



ROBINSON, ELLA      FIRST THINGS IN MUSKOGEE      13855

Ella Robinson,  
Investigator,  
May 4, 1938.

First things in Muskogee.

First railroad to present site of Muskogee-  
Missouri, Kansas and Texas- January 1, 1872.

First steam engine to cross Arkansas River bridge-  
"The General Grant", property of the Missouri, Kansas  
and Texas Railroad. December 25, 1872.

First public eating house- a small shack east of  
Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railroad track. Built of odd  
pieces of lumber and goods boxes and operated by Mr. and  
Mrs. James Mitchell. January - 1872.

First general merchandise store- J. A. Patterson;  
where Turner Block now stands. 1872.

First hardware- L. S. Atkinson; where old Patterson  
Building is located, 1872.

First contractor and builder - P. J. Byrns, 1872 -  
Built "Mitchell Hotel" 1872.

First Main Street- adjacent to Missouri, Kansas  
and Texas Railroad; running parallel, 1872.

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First doctor in Muskogee- Dr. George W. Cumings  
1873. Office in drug store on Main Street.

First druggist in Muskogee-Dr. George W. Cumings,  
1873.

First store on east side of Missouri, Kansas and  
Texas track-Mrs. Joshua Ross-Corner of Cherokee and  
Broadway, 1872.

First residence on east side of Missouri, Kansas  
and Texas track- Mr. J. Ross, 1872- where 800 block now  
is on East Broadway in Muskogee.

First public hall in Muskogee over Sears Newbergs  
Dry Goods Store. Corner of Okmulgee and Main, 1878.

First livery stable in Muskogee-owned by Mr. Blackmore  
on South Second Street, 1875.

First stage line from Muskogee to Tahlequah via Fort  
Gibson-operated by Mr. Blackmore, 1875.

First wagon yard in Muskogee-operated by Mr. Blackmore  
on South Second, 1875.

First grist mill in Muskogee-owned and operated by  
Major John A. Foreman, 1873. Located on North Cherokee and  
Katy Tracks, in 200 block.

First meat market in Muskogee-owned by Mrs. Matt Carter and Theo Lacey, 1874, Corner of Cherokee and Callahan.

First water supply system-operated by Charley Willey. Water sold from barrels, 1873.

First postmaster in Muskogee-appointed January 1, 1872, James L. Barnes.

First Newspaper in Muskogee. Indian Journal, 1878. Edited by Dr. M. P. Roberts.

First bakery in Muskogee- Operated by George Balstead, 1874.

First Indian International Fair held in Muskogee, 1874.

First president of Indian International Fair- Major John A. Foreman, 1874.

First Secretary of Indian International Fair- Mr. Joshua Ross, 1874.

First blacksmith shop in Muskogee. Owned by Coleman Roberson, 1876. Located at what is now Dayton and C Streets.

First shoe shop- Owned by Mr. J. J. Corbutt, 1880. Located on Second Street at what is now number 103 North Main.

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First saddle shop- Owned by Dave Andrews, a Cherokee,  
1877. On Main Street, next door to Belstead Bakery,  
facing west.

First town officer in Muskogee- Limps Bennett, a Chero-  
kee, 1876.

First lawyer in Muskogee - Colonel Bird Harris. Home  
in the country. A Cherokee, 1880.

First photographer in Muskogee- Mr. J. Brasel, 1876.  
Located near what is now Main Street.

First church established in Muskogee- First Presbyterian,  
1875.

First house of worship- In cattle pasture where  
Severs Hotel is located, 1875. Burned 1876.

First pastor of Presbyterian Church in Muskogee-  
Reverend John Elliott, 1875 - 1880.

First Sunday School superintendent- Mr. W. D. Squires,  
1875.

First Sunday School teacher- Mrs. Retta Robb, 1875.

First Methodist Church in Muskogee- organized October,  
1878.

First pastor of Methodist Church in Muskogee-  
Reverend Theodore F. Brewer 1878-1886.

First member of Methodist Church in Muskogee-  
Mrs. Ella F. Robinson, October 1878.

