

SOME FIRSTS IN LINCOLN COUNTY

By Hobert D. Ragland

Special tribute was paid the pioneers of Lincoln County in the sixtieth anniversary of the Old Settlers' Day of Lincoln County held on September 7, 1951. Many of them who have had a part in the making of the county are still living, and were present for this memorable occasion when "Some Firsts in Lincoln County"¹ reviewed the early history and recalled experiences of the first settlers here. Lincoln County is one of the first carved out of Oklahoma's first opening of Indian reservation lands to white settlement, in 1891.² The land now included in this county had belonged to or had been claimed by different nations and Indian tribes before its organization as a part of Oklahoma Territory in this same year.

Prior to 1763, both Spain and France laid claim to the country included in the Louisiana Purchase, of which Lincoln County is a part. Coronado, the first white man to cross what is now Oklahoma, gave Spain the first claim to the territory. The French explorer Robert de La Salle who explored the Mississippi river, was one who gave France a claim to the territory. By the Peace of Paris 1763, which followed the French and Indian War, France surrendered all her claim of Louisiana, to Spain.³ By the treaty of San Ildefonso, 1800, Spain ceded the land to France, and on December 20, 1803, France sold it to the United States.⁴

Though no tribe of Indians inhabited the land of what is now Lincoln County (according to available records) prior to 1800, it was claimed by the Osages. In 1825, they surrendered their claim to

¹ An address, from which this article was adapted for publication in *The Chronicles*, was prepared by the Rev. Hobert D. Ragland, Pastor of the First Methodist Church of Chandler, Oklahoma. Mr. H. C. Brunt, of Chandler, the general supervisor of the celebration on the Old Settlers' Day of Lincoln County, in September, 1951, has a register of the signatures of old settlers of Lincoln County, since September 21, 1921. An interesting account about Mr. Brunt is given in the *Chandler-News Publicist*, Thursday, September 4, 1941, Section Two, p. 8.

² "The first opening of Indian lands was on September 22, 1891, and included the Iowa, the Sac and Fox, and the Potawatomi-Shawnee reservations . . . Two counties were formed from this area and were designated County A and County B. Also, Logan, Oklahoma, Cleveland and Payne counties were enlarged by strips of land added to each. In the general election in 1892, people in the two new counties voted for county officers and for county names. County A was named "Lincoln County," and County B, "Pottawatomie."—Muriel H. Wright, *Our Oklahoma* (Guthrie, 1919), pp. 258-59.

³ *Ibid.*, p. 54. Most of Oklahoma, including Lincoln County, was a part of the Province of Carolina, that extended "from sea to sea," granted by King Charles of England, in 1663, to the Earl of Clarendon and the Duke of Albemarle and their associates.—*Ibid.*, p. 53.

⁴ Victor E. Harlow, *Oklahoma, Its Origins and Development* (Oklahoma City, 1950), p. 62.

all land in what is now Oklahoma from the western border of the Arkansas territory to the One Hundredth Meridian, to the United States.⁵ By treaties of 1825, 1826, 1832 and 1833, the United States ceded all of the old Osage lands between the South Canadian river and the Cherokee Outlet (a strip of land extending across the northern part of what is now Oklahoma) to the Creek tribe of Indians.⁶ By a treaty of 1866 which followed the Civil War, the Creeks gave up the western half of their land to the United States to be used as homes for other tribes of Indians.⁷ By the terms of a treaty dated February 18, 1867, part of the Creek cession (the eastern part of what is now Lincoln county, and other small portions of Payne and Pottawatomie counties) was in due time assigned the Sac and Fox Indians for a reservation.⁸ By an executive order of August 15, 1883, a reservation including the northwestern part of what is now Lincoln county was set aside for the Iowa Indians, and a reservation including most of the southwestern part of what is now Lincoln county was set aside for the Kickapoos.⁹

The oldest settlement in what is now Lincoln county was the Sac and Fox Agency, located some five miles south of Stroud, Oklahoma. This settlement consisted of the agency and Mission School established for the Indians under the supervision of the Quakers. The first agent was Thomas Miller, a Quaker, appointed by President Grant. The Agency was established in 1870 soon after settlement of the Sac and Fox Indians on their new reservation.¹⁰ It was abandoned in 1919,¹¹ and all legal papers and other property were transferred to the Shawnee Indian Agency south of Shawnee.

