

Thirty-Eight Presidents and a Dozen Wars: The Sweep of Springfield and Clark County History – 1768-1977

The history of Clark County and Springfield has mirrored events throughout America. Divided into the terms of thirty-eight of the U.S. Presidents, local affairs are compared and contrasted with our national history. Local events are in bold throughout this eventful timeline.

George Washington (1789-1797)

1768-69 Tecumseh is born.
 1769 Daniel Boone enters Kentucky.
 1775 American Revolution begins.
 1776 Declaration of Independence is written.
 1778 **Simon Kenton captured by Shawnees and rescued by Col. Logan.**
 1780 **Battle of Piqua.**
 1783 American Revolution end and Britain cedes the Ohio Country to the United States in the Treaty of Paris.
 1785 Land Ordinance lays out the Northwest Territory.
 Mail coaches are first introduced.
 1787 Delaware admitted as first state.
 Pennsylvania and New Jersey admitted.
 New Jersey admitted.
 Northwest Ordinance provides for self-government in the Northwest and prohibits slavery.
 1788 Georgia, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maryland, South Carolina, New Hampshire, Virginia, and New York admitted.
 Settlement at Marietta.
 Cincinnati laid out.
 1789 George Washington becomes the first U.S. President.
 North Carolina admitted.
 1790 Rhode Island admitted.
John Paul settles at Honey Creek near New Carlisle.
 1791 Vermont admitted.
 Shawnee and Delaware Indians defeat St. Clair's forces in Ohio.
 1792 Kentucky admitted.
 1794 Anthony Wayne defeats the Indians at Fallen Timbers.
 1795 Treaty of Greenville
David Lowry and Jonathan Donnel settle in the Mad River

Valley on Buck Creek, Mad River Township.
 1796 Tennessee admitted.
First settlement in Mad River Township.

John Adams (1797-1801)

1797 Congress receives the earliest known petition by fugitive slaves which is rejected after vigorous argument. The frigate Constitution "Old Ironsides," is launched.
First cash crop from the area is floated down the river system and sold in New Orleans.
Public lands surveyed by Israel Ludlow.
 1798 Congress passes law abolishing imprisonment for debt, ending the practice in the United States.
 1799 Former President George Washington dies.
Simon Kenton leads twelve families to the confluence of Mad River and Buck Creek.
 1800 Congress opens its first session in the new capital city of Washington. The Library of Congress is established.
Settlement in Harmony Township. Simon Kenton settles Moorefield Township.

Thomas Jefferson (1801-1809)

1801 **James Demint lays out the town of Springfield and opens its first business, a distillery.**
Griffith Foss built first house in Springfield.
 1802 **Simon Kenton builds a gristmill, a carding mill, and a sawmill.**
First settlement in Pleasant Township.

- 1803 Ohio becomes the 17th state in the Union.
Greene County created.
- 1804-06 Lewis and Clark explore to the Pacific.
- 1804 **Road opens to Dayton.
Settlement in Green Township.
Springfield contains 11 log houses.**
- 1805 Champaign County created.
- 1806 **First settlement in Pike Township.
Simon Kenton builds a mill at Lagonda.
German Township settlers make treaty with Tecumseh.**
- 1807 **Townspeople hold a council with Tecumseh in Springfield.**
- 1808 Congress outlaws importation of slaves.
The National Road begins in Cumberland, Maryland.
**New Boston platted.
Medway founded.**

James Madison (1809-1817)

- 1809 Population of Ohio = 230,760.
Powder mill started.
- 1810 **New Carlisle founded.
Madison Township created.
First church erected in Springfield.**
- 1810-11 **Religious revival led by Mrs. Whalter Smallwood.**
- 1811 First steamboat on the Ohio and Mississippi rivers.
- 1812 Louisiana admitted.
War begins. Tecumseh and Indian allies join the British.
- 1814 British burn the Capitol and White House.
Tecumseh dies at the Battle of Thames.
Clark County Militia includes Springfield Artillery, Clark Guards, Osceola Plaids, and Springfield Cadets.

