

[illegible][illegible]







# ILLINOIS: Prairie Heritage

Heritage sites and Illinois . . . the words are synonymous.

Where else can you find ancient Indian temples, pioneer settlements, utopian villages, living examples of industrial and cultural innovation, a city which twice grew to greatness and, of course, the places great Americans such as Lincoln, Douglas and Grant called home . . . and all encased in geographical settings as diverse as the people, events and movements which molded Illinois' destiny.

There is no better time than now, as we enter our third century as a nation, to share Illinois' history . . . to touch our heritage and to see those places which had so great an impact on the country and the world.

## About ILLINOIS: Prairie Heritage.

*ILLINOIS: Prairie Heritage* is not a catalog listing every marker, stone and building in the state. Rather, it is fact-filled, site-filled story of the development of the Prairie State, its people and its contributions. We have tried to bring alive Illinois heritage sites by concentrating on people, times and events rather than on structures and plaques—to kindle a sense and spirit of Illinois history.

History lives in every Illinois village, town and city . . . from the towering bluffs in the north, through the central, flat plains and the western river country, to the rugged majestic wilderness of the south. And because there is so much to see and do, with heritage sites criss-crossing the state, we've prepared this guide on a "subject" rather than geographical basis.

Each of the seven sections deal with a particular period or movement in Illinois history which has contributed to our heritage. They are: Indians, Exploration, Settlements, Lincoln, Commerce, Chicago and Culture.

Each section details a particular aspect of Illinois' history, tells the story of the people, times and events and outlines sites you can visit today.

Because of the pattern of Illinois' development, many areas play important roles in several sections. For example, the southern Illinois town of Kaskaskia houses sites of Illinois' Indian, exploration, settlement and cultural periods. To the north, Galena recalls the boom days when it was a lead mining center and when U.S. Grant made his home there.

Chicago, too, has layer upon layer of historical events and sites . . . as a trading post, great industrial and transportation center, birthplace of the skyscraper, midwife to the atomic age, nurturer of artists, writers, planners and architects, and site of an Indian massacre and a devastating fire.

*ILLINOIS: Prairie Heritage* is designed to help you discover all there is to see whether you plan your trip by "subject" or by geography.

## How to use ILLINOIS: Prairie Heritage

*ILLINOIS: Prairie Heritage* is intended as a guide to help you decide what you want to see; not to provide specific, all inclusive tours. You can, of course, set out to see all the Indian sites in Illinois . . . a trip that would take you from one end of the state to the other. However, we would suggest that after you read *ILLINOIS: Prairie Heritage* you select a city or area which contains sites of subjects most interesting to you. That way you can sample a variety of what Illinois has to offer, while limiting your costs and travel time. You can spend more time seeing and doing . . . not traveling.

The illustrations in *ILLINOIS: Prairie Heritage* are representational, as is the

map which is not intended as a road guide. An Illinois highway map would be helpful in planning your routes. Also, we would suggest checking with various attractions as to hours and costs (if any).

There are many more heritage sites and museums than we could possibly include in this guide. For example, every county maintains a historical society or museum focusing on their areas' special contributions to Illinois. Take time to visit these worthwhile collections of our heritage.

A copy of the *Illinois Calendar of Events* is a valuable resource to add to your travel-planning library. It lists events, fairs and festivals which you might want to include in your travel plans and is available through the Illinois Office of Tourism.

## You're on your own.

Now, the hard part begins: deciding which Illinois heritage sites you'll want to visit. There are so many—from prehistoric villages to modern skyscrapers; from frontier forts to French and English country villages; from pioneer workshops to huge production plants; from Mrs. O'Leary to Jane Addams; from industrial innovators McCormick, Deere, and Pullman to cultural giants Sandburg, Masters and Wright.

And be ready for some surprises. For example, you'll discover where the westernmost action of the Revolutionary War was fought; that nine Civil War generals came from one Illinois city; that three future presidents served together on an Illinois army post and that the world's largest earthwork structure is here . . . and more.

Whether you're a history buff or a traveler looking for interesting sites and countryside, whether you've got a week or a weekend, we've got it.

You're on your own. Pick and choose what you want to see and experience. *ILLINOIS: Prairie Heritage* is just the starting point, a guide to help you plan your own heritage outings during our Bicentennial Celebration in Illinois.

# Indians



The history of Illinois must begin with the story of Illinois' Indians... a saga of greatness and tragedy kept alive today in sites throughout the state.

## Prehistoric Cultures.

Evidence of prehistoric Illinois Indians can be found at the *Koster Site*, an archaeological dig near Kampsville in Greene County. Here, on a farm sheltered by bluffs, 12 distinct horizons of prehistoric communities, dating back to 6000 B.C., give modern-day man a view of his primitive predecessors. The treasures found at this dig are not priceless jewels, but rather priceless glimpses of early life in the Illinois River Valley, chronicling patterns of

archaic and early woodland man who was a hunter, gatherer, skilled workman, and later, a farmer. During summertime, the dig becomes a working museum, and a formal museum nearby houses artifacts depicting the discoveries made at Koster.

From 500 B.C.–500 A.D. sophisticated Woodland Indians built an elaborately organized society complete with formalized religion and three classes: ruling, leisure and specialist, like tradesmen and artists. The period ended abruptly with no apparent cause in 500 A.D., and this once glorious culture faded and man returned to the forests and a more primitive lifestyle.

*Dickson Mounds State Park* near Havana, in west-central Illinois, houses many artifacts and displays of the Woodland Period. At *Dickson Mounds Museum* artifacts are set against the excavation of one of the largest known Indian burial grounds in the world. Over 225 skeletons remain just as they were when unearthed in 1927.

## The Mound Dwellers.

The golden period of Illinois Indian culture began in the 11th century with the growth of the Mound Dwellers—a highly developed plant-raising society in the Mississippi Valley area of Illinois.

The industrious Mound Dwellers built great ceremonial mounds to serve as

houses of worship. The largest, *Monks Mound*, near East St. Louis, is greater in bulk and area than the legendary Egyptian pyramids. The colossal earthwork formations were built by lines of laborers relaying baskets of earth to the site to be stamped into place by foot. The results were imposing—and the top-of-the-mound temple became the midwest's religious center, drawing Indians from Ohio to Wisconsin.

This mammoth structure and dozens of other earthworks are preserved at *Cahokia Mounds State Park*, the site of the Indians' capital city, *Cahokia*. During the summer months, visitors can view



archaeological excavation in progress and aspects of prehistoric life at the on-site museum.

The Mound Dwellers, or Mississippian Valley Culture, was destined to meet a tragic end. The scourge of measles and smallpox swept through the Indian Nation, wiping out entire families, villages and even tribes. The living fled, leaving their dead unburied and the prairie reclaimed the once great city of *Cahokia*.

### The Illini.

A far simpler, less complicated grouping of tribes called the Illini or Illiniwek (the Men), settled in Illinois following the demise of the Mound Dwellers. The loose confederation, consisting of Kaskaskia, Cahokia, Tamora, Peoria, Michigamea, Moingwena and several smaller bands became planters of corn, beans, squash and other vegetables, as well as migratory hunters. Later, when the French opened trading posts in Illinois, the Illini became pioneering fur trappers and traders.

This new occupation lead to their eventual downfall, for with the fur trade came marauding bands of Iroquois Indians whose greed intensified their desire to be the sole source of furs to the French. When the outraged Illini refused to allow the Iroquois to serve as "middlemen," Iroquois war parties were sent against the less powerful tribes. Over a period of years, constant Iroquois raiding parties and inter-tribal warfare depleted the ranks of the Illini. From an estimated population of 13,500 in 1680, fewer than 150 Illini remained in Illinois by 1800. In the early 1830's, the last Illini sold their land and moved west of the Mississippi.

Illinois Indians and sites played a role in both the French and Indian War and Revolutionary War periods. The Ottawa Chief Pontiac, who reputedly defended the French at Detroit in 1746 and defeated

General Braddock in the French and Indian War, signed a treaty pledging allegiance to the British on July 18, 1765 at Chrisman, Illinois.

According to legend, Pontiac was murdered by an Illinois Indian at *Cahokia* in 1769. Pontiac's death was avenged, the legend goes, when his tribesmen besieged and eventually starved into submission a band of Illinois Indians who had taken refuge on a huge rock overlooking the Illinois River.

*Starved Rock State Park* in LaSalle County takes its name from this legend. Visitors can explore park paths once frequented by the ill-fated Indians. Nearby *Illini* and *Buffalo Rock State Parks* mark the saga of the Indian.

