

## Peoria History Facts

The newspaper listed 17 dry goods stores and nine other retail outlets; two Presbyterian meeting houses; one Presbyterian, one Methodist and one Unitarian clergyman; two schools, one for girls and one for boys; 10 physicians; 12 lawyers; eight carpenters and 41 other craftsmen in several trades; five saw mills; three flour mills and one brewery.

In 1858, lots were purchased at Madison Avenue and Fulton Street and a new city hall was built the next year, at a cost of \$10,000. This two-story brick and stone structure had a 60-foot bell tower. The fire engine room and offices for the mayor and police were on the ground floor, with the city prison in the rear. The second floor consisted of rooms and offices for the council, city clerk, city engineer and other officials.

Also in 1859, a market house was built adjoining City Hall facing Madison Avenue, which also cost \$10,000.

Hotel in town, was called the Jefferson Hotel, a local tavern was the Rocky Glen Tavern

John Hamlin constructed a flour mill on Kickapoo Creek in 1830 and thus began Peoria's first major industry. E.F. Nowland's pork packing plant in 1837 started another. Strong early industries included casting foundries, carriage factories, pottery makers, wholesale warehousing, glucose factories, furniture makers, and ice harvesting.

At the time Andrew Eitle began his brewery (1837) and Almiron S. Cole built his distillery (1843), no one could foresee Peoria would become the world leader in the distilling industry. During this era Peoria had 22 distilleries and several breweries. They produced the greatest amount of internal revenue tax on alcoholic beverages of any single revenue district in the U.S. The great wealth enabled Peoria to begin a building boom of magnificent private homes, parks, churches, schools, and municipal buildings.

Farm machinery manufacturing was initiated by William Nurse in 1837. Toby and Anderson's steel plow of 1843 met with nationwide success. Kingman Plow Co., Acme Harvester Co., Selby, Starr & Co., and Avery Manufacturing Co. were once dominant in Peoria.

Distilleries, breweries, agricultural and machine tool foundries were big business in Peoria.

The main streets were Adams, Hamilton, and Main; the upper class lived on High Street.

Newspapers were the, Peoria Daily Democrat, Peoria Herald and Peoria Daily Transcript.

Main Crops were Corn, Oats, Rye, and Wheat. Pigs were also a staple on farms in the county. By 1860, two railroad lines ran through the city, one the Illinois River Railroad, built in 1855, which ran north and south following the river. The other, was the Peoria and Oquawka built in 1860, which ran East and West.

Of domestic fruits, the apple and peach are chiefly cultivated. Pears are tolerably plenty in the French settlements, and quinces are cultivated with success by some Americans. Apples are easily cultivated, and are very productive. They can be made to bear fruit to considerable advantage in seven years from the seed. Many varieties are of fine flavor, and grow to a large size. I have measured apples, the growth of St. Clair county, that exceeded thirteen inches in circumference. Some of the early American settlers provided orchards. They now reap the advantages. But a large

proportion of the population of the frontiers are content without this indispensable article in the comforts of a yankee farmer. Cider is made in small quantities in the old settlements. In a few years a supply of this beverage can be had in most parts of Illinois.

Peach trees grow with great rapidity, and decay proportionally soon. From ten to fifteen years may be considered the life of this tree. Our peaches are delicious, but they sometimes fail by being destroyed in the germ by winter frosts. The bud swells prematurely.

*Garden Vegetables* can be produced here in vast profusion, and of excellent quality.

That we have few of the elegant and well dressed gardens of gentlemen in the old states, is admitted; which is not owing to climate, or soil, but to the want of leisure and means.

A cabbage head two or three feet in diameter including the leaves, is no wonder on this soil. Beets often exceed twelve inches in circumference. Parsnips will penetrate our light, porous soil, to the depth of two or three feet.

The cultivated vegetable productions in the fields, are maize or Indian corn, wheat, oats, barley, buckwheat, Irish potatoes, sweet potatoes, turnips, rye for horse feed and distilleries, tobacco, cotton, hemp, flax, the castor bean, and every other production common to the middle states.

Maize is a staple production. No farmer can live without it, and hundreds raise little else. This is chiefly owing to the ease with which it is cultivated. Its average yield is fifty bushels to the acre. I have oftentimes seen it produce seventy-five bushels to the acre, and in a few instances, exceed one hundred.

Wheat yields a good and sure crop, especially in the counties bordering on the Illinois river, and through the northern parts of the state. It weighs upwards of 60 pounds per bushel; and flour from this region has preference in the New Orleans market, and passes better inspection than the same article from Ohio or Kentucky.

In 1825, the weaver, for the first time, made his ap-

pearance in St. Clair and the adjacent counties, and has occasionally renewed its visits since. Within the last two seasons, some fields have been injured by the fly.

A common but slovenly practice amongst our farmers, is, to sow wheat amongst the standing corn, in September, and cover it by running a few furrows with the plough between the rows of corn. The dry stalks are then cut down in the spring, and left on the ground. Even by this imperfect mode, fifteen or twenty bushels of wheat to the acre are produced. But where the ground is duly prepared by fallowing, and the seed put in at the proper time, a good crop, averaging from twenty-five to thirty-five bushels per acre, rarely fails to be procured.

The average price of wheat is one dollar to one dollar twenty-five cents per bushel, varying a little according to the competition of mills and facilities to market. In many instances a single crop of wheat will pay the expenses of purchasing the land, fencing, breaking the prairie, seed, putting in the crop, harvesting, threshing, and taking it to market. Wheat is now frequently sown on the prairie land as a first crop, and a good yield obtained.

