



---

Volume 19

Article 3


---

2013

## A History of the Early Fairfield Town Lots

Timothy H. Smith

Follow this and additional works at: <https://cupola.gettysburg.edu/ach>

 Part of the [Social History Commons](#), and the [United States History Commons](#)

**Share feedback about the accessibility of this item.**

---

Smith, Timothy H. (2013) "A History of the Early Fairfield Town Lots," *Adams County History*: Vol. 19, Article 3.  
Available at: <https://cupola.gettysburg.edu/ach/vol19/iss1/3>

This open access article is brought to you by The Cupola: Scholarship at Gettysburg College. It has been accepted for inclusion by an authorized administrator of The Cupola. For more information, please contact [cupola@gettysburg.edu](mailto:cupola@gettysburg.edu).

---

# A History of the Early Fairfield Town Lots

## **Abstract**

In 1732 Charles Carroll of Maryland received a grant of 5000 acres of land in present Adams County, Pennsylvania, from the authorities of Maryland. Soon after, a survey of that land, known as “Carroll’s Tract” or “Carroll’s Delight,” was conducted. At that point in time there was still some dispute over the location of the boundary between the two states. A temporary line was agreed upon in 1739, and a more permanent line (very near that temporary boundary) was surveyed by Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon during the 1760s. And even though it was established that Carroll’s Tract was in Pennsylvania, an agreement was made that Marylanders would retain their rights to the lands previously granted to them. But it is important to note that at an early date the people settling in this area knew they were in Pennsylvania. According to Charles H. Glatfelter, the most respected of local historians, “the widely held and long persisting notion that until many years later people did not know where the boundary line was and that it shifted from time to time has no basis whatsoever in fact.” [*excerpt*]

## **Keywords**

Adams County Historical Society, ACHS, Adams County, Pennsylvania History, Fairfield, Town Lots



## **Introduction**

In 1732 Charles Carroll of Maryland received a grant of 5000 acres of land in present Adams County, Pennsylvania, from the authorities of Maryland. Soon after, a survey of that land, known as “Carroll’s Tract” or “Carroll’s Delight,” was conducted. At that point in time there was still some dispute over the location of the boundary between the two states. A temporary line was agreed upon in 1739, and a more permanent line (very near that temporary boundary) was surveyed by Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon during the 1760s. And even though it was established that Carroll’s Tract was in Pennsylvania, an agreement was made that Marylanders would retain their rights to the lands previously granted to them. But it is important to note that at an early date the people settling in this area knew they were in Pennsylvania. According to Charles H. Glatfelter, the most respected of local historians, “the widely held and long persisting notion that until many years later people did not know where the boundary line was and that it shifted from time to time has no basis whatsoever in fact.”

As the years went by, Charles Carroll subdivided his land and sold off parcels of his grant to various individuals. On December 19, 1755, Irish born John Miller purchased 247 acres of land in “Carroll’s Delight.” According to Frederick County Deed Book E, 950-51:

This indenture made the nineteenth day of December in the year of our lord one thousand seven hundred and fifty five [1755] between Charles Carroll, Esq. of the City of Annapolis in the province of Maryland of the one part and John Miller of New Castle County upon Delaware of the other part . . . . in consideration of the sum of sixty pounds sterling to him in hand paid by the said John Miller the receipt where of he doth hereby acknowledge. . . doth bargain and sell unto him the said John Miller his heirs and assigns all that part of land called Carroll’s Delight which is included in the following metes and bounds beginning at a stone set in the ground being at the corner of James Maginly’s plantation on which he lives the said standing house being north 68 [degrees]

west about fifteen perches from a large hickory tree notched with nine notches being an outside corner tree of the tract called Carroll's Delight the said tree stands at the bottom (on the north side) of a steep hill from the afsd. stone or boundary, north sixty eight degrees west, two hundred and eighty perches to a black oak sapling from thence north two degrees west one hundred and ninety perches to a white oak tree sapling from thence south fifty five degrees & a quarter three hundred & fifty two perches from thence in a straight line to the place of beginning containing and laid out two hundred & forty seven acres more or less.