The westernmost action of the Revolutionary War took place near Rockford, once the site of the Sauk Indians' principal village—Saukenuk. In 1780, under General George Rogers Clark's orders to attack Indian forces supporting the British, troops of Colonel John Montgomery destroyed Saukenuk. After the war, the dauntless Sauk rebuilt the village and remained there until 1829 when they were moved to new villages west of the Mississippi. The great Chief Black Hawk was born at Saukenuk in 1767.

### Fort Dearborn.

The remainder of Indian history in Illinois follows what was to become the traditional pattern—occasional battles with settlers, land cession, treaties and displacement.

As settlers continued their northward move in Illinois, isolated fighting with the Fox, Potawatomi and Winnebago tribes occurred. On August 15, 1813, a column evacuating *Fort Dearborn* in Chicago (where Michigan Avenue now meets Wacker Drive) was attacked by its Potawatomi escort. The column, moving to

Detroit as reinforcements against British attack during the War of 1812, was massacred. The fort was destroyed. Only John Kinzie, a trader and friend to the Indians, who settled at Chicago, was spared. He returned to Chicago in 1816, living to see the outpost grow to greatness.

### The Black Hawk War.

The last major Indian confrontation in Illinois occurred in 1832—The Black Hawk War.

Black Hawk's Sauk Indians were ordered from Illinois in 1831 under provisions of a treaty which required state permission for their return. They settled in Iowa, but when spring crops failed, the tribe was encouraged by the Winnebago prophet Wablkieshiek (White Cloud) to come to *Prophetstown* and raise corn with his people. Black Hawk led 500 warriors and 1000 women and children back into Illinois, the bountiful land.

Troops were called out because of his unauthorized crossing into Illinois, and the great chief tried valiantly to rally other tribes to his cause—but he failed. At *Stillman Valley*, Black Hawk, under a flag of truce, attempted to talk to authorities. But nervous militiamen fired into the Indians, killing several and triggering a 15-month running battle in areas such as *Indian Creek* and *Apple River Fort*. Defeated, his hopes for an Indian Nation remote, Black Hawk ended his days on a reservation in Iowa. But traces of this great Indian leader remain in Illinois today.

A journey through the *Rock River* area offers visitors the opportunity to see this beautiful country Black Hawk fought to keep. Today a large statue of the chief, at *Black Hawk State Park* near Rock Island, commemorates the Indians' last stand in Illinois. A park museum houses many Indian relics and paintings. And each Labor Day weekend, an Indian Powwow revives the finest hours of Illinois Indians.

At *Fort Dixon*, near the present city of Dixon, Abraham Lincoln served as a volunteer during the Black Hawk War, along with notables like Army officer Zachary Taylor, who became the 12th President of the United States and Jefferson Davis, later to become President of the Confederacy.

In Ogle County, *White Pines Forest State Park*, with its groves of virgin pine, stunning flowers and wildlife echoes Black Hawk's famous words: "Rock River is a beautiful country." A statue by famed sculptor Loreda Taft looms over the Rock River at *Lowden State Park* near Oregon, calling to mind the great chief.

### The Last Days.

With the signing of the Treaty of Chicago in 1833, the last remaining Indian land in Illinois was acquired from the Chippewa, Potawatomi and Ottawa Tribes—for all practical purposes ending the Indian era. Only once more did Indians in any number cross Illinois soil—tragically, in 1838, when 15,000 Cherokees were herded from their southern reservations to new ones in the west. This ominous last journey—*The Trail of Tears*—is marked where it skirts the majestic *Shawnee National Forest* at Dixon Springs, Vienna and Jonesboro.

Barely 160 years after the first white men settled in Illinois, and only 15 years after statehood was achieved, the Illinois Indian ceased to exist. But what they left behind is alive today in our name—Illinois.

# Exploration



Illinois' mysterious uncharted rivers, rich virgin forests and prairies beckoned men seeking to conquer the unknown frontier.

## Marquette and Jolliet.

The summer of 1673 saw two French adventurers, Louis Jolliet and Father Jacques Marquette, lead their crew of seven down the waters of the "Messipi" in an attempt to discover a trade route from French Canada to the rich orient.

Jolliet, the group's mapmaker, traced the curves and currents of the mighty Mississippi River. Through the ancient Indian lands, past towering bluffs and shoreline

brush that camouflaged life in the wilderness, the crew made their way to what is now Alton. There they were astounded by an awesome rock painting, the *Piasa Bird*. Father Marquette referred to it in his diary as a horrifying monster, a fearsome red, black and green creature as big as a calf, with horns like those of a deer, red eyes, a beard like a tiger's, a face like a man's, a body covered with scales and a tail so long that it wound all around the body.

Today, above the river on a weathered rock bluff, looms a representation of the Indian painting that startled them so.

Marquette and Jolliet decided that the Mississippi lead to the Gulf of Mexico,

and not China as they had hoped, so they turned back up-river. Also their return avoided possible encounters with Spanish conquistadores who had claimed territories further south.

*Pere Marquette State Park* at Grafton marks the point where the party left the Mississippi and began a northward journey along the Illinois River. They followed their river route past the imposing bluffs of what is today Peoria. Near present-day Ottawa, the canoes rounded the river's bend and in the distance Marquette and Jolliet had their first glimpse of *Starved Rock*, a stone monolith piercing the rolling woodland banks of the Illinois River. Here

they encountered a tribal village of Illini Indians.

The explorers befriended the tribe and when they left, the Illini honored them with a gift of their most prized possession, a "Calumet" or Peace Pipe to protect them on their journey.

The French were guided by the Illini up the Illinois and Des Plaines Rivers, past the swampland that today is Chicago, to Lake Michigan. As they parted, Marquette promised his Indian friends that he would return to establish a mission. The following year he kept his promise and founded the Mission of the Immaculate Conception in the Illinois wilderness.



## LaSalle and Tonti.

Marquette and Jolliet returned to French Canada with intriguing accounts and maps of the rich Illinois frontier. Two enterprising men were captivated by the reports of the explorations. Sieur de LaSalle envisioned building a network of forts from the Great Lakes to the Gulf to collect the riches of the Indian land—furs. LaSalle chose his friend, Italian soldier of fortune Henri de Tonti, to join in the venture.

In the winter of 1680 the businessmen-turned-explorers entered the Illinois wilderness that Marquette and Jolliet had just opened, building the first French fort in the West near Peoria. They christened it *Fort Creve Coeur*—"Fort Heartbreak." *Creve Coeur State Park* stands on the site of this historic outpost.

With dreams of a new empire, LaSalle returned to Canada to resupply the fort, leaving Tonti in charge. Those dreams turned to ashes when Tonti had to abandon the fort because of problems with his rebellious men and hostile Indians. Shortly thereafter, *Fort Creve Coeur* was burned to the ground.

LaSalle and Tonti did not give up. Two years later they followed the Mississippi River south to the Gulf of Mexico, laying claim to all the land for France. On their return they crossed the same beautiful Illinois lands charted by Jolliet and Marquette, only to discover that the British had stirred the Iroquois into war with the weaker Illinois Indians, and Marquette's Mission had been destroyed. At Starved Rock they built Fort St. Louis in honor of the King of France. In 1687, LaSalle returned to France leaving Tonti and his men at the fort to fight the Iroquois. Today *Starved Rock State Park* offers visitors a glimpse of how the rugged Illinois country appeared to the early adventurers.

Though LaSalle left Tonti to face the menacing Indians, his fate would be worse. While attempting to return to Fort St. Louis, LaSalle and his crew became lost. The men grew mutinous and murdered LaSalle.

Tonti met with better fortune. He escaped the Indians and moved on to Peoria, where he recruited settlers and missionaries for the newly opened frontier. Tonti survived to realize his dream of fortune. By the time he died in 1704, his fur trading empire was prospering through a network of forts stretching from Canada to the Gulf.

## George Rogers Clark.

For many years the French and British battled for control of the lucrative resources and strategic posts in the Illinois territory. The British emerged victorious at the close of the French and Indian War.

British domination was not to last long. In 1778, a small band of American colonists led by George Rogers Clark, a Revolutionary War hero, staged a dramatic action to win Illinois for the young country. The "Long Knives," as the Indians referred to them, sneaked past *Fort Massac*, on the banks of the Ohio River near present day Metropolis, without encounter. With startling speed they ventured on to *Fort Kaskaskia* (once a major French settlement before the British uprooted them), where on July 4, 1778, just six days after the beginning of the trek, the Clark forces took Kaskaskia without firing a shot and with it, the Illinois territory.

