In 175 years, the City of Greenville has flourished to magnificent proportions. Early on, the City chose the path of commerce and industry in a region predominantly agricultural. After the devastation of the Civil War, we resumed our entrepreneurial ways and built a textile industry that by the 20th century was a world leader. In the last half of the 20th century, we took full advantage of our enviable location on the interstate highway system to attract diverse businesses, both national and international. Through this process, we literally reinvented our local economy and acquired world-class knowledge and skills.

What our forefathers could never have imagined is the extraordinary downtown environment, the rebirth of Reedy River Falls as the centerpiece of social activity, many beautiful neighborhoods supported by active, committed neighborhood associations, important growth industries, and our ability to demonstrate innovation, leadership and superior service for the citizens of Greenville.

We are a confident community with deep roots that evolved over 175 years of going our own way. A confident community makes big plans and dares to be different. The City has raised the bar of quality in every detail, and in doing so we honor the better habits and traditions of our culture: faith, family, civility and community.

-Mayor Knox White
In celebration of the City of Greenville’s 175th anniversary celebration, and on behalf of the Anniversary Committee, many thanks to those who made this project possible.

We want to thank Members of City Council, City Manager, James Bourey, and all employees for their support and participation.

For their support and participation, we also thank our anniversary partners, sponsors, volunteers, school groups, neighborhood and community groups, who provided assistance in the planning of the celebration.

In addition, I want to offer my appreciation to the members of the committee for their enthusiasm and dedication to this project, and for many hours during the past year meeting, collecting and gathering various City historical documents, photos and artifacts.

Co-Chairs
Cheryle R. Ratliff, City Clerk; David Gray, Community Development; Meg Benko, Deputy City Clerk

Richard Cannady, Police; Steve Evans, Parks and Recreation; Judie Long, ACS; Mike Lovelace, Fire; Steve Meyers, Public Works
Ruby Moore, Human Resources; Camilla Pitman, Legal; Jennifer Presnell, Municipal Court; Lydia Thomas, Parks and Recreation

Special recognition and appreciation to David Gray, Meg Benko, Lydia Thomas, Vance Truesdale, Wanda Stokes, M.J. Kewley, and Arlene Marcley for their time, talent and resources they each brought to the table. Many thanks to each of them for providing us with invaluable resources for the celebration. In addition, we thank our Building Maintenance staff who assisted in the construction and assembling of the exhibit.

Last, but certainly not least, we are indebted to our team of historians – Anne McCuen, Penny Forrester, Stephen Richardson, and Ruth Ann Butler, who visited City Hall many days and spent countless hours reading and sifting through City archives and other resources to develop our historical timeline. For use of his spectacular and rare collection of Old Greenville postcards, we also thank Richard D. Sawyer for his kindness and generosity, and for his live impersonations of past pioneers, many thanks to Durham Hunt.

Cheryle R. Ratliff
City Clerk

Front Row (Left to Right): Cheryle R. Ratliff, Meg Benko, Camilla Pitman, Steve Meyers
Back Row (Left to Right): Judie Long, Lydia Thomas, David Gray, Richard Cannady, Mike Lovelace
Not pictured are Steve Evans, Ruby Moore and Jennifer Presnell
Ruth Ann Butler

A native of Greenville, Ms. Ruth Ann Butler is a graduate of Sterling High School, Benedict College and studied further at Clemson and Furman Universities. She taught in the public schools of Georgia and South Carolina for 18 years, and worked at the Legal Services Agency of Western Carolina, Neighbors In Action, the Appalachian Council of Governments, and presently serves as founder and director of the Greenville Cultural Exchange Center, an African American museum.

Ms. Butler served as a trustee of the Greenville County Library Board for ten years, and is a past board member of the United Way of Greenville, the Centre Stage of South Carolina, The South Carolina African American Heritage Council, Columbia, South Carolina, member of the Les Escapees Social Club and presently serves on the Peg Leg Bates Foundation Board which erected his statue in his hometown of Fountain Inn, South Carolina, Greenville County Redevelopment Advisory Board and Friends of the Richland Cemetery Board of Directors, Greenville, SC.


Penelope “Penny” Forrester

A Greenville native, Ms. Forrester holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Lander College, Greenwood, SC, and a Masters Degree in Library and Information Science, University of South Carolina. Having pursued an active interest in the research of Greenville County and South Carolina history, she began her library career in the Business, Science & Technology Department of the Greenville County Library, where she served for 12 years. She later served as Manager of the South Carolina Historical Collection, Greenville County Library for a number of years.

Ms. Forrester also served as Director, Pickens County Library System for four years, and Assistant Director, Florence County Library System, for 11 years.

She has published a number of publications, including Books/CD:

- Greenville County, SC, Probate Judge Real Estate Books, 1826 – 1846.
- Editor: Journal of the Greenville Chapter, S. C. Genealogical Society five years.
- Editor: Newsletter of the Foothills Chapter, Archaeological Society of South Carolina, which garnered the Best Newsletter award for 2005.
- Authored many published articles in historical and genealogical journals.

She has served on a number of boards including the Greenville County Historic Preservation Commission, the UpCountry Friends (historical organization centering on the upper part of Greenville County); Member and former president: Greenville Chapter, South Carolina Genealogical Society; Executive Board of the South Carolina Genealogical Society; Officer and member, Executive Board, South Carolina Library Association.

Anne McCuen

A graduate of Furman University in 1947 with a B.S. Degree, Ms. Anne McCuen earned her MSL Degree, 1980, from USC, College of Library Science.

Ms. McCuen served as Research Assistant to Dr. John R. Sampey, Furman University, Chemistry Department, 1947-1949 on Grant from the Office of Naval Research. She also served as Technician at Bowman Gray Medical School in Blood Chemistry laboratory and Pediatric Research.

She co-authored with Dr. Sampey 11 articles regarding the Rate of Bromination of Condensed Ring Compounds. These articles were published in Science; American Chemical


Ms. McCuen has served at various times on a number of boards, including the Greenville County Historic Preservation Commission; Greenville County Council Committee to Preserve the Poinsett Bridge; West End Association Board; West End Neighborhood Board; City of Greenville Board of Architectural Review; City of Greenville Committee to prepare timeline of the City and its Services; Greenville County Historical Society, Program Chairman, Collection Committee; Upcountry Friends, Historic Preservation Committee.

Stephen T. Richardson

A native of Simpsonville, South Carolina, and a resident of Greenville, Mr. Stephen Richardson is presently the Coordinator of Reference Services in the James B. Duke Library at Furman University, where he has worked for the past 19 years. It is noteworthy to mention that Stephen's family has lived in Greenville County since the 1780's.

Mr. Richardson attended the College of William & Mary and Furman University where he graduated with a B.A. in English. He received his Masters Degree in Library Science from the University of South Carolina in 1982.

He interned at the South Carolina Department of Archives and History and the USC University Archives and is presently working with Dr. Steve O'Neill and students on a grant project that will produce a history of human habitation in the Saluda and Reedy River watershed.

Holding joint responsibility for student development of the Huff Center for the Study of Piedmont History web page at Furman University, he also regularly collaborates with members of the Furman History Department in undergraduate research projects in South Carolina and Southern history.

He has successfully researched and presented several candidates for inclusion in National Register, and is author of Village Past: A History of Simpsonville, S.C., which is awaiting publication. He has also researched and provided evaluation of potential structures and sites in applying for a Historic Survey grant for the City of Simpsonville.

Due to the time involved in researching and reading through old City record records (minutes, ordinances and resolutions, etc.), there was not enough time to capture all time periods and associated historical dates and events. Research completed by Dr. A.V. Huff in his history of Greenville was an invaluable resource in developing the City of Greenville timeline.

DIORAMAS

According to Webster's Dictionary, a diorama is "a miniature scene, wholly or partially three-dimensional, depicting figures in a naturalistic setting." Models, such as this, help to bring alive a time or place in the mind of the viewer. This was one of the intended outcomes of the 175th Anniversary Committee's decision to engage the public school system in the creation of dioramas of the City of Greenville throughout time.

Outreach ~ The primary purpose though, of including dioramas as part of the exhibit was to involve youth in the celebration of the City's rich history. Good local government requires an active citizenry, and what better place to start than with children who were already in midst of studying Greenville's history?

Partners ~ Ms. Pam Zander, Art Teacher and her Assistant, Mrs. Katie Costen from Hughes Academy of Science and Technology took on the commitment of energizing their 71 eighth-grade students to build the dioramas.

Imagination ~ This project provided an opportunity for students to learn about where they live in an active and creative way. Working in groups of five or six, students thoughtfully studied a significant building or mode of transportation, then utilized artistic and construction skills not traditionally used in academic settings in order to build replications. Historical text and artifacts of the exhibit provide the context for these models.

Many thanks to Hughes Academy of Science and Technology, Ms. Zander and Mrs. Costen, and each and every student who participated in this project.
29 JULY 1769. Indian Trader, Richard Pearis, a native of Ireland, received a deed for 12 sq. miles of land north of the Cameron grant extending east of Reedy to west of Saluda.

17 MAY 1770. In a letter from Indian interpreter John Watts to John Stuart re: Pearis, Watts said Pearis arrived with 3 wagons loaded with goods, including a number of guns, and traded the guns for another tract of land. Watts warned Stuart: “I take him to be a very dangerous fellow who will breed great disturbances if he is let alone for he will tell the Indians any lies to please them.”

28 MAR 1778. The General Assembly at Charles Town ratified an Act making the territory ceded by the Treaty of Dewitt’s Corner an official part of Ninety Six District.

21 MAY 1784. Four hundred acres, including the Pearis site, were surveyed for Thomas Brandon. This acreage constitutes downtown Greenville.

22 MARCH 1786. Greenville County was formally established as Greeneville, probably in honor of Gen. Nathaniel Greene, by Act of State Legislature.

23 MAY 1788. Lemuel James Alston, esq., of Greenville, purchased 400 acres on both sides of Reedy River, including Richard Pearis’ former plantation, mill seat on said river, houses, outhouses, land already in Alston’s “actual possession” by virtue of a (lease/release) from Col. Thomas Brandon. (note: this is the tract on which now stands the city of Greenville.)

1791. Washington Court District was established.

1 APR 1795. United States Post Office opened in Greenville Village.

1797. The plat for the Village of Pleasantburg was recorded.

15 JUNE 1797. Isaac Wickliffe purchases first two lots in the Village of Pleasantburg. These lots constituted the site of the present City Hall.

1797. Greenville Court District established by Act of the Legislature.

1798. First criminal court session held in Greenville District in the new, two-storied, log courthouse in the Village Square. Previous cases were tried in “Washington District Court” in Pickensville, present day Pickens County.

1806. The first known physician to sometimes practice in Greenville, Dr. Hunter, is mentioned in the diary of Edward Hooker, a village visitor.


