

IN CELEBRATION OF THE SESQUICENTENNIAL OF ILLINOIS
AND ITS OWN SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY, INLAND STEEL COMPANY

PRESENTS THE One-Leaf-Book STORY OF
ILLINOIS



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Discoverers and Explorers

On December 3, 1818, Illinois was admitted to the Union. Since that date 150 years have passed. Few present residents of the state realize, however, that the history of Illinois reaches back almost as far before 1818 as the time that has gone by since it became a state.

The story begins in the late summer of 1673 when the Canadian explorer, Louis Jolliet, and the French-born priest, Jacques Marquette, with five voyageurs, paddled their canoes up the Illinois River, hauled them across a short portage to the Chicago River and soon found themselves on Lake Michigan. The party had left Green Bay that spring and had followed the Fox-Wisconsin River route to the Mississippi, which they had descended as far as the mouth of the Arkansas. Fearing hostile Indians and the Spaniards farther south, they had turned back.



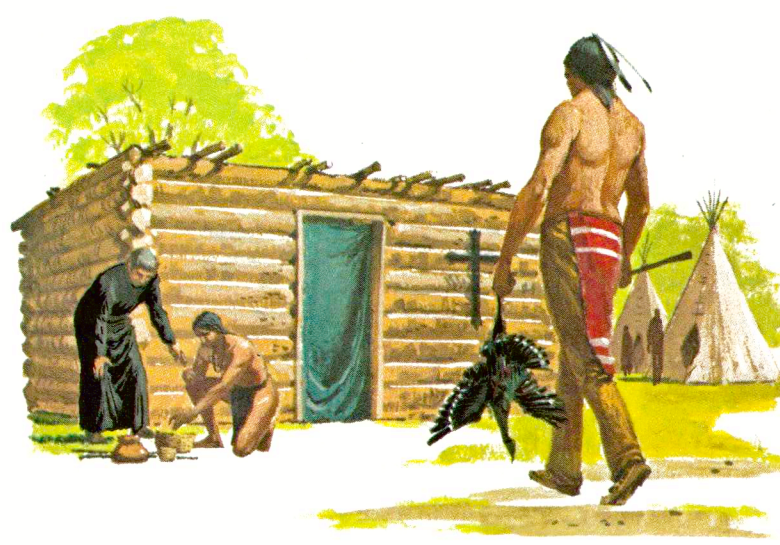
On the way they learned of the short route to Lake Michigan by way of the Illinois. By following it, they became the first white men, as far as the records show, to step on the soil of the future state.

Under the rule of France

The French, in Canada, were less than energetic in exploiting the lands which Jolliet and Marquette had discovered. To be sure, Robert Cavalier, Sieur de la Salle, was given permission to explore the new lands and trade in furs. In 1680, with his lieutenant Henri de Tonty, La Salle built Fort Crevecoeur near the present city of Peoria; then left for Canada. On his return months later he found the fort in ashes, destroyed and deserted by the men he had left behind. Later with Tonty, La Salle built a new fort on the summit of Starved Rock near Ottawa. From this post the two men set out early in 1682 to explore the full length of the Mississippi. The expedition reached the Gulf of Mexico in early April. In an impressive ceremony La Salle formally took possession of the great river valley in the name of France and named it Louisiana in honor of the French monarch.

La Salle had reached the peak of his career. An expedition, under his auspices, to colonize the mouth of the Mississippi missed its mark and landed in Texas. While he was trying to find the lost colonists his men mutinied and killed him. Tonty did his best to carry on La Salle's enterprises, and brought settlers, missionaries, and trade goods to the Illinois country. But he founded only one permanent settlement: Pimitoui, which finally evolved into Peoria.

The other French settlements in Illinois grew from missions. In 1699 priests of the Seminary of Quebec founded the Mission of the Holy Family at Cahokia, a short distance south of the



present city of East St. Louis. Four years later the Jesuits moved the Mission of the Immaculate Conception from the west bank of the Mississippi to the Kaskaskia River, seven miles above its mouth. Around both missions small settlements grew. Fur traders and voyageurs, or canoe men, made them their headquarters; habitants, as permanent residents were called, came down from Canada.