Little is known of John Miller or the details of his life. It is not certain when he emigrated from Ireland or how long he lived in Delaware. His wife was Isabella Henry, and according to family legend, is said to have been related to Patrick Henry. Obviously, this is the basis for the local tradition that Patrick Henry often stayed at the Fairfield Inn, a story which almost certainly has no basis in fact. It has been repeatedly written that John Miller settled on and built a house on this tract in 1757, but Miller does not appear on the list of taxables in Hamiltonban Township, York County in 1762. Nor does he appear on a 1768 list of taxables. The first documentable source that places him on the tract is a Hamiltonban Township tax list for the year 1772. And although it was clearly John Miller who laid out the town of Fairfield in 1784, he does not appear in existing tax records associated with the town. In the 1783 tax list it is his son William (with 7 inhabitants in his dwelling) who is assessed with 230 acres of ground and in 1784 William was assessed for 241 acres. And the 1785, 1788 and 1789 lists of taxables (following the establishment of Fairfield) noted William as being assessed for "ground rents." Thus, the tax records establish that William, and not his father John, was the founder and proprietor of Fairfield. Explaining the origins of Fairfield, H. C. Bradsby's *1886 History of Adams County* supports this deduction:

The village was surveyed in 1801 for Squire William Miller and named by him Millerstown. He built the first house here the same year, graded a few streets and alleys, and made a good effort to build up a little village. The venture was premature, for fully twenty-one years elapsed before progress beamed on the Squire's paper city. In 1822 Maria Furnace was constructed and put in operation at this point; religious societies were organized and local industries began to expand; then a church was erected, a school was established, and the substantial beginnings of a town were formed and the name changed.

There are, however, several glaring inaccuracies in the paragraph above, but unfortunately, this version of the establishment of the town (printed in what many consider our "official" county history) has largely gone unchallenged over the years. It is understandable, then, that many have credited William as being the first settler and the original owner and proprietor of the town.

A closer examination at the facts, however, suggests another explanation for the origins of the town. On February 14, 1801, William Miller drafted an agreement with the lot holders of Fairfield in order "to correct inaccuracies and to secure the privileges of waters, streets, and alleys for the benefit of the inhabitants." The inaccuracies referred to existed in the original agreement of the town, which the 1801 document stated was entered into by the lot holders of the town and John Miller on February 27, 1784. One of the early deeds of the town states that "John Miller did survey and lay off a part of the above described tract of land into a number of lots in the plan of the town and called the same Fairfield (Millerstown)." The date of 1784 is also confirmed by the fact that William Miller, as noted, is first taxed for ground rents in 1785.

It is also important to note that all early documents refer to the town by its current name. The story repeatedly told that it was originally called Millerstown, and not known as Fairfield until much later, is simply not true. A Hamiltonban Township petition dated 1785, for example, states: "There is a necessity for a public road to be laid out from Fairfield Town to William Miller's land into

the road leading to Baltimore.” And on the Reading Howell map of Pennsylvania published in 1792, the village is specifically identified as “Fairfield Town.” But often in early documents “Millerstown” is placed in parentheses after Fairfield or in some deed references “alias Millerstown” or “also known as Millerstown” (after Fairfield). Many references in early newspapers also refer to the town simply as Millerstown. This implies that the official name of the town was Fairfield, but that the town was nicknamed Millerstown after its founder, and that the latter term was widely used. It should be noted, however, that Fairfield was not a separate or official entity until the borough was incorporated in 1897, and so people could call it whatever they liked.

The earliest known deeds for the town appear in the York County Deed Books, as this area was part of that county until the year 1800. There are two known deeds issued by John Miller for three lots in Fairfield on February 22, 1787. These deeds were issued to William McMunn (Lots 1W and 2W) and William Reed (Lot 3E).

The exact date of John Miller’s death is not known, but his will, probated on April 8, 1794, indicates that he had died a short time earlier (the oft-repeated date of 1790 for John Miller’s death is another persistent inaccuracy). According to his will, written in 1787, his wife Isabella was entitled to two-thirds of his estate, along with their dwelling house, while his son William was entitled to the other third. William, named as the executor, was also directed to pay Agnes Reed (nicknamed Nancy), daughter of John and Isabella and intermarried with William Reed, 100 pounds in lieu of her share of the estate. Upon Isabella’s death, William was to inherit his mother’s share of the estate. Thus, at some point, William Miller became the sole proprietor of Fairfield. The date of Isabella Miller’s death is not known, but, the first known deed issued by William Miller is dated 1795.

John Miller’s will refers to “the house I now live in.” One of the longstanding debates amongst Fairfieldians is the original location of John Miller’s dwelling. Some believe that this structure was at the site of the house currently standing at 23 North Miller Street, a short distance north of the center of town. In other words, the original John Miller homestead passed into the possession of William Miller and

then later James Wilson and eventually Henry Landis. On the other hand, the various owners of the Fairfield Inn over the past fifty years have maintained that the structure they own is in part; the dwelling house of John Miller, built in 1757, with additions over time to the original home. Unfortunately, very few records from that period can be used to determine such details as the exact location of a house on a larger tract of land.

