

# Wakefield: A Pioneer of Green County law

Allen M. Wakefield, born about 1774, played a defining role in Green County's early legal system, rising quickly from a young attorney to a respected public figure of his day.



Green County Public Library Genealogy  
Laura Johnson

His career began in 1795, when he was the first person admitted to the bar at Greensburg in November of that year. He then became the first county attorney appointed for Green County. He served in that role for several years, helping to guide the young county through its earliest legal proceedings.

For a short period, Wakefield also served as trustee to the town of Greensburg in 1796.

Wakefield's responsibilities expanded again when Kentucky replaced the old Quarter Session Courts with the newly organized Circuit Court system. He was appointed as the first judge of the circuit that included the counties of Green, Adair, Barren, Cumberland, and Wayne, a position he held until his death. He was a capable administrator and a respected legal mind, widely regarded as a thorough businessman and a lawyer of notable skill for the era.

His influence extended beyond the

courtroom. William B. Allen wrote in his history of Kentucky that more aspiring attorneys studied under Wakefield than under any other lawyer in the region at the time, suggesting that he played a major role in training the next generation of legal professionals in south central Kentucky.

Wakefield married Betsey Thurman on December 25, 1800, in Cumberland County. She came from a prominent and affluent family in the portion of Green County that was split off and became Cumberland in 1798. The couple had at least four children born to them.

One of those children, Emily, was named in an 1836 circuit court case. Another, John R. Wakefield, born around 1804, was identified in his 1858 death record as the son of Allen M. Wakefield. The names of his other children are not known at this time.

Although Wakefield was highly respected,

surviving records also reveal the occasional human flaw. According to William B. Allen, an August 1800 court entry shows that Wakefield was indicted for profane swearing, a reminder that even well regarded public figures sometimes found themselves on the wrong side of the docket. The incident did not impact his strong standing in the community.

An untimely death came to Wakefield in January 1809, the cause unknown. He was only about 35 years old.

Wakefield's estate provides a final glimpse into his character and interests. An appraisal conducted after his death by William Barret, Jonathon Cowherd, and William Barnett documented a substantial personal library containing works of poetry, philosophy, business, and law, evidence of a man committed to learning and intellectual depth.

Today, Wakefield rests in Greensburg Cemetery. No stone or marker identifies his grave, but his legacy endures in the institutions he helped build and the legal traditions he shaped during the earliest years of Green County's history.

Greensburg-Green County  
A proud past — A promising future

# Way Back When

## 1986—Drought hits county

BY CAROL DIAL  
SPECIAL TO THE R-H

May 17, 2006

**Election results** - Republican County Judge-Executive Mary Ann Blaydes Baron will face Gary Landis in the November election. Tim Stump will face Bill Johnson in the November race. Russ Goff retained the County Attorney title.

**Unemployment rate drops** - The unemployment rate for Green County dropped from 7.6 percent in February of this year to 6.7 percent in March.

**Haines honored by Rotary** - Mary Haines was presented an honorary Paul Harris Fellowship Award by Greensburg Rotary Club.

**Relay for Life** - Participants in the annual Relay for Life raised \$26,175 to benefit the American Cancer Society.

May 15, 1996

**Drug and alcohol abuse** - According to a survey made by the Green County Health Department, drug and alcohol abuse is the number one health problem in the county.

**Free tests at Health Fair** - A large number of people attended the JTCMH Health Fair for health information and free tests.

**Haskins graduates** - Charles W. Haskins recently graduated from the University of Louisville Speed Scientific School with

a bachelors degree in mechanical engineering.

**Pancake breakfast** - The Greensburg-Green County Fire Department hosted a sausage-pancake breakfast and raised \$750 for the WHAS Crusade for Children.

May 15, 1986

**Drought hits county** - Residents are saying "It's the driest April in five years." The rainfall in April totaled .99 inch as compared to five inches in April 1985.