James Monroe (1817-1825)

- 1815 **Proposed organization of Clark County hotly contested.
South Charleston founded.
Lisbon platted.**
- 1816 Indiana admitted.
Tecumseh killed.
- 1817 Mississippi admitted.
**Clark County created from parts of Greene, Champaign, and Madison Counties on December 26.
Woolen and cotton factories established.
Weekly newspaper, "The Farmer" first published; later became "The Republic".**
- 1818 Illinois admitted.
National Road reaches the Ohio River.
**Springfield is chosen as the county seat over New Boston.
James Demint fined for dealing with slaves as free men.
First jail built.
Clark County townships officially organized.**
- 1819 Alabama admitted.
Panic in the banking industry, economic effects felt for years.
Population of Ohio = 581,295.
- 1820 Maine admitted.
Missouri Compromise and the debate over slavery.
**Simon Kenton dies.
First Federal Census list Clark County's population at 9,533.**
- 1821 Population of the United States = 9,638,131.
Florida purchased.
Missouri admitted.
- 1822 **Pennsylvania House welcomes travelers.**
- 1824 **African Methodist Episcopal Church founded.**

John Quincy Adams (1825-1829)

- 1825 Erie Canal officially opens.
1826 First Railroad begun in the United States.
First act establishing free schools in Ohio.
1827 **Town of Springfield incorporated. Paper mill at Springfield.**
1828 Ohio and the nation elect Andrew Jackson, first western president.
First Courthouse completed. Mail coach arrives daily with newspapers from Baltimore only five days old. North Hampton founded.

Andrew Jackson (1829-1837)

- 1829 Population of Ohio = 937, 903.
1830 Mormons expelled from Ohio.
Clark County population = 13,114. Johnny Appleseed visits relatives who live on Chapman's Creek in Clark County. Donnelsville founded.
1830s **German and Irish immigrants arrive.**
1831 Cyrus McCormick demonstrates first practical reaper.
New Carlisle incorporated.
1832 Railways first introduced in Ohio.
Donnelsville platted. Harmony founded. National Road completed to cross Mad River. Cholera visits New Carlisle.
1832-33 Nullification Crisis.
1833 Ohio canals completed.
Oberlin College founded.
South Vienna is platted. Tornado strikes near Enon.
1835 Marietta College established.
Brighton platted. Catawba founded. First Poor-House. First Springfield High School. Moorefield Township enlarged. Cortsville founded. Joseph Smith and Mormons go through Clark County.

- 1836 Arkansas admitted.
Siege of the Alamo.
Federal funds for the road cease. Springfield becomes known as the "Town at the end of the Pike." Center of town shift southward to line up with National Road (current Main Street). 1,200 Conestoga wagons pass through Springfield in June.
1837 Michigan admitted.
National Financial Panic hits entire country.
Muskingum College founded.
Ohio turnpike system begun.

Martin Van Buren (1837-1841)

- 1838 **Enon and Tremont City founded. Foundry of James Leffel opened.**
1839 Morse telegraph patented.
1840 First modern political campaign – "Tippencanoe and Tyler, too" and "Van, Van he's a used up man"
William Whiteley begins manufacture of agricultural machinery. First County Agricultural Exposition; County Agricultural Society organized.

William Henry Harrison (1841)

- 1841 Last Native Americans removed from Ohio.
President Harrison dies thirty days after taking office.
Leffel and the Barnetts construct a ½ mile mill run along Buck Creek.

John Tyler (1841-1845)

- 1842 Entire Ohio canal system finished at a cost of \$15,000,000
Anti-Slavery Society founded. Selma founded.
1843 The first wagon in a party of about 1,000 persons bound for Oregon pulls away from Independence, MI.
Pitchin founded.
1844 Florida admitted.
1845 Wittenberg College founded.

James K. Polk (1845-1849)

- 1846 Iowa admitted.
Ohio sends 5,500 men to the Mexican War. The War finds significant opposition in Clark Co.
Little Miami Railroad arrives in Springfield.
First Clark County Fair held in South Charleston.
Artists John, Gustavus, and Godfrey Frankenstein arrive.
- 1847 **First water pumping windmill in Ohio, located in South Charleston.**
- 1847-48 **Telegraph lines arrive in Springfield.**
- 1848 Wisconsin admitted.
First National Women's Rights Convention held in Seneca Falls, NY.

Zachary Taylor (1849-1850)

- 1849 California Gold Rush.
The Great St. Louis Fire.
Cholera epidemic. Over fifty Irish railroad workers die.
- 1850 California admitted.
Population of the United States = 23,191,876.
Population of Ohio = 1,980,329.
Population of Clark Co. = 22,178.
Springfield incorporated as a city and has six gas street lights downtown. Population = 5,109.
Phineas P. Mast begins production of farm equipment.
Clark County Medical Society organized.