⁵ Charles J. Kappler, compiler and Editor, *Indian Affairs: Laws and Treaties*, Vol. II, pp. 153-56.

⁶ *Ibid.*, pp. 151-53, 188-91, 247-49, and 235-88, respectively. The Seminoles by treaties of 1832 and 1833 accepted land jointly with the Creeks (*ibid.*, pp. 344-345). Eight years later the Seminole tribe received that portion of the Creek domain between the North and South Canadian rivers (Grant Foreman, *Indian Removal* [Norman, 1932], p. 324, f.). Only a small portion of Lincoln county (*i.e.*, about one section of land in the southwestern part of the county) was in the Seminole Nation.

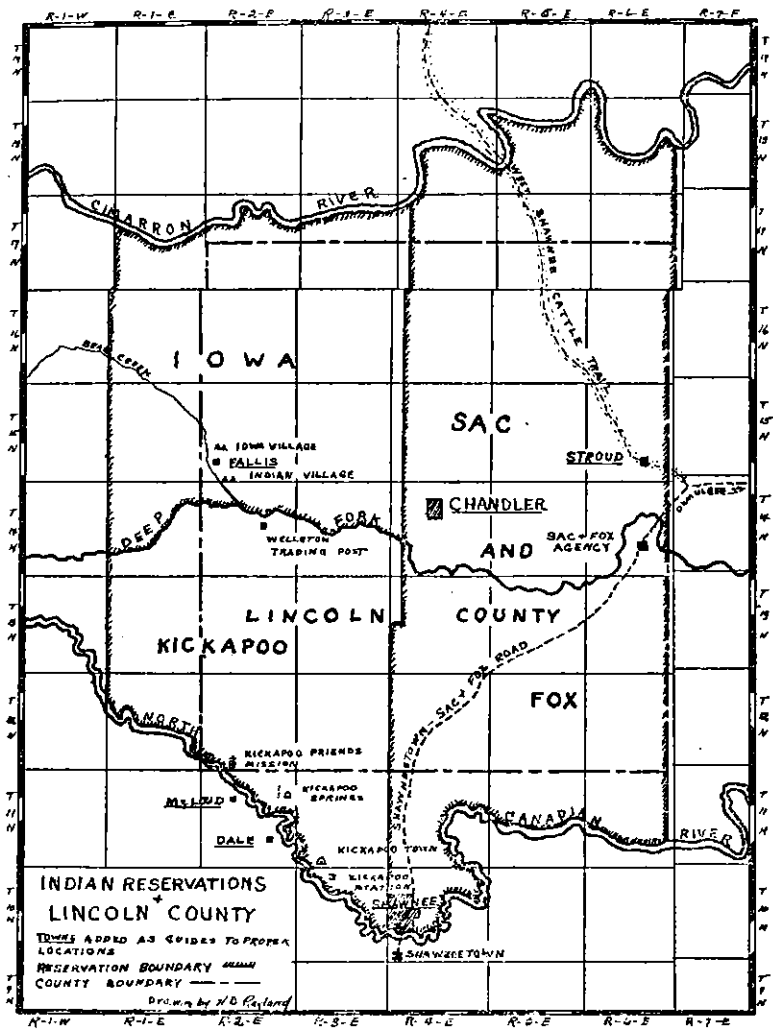
⁷ Kappler, *op. cit.*, Vol. II, pp. 714-19. The Seminoles surrendered the western part of their nation the same year (*ibid.*, pp. 694-700).

⁸ Kappler, *op. cit.*, II, pp. 732-37.

⁹ *Ibid.*, I, pp. 843, 844. The Iowas were located on their reservation between the years of 1880 and 1883. The Kickapoos were located on their reservation in 1874 and the years following. The extreme southwestern corner of what is Lincoln county was a part of the reservation assigned the Potawatomi Indians, 1867 (*ibid.*, II, pp. 748-52).