The Clark expedition put the new United States in a bargaining position with France which eventually led to the Louisiana Purchase. The rich frontier known as the Northwest Territory became a permanent part of the United States and center of westward expansion.

Modern day explorers can retrace Clark's trek, and though times have

changed, surviving sites give a clear image of how life was in the Illinois frontier under French, British and finally, American flags.

At *Fort Massac*, frontier life comes alive most dramatically at the annual *Fort Massac 1776 Fest*. Colonial militia once again man the fort and local artisans portray early craftsmen. Fort Massac is considered one of the finest re-creations of early military outposts in the new world.

Further along the trail at Kaskaskia, the "Liberty Bell of the West," completed 11 years before Philadelphia's famed bell, still peels as it did when King Louis XV presented it to the courageous French pioneers and when George Rogers Clark rang it jubilantly at the end of his successful conquest of Illinois.

These early explorers opened the country so that "modern-day explorers" can today enjoy the natural beauty of Illinois.

# Settlements



People determined to create a new and better life for themselves and their families staked their future on the Illinois prairie.

## French Colonies.

Although French rule in the Illinois territory ended centuries ago, the heritage of the early French settlements continues in southern Illinois towns like *Prairie du Rocher*, *Kaskaskia* and *Cahokia*, the oldest continuous settlement in Illinois, founded in 1699. The network of communities built their reputations quickly. *Fort de Chartres* at *Prairie du Rocher* became the French colonial headquarters, *Kaskaskia* the agricultural center and *Cahokia* the commercial center.

The *Cahokia Courthouse*, built about 1737, is the oldest building west of the Alleghenies and one of but a few remaining examples of French pioneer log architecture. A half-block away is the 1799 vintage *Church of the Holy Family*, a simple walnut log and mortar building.

Nearby is the *Jarrot Mansion*, a striking departure from the rustic log style of *Cahokia*'s other landmarks. The mansion is probably the oldest brick structure in the Upper Mississippi Valley. The two-story colonial, complete with attic and basement, was quite a revolution on the Illinois prairie. Nicolas Jarrot, who built the house, won his fortune as a trader and land-owner with holdings extending to

what is now *Cahokia Mounds State Park*. Supposedly, Jarrot saw no value in the primitive Indian earthworks there, so he gave the land to an order of Trappist Monks who built a sanctuary at the base of the largest mound. This most imposing of all the Indian mounds which is protected within the confines of the state park, now is referred to as *Monks Mound*.

## English Villages.

The English were another of the early groups to forge a new life on the frontier. In 1817, two Englishmen, George Flower and Morris Birkbeck, each purchased approximately 1500 acres of land in south-eastern Illinois in the hopes of recreating an English rural village in the new world.

A quarrel between Birkbeck and Flower, allegedly over a woman, led to the eventual founding of not one, but two towns. In 1818, *Wanborough* was founded by Birkbeck and *Albion* by Flower. Within a few short years both began to take on the look of traditional English villages with cottages and lush gardens.

Birkbeck and Flower gained reputations not only for the towns they created but also because of their strong efforts in opposing an attempt to amend the Illinois Constitution to permit slavery. Under the pen name of Jonathan Freeman, Birkbeck lashed out against the constitutional revision. Flower encouraged free blacks



to settle in Edwards County and helped many emigrate to Haiti when pro-slavery sentiment grew.

Wanborough and Albion vied with one another for English commercial dominance. In 1825, when Birkbeck died, Wanborough, without its strong leader, declined and eventually disappeared. Only a tiny cemetery west of Albion gives any evidence of the town of Wanborough.

Displays at the *Edwards County Historical Museum* trace the early days of English influence in the area.

### The Mormons.

To the northwest, near a bend in the Mississippi River, is *Nauvoo*, a picturesque town whose modern-day serenity belies its stormy past.

From 1839 to 1846, Nauvoo, established by Joseph Smith, was home to some 15-20,000 members of the Church of the Latter Day Saints.

Smith led the Mormons from Missouri, where they had been ruthlessly persecuted, to Illinois. Here, the General Assembly allowed the Mormons to build a town and practice their beliefs virtually independent of state restrictions. A great temple was started and federalist-style colonial brick homes dominated the countryside.

In a short time the city became the most populous in the state and because the Mormons voted as a block, they had tremendous influence in local and state elections. Their political power, religious practices and immunity from outside interference bred hostility toward them. This eventually led to violence, and Smith and his brother Hiram were placed in protective custody at nearby *Carthage Jail*. Despite precautions, the Smiths were murdered by an angry mob. The continuing hostilities thinned the ranks of the Mormons and most of those remaining

were led from Nauvoo to Salt Lake City by Brigham Young in February, 1846.

More than a dozen structures of the Mormon era are open to the public including the homes of *Joseph Smith* and *Brigham Young* and the *Webb Blacksmith Shop*. Joseph Smith's original log and frame blockhouse homestead is now a museum. The Mormon Church has built an imposing *Visitors Center* which chronicles Nauvoo's extraordinary history and provides guides at each building. About forty homes and other establishments are slated for restoration.

After the death of Joseph Smith and the departure of the Mormons, Nauvoo became a riverfront ghost town until French Icarians and Germans settled there in 1849. They planted bountiful orchards, started a culture of grapes and a winery which still operates today.

An old brewery, overlooking vineyard covered hillsides, with dank caves ideal for aging cheese is now the home of a factory which produces Nauvoo blue cheese.

Each Labor Day weekend during the *Wine Festival*, the re-creation of an old rite, the "wedding of the wine and cheese," pays tribute to the town's leading industries.

While the Mormons brought Nauvoo into the forefront as one of Illinois' most powerful cities of the mid-1800's, the Swedish Jansonists crossed the prairie in search of a site where they, too, could live and worship as they wished.

### Prairie Utopia.

Under the direction of Erik Jansson, Bishop Hill, a site 160 miles west of Chicago, was selected. Many of the original settlers did not survive the first harsh winter, however, those who did were not dispirited by the fate of their companions. Bolstered by the arrival of

new colonists from Sweden and the strength of their prophet, Jansson, they built a "Prairie Utopia."

Kiln-dried brick and frame buildings soon dotted the prairie. The industrious settlers not only were skilled farmers, amassing over 15,000 acres of farmland, but also talented craftsmen producing furniture and linen of unparalleled quality.

Bishop Hill had its own school, hospital, post office, power mill and resourceful residents eager to contribute to the town's prosperity and religious independence.

However, in 1850, Erik Jansson was murdered by a "so-called" intruder who sought to free his wife from the colony and its rigid control. The lack of a strong leader and continuing arguments over social and religious doctrines eventually caused the settlement to dissolve.

Today, Bishop Hill is witnessing a rebirth. The pristine white frame *Colony Church*, the colony's first permanent building, is once again open. Over a dozen small rooms on the ground floor house furniture, artifacts and paintings by prairie primitivist Olof Krans, giving visitors a true-to-life view of Bishop Hill as it originally was. The second story is the Church itself—a large, elegantly simple, airy room which illustrates a Shaker influence on colony architecture.

Down the street is the *Steeple Building*, a three story Greek Revival structure topped with a wooden steeple displaying a one-handed clock. Guides perpetuate the legend that the minute hand on the clock was destroyed during construction and was never replaced because the settlers were far too busy building their town to bother with the time.

The *Bjorklund Hotel*, once a busy stage coach stop, is the next building scheduled for restoration.

Crafts people practice pioneer trades at Bishop Hill, and several times a year the residents pay tribute to their heritage during the fall celebration of Swedish agricultural days, "*Jordbrukdagarna*," and the traditional Swedish Christmas service, "*Julotta*."

### The Amish.

The Amish, a religious sect dedicated to hard work and the rejection of worldly goods, settled near the central Illinois towns of *Arthur* and *Arcola* in the mid-1800's. Today, the Amish continue to live as they did then, relatively untouched by modern times and its inventions.

Life is uncomplicated. The Amish make their living from the land, using time-tested methods of horse-farming despite the availability of modern farm equipment. Amish buggies share roads with automobiles, with buggy, harness and blacksmith shops almost more common than service stations. And downtown Arthur has rows of hitching posts interspersed with more conventional parking spaces.

The *Arthur Information Center* guides visitors through the area providing a flavor of Amish life while protecting the privacy of these hard-working people.

