CHRONOLOGY OF ILLINOIS HISTORY

20,000-8,000 B.C. — **Paleo-Indians** migrate to Illinois. They gather wild plants and hunt animals, including the giant bison, wooly mammoth and mastodon.

8,000-1,000 B.C. — During the **Archaic Period**, Illinois inhabitants cultivate plants and create specialized tools for hunting and fishing.

700-1500 — Mississippian Native Americans build large planned towns with flat-topped temple mounds along rivers.

Near present-day Collinsville, 120 mounds are built in a city with a population of more than 20,000. **Monks Mound** is the largest prehistoric earthen construction in North America.

Extraction of salt from Saline County begins.

1655 — The **Iroquois** invade Illinois and defeat the Illini. Native American wars continue sporadically for 120 years.

1673 — The **Illiniwek** (tribe of men), a Native American confederation consisting of Cahokias, Kaskaskias, Mitchagamies, Peorias and Tamaroas, encounter French explorers who refer to the people and country as "Illinois."

Frenchmen **Jacques Marquette** and **Louis Jolliet** descend the Mississippi River to Arkansas and return to Lake Michigan by way of the Illinois River.

1680 — La Salle builds **Fort Crevecoeur** on the Illinois River near present Peoria.

SEPTEMBER — The Iroquois chase the Illini from Illinois. Twelve hundred Tamaroas are tortured and killed.

1682 — La Salle builds **Fort St. Louis** on Starved Rock.

1691-92 — Tonti and La Forest build the second Fort St. Louis, better known as **Fort Pimitoui**, on Lake Peoria.

1696 — Jesuit priest Francois Pinet organizes the **Mission of the Guardian Angel**, the first permanent place of worship in the pre-Chicago wilderness. It will be abandoned in 1699.

1699 — Montigny and St. Cosme, priests of the Seminary of Foreign Missions, establish the Holy Family Mission at Cahokia.

1703 — APRIL — The French Jesuits transfer their Illinois Indian mission from Des Peres (present-day St. Louis) southeast to a site near the mouth of the Kaskaskia River, thereby founding the town of **Kaskaskia**.

1719 — **Fort de Chartres**, near present Prairie du Rocher, is established and becomes the seat of military and civil government in Illinois. It is rebuilt in 1727, 1732 and 1753.

1757 — The French build **Fort Ascension**, later known as Fort Massac, on the Ohio River near present Metropolis.

1755-63 — **French and Indian War**. The struggle between France and Great Britain for colonial supremacy in North America brings an end to French rule. With the Treaty of Paris, France cedes her North American possessions east of the Mississippi to Great Britain.

1772 — The British abandon and destroy **Fort de Chartres**, leaving behind a small garrison in Kaskaskia.

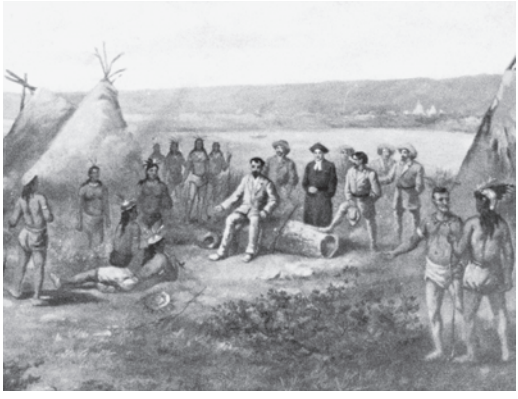
1775 — APRIL — The **American Revolution** begins. The British control the Illinois Territory.

1776 — JULY 4 — American colonists adopt the **Declaration of Independence** in Philadelphia.

1775-83 — American **War of Independence** against Great Britain.

1778 — JULY 4 — Virginian **George Rogers Clark** and about 175 men defeat the British at Kaskaskia. Illinois is organized as a county of Virginia.

1779 — FEBRUARY 24 — After a 19-day, 180-mile march across Illinois, Clark defeats the British at Vincennes.



Left: French explorers Marquette and Jolliet are depicted in a mural in the State Capitol Building.
Right: George Rogers Clark is portrayed in a mural in the State Capitol Building.

MAY — Kentuckian John Todd, first county lieutenant, organizes the civil and military government. About this time, **Jean Baptiste Pont du Sable** builds the first permanent settlement at what will become present-day Chicago.

1783 — The **Treaty of Paris**, ending the American War of Independence, extends the infant nation's western boundary to the Mississippi.

1784 — MARCH 1 — Virginia relinquishes claim to Illinois, paving the way for territorial organization.

1787 — JULY 13 — Congress passes the **Ordinance of 1787**, providing for the organization of the Northwest Territory, which includes Illinois.

1788 — **Arthur St. Clair** is appointed Governor of the Northwest Territory.

1790 — St. Clair (APRIL 27) and Knox (JUNE 20) counties are organized.

1795 — Randolph County is organized.

AUGUST 3 — Through the **Treaty of Greenville**, the U.S. government reserves certain locations for the building of forts. Sites were designated at Chicago, Peoria and the mouth of the Illinois River.

1800 — MAY 7 — Legislation creating the **Indiana Territory**, including Illinois, is approved by Congress.

1801 — JANUARY 10 — **William Henry Harrison**, Governor of the Indiana Territory, arrives at Vincennes, the territorial capital.

1803 — American troops build and occupy **Fort Dearborn**, on the site of Chicago.

Gov. Harrison concludes a treaty with the Kaskaskia Indians at Vincennes, by which their claim to all land in the Illinois Country, except a small area around Kaskaskia, is relinquished.

1804 — MARCH 26 — Congress directs establishment of a U.S. land office at Kaskaskia. This is the first of 10 such offices in Illinois, with the purpose of selling land to settlers.

1809 — FEBRUARY 3 — The **Illinois Territory**, including portions of the present states of Wisconsin, Michigan and Minnesota, is created by an act of Congress. Kaskaskia, located along the Mississippi in the area known as the "American Bottom," becomes the first territorial capital.

FEBRUARY 12 — **Abraham Lincoln** is born in Kentucky.

APRIL 24 — **Ninian Edwards** of Kentucky is appointed the first Illinois Territory Governor by President James Madison.

1810 — Population: 12,262.

Coal is shipped from southern Illinois to New Orleans for the first time.

1812 — MAY 20 — Illinois becomes a territory of the second grade, with suffrage for all white males age 21 and older who pay taxes and have lived in the territory more than a year.

AUGUST 15 — Native Americans attack U.S. troops and civilians who are evacuating Fort Dearborn; 52 whites are killed.

1812-14 — **The War of 1812** becomes a watershed in the American battle with the British and Native Americans for trade and territory.

1813 — **Fort Clark** is constructed on Peoria Lake. It is garrisoned by American troops and state militia during the War of 1812. In 1819, it is destroyed by Native Americans.

1814 — **Matthew Duncan** brings the first printing press to Kaskaskia and there publishes Illinois' first newspaper, the ***Illinois Herald***.

1816 — The United States builds and garrisons Fort Armstrong (Rock Island) and Fort Edwards (Warsaw) and rebuilds Fort Dearborn (Chicago).

1818 — APRIL 18 — Congress passes the **Illinois Enabling Act**, which provides for the organization of a state government, fixes the northern boundary of Illinois and establishes a permanent school fund from a portion of the proceeds from the sale of public lands.

AUGUST 26 — The Illinois Constitutional Convention, meeting at Kaskaskia, adopts a State Constitution and selects Kaskaskia as the first state capital.

OCTOBER 6 — **Shadrach Bond**, the first Governor of Illinois, is inaugurated.

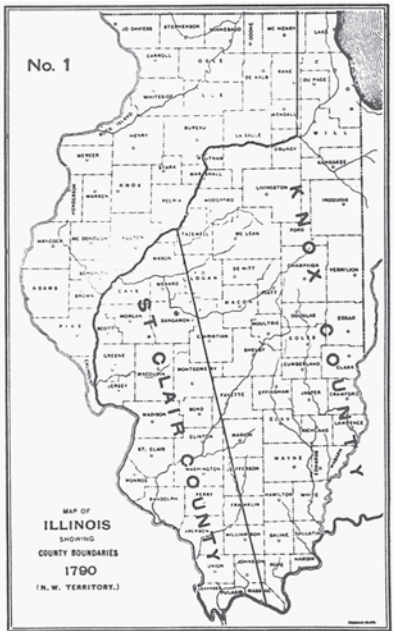
DECEMBER 3 — President Monroe signs the congressional resolution making Illinois the 21st state.

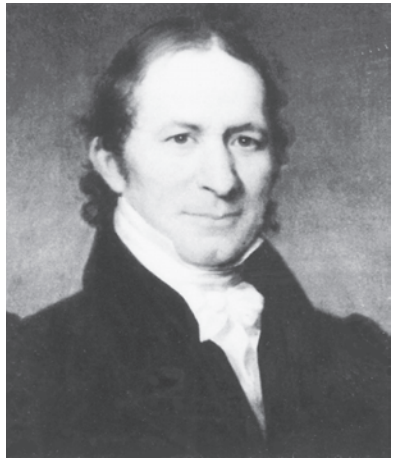
1820 — Population: 55,211.

DECEMBER 1 — By an act of the General Assembly, **Vandalia** is declared the capital of Illinois.

1821 — FEBRUARY — The General Assembly charters a state bank at Vandalia.