Flouring mills are now in operation in many of the wheat growing counties. Steam power is getting into extensive use both for sawing and manufacturing flour.

It is to be regretted that so few of our farmers have erected barns for the security of their crops. No article is more profitable, and really more indispensable to a farmer, than a large barn.

Oats have not been much raised till lately. They are very productive, often yielding from forty to fifty bushels on the acre, and usually sell from twenty to thirty cents the bushel. The demand for the use of stage and travellers' horses is increasing.

Hemp is an indigenous plant in the southern part of this state, as it is in Missouri. It has not been extensively cultivated, but wherever tried, is found very productive, and of an excellent quality. It might be made a staple of the country.

Tobacco, though a filthy and noxious weed, which no

human being ought ever to use, can be produced in any quantity and of the first quality in Illinois.

*Cotton*, for many years, has been successfully cultivated in this state for domestic use, and some for exportation. Two or three spinning factories are in operation, and produce cotton yarn from the growth of the country with promising success. This branch of business admits of enlargement, and invites the attention of eastern manufacturers with small capital. Much of the cloth made in families who have emigrated from states south of the Ohio is from the cotton of the country.

*Wax* is produced, and of a tolerable quality, but not equal to that of the northern states. It is said to be productive and good in the northern counties. There is an oil mill to manufacture oil from the seed, in Sangamon county.

The *palma christi*, or castor oil bean, is produced in considerable quantities in Madison, Randolph, and other counties, and large quantities of oil are expressed and sent abroad.

*Sweet Potatoes* are a delicious root, and yield abundantly, especially on the American bottom, and rich sandy prairies.

But little has been done to introduce cultivated grasses. The prairie grass looks coarse and unsavory, and yet our horses and cattle will thrive well on it. It is already known to the reader that this grass disappears when the settlements extend round a prairie, and the cattle eat off the young growth in the spring. Consequently in a few years, the natural grass no longer exists.

It is to be regretted that so few have thought of providing themselves with natural meadows of fifty or more acres to each plantation, by a process so cheap as that of *fencing in the prairie*, before the cattle had subdued the natural grass, and preserving it with a very little care, in a perfectly natural state.

But this notion was entirely incorrect. To produce timothy with success, the ground must be well cultivated in the summer, either by an early crop, or by fallowing,

and the seed sown about the 20th of September, at the rate of *ten or twelve quarts of clean seed to the acre*, and highly brushed in.

If the season is in any way favourable, it will get a rapid start before winter. By the last week in June, it will produce two tons per acre, of the finest of hay. It then requires a dressing of stable or yard manure, and occasionally the turf may be scratched with a harrow, to prevent the roots from binding too hard. By this process timothy meadows may be made and preserved. There are meadows in St. Clair county, which have yielded heavy crops of hay in succession, for several years, and bid fair to continue for an indefinite period. Cattle, and especially horses, should never be permitted to run in meadows in Illinois. The fall grass may be cropped down by calves and colts. There is but a little more labour required to produce a crop of timothy than a crop of oats, and as there is not a stone or a pebble to interrupt the soil may be turned up every third or fourth year for corn, and afterwards laid down to grass again.

A species of blue grass is cultivated by some farmers for pastures. If well set and not eaten down in summer, blue grass pastures may be kept green and fresh till late in autumn, or even in the winter. The English spire grass has been cultivated with success in the Wabash country.

Of the trefoil, or clover, there is but little cultivated. A prejudice exists against it, as it is imagined to injure horses by affecting the glands of the mouth, and causing them to slaver. It grows luxuriantly, and may be cut for hay early in June. The white clover comes in naturally, where the ground has been cultivated, and thrown by, or along the sides of old roads and paths. Clover pastures would be excellent for swine.

*Animals.* Of wild animals there are several species. The buffalo is not found on this side the Mississippi, nor within several hundred miles of St. Louis. This animal once roamed at large over the prairies of Illinois, and was found in plenty thirty years since. *Wolves, Panthers,*



and wild cats are still numerous on the frontiers, and through the unsettled portions of the country. Wolves harbor in almost every county, and annoy the farmer by destroying his sheep and pigs. There are three species found in Illinois:

1. The large gray wolf, or *canis lupus* of Linneus, is not very plenty, and not commonly found in the older settlements.

2. The black wolf, or *canis lycanon* of Linneus, is scarce. Occasionally they are killed by our hunters.

3. The *canis latrans* of Say, or common prairie wolf, is the most common, and found in considerable numbers. This mischievous animal is but little larger than the common fox, burrows in the prairies, and comes forth in the night to attack sheep, pigs, poultry, &c. Many of the settlers keep hounds to guard against the depredations of this animal.

Panthers and wild cats are less common, but occasionally do mischief.

Deer are also very numerous, and are valuable, particularly to that class of our population which has been raised to frontier habits; the flesh affording them food, and the skins, clothing. Fresh venison hams usually sell seventy-five cents, to one dollar fifty cents a pair, and when properly cured, are a delicious article.

*Domestic animals.* These are the same as are found in other portions of the United States. But little has been done to improve the breed of horses amongst us. Our common riding or working horses average about fifteen hands in height. Horses are much more used here than in the eastern states, and many a farmer keeps half a dozen or more. Much of the travelling throughout the western country, both by men and women, is performed on horseback; and a large proportion of the land carriage is by means of large wagons, with from four to six stout horses for a team. A great proportion of the ploughing is performed by horse labor. Horses are more subject to diseases in this country than in the old states, which is thought to be occasioned by bad management, rather than by the climate. A good farm horse can be purchased for fifty dollars. Ridding, or carriage horses, of a superior quality, cost about sixty, eighty, or a hundred dollars. Breeding mares are profitable stock for every farmer to keep, as their annual expense in keeping is but trifling, their labor is always needed, and their colts, when grown, find a ready market. Some farmers keep a stallion, and eight or ten brood mares.

