stop & Shop**, you first had to take some tests. Dexterity was one of the tests. The test was given at the closed A&P Store on State Street across from the armory.

1967 **Interstate 291** thru Springfield starts construction and will be completed in 1971.

1967 **Mike Trombley** is born in Springfield. He will be a MLB baseball pitcher from 1992-2002 with the Minnesota Twins.

c1968 **John F. Kennedy (JFK) Middle School** opens at 1385 Berkshire Avenue.

1967-68 **Eastfield Mall** opens with three anchor stores, Forbes & Wallace, Steigers and Sears.

1968 **Capitol Theater** closed. Demolished in 1972. It had opened in 1920.

1968 Our **U.S. Armory** is deactivated.

1968 **Springfield City Hospital** is rebranded as the Springfield Hospital Medical Center

1968 46th Mayor - Frank H. Freedman

1968 February 17: The **First Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame** is opened on the Springfield College campus.

1968 December 25: **Eastfield Mall Cinema 1 & 2** was located at the eastern end of the mall.

1969 **Race riots** occur in Springfield leading to a curfew being imposed.

1969 **Leonard Corbin** would become the First Black Firefighter in the city. He served for 30 years. By 2023 the force would become 60% minority.

1970+/- **Milton Bradley contines its success** with games like: *Axis & Allies, Battle Cry, Battleship, Broadside and Boarding Parties, Crossfire, Easy Money, Scrabble, Yahtzee and Monopoly.*

1970's John "Ox" McCarthy's Irish pub **The Keg Room**, on State Street has become a great spot for a bite to eat, lift a glass and enjoy that incredible Irish music.

1970 The **Baystate West** project is completed, making it the tallest building in Springfield. Baystate West would later be renamed Tower Square.

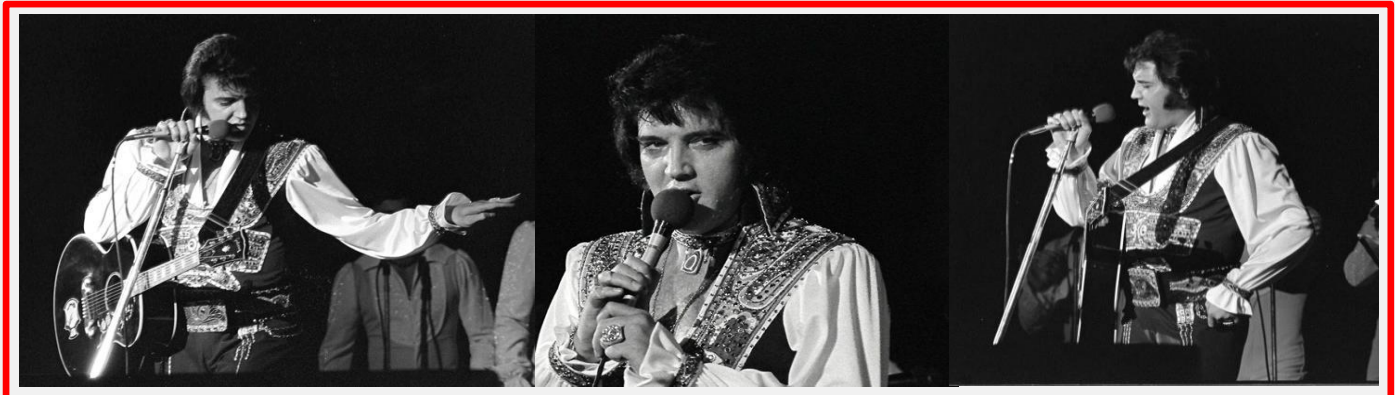
1970 The last section of **Route 291** is completed.

1970 This is just an arbitrary year for **fish commonly found in Watershop Pond.**

Black Crappie, Bluegil, Brown Trout, Chain Pickerel, Channel Catfish, Common Carp Largemouth Bass, Pumpkinseed, Rainbow Trout and Yellow Bass.

1970 The **Westinghouse Plant** in East Springfield completely shuts down.

- 1970 The last section of **Route 91** thru Springfield is opened.
- 1970 Feb. 26: The **Fox Theater** opened at 1340 Boston Rd with 1,000 seats and closed early 1980's.
- 1971 **Gate of Heaven Cemetery** is completed, and now contains well over 5,800 internments.
- 1971 **Veritas Prep Charter School** opens at 370 Pine Street.
- 1972 **Old First Church** at 50 Elm Street was built in 1819. It is now listed in the National Register of Historic Places.
- 1972 47th Mayor - Theodore Dimauro
- 1972 The **Springfield Civic Center** opens as a multi-purpose arena and convention center in downtown Springfield.
- 1972 **Hampden County Courthouse** began construction in late 1871 and was dedicated on April 28, 1874. A grand jury indicted the county commissioners in 1869 for official misconduct because the old courthouse did not have fireproof storage for the registry of deeds or storage of public records. They forced the county to build the courthouse. It had originally cost \$214,068. It is now listed on the National Register of Historic Places.
- 1972 **Travis Best** was an American basketball player from 1995-2002 for the Indiana Pacers. Born Here.
- 1973 May 25: **Allen-Cooley Cinemas** opens with Charles Bronson in "The Family". It was a double cinema with two narrow 300 seat auditoriums. During the late-1970's and early 1980's, it was a popular site for midnight showing for films like "The Rocky Horror Picture Show". It closed as a cinema on November 12, 1986. It is now home to the popular Ihop Restaurants.
- 1973 48th Mayor - William C. Sullivan
- 1973 The **Miles-Stebbins Villa** was constructed in the Italian style between 1849-1851. It is now listed on the National Register of Historic Places.
- 1973 Jan. 7th: The **Paramount Theater** has its name changed to the Julia Sanderson Theater.
- 1974 February 16: **John C. Garand**, Springfield Armory rifle designer, dies in Springfield.
- 1974 **Court Square Historic District** was listed on the National Register of Historic Places.
- 1974 Wesson Women's merges with Springfield Hospital Medical Center to become the 672-bed **Medical Center of Western Massachusetts**.
- 1974 The **Waldorf Restaurant** closes after 70 years. It had opened in downtown Spfld in 1906.
- 1974 The **Quadrangle-Mattoon Street Historic District** is now listed on the National Register of Historic Places.
- 1974 Nov. 18: **Chloe Sevigny** is born in Springfield - Film and TV Actress, model
- 1974 May 1: The **Ames Hill/Crescent Hill District** is listed on U.S. National Register of Historic Places.
- mid-70's All of the **Central Street Rowhouses** are remodeled.
- 1975 July 14 & 15, 1975: **Elvis Presley** is in the city to Rock & Roll, as only Elvis can do that. Also booked Elvis for a July 29, 1976 Show. A Feb. 1978 concert was also booked but because Elvis passed away on Aug. 16, 1977, the city lost out on another incredible experience.