Let us examine, then, what various individuals have written on the subject over the years. An article on Fairfield's history printed in the *Gettysburg Times* on June 28, 1926, states that "The first house as far as could be ascertained had been built by William Miller in 1760 on the land which now comprises the Landis Farm, and in 1797, Mr. Miller built the first bank barn which was to be found in this section of the state, and so well was it constructed that it is still standing and in use at the present time." A later article in the *Gettysburg Times* (November 16, 1929) citing a Miller descendent, affirmed that "the original John Miller property is now in the possession of Mr. C. A. Landis. The old stone barn and the stone farm house are still standing and still in use. Those early pioneers evidently knew how to build a house which would endure." The same article included the transcript of a letter written prior to 1850 by John Reed, a grandson of John Miller. Speaking of his sister, Reed wrote that "Mary was intermarried with James Wilson in 1799. He is a farmer and owns the original farm of my grandfather, John Miller." The general consensus thus locates the original home of John Miller north of the current town, at the site of the Landis house. It should also be noted that the York Nichols Gap Road (current 116) was laid out in 1747 prior to John Miller's purchase of the property. And the placement of the Landis House is consistent with other homes built at the time -- well back from and not adjacent to the main road.

Obviously, the information or misinformation given in the *1886 History of Adams County* gained the notice of those interested in Fairfield's early history. Frank Moore, a resident of town with a deep love of local history, provided much valuable information in a *Gettysburg Times* article on June 30, 1932. The article features a photograph of the stone barn on the Landis farm, which it describes as the oldest structure standing in the town (the barn contains a date



stone of 1797). Since it was known from the *1886 History* that the town was founded in 1801 and that William Miller built the first house in the town that same year, it made perfect sense that the 1797 barn predated the town.

The first extant reference identifying the Fairfield Inn (often referred to as the Mansion House property) with the original Miller homestead occurs in an article printed in the *Gettysburg Times*, September 11, 1951. That year, Fairfield was in the throngs of a large sesquicentennial celebration, based on the belief that the town was founded in 1801. Speaking of William Miller, the article claimed that “his plantation house was the present Fairfield hotel and his barn is that still in use on the James Landis farm.” The same statement was repeated in a June 25, 1956, article on the history of Fairfield. The exact chain of reasoning can only be conjectured, but it seems that, over the years, William Miller and his father John were fused together into the same person. And since it believed that William Miller built the first house in town in 1801 and at that time he did own the Fairfield Inn property, then that house must have been the original Miller homestead. Later, when it became evident to those involved that it was William’s father John who had settled in the area and laid out the town much earlier, the date of the Miller homestead (thought to be the Fairfield Inn) was just pushed back to fit the story. Thus, today, the Fairfield Inn is said to have been built in 1757.

It should be noted, however, that in 1787, the lots upon which the Fairfield Inn now stand were sold by John Miller to William McMunn. From the sale price of five pounds it appears that the property was vacant at that time. In 1789 the lots were sold by McMunn to a David Hayes, for 55 pounds, making it apparent by that time that some structure was standing on the property. This is strong evidence that the oldest portion of the structure we now call the Fairfield Inn was built between 1787 and 1789. And it is equally apparent that, at some point prior to 1801, William Miller acquired (or reacquired) possession of these lots. Also of interest is the fact that there are two sale notices describing these properties, one for William Miller in 1823 and another for James Wilson in 1841. Both advertisements describe the Fairfield Inn property, as well as the Landis Farm property, and both neglect to mention any structure standing on the

future Landis property, other than the stone barn (built in 1797). In other words, there does not appear to be any dwelling house, to speak of, on the property where the Landis house now stands. This lends credence to the idea that the original Miller house was located at the Fairfield Inn property. However, in an 1810 advertisement for the sale of lots in Fairfield, William Miller noted that “the subscriber also offers for sale a good well finished log house but when sold must be removed to another lot.” It thus seems likely that the original John Miller home was destroyed or removed and that the Landis House was subsequently built on the site following that family’s purchase of the property in 1854. It should be remembered, moreover, that the first houses constructed by the early settlers were mostly made of logs and hastily built, and for that reason were eventually replaced by more substantial structure.

