

Chicago History to 1900 – 2nd Grade

Digital Mini-Kit

presented by West Chicago City Museum

The purpose of this kit is to supplement your regular curriculum with fun activities that reinforce the concepts taught, while at the same time exposing students to the history of West Chicago.

Worksheets can be projected on a screen or wall to serve as *whole-class* activities. They can also be printed out in limited numbers for *small-group work* or given to each individual child for *independent work*. For this kit, we have presented West Chicago history by making connections between our past and Chicago's.

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"It is hopeless for the occasional visitor to try to keep up with Chicago. She outgrows his prophecies faster than he can make them."

- Mark Twain, 1883

"The Second City"

CHICAGO

"THE WINDY CITY"

"My Kind of Town"

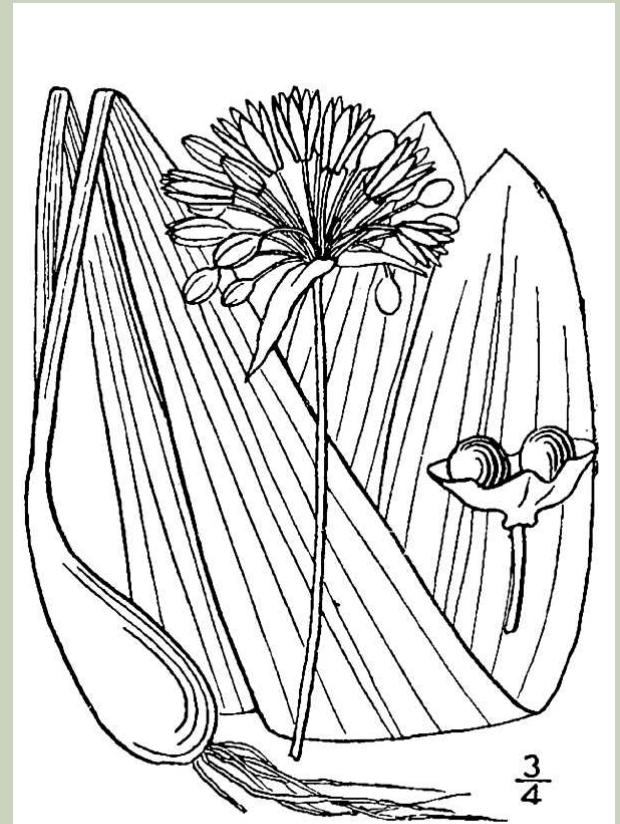
Hog Butcher for the World,
Tool Maker, Stacker of Wheat,
Player with Railroads and the
Nation's Freight Handler;
Stormy, husky, brawling,
City of the Big Shoulders

- Carl Sandburg, "Chicago", 1914

The name “**Chicago**” comes from a Miami Indian word for the wild leeks (similar to onions) that grew on the bank of the river. This river became known as the Chicago River. The settlement around this river became the city of Chicago that we know today.



Wild Leeks

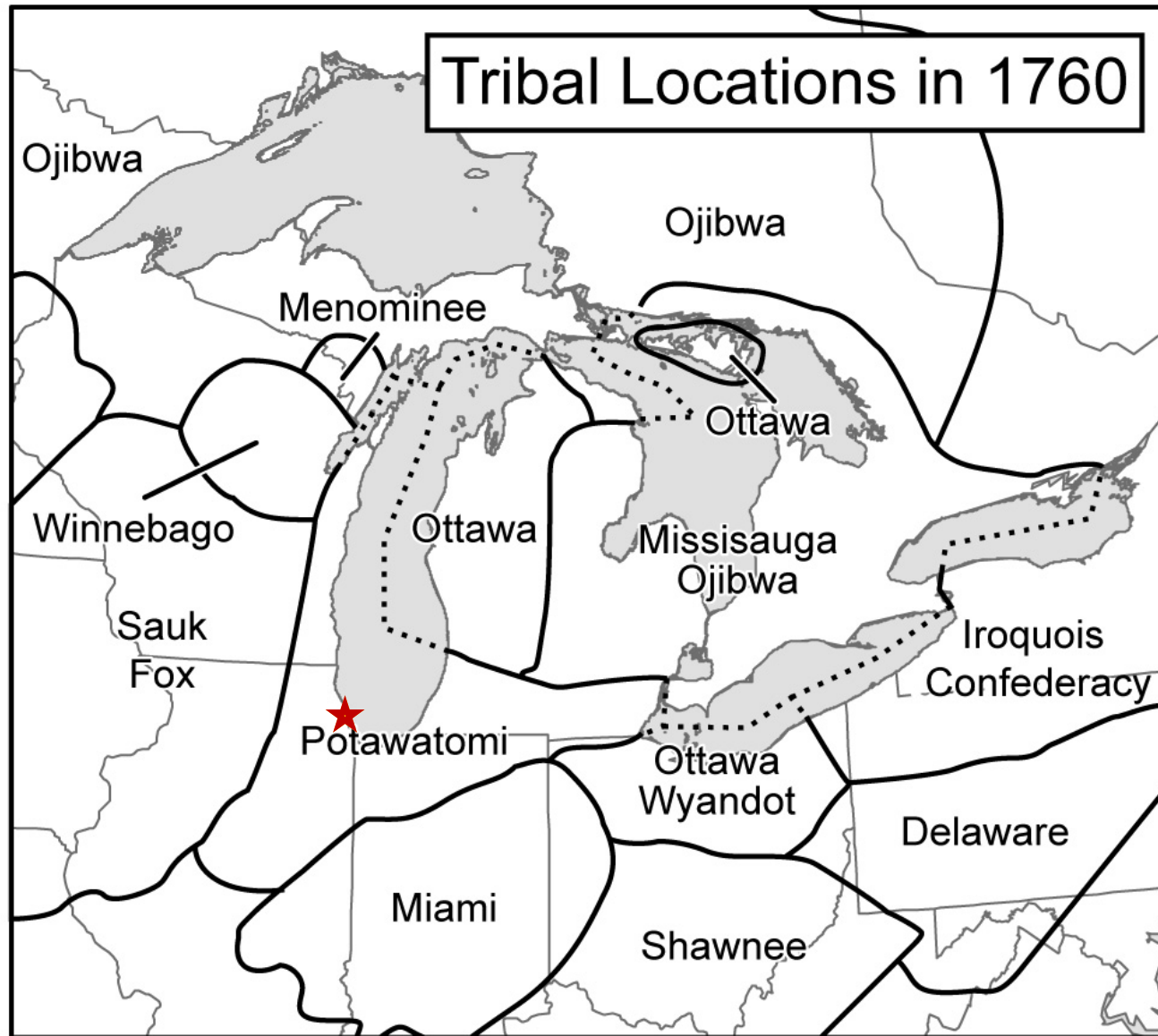


FUN FACT:

The Miami word for which Chicago is named meant “striped skunk” - how do you think the wild leeks smell?

Many Native American tribes called this area home.

Miami, Sauk, Fox, and Potawatomi tribes all lived in the area.





Potawatomi Chief Hiawatha in traditional dress, 1909.

(Library of Congress)



Fox Indians, 1890. Left to right: Osh U Ton (Winding Stream), Posh O Tu Nic (Bear Scratching Tree), Sho Won (South Wind), Chief On On A Wat (Can't Do It), and Wa Pa Lu Ca (Shining River).

Sauk Family, 1899. (Library of Congress)

How is this family photograph different than a photograph of your family?

What about this family is similar to your family?



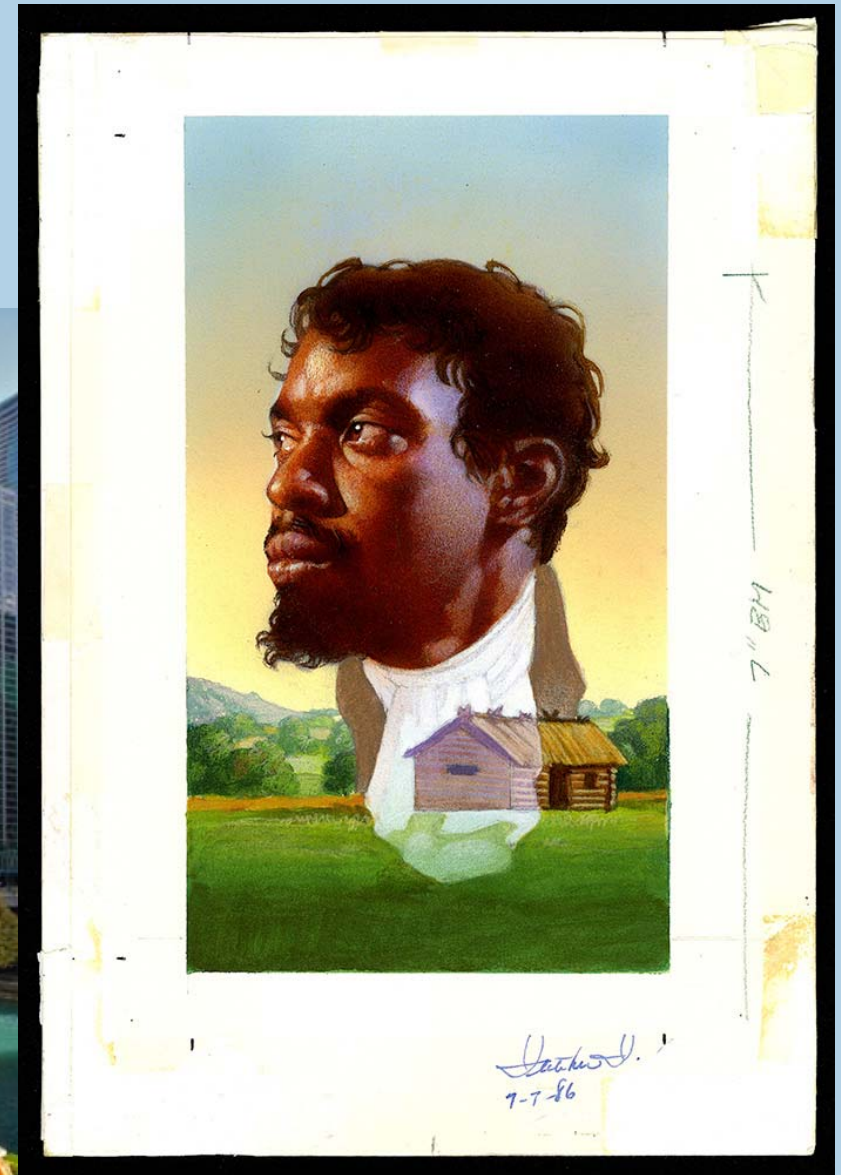
Early Chicago

Chicago's first permanent resident was a trader named **Jean Baptiste Pointe du Sable**, a free man of African descent who came here in 1779.

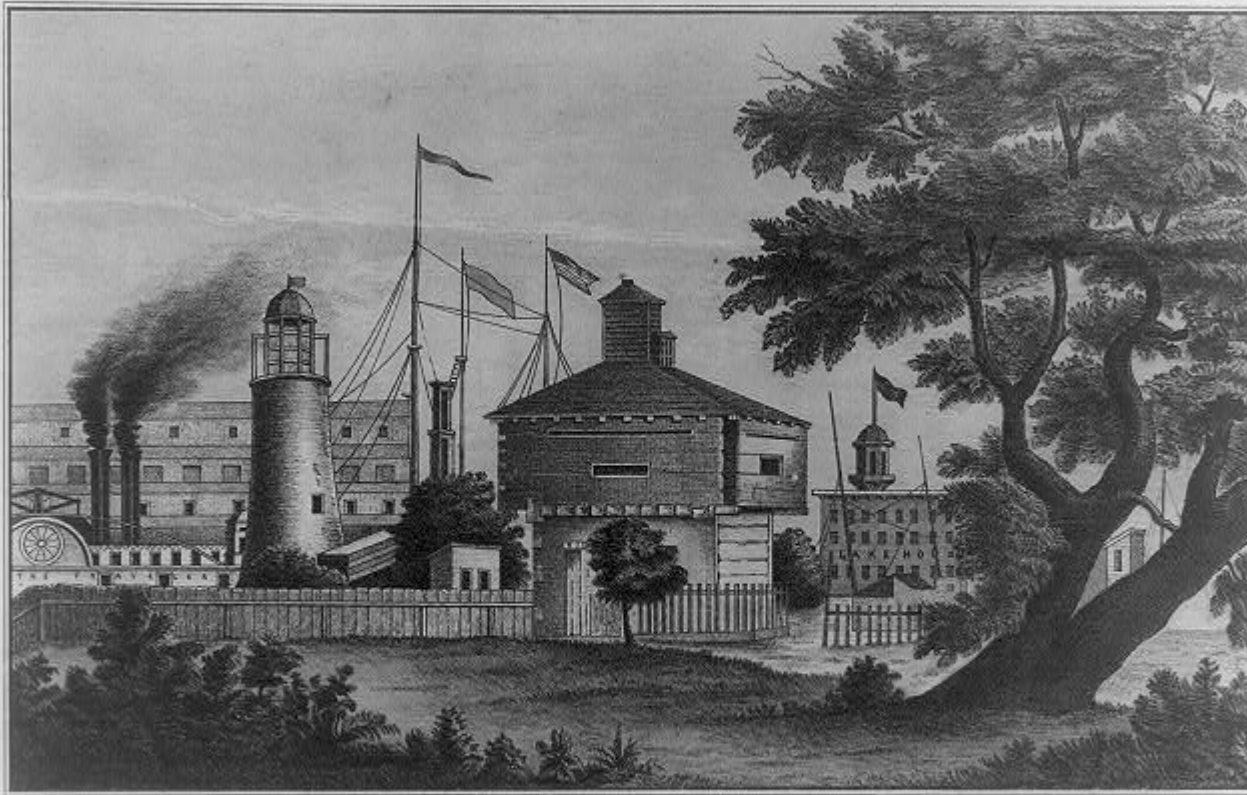
He was born around 1745 in Saint-Marc in Saint-Domingue, which is the French version of the Spanish name Santo-Domingo, known as Haiti today.