- 1975 **Five Town Plaza** at the corners of Allen and Cooley Streets opens.

- 1976 Springfield Hospital becomes **Baystate Medical Center**.
- 1976 **South Congregational Church** is located at 45 Maple Street. It was build in 1875 and is now listed in the National Register of Historic Places.
- 1976 The **McKnight District** is an area of several hundred acres which had been built in the mid to late 19th century. The primary architects were John and William McKnight, and they put restrictions on any builders hoping to construct in this area. This area is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.
- 1978 **German Gerena Elementary School** opens at 200 Bernie Avenue.
- 1978 The **Union Trust Company Building** at 1351 Main Street was built in 1907. It is now listed on the National Register of Historic Place.
- 1978 47th Mayor - Theodore Dimauro
- 1979 **Kennedy-Worthington Blocks** are historic commercial and industrial buildings located on both Main and Worthington Streets. They are now listed on the National Register of Historic Places.
- 1979 The **Julia Sanderson** or better known as the Paramount Theater was built in 1926 out of part of the grand Massasoit House Hotel. It is now listed on the National Register of Historic Place.
- 1980 Into the future: **Barcodes** continue to vastly improve to better serve the consumer public.
- 1980 **Baystate West**, having opened in 1970, is just trying to servive at this point. Competition from Eastfield Mall (1968) and especially the newly opened Holyoke Mall (1979) is proving just too much for the downtown mall to compete with.
- 1980? **Bicentennial Highway** creates a shortcut between Allen and Cooley Streets.
- 1980's Winchester Square is renamed **Mason Square**.
- 1980's and beyond: **Area pharmacy services** begin to take on a very different appearance. Starting mainly during the mid-1970's and vastly increasily from the 1980's on, the areas independent pharmacies start to close for a couple of reasons. The two major reasons are the numerous new chain pharmacies, and the lack of proper and prompt payments for prescription services provided. Independent pharmacies are unable to wait three to six months to receive payments on expensive meds which chain stores can absorb until a payment is taken care of.
- 1980 Dec. 12: Christmas shoppers are assaulted by 50 plus gang members, just outside of Baystate West.
- 1982 The **Forest Park Historic District** was developed between 1880 and 1920. It is now listed in the National Register of Historic Places.
- 1982 to 1990: **2,000 laid off** at Easco Hand Tools, 400 out of work at Package Macinery, 250 out of work when Chapman Valve closed; 250 more jobs lost when Columbia Bicycly closes.
- 1983 The **Burbach Block** is a historic commercial and retail group of buildings at 1113-1115 Main Street across from the MGM Casino. Built in 1882, it is now part of the National Register of Historic Places.
- 1983 **One Financial Plaza** is completed at the corner of Main and Court Streets.
- 1983 **Apremont Triangle** is now listed in the National Register of Historic Places.
- 1983 The **Bangs Block** at 1119 Main Street is now listed in the National Register of Historic Places
- 1983 The **Worthy Hotel** was built at 1571 Main Street in 1911. It was once considered "Springfield's leading commercial and tourist house". It is now listed in the National Register of Historic Places.
- 1983 **Baystate Corset Block**, built in 1874 and located at 395-405 Dwight Street, has now been listed on the National Register of Historic Place.
- 1983 The **Bicycle Club Building** at 264-270 Worthington Street was constructed in 1891 to be the first permanent home of the famous Springfield Bicycle Club. It is now listed in the

National Register of Historic Places.

- 1983 Sept. 17: **Salvatore Cufari**, Caporegimes of area organized crime for 53 years dies.
- 1983 **Chapin National Bank** is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.
- 1983 **French Congregational Church** was originally located on Bliss Street, but was moved to Union St. by the MGM Casino. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.
- 1983 The **Fuller Block** was built in 1887 at the corners of Main and Bridge Streets. It was the first building in Spfld to include the modern amenities of marble staircases, steam heat, passenger elevators, a mail chute and running water on all floors. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1983.
- 1983 **Guenther & Handel's Block** was built in 1845, and is one of the oldest surviving buildings in downtown Spfld. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.
- 1983 The **Haynes Hotel** was built in 1864 at the corners of Main and Pynchon Streets. It is a beautiful brick building that dominates the area. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.
- 1984 49th Mayor - Richard Neal
- 1985 The **Myrtle Street School** in Indian Orchard is located at 64 Myrtle Street. It was built in stages between 1868 and 1915. It currently serves the city as residential use. It has been listed in the National Register of Historic Places.
- 1985 The second **Basketball Hall of Fame** has been moved to the Springfield riverfront. It has been significantly enlarged from the original hall that was on the campus of Springfield College.
- 1985 **Forbes & Wallace Department Store** is demolished.
- 1986 Mercy Hospital becomes **Mercy Medical Center**.
- 1986 Springfield begins the tradition of holding the **"World's Largest Pancake Breakfast"**. In 2023 there were approx. 12,000 people served.
- 1986 The **Nutty Goodie Tearoom** closes its doors.
- 1986 **Buckingham Jr. High School** closed in 1986, and sitting empty for 15 years, it was demo in 2001.
- 1986 **Central High School** was the merging of Technical and Classical High Schools.
- 1986 **American Bosch** shuts down its production facilities on Main Street in Brightwood..
- 1987 **Monarch Place** is completed, and becomes the tallest building in Springfield.
- 1988 Although wrench manufacturer's, **Bemis & Call** sold this part of their business in 1939, they continued to operate until 1988.
- 1988 **President Ronald Reagan** visits Springfield to receive one of the cities Freedom Banners.
- 1989 50th Mayor - Vincent Dimonaco - acting
- 1989 Now recognized on the National Register of Historic Places, is the **Belle and Franklin Historic District**. They were residential apartment buildings that were built in 1914-16.
- 1989 51st Mayor - Mary Hurley becomes the **first female mayor** of Springfield.
- late 1980 to early 1990: **Telephone party lines phased out** in Springfield. Last party line in the United States was phased out in Woodbury, CT in 1991.
- 1990 The population of Springfield is 156,983.
- 1990 Joseph Luvera (1930-2021), founded the **Springfield Park Rangers**, and served as its volunteer chief for over 25 yrs.
- 1990 **Sze's Chinese Restaurant** at the "X" closes.
- 1991 September 24: Theodor Geissel, better known as **Dr. Seuss, dies in California**.
- 1991 August: **Hurricane Bob**, a Cat 3 Storm, has its eye pass directly over Springfield.
- 1991 **Steiger's Department Store** closes its downtown location.
- 1991 After the fall of the Soviet Union, Springfield, including local cities and towns would find a large number of **Russian immigrants** settling in this area.

