The Story of
ILLINOIS
by Virginia S. Eifert

ILLUSTRATIONS FROM THE BARTLETT FROST DIORAMAS IN

THE ILLINOIS STATE MUSEUM

STORY OF ILLINOIS—No. 1

STORY OF ILLINOIS SERIES

No. 1. Story of Illinois: Indian and Pioneer, by V. S. Eifert.

No. 2. Mammals of Illinois Today and Yesterday, as shown in the Illinois State Museum, by V. S. Eifert.

No. 3. Exploring for Mushrooms, by V. S. Eifert.

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No. 8. Common Insects of Illinois, by Gilbert Wright.

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No. 10. Amphibians of Illinois, by Paul W. Parmalee.

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STORY OF ILLINOIS SERIES, NO. 1

THE STORY OF ILLINOIS

INDIAN AND PIONEER

by

VIRGINIA S. EIFERT

SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS
Fourth Revised Edition
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(Printed by authority of the State of Illinois)

SOME WORTHWHILE BOOKS ON ILLINOIS HISTORY AND HISTORICAL PLACES

Alvord, Pease, Cole, and others. The Centennial History of Illinois. 5 Vols. Illinois Centennial Commission, Springfield, Ill., 1920.

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Monaghan, J. This is Illinois, a Pictorial History. University of Chicago Press, Chicago, 1949.

Pease, Theodore C. The Story of Illinois. University of Chicago Press, Chicago, 1949.

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Illinois, a Bibliography. Illinois State Library, Springfield, Ill., 1948.

PREFACE

The Story of Illinois is a series of booklets relating to the State, on anthropology, art, botany, geology, history and zoology. They are prepared by specialists in the fields and will be issued from time to time as opportunity permits. Eight numbers, as indicated on the inside of the front cover, have been issued to date. It is planned to publish some two hundred titles and keep all available, with revised reprintings as often as necessary.

They are written in direct, non-technical language for the pleasure of young people from six to sixty and to interest them in their surroundings, in present and past life forms, in places and in happenings in Illinois. Much of the material offered is not available elsewhere in a form appealing to the general reader. The specimens featured in the natural history issues are almost invariably within the range of the enquiring naturalist. Some life forms readily accessible to Illinoisians may be new to many readers. The things most common are not always well-known.

The present volume presents sketches of incidents and practices of periods in the history of Illinois commencing with the first recorded exploration party and continuing through the settlement and industrialization of the state. We are much indebted to the late Professor Theodore C. Pease, University of Illinois, for reading and criticizing the manuscript.

At the back of this issue is added a map showing the location of the Indian tribes in Illinois and a brief history of their movements after 1650 by Wayne Temple. Since this contains some information not generally available, footnotes with references have been included.

Criticism of these publications and suggestions for new volumes are invited.

November 1, 1954 THORNE DEUEL

The Story of Illinois

In the long ago before the Coal Age, Illinois most of the time was covered by sea; in it, characteristic life of the times flourished in great abundance. Here swam huge sharks and armored fishes, and there were rainbow-colored beds of sea-lilies which covered acres of the sea bottom. During the Coal Age, land areas rose and fell repeatedly; there were vast coastal marshes with forests of tall fern trees and giant relatives of our modern horsetails and club mosses. Here the decaying vegetation fell into the black water, piled up, pressed down, hardened, and was buried to become coal. Ages later when the marshes, coal forests, and the last of the oceans were gone from Illinois, out of the north came the glaciers. Growing masses of ice moved relentlessly southward.

Year by year the tropical climate of Illinois grew cooler; birds and animals went south, or they died; winters grew longer, summers shorter. At last the ice sheet moved across the borders of Illinois and came crunching and grinding, year after year, southward over the state until all but a few parts of Illinois were covered. Several times the ice came, melted, and retreated, leaving behind its load of gravel, silt, and boulders. And as the last glacier drew back, it left its morainal hills in the flattened Illinois country.

Life had existed in the shadow of the glacier. Now plants appeared, new kinds of trees; and the hardier birds, which had come with the intense cold, followed the ice northward and were replaced by others from the south. The rivers of Illinois, swollen with the waters that had been trapped in the Great Lakes basin, raced broadly to the Gulf. When the rivers grew smaller, large lakes remained.

Then came a process which still goes on today: this is the changing of a lake to a marsh and a marsh to a prairie. Thus the Illinois prairie came to be. The miles of glacial lakes filled up with cattails and willows that pushed out into the water until there was a marsh. By and by these marshes were so filled with plants that they became wet prairie land, waving with tall grasses, scented with the rich ripeness of wild strawberries in summer, golden with wild sunflowers in August, where in winter the coppery-pink stems of turkey-foot grass thrust through the snow.

By and by the ancient forefathers of the American Indians came to live along the rivers and to bury their dead in mounds in the bottomlands or in natural hillocks on the high bluffs. Later these peoples, largely of Mongolian stock, developed into those we now know as Indians. One of these groups, some hundreds of years ago, invaded Illinois from the south, established their chief towns with their flat-topped, earthen pyramids along the larger rivers. And buffalo came into the region from the west. So Indians and buffalo lived along the River of the Illini in 1673 when the King of France, wishing to annex new lands to bring profits to the crown, sent explorers to claim the Illinois country for France.

It is at this point that the dioramas begin their story—those vivid scenes of Illinois history created in miniature by Bartlett M. Frost and on display in the Illinois State Museum.

1673

Marquette and the Indians

It was a hot day late in the summer of 1673 when Father Marquette and Louis Jolliet with their party, after a rigorous journey down the Mississippi, came back up the Illinois River in canoes to claim Illinois for the glory of France and to convert its heathen for the glory of God. They had sighted an Indian village on the hill, and as the canoes pushed into the black mud of the shore, a crowd of Indians started down the path toward the river. At the front, far ahead of the others, came a muscular brave, the young chief. Around his feet was a tangle of snarling, snapping, barking mongrel dogs which a well-directed kick or two from the moccasined toe sent to a safe distance at the edge of the cornfield.

The handsome, splendidly built Indian stood with folded arms and looked silently at the white men. The thin, black-garbed priest climbed stiffly out of the canoe—he was ill but he would not stop his work—stood before the Indian and raised his crucifix.

"Benedicite!" he intoned, and went on in the Indian tongue.

At the canoe, Jolliet was busily arranging the cheap knives and trinkets which had been brought along to cajole the savages in case the word of God failed in a crisis. The Indian's black eyes moved from the priest, who was earnestly exhorting him to learn of the true God and of salvation in the next world, and slid to the bright knives and beads in the canoe.

