

were brought in by the
trappers and hunters.

As soon as the mill and distillery opened (some time in 1831), John O'Ferrell, a native of Ireland, moved in and built a small storeroom next to the distillery and stocked it with \$400 worth of goods—mostly miscellaneous items that were in demand in back woods areas. This was the origin of The Olde Mongo Store.

Some people said Brownell owned part of the stock (which was likely since he was said to have been a shrewd businessman). The facts as to the legal ownership aren't clear, but nevertheless, O'Ferrell was certainly the first storekeeper in Mongo.

Hotel opened

A man named Arthur Burrows opened and licensed a hotel in 1833. At that time O'Ferrell obtained a license to sell merchandise. He payed \$10 per annum fee and the same rate for the time he previously sold without a license.

O'Ferrell sold the store in 1836 after he was involved in a sensational hoax that subsequently forced him out of town.

O'Ferrell, Brownell, a German miller and one of the French traders, along with a few native Americans, caused an Indian scare known as the "Gage and Langdon War." The group decided to play a practical joke on area settlers who had declared they were in no way afraid of the Indians in the area. Mr. Langdon went to Brushy Prairie and told the residents about a terrible massacre in Greenfield. Over 100 men from miles around assembled near an Indian camp. The Indians, numbering about 75, thought they were going to be attacked and proceeded to hang out a white flag. The settlers had to be restrained from firing on the Indian encampment.

After the truth was known, the area settlers were quite angry with the perpetrators of the hoax and, in all probability, hastened the departure of O'Ferrell and Brownell.

Store sold

Drusus Nichols bought the store from

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