In the early 1800s, a government scout, Mike “Auver” Myers, was awarded a section of land located along the west bank on the Ohio River for his outstanding service. In 1818, the area became known as Newburg, and attracted many settlers because of the beauty of its location as well as being situated above the highest flood plain. There was no manufacturing; however, it became a well-known steamboat landing as well as an inlet to the back country.

Industry flourished and the town grew. By 1853, the Carlyle & McFadden pottery was founded, and in 1856 the Cleveland & Pittsburgh Railroad came to the area. However, since the railroad already had a station called Newburg near Cleveland, the name was changed to Sloane’s Station after William Sloane who granted a right-of-way to the railroad.

The name changed again in 1881 when the town with a population of 2,536 (1890 census) was incorporated. Mr. Thomas Daniels, a pioneer manufacturer, suggested naming the town in honor of a business associate, W.F. Dunbaugh, from Toronto Canada and the chief stockholder in the Great Western Fire Clay Company. The citizens agreed and voted to change the town’s name to Toronto. By 1931, the village became the City of Toronto.

Toronto is also known as “The Gem City.” According to the city’s resident and visitor information guide, the name came from the many river boat captains who landed on the banks to load their barges. They said it was a “gem of a city” because the varied industries made it a one-stop shopping trip.

The city has the distinction of having the first World War monument ever erected in the United States. The world’s first titanium mill, Titanium Metals Corporation of America, was opened on November 2, 1957.

Besides having an impressive industrial history, Toronto can boast of being the hometown of two notable celebrities. After playing football in high school, William Clark Hinkle went on to a successful college career at Bucknell University where he was known as the “Bucknell Battering Ram.” From there, an outstanding career with the Green Bay Packers brought him induction into the Football Hall of Fame in 1971.

Perhaps the most famous Toronto resident was Robert Urich who also was an outstanding football player for his school and played for Florida State University on a scholarship. His real claim to fame, however, was in Hollywood. His career took off in 1972 when he played the younger brother of Burt Reynolds in the stage production of “The Rainmaker.” Through the course of his career, he starred in such TV series as “The Lazarus Man.” It was during this time he was diagnosed with cancer, but went into remission after treatment and resumed acting again with a role on “The Love Boat—The Next Wave.” Sadly, he lost his battle on April 16, 2002.

The gazebo is the gathering point for many community activities including a series of concerts sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce and an arts and crafts festival during the Labor Day weekend.

The citizens of Toronto have a reason to be proud of their city, and their pride shows!