

RICHLAND

1869 was the year Dixon, Hancock and Richland were laid out in Pulaski County.

The storm clouds of the Civil War made a great impact on the county's development. Many towns sprang up along the railroad following the war.

Richland was laid out on railroad land by the same man who surveyed Dixon, Milton Santee. Richland was located near the western edge of the county in Liberty Township, near the present county border with Laclede and Camden Counties. The plot was laid out on both sides of the railroad track in the fall of 1869.

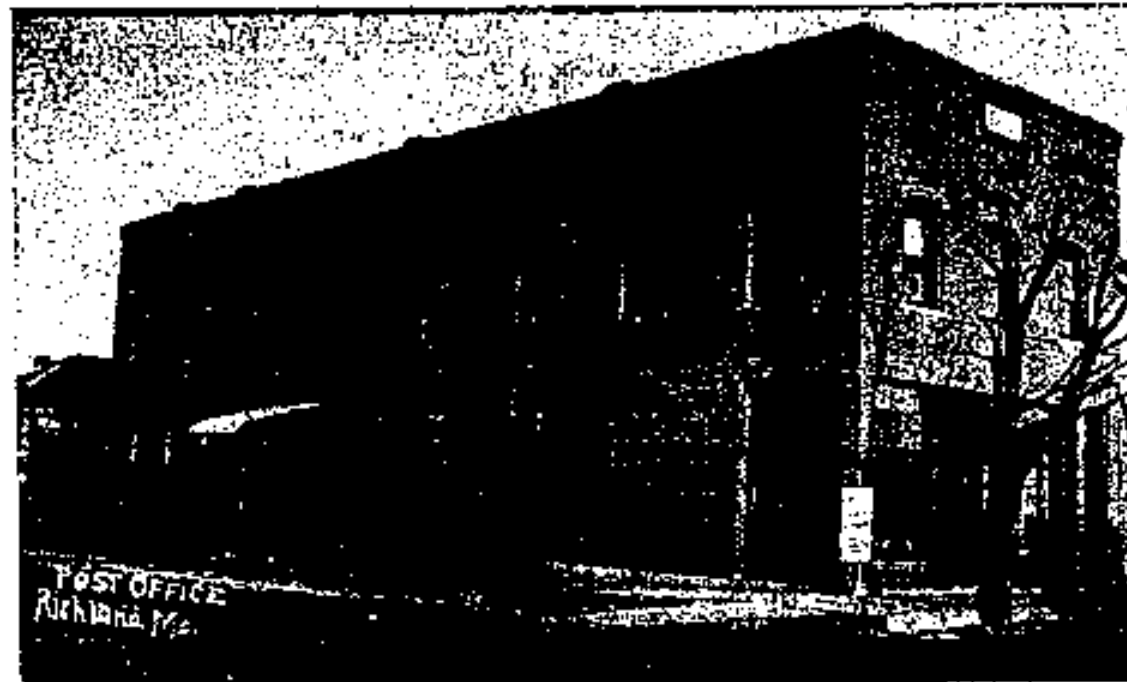
Some of the first families were the Warrens, Traws, Bradshaws, Morgans, Tyrees and Wests.

One of the first buildings erected was a store constructed by Captain H.E. Warren and Sam Gibson, which later became the H.E. Warren Store. A modern brick building now occupies the same site.

Other early builders were Trow and Bradshaw, J.W. Robinson, Joseph Feilbman and J.L. Tyree. All of these stores were constructed in the fall of 1869, before any homes had been built.

In early 1870, the Richland Institute was started. The private academy was erected by a private stock company in which almost every member of the community had a financial interest. The institute was at one time considered to be the best school in the county, and was popular almost until the turn of the century, when it was absorbed into the public school system.

Many dwellings were constructed in Richland in 1870. The railroad addition was soon annexed to the east side of the original plat.



Brick buildings were built in Richland after fire destroyed many of the original wooden ones. This building still stands and was home of a drug store and the Richland Post Office. (Photo courtesy of Ed Bohannon)



Here is an inside view of the same building housing the drug store and post office in Richland around the year 1905. (Photo courtesy of Ed Bohannon)

Residents of the new community decided at first to name the community "Lyon's Station" in honor of General Lyon. However, when petitioning for a post office, they discovered that another town with the name of Lyons existed. They then decided to name the town Richland, in honor of Mr. G.W. Rich, a director of the railroad.

Soon after 1875, Dr. James Titterton erected the Richland Steam and Flouring and Saw Mills. In 1880, a fire destroyed several of the log and frame store buildings in the community, but they were immediately replaced by brick structures.

A stockyard was built and cattle, hogs and sheep were shipped daily. Many farmers supplemented their income by cutting white oak, post oak and walnut timber into railroad ties. They were cut and floated down the Gasconade River to the ford south of Richland, where they were stored in a large eddy of water. They were then loaded into wagons and hauled into Richland for storage and selling.

Tie haulers were given five cents for each tie delivered to the Hobert Lee Tie Company averaging about 80 cents a day.

Around 1880, three grain elevators were constructed in the Richland area. Winkler's Park was laid out in the southeast part of town, in a five acre site north of the railroad.

Richland's first mayor was M.W. Rice, followed by H.E. Warren and L.E. Groom.

Richland was a thriving business center with active stores, a bank, newspaper, public school, a private academy, churches, lodges, two flouring mills, a saw mill, broom factory, marble works, lumberyard, two hotels and many professional men.