*Mules* are raised in Missouri and are also brought from the Mexican dominions into Illinois. They are hardy animals, grow to a good size, and are used by some both for labour and riding.

Our *reed cattle* are usually inferior in size to those of the old states. This is owing entirely to bad management. Our cows are not penned up in pasture fields, but suffered to run at large over the commons. Hence all the calves are preserved

entire the cows homeward at evening. They are kept up through the day, and oftentimes without much pasture, and turned to the cows for a few minutes at night, and then permitted to graze through the night over the short and withered grass around the plantation.

In autumn their food is very scanty, and during the winter they are permitted to pick up a precarious subsistence amongst fifty or a hundred head of cattle. With such management, is it surprising that our cows and steers are much inferior to those of the old states?

And yet, our beef is the finest in the world. It bears the best inspection of any in the New Orleans market. By the first of June, and often by the middle of May, our young cattle on the prairies are fit for market. They do not yield large quantities of tallow, but the fat is well proportioned throughout the carcase, and the meat tender and delicious. By inferiority, then, I mean the size of our cattle in general, and the quantity and quality of the milk of cows.

Common cows, if suffered to lose their milk in August, become sufficiently fat for table use by October. Farrow heifers and steers, are good beef, and fit for the knife at any period after the middle of May. Nothing is more common than for an Illinois farmer to go among his stock; select, shoot down, and dress a fine beef, whenever fresh meat is needed. This is often divided out amongst the neighbours, who, in turn, kill and share likewise. It is common at camp and other large meetings, to kill a beef and three or four hogs for the subsistence of friends from a distance.

We can hardly place limits upon the amount of beef cattle that Illinois is capable of producing. A farmer calls himself poor, with a hundred head of horned cattle around him. A cow in the spring is worth from twelve to twenty dollars. Some of the best quality will sell higher. And let it be distinctly understood, once for all, that a poor man can always purchase horses, cattle, hogs, and provisions, for labor, either by the day, month, or job.

Cows, in general, do not produce the same amount of milk, nor of as rich a quality as in older states.

From the springing of the grass till September, butter is made in great profusion. It sells at that season in market for about twenty cents, and in the interior of the state for twelve cents per pound. With proper care it can be preserved with tolerable sweetness for winter's use. Late in autumn and early in the winter, sometimes butter is not plenty. The feed becomes dry, the cows range further off, and do not come up readily for milking, and dry up. A very little trouble would enable a farmer to keep three or four good cows in fresh milk at the season most needed.

Cheese is made by many families, especially, in the counties bordering on the Illinois river. Good cheese sells for eight and sometimes ten cents, and finds a ready market.

*Swine.* This species of stock may be called a staple in the provision of Illinois. Thousands of hogs are raised without any expense, except a few breeders to start with and a little attention in hunting them on the range, and keeping them tame.

This kind of pork is by no means equal to that raised and fattened on corn, and in a domestic way. It is soft oily, and will not bear inspection at New Orleans. It usually sells for three dollars per hundred.

Pork that is made in a domestic way and fattened on corn will sell for from four to five dollars, according to size quality, and the time when it is delivered. With a pasture of clover or blue grass, a well filled corn crib, a dairy, and a slop barrel, and the usual care that a New Englander bestows on his pigs, pork may be raised from the sow, fattened and killed, and weigh, from two hundred to two hundred and fifty, within twelve months, and this method of raising pork would be profitable.

Few families in the west and south put up their pork in salt pickle. Their method is to salt it sufficiently to prepare it for smoking, and then make bacon of hams, shoulder, and middlings or broadsides. The price of bacon taking the hog round, is about ten and twelve cents. Good hams command twelve cents in the market. Stock hogs weighing from sixty to one hundred pounds, alive, usually sell for from two dollars to two dollars and fifty cents per head. Families consume much more meat in Illinois, in proportion to numbers, than in the old states.

*Sheep* do very well in this country, especially in the older settlements, where the grass has become short, and they are less molested by wolves. But few are kept. The people from the south are more accustomed to cotton for clothing, than to wool, which sells for fifty cents per pound. Little is said or done to improve the breed of sheep, or introduce the Merino, or Saxony breed. Mr George Flower, at Albion, has a valuable flock of Saxony and Merino.

*Poultry* are raised in great profusion—and large numbers of fowls taken to market. It is no uncommon thing for some farmers' wives to raise three or four hundred fowls, besides geese, ducks, and turkeys, in a season. Young fowls, butter, and eggs, are the three articles usually mustered from every farm for the market. By these means many families provide their coffee, sugar, tea, and various articles of apparel.

*Eggs*, when plenty, as at the close of winter and spring, sell for ten and twelve cents per dozen.

In noticing poultry, I ought not to pass over some of our wild fowl.

Ducks, geese, swans, and many other aquatic birds, visit our waters in the spring. The small lakes and sloughs are often literally covered with them. Ducks, and some of the rest, frequently stay through the summer and breed.

The prairie fowl is seen in great numbers on the prairies in the summer, and about the cornfields in the winter. This is the grouse of the New York market. They are easily taken in the winter.

Partridges, (the quail of New England) are taken with nets, in the winter, by hundreds in a day, and furnish no trifling item in the luxuries of the city market.

Bees are profitable stock for the farmer, and are kept to a considerable extent.

*Silkworms* are raised by a few persons. They are capable of being produced to any extent, and fed on the common black mulberry of the country.

