

Decade at a glance

1866 – 1875

In the decade after the Civil War, the city turned its attention homeward. Many improvements were made in the last half of the 19th century.

In 1872, the Scioto Valley Railroad was completed, which soon spelled the end for the canal.

City gets a park

One of the biggest changes was the establishment of Yoctangee Park, the present-day home of the bicentennial monument and many other amenities.

In 1873, the city purchased the swampy mosquito-infested tract of land for about \$5,500.

The old river bed had partially dried up after construction of a levee for laying railroad tracks.

In a city council meeting, councilman William Poland made a suggestion that would affect Chillicothe residents to this day. Poland urged that the area, which was also a dumping ground for sewers, be transformed into Chillicothe City Park, now Yoctangee Park.

The decision has had a lasting affect on Chillicothe. Today, Yoctangee Park has a new fully handicapped-accessible playground under construction, is a centerpiece for city recreation and is among the finest city parks in Southern Ohio.


Another governor

In 1874, William Allen became the third man from Chillicothe to serve as governor of the state. Allen served from 1874 to 1876.

With America's most brutal war behind them, Chillicotheans also looked toward entertainment.

By the early 1870s, brass bands were sprouting around the county.

By 1873 there were three such bands



W.H. Donaldson's balloon ascension from Paint and Second streets, 1872.

in Chillicothe and one each in the villages of Adelphi, Massieville, Bambridge and Bourneville.


After all these years, Adelphi Band is still swinging.

Baseball was also first exhibited in Chillicothe in the late 1860s.

Spawmed from the English game of cricket, the game that would become "America's game" was first played in

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- Fromm family starts German newspaper, "Unser Zeit"
- A reported 8,000 show up for a Ulysses S. Grant presidential rally



Women's Temperance League, Temperance Alliance formed here •
 Southern School, built for black students, opens at Walnut and Seventh •
 Chillicothe's market house, where city building stands now, closes •

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