



1818 *200* 2018



Bicentennial Timeline

A random, day-to-day look at Illinois history for November and December 2018

History happens every day. People are born and pass away. Crooks are imprisoned. Cities rise and fall, and here at the ISHS, we keep track of it all. To help you start your own bicentennial celebration, here's a timeline of Illinois facts that aren't on most folks' radar, but deserve your attention, even if you're from Iowa.

November

November 1, 2016

U.S. Cellular Field, home of the Chicago White Sox, is renamed Guaranteed Rate Field.

November 2, 1977

Microbiologist Carl R. Woese and scientists from the University of Illinois announce the identification of methanogens, a form of microbial life (Archaea) dating back some 3.5 billion years.

November 3, 1992

Carol Moseley-Braun is the first African-American woman ever elected to the U.S. Senate.



November 4, 1924

Illinois voters approve the second bond issue of \$100 million for construction of hard roads.

November 5, 1918

Illinois voters approve the first bond issue of \$60 million for a statewide construction of hard roads, "pulling Illinois out of the mud."

November 6, 1868

Walter Loomis Newberry dies on a return trip from France for medical treatment. His bequest of \$2.1 million would eventually result in the foundation of the Newberry Library on July 1, 1887.

November 7, 1837

Elijah P. Lovejoy, editor of the abolitionist newspaper, the *Alton Observer*, is killed by a mob in Alton.



November 8, 1994

Judy Baar Topinka is elected to serve as State Treasurer, the first woman to hold that post.

November 9, 1968

An earthquake measuring 5.4 on the Richter scale occurs, the largest recorded earthquake ever to occur in Illinois. Its origin was later determined to be in the Southern Illinois Basin.

November 10, 1808

Jesse W. Fell is born in southeastern Pennsylvania. Fell would move to McLean County and was instrumental in founding towns in the region, including Clinton, Dwight, Normal and Pontiac.

November 11, 1925

Municipal Grant Park Stadium is officially renamed Soldier Field at the urging of Chicago's Gold Star Mothers.

November 12, 1926

The first recorded aerial bombing on US soil takes place in Williamson County during a feud between rival liquor gangs, the Sheltons and the Birgers. Charlie Birger ordered an attack on a Shelton associate's home.

November 13, 1909

The Cherry Coal Mine in Bureau County, Illinois, is the scene of the nation's 3rd deadliest mine disaster. A burning torch ignited hay for the coal mine's mules, touching off an explosion that killed 259 of the 500 men and boys working in the coal mine.



November 14, 1953

WCIA-TV channel 3 in Champaign, IL (CBS) begins broadcasting.

November 15, 1915

The first annual conference of the Illinois Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives is held in Decatur. The official name of the organization adopted at that meeting was "Illinois Commercial Secretaries Association."

November 16, 1928

Eureka College is the site of a midnight chapel meeting of students, held as a result of President Bert Wilson's proposal to reduce academic offering due to economic hardship. A freshman from Dixon, Ronald "Dutch" Reagan, gave a pro-strike speech.



November 17, 1834

William L. D. Ewing is inaugurated Governor to complete the unexpired term of John Reynolds.

November 18, 1992

The Centennial Building on the grounds of the Capitol Complex in Springfield is renamed in honor of Michael J Howlett. He served three terms as State Auditor and one term as Secretary of State (1961-1976).

November 19, 1945

American Airlines inaugurates weekly airline service from Chicago to London.

**November 20, 1901**

After shakedown and training in Chesapeake Bay, the first Navy ship commissioned as the "USS Illinois" sails for Algiers, La., where she was

used to test a new floating dry dock. This battleship ship was laid down in 1897.

November 21, 1925

Red Grange plays his final game as a half back for the University of Illinois before signing with the Chicago Bears. He was inducted into the football Hall of Fame January 29, 1963.

**November 22, 1911**

Alfred Tennyson Dickens, son of Charles Dickens, visits East St. Louis, Belleville and Lebanon, stopping at the "Looking Glass Prairie," which his father had visited in 1842.

November 23, 1921

A football game between the semi-professional teams of Taylorville and Carlinville is played, in which the players in the second half were substituted for University of Illinois players for Taylorville opposing Notre Dame players for Carlinville.

November 24, 1942

Three German-Americans and their wives are sentenced in Chicago federal court in the first treason trial ever held in Illinois. The men are sentenced to death and the women to fine and imprisonment.

November 25, 1872

Bunker Hill in Macoupin County is incorporated as a city. It had previously been incorporated February 17, 1857. When it was settled by Moses True and John Tilden in 1835, it was named in honor of the Revolutionary War battle in Massachusetts.

November 26, 1867

The University Library is founded in 1867 in the charter establishing the school that became the University of Illinois. The Library pre-dated the University.

November 27, 1897

110,000 spectators crowd into Soldier Field for the Army v. Navy game, which resulted in a tie at 21-21. It was also the day the field was officially dedicated as Soldier Field.

November 28, 1968

First women's liberation conference is held in Chicago (November 28-30).

November 29, 1993

"Abe Lincoln in Illinois" opens at the Beaumont Theater in New York City for 40 performances. Robert Sherwood's script first played on Broadway in the 1930s and the film version directed by John Cromwell was released in 1940.

November 30, 1911

Charles Dickens' son, Alfred Tennyson Dickens pays a 2-day visit to Cairo. One month later, he died at Astor House in New York. Like his brother Francis, this son of the famous author is buried in the U.S.



