Oberlin (Allen) is the oldest town in the parish and was incorporated Feb. 5, 1900, while still a part of Imperial Calcasieu Parish.

Oberlin was named for Oberlin, Ohio; its first settlers were from Oberlin, Ohio. They first called their section on Calcasieu River (west of present Oberlin) Oaklin Springs. There was a general store there and a post office. When the people heard that a railroad was being laid from Lake Charles through their town, they moved to a section they thought the railroad would intersect.

This section was east of present Oberlin and was called “Old Town.” It was approximately one and one-half miles “off-course.”

The Watkins Railroad reached Oberlin about 1885 and the owner Jabez B. Eatkins sold present Oberlin to the Oberlin Townsite Co. on Jan. 1, 1893.

The sale included 160 acres.

When the railroad reached Oberlin, the blue law was being strictly observed, and the passenger train which came as far as Oberlin from Lake Charles and back again each day only operated six days each week. This gave the people an opportunity to use the little depot waiting room for their church meetings on Sundays. The railroad did not reach Oakdale, 15 miles to the north of Oberlin, until 1893 and passenger trains running from Lake Charles were turned around on a “turn table” for several years before Oakdale had such service.

The Allen Parish Courthouse was built in Oberlin in 1912 and the first elected officials were Y. O. Reed, sheriff; Patrick Moore, clerk of court; and David Cole, tax assessor. These men were elected in 1913 following the creation of Allen Parish in 1912.

The source of income for Oberlin came from cattle raising and rice crops. Wool was once important. Wool selling day was June 8.

The first mayor was Joseph Cevier; Luc LeDoux, J. T. Funchess, and J. A. Darbonne, aldermen. John Snerier was marshal.

—Clare D’Artois Leeper