

Wayne County by David Logan and Elijah Bettis, at a place on the St. Francis River known as Bettis' Ford. It is believed that the first plan was to locate the seat of justice on the southern side of the river, but Bettis, being a commissioner, took the opportunity for enhancing the value of his land on the north side of the river by placing the town there. The town is said to have been laid out in a cornfield with the streets following the rows of corn. It was named Greenville for the town in Ohio where General Anthony Wayne (for whom the county was named) concluded a treaty with the Indians in 1795. Since the moving of Greenville to its new site, two and a half miles north of the original site, the old town is referred to as Old Greenville.

1818, Dec. 23
A supplementary act stated that Overton Bettis, James Logan, Solomon Bollinger, William Street, and Ezekiel Rubottom were given the additional duty of meeting at the home of Ransom Bettis on or before Jan. 15, 1819, to remain in session until they had named and defined boundaries of the townships of Wayne County.

1818
Beginning in 1818, Greenville had

federal post rider service with other county seats.

1819, Jan. 28
Henry Schoolcraft crossed Black River on a ferry, walked along Otter Creek to the St. Francis River, crossed at Bettis' Ferry, and observed Greenville as a hamlet of ten or 15 log cabins.

1819, Feb. 1
Wayne County began functioning as a government unit.

1819, March 2
Arkansas ceased to be part of Missouri when Congress created the Arkansas Territory. Lawrence County was split, most of it going to Arkansas with a narrow strip along the north Arkansas line remaining in Missouri.

1819, March 3
Congress set up a post road from St. Michael to Greenville to Hix's Ferry. Another post road had been established in 1818 from Jackson to Bettis' Ferry (Greenville) to Arkansas.

1819, Nov.
Solomon Kittrell came from Kentucky to Cane Creek where he found 200-300 Indians camped. He established a trading post, hauling goods from Ste. Genevieve with ox teams. Cane Creek was located in Wayne County 30 years until Butler County was carved out of Wayne County in 1849.



The Brooks Blacksmith Shop in Brunot is pictured in 1912.

1819, Dec. 8
Sheriff Overton Bettis accounted for Wayne County ferry licenses on the St. Francis that he had sold to Solomon Bollinger and Ransom Bettis.

1820, June 12
The first constitutional convention met at Mansion House in St. Louis. The result was a good constitution

that lasted until 1865. The Wayne County delegate was Elijah Bettis.

1820, July 19
The people adopted the first constitution. It gave to Wayne County all of Lawrence County in Missouri.

1820, Nov. 16
Five commissioners from the entire state were named to select a permanent seat of government for Mis-

Happy 200th Birthday, Wayne County.

I love Wayne County and have devoted much of my life to public service. My goal is to get drugs off our streets and make Wayne County a better, safer place.



DEAN FINCH



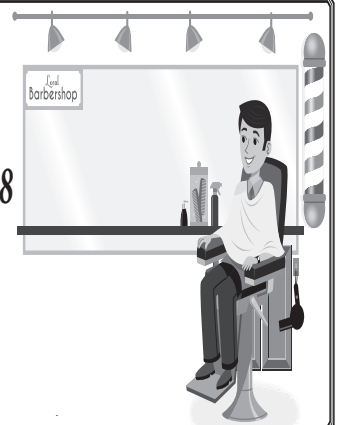
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