As earlier stated, on February 23, 1801, Miller and the lot holders of Fairfield formalized an agreement, which included a map indicating the lots laid out at that time and the holders of each of those lots. This extraordinary document provides us with a starting point in our study of the history of the various town lots, tying specific names to specific properties. This is important considering the gaps in the existing tax lists and the absence of recorded deeds. Unfortunately, not all of the holders of the lots in 1801 held clear title to them, as will become apparent in the following individual histories. As mentioned earlier, it is uncertain exactly what inaccuracies the 1801 document corrected, but there is one striking feature of the map when compared to the early deeds: The original location of the center of town was moved 60 feet further to the east. So, instead of being situated at the intersection of lots 1E, 1W, 1N, and 1S, it is currently located at 1N, 2N, 1E, and 2E. The reason for this movement can only be surmised, but it is noteworthy that a clear town square never developed in Fairfield as it did in so many other towns.

As for the development of the town, it seems certain that Fairfield was established in 1784. As already indicated, by 1785 William Miller was being taxed with ground rents. According to the 1801 agreement, there were 45 available lots in the town on either side of “York Street.” Presumably, the same number of lots was available in 1784. The lots fronted 60 feet on the main street and were 280 feet

in depth. Three lots are said to have been sold in 1786, and as cited in the York County Deed Books five more lots were sold in 1787. In 1788 the tax records of Hamiltonban Township include a note: "Lots improved and unimproved—21." An accounting of the individual properties shown in the tax records for that year, however, indicates 15 improvements on 35 lots. It should be recalled that the early lists also seem to record small properties elsewhere in the township described as lots, so two or three of these improvements are believed to be outside the town. Of interest is the fact that the term "Fairfield" is specifically used to define two lots in the 1788 tax list. The 1789 tax list identifies 34 lots in Hamiltonban Township on which are said to be 13 houses. The 1792 list also seems to reflect that there are 13 houses in the town. As examination of the 1795 tax list reveals 28 individual lots being taxed with what appears to be 14 dwelling houses.

In 1795 and 1797, William Miller is taxed for ground rents specifically valued at 6 pounds, 19 shillings, 2 pence. Since we know from early deeds that the ground rent was 7 shillings, 6 pence a year, this would mean that William was collecting rents on 18.5 lots. But this is probably not an accurate assessment, as the 1795 tax list indicated that there were 28 taxed lots in the township. Around the time of the formation of Adams County in 1800, the lot rents were converted from pounds into dollars and a one dollar-a-year ground rent was established. From 1802 until 1813, Miller is variously taxed for 25 or 26 dollars of rents. A comparison of 1801 agreement between William Miller and the lot holders of Fairfield and the 1802 tax list of Hamiltonban Township reveals that there were 18 dwellings in the town. These early sources are surprisingly consistent, allowing us to develop a frame of reference for the town's early history. In the first five years of its existence about a dozen houses were built and during the next ten years about a half dozen more. The *1886 History of Adams County* would have us believe that the town was founded in 1801, and that history further states that Miller's "venture was premature, for fully twenty-one years elapsed before progress beamed on the Squire's paper city." The 1820 census, which separates Fairfield from the rest of the township, indicates there were 30 families living in the Miller's "paper city" at that time. Speaking of the town's development, an article in the

September 11, 1951, *Gettysburg Times* contains the statement in that “Squire Miller attracted settlers by promising to give land free except for an annual quitrent of one dollar per lot.” Evidence to support this concept is sorely lacking. As a matter of fact, we have direct evidence that Miller was actively and aggressively selling lots, not giving them away. If someone was delinquent in paying his ground rent, Miller repossessed the lot.

As previously stated, Miller’s town included 45 lots in 1801. By 1810, he had laid out additional lots, and along with other lots that had remained unsold (or that he had reacquired or repossessed), he offered them for sale. His advertisement appeared in the *Centinel* on January 16, 1810:

In Millerstown (or Fairfield) the subscriber offers for sale a number of building and grass lots. As many applications have lately been made for lots of the above kind, he has though proper to give this public notice that the price of each lot will be \$30. Those suitable for building will contain a third an acre—the grass lots will contain half an acre—all fronting on the Main Street. They will each be subject to the annual ground rent of one dollar. Any person wishing to become a purchaser must apply on or before the 15<sup>th</sup> day of February next, as on that day, the numbers sold, will all be put into a box to be drawn either by the holder or his deputy, in order to determine the situation of each lot. But no drawing will be made unless the whole number offered for sale shall be taken. Six months from the day of the drawing will be given for payment or giving bond with sufficient security . . . . The subscriber also offers for sale a good well finished log house but when sold must be removed to another lot. William Miller.