Millard Fillmore (1850-1853)

- 1850s Nativist (Anti-Immigrant) group peaks: Know Nothing Party.
Anne Aston Warder organizes Springfield Underground Railroad Association to aid runaway slaves.
Many Clark Countians move to Minnesota to make sure it enters the Union as a free state.
- 1851 **Female Seminary founded.**

- 1852 Uncle Tom's Cabin, by Harriet Beecher Stowe, is published.
New constitution adopted in Ohio.
Plattsburg founded.
Manufacture of Champion machines begun by Whiteleys.

Franklin Pierce (1853-1857)

- 1853 New York Exposition.
Antioch College founded.
Coaches cease running on the National Road.
Springfield-London R.R. and Springfield-Delaware R.R. completed.
- 1854 Crystal Palace opened.
Kansas-Nebraska Act opens Kansas to slavery which leads to bloody conflicts.
First city school houses.
National Cattle Show at Springfield.
Know Nothing Party sweeps school board.
- 1855 Michigan boundary "war."
The play, *Uncle Tom's Cabin* is performed in Springfield.
Champion Reaper invented by William N. Whitely.
P.P. Mast factory established by Mast and Thomas.
Member of the Basey Family becomes the first African American to purchase land in Springfield.
- 1856 War with China.
- 1857 Supreme Court decision in Dred Scott case opens the nation to slavery.
Local residents prevent U.S. marshals from seizing fugitive slave Addison White in Mechanicsburg.
Fassler and Whiteley are joined by O.S. Kelly to produce the Champion reaper.

James Buchanan (1857-1861)

- 1858 Minnesota admitted.
Lincoln-Douglas Debates.
- 1859 Oregon admitted.
John Brown's raid on the Federal Arsenal at Harper's Ferry, WV.
Discovery of petroleum.
- 1860 Lincoln elected.
South Carolina secedes from the Union.
Ohio River floods.
Population of Ohio = 2,339,511.
Population of Clark Co. = 25, 300.
Clark County elects Samuel Shellabarger, a republican and abolitionist, to Congress.

Abraham Lincoln (1861-1865)

- 1861-1865 **Springfield factories make cloth for uniforms, wagons, and linseed oil for the army, and farm machinery for labor short farms. Women assume new roles in industry and agriculture and support the war effort.**
- 1861 Kansas admitted.
Fort Sumter bombarded April 12, Civil War begins.
Confederate States of America formed. Jefferson Davis, President.
George B. McClellan appointed commander of Ohio troops.
Ohio furnishes more than one-tenth of the National Army.
The Springfield Zouaves, Washington Artillery and Jefferson Guards form. By the War's end, three-quarters of the eligible men, including half of the voters, see service.
- 1862 **44th Regiment and many other companies speedily organized. James Leffel receives patent on his double turbine waterwheel. He was producing 150 turbines a day by 1864.**

- 1863 Lincoln announces the Emancipation Proclamation.
Battles of Gettysburg and Vicksburg indicate the tide of the War is shifting to the North.
West Virginia admitted.
General J. Warren Keifer sent to New York to command Provost Marshal's troops putting down draft and race riots.
- 1864 Sherman's Army of the Cumberland marches through Georgia and the Carolinas.
Nevada admitted.
The 5th U.S. Colored Regiment is raised mainly in Clark County. First labor union, the Iron Molders #72 organized in Spfld.
- 1865 General Robert E. Lee surrenders to General U.S. Grant at Appomattox, Virginia, April 9.
President Lincoln is assassinated at Ford's Theater, April 14.
Jefferson Davis imprisoned.
Gas well in Pike Township. First Hebrew Congregation forms.

Andrew Johnson (1865-1869)

- 1866 Atlantic Telegraph.
Samuel Shellabarger plays a major role in passage of first Civil Rights Act.
Springfield City Fire Department founded.
- 1867 Alaska purchased.
Nebraska admitted.
Hiram College founded.
Former slave children taken in by Families in Clark and Greene Counties.
Six companies form to produce Champion farm equipment to fill the demand for reapers in southern and western states as a result of the Homestead Act.
Daniel Hertzler mysteriously killed.
Local economy booms: 250 new building erected in 1868; five story, 140 room Lagonda House opens in 1869.

