

# A Chronology of Illinois History

Janice A. Petterchak

A century ago, as the United States advanced from an agrarian to an industrial nation, one historian described Illinois as having a more significant history than any other state “west of the Alleghenies.” Throughout the twentieth century, Illinois has sustained that prominence—in subject areas that encompass agriculture, architecture, the arts, business and labor, communications, education, government and politics, medicine and science, the military, recreation and sports, religion, social reform, and transportation.

A chronology of events comprising the state’s distinctive legacy is included in *Illinois History: An Annotated Bibliography*, Ellen M. Whitney, compiler, Janice A. Petterchak, editor, Sandra M. Stark, assistant editor (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1995). That “Chronology” is reprinted here, updated with entries for 1994 to 2003.

*A Chronology of Illinois History* is reprinted from:

*Illinois History: An Annotated Bibliography*

Ellen M. Whitney, Compiler

Janice A. Petterchak, Editor

Sandra M. Stark, Associate Editor

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10,000 BC- 8000 BC	Paleo Indians roam the area, briefly occupying small camps in coniferous forests and subsisting on large game and wild plants.
8000 BC- 500 BC	Archaic period Indians inhabit deciduous forests in small groups, hunt deer and small game, weave baskets, and grind seeds with stones.
500 BC- AD 900	Woodland culture Indians develop maize agriculture, build villages and burial mounds, invent the bow and arrow for hunting, and begin making pottery.
900- 1500	Indians of the Mississippian culture improve agricultural methods, build temple mounds and large fortified villages. Most of the settlements are abandoned prior to the historic period.
1673	French explorers Jacques Marquette (1637-1675) and Louis Jolliet (1645-1700) descend the Mississippi to the Arkansas River and return to Wisconsin via the Illinois River—the first Europeans to reach the Illinois country.
1675	Marquette founds a mission at the Great Village of the Illinois, near present Utica.
1680	French traders René Robert Cavelier, Sieur de La Salle (1643-1687) and Henry de Tonty (1650-1704) build Fort Crèvecoeur on the Illinois River, near present Peoria.
	Iroquois Indians destroy the Great Village of the Illinois.
1682	La Salle and Tonty build Fort St. Louis across the Illinois River from the Great Village of the Illinois site.
1696	Jesuit priest Pierre François Pinet (1660-1704?) establishes the Guardian Angel mission at present Chicago.
1699	Priests of the Quebec Seminary of Foreign Missions found the Holy Family mission at Cahokia, the first permanent settlement in the Illinois country.
1703	Jesuit priest Gabriel Marest (1662-1714) moves the Immaculate Conception mission from present St. Louis to Kaskaskia.
1717	Illinois becomes part of the French colony of Louisiana.

- 1718 John Law (1671-1729) is granted a French charter for colonizing the Mississippi Valley; his "Mississippi Bubble" scheme bursts in 1720.
- 1720 Fort de Chartres in Randolph County becomes the seat of military and civilian government in Illinois.
- 1730 In a major battle, hostile Fox Indians are massacred in east-central Illinois by French troops and Indian allies.
- 1763 French and Indian (Seven Years') War ends; Illinois country is ceded to Britain by the Treaty of Paris.
- 1769 According to legend, northern tribes besiege and starve Illinois Indians tribes at Fort St. Louis, now known as Starved Rock.
- 1778 George Rogers Clark (1752-1818) defeats the British at Kaskaskia, securing the Illinois country for Virginia.
- 1779 Jean Baptiste Point du Sable (1745?-1818) establishes a trading post at present Chicago.
- 1783 Treaty of Paris extends the United States boundary to include the Illinois country.
- 1784 Virginia relinquishes its claim to Illinois.
- 1787 Northwest Ordinance places Illinois in the Northwest Territory.
- 1788 Arthur St. Clair (1734-1818) becomes the first governor of the Northwest Territory.
- 1800 Congress creates the Indiana Territory, which includes Illinois.
- 1803 Kaskaskia Indians cede nearly all of their Illinois lands to the United States.
- United States Army establishes Fort Dearborn at present Chicago.
- 1804 William Clark (1770-1838) and his troops depart from Camp Dubois, Madison County, to join Meriwether Lewis (1774-1809) for westward explorations.
- 1809 Congress organizes the Illinois Territory, with Kaskaskia the capital, Ninian Edwards (1775-1833) the governor.

- 1811 The first coal mine in Illinois is opened in Jackson County.  
New Madrid, Missouri, earthquake, the largest in United States history, damages southern Illinois (recurs in 1812).
- 1812 Potawatomi Indians massacre fifty-two troops and civilians in destroying Fort Dearborn.
- 1813 Land offices are opened at Kaskaskia and Shawneetown.
- 1814 The first newspaper in the state, the *Illinois Herald*, is published at Kaskaskia.
- 1816 Fort Armstrong is built at Rock Island, and Fort Dearborn is rebuilt at Chicago.  
The first bank in Illinois, at Shawneetown, is chartered by the territorial legislature.
- 1817 Morris Birkbeck (1764-1825) and George Flower (1780-1862) establish an English settlement at Albion.  
War of 1812 veterans begin receiving 160-acre land warrants in the Illinois Military Tract, a region between the Illinois and Mississippi rivers.
- 1818 Illinois becomes the twenty-first state, with Kaskaskia the capital and Shadrach Bond (1773-1832) the first governor. Population of the state is 34,620.
- 1819 Kickapoo Indians move west of the Mississippi, relinquishing most claims to central Illinois lands.
- 1820 Vandalia becomes the state capital.
- 1821 General Assembly charters a state bank at Vandalia, with branches at Shawneetown, Edwardsville, and Brownsville.
- 1823 Galena becomes a center for lead mining.
- 1824 Voters defeat a constitutional convention call to permit slavery in the state.

- 1825                   Gurdon S. Hubbard (1802-1886) establishes the Vincennes Trace from southern Illinois to Lake Michigan.
- General Assembly enacts the first public school law and levies a school tax.
- Marquis de Lafayette (1757-1834) visits Kaskaskia and Shawneetown on a tour of the United States.
- 1827                   John Mason Peck (1789-1858) founds Rock Spring Seminary, the first college in the state.
- 1829                   Chippewa, Ottawa, and Potawatomi cede lands in northern Illinois by treaty at Prairie du Chien.
- 1830                   The first state prison is built at Alton.
- Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865) moves to Illinois from Indiana.
- James Hall (1793-1858) launches *Illinois Monthly Magazine*, the first literary periodical published west of Ohio.
- 1832                   Black Hawk War ends with Sauk and Fox Indians leaving the Illinois lands they had ceded in 1804.
- 1833                   Treaty of Chicago provides for United States acquisition and settlement of the last remaining Indian lands in Illinois.
- 1835                   General Assembly grants a charter for the Jacksonville Female Academy, the first institution in the state for women's education.
- 1836                   Illinois and Michigan Canal construction is begun between Lake Michigan and the Illinois Valley; completed in 1848.
- Galena and Chicago Union Railroad is chartered; completed twelve years later.
- 1837                   Chicago receives a city charter; William Ogden (1805-1877) becomes the first mayor.
- At Alton a pro-slavery mob murders abolitionist editor Elijah P. Lovejoy (b. 1802).