The Indian said nothing; but his eyes stayed longer on the knives than on the priest. And then the whole village was upon them, and the men were kept busy distributing the trinketry where it would do the most good. The voice of the priest could not be heard in the din.

"Another time," the weary Father Marquette said aloud, "Another time they will listen."

1763

The Indians Fight for Illinois

France and England had been at war for seven years, and now in 1763 it was over and the British had won. By their treaty they demanded that French land east of the Mississippi should be given to them without further fuss, and one by one the lily banners of France came fluttering down and the flag of England went up. All, that is, but at Fort de Chartres, where the French flag flew until 1765.

Meanwhile the Indians, led by the Ottawa chief, Pontiac, planned vengeance on the British whom they hated for their harsh treatment. Most of them liked the French who had behaved toward them with dignity and respect, and who encouraged Pontiac and his plans for an Indian confederacy. Suddenly, over a thousand-mile front, the Indians attacked the British. For a while they were successful, but at last were pushed back, after Pontiac's defeat, into the Illinois country. There remained Fort de Chartres where the last French flag still flew, and this the Indians defended.

The British were on their way by boat to formally take over the fort when they heard of the angry Indian warriors awaiting them. Nervously, the British delayed the trip and finally sent a whole flotilla of flatboats up the Mississippi to Fort de Chartres.

As they coasted along the shore near the present northern boundary of Louisiana, the Indians from behind sycamores and bushes opened fire; the bewildered British lost many lives and had to go back. When the French at last decided it was necessary to give up the fort, the Indians, stubborn defenders of France in Illinois, stopped fighting. In 1765 peace was made and the French flag went down.

1779

From Kaskaskia to Vincennes

Hamilton, the "Hair-Buyer", was up to his old tricks again, and George Rogers Clark in 1778 went to the Illinois country to stop him. The Declaration of Independence had been signed, but out in the middle west General Hamilton, who paid Indians for scalps of white colonists, still hired tribes to murder the settlers.

Clark easily took the British Kaskaskia and the other Illinois villages. General Hamilton, hearing of Clark's successes, marched south from Detroit and took Vincennes. Clark knew the situation was grave. Late in the winter, when all the rivers were out of their banks in southern Illinois, Clark and his famous Virginia Long Knives set out from Kaskaskia to march across Illinois and attack Vincennes. All went well until they reached the flooded valley of the Wabash where in miles of drowned lowlands the men, with guns held high over their heads, had to wade up to their arm pits. There came several days of hard going through miles of water when there was nothing at all to eat; one morning the flood had frozen to a half-inch layer of ice, and wet clothing was frozen to the men's weary bodies.

But one night in February, 1779, George Rogers Clark and his men marched grandly into Vincennes, and by a neat trick with flags and plenty of shouting, confused the startled British. The garrison surrendered, but not before Clark met some of Hamilton's Indians returning with bloody American scalps to sell. Furiously, Clark could not restrain himself. He killed the Indians in full view of Hamilton and the fort, captured the general, and sent him as prisoner to Williamsburg.

Now the Illinois country was free of British rule. Men and women from the East soon would come down the rivers or over the Wilderness Road to make their homes in this rich land which Clark had won.

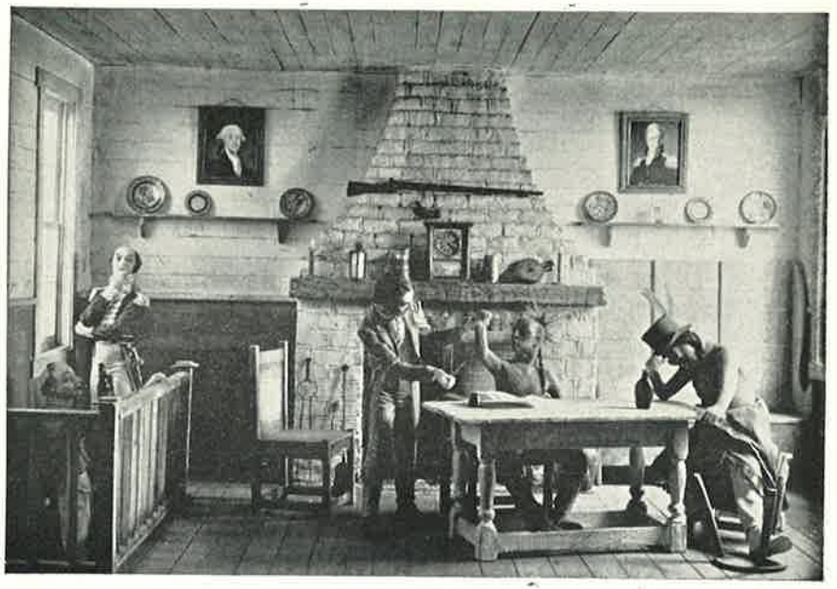
1820

The Circuit Rider

To the stooped woman who stands with her work-worn hands clasped before her and a hungry look in her big eyes, the travelling preacher and his words are the only touch she has with that outside world from which she came by covered wagon a few years before. The words take her away for a little while from the back-breaking cabin drudgery, from ague and chills, from rattlesnakes crawling into the cupboards, from a prairie wind that screams through the ill-chinked logs all winter long.

These are frontier people who came to the prairie in the early days of Illinois. They found the prairie sod too costly and difficult to plow, so they cut the forests, used the wood for building cabins in the clearings, and for firewood, or burned it in huge winter bonfires that shot sparks to the stars, and they plowed the loose forest earth for their gardens. Life on the Illinois prairie was never easy; work was hard and long and there were none of the conveniences we know. The daily diet usually was cornbread dodgers and pork, with honey for sweetening, and boiled wild greens in spring. Neighbors were too far apart to be of much help; people had to be their own doctors and had to provide everything they needed for themselves. But they could not provide religion and news, and that was what the travelling preacher, the circuit rider, brought as he rode his horse through the muddy roads from cabin to cabin. He preached; he gave out news; he married the young folk and said the burial words over the dead; he settled disputes; and he usually stayed for dinner and sometimes for the night.

This was the circuit rider in Illinois. It was from his visits among the prairie people that churches finally were built; from hill-towns to bottomland villages, year after year, the spires of churches arose.



1833

The Indians Leave Illinois

The Black Hawk War was over, and all that remained were the final treaties. So in 1833, eight thousand Indians swarmed into Chicago for their last great gathering ever held in Illinois. From Washington had come word that the Great White Father was going to buy their lands; he had heard that they wanted to sell. So chiefs from all the tribes of Potawatomi, Chippewas, and Ottawas came to the treaty-making, and because the Government would feed them during the treaty, they brought along their families and made a holiday of it. Tents dotted the prairie for miles; horses grazed everywhere; lean Indian dogs roamed the muddy streets of young Chicago and snapped at the ankles of passersby. The Indians were much the worse for bad whiskey which they eagerly had bought against orders from the authorities.