- 1992 **Rebecca M. Johnson Middle School** opens at 55 Catharine Street.
- 1992 The **York Street Jail** closes after an unsuccessful attempt to sell it.
- 1992 52nd Mayor - Robert Markel
- 1993 The last train of the Highland Rail Line crosses over the abandoned trestle over Watershops Pond.
- 1994 November: **Olive Garden** opens a new location at 1380 Boston Road.
- 1994 The **Kenwyn Apartments** are a historic apartment house on both Kenwood and Belmont Avenue. They are a rare example of Mission Style. Built in 1916, they have been listed in the National Register of Historic Places.
- 1995 **Forest Park's Bright Nights** opens for the first time.
- 1996 53rd Mayor - Michael Albano
- 1996 **Springfield High School of Science and Technology**, AKA: Sci-Tech opens in an older building constructed in 1951. The really sad part about this school was that the city never allowed it to live up to its original expectations.
- 1996 **President Clinton** to address Democratic Supporters at Court Square.
- 1996 The **Hampden County Memorial Bridge** needs to be rehabilitated because the concrete above the arches are suffering from advanced Alkali-silica reaction. This was to require replacing the entire deck system. The decorative architectural elements were either replaced using cast stone or replaced with architectural fiberglass reproductions. There were two gargoyles above the bridge on the south side that were removed when the bridge was upgraded.
- 1997 The Haynes Hotel was built in 1864 at the corners of Main and Pynchon Streets.
- 1997 All **Lechmere Stores** will be closing.
- 1999 October: **Spag's** moves into the former Caldor's at Allen & Cooley Streets.
- 1999 Dec. 12: **Springfield Cinemas** was located at 1250 St. James Ave. It was a 16 screen megaplex. Originally operated by Regal, it switched to Entertainment Cinema's in 2006. Closed in 2015.
- 1999 May: **The crowns, or pinnacles** for the bell towers of Sacred Heart Church on Chestnut Street are finally put in place. For financial reasons, it was not possible to finish off the towers when the church was first opened in the 1890's. These crowns are made out of copper.
- 1999 August 27: **Eastfield Mall 16** opens with Dolby Sound and Stadium Seating. It was taken over by Rave Motion Picture Theaters in December 2009, and by Cinemark in 2013. It was permanently closed during the Covid-19 Pandemic on March 17, 2020.
- 1999 **Indian Orchard Branch Library** was constructed in 1909 using funds donated by Andrew Carnegie. It is now listed on the National Register of Historic Places.
- Late 1990's: **Watershops Pond** is drained for the second time.
- c2000 The Paramount Theater, then Julia Sanderson Theater finally changes its name to the **Hippodrome**.
- 2000 **Bradlees Stores** to file for bankruptcy.
- 2000 +/- **Games that are considered to be too dangerous** to play and may actually be outlawed:
 Red Rover Dodgeball Lawn Darts Cinnamon Challenge All Inhaling Games Mumblety Peg
 Very Tall Metal Slides All Games That Involve Breaking The Skin Intentionally
 Games That Shoot Projectiles Such As Cork and Plastic Slip "N Slide (can cause neck & back injury).
- 2001 Jan.: **Nuclear Crayon** on Page Blvd becomes the first such business to make Springfield its home.



Original Stone Cross
 Photo by Mark T. Alamed

It is a tattoo parlor.

- 2001 November 4: **Edward P. Boland**, Springfield's beloved and respected Congressman, passes away.
- 2001 Oct. 18: **Spag's** at Allan & Cooley starts a Going Out of Business Sale.
- 2001 The **Armory Street Fire Station** or just Station 9 closes. It had proudly served the citizens of Hungry Hill and the City of Springfield for 99 years. The area residents had known those brave firemen and those firemen had come to know those residents.
- 2002 **Johnson's Bookstore** closes its doors for the last time.
- 2002 The current **Basketball Hall of Fame** is located next door to it's previous site. It is a much needed update in all senses to the 1985 hall.
- 2002 The **Edward P. Boland Learning Center** opens at 426 Armory Street.
It replaces the old Armory Street School.
- 2003 The **Sister Caritas Cancer Center** opens to help cancer patients with a local treatment center.
- 2003 The **Route 66 Diner** or formerly the **New Bay Diner Restaurant** dates to 1957, and resides at 950 Bay Street. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. TripAdvisor gives 4.5 Stars.



- 2003 **Aldolfo Bruno**, Caporegimes of local organized crime, shot 5 times in a South End parking lot.
- 2003 The **Byers Block** is reconstructed by Ben Schenkelberg with the intent of preserving the history of the 1835 building. It is the oldest commercial building in Metro Springfield. The Byers Block is part of the National Register of Historic Places.
- 2003 The **Springfield Safe Deposit and Trust Company** was built in 1933 at 127-131 State Street. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2003.
- 2004 54th Mayor - Charles V. Ryan
- 2005 The Springfield Civic Center is renamed the **Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Center**.
- 2006 **Derechos** are defined as straight line wind storms that travel for at least 250 miles with wind gusts of at least 58mph over most of its length. Some of the gusts may exceed 75mph. Springfield has experienced 2 of these over a period from 2006 to 2020.
- 2006 August 2 Derechos: gusts up to 88mph over 320 miles.
October 7, 2020 Derechos: gusts up to and over 88mph for over 250 miles.
- 2007 **Blockbuster Video** closes its last Western Mass store. Unable to compete with streaming services like Netflix, it was forced to close its 8,000 stores worldwide in 2010.
- 2008 The **York Street Jail** is finally demolished. It's attempt at selling was unsuccessful.
- 2008 55th Mayor - Domenic Sarno - Springfield's longest running mayor.
- 2008 **Apremont Triangle** is now listed in the National Register of Historic Places.
- 2008 Springfield installed black steel reinforced fiberglass mesh around three corners of the **Campanile** to reduce public safety hazards of falling stonework.
In 2018 reinforced mesh was installed to the fourth corner of the tower.
- 2009 **Kavanaugh Furniture** closes. It was one of the oldest businesses in Springfield

when it closed, it dated back to c1872.