To protect these outposts of empire the French government, in 1719, authorized the construction of Fort de Chartres near the present village of Prairie du Rocher. Rebuilt twice, Fort de Chartres became the strongest fortification in North America, but never fired a shot in conflict.

The French villages in the Illinois country grew slowly. A census taken in 1723 counted only twelve white residents at Cahokia, 196 at Kaskaskia, and 125 at Fort de Chartres. Forty years later Cahokia had but 300 white inhabitants and eighty Negroes; Kaskaskia was twice that large. A few other villages—Prairie du Rocher, Prairie du Pont, and Pimitoui—added to the total but only by a few hundred. Nevertheless, the French settlers played an important role. Their soil was rich, their crops good, and their grain helped to feed colonies as far distant as Detroit and New Orleans.

The day of the Briton

During the early eighteenth century rivalry between the French and English in North America brought on wars. Three times between 1689 and 1748 colonists of the two nations fought each other. The results were inconclusive. The final struggle began in 1754, after the French began to build a string of forts along the upper Ohio by which they hoped to contain the English east of the Allegheny Mountains. In North America the conflict reached its climax in the fall of 1759, when Wolfe defeated Montcalm on the Heights of Abraham at Quebec. Montreal surrendered to the British a year later. The French and Indian War was over, but the world conflict, of which it was a part, did not come to an end until 1763. By the Treaty of Paris, France ceded her North American possessions to Great Britain. Thus the Illinois villages found themselves under a new and alien rule.

British control of the Illinois Country was brief and ineffective. Commandant succeeded commandant, some able and honest, others corrupt and tyrannical. British trading firms moved into the area but failed to gain the success they had anticipated. Many of the inhabitants moved across the

Mississippi to St. Louis, preferring the rule of Spain to that of England. And in London the British ministers never succeeded in working out a practical system of government for their far-western possessions.

The Virginians take over

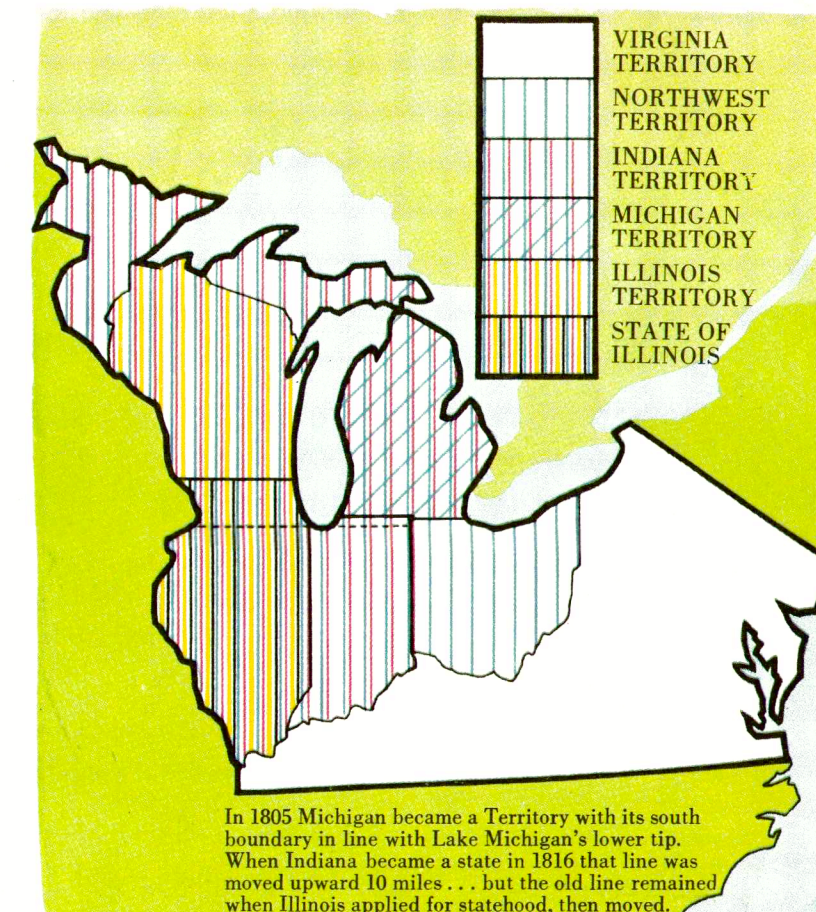
This state of affairs ended abruptly on the night of July 4, 1778. For three years the American colonies had been at war with the mother country. In December, 1777, a young Virginian, George Rogers Clark, obtained the consent of Governor Patrick Henry for an expedition against the British outposts on the Mississippi. In the early summer of 1778 Clark mustered his meager force, 175 men, at the Falls of the Ohio (now Louisville) and moved overland to Kaskaskia. The Americans, called Long Knives, took the town by surprise. The British garrison had been withdrawn, and the French militia welcomed the invaders with joy. In a short time the other villages, including Vincennes on the Wabash, took the oath of allegiance to Virginia.