Although the pioneers who forged a new life in the wilderness are gone, you can sense their spirit and determination in restored settlements and communities throughout Illinois.



# Lincoln



Perhaps no other state played a more important role in the development of America than did Illinois during the mid-1800's. For from Illinois came men such as Lincoln, Douglas and Grant—to lead the country through its most tumultuous period since the Revolution.

## Lincoln comes to Illinois.

When Lincoln was 20, he moved with his parents from Indiana to Illinois where they built a cabin near the Sangamon River, just outside Decatur. Their first home in Illinois has been rebuilt and is the focal point of *Lincoln Homestead State Park*.

In 1831, Thomas and Sarah Lincoln

moved to Coles County, not far from Charleston. The family home still stands at what is now *Lincoln Log Cabin State Park*. Near the park is *Shiloh Cemetery* where Thomas and Sarah Lincoln are buried. A few miles to the south is *Moore Home State Memorial*. It was in this log cabin, the home of his step-sister Mrs. Matilda Moore, that Lincoln said goodbye to his step-mother before going to Washington to assume the presidency. It was the last time they were to see each other.

## New Salem Years.

While his family settled comfortably in Coles County, adventurous Abe set out on his own. Lincoln settled in *New Salem*

for six years during its brief heyday, trying his hand at many trades—clerk at Denton Offutt's store, steamboat pilot, postmaster and ultimately, student of law. Here also he met Ann Rutledge, daughter of the local tavern owner, and their fabled romance occurred.

In 1832, Lincoln ran unsuccessfully for the Illinois legislature but was elected two years later and represented Sangamon County until 1841.

Today, only one original structure in New Salem remains—the Onstot Cooper Shop, built in 1835. But the entire village of 23 rough-hewn log homes, stores, offices and mills has been rebuilt just as it was when Lincoln lived there, all authentically

furnished with period pieces. Old rail fences like the ones Abe used to split surround the village. The riverboat "Talisman," on which Lincoln crewed, still plies the Sangamon river from New Salem. Weathered bronze statues portray Lincoln, the "rail-splitter," and Lincoln, the "circuit rider." Several times a year, during both a winter and a summer festival, artists and "villagers" re-create the New Salem life-style as it was in Lincoln's time. Modern-day travelers can journey from New Salem to Athens and Springfield along the *Post Road* which was partially surveyed by Lincoln.

At *Petersburg Cemetery*, just two miles north of New Salem, is the grave of Ann



Rutledge, whose tombstone is embellished with the words of Illinois poet Edgar Lee Masters:

"I am Ann Rutledge who sleeps beneath  
these weeds  
Beloved in life of Abraham Lincoln,  
Wedded to him not through Union,  
But through separation."

Also in Petersburg is the *Illinois Carriage Museum* with prime samples of nearly 200 early era carriages and wagons including one belonging to Abe Lincoln.

### Lawyer and Legislator.

Vandalia was the state capital when Lincoln first went to the legislature. The *Old State House* at Vandalia has been restored, recalling its grand but short lived era as capitol. In 1837, Lincoln moved from New Salem to Springfield and joined a group of Sangamon County state representatives to form a voting block known as the "Long Nine:" so named because each was well over six feet tall. The "Long Nine" was influential in establishing the state's first railroad system and in moving the capital from Vandalia to Springfield in 1839. In Athens, just a short drive from Springfield, the *Long Nine Museum* commemorates Lincoln and his fellow Sangamon County representatives.

Springfield is the heart of Lincoln land. In the *Lincoln Home Historic District*, the main attraction is the two-story frame house where Lincoln lived after marrying Mary Todd in the *Ninian Edwards Home*, which now stands just down the block.

Nearby is the *Old State Capitol* where Lincoln served in the legislature. Here the restored chambers look as though Abe Lincoln might suddenly appear again to spar with the "Little Giant," Stephen A. Douglas, or deliver his famous "House Divided" speech as he once did. Across the mall is the *Lincoln-Herndon Building*

where Lincoln and his friend, William Herndon practiced law.

Many Illinois cities maintain sites where Lincoln touched their communities, particularly during the period from 1840 to 1855 when he was a traveling attorney on the Eighth Judicial Circuit. Several courthouses where Lincoln, the lawyer, tried cases still stand. At *Metamora*, a desk with a section cut out to accommodate Lincoln's long legs still remains in the courtroom. At *Beardstown Courthouse* Lincoln tried one of his most famous cases, the Duff Armstrong "Almanac Murder Trial."

*Mt. Vernon Courthouse* was the site of one of Lincoln's greatest legal triumphs. Here he won a landmark case for the Illinois Central Railroad and incidentally, received his greatest legal fee. In Salem, two homes where Lincoln stayed while traveling the judicial circuit and the campaign trail in 1840 for presidential candidate William Henry Harrison are open to the public.

Other places Lincoln stayed along the 1840 campaign trail that are open to the public include *Ratcliff Inn*, now housing the White County Historical Society, and *Robinson House*, both in Carmi.

At Mt. Pulaski, Lincoln was dubbed "Honest Abe." And the *Mt. Pulaski Courthouse* bears reminders of his stays, as do courthouses in *Hillsboro*, *Danville*, *Ottawa*, *Monticello*, *Petersburg* and *Postville*. In 1853, Postville was renamed *Lincoln* (the only town so named while he was alive), with Abe himself christening it with the juice of an Illinois watermelon. A museum on the campus of Lincoln College recounts Lincoln's contributions to the area.

Decatur holds special significance for Lincoln. Here he received the support of the Illinois Republican Party for president, was nicknamed "the Railsplitter," prac-

ticed law in a log cabin courthouse in *Fairview Park*, gave his first political speech and won his first major legal case—against a prosecutor named Stephen A. Douglas.

### Lincoln and Douglas.

Lincoln challenged Douglas for the Illinois senatorial seat in 1858. He was to lose, but gained stature among his countrymen as a result of the seven debates between himself and Douglas. The *Bryant Cottage* in Bement, where Lincoln and Douglas met to make arrangements for their historic confrontations, is open to the public. The first debate took place in Ottawa's *Washington Park* before a surprisingly large crowd of 10,000. Debates followed as scheduled at *Freeport*, *Jonesboro*, *Charleston*, *Galesburg*, *Quincy* and *Alton*. Most of the debate sites are marked by bas-relief plaques or stone monuments which give little hint of the true emotion in these oratorical encounters.

Though Lincoln's party won the popular vote, Douglas, whose party controlled the state legislature, was selected senator. The Lincoln-Douglas rivalry did not end—they were to meet again in two years as opposing candidates for the presidency.

In 1860, Lincoln received the newly formed Republican Party's nomination for president at a convention held in Chicago's *Wigwam*, a huge meeting hall built specifically for the convention, at what is now the corner of Lake and Wabash.

Following his election, Lincoln called upon his old adversary Douglas to rally support for the Union cause. Douglas spent the last days of his life speaking out on behalf of Lincoln and the Union.

On February 11, 1861, President-Elect Abraham Lincoln bid farewell to his Springfield friends. Speaking from the rear of a train at *Springfield Depot*, Lincoln said of his life in Springfield:

"My friends: No one not in my situation can appreciate my feelings of sadness at this parting. To this place, and the kindness of these people, I owe everything. Here I have lived a quarter of a century, and have passed from a young to an old man. Here my children have been born, and one is buried. I now leave, not knowing when, or whether ever, I may return. . . ."

### Return to Illinois.

Lincoln was to return to Springfield 50 months later as a martyred president, laid to rest in Springfield's *Oak Ridge Cemetery*. The *Lincoln Tomb*, with its magnificent sculptures and stunning stone obelisk, is the final resting place for the Great Emancipator, his wife and three of their four children.

Lincoln had called on another Illinoisan to help lead the Nation through the dark days of the Civil War. In the far northwestern corner of Illinois is Galena, the home of nine Civil War generals including the man Lincoln chose to lead the "Grand Army of the Republic" to victory, Ulysses S. Grant. In 1868, four years after Lincoln's death, Grant would follow him to the presidency. *Grant's Home* has been faithfully restored and is open to the public.

More than any other state, Illinois contributed to the preservation of the Nation through the humanity of Lincoln, the patriotism of Douglas and the military leadership of Grant.



# Commerce



In less than 100 years following statehood, Illinois grew to be an agricultural, industrial and commercial giant.

## River Towns.

Illinois waterways were an important factor in the state's commercial growth, and thriving boom towns sprouted along the Mississippi, Ohio and Illinois Rivers.

