

COMMUNITY PROFILE - STEUBENVILLE, OHIO

All along the Ohio River are towns, cities and villages that have so much history and have played such a big part of making this Nation what it is. Steubenville is no exception.

Centered in a valley of the Seven Ranges with fertile soil, Steubenville was founded on the remains of Fort Steuben (destroyed by fire in 1790) by Bezallem Wells and James Ross in 1797. The first sale of town lots was on August 25 that year. Interestingly enough, Mr. Ross never actually resided in the town; his interests were basically real estate. Mr. Wells, on the other hand, lived here and was quite the entrepreneur. In the early 1800s, he began to diversify his business interests, and by 1815, he was instrumental in establishing a woolen mill. The three-story high building was approximately 100 feet long and employed an estimated fifty men, thirty women and forty children until it closed in 1819. The first bank was also established by Mr. Wells.



Fourth Street

By the late 1840s, Steubenville was home to 7,000. There were eleven churches, five woolen mills, two glass factories, a paper mill and an iron foundry. There were two private schools by 1846—one for boys and one for girls.



The 19th century saw the rise of steamboat trade with the construction of the *Bezallem Wells* in 1819-1820. The city attracted craftsmen and entrepreneurs in river trade. Another major industry was beer brewing with the first one established in 1815. By the 1870s, one brewery produced more than two thousand barrels of beer annually. The beer was aged in cellars dug more than one hundred feet into the sides of the hills that surround the town. The life of the breweries was threatened in 1908 when Jefferson County became a dry county. Local brewers did, however, continue to sell the alcohol to nearby counties, but then faced additional financial hardships when the eighty bars in town were forced to close. The breweries were closed for good with the passing of the Eighteenth Amendment in 1919.

In 1879, the Steubenville Pottery was founded by 25 citizens with \$25,000 worth of stock. Like many china companies, the company did not mark their name on the dinnerware. The pottery closed its door with its last firing on December 15, 1959 and sold its moulds to Canonsburg Pottery. Collectors can still purchase the pottery through dealers and on-line. This very pretty leaf design cup and plate to the right was manufactured by Steubenville Pottery and called Woodfield. This is one of two of the most recognized Steubenville lines



R. Fingers

Steubenville is the county seat for Jefferson County and has many historical sites and buildings. Union Cemetery opened in 1854 and is the final resting place for many of the founding fathers. The Jefferson County Courthouse was built in 1874 and a statue of Edwin McMasters Stanton, Steubenville native and Secretary of War under President Lincoln, graces the front lawn.



Edwin Stanton



Jimmy
"The Greek"

Other notable Steubenville residents include Dean Martin, Dimetrios Georgios Synodinos aka Jimmy "The Greek" Snyder (sports commentator and Las Vegas bookie) and Roland (Rollie) Glen Fingers (former relief pitcher in Major League Baseball). In 1946, the electric pizzelle iron was invented by Charles "Chip" DeMarco, another Steubenville native.

And, although it wasn't invented here or by a Steubenville native, the Westinghouse Air Brake (railroad brake) was tested here first in 1900.

The citizens of Steubenville have a rich heritage and are proud to say they live here.