¹⁰ *Annual Report, Commissioner of Indian Affairs*, 1870, p. 269. The Sac and Fox arrived upon their new reservation in December of 1869.

¹¹ *Sac and Fox-Sub-Agency Files*, Indian Archives, Oklahoma Historical Society, Oklahoma City. In a letter from the Department of Interior, E. B. Merritt, assistant Commissioner of the Office of Indian Affairs to Ira C. Deavers, superintendent of the Shawnee School, at the Shawnee Agency, dated June 21, 1919, authority was given to close the agency as of July 1, 1919.



Historic Sites on former Indian Reservation
Areas in Lincoln County, Oklahoma

Another early Indian settlement was at the Iowa Village, a place which was about one mile northwest of present Fallis, Oklahoma.¹² An Indian village was also located about one and a half miles south of Fallis, and is shown on early maps as the "Indian Village." It was in existence in 1871, when the land in that section was surveyed.¹³

Historical records state that the oldest white settlement was the Wellston Trading Post, established in 1880 by Christian T. Wells. It was located on a spot in the southwestern part of what is now the townsite of Wellston, Oklahoma.¹⁴ The post was sold to D. Turner who ran it until 1889 when the business was sold to S. E. Dewees. After the opening of the Iowa reservation in 1891, the affairs of the post were taken over by the little town of Ingram located about one mile northwest of the present town of Wellston.¹⁵ After the opening of the Kickapoo Reservation in 1895, Mr. Thomas D. Craddock, on April 27, 1898, laid out a townsite south of Deep Fork, which was given the name of Wellston (named for the old trading post).¹⁶

Prior to 1873, the firm of Rankin and Gibbs established the first store in what is now Lincoln county. The store was at the Sac and Fox Agency, on a spot that is now the center of State Highway No. 99, just four and three quarter miles south of Stroud.¹⁷ Alexander Rankin, one of the firm, was later permitted to trade with the Indians of the Agency at Shawneetown and Kickapoo Springs. Kickapoo springs were about two miles northeast of McLoud, Oklahoma. Hiram Gibbs another member was later connected with the Whistler, Pickett, and Company, a trading firm at the Agency. Another trading firm was the Conklin, Grimm and Company, consisting of Edgar L.

¹² "Interview with Clyde Stanley Hyde," *Indian Pioneer History*, Foreman Collection, Vol. 85, pp. 439-440. It was at this village that the Cherokee Commission met to make agreement with the Iowas to take allotments. The village was located in sections 19 and 20, Township 15 North, Range 2 East of the Indian Meridian.

¹³ *Township Plat Book* (Lincoln County, Chandler, Oklahoma). This volume is in the County Clerk's office. This Indian Village is shown on the plat to be in the southwest corner of Section 32, Township 15 North, Range 2 East of the Indian Meridian.

¹⁴ "Wellston Old Trading Post," *The Daily Oklahoman* (Oklahoma City), Sunday, April 23, 1930, Oklahoma City Section, Col. 4, p. 39.

¹⁵ *Farm Directory of Lincoln County*, 1918, p. 78. A few copies of this directory are still in existence. Mr. H. C. Brunt of Chandler, Oklahoma, has a copy.

¹⁶ "Wellston Derived Name From First Post Trader," *Chandler News-Publicist*, for Tuesday, September 4, 1941, Sec. 3, Col. 4, p. 1. See also "Interview with Joseph C. Dewees," *Indian Pioneer History*, Foreman Collection, Vol. 83, pp. 186-188.

¹⁷ *Field Notes, Subdivision Lines*, of Township 14 North, Range 6 East, reading north between sections 21 and 22. A set of these field notes is in the County Surveyor's office of Lincoln county, Chandler, Oklahoma. There is also a set in the Law Library at the State Capital, Oklahoma City. The township plat for this township shows the location of the store. On October 26, 1874, John R. Pickering, agent at the Sac and Fox agency, placed an order amounting to \$891.65 with this firm for supplies to be freighted to the Kickapoos who had just arrived from Mexico. See Martha Bunting, "The Mexican Kickapoos," *The Chronicles of Oklahoma*, Vol. XI, No. 1, (March, 1933), pp. 706-07.