#### MANUFACTURES.

*Steam Mills* for flouring and sawing are becoming very common, and in general are profitable. Some are now in operation with four runs of stones, and which manufacture one hundred barrels of flour in a day. Mills propelled by steam, water, and animal power, are constantly increasing. Steam mills will become numerous, particularly in the southern and middle portions of the state, and it is deserving remark that while these portions are not well supplied with durable water power, they contain, in the timber of the forest, and the inexhaustible stores of bituminous coal, abundant supplies of fuel, while the northern portion, though deficient in fuel, has abundant water power.

A good steam saw-mill with two saws can be built for 2,000 dollars; and a steam flouring mill with two runs of stones, elevators and other apparatus complete, and of sufficient force to turn out forty or fifty barrels of flour per day, may be built for 6,000 dollars.

The northern half of the state will be most abundantly supplied with water power, and ordinary mills for sawing lumber and grinding grain are now in operation on the various streams.

Large quantities of *castor oil* are annually manufactured in Illinois from the palmetto christi, or castor bean. A number of presses are in operation in Madison, Greene, Macoupen, St. Clair, Randolph, Edwards, and perhaps other counties.

Coarse clothing from cotton is manufactured in the southern portion of the state, where the article is raised in small quantities. Woolen cloth, and jeans, a mixture of wool and cotton, is made for ordinary wear, as is cloth from flax.

*Zead.* In Jo Daviess county are eight or ten furnaces for smelting lead. The amount of this article made annually at the mines of the Upper Mississippi, has been given under the head of minerals.

*Boat Building* will soon become a branch of business in this state. Some steamboats have been constructed already within this state, along the Mississippi. It is thought that Alton and Chicago are convenient sites for this business.

All the trades, needful to a new country, are in existence. Carpenters, wagon makers, cabinet makers, blacksmiths, tanneries, etc., may be found in every county and town. At Mount Carmel and Springfield, there are iron foundries for castings.

There has been a considerable falling off in the manufacture of whiskey within a few years, and it is sincerely hoped by thousands of citizens that this branch of business, so decidedly injurious to the morals and happiness of the community and of individuals, will entirely decline.

Ox mills on the inclined plane, and horse mills by draught, are common throughout the middle and southern parts of the state.

With the table of the census, taken in 1835, and published by authority of the legislature the succeeding winter, the following report was made.

Manufactories,	339
Mills, . . . . .	916
Machines, . . . . .	87
Distilleries, . . . . .	142

This report is defective and imperfect. In some counties ordinary mechanics' shops, such as tinners, coopers, wheelwrights, &c., were reported under the head of manufactories; in others no distinction was made.

*Diseases.* The more common diseases of Illinois are intermittents, frequently accompanied with bilious symptoms. Those which prove fatal in sickly seasons are bilious remittents. More than one half of the sickness endured by the people is caused by imprudence, bad management, and the want of proper nursing. Emigrants from the northern states or from Europe, will find it advantageous to protect themselves from the cool and humid atmosphere at night, to provide close dwellings, yet, when the atmosphere is clear, to have their rooms, and especially their sleeping rooms, well ventilated, and invariably wear thin clothing in the day, and put on thicker apparel at night or when exposed to wet.

Families are seldom sick who live in comfortable houses with tight floors and well ventilated rooms, and who upon a change of weather, and especially in a time of rain, make a little fire in the chimney, though it may be in the midst of summer.

I have seen but few cases of genuine consumption. Affection of the liver is more common. Pleuritis, and other inflammatory diseases, prevail in the winter and spring. Ophthalmia prevails at some seasons. Dysentery is not uncommon. Fewer die in infancy than in the old states.

*Mc Donough College*, at Macomb, has just commenced operations. It is identified with the interests of a "old school" Presbyterians, as the Illinois college at Jacksonsville is with the "New School" Presbyterians.

*Carleton College* in Fulton county has recently been chartered as a college by the legislature, and is a respectable academic Institution, and has 70 or 80 students. Rev. G. B. Perry A. M. formerly pastor of the Spruce street Baptist Church Philadelphia, has recently been elected president of this Institution.

A Literary Institution, modeled somewhat after the plan of the *Oneida Institute* in the state of New York, is in progress at Galesburg, Knox county, under the supervision of the Rev. Mr. Gale and other gentlemen.

*Babcock College*, in Winnebago county, has been recently chartered, and an effort is about being made to establish a respectable literary institution in this new and interesting portion of the state.

Several respectable academies and seminaries are also in operation, established chiefly by individual effort, where good schools are taught. Amongst these we notice the following, though some of equal importance may be overlooked.

The *Jacksonville Academy* conducted by Messrs. Charles E. Blood, and Charles B. Barton A. B. is established for the convenience of those whose studies are not sufficiently advanced to enter the Preparatory Department of Illinois College.

The *Jacksonville Female Academy* is a flourishing institution. A respectable Academy is in operation at Springfield, another at Princeton, Putnam county, a third at Griggsville, and a fourth at Quincy.

The *Mon Female Seminary* is an institution projected for a full and useful course of instruction, on a large scale, towards the establishment of which Benjamin Godfrey, Esq., will contribute fifteen or twenty thousand dollars. It is located at Monticello, a little more than four miles from Alton, on the borders of a delightful, elevated prairie, and is designed wholly as a boarding school. The business of instruction will be in the hands of competent ladies. The system of instruction will be extensive. The Rev. The Iron Baldwin will exercise a general supervision over the institution, and lecture on scientific and religious subjects. The project of establishing a Seminary for the education of teachers at Waverley in the southeastern part of Morgan county, is entertained by several gentlemen.