Statue of Jean-Baptiste Pointe DuSable in Chicago



Artwork for the stamp commemorating DuSable.



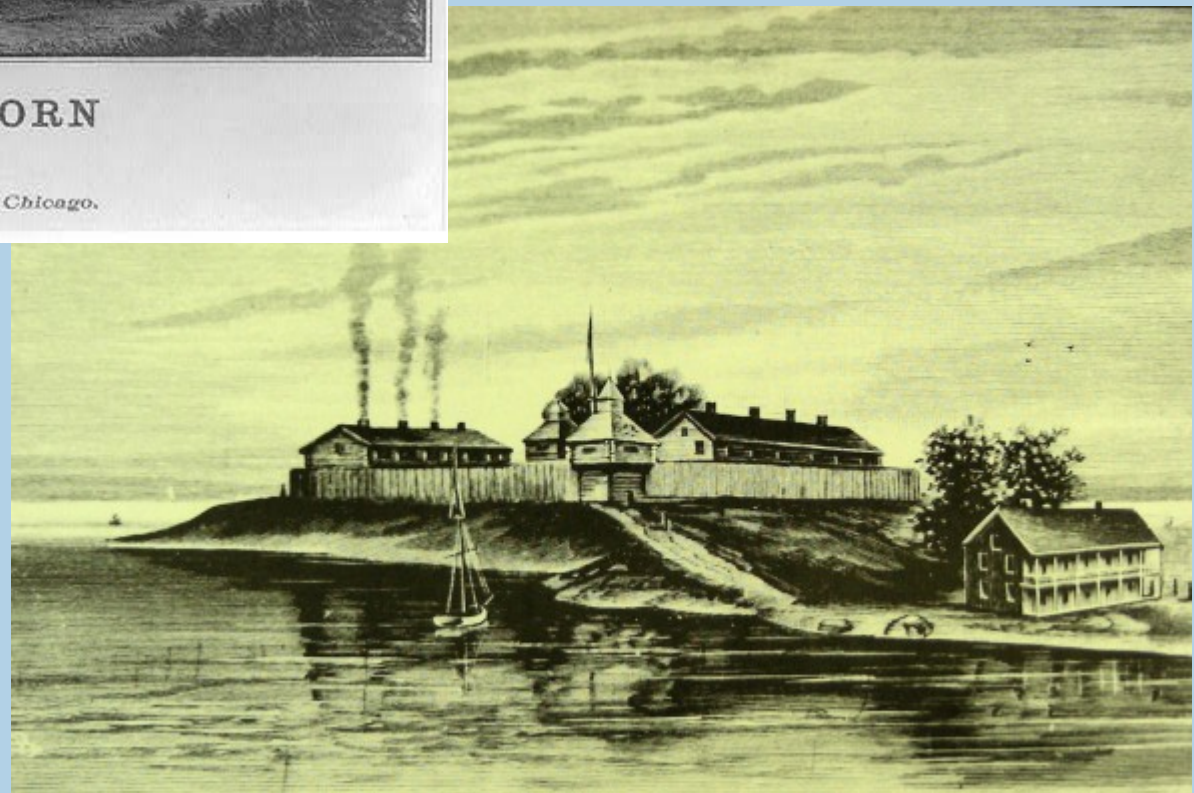
OLD FORT DEARBORN

With Surroundings in 1856.

Rufus Blanchard, 169 Randolph St., Chicago.



In 1803, the U.S. government built **Fort Dearborn** at what is now the corner of Michigan Avenue and Wacker Drive (look for the bronze markers in the pavement). It was burned to the ground by Native Americans in 1812 and then rebuilt. It was demolished in 1857.



Black Hawk War — 1832



Black Hawk was chief of the Sauk Indians. He was a brave and intelligent man. The Sauk and the Fox Indians had been forced off their land by a treaty signed in 1804. In **1832**, these people tried to return to their homeland in northern Illinois. Illinois Governor Reynolds called up the militia to defend against the Native Americans.

Thousands of soldiers attacked the group of Indians. They were trapped against the river. Hundreds died in the battle or drowned trying to cross the river back into Iowa. Chief Black Hawk was captured and sent to prison.

Because the Native Americans had been forced out of the state, many pioneers came west to Illinois between 1830 and 1860. During this time, the number of pioneer families grew from about 25,000 to about 300,000. Some of these families settled in the Chicago area.

Chicago was incorporated as a city in **1837**. The population was 4,000 people.

What are the streets made of?

What are the sidewalks made of?

What are the buildings made of?

How are people getting around?

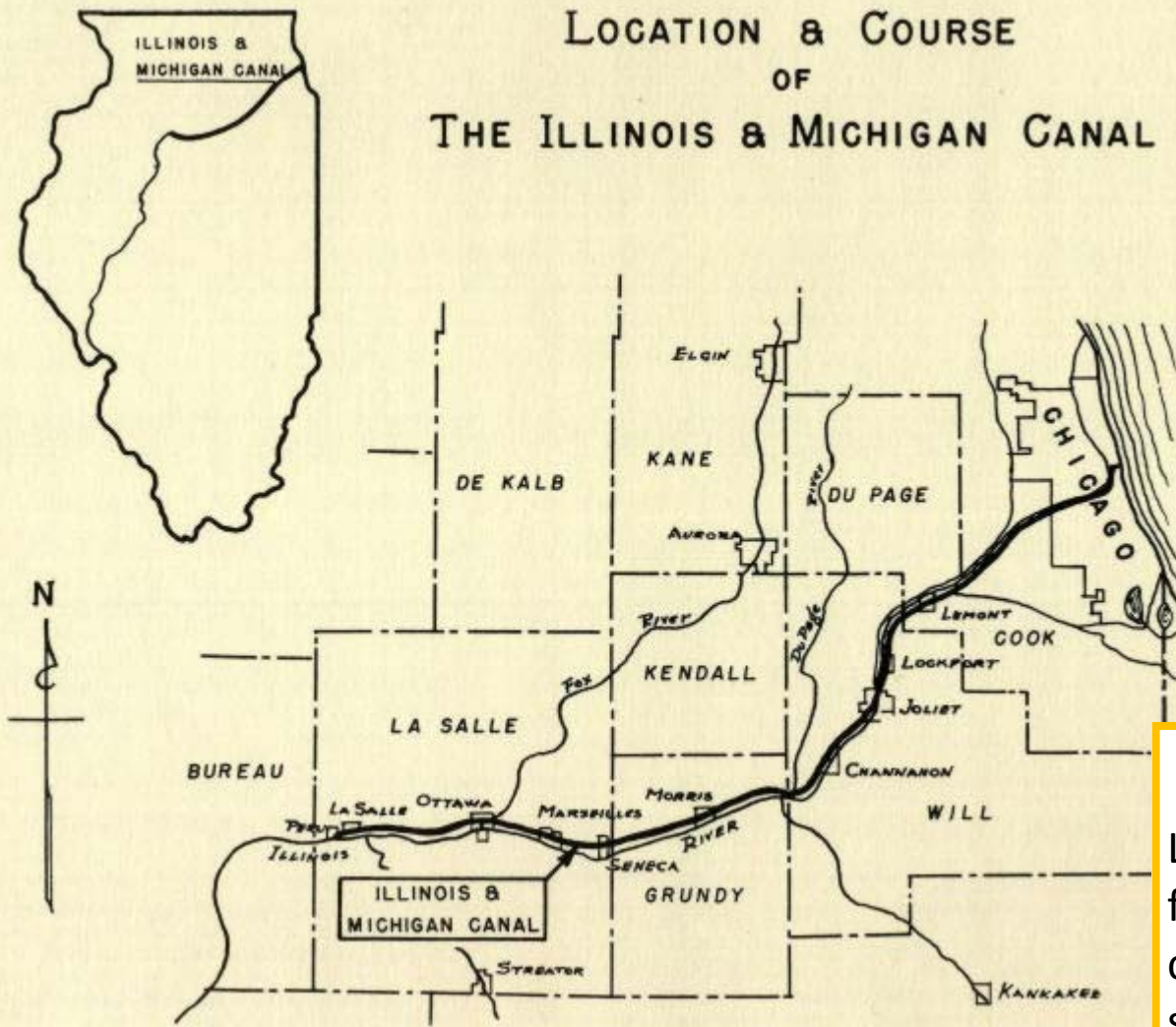


Lake Street, February 1837

In **1848**, Chicago got its first **telegraph** and **railroad**.

The **I&M Canal** was also completed in this year. It connected the Great Lakes to the Mississippi River, opening trade to the west through Chicago.

Chicago was in an ideal location to be the hub of **westward expansion**.



Where is West Chicago on this map?



Telegraph key, used to transmit signals to be decoded into words at another location

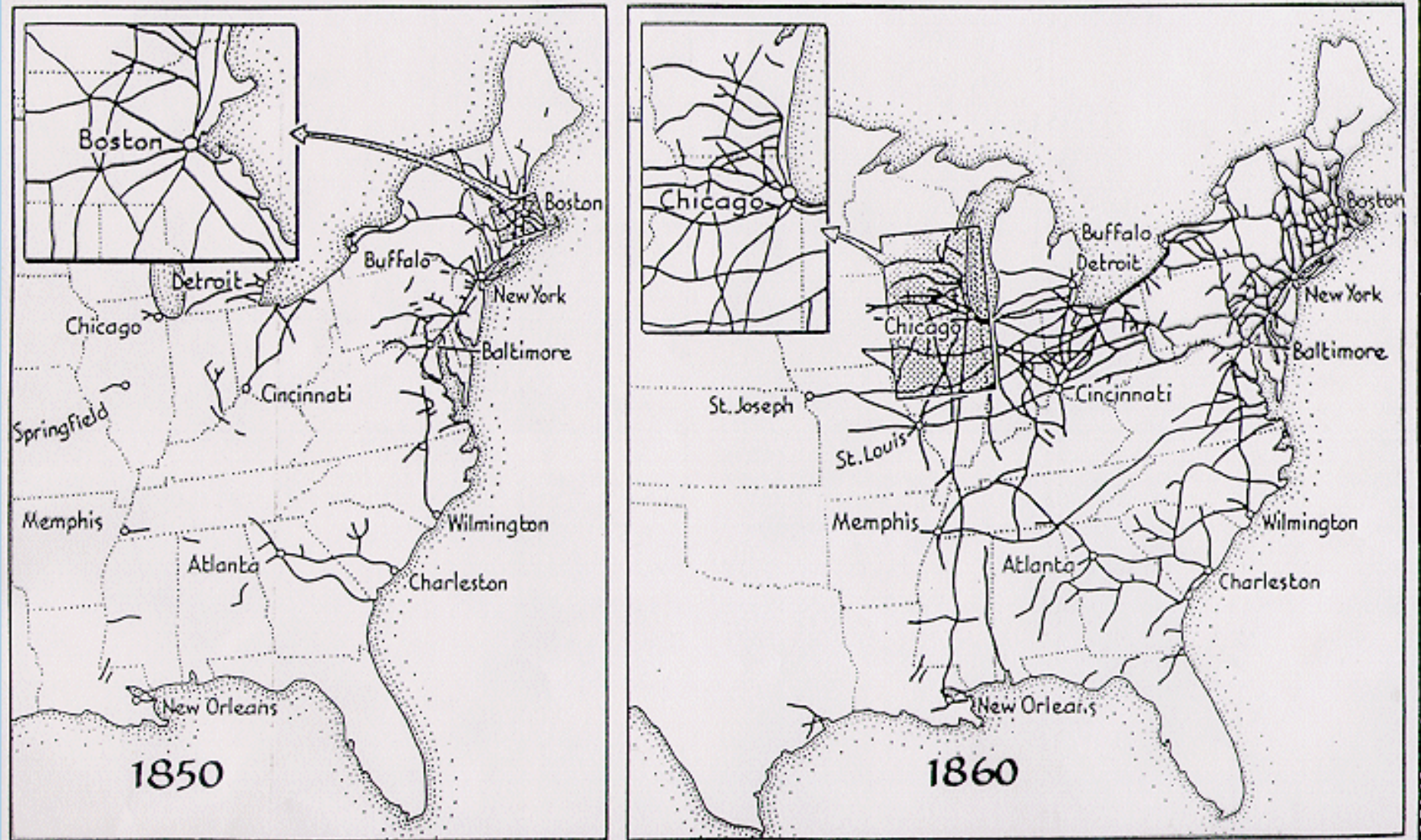
FUN FACT:

Life on the canal boats was often a family affair. The wife of the boat captain cooked, and children sometimes were tethered to the deck to keep from falling in the canal.