- John Deere (1804-1886) of Grand Detour designs a self-scouring steel plow.
- 1838 Northern Cross Railroad construction is begun between Meredosia and Springfield; the line is completed in 1842.
- 1839 Cherokee Indians pass through southern Illinois on the “Trail of Tears” to Oklahoma.
- Springfield becomes the state capital.
- National Road is completed from Cumberland, Maryland, to Vandalia.
- 1839 Joseph Smith (1805-1844) chooses Nauvoo as headquarters for the Mormon church.
- 1841 Chicagoan John S. Wright (1815-1874) begins publishing *Prairie Farmer* magazine.
- 1842 British author Charles Dickens (1812-1870) visits southern Illinois, described in his *American Notes* (1842).
- 1844 Anti-Mormons assassinate Mormon leaders Joseph and Hyrum (b. 1800) Smith at Carthage.
- 1846 Mormons leave Nauvoo for the Great Salt Lake Basin in Utah.
- Donner party leaves Springfield by wagon train for California; forty-two perish in Sierra Mountains snowstorms.
- Erik Jansson (1808-1850) and Jonas Olson (1802?-1898) establish a Swedish religious colony at Bishop Hill.
- 1847 Joseph Medill (1823-1899) founds the *Chicago Tribune*.
- Jacksonville educator Jonathan Baldwin Turner (1805-1899) introduces Osage orange hedges as farm fencing.
- Inventor Cyrus Hall McCormick (1809-1884) opens a plant in Chicago for manufacturing wheat reapers.
- 1848 Chicago Board of Trade is organized; it is now the largest and

- oldest commodity futures exchange in the world.
- 1849 Étienne Cabet (1788-1856) establishes a French Icarian communal settlement at Nauvoo.
- 1850 Population of the state is 851,470.
- Illinois Central Railroad receives the first federal land grant for rail construction.
- 1853 The first state fair is held at Springfield.
- General Assembly enacts legislation to prevent free blacks from settling in the state.
- 1855 General Assembly adopts a free public school system.
- 1856 Illinois Central Railroad is completed between Chicago, Galena, and Cairo.
- 1856 The first railroad bridge across the Mississippi River is completed between Rock Island and Davenport, Iowa.
- Rand McNally is established in Chicago; by 1880 it is the world's largest mapmaking company.
- Chicago Historical Society is founded, with William H. Brown (1796-1867) the first president.
- 1858 Republican Abraham Lincoln and Democrat Stephen A. Douglas (1813-1861) hold seven debates in the United States Senate contest; Douglas wins the election.
- 1860 Lincoln is elected President of the United States, defeating three other candidates.
- Luxury steamer *Lady Elgin* sinks in Lake Michigan; nearly three hundred perish.
- 1861 Civil War begins; Cairo becomes a troop and supply center for the Union Army.
- 1862 Union League of America is founded in Pekin for the promotion of patriotism and Union loyalty.



- 1864 Lincoln is reelected President.
- 1865 General Assembly repeals measures against black settlement (Black Laws); is the first state legislature to ratify the Thirteenth Amendment abolishing slavery.
- Lincoln is assassinated in Washington, D.C.; buried in Springfield.
- Chicago Union Stock Yards opens; by 1900 employs more than one third of packing industry laborers in the nation.
- 1866 Grand Army of the Republic is established in Decatur; the first GAR convention is held in Springfield.
- 1867 General Assembly establishes the Illinois Industrial University at Champaign-Urbana, renamed the University of Illinois in 1885.
- George M. Pullman (1831-1897) founds the Pullman Palace Car Company in Chicago, manufacturing railroad sleeping cars.
- Illinois Normal University geologist John Wesley Powell (1834-1902) begins surveys of the Rocky Mountain region; becomes director of the United States Geological Survey in 1880.
- 1868 Ulysses S. Grant (1822-1885), Civil War general from Galena, is elected President of the United States.
- Marshall Field & Co. department store opens in downtown Chicago; at his death, Field (1834-1906) is the city's wealthiest citizen.
- 1871 Chicago Fire destroys eighteen thousand downtown buildings, with losses estimated at \$200 million.
- 1872 Chicagoan John Jones (1816-1879) becomes a Cook County commissioner, the first African-American to hold elective office in Illinois.
- Chicago merchant Aaron Montgomery Ward (1844-1913) establishes the first large-scale mail order business.
- General Assembly grants communities taxing authority to establish and maintain public libraries.
- 1873 Frances Willard (1839-1898) founds the Woman's Christian

Temperance Union in Evanston.

Joseph F. Glidden (1813-1906) of DeKalb develops barbed wire fencing, patented in 1874.

1876 United States Supreme Court establishes in *Munn v. Illinois* the principle that business of a public nature is subject to state regulation.

1877 General Assembly establishes the Illinois National Guard.

1878 Bell Telephone Company of Illinois begins service in Chicago.

1880 Leslie E. Keeley (1832-1900) and John R. Oughton (1858-1925) establish the Keeley Institute in Dwight for treatment of alcoholism; by 1900 franchised sanitoriums are operating in many states.

1883 General Assembly enacts the first compulsory school attendance legislation.

William LeBaron Jenney (1832-1907) designs the ten-story Home Insurance Building in Chicago, generally known as the world's first skyscraper.

1886 Haymarket Square bombing and riot in Chicago during a labor rally cause several deaths; eight anarchists are convicted, four are hanged, and one dies in prison.

1888 Chicago attorney Melville W. Fuller (1833-1910) is named Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court.

1889 Jane Addams (1860-1935) and Ellen Gates Starr (1859-1940) open Hull House, one of the nation's first settlement houses, for foreign-born residents of Chicago.

Evangelist Dwight L. Moody (1837-1899) founds the Chicago Bible Institute for training missionaries to foreign lands.

Illinois State Historical Library is established by the state legislature; in 1899, a membership-support organization, the Illinois State Historical Society, is founded.