1868 President Andrew Johnson impeached but not removed from office.

Ulysses S. Grant (1869-1877)

1869 Suez Canal opened.
First Transcontinental Railroad completed.
Population of Ohio = 2,665,260.

1870 Population of United States = 38,559,371.
University of Wooster founded.
First street cars in Springfield, drawn by mules.
Population of Clark Co. = 32,070.
State Fair held in Springfield.
Soldiers' Monument dedicated.

1871-72 **Rise of the Labor Union movement.**
Rise of the Temperance Prohibition movement led by "Mother" Eliza Daniels Stewart.

1871 Chicago Fire.
Railroad to Columbus completed.

1872 Boston Fire.
Springfield Public Library opened.

1873 **"Springfield Gazette" begins publication.**
Springfield Light Guard formed.
Lagonda National Bank and Springfield Savings Bank opened.

1874 **Woman's "crusade."**
J.H. Thomas & Sons shops opened.

1875 **Champion City Guard formed.**

1876 U.S. Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia.
Battle of Little Big Horn.
Colorado admitted.
Disputed election of Hayes and Tilden.
Samuel Shellabarger attorney for Hayes in disputed election.

Rutherford B. Hayes (1877-1881)

1877 Last federal troops withdrawn from southern states.
Great Railroad Strike. Ohio Militia called out on account of strike.
Ohio canals abandoned by lessees.
P.P. Mast begins publication of "Farm and Fireside" to promote Champion farm machinery sales.
Mill Run undergoes improvements.
Murphy Temperance movement.
Children's Home erected.

1878 Thomas Edison receives patent for his phonograph.
Ohio Southern R.R. completed.

1879 Thomas Edison demonstrates his new "incandescent lamp" at Menlo Park.
"Springfield Sunday News" begins publication.

1880s **Bicycling clubs are the rage for young people who become major advocates for paving the National Road.**

1880 Population of United States = 50,155,783.
Population of Ohio = 3,198,062.
Population of Clark County = 41,948.
First commemoration of the Battle of Piqua.
Mad River Valley Pioneer and Historical Association founded.

James A. Garfield (1881)

1881 President Garfield assassinated.
Annie Oakley gives first professional performance at the Crystal Palace in Springfield.
Grand Opera House erected.
I.B. & W.R.R. enters Springfield.
Springfield National Bank opened.
East Street Shops begun by Whiteley, Fassler, and Kelly.
New courthouse completed.
John W. Bookwalter, Democratic candidate for Governor.
A.R. Ludlow, Proh. candidate for Governor.

Chester A. Arthur (1881-1885)

- 1882 **Springfield Water Works opened. Springfield City limits extended. Boiler explosion at Selma. Toll gate removed from National Road. Enlargement of Lagonda shops. National Bank at New Carlisle opened.**
- 1883 Buffalo Bill opens his "Wild West" shows in Omaha, Nebraska. Brooklyn Bridge completed. Washington Monument completed. Prohibition amendment submitted and defeated in Ohio. **County Hospital for the insane opened. Kelly's Springfield Arcade opened. Arcade Hotel opened.**
- 1884 World's Fair at New Orleans. Great Ohio flood. **Jerome Uhl, artist comes to Springfield. Citizens fund construction of Recitation Hall, second building on Wittenberg's campus.**

Grover Cleveland (1885-1889)

- 1885 General election changed to November. **Storm which destroyed Washington Court House does great damage in Clark County. Benson's Mill (1832) burned.**
- 1886 Haymarket Riot. **Great May Storm; High Street bridge washed out; many drown in Xenia. Whiteley locks out Knights of Labor workers. Dr. Russell tests the Russell steam car, first automobile patented in the U.S.**
- 1887-1890 **Designed by local architect, Charles Cregar, the City Building (now the Heritage Center) is constructed.**
- 1887 Congress enacts the Interstate Commerce Act. **Mitchell-Thomas Hospital opened. Disastrous fire in Springfield.**

1888

Arcade struck by lightning.

1889

North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, and Washington admitted. Johnstown flood. **La grippe strikes the county. City Hall completed. Natural gas introduced. Post Office completed. Accident at Limestone St. bridge. Free library presented to the city by B.H. Warder. Destructive fire at New Carlisle. O.S. Kelly's gift enables construction of the 41-foot fountain on the Esplanade.**

Benjamin Harrison (1889-1893)

1890s

Interurbans connect Ohio cities with a hub in Springfield. Several statewide homes opened and Springfield becomes known as the "Home City."