The drawing or lottery must not have taken place (perhaps there was not enough interest) as the grass lots at the western edge of the town were still part of Miller’s property in 1823. It is evident from the notice given in an 1823 sheriff’s sale that these additional lots were numbered 14 through at least 21, extending the town westward

to the current McGinley Drive. But even though it appears that the grass lots at the western edge of town did not sell at that time, Miller did sell additional lots in his town as result of the advertisement. Recorded deeds indicate the sale of several lots by Miller that year. In 1814 the tax assessor apparently caught up with Miller because the ground rents he was taxed for jumped from 26 to 37 and would stay at that number until he sold his property in 1823.

Depending on one's calculations, William Miller was the proprietor or co-proprietor of the town of Fairfield or Millerstown for almost forty years. So what is really known about this man who had such a major influence on our local history? According to a family history in the files of the Adams County Historical Society, William Miller was born on May 25, 1755, in Cecil County, Maryland. (Keep in mind that the November 1755 deed issued by Charles Carroll to John Miller indicates that he was a resident of Delaware.) At an early age, William and his family settled in Hamiltonban Township, and at the outbreak of war with Great Britain he volunteered in the continental army. According to an application for the Sons of the American Revolution filed by one of his descendants, Miller served as ensign in the Sixth Pennsylvania Battalion, starting on January 9, 1776; as second lieutenant of the Seventh Pennsylvania, starting in December 1776, as a first lieutenant, starting on March 20, 1777; and finally as a captain, starting on April 17, 1779. He was released from service on January 17, 1781. A family history states that "he crossed the Delaware River with Washington and engaged in the Battle of Trenton. He received a portion (about six inches square) of a Hessian flag, captured at Trenton, and torn in pieces by Washington and distributed among his officers . . . . After the battle of Trenton, William Miller was ill (having spent the winter at Valley Forge) and was cared for at the home of Thos. Craig of Warrington (Martsville) Bucks Co., where he met the daughter Margaret, and after the war, went back and married her on March 10, 1784." During that same year his father laid out the town of Fairfield, and he and William became its proprietors. It is noteworthy that William's father-in-law, Thomas Craig, also moved to the area after the war, obtained a lot in the town, and spent the rest of his life in Fairfield. The remains of Craig and many other veterans of the American Revolution are today located in Lower Marsh Creek Cemetery.

William Miller was involved in local politics, serving for some time in the Pennsylvania State Legislature. He served as a state senator representing York and Adams Counties from 1805-1811, and in the state assembly for the terms 1804, 1813, 1814, and 1819. It may be of some interest that from 1810 to 1816, William Miller was taxed for owning a slave. Besides the town and the property around it, he owned other lands in Hamiltonban Township, and for a time he was taxed for a saw mill and a distillery.

Miller eventually encountered financial difficulties and began to sell off his land. In 1823 his remaining property was put up for sheriff's sale. Just days before the sale, however, Miller was able to sell his property to James Wilson, a Fairfield resident who had married one of William's nieces. The proprietorship of the town thus remained within the family. William then moved to Gettysburg, where he died eight years later on June 3, 1831, most likely in the old Dobbin House, which at that time was owned by his son Thomas Craig Miller. A notice of his death recorded that "the deceased took an active part in the Revolutionary struggle; and for many years represented this county in the legislature of Pennsylvania." Like his father before him, his original place of burial is unknown, but upon the opening of Evergreen Cemetery in 1854 his remains were removed to the place where his stone can be seen today. Following his death, his wife Margaret moved with her son James to Baltimore, where she died on February 11, 1844. The children of William Miller and Margaret Craig included James Henry Miller (January 20, 1778-May 12, 1853), one of the more prominent physician of his time; Thomas Craig Miller (December 14, 1789- April 19, 1860), a veteran of War of 1812, who later became the sheriff of Adams County; John Miller (April 13, 1795-1840), a civil engineer, who worked on the B&O Railroad; Jane Maria Miller (January 18, 1797-April 20, 1870), who was married to James D. Paxton, son of the Reverend William Paxton and a business partner of Thaddeus Stevens; Nancy Miller (July 24, 1799-March 25, 1877), who never married; and William Miller (April 3, 1802-February 4, 1826), a young lawyer who died on a steamer while on a trip down the Mississippi River. One note of interest concerning the Miller family is the story of Matthew Adam Miller, son of Thomas Craig Miller and grandson of William Miller. Matthew was born in Gettysburg, December 16, 1830, graduated from

Gettysburg College, followed the profession of civil engineering, working for a time on the B&O Railroad. He lived in Memphis, Tennessee, at the outbreak of the American Civil War and served in the Confederate army on various fortifications on the Mississippi River as a lieutenant of engineers.