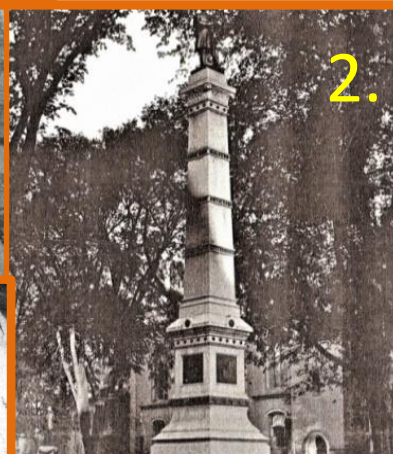
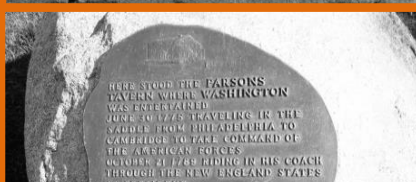
- c2009 **Kresge's 5&10** on Main Street is closed, to be replaced by the Federal Building.
- 2009 The **Calhoun Apartments** are at the corner of Dwight and Jefferson Streets. Although it went thru a period of remodeling and financial problems, it is now listed in the National Register of Historic Places.
- 2009 **Circuit City Stores** are closed. The reason being poor financial management, and not having enough cash flow to survive the economic turndown.
- 2011 **Silvano's Restaurant** at 680 Worthington Street closes.
- 2011 **JCPenney** closes at Eastfield Mall.
- 2011 June 1st: with only 10 minutes warning, the city is hit with an **EF3 Tornado** with estimated wind speeds of 160mph. It traveled for approx. 39 miles with a max width of 1/2 mile. It left 4 dead and hundreds in area ER's.
- 2011 **The snowstorm started on October 29th.** It consisted of up to 12 inches of heavy, wet snow that clung to trees because they still had leaves on them. Power went out during the evening and was not restored to some areas for a week or more. Electric crews were brought in from all over the east coast, while tree services arrived from as far away as Montana.
- 2012 Sept.: The former Trade High School has been completely rebuilt into the new **Putnam Vocational Technical Academy.**
- 2012 May: **Lido Ristorante** closes after 64 years
- 2013 **Hooker Apartments** at the corners of Main and Greenwich Street, were built in 1908. It has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places.
- 2014 **Mercy Medical Center** breaks ground on a \$15M cancer treatment center. Scheduled to open in 2016.
- c2015 The **Railroad Bridge over Parker Street** was finally completed, which both widened and raised the clearance between Parker Street and the space between the bridge support girders. This was an underpass that was regularly hit by tractor-trailors that were too tall to safely pass under the RR bridge.
- 2015 The **Adams Apartment Building** at 71 Adams Street is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.
- 2016 **Macy's** closes at Eastfield Mall.
- 2016 **Ivernia Apartments** are located at 91-93 Pine St. and listed on the National Register of Historic Places.
- 2017 **The Chinese owned company of CRRC** is scheduled to open producing rail cars, with delivery dates around 2018. As of 2025 it employees 426 people.
- 2017 July: **MGM Springfield** began operating the former Civic Center in advance of the casino/hotel/retail development opening.
- 2017 **Pope Francis Prep School** opens as a combination of Cathedral High School and Holyoke Catholic High School. It opens on the same ground as the Cathedral High School that was severely damaged in the 2011 tornado.
- 2018 Sept. 27: **Regal Springfield MGM 7** opens at 1040 Main Street, it has 7 theaters with 650 seats.
- 2018 **Sears closes** at Eastfield Mall.



MGM Springfield Arena

- 2019 The **Federal Square Historic District** is now listed on the National Register of Historic Places.
- 2020 March: **Olive Garden permantly closes** it's restaurant on Boston Road. It had been at this location for 25 years.
- 2020-21 **Six-Corners Roundabout** is finally completed after many years of design ideas. The unusual six-legged design improves area safety by speed reduction, traffic reduction, fewer traffic delays and much safer areas for pedestrian crossings.
- 2020-21 **Watershop Pond** is drained for the third time, making significant changes to make the dam safer and more reliable.
- 2022 Springfield is designated as an **American World War II Heritage City** by the National Park Service.
- 2023 Fall: **Court Square Hotel** should now be the Court Square Condo's after significant renovations.
- 2023 The **historic pavilion** at the entrance to Forest Park has been rebuilt for \$242,000. The money came from a Community Preservation Act Grant.
- 2023 The **Elias Brookings School**, built in 1925 has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places. It was severely damaged by the June 1st tornado.
- 2023-24 **Eastfield Mall** is torn down.
- 2024 **Mayor Dominc Sarno** is re-elected to a record 8th term.
- 2024 The **St. James Avenue-Tapley Street Roundabout** has been completed. It has become the cities second safety related roundabout after completion of the Six Corners Roundabout.
- 2025 **Bright Nights** at Forest Park has just completed its 30th season.
- c2025 **TV screen sizes** have continued to increase in size, in most part because of technology.
1928 = 3" 1935 = 8" 1946 = 10" 1950 = 12.5" 1963 = 23" 1974 = 25" 1988 = 35" 1998 = 42"
2008 = 50" 2015 = 65", over the years after this point we've seen 75" 85" 95" and even 100"+
- 2025 **Springfield Crossing** is built on the site of Eastfield Mall.
- 2025 Apr 9: The five story, **\$80 million facility** that replaces the Old Civic Center Garage which was built in the early 1970's and demolished in 2022. Parking costs \$2 for the first half hour and \$2 for each additional hour of parking. It has 817 parking spaces.
- 2025 The **renovations to Court Square** appear to be near completion. A tall, black fountain has been added. This fountain has 4 lions at its base.
- 2025 The city is doing more upgrades to Forest Park. The **Walker Grandstand** received an upgrade to seating, dugouts, concession stand and bathrooms.
- c2027 North End Bridge should be finishing its complete rebuilding.
- c2028 The roundabout at the "X" should be completed.