- John Mitchell (1870-1919) of Spring Valley becomes president of the United Mine Workers of America (to 1908).
- 1890 University of Chicago is incorporated, with William Rainey Harper (1856-1906) the first president.
- Chicago Symphony Orchestra is established, with Christian Theodore Thomas (1835-1905) the first conductor.
- African-American surgeon Daniel Hale Williams (1858-1931) organizes Provident Hospital in Chicago, the first black hospital in the United States; performs the first open-heart surgery in 1893.
- 1892 Chicago attorney Myra Bradwell (1831-1894) becomes the first woman admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court.
- Canal construction to reverse the Chicago River flow is begun; completed in 1900.
- Illinois and Mississippi (Hennepin) Canal construction is begun between the Illinois and the Rock rivers; completed in 1907.
- Adlai Stevenson I (1835-1914) of Bloomington is elected Vice President of the United States on the ticket with Grover Cleveland.
- 1893 World's Columbian Exposition is held in Chicago, commemorating the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of European exploratory voyages to the western hemisphere.
- 1893 General Assembly establishes regulations for child labor and factory inspections.
- Governor John Peter Altgeld (1847-1902) pardons three imprisoned Haymarket anarchists.
- 1894 Pullman factory strike in Chicago becomes a national railway strike; federal troops are called to quell mob violence.
- Chicago attorney Clarence Darrow (1857-1938) unsuccessfully defends socialist leader Eugene V. Debs (1855-1926) on charges relating to the Pullman strike.

- 1896 Salem native William Jennings Bryan (1860-1925) wins the first of three presidential nominations; is defeated each time.
- 1898 United Mine Workers win labor disputes at Pana and Virden, after eleven miners and guards are killed.
- 1899 General Assembly creates the first juvenile court system in the nation.
- 1900 Population of the state is 4,821,550.
- Chicago Sanitary & Ship Canal opens between Chicago and Lockport.
- Frank Lloyd Wright (1869-1959) establishes a studio in Oak Park for designing “prairie style” architecture.
- Chicago newspaperman Theodore Dreiser (1871-1945) launches his literary career with *Sister Carrie*, the first major novel set in Chicago.
- 1903 Fire destroys the Iroquois Theater in Chicago; nearly six hundred perish.
- Joseph G. Cannon (1836-1926), Danville, elected to the United States House of Representatives in 1872, begins the first of four successive terms as Speaker of the House (to 1911).
- 1905 Paul P. Harris (1869-1947) and other Chicago businessmen organize the Rotary Club.
- Eugene Debs, Mary Harris “Mother” Jones (1843?-1930), and others found the Industrial Workers of the World union in Chicago.
- 1906 Chicago White Sox defeat crosstown rival Chicago Cubs in the baseball World Series.
- 1908 Springfield race riot leads to formation of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) in 1909.
- 1909 Coal mine fire at Cherry, resulting in 259 deaths, is one of the worst mine disasters in history.

- Architect Daniel Burnham (1846-1912) designs the “Chicago Plan” for development of the lakefront and business district.
- 1910 William D. Boyce (1858-1929), Chicago and Ottawa businessman, founds the Boy Scouts of America.
- Winchester native and Northwestern University Dental School dean Greene V. Black (1836-1915) receives the first International Miller Prize in dental science.
- 1911 Chicago sculptor Lorado Taft (1860-1936) completes his most famous work, “The Indian” (later called “Black Hawk”), a massive statue overlooking Rock River in Ogle County.
- 1912 Harriet Monroe (1860-1936) launches *Poetry: A Magazine of Verse* in Chicago; includes writings of Springfield poet Vachel Lindsay (1879-1931).
- 1913 General Assembly grants women the right to vote for presidential electors and provides state aid for county road construction.
- 1915 Poet and novelist Edgar Lee Masters (1869-1950) publishes *Spoon River Anthology*, a volume on small-town Illinois.
- Excursion steam *Eastland* capsizes in the Chicago River; 1812 perish.
- 1917 With support from Governor Frank O. Lowden (1861-1943) General Assembly adopts a modern civil administrative code for state government.
- In May and July Illinois National Guard troops are sent to East St. Louis to quell race riots.
- Chicago White Sox defeat the New York Giants in the World Series.
- 1918 Voters approve a \$60 million bond issue for paving state roads.
- 1918 Influenza epidemic causes thirty-two thousand deaths in the state.
- Robert Paul Prager (b. 1886), a German-born socialist suspected of disloyalty to the United States, is lynched by a pro-war mob in Collinsville.

- 1919 Chicago White Sox players (the “Black Sox”) are accused of gambling on the World Series, which they lost to the Cincinnati Red Legs.  
  
Chicago race riots leave thirty-eight dead and more than five hundred injured; a thousand residents are left homeless.
- 1920 John L. Lewis (1880-1969) of Springfield is elected president of the United Mine Workers of America (to 1960).  
  
Governor Lennington Small (1862-1936) pardons twenty members of the Communist Labor party convicted under the Illinois Sedition Act.
- 1921 George Halas’s (1895-1983) football team, the Staleys, moves from Decatur to Chicago, and wins the national championship; in 1922 the Staleys become the Chicago Bears.
- 1922 Decatur manufacturer A. E. Staley (1867-1940) opens the first commercial soybean-processing plant.  
  
In the “Herrin Massacre,” three union miners and twenty strikebreakers are killed in mob violence at a strip mine in Williamson County.
- 1924 At the University of Illinois’ new Memorial Stadium, Harold “Red” Grange (1904-1991), the “Gallopig Ghost,” scores four touchdowns in twelve minutes against the University of Michigan.
- 1925 Charles Gates Dawes (1865-1951) of Evanston becomes Vice President with President Calvin Coolidge (1872-1933); receives the Nobel Peace Prize for the “Dawes Plan” to restore the German economy after World War I.  
  
The worst tornado in United States history devastates parts of Illinois, Missouri, and Indiana; 695 deaths.  
  
Chicago Cardinals win the professional football championship; repeat in 1947.
- 1926 Aviator Charles Lindbergh (1902-1974) begins daily mail delivery flights between Chicago and St. Louis.
- 1929 Gunmen of Alphonse Capone (1899-1947) murder seven rival

Chicago mobsters in the “St. Valentine’s Day Massacre.”

- 1930 Utilities founded by Chicagoan Samuel Insull (1859-1938), and valued at more than \$2 billion, produce one tenth of the nation’s electric power.
- 1931 Jane Addams wins the Nobel Peace Prize.
- 1932 Disgruntled United Mine Workers organize the Progressive Miners of America at Gillespie and Benld, eventually enlisting twenty thousand members.
- The number of unemployed Chicago workers during the Great Depression reaches 750,000.
- Chicago Bears win the professional football championship; repeat in 1933, 1940, 1941, 1943, 1946, 1963, and 1986.
- 1933 Century of Progress International Exposition commemorates the centennial of the incorporation of Chicago (held again in 1934).
- Chicago mayor Anton J. Cermak (b. 1873) dies in Miami, Florida, in an assassination attempt on President-elect Franklin Roosevelt (1882-1945).
- Chicago Tribune* sports editor Arch Ward (1896-1955) organizes the first baseball All-Star Game, played at Comisky Park and won by the American League.
- Illinois and Michigan Canal is closed to river traffic.
- 1934 Chicago Black Hawks win the National Hockey League championship (Stanley Cup); repeat in 1938 and 1961.
- 1937 General Assembly creates an unemployment compensation system.
- On Memorial Day, Chicago police fire on strikers at Republic Steel, resulting in ten deaths.
- 1939 Chicago author Richard Wright (1908-1960) publishes *Native Son*, set in Chicago and the first major novel about the black experience in America.
- 1940 Chicago theater-chain owner John Balaban (1894-1957)

establishes WBKB, the first television station in Illinois.