Conklin, Philip C. Grimm, Aloys Grimm, Jr., John B. Charles, and Peter Hoffman.¹⁸

In April 1872, the first school in what is now Lincoln County was established in the unfinished dwelling of the physician at the Sac and Fox Agency. Twelve pupils (girls and boys equally represented) were enrolled. Joel Willis was the teacher and Elizabeth Willis, matron.¹⁹ In 1873 or 1874, a small brick one-room building was built to accommodate the little school.²⁰ This was enlarged in 1892 by the addition of a two-story frame structure to the south end of the little building.²¹ In 1873 or 1874, a three-story brick dormitory was built a few feet west of the school building.²² Both boys and girls boarded here at first. A frame addition was added in 1875.²³ In 1892, a girl's dormitory, a two-story frame structure, was built east of the school.²⁴ All these buildings were abandoned in 1919, when the affairs of the Agency were transferred to the Shawnee Agency.

The first religious organization in what is now Lincoln County was maintained by the Quakers at the Sac and Fox agency. Religious services were held at the Mission School. There was also stationed at the agency a Baptist missionary by the name of William Hurr, an Ottawa Indian.²⁵ He built a little church building at the agency which was still in existence in 1880.²⁶ This was possibly the first church building to be built in what is now Lincoln county. Other mission churches were later established among the Iowas at the Iowa Village and the Kickapoos.²⁷ The Friend's mission church

¹⁸ "Whistler Material, Section X, and Conklin Grimm and Co." *Sac and Fox-Traders*, Indian Archives, Oklahoma Historical Society, Oklahoma City.

¹⁹ "Report of Joel Willis to Agent," *Sac and Fox-Sac and Fox School Files*, Indian Archives, Oklahoma Historical Society, Oklahoma City.

²⁰ *Annual Report, Commissioner of Indian Affairs*, 1874, p. 28, *Sac and Fox-Buildings-Files*, Indian Archives, Oklahoma Historical Society, Oklahoma City. See also Field Notes *op. cit.* The little school was located in the southwest quarter of Section 22, Township 14 North, Range 6 East. Only a portion of the walls of the building are standing today (1951).

²¹ *Sac and Fox-Buildings-Files*, *ibid.* This building burned a few years ago.

²² *Annual Report, Commissioner of Indian Affairs*, 1874, p. 231. This building is still standing but in a delapidated condition (1951). A picture of the original building is in the Indian Archives, Oklahoma Historical Society, Oklahoma City.

²³ *Annual Report, ibid.*, 1875, p. 284 f.

²⁴ *Sac and Fox-Buildings-Files*, *op. cit.* This building also burned a few years ago.

²⁵ *The Chandler News*, Friday, December 10, 1897. The reports of this minister were included in the agent's reports to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs at different times.

²⁶ *Annual Report, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, ibid.*, 1880, p. 93. I have a picture of this little church. It was built from proceeds of the Baptist Association. The building was a frame structure and stood just north of the agent's building. The parsonage stood just south of the church and was built of logs.

²⁷ *Annual Report, ibid.*, 1890, pp. 202, 203, 18½2, p. 264. The report of agent Samuel L. Patrick to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs in 1892 contains a very interesting report of Miss Elizabeth Test, field matron among the Mexican Kickapoos. She gave a very interesting description of the domestic life of the Kickapoos at that time.



Old Store, First Building Erected at Sac and Fox Agency.



Sac and Fox Agency, School House in 1875.



Wellston Trading Post about 1890. S. E. Dewees and Family.

located in the southwestern part of the county is probably the oldest church building in Lincoln county. The Quakers (Friends) maintained headquarters at the Friend's church located at the Shawnee Agency. This little church building is still standing, and is used by the Pottawatomie County Historical Society.