A Seminary is about being established in a settlement of Reformed Presbyterians in the eastern part of Randolph county.

The "Returners," or Campbellites, as some term them, have a charter and contemplate establishing a college at Hanover, in Potosi county.

Thus a broad and deep foundation is about being laid in this state for the promotion of education. Several lycæums and literary associations exist in this state, and there is in almost every county a decided expression of popular opinion in favor of education.



The *Methodist Episcopal Church* is the most numerous. The Illinois Conference, which embraces this state and a portion of Wisconsin Territory, in 1835 had 61 circuit preachers, 308 local preachers, and 15,097 members of society. They sustain preaching in every county, and in a large number of the settlements.

The *Baptist Denomination* includes 22 Associations, 260 churches, 160 preachers and 7,350 communicants.

The *Presbyterians* have one Synod, 8 Presbyteries, and about 80 churches, 60 ministers, and 2,500 members.

There are 12 or 15 *Congregationalist* churches, united in an association, and several ministers.

The *Methodist Protestant Denomination* has one conference, 22 ministers and 344 members.

The *Reformers*, as they term themselves, or "Campbellites," as others call them, have several large, and a number of small societies, a number of preachers, and several hundred members, including the *Christian* body with which they are in union. They immerse all who profess to believe in Christ for the remission of sins, but differ widely from orthodox baptists on some points of doctrine.

The *Cumberland Presbyterians* have 2 or 3 Presbyteries, 12 or 15 preachers, and several hundred communicants.

There are two churches of *Reformed Presbyterians*, or *Covenanters*, 1 minister, and about 280 communicants, with a few families scattered in other parts of the state. There are also two or three societies of *Associate Reformed Presbyterians*, or *Seceders*.

In McLean county is a society of *United Brethren*, or, as some call them, Dutch Methodists.

The *Dunkards* have five or six societies and some preachers in this state.

There are several Lutheran congregations with preachers.

The *Protestant Episcopal Church* has an organised diocese, 8 or 10 congregations, and 7 or 8 ministers.

There are small societies of *Friends* or *Quakers* in Tazewell and Crawford counties; and a few *Mormons*, scattered through the state.

The *Roman Catholics* are not numerous. They have a dozen congregations, 8 or 10 priests, and a population between five and six thousand including old and young. A convent and boarding school for young ladies is in operation at Kaskaskia. The Roman Catholics are mostly about the old French villages, and the laborers along the line of canal.

There is considerable expression of good feeling amongst the different religious denominations, and the members frequently hear the preachers of each other, as there are but few congregations that are supplied every Sabbath. The qualifications of the clergymen are various. A number of them are men of talents, learning, influence, and unblemished piety. Others have had but few advantages in acquiring either literary or theological information, and yet are good speakers and useful men.

Some are very illiterate, and make utter confusion of the word of God. Such persons are usually proud, conceited, fanatical, and influenced by a spirit far removed from the meek, docile, benevolent, and charitable spirit of the gospel.

#### *Military Bounty Lands.*

This tract embraces the counties of Calhoun, Pike, Adams, Schuyler, McDouough, Warren, Mercer, Knox, Henry, Fulton, Peoria, and a portion of Putnam.

The disposition of so much of this fine country for military purposes has very much retarded its settlement. Most of the titles have long since departed from the soldiers for whose benefit the donations were made.

A large quantity of these military lands are now owned by a company, who have a land office, opened at Quincy, and offer tracts from three to ten dollars per acre.

\* The word "Illin," from whence is derived the name "Oillinois," or "Illinois," as it was variously written by the French explorers, is said by Hennepin to signify "a full grown man." This nation, or confederacy, appears to have possessed originally, the Illinois country. The confederacy was formed of seven tribes:—the Illinois, Michigamies, Mascotans, Kaskaskias, Kahokias, Peorias, and Tau-mar-waus.

Their country was subjugated by the Iroquois or Mohawks about the close of the seventeenth century, who held dominion over the soil by right of conquest. In 1701 the Iroquois ceded all that part of Illinois that lies south and east of the Illinois river, to the British government.

- 1825 The county was organized and the village name was officially changed from Fort Clark to Peoria. Until 1831 when Cook County was formed, Chicago was part of Peoria County
- 1829 The first steamboat, "Liberty," arrived in Peoria, ushering in the river way transport system.
- 1830 On the corner of Hamilton and Adams streets, the "Planters House" was opened for the entertainment, and stay of travelers.
- 1832 A company of local men, led by Abner Eads, fought in the Blackhawk War. In fear over possible Indian threats, Peoria residents started to rebuild Fort Clark.
- 1835 Peoria was incorporated as a town. Construction began on a courthouse and jail.
- 1836 the first Court House was completed at a cost of \$15,000. Rooms on the first floor were rented for \$50 per year and three rooms on the second floor were used as a temporary hospital during the cholera epidemic of 1849-1850
- 1844 One hundred fifty (150) steamboat companies operated on Peoria Lake.
- 1845 Peoria was incorporated as a city.
- 1848 The first bridge across the Illinois River built.
- 1854 The Peoria & Bureau Valley Railroad brought the first passenger train into Peoria.
- 1854 Abraham Lincoln and Stephen A. Douglas gave impassioned speeches on the courthouse steps regarding the issue of slavery. The three hour speech Lincoln gave is considered a landmark in his career and established the foundation for the principles of self-government and liberty for all people that would carry him to the White House six years later.
- 1861 The day the Civil War began, Peoria Mayor William Willard led a war recruitment rally for eager volunteers. Camp Lyon, where 7500 Union soldiers were trained, was established at the west gate of Glen Oak Park.
- 1862 Camp Peoria was organized near Adams and Mary Streets.