- 1942 University of Chicago scientists, led by Nobel Prize winner (1938) Enrico Fermi (1901-1954), achieve the first self-sustaining nuclear reaction.
- 1945 Chicago Cubs win the National League pennant, lose the World Series to the Detroit Tigers.
- American Airlines inaugurates direct air service from Chicago to London.
- 1949 Orchard Place Airport in Chicago is renamed O'Hare Field, Chicago International Airport in honor of Lieutenant Commander Edward H. O'Hare (1914-1943), Congressional Medal of Honor recipient killed in World War II.
- 1950 Population of the state is 8,712,176.
- Gwendolyn Brooks (b. 1917) becomes the first African-American woman to win a Pulitzer Prize; is named Illinois poet laureate in 1968.
- 1951 Illinois and Mississippi Canal is closed to river traffic.
- 1952 Governor Adlai Stevenson (1900-1965) is the Democratic nominee for president; defeated by Republican Dwight Eisenhower (1890-1969).
- 1953 State Auditor Orville Hodge (1904-1986) is convicted of \$1.5 million theft of state funds.
- 1954 In Des Plaines, Raymond A. Kroc (1902-1984) opens the first in a chain of McDonald's fast-food restaurants.
- 1955 Richard J. Daley (1902-1976) is elected to the first of six terms as Chicago mayor.
- 1957 The nation's first nuclear power generating station is activated at Argonne National Laboratory in DuPage County.
- 1958 The first section of Illinois toll roads is opened from O'Hare International Airport to the Wisconsin border.



- Fire at Our Lady of Angels elementary school in Chicago claims the lives of ninety-two children and three nuns.
- 1959 Everett M. Dirksen (1896-1969) is elected Republican leader of the United States Senate.
- 1959 Chicago White Sox win their first American League championship since the 1919 Black Sox scandal but lose the World Series to the Los Angeles Dodgers.
- Chicago native Lorraine Hansberry (1930-1965) wins the New York Drama Critics Circle Award for *A Raisin in the Sun*, the first play by an African-American woman to be presented on Broadway.
- 1962 General Assembly names Pulitzer Prize-winner Carl Sandburg (1878-1967) the first poet laureate of Illinois.
- Governor Otto Kerner (1908-1976) leads businessmen on the first Illinois trade mission to Europe.
- 1964 General Assembly approves an at-large election of 177 representatives after the 1963 veto of a reapportionment bill.
- 1966 Illinois for the first time leads the nation in exports of agricultural and manufactured products.
- 1968 Civil disorder erupts during the Democratic National Convention in Chicago; police report 650 arrests.
- 1970 After the death of Secretary of State Paul Powell (b. 1902), \$800,000 is found in shoeboxes in his Springfield hotel room.
- Voters adopt a new Constitution, the first in one hundred years.
- “Chicago Seven” defendants are convicted on charges relating to violence at the 1968 Democratic National Convention; the decision is overturned in 1972.
- 1971 Chicago political and civil rights leader Jesse Jackson (b. 1941) founds Operation PUSH — People United to Save (later Serve) Humanity.
- 1972 Chicago Union Stock Yards closes.

Abraham Lincoln Home in Springfield is designated the first national historic site in Illinois.

Two Illinois Central commuter trains collide in Chicago; forty-five passengers are killed and more than two hundred are injured.

1973 Otto Kerner is convicted on charges involving the sale of racetrack stock while governor.

1974 The world's tallest building, Sears Tower in downtown Chicago, is completed.

General Assembly approves a state lottery.

1976 James R. Thompson (b. 1936) is elected to the first of four gubernatorial terms (to 1991), the longest-serving governor in Illinois history.

Chicago author Saul Bellow (b. 1915) wins the Nobel Prize in Literature.

1979 Jane Byrne (b. 1934) becomes the first female mayor of Chicago.

American Airlines crash at O'Hare International Airport kills 275, the worst air disaster in United States history.

Centralia native Roland Burris (b. 1937) becomes Comptroller, the first African-American to hold a statewide elective office in Illinois.

1980 Ronald Reagan (b. 1911) in Tampico, is elected United States President; John B. Anderson (b. 1922) of Rockford is defeated as an Independent candidate.

1981 Morton Grove ordinance bans the possession of handguns, the most restrictive gun control measure in the nation.

Peoria native John B. "Jack" Brickhouse (1916-1998) retires after broadcasting more than five thousand Chicago Cubs and White Sox games; receives the National Baseball Hall of Fame Ford C. Frick Award in 1983.

1982 General Assembly fails to ratify the proposed equal rights

amendment to the United States Constitution.

- 1983 Harold Washington (1922-1987) is elected the first African-American mayor of Chicago.
- 1984 Seventeen Chicago attorneys, police officers, and judges are indicted in Operation Greylord on charges of improperly influencing court cases; convictions include the first for a sitting state court judge in Illinois.
- 1988 Diamond-Star Motors, an automobile manufacturing venture between Mitsubishi Motors of Japan and the Chrysler Corporation, opens in Bloomington.
- 1989 Clarence Page (b. 1947) of the *Chicago Tribune* is the first African-American columnist to win a Pulitzer Prize.
- 1990 Population of the state is 11,430,602.
- 1991 Chicago Bulls win the first of three consecutive National Basketball Association championships.
- 1992 Carol Moseley-Braun (b. 1947) of Chicago becomes the first African-American woman elected to the United States Senate.
- 1993 The worst floods in the state's history ravage western and southern Illinois.
- 1994 Bonnie Blair (b. 1964) speed skater from Champaign, wins her fifth Olympic Games gold medal, the most by an American woman.
- 1995 Navy Pier in Chicago, constructed in 1916 as a shipping terminal and then used for wartime navy and marine training and as a campus of the University of Illinois, is renovated and reopens with a giant Ferris Wheel, children's museum, stage pavilion, and retail shops.
- Commuter train strikes a school bus in Fox River Grove, killing seven and injuring thirty students.
- 1996 Chicago Bulls post a 72-10 season, best in league history, then wins the National Basketball Association championship. Guard Michael Jordan (b. 1963) sets NBA records with his eighth scoring

title and fourth Most Valuable Player designation.