20 AUG 1820. Vardry Mcbee deeded 30 acres of land to six trustees to establish the Greenville Academies.

20 DEC 1823. The Village of Greenville was chartered as the Town of Greenville by the General Assembly.

1824. Vardry Mcbee deeded a 120 ft. square lot facing Avenue Street to Baylis J. Earle, Jeremiah Cleveland, Sr., Richard Thruston, and George Fleming, for the establishment of a Baptist church. He subsequently deeded land to other village churches.

1824. The record building, Greenville’s third documented courthouse, was built on the eastern side of the Village Square. Probably designed by Robert Mills.

1824. The Mansion House Hotel, which would stand for 100 years, was built by Col. William Toney opposite the courthouse.

14 MAR 1825. “In pursuance of an Act of the Legislature passed at December session 1824, an election was held at the Court House on the second Monday in February, ULT., for three commissioners of the Streets and Markets in the Town of Greenville, by persons appointed for that purpose, and on counting the ballots, as appears from the certificate returned to us that the undersigned Alexander Sloan, Benajah Dunham and baylis J. Earle were duly elected, having a majority of the whole number of votes given.” The commissioners of Streets & Markets was later called the Board.

14 MAR 1825. At its first meeting, the commissioners adopted the following general regulations for the future government “until repealed or altered”:

- A minute or record of their proceedings, resolutions & c. shall be kept by one of them in a book kept for that purpose;
• No license shall be granted for retailing, tavern keeping, or keeping a billiard table, and no general regulations or resolutions of a permanent nature be adopted, unless all the commissioners are present. Permits for a time, or other temporary measures may be granted or adopted by any two of them, to expire, or be altered or controlled at the next full meeting.

• The commissioners resolved that all the hand liable to work on the streets & roads shall be called out one day between this time and court; and that each person so called shall be at liberty to pay fifty cents in lieu of working. The day of working to be fixed on hereafter.

• It was resolved that Benajah Dunham shall be Treasurer and shall secure, pay out and keep a just account of all monies; and that B. J. Earle shall keep the minutes. (Commissioners of Streets & Markets)

18 MAR 1825. In the event a license to retail spirits was granted, the licensee must provide bond and security. (Commissioners of Streets & Markets)

1826. A brick meeting house was erected in the middle of (east) Avenue Street (now McBee Avenue) in anticipation of the organization of the Greenville Baptist Church.

1826. The Greenville Republican, the first known newspaper in the village, began publication.

16 JUN 1826. It appeared to the board that all the licenses heretofore granted, expired on the first day of April 1826, and the board being desirous to fix the time for the expiration of licenses and the time of their regular meeting at a more convenient season of the year…resolved and agreed that in the future their regular annual meeting shall be on the last Saturday in December in each and every year hereafter, and that all licenses shall expire on the 31st of December in each and every year and new licenses shall commence on the 1st day of January in each and every year… (Commissioners of Streets & Markets)

16 JUN 1826. The board unanimously resolved that they would not in future grant licenses to retail spiritous liquors, except to applicant be a regular tavern keeper, to retail spiritous liquors. It was further resolved that public notice be given that no one is or shall be allowed to retail (spirits) within the incorporated limits of the town except a regular tavern keeper. (Commissioners of Streets & Markets)

16 JUN 1826. David Whitman made information that sundry person were in the habits of washing in the river before his house door near the spring in the presence of his family and Mrs. Brocks – to their great annoyance – and to their great inconvenience. Whereupon the board ordered that public notice be given that the practice be discontinued or the offenders indicted. (Commissioners of Streets & Markets)

14 AUG 1826. A “warner” was appointed to make a list of all persons liable to work on the streets and roads in the Village of Greenville and within one mile thereof, and that he do warn them to appear at the courts at 8 a.m. on the 18th, inst., with tools to work with and to continue Saturday, Monday and Tuesday succeeding and that he do make a true return to the board and attend the call of the roll every day and take account of the defaulters and report them to the board. (Commissioners of Streets & Markets)

9 FEB 1827. Unanimously resolved that if the well dug in the public square be not finished and covered…so as to secure it from being the cause of accident, and put in a situation to be used and be of service on or before the 10th day of March, that the same be filled and treated as a nuisance. (Commissioners of Streets & Markets)

9 FEB 1827. The board, conceiving it to be their indispensable duty, as conservation of the health of the citizens of the town, to adopt measures to preserve the purity of their waters,…resolve that they will appropriate $25 for the gaol spring and $10 for the rock spring, to be applied together with such sums as may be raised by subscription from individuals in the vicinity of each, for the clearing out, fencing in and improving said springs. Contracts (in writing) would be made with some person or persons competent to do the work upon the best possible terms…further resolved to see that the well on Main Street
above David Hennings be improved also. (Commissioners of Streets & Markets)

9 FEB 1827. In answer to a petition, the board resolved “if the obstructions found in the cross streets of the Town of Greenville be not removed before the 10th March next, they will be taken away by order of the board, so far as they may be deemed of public inconvenience.” (Commissioners of Streets & Markets)

9 FEB 1827. It was resolved unanimously that in future no person be allowed to speak but twice, once for argument and the other for reply, on any subject, except with the permission of the chairman for that purpose had and obtained. (Commissioners of Streets & Markets)

9 FEB 1827. A collector was appointed to call upon all those who had made default by not working on the streets and roads and to summons (SIC) all who may refuse to pay to appear before the board on Saturday the 17th instant and that he do then report and return what money he may have received. (Commissioners of Streets & Markets)

17 FEB 1827. Board agreed to pay a compensation for printing the proceedings of the board, not to exceed the amount that four hands would have to pay for working on the streets and roads annually. (Commissioners of Streets & Markets)

17 FEB 1827. The board paid Richard Burnham for painting guide boards. (Commissioners of Streets & Markets)

1829. Springwood, originally known as Mcleod’s or Thompson’s Cemetery, became the first publicly owned burying ground in the city.

20 JUN 1829. Stage coach service to Greenville was first mentioned in a The Greenville Mountaineer issue.

8 FEB 1830. It was noted in the minutes that the (Commissioners of Streets & Markets) three commissioners duly elected this day would serve terms of four years.

15 FEB 1830. It is noted that the secretary/treasurer of the board must give bond and security as the law directs. (Commissioners of Streets & Markets)

2 JUL 1831. According to The Greenville Mountaineer, a liberty pole was erected in the public square, probably for the town’s 4th of July celebration.

17 DEC 1831. The Town of Greenville was re-chartered by Act of the State Legislature.

13 JUN 1832. The new Town Council established it’s first series of ordinances, which included the following:

- Regular meeting dates: first Saturday in January, April, July and October.
- Council shall appoint a High Constable for the town. This person would give a bond of $500. He would direct and control all officers working under him and report all offenses against the ordinances to the Town to the Council, etc.
- Any person accused of violating an ordinance would be summoned to appear before Council. Failing to do so, they would be tried in absentia and, additionally fined a sum of less than $10. Any witness failing to appear will also be fined a sum of less than $10.
- Any white person, aged 16 to 50, who fails to respond when called upon to assist in suppressing an affray, breach of the peace, etc., shall pay a sum not exceeding $10, unless a sufficient excuse is given.
- For the purpose of keeping in repair the public streets, alleys, markets, wells, and springs, it shall be the duty of the Town Council to cause to be summoned by the High Constable or his officers, giving at least one day’s notice, all white male inhabitants between ages 16 and 60, who had resided within the incorporated limits of the town three months previous to the day on which they were required to work, to appear at the Court House by and before 8 o’clock, a.m., on a given day, with the necessary tools and implements to work on the streets, alleys, markets, wells, and public springs.
- Every resident shall be required, before the first day of February, to make a report on how many white males 16-50, and how many Negro males 16-60 live on their property, or be fined for not making such a report.
- All persons selling retail spirituous or fermented
liquors in less quantity than one gallon within the limits of the town shall be required to be licensed. Further, no license shall be transferred from one person to another, nor could the place of retailing be changed, without the consent of the Town Council. No retailer, except tavern-keepers shall be allowed to sell spirituous or fermented liquors on Sunday; nor shall they at any such time keep open the doors or windows of the retail shops. Fine: not to exceed $50.

- No table constructed for the purpose of gaming, or on which any game is played, whereby money is bet or won, within the corporate limits of this town shall be allowed. Fine: not to exceed $50. Billiard tables must be licensed for one year: billiard table: $15, license fee: $2.

- Anyone keeping a disorderly house, or house of ill-fame, with the town limits, shall be fined a sum not exceeding $50 for every day the house is so kept. … adult persons inhabiting or living in such house shall be considered keepers of such house, and be subject to the penalties of this ordinance.

- No person shall keep on his or her premises any nuisance, to the annoyance of his/her neighbors. Nuisance to be assessed by three freeholders, not residing in the immediate vicinity, to examine the premises complained of. If nuisance is found to exist, the owner must remove said nuisance within one day or pay a fine up to $20 for each day of non-removal.

- It is the duty of all lot holders to keep their lots clean and free of any standing water, decaying matter (vegetable or animal) so as to jeopardize the health of this town. Fine: not to exceed $10/day violation continues.

- There will be no empty boxes, casks, etc., allowed on any street or any side-walk (sic). No cart to be driven faster than a walk, nor a running horse or mule in the streets, nor ridden in a disorderly manner. No horse, mule or other animal of any kind of carriage allowed to be ridden, driven, or placed on any side-walk. No fire wood or wheel carriage, not in use, to be on a sidewalk longer than one day. Excavations on streets to be covered at all times, when persons are not at work in it. No one shall deposit in any street or public alley, any shavings, brick-bats or other refuse of building materials, and permit them to remain there for longer than two days. Fine: not to exceed $10.

- Any white person, who shall be guilty of acting in a disorderly way in the streets or elsewhere, shall pay a sum not exceeding $50. Apprentices and/or minors shall be liable to be committed to the common jail or the parent, master, etc., pay such fine as the Town Council shall inflict.

- Any white person in any manner opposing the Town officers in the discharge of their duty shall, on conviction, be fined not exceeding $50.

- No person shall mutilate or deface any of the public buildings. Fine: not to exceed $50.

- Every show-man (sic), who shall make any exhibition for pay shall for each day pay a tax to the Town Council of $5. Failure to do so will cause.
an issuance against the goods and chattels of such exhibitor, in the amount of the taxes and costs. Every juggler shall pay a tax of $10 for each day.

- There shall be an officer, known as the Clerk of Council, whose duty it shall be to attend every regular and extra session of council:
  To record regularly and fairly all the proceedings of Council in a book to be kept by him for that purpose;
  To issue all summons and processes which may be necessary for the enforcement of the ordinances, laws and regulation of the Town of Greenville and also subpoenas to secure the attendance of witnesses, and executions and writs which may be required and the authorities of the Town Council;
  To have custody and charge of all the records, books and papers belonging to the Town Council.

- The Town Council shall annually appoint a Town Surveyor, who will give bond of $500 and swear “I, S. B., do solemnly swear, (or affirm, as the case may be) that I will, to the best of my knowledge and skill, and without favor or affection to any party, correctly survey any lot or lots, street or streets, when called upon for that purpose, so help me God.”