Springfield Monuments & Memorials





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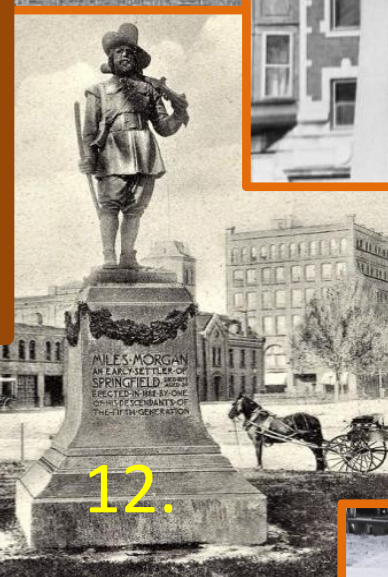
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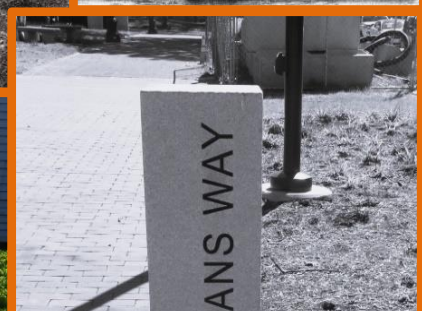
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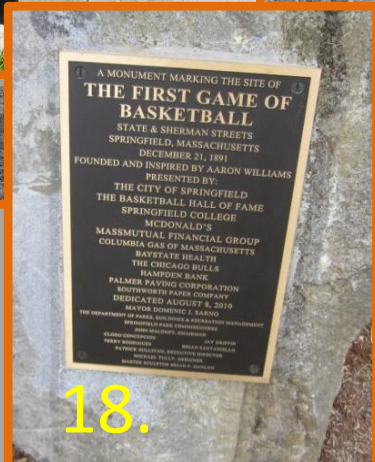
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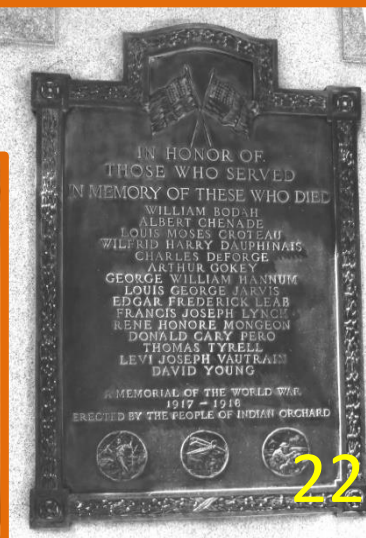
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22.

- 1 Wait Monument - State & Federal Sts.
- 2 Soldiers Monument - Court Sq.
- 3 Italian-American Vet. Mon.-Main & Locust Sts.
- 4 Parson's Tavern - Court Sq.
- 5 Memorial Golf Course - East Spfld
- 6 Dr. Seuss National Memorial - Main Library
- 7 Vietnam War Memorial - Court Sq.
- 8 Deacon Samuel Chapin - Merrick Park
- 9 Arsenal Building - Armory Square
- 10 Spanish Civil War - Memorial Square
- 11 Spfld Baseball Greats-Forest Park Grandstand

- 12 Miles Morgan Statue-Court Square
- 13 Shays Rebellion - Plaque on State St.
- 14 Marine Memorial - Court Square
- 15 Korean War Memorial
- 16 Veterans Way Entrance
- 17 President McKinley Monument - F.P.
- 18 First Game of Basketball
- 19 WW1 Monument to I.O. War Dead
- 20 Memorial to Vets of 1917 to 1953
- 21 Spfld Baseball Greats-FP Grandstand
- 22 Indian Orchards WW1-KIA-By Name

On 22. My Uncle Is 3rd From The Bottom.





Springfield Police Officers That Died In The Line Of Duty

| | | | | | |
|------------|-------------------|------------|--------------------|------------|-------------------|
| 01/08/1973 | William Berte | 06-21-1969 | Walter Jusiewicz | 10/30/1973 | Paul Mawaka |
| 02/02/1940 | Thomas Murphy | 08-31-1934 | Adelbert St. Marie | 10/31/1955 | Leo Hamel |
| 02/02/1940 | John Sullivan | 09-11-1967 | Francis Sears | 11/2/1938 | Carl Rolf |
| 02/20/1953 | John Connors | 09-20-1946 | Raymond Moriarty | 11/12/1985 | Michael Schiavina |
| 04/11/1973 | Richard Vigneault | 09-29-1908 | Daniel Donovan | 11/15/1985 | Alain Beauregard |
| 06/04/2012 | Kevin Ambrose | 10-05-1675 | Thomas Miller | | |

NOTE: This Was The Order That They Were Placed In Online



Springfield Firefighters That Died In The Line of Duty and Related

| | | | | | |
|------------|-----------------------|------------|----------------------|------------|---------------------|
| 02/02/1904 | Arthur Richards | 02/16/1944 | Charles Hassler | 05/06/1969 | William Johnson |
| 07/24/1904 | James H. McCleary | 07/18/1949 | Joseph Nadeau | 01/11/1978 | John Reardon |
| 01/06/1906 | Capt. Sidney Bowers | 11/22/1949 | Capt. John Delaney | 03/09/1983 | Lt. Warren D. Colby |
| 01/06/1906 | Francis Hines | 09/06/1953 | Bernard Caffrey | 11/25/1993 | James D. Tatro |
| 06/25/1909 | Charles Knapp | 01/15/1956 | John Healy | 09/05/1997 | Robert F. Wheeler |
| 05/15/1915 | Charles O'Grady | 02/11/1956 | John Mooney | 01/20/2010 | Samuel Scott Sr. |
| 05/10/1922 | Chief Clarence Gesner | 04/29/1957 | Lt. Charles Morrison | 01/27/2013 | Kenneth J. Murray |
| 11/29/1929 | Benjamin Libera | 06/06/1958 | Daniel J. Lawler | 12/02/2014 | Luis D. Rodriguez |
| 12/12/1923 | James H. Shea | 07/21/1966 | Herman Daudelin | 10/17/2019 | Kevin C. Welz |
| 03/10/1932 | James Kennedy | 08/29/1966 | Lt. Philip Mirarchi | 10/20/2022 | Lt. Mark Giannini |

Springfield, the City of Firsts

- 1636 There may be 34 Springfield's in the country, but we are the first.
- 1655 John Pynchon, William's son, launches America's **first cattle drive** from Spfld to Boston along old Bay Path Road.
- 1777 **First Federal Arsenal** established by George Washington and Henry Knox.
- 1805 Merriam Webster publishes the **first American-English dictionary**.

