

1830

In 1830, the first educational subscription school was built.

Note:

Pennsylvania had passed its first School Law in 1824 providing for the election of school directors in boroughs and townships. However, people across the Commonwealth were largely opposed to this law and it was generally ignored. However, Pine Grove established a subscription school in 1830.

Subscription schools were not free schools; they charged a fee for students to attend. School was in session six months of the year; girls attended for six months, boys for three. (See 1834)

This first building was a crude frame structure school erected on East Main Street near the current McDonald's site. It was twenty by thirty feet in size, sided with rough boards and used greased paper for covering the window openings. The front row of seats was student desks; there were slab seats around three sides of the room.

Nellie Bolton was the first teacher.

Before 1830, James Alexander had taught a dozen pupils in a log house east of town on the Harrisville Road.

1831

Methodists began holding meetings in the area.

Note:

There were no formal church organizations within the area of Pine Grove at this time. The Methodists, who were active in the area, began to hold meetings for interested settlers.

After a camp meeting in 1830 was held near Albin's Corners, five miles north of Pine Grove, a church group known as Pine Grove group, was formed and met for services in a log house at Brisco Springs, (also known as Perry's Corners [named after the blacksmith Jeff Perry, in the late 19th century] and later as Dye's Corners [after the Dye's Durant automobile dealership there]) on the Sandy Lake Road north of Pine Grove.

Following a subsequent camp meeting in 1832 on the George Taylor farm east of Pine Grove, a second church group known as Wolf Creek group was formed and met in a stone house 1½ miles southeast of Pine Grove on the Slippery Rock road.

In 1834, William Carroll became the pastor of both the Pine Grove and Wolf Creek church groups.

1833

William Fleming was the first storekeeper.

Note:

Fleming's store operated as a general store. (See 1840)

1834

As a result of free school law of 1834, the subscription costs of the school were eliminated and the school teacher was paid a regular salary.

Note:

In 1834, the state passed the free school law and funded municipal-level schools. The law did not go into effect until it was approved by local municipalities.

The law caused a statewide controversy and in 1835, petitions signed by thousands of voters were presented to repeal the law. The repeal was primarily prevented by the efforts of two individuals, the Governor, George Wolf, and Thaddeus Stevens. Stevens gave an historic speech in supporting the law. The repeal was rejected.

Later Thaddeus Stevens called the speech the "crowning utility" of his life.

Pine Grove is not identified on the 1931 map of Mercer County.

1835

The first store building in Pine Grove was constructed.

Note:

This building was erected by a Crocker. Crocker operated the store as a general store.

1836

Context:

On June 15, 1836, Arkansas became the 25th state.

1837

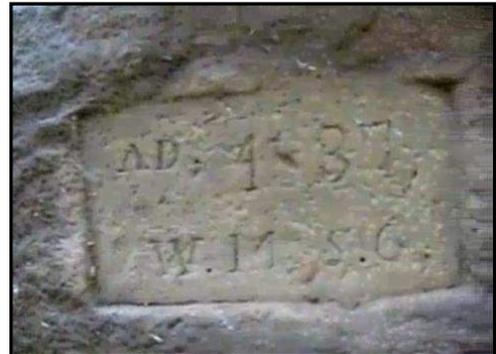
The Springfield Iron Furnace, the first iron furnace in Mercer County, was constructed c1837.

Note

The furnace was constructed by Seth and Hill in c1837 at the bottom of the Springfield Falls on Wolf Creek in Springfield Township. The furnace was also known as Seth and Hill.

The furnace utilized a large wooden water wheel housed in a stone pit to operate bellows to supply air to the furnace. This water wheel is believed to have been 38 feet in diameter and the second largest in the United States at the time.

The furnace operation expanded to include several buildings and became a major iron producer. Managers included a Mr. Sennett and William S. Schollard who operated the furnace until it closed in 1862.



This drawing (courtesy of Bruno Fine Jewelers) illustrates the extensive operation at the facility. The large wheel, the iron master's house, and the development in the surrounding area are visible.





This photograph shows the iron Iron Master's House, built c1840. The house may have also served as an office.

Archaeological excavations, begun in the spring of 2007, are ongoing the site. Dr. John R. White of Youngstown State University and Associates are overseeing the work.

1838

Context:

On Jan. 26, 1837, Michigan had become the 26th state.

A tannery was built in Pine Grove by Hirman C. White.

Note:

White acquired the land from the Tidball family and reconstructed a tannery on the site the Tidballs had previously operated a tannery.