- 1997 The Field Museum of Natural History, outbidding museums throughout the United States, pays \$8.4 million for Sue, the most complete Tyrannosaurus Rex fossil yet discovered.
- 1998 Fire destroys the historic Pullman railroad-car factory in south Chicago.
- Eighteenth District Congressman Ray LaHood (b. 1945) presides as Speaker of the United States House of Representatives during the impeachment of President William J. Clinton.
- 1999 Fourteenth District Congressman J. Dennis Hastert (b. 1942) is elected Speaker of the United States House of Representatives.





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8000 BC- 500 BC	Archaic period Indians inhabit deciduous forests in small groups, hunt deer and small game, weave baskets, and grind seeds with stones.
500 BC- AD 900	Woodland culture Indians develop maize agriculture, build villages and burial mounds invent the bow and arrow for hunting, and begin making pottery.
900- 1500	Indians of the Mississippian culture improve agricultural methods, build temple mounds and large fortified villages. Most of the settlements are abandoned prior to the historic period.
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1675	Marquette founds a mission at the Great Village of the Illinois, near present Utica.
1680	French traders René Robert Cavelier, Sieur de La Salle (1643-1687) and Henry de Tonty (1650-1704) build Fort Crèvecoeur on the Illinois River, near present Peoria.  Iroquois Indians destroy the Great Village of the Illinois.
1682	La Salle and Tonty build Fort St. Louis across the Illinois River from the Great Village of the Illinois site.
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- 1769 According to legend, northern tribes besiege and starve Illinois Indians tribes at Fort St Louis, now known as Starved Rock.
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- 1803 Kaskaskia Indians cede nearly all of their Illinois lands to the United States.  
United States Army establishes Fort Dearborn at present Chicago.
- 1804 William Clark (1770-1838) and his troops depart from Camp Dubois, Madison County to join Meriwether Lewis (1774-1809) for westward explorations.
- 1809 Congress organizes the Illinois Territory, with Kaskaskia the capital, Ninian Edward (1775-1833) the governor.
- 1811 The first coal mine in Illinois is opened in Jackson County.  
New Madrid, Missouri, earthquake, the largest in United States history, damage southern Illinois (recurs in 1812).
- 1812 Potawatomi Indians massacre fifty-two troops and civilians in destroying Fort Dearborn.
- 1813 Land offices are opened at Kaskaskia and Shawneetown.
- 1814 The first newspaper in the state, the *Illinois Herald*, is published at Kaskaskia.
- 1816 Fort Armstrong is built at Rock Island, and Fort Dearborn is rebuilt at Chicago.  
The first bank in Illinois, at Shawneetown, is chartered by the territorial legislature.
- 1817 Morris Birkbeck (1764-1825) and George Flower (1780-1862) establish an English settlement at Albion.

- War of 1812 veterans begin receiving 160-acre land warrants in the Illinois Military Tract, a region between the Illinois and Mississippi rivers.
- 1818 Illinois becomes the twenty-first state, with Kaskaskia the capital and Shadrach Bond (1773-1832) the first governor. Population of the state is 34,620.
- 1819 Kickapoo Indians move west of the Mississippi, relinquishing most claims to central Illinois lands.
- 1820 Vandalia becomes the state capital.
- 1821 General Assembly charters a state bank at Vandalia, with branches at Shawneetown, Edwardsville, and Brownsville.
- 1823 Galena becomes a center for lead mining.
- 1824 Voters defeat a constitutional convention call to permit slavery in the state.
- 1825 Gurdon S. Hubbard (1802-1886) establishes the Vincennes Trace from southern Illinois to Lake Michigan.
- General Assembly enacts the first public school law and levies a school tax.
- Marquis de Lafayette (1757-1834) visits Kaskaskia and Shawneetown on a tour of the United States.
- 1827 John Mason Peck (1789-1858) founds Rock Spring Seminary, the first college in the state.
- 1829 Chippewa, Ottawa, and Potawatomi cede lands in northern Illinois by treaty at Prairie du Chien.
- 1830 The first state prison is built at Alton.
- Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865) moves to Illinois from Indiana.
- 1830 James Hall (1793-1858) launches *Illinois Monthly Magazine*, the first literary periodical published west of Ohio.
- 1832 Black Hawk War ends with Sauk and Fox Indians leaving the Illinois lands they had ceded in 1804.
- 1833 Treaty of Chicago provides for United States acquisition and settlement of the last remaining Indian lands in Illinois.
- 1835 General Assembly grants a charter for the Jacksonville Female Academy, the first institution in the state for women's education.

- 1836 Illinois and Michigan Canal construction is begun between Lake Michigan and the Illinois Valley; completed in 1848.
- Galena and Chicago Union Railroad is chartered; completed twelve years later.
- 1837 Chicago receives a city charter; William Ogden (1805-1877) becomes the first mayor.
- At Alton a pro-slavery mob murders abolitionist editor Elijah P. Lovejoy (b. 1802)
- John Deere (1804-1886) of Grand Detour designs a self-scouring steel plow.
- 1838 Northern Cross Railroad construction is begun between Meredosia and Springfield; the line is completed in 1842.
- 1839 Cherokee Indians pass through southern Illinois on the "Trail of Tears" to Oklahoma.
- Springfield becomes the state capital.
- National Road is completed from Cumberland, Maryland, to Vandalia.
- Joseph Smith (1805-1844) chooses Nauvoo as headquarters for the Mormon church.
- 1841 Chicagoan John S. Wright (1815-1874) begins publishing *Prairie Farmer* magazine.
- 1842 British author Charles Dickens (1812-1870) visits southern Illinois, described in his *American Notes* (1842).
- 1844 Anti-Mormons assassinate Mormon leaders Joseph and Hyrum (b. 1800) Smith at Carthage.
- 1846 Mormons leave Nauvoo for the Great Salt Lake Basin in Utah.
- 1846 Donner party leaves Springfield by wagon train for California; forty-two perish in Sierra Mountains snowstorms.
- Erik Jansson (1808-1850) and Jonas Olson (1802?-1898) establish a Swedish religious colony at Bishop Hill.
- 1847 Joseph Medill (1823-1899) founds the *Chicago Tribune*.
- Jacksonville educator Jonathan Baldwin Turner (1805-1899) introduces Osage orange hedges as farm fencing.
- Inventor Cyrus Hall McCormick (1809-1884) opens a plant in Chicago for manufacturing wheat reapers.
- 1848 Chicago Board of Trade is organized; it is now the largest and oldest commodity futures exchange in the world.