But when they were finally assembled for the treaty, the Indians said that the Great Father must have been listening to a bad bird who had told him lies. They were satisfied with their lands in Illinois. And the white man was easier to get along with than the surly Sioux beyond the Mississippi.

After nine days of useless talk, orders were issued that the treaty must be signed at once. The Indians must leave their lands between Lake Michigan and the Mississippi; in exchange they would have western lands, and would be fed and clothed for a year afterward. A million dollars would be devoted to their welfare. That day the Indians must have known they were doomed. The treaty was signed, and within a year they were gone from Illinois and never again returned to live. Now settlers in Illinois could come without fear of Indians.

The diorama shows one of the old Chicago taverns where two braves in a drunken state are being persuaded to sign a paper, while an army officer doubtfully eyes the proceedings.

1837

John Deere and the Prairie Plow

Out of the crowded East and over the Alleghenies to Illinois came pioneers eager for new lands and open sky. But their old-fashioned plows made of wood and iron were poorly fitted to plow the prairie. The heavy muck resisted the blade and clung to the mold-board like snow to a boot heel; it cost as much to plow this soil as it did to buy the land.

In 1837, however, a young man named John Deere, a blacksmith, came from Vermont to Grand Detour at the great bend of the Rock River. Blacksmiths were very important men in those days; and John Deere was better than most. As he saw how the prairie resisted the plow, he set his mind to work on the problem.

One day he found a broken circular-saw blade made of fine steel. He cut off the saw teeth, shaped the metal on his forge, and made a steel plow blade, fashioned a light-weight wood frame, got a pair of horses, and was ready for the demonstration. A crowd of farmers and people from Grand Detour followed the new plow and watched with growing excitement as the steel blade bit into the heavy black soil and turned it over. The horses pulled easily; the plow turned the furrow, came back; the farmers crowded around to look at the steel blade. It was as shiny as when it entered the soil; it was clean! This plow would "scour"; never again would prairie muck clog and cling in great sticky gobs until no living man could push it further.

And so young John Deere opened the way for Illinois agriculture. Soon the railroads came, and the reaper and thresher took the place of old-fashioned equipment. Because of these things there soon would be great acres of waving wheat and tasseled corn in Illinois to supply food not only for this state but for the nation and many peoples of the world.

The Underground Railroad—1850

There was the squeak of iron on leather, the crunch of a wheel by the farmhouse door. Two figures in the darkness climbed down from the wagon; the kitchen door opened, admitted them; inside, the farmer's wife was hurrying with food.

"Welcome!" said the farmer. "Eat hearty, friends!"

Apologetically, frightened to dumb silence, the young mulatto woman looked up from her baby and moved hungrily to the table. The elderly colored man went, too, protectively, eyeing the farmer, and ate.

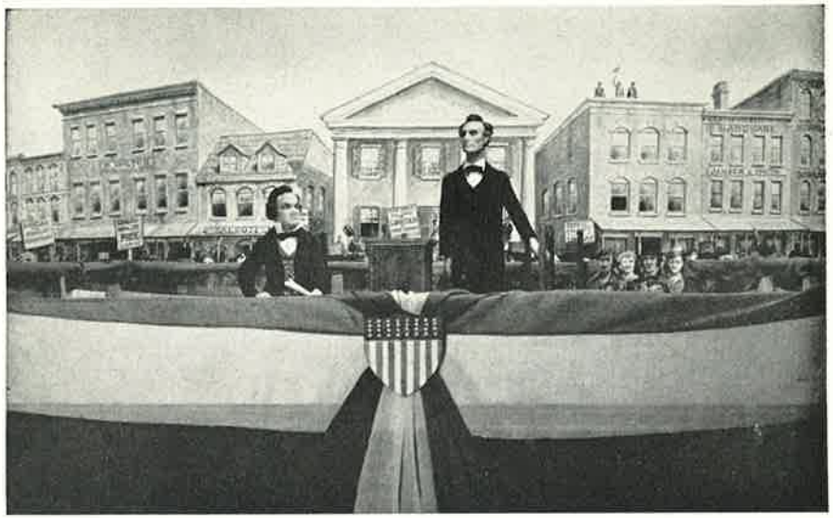
These were slaves. In the sad days of growing bitterness between the states, men and women in the north spent time and money and risked their reputations in helping these people to escape to safety in Canada. From Cairo to Rockford, the length of Illinois, there were secret shelters where slaves could hide until time to move on to another point further north. This was the "underground railroad", and the power that moved it was the northern hatred for slavery.

There was a scratching on the door.

"They're a-coming!" a boy whispered. "Paw sent me to tell you. They've tracked 'em as far as the last station."

Again with that terror in their eyes, the Negroes followed the farmer to the barn. And just in time. A clamor of men and dogs in the yard—hurry—down the dark trap-door hole, with the lantern for comfort—the door closed—hay forked over it. Quietly as a shadow the farmer went to the small side door of his house. Already men were hammering at the back door. There he met them.

There was no one in the house, he said with dignity. His word as a church man could be trusted. And before those outraged blue eyes, the man-hunters drew back, baffled, and went on.



1858

"A House Divided"

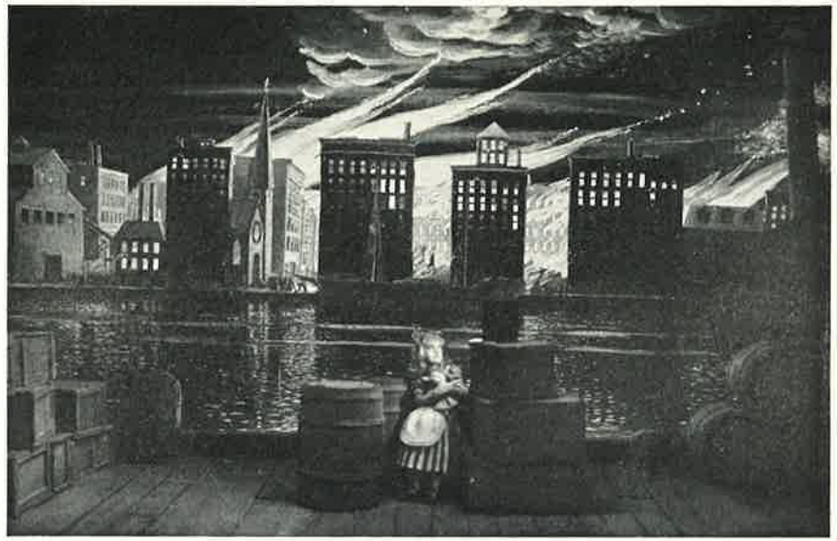
There was fighting in Kansas and hot words in Illinois as the old Whig party died in 1854 and the new Republican party began. There was unrest all over the country, for although the United States was not yet a hundred years old, its unity was threatened.