As the **railroads** developed in the **1850s**, the I&M Canal was not needed any longer.
Goods were now shipped instead by railway.

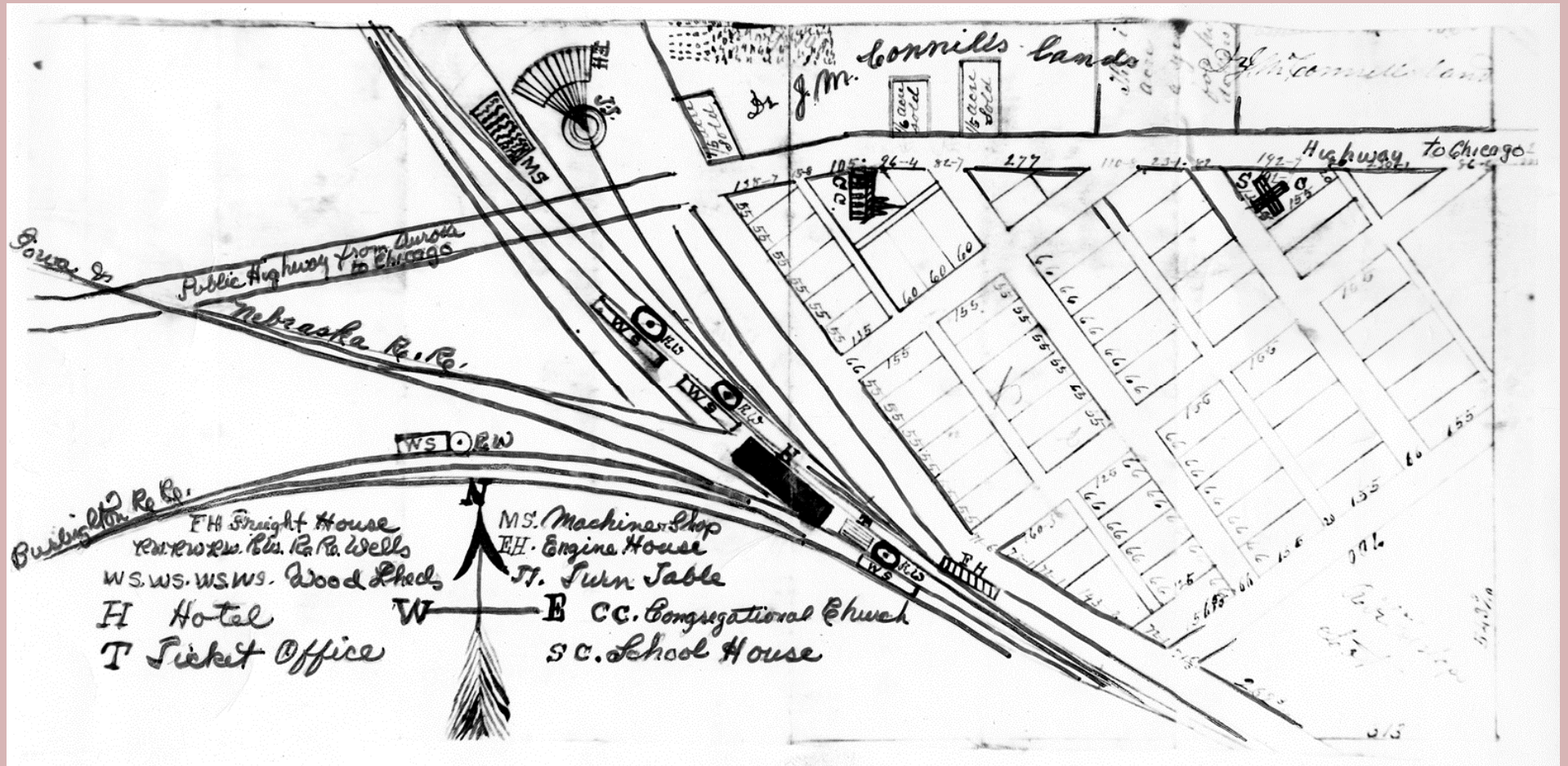
Even today, 50 percent of U.S. rail freight continues to pass through Chicago.

The Railroad Network, 1850-60

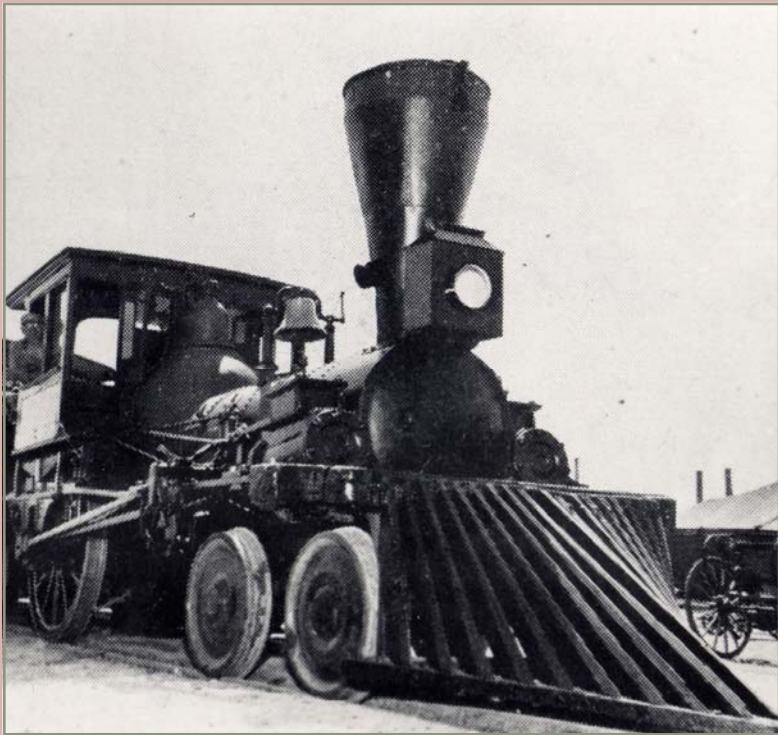


WEST CHICAGO

Our town was founded by railroads. In **1850**, two railways joined in what is now West Chicago. At that time, there were no other railway junctions in the state of Illinois.



This map shows our town when it was known as “Junction.” Part of town was once know as “Turner.” Then, the whole are became known as “Turner Junction.” Finally, in **1873**, the **Village of Turner** was incorporated.

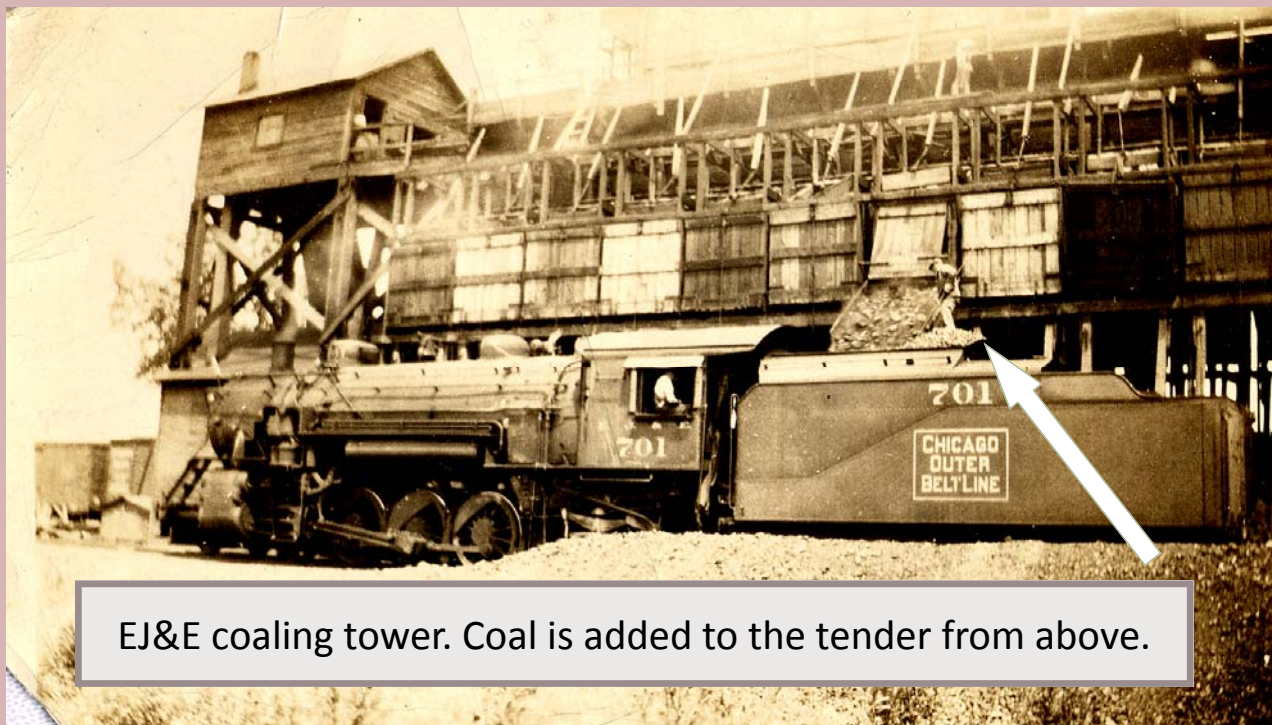


The **Pioneer** was the first locomotive in Chicago. The engine was placed into service for the Galena & Chicago Union Railroad in **1848**. The Pioneer made its way out from Chicago as the track was built. The G&CU came to Turner Junction in 1849.

Above:
The Pioneer
You can see the
Pioneer today
at the Chicago
History
Museum.



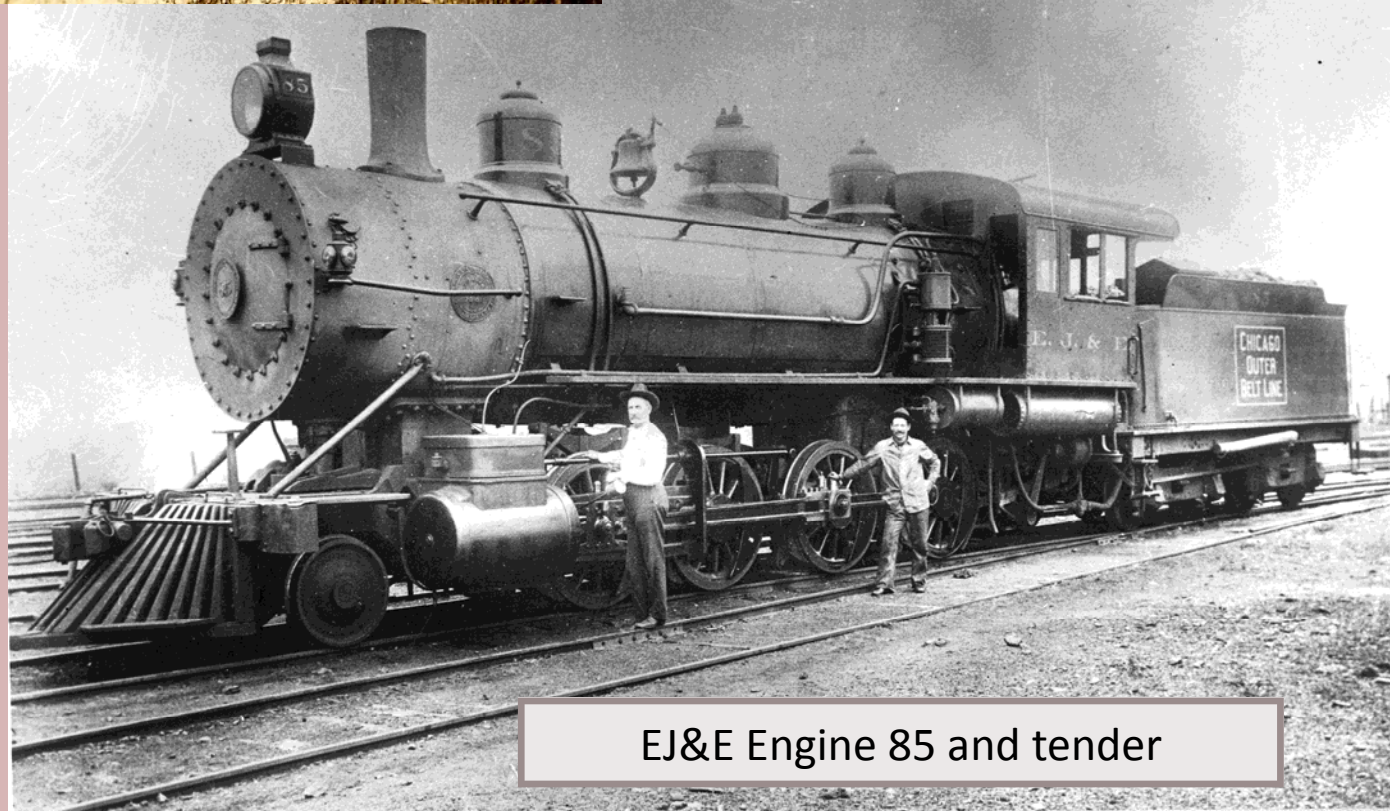
Pioneer and her crew at Turner's roundhouse (now gone) c. 1860s



EJ&E coaling tower. Coal is added to the tender from above.