On October 25, 1875, the first post office was established in what is now Lincoln County. It was located at the Sac and Fox agency and Mrs. Minnie M. Howard was the first postmistress.²⁸ The post office at Wellston was established on September 25, 1884, with Christian T. Wells as first postmaster.²⁹ The post office at Chandler (the third established in Lincoln County) was established on September 21, 1891, with William L. Harvey as first postmaster.³⁰

The land now included in Lincoln County was first surveyed into townships and sections during the years 1870-75. Township plats were made, and it is from these that we get much information about the early history of this section of the state.³¹

The first trail to cross Lincoln county was the West Shawnee Cattle trail which was a branch of the Shawnee Cattle trail which had its origin in Texas near the Civil War period. The trail started in southern Texas, passed what is now the city of Dallas, entered the Indian Territory south of Durant, and split just north of the city.³² The western trail entered Lincoln County between Meeker and Prague. It bore a northerly direction past the Sac and Fox Agency, went through what is now Stroud, and bore a northwesterly direction east of Kendrick, and west of Avery.³³ The trail went on north to the railroad town of Junction City, Kansas.³⁴ Over this trail, thousands of head of cattle were driven before its abandonment in 1870 when the Missouri, Kansas, and Texas Railway was built across the eastern part of the Indian Territory. Traces of the trail were still visible when the government survey was completed in this section in 1875.

The first road to cross what is now Lincoln County was the Shawneetown-Sac and Fox Road. This road was cut soon after the establishment of the agency to transport supplies to the Shawnee and Potawatomi Indians at Shawneetown. This road entered what

²⁸ George H. Shirk, "Early Post Offices in Oklahoma," *The Chronicles of Oklahoma*, Vol. XXVI, No. 2 (Summer, 1948), p. 243.

²⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 244.

³⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 241.

³¹ *Township Plat Book*, Lincoln County. This plat book is in the office of the County Clerk, Chandler, Oklahoma.

³² Edward E. Dale, *Oklahoma, The Story of a State* (Evanston, 1949), p. 208.

³³ The course of this trail is shown on the Township Plats of Lincoln County, and the map of *Indian Territory* 1876, Department of the Interior, General Land Office. A copy of this latter map is in the Library of the Oklahoma Historical Society, Oklahoma City. The writer has also traced the course of the trail across Payne county.

³⁴ Dale, *op. cit.*, p. 209, map.

is now Lincoln county at a point almost exactly where State Highway Eighteen does at the present. It went in a northeasterly direction, passing about one and one half miles east of Mecker, one and one half miles east of Payson, four miles west of Arlington, and on to the Agency.³⁵ Another trail went from the Agency to Okmulgee and later to Sapulpa.³⁶ Other trails connected the Iowa and Kickapoo settlements with the Agency. After the opening of the Unassigned Lands in 1889, roads were cut connecting the agency with Guthrie and Oklahoma City.

The Oklahoma City-Sapulpa branch of the Frisco was the first railroad constructed across Lincoln county. The 103 miles of the road were completed in December, 1898.³⁷ The first passenger train to enter Chandler was on September 5, 1898.³⁸ The two Oklahoma City men, who were prime promoters of the line, were the late C. G. Jones and Henry Overholser. Other railroad lines built across parts of the county during the years 1902, 1903, 1904, were the Santa Fe, Rock Island, Missouri, Kansas and Texas, and the Fort Smith and Western.³⁹

As has already been mentioned, a number of roads were cut across Lincoln county prior to statehood. None of these can be classed as public supported highways. As far as known, the first road to be classed as such was the "Ozark Trail." This highway crossed the county at approximately the same course as the present U. S. Highway No. 66.⁴⁰ At present another super highway, the "Turner Turnpike," is being built across the county. It will cover most of the distance between Oklahoma City and Tulsa. The route is almost the same as that of the old "Ozark Trail" across Lincoln County. It was not the first toll concern for the County. In an early day there was a toll bridge west of Chandler known as the "Babbs Crossing."⁴¹ A fee of twenty-five cents was charged for crossing the bridge.