In 1858, Abraham Lincoln and Stephen A. Douglas, as unlike in personal appearance as in their views, both of them candidates for United States senator, held a series of heated debates in Illinois on the question of slavery. Douglas had long maintained that the people of an area should decide whether or not they wanted slavery; Lincoln felt that slavery was morally wrong and should be prohibited by the Government in the territories from which states would be formed.

People from miles around came to town whenever one of the debates was announced, for there were few entertainments in Illinois. The debater, with his elegant choice of words, his jibes and jokes, was as good as a show; he provided fun, education, and a chance to see one's friends. Rival parties vied for the best banners and the prettiest girls in the torchlight processions which usually ended in a fight. Everyone came and had an exciting time.

The debate which took place between Lincoln and Douglas in Quincy on October 13th is shown in the diorama. Both men were deadly serious. Both wanted to be senator; yet they were fighting for something more than personal gain. Here were the two opposing ideas in America, the old order, and the new which would not tolerate human slavery. Douglas won the senatorship, but it was Abraham Lincoln, his views made secure by these debates, who became president in 1860.

And from his arguments in the Illinois campaign rose these words which ever afterwards have been part of the tradition of America: "A house divided against itself cannot stand; this government cannot endure half slave and half free."



1871

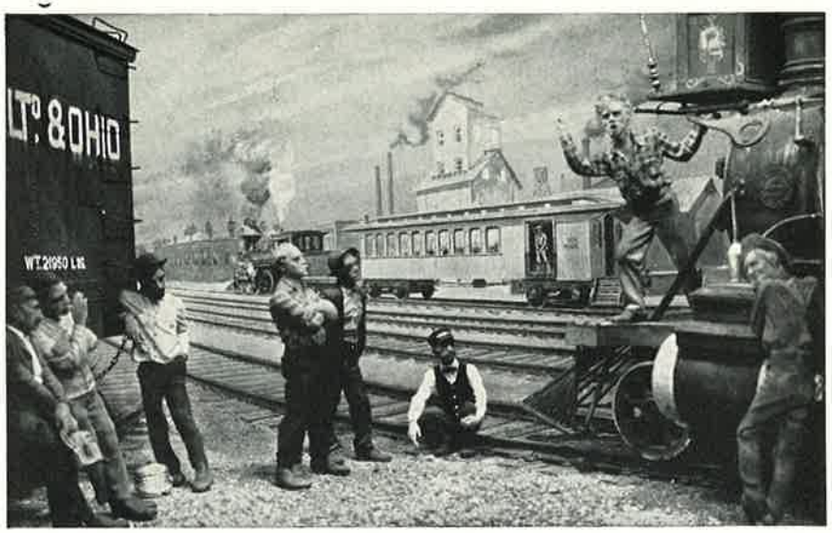
The Chicago Fire

The little girl watched the city burn. The sky was scarlet, and there were clouds of smoke and great chunks of fire and sparks blowing on the lake wind. The noise of burning buildings was deafening, the crackling, hissing, roaring, the sweep of the flames from one street to the next, licking up wooden houses like a great cat lapping cream, people shouting, doing strange things. Caroline crouched against a big barrel on the wharf, clutched her doll, watched how the fire ate up everything across the river. The lantern which Dick had set there to keep her company wasn't much use now. There was plenty of light to see by. But Dick hadn't come back after he went to find mother and father—he'd said he would—and a growing sense of terror mounted in the little girl's heart.

Day after day during the summer of 1871, the prairie sun that beat down on the wooden city of Chicago had dried out every fiber and every shingle. Chicago in a generation had grown up from a frontier village to a city, but its growth was so rapid and so unplanned that it sprawled along the lake and on the prairie, unformed and crude. Since the first steam engine ended the isolation of Chicago, it had expanded but there had been no time for permanence, no time for beauty.

By October, Chicago was tinder dry, and when, on the 8th, the fire started, it burned eagerly and without any stopping. In the destruction of the city, families became separated and some never found each other again.

The child in this diorama may have been one of these lost children. No one knows who she was, or if there was such a child. She represents the Chicago fire in the story of Illinois; she is the youth that helped build a beautiful, great city out of the overgrown frontier town that burned in '71.



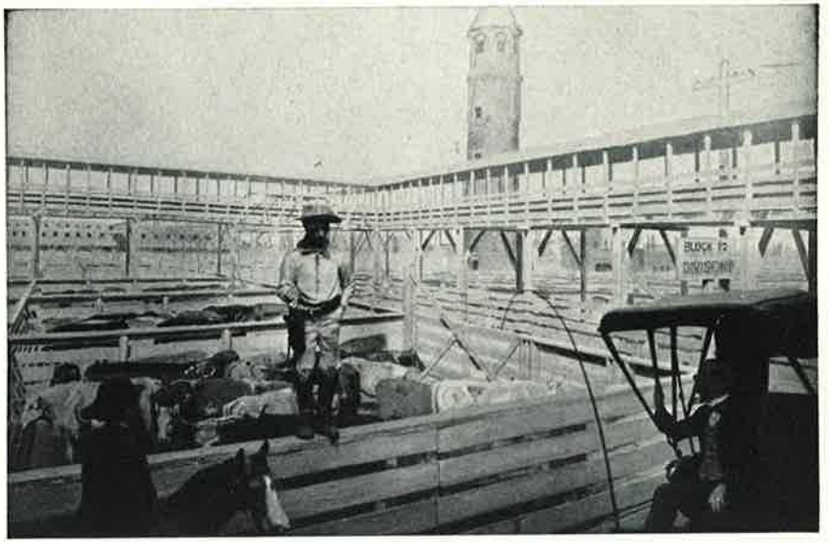
1877

The Railroad Strikes

When the Civil War was ended, more than slavery had been abolished. The old, slow way of life had died, and in the years that followed, the whole country, north and south, knew the turmoil of learning a new way of living. It was too great a wrench to leap from the frontier ways of the first half of the century, through the blood and upset of war, to the mechanical era that was about to open ahead.