Local developers liked the idea of bringing different types of industry to town, and in **1896** the community changed its name to **West Chicago** to sound more attractive to companies who might move there.

In **1887**, the Elgin, Joliet & Eastern railway wanted to bring different types of to the Village of Turner. At this time, 40% of the men in town worked at the railroad. EJ& E offered free factory sites along its line.



EJ&E Engine 85 and tender

THE GREAT CHICAGO FIRE

The great Chicago fire began October 8, 1871, in the O'Leary barn on DeKoven Street. Fanned by a strong wind, in a city largely built of wood structures, the blaze raged for nearly 30 hours. Flames spread so far as Fullerton Avenue.



DESTRUCTION OF CHICAGO BY FIRE, OCT. 1871.

After two days, rain began to fall. On the morning of October 10, the fire died out. It left complete devastation in the heart of the city. At least 300 people were dead, 100,000 people were homeless, and \$200 million worth of property was destroyed. The entire central business district of Chicago was leveled. The fire was one of the most spectacular events of the nineteenth century, and it is recognized as a major milestone in the city's history.



CHICAGO AFTER THE FIRE



No. 7. Northwest corner Washington and LaSalle

Writing from Lake Forest on October 19, 1871, a young boy named Justin told a friend (whom he addressed as "Dear Chum") that he and his brother attempted to save their home from flying sparks by putting water on the roof. But, their family nonetheless had to flee. He included this drawing in his letter, along with an explanation:



"We tried to get a wagon but could not so we put two trunks on a wheelbarrow and each of us shouldered a bundle and we marched for the old skating park, I leading my goat." Justin's goat was one of the many pets their owners took with them as they fled the flames.

The Chicago Fire Department training academy at 558 W. DeKoven Street is on the site of the O'Leary property where the fire began. It is not known for sure if a cow started the fire in 1871.



"Pillar of Fire", 1961

Sculptor: Egon Weiner

At the base of the sculpture is written:
Here began the Chicago Fire of 1871





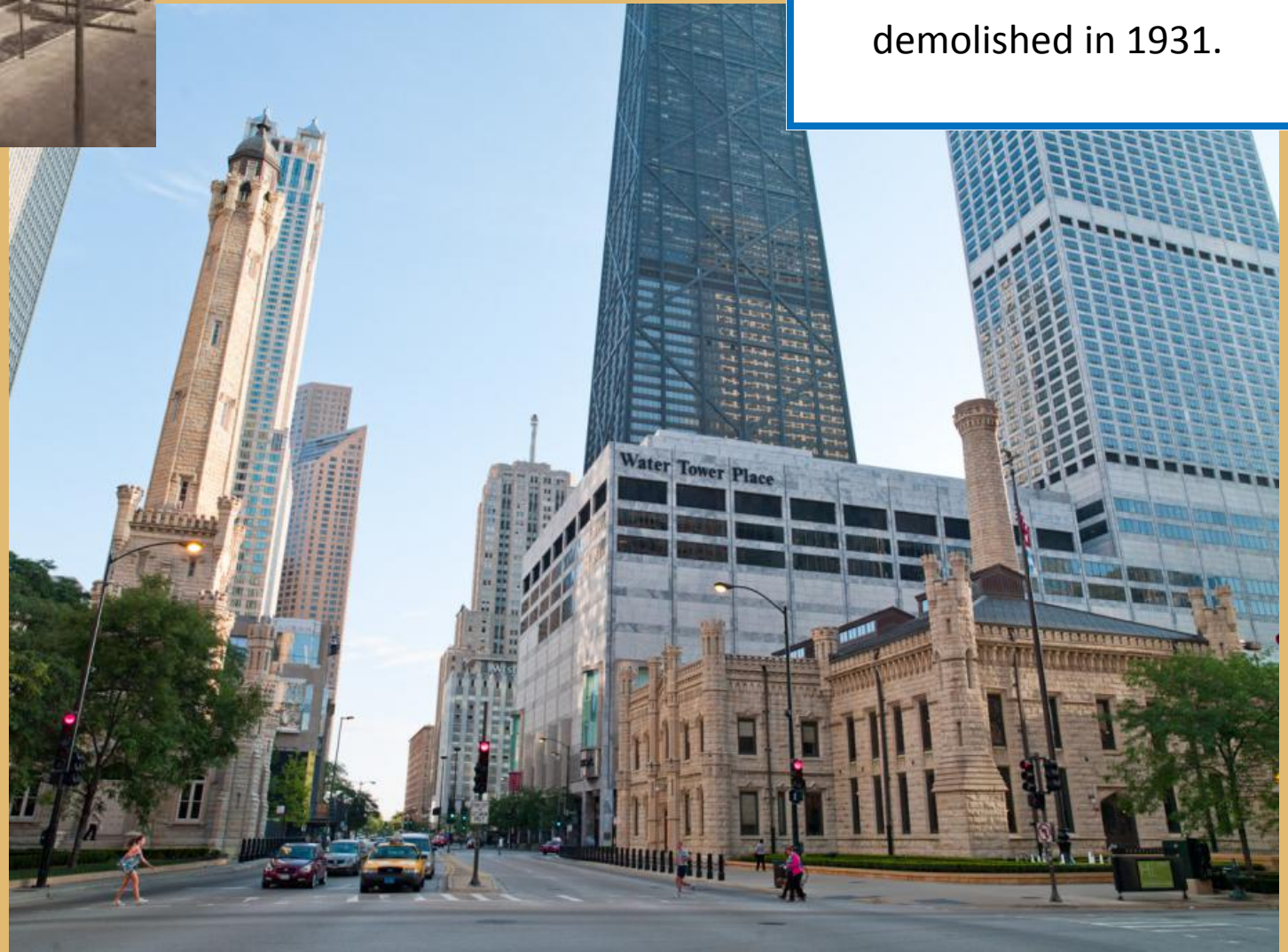
The Chicago Water Tower and Pumping Station at Michigan and Chicago avenues are among the few buildings to have survived the fire.

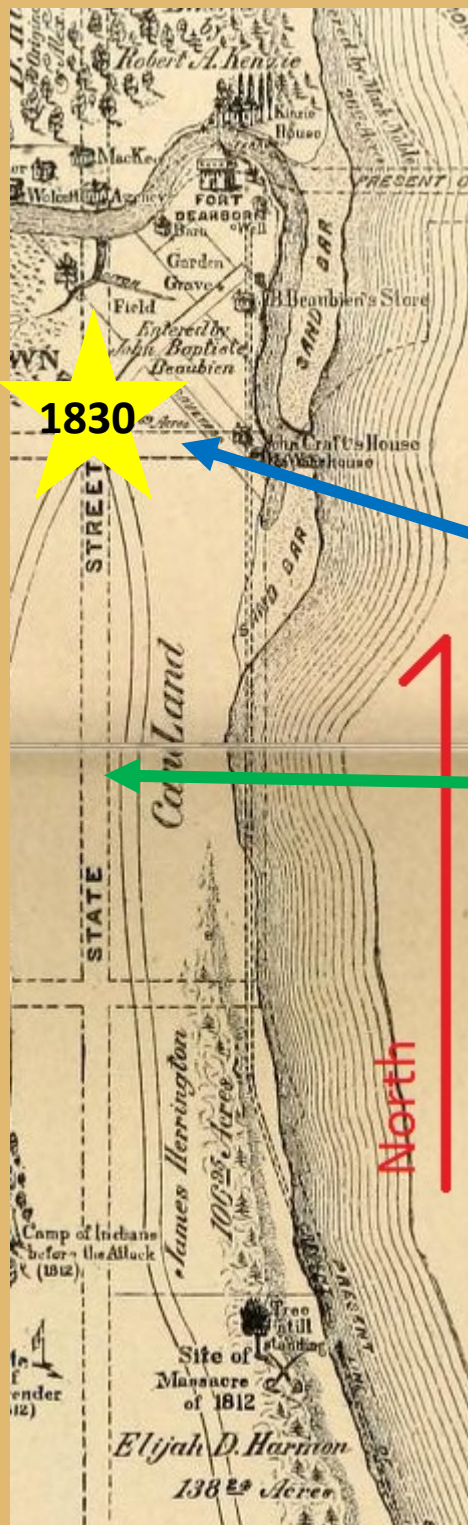
FUN FACT:

The nation's first skyscraper, the 10-story, steel-framed Home Insurance Building, was built in 1884 at LaSalle and Adams streets. It was demolished in 1931.

Above: The Water Tower (center) and Pumping Station (right) seem very tall in this 1890 photo.

Today, the Water Tower (left) and Pumping Station (right) are dwarfed by the Hancock Center (black building) and other skyscrapers in the area.





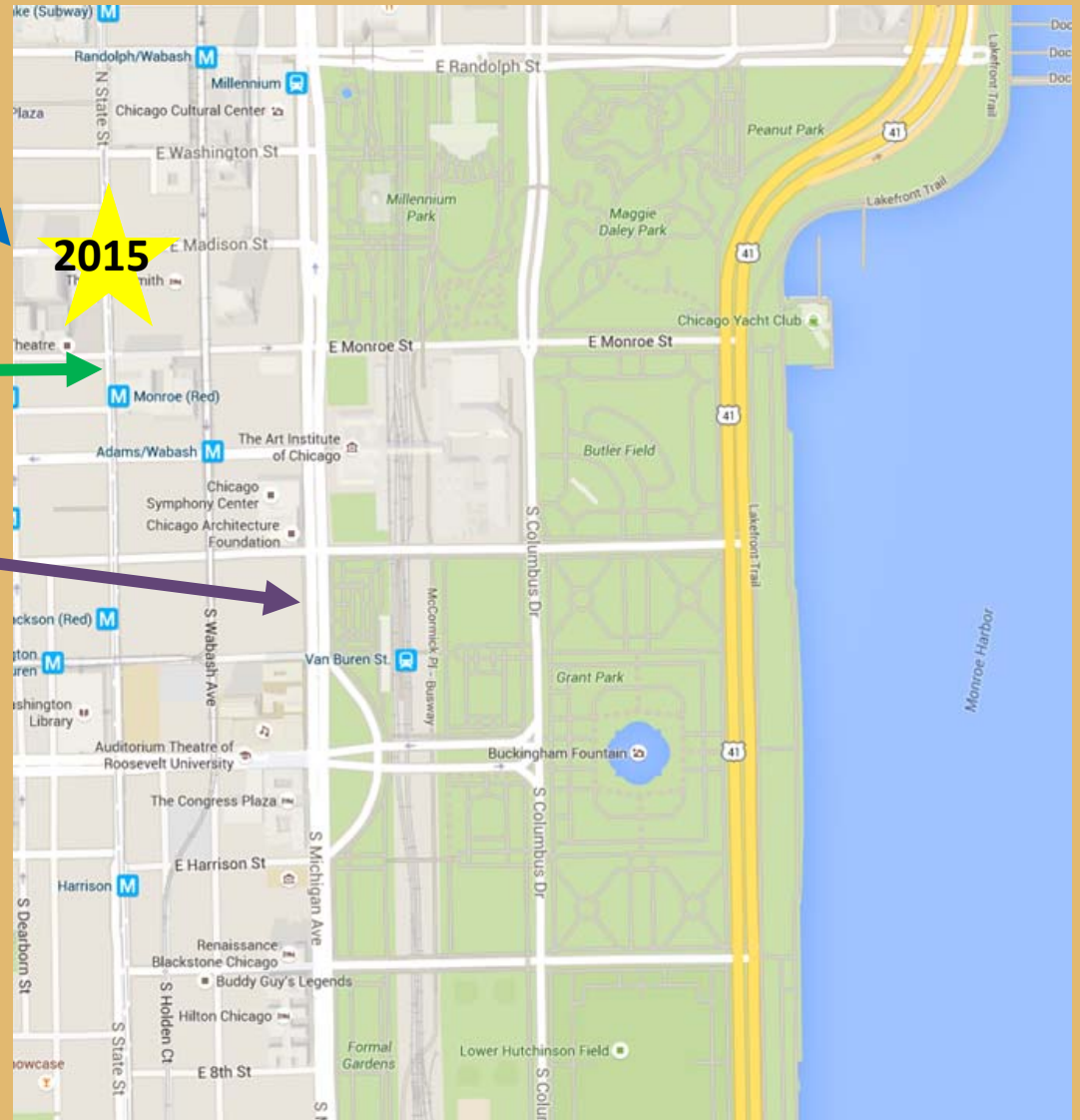
Even though the fire destroyed about 1/3 of the city, Chicago was able to rebuild quickly. This was partly because the factories and railroads were mostly undamaged by the fire. Much of the debris was dumped into Lake Michigan as landfill, forming the beginning of what is now Grant Park, Millennium Park, and the Art Institute of Chicago.