December

December 1, 1820

Vandalia is declared the capital of Illinois by an act of the General Assembly, replacing Kaskaskia. State government will meet here until 1837.

**December 2, 1942**

Enrico Fermi directs the world's first controlled nuclear reaction at the University of Chicago.

December 3, 1818

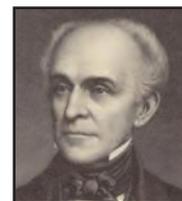
Illinois enters the Union as the 21st state.

December 4, 1982

Pontiac, on the Vermilion River, has the worst flood in the history of the town, with the river cresting at 19.16 feet.

December 5, 1822

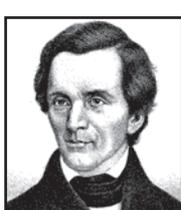
Edward Coles is inaugurated as second Governor of Illinois. Prior to his arrival in the state in 1817, the Virginia planter freed his 19 slaves midway across the Ohio River into the Northwest Territory.

**December 6, 1830**

John Reynolds is inaugurated as Governor. He later wrote a history of the state's early years from 1673 to 1818, the year of statehood. It was published in 1852.

December 7, 1838

Thomas Carlin is inaugurated as Governor. He was a Ranger during the War of 1812 and was instrumental in the founding of Greene County, serving as its first Sheriff. He is buried in Carrolton City Cemetery.

**December 8, 1842**

Thomas Ford takes office as Governor. He is remembered for his role in the murder of Joseph and Hyrum Smith, after he encouraged them to face their accusers in Hancock County and then abandoned them to their fate.

**December 9, 1846**

Augustus C. French is inaugurated as Governor, distinguished as the last Governor to assume office in December. Following the adoption of the state's 2nd Constitution in 1848, terms of office would begin in January following the election year.

December 10, 1931

Hull House founder Jane Addams is the first American woman to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

December 11, 1961

Channahon in Will County is incorporated as a village. By tradition its name is an Algonquian term for "where the waters meet," likely referring to the convergence of the Du Page and Des Plaines Rivers.

December 12, 1922

Illinois voters reject a proposal submitted by the Constitutional Convention. It would be almost 50 years before the state would adopt a new Constitution.

December 13, 1925

Actor Dick Van Dyke is born in West Plains Missouri. By the time his younger brother Jerry is born in July, 1931, the family has relocated to Danville.

December 14, 1966

The Weather Bureau office in Springfield discontinues its pilot balloon (pibal) observation program.

December 15, 1873

Chrisman in Edgar County is incorporated as a city. The town's origins lie with the development of railroad lines in the area. Ross Township committed some \$12,000 toward the establishment of right-of-way for the railroad.

December 17, 1881

Fayetteville's incorporation as a village in St. Clair County is recorded. It was first incorporated April 15, 1869.

December 18, 1896

Austin High School and Oak Park girls basketball teams meet in the first interscholastic basketball contest in Illinois. Basketball in Illinois was first popular as a girls sport and they did not play with rules modified for girls.

December 19, 1834

Jasper County's 1831 formation is approved. The county is named for a Revolutionary War hero Sergeant Jasper, who served in South Carolina and Georgia under General William Moultrie.

December 20, 1836

Arriving at 10 am on the Illinois/Iowa border and making it to the border with Indiana at 6 pm, a tumultuous cloud and strong wind brought an end to unseasonably warm weather and turned melted snow to ice, freezing ducks and geese in the water.

December 21, 1932

The first official meeting of the University of Illinois and University of Missouri basketball teams at Brewer Field House in Columbia. The Illinois defeated the Tigers 36-24, and would repeat this win with this score the following year.

December 22, 1910

A fire breaks out in Warehouse 7 of Chicago's Union Stockyards shortly after 4 am. By the time the blaze was extinguished at 6:37 am on December 23, 50 engine companies and seven hook and ladder companies had been called to the scene.

**December 23, 1824**

Clay County is established, named for Kentucky Senator Henry Clay, most notable for the Compromise of 1850. Abraham Lincoln greatly admired him and he was a family friend of Mary Todd Lincoln.

December 24, 1830

Christmas Eve marked the first snowstorm of this winter. Strong winds drifted the snow as high as a person could see, with settlers and animals perishing in the event that early settlers recalled as the "Deep Snow."

December 25, 1856

Chicago's Union Stock Yards opens, setting the stage for the city to become "hog butcher to the world."

December 26, 1944

Tennessee Williams' play "The Glass Menagerie" is first performed publicly, at the Civic Theatre in Chicago, IL.

December 27, 1824

Clinton County is established, named for DeWitt Clinton, the New York Senator and Governor who was primarily responsible for the Erie Canal's development.

**December 28, 1886**

Josephine Garis Cochrane of Shelbyville receives the first US patent for a commercially successful dishwasher. Dishes fit in compartments in a wheel that turned inside a copper boiler. Her company eventually becomes KitchenAid.

December 29, 1963

Some 45,800 fans jam Wrigley Field to watch the Chicago Bears defeat the New York Giants, 14-10, in the NFL Championship game. The coverage of the game was blacked out locally and some 26,000 fans watched in warm comfort at McCormick Place.

December 30, 1903

A fire in Chicago's Iroquois Theater kills 571 people during a matinee performance of "Mr. Bluebeard." It was the deadliest theater fire in U.S. history, aggravated by the single entrance via a broad stairway.

**December 31, 1816**

Crawford County is established, named for William Harris Crawford, a U.S. Senator from Georgia who served in President James Madison's Cabinet as secretary of war and secretary of treasury.

by Gwen Podeschi