- No cellar-doors (SIC) shall extend more than 6 feet into any side-walk, etc., nor shall the outer part be elevated above the lever of such sidewalk, etc., nor shall the inner part, attached to the building, be elevated more than 10’ above the surface of such side-walk, etc. Porches, steps or platforms, shall not extend into any side-walk, street or alley, except by permission from the Council; nor shall they extend beyond the house or dwelling on any street, etc.

- No camping with horses, etc., in any public road, street or alley, within the incorporated limits of this town, except in a cross-street (SIC) near a tavern, etc. No camping on the public square or on the commons, within 200 yards of any dwelling. Fine: up to $20.

- When a fine is imposed, it shall be the duty of the clerk of council, to so notify the appropriate parties as to its collection or non-collection.

- A duty of the High Constable or his deputy, is to make out and return to the clerk of the council at the first regular meeting of the Council, and at the first regular meeting in every year after, a complete list of all the white male inhabitants of this town, from over the age of 16 to under the age of 50 from which to select three (3) patrols, etc.

- No person in the town shall keep a house of entertainment unless he has paid first paid for and obtained a license from the Council.

- The Town Council shall appoint a Sexton, to superintend the digging of all graves and all interments that shall take place in the public burying-ground (sic) of the town. He shall arrange and lay off the graveyard regularly, with a view to economy, convenience and propriety. The Sexton shall keep a book of record of all deaths and burials in this town, mentioning the names, age, place of nativity, disease, and the place from whence buried and time of residence in this town and make report thereof annually to the Council. Fee for grave digging: $1.50; attendance on funeral: $1.00.

- No person shall fly a kite an any settled part of this town, nor within fifty yards of any public road leading to the town, within its incorporated limits. Any kite used contrary to this ordinance shall be destroyed.

21 JUN 1832. ‘By Act of the Legislature passed the 17th
day of December 1831, an Act creating a separate Board of Commissioners of Roads in the village was repealed, and the Town of Greenville regularly incorporated and authorized to receive and use within the limits all monies received for licenses. Therefore the above account may be closed...the money is now carried to the credit of the Town Council of Greenville 21 June 1832. William Choice, Clerk.” (Commissioners of Streets & Markets)

1 NOV 1834. The Siamese twins visited Greenville according to an ad in the The Greenville Mountaineer.

1835. The Gower and Coxe Carriage Factory was established and operated with power from the Reedy River.

1835. Vardry McBee moved to Greenville from Lincolnton, N.C., and resided in a home built by Lemuel J. Alston.

19 DEC 1835. “an Act to incorporate certain towns and villages, and for other purposes,” ratified the 19th day of December 1835, (was) amended, as that hereafter the monies arising from granting licenses within the corporate limits of the Town of Greenville, shall be received by the Town Council thereof, and be by them appropriated for the uses of the said corporation; the inhabitants of the said town shall, nevertheless, be liable to be assessed by the commissioners of roads and bridges, in common with the other citizens of Greenville District.

1840. The Volunteer Fire Engine Company was formed. (Browning, p. 1)

8 JUL 1842. No person shall conduct or drive any number of loose horses or mules in a drove exceeding eight in number, through the main street of Greenville, from the head of the same to the river, except so far as is necessary to conduct them to a lot on the first arrival of a drove in the village. (ordinance published in The Greenville Mountaineer)

22 JUL 1842. Ordinance: market rates established for those renting stalls and those not renting stalls. (ordinance published in The Greenville Mountaineer)

26 MAY 1842. Ordinance: every person of suspicious character, who may at any time hereafter come to reside within the corporate limits of Greenville, shall be required to produce a certificate from two magistrates of the district or parish in which he or she last resided, setting forth that he or she is a person of fair character, and not an idle or disorderly person, of within the space of five days give sufficient security for his or her good behavior for twelve months ensuing. Every person who shall not comply with this ordinance shall be deemed a vagrant, and liable to be dealt with accordingly. (ordinance published in The Greenville Mountaineer)

2 NOV 1842. A new ordinance provided a fine for allowing soot to collect in chimneys.

14 JUL 1843. Notice by the Town Council: persons who rent a house to a common prostitute, knowing her to be such, are considered liable to be indicted in the court of sessions for the offense; and the Town Council is disposed to enforce the law in every case of the kind occurring with the incorporation of Greenville. (ordinance published in The Greenville Mountaineer)

14 JUL 1843. Every member of the Council, or officer appointed by their authority, who may be the duties of their office, be required to attend any meeting of the Town Council, and having notice of such meeting, shall fail to attend, shall be liable to a fine for each default of not more than $5 nor less than $1. (ordinance published in The Greenville Mountaineer)

18 AUG 1843. After 1 Sep next, every person within the incorporated limits shall, whenever requested by the Town Constable, report the number of dogs kept by them within the incorporation and shall be required to pay $.50 for each dog so kept. They must also report the number of dogs kept by their minors or their slaves. On failure to report, pay up to $5 for each dog. (ordinance published in The Greenville Mountaineer)

26 JAN 1844. From and after 1 Feb 1844, it shall be the duty of the patrol within the limits of the incorporation of Greenville to take up every slave who may be found in the streets about any lot after the hour of 11 p.m., whether such slave or slaves may have a pass or not. It shall be the duty of the patrol to inflict such punishment on them as they are now liable to receive for being from home without a pass: provided, no slave with a pass shall be subject to correction who may be found quietly within any dwelling or Negro cabin – and provided no slave with a pass shall be liable to punishment who is found returning to his home after 3 a.m. (ordinance published in The Greenville Mountaineer)

11 OCT 1845. Reference was made to a Town Constable in the City Council minutes on this date. The first police “marshals” station was also established in this year. In this same meeting, Town Council established rules “for the better preservation of the peace, good order, and safety – regulations and performance of patrol duty regarding slaves.”

8 NOV 1845. The Town Surveyor was directed to ascertain the limits of incorporation on all public roads leading from the Town of Greenville and that the Clerk have stones marked D.L. and planted there about to mark said limits.
8 NOV 1845. The Fire Engine Company, asked the City to supply them with water. No action was taken.

8 NOV 1845. City Council resolved to inquire into the practicality of obtaining from the committee of free schools an appropriation for establishing a free school in the town. There were already many free schools in the county, but none in the city.

3 JAN 1846. The City Council was designated to try misdemeanors and patrol default cases.

1 JUN 1846. Times set for the ringing of the market bell: 10 p.m. from 20 Mar – 20 Sep, and 9 p.m. from 20 Sep to 20 Mar. Patrol companies would commence a two hour duty no earlier than 15 minutes after the ringing of the bell.

17 OCT 1846. A meeting was held to consider corner stones and boundaries of lots and streets in the town.

19 OCT 1846. The work of street and road contractors when inspected, must be in strict conformity with the requirements of contracts.

16 FEB 1847. The Bell Ringer’s salary was established at $18 for the year, and the Constable was paid $20.

3 APR 1847. Council granted a request by citizens of Avenue Street to plant a row of trees at a 20’ distance through the center of the street from Main Street west.

24 OCT 1847. Rev. Gabriel Poole, an African American minister known locally as “father” Poole, was ordained to preach through Greenville Baptist Church, known as First Baptist Church. Springfield Baptist Church was organized in 1868 with Rev. Poole as pastor.

24 MAR 1848. Council ordered a rock wall be built around the public spring.

29 APR 1848. An ordinance prohibiting any horse, mule or ox being hitched to a shade or ornamental tree was enacted.

9 SEP 1848. Students (Furman) who were not citizens of this town were exempted from road duty.

5 JAN 1851. The Town Sexton would keep the (cemetery gate) key and be paid $20 per year. Council also established a rule that no wagon or carriage would enter the cemetery, or rubbish be left. Fees for each burial, except paupers, were set.

9 JAN 1851. Because smallpox was prevalent in North and South Carolina, Council ordered that anyone traveling from a place where smallpox was prevalent must register when entering the city.

FEB 1851. With Greenville as its fourth location, Furman University opened in McBee Hall which stood at the corner of main street and McBee Avenue (then known simply as the Avenue).

6 MAY 1851. Any slave found absent from his or her master’s premises after more than 15 minutes from the ringing of the town bell shall be arrested and dealt with, unless the slave had a ticket allowing him/her to go to, and return from, a specific place.

5 JUL 1851. Council resolved to have proceedings published in The Greenville Mountaineer.

4 SEP 1851. Students (Furman) who were not citizens of this town were exempted from road duty.

9 SEP 1851. Application was made to the Clerk of County court to hold Town Council meetings in the Grand Jury Room. Heretofore Council had been meeting in a room belonging to C. J. Elford.

13 DEC 1851. Council resolved that road signs should be placed on the corners of Main and Coffee Streets with directions to Laurens, Spartanburg, Asheville and Rutherfordton.

1852. The Columbia & Greenville Railroad reached its western terminus on Augusta Street.

1852. First mass to be said in the County was at the home of John Keenan at the corner of Main & Elford Streets.

9 MAR 1852. The design for a corporate seal for the City was approved and ordered.
13 JULY 1852. Council agreed with a petition stating the old jail was a “perfect nuisance,” and ordered it removed.

19 OCT 1852. Three patrol companies of were organized and patrol hours established:
1.  Company 1 would patrol for at least 2 hours, on 11 specified nights, beginning 15 minutes after the town bell rings. This group would also patrol 2 hours in the morning and 2 hours in the afternoon.
2.  Company 2 would patrol on 10 specified nights, as above.
3.  Company 3 would patrol on the remaining days, as above.

15 MAY 1853. Council established a committee regarding the removal of the market house that stands upon the location of the planned new Court House. A new market house would be constructed “in the same street where the market now stands,” between the lots of Gower, Cox and Gower on one side, and Capt. J. W. Brooks on the other. The new market would face Jackson Street.

8 OCT 1853. Council passed an ordinance requiring all privies to be shut and enclosed from the streets by a fence at least 6 feet high. After 15 Nov 1853, it will be unlawful for any privy to be situated on the line of any street. However, any privy now made of brick and closed from the street by a brick wall shall be allowed to remain.

12 OCT 1853. Any person who allows a Negro fair or Negro meeting on his or her premises shall be fined – not to exceed $50.

26 NOV 1853. Any free white person who sells or uses firecrackers shall be fined not more than $50. A slave or free Negro would be punished by up to 39 lashes.

26 NOV 1853. Council ordered a list of all property owners, the location of each property and the cash value of same. (note: this seemed to be a preliminary step leading to taxation of real property.)