Madison Street

State Street

FUN FACT:

Michigan Avenue as we know it today did not exist in the 1800s. This roadway used to be the edge of Lake Michigan.



Hull House

In the half-century following the Great Fire (1870-1920), waves of immigrants came to Chicago to take jobs in the factories and meatpacking plants. Many poor workers and their families found help in settlement houses operated by **Jane Addams** and her followers. Hull house was founded in **1889**. The **Hull House Museum** is located at 800 S. Halsted St.



Hull House

Jane Addams in 1887

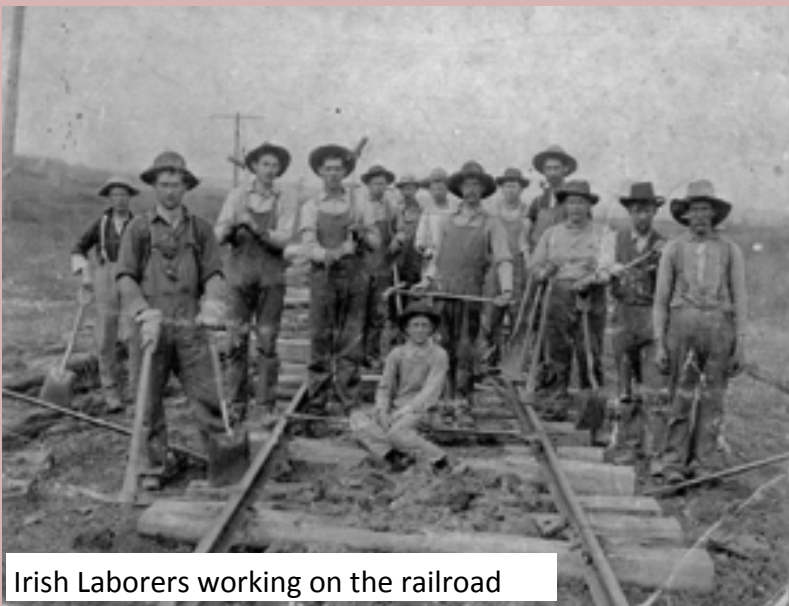


Turner, as West Chicago was once known, also saw many immigrants coming to settle the area from 1850 to 1920. Irish, English, German, and Mexican immigrants are the four main groups who established and built this town.

The railroad was a major reason for settling West Chicago. But immigrants did not just come to work on the railroad. The new town needed people to help build it and work in it. Many of the **English** immigrants were tradesmen. Albert Hills who was a carpenter. He left his home in England to come to the United States when he was 12 years old. As a carpenter in West Chicago, he built the Turner Town Hall, which is now the home of the West Chicago City Museum.



Former Turner Town Hall, 132 Main St



Irish Laborers working on the railroad

The **Irish** immigrants who had suffered through the Potato Famine did not want to farm any longer, so many of them settled in cities. Many Irish worked as labor contractors building canals, railroads, streets, and sewers. Some Irish women worked as maids in the homes of wealthy people.

Many **Germans** came to the United States to farm and settle the large amount of empty land that was available. Germans were the first major group of immigrants to settle in the United States that did not speak English. Germans usually settled in the same areas as other Germans and held on to their language and customs longer than other immigrant groups.



Stained glass entry at Congregational Church, serving the "Old Heidelberg" area of West Chicago.

West Chicago resident Mo Zarate in front of his family's box car home in the early 1940s.



In the 1920s, **Mexican** immigrants started to come to West Chicago to work for the railroad. While working here, the railroad supplied boxcars for men and families to live in. These cars were hot in the summer and very cold in the winter. Many Mexican families would plant gardens next to their boxcars. Corn, beans, lettuce, cucumbers, potatoes, chili peppers and tomatoes were grown and often canned. Corn was boiled with lime, dried and ground for tortillas.

Labor & Unrest

1886:

The Haymarket Affair

Working men in our country had been trying to get laws to limit the work day to eight hours. They had meetings to gain support and spread the word among other workers. One meeting was planned for May 4, 1886 in Chicago, at Haymarket Square. The men were gathering to protest the unfair deaths of two workers the day before. The speakers at Haymarket talked about the rights of the working class. They wanted fair treatment and safe working conditions.

On the night of May 4, the activists held a peaceful protest. Around 10:00, when only 200 or so people were left at the meeting, about 175 police officers approached to try to end the meeting. A dynamite bomb was thrown into the ranks of officers. Police officers attacked the crowd, and in the confusion, even shot at their own men. In the end, 7 officers and 4 civilians lost their lives. To this day, no one knows who threw the bomb.

Labor Day has its roots firmly in Chicago, where labor activists fought and went on strike for improved conditions and better pay for workers.



The victims of the incident were not limited to those who died as a direct result of the bombing. In the aftermath, those who organized and spoke at the meeting—and others who held unpopular political viewpoints—were arrested, unfairly tried and, in some cases, sentenced to death even though none could be tied to the bombing itself.

1894: The Pullman Strike

The Pullman Company made railroad sleeping cars in the company town of Pullman, Illinois. George Pullman provided his workers in the town with housing. The monthly rent was taken out of their pay. In 1893, an economic depression led to fewer orders for rail cars. George Pullman was forced to lay off hundreds of employees. Workers who did not lose their jobs were given less pay. At the same time, the rent they were charged for their homes stayed the same. Because of this, they had less money each month to live on.



THE GREAT RAILWAY STRIKES—THE FIRST MEAT TRAIN LEAVING THE CHICAGO STOCK-YARDS UNDER ESCORT OF UNITED STATES CAVALRY, JULY 10, 1894.
Drawn by G. W. Peters from a Sketch by G. A. Coffin.

701

The employees went on strike in 1894. They refused to work until they got lower rents and higher pay. The American Railway Union supported the Pullman worker's strike. Railroad workers across the country boycotted trains carrying Pullman cars. Things got out of control: people started rioting, stealing, and burning railroad cars. President Grover Cleveland declared the strike a federal crime. He sent 12,000 troops to break up the strike.

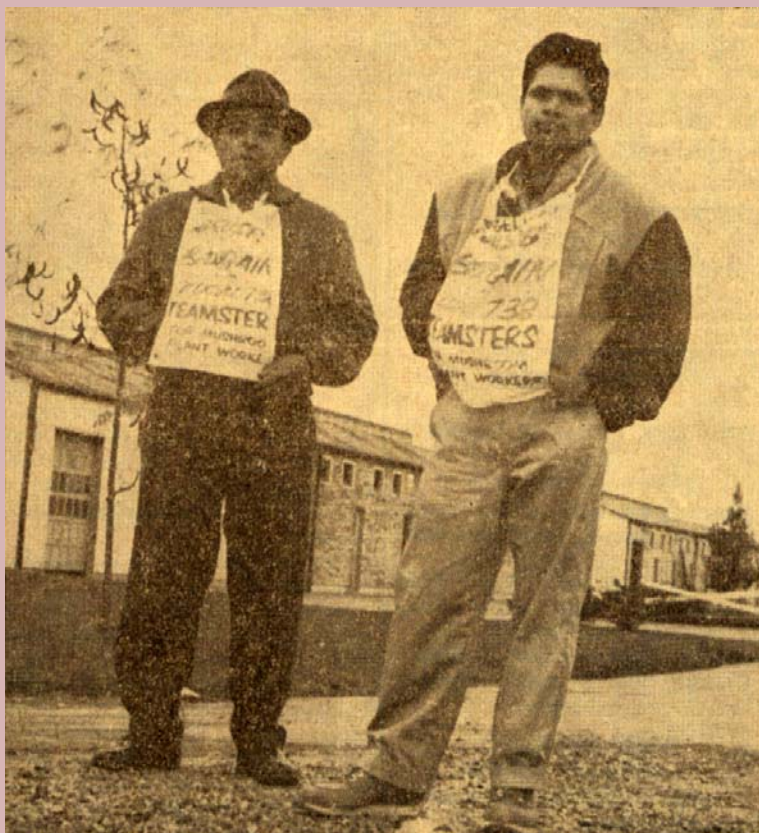
When the strike was over, the American Railway Union was disbanded, and Pullman employees had to sign an agreement that they would never again unionize. Unions would not become common again in the United States until the Great Depression. Just six days after the troops had broken the union strike, President Cleveland signed a bill creating a national holiday for Labor Day.

Labor Disputes in Our Town's History

For many years, Campbell's Soup ran a mushroom farm in West Chicago. This farm was located at Prince Crossing. It was a company town, much like Pullman was. Workers were provided food, housing, doctors, and other services. But, they had severe restrictions on what they could do and who could visit them. Many of these workers spoke Spanish. Some of them knew a little English.



Inside the mushroom barns. The barns were very dark. Workers had to wear helmets like miners do, so they could see.



The migrant workers at the farm came mostly from Texas, Mexico, and Puerto Rico. In the 1960s, they tried to organize a union. They did this because they worked 13-16 hours a day, six days a week. They were not paid overtime for extra hours worked, and were victims of other unfair practices. Campbell's Soup would not recognize their union, and so the workers went on strike.

In 1977, a DuPage County judge ruled that Campbell's Soup had violated the worker's First Amendment guarantees.

Photograph from the Campbell's Soup strike in 1962.



Only 22 years after the Great Fire, Chicago celebrated its comeback by holding the **World's Columbian Exposition of 1893**, with its memorable "White City."

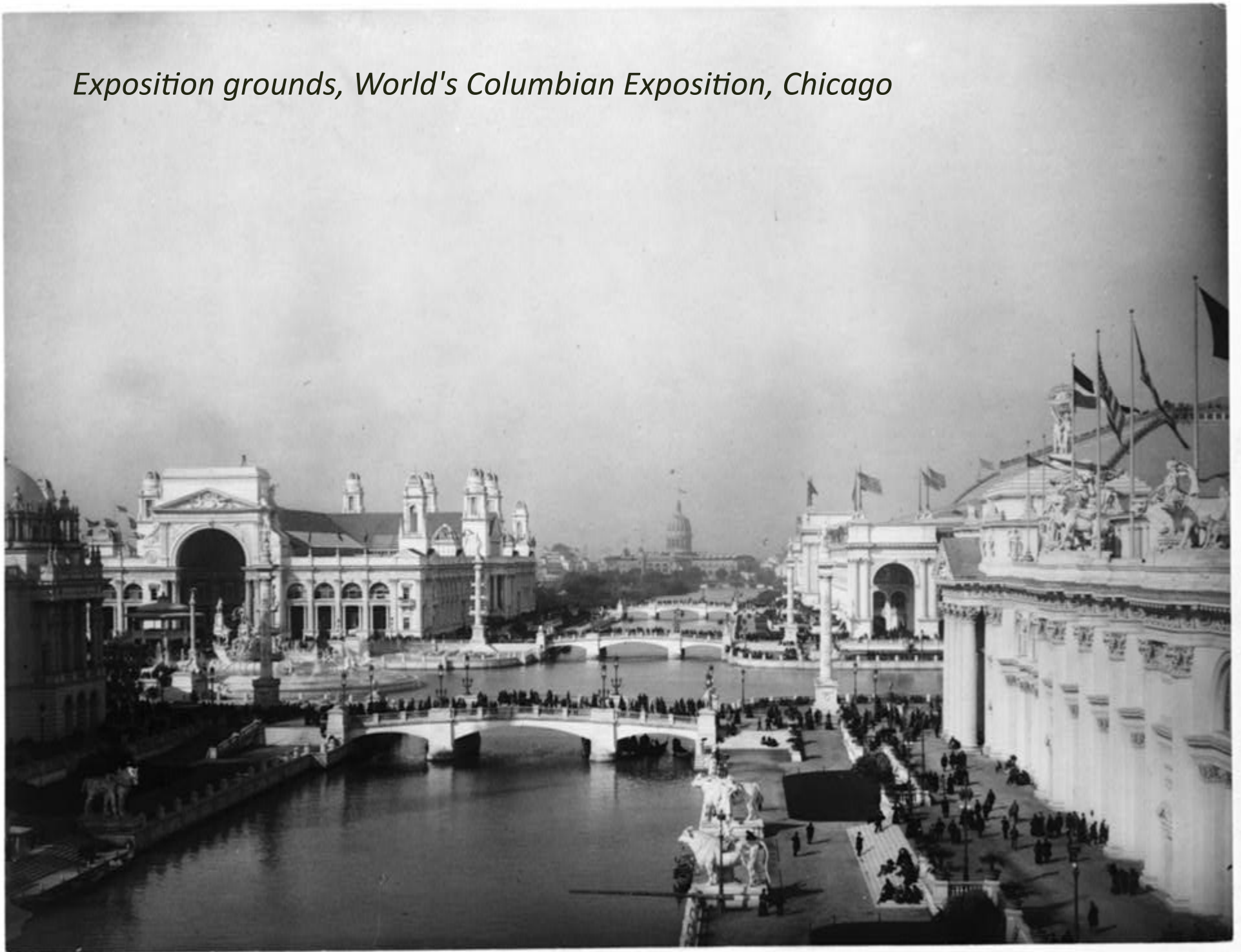
There were 25,836,073 admissions to the fair, 21,480,141 of which were paid. The admission price was fifty cents; children under twelve paid twenty-five cents, and those under six were admitted free.

