In 1790, the land that is now known as Ludlow, was given to General Thomas Sandford as a grant in recognition of his service during the Revolutionary War, however, Sandford traded the land to Thomas D. Carneal for land in Fort Mitchel. Carneal built Elmswood Hall on the riverfront in 1818, which still stands today as a private residence. Carneal later sold the land to William Bullock, who planned to design a utopian community, but later sold the land to Israel L. Ludlow in 1830. The city of Ludlow, named after its owner at the time, was then incorporated in 1864.