The British lost little time in making a counter move. In the early winter of 1778-79 Governor Henry Hamilton of Detroit gathered a force of English, French, and Indians, marched south, and took Vincennes easily. With the spring he planned to recapture Kaskaskia and Cahokia from the presumptuous Virginians.



Clark decided not to wait for the attack. With his remaining Virginians and some French volunteers he set out for Vincennes. It was February. The trail was sodden, the streams and bottom lands were swollen with icy water. At times the men were soaked to their waists. But they made the march, surprised Hamilton, took him and the garrison prisoners, and secured possession of the Illinois Country for the remainder of the Revolution.

Illinois now became a county of Virginia, with a lieutenant, John Todd, at the head of the government. Todd established courts but did not succeed in setting up a stable government. After a year he left Illinois forever, putting its affairs in the hands of a deputy.



In 1805 Michigan became a Territory with its south boundary in line with Lake Michigan's lower tip. When Indiana became a state in 1816 that line was moved upward 10 miles... but the old line remained when Illinois applied for statehood, then moved.

Territorial Days

For several years, even after 1784, when Virginia ceded its western land claims to the United States, Illinois remained in chaos. Land titles were uncertain, and one adventurer even managed to imprison the deputy lieutenant who had succeeded Todd. With the passage of the Ordinance of 1787, creating the Northwest Territory, the situation failed to improve. The territorial governor, General Arthur St. Clair, did not visit Kaskaskia until 1790. Then he did little more than establish the first Illinois county, which he named in his own honor, and turned the government over to three federal judges and himself, in accordance with the Ordinance.

In other respects, Illinois showed signs of change and life. Some of George Rogers Clark's men established the first purely American settlement at Bellefontaine, in the Kaskaskia district, in 1779. Other Americans, mostly from Kentucky and Tennessee, followed. By 1800 Illinois had a population of approximately 2,500, evenly divided between the French and the newcomers. In that same year it became a part of the newly created Indiana Territory. The population continued to grow, though slowly, and in 1809 Illinois was made a territory in its own right. Kaskaskia was designated the capital, and Ninian Edwards of Kentucky was appointed the territorial governor.

The Twenty-first State

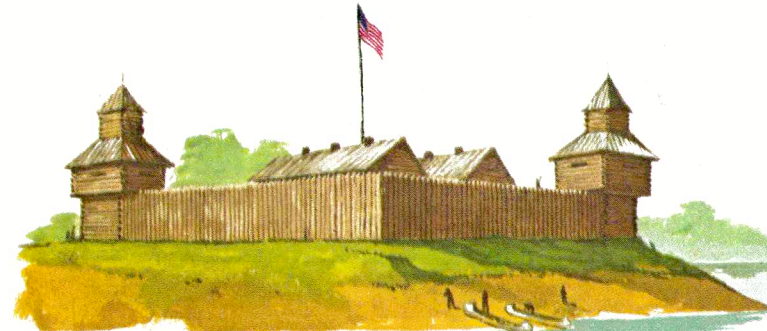
In a few years Illinois began to aspire to statehood. Territorial government was less than democratic. The governor, secretary, and judges were appointed in Washington, and the territorial legislature had limited powers. The territorial delegate to Congress could have the floor but could not vote. The people of Illinois knew that the territory fell far short of the 60,000 set for statehood by the Ordinance of 1787, but