### **Illinois Governor**

**Richard Yates**, Republican, from Morgan county took office on Jan 14, 1861. He was born in Warsaw, Gallatin, KY on Jan 18, 1815 and attended the common schools there. He moved to Illinois in 1831 and graduated from Illinois College in Jacksonville, IL in 1835. He studied Law at Transylvania University in Lexington, KY and was admitted to the Bar in 1837. He practiced law in Jacksonville. He was a member of the State House of Representatives 1842-1845 and again 1848-1849. He was elected as a Whig to the Thirty-Second and Thirty-Third Congresses (Mar 4, 1851-Mar 3, 1855). Elected as a Republican to the U.S. Senate and served from Mar 4, 1865 to Mar 3, 1871. He died suddenly in St. Louis, Mo on Nov 27, 1873. He is buried in Diamond Grove Cemetery in Jacksonville, IL. He married Catherine Geers

### **Senators**

**Senator Stephen Arnold Douglas (1847-1861)**

"The Little Giant"

April 23 1813 - June 3 1861

*"this Union can exist forever divided into free and slave states, as our fathers made it, if the Constitution be preserved inviolate."* -- S.A. Douglas, 1859

As a young lawyer, Stephen A. Douglas came to Illinois in 1833. In the coming years, he was to become Chicago's foremost politician, a judge, senator, and presidential candidate, who gave his

schoolteacher in nearby Winchester. After four years, he became state's attorney for Morgan county, and was soon elected to the state legislature. In the years that followed, he held numerous positions, including Illinois Secretary of State and judge of the state Supreme Court.

In 1846, he won election to the U.S. Senate by calling for the federal government to cede land to the state and pay for a north-south railroad. He moved to Chicago the following year, proposed that the railroad be extended to Chicago, and fought for it in Congress with the help of fellow Democrat Congressman John Wentworth. The success of their efforts in 1850 ensured Chicago's future as the most important city in the West.

During Douglas' time in the Senate, one issue was becoming more and more decisive: slavery. Even within the Northern states, there were bitter debates between those who would abolish slavery everywhere and those who sought to preserve the Union at all costs. Douglas was one of the latter. As a states-rights advocate, he favored allowing the South to continue the practice of slavery. He was instrumental in the passing of the controversial Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854, which dictated that "popular sovereignty" would decide the issue of slavery in each new territory.

Refusing to support anything that would permit slavery to grow, a former friend and ally of Douglas left the Democrats and joined the new Republican party. Douglas saw the defection of the abolitionist "Long John" Wentworth as a betrayal, and the two remained bitter enemies for the rest of their lives.

In 1858, a up-and-coming politician made an attempt to unseat Senator Douglas. Downstate lawyer Abraham Lincoln ran for the Senate as a Republican, and challenged the senator to a series of debates. For Douglas, it was a no-win situation. He himself was nationally known, and the debates would only serve to draw attention to his opponent. Nevertheless, he accepted the challenge and agreed to a series of seven debates. Both men were excellent speakers, but the debates are generally held to have been won by Lincoln, who adopted an extreme anti-slavery position. The election results were very close, and although Lincoln had a slightly larger share of the popular vote, Douglas was reelected by the state legislature.

The two battled again in 1860. Douglas was the Democratic party's candidate for president, and Lincoln the Republican candidate. Southern Democrats, however, had given their support to another Democrat, Kentucky Senator John C. Breckinridge. This split in the Democratic party cost Douglas the presidency. Lincoln won every northern state, Breckenridge won easily in the south, with only Missouri and part of New Jersey voting for Douglas.

Although he had lost, Douglas still desired, more than anything, to preserve the Union. He threw his support behind the Republican President-elect, and traveled across the country urging that the states remain united. When war became inevitable, he returned to Chicago and there inspired the city's Irish community to support the President's call for volunteers.

Douglas' hard work to preserve his country took its toll on his health. At the age of forty-eight, on June 3, 1861, the "Little Giant" died of pneumonia.

