



Photo submitted

Built in 1886, this former Greensburg house was once the location of the Cowherd Hotel.

The Cowherd Hotel House

A small part of Greensburg's history is the Cowherd Hotel. It was located at the present-day site of Limestone Bank on the corner of North Main Street and East Hodgenville Avenue.

The house that the hotel operated out of was first built as the residence of D. C. and Mariah L. Blakeman in 1886. It was a large wood-frame two and a half story house with a front bay window and shingled roof.

Mariah L. Blakeman mortgaged her property June 1, 1894 in the amount of \$500. The record notes the house was occupied by R. T. Cowherd Esqr. and being used as a hotel. Mr. Cowherd was manager of the hotel and source of the establishment's name.

Just days after securing the mortgage, Blakeman sold her property to John Barnett. The transfer was official on October 1, 1894. A stove and two tables in the dining room of the hotel were also included in the sale.

Richard T. Cowherd would remain as manager at the hotel with a lease from its new owner. On the 1900 Census, he was listed as a Hotel Keeper in Greensburg, with his wife, Martha. Five boarders were staying at the hotel when the census was taken at the end of June. There were two widowed females, one male from Indiana whose occupation was listed as foreman at a stove factory, one



Green County Public Library Genealogy
Laura Johnson

male from Germany with no listed occupation, and one male from Russia working as a salesman.

During its time, the Cowherd Hotel hosted countless social events such as weddings, parties, and musical performances. It also served as a place of business. A dentist or doctor would occasionally set up there and advertise to see patients. An eyeglasses salesman and music teacher even worked from the hotel for a time.

Following R. T. Cowherd's retirement in October of 1900, the Shreve brothers managed the hotel for several months, changing the name of the establishment to the Shreve Hotel. It was still often referred to as the Cowherd Hotel during that time and beyond. The Shreve family left the hotel business in August 1901.

In January 1902, John Barnett and his wife moved into the home they had owned since 1894. They continued renting out rooms. In June of that year, Woodson Lewis and his family took up residence there while their new home was being built just across the street.

John Barnett died at his home on Janu-

ary 17, 1915. He left his estate to his wife, Susan "Sunie" Barnett. At her death in 1930, the estate went to his sister Emily Green of Louisville and her daughters, Elizabeth and Dora Green.

In 1943, Dora and Elizabeth Green sold the property they had inherited in Greensburg to Miss Lizzie Mears, local farmer and businesswoman, for the sum of \$1. Miss Lizzie was about 75 years old. She lived there for a short time then sold to J. W. Coakley for \$1 in 1945.

Jim Will Coakley and his wife, Mallie, lived in the home on North Main Street. He passed away in 1948 at which time the property rights transferred to Mallie and their heirs.

Several years later, in 1969, the heirs sold the old hotel property to People's Bank Inc. for \$28,000 to be the site for a modern banking facility. The house, along with two others, was demolished to make way for the new bank which was completed in 1970.

The Cowherd Hotel house stood for 83 years and served many purposes over all that time. Maybe best of all, it was a home and a place of rest to many people while they were in our town.

Greensburg-Green County A proud past — A promising future Way Back When

BY CAROL DIAL
SPECIAL TO THE R-H

June 15, 2011
Pay increase for city workers - The Greensburg City Council voted to give city employees \$500 in benefits as a pay increase.

Ingram wins in FFA - GCHS student Allie Ingram was the 2011 Future Farmers of America Creed Speaking winner at the 82nd Kentucky Convention.

Fair royalty - Raylen Walker was chosen Miss Green County and Shelbie Danille Pettay was chosen Miss Green County Fair at the Green County Fair and Horse Show.

Golden anniversary - William and Josie Dial celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary June 2.

New business - There was an open house and ribbon cutting for Green River Flooring owned by Mike and Lisa Daniel.

June 13, 2001
Wright dies in accident - Clay Thomas Wright died when his tractor rolled over him on his farm.

Raids reveals marijuana plants - Members of the Green County Sheriff's Department discovered 83 marijuana plants in raids at Pierce and within the city.

Baker injured - Lemuel Baker was injured when the motorcycle he was operating left KY 61 and overturned.

Gorin competes for crown - Jill Gorin won the Miss Green River Valley Scholarship Pageant and will compete in the Miss Kentucky Scholarship

Pageant.

Softball field dedicated - The adult softball field at Legion Park was dedicated to honor Tommy Mills, who was director of the Park for many years.

June 12, 1991
Search continues at lake - Seventeen rescue squads from the area continue to search Green River Lake for drowning victim David Curtsinger.

Civil War Camp - Company F, Fourth Kentucky Infantry, Confederate States of America re-enactors will create a Civil War era camp at Legion Park.

Rotary commemorative coin - The Greensburg Rotary Club has created a specially minted silver coin celebrating the homecoming of soldiers serving in Operation Dessert Storm.

Summershade, Hazel Kessler - Eloise Thompson was in Norton's Infirmary after falling backwards off a ladder.

June 11, 1981
Shooting the steeple - The steeple of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church was a target for men wanting to try out their pistols in early years of this century. A recent examination of the metal steeple cap showed at least 28 bullet holes.

Crops damaged by flooding - Rainfall is 8.99 inches above last years rainfall total from January to June. Crops on low ground are showing damage from high waters.

Police investigate robberies - Local law officials are investi-

gating robberies at Vance's Grocery at Hudgins and at Henderson 5 & 10.

Thurlow, Lurlia Simpson - The Sunday offering at Mt. Lebanon Methodist Church was over \$400 for the Methodist Children's Home.

June 17, 1971
Highs and lows - The high temperature was ninety-one degrees on June 13. Fifty-nine degrees was the low temperature on June 9.

New law office opens - Henry Coleman Durham and Bill Colvin are opening a law office at 117 South Public Square.

Summersville Homemakers - Members met at the home of Maudie Sidebottom for fellowship, lunch and a lesson on paper mache.

Showing at the Skyline - "The Wild Country", "Hang 'em High" and "Tora! Tora! Tora!"

June 16, 1961
Post office contract awarded - A contract has been awarded for the construction of a new Post Office building at the corner of Main Street and Columbia Avenue.

New street lights - Kentucky Utilities Company has completed the installation of nineteen new street lights on the Public Square.

Obituaries - Roger Edward "Bob" White, 48, Monday; Mary Irene Marr, 50, Saturday; Capt. William Clifford Cox, 85, June 9; Dr. Walter E. Miller, 82, Monday.

Little Barren - We had a bad wind and hailstorm Monday afternoon.



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