



COMMEMORATING THE 200th ANNIVERSARY OF THE CITY OF BLOOMFIELD, KENTUCKY

WHEREAS, The City of Bloomfield, Kentucky celebrates its Bicentennial in the year of 2019, and it is fitting to recognize the City of Bloomfield on the occasion of this special milestone, and to applaud its distinguished history; and

WHEREAS, the City of Bloomfield was incorporated in 1819 by Dr. John Bemiss, who came to Nelson County from Rochester, New York in 1799, to a settlement about a mile from the current location of Bloomfield. That early town was comprised from smaller communities such as Middleburg (1779) and Gandertown (1782), Kentucky. Dr. Bemiss surveyed the land, designed the town beginning with Decatur and Perry Streets, and renamed it "Bloomfield." He arrived at that name by combining parts of the names of his wife, Elizabeth "Bloomer" Bemiss, and his daughters, Frances Bemiss "Merrifield" and Abigail Bemiss "Merrifield" (both daughters married Merrifield brothers); and

WHEREAS, in an 1847 publication Bloomfield was described as "a handsome town containing one Baptist Church, two physicians, five stores, two taverns, and sixteen mechanic shops, with a population of 400." In 1904, it had "a mill, two warehouses, two blacksmith and carriage factories, four groceries, a restaurant, three mammoth dry goods stores, a hardware house, two furniture houses, two banks, a barber shop, one baker, a tin shop, a livery stable, two hotels, two cemeteries, four mantua makers, two millinery houses, a jewelry store, an eye doctor, three allopathic doctors, one osteopath, one dental parlor, one calaboose, one dancing hall, one opera house, one Masonic Hall, and six churches. It also boasted several medicinal wells, as well as The Cumberland & Ohio Railroad; and

WHEREAS, agriculture was the prime industry, particularly the tobacco markets until The Tobacco Buyout Bill of 2004 led to the closing of Bloomfield's popular tobacco warehouses; and

WHEREAS, Bloomfield has supported several public schools throughout these 200 years, such as Bloomfield High School, Eli Brown Elementary School, Bloomfield Elementary, Bloomfield Middle School, "the old red schoolhouse" and many other "feeder" schools that existed in different areas near Bloomfield.; and

WHEREAS, Bloomfield was a popular gathering place for soldiers during The Civil War, as many fascinating stories have been published describing these stopovers...some amusing, some sad; and

WHEREAS, Bloomfield has been a constant host to numerous recreation venues. During the 1920's Bloomfield even had a swimming pool, located across from Bloomfield Baptist Church. There was once Roadside Park just outside of town, and now Bloomfield has its Community Park; and

WHEREAS, the City is comprised of 935 residents; the City currently has a volunteer fire department (which also protects the entire northeast section of the county), a doctors' office, a funeral home, a pharmacy, a dentists' office, a police department, a public library, a farm equipment dealership, a car wash center, two gas station/mini marts, a home decor shop, a children's boutique/gift shop, a pizzeria, a pet-grooming service, an upscale antiques store, a perfumery, an insulation business, a hardware/building supplies store, a barber shop, two hair salons, a child care facility, a computer-repair business, an American Legion Post, two auction houses (with one also serving as an event center), a Masonic Lodge, storage facilities, a lightning protection company, a "bed & breakfast", a Dollar General Store, an auto body shop, an auto repair service, numerous apartment complexes, two banks, a car dealership, eight churches, an EMS Station, numerous cemeteries, many historical homes, a recreation park, a Farmers' Market, City Hall and The Olde Bloomfield Meeting Hall (which operates as a bowling alley/event center); and

WHEREAS, the City of Bloomfield will proudly mark its 200th anniversary "Bloomfield Bicentennial" with two celebrations in the year of 2019, beginning with the Bicentennial Kickoff on Saturday, February 9th at The Bishop Center. The major Bicentennial will take place Saturday, June 8th with numerous events still being planned such as a Civil War living history, a City-wide yard sale, Fire Department History, City of Bloomfield Public Works history, the Bloomfield High School Museum (located in Wilson & Muir Bank in the History Room), the Veterans Pictorial Wall (located in American Legion Post 288), "200 Years of Agricultural History" display, "An Afternoon With the Past", and walking tours; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of the City of Bloomfield's rich history and enduring contributions, it is indeed an honor to pay tribute to this city upon the occasion of the Bicentennial; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that congratulations are sent to the City of Bloomfield and its current and former residents in celebration of the "Bloomfield Bicentennial."

Mayor Christopher M Dudgeon

Date