Cairo, on the southernmost tip of the state where the Mississippi and the Ohio Rivers meet, reached its peak during the Civil War when it served as a base of operations for Union forces. A two-story observation tower at *Fort Defiance State Park* near Cairo, affords a majestic view of the joining of these mighty rivers.

To the north is Peoria, once a frontier riverboat town. That tradition is still celebrated every year during *Steamboat Days*, when the paddle-wheeler *Julia Belle Swain* takes on a competitor in an authentic riverboat race. Today Peoria is a vital industrial center, home of the state's distillery industry and *Caterpillar Tractor*, producer of farm and heavy machinery.

At the northwest corner of Illinois is Galena, with a boisterous history and restored buildings which call to life the days when this town was considered the most important north of St. Louis.

Lead was discovered in Galena in 1788 and by 1827, four years after the first large party of settlers arrived, more than 13.3 million pounds were mined annually.

Etched into steep bluffs, Galena has been restored to the way it was during the golden years. In addition to *U. S. Grant's Home*, other restored structures include the *Old Market House*, once the commercial center of the state, the *Dowling House*, Galena's oldest home, the *Turney* and the *Belvidere Houses*, splendid examples of period architecture, plus an array of shops, offices and homes lining the hillside. All of Galena is, in fact, a living museum of by-gone days—a feast for architecture, history and antique buffs.

Two events during the 1840's sealed the demise of Galena and the growth of Chicago as Illinois' preeminent city. With the playing out of the shallow deposits of "easy lead" and the discovery of gold in

California, miners rushed to the west to seek their fortunes. In 1848, the opening of the *Illinois-Michigan Canal* marked the emergence of Chicago, for now the city-on-the-lake was linked to the rich Illinois interior. A pre-Civil War stone warehouse on the bank of the Canal at Utica now houses the *La Salle County Historical Museum*.

## Agricultural Innovations.

During this same period, two Illinois men would revolutionize agriculture. Working in his shop in the small northwestern Illinois town of Grand Detour, John Deere perfected the steel plow. At the *John Deere Historic Site*, an archaeo-



logical exhibition marks John Deere's original blacksmith shop where that first plow was made. Down the path is a replica of the blacksmith shop and John Deere's home, authentically furnished as it was in the 1830's.

In 1847, he moved the business to Moline to establish a factory and in less than a decade, Deere & Co. became the world's largest manufacturer of steel plows. The *Deere & Co. Administrative Center*, one of the last buildings designed by eminent architect Eero Saarinen, houses a three dimensional assemblage of memorabilia which pays tribute to American agriculture and John Deere's contributions to it.

About the same time Deere was working on the steel plow, Cyrus Hall McCormick was developing the grain reaper for mass production. McCormick arrived in Chicago in 1847 and began the tradition of the city's industrial greatness. He pioneered techniques which today have become commonplace: advertising, home trials, guarantees, testimonials, deferred payments and mass production with labor-saving machinery. McCormick's harvester plant eventually became the giant *International Harvester Company* operating out of Chicago and Rock Island.

### Growth of Chicago.

Chicago grew to a city of more than 300,000 by the time of the "Great Chicago Fire" of 1871. Rebuilding began while the ashes still smoldered. Within two days the Chicago Tribune was again publishing, exhorting Chicagoans to rebuild. McCormick planned for the reconstruction of his factory. Potter Palmer, whose hotel had been demolished in the blaze, rebuilt his new *Palmer House* where it still stands today on State Street.

The years after the fire were ones of phenomenal growth. By 1890 Chicago's population reached the million mark.

Chicago became a meat packing and merchandising center under the guidance of men such as Philip D. Armour, Gustavus F. Swift, John Cudahy, Marshall Field and A. Montgomery Ward, who pioneered the mail-order concept. Though the *Stockyards* are gone, the "back of the yards" neighborhood still remains strong and the famous stone gate that marked the entrance to the stockyards is now a City Landmark. The businesses started by Field and Ward have grown into merchandising empires.

With the growth of Chicago's industry came the growth of the labor movement. In 1886, as part of the unions' efforts to improve working conditions, a strike was called against the McCormick plant in Chicago. The strike and subsequent lock-out resulted in violence, culminating in the tragedy of the Haymarket Riot.

Anarchists, who made Chicago their United States headquarters some five years earlier, called a meeting at *Haymarket Square*, an open-air produce market at what is now Randolph Street near the Kennedy Expressway. The May 4, evening meeting was to protest the shooting of two strikers at the McCormick plant the previous night.

More than three thousand people attended the rally, carefully watched by some 200 policemen. Suddenly, a bomb was thrown and in the explosion seven policemen died and 76 others were wounded. Firing into the fleeing crowd, police killed one man.

The person who threw the bomb was never found, though 31 suspects, some of whom were not at the Haymarket that night, were indicted. Eventually, eight were convicted.

A statue of a Chicago Policeman that once stood in Haymarket Square as a reminder of that bloody May day, now

stands at the *Chicago Police Department Headquarters* at 11th and State Street.

### On Display.

By the 1890's Chicago had grown to world prominence. Anxious to show itself off, Chicago planned for the *World's Columbian Exposition* of 1893. Under the direction of Daniel Burnham, the fair's chief of construction who later became famous for his plan to beautify the lakefront and provide urban recreational areas, the fair drew international attention and more than 27.5 million people. It took three years and more than \$5 million to prepare the *Jackson Park* lakefront site. Seventeen major structures were erected, housing exhibits from 46 countries and most states, ranging from the newly invented electric light to the fabled belly dancer, "Little Egypt." A rebuilt stone version of the Fine Arts Building stands today as the *Chicago Museum of Science and Industry*.

Burnham wanted a feature attraction at the exposition to rival the Eiffel Tower unveiled at a fair in Paris four years earlier. He called on Galesburg-born, George W. G. Ferris to create such an attraction. Ferris' creation, a giant wheel, revolving 250 feet above the ground with 36 cars each holding 40 people, delighted and amazed the world. The Ferris Wheel has become a standard of fairs and amusement parks throughout the world since its debut in Chicago.

Illinois continued to grow and prosper. In Chicago, George Pullman established his railroad car plant and *Pullman Village*, a company town designed to be a "working man's utopia." Today the *Historic Pullman Foundation* offers tours highlighting the Queen Anne and Gothic style row houses, apartment buildings and spacious Florence Hotel that once were the center of Pullman's inventive and controversial complex.

### Continuing Growth.

In the twentieth century, Illinois solidified its position as an economic giant, continually leading the nation in the production of a variety of industrial and agricultural commodities. Coal fields, which once produced millions of tons of the valuable energy source are today important again as coal becomes a probable "new" fuel alternative. And as always, Chicago remains an important transportation hub, by train, ship and plane. *O'Hare International Airport* is the world's busiest. And Illinois continues to be the nation's number one exporting state.

Illinois also was the birthplace of a new energy era—the atomic age. In a laboratory hidden under the stands of the *University of Chicago's Stagg Field*, a group of scientists, under the direction of Dr. Enrico Fermi, set-off the first man-made, self-sustained atomic chain reaction. "Nuclear Energy," a massive bronze sculpture by Henry Moore commemorates this achievement.

From keel boats hauling cargo along Illinois' rivers and its growth as an agricultural, commercial, transportation and industrial giant, to its role as mid-wife to the atomic age, Illinois has served the nation and the world well.



# Chicago



Indians called the swampy settlement "Checagou"—wild onion—but today Chicago means much more: spirit, determination, style, adventure, savvy . . . and people.

## Early Days.

Chicago, a city which has twice grown to greatness, was first settled by French Jesuits in 1696. By 1700 the French attempt to "civilize" Checagou failed and their rudimentary settlement dissolved in the face of insurmountable Indian hostility.

Following the French abandonment, little record exists of Chicago until 1779 when Jean Baptiste Pointe DuSable arrived from Canada with his Potawatomie wife

and established a fur trading post at the mouth of the Chicago River. DuSable, a black, was Chicago's first citizen and turned the wilderness trading post into a prosperous venture. In 1804, DuSable sold the lucrative post to John Kinzie.

Eight years later, *Fort Dearborn* was built just west of Kinzie's establishment at what is now the corner of Michigan Avenue and Wacker Drive. The Fort proved to be a boon for business but in 1813 it was destroyed during the infamous "Fort Dearborn Massacre." Today all that remains of the pioneer stronghold are bronze inlays marking its perimeter and a plaque located on the Michigan Avenue Bridge which recounts the massacre.