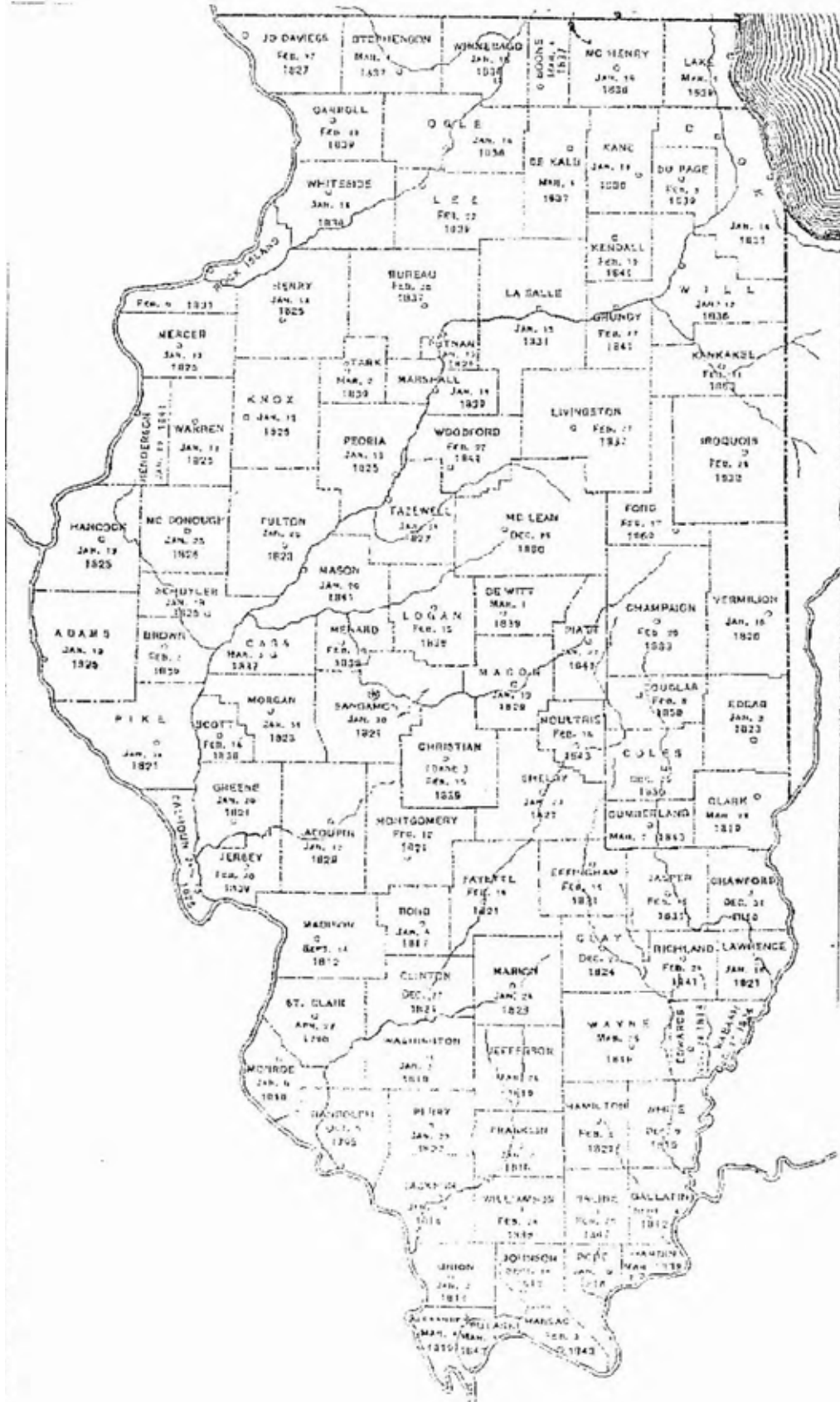
#### **Orville H. Browning (1861-1863)**

Following the death of Illinois's United States senator, Stephen A. Douglas, Browning was appointed to fill Douglas's unexpired term he was a very conservative republican.

#### **Lyman Trumbull (1855-1873)**

He was born in Colchester, Connecticut. He began teaching school at the age of sixteen and later studied law, being admitted to the bar in 1837. He moved to Belleville, in southern Illinois, and became active in state government. In 1841, he was elected secretary of state and, in 1848, he became a justice on the state supreme court. He was elected as a Democrat to the state legislature in 1854, then elected by that same body as a United States Senator a few months later in 1855. He became a Republican because of his opposition to the expansion of slavery, and was reelected to the Senate as a Republican in 1861 and 1867





JO DAVIES FEB. 17 1827    STEPHENSON MAR. 1 1837    WINNEBAGO JAN. 18 1831    MC HENRY JAN. 16 1838    LAROCK MAR. 1 1839

GARROLL FEB. 19 1839    OGLE JAN. 16 1838    DE KALB JAN. 17 1830    KANE JAN. 17 1830    DUPAGE FEB. 3 1839

WHITESIDE JAN. 16 1834    LEE FEB. 27 1839    MAR. 1 1837    KENDALL FEB. 19 1841    W. J. L. L. JAN. 17 1836

HENRY JAN. 14 1829    BUREAU FEB. 20 1837    LA SALLE JAN. 15 1831    GRUNDY FEB. 17 1841    HANCAKEL FEB. 11 1839

MERCER JAN. 13 1829    TANK MAR. 2 1839    MARSHALL JAN. 14 1839    LIVINGSTON FEB. 27 1837    IROQUOIS FEB. 24 1832

WARREN JAN. 11 1825    KNOX JAN. 11 1829    PEORIA JAN. 13 1825    WOODFORD FEB. 27 1841    FOND FEB. 17 1860

HANCOCK JAN. 17 1825    MC DONOUGH JAN. 25 1825    FULTON JAN. 25 1823    FAZELLE JULY 24 1827    MC LEAN DEC. 18 1800

DEWITT MAR. 1 1839    CHAMPAIGN FEB. 20 1809    VERMILION JAN. 16 1820    MADISON SEPT. 14 1812

ADAMS JAN. 19 1826    BROWN FEB. 7 1829    CLAY MAR. 27 1812    MONROE JAN. 4 1818    CLARK MAR. 28 1819

PIKE JAN. 24 1821    MORGAN JAN. 14 1823    SANDS JAN. 30 1821    CHRISTIAN FEB. 15 1824    DOUGLASS FEB. 8 1829    EDGAR JAN. 2 1823

SCOTT FEB. 14 1838    GREENE JAN. 29 1821    MONTGOMERY FEB. 12 1821    SHELBY JAN. 22 1827    COLUMBIA MAR. 7 1813    CLARK MAR. 28 1819

JERSEY FEB. 20 1829    ACQUITA JAN. 12 1829    FAYETTE FEB. 14 1821    DEERFIELD FEB. 15 1831    JASPER FEB. 15 1831    GILFORD DEC. 31 1810