After the opening of the Sac and Fox, Iowa, and Shawnee and Potawatomi reservations for settlement by white people, the land

³⁵ *Township Plat Book*, Lincoln County.

³⁶ See Field Notes, *op. cit.*, on true line north between sections 13 and 14.

³⁷ James L. Allhands, "History of Construction of Frisco Lines in Oklahoma," *The Chronicles of Oklahoma*, Vol. III, No. 3 (September, 1925), pp. 232, 233.

³⁸ *The Chandler News*, Friday, September 9, 1898.

³⁹ See copies of *The Chandler News* for these years. The issue for Thursday, March 12, 1903, reports that the Santa Fe road had been completed to a point about three miles from Sparks, Oklahoma. The issue for Thursday, July 16, 1903, reports that the Choctaw (Rock Island) track layers were about eight miles from Chandler. By August 27, 1903, they had reached Chandler. The issue of the paper for September 10, 1903, reports that the first train on the Missouri, Kansas, and Texas R. R. had reached Tryon from Oklahoma City. The editor of the *Chandler Publicist*, Friday, January 22, 1904, reports that regular mail service had been established on the Fort Smith and Western line.

⁴⁰ The route of the "Ozark Trail" is shown on maps of Lincoln County, issued about 1920.

⁴¹ "Interview with Clyde Stanley Hyde," *op. cit.*

was divided into two counties designated as "A" and "B" until the people at the first general election could vote for a name.⁴² At the election in county "A", the Populists chose the name of Sac and Fox (named for the principle Indian tribe), the Democrats chose the name Springer (named for William Springer, a member of Congress from Illinois), and the Republicans chose the name of Lincoln (named for Abraham Lincoln). The Republicans won by a majority and the County was named Lincoln.⁴³

The Lincoln County officials first had their offices in a business building before the first courthouse, a two-story frame structure, was built on the courthouse square. This frame building was demolished by the tornado of 1897 and another frame building was built in its place, or the old one was rebuilt. This building was torn down to make way for the present building which was built in 1907. The first jail was a stockade affair built on the southwestern corner of the square.⁴⁴

The first county officials of County "A" were appointed by Governor George W. Steele, on October 12, 1891. They were as follows:⁴⁵

Sheriff	Claud F. Parker
Probate Judge	W. M. Allison
County Attorney	P. P. Hillerman
County Clerk	G. A. Colton
County Superintendent	M. D. Losey
County Surveyor	Charles Cunningham
County Commissioners	C. H. DeFord
	Wylie H. Blakemore
	W. N. Warren

At the first general election held in November 1892, the citizens of County "A" elected the following officials to serve as the first elected officers of Lincoln county:⁴⁶

⁴² Joseph B. Thoburn and Muriel H. Wright, *Oklahoma, A History of The State and Its People* (New York, 1939), Vol. 2, p. 555.

⁴³ *The Chandler News*, Friday, November 11, 1892. The election was held on November 8. The votes cast for the county officials and the name of the County are recorded in the *Record of County Commissioner Proceedings*, Vol. I, pp. 97-120. This volume is in the County Clerk's office, Chandler, Oklahoma.

⁴⁴ The corner stone of the present courthouse was laid in 1907. A picture of the old plank structure after the tornado of 1897 is in *The Lincoln County Republican* (Chandler), September 24, 1941, p. 4. I have a picture of the courthouse which was razed to make way for the new structure. I also have a picture of the old stockade jail.

⁴⁵ *The Chandler News*, Saturday, October 17, 1891.

⁴⁶ *Ibid.*, Friday, November 11, 1892. The letter following the county official's name represents his party. All the first officers were Republicans except two. N. McKimmey, Surveyor, was a Democrat, and C. A. Kelso, Commissioner from the first district was a Populist. A picture of these first elective officials is in *The Chandler News-Publicist*, Thursday, September 4, 1941, section one.