**Price wins first place** - GCHS sophomore Wayne Price won first place in Governor's Cup Competition in social studies.

**Our boys in service** - Army Pvt. 1st Class Alan J. Simmons graduated from the Patriot missile crew member course at Ft. Bliss, Texas. Sgt. Donald E. McCubbins was named outstanding non-com officer of the quarter for the 7501st Munitions Support Squadron. McCubbins serves in West Germany.

**Summershade, Hazel Kessler** - Several people enjoyed a wiener roast on a sand bar at Russell Creek.

May 20, 1976

**Thompson, Cox take academic honors** - Debbie Cox, Valedictorian, and Steve Thompson, Salutatorian, received top academic honors out of 146 graduating GCHS Seniors.

**Five escape fire** - Bernice Young and four members of her family were able to escape from their burning home unharmed.

**Newt, Mrs. E. G. Pierce** - Robert Meadows was surprised with a family dinner on the occasion of his 35th birthday May 15.

**Car crashes into business** - A car operated by Glen Coffey crashed into the front of the White Cloud Laundry when the brakes on the vehicle failed.

**Picnic at lake** - Fifteen residents of Green Hill Manor enjoyed fishing and a picnic at Milby's Catfish Lake.

May 19, 1966

**Work begins on water system** - Over 322 families will soon enjoy clean, safe water from the Green-Taylor Water District. Construction began on the \$415,545.75 project with a projected finish date of September.

**Jeffries injured** - Barry Lee Jeffries 21, was injured in a hunting accident when his gun discharged as he climbed a fence. Jeffries is recovering in the Fort Knox Army Hospital.

**Little Barren, Mrs. Robert Clark** - Mrs. Carl Meadows fell and broke some ribs and then developed pneumonia.

**Seniors graduate** - The 132 graduating seniors of GHS received their diplomas Friday. Receiving top academic honors were Brenda Lobb and Judy Slinker.

# The US is celebrating it's 250th birthday

## Trace your own history

Millions of Americans will spend some time in 2026 commemorating 250 years of United States history. The U.S. turns 250 in July 2026, and the summer figures to be an especially celebratory time across the 50 states.

As Americans engage with their nation's history, they might be compelled to learn more about their personal history as well. Genealogy has become a popular pastime in the twenty-first century, and the National Archives offers these tips to anyone looking to do some digging into their personal history as they celebrate 250 years of the United States.

• Start with yourself. The National Archives recommends starting with the person you know best: yourself. Your own personal details can serve as a starting point as you work toward more unknown facets of your family history. After you note all of your own details, learn and document all you can about your parents and then do the same in relation to your grandparents.

• Emphasize four vital components. The National Archive notes that names, dates, places, and relationships are the tools of the family researcher. That's because these nuggets of information have long been used to identify people in public records.

• Peruse any existing family archives. Many families have kept their own archives over

the years, even if that record-keeping was not widely known within a family. A relative might have kept various types of documents that help to paint a picture of your genealogy. Ask around in the family to see if anyone has kept records, which might include:

- Newspaper clippings
- Birth and death certificates
- Military certificates
- Marriage licenses
- Letters
- Diaries
- Photographs/photo books
- Scrapbooks

• Let others know. Inform family members near and far that you're working on a genealogy project. A relative might have beaten you to it, and that person could have lots of valuable information and documents to share.

Others might be able to point you toward a relative who has become the unofficial family historian. In addition, cousins and aunts and uncles might have records from their own immediate families, which can help you as you conduct your own research.

• Access government records. The U.S. federal census dates all the way back to 1790, which makes it a potentially excellent source of information for your project. State and county archives also can be wonderful resources that keep records of births, deaths, marriages, and other notable events that can help people trace their family histories. Even local libraries might have records of your family, especially if your family has been settled in the same area for a significant amount of time.