26 NOV 1853. A foot bridge was ordered to be constructed over the river at the upper ford (River Street).

28 JAN 1854. An ordinance creating the position of superintendent of streets was passed.

31 JUL 1854. Tax ordinance:
- $.10 on every $100.00 of real estate value;
- $.25 per head on all slaves between the ages of 16 and 50;
- $3.00 on each wheeled pleasure carriage drawn by 2 or more horses;
- $2.00 on each 1 horse carriage, barouche, gig, sulky or buggy kept for pleasure and not for hire;
- $10.00 for each 4-horse omnibus or hack;
- $5.00 on each hack or carriage drawn by two horses and run for conveyance of passengers or hire;
- $3.00 on each 2 horse dray or wagon; and,
- $2.00 on each one horse wagon or dray – for hire.

1855. The fourth Greenville courthouse, built in the gothic style, was erected on the Town Square, opposite the Record Building.

1855. Greenville Female College, antecedent to Greenville Woman's College and the Woman's College of Furman University, opened on the College Street site of the Greenville Academies.

10 SEP 1855. Council resolved that the ordinances now in force should be arranged and published in pamphlet form.

20 OCT 1855. The Council passed an ordinance stating no billiard table or bowling salon would be kept open after 10 p.m. this Act was refined on 21 Apr 1856 to include bar rooms, and to prohibit Sunday opening.

24 DEC 1855. Mr. McBee was granted permission to erect a waterworks in the street between Douglas and Brooks lot, if his proposition met the concurrence of the Council. (operation, supervised by Alexander McBee, began in 1859.)

7 FEB 1856. Council established a new market to be built in the rear of the old Court House.

7 FEB 1856. The Council passed an ordinance allowing slaves and free persons of color to “assemble at any of the churches of the town for the purpose of religious worship three times each week…provided that white persons are present the entire time.

8 OCT 1856. All dealers, upon opening a shop, shall pay to the City...
$30. (some had been opening and closing within the year and paying no tax.)

7 APR 1857. Council imposed a $5 fine for firing a gun or pistol within the corporate limits.

6 OCT 1857. Rules of order for Council Meetings were adopted.

3 AUG 1858. No house of ill fame or bawdy house shall be allowed in the city.

7 DEC 1858. In response to a petition, the town bell was moved to the rear of the market house.

7 JAN 1859. A $75 tax on circuses that come to town was established.

12 MAR 1859. Council noted that residents were offering a reward of $500 for the apprehension of the person/persons who attempted to burn Gower, Cox and Markley Co. on 11 March inst.

1859. Baptist theological seminary opened.

5 JUL 1859. Council authorized $500 for the purchase of a new fire engine.

2 JUN 1860. An ordinance prohibited bathing in the river in sight of either bridge.

4 OCT 1860. City contracted for 20 gas lamps for the streets.

4 DEC 1860. The lot in the rear of J. McPherson’s to be used for a pound.

4 DEC 1860. The names of streets (which have names) will be posted.

20 DEC 1860. South Carolina seceded from the United states and the Butler Guards, the Local Militia, soon left to enter the war.

29 DEC 1860. The House Guards are requested to patrol from 9 p.m. to 9 a.m.

1 JAN 1861. The Intendant was authorized to rent the old sheriff’s office for the use of Council.

5 MAR 1861. The Intendant introduced an ordinance dividing the town into six wards.

15 DEC 1861. Council appropriated $300 for the “sufferers in the late Charleston fire.”

16 SEP 1862. The “Ladies Association in aid of the volunteers of the Confederacy” opened a soldier’s rest in the former Boys Academy building on College Street. Council appropriated $20 per month to assist with hospital purposes.

1862. The State Military works for the repair and manufacture of ordnance, began operations on present day Green Avenue, on land donated by Vardry McBee.

26 MAR 1863. Council sanctioned the actions of the Intendant Alexander McBee, who had offered use of the public buildings in the town to the proper authorities in the City of Charleston to be used as hospitals in case of an attack on the city, and had applied for the use of the old and new court rooms, which had been granted. Intendant was authorized to apply to the trustees of Furman University for the use of the University buildings for the same use.

13 APR 1863. A committee appointed by Council presented their appeal to Gen. Beauregard in re: the exposed condition of the Up-country as was recently reported by Maj. John D. Ashmore.

1 SEP 1863. Council agreed to reimburse E. F. Latimer $40 for feeding part of a troop of Cavalry from Georgia. They had passed through “some weeks ago” and failed to pay him.

14 APR 1863. An ordinance for the election of a captain and three lieutenants for a police guard (the name by which the patrolling force was denominated) was passed. The purpose of this force was to escort the body of Lt. Gen. Leonida Polk, CSA, from the depot to the Episcopal Church where it will lie in state until the next morning.

21 SEP 1863. Council appointed a Chief Marshal who was ordered to visit the railroad each evening on arrival of the train to direct and convey to the hospital the invalid soldiers.
13 OCT 1863. Determination was made, along with the S. C. Inspector General, that the employees of the S. C. Gun Factory were to participate in patrol duty.

2 MAY 1865. Elements of Stoneman’s Brigade raided Greenville, providing the only significant Civil War activity to occur within the county.

1865. Benjamin F. Perry, prominent Greenville Unionist, was appointed provisional Governor for South Carolina.

1866. The forerunner of John Wesley United Methodist Church was organized with the Rev. James R. Rosemond as pastor. Rosemond, an African American, was born Jim McBee and changed his name at the end of the Civil War.

1866. Rev. Charles Hopkins, a former slave, began instructing 60 to 70 students at a school referred to as the Freeman or Negro Elementary School.

1866. Greenville’s occupation by federal troops commenced, commanded by Maj. John William DeForest, author of _A Union Officer During Reconstruction_. The Freedmen’s Bureau, organized to assist former slaves, opened with DeForest as its head.

12 FEB 1867. Firemen’s uniforms consisted of a red flannel shirt, a fire cap, and dark pantaloons. (gvl mntr)

1868. Wilson Cook, a prominent black businessman, and Rev. W. B. Thompson, were elected to the constitutional convention. In 1878, Cook became the first black man from Greenville County to be elected to serve in the South Carolina House of Representatives.

1869. The Allen School for blacks, possibly a Freedman’s School, was organized with funds from northern white philanthropists. It was located on that portion of Elford Street which is now Church Street.

25 FEB 1869. The Town Charter was amended by the General Assembly to establish Greenville as a city.

4 OCT 1870. Alderman Perry moved that Council dispense for the present with the office of City Attorney.

4 OCT 1870. A committee was appointed to receive proposals for the erection of a new bridge across Redy River, below McBee’s old saw mill, at Cleveland Street.

6 OCT 1870. The matter of lighting lamps was assigned to the committee on street lights.

6 OCT 1870. Council agreed to employ but one marshal for the present, and that he be paid $1.25 per day.

1872. The Atlanta & Charlotte Airline Railroad, later absorbed into the Richmond & Danville, and finally the Southern Railway System, began operation with its station on W. Washington street.

3 DEC 1872. It was resolved that a comfortable room be fitted up in the market house for the police.

20 JAN 1873. Council noted that smallpox was evident in the middle districts served by the Greenville-Columbia Railroad. It was resolved that $30 be used to vaccinate those unable to pay. Dr. E. F. J. Rowley would perform the vaccinations.

20 JAN 1873. A resolution to contact the representative from this Congressional District, with a view of obtaining an appropriation for a U. S. Court House and Post Office in the City of Greenville, was passed. This effort was finally rewarded with the completion of the federal Court House in 1891.

4 MAR 1873. W. A. Hudson’s application to build a powder magazine was referred to the Street & Bridge Committee.

1 APR 1873. Completion of the Airline Railway prompted the necessity of a good street from Main Street to the depot. It was decided that Washington Street would be graded at or near Main Street to about the level of the same and placed in good condition. This was done on a subscription basis.

1 JUL 1873. The Mayor appointed three citizens in each ward to inquire into and report on the level of sanitary conditions in their respective areas.

1 OCT 1873. Local druggists were granted a “bottle license” for medicinal purposes at a rate of $50/year. These sales could be made only with a physician’s certificate.

7 OCT 1873. Mr. Irwin was hired to make a survey and plat of the cemetery grounds.

1873. A horsedrawn street railway began operations. The railway ran from the Greenville & Columbia depot on Augusta Street, up Main Street, and out W. Washington to the Airline depot.

1874. _The Greenville Daily News_ began publication, bringing the first daily newspaper to the city & county.

6 JAN 1874. An ordinance was passed to allow huckster’s stands on the streets on the payment of a $20/year license, provided the parties doing business in the immediate vicinity do not object.
3 FEB 1874. Slingshots were prohibited within the city limits.

3 FEB 1874. The erection of wooden buildings within eighty feet of main street was prohibited by ordinance.

3 FEB 1874. Council appropriated $500 for a survey for a proposed railroad from Greenville to Asheville, provided the requisite balance was raised by private subscription.

26 JUN 1874. Citizens on Main Street were required to sweep up all rubbish on their premises and deposit it in front of their houses every Saturday morning. It would then be gathered and carried away by City cart.

23 JUL 1874. In a special meeting to settle the matter of extending and opening up Washington Street all the way to the depot. It was agreed that the contract would be awarded to N. B. Freeman and the City would pay $800 to be meted out as the work progressed. The City offered the use of one City cart and mule, and such tools as council approved. Work would begin in the middle of the Main Street sidewalk and continue up both sidewalks on Washington Street. Work would be completed in two months if all parties cooperated.

24 JUL 1874. Council adopted the name Springwood for the City cemetery.

21 SEP 1874. A committee to find a suitable office for the council was appointed.

1 OCT 1874. Council established rules and regulations governing police and designated that uniforms would be in cadet grey.

15 DEC 1874. Four amendments to the city charter were listed and referred to the appropriate members of the state legislature:

- Aldermen and Mayor would be elected on the 2nd Monday in August and serve two years beginning with the 1875 election;
- The Mayor’s court would be allowed to punish offenders who cannot pay fines by compelling them to do street work in lieu of fines;
- The Mayor alone (without the assistance of the aldermen) would be allowed to hold court and punish offenders; and,
- Council would have the power to close as well as open streets.

1875. Camperdown Mill, the first textile mill within the city, began operations

1879. The City let the contract for the new City Hall.

3 JAN 1882. The “old” baptist church, which had been appraised at $480.00 on 7 Dec 1881, was sold by Council for $255.00.

24 JAN 1882. Drs. Rowley and Wright were hired to vaccinate persons at the expense of the city. They were paid $50.00 each for their services.

7 FEB 1882. Council received a report from the appraisers regarding land taken from property owner, James Brown, on Washington Street. (this action is the first recorded use of eminent domain by the City.)

4 APR 1882. The Street Committee was authorized to “work with the trustees and do whatever work was necessary to improve the grounds of Furman University and make them as attractive as a pleasure resort.”

1882. Huguenot Mill, the second intra-city textile plant, began operations.

11 APR 1882. The petition of southern bell telephone company to erect poles and telephone lines was granted subject to the direction of the street committee as to location and any further restrictions, etc. Telephone service was inaugurated and garnered 30 subscribers by the end of the year. A connecting station was established at the City Guard House.