FUN FACT:

One of the Exposition buildings was rebuilt to become the **Museum of Science and Industry**.



Exposition grounds, World's Columbian Exposition, Chicago



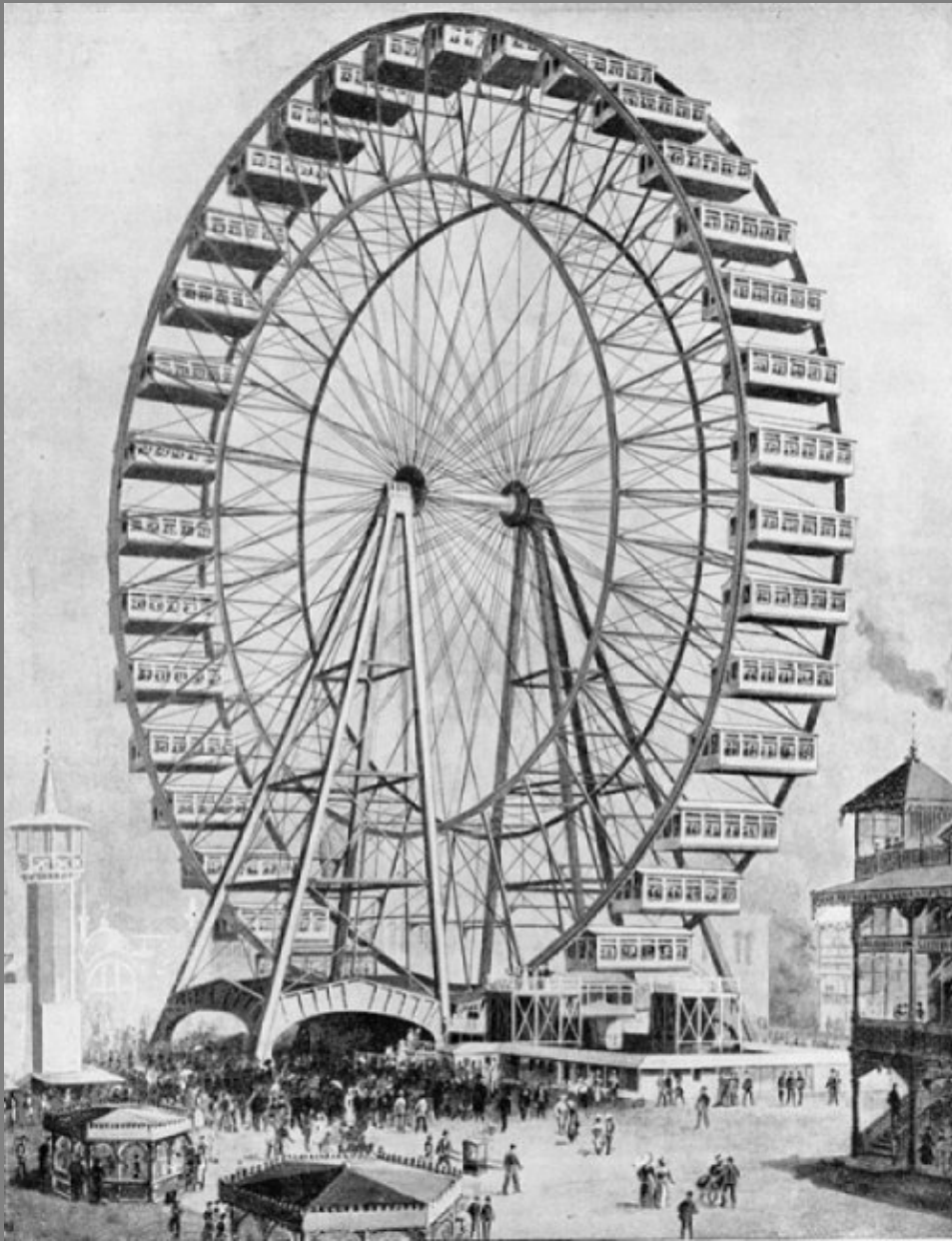


Manufacturers Building

Transportation exhibit
building with canal boat and
ducks on canal



Everyday Items Brought to Us by the 1893 World's Fair



1. Ferris Wheel
2. The Automatic Dishwasher
3. Spray Paint
4. The Zipper
5. Squashed Penny Souvenirs
6. Cracker Jack
7. Aunt Jemima Pancake Mix
8. Wrigley's Juicy Fruit Gum
9. Commemorative Stamps and Coins

(No Model.)

W. L. JUDSON.
CLASP LOCKER OR UNLOCKER FOR SHOES.

No. 504,038.

Patented Aug. 29, 1893.

Fig. 1.



Fig. 2.



Chicago in the Early 1900s



Jackson Street Bridge over Chicago River, 1916

When residents were threatened by waterborne illnesses from sewage flowing into Lake Michigan, they reversed the Chicago River in **1900** to make it flow toward the Mississippi.

In the crosstown World Series of **1906**, the White Sox defeated the Cubs.
In **1907** and **1908**, the Chicago Cubs won the world series.



Comiskey Park opens in **1910**.

Wrigley Field opens in **1914**.

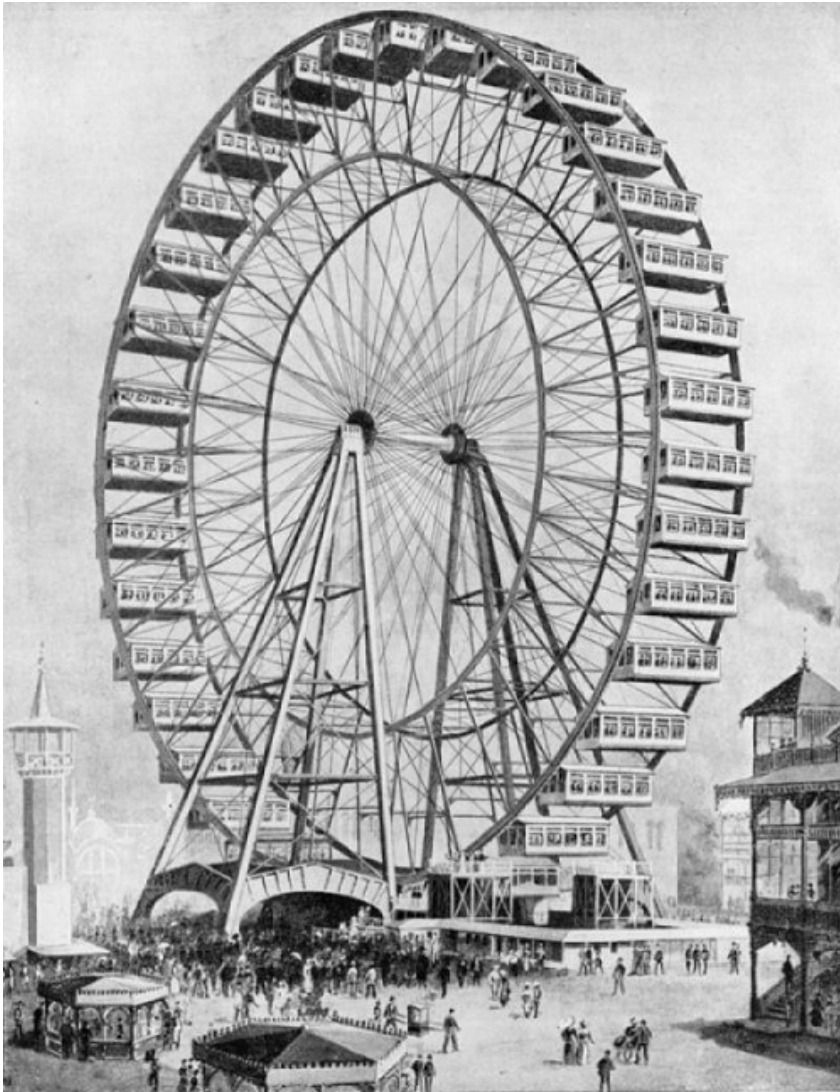


TIMELINE

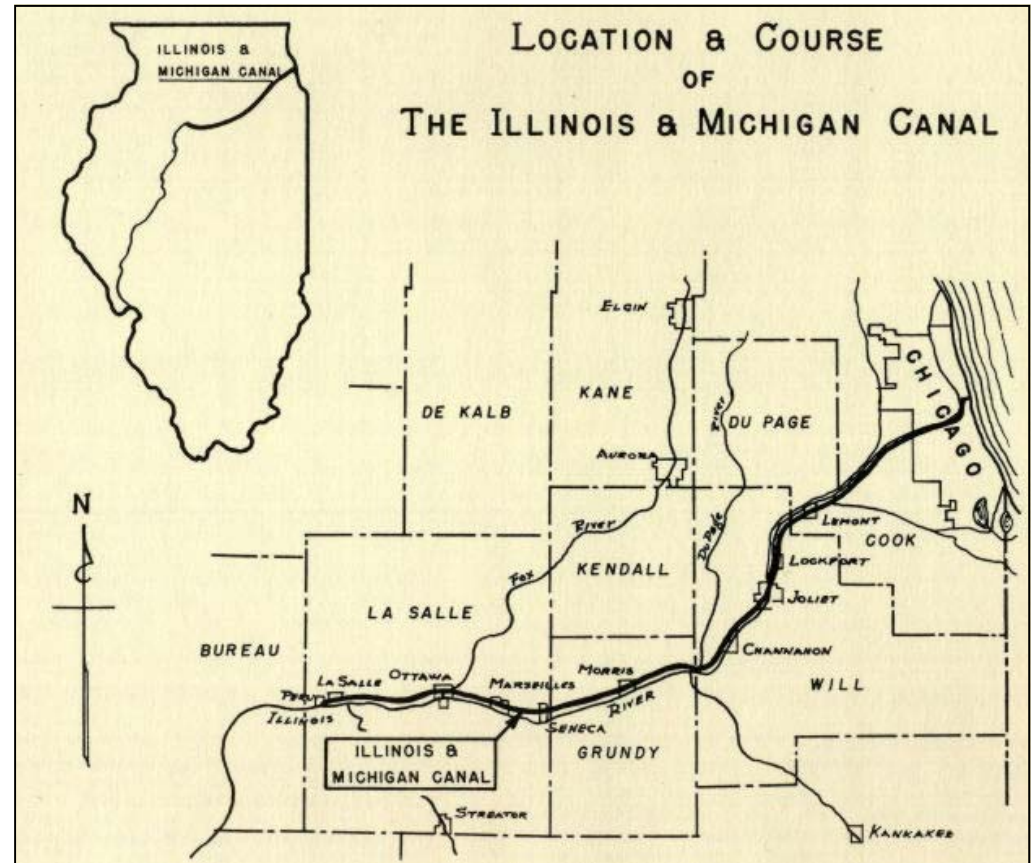
Print out the images on the following pages. Individually or in groups, order the images to make a timeline of Chicago history.

Take turns telling what you know about each major event.

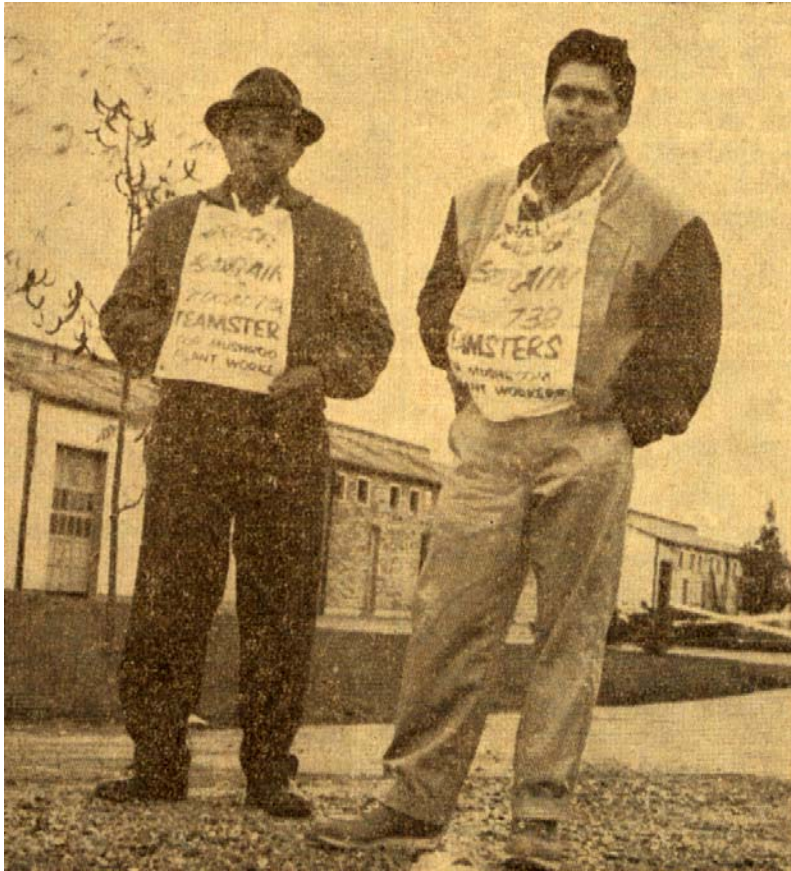
Why is each event important to the development of our region?