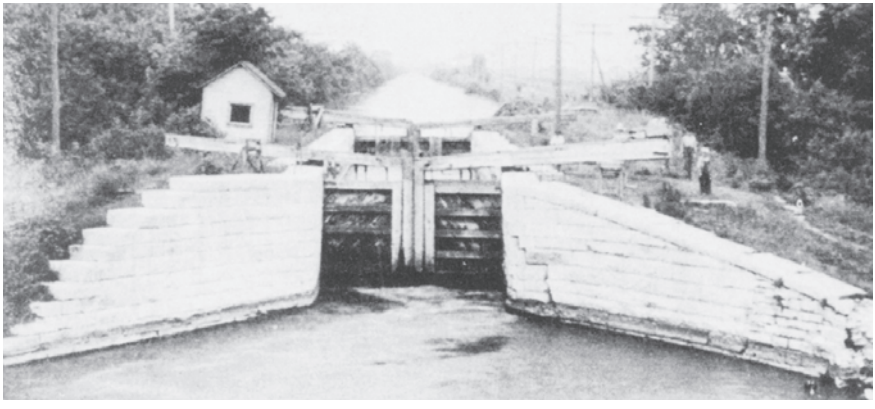
1822 — DECEMBER 5 — **Edward Coles** is inaugurated Governor.





Above: Shadrach Bond was inaugurated the first Governor of Illinois in 1818.

Left: A map of St. Clair and Knox counties in 1790.



Locks on the Illinois and Michigan Canal at Marseilles.

1823 — The rush to the Galena lead mines begins.

1824 — AUGUST 6 — Illinois voters refuse to call a convention to amend the Constitution to legalize slavery in Illinois. After a long and bitter campaign, anti-slavery forces led by **Gov. Coles** narrowly defeat the pro-slavery element.

1825 — The General Assembly levies the first tax for public schools.

1826 — DECEMBER 6 — **Ninian Edwards** is inaugurated Governor.

1827 — Congress grants land to Illinois to aid in the construction of the Illinois and Michigan Canal.

The General Assembly establishes a state penitentiary at Alton.

A threatened Native American uprising comes to be known as the **Winnebago War.**

1829 — JULY 29 — The Potawatomi, Ottawa and Chippewa Indians cede to the state more than 3,000 square miles in northern Illinois.

1830 — Population: 157,445.

Abraham Lincoln and his family move to Macon County from southern Indiana.

DECEMBER 6 — **John Reynolds** is inaugurated Governor.

1832 — APRIL — The **Black Hawk War**.

AUGUST 3 — Black Hawk is captured, and the Potawatomi and Winnebago Indians are compelled to cede land in northern Illinois.

1833 — AUGUST 12 — The newly elected **Chicago Board of Trustees** meets for the first time, marking the beginning of the legal existence of the town.

SEPTEMBER 26 — With the **Treaty of Chicago**, the Potawatomi, Ottawa and Chippewa Indians relinquish all claim to their lands in northeastern Illinois. This is the last of the Indian treaties pertaining to land in Illinois.

The **Jacksonville Female Seminary**, the first institution for the higher education of women in the state, is opened.

1834 — NOVEMBER 17 — **William L.D. Ewing** is inaugurated Governor to complete the unexpired term after Gov. Reynolds' resignation.

DECEMBER 1 — **Abraham Lincoln**, now living in New Salem, takes his seat for the first time as a member of the Illinois General Assembly.

DECEMBER 3 — **Joseph Duncan** is inaugurated Governor.

1836 — JULY 4 — Construction of the Illinois and Michigan Canal commences at Canalport on the Chicago River.

1837 — FEBRUARY 27 — The General Assembly passes the **Internal Improvement Act**, calling for a statewide program of public works. Roads and railroads are to be built, and

rivers and streams made navigable, all at state expense. This grandiose scheme will collapse under its own weight by 1841, leaving in its wake a huge state debt.

MARCH 3 — The General Assembly passes an act moving the state capital from Vandalia to **Springfield** in 1839.

MARCH 4 — The General Assembly approves a city charter for **Chicago**.

JULY 4 — The cornerstone of the first statehouse in Springfield is laid.

NOVEMBER 7 — **Elijah P. Lovejoy**, editor of the abolitionist newspaper the *Alton Observer* is slain by a mob in Alton.

John Deere invents the steel plow at Grand Junction.

1838 — DECEMBER 7 — **Thomas Carlin** is inaugurated Governor.

1839 — FEBRUARY 22 — A **State Library** is created by the General Assembly.

Mormons, driven from Missouri, found the town of Nauvoo on the Illinois side of the Mississippi River. By 1845, it will have grown to become the largest city in Illinois, with a population of at least 12,000.

The Potawatomis near Chicago are the last Native Americans to leave Illinois.

1840 — Population: 476,183.

1842 — FEBRUARY 15 — The first train reaches Springfield over the tracks of the Northern Cross Railroad.

DECEMBER 8 — **Thomas Ford** takes office as Governor.

1844 — JUNE 27 — Climaxing a growing dissension between the Mormons and their neighbors, the religion's founder, **Joseph Smith**, and his brother, **Hyrum**, are slain by an anti-Mormon mob at the Carthage jail in western Illinois.

1846 — AUGUST 3 — **Abraham Lincoln** is elected to the U.S. House of Representatives.

DECEMBER 9 — **Augustus C. French** is inaugurated Governor.

In early spring, the Mormons leave Nauvoo on their long journey to Utah. The forced exodus ends a two-year period marked by frequent clashes among the Mormons, anti-Mormons and the state militia in Hancock County.

1846-48 — Illinois furnishes six regiments and several independent companies for the **Mexican War**.

1848 — MARCH 5 — Illinois adopts its second Constitution, giving the Governor more power and making all state and county offices subject to popular elections.

APRIL 23 — The first boat passes through the Illinois and Michigan Canal. Linking Lake Michigan with the Illinois River, it will remain in operation until 1935.

1849 — JANUARY 8 — **Augustus C. French** is inaugurated for a second term as Governor.

1850 — Population: 851,470.

1851 — The Illinois Central Railroad is chartered; it is completed in 1856.

JANUARY 28 — **Northwestern University** is chartered by the General Assembly.

SEPTEMBER — **Newton Bateman** organizes Illinois' first free public high school in Jacksonville.

1853 — JANUARY 10 — **Joel A. Matteson** takes office as Governor.

FEBRUARY 12 — **Illinois Wesleyan University** in Bloomington is chartered.

OCTOBER 11-13 — The first **Illinois State Fair** is held in Springfield, as it is in October of the following year. Thereafter, it is held annually at different locations across the state until 1893, when it returns to Springfield permanently.

1854 — MARCH 15 — **Ninian W. Edwards** is appointed first superintendent of the newly created Office of Public Instruction.

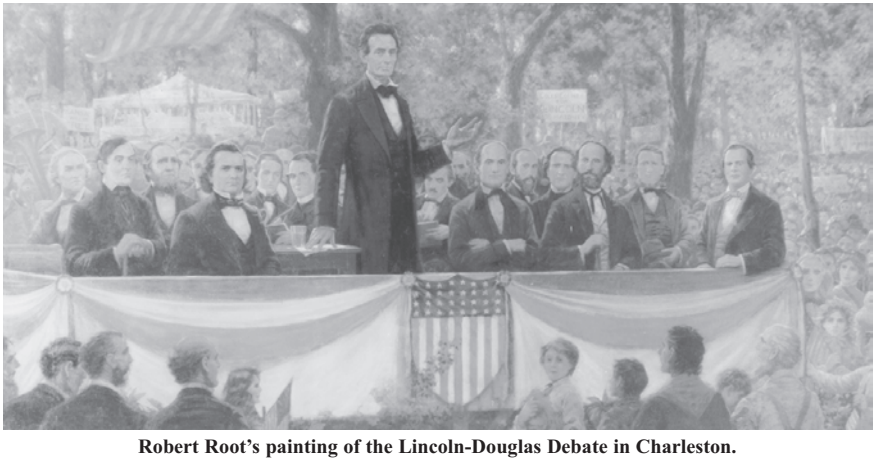
1855 — FEBRUARY 15 — Legislation is approved to provide a free public school system.

1855-58 — **George M. Pullman** engineers much of the raising of the street grades and buildings in Chicago by 4 to 7 feet.

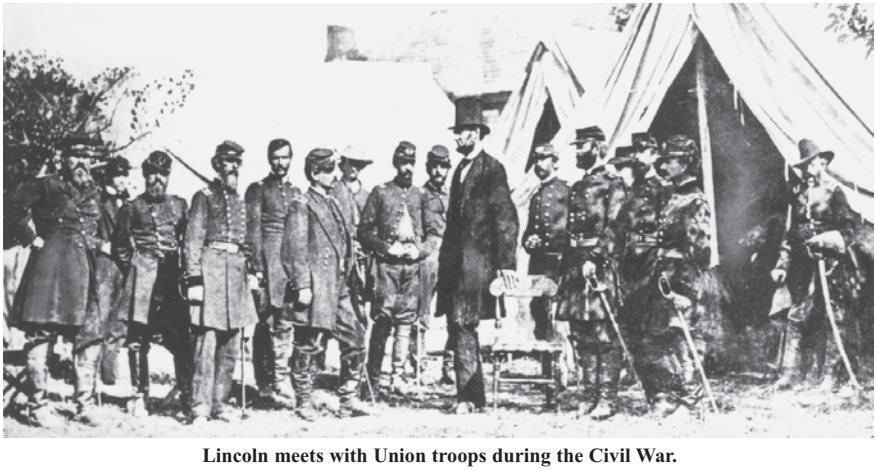
1856 — MAY 29 — The first Illinois Republican State Convention is held in Bloomington.