Kinzie, who was spared during the massacre because of his friendship with the Indians, left Chicago but returned several years later, marking the beginning of a period of phenomenal growth for the settlement. In little more than 50 years, the once isolated outpost would be a booming metropolis boasting over one million inhabitants.

By 1870, Chicago was a hub of commercial activity, much to the surprise of skeptical downstaters who consistently denigrated its potential. There is even a tall tale that a banker in Old Shawneetown, then Illinois' financial bastion, turned down a loan to the City of Chicago declaring "it would never amount to anything."

Chicago did amount to something. A thriving central business district, stockyards, grain elevators, lumberyards and wealthy neighborhoods were signs of success—success based on hard work, an aggressive economic policy and an ideal geographic setting. Chicago became the railroad center of the country, the mid-continental interchange for freight and passengers. Trains turned the grueling three day coach trip to Springfield into a comfortable 12 hour ride. In 1858, George Pullman converted two Chicago and Alton rail-cars into sleeping coaches and the era of luxurious rail travel began.



## The Great Fire.

Chicago's rapid growth was all the more spectacular because in 1871 the burgeoning city was devastated by the now famous "Great Chicago Fire." A dry hot summer and fall, punctuated with spot fires, reached its destructive peak the night of October 9, 1871. On that fateful Sunday evening, Mrs. O'Leary's cow reputedly kicked over a lantern behind the family's DeKoven Street cottage and started one of history's most spectacular blazes. Thirty mile-per-hour winds spread the flames from the near-southwest side towards the city center. Firefighters and panic-stricken citizenry could do little to contain the flames. The fire leaped the south branch of the Chicago River and raged northward, devouring the business and residential districts. Finally, with the help of rain, the fire burned itself out by midnight Monday.

The flames left in their wake more than 300 dead and 90,000 homeless. Few buildings in the fire's path managed to escape destruction. Two of the survivors, the *Water Tower* and its pumping station, stand today across from one another at the corners of Michigan and Chicago Avenues, as memorials to the holocaust and monuments to the indomitable spirit of Chicago. Ironically, the *Chicago Fire Academy* now occupies the site where Mrs. O'Leary's cow allegedly tipped the lantern.

## Better Than Ever.

Catastrophe did not stop Chicago. Rather, it dared the young impetuous city to rebuild—and build better. Almost overnight Chicago became one of the most colorful towns in the Nation. If progress was being made, it was being made here. Innovators, artists, architects, industrialists, businessmen and just plain people eager to work and work hard flocked to

the city and banded together to resurrect Chicago. Names like Philip D. Armour, Gustavous Swift, Marshall Field, A. Montgomery Ward, Richard Warren Sears, Joseph Medill, Potter Palmer, Cyrus Hall McCormick and countless others not recorded in history restored the city to greatness.

John Wellborn Root arrived in Chicago in the early 1880's with a "big" idea, the skyscraper, and ultimately it changed the face of Chicago and every other city. He supervised the construction of the massive sixteen-story *Monadnock Building*. Just two years later, William LeBaron Jenny mastered steel-frame construction and Chicago had the world's first steel skyscraper—the *Home Insurance Building*.

The "build big" heritage still remains an integral part of the Chicago scene. Modern day giants like the *John Hancock Center*, *Standard Oil Building* and the world's tallest building, the 110 story *Sears Tower* dominate the skyline and dwarf the original "skyscrapers" that once amazed the world.

Chicago's architecture is not only "big," it is both grand and eclectic. The Chicago school of architecture is renowned throughout the world for its innovative and imaginative styles. Some of its most superb creations still remain—*The Rookery* with its decorative lobby and Adler and Sullivan's magnificent *Auditorium Theater* and adjacent *Roosevelt University* (once one of Chicago's finest hotels).

Cylindrical *Marina Towers* is fast becoming a contemporary Chicago architectural landmark. Frank Lloyd Wright's "Prairie School" still flourishes—*Robie House*, a Wright classic, stands in the midst of the gothic-styled University of Chicago campus and examples of Wright-designed houses, as well as his home and studio, can be seen in suburban *Oak Park*.

A tour of Chicago provides the most comprehensive living portfolio of architecture available in the world. Guided architectural walking tours are offered by the *Chicago School of Architecture Foundation* and cover everything from the intricate ornamentation of Louis Sullivan to the sleek steel and glass style of Mies van der Rohe.

Architects were not the only innovators to aid in Chicago's rebuilding. There also were planners and artists. Foremost among them was Daniel Burnham, a brilliant designer who developed the city's expansive park system. Thanks to Burnham, Chicago is an architectural testament to man's ability to coexist in harmony with nature.

Paralleling Lake Michigan from the far north to the far south side, Chicago's parks—*Lincoln*, *Jackson* and *Grant* (with its magnificent centerpiece, the *Buckingham Fountain*)—provide a dramatic contrast to the monochromatic backdrop of the Chicago skyline.

Social reformers found a home in Chicago. Jane Addams moved to the city in 1889, opening a settlement house to help immigrant families adjust to their new lives. Her work grew to include a multitude of social services. *Hull House*, which she established, today stands on the University of Illinois Chicago Circle Campus as a monument to this dedicated social pioneer.

## People and Places.

Ethnic neighborhoods dot the city, contributing to its strength and character. You can travel around the world in a matter of a few blocks. Poles, Ukrainians, Latinios, Scandanavians, Greeks, Chinese, Irish, Czechs and Germans all retain their heritage in neighborhood enclaves. Chicago is really a collective of a multiplicity of little communities that offer diversity of language, culture, customs and cuisine.

Plazas are carved out of downtown city blocks and decorated with monumental art. These are people places. On any day it's not unusual to see a noontime play in one plaza or hear the strains of jazz from another just a few blocks away. The Downtown theaters such as the *Goodman*, *Studebaker*, *Shubert* and *Blackstone* and thriving community and suburban playhouses continually offer the finest in stage presentations.

Musicians feel at home in this city with a distinctive tempo of its own. Jazz, blues and folk permeates upbeat neighborhoods, while downtown the world renowned *Chicago Symphony Orchestra* holds forth at *Orchestra Hall*. And there is an always changing list of headliners at the *Auditorium Theater*, *Civic Opera House*, *Arie Crown Theater* and hotel and night club show rooms.

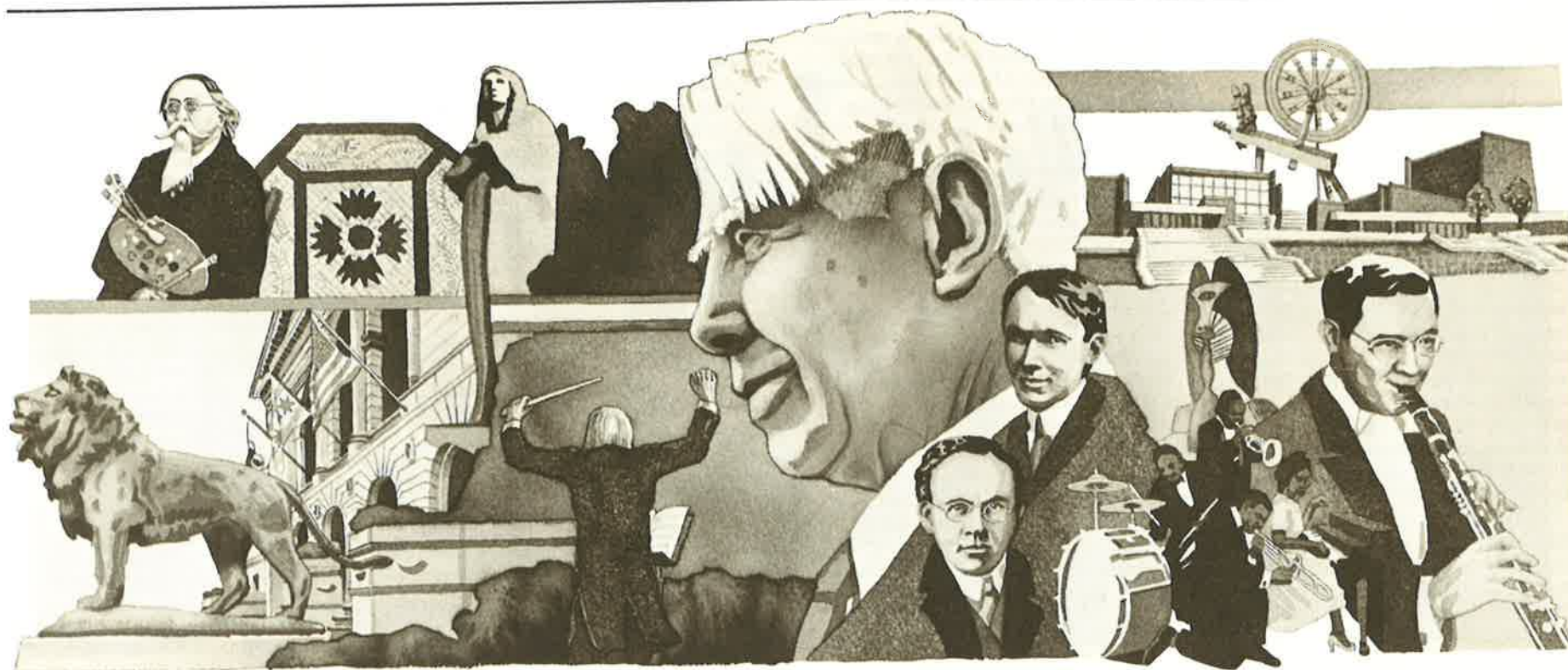
The *Museum of Science and Industry*, the *Field Museum of Natural History*, the *Adler Planetarium*, the *Shedd Aquarium*, the *Museum of Contemporary Art* and the *Art Institute* are not to be missed; nor is the in-town *Lincoln Park Zoo* or the near-by *Brookfield Zoo*.