In a few years, the enormous cost of war, uncertain currency, inflation, and too much railroad building, to name only a few of the causes, came to a climax in the panic of 1873, which was much like that of 1929. By 1877 the unrest and depression, made worse by poverty and hunger, blazed into open war in the railroad strikes. Nothing before or since in railroad history equalled the mob violence and riots of '77. They were touched off when trainmen had a new cut in wages. In Chicago there was open fighting, shooting in the railroad yards, men killed or wounded, armed soldiers guarding the mail trains that would not pull out for many a day. The depression had reached its lowest point of despair in 1877, and the railroad strikes came as a dramatic climax.

But out of the labor unrest there grew the trade unions with their higher standards of work and pay. Better hours, safer jobs, better working conditions, organization of labor, and abolishment of child labor came as a result of the terrible upsets of the 'Seventies. And it had been proved, moreover, that Illinois was no longer just an agricultural state, but that it had its great share of mining and manufacturing which was being carried throughout the nation by the railroads. When the strikes were over, Illinois was headed squarely into the coming era which would produce the airplane, the radio, the telephone, and the age of electricity.



1880

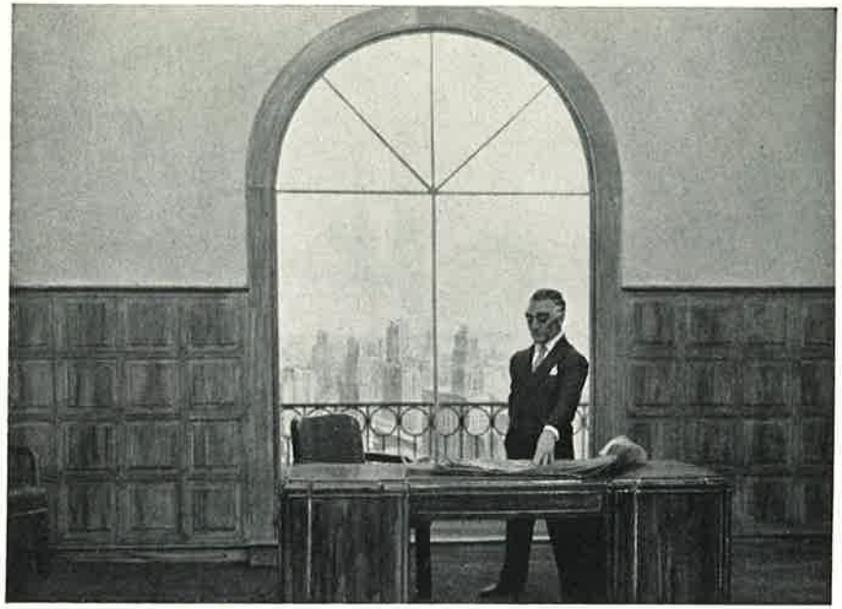
Meat Packer for the World

Out of the west in the 1870's came long-horned cattle that plodded in clouds of dust across their grazing lands on the Great Plains. Cowboys, yipping and swinging ropes, brought the steers hundreds of miles to the railroads that were pushing into the unknown west, and from here the cattle rode in slatted cars east to Boston and Albany and Buffalo. Every community had its little, often unsanitary, slaughterhouse which was a mass of filth and flies, where cattle were slaughtered when needed and sold before the meat spoiled.

In Chicago, G. F. Swift had a new idea in the meat business. He knew that by the time live cattle reached the east they had lost weight, often were bruised, and were expensive because they had to be fed. And longhorns weren't made to fit well in a cattle car.

Swift slaughtered western cattle at Chicago and sent the dressed beef east, though only in winter; with the invention of refrigerator cars, far greater quantities of dressed beef the year around could travel in a cheaper way than live cattle. By and by few or no longhorned western steers rode east of Chicago. Meat cattle were bred to better form, were more tender and were meatier; cattle with short horns were developed. In Chicago, the Union Stockyards grew mightily and put Chicago on the map of the nation and the world.

This diorama shows the stockyards in the 1880's. A cowboy who has accompanied a herd from the west stands on the fence while two buyers dicker for the best price. It is a typical scene as it has been enacted daily for many years in the vast, growing business of providing meat for the nation. Yet less than a century before, the only meat one ate in Illinois was obtained with a squirrel rifle or shotgun in the woods.



Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow

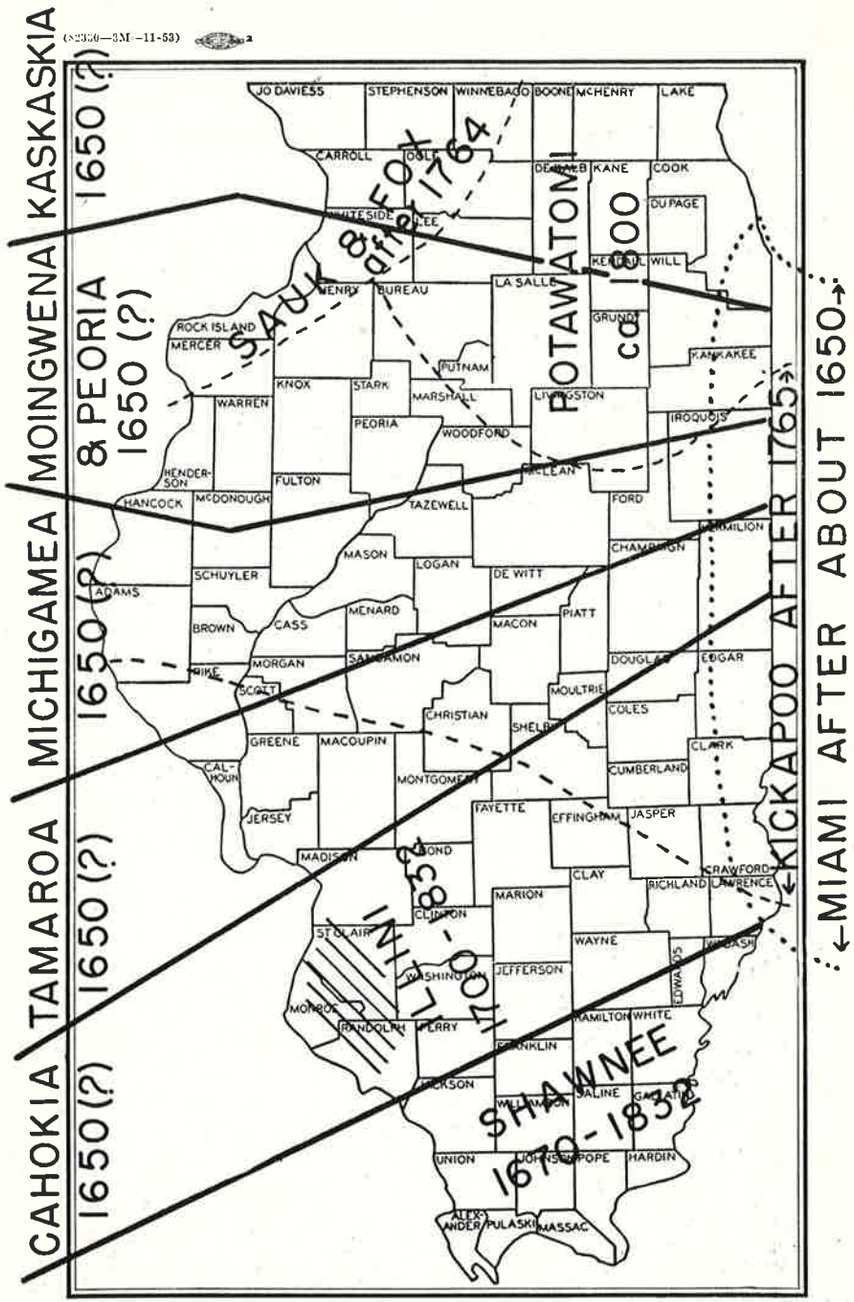
This is today, and the future lies grandly ahead. Here in the final diorama in the Story of Illinois, the City of the Present looks to the City of the Future, to the world of peace and wonderful things which as yet lives only in men's minds.

