

EARLY SETTLERS IN LOWNDES COUNTY

The county is traversed north and south by the Mobile & Ohio railroad, and east and west by the George Pacific division of the Richmond & Danville railway. The Tombigbee River, a navigable stream, divides the county north and south into nearly equal areas, the east side being sandy soil, and the west prairie.

The vital statistics show the county to be as healthful as any county in the United States, the death rate, including Negroes, being about fourteen per one thousand.

The settlers in Lowndes County from 1817 to 1830 are named as follows:

C. H. Abbott,
Jack Ames,
B.C. Barry,
Richard Barry,
B. F. Beckwith,
John Billington,
Allen Brooks,
Martin Brooks,
Ovid P. Brown,
Jesse Bryan,
Joseph Bryant,
Henry Buchannon,
William Cook,
Stephen Cooke,
William Craven,
William Dowsing,
A. Duncan,
S. S. Franklin,
N. E. Goodwin,
Robert Haden,
William Halbert,
Zenophon Halbert,
Marcellus Hatch,
Henry W. Hunt,
Robert Jamison,
Lewis Johnson,
John B. Jones,

Kleber Kilchrist,
E. C. Leech,
E. E. Leech,
Garland Lincecum,
Gideon Lincecum,
Jerry Loveritt,
Silas McBee,
Alex Moore,
Alexander Moore,
William Moore,
Allen Motley,
O. L. Nash,
William Nielson,
Henry Patten,
John Pitchlynn,
E. B. Randolph.
Thomas Sampson,
John Slidel,
Harry Stevens,
George Taylor,
Lawson Willerford

In August, 1819, Gideon Lincecum came with a large stock of goods and opened a store.

William Vizer had brought with him a short time before a few remnants of dry goods, overland from Alabama.

On the first day of January, 1821, the first mail ever brought to Columbus was opened by G. Lincecum, the first postmaster.

The first steamboat arrival was that of the Cotton Plant, Captain Chandler, in 1822.

During the year 1819-20 the military road leading from New Orleans to Nashville, passing through Columbus, was opened by the United States troops.

The first county court was held at Columbus on Monday, April 12, 1830. The board consisted of Thomas Sampson, president; Micajah Brooks, and Samuel B. Morgan.

The first county officials were: R. D. Haden, county clerk; Nimrod Davis, sheriff; John H. Morris, assessor and collector; O. P. Brown county treasurer; William L. Moore, county surveyor.

Secret societies: Farmers' Alliance, Ancient Free and Accepted Mason, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Knights of Honor, Knights of Pythias, Universal Benevolent Fraternity, Knights and Ladies Honor, United Working Men and Catholic Knights of America.

The public schools of the county are seventy-nine in number, white and colored, and the State industrial institute and college for white girls. The largest county schools are: Franklin Academy (at Columbus), Crawford, Caledonia, Old Zion, Cobbs Switch, Trinity and Mayhew. The educable children in the county number eight thousand eight hundred and thirty-nine, of whom there are at school fifty two hundred and sixty-four. The amount paid for public schools in the county for the years 1880 and 1890 was \$25,382.99. The industrial institute and college for white girls is paid for out of state appropriations.

The religious bodies are Methodist, Baptist, Presbyterian, Episcopal, Cumberland Presbyterian, Christian and Catholic.

Columbus, the seat of justice, was settled in 1817, one Thomas Moore erecting a log cabin that year.

In 1819 a town was platted and the act of establishment provided that the sessions of court should be held there.

The population of Columbus in 1890 was forty-five hundred and fifty-two.

A post office was established here in 1821, and since that year the following named offices have been created:

Artesia, two hundred and two;
Caledonia, two hundred and one;
Cherokee,
Crawford, three hundred and fifty;
Dow,
Dunbar,
McCown,
Mayhew's station, one hundred and ninety-seven;
New Hope, twenty-seven;
Penn,
Steenston,
Swanzy and
Trinity.

Source: Old Homes and Scenes of Lowndes County by Sarah D. Hutchinson, Manuscript located in Local History Archives, Columbus Lowndes Public Library

