

## SIGNIFICANT EVENTS IN WALNUT HISTORY

- **1869** Walnut Creek Station, a water stop on the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railroad (CRIP)
- **1869** Railroad agent E.R. Hinkley markets land
- **1869** The town plat is done by the Allen Company
- **1871** O.F. Lodge begins first general merchandise store
- **1872** Miss Jennie Hall teaches students in one room of old hotel
- **1872** John H. Phillips organizes the Union Sunday School which met initially in the railroad depot. It later met in the Hinckley home, Snyder's Hall, and in the Presbyterian Church in 1878.
- **1872** Dr. Frank Hanna practices medicine in Walnut from 1873 until 1936
- **1873** Layton Township formed (previously part of Knox)
- **1873** Catholic Church built
- **1875** Walnut School built for \$5,000
- **1876** Presbyterian Church built – still standing
- **1877** Town of Walnut incorporated
- **1877** J.B. Johannsen opens real estate and insurance business, later acquiring E.R. Hinkley interests
- **1878** Walnut News, later Walnut Bureau, first published
- **1880** City Water Works built; population reaches 1,000
- **1881** Fire destroys most buildings on west side of Main Street block
- **1887** Another major fire destroys 17 buildings, yet another later takes 8 more
- **1887** Underground water mains and standpipe installed
- **1897** 24 gas burning street lights installed

- **1898** German Church (Peace Church) built
- **1910** Boy Scouts organized with sixteen members
- **1911** Hansen brothers build the River-to-River Garage  
(Walnut was on the “River-to-River Road”, a “named highway”)
- **1915** Walnut brick street laid
- **1917** Wrestler Earl Caddock becomes world heavyweight champion
- **1920** Walnut Community Club organized by Walnut businessmen  
Hugh Burmeister first temporary chairman
- **1926** Meyer Ruback and Abe Baker opened a grocery store  
(this was to be the Baker of Omaha’s Baker’s Supermarkets)
- **1938** Railroad overpass (viaduct) built
- **1944** World War II made an impact on Walnut when a B-24 bomber crashed  
south of town
- **1951** Stan Olsen purchased the Drea Motor Co.  
(this was to be the Stan Olsen auto dealer of Omaha)
- **1953** Last train through Walnut
- **1957** Girls’ basketball team goes to State tournaments
- **1964** Peace Haven Retirement Home dedicated
- **1964** Interstate 80 construction
- **1984** Walnut Improvement Co. publishes tourism vision
- **1987** Walnut designated “Iowa’s Antique City”
- **1990** New Fire Station is completed
- **1991** Old-fashioned street lights are installed on Antique City Drive
- **2003** New water tower is erected
- **2009** New water plant is operational

- **2010** “Walk of Honor” Eagle Monument is completed
- **2011** Splash Pad is installed in Fireman’s Park

**Facts Compiled by Bob Greenwall of Walnut, Iowa**

**For a CD containing accounts of the Walnut fires, the “River-to-River Road” and more, contact:**

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