they believed that if they could count 40,000 that number would be accepted. So they set the process in motion, with a memorial to Congress adopted on December 10, 1817. The following year a census was taken. When it showed fewer than 40,000 inhabitants a supplementary count, and some sharp practice, produced the necessary number.

In Washington, Nathaniel Pope, the territorial delegate, nursed the territory's application through Congress, and won the adoption of an amendment: changing the northern boundary of the new state from the southern tip of Lake Michigan, where it had originally been placed, to an east-and-west line 51 miles farther north. The amendment added a long coastline and made room for two tiers of rich and populous counties. By December 3, 1818, all formalities had been complied with, and Illinois became the twenty-first state to enter the Union.

A hard and primitive life

Life in the new state was simple and hard. There were few towns. The capital, Kaskaskia, had a population of perhaps a thousand. Cahokia half that. Shawneetown, on the Ohio River near its junction with the Wabash, could count thirty cabins, several taverns, a bake-house, a land office, and a bank. Edwardsville had just been founded, but did possess a land office. Vandalia became the state's capital in 1820. Galena began to produce lead. Chicago was Fort Dearborn and a few scattered settlers.



Most Illinoisans lived on farms, cultivating only a sufficient number of acres to provide a living. The settler tanned the hide of a cow or deer and made rough shoes for the family; his wife spun cotton and wool into thread and wove it into cloth from which she made trousers, shirts, and dresses. Few had more than the bare necessities of life, and all were afflicted by disease, principally malaria, or, as it was called then, "fever and ager." Yet they made amusements of their own at quiltings, corn huskings, and barn raisings, and the men indulged in horse and foot racing, wrestling, cock fighting, and gander pulling.



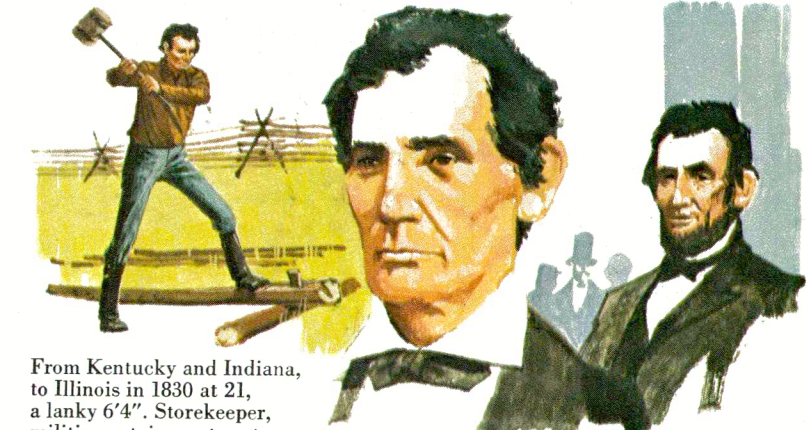
Settlers poured in, attracted by rich land available from the federal government for \$1.25 an acre. Two years after statehood the population had reached 55,000. In 1824 the people rejected a move to introduce slavery. After the Blackhawk War of 1832 life seemed safer in northern Illinois and the population swelled to 850,000. In 1839 the capital was moved to Springfield and other towns sprang up: Cairo, Quincy, Peoria, and Chicago. The last had 350 inhabitants when incorporated as a village in 1833; by 1850 it had 30,000 and was on its way to becoming the wonder city of the country.