Left: Mormon leader Joseph Smith was slain by an anti-Mormon mob at the Carthage jail in 1844.

Right: Andrew Jackson Smith received the Congressional Medal of Honor posthumously in 2001 for bravery in action during the Civil War.



Robert Root's painting of the Lincoln-Douglas Debate in Charleston.



Lincoln meets with Union troops during the Civil War.

DECEMBER 25 — The **Union Stock Yards** open, helping Chicago become "hog butcher for the world." The yards are closed on July 30, 1971.

1857 — JANUARY 12 — **William H. Bissell** is inaugurated Governor.

FEBRUARY 18 — The first state "normal" university is established in what was formerly North Bloomington.

1858 — AUGUST-OCTOBER — **Abraham Lincoln** and **Stephen A. Douglas** hold one debate in each of the seven Illinois congressional districts as a part of their senatorial campaigns. Douglas wins the election, but the exposure makes Lincoln a national figure.

1860 — Population: 1,711,951.

MARCH 21 — **Lt. Gov. John Wood** becomes Governor, succeeding William H. Bissell, the first Illinois Governor to die while in office.

MAY 16-18 — The Republican National Convention meets in Chicago and nominates **Abraham Lincoln** for President. Lincoln's old nemesis, **Stephen A. Douglas**, is nominated by the northern wing of the Democratic Party in Baltimore.

1861 — JANUARY 14 — **Richard Yates** is inaugurated Governor.

1861-65 — The **Civil War** begins on APRIL 12 when Confederate forces fire on Fort Sumter. It ends four years later on APRIL 9, with Lee's surrender at Appomattox. Though possessing considerable southern sympathy, Illinois answers every call for troops and is one of the few states to exceed its quota: 259,052 Illinoisans serve in Union forces.

1862 — A **Constitutional Convention** meets at Springfield, but the new State Constitution is not ratified by voters.

Former slave **Andrew Jackson Smith** suffers a head wound while assisting Illinois Major John Warner at the Battle of Shiloh in 1862. After recovering in Clinton, Smith enlists in the Union Army and serves with valor for three years.

1863 — JUNE 10 — **Gov. Yates** adjourns the General Assembly.

1864 — AUGUST 29 — The Democratic National Convention, meeting in Chicago, nominates **General George B. McClellan** for President.

1865 — APRIL 14 — **President Abraham Lincoln** is assassinated at Ford's Theatre in Washington, D.C., by actor and southern sympathizer John Wilkes Booth and dies the following morning. Lincoln's remains are carried by train in a grand funeral procession spanning 12 days on its way back to his hometown of Springfield, Illinois, for burial in Oak Ridge Cemetery.

1868 — MAY 20-22 — **Ulysses S. Grant** is nominated for President by the Republican National Convention in Chicago.

OCTOBER 5 — The cornerstone for the new statehouse is laid, with work being completed in 1888.

OCTOBER 26 — Authorized by the General Assembly on March 7, 1867, the redesigned State Seal is used on a document for the first time.

1869 — JANUARY 11 — **John M. Palmer** is inaugurated Governor.

1870 — Population: 2,539,891.

AUGUST 8 — The new Illinois State Constitution goes into effect.

SEPTEMBER 5 — The first classes are held at Chicago's Saint Ignatius College. In 1909, the Jesuit-founded school will be rechartered as **Loyola University**.

Chicago experiences some 600 fires.

1871 — APRIL 15 — The Illinois Department of Agriculture is created.

OCTOBER 8-9 — The **Chicago Fire** razes an area of 3 1/2 square miles in the heart of the city, at the cost of 300 lives and $200 million worth of property.

1872 — APRIL 15 — The first legislation for the protection of miners in Illinois is approved.

1873 — JANUARY 13 — **Richard J. Oglesby** begins his second term as Governor.

JANUARY 23 — **John L. Beveridge** is inaugurated Governor when Oglesby resigns to become a U.S. Senator.

1877 — JANUARY 3 — The new State Capitol opens unfinished.

State **Rep. John W. E. Thomas** takes his seat as the first African-American to serve in the General Assembly.

1880 — Population: 3,077,871.

JUNE 2-8 — The Republican National Convention in Chicago nominates **James A. Garfield** for President.

1881 — JANUARY 10 — **Shelby M. Cullom** begins his second term as Governor.

1883 — FEBRUARY 6 — **John M. Hamilton** becomes Governor, succeeding Shelby M. Cullom, who resigns to become a U.S. Senator.

JUNE 23 — Illinois' first compulsory school attendance law is passed by the General Assembly.

OCTOBER 11 — The General Time Convention meets in Chicago and sets "Standard Time" for all U.S. trains starting November 18.

1884 — JUNE 3-6 — The Republican National Convention in Chicago nominates **James G. Blaine** for President and **John A. Logan** of Illinois for Vice President.

JULY 8-11 — The Democratic National Convention in Chicago nominates **Grover Cleveland** for President.

1885 — JANUARY 30 — **Richard J. Oglesby** becomes the first man in Illinois history to be inaugurated Governor three times.

The first skyscraper, William Le Baron Jenney's Home Insurance Building, is completed in Chicago.

1886 — MAY 4 — When a detachment of police moves to break up a mass labor meeting at **Haymarket Square** in Chicago, a bomb explodes and police open fire. Seven officers are killed, and many other persons are killed and wounded. Numerous arrests are made, and four alleged anarchists are eventually hanged. In 1893, Gov. Altgeld will pardon the three surviving prisoners.

Destruction caused by the 1871 Chicago Fire.

A one-room school in Illinois at the beginning of the 20th century.

Above: State Rep. John W.E. Thomas was the first African-American to serve in the General Assembly.

Left: An 1886 labor rally resulted in a riot in Chicago's Haymarket Square.

Below: In 1910, Illinois was one of the first states to enact legislation to improve safety conditions for coal miners.

1888 — JUNE 19-25 — The Republican National Convention in Chicago nominates **Benjamin Harrison** for President.

1889 — JANUARY 14 — **Joseph W. Fifer** is inaugurated Governor.

MAY 25 — The General Assembly enacts legislation creating the Illinois State Historical Library.

SEPTEMBER 18 — **Jane Addams** and her associates found one of the earliest social settlement houses in the United States, Hull House in Chicago.

1890 — Population: 3,826,352.

SEPTEMBER 10 — The University of Chicago is chartered.

1891 — JUNE 19 — By act of the General Assembly, the right of suffrage in school elections is granted to women.

Illinois adopts the principles of the Australian secret ballot.

1892 — JUNE 21-23 — The Democratic National Convention in Chicago nominates **Grover Cleveland** for President and **Adlai E. Stevenson** of Illinois for Vice President.

1893 — JANUARY 10 — **John P. Altgeld** is inaugurated Governor.

MAY 1-OCTOBER 30 — The **World's Columbian Exposition**, commemorating the 400th anniversary of Columbus' discovery of America, is held in Chicago.

JUNE 17 — The General Assembly passes the **Sweatshop Act** providing for the inspection of factories and the regulation of child labor.

1894 — MAY-JULY — A strike of **Pullman Car Company** employees develops into a general railway strike. Before order is restored, mob violence and destruction of property necessitate the calling out of federal troops.

1896 — JULY 7-11 — The Democratic National Convention in Chicago nominates Illinois native **William Jennings Bryan** for President.

1897 — JANUARY 11 — **John R. Tanner** is inaugurated Governor.

1898 — APRIL 25 — The United States declares **war on Spain** after the destruction of the battleship Maine in Havana Harbor. Illinois provides more than 12,000 men for the conflict. By August, hostilities have ceased, and the peace treaty is signed in Paris on December 10.

1899 — APRIL 11 — The General Assembly establishes free employment offices in cities with populations of more than 50,000 and provides for the licensing of private employment agencies.

1900 — Population: 4,821,550.

The flow of the Chicago River is reversed as the main channel of the **Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal to Lockport** is opened.

1901 — JANUARY 14 — **Richard Yates**, the son of Illinois' Civil War Governor, is inaugurated Governor.

1903 — MAY 15 — An improved law for the regulation of child labor is passed by the General Assembly. Under provisions of the act, Illinois is the first state to establish an eight-hour workday and a 48-hour workweek for children.

DECEMBER 30 — A fire in Chicago's **Iroquois Theater** results in the death of 571 persons. The tragedy is followed by passage of improved safety legislation throughout the nation.

1904 — JUNE 21-23 — The Republican National Convention in Chicago nominates **Theodore Roosevelt** for President.

1905 — JANUARY 9 — **Charles S. Deneen** is inaugurated Governor.

MAY 11 — The General Assembly enacts a state Civil Service Code to be administered by an appointive commission.

MAY 13 — The State Board of Health is authorized to distribute diphtheria antitoxin.

1906 — The **Chicago White Sox** defeat the **Chicago Cubs** to win the World Series.

1907 — MAY 16 — A local option law regulating the consumption of alcoholic beverages is passed by the General Assembly.

The **Chicago Cubs** defeat the Detroit Tigers to win the World Series.

DECEMBER 24 — **DePaul University** is chartered.