- 1806 **First American Edition of the Koran** by Henry Brewer and Isaiah Thomas.
- 1822 The **first American flint-lock gun** is produced at the arsenal.
- 1826 Thomas Blanchard invents the **first American horseless carriage**. It is a 2,000 lb steam powered giant.
- 1834 **First Kitchen Friction Match** by Chapin and Phillips Company.
- 1844 Charles Goodyear perfects and patents the **first vulcanization of rubber**.
- 1849 **First Clamp-On Ice Skate** - Barney & Berry, Inc.
- 1869 **1st Producer of Supplementary Education Material** for Kindergarten Education - Milton Bradley Co.
- 1863 **First United States Registered Bank** - National Bank of Springfield, opens on Main Street across from Court Square.
- 1865 Charles Gilbert and John Barker partner to build the **"Springfield Gas Machine"** that converted crude petroleum distillates into gas vapor used to light buildings.
- 1873 **First Postcard in the U.S.** - Morgan Envelope Factory.
- 1882 **First Music Appreciation Course** - Springfield Public School System.
- 1893 September 20: Charles and Frank Duryea **road-test the first-ever American**, gasoline power car. This automobile was built in the Russell Machine Shop, located on Taylor Street. It was test-driven from its home plant up to Spruce Street.
- 1895 The Duryea Motor Wagon wins **America's First-Ever Road Race**. A 54 mile race from Chicago to Evanston, Ill. The car ran on U.S. Rubber Co. tires, made in Chicopee. U.S. Rubber Co. would later be renamed Uniroyal.
- 1902 **First Window Envelope** - U.S. Envelope Company.
- 1905 **Knox Automobile Company produces America's first motorized fire engines**. They are sold to the Springfield Fire Department which was considered the first modern fire department in the world.
- 1907 Springfield officially has the **First Modern, Motorized Fire Department**.
- 1911 Gilbert & Barker Company introduces the **first measuring gasoline pump**. In 1912 they move to West Spfld.
- 1918 **First Community Chest** in the country opens in Springfield.
- 1921 One of America's **first commercial radio stations, WBZ**, commences broadcasting from the Hotel Kimball.
- 1937 **First American Built Planetarium** opens at the Springfield Science Museum.
- 1939 **First Fluorescent Lighting System** Installation - Springfield Armory.
- 1953 WWLP-Channel 22 becomes the **First UHF TV Station** in the United States.

A Brief History of Smith & Wesson's Time in Springfield

- 1856 Horace Smith and Daniel B. Wesson form their second partnership. This new company was to be called "Smith & Wesson Revolver Company". To start they rented a shop at 5 Market Street in Springfield.
- 1860 Smith & Wesson move to a much larger location on Stockbridge due to increased demand.
- 1860's Civil War Era: S&W revolvers become so popular, that their Model 1 is becoming so popular that its sales are outpacing production capabilities.
- 1865 After the Civil War, S&W focus on developing firearms for the American frontier. These are heavy frame revolvers used with heavy caliber cartridges, up to .44 caliber.
- 1899 S&W start producing firearms for the military and police in .38 caliber. These models are

popular throughout much of the 20th century.

- 2003 S&W starts to produce their own version of the classic 1911 as the SW1911 - 45 cal.
- 2021 S&W plan their move to Maryville, Tennessee because of negative gun manufacturing legislation in Massachusetts.
- 2025 S&W still has a presence in Springfield, employing around 1,000 people.

Changes In The Physical History Of The Telephone That Has An Immediate Impact On Springfield:

- 1879 Often large, box-like devices, sometimes mounted on walls and required operators to connect calls.
- 1892 The handset telephone that combines a receiver and transmitter.
- 1896 The dial telephone is invented, this makes automatic dialing possible.
- 1900s Early: The "candlestick telephone", featuring a separate mouthpiece and earpiece, become popular, particularly on desks.
- 1904 Bell Company experimented with the "French phone," which housed both the transmitter and the receiver within a single handset.
- 1930's The base of the telephone begins to house the ringer and induction coil, eliminating ringer box.
- 1937 AT&T introduced the Model 302 desk telephone with an improved handset, characterized by its rectangular base.
- 1949 Western Electric introduced the Model 500, a redesigned primary tabletop phone, which remained in production for many years.
- 1956 The Ericsson Ericofon, or "cobra phone", was introduced. Notable for its stylish one-piece design.
- 1963 Touch-Tone dialing, using push buttons instead of a rotary dial, was introduced by AT&T. One of the most popular versions, was the Princess Phone, wall mounted or desktop. It was available in many different colors.
- 1970's Cordless phones introduced, offering wireless mobility that becomes very popular.
- 1983 The first commercial cellular phone, the Motorola DynaTAC 8000X, marked the beginning of handheld mobile communication.
- 1990's The IBM Simon, considered the first smartphone, combined phone features with PDA capabilities.
- 2000's Cell phones come more compact, featured high-resolution screens, and offered expanded capabilities beyond voice calls.
- Continue Smartphones: The evolution continued with the introduction of devices like the iPhone in 2007 that integrated touchscreens, web browsing, and app stores.
- Present to 2025: Smartphones have become an all-in-one device for communication, entertainment and personal management.

History Of The American Wars That Directly Affected Springfield
Because We Were Home To A Good To A Significant Amount Of Armament Production

| | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| Revolutionary War - (1775 - 1783) | Casualties: 4,435 |
| War of 1812 - (1812 - 1815) | Casualties: 2,260 |
| Mexican - American War - (1846 - 1848) | Casualties: 13,283 |
| American Civil War - (1861 - 1865) | American Casualties: 360,000 |
| | Confederate Casualties: 260,000 |

| | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Spanish - American War - (1898) | Casualties: 387 | |
| World War I - (1917 - 1918) | Casualties: 116,708 | |
| World War II - (1941 - 1945) | Casualties: 407,316 | |
| Korean War - (1950 - 1953) | Casualties: 33,651 | |
| Vietnam War - (1965 - 1975) | Casualties: 58,168 | ***Casualties Only Count War Dead |

The Variety of Mills and Dams Located Around Springfield

- 1827 Map: Captain Child's Distillery is located at the outlet of the Mill Pond, where a dam has been constructed on the west side of what would become Parker Street. This dam and the pond it has created would be from the waters of the South Branch of the Mill River. Up until approx. 1924 there would always be at least one mill operating at this location, including saw and grist mills.
- 1827 Map: A brook called Small Brook would flow north until it reached the South Branch of the Mill River where J. Davis had created a dam to make the J. Davis Mill Pond and the J. Davis Saw Mill.
- 1827 A number of dams were used to backup the South Branch of the Mill River to create the Watershops Pond. These included the dam at the Middle Watershops, Ames Paper Mill the U.S. Forge, Woolen Mill, Rice's Mill and Trask's Mill.
- by 1870 The Mill River supported the water needs of a Batting Factory, Rubber Factory, Bemis & Call Machine Shop, Barney & Berry Skate Factory, Woolen Factory, Grist Mill, J. Bangs Mill, Howard Bros. Waste Factory, Woolen Mill, Wesson Fire Arms.
Not all of these businesses actually had dams, but drew water from the Mill River.
- 1870 There was a large pond just east of Maple Street that was a Gold Chain Factory.
- 1882 Horace Smith operated a dam on the Mill River at Maple and Mill Street.