First superintendent of Methodist Sunday school-  
Mr. S. S. Sanger, 1878-1881.

First denominational Methodist school in Muskogee-  
Established by Reverend Theo. F. Brewer 1881. Classes  
taught in Methodist Church. Corner of Cherokee and E.  
Okmulgee.

First boarding school for girls-Harrell Institute,  
1882.

First religious publication-"Our Brother in Red."  
Established by Reverend Theodore F. Brewer, 1882.

First private day school started in Muskogee- Mr.  
W. L. Squires teacher, 1875.

First sermon preached in Muskogee-Reverend Young  
Ewing, Methodist itinerant minister, 1873. From empty  
box car on Missouri, Kansas and Texas tracks at Broadway  
crossing.

First white male child born in Muskogee- Ralph Dreisbach,  
October, 1872.

First white girl born in Muskogee-Jenie Robb,  
December 1872.

First dealer in hides, pelts and pecans in  
Muskogee-Joseph Landheimer, 1874.

First tinner in Muskogee - Mr. Sam Yates. Shop were  
rear of Calhoun's Dry Good Store now is 1877.

First orchard planted in Muskogee- By Joshua Ross,  
1873.

First woman employed in Dry Goods Store- Mrs. Nettie  
Graves, 1889, by Patterson's Mercantile Company.

First woman stenographer in Muskogee- Miss Nettie  
Graves, 1890- By Harry O. Sheppard, lawyer.

First undertaker in Muskogee- Mr. J. L. Thomas, 1880.

First florist and landscape gardener- Chas. W.  
Moore, 1898.

First stone mason- Tom Bracket, 1874.

First freight line from Muskogee- operated by Hugh Bay,  
1876. Ran to Baxter Springs, Kansas.

First cotton gin, 1876, owned by John A. Foreman.

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First dressmaking and millinery shop- Operated by Mrs. John C. Cunningham, 1877. Where home of Mrs. H. C. Rogers is located.

First resident dentist- Dr. A. E. Bonnell, 1868. Office with Dr. Chas. Harris on Main Street.

First cab line- Tom Winiford, 1889.

First transfer business- Chris Silver, 1891.

First jeweler- John O'Brian, 1860. Store at corner of Main and Broadway- English Block.

First ice house- operated by John A. Foreman on Katy track near depot, 1875. Ice cut from Grand River.

First fire department- Volunteer, 1888.

First residence street, Cherokee Street, 1873.

First steam laundry- Tung-go Laundry and bath house. Operated by John Lee, 1890.

First kindergarten- opened by Mrs. Phoebe Riddell, September, 1890.

First cleaning and dyeing establishment 1890- operated W. T. Davis.

First insurance agent, A. A. Engart, 1881. First in Indian Territory.

First book store- "Post Office Book Store". Operated



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by Mrs. Cherokee Gilmore. Corner of Second and Broadway,  
1890.

First woman doctor- Dr. Grace Davis, 1898.

First adding machine- Bought by Mr. John Dill, Cashier  
Commercial National Bank, 1896.

First Catholic Knights of Columbus -Organized 1895.

First public school opened in Muskogee-September 11,  
1898.

First school board in Muskogee- W. C. Trent, President,  
Thomas A. Sanson, Secretary, William N. Martin; W. T. Hutchings;  
J. B. Townes; O. F. Bobee.

First brick school buildings erected-Washington and  
Jefferson 1904.

First opera house erected in Muskogee-Turner Opera  
House; in Turner Block, 1894. Opened September, 1894, by  
Road Company. Sharp and Lee Camble playing "Forget-Me-Not."

First knights of Pythias Lodge- Organized 1898. W. S.  
Harsha, W. R. Robinson, and E. R. Rulison are living charter  
members.

First edition of Phoenix published February 16, 1888.  
Dr. Leo E. Bennett, editor.