Toward growth and prosperity

In these years the state grew rapidly and moved toward prosperity. The Illinois and Michigan Canal—a dream since the days of Marquette and Jolliet—was finished in 1848. The first railroads—the Northern Cross from Meredosia to Springfield and the Galena and Chicago Union, creeping westward from Chicago—went into operation. Between 1850 and 1856 Illinois built 2,130 miles of track, more than any other state. Almost overnight new markets opened to farmers. From Chicago their grain was transshipped, by rail and water, to the East and Europe. The value of farms increased fifty per cent in ten years. By 1860 Illinois had become the agricultural wonderland of the country. In the production of corn and wheat it ranked first among the states; in hogs only Indiana surpassed it; in cattle, other than milk cows, only Texas.

In this same decade Illinois industry kept up with the farm yield. McCormick's reaper factory at Chicago, Manny's at Rockford, John Deere's plow works at Moline, and smaller establishments were turning out a sufficient number of farm implements to place the state third in the nation in this class of manufacturing.

Illinois progressed in other ways. Colleges—Shurtleff at Alton, McKendree at Lebanon, Illinois at Jacksonville—had been founded as early as the 1830s. But common schools had lagged. In the beginning, and for many years, itinerant school masters, who organized "subscription" schools, offered the only formal education, but in 1855 the legislature made free common school education compulsory for six months a year. Soon after high schools were established in the larger cities.



From Kentucky and Indiana, to Illinois in 1830 at 21, a lanky 6'4". Storekeeper, militia captain, postmaster, in legislature 1834-40. Studied law, to bar '37. Congress '46. Grew beard just before Presidential inauguration.

The emergence of Lincoln

In 1858 a hot political contest in Illinois attracted the attention of the entire nation. Stephen A. Douglas, U. S. Senator from Illinois, came up for re-election. Four years earlier Douglas had aroused widespread opposition when he introduced a bill to organize the territories of Kansas and Nebraska. This bill opened the new territories to slavery if the settlers wanted it. Opponents of the measure founded the Republican Party, which Abraham Lincoln soon joined. In 1858 Illinois Republicans chose Lincoln to run against Douglas. Their seven joint debates, in as many Illinois towns and cities, received nation-wide publicity. Douglas won re-election, but Lincoln's stalwart campaign and his closely reasoned speeches made him known throughout the country.

Two years later, at the Republican National Convention in Chicago, Lincoln was one of several candidates for the presidential nomination. None of the established party leaders could muster a majority, so on the third ballot the delegates turned to the lesser known Lincoln and gave him the prize. The Democratic Party split and put two candidates, one of them Douglas, into the field. Although Lincoln's opponents polled more votes than he did, the "Rail Splitter" carried the electoral college and became the sixteenth President of the United States.

Here are a few of the many Illinoisans important to the history of our state—some not told about in the story

Jean Baptiste Pointe DuSable built home on Chicago River near lake, 1784. Haitian born Negro, became prosperous trader; had first non-Indian child born in Chicago area.

John Kinzie, silversmith and Indian trader, bought DuSable home near Ft. Dearborn built. His family among survivors 1812 massacre.

Ninian Edwards, territorial governor and judge to Congress at time of Illinois admission, pushed thru extension of north boundary. Later, 3d Governor.

Daniel Pope Cook, lawyer and man, was a prime mover for the territorial legislature to press for statehood in 1817.

Nathaniel Pope, territorial delegate to Congress at time of Illinois admission, pushed thru extension of north boundary.

Shadrach Bond became first governor of the new state at age 45.

Blackhawk, a true Illinoisan, Sauk chief, was driven from his lands with his people. The "war" a mistake—and massacre.

Stephen A. Douglas, dubbed the Little Giant, was lawyer, Ill. Sec'y of State and judge by age 28. US Repres. & Senator. Helped unite North in '61.

John Jones, early leader for repeal of state "Black Laws." First Negro to hold public office in Illinois, Cook County Board, early '70s.

Joseph G. Cannon of Danville, served as US representative for 46 years and Speaker of the House 1901 to 1911.

Jane Addams began work for underprivileged in 1889 and founded Hull House in 1889, still a force for good. Awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.