An Article About the Connecticut River, and Why It Was So Important to the Citizens of Springfield

by Local Historian, Jim Boone

Springfield has always been a river town from the beginning. The river was the transportation method that got people here and was used to ship goods and people. It was used as a sewer and dump as well as a pleasure focus for recreational boating and some of the first college regattas of sculls. It is this period of river history and use that will be celebrated in the reuse and upgrading or restoration of the Rockrimmon Boat House at the north end bridge.

The River was once lined with boat houses that were owned by social groups, private individuals and the public. These often grand structures were the social center during the summer. Fine private craft and their owners spent hot summer days on the water. This history is an important part of Springfield history.

Early races that pitted New England's great colleges against one another in racing sculls were a season favorite. The origin of school colors came from a famous Harvard/ Yale race where each team bought ribbons in Springfield and wore them on their sleeves so the viewing public could identify each team from afar. The Crimson and Gold were born in Springfield. This great river use history passed as the river became more and more polluted as it was used as a sewer by local towns and industry from New Haven to northern Vermont. Floods, hurricanes and disuse wiped out all of the boat houses but one.

Today the great history of river use is back because towns up and down the River have stopped dumping their sewage and the river has healed itself and is used for pleasure boats, and again for racing.

The "Rockrimmon Boat and Canoe Club", Shingle Style building, built in 1901 is our one remaining Boat House. It is being actively used by community groups to house a fleet of sculls again. This once beautiful

structure is the home to many events that bring people of all walks of life together to celebrate the river and our city. But this boat house has suffered from neglect, unthoughtful remodeling and modifications that have erased much of its original design.

But all is not lost. We still have the tradition, the building and the history. We have a modern group that wants to use the building and continue its traditions of community and river use and pleasure. The proposed study to best determine how to rebuild and reuse this once glorious structure is the first step in continuing a tradition that reflects the glory of Springfield, the river and its people. I ask that the CPA fund this study so that their highly qualified Historical Architect can develop plans that reflect the value and use of the boat house and its sight.

The Gunn Block and Rockingham House by Local Historian Jim Boone

The Albany coach-and-six came smoking in at high speed, blowing a warning blast upon the horn before it reached the Connecticut-river bridge; and similarly, from Massachusetts Bay, more than once a clay, great coaches rolled across the sandy plain at the eastward of the city, and halted their panting teams at the Rockingham House first, (Rockingham House was where Burger King is and is in picture I sent with trolley) and then at Warriner's, or the other taverns. There were six lines and 18 coaches running between Boston and Albany at the close of the coaching-period. The freighting-business of those days, by heavy wagons, was immense; and it has left a relic in Gunn's Block, at the corner of State and Walnut Streets, which was built 1836 to accommodate a large West-India-goods business with towns east as far as Charlton. These goods came around from Boston by water, and were then distributed by teaming. The movement of freight between Springfield and Boston, when the Western Railroad was first discussed, was found to be 12,000 tons, moved by horse-power at a cost of \$17.50 or \$18 a ton; and it was calculated that the way-freight between Boston and Albany,

*Gunn Block and Rockingham House

Across from the Armory and was the outskirts of the City, Gunn Block, 1836, was freight warehouse and distribution center, road house popular spot for travelers entering the city.

Points Along The Underground Railroad In Springfield Mass.

Massasoit House Hotel - Corner of Main Street and Railroad Way.

Rufus Elmer Shoe Shop - Corner of Main and Lyman Streets.

John Brown's Warehouse - Corner of Main and Taylor Streets.

Pyncheon Street Methodist Church - Corner of Main and Pyncheon Streets.

Office of Dr. Jefferson Church - Near corner of Main and Court Streets.

Office of Dr. George White - SE corner of Main and Court Streets.

Free Church on Sanford Street - Near corner of Sanford and Market Streets.

U.S. Hotel - Main Street across from Howard Street.

Reverend Samuel Osgood's Home - AKA: "prophets chamber".

Jeremy Warriner's Tavern - hid in a converted granary bin underneath the kitchen of their Inn.

Daniel Harris Home - Corner of Chestnut and Spring Streets.

Carriage Shop - Spring & Lyman Streets.

Thomas Thomas Home - Auburn Street.

Firefighters Concerns of Today

article presented by City Historian, Jim Boone

- 1 Speed of getting to the fire, the first five minutes will make all of the difference.
- 2 It takes 25 people on average to fight a fire.
- 3 The majority of calls are not for fires. Fire companies are the first responders for many different events, including accidents, tornadoes, illnesses, storms and electrical wires etc.
- 4 Hazardous chemicals became more and more common, so that in 1985 the city purchased its first Chemical Truck.
- 5 Victorian houses are know as "Fuel". Balloon framing spreads the fire fast.
- 6 Modern homes have plates that hold beams and they go fast in a fire.
- 7 Solar Systems on roofs are a risk to fire fighters because they are always generating electricity, even if it is turned off at the panel. Also, getting around them on a roof to vent can be dangerous.

Miscellaneous:

- 1859 Fire Engine is put on display. It had been purchased from Minnesota, used. It was called a Side-Stroke Fire Engine, that had been in Ohio and New York. In 1898 it was bought by the Springfield Veteran Fireman Association to be repainted and to use the "Springfield" name for Parades.

Talk about a different type of equipment. Pumpers/Steam had unusual names like Niagara or Ocean. The more noise that their equipment could make during a parade, the more fun everyone in attendance would be having.

Fire Fighters say life is 90% boredom and 10% terror.