In this diorama lies the background of Illinois. Marquette came and brought the first Christian religious teaching; the British came and held the area; George Rogers Clark completed the removal of Illinois from foreign hands and gave it to America. He opened the way to the pioneers who were finding the East too crowded. They came and laid the foundations for the cities, for where a cabin grew up and people lived, others by and by banded together for protection and comfort, and soon there was a village, a town, a metropolis, depending upon the whims of fortune.

The series of Indian treaties gave Illinois into the hands of white people and paved the way for safe further settlement. John Deere opened the way to agriculture on a large scale, helped make possible the fields of corn and soybeans to supply America. Illinois became part of the great conflict between the states, and Lincoln rose from the prairie, left New Salem, left Springfield, and went to Washington as the Illinois president who preserved the union. Then progress in the form of fire struck the rambling city of Chicago, and made possible the greater city which rose from the ashes and put Illinois on the map. Labor and industry battled as they got their bearings in the machine age, yet laid the way for unions and fairer wages and working conditions. Now the railroads that criss-cross Illinois carry meat, coal, and corn, and the Illinois stockyards feed the world.

Today all these things are part of our heritage. They all are implied in this one diorama where the mind of man lays plans for a gleaming future.

MAP SHOWING APPROXIMATE TERRITORY OCCUPIED
BY INDIAN TRIBES IN ILLINOIS FROM 1650-1837



Historic Indians of Illinois

by

WAYNE C. TEMPLE

The state of Illinois derives its name from a historic group of Indians who called themselves "Illini," meaning "the men."[1] The first written account of them was made by the Jesuit missionaries in 1640. At this time, at least part of the Illini were living near the Winnebago in the vicinity of Lake Michigan.[2] However, their principal locations were along both the Illinois and Mississippi rivers. A study of their language indicates that they were a member of the Algonquin family and closely associated with the Miami and Chippewa (Ojibway) tribes.

Within the Illinois Country there were several tribes who were called Illini (used in this study instead of Illinois to avoid confusion), but each one had a name of its own. The Cahokia, Kaskaskia, Michigamea, Moingwena, Peoria, and Tamaroa were allied with one another to form a confederation which is known today as the "Illiniwek." In June of 1673, as Marquette descended the Mississippi River, he found the Peoria and the Moingwena about five miles up the Iowa River.[3] Here the Illini had three villages within a short distance of each other. Apparently, it was a large group since Marquette related that six hundred Indians returned with them to the Mississippi to watch their embarkation.[4]

Passing further down the Mississippi, Marquette found the Michigamea living on the right bank, near the month of the St. Francis River in Arkansas. They were the most southern tribe of the Illini nation; however, they were part of the confederation and spoke the same language as the Illini.[5] This would seem to indicate that they previously had lived much farther north.

The Illini at this time were somewhat nomadic and seem to have moved from place to place in search of game. When Marquette returned he proceeded up the Illinois River instead of returning by way of the Mississippi. The Peoria tribe had by this time removed to the Illinois[6] from the Iowa River locations. They were probably near the present city of Peoria. As he ascended beyond this point, he found the Kaskaskia Indians residing in a village of seventy-four cabins near the present town of Utica.[7] In this period, the Peoria and Kaskaskia tribes were closely associated with this region. It was not until 1700 that the Kaskaskia separated from the Peoria tribe and settled shortly afterward near the mouth of the river in southern Illinois which now bears their name.[8]

The Tamaroa and the Cahokia were mentioned by La Salle in 1680.[9] These two tribes of the confederacy were close together and seem to have hunted on both sides of the Mississippi River from the mouth of the Illinois southward. The site of Cahokia came to be associated with the one tribe, although both frequented this area. In 1700 St. Cosme discovered that the Michigamea intended to winter with the Tamaroa in the region of East St. Louis. Their early enemies were the Shawnee and Chickasaw who occasionally came up from the Tennessee region and inflicted severe losses upon them.[10] An early foe of the northern Illini tribes was the Iroquois Confederation which constantly sent war parties into their territory. LaSalle complained of these attacks in 1680.[11] Other enemies quickly appeared. By 1714, the Fox Indians of Wisconsin, together with their allies, the Mascoutin (Potawatomi ?) and Kickapoo, were driving the Illini south.[12] They had grown so bold that in 1723 they raided close to Fort Chartres and killed some of the Kaskaskia and enslaved many others.[13] Gradually the Fox, Sauk, Kickapoo, and Potawatomi forced the remaining Illini to seek refuge with the French at Kaskaskia where they dwindled to a few families. By 1832 they held only 350 acres there.[14]

Among the eighteenth-century invaders who drove the Illini from northern Illinois were the Sauk and Fox of Wisconsin. Prior to this movement they had lived first on the Fox and later on the Wisconsin River. Peter Pond found their villages on the Wisconsin River as late as 1773;[15] four years after this date, however, the Spanish at St. Louis declared that the Fox Indians, who came there to trade, were living on the shores of the Mississippi River. This indicates that they were at that time expanding south into Illinois.[16] It is certain that by 1780 they were firmly established along the Rock River of northwest Illinois. In this year Colonel John Montgomery marched into this country and destroyed the crops and villages of the Sauk and Fox tribes who were thought to be a constant threat to the United States.[17] In spite of this defeat, the Sauk and Fox returned to the Rock River. Their main villages were near Rock Island or along the Rock River, near its mouth. In addition to these sites, there were Sauk and Fox settlements across the Mississippi in Iowa. And they continued to occupy this area until after the Black Hawk War in 1832 when they were driven from Illinois.

