An Outline of Meadville's History

The Newcomers

Meadville, the county seat for Crawford County, was settled in 1788 by David Mead, in a party of ten men, arrived on May 12 to take up land awarded by the Pennsylvania courts in compensation for land lost in the Wyoming Valley due to fighting tribs. This was the fourth and last move for the Mead family, who had moved from Connecticut into New York and then to the Wyoming Valley on Connecticut land grants, then to4

The original inhabitants

The original inhabitants already living here with his extended family was Stripe Neck, an Iroquois Mohawk, in the Squirrel area on the banks of French Creek. The Iroquois Seneca, under the leadership of Comanche, were determined to be good neighbors, Half Moon and Wire Bows, Commocka and his sons Flying Cloud, Standing Stone and Big Sun offered protection, warnings of hostile western Indian raids, and practical information to the new American settlers.

Beginning to grow

In 1799, the first settlement grew with the arrival of David Mead's father, Daniel Sr., Frederick Burns, Robert Fortandolph, Fredrick Himmelt, William Gregg, Samuel Lott, John Werns, and the families of all the settlers, and the first baby was born in Meadville.

Land was cleared and plowed, saw mills and grist mills were built, a stockade and fishing were built and western Indian raids survived, a school was opened, a mill was opened by Enos Van Horn. With the defeat of the western Indians at Fallen Timbers in Ohio, new settlers began arriving and by 1805, when the five counties of the northwest were created, a judicial district set in place and an Academy built for the education of the area's youth. 125 families were in place.

More would quickly come as the Holland Land Company, the Pennsylvania Foundation Company, the American Land Company and the Fields Claims attracted more settlers to the rich rich remote land.

Remembering the Past

In the 200-plan years which have passed, the town has grown and prospered, and its citizens have conscientiously celebrated its anniversaries with markers and monuments to those who have contributed to its growth and success.

Old Friends are Worth Keeping

In celebration of Crawford County's 200th anniversary, a new program of building playing was begun. Titled the 'Old Friends are Worth Keeping' after an 1883 National Trust for Historic Preservation program, buildings in and about our National Register Historic District were selected and reviewed for recognition. 18th and 19th century buildings, both commercial and residential were included. To date 24 markers are in place.

More than 100 markers of six different types are located on this map:

- National Register for Historic Sites
- The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission Roadside Markers
- The 1976 Crawford County Historical Society house markers
- The Old Friends are Worth Keeping preservation plaques
- Tour of History markers
- Anniversary Celebration sites / plaques / monuments

DOWNTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT

- Commemorative Plaques
  - Old Friends are Worth Keeping
  1. Michael Bagley House
     381 Chestnut Street
  2. Masonic Building
     316 Chestnut Street
  3. Hickerson Land Office
     423 Chestnut Street
  4. McCollum Fuller House
     490 Chestnut Street
  5. Meridian Building
     935 Market Street
  6. Academy of Music
     275 Chestnut Street
  7. Central Station
     675 Park Avenue
  8. Judge Dickinson House
     366 Chestnut Street
  9. Spirella Factory #3
     280 Chestnut Street
  10. Federal Building
     245 Chestnut Street
  11. Meadville Woolen Mills Office
     257 Chestnut Street
  12. Knowlton Grocery
     185 Chestnut Street
  13. John McCloskey House
     386 Chestnut Street
  14. Wilson Cutter House
     389 Chestnut Street
  15. Exnec Building
     525 Chestnut Street
  16. Smyock Store
     214 Chestnut Street
  17. Smyock Apartments
     841 Market Street
  18. Dr. David G. Snodgrass Building
     970 Park Avenue
  19. The Park Building
     926 Park Avenue
  20. Lyceum Theater
     224 Market Street
  21. Market House Plaza
     911 Mulberry Street

HISTORIC SITES, MARKERS, MONUMENTS, PLAQUES

City of Meadville
- Crawford County Convention and Visitors Bureau
- Downtown Historic District
- Diamond Park

Pennsylvania