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First Literary Club in Muskogee- Organized by Mrs. Augusta Robertson Craig (Afterward Mrs. N. D. Moore), and Mrs. Legas Perryman. Partial list of charter members; Mrs. Moore, Mrs. Craig, Mrs. James Mitchell, Mrs. Ella F. Robinson, Mrs. Samuel Yates, Mrs. M. P. Roberts, Mrs. J. S. Atkinson, Mrs. W. L. Squires.

First bank in Muskogee-First National, August, 1890.

First bank president- Robert L. Owen.

First cashier of bank, Chas. H. Worth.

First candy shop- John Harches "Candy John". 1888.

First gun club - 1899.

First superintendent of City Cemetery- Chas. Moore, 1898.

First ice cream parlor- Horace Yeale, 1888.

First cigar store in Muskogee-Milo Adams in Adams Hotel, 1899.

First Masonic Lodge-Chartered 1888.

First band - Maddens Mechanics Band-Organized by William A. Madden. Composed of his workmen, 1890.

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First laundry agency- Abe Wolfenberger-work sent  
to Parsons, Kansas, 1899.

First Catholic Church established in Muskogee- 1890.

First Pastor of Catholic Church. Reverend Father W.H.  
Ketchum, 1890.

First Catholic school in Muskogee- Nazareth Academy,  
1894.

First paving in Muskogee- Wall Street between Second  
and Third by Cass W. Bradley.

First residence street paved- Callahan- 1906-07.

First automobile brought to Muskogee- by W.R. ...  
Spaulding, 1902.

First cafeteria- Miss Alice Robertson. "The Sawokla",  
1915.

First oil refinery- Chas. Madison, Superintendent,  
1900.

First cafe- J. C. East, 1899.

First electric light system. Owned by C. W. Turner  
Company, 1894.

First airplane built in Muskogee, 1895, by Ben Bellis,  
in rear of plumbing shop.

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First brick yard -Jesse Haynes, Manager, 1897.

Located on Goodeys Creek south of town.

First oil company organized in Muskogee-1904.

H. G. Baker- A. Z. English.

First street railway service in Muskogee-1905.

Benson and Hyde promoters and directors, Ira L. Reeves, superintendent, Nathan A. Gibson, attorney.

First laundry- "John Chinaman" 1888.

First ball team- Patterson Mercantile Company team, 1895, composed of employees only.

First surgeon in Muskogee- Doctor F. B. Fite, November, 1889.

First hospital in Muskogee- the "Martha Robb" private. Operated by Doctors Fite and Blakemore, 1894.

First ex-ray brought to Muskogee- 1896, by Drs. Fite and Blakemore.

First patient operated on under ex-ray - Al Jennings, noted train and bank robber- 1896. First ex-ray in Indian Territory.

First Jewish Temple erected in Muskogee- "Beth Abba" Eighth and West Okmulgee, 1916. Rabbi Israel in charge.

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First automobile agency in Muskogee- A. B. Roberts  
1908. Agent for Chalmers.

First telephone company in Muskogee- 1898. Housed  
in Turner Building. Promoters and stock holders, C. W.  
Turner, A. Z. English, F. B. Severs, S. W. Rutherford,  
Judge N. S. Moore.

First residence telephone- A. Z., English. Number 1.

First noted singer- Madam Nordica. 1899.

First Muskogee Commandery Knights Templar- 1891.

First Eastern Star Chapter in Muskogee - 1889.

First wholesale grocery in Muskogee- 1902.

"Muskogee Wholesale", C. W. Turner, R. L. Davis  
Earnest Cook, stock holders.

First Public Library- Organized October 1908.

Sponsored by Muskogee History Club- Mrs. I. N. Croom, first  
librarian. Room in Turner Building, second floor.

First iron works in Muskogee. Moved from Aurora,  
Missouri, 1909.

First gas service in Muskogee. Artificial - 1903.

First natural gas service in Muskogee - 1904.

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First city water system 1903. First superintendent of waterworks. Walter Johnson, 1903. \*

First term of Federal Court held in Muskogee- April 1889. In upper story of Phoenix office, 2nd and Okmulgee.

First Federal Judge, James M. Shackelford.

First Clerk, William Nelson.