1890

Idaho and Wyoming admitted. Indians massacred at Wounded Knee, South Dakota. Population of United States = 62,622,250.

Population of Ohio = 3,672,316.

Population of Clark County = 52,277**Springfield Trades and Labor Assembly founded, promotes the celebration of Labor Day.**

1891

New Orleans Riot. **Fire at New Carlisle. Pitchin Town Hall dedicated. Six ward bill enacted.**

1892

Populist Party founded. 12,819 schoolhouses in Ohio. **Landsown (Avalon and later Spring Grove) Amusement Park opens adjacent to Leffel's Lane. Zimmerman library opened. Tornado destroys 50 homes in city. Many injured by explosion at Cold Springs. Cornerstone of Masonic Home laid. Electric Street cars put into use.**

1893 Columbian Exposition at Chicago.
Harrison recommends annexation of Hawaii.
Ohio Financial Panic of 1893.
Flooding in May in county.
Odd Fellows Home opened.
National Scotch-Irish convention.
Young Men's Reading and Social Club founded. Later it becomes the Center Street YMCA.

Grover Cleveland (1893-1897)

1893-1897 Economic depression
1894 Great Coal Strike in Ohio.
Pullman Strike cripples the nation.
Death of B.H. Warder in Egypt.
Cornerstone laid for Knights of Pythias Home.
Arcade fire.
1896 Utah admitted.
1897 **The Mitchell Post, GAR, and local businessmen form the Clark County Historical Society.**

William McKinley (1897-1901)

1898 **Snyder Park opens on land donated by the Snyder Brothers.**
Lillian Gish moves to Springfield.
1900 Rise of the city: One-third of the U.S. population lives in cities.
150,000 phonographs and three million records sold and 4,000 automobiles manufactured.
Clark County population is 58,939, including 12,686 men, and 2,809 women in the workforce.
1901 Marconi invents the radio.
President McKinley assassinated in Buffalo, New York.
Springfield celebrates the centennial of its founding.
Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show in Springfield.
New Carlisle's "Fighting Fred Funston" captures Emilio Aguinaldo in the Philippine Insurrection.

Theodore Roosevelt (1901-1909)

1902-1903 **A series of major fires in Springfield.**
1903 Wright Brothers pilot the first plane at Kitty Hawk.
1904 Construction begins on Panama Canal.
Formation of International Harvester with corporate headquarters in Chicago.
A.B. Graham founds Boys and Girls Club, forerunner of the 4-H movement.
1904-1906 **Whites riot in black neighborhoods.**
1905 **Gus Sun opens vaudeville theater and booking agency in Springfield.**
Frank Lloyd Wright designs and builds a home for Burton J. Westcott.
1907 Oklahoma admitted.

William Howard Taft (1909-1913)

1911 Dayton's Charles F. Kettering demonstrates first electric self-starter for automobiles.
1912 New Mexico and Arizona admitted.
On maiden voyage, the British Liner *Titanic* sinks after striking an iceberg in the North Atlantic.
1913 Morgan and Rockefeller interests control more than 10% of the nation's wealth.
Springfield voters adopt a home rule charter government with a professional city manager.

Woodrow Wilson (1913-1921)

1914 World War I begins in Europe.
1915 *Lusitania* sunk by German submarine.
1916 **Westcott Motor Car Company begins production in Springfield.**
1917 U.S. enter World War I.
Five million cars in the U.S.
Revolution in Russia.

- 1918 World War I ends and President Wilson unsuccessfully campaigns for the League of Nations.
Springfielder Leon Roth carries Armistice to the front. International Harvester Company converts Springfield plan to trucks only.
- 1919 **Crowell Publishing acquires *Collier's Magazine* and moves headquarters to New York.**
- 1920 Women are guaranteed the right to vote with ratification of the 19th Amendment.
The census lists Clark County population at 80,728.
- 1921 **Edwin Parker begins making lawn Sweepers in Springfield. Ohio National Guard in Springfield to preserve order as new racial fighting erupts.**

Warren G. Harding (1921-1923)

- 1921-1923 Teapot Dome Scandal.
1922 **Civic Orchestra founded.**

Calvin Coolidge (1923-1929)

- 1923 **Ku Klux Klan meets in Springfield.**
- 1924 **Springfield becomes known as "Rose City."**
- 1925 Scopes Trial in Dayton, Tennessee.
Credit Life is founded.
- 1927 Lindbergh's Trans-Atlantic flight.