The Green County Food Pantry is open Thursdays in the new building on First Street

## Ending Hunger Takes Teamwork



Volunteers & Donations Welcome

For more information, including how to volunteer, call or text 270-405-3247

Let's work together to bring hunger relief to our neighbors in need.

Open Thursdays (except holidays) 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. CT

Must have driver's license or other proof that you are living in Green County. Income guidelines apply.

Linda Judd, Director

Food Pantry adv. a public service of the Record-Herald

## ABSOLUTE Auction

63 +/- ACRE FARM IN TRACTS W/ HOUSE & BARN  
TRACTORS, FARM EQUIPMENT, HORSE TACK & PERSONAL PROPERTY

Saturday, May 16th, 2026 at 10:30 AM CDT  
1313 Glenview Road • Greensburg, KY

DATES OF PREVIEW: Thursdays May 7th and 14th from 2 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

This 63 +/- acre farm offers an excellent opportunity to purchase a well-rounded agricultural and recreational property, being sold in 5 tracts to fit a variety of buyers. The farm features several good barns, lush and gently rolling open fields, and a small pond, creating a strong setup for livestock, hay production, or a private country retreat. A major highlight of this property is its connection to Green River, with easy access just down the road and the added bonus of the property joining a portion of the river along the backside, offering both scenic views and recreational potential.

The property will be offered in the following tracts:

**TRACT #1** consists of 3.136 acres and includes the home, two barns, and a small pond, making it an ideal homestead or mini-farm setup.

**TRACT #2** contains 4.628 acres and features a large barn, providing excellent storage or agricultural use.

**TRACT #3** offers 7.112 acres of open land suitable for farming, building, or recreational use.

**TRACT #4** includes 8.111 acres with access via easement, offering privacy and flexibility for a variety of uses.

**TRACT #5** is the largest tract with 40.430 acres, also accessed by easement, and provides expansive acreage that joins the river, making it perfect for farming, hunting, or a private retreat.

The home on the property offers a functional layout with a kitchen, living room, and dining area, along with an upstairs/loft area, multiple bedrooms, a bathroom, and a dedicated laundry area. The barns and improvements across the property add significant value and usability for agricultural or storage needs.

This multi-parcel auction format allows buyers to bid on individual tracts, combinations, or the entire property, ensuring it sells in the manner that generates the highest return.

In addition to the real estate, a wide selection of tractors, farm equipment, horse tack, and personal property will be sold at absolute live auction. Equipment includes a Ford 3930 tractor, rotary mower, Exmark zero turn mower, Ford Escape (showing 152,679 miles), gates, horse buggies, vintage farm machinery, air compressor, boom pole, grader blade, hay spear, tools, and more.

A large assortment of horse-related items will also be available, including saddles, bridles, reins, ropes, leather goods, and horse buggies/carts.

Personal property features a variety of household furnishings such as a dining table, curio cabinet, sofa, chairs, television, knives, desk, Singer sewing machine, bed frames, bedroom furniture, washer, dryer, kitchen appliances, patio table, and additional items. This is a complete auction offering something for farmers, equestrian enthusiasts, collectors, and everyday buyers alike.

**NOTE:** The purchaser of a single-family residence built before 1978 has a maximum of 10 days to inspect the property of lead-based paint. The period for inspections begins May 5th through May 15th, 2026. The successful bidder must sign a waiver of the 10-day inspection period.

**TERMS:** 20% deposit day of the auction with the balance due in 45 days. All personal property items must be paid in full the day of the auction.

**NOTE:** There will be a 10% auction premium added to the last bid to determine the final sales price.

**NOTE:** Online bidding will be available.

**AUCTIONEER/BROKER/SELLER DISCLAIMER:** The information contained herein is believed to be correct to the best of the auctioneer's knowledge. The information is being provided for the bidder's convenience, and it is the bidder's responsibility to determine the information contained herein is accurate and complete. The property is selling in its as-is condition with no warranties expressed or implied.

Matt Ford—Auctioneer



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