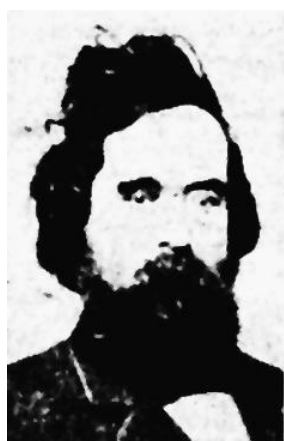


A Day in the Life of William Beaumont

Founded in 1800 and situated at the junction of the Licking and the Muskingum Rivers, Zanesville, Ohio was an active frontier town. By 1812, the population had grown to 1400 people.¹ As the Town grew, it became an important commercial center with shops and mills producing and selling soap, candles, and pottery. By the time William Beaumont appeared on the scene, Zanesville had seven iron foundries, a cotton mill, five flourmills, four sawmills, two oil processors and a paper mill.²



William Beaumont³

William Beaumont was born 24 January 1803 in Twyford, Hertfordshire, England and was baptized on 8 April 1803.⁴ As a young man in England, he graduated Eaton College, learned the trade of milling flour⁵ and eventually made his way to Ohio around 1843.⁶

Along with a partner, William bought a Flour Mill in Zanesville in 1843 only to watch it burn to the ground in 1845.⁷

William married Miss Matilda Hazlett on June 10, 1853⁸ and they proceeded to have four children: Elizabeth, Caroline, Alice and William.⁹

Finding a new group of partners after the fire, William and his group bought the Pataskala Mill in 1854¹⁰ and operated it as a flour mill until his death in 1873.¹¹

¹ "Zanesville, Ohio," *Ohio History Central* (<http://ohiohistorycentral.org/>) : accessed 24 March 2016.

² Ibid.

³ "Licking River Mill Served This Area for Generations," *Sunday Times Signal* (Zanesville, Ohio), 13 January 1952, Section 4, p. 1.

⁴ Bishops Stortford (Hertfordshire, England), entry for William Beaumont 8 Apr 1803; database on-line, *Ancestry.com* (<http://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?indiv=1&dbid=2972&h=226035> : accessed 23 March 2016) citing *General Register Office: Registers of Births, Marriages and Deaths surrendered to the Non-parochial Registers Commissions of 1837 and 1857*, Class Number: RG 4; Piece Number: 661, The National Archives of the UK; Kew, Surrey, England.

⁵ "Licking River Mill," *Sunday Times Signal* 13 January 1952.

⁶ "U.S. and Canada, Passenger and Immigration Lists Index, 1500s-1900s," database on-line, , *Ancestry.com* (<http://search.ancestry.com/> : accessed 23 March 2016), Ohio, Year: 1844, Page 3, index entry for William Beaumont; citing "Passenger and Immigration Lists Index, 1500s-1900s," Filby, P. William, ed., Gale Research, Farmington Hills, MI.

⁷ "Licking River Mill," *Sunday Times Signal*, 13 January 1952.

⁸ Jordan Dodd, Liahona Research, "Ohio, Marriages, 1803-1900," database on-line, *Ancestry.com* (<http://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?indiv=1&dbid=5194&h=117437> : accessed 23 March 2016) entry for William Beaumont and Matilda Hazlett, 10 Jun 1853.

⁹ "Licking River Mill," *Sunday Times Signal*, 13 January 1952.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Findagrave.com, *Find A Grave*, digital images (<http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=qr&GRid=6170790> : accessed 23 March 2016), gravestone for William Beaumont IV, Zanesville, Ohio.

According to his obituary¹³, William considered himself a Universalist; but there were no Universalist services available in Zanesville so he worshipped with his family at the First Presbyterian Church. He was highly respected in his community and was considered a man of integrity.¹⁴

According to the cited article from the *Sunday Times Signal*, Mr. Beaumont became a successful businessman and lived with his family in a large home near his mill on a street named for him. He was well-read and along with his friends, met weekly to

read Shakespeare's plays together. He was also known to provide a quality product that was chemically analyzed in 1846 by the patent office and pronounced the highest quality of all samples of flour tested.

William's family stayed in Zanesville, Ohio for at least two generations and, as of 2016, descendants still live within 75 miles of the site of his home on Beaumont Street.

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Pataaskia mill as pictured in Muskingum county atlas of 1866, showing Beaumont residence on left.

Home and mill of William Beaumont¹²

¹² "Licking River Mill," *Sunday Times Signal*, 13 January 1952.

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ Ibid.