7 JUN 1882. The Street Committee reported that a survey of the proposed extension of Washington Street and McBee Avenue eastward to the Laurens Road, near the city limits, was complete. They recommended opening the said extensions as per surveys submitted by them.

4 JUL 1882. Crosses for paupers graves, previously approved by the council, were made and placed in position in the public cemetery.

4 JUL 1882. City engineer St. John Cox presented an account for a road leveling machine. Council authorized the Mayor to make a note payable 15 Jan 1883 at 7% interest.

6 JUN 1883. A vacancy on the State Railroad Commission Board, prompted a resolution by City Council that the upper country should be represented on said board in the future. They recommended Capt. Samuel Stradley.

21 JUNE 1883. A committee of citizens requested Council to support a resolution to asking president Hagood of the Carolina, Cumberland Gap & Chicago Railroad to survey a route through Greenville. A resolution endorsing the move was passed and would be accomplished at the expense of the City.
20 JUL 1883. In a called meeting, the Mayor stated to council that the “disastrous fire this morning fully proved that the city was being deprived of the services of one of its best engine companies, the Neptune, by reason of the worthlessness of their engine.” He urged immediate steps be taken to provide a new engine for that company. Council responded by approving a motion that the Mayor and two others as a committee, effect the purchase of a new engine at once.

14 SEP 1883. An ad hoc committee was appointed to look into the matter of selling a portion of the Court House square.

6 NOV 1883. The Council passed an ordinance organizing a board of health. Dr. G. T. Swandale was elected as the first health officer.

6 NOV 1883. The street committee was authorized to purchase a site for an engine house on the west side of the river.

1 JAN 1884. Board of health members were named in conformity with the State law mandating the same.

5 FEB 1884. Council voted to purchase approximately 12 acres for a colored cemetery.

22 FEB 1884. Mayor S. P. Brooks of Abbeville requested by telegram, $100.00 from Greenville, for relief of victims of the recent cyclone. It was moved and carried that “subscriptions” be solicited from all six wards via a committee in each ward. If the sum of $100.00 was realized it would be forwarded to Mayor Brooks. (Clerk’s note: $343.10 was collected. $100.00 was sent to Abbeville; $50.00 was sent to Chappells to honor a later request by that town. A later cyclone came through Greenville County, causing great destruction in the neighborhood of Crotwell’s. The balance of the fund, except $12.00, was given to them.)

1 APR 1884. A committee of colored citizens, members of a benevolent society, petitioned Council to prohibit the keeping of tables by “others” in the vicinity of the society’s grounds on may day. Petition granted.

7 JUL 1884. Rev. Ellison Capers appeared on behalf of the ladies of the Mt. Vernon Association asking the City to contribute a portrait of Christopher Gadsden or that of another South Carolina patriot for the South Carolina Room at Mt. Vernon. Council approved the appropriation of $103.00 for this portrait.

5 AUG 1884. It was announced that the new bridge at Richland Creek had been completed.

1885. The City School District of Greenville was created as a result of an effort led by Thomas Claghorn Gower.

6 JAN 1885. The Clerk was authorized to call for bids for pauper’s coffins for 1885.

7 JUL 1885. The Cemetery Committee was authorized to have 100 sets of head and footboards made for neglected graves at Springwood.

4 AUG 1885. An ordinance for regulation of the City park was read, adopted and ratified.

3 NOV 1885. The Cemetery Committee was authorized to have such work done to the “old” colored cemetery as they deemed necessary to put it in good order.

3 NOV 1885. The Mayor was authorized to procure a room on the west side of the river for the use of the police force during inclement weather.

3 NOV 1885. At the request from a Savannah, Georgia, citizens committee the Mayor was empowered to appoint delegates to a meeting concerning harbor improvements on the South Atlantic coast.

3 NOV 1885. A proposal from the director of the Alabama weather services proposing to give the City the benefit of weather telegrams was read and accepted.

15 NOV 1885. A special meeting addressed the need for a census of city inhabitants, “inasmuch as it is believed that population will be an important factor towards the success of the application of this city for a United States Court
House, now pending before congress.” A motion regarding the census was made and passed.

1 DEC 1885. The Mayor was authorized to have a flag staff made for the display of weather flags.

1886. S. S. Thompson was appointed one of the five trustees of the City School District. He was the first man of color to hold this position.

21 JUL 1886. Dr. D. T. Bacot, on behalf of the baseball tournament, appeared before Council and asked to be allowed to sell privileges on the tournament grounds for the sale of fruits, lemonade, cigars, etc., free from the usual City license. Granted.

3 AUG 1886. The Street Committee was authorized to sell or tear down the old Guard House on Court Street.

22 JUN 1887. On motion, the new colored cemetery was given the name “Richland Cemetery.”

12 NOV 1887. Council voted to remove the building known as the “old Court House” located on the east side of Main Street.

1888. Union School, a black graded school, opened on McBee Avenue as part of the first school Bond Issue in the city.

3 JAN 1888. A petition from the police force requesting a pay increase was refused by unanimous vote.

29 FEB 1888. A right of way for the Carolina, Knoxville & Western Railway Company was granted under specified terms.

17 APR 1888. Council resolved to contract with the Brush Electric Light Company to put in an electric plant at once. In continued negotiations, the City agreed to pay $10,000.00 cash 90 days after the electric light plant was completed and the balance of $10,000.00 within 90 days of the first payment.

9 MAY 1888. The street overseer was instructed to furnish the committee for the gala week the whole street force for three days.

2 APR 1889. Columbia and Greenville Railway was ordered to erect an automatic gate at their crossing on Pendleton Street.

19 JUN 1889. The petition of John Ferguson regarding the laying of water mains in the streets was granted.

16 OCT 1889. After much debate and numerous conflicting motions and proposals, Council agreed to seek bids for a new Main Street Bridge over the Reedy. The Southern Bridge Company of Birmingham, Alabama, was awarded the contract to build an iron bridge across the river.

1890. Elias Brown Holloway was appointed the first black letter carrier in Greenville, a post he held more than 42 years.

4 MAR 1890. The Board of Health proposed that two carts be used exclusively for removal of garbage from the streets…further, Council advertise or contract for the bids for the disposal of the garbage. The refuse would then be stored in some “convenient isolated spot nearest the center of the city,” the contractor would then remove the said garbage to some place outside the city, so as not to constitute a nuisance. Adopted.

1 APR 1890. Council approved placing telephones at both the west end police station and the fire house.

8 MAY 1890. The new Main Street Bridge, built of iron, was surveyed, approved and accepted.

21 MAY 1890. Asbury & Son was awarded the contract to “light” the city. (this exact statement was made in the 5 Jun 1890 minutes.) Forty street lights were to be installed.

21 MAY 1890. A petition from the “boys in the city,” asking the privilege of going bathing in the cemetery pond, was approved providing they have “good behavior.” This permission was rescinded 5 Jun 1890 due to “complaints.”
3 JUN 1890. B. F. Perry and his associates were granted permission to build a “dummie” rail line to Paris Mountain for the purpose of hauling freight.

5 JUN 1890. Mr. Burk was granted a franchise to build an electric street railway for “37 grand.”

18 JUN 1890. Council held a special meeting to receive bids and proposals for a water works. It was decided that a hydraulic engineer would be employed and the matter would be taken up again on 8 July 1890.

1 JUN 1890. The Board of Firemasters recommended that only brick buildings be built on the west end on Pendleton Street as high as railroad crossing. This recommendation was adopted.

15 JUL 1890. A hydraulic engineer, hired by the City, recommended Mountain Creek as the best place for the City to get water and the American Pipe Company was accepted by Council to lay the pipe.

2 SEP 1890. The trustees of the City graded schools propose building a colored school in the west end at a cost of $3500.00. Council requested the City Attorney to study the issuance of bonds.

7 NOV 1890. Council agreed on placement of fire hydrants and “free” public drinking fountains in preparation for opening the new water system.

1890. Carpenter Brothers Drug Store was established by A.B., T.S. & W.B. Carpenter and remained in business for over 100 years.

1891. The Greenville Enterprise carried an announcement that the annual “Emancipation Day” parade would be held on 7 January.

6 JAN 1891. Council voted to have a complete survey of the City made as information about a proposed system of sewerage.

3 FEB 1891. Council approved the purchase of a rock crusher, drill and engine for $1000.00 (at the next meeting it was shown that the cost would be $1700.00).

3 MAR 1891. The City accepted the invitation of the Columbia, S.C., Centennial Committee to join their celebration and be represented in the decoration of Columbia’s Main Street.

5 MAY 1891. The Board of Health stipulates that when water is installed, a sewerage disposal system must also be installed.

5 MAY 1891. Council voted to accept sealed bids for a topographic map of the city. A contract was awarded to Mr. Bassett on 7 July.

2 JUN 1891. The Ladies Memorial Association asked permission to erect a monument honoring Civil War veterans. The monument was erected in the same year and stood at the head of Main Street until its removal to its Springwood Cemetery location in 1924. The moving of the monument came at the end of a two-year battle of wills between the United Confederate Veterans and the City Council which ultimately lead to a State Supreme Court decision in favor of the City. (Huff, 310).

23 JUN 1891. The water lines were tested and accepted by Council. The test of the water lines was made at the location of the last hydrant on Pendleton Street, opposite the residence of W.L. Mauldin, which was the highest point in the city, relative to the pipe system.

7 JUL 1891. H.C. Markley appeared before council on behalf of the women of the Christ Church Home Hospital for the sick. He noted that the hospital had been supported by private money and requested aid in “keeping it up.” Because the City had no hospital, Council appropriated $200 per month for assistance “in this noble work.”

7 JUL 1891. The James T. Williams company was awarded the contract for the ornamental fountain at Springwood Cemetery. It was up and running by 4 August.

4 AUG 1891. The City moved that the Clerk notify the gas and electric company that shade trees cannot be trimmed without obtaining permission from the Street Committee.

6 OCT 1891. Council voted to set up a room in City Hall for Council Chambers at a cost not to exceed $350.00. Council would use the room now occupied by the hook & ladder company.

6 OCT 1891. An ordinance prohibiting crowds congregating in the streets was adopted.

6 OCT 1891. Council passed an ordinance against begging and loitering was enacted.

1892. Greenville’s second City Hall was built. (see 7 Feb 1882)

1895. Chicora College, Presbyterian College for women, began operations.

17 JUN 1896. Greenville City Hospital, forerunner of the Greenville Hospital System, admitted its first patients.
1897. Neblett Free Library was established on McBee Avenue on property donated by Mrs. Viola Neblett.

1897. Altamont Bible and Missionary Institute, predecessor of Holmes College of the Bible, began its first term on Paris Mountain.