The Hennepin (Illinois-Mississippi) Canal, authorized in 1890, is completed. It extends from Great Bend on the Illinois River to the Mississippi River, 3 miles below Rock Island.

1908 — FEBRUARY 21 — The native oak becomes the official state tree, and the native violet is designated as the state flower by the General Assembly.

JUNE 16-19 — The Republican National Convention in Chicago nominates **William Howard Taft** for President.

The new Illinois Supreme Court Building is dedicated in Springfield.

For the second consecutive year, the **Chicago Cubs** defeat the Detroit Tigers to win the World Series.

1909 — JANUARY 18 — **Charles S. Deneen** begins his second term as Governor.

JUNE 15 — The General Assembly passes the Ten-Hour Law for women. The constitutionality of the law is upheld by the Illinois Supreme Court.

NOVEMBER 13 — A disastrous mine fire in Cherry, Illinois, kills 259 men.

The Chicago Plan, the first comprehensive urban development program ever offered to an American city, is published.

1910 — Population: 5,638,591.

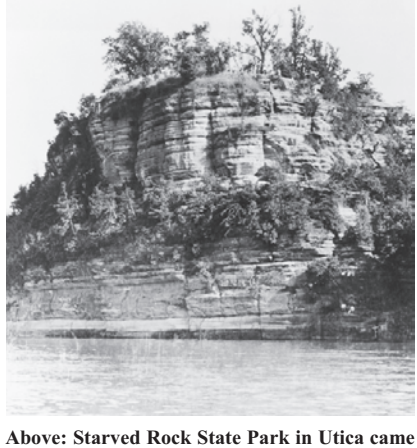
MARCH 4 — Illinois is the first state to pass legislation providing for mine firefighting and rescue stations in coal mining centers.

MARCH 9 — After several unsuccessful attempts, the General Assembly passes a direct primary law, which is upheld by the courts.

1911 — FEBRUARY 6 — **Ronald W. Reagan**, 40th President of the United States, is born in Tampico in Whiteside County.

MAY 26 — The General Assembly enacts legislation protecting workmen against occupational diseases.

JUNE 5 — By providing a fund for the care of dependent and neglected children, Illinois becomes the first state to pass "mothers' aid" legislation.



Above: Starved Rock State Park in Utica came under state control in June 1911.

Left: More than 500 people were killed in the 1903 Iroquois Theater fire in Chicago.

JUNE 10 — The Starved Rock State Park Bill becomes law. By the end of the year, **Starved Rock State Park** is transferred to state control.

JUNE 10 — The General Assembly passes the first **Workmen's Compensation Act**, providing compensation for death or injury in designated industries.

1912 — JUNE 18-22 — The Republican National Convention in Chicago nominates **William Howard Taft** for President.

AUGUST 5-7 — The first National Convention of the Progressive Party meets in Chicago and nominates **Theodore Roosevelt** for President.

1913 — FEBRUARY 3 — **Edward F. Dunne** is inaugurated Governor.

JUNE 26 — The General Assembly grants women the right to vote for presidential electors, making Illinois the first state east of the Mississippi to do so.

JUNE 26 — The General Assembly creates a **Legislative Reference Bureau**.

Catherine McCulloch, a "lady lawyer," drafts the Illinois Women's Suffrage Bill and fights for its passage.

1915 — JULY 6 — A state flag is adopted by the General Assembly. On July 1, 1970, a modified version with the word "Illinois" becomes official.

JULY 24 — The excursion steamer Eastland capsizes as it leaves its wharf in the Chicago River. Of some 2,000 passengers, 844 are killed.

1916 — JUNE 7-10 — The Republican National Convention in Chicago nominates **Charles E. Hughes** for President.

1917 — JANUARY 8 — **Frank O. Lowden** is inaugurated Governor.

MARCH 2 — The General Assembly passes the **Civil Administrative Code**, providing for the reorganization and consolidation of Illinois Government.

In MAY, and again in JULY, the Illinois National Guard is sent to East St. Louis to restore order. Race rioting broke out when a stream of black laborers from the South flooded the labor market.

The **Chicago White Sox** defeat the New York Giants to win the World Series.

SEPTEMBER — The **Assyrian American Association** of Chicago was founded by Rev. Joel E. Warda, with Chicago inventor **David Yadgir** as a charter member.

1917-18 — The United States enters **World War I** on the side of the allies. In Illinois, a State Council on Defense is appointed and all state facilities are mobilized. More than 350,000 men, including the 33rd Division, composed entirely of Illinois National Guard units, are inducted into the Army and Navy. The war claims the lives of 4,266 Illinois soldiers.

1918 — NOVEMBER 5 — Illinois voters approve the first bond issue ($60 million) for the construction of a statewide system of hard roads.

1919 — JULY 27-AUGUST 3 — The **Illinois National Guard** is called out when serious race riots break out in Chicago.

1920 — Population: 6,485,280.

JANUARY 6 — The Illinois Constitutional Convention convenes at Springfield.

JUNE 8-12 — The Republican National Convention in Chicago nominates **Warren G. Harding** for President.

NOVEMBER 6 — Construction of the Illinois Waterway begins at Bell's Island, west of Marseilles.

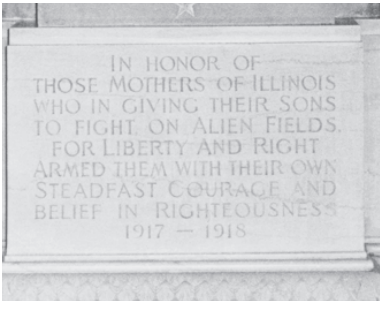
1921 — JANUARY 10 — **Lennington Small** is inaugurated Governor.

1922 — JUNE 21-22 — Twenty-two miners are slain in Herrin when violence breaks out during a general coal strike.

NOVEMBER — **Lottie Holman O'Neill** becomes the first woman elected to the General Assembly. She serves for 38 years.

DECEMBER 12 — Illinois voters reject the proposal submitted by the Constitutional Convention.

World War I soldiers prepare to leave Springfield.



Left/above: This WWI Memorial is located on the first floor of the Michael J. Howlett Building, adjacent to the State Capitol.

Below left: Catherine Gouger Waugh McCulloch fought for women's suffrage from 1893 to 1913.

Below right: The State Arsenal in Springfield after being destroyed by fire in 1934.

1923 — The Illinois State Library, State Museum and State Historical Library move into the first section of the new **Centennial Building** in Springfield.

1924 — NOVEMBER 4 — The second bond issue ($100 million) for the construction of hard roads is approved by Illinois voters.

1925 — JANUARY 12 — **Lennington Small** begins his second term as Governor.

MARCH 4 — **Charles Gates Dawes** of Evanston becomes Vice President under **President Calvin Coolidge**.

JUNE 30 — "Illinois" is adopted as the official state song by the General Assembly.

1929 — JANUARY 14 — **Louis L. Emmerson** is inaugurated Governor.

FEBRUARY 14 — Al Capone's gangland execution of seven men on Chicago's North Side creates a public outcry for an end of the corruption caused by Prohibition.

MARCH 25 — A tax on motor fuel is authorized by the General Assembly. Money collected is to be used for the state hard road program.

JUNE 4 — The cardinal is named the official state bird.

OCTOBER 29 — The stock market crash signals the beginning of 12 years of the **Great Depression** across the United States.

1930 — Population: 7,630,654.

MAY 12-JUNE 27 — A special session of the General Assembly passes a series of bills to relieve the financial difficulties of Chicago.

1932 — JUNE 14-16 — The Republican National Convention in Chicago nominates **Herbert Hoover** for President.

JUNE 27-JULY 2 — The Democratic National Convention in Chicago nominates **Franklin D. Roosevelt** for President.

Four special sessions of the General Assembly are called in an effort to relieve the economic distress of Illinois. An unemployment relief commission and an emergency relief commission are created. A state income tax is passed but is later declared unconstitutional, and money is borrowed from the Reconstruction Finance Corporation.

1933 — JANUARY 9 — **Henry Horner** is inaugurated Governor.

MAY 27-NOVEMBER 13 — A Century of Progress International Exposition, celebrating the 100th anniversary of the city, is held in Chicago.

JUNE 22 — The arrival in Chicago of a flotilla of river barges from New Orleans marks the official completion of the Illinois Waterway.

JUNE 25 — The retailers' occupation tax of 2 percent is passed by the General Assembly.

JULY 6 — An act establishing a fair **minimum wage standard** for women and minors is passed by the General Assembly.

1934 — FEBRUARY 19 — A 10-year-old boy starts a fire that destroys the State Arsenal and thousands of war records. It is replaced by the State Armory in 1937 and the Illinois State Archives in 1938 at a total cost of more than $1.9 million.

1935 — JUNE 29 — The **Old Age Security Act**, providing state aid for qualifying persons, is passed by the General Assembly.