MADISON SEPT. 14 1812    CLAY DEC. 22 1824    RICHLAND FEB. 24 1841    LAWRENCE JAN. 24 1821

ST. CLAIR APR. 27 1790    CLINTON DEC. 27 1821    MARCH JAN. 24 1823    WAYNE MAR. 15 1814

MC INDE JAN. 4 1818    WASHINGTON JAN. 7 1818    JEFFERSON MAR. 24 1819    HAMILTON FEB. 3 1821    WHITE DEC. 9 1810

FRANKLIN JAN. 18 1816    HAMILTON FEB. 3 1821    WHITE DEC. 9 1810

JACKSON JAN. 24 1816    WILLIAMS FEB. 24 1819    TAZEWELL JAN. 27 1827    GALLATIN FEB. 25 1812

UNION JAN. 2 1811    JOHNSON FEB. 11 1817    DECATUR MAR. 27 1807    HANCOCK JAN. 17 1825

ALEXANDER MAR. 18 1815    HANCOCK JAN. 17 1825    MARIASAC FEB. 3 1843

8th Illinois Infantry  
Regiment History  
"Col. R.J. Oglesby's Regiment"  
Adjutant General's Report

July 25th, 1861, the regiment reorganized and was mustered in for three years' service. It remained at Cairo until October, 1861, when it was ordered at Bird's Point, Mo. During this time it received a thorough drill, and attained a high state of discipline. With other troops it made expeditions to Cape Girardeau, Commerce, Bloomfield, and Norfolk, Mo., and Paducah and Blandville, Ky., and joined in the feint on Columbus, Ky., in January.

The move to Bloomfield is fixed in the memory of the soldiers of the Eighth by the raid on the rebel Colonel Hunter's well stocked farm, and the rapid return march from Bloomfield to Cape Girardeau. In November, the regiment constructed at Bird's Point extensive and comfortable quarters for the winter.

February 2d, 1862, it was taken up the Tennessee River to a point near Fort Henry. On the 5th it reconnoitered the enemy's position, approaching near enough to attack and drive in his outpost. It was among the first to enter the Fort, after its reduction by the gunboats.

February 11th the movement on Fort Donelson began. The next day, under command of Lieut. Col. Frank L. Rhoads (Colonel Oglesby commanding the Brigade), it was in the advance of the column, where it met a strong outpost of the enemy about noon, and after a few volleys dislodged and drove them toward their entrenchment. The regiment was moved towards the Cumberland River, on a ridge overlooking, in places, the enemy's defenses. On the 13th moved further to the right, gaining a position still nearer the enemy. During this night the weather became extremely cold, and the men suffered greatly--being so near the rebel picket line no fires could be had. A driving snow-storm set in, adding to the discomforts of the situation. Many were severely frost-bitten. On the 14th the regiment was in position near the Dover road, with pickets thrown well to the front, and in constant action with those of the enemy. Another night of intense cold, with sleet and snow was experienced, and at early dawn on the 15th the enemy came out in massed columns and attacked us. Our men were quickly in line, and although stiffened and suffering with the cold, they met the first onset and stood their ground for about three hours, when, ammunition exhausted and the brigade to the right giving away, it was forced to retire. The regiment lost in this battle 57 killed, 191 wounded, and 10 missing. Major John P. Post was captured. Among the killed were Capt. Joseph M. Hanna and Lieut. Daniel A. Sheetz, F. Co., and Lieut. Henry Y. Marsh, B. Co., and Lieut. Joseph G. Howell, K Co., acting adjutant.

On the 6th of March the regiment embarked for Savannah on the Tennessee River, and a few days after for Pittsburg Landing. Here it was in McClernand's Division, and brigaded with the 18th Illinois, the 11th and 13th Iowa Regiments. The camping ground was excellent for drill, and the time was well occupied with that and other camp duties.

Sunday morning, April 6. when called into line for the impending battle of Shiloh, there were 25 officers and 453 enlisted men. The regiment was in command of Captain James M. Ashmore, C Co.; Lieutenant-Colonel Rhoads being absent sick, and Major Post a prisoner of war. The regiment was moved rapidly to a position of

left of Sherman's Division, and not far from Shiloh Church. At once it received a fierce attack from the enemy, but held its ground. Captain Ashmore was wounded and left the field. Captain William M. Harvey, K Co., next in rank took command and nobly lead the regiment until about 10 o'clock A.M., when he received a shot through his body and died instantly. The fight at this time was furious and the regiment was forced back, but recovering and reforming, it drove the enemy back over the ground it had lost. Captain Robert H. Sturges, H Co., next in rank, took command, and led the regiment with steady courage throughout the great battle. At night the regiment lay on the field exposed to the storm of rain that fell, and ready for the conflict of the succeeding day. It was in the front lines that early moved against the enemy on Monday morning, and performed its share in the battle of the day. Near the close of the second day's fight, the regiment, with the 18th Illinois, under the immediate orders of General McClelland, charged upon and captured a rebel battery, which was pouring a destructive fire upon our lines; some of the gunners were killed at their posts. The regiment lost at Shiloh 26 killed, 95 wounded and 11 missing. Among those wounded were Captain Loyd Wheaton, E Co, Lieutenant Geo. S. Durfee, A Co., and Adjutant Monroe.

By April 1862, the 8th Illinois regiment was under Gen. McClelland's First Division, in Col. Hare's First Brigade. Camped at Pittsburg Landing on April 5th, the 8th was to be part of the Federal rout at Shiloh on April 6th, 1862. The 8th was camped just north of Shiloh church when the Confederate forces under Johnston made a surprise attack on Gen. Grant's massed Federal forces here. With little time to organize, the Federals were soon being routed and pursued back towards Pittsburg Landing.