1898. The Mountain City Colored Hospital was established on Green Avenue.

1898. Camp Wetherill, a U.S. Army training camp for Spanish-American war soldiers, began operation. The camp closed in March, 1899. The Greenville Mountaineer carried a notice that there was an excellent chance that Greenville could be selected for a camp the army intended to establish in the south. Mayor James T. Williams, Alderman James F. Richardson, and alester Furman immediately set out by train to meet with the site selection committee. Greenville was actually chosen after the hostilities ended, but the U.S. was still involved in Cuba and the Philippines, and the future still uncertain. They were promised that approximately two brigades totaling 10,000 men would be stationed here. (Huff, 255)

1900. Greenville Traction Company began building the first electric street railway. Operations began 12 Jan 1901.

1900. Grand Opera House built on Laurens Street between Coffee and Buncombe.

16 APR 1901. The Workingman’s Savings and Loan Company, organized by several prominent African American men, was chartered by the State of South Carolina, with J. O. Allen as President. It was located at 111 E. Washington Street opposite the new Windsor Hotel.

1902. Coca-Cola Company of Greenville began operations.

1903. American Cigar Company moved to its new building on East Court Street. This building was the first major effort to diversify local industry. (Huff, 259)

1905. The all black Neptune Fire Company was disbanded after 30 years of service.


3 OCT 1905. An ordinance to provide for the separation of white and colored person on street railway cars operating in the City of Greenville and to regulate the same.

6 FEB 1906. Council made it unlawful to give, bargain, sell or exchange to any person… any cocaine, morphine, (or other drug). (The Greenville Mountaineer)

3 JUL 1906. Council received a report that the west end sewer was complete.

3 JAN 1907. It was reported that the cost of a new bridge over the river at Main Street would be between $20,000 and $25,000. The Traction Company would pay $10,000.00 of the cost. The plan was accepted. On 6 Oct 1908, the cost of the bridge was established at $25,000, and the Greenville Traction company would pay half the cost. This plan was also adopted. On 1 Dec 1908, it was noted that the estimated cost of the bridge had dropped to $23,000 under plans by Mr. Slattery.

5 FEB 1907. The Water Company was directed to furnish a map of all water mains to the city.

13 FEB 1907. In a referendum on the matter, city voters approved the surrender of its charter and became perpetually incorporated.

8 MAY 1907. An ordinance making it unlawful to spit upon, throw or place hulls, peelings, etc., upon the floors, areas, etc., of any railroad station, Opera House, hotel, street car, omnibus or other places or vehicles resorted to or used by the public. Transgressors would be fined up to $25 or 20 days in jail.

2 JULY 1907. The Office of Inspector of Buildings was established.

8 JULY 1907. The Superintendent of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals was sworn in as a Special City Officer.
3 AUG 1907. The Office of City Recorder was established by ordinance. This office was abolished on 22 Sep 1908 and the power of trial was returned to the Mayor.

8 AUG 1907. An ordinance established a Municipal Court to try cases arising out of failure to obey ordinances. Court shall be held by a Recorder. Repealed 22 Sep 1908.

20 SEP 1907. Council voted to give the committee for the Municipal League $350 or the $750 needed to bring Mr. Kelsey to Greenville to do some artistic work, e.g., location of parks and other places which would beautify the city. (Kelsey and guild of Boston) this was done at the prompting of Thomas F. Parker, President of the Municipal League, in an effort to bring the nationwide city beautiful movement to the attention of local leaders. (Huff, 260)

20 SEP 1907. The City assumed from the Department of Health the responsibility of moving all garbage, and cleaning and watering the streets. The task of removing garbage was returned to the Board of Health on 1 Jan 1909.

17 DEC 1907. Council voted to build a central slaughter house. Later, according to the 14 Aug 1908 minutes, Max Goodlett had built a slaughter pen and would be given any leftover waste if he did the killing at 25 cents per head for grown cattle, 10 cents per head for calves, and 25 cents per head for hogs.

1908. Business license ordinance was expanded to cover most all occupations.

1908. Joe Jackson, nicknamed “Shoeless Joe,” became a national figure in professional baseball.

14 FEB 1908. The City voted to invite “old soldiers” to Greenville for their reunion.

14 APR 1908. A committee was appointed to oversee the paving of Main Street.

5 MAY 1908. An ordinance to have a Milk Inspector was passed.

14 AUG 1908. The Salvation Army asked and received an appropriation of $15.00 per month.

6 OCT 1908. The Park and Tree Committee was established by ordinance. The Council Committee became the Park and Tree Commission in 1913. John A. McPherson, who became known as the father of Greenville playgrounds, headed this body. A 1922 Bond Issue included funds for improvements and additions were approved in 1922. Playgrounds were opened on Donaldson and Anderson Streets for white children and on Hudson Street for black citizens. (Huff, 311)

1909. Ottaray Hotel at the “top of Main Street” began to receive guests.

1909. The Masonic Temple opened on Main Street at the site of the present City Hall. (Huff, 259)

25 JAN 1909. A sinking Fund Commission was created.

2 MAR 1909. The City Clerk was directed to have all City Deeds recorded.

4 MAY 1909. It was announced that the bridge over Richland Creek had been completed.

4 MAY 1909. The citizens of Greenville planned a “clean up” day.

1 JUN 1909. It was reported that the mayoral court was prosecuting citizens for running their automobiles over the speed limit.

8 JUN 1909. The number of City wards was increased to eight.

8 JUN 1909. A City automobile speed limit was set at 15 mph. Council also ruled that any car travelling at night must have a white light visible at least 200 feet in the direction in which the car was going. The driver was also required to have a license ($1.00 for 12 months).

20 OCT 1909. It was suggested that the Council donate $25 toward entertaining the automobilists who will be in the City during the New York to Atlanta run.

2 NOV 1909. A committee of three was appointed to engage suitable rooms for an armory.

2 NOV 1909. A City physician was approved.

16 NOV 1909. The finance committee was authorized to hire J. R. Lawrence to furnish a block map of the City of Greenville. This map was to be accomplished at a cost of 60 cents/acre provided the total does not exceed $1500, the work shall be completed on or before 20 Feb 1910.

16 NOV 1909. Council appropriated $200 to pay expenses of the tuberculosis exhibit.

13 DEC 1909. Fred G. Rogers, architect, submitted plans for changes and additions to City Hall. The plan was accepted provided all work does not exceed $5500.

13 DEC 1909. The Office of City recorder was created.
1 MAR 1910. The Council voted to contribute $100/month to the charity aid society for support of an emergency hospital at the Salvation Army Citadel on East Broad Street.

4 JAN 1910. Council voted to confer with Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph about putting telephone lines underground.

3 MAR 1910. Council directed the City Engineer to prepare a map of the sewer system.

1 APR 1910. The Greenville Street Paving and Sewerage Commission was created by ordinance (for Main and other streets).

6 MAY 1910. Additions were made to the Council rules of order. These included a provision that oral presentations be limited to three minutes.

12 JULY 1910. The bid of the Carolina Concrete Company of Greensboro, North Carolina, was accepted for the construction of the new Main Street Bridge. Cost: $23,000 to $50,000.

23 JUL 1910. Council directed that the best grade of vitrified brick, made in West Virginia, be used to pave Main Street. Bowe & Page Company of Augusta, Ga., and Charleston, S.C., was awarded the contract for paving the street from the Ottaray Hotel to American Bank, except over the new Reedy River Bridge. Cost: $81,336.00.

8 AUG 1910. An ordinance required the reporting of any known communicable diseases was established by Council.

10 AUG 1910. A new convict camp will be built at the intersection of Hudson and Mayberry Streets on a 200 x 250 foot lot to be purchased at a cost of $2000. The completed purchase of this lot was announced 10 Dec 1912.

13 SEP 1910. The City Clerk and the Assistant Clerk were granted vacation of 10 days each.

11 NOV 1910. It was announced that the new River Street Bridge was complete. It was built from the three spans of the old Main Street Bridge.

1910. First concrete bridge over Reedy River opened to Main Street traffic.

1911. Beth Israel congregation was founded when Charles Zaglin of Asheville was invited to Greenville as the first Rabbi.

1 NOV 1911. Committee on waste created to deal with the cleaning of streets, and the collection and disposal of garbage. Council also established positions of garbage officer and officer’s clerk. Garbage officer was to be paid $75 per month.

10 JAN 1912. The new City hospital opened in the former sanatorium (sic) operated by Drs. Adams Hayne, J. R. Rutledge and L. G. Corbett, with 84 beds. The hospital was purchased by the City of Greenville in 1917 and within four years added a building and moved the entrance to Memminger Street.

12 FEB 1912. Segregation ordinance: the City Council adopted “an ordinance for preserving peace, preventing conflict and ill feeling between the white and colored races of the City of Greenville…so far as practicable for the use of separate blocks for residences, restaurants, places of public amusement, stores, and places of business of all kinds.” (Huff, 265)

19 APR 1912. A City Auditor was employed to get previously unregistered property on the tax books. According to an article in the 14 Jun 1912 issues of The Greenville Daily News, this was a “seasonal” position, not the creation of a new office.

11 JUN 1912. The hiring of a City Solicitor was authorized by Council.

21 MAY 1912. Many additions were made to the ordinance for preserving peace, preventing conflict and ill feelings between the white and colored races.

SPRING 1914. A general upgrade of Springwood Cemetery included a new gate at the entrance and paved streets with curbs. This effort required moving some of the graves.

11 FEB 1915. World renowned folk singer, spiritualist and blues singer, Joshua (Josh) White was born on Calhoun Street. He died in New York State in 1969.

11 MAY 1915. The City agreed to hire, for five months, the Greenville concert band for the City park.
2-6 NOV 1915. Greenville hosted the first Southern Textile Exposition, with 169 exhibitors, in the new warehouse of the Piedmont and Northern Railway on W. Washington Street.

1916. The fifth Greenville County Courthouse built on main and court streets.


4 JAN 1917. A Board of Governors for City Hospital was established.

10 APR 1917. Council appropriated $400 for a zoological garden for the City park.

26 MAY 1917. After a massive parade, from the American Bank on South Main Street to the City park, in support of the red cross and World War I, the park was “turned over to the colored people” from 4 to 6 p.m. (Huff, 282)

AUG 1917. Through the efforts of Mayor Charles S. Webb, and others, Greenville was selected as a training cantonment and Camp Sevier opened to World War I troops. By the end of August, some 30,000 troops were stationed here. In all over 100,000 troops were stationed here. Camp Sevier closed in February, 1919. The City of Greenville cooperated with the war camp community service to provide programs and activities for the troops. (Huff, 285)

2 SEP 1917. First U. S. Weather Bureau opened in Greenville.

10 DEC 1917. Textile Hall opened on West Washington Street to house the second southern Textile Exposition. It was at this event that Greenville proclaimed itself the “Textile Center of the South.”

8 JAN 1918. Council agreed to sell 30 grave sites at Springwood Cemetery to the U. S. Government for soldiers at Camp Sevier.

5 FEB 1918. The first City Purchasing agent was employed.

3 MAY 1918. Miss James Margrave Perry (“Miss Jim”) became the first woman admitted to the South Carolina bar. She was a graduate of the university of California, Berkeley and eventually became a partner in the Haynsworth law firm.