County Treasurer	D. W. Ulam (R)
Sheriff	Claud F. Parker (R)
Probate Judge	W. H. Mason (R)
Register of Deeds	Thomas J. Taylor (R)
County Clerk	J. B. Underwood (R)
County Attorney	J. W. Crawford (R)
County Superintendent	M. D. Losey (R)
Surveyor	N. McKimney (D)
Coroner	Smith Rhea (R)
Commissioners, 1st District	C. A. Kelso (P)
2nd District	Benoni Rea (R)
3rd District	Jacob Amberg (R)
Name of County	Lincoln (R)

In 1918, Lincoln County had the distinction of having more banks than any other county in the state. There were at that time seven national and fourteen state banks in the county. The pioneer bank of the County was the Union National Bank of Chandler. It had its origin at the Sac and Fox Agency in connection with the trading firm of Hoffman, Charles and Conklin, and was first known as the "Bank of Hoffman, Charles, and Conklin." It was moved to Chandler on September 22, 1892, chartered in 1897, and changed to the Union National Bank, in 1902, with a capital stock of \$50,000. Mr. H. C. Brunt, the present President, has been connected with the bank since 1892.

The First National Bank of Chandler was organized in 1894 as the Lincoln County State Bank, by F. E. Hoyt and O. B. Kee. A few years later, Hugh M. Johnson, late of Mississippi, purchased the business and took out a national charter, thus establishing Lincoln County's first national bank.⁴⁷

The first newspaper in Lincoln County was *The Chandler News* which made its appearance in 1891, with Mr. C. E. Hunter as editor. Other newspapers established but later combined with *The Chandler News* were the *Sac and Fox Warrior* (1892) *The Chandler Democrat* (1893), *The Lincoln County Telegram* (1897), and the *Inland Printing Company* (1902). *The Chandler News* combined in 1912 with the *Chandler Publicist* (1895), to make the present *Chandler News-Publicist*. The other paper of Chandler is *The Lincoln County Republican* which was first called the *Chandler Tribune* prior to its purchase by Mr. L. B. Nichols in 1919.⁴⁸ Other papers in the county were established at Stroud, Davenport, Tryon, Fallis, Wellston, Meeker, Agra, and Prague.

The first townsite in Lincoln County was Chandler which was opened to settlers by a run on September 28, 1891, six days after the opening of the reservations. It was a government townsite first surveyed as the County Seat of County "A." On November 9, 1891, Judge William Allison, Probate Judge of the county (after having

⁴⁷ *Farm Directory*, op. cit., pp. 18-23. See also *The Chandler News-Publicist*, September 24, 1941, p. 4.

⁴⁸ *Chandler News-Publicist*, Thursday, September 4, 1941, section 2, p. 6.

paid four hundred dollars for 320 acres, or the east half of Section 9, Township 14 North, Range 4 East, received a patent for the townsite.⁴⁹ He appointed a commission consisting of Thomas L. Bradwood, farmer and stockman of Beaver county, R. R. Carlin, real estate dealer of Guthrie, and A. M. Fowler, farmer in the western part of County "A", to have the townsite surveyed into blocks and lots. This commission employed S. B. Robertson as surveyor, who completed his work soon after December 2, 1891.⁵⁰ The townsite was set aside for public use by Judge Allison on February 4, 1892.⁵¹

Chandler was named for George Chandler, an early day Judge of a Southeastern Kansas Judicial District, who later served as a member of Congress and was appointed as Commissioner of the General Land Office, in Washington D. C.⁵²

On May 20, 1892, Chandler was officially organized. Upon that date, the citizens of the town elected the following ticket:⁵³

Clerk and Assessor	B. F. Hardcastle	
Treasurer	J. C. Fletcher	
Marshal	A. D. Reynolds	
Justice of the Peace	W. H. Mason	
City Health Officer	Dr. Harriman	
Trustees {	1st District	G. W. Schlegel
	2nd District	J. C. Monforte
	3rd District	A. D. Wright
	4th District	W. T. Belford
	5th District	J. A. Mitchell

Chandler became a city of the first class on April 8, 1901. J. F. Collar was the first mayor.⁵⁴

The Wright Drug Store was the first store in Chandler. It was first housed in a tent at a camp south of the Chandler townsite where the people had gathered waiting for the opening of the town, following the survey which had not been completed. Immediately after (or during) the opening, the store and tent were moved to the present location, near the northwestern corner of Block Sixty-Three, facing Manvel Avenue.⁵⁵

On October 4, 1891, the first Sunday after the opening of the townsite of Chandler, the Reverend A. E. Thompson, a Presbyterian minister, preached the first sermon in Chandler. This was in the De

⁴⁹ *Miscellaneous Deeds*, Book I, p. 6, County Clerk's Office, Chandler, Oklahoma.

