

Greenwood

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The first settlement in what was to be Greenwood Township was made in 1863 by William Nightingale following the removal of the Sac and Fox Agency to Quenemo, in Osage County, that year. Early agents of the Sac and Fox Indians included Burton James and Perry Fuller. Fuller brought about the treaty by which the Indians received their lands.

Greenwood Township, originally a part of Ohio Township, was organized in 1865 and was named after Judge C.B. Greenwood of Arkansas, U.S. Commissioner of Indian Affairs, who assisted in drafting the treaty. After the Indians were removed, the town of Greenwood was laid out by Fuller and others in the vicinity of the former agency at the junction of county roads seven miles west of Ottawa. The first log cabin home was built in 1866 and a second one followed, but the town never developed.

Greenwood was the site of a Moravian Church established in the early 1850s. The Moravian Missionary Society, an evangelical sect, originally founded in Bohemia and Moravia, came to America in 1750. The Moravians founded Bethlehem, Pennsylvania where they built a church and college. As missionaries, the Moravians' work was conversion of the American Indians—among them the Sac and Fox of Kansas. Moravian missionary Joseph Romig was an early missionary in Franklin County and the last to serve (1862-71 and 1900-05) at the Greenwood Church. John Kilbuck, a Munsee Indian, was an early Moravian missionary from Franklin County, who went to Alaska to work.

The Greenwood school opened in 1862 under the direction of the Moravians. Later it functioned for many years as District School #49 and also served as a community meeting place.

By Jane Richards, 1992, and Deborah Barker, 2011