1919. The Phillis Wheatley Association of Greenville was organized by Mrs. Hattie Duckett, a Greenville native, who taught at the Union School in the mornings and directed the center in the afternoon and evenings. The first building was a small house at the corner of E. McBee Avenue and Hellman Street. A three-story building was constructed by 7 Dec 1924 after the center came under the aegis of a biracial board led by Thomas Parker. (Huff, 314)

7 JAN 1919. City would issue no licenses for filling stations on Main Street between the Ottaray Hotel and Broad Street.

6 MAY 1919. Council approved the Police Commission’s desire to award policemen 10 days vacation.

23 SEP 1919. The City appropriated $500 for the 30th Division (World War I) reunion.

23 DEC 1919. The City Attorney was instructed to take out a blanket insurance policy on all policemen and firemen.

1920. First synagogue, serving the Beth Israel congregation, was constructed on Townes Street. The building still stands today.

1920. The Working Benevolent Building, the first office building for black professionals, was constructed at the corner of Falls and Broad Streets.

8 JUN 1920. The new NYE Crematory (for the disposal of garbage) was established at $9500. There was no mention of the actual building and completion of the crematory in the Council minutes. However, its existence was documented in reference to another matter on 10 Oct 1922.

6 JUL 1920. City Council approved the issuance of the following bonds:

- $150,000 for completing and equipping the hospital.
- $100,000 for City streets and sidewalks.
- $50,000 for fire protection equipment.
- $100,000 for a Water Works plant.
20 AUG 1920. Tornado struck southeastern part of the city, killing one person and causing much property damage.

1921. Greenville Public Library established through the philanthropy of Thomas F. Parker & James Wilkins Norwood.

5 APR 1921. Council made it unlawful to practice medicine in the City of Greenville without a valid South Carolina license.

19 APR 1921. Council voted that the contract for the erection of a new fire station on Pendleton Street would be awarded to the lowest bidder.

10 MAY 1921. Council established an ordinance creating an Athletic Commission.

1922. George Washington Carver, the highly regarded black educator and inventor, spoke at Israel Metropolitan Church. He also addressed the chapel at Furman University 20 Nov 1923.

11 APR 1922. Merchants were requested to close their places of business at 3:30 p.m. on 20 April for the opening baseball game. Parking on Perry Avenue in front of ballpark was prohibited.

3 OCT 1922. The ordinance regarding an electrical inspector was amended. (this is the first mention of an Electrical Inspector.) This position was assigned to the department of the City Engineer 27 Dec 1922.

1923. The black Spinners, Greenville’s all-black baseball team, was organized by M. C. Clark, John Austin and Mark Durham.

1923. The Woodside Building, the tallest building in South Carolina at the time, opened as the home of Woodside National Bank, which was later merged into the South Carolina National Bank.

22 MAR 1923. A delegation from St. Luke’s Hospital asked council to pay for charity work January and February done at the hospital.

23 APR 1923. Council voted to purchase an electrical traffic signal.

24 APR 1923. The Salvation Army was granted permission to hold services on Sunday mornings on North Main, fifty feet from Washington Street.

24 APR 1923. Council voted to give the Chamber of Commerce a quit claim for 40 ft. on E. Broad in rear of Record Building.

8 MAY 1923. Council established a Street Improvement Commission.

22 MAY 1923. Dr. C. E. Smith asked council to take over the charity milk he was furnishing. He was commended and authorized to send a bill for necessary charity milk for one month.

22 MAY 1923. The City furnished the necessary paint for Hopewell Sanatorium (SIC).
7 AUG 1923. Council agreed to pay a parent for injury his child received at City park.

7 AUG 1923. Bids for codifying City ordinances were secured.

11 SEP 1923. An ordinance creating a Park and Tree Commission was passed, but the selection of commissioners was postponed. It was also agreed to provide insurance of $110,000 for Park and Tree Bond.

9 OCT 1923. City began requiring any employee in any restaurant, etc., to stand a physical examination.

9 OCT 1923. Council passed a ruling that hospitals must be licensed.

23 OCT 1923. Council resolved that all houses in the City must be numbered.

5 FEB 1924. Council voted to purchase the purity lab from Dr. Smith.

11 MAR 1924. The City Engineer insisted that all permits for buildings show the correct estimated cost.

8 APR 1924. The Mayor asked to appoint a committee to consider a zoning ordinance and report back at their pleasure.

20 MAY 1924. The City Attorney was asked to prepare a ordinance requiring dog vaccinations.

23 SEP 1924. Southern public requested a license to operate a bus line. The request was granted.

10 NOV 1924. The City voted to accept the lease to the tourist camp.

25 NOV 1924. Miss Julia Henry received a permit to operate a “rest cure” at 779 E. McBee Avenue.

31 DEC 1924. William Choice Cleveland gave Greenville 110 acres of land on the southeast side of the City for a park and playground. This acreage was developed into Cleveland Park. In November, 1930, the Greenville Garden Club undertook the beautification of the old Rock Quarry on the edge of the new park.

1925. The Poinsett Hotel opened on the site of the Mansion House Hotel.

1926. Greater Greenville Sewer District was created.

6 DEC 1926. Greenville’s first Christmas parade, sponsored by the Retail Merchants Bureau of the Chamber of Commerce, was held after Mayor R. F. Watson met Santa Claus at the Piedmont & Northern Depot at 6 p.m., and escorted him to Main and Broad Streets. State, City and Chamber officials, participated as Santa was escorted up Main Street to the Ottaray Hotel, where he greeted the crowd from the balcony. (Huff, 310)

1927. Liberty Thetre, for many years Greenville’s only black theatre, opened on Spring Street.

1927. The growth of the suburban areas of North Main and Augusta Streets lead the City Council to create a City Extension Committee that recommended the incorporation of areas within a radius of 2 ½ miles of the courthouse. The suburban voters defeated a referendum on the matter, but Council did not give up the effort. Two years later, the Council and the Chamber of Commerce formed a “Greater Greenville Extension Committee,” which included both the suburban areas and mill villages. The crash of the stock market in October 1929 postponed expansion plans indefinitely. (Huff, 311)

1928. Greenville Municipal Airport was built as a joint City-County-State venture and airmail service began. (Huff, 317)

1929. Greenville declared “the most sanitary City and County in America” by the U.S. Health Service.

1929. Sterling High School began its history in 1896 as Greenville Academy under the leadership of Dr. D. M. Minus. Education for African American children continued in 1902 as Sterling Industrial College, and still later, Enoree High School. It came under control of the City Board of Education and the name was changed to Sterling High School. (Huff, 257)

1930. The Rosenwald Foundation, which has already established several black schools in the County, conducted a survey of all black schools in the City, citing a need for developing more vocational training for black students.
1930. An ordinance that City Council shall have full control of the police department was passed.

DEC 1931. The local Klan “assisted” the City in investigating prostitution and bootlegging in the City. Seven black bellhops in local hotels were convicted of soliciting and selling whiskey. After two black bellhops were abducted and beaten by the Ku Klux Klan, attorney J. Robert Martin appeared before City Council demanding an investigation. (Huff, 325)

DEC 1932. A Taxpayers League presented a petition demanding cuts in City expenditures beyond a proposed 2-mill reduction. The petition, signed by both older and younger generations of the City’s “business elite” was met head on by Mayor A. C. Mann: “we appreciate times are hard and conditions are not what they need to be…but only four cities in the United States operate at a smaller per capita cost than Greenville.” (Huff, 339)

1933. When the local Taxpayers’ League continued to press for reduction of municipal salaries, City employees organized a boycott of local business people who supported what they termed “The Conyers Petition.” (Huff, 359)

JUL 1933. Work on the Reedy River within the City began with a grant from the reconstruction finance corporation. Four hundred workers under the direction of City Engineer Dan Hulick modified the channel of the river for several miles. The meadows above Hudson Street were drained, and a new bed was dug in Cleveland Park.

1934. A month long textile strike disrupted Greenville with violence and bloodshed.

20 DEC 1934. The City Council, the Chamber of Commerce, the Water Commission, and the Park and Tree Commission reached an agreement to deed 1,000 acres of the former Paris Mountain Watershed for a state park. The County Delegation agreed to seek the purchase of up to 150 acres to make the land contiguous. The lake on the property was drained and turned into a swimming pool, roads were surfaced, and brush was cleared. The bathhouse and the caretaker’s home were completed. The park was dedicated 15 Jul 1947. (Huff, 347)

5 FEB 1935. An ordinance concerning the regulation of beauty parlors, barber schools and shops was established.

1936. Council established requirement(s) re: milk production.

7 NOV 1936. Construction on Greenville’s Municipal Stadium was completed by Greenville contractor Henry B. McKoy, it was named in honor of J. E. Sirrine. (note: the ordinance regarding issuance of Bonds was passed 24 Oct 1835. It was noted that Furman University would pay for the use of the stadium and WPA funds would be available for construction. The U.S. Government would provide $47,000 toward the construction.)

25 MAY 1937. A Cemetery Commission was established by City ordinance.

8 JUN 1937. A Board of Election commissioners was created.

8 JUN 1937. Council established an ordinance prohibiting women from working in downtown shops between 6:30 p.m. and 8:30 a.m.

27 SEP 1937. The new Post Office Building on the corner of East Washington and Church Streets (now the Clement F. Haynsworth, Jr., Federal Building) was dedicated before a crowd of 3,000. The new Post Office was a direct result of negotiations by the City in March, 1933. Under an agreement reached in February, 1935, the City deeded the property to the Federal Government, and the Federal Government transferred the old Post Office on South Main Street to the City for use as a City Hall. (Huff, 348)

12 SEP 1938. The NAACP was established in Greenville with Jim Briar as President.

23 MAY 1939. The Civil Service Commission for Police and Fire Departments was established by ordinance.

17 AUG 1939. The Ku Klux Klan began a reign of terror against potential African American municipal election voters. These activities continued through November 22 when the City Council instructed Chief of Police J. E. Smith to ask the Klan “not to parade ‘too much’ in Negro Districts of the City.” When Mayor C. Fred McCullough was asked what might happen if the Klan did not desist, he replied: “the law will be enforced.” He did not elaborate. (Huff, 357)
7 NOV 1939. An ordinance regarding unsafe and unsanitary dwellings was passed and the position of Housing Officer was established. (note: this position apparently fell under the supervision of the Building Inspector.)

SPRING 1940. A municipal swimming pool and skating rink were built in Cleveland Park.

4 AUG 1941. City of Greenville was divided into six wards, thus reducing the number of wards from eight. (8 Jun 1909. The number of City wards was increased to eight.)

9 DEC 1941. An ordinance creating the Greenville County Council for defense of County and City of Greenville was passed in obvious response to the attack on Pearl Harbor two days before.