⁵⁰ *The Chandler News*, Saturday, November 28, 1891. See also the Plat Book of towns and cities of Lincoln County. This was the second survey of the town. A former survey had been made by the United States Surveyors to enable people to secure lots to file on. The first survey was completed on September 28, 1891.

⁵¹ *Miscellaneous Deeds*, *op. cit.*, p. 6.

⁵² *Farm Directory*, *op. cit.*, pp. 18-23.

⁵³ *The Chandler News*, May 20, 1892. See also *Farm Directory*, *op. cit.*

⁵⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵⁵ *Chandler News-Publicist*, Thursday, September 21, 1939.

Ford tent which was spread on the courthouse square.⁵⁶ On the same day, the Reverend W. W. Buchanan, a Congregational minister organized a church, the first in Chandler.⁵⁷ The first building for church purposes was erected by the same Congregational Church on the northeastern corner of Block Sixty-One, or where the City Hall is now located.⁵⁸ Other early churches organized in Chandler were the Methodist, December 1891;⁵⁹ the Episcopal, July 4, 1892;⁶⁰ the Presbyterian, August 3, 1892;⁶¹ the Baptist in 1894;⁶² and the Christian church. The Catholic church was established soon after the County was organized. Other churches established in Chandler were the Church of the Nazarene, the Church of God, the Assembly of God, the Church of Christ, and the Friends Church.

The early settlers of Lincoln County have been meeting for a number of years upon special occasions. Members of the National Guard met very early. However, it was on September 21, 1921, that the first Old Settlers Day was launched. Since that time a register has been kept of the signatures of the old settlers who attended. Mr. A. D. Wright, the first to sign the register, had come to Chandler before it was opened to settlement. He had, however, gone to Guthrie to get some drug supplies for his tent store when the townsite was opened. His drug store was the first established in Chandler.⁶³

There are many other "firsts" of Lincoln County which we do not have space to give. From the story recounted here, we can see the hand of progress in the county. May she continue to have many more "firsts" in the years to come. May we of the younger generation continue to carry on the work of making splendid history which the early settlers have begun.

⁵⁶ La Vanche Bruce, *History of the First Presbyterian Church* (Chandler, Oklahoma). This is a paper written by Miss Bruce and is on file in the Presbyterian church of Chandler.

⁵⁷ *The Chandler News*, October 24, 1891.

⁵⁸ *Ibid.*, Friday, February 6, 1892. Mr. H. C. Brunt and other early settlers of Chandler attended church in the building.

⁵⁹ Rev. E. S. Stockwell, *The M. E. Church* (Chandler, Oklahoma). This history is both recorded in Book I of the Church Register on file in First Methodist Church, Chandler, Oklahoma, and in the files of the Board of Trustees of the church.

⁶⁰ "Episcopal Church was Organized by few Communicants," *Chandler News-Publicist*, Thursday, September 4, 1941.

⁶¹ La Vanche Bruce, *op. cit.*

⁶² "Baptists make up Large Group," *Chandler News-Publicist*, Thursday, September 4, 1941. The history of some of the other churches of Chandler are in this same issue of the paper.

⁶³ A. D. Wright, *High Points In The Life of A. D. Wright, Chandler, Oklahoma, Son of William Halsted and Eliza Wright, Beekman, Dutches County, New York*. This is an autobiography of Mr. Wright and contains much reliable data on the beginnings of Guthrie and Chandler. Mr. Wright made the run in 1889 and secured a lot in Guthrie.