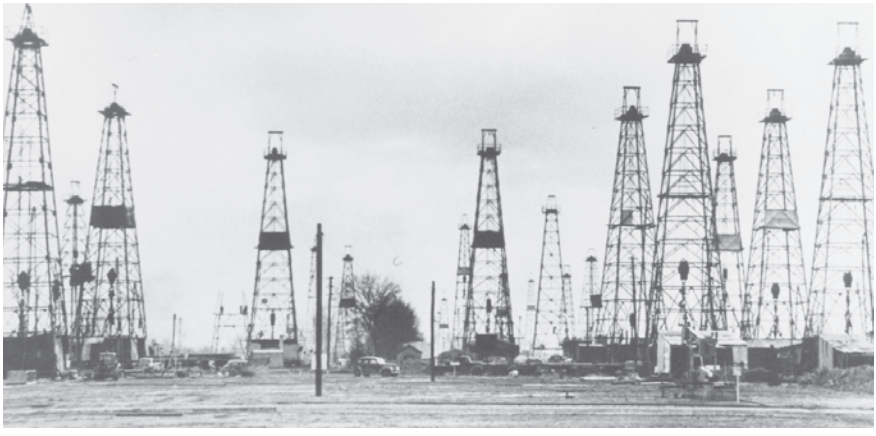
1937 — In January, oil is discovered on the Merryman farm, near Patoka in Marion County. This is the beginning of an oil boom in southern Illinois. By the end of the year, Illinois ranks 11th among the oil producing states, with about 7.5 million barrels.

JANUARY 4 — **Henry Horner** begins his second term as Governor.

JUNE 23 — The General Assembly passes the **Saltiel Marriage Law**, requiring a physical examination prior to the issuance of a marriage license.

JUNE 30 — An act setting up a system of unemployment compensation is passed by the General Assembly.

JULY 1 — The **Eight-Hour Law**, limiting the hours of work for women, is passed by the General Assembly.



In 1939, Illinois was the fourth-ranking oil-producing state in the nation.

1939 — JUNE 1 — By an act of the General Assembly, Illinois becomes the first state to establish a separate division for the prevention of delinquency.

1940 — Population: 7,897,241.

JULY 15-18 — The Democratic National Convention meets in Chicago and nominates **Franklin D. Roosevelt** for a third term as President.

JULY 25 — The **Illinois Institute of Technology** in Chicago is created by the consolidation of the Lewis Institute and the Armour Institute of Technology.

OCTOBER 6 — **Gov. Horner** dies in Winnetka, the second Illinois Governor to die while in office. He is immediately succeeded by **Lt. Gov. John Stelle**.

1941 — JANUARY 13 — **Dwight H. Green** is inaugurated Governor.

MARCH 5 — The Illinois National Guard is inducted into federal service. It is replaced by the recently created Illinois Reserve Militia.

APRIL 17 — **Gov. Dwight H. Green** signs a bill providing for a State Council of Defense.

MAY 16 — The Department of Public Safety, consolidating divisions dealing with public safety, crime fighting and penal administration, is created by the General Assembly.

DECEMBER 18 — With the United States having declared war on Japan on December 8, a special session of the General Assembly convenes to put Illinois on war footing. About 670,000 Illinois men and women serve in the armed forces during **World War II**.

1942 — MARCH 3 — The mine sweeper YMS-84, the first Navy vessel built for World War II in Illinois, is launched in the Chicago River.

NOVEMBER 24 — In the first treason trial ever held in Illinois, sentence is passed in Chicago federal court on three German-Americans and their wives. The men are sentenced to death, the women to fine and imprisonment.

DECEMBER 2 — The world's first controlled nuclear reaction takes place under the direction of **Enrico Fermi** at the University of Chicago.

1943 — JANUARY 21 — The 551-mile oil pipeline from Longview, Texas, to Norris City, Illinois, is completed. The line has a capacity of 300,000 barrels per day.

1944 — JUNE 28 — The Republican National Convention in Chicago nominates **Thomas E. Dewey** for President and **John W. Bricker** for Vice President.

JULY 20-21 — The Democratic National Convention in Chicago nominates **Franklin D. Roosevelt** of New York for President and **Harry S. Truman** of Missouri for Vice President.

1945 — JANUARY 8 — **Dwight H. Green** is inaugurated Governor for a second term. Germany marks the end of the war in Europe.

AUGUST 14 — The unconditional surrender of Japan is announced by President Truman, although V-J Day is not officially observed until September 2.

NOVEMBER 19 — Weekly airline service from Chicago to London is inaugurated by **American Airlines**.

1946 — JULY 7 — **Mother Frances Xavier Cabrini**, who died in Chicago in 1917, is proclaimed a saint. She is the first U.S. citizen to be honored by the Roman Catholic Church.

AUGUST 9 — The first Illinois State Fair since 1941 begins. (The state fairgrounds was leased to the War Department during the war.)

1947 — MARCH 25 — A coal mine explosion at Centralia kills 111 miners.

JUNE 17 — The General Assembly passes the first congressional reapportionment bill since 1901.

JULY 11 — A child labor law passed in 1945 goes into effect and calls for more effective regulation of employment of minors between ages 14 and 16.

DECEMBER 12 — The United Mine Workers, under the leadership of **John L. Lewis**, withdraw from the American Federation of Labor, following the latter organization's compliance with the **Taft-Hartley Act**.

1948 — JULY 20-OCTOBER 3 — The **Railroad Fair**, commemorating 100 years of railroad progress, is held in Chicago at the site of the 1933 World's Fair.

1949 — JANUARY 10 — **Adlai E. Stevenson** is inaugurated Governor.

1950 — Population: 8,712,176.

MARCH 5 — **Edgar Lee Masters**, poet and author, best known for his ***Spoon River Anthology***, dies at Melrose Park, Pennsylvania.

MARCH 14 — **Lewis Fablinger** of Downers Grove, the last Civil War veteran in the state, dies at age 103.

MAY — **Gwendolyn Brooks** of Chicago receives the Pulitzer Prize in poetry for her poem, ***Annie Allen***. She is the first African-American woman to receive this award.

JUNE 25 — North Korea invades South Korea, an action challenged by the United States as a breach of the peace. Two days later, President Truman authorizes the use of U.S. air and naval power in support of South Korea.

1951 — JULY 9 — The **Illinois Civil Defense Act**, creating a state Civil Defense Agency to act with local units in the event of an atomic explosion or other wartime disaster, becomes law.

1952 — JULY 7-11 — The Republican National Convention in Chicago nominates **Dwight D. Eisenhower** for President and **Richard M. Nixon** for Vice President.

JULY 19-26 — The Democratic National Convention meets in Chicago and nominates **Gov. Adlai E. Stevenson** of Illinois for President and **John J. Sparkman** of Alabama for Vice President.

NOVEMBER 4 — The Eisenhower-Nixon ticket is successful, bringing an end to 20 years of Democratic control of the White House.

1953 — JANUARY 12 — **William G. Stratton** is inaugurated Governor. His appointments include Vera M. Binks, director of Registration and Education, and Joseph J. Bibb, director of Public Safety, the first woman and the first African-American to hold cabinet positions in Illinois.

MAY 2 — The first Baha'i Temple in the Western Hemisphere is dedicated at Wilmette.

JUNE 18 — By joint resolution, the General Assembly agrees to submit a constitutional amendment for reapportioning the state's legislative districts at the general election of 1954.

1954 — FEBRUARY 15 — Ground is officially broken for a new state office building in Springfield. Later named for **Gov. William G. Stratton**, the building will open in December 1955.

1955 — MAY 17 — Although placed on 1954 license plates, "Land of Lincoln" is approved as the official state slogan by the General Assembly.

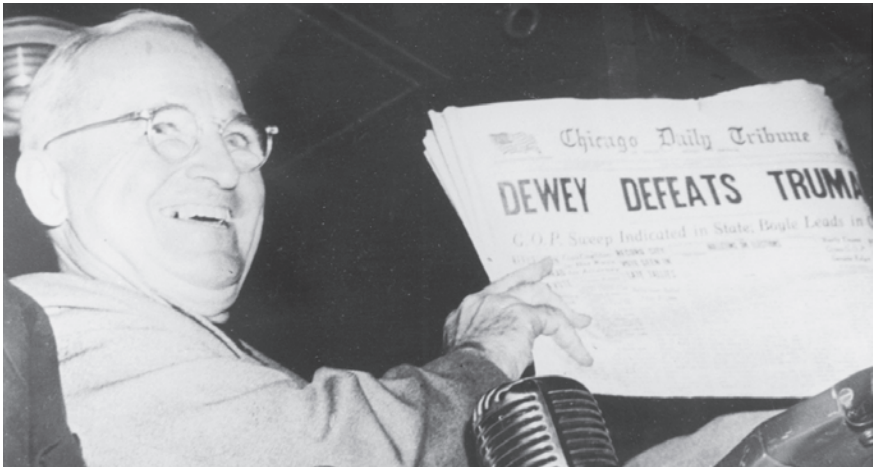
JUNE 16 — The first successful Reapportionment Act since 1901 creates 58 Senate districts and 59 House districts that are to be reapportioned following each decennial census.

OCTOBER 30 — **O'Hare International Airport**, west of Chicago, begins commercial operation.

1956 — MARCH 3 — The Illinois Terminal System makes the last run of an interurban electric train over its St. Louis-Springfield tracks.

JULY 16 — **State Auditor Orville E. Hodge** resigns. He is later sentenced for embezzlement of public funds.

AUGUST 13-17 — The Democratic National Convention in Chicago again nominates **Adlai E. Stevenson**, Governor of Illinois from 1949 to 1953, for President. Sen. Estes Kefauver of Tennessee is nominated for Vice President.



President-elect Harry S. Truman holds up an infamous headline from the *Chicago Daily Tribune.*

Left: In 1950, Illinoisan Gwendolyn Brooks became the first African-American woman to win a Pulitzer Prize.

Right: Construction of the Stratton Building, west of the Capitol, began in 1954.