Another intruder from the north was the Kickapoo who were closely associated with the Sauk and Fox and spoke nearly the same

[1] Marquette's account, in Reuben Gold Thwaites, ed., *The Jesuit Relations and Allied Documents* (Cleveland, 1896-1901), LIX, 125.
[2] *Ibid.*, XVIII, 231.
[3] L. G. Weld, *Joliet and Marquette in Iowa* (Iowa City, 1903), 16. After a careful study, Weld indicates that it was the Iowa River and not the Des Moines as previously thought.
[4] *Jesuit Relations*, LIX, 125.
[5] *Ibid.*, LIX, 151, 153, 313 n.; Marquette's Map of 1673-1674, in Sara Jones Tucker, comp., *Indian Villages of the Illinois Country* (Springfield, 1942), Part I, Atlas, plate V. After much careful study, Jean Delanglez identifies this village as Quapaw and not Michigamea. *Mid-America*, XXVII (O.S.), 47 (Jan., 1945).
[6] *Jesuit Relations*, LIX, 163.
[7] *Ibid.*, LIX, 161.
[8] Journal of Father Gravier (1700), in John Gilmary Shea, ed., *Early Voyages Up and Down the Mississippi, by Cavelier, St. Cosme, Le Sueur, Gravier, and Guignas* (Albany, 1861), 116.
[9] "LaSalle on the Illinois Country, 1680," in Theodore Calvin Pease and Raymond C. Werner, eds., *The French Foundations 1680-1693* (Springfield, 1934), 5.
[10] Shea, ed., *Early Voyages Up and Down the Mississippi, by Cavelier, St. Cosme, Le Sueur, Gravier, and Guignas*, 61, 67, 118.
[11] Pease and Werner, eds., *The French Foundations 1680-1693*, 11.
[12] Claude de Ramezay to the Minister, Sept. 18, 1714, in *Collections of State Hist. Soc. Wis.*, XVI, 300-301.
[13] Statement of Illini taken by C. C. du Tisne, Fort Chartres, Jan. 14, 1725, in *ibid.*, XVI, 461.
[14] William Clark to Gov. Reynolds, Castor Hill (near St. Louis), Oct. 31, 1832, in Evarts Boutell Greene and Clarence Walworth Alvord, eds., *The Governors' Letter-Books 1818-1834* (Springfield, 1909), 216.
[15] "Journal of Peter Pond," *Collections of State Hist. Soc. Wis.*, XVIII, 335, 337.
[16] MS, dated "San Luis De Ylinneses, November 15, 1777," in General Archives of the Indies, Seville and pub. in *ibid.*, 365.
[17] *Calendar of Virginia State Papers* (Richmond, 1875-1893), III, 442-443.

language.[18] After the power of the Illini was destroyed, they moved south to the present site of Peoria and then divided into two groups. One, the Prairie Band, remained in the north central area of Illinois and the other, the Vermilion Band, established themselves on the Vermilion and Wabash rivers. As early as 1765 there was a large village of Kickapoo called Ouiatenon (Wea town) near the present location of Lafayette, Indiana.[19] Their main strength was concentrated on either the Vermilion or the Wabash, but there were groups scattered throughout northern Illinois. Thomas Forsyth reported in 1814 that there was a Kickapoo village on the Pecatonica River, north of Rock River.[20] In 1809 and 1819 they ceded their territory along the Vermilion and Wabash to the United States, but did not leave Illinois. When Catlin journeyed through Illinois in the 1830's he found the remnants of this tribe residing near the southern tip of Lake Michigan. Their numbers had been reduced to 600 or 800.[21]

The Mascouten tribe is sometimes identified as being a part of the Potawatomi group, but generally the name refers to the Peoria Illini who were closely associated with the Kickapoo.[22] The Bowen and Gibson Map of North America (1763) places the Mascouten in the upper region of the Rock River close to the Kickapoo. The Spanish officials at St. Louis stated that in 1787 the "principal chief of the Mascouten nation, named Tanclel" had attacked the Kaskaskia Indians on the American side of the Mississippi and killed eleven.[23] Evidently, this party of warriors came from the region of the Wabash River, for the Spanish who traded with these Indians, located the Mascouten there and estimated their strength as 200 warriors. Their village was said to be close to Vincennes and very near that of the Kickapoo.[24] This Spanish report is confirmed by George Croghan who was captured near the mouth of the Wabash River in 1765 by a hunting party of Mascouten and Kickapoo.[25]

The Miami tribe at one time occupied the present site of Chicago. St. Cosme found two large villages of Miami in this area in 1699. Each village contained about 150 cabins.[26] Their main sphere of occupation, however, was in the State of Ohio and in the Wabash River Valley. The Potawatomi replaced them in the Chicago area after the Illini were driven out of northern Illinois. The Piankashaw, Wea, and Eel River bands or tribes were also part of the Miami nation. When La Salle established his fort at Starved Rock on the Illinois River in 1682, some of the Piankashaw gathered there. Seventeen years later they were found on the Kankakee River[27] and eventually they established themselves along the Wabash River as far south as Vincennes.[28] By 1775 they claimed the land on both sides of the Wabash and also had villages on the Vermilion River.[29] When Colonel

[18] George Catlin, *North American Indians* (London, 1845), II, 98.
[19] George Croghan to William Murray, Weotanan [Ouiatenon], July 12, 1765, in *The Papers of Sir William Johnson* (Albany, 1921), XI, 841.
[20] Thomas Forsyth to Ninian Edwards, Fort Clark (Peoria), July 31, 1814, in *Collections of State Hist. Soc. Wis.*, XI, 325.
[21] Catlin, *North American Indians*, II, 97.
[22] John R. Swanton, *The Indian Tribes of North America* (Washington, 1952), 254. Bulletin 145 of Bureau of American Ethnology.
[23] Manuel Peres to Don Estevan Miro, St. Louis, Feb. 27, 1788, in Lawrence Kinnaird, ed., *Spain in the Mississippi Valley, 1765-1794* (Washington, 1946-1949), II, 244-245. Ann. Rep. Am. Hist. Assoc., 1945.
[24] MS, dated "San Luis de Ylinneses, November 15, 1777," in General Archives of the Indies, Seville and pub. in *Collections of State Hist. Soc. Wis.*, XVIII, 366-367.
[25] Journal of Col. George Croghan, in E. B. O'Callaghan, ed., *Documents Relative to the Colonial History of the State of New York* (Albany, 1853-1887), VII, 780.
[26] Shea, ed., *Early Voyages Up and Down the Mississippi, by Cavelier, St. Cosme, Le Sueur, Gravier, and Guignas*, 53.
[27] *Ibid.*, 58.
[28] Journal of Col. George Croghan, in O'Callaghan, ed., *Documents Relative to the Colonial History of the State of New York*, VII, 780.
[29] *Calendar of Virginia State Papers*, I, 314.