History of Springfield Fire and Marine Insurance Company

- 1849 Marvin and Chester Chapin (owner of the Massasoit House Hotel) decided to start a company to provide Fire and Marine Insurance. Their first offices were at the corner of Fort and Main Street, which was called the Pynchon Fort Corner.
They built a strong reputation for quickly settlement of claims:
- 1871 Chicago Fire
1872 Boston Fire
1906 San Francisco Earthquake
- 1905 Moved to the corner of State and Maple Streets (the School Department Building)
1936 They had 12,000 agents.
1958 They were absorbed into the Insurance Company of North America.

The Birth of a Very Successful & Neighborly Hungry Hill Ice Company

1902 **Liberty Ice and Fuel Company** is incorporated. Peter F. Hogan purchased it completely in 1914. He and his wife Anna lived on Woodmont Street at the time, and sold ice from their backyard ice house. At that time they used a scale to measure the weight of the empty wagons that were going into the yards, then weighted the wagon again after it was loaded with ice, the difference was the amount that the customer would be charged. Needing more space to run the very successful ice business, the couple bought a number of acres of land on Liberty Street and moved in to raise their family and run the ice business. There were two ponds on the property, called the upper and lower ponds, that were fed by the Chicopee Reservoir. An ice house was built on the upper pond, AKA:Hogan's Pond, with ice being cut from both ponds. Ice was also cut from Haviland in Ludlow and Bass Pond in Sixteen Acres. The 1950's saw the building of the office/ice house at 1183 Liberty Street. All four of the Hogan children grew up in the ice business then married and lived on Liberty Street which had the nickname of Hogan's Alley. The family shared their land during World War 2 for neighbors to use to make "Victory Gardens", and opened the lower pond for swimming. The name Liberty Ice & "Fuel" came about when they became a distributor for Mobil Oil. The business eventually closed in 1998.

Information Provided By Gale Hogan Lucia

The Spruce - Tamarack Bog of Sixteen Acres

The Tamarack Bog of Springfield exists in the Sixteen Acres area of the city, roughly bordered by the Gate of Heavens Cemetery, the South Branch of the Mill River and Wilbraham. This wetlands area is mostly covered by black spruce and tamarack trees that are capable of living in this acidic forested peatlands, that can be covered with sphagnum moss. Although this bog is close to the South Branch of the Mill River, the river does not interact with the bog. The water comes from a combination of groundwater and rainfall. The bogs thick layer of peat is capable of keeping the liquid content of the bog in place. It is unknown how long this bog has existed in Springfield, but it is possible that it may have been here for up to 10,000 years. It is an ideal place for birds and various animals to survive, including large numbers of white-tailed deer.

Springfield's Long Association With Professional Baseball

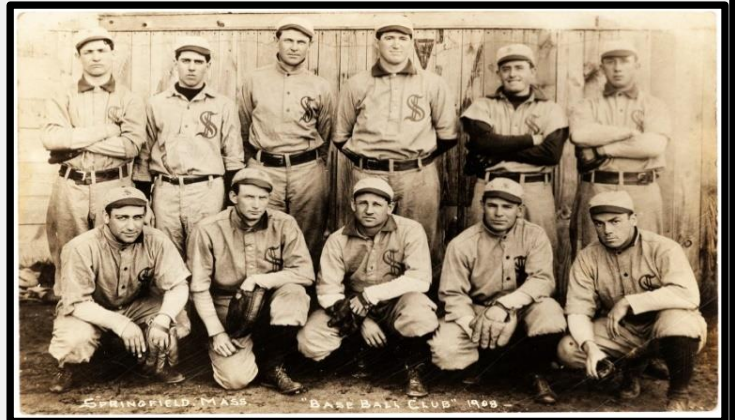
| | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| 1878: International Association | 1915: Colonial League |
| 1879: National Association | 1916-1932: (league disbands July 17, 1932) |
| 1880-83: No Baseball | 1933: No Baseball |
| 1884: Mass. State Association | 1934: Northeastern League |
| 1885: Southern New England League | 1935-1938: No Baseball |
| 1886: No Baseball | 1939-43: Eastern League |
| 1887: Eastern League (Spfld franchise | 1944-47: No Baseball |
| renamed May 26) | 1948-49: New England League |

expelled May 26)
1888-92: No baseball
1893-1900: Eastern League
1901: No Baseball
1902-1912: Connecticut State League
1913-14 Eastern Association

1948-49: New England League
1950-53: International League
1954-56: No Baseball
1957-65: Eastern League
1966-present: No Baseball

Nicknames for the Various Springfield Teams Include:

1878: the Springfields"
Early 20th century: Hampdens or Ponies
1917: Green Sox
1932: Springfield Rifles
1939: Nationals
1948: Springfield Cubs
1950: Giants



Springfield Ponies - 1908

Spfld Hockey Information is very comprehensive, so this is a link to 1 of those pages:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Springfield_Indians#:~:text=The%20Springfield%20Indians%20were%20two

[List of Springfield Indians alumni later inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame.](#)

[Keith Allen](#)
[Jack Butterfield](#)
[Lorne Chabot](#)
[Art Coulter](#)
[George "Punch" Imlach](#)
[Brian Kilrea](#)
[Chuck Rayner](#)
[Earl Seibert](#)
[Eddie Shore](#)
[Billy Smith](#)
[Clint Smith](#)
[Lorne Worsley](#)



Eddie Shore: AKA: "Old Blood and Guts" and "the Edmonton Express."
Named one of the '100 Greatest NHL Players' in history.

[List of Springfield Indians alumni later inducted into the AHL Hall of Fame.](#)

[Jim Anderson](#)
[Bruce Boudreau](#)
[Jack Butterfield](#)
[Don Cherry](#)
[Bruce Cline](#)
[Bronco Horvath](#)
[Brian Kilrea](#)
[Bruce Landon](#)
[Harry Pidhirny](#)
[Marcel Paille](#)
[Noel Price](#)
[Eddie Shore](#)



Bruce Landon: Selected by the L.A. Kings in the 1969 Amateur Draft. Was sent to play for the AHL's Springfield Kings, where he won a championship in 1970-71. In 1982 he became the general manager for the Springfield Kings where he guided the team to the Calder Cup in 1990 and 1991. He was inducted into the AHL Hall of Fame in 2016. In 2016 he had a street named after him, "Bruce Landon Way" for his decades of dedication to hockey in

[John Stevens](#)
[Bill Sweeney](#)



decades of dedication to hockey in
Springfield.

The End

Paul J. Meagher

Jim Boone

Any Comments: psb17@comcast.net