SEPTEMBER 22 — **Gov. Stratton** officially opens construction on the first Illinois toll road near Rockford.

1957 — JANUARY 14 — **William G. Stratton** begins his second term as Governor. Inaugurated with him is **Mrs. Earle B. Searcy**, clerk of the Supreme Court, the first woman elected to state office in Illinois.

FEBRUARY 9 — The first nuclear power generating system in the United States is activated at **Argonne National Laboratory** in DuPage County.

1958 — JUNE 16-20 — A special session of the 70th General Assembly meets to consider anti-recession measures, appropriates $15 million for relief and extends unemployment compensation benefits to 13 weeks.

DECEMBER 1 — A fire at Our Lady of the Angels School in Chicago claims the lives of 87 students and three nuns.

1959 — APRIL 29 — **Gov. Stratton** approves a bill making daylight saving time uniform throughout the state for the first time.

JULY 6 — **Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip** visit Chicago, the city's first visit of a reigning British sovereign.

SEPTEMBER 22 — The **Chicago White Sox** win the American League pennant, their first in 40 years.

1960 — Population: 10,081,158.

JUNE 25-28 — The Republican National Convention in Chicago nominates **Richard M. Nixon** for President and **Henry Cabot Lodge** for Vice President.

OCTOBER 12 — The first full-scale, privately financed, nuclear power plant in the United States is dedicated at Morris.

1961 — JANUARY 4 — The General Assembly convenes in regular session, with **Paul Powell**, a Democrat from Vienna, elected Speaker — the first time the minority party has elected a Speaker.

JANUARY 9 — **Otto Kerner** is inaugurated Governor.

JULY 2 — Illinois native and Nobel and Pulitzer Prize winning novelist **Ernest Hemingway** dies of a self-inflicted gunshot wound at his home in Ketchum, Idaho.

1962 — Following eight years as a state lawmaker, **George W. Dunne** is elected to the Cook County Board of Commissioners. He served as chairman of the Finance Committee prior to his unprecedented 21 years as County Board President.

FEBRUARY 28 — **Carl Sandburg** is named the first Illinois Poet Laureate.

NOVEMBER 6 — The 14th Amendment to the 1870 Constitution, establishing a unified court system, is approved.

NOVEMBER 14 — By action of the General Assembly, Illinois becomes the first state to ratify the 24th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, prohibiting poll tax as a requisite for voting in federal elections.

1964 — JANUARY 1 — The **University of Illinois** football team defeats the University of Washington in the Rose Bowl.

AUGUST — The **Gulf of Tonkin Incident** marks the beginning of the American phase of the Vietnam War, the longest war in U.S. history.

1965 — JANUARY 11 — **Otto Kerner** begins his second term as Governor.

JULY 7 — By an act of the General Assembly, fluorite (calcium fluoride) is designated the official state mineral.

JULY 14 — **Adlai E. Stevenson**, former Illinois Governor and two-time presidential candidate, dies in London, England.

1966 — NOVEMBER 8 — **Charles Percy** is elected U.S. Senator from Illinois.

DECEMBER 15 — **Walter E. Disney**, a Chicago native, cartoonist and creator of Disneyland, dies at age 65.

DECEMBER 16 — The U.S. Atomic Energy Commission announces DuPage County as the site for the construction of the world's most powerful atom smasher.

Illinois is the leading export state in the nation for 1966.

1967 — JANUARY 26–27 — The largest single snowstorm in Chicago history dumps 23 inches on the city in 29 hours.

MARCH 12 — The **Chicago Blackhawks** capture their first National Hockey League title.

JULY 22 — Illinois poet and Lincoln historian **Carl Sandburg** dies at his home in North Carolina at age 89.

1968 — Under the direction of **Mayor Richard J. Daley**, General Superintendent of the Forestry Department Ned Benigno develops a plan to eliminate the spread of Dutch Elm disease and introduce new species of trees throughout Chicago.

JANUARY 8 — **Gwendolyn Brooks** of Chicago is named the new Illinois Poet Laureate by executive order of the Governor.

MAY 19 — **Gov. Otto Kerner** resigns to become judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals.

MAY 21 — **Lt. Gov. Samuel H. Shapiro** is sworn in as Governor.

AUGUST 27–30 — The Democratic National Convention meets in Chicago amid great civil disorder and nominates **Hubert H. Humphrey** for President and **Edmund S. Muskie** for Vice President.

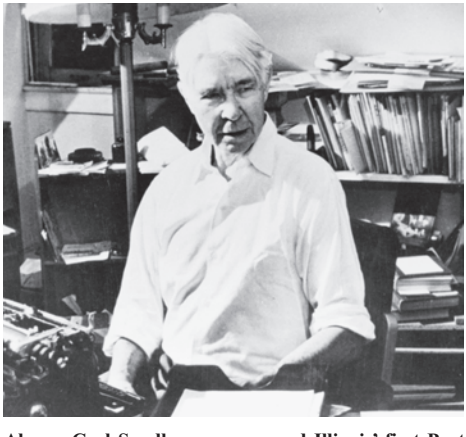
NOVEMBER 5 — Republican **Richard B. Ogilvie** and Democrat **Paul Simon** are elected Governor and Lieutenant Governor, respectively. Also elected is **Everett M. Dirksen**, who returns to the U.S. Senate for a fourth term.

1969 — MARCH 20 — A federal grand jury indicts eight police officers and eight demonstrators on criminal charges stemming from disturbances during the Democratic National Convention in Chicago the previous summer.

JULY 1 — **Gov. Ogilvie** approves a bill creating a state income tax.

SEPTEMBER 7 — **Everett M. Dirksen**, longtime Republican Senator from Illinois, dies at age 73.

OCTOBER 15 — Throughout Illinois, thousands of people give peaceful support to the nationwide war moratorium.



Above: Carl Sandburg was named Illinois' first Poet Laureate in February 1962.

Right: Everett M. Dirksen, who was elected to four terms in the U.S. Senate, appears with Richard Nixon (lower left) at the Illinois State Fairgrounds.

1970 — Population: 11,113,976.

FEBRUARY 18 — The celebrated "Chicago 7" trial ends as five of the defendants are found guilty of crossing state lines to incite a riot.

MAY 20 — **Dr. Albert Crewe**, University of Chicago physicist, announces that he has accomplished the feat of seeing a single atom.

SEPTEMBER 3 — Illinois' Sixth Constitutional Convention adjourns with ceremonies at the Old State Capitol.

DECEMBER 15 — Illinois voters approve a new State Constitution while rejecting the appointment of judges, abolition of the death penalty and lowering of the voting age to 18.

1971 — JANUARY 11 — **Michael J. Bakalis** is the youngest elected Superintendent of Public Instruction and the last elected office holder of that position.

AUGUST 18 — **President Richard Nixon** visits Springfield and signs a bill making Abraham Lincoln's home a national historic site.

1972 — JANUARY 1 — The **Illinois Department of Transportation** is created to oversee one of the largest state highway systems in the nation.

JUNE — Charging racial discrimination, Operation PUSH boycotts Chicago-area stores.

JULY 8 — The neo-Nazi Party demonstrates in Berwyn, clashing with the Jewish Defense League.

OCTOBER 30 — An Illinois Central train accident in Chicago kills 45 people and injures 350. It is the worst U.S. rail crash in 14 years.

1973 — JANUARY 9 — **Dan Walker** is inaugurated Governor.

FEBRUARY 19 — Judge **Otto Kerner** is convicted on 17 counts of conspiracy, fraud, perjury, bribery and income tax evasion in connection with the purchase and sale of race-track stock while serving as Governor.

MAY 3 — The topping of the **Sears Tower**, standing 1,454 feet tall, makes it the world's tallest building.

SEPTEMBER 17 — By act of the General Assembly, the white oak replaces the native oak as the official state tree.

AUGUST 9 — **Gov. Walker** signs a bill creating the Department on Aging.

1974 — MAY 7 — **Gov. Walker** declares state trooper jobs open to women.

JULY 30 — The first **Illinois lottery tickets** go on sale in Chicago. In August, the first bonanza winner of the lottery is awarded $300,000.

1975 — APRIL 1 — **Richard J. Daley** is re-elected to an unprecedented sixth term as mayor of Chicago.

APRIL 18 — **James B. Parsons** is named as the first African-American chief judge on the U.S. District Court in Chicago.

AUGUST 19 — The monarch butterfly is designated the official state insect.

1976 — JULY 4 — Illinois celebrates the nation's 200th birthday.

JULY 17 — Race riots over integration in Chicago's all-white **Marquette Park** result in injury to 33 people.

DECEMBER 20 — **Richard J. Daley**, mayor of Chicago since 1955, dies from a heart attack at age 74.

1977 — JANUARY 4 — Four elevated train cars fall to the street in Chicago, killing 12 and injuring nearly 200 people.

JANUARY 10 — **James Thompson**, elected for a modified two-year term, is inaugurated Governor.

The General Assembly is unable to act for six weeks as 186 roll calls are taken before a Senate President is selected.

MAY 1 — Illinois' ban on self-service gas stations is lifted.

JUNE 21 — **Gov. Thompson** signs a bill providing for the **death penalty** of adults convicted in any of 16 categories of murder.

Left: Abraham Lincoln's home in Springfield became a national historic site in 1971.

Right: Michael J. Bakalis was elected to two statewide offices in the 1970s, Superintendent of Public Instruction (1971-75) and State Comptroller (1977-79).