20 JAN 1942. Blackout and civil air raid protection was authorized.

27 FEB 1942. An ordinance regulating a bus line between the City and Greenville Air Base was created.

5 MAY 1942. Separate accommodations for white and colored on trackless trolleys was established. (see 3 Oct 1905.)

11 DEC 1942. Again, the Greenville Mayor, the Chamber of Commerce and other business leaders lobbied mightily for a World War II training facility. The City and County cooperated in the purchase of the land. Greenville Army Air Base was officially announced on this date. The Army Air Base was placed on inactive status 30 November 1945, however it was retained as headquarters of the Troop Carrier Command (later the Military Air Transport Command). The base was named Donaldson Air Force Base in 1951. (in honor of Greenville flying ace, Maj. John Q. Donaldson.) The base was closed 31 Dec 1962. (Huff, 379, 384)

1942. City Council established a committee on clubs and centers to provide adequate recreation facilities for soldiers stationed in Greenville. “Canteens” were established at Textile Hall and the Phillis Wheatley Center. (Huff, 382)

1943. Greenville’s first black Boy Scout Troop, Number 118, was organized under the guidance of Dr. E. A. Huggins, a local black physician.

NOV 1943. The Greenville Defense Recreation Committee sponsored a Thanksgiving program at the Army Air Force Training Center. (Huff, 382)

28 MAY 1944. S.S. Greenville victory was launched.

10 OCT 1944. The City’s first zoning ordinance was passed.

1945. City Hospital had expanded into Greenville General prior to World War II, but in 1945 a citizens’ committee recommended the creation of a joint City-County Hospital. Construction of Greenville General Hospital began in 1949. (Huff, 392)

13 APR 1945. An estimated 15,000 people viewed the train carrying the body of President Franklin D. Roosevelt to from Georgia to Washington when it stopped briefly in Greenville.

1946. An East North Street site for a future municipal auditorium was purchased in July, 1946. After a long series of delays, Memorial Auditorium was formally dedicated in May, 1959. (Huff, 388)

19 NOV 1946. Shortly after the Christmas Parade an explosion at the Ideal Laundry at the corner of Buncombe and Echols Streets took the lives of six persons and injured 150.

1947. Bob Jones University moved to Greenville from Tennessee.

1948. McClaren Clinic for blacks was built on the site of the Working Benevolent facility after it’s condemnation.

1949. A new City curb market was constructed on what is now Beattie Place.

1950. The sixth and present County Court House opened on East North Street.

1941 1942 1943 1944 1946 1949 1950
1950. The McBee Avenue branch library for blacks opened with Mrs. Jeannette Smith as Librarian.

1950. Under the leadership of Mayor J. Kenneth Cass and the City Council, a referendum was held on the creation of a City Manager form of government. The following year Gerald W. Shaw became Greenville’s first City Manager.

1951. Donald Sampson became the first African American lawyer in Greenville. It was not until 1978 that Myrielle Smith became the first African American female attorney to work here.

23 AUG 1951. The School District of Greenville County was formed by the consolidation of 86 local districts.

1952. Wilfred Walker became the first African American radio personality to conduct a daily radio show on WFBC (now WYFF). Marie Bates, the first African American woman to do so, began hosting a show on the same station the next year.

1952. Fieldcrest Village, Greenville’s first public housing project, was built.

1954. Mrs. Warreno Irby was the first African American woman to serve on a jury.


1956. Furman University moved the Men’s College to its new 973-acre campus near Travelers Rest. The Woman’s College joined the Men’s College at the new campus in 1960. (Huff, 398)

1959. Jackie Robinson, the first black man to play major league baseball, was ordered to leave the white waiting room at the Greenville Municipal Airport. The event was widely reported and led to a major protest.

1959. Mrs. J. Alden Simpson was elected the first female to City Council. She served 1959-1963.

10 JAN 1961. A group of African American citizens appeared before the Greenville City Council and requested Council to “act on segregation matters affecting our city.” In response, a group of the white elite decided that it was time for some positive action. This group, known as the advisory committee, however, again it was Charles Daniel who brought the matter to a head on 1 July 1961, when he proposed an alternative to massive resistance. “The desegregation issue,” he said, “cannot continue to be hidden behind the door. This situation cannot be settled at the lunch counter and bus station levels. We must handle this ourselves, more realistically than heretofore; or it will be forced upon us in the harshest way. Either we act on our own terms, or we forfeit the right to act.” (Huff, 403)

5 SEP 1962. Greenville Technical Education Center opened for classes.


31 DEC 1962. Donaldson Air Force Base closed causing fear among many locals who depended on the base for their livelihood. The property returned to the control of the City and County and was immediately converted to an industrial park. The first occupant was Union Carbide, and by 1990 the Donaldson committee had transmitted to the City and County some $2 million. The employment at Donaldson grew to three thousand people, a thousand more than the air base had at its peak. (Huff, 393)

1963. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., made his first appearance in Greenville when he conducted a rally here.

27 MAY 1963. When the United States Supreme Court ruled that Greenville’s trespass laws were unconstitutional (Peterson vs. City of Greenville), the biracial committee (see 10 Jan 1961) recommended that the City Council repeal its segregation laws. The Council formally acted on this date. Following this action eleven eating establishments agreed to serve African Americans. Local black leader and lawyer Willie T. Smith, Jr., took the case to the Supreme Court.

1964. Public accommodations were integrated by a biracial committee from the Greater Greenville Chamber of Commerce and Psi Alpha Chapter, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

12 OCT 1964. The new Textile Hall opened on the U.S. 29 Bypass (Pleasantburg Drive) adjacent to the Municipal Airport.
In 1969, Greenville became the site of the American Textile Machinery Exhibitions. Greenville was no longer the textile center of the south. It had become the textile center of the world.

20 SEP 1967. Groundbreaking ceremonies for Marshall I. Pickens Hospital, the first unit of the Greenville Memorial University Medical Center, were held at the Grove Road site now known as the Greenville Memorial University Medical Center. (Huff, 392)

17 JUNE 1969. In Special Election June 17, 1969, Dr. E. L. Pherson was the first African American elected to City Council. Dr. McPherson filled the unexpired term of Dr. Brockman, who died in office.

13 APR 1971. The use of punch card voting machines were authorized for General and Special Elections held by the City of Greenville.

17 FEB 1970. Greenville County schools were totally integrated. (Huff, 406)

1971. Herman Green became Greenville’s Community Coordinator, the first African American administrator in City Hall.

1972. Construction began on the present City Hall.

1974. Heritage Green became the official name of the College Street cultural complex which housed the Little Theatre, Greenville County Library (1970), Greenville County Museum of Art (1974), and the Greenville Symphony Association (1974).

1974. Local attorney Theo W. Mitchell became the first African American elected since reconstruction when he won his first term in the South Carolina House of Representatives. He later served in the State Senate.

1974. Deborah Lee became the first African American news co-anchor on WFBC-TV.


1977. Attorney Willie T. Smith, Jr., was appointed to the Family Court of South Carolina, thereby becoming the first African American state judge in Greenville.

5 MAR 1981. Merl Codewa was appointed Greenville’s first African American Municipal Traffic Court Judge.

1981. Lillian Brock Flemming was the first African American female elected to City Council.

1981. The Greenville Chapter of the National Council of Negro Women, which was founded by South Carolina native Mary Mcleod Bethune in 1935, was established through the leadership of Marie Bates.

25 MAY 1982. City Council began holding its Regular Meetings on second and fourth Mondays of each month.

15 JAN 1982. Hyatt Regency hotel opened, culminating a downtown revitalization project, began in the 1960s, but put on hold until the chamber of commerce formed the committee for total development to spearhead the renewal. Max Heller, Greenville Mayor from 1971 through 1979, made the plan a priority. Through his efforts, the Hyatt Corporation built the Regency Hotel, with the City assuming the responsibility for the atrium, the parking garage, and the convention center, later named for Heller.

1985. Dr. William F. Gibson, of Greenville, was elected National Chairman of the NAACP.

1987. The Greenville Cultural Exchange Center, the local black history research facility and archives, opened with Ruth Ann Butler as director.


1988. Native son, Jesse Jackson, born in 1941, a graduate of Greenville’s Sterling High School, was a serious candidate for the Democratic Presidential nomination. He first ran for the office in 1984. (Huff, 407)

1989. Dr. Thomas E. Kerns was appointed the first African American Superintendent of the School District of Greenville County.

12 JUN 1989. Cheryle Ratliff was appointed the first African American to hold the position of City Clerk of the City of Greenville.
30 NOV 1990. The peace center for the performing arts opened on the banks of the Reedy river as a result of a joint partnership of the city, county and state governments. The center was not only a center for the performing arts, it served as the anchor for the future economic redevelopment of South Main Street. (Huff, 413)

3 SEPT 1998. The Bi-Lo Center opened with its first show.

24 JUL 2000. W. L. (Willie) Johnson was appointed the first African American Chief of Police for the City of Greenville.

26 FEB 2001. The closing of a portion of Camperdown Way was approved to make way for the removal of the Camperdown Way Bridge as a prerequisite to the new Reedy River Falls Park development project.


10 SEPT 2001. The name of the South Main Street Bridge was changed to the Thomas C. Gower Bridge.

10 SEP 2004. The Liberty Bridge and Falls Park on the Reedy were dedicated.

28 JUN 2004. The intersection of Main and Washington Streets were identified as “Sterling Square.”

5 MAY 2005. The intersection of Millennium Boulevard and Innovation Drive was named “John D. Hollingsworth Circle” to commemorate contributions made by Mr. Hollingsworth and the Hollingsworth Foundation.

13 MAY 2005. The new research and development park roadways, Millennium Boulevard and Innovation Drive, were dedicated to support the Clemson University International Center for Automotive Research (ICAR).

2004. The closing of a portion of Camperdown Way between South Main Street and Falls Street was a prerequisite for the removal of the Camperdown Way Bridge as part of the new Reedy River Falls Historic Park development project, including a public garden. The new Park was renamed “Falls Park on the Reedy” August 9, 2004. The new Falls Park on the Reedy and the Liberty Bridge were dedicated September 10, 2004.

1 FEB 2005. Greenville County Council ended a 19-year chapter that had both split and united residents, by creating a Martin Luther King, Jr., Holiday Countywide.

2006. The construction (2005-2006) of the RiverPlace Project, currently underway, will include a new downtown hotel and a riverwalk that will connect to the Historic Falls Park on the Reedy.

6 APRIL 2006. The new West End Field Stadium opened April 6, 2006 and is home to the Greenville Drive, a Minor League Class A baseball affiliate of the Boston Red Sox.
In 1998, City Council’s Quality of Life/Environment Committee received a presentation from Mike Goot, Woofgang, (formerly Goot and Phillips) as part of a downtown marketing campaign. The objective of the campaign was to define and create a distinctive and meaningful image for downtown Greenville. It was determined at that time that Greenville needed a logo that was simple, clear, not trendy; something that would be the center and focus of the Upstate.

As a result of a public survey to help create an image for downtown, a logo for downtown was invented. The logo is a multi-colored “g” that contains the color yellow representing a bright spot of the upstate, and the color blue representing the Reedy River and the falls.
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