World's Columbian Exposition
1893



I&M Canal Completed
1848



Campbell's Soup Mushroom Farm Workers
Strike, West Chicago

1962



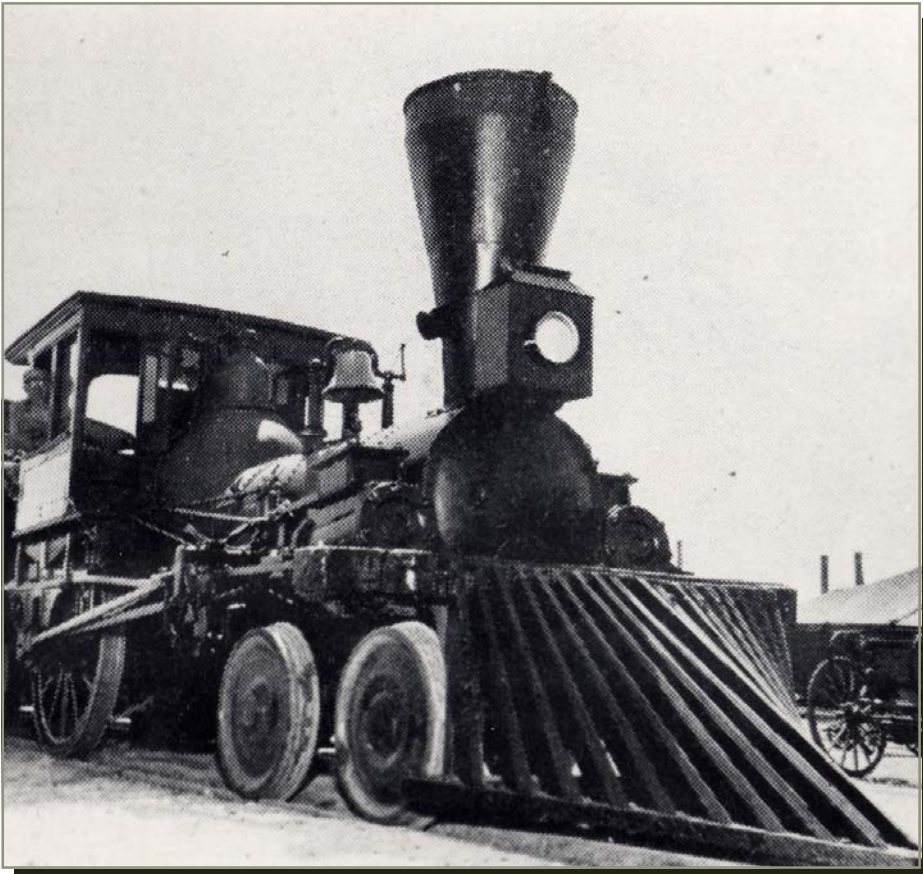
The Haymarket Affair

1886



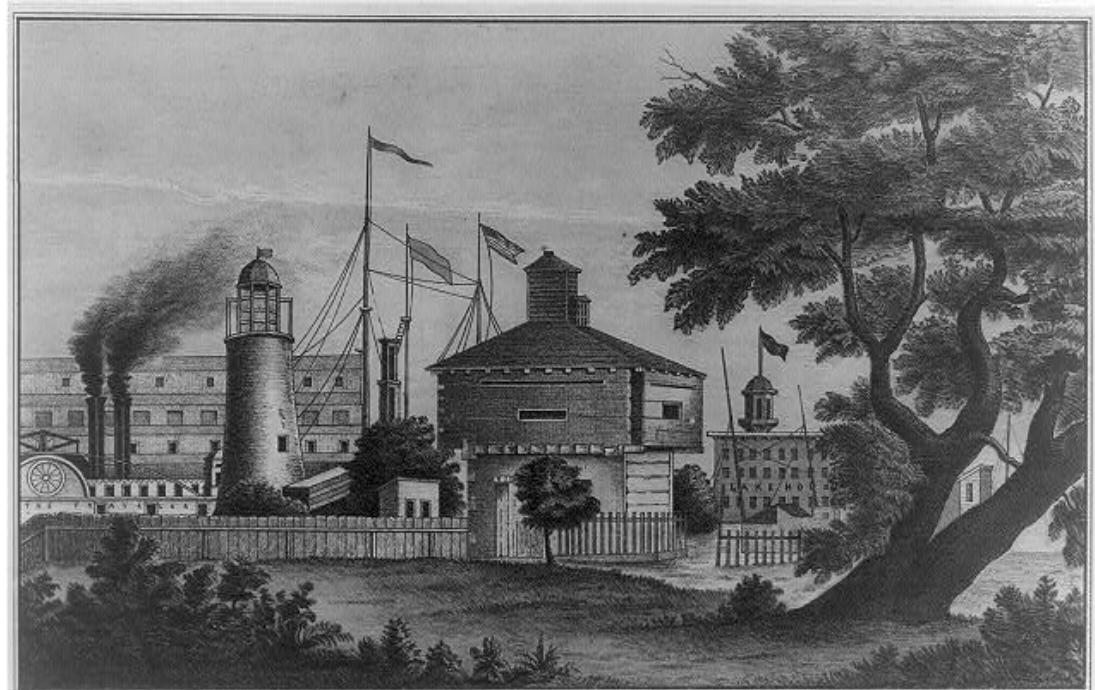
Chicago River flow reversed

1900



The Pioneer comes to Turner (now West Chicago)
on the G&CU railway

1849



OLD FORT DEARBORN

With Surroundings in 1856.

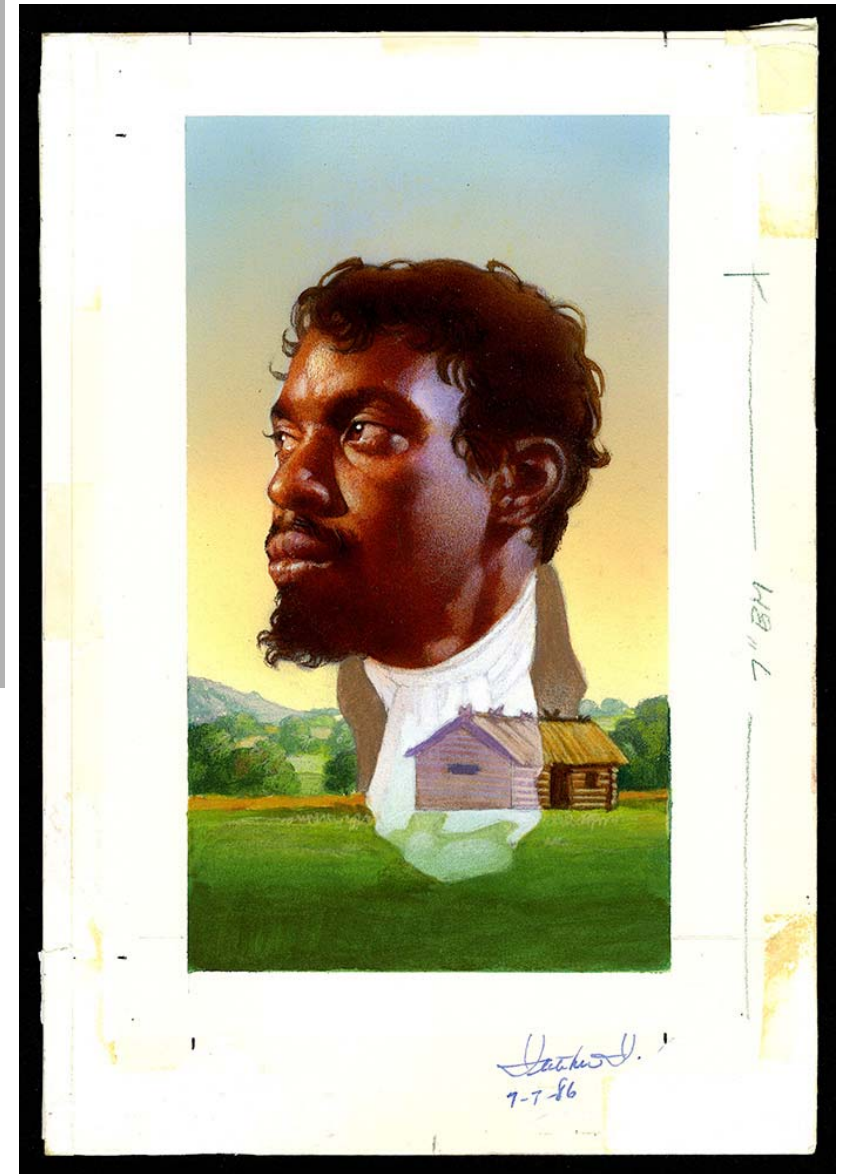
Rufus Blanchard, 189 Randolph St., Chicago.