Above: At 1,454 feet, the Sears Tower was the tallest building in the world until February 1996.

Above right: Richard J. Daley served as mayor of Chicago for nearly a quarter of a century.

Right: Chicago DJ Steve Dahl made national headlines in July 1979 with "Disco Demolition Night."

1978 — MARCH 4 — The ***Chicago Daily News***, the city's last afternoon newspaper, ceases publication.

JULY 22 — Inmates erupt in a bloody takeover at Pontiac prison in which three guards are killed.

NOVEMBER — **Roland W. Burris** is the first African-American to be elected as a constitutional officer in Illinois. He served as State Comptroller from 1979 to 1991 and as Attorney General from 1991 to 1995.

NOVEMBER 7 — Elections of Illinois state officers are altered so they will no longer be held during presidential election years.

1979 — APRIL 3 — **Jane Byrne** is elected Chicago's first female mayor.

MAY 25 — The worst air disaster in American history occurs when American Airlines flight 191 crashes on takeoff in Chicago, killing 275 people.

JULY 12 — Radio legend Steve Dahl makes national headlines when "Disco Demolition Night" brings an estimated 90,000 WLUP-FM fans to Comiskey Park to destroy thousands of disco records in a stunt to put an end to the disco era.

AUGUST 21 — **Gov. Thompson** signs a bill returning the Illinois drinking age to 21, effective in 1980.

Pope John Paul II visits Chicago and celebrates mass for nearly 1.5 million people in Grant Park.

1980 — Population: 11,426,518.

MARCH 19 — Attorney General **William Scott** is convicted of federal tax fraud.

APRIL 1 — The Illinois Department of Nuclear Safety is created.

JULY 1 — The Illinois Department of Human Rights is established.

NOVEMBER 4 — Illinois voters pass the **Cutback Amendment**, reducing the number of House members by one-third.

1981 — JUNE 8 — **Morton Grove** enacts a strict gun control ordinance that attracts national attention.

DECEMBER 17 — The state announces a $20 million loan to the ailing **Chrysler Corporation** in Illinois.

1982 — JANUARY 1 — The white-tailed deer becomes the official state animal by act of the General Assembly.

MAY–JUNE — Seven women engage in a 37-day hunger strike and 17 women chain themselves to a rail in the State Capitol in an effort to win approval for the federal **Equal Rights Amendment**. Despite their efforts, the amendment is defeated.

SEPTEMBER — Pain reliever capsules laced with cyanide kill seven in the Chicago area.

Gov. James R. Thompson and **Lt. Gov. George H. Ryan** narrowly defeat **Adlai E. Stevenson III** and **Grace Mary Stern**, 1,816,101 to 1,811,027, a plurality of 5,074 votes or 0.1 percent.

1983 — APRIL 5 — **Harold Washington** becomes Chicago's first African-American Mayor.

AUGUST — A record-breaking drought, the worst since the "dust bowl" of the 1930s, withers Illinois crops; the month is cited as the hottest on record.

NOVEMBER 1 — **Rupert Murdoch** purchases the ***Chicago Sun-Times*** for $90 million in cash.

DECEMBER 2 — **Gov. Thompson** signs a no-fault divorce law.

1984 — Construction of the new **State of Illinois Center**, with estimated costs of $118 million, nears completion in Chicago's North Loop.

JULY 1 — The Department of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse and the Department of Employment Security are created.

NOVEMBER 6 — **State Rep. Paul Simon** ousts incumbent **Sen. Charles Percy** from his seat in the U.S. Senate.

1985 — MARCH 11 — Twenty-two downstate counties are declared disaster areas by the Governor as flooding of the Illinois River wreaks havoc.

APRIL 24 — Officials announce the worst of the Illinois **salmonella epidemic** is over. A total of 10,154 cases were confirmed in Illinois and four other states, reportedly in part from contaminated dairy products.

JUNE 29 — Lebanese terrorists release 153 hostages, many from Illinois.

JULY 1 — A strict new seat belt law takes effect in Illinois requiring all front seat occupants to "buckle up."

1986 — JANUARY 26 — The **Chicago Bears** play in their first Super Bowl and win.

JUNE 13 — Chicago holds a Vietnam Veterans Parade more than 11 years after the end of the war. Some 200,000 supporters take part in the march.

NOVEMBER 17 — The Illinois Department of Public Health institutes regulations restricting smoking in its statewide offices.

1987 — JANUARY 12 — A U.S. district judge rules that Springfield's commission form of government violates the federal Voting Rights Act by denying access to blacks.

Gov. Thompson takes the oath of office for a fourth term during the 50th inauguration of an Illinois Governor.

APRIL 7 — **Harold Washington** becomes the first Chicago Mayor to be re-elected since the late Richard Daley. He will die of a heart attack in November.

1988 — JANUARY — The AIDS epidemic leads to a requirement for a marriage blood test; the act will be repealed in September 1989.

JULY 2 — Ceremonies celebrate the centennial of the **Illinois State Capitol** and mark an end to 20 years of intensive restoration work on the building.

A memorial to Illinoisans who died in the Vietnam War is erected in Springfield's **Oak Ridge Cemetery**.

1989 — APRIL — **Richard M. Daley** is elected mayor of Chicago.

JULY — The General Assembly approves a temporary two-year increase in the state income tax, intended to aid education and local governments.

AUGUST 31 — Big bluestem becomes the official state prairie grass.

SEPTEMBER 1 — The Tully Monster becomes the official state fossil.

1990 — Population: 11,430,602.

FEBRUARY 7 — The **Riverboat Gambling** law goes into effect. The first boat, the Alton Belle, is launched on the Mississippi River in September 1991, and 10 licenses exist by 1995.

AUGUST 17 — The square dance is designated as the official state dance.

AUGUST 22 — The United States begins massive military buildup in the Persian Gulf under the auspices of **Operation Desert Shield**. About 20,000 Illinois soldiers are involved in the effort.

AUGUST 28 — A tornado levels Plainfield High School and destroys an apartment complex. The tornado kills 27 people, the second-highest death toll from a storm in state history. An additional 350 people are injured.

NOVEMBER — **Dawn Clark Netsch** is the first woman to be elected to a state constitutional office in Illinois. She served as Comptroller from 1991 to 1995.

1991 — JANUARY 14 — Republican **Jim Edgar** is inaugurated Governor, succeeding **James R. Thompson**, who served a record 14 years.

FEBRUARY 27 — **President George H.W. Bush** announces a cease-fire in the six-week-old war against Iraq. Thirteen Illinoisans are killed in the conflict.

JUNE — The **Chicago Bulls** beat the Los Angeles Lakers to capture the NBA championship, the team's first in its 25-year history.

JULY 19 — The **General Assembly** adjourns following a record 19-day overtime brought on by the budget impasse.

SEPTEMBER 4 — The bluegill becomes the official state fish.

1992 — APRIL — **Chicago** is declared a disaster area when a leak in an underground freight tunnel system causes more than 250 million gallons of Chicago River water to flood tunnels and basements in the business district, sending 250,000 workers home and costing at least $40 million in lost productivity.

JUNE — The **Chicago Bulls** beat the Portland Trail Blazers to win the NBA championship for the second year in a row.

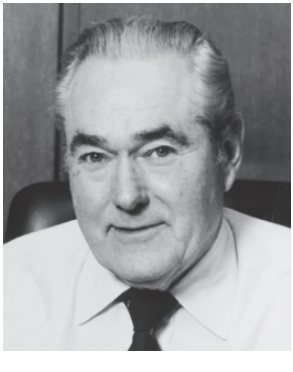
NOVEMBER 3 — **Carol Moseley-Braun** becomes the first African-American woman ever elected to the U.S. Senate.

NOVEMBER 18 — The Centennial Building in Springfield's Capitol Complex is renamed in honor of the late **Michael J. Howlett**, the first Democrat to serve four consecutive terms in state office. Howlett served three terms as State Auditor and one term as Secretary of State.

1993 — One of the largest and costliest floods in U.S. history causes extensive damage in Illinois; 500,000 acres are flooded, causing $1.5 billion of crop and property damage.

MAY 10 — The State of Illinois Center in Chicago is renamed in honor of former **Gov. James R. Thompson**.

JUNE — The **Chicago Bulls** beat the Phoenix Suns to capture the NBA championship for the third straight year.



Above: The Illinois Vietnam Veterans Memorial at Springfield's Oak Ridge Cemetery was erected in 1988.

Far left: Harold Washington was the first African-American to become mayor of Chicago in 1983.

Left: George W. Dunne was the longest-serving president of the Cook County Board of Commissioners (1969-90).

1994 — MAY 10 — **John Wayne Gacy** is executed. Gacy was convicted March 12, 1980, in Chicago of murdering 33 men.

NOVEMBER 8 — **Judy Baar Topinka** is elected State Treasurer, the first woman in Illinois history to hold this post.

NOVEMBER 14 — **U.S. Sen. Paul Simon** announces his plans to retire from politics following 42 years in elected office.

1995 — JANUARY 25 — The Illinois Supreme Court orders the adoptive parents of **"Baby Richard"** to turn over the boy "forthwith" to his biological father in one of the most celebrated court cases in Illinois history.

MAY 26 — The General Assembly recesses early for the first time in 25 years.

JULY 12 — Navy Pier reopens with a landmark 148-foot-high Ferris Wheel. Navy Pier attracts about 5 million visitors in its first year.