- 1849 Étienne Cabet (1788-1856) establishes a French Icarian communal settlement at Nauvoo.
- 1850 Population of the state is 851,470.  
Illinois Central Railroad receives the first federal land grant for rail construction.
- 1853 The first state fair is held at Springfield.  
General Assembly enacts legislation to prevent free blacks from settling in the state.
- 1855 General Assembly adopts a free public school system.
- 1856 Illinois Central Railroad is completed between Chicago, Galena, and Cairo.  
The first railroad bridge across the Mississippi River is completed between Rock Island and Davenport, Iowa.  
Rand McNally is established in Chicago; by 1880 it is the world's largest mapmaking company.  
Chicago Historical Society is founded, with William H. Brown (1796-1867) the first president.
- 1858 Republican Abraham Lincoln and Democrat Stephen A. Douglas (1813-1861) hold seven debates in the United States Senate contest; Douglas wins the election.
- 1860 Lincoln is elected President of the United States, defeating three other candidates.  
Luxury steamer *Lady Elgin* sinks in Lake Michigan; nearly three hundred perish.
- 1861 Civil War begins; Cairo becomes a troop and supply center for the Union Army.
- 1862 Union League of America is founded in Pekin for the promotion of patriotism and Union loyalty.
- 1864 Lincoln is reelected President.
- 1865 General Assembly repeals measures against black settlement (Black Laws); is the first state legislature to ratify the Thirteenth Amendment abolishing slavery.  
Lincoln is assassinated in Washington, D.C.; buried in Springfield.  
Chicago Union Stock Yards opens; by 1900 employs more than one third of packing industry laborers in the nation.
- 1866 Grand Army of the Republic is established in Decatur; the first GAR convention is held

- in Springfield.
- 1867 General Assembly establishes the Illinois Industrial University at Champaign-Urbana renamed the University of Illinois in 1885.
- George M. Pullman (1831-1897) founds the Pullman Palace Car Company in Chicago manufacturing railroad sleeping cars.
- Illinois Normal University geologist John Wesley Powell (1834-1902) begins surveys of the Rocky Mountain region; becomes director of the United States Geological Survey in 1880.
- 1868 Ulysses S. Grant (1822-1885), Civil War general from Galena, is elected President of the United States.
- Marshall Field & Co. department store opens in downtown Chicago; at his death, Field (1834-1906) is the city's wealthiest citizen.
- 1871 Chicago Fire destroys eighteen thousand downtown buildings, with losses estimated at \$200 million.
- 1872 Chicagoan John Jones (1816-1879) becomes a Cook County commissioner, the first African-American to hold elective office in Illinois.
- 1872 Chicago merchant Aaron Montgomery Ward (1844-1913) establishes the first large-scale mail order business.
- General Assembly grants communities taxing authority to establish and maintain public libraries.
- 1873 Frances Willard (1839-1898) founds the Woman's Christian Temperance Union in Evanston.
- Joseph F. Glidden (1813-1906) of DeKalb develops barbed wire fencing, patented in 1874.
- 1876 United States Supreme Court establishes in *Munn v. Illinois* the principle that business of a public nature is subject to state regulation.
- 1877 General Assembly establishes the Illinois National Guard.
- 1878 Bell Telephone Company of Illinois begins service in Chicago.
- 1880 Leslie E. Keeley (1832-1900) and John R. Oughton (1858-1925) establish the Keeley Institute in Dwight for treatment of alcoholism; by 1900 franchised sanitoriums are operating in many states.
- 1883 General Assembly enacts the first compulsory school attendance legislation.

- William LeBaron Jenney (1832-1907) designs the ten-story Home Insurance Building in Chicago, generally known as the world's first skyscraper.
- 1886 Haymarket Square bombing and riot in Chicago during a labor rally cause several deaths; eight anarchists are convicted, four are hanged, and one dies in prison.
- 1888 Chicago attorney Melville W. Fuller (1833-1910) is named Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court.
- 1889 Jane Addams (1860-1935) and Ellen Gates Starr (1859-1940) open Hull House, one of the nation's first settlement houses, for foreign-born residents of Chicago.
- Evangelist Dwight L. Moody (1837-1899) founds the Chicago Bible Institute for training missionaries to foreign lands.
- Illinois State Historical Library is established by the state legislature; in 1899, a membership-support organization, the Illinois State Historical Society, is founded.
- 1889 John Mitchell (1870-1919) of Spring Valley becomes president of the United Mine Workers of America (to 1908).
- 1890 University of Chicago is incorporated, with William Rainey Harper (1856-1906) the first president.
- 1891 Chicago Symphony Orchestra is established, with Christian Theodore Thomas (1835-1905) the first conductor.
- African-American surgeon Daniel Hale Williams (1858-1931) organizes Provident Hospital in Chicago, the first black hospital in the United States; performs the first open-heart surgery in 1893.
- 1892 Chicago attorney Myra Bradwell (1831-1894) becomes the first woman admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court.
- Canal construction to reverse the Chicago River flow is begun; completed in 1900.
- Illinois and Mississippi (Hennepin) Canal construction is begun between the Illinois and the Rock rivers; completed in 1907.
- Adlai Stevenson I (1835-1914) of Bloomington is elected Vice President of the United States on the ticket with Grover Cleveland.
- 1893 World's Columbian Exposition is held in Chicago, commemorating the 400th anniversary of European exploratory voyages to the western hemisphere.
- General Assembly establishes regulations for child labor and factory inspections.

- Governor John Peter Altgeld (1847-1902) pardons three imprisoned Haymarket anarchists.
- 1894 Pullman factory strike in Chicago becomes a national railway strike; federal troops are called to quell mob violence.
- Chicago attorney Clarence Darrow (1857-1938) unsuccessfully defends socialist leader Eugene V. Debs (1855-1926) on charges relating to the Pullman strike.
- 1896 Salem native William Jennings Bryan (1860-1925) wins the first of three presidential nominations; is defeated each time.
- 1898 United Mine Workers win labor disputes at Pana and Virden, after eleven miners and guards are killed.
- 1899 General Assembly creates the first juvenile court system in the nation.
- 1900 Population of the state is 4,821,550.
- Chicago Sanitary & Ship Canal opens between Chicago and Lockport.
- Frank Lloyd Wright (1869-1959) establishes a studio in Oak Park for designing "prairie style" architecture.
- Chicago newspaperman Theodore Dreiser (1871-1945) launches his literary career with *Sister Carrie*, the first major novel set in Chicago.
- 1903 Fire destroys the Iroquois Theater in Chicago; nearly six hundred perish.
- Joseph G. Cannon (1836-1926), Danville, elected to the United States House of Representatives in 1872, begins the first of four successive terms as Speaker of the House (to 1911).
- 1905 Paul P. Harris (1869-1947) and other Chicago businessmen organize the Rotary Club.
- Eugene Debs, Mary Harris "Mother" Jones (1843?-1930), and others found the Industrial Workers of the World union in Chicago.
- 1906 Chicago White Sox defeat crosstown rival Chicago Cubs in the baseball World Series.
- 1908 Springfield race riot leads to formation of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) in 1909.
- 1909 Coal mine fire at Cherry, resulting in 259 deaths, is one of the worst mine disasters in history.
- Architect Daniel Burnham (1846-1912) designs the "Chicago Plan" for development of



the lakefront and business district.