Croghan held a conference with the Indians at Ouiatenon, on the Wabash, in 1765, he found the area held by Wea, Piankashaw, Kickapoo, and Mascouten.[30]

In the early part of the eighteenth century the Potawatomi moved into the Chicago area. They continued to occupy this country and were the ones who massacred the garrison of Fort Dearborn in 1812.[31] An estimate made in 1820 placed the number of Potawatomi living in the Chicago neighborhood at about 1000.[32] They were the last large group of Indians to leave Illinois. It was not until July 4, 1837, that the final contract was let by the government for their removal beyond the Mississippi River.[33]

Living in the Rock River country were also the Winnebago. As early as 1777 one report placed their village about six miles from the Mississippi on the banks of the Rock. Their strength was estimated at 150 warriors who were led by a chief called Lepy.[34] The Winnebago inhabited this territory for many years and were in the habit of hunting in northwest Illinois.[35] Their principal settlement was called Prophetstown and here they were living as late as 1831.[36]

From time to time there were Shawnee groups in Illinois. There were Shawnee among the Indians whom LaSalle settled about his fort in 1682, but in later years most of them stayed in southern Illinois. John J. Audubon found about fifty families encamped at the mouth of the Cache River in 1810. They seem to have been on their winter hunt.[37] As a rule, the Shawnee's domain was Tennessee.

Although the Delaware Indians never were closely associated with Illinois, they did pass through this State as they were gradually pushed westward. Now and then parties of them were reported living near Vincennes on the Illinois bank of the Wabash. Here, they traded their furs. An encampment of forty was found in this vicinity in 1818.[38]

The Ottawa for a time were in northeastern Illinois too. The famous chief, Pontiac, was an Ottawa and frequented Illinois until he was killed at Cahokia in 1769 by a Kaskaskia Indian.

[30] Journal of Col. George Croghan, in O'Callaghan, ed., *Documents Relative to the Colonial History of the State of New York*, VII, 780.
[31] Capt. Heald's letter, dated Pittsburg, Oct. 23, 1812, in *Niles Register*, III, 155 (Nov. 7, 1812).
[32] Jedidiah Morse, *A Report to the Secretary of War of the Unite States, on Indiana Affairs . . . 1820* (New Haven, 1822) Appendix, p. 103.
[33] Contract between Lt. E. S. Sibley (for the U. S.) and Christian B. Dodson, July 4, 1837. Original document in the Chicago Historical Society.
[34] MS, dated "San Luis De Ylinneses, November 15, 1777" in General Archives of the Indies, Seville and pub. in *Collections of State Hist. Soc. Wis.*, XVIII, 365-366.
[35] J. W. Spencer, *Reminiscences of Pioneer Life in the Mississippi Valley*, ed. by Milo Milton Quaife and pub. as *The Early Day of Rock Island and Davenport* (Chicago, 1942), 18. Originally pub. at Davenport in 1872.
[36] George A. McCall, *Letters from the Frontiers* (Philadelphia, 1868), 240 (entry of July 1, 1831).
[37] John Francis McDermott, ed., "Audubon's 'Journey up the Mississippi,'" *Jour. Ill. State Hist. Soc.*, XXXV, 151-153 (June, 1942).
[38] Marie George Windell, ed., "The Road West in 1818: The Diary of Henry Vest Bingham," *Mo. Hist. Rev.*, XL, 52 (Oct., 1945).

This Is Illinois

Conclusion

Illinois is hilly at both ends and flat in the middle, but there is much more to it than that. It is about 400 miles long and its northern boundary is the same as that of southern Vermont and New Hampshire; its tip extends to the latitude of Richmond, Virginia. Here is a remarkable range in plants, birds, landscape, and human pursuits equalled by that between New England and Virginia. In northern Illinois there are white birches, tamarack bogs, and a northern atmosphere much like Wisconsin. Yet in southern Illinois there are cotton-fields and cypress swamps, and an appearance much like Kentucky and Tennessee. There are western meadowlarks, western wild flowers, and western cattle brought here to be fattened on Illinois corn; and on our lakes are sea-birds from the Atlantic Ocean and Labrador.

In the north near Rockford, on the rolling hills left by the last glacier, there is dairying country and the surging acres of the military reservation at Camp Grant. Westward in the hilly JoDaviess County is Charles Mound, 1,241 feet high, a small mountain in Illinois. Nearby are the last battlegrounds of the Sauk and the Fox. Eastward is Chicago, tall and grand, with the ocean-like Lake Michigan sparkling in the sun. Here are the cultural centers—the universities, the museums, zoos, aquarium, planetarium, art galleries, great skyscrapers, businesses, and a large foreign-born population.

On the flat prairie there are coal mines, fields of corn, wheat, oats and soybeans, and many hogs and cattle. Along the rivers are the fishing towns, and down the flat part of the state are the artificial lakes which were built after men found that draining the prairie was not always a good thing.

Here is Springfield, the capital, home of Abraham Lincoln, the Prairie President; this is a cultural center in middle Illinois, surrounded by college towns, as well as by coal mines and big fields of corn. Near the congested St. Louis area rise the great flat-topped mounds in the midst of other remains of the ancient Cahokia religious center where Middle Mississippi People lived in considerable numbers.

On the rising bulk of the Ozark foothills there are neat apple and peach orchards that are glorious in spring and scented with ripeness in late summer. There are the coal mines of Harrisburg and Herrin, the fluorspar mines of Rosiclare, the oil wells of southeastern Illinois. Here are the national forests with yellow pines on the hilltops, and below the line from St. Louis to Vincennes lies Egypt where the Mississippi rolls slowly past the haven for wild geese on Horseshoe Lake, past cotton fields, and the green magnolias of Thebes. Mockingbirds sing in the old southern city of Cairo, with its southern traditions and way of life. And beyond is the great junction of the Ohio and the Mississippi.

This is Illinois. Its towns and villages are made up of a varied population which has come from many nations of the world, from the old New England towns, from the south and the north and the far west. And the towns vary with the pursuits of the inhabitants, from fruit growing to fishing, from farming to oil wells, from mining to educating. Through the state run the highways and country lanes, the railroads, and airplanes. This is Illinois. Behind these dioramas in the Illinois State Museum lies a part of its story.


ILLINOIS
Land of Lincoln