Professional big league sporting events—from baseball, football, basketball and hockey to soccer and horse-racing—bring excitement to each season.

Chicago has something to meet everyone's mood and budget. Restaurants offering fast foods are just moments from those featuring the most elegant cuisine. Shops touting bargains are not far from those boasting the most desirable of haute couture. There's State Street the "great street" and Michigan Avenue the "magnificent mile."

Chicago is a city of choices, just waiting for you to make them.





Illinois was rugged country settled by hearty pioneers who while etching out a new life carved a lasting cultural heritage across the new frontier.

## French Influence.

Prairie du Rocher, a French settlement, grew around *Fort de Chartres*. The fortification, now partially restored, was more than a prairie stronghold; it was the center of French cultural life. While raconteurs shared tales by wilderness campfires, the French settlers, purveyors of the European grand-style, entertained at festive balls within the Fort's walls and held receptions in nearby homes of prominent Frenchmen.

French heritage remains a quiet part of modern-day Prairie du Rocher that springs to life once a year at the *Fort de Chartres Rendezvous* when the colonial lifestyle, with its music, games, crafts, costumes and cookery is revived.

Sample the understated French sophistication at the *Pierre Menard Home* in Chester, built in 1802 by Illinois' first Lt. Governor. The home is open year 'round but one can particularly feel the French presence during the Christmas season, when the white frame home is festooned with decorations. Visitors may join in a reception to celebrate the "12th Night" in the traditional French manner.

## Intellectual Center.

In 1818, Illinois became a state with the far-southern city of *Kaskaskia* as its capital. As settlers moved northward, the capital was moved to a more central location—*Vandalia*.

Literary men and lawmakers soon set the pace at the new wilderness capital. Public gatherings called "Levees" provided an opportunity for local citizenry to share ideas. The *Grand-Levee*, held each summer on the Statehouse lawn, continues the custom. One can almost hear Abe Lincoln and his contemporaries debating the importance of literary and cultural growth to the development of the young state.

One of the most influential proponents of cultural life was lawyer and editor James Hall, who chronicled early frontier life in "Letters from the West" and "Western Souvenir," a forerunner of the modern travel book. Hall also edited and published "The Illinois Monthly," the premier literary magazine in the West.

There were others in Vandalia with fresh ideas and youthful vigor who encouraged art and culture: James Berry, a painter who gained acclaim with scenes of Vandalia; Robert Blackwell, who printed the Illinois "Intelligencer," the leading newspaper of its day; John Mason Peck, a pioneer clergyman and early historian and, Stephen Douglas, statesman and future presidential candidate.



Today the once vigorous political and cultural seat is quiet. The *Statehouse* is filled with pioneer furnishings and books as it once was when Vandalia was an imposing center of political, social and intellectual life. A statue of the *Madonna of the Trail* on the Statehouse front lawn simply marks the termination of the *National Road* (Cumberland Road) which opened the West and its heritage to the world.

Traces of James Hall and James Berry are found at the *Little Brick House*, just a short walk from the Statehouse. Tombstones at the *Old State Burial Ground*, on the outskirts of town, date back to 1823. Weathered memorials pay tribute to pioneers of vision and fortitude who left an indelible imprint on the cultural life of Illinois.

The axis of Illinois cultural life now rotated around *Springfield*, which became the state capital in 1840. No western state had a more magnificent Capitol—a large mall framed the commanding Greek Revival stone structure. The imposing *Old State Capitol* still dominates Springfield, years after the last political struggles were won and lost there.

### Arts and Artists.

A stagecoach stop about 20 miles outside of Springfield in Pleasant Plains, once a favorite resting spot for Abe Lincoln, now is an enclave for craftsmen and students eager to explore the pioneer lifestyle. From late May–October, the *Clayville Rural Life Center* hums with activity. Travelers can sample pioneer cooking, view wares crafted by members of the *Clayville Folk Arts and Crafts Guild* and partake in a series of festivals focusing on pioneer folk arts and crafts. Weavers, quilters, goosepluckers, printers, tin smiths and potters all have an opportunity to showcase their talents.

Clayville is just one place where the prairie arts and crafts renaissance is evident. In Southern Illinois, the *Illinois Ozarks Crafts Guild* specializes in producing folk arts and crafts in traditional ways. Members, whose goods are selected for authenticity and quality, display their talents at festivals such as the summer's-end *DuQuoin Folk Festival*. Member quilters are said to be the finest in the nation, with samples of their beautiful art form gracing select shops both in and out of Illinois.

Illinois artists have always found inspiration in the land. Prairie primitivist painter Olof Krans' favorite subject was his home, the Swedish commune at Bishop Hill near Galesburg. Bishop Hill's *Colony Church* displays highly valued Krans landscapes depicting the rugged lifestyle of the agrarian settlement and portraits of Krans' neighbors, faces lined with determination, stare back defiantly at visitors.

Another Illinois artist, Loreda Taft, sculpted an 85-foot idealization of the American Indian which stands in a spot the Indians loved overlooking the Rock River. People drawn to *Lowden State Park* to view the statue call the work "Blackhawk," although Taft never intended it to be the well-known warrior.

Other Taft sculptures stand in Chicago city parks and, in fact, the entire city is a gallery for outdoor art. Downtown malls house monumental works by Calder, Chagall and Picasso.

Those who prefer art indoors savor the *Art Institute of Chicago*, best known for its collection of French Impressionists and its special shows which include a yearly all-Chicago artists' exhibit. The *Museum of Contemporary Art* in Chicago, with its changing shows and programs, is a mecca for modern art.

But Chicago no longer has an absolute corner on Illinois art. Art museums are being born throughout the state. The *Krannert* at the University of Illinois at Champaign and the *Mitchell Museum* in Mt. Vernon symbolize a growing interest in art statewide.

### Poets and Musicians.

Poets, too, found inspiration in the land and its people. Carl Sandburg chronicled the strength of a city called Chicago and the humanity of a man called Lincoln. Vachel Lindsay traveled the countryside trading his half-sung, half-spoken verse for food and lodging. Edgar Lee Masters was a prominent Chicago lawyer for 30 years before he wrote the *Spoon River Anthology*, a series of epitaphs for his one-time neighbors and friends in the Spoon River Valley. All three received national attention through the efforts of Harriet Monroe, a Chicagoan who championed fine poetry in her periodical, "Poetry, A Magazine of Verse."

*Sandburg's Birthplace* in Galesburg, *Master's Home* in Petersburg and *Lindsay's Home* in Springfield are open to visitors. The eerie 65-mile *Spoon River Drive* from Lewistown to London Mills over country roads by cove-like farm communities is much the same as Masters knew it, though folks 'round there don't take too kindly to his image of their ancestors.

Later day authors such as Upton Sinclair, Nelson Algren and Saul Bellow have made famous the hard-hitting, Chicago-style novel.