When James Wilson purchased the property of William Miller on October 31, 1823, he assumed control of the original Miller farm; the Mansion House property; the lots that Miller had laid out that were still in his possession; and all of the annual ground rents. In consideration, William received \$8000. The deed was for “278 acres, ninety four perches neat measure including the town of Fairfield thereon located, the said William Miller & Thomas C. Miller nevertheless reserve to the purchasers of the town lots in the said town of Fairfield which has heretofore bought & has conveyances for their respective purchase, releasing to the said James Wilson and his heirs and assigns all the yearly quit rents reserved & due upon the said several lots according to the reservation made in the several deeds, from and after the first day of May next, forever.” Miller had made an agreement to sell 100 acres of his land to his son, Thomas C. Miller, in 1817 (the deal was never completed), and for that reason his name appears in the deed.

Many of the vacant lots of the town were subsequently sold and developed under Wilson’s ownership. Except for a few years when he deeded his property over to his son-in-law (Isaac Robinson), Wilson held the property until the mid-1850s, when he sold the farm north of the town to Henry Landis, and the lots surrounding the Mansion House property and ground rents to Peter Shively. James Wilson was one of the most highly respected citizens in the history of Fairfield. He was born in Hamiltonban Township on April 28, 1779, and in early life was a cabinet maker. He served as justice of the peace from 1811 to 1822 and from 1830-1859 , and in the United States House of Representatives from 1823 to 1829. He spent the last few years of his life in Gettysburg, dying in that town on July 13, 1868. According to the Gettysburg *Star and Sentinel*, “Mr. Wilson was a high-toned gentleman of the ‘old school,’ and it can be said of him that he never

solicited a vote for office, nor attended a political meeting to promote his own advancement. Thoroughly loyal, during the Rebellion he aided actively in sending volunteers to the war, by personal counsel and contributing from his private means.”

An 1845 description of the town noted: “Fairfield or Millerstown, a post village in Hamiltonban Township, 10 miles southwest of Gettysburg, contains 50 dwellings, several stores and taverns, 2 churches, a school house, and a number of mechanics’ shops. It is quite a brisk place; situate in a region of country well cultivated and productive—the scenery imposing—a fine view of Jack’s Mountain. There is some iron west of the village.” The 1860 Census for Hamiltonban Township, Adams County separated the “Town of Fairfield” from the rest of the township, giving its total population as 218 individuals.

Like many other towns north and south, Fairfield was deeply affected by the American Civil War. Throughout the war, men from the area enlisted and served in the Union armies. Because of the town’s location, the fear of invasion was a constant concern. On October 10 and 11, 1862, Confederate cavalry under the command of Jeb Stuart raided through South-Central Pennsylvania, passing through the town and gathering horses and supplies along the way. During the Gettysburg Campaign, the armies crisscrossed the area, and several skirmishes occurred near the town, before and after the battle. On July 3, 1863, a large cavalry action northeast of Fairfield spilled into the village, several of its building being used as hospitals. And on July 4 and 5, 1863, a large portion of the Confederate army passed directly through the town during its retreat, followed by a contingent of the pursuing Northern army. According to one resident, “Fairfield was on the main artery of the Confederate retreat after the battle of Gettysburg and older residents tell us that many were the pitiful sights of wounded and suffering soldiers dragging themselves through the deep mud of the streets.” These events made an indelible impact of the lives of the people of Fairfield.

In the years following the Civil War, the town grew rapidly. Many of the lots laid out by Miller on the western edge of the town were developed shortly after the war. Starting about 1868 Jacob Musselman and George W. Wortz developed the properties at the



eastern edge of the town. Lots were laid out and houses were built on the lands formerly owned by Daniel Musselman along East Main Street, along Water Street (also referred to as Chestnut Street) and Centennial Street (also referred to as Washington Street). Speaking of these improvements to Fairfield, the *1886 History of Adams County* specifically mentions George W. Wortz as “adding largely to its growth and prosperity,” being responsible or partly responsible for “twenty-eight houses in the town.” These post-civil war properties, however, are beyond the scope of this study.