Early homestead locations
A 1855 Henry J Verrill  G 1855 James Ryan
B 1855 Charles Verrill  H 1855 H. Potter
C 1855 L. Morse       I 1856 John Gilman
D 1855 G. Wilson      J 1856 John Farquhar
E 1855 L. Nason       K 1856 B. Verrill
F 1855 R. Farquhar    L 1856 Thomas Scott

Points of historic interest
1. John Farquhar home 13151 Pilot Knob Rd; believed oldest house standing in Apple Valley
2. Site of first school building (1855), log building
3. Site of first frame school (1857), destroyed by fire
4. Site of first church services, Potter house (1857)
5. 1862 Lebanon Cemetery, pioneer gravestones
6. Meeting site for organizing Lebanon Township May 11, 1858, W.L. Hardick house
7. Dodd Blvd. (Road) constructed by Capt. Dodd Mankato to Mendota in 1849
8. Site of District 17 schoolhouses late 1850's-1960
9. Site of District 18 schoolhouses 1858 to 1950
10. Old Cedar Avenue, now called Galaxie Avenue
11. 1879 Moeller homestead, 12902 Johnny Cake Rd
12. 1890 Hagemeyer homestead, Johnny Cake Rd, site of Hagemeyer school 1906-1935
13. Location of Thomas Scott home
14. Location of Frank Scott home
15. Location of William Scott home
16. 1928-1982 Site of Eatons Ranch
17. 1930 Site of oil drilling attempt
18. 1942 to 1974 Site of Southport Airport
19. 1963 Site of Orin Thompson first model homes
20. 1966 First volunteer fire station
21. Site of Town Board meetings, Westview School 1965 to 1966, Apple Valley's temporary city hall
22. 1974 First community medical center
23. 1978 Minnesota Zoo, first state zoo in nation
24. 1976 First Apple Valley High School
25. First Apple Valley city park
26. Lac Lavon. Former gravel pit made into a lake


April 26, 1858: County commissioners establish Lebanon Township.

May 11, 1858: Citizens organize township; B. Verrill elected chairman; B.M. James and C.R. Clough, supervisors.

1903: Rural Free (mail) Delivery reaches Lebanon.

1920: Frank Scott starts gravel operation.


1938: Electrical service reaches Lebanon.

1944: Southport airport licensed and used for military training.

1955: Knottywoods subdivision builds 19 homes.


November, 1968: Vote to incorporate and change name to Apple Valley.

December 17, 1968: Rev. Fred Largen, elected first mayor; Mike Garrison, Phil Pearsall, Bob Hollenbeck, and Will Branning first councilmen.

January 1, 1969: Lebanon Township becomes the Village of Apple Valley.

January 1, 1974: State statute changes name to City of Apple Valley.

Apple Valley

The history of Apple Valley is a story of contrasts. For 100 years Apple Valley was known as Lebanon Township. From its first homestead claim in the spring of 1855 the township remained a rural community with large farms and self-reliant people. For a century Lebanon’s population never surpassed 400. It never had a downtown. It was never crossed by a railroad. And, citizens used the few developed roads to go to market, to church, to high school, and to the doctor ... all in other communities. Community services, when needed, were provided by individual or cooperative effort.

In 1955, a century after the first land claim, a subdivision of 19 homes initiated the coming change in Lebanon’s landscape and way of life. Within five years, another 124 homes increased the population by 60 percent. The next eight years brought 1,500 more homes. Lebanon’s population now approached 8,000. The year was 1968 and a new suburban community was in the making.

In late 1968 Lebanon’s citizens voted to incorporate as a village and selected Apple Valley as its name. The Village of Apple Valley became a reality with formal incorporation on January 1, 1969.

Apple Valley’s citizens now embarked on a modern day pioneering effort, creating a new community. Each step was a first...the first police and fire department, the first park, the first high school, the first ... just about everything ... including the communities first downtown.

Sponsored by the Apple Valley Historical Committee and prepared by the Dakota County Historical Society.