

## History

In the 1830's Linn was a settlement called "Linnville". When Osage County was established in 1841 and county officials began looking around for a county seat, they chose one that was centrally located, with no danger of flooding. The name of the town was shortened to "Linn" after Senator Lewis Fields Linn, a distinguished member of congress from Missouri.

On February 14, 1842, John Scott, commissioner, was ordered to plat the town and sell lots on "credit of 12, 18 & 24 month" and instructed to sell no lot for less than \$10. His report was received on May 8, 1843 and ordered to be recorded. The next day the county court decreed that all terms of court be held at Linn, save one, which was to be held at Van Buren.

An ineffectual effort was made the next year to move the county seat back to Van Buren, but the petition had not been signed by two-thirds of the citizens of the county. George Crutsinger, Superintendent of Public Buildings, then filed a plan for a courthouse to be erected in Linn.

Linn was incorporated as a village Oct 3, 1899 but was still under the jurisdiction of county officials. By the year 1911, there began a grass roots campaign to raise Linn's status. On October 3, 1911, a vote was held to establish Linn as a Fourth-Class City, with city officials and city regulations. The vote was 61 in favor, 13 against (part of the lower turnout was that woman did not have the right to vote until 1920). Now Linn was officially the "City of Linn". The editor of the *Unterrified Democrat* wrote that the voters "voted to discard the swaddling clothes of a mere town, and to assume its place among the municipalities of the earth as a City of the Fourth Class".

The Chairman of the Board of Trustees, John P. Peters, issued the Official Proclamation on October 12, 1911, declaring the Town of Linn would henceforth be known and styled as "The City of Linn". On the 31st of October, a special election was held to elect a mayor, four aldermen, a marshal and a collector. These officers would hold their offices until the regular spring election in April, at which time their successors would be elected for a two-year term.

The results of the election were as follows: Mayor: John P. Peters; Marshal: L.C. Boillot; Collector: Theron Carnes; Alderman (four elected): John B Griffith, Herman Gove, Ben Brandt and Charles Jantzen.

### **Milestones in Linn History**

The first dram shop (tavern) license was granted to Theodore Even in 1842.

The first Protestant Church in Linn was established by the Methodists in 1844. Services were held in various buildings until 1903 when a little brick church was built at Fifth and Main Streets. Services were held there until 1957, when a new church was built in the 900 block of Main Street.

Publication of the *Unterrified Democrat* newspaper starts July 1866.

St. George Church building was erected in 1867.

John Holoway was the last person to be hanged at the Osage County Courthouse in June 15, 1900. Sheriff "Buckshot" Leach presided over the event.

The Osage County Fair Association was organized in 1906.

An electric light plant was built in 1912 and used by the city until 1925 when Gasconade Power & Light Company began furnishing electricity.

In 1924, the Ozark Central Phone Company started operations in Linn. There were several small phone companies offering limited service as early as 1915 prior to that.

Highway 50 was paved in 1933.

In 1936, the Bank of Rich Fountain moved its charter to Linn and became Linn State Bank (now Legends Bank). The original bank at Linn had failed during the Depression.

A water works plant was installed in 1940.

Linn Lions Club receives charter, August 5, 1942.

Linn Technical College (now State Technical College of Missouri) admitted its first class in 1961.

A sewer disposal system was constructed in 1962.

Linn Library opens July 16, 1965.

C.V. Mosby Publishers selected Linn as the site for a distribution center in 1978.

Osage County Historical Society formed in 1985.