First United States Marshal, Thomas B. Needles.

First United States Attorney, Z. T. Walrond.

Foreman of first Federal Jury Captain George E.

Hester.

First juror called and sworn, Honorable Pleasant Porter.

First death sentence passed by Federal Court in Muskogee-Cyrus Brown, convicted of murder. 1898.

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First city officials- Major P. J. Byrne; John G.

Leiber, Attorney; George H. Williams, Treasurer.

Councilmen- P. N. Blackstone; W. S. Harsha, A. W. Robb,

F. B. Severs. Clarence W. Turner.

First cigar factory opened by Mr. R. Bender of Nevada, Missouri. April, 1895.

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First electric fans- Bought by J. C. Fast. 1895.

Used in Alcazar Cafe.

Henry Kendall College- Opened 1894.

First Christian Science Practitioner- 1904.

First plumber- Ben Bellis- 1895.

First Catholic school for boys- St. Joseph's  
College, 1894.

First group of soldiers recruited in Muskogee-  
Troops L and M for service in Spanish American War.  
May, 1898. Entained at Missouri, Kansas and Texas  
Station.

First Day Nursery-Organized 1906. Directors, Mrs. H.  
B. Spaulding, Mrs. J. T. Haizlip, Mrs. Geo. Templeton.

First dairy-owned by J. B. Rucker. East of town,  
near location of Houston School, 1894.

First ice cream factory started by Mr. Frank E.  
Frank of Indiana, 1903. Located on South Cherokee Street.  
First in Indian Territory.

First pipe organ installed in First M. E. Church  
South, 1904. Miss Boss Brewer first organist.

First Women's Christian Temperance Union-

Organized by Miss Frances E. Willard, 1882. Mrs. Laura E. Harsha, first president.

First business college - Organized by Mr. George Clark of Arkadelphia, Arkansas, 1894. Occupied Women's Christian Temperance Union Building in 100 block on North C Street.

First public drinking trough for stock -1904.

First college for negroes-Sango Baptist College. September, 1904.

First flagman at Katy crossing-1891.

First "Merry-Go-Round"-On east Okmulgee, near Katy tracks. 1893.

First Merchant Tailor- J. E. Van Nostrand. 1891.

First organization of Muskogee Mercantile Agency, 1891.

First street sprinkler-1891.

First nine hour system for employees-Adopted by Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railroad. 1891. Hours, 7:30 to 5:30.



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First exclusive gents furnishing store- Apple Brothers. The Boston Store. 1891.

First morgue in Muskogee, or in Indian Territory- Opened by George H. Bloom. 1905.

First electric elevator. Operated in the new Hotel Turner, 1905.

First electric piano - In Alcazar Cafe. Owned by J. C. East. 1905.

First packing house in Muskogee- Armour's. 1905.

First street car- Ran March 15, 1905.

First rock crushing machine in Muskogee- January, 1905. Capacity 100 yards per day.

First Green Trading Stamps- 1904.

First Lutheran Church service held in Muskogee-

Services in First Christian Church. January 29, 1905.

Reverend Greaber preaching in English and German.

First cement works- 1905.

First Baptist Church in Muskogee-Organized July, 1890. Reverend David Crosby, first pastor.

First Elks Club-Organized 1899. First in Indian Territory.

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First City Park Board-Organized 1909. Board composed of L. H. Holmes, James King and H. P. Showalter.

First cemetery board-Organized 1910. Members; Grant Foreman, Dr. J. O. Callahan, Mrs. Harry English.

First picture shown in Muskogee- shown at old Presbyterian church building at corner of Third and West Okmulgee, where city hall now stands, in 1907.

First permanent picture show was opened Monday, January 20, 1908, at the Lyric, 419 West Okmulgee, by L. W. Brophy; first reels showed from four to nine minutes, price 15 cents.

\* In justice it should be noted that Mayor Tom Smith appointed Walter Johnson as superintendent of the newly installed city water works system. Mr. Johnson, an employee of the Katy Railroad, however, resigned and J. L. Dodson was selected and served as first superintendent.-Ed.