Herbert Hoover (1929-1933)

- 1929 Stock Market Crash; beginning of the Great Depression.
- 1930 **150th anniversary of the Battle of Piqua. George Rogers Clark Park founded.**
- 1931 The "Star Spangled Banner," song written by Francis Scott Key is officially adopted as national anthem.
- 1932 Twenty-month old, Charles Lindbergh Jr. is kidnapped from his home in New Jersey.
Bonded Oil Company opens first service station in Urbana.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt (1933-1945)

- 1930s **Chakeres' theaters spread across Ohio. New Deal programs help build City Hospital, U.S. Post Office, Clark Park, and many streets.**
- 1933-1941 New Deal programs enacted by Congress.
- 1935-1939 Dust Bowl in the mid-west.
- 1939 Germany invades Poland, World War II begins.
- 1941 Japan bombs Pearl Harbor and America enters World War II.
- 1941-1945 **Springfield industry turns to supplying war material; diesel engines for liberty ships, M-5 half-track trucks, torpedoes, military trucks, artillery shells, parts for the Norden bomb sight and numerous other items.**
- 1942 Allies invade North Africa and begin counter attack in the Pacific.
- 1943 Allies invade Italy.
Air Force cadets train at Wittenberg.
- 1944 Allied D-Day invasion, Marshall, Mariana, and Philippine island chains retaken.
- 1945 Iwo Jima and Okinawa retaken.
President Roosevelt, only four-term President, dies.
Victory in Europe on May 8.
Atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan surrenders on August 14.

Harry S. Truman (1945-1953)

- 1946 GIs return home, Baby Boom begins.
Growth of suburbia.
Marshall Plan to rebuild Europe.
Cold War begins.
"GI Bill" sends former soldiers to college.
Wittenberg College enrollment reaches 1,364 students.
- 1947 **Clark County Fair takes over the old Springfield Airport.**

- 1950 North Korea invades South Korea; UN forces land at Inchon; China enters war.
Mercy Hospital opens.
Clark County population is 111,661.
- 1953 Korean War Armistice signed.

Dwight D. Eisenhower (1953-1961)

- 1954 In Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas the Supreme Court orders end to segregated public schools in U.S.
- 1955 **Park Shopping Center, the first one in Springfield, opens.**
 Montgomery Bus boycott
- 1956 **Crowell-Collier closes its printing plant on Christmas Eve, 2000 workers lose their jobs.**
- 1957 Soviet Union launches Sputnik, first successful satellite.
- 1959 Alaska and Hawaii admitted.
- 1960s Nationwide Civil Rights Movement.
- 1960 **Local chapter of NAACP starts with Dorothy Bacon as secretary.**

John F. Kennedy (1961-1963)

- 1961 Bay of Pigs
Robert C. Henry, first black person elected to Springfield City Commission.
- 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis.
- 1963 March on Washington; Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream Speech."
 President Kennedy assassinated in Dallas.

Lyndon B. Johnson (1963-1969)

- 1964 Gulf of Tonkin incident, escalation of U.S. involvement in Vietnam.
Maurice K. Bach becomes first Jewish mayor of Springfield.
- 1965 Malcolm X assassinated.
- 1965-1973 Anti-war protests across the nation.

- 1965-1968 Urban riots throughout the U.S.
- 1966 **Robert C. Henry becomes first black mayor of Springfield.**
- 1968 Tet Offensive in Vietnam.
 Martin Luther King Jr. assassinated.
 Robert Kennedy assassinated.
Betty Brunk becomes first woman mayor of Springfield.
- 1969 Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin, first men to walk on the moon.

Richard M. Nixon (1969-1974)

- 1970s **Businesses begin to relocate around newly opened I-70.**
- 1970 Invasion of Cambodia, Kent State and Jackson State shootings.
The federal census shows Clark County population at 157,115.
- 1971 **Upper Valley Mall opens and draws business from downtown.**
Robert Burton announces plan to revitalize downtown. Core Renewal Corporation formed.
- 1973 U.S. Forces leave Vietnam.
- 1973-1974 Watergate scandal culminates in Nixon's resignation.

Gerald Ford (1974-1977)

- 1974 American Indian Self-Determination Act.
- 1975 Fall of South Vietnam.
- 1976 The Nation celebrates its Bicentennial.
One millionth truck leaves new International assembly line in Springfield.
- 1977 **Construction of new City Hall on the "Core" block, downtown Springfield.**