- 1910 William D. Boyce (1858-1929), Chicago and Ottawa businessman, founds the Boy Scouts of America.
- Winchester native and Northwestern University Dental School dean Greene V. Black (1836-1915) receives the first International Miller Prize in dental science.
- 1911 Chicago sculptor Lorado Taft (1860-1936) completes his most famous work, "The Indian" (later called "Black Hawk"), a massive statue overlooking Rock River in Ogle County.
- 1912 Harriet Monroe (1860-1936) launches *Poetry: A Magazine of Verse* in Chicago includes writings of Springfield poet Vachel Lindsay (1879-1931).
- 1913 General Assembly grants women the right to vote for presidential electors and provide state aid for county road construction.
- 1915 Poet and novelist Edgar Lee Masters (1869-1950) publishes *Spoon River Anthology*, a volume on small-town Illinois.
- Excursion steam *Eastland* capsizes in the Chicago River; 1812 perish.
- 1917 With support from Governor Frank O. Lowden (1861-1943) General Assembly adopts a modern civil administrative code for state government.
- In May and July Illinois National Guard troops are sent to East St. Louis to quell race riots.
- Chicago White Sox defeat the New York Giants in the World Series.
- 1918 Voters approve a \$60 million bond issue for paving state roads.
- Influenza epidemic causes thirty-two thousand deaths in the state.
- Robert Paul Prager (b. 1886), a German-born socialist suspected of disloyalty to the United States, is lynched by a pro-war mob in Collinsville.
- 1919 Chicago White Sox players (the "Black Sox") are accused of gambling on the World Series, which they lost to the Cincinnati Red Legs.
- Chicago race riots leave thirty-eight dead and more than five hundred injured; a thousand residents are left homeless.
- 1920 John L. Lewis (1880-1969) of Springfield is elected president of the United Mine Workers of America (to 1960).
- Governor Lennington Small (1862-1936) pardons twenty members of the Communis

- Labor party convicted under the Illinois Sediton Act.
- 1921 George Halas's (1895-1983) football team, the Staleys, moves from Decatur to Chicago and wins the national championship; in 1922 the Staleys become the Chicago Bears.
- 1922 Decatur manufacturer A. E. Staley (1867-1940) opens the first commercial soybean-processing plant.
- 1922 In the "Herrin Massacre," three union miners and twenty strikebreakers are killed in mob violence at a strip mine in Williamson County.
- 1924 At the University of Illinois' new Memorial Stadium, Harold "Red" Grange (1904-1991), the "Gallopig Ghost," scores four touchdowns in twelve minutes against the University of Michigan.
- 1925 Charles Gates Dawes (1865-1951) of Evanston becomes Vice President with President Calvin Coolidge (1872-1933); receives the Nobel Peace Prize for the "Dawes Plan" to restore the German economy after World War I.
- The worst tornado in United States history devastates parts of Illinois, Missouri, and Indiana; 695 deaths.
- Chicago Cardinals win the professional football championship; repeat in 1947.
- 1926 Aviator Charles Lindbergh (1902-1974) begins daily mail delivery flights between Chicago and St. Louis.
- 1929 Gunmen of Alphonse Capone (1899-1947) murder seven rival Chicago mobsters in the "St. Valentine's Day Massacre."
- 1930 Utilities founded by Chicagoan Samuel Insull (1859-1938), and valued at more than \$2 billion, produce one tenth of the nation's electric power.
- 1931 Jane Addams wins the Nobel Peace Prize.
- 1932 Disgruntled United Mine Workers organize the Progressive Miners of America a Gillespie and Benld, eventually enlisting twenty thousand members.
- The number of unemployed Chicago workers during the Great Depression reaches 750,000.
- Chicago Bears win the professional football championship; repeat in 1933, 1940, 1941 1943, 1946, 1963, and 1986.
- 1933 Century of Progress International Exposition commemorates the centennial of the incorporation of Chicago (held again in 1934).
- Chicago mayor Anton J. Cermak (b. 1873) dies in Miami, Florida, in an assassination

attempt on President-elect Franklin Roosevelt (1882-1945).

*Chicago Tribune* sports editor Arch Ward (1896-1955) organizes the first baseball All-Star Game, played at Comisky Park and won by the American League.

- 1933 Illinois and Michigan Canal is closed to river traffic.
- 1934 Chicago Black Hawks win the National Hockey League championship (Stanley Cup) repeat in 1938 and 1961.
- 1937 General Assembly creates an unemployment compensation system.
- On Memorial Day, Chicago police fire on strikers at Republic Steel, resulting in ten deaths.
- 1939 Chicago author Richard Wright (1908-1960) publishes *Native Son*, set in Chicago and the first major novel about the black experience in America.
- 1940 Chicago theater-chain owner John Balaban (1894-1957) establishes WBKB, the first television station in Illinois.
- 1942 University of Chicago scientists, led by Nobel Prize winner (1938) Enrico Fermi (1901-1954), achieve the first self-sustaining nuclear reaction.
- 1945 Chicago Cubs win the National League pennant, lose the World Series to the Detroit Tigers.
- American Airlines inaugurates direct air service from Chicago to London.
- 1949 Orchard Place Airport in Chicago is renamed O'Hare Field, Chicago International Airport in honor of Lieutenant Commander Edward H. O'Hare (1914-1943) Congressional Medal of Honor recipient killed in World War II.
- 1950 Population of the state is 8,712,176.
- Gwendolyn Brooks (b. 1917) becomes the first African-American woman to win a Pulitzer Prize; is named Illinois poet laureate in 1968.
- 1951 Illinois and Mississippi Canal is closed to river traffic.
- 1952 Governor Adlai Stevenson (1900-1965) is the Democratic nominee for president defeated by Republican Dwight Eisenhower (1890-1969).
- 1953 State Auditor Orville Hodge (1904-1986) is convicted of \$1.5 million theft of state funds.
- 1954 In Des Plaines, Raymond A. Kroc (1902-1984) opens the first in a chain of McDonald's fast-food restaurants.