Jazz came up the river from New Orleans and laid claim to a flamboyant new home—Chicago. Bix Beiderbecke, Duke Ellington, Benny Goodman all played Chicago. Modern-day musicians have nurtured on Chicago—Ramsey Lewis, ♪

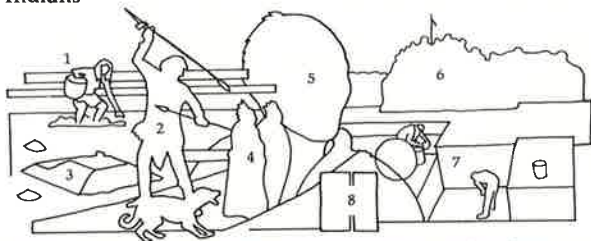
Lou Rawls, Bonnie Koloc, "Chicago," Steve Goodman, and many others. Blues and jazz call Chicago home.

Classical music also has found a home in Chicago. The *Chicago Symphony* is now the preeminent orchestra in the world and the *Lyric Opera* continues a long-standing tradition of fine productions.

The spirit which carved a great state out of the prairie wilderness brought with it a cultural environment which nourished the arts available to us today throughout Illinois. Perhaps it is our most treasured legacy from the hardy Illinois settlers.

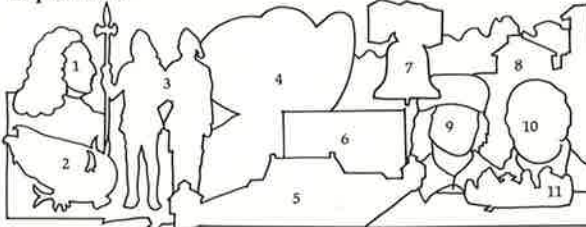


## Indians



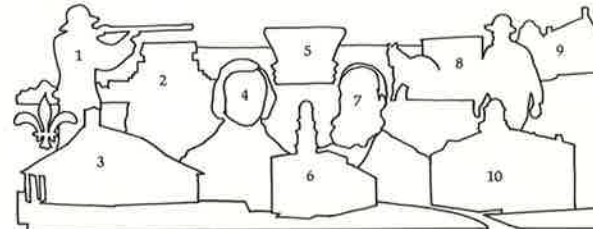
- 1) Paleo-Indian woman gathering food; 2) Paleo-Indian hunter; 3) Monks Mound, Cahokia Mounds State Park; 4) Sauk and Fox Indians; 5) Chief Black Hawk; 6) Starved Rock, Starved Rock State Park; 7) Koster Archaeological Dig, Kampsville; 8) Indian design, Woodlands Period

## Exploration



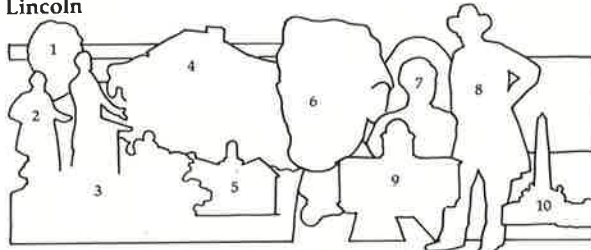
- 1) Sieur de LaSalle, French Canadian explorer; 2) Piasa Bird, Indian pictograph near Alton; 3) French Militiamen; 4) George Rogers Clark, Revolutionary War Hero; 5) Fort Kaskaskia; 6) British Flag which once flew over Illinois; 7) Liberty Bell of the West, Kaskaskia; 8) Fort Massac, Metropolis; 9) Louis Jolliet, explorer and map maker; 10) Father Jacques Marquette, explorer and missionary; 11) Marquette-Jolliet expedition

## Settlements



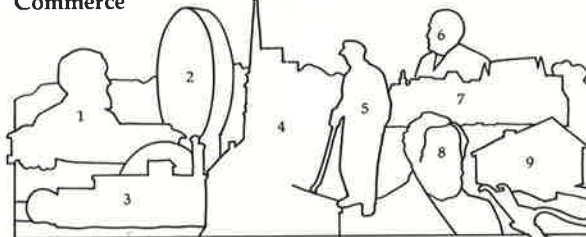
- 1) Frontier hunter; 2) Fort de Chartres, Prairie du Rocher; 3) Cahokia Courthouse, Cahokia; 4) Brigham Young, Mormon leader; 5) Sun Stone, Mormon Temple at Nauvoo; 6) Mormon Temple, Nauvoo; 7) Joseph Smith, founder of Mormon settlement at Nauvoo; 8) Amish buggy, Arthur; 9) English-style home, Albion; 10) Steeple Building, Bishop Hill

## Lincoln



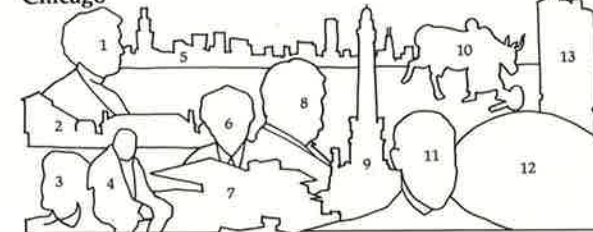
- 1) Abraham Lincoln, legislator; 2) Stephen A. Douglas, the "Little Giant"; 3) Lincoln-Douglas Debates, 1858; 4) New Salem, New Salem Village State Park; 5) Vandalia Statehouse; 6) Lincoln, president-elect; 7) George McClellan, Illinois Civil War general; 8) Ulysses S. Grant, general and president; 9) Old State Capitol, Springfield; 10) Lincoln Tomb, Oak Ridge Cemetery, Springfield

## Commerce



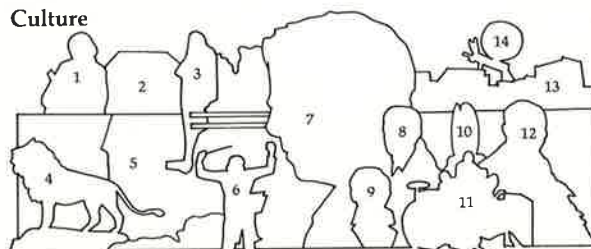
- 1) George Pullman and Pullman Sleeping Car; 2) Ferris Wheel, debuted 1893; 3) Riverboat plying the Mississippi; 4) Galena; 5) Coal miner; 6) Phillip Armour, pioneer meat packer; 7) Stone gate, Chicago Stockyards; 8) Cyrus Hall McCormick, industrialist; 9) John Deere's workshop and steel plow, Grand Detour

## Chicago



- 1) Jane Addams, social reformer; 2) Fort Dearborn, Chicago outpost; 3) Jean Baptiste Pointe DuSable, first Chicago settler; 4) Red Grange, football hero; 5) Chicago skyline; 6) Frank Lloyd Wright, "Prairie School" architect; 7) Robie House, designed by Wright; 8) Daniel Burnham, city planner; 9) The Water Tower, survivor of the Great Chicago Fire; 10) Mrs. O'Leary and cow; 11) Louis Sullivan, architect; 12) Auditorium Theater, designed by Sullivan; 13) Marina Towers

## Culture



- 1) Olof Krans, prairie artist; 2) Folk art quilt; 3) Indian sculpture by Loreda Taft; 4) Lion sculpture guarding Chicago's Art Institute; 5) The Art Institute of Chicago; 6) The Chicago Symphony Orchestra; 7) Carl Sandburg, poet and historian; 8) Vachel Lindsay, poet; 9) Edgar Lee Masters, lawyer and poet; 10) Picasso sculpture, Chicago Civic Center; 11) Dixieland Jazz Band; 12) Benny Goodman, jazz great; 13) Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, Urbana; 14) Pioneer spinning wheel





*ILLINOIS: Prairie Heritage* was made possible, in part, through a grant from the **Illinois Bicentennial Commission.**

The Illinois Office of Tourism, Department of Business & Economic Development would like to thank the following for their cooperation in the production of *ILLINOIS: Prairie Heritage*:

**The Illinois State Historical Library**

**The Illinois Department of Conservation**

and the countless individuals who helped research and compile source material.

Most of all we are indebted to the people who made Illinois their home, fortified it with their spirit and left us an enduring heritage.

For additional travel information contact:

**The Illinois Adventure Center**

160 N. LaSalle Street, Rm. 100  
Chicago, IL 60601

**The Office of Tourism**

Illinois Department of Business &  
Economic Development  
222 S. College Street  
Springfield, IL 62706

**The Office of Tourism**

Illinois Department of Business &  
Economic Development  
2209 W. Main Street  
Marion, IL 62959





Printed by the authority of the  
STATE OF ILLINOIS  
Office of Tourism  
Illinois Department of Business  
and Economic Development  
205 West Wacker  
Chicago, Illinois 60606