Fort Dearborn

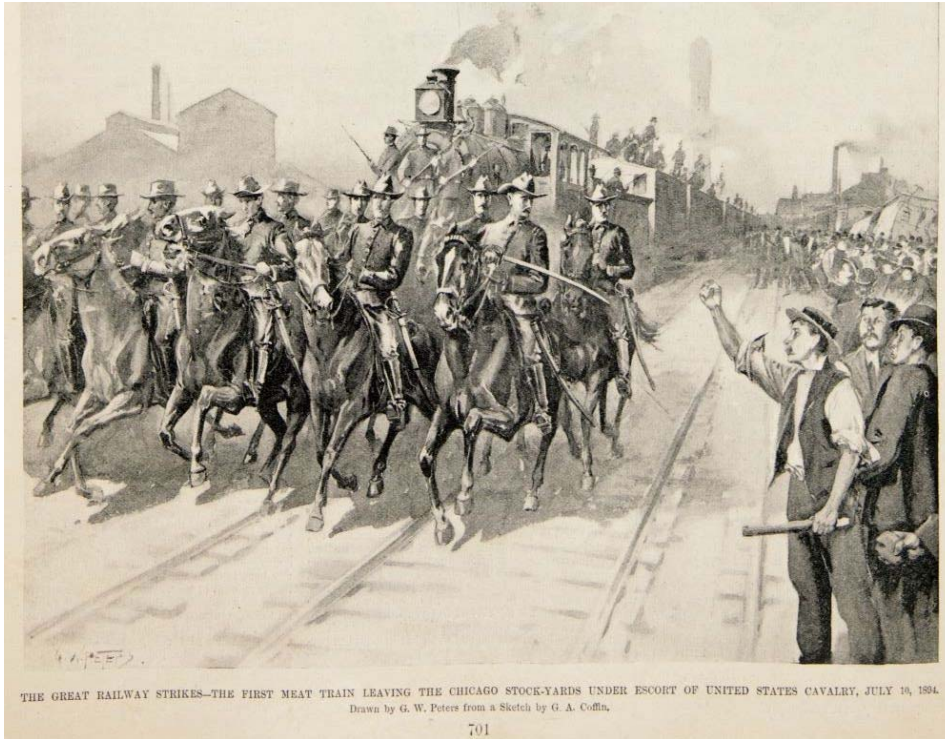
Built in 1803



Chicago Incorporated as a City
1837



Jean Baptiste Point Du Sable
First Permanent Settler
1779



Pullman Strike

1894



Galena and Chicago Union Railroad is established
as Chicago's first railway

1848



Great Chicago Fire

1871



Comiskey Park opens

1910



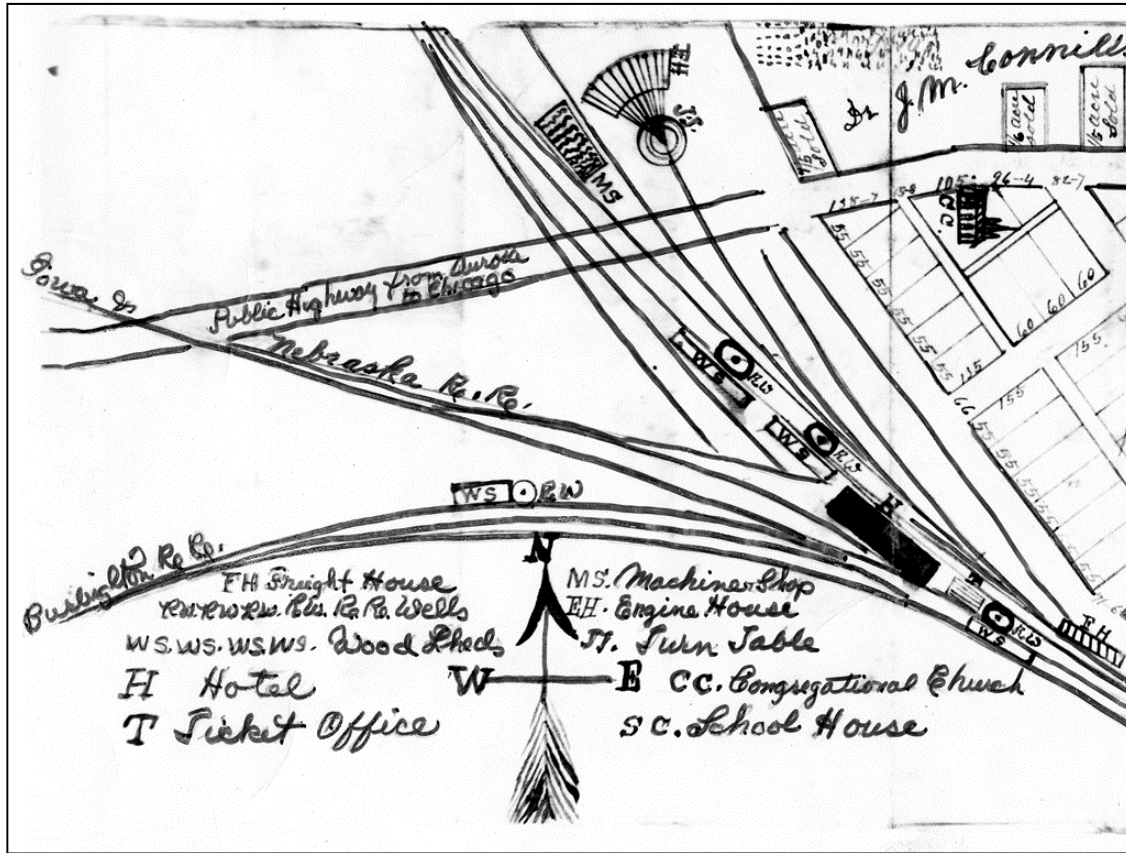
Wrigley Field opens

1914



Black Hawk War

1832



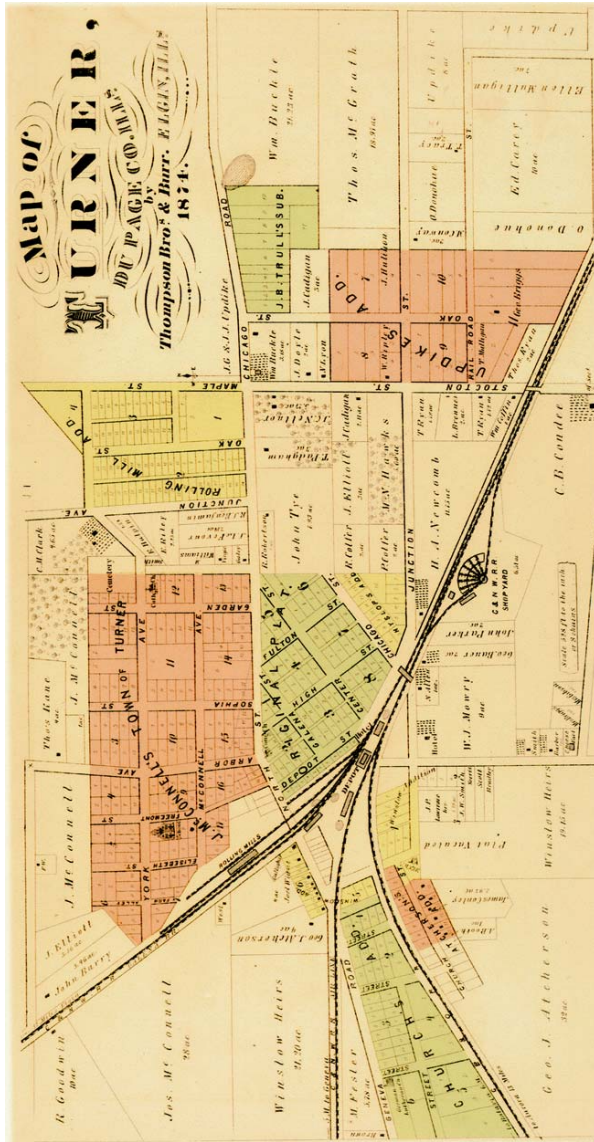
Turner Junction (now West Chicago) is formed by the Aurora Branch railroad and G&CU railroad meeting

1850

1889

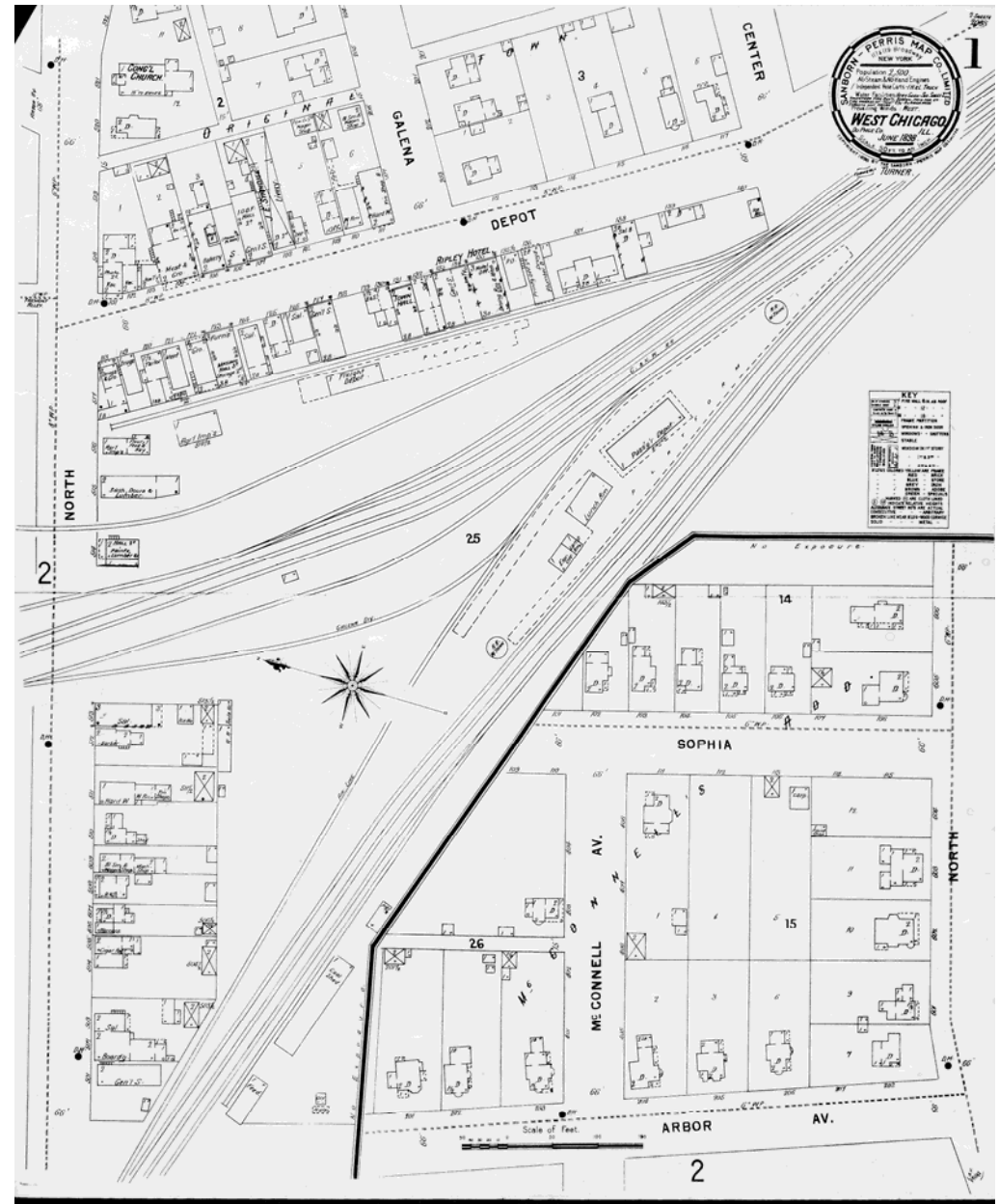
Hull House founded by Jane Addams





Village of Turner Incorporated (now West Chicago)

1873 (map dates to 1874)



Name Changed to West Chicago

1896 (map dates to 1898)



No. 1. Old Fort Dearborn. Erected 1803.

No. 2. The First Cabin, built 1779, for Jean Baptiste Pointe du Sable, (deceased). The First Settler.

No. 3. Chicago in 1837. Population 2,500.

No. 4. First West Medical College. Incorporated in 1827. City population 8,170.

No. 5. Fort Dearborn, as it built in 1803.

No. 6. The First Court House. Erected 1837. Population 2,500.

No. 7. Water Works. Erected 1837. Population 2,500.

No. 8. Chicago in 1837—From the Lake. Population 2,500.

No. 9. Wall Paper in 1837.

No. 10. The City House.

No. 11. The Green Tree Hotel, cor. West Lake and Canal St. Built in 1837.

No. 12. The Old Kewee Masson, built 1837. Population 200.

No. 13. Chicago in 1837. Population 2,500.

No. 14. The Englewood Hotel. Built in 1837.

No. 15. The Old Black House and Light House in 1857. The Last of Fort Dearborn. Population 25,000.

Chicago In Early Days. 1779-1857.

Chicago in Early Days. 1779-1857. *This print was published around 1893.*

- 1. Old Fort Dearborn. Erected **1803**.
- 2. The First Cabin, Built **1779**, by Jean Baptiste Point du Sable. The First Settler.
- 3. Chicago in **1845**. Population 12,088.
- 4. First Rush Medical College. Incorporated in **1837**. City population 4,170.
- 5. Fort Dearborn, as re-built in **1816**.
- 6. The First Court House. Erected in **1835**. Population 3,265.
- 7. Water Works. Erected in **1853**. Population 60,662.
- 8. Chicago in **1830** – From the Lake. Population 96.
- 9. Wolf Point in **1830**.
- 10. The Clybourne House.
- 11. The Green Tree Hotel, cor. West Lake and Canal Street. Built **1833**.
- 12. The Old Kinzie Mansion, built **1832**. Population 310.
- 13. Chicago in **1853**. Population 60,622.
- 14. The Sauganash Hotel. Built in **1831**.
- 15. The Old Block House and Light House in **1857**. The Last of Fort Dearborn. Population 93,000.

YEAR	POPULATION
1779	
1830	
1832	
1835	
1837	
1845	
1853	
1857	

Name: _____

Chicago in Early Days – Primary Source Study

Answer these questions:

How many years are we given population figures for?

Describe how the population of Chicago grew over those years.

What new technology came to Chicago in 1948? (Hint: think of transportation).

How did this effect the population of the city?

What else may have caused more people to move west?

Standards – Chicago History Digital Mini-Kit, 2nd Grade

Illinois Learning Standards for Social Science	
16.A.1b	Ask historical questions and seek out answers from historical sources (e.g., myths, biographies, stories, old photographs, artwork, other visual or electronic sources).
16.A.1c	Describe how people in different times and places viewed the world in different ways.
16.B.1a	Identify key individuals and events in the development of the local community (e.g., founder's days, names of parks, streets, public buildings).
16.C.1b	Explain how the economy of the students' local community has changed over time.
16.C.1a	Identify how people and groups in the past made economic choices (e.g., crops to plant, products to make, products to trade) to survive and improve their lives.
16.D.1	Describe key figures and organizations (e.g., fraternal/civic organizations, public service groups, community leaders) in the social history of the local community.
District 33 Social Science Curriculum	
SS.2.1	Students will characterize the Chicago and surrounding areas relating to sequential history using historical sources.
Illinois Learning Standards for Science	
13.B.1d	Identify and describe ways that science and technology affect people's everyday lives (e.g., transportation, medicine, agriculture, sanitation, communication occupations).
C3 Framework	
D2.His.2.K-2	Create a chronological sequence of multiple events
D2.His.2.K-2	Compare life in the past to life today.
D2.His.9.K-2	Identify different kinds of historical sources.
D2.His.10.K-2	Explain how historical sources can be used to study the past.

Resoruces for Teachers

Chicago History Timeline

<http://www.chipublib.org/chicago-history-timeline/>

Illinois Labor History

<http://www.illinoislaborhistory.org/>

The Dramas of Haymarket

<http://www.chicagohistory.org/dramas/>

Prairie Pages

<http://www.illinois.gov/iHPA/research/pages/prairiepages.aspx>

Prairie Pages, first published in 1985, was intended to provide teachers and other interested persons with curriculum materials for elementary age students. – Illinois Historic Preservation Agency

Library of Congress

<http://www.loc.gov/>

Encyclopedia of Chicago

<http://www.encyclopedia.chicagohistory.org/>