- 1955 Richard J. Daley (1902-1976) is elected to the first of six terms as Chicago mayor.
- 1957 The nation's first nuclear power generating station is activated at Argonne National Laboratory in DuPage County.
- 1958 The first section of Illinois toll roads is opened from O'Hare International Airport to the Wisconsin border.
- Fire at Our Lady of Angels elementary school in Chicago claims the lives of ninety-two children and three nuns.
- 1959 Everett M. Dirksen (1896-1969) is elected Republican leader of the United States Senate.
- Chicago White Sox win their first American League championship since the 1919 Black Sox scandal but lose the World Series to the Los Angeles Dodgers.
- Chicago native Lorraine Hansberry (1930-1965) wins the New York Drama Critics Circle Award for *A Raisin in the Sun*, the first play by an African-American woman to be presented on Broadway.
- 1962 General Assembly names Pulitzer Prize-winner Carl Sandburg (1878-1967) the first poet laureate of Illinois.
- Governor Otto Kerner (1908-1976) leads businessmen on the first Illinois trade mission to Europe.
- 1964 General Assembly approves an at-large election of 177 representatives after the 1962 veto of a reapportionment bill.
- 1966 Illinois for the first time leads the nation in exports of agricultural and manufactured products.
- 1968 Civil disorder erupts during the Democratic National Convention in Chicago; police report 650 arrests.
- 1970 After the death of Secretary of State Paul Powell (b. 1902), \$800,000 is found in shoeboxes in his Springfield hotel room.
- Voters adopt a new Constitution, the first in one hundred years.
- "Chicago Seven" defendants are convicted on charges relating to violence at the 1968 Democratic National Convention; the decision is overturned in 1972.
- 1971 Chicago political and civil rights leader Jesse Jackson (b. 1941) founds Operation PUSH — People United to Save (later Serve) Humanity.

- 1972 Chicago Union Stock Yards closes.
- Abraham Lincoln Home in Springfield is designated the first national historic site in Illinois.
- Two Illinois Central commuter trains collide in Chicago; forty-five passengers are killed and more than two hundred are injured.
- 1973 Otto Kerner is convicted on charges involving the sale of racetrack stock while governor.
- 1974 The world's tallest building, Sears Tower in downtown Chicago, is completed.
- General Assembly approves a state lottery.
- 1976 James R. Thompson (b. 1936) is elected to the first of four gubernatorial terms (to 1991), the longest-serving governor in Illinois history.
- Chicago author Saul Bellow (b. 1915) wins the Nobel Prize in Literature.
- 1979 Jane Byrne (b. 1934) becomes the first female mayor of Chicago.
- American Airlines crash at O'Hare International Airport kills 275, the worst air disaster in United States history.
- Centralia native Roland Burris (b. 1937) becomes Comptroller, the first African-American to hold a statewide elective office in Illinois.
- 1980 Ronald Reagan (b. 1911) in Tampico, is elected United States President; John B Anderson (b. 1922) of Rockford is defeated as an Independent candidate.
- 1981 Morton Grove ordinance bans the possession of handguns, the most restrictive gun control measure in the nation.
- Peoria native John B. "Jack" Brickhouse (1916-1998) retires after broadcasting more than five thousand Chicago Cubs and White Sox games; receives the National Baseball Hall of Fame Ford C. Frick Award in 1983.
- 1982 General Assembly fails to ratify the proposed equal rights amendment to the United States Constitution.
- 1983 Harold Washington (1922-1987) is elected the first African-American mayor of Chicago.
- 1984 Seventeen Chicago attorneys, police officers, and judges are indicted in Operation Greylord on charges of improperly influencing court cases; convictions include the first for a sitting state court judge in Illinois.

- 1988 Diamond-Star Motors, an automobile manufacturing venture between Mitsubishi Motors of Japan and the Chrysler Corporation, opens in Bloomington.
- 1989 Clarence Page (b. 1947) of the *Chicago Tribune* is the first African-American columnist to win a Pulitzer Prize.
- 1990 Population of the state is 11,430,602.
- 1991 Chicago Bulls win the first of three consecutive National Basketball Association championships.
- 1992 Carol Moseley-Braun (b. 1947) of Chicago becomes the first African-American woman elected to the United States Senate.
- 1993 The worst floods in the state's history ravage western and southern Illinois.
- 1994 Bonnie Blair (b. 1964) speed skater from Champaign, wins her fifth Olympic Games gold medal, the most by an American woman.
- 1995 Navy Pier in Chicago, constructed in 1916 as a shipping terminal and then used for wartime navy and marine training and as a campus of the University of Illinois, is renovated and reopens with a giant Ferris Wheel, children's museum, stage pavilion, and retail shops.
- Commuter train strikes a school bus in Fox River Grove, killing seven and injuring thirty students.
- 1996 Chicago Bulls post a 72-10 season, best in league history, then wins the National Basketball Association championship. Guard Michael Jordan (b. 1963) sets NBA records with his eighth scoring title and fourth Most Valuable Player designation.
- 1997 The Field Museum of Natural History, outbidding museums throughout the United States, pays \$8.4 million for Sue, the most complete Tyrannosaurus Rex fossil yet discovered.
- 1998 Fire destroys the historic Pullman railroad-car factory in south Chicago.
- 1998 Eighteenth District Congressman Ray LaHood (b. 1945) presides as Speaker of the United States House of Representatives during the impeachment of President William J. Clinton.
- 1999 Fourteenth District Congressman J. Dennis Hastert (b. 1942) is elected Speaker of the United States House of Representatives.

## **ILLINOIS HISTORY:**

### **A CHRONOLOGY**

Janice A. Petterchak

A century ago, as the United States advanced from an agrarian to an industrial nation, one historian described Illinois as having a more significant history than any other state “west of the Alleghenies.” Throughout the twentieth century, Illinois has sustained that prominence--in subject areas that encompass agriculture, architecture, the arts, business and labor, communications, education, government and politics, medicine and science, the military, recreation and sports, religion, social reform, and transportation.

A chronology of events comprising the state’s distinctive legacy is included in *Illinois History: An Annotated Bibliography*, Ellen M. Whitney, compiler, Janice A. Petterchak, editor, Sandra M. Stark, assistant editor (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1995). That “Chronology” is reprinted here, updated with entries for 1994 to 1999.

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1995 Navy Pier in Chicago, constructed in 1916 as a shipping terminal and then used for wartime navy and marine training and as a campus of the University of Illinois, is renovated and reopens with a giant Ferris Wheel, children's museum, stage pavilion, and retail shops.

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George H. Ryan begins his four year term as Illinois' 39<sup>th</sup> Governor.

Jesse White is elected Secretary of State, the first African American to be elected to that office.



- 2000 George H. Ryan declares a moratorium on executions across the state.  
Gwendolyn Brooks, Illinois Poet Laureate since 1968, dies in Chicago.
- 2001 Governor George H. Ryan breaks ground for the construction of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum complex.
- September 11, terrorists hijack planes and fly into the World Trade Center in New York, the Pentagon, and a field in Pennsylvania; thousands die.
- 2002 Governor George H. Ryan presides at the ceremonial opening of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield. Construction on the Museum portion of the project begins.
- Rod R. Blagojevich is elected Illinois' 40<sup>th</sup> governor.
- 2003 Senator Emil Jones is elected President of the Illinois Senate, the first African American to hold that post.
- Illinois faces its largest budget deficit in state history.
- Governor Rod Blagojevich convenes a panel to select the next Illinois Poet Laureate.
- The Illinois State Library is re-named the Illinois State Library: Gwendolyn Brooks Building.