NOVEMBER 15 — A plaque commemorating the 75th anniversary of passage of the 19th Amendment (women's suffrage) is dedicated in the Capitol next to the statue of **Lottie Holman O'Neill**, the first woman elected to the General Assembly.

1996 — AUGUST 26-29 — The Democratic National Convention meets at the United Center in Chicago and nominates **Bill Clinton** for President and **Al Gore** for Vice President for re-election.

JUNE — The **Chicago Bulls** beat the Seattle SuperSonics to win their fourth NBA championship in six years.

NOVEMBER — **Richard J. Durbin** is elected to the U.S. Senate, succeeding **Paul Simon** who retired.

NOVEMBER 14 — **Cardinal Joseph Bernardin**, archbishop of Chicago, dies at age 68.

1997 — JUNE — The Chicago Tribune celebrates 150 years.

JUNE — The **Chicago Bulls** beat the Utah Jazz for their fifth NBA championship.

JULY 1 — The new Department of Human Services becomes the largest state agency in Illinois, with 20,000 employees and a $4.3 billion budget.

SEPTEMBER 5 — **Sir Georg Solti**, music director laureate of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, dies at age 84.

1998 — JUNE — The **Chicago Bulls** beat the Utah Jazz in the NBA finals, giving Chicago their sixth championship of the decade.

SEPTEMBER — St. Louis Cardinal **Mark McGuire** (70 home runs) and Chicago Cub **Sammy Sosa** (66) each surpass **Roger Maris'** MLB record of 61 home runs in 1961.

1999 — JANUARY 6 — Illinois Congressman **J. Dennis Hastert** is elected Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives.

JANUARY 11 — Republican **George H. Ryan** is inaugurated Governor, and Republican **Corinne Wood** is inaugurated the first female Lieutenant Governor.

Democrat **Jesse White** is inaugurated the first African-American Secretary of State.

Democrat **Daniel W. Hynes** is inaugurated Comptroller, the youngest Illinois constitutional officer since **William Stratton** was elected Treasurer in 1942.

FEBRUARY 23 — **Richard M. Daley** is re-elected to a fourth term as mayor of Chicago.

OCTOBER 23-27 — **Gov. Ryan** becomes the first sitting U.S. Governor to visit Cuba in more than 40 years.

NOVEMBER 1 — Chicago Bears great **Walter Payton**, who compiled an NFL record of 16,726 rushing yards in his 13-year Hall of Fame career, dies at age 45.

2000 — Population: 12,419,293.

As a result of the 2000 census, Illinois loses one of its congressional seats. The state is reapportioned into 19 congressional districts, down from 20 in the 1990s.

JANUARY 31 — **Gov. Ryan** orders a moratorium on executions in Illinois.

NOVEMBER 7 — The presidential election of 2000 is among the closest in history. Illinois' 22 electoral votes are won by Vice President Al Gore, but Texas **Gov. George W. Bush** wins the presidency by claiming a majority of the overall electoral votes. Bush won the electoral college vote 271 to 266 with one abstention.

DECEMBER 3 — Illinois Poet Laureate **Gwendolyn Brooks** dies.

2001 — FEBRUARY 12 — A groundbreaking ceremony is held for the new **Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum** in Springfield.

APRIL — Flooding along the upper Mississippi River affects communities in Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin and Illinois. Ten counties in Illinois are declared presidential disaster areas.

MAY 5 — The **Cinco de Mayo Parade in Chicago** celebrates 10 years. The parade commemorates Mexico's defeat of the French at the Battle of Puebla on May 5, 1862, and highlights the culture and heritage of Mexican-Americans in Illinois.

MAY 10 — CEO Phil Condit announces that **Boeing**, the world's largest aerospace company, will move its global headquarters to Chicago.

AUGUST 2 — Drummer silty clay loam is designated as the official state soil.

SEPTEMBER 11 — Terrorists use hijacked planes to attack buildings in New York and Washington, D.C., resulting in thousands of deaths. The Illinois State Capitol, government buildings and O'Hare Airport are evacuated and closed down for the first time in history.

President Bush declares a "war on terrorism." Illinois National Guard and Reserve members are called upon to boost security at Illinois airports and nuclear power plants.

2002 — NOVEMBER 5 — **U.S. Rep. Rod Blagojevich** is elected Illinois' 40th Governor — the first Democrat to hold the state's highest office in 26 years.

Lisa Madigan is elected Attorney General, becoming the first woman to serve in that position.

2003 — MARCH 19 — American military forces and an international coalition of troops begin military operations for **Operation Iraqi Freedom**. More than 4,000 Illinois National Guard and Reserve members are placed on active duty.

JUNE 6 — The **Illinois State Library** is renamed after the late **Gwendolyn Brooks**, who was Illinois Poet Laureate from 1968 to 2000.

AUGUST 4 — Popcorn is designated the official state snack.

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER — University of Illinois physics professor **Anthony J. Leggett** and **Alexei A. Abrikosov** of Argonne National Laboratory are awarded the 2003 Nobel Prizes in Physics. U of I chemistry professor **Paul C. Lauterbur** and a former research associate **Sir Peter Mansfield** are named Nobel Prize recipients in the category of Physiology or Medicine. **Carl R. Woese**, a U of I microbiologist, receives the Crafoord Prize in Biosciences.

DECEMBER 9 — Former **U.S. Sen. Paul Simon** dies at age 75.

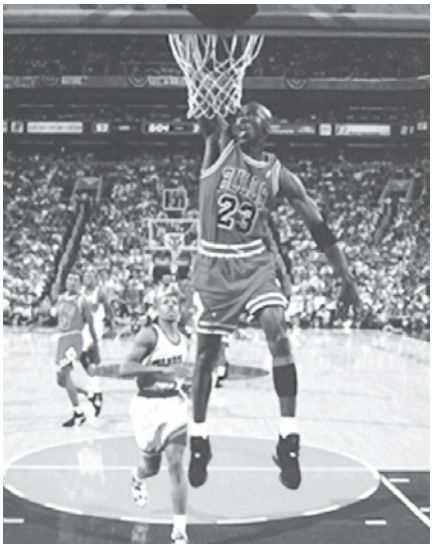
DECEMBER 11 — Bradley University Professor **Kevin Stein** is named the new Illinois Poet Laureate, succeeding Gwendolyn Brooks who died in 2000.

2004 — NOVEMBER 2 — Illinois voters overwhelmingly elect state **Sen. Barack Obama** to the U.S. Senate. Obama becomes the only African-American member of the U.S. Senate and only the fifth in U.S. history.

APRIL 20 — Eight people die when a tornado touches down in **Utica** in LaSalle County. The tornado destroyed more than 100 homes and half of downtown Utica.

JUNE 5 — Illinois native **Ronald W. Reagan**, 40th President of the United States, dies at age 93 after a long battle with Alzheimer's disease.

SEPTEMBER 20 — **Bill Wozniak,** a security guard at the Illinois State Capitol, is shot and killed by a 24-year-old gunman with a history of mental illness.



Left: Michael Jordan, who led the Chicago Bulls to three straight NBA championships in 1991, 1992 and 1993, retired in October 1993, only to resume his basketball career with the Bulls in March 1995. The team subsequently won NBA championships in 1996, 1997 and 1998. He retired again in January 1999, but returned in September 2001 as a member of the Washington Wizards for two seasons.

Right: Barack Obama began his ascent to the presidency on the steps of the Old State Capitol in Springfield on Feb. 10, 2007.

2005 — JULY 19 — The eastern tiger salamander and the painted turtle are designated the official state amphibian and reptile, respectively.

AUGUST 29 — **Hurricane Katrina** ravages New Orleans and other Gulf Coast cities. Illinois National Guard members are deployed and hundreds of Red Cross volunteers and Illinois civilians aid in recovery efforts over the next several months.

OCTOBER 26 — The **Chicago White Sox** defeat the Houston Astros 1-0 to win their first World Series since 1917. The White Sox swept Houston four games to none.

2006 — MARCH 12 — Twin tornadoes touch down in **Springfield**, causing extensive damage and destruction to homes and businesses. Gov. Blagojevich declares Sangamon County and several surrounding counties state disaster areas.

APRIL 17 — Former **Gov. George H. Ryan** is convicted of federal corruption charges stemming from his terms as Secretary of State and Governor. After losing an appeal, he is sentenced to six and a half years in prison on September 6.

NOVEMBER 7 — **Alexi Giannoulias** is elected State Treasurer. At age 30, he is the youngest State Treasurer since 1942.

2007 — FEBRUARY 10 — **U.S. Sen. Barack Obama** announces his presidential bid at the Old State Capitol in Springfield.

FEBRUARY 21 — **Chief Illiniwek**, official mascot of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, dances for the last time at halftime of the men's basketball game at the Assembly Hall, ending a tradition that began in 1926.

AUGUST 10 — The **General Assembly** ends a summer-long budget impasse by sending an approved state budget to Gov. Blagojevich, resulting in the longest legislative session since Illinois adopted its present 1970 Constitution.

AUGUST 21 — The Goldrush apple is designated the official state fruit.

SEPTEMBER 10 — A federal jury convicts four Chicago mobsters and a former Chicago policeman on racketeering and conspiracy following a 10-week trial that revealed the darkest secrets of organized crime in Chicago.

2008 — JANUARY 1 — Illinois' **smoking ban** goes into effect.

FEBRUARY 14 — A gunman opens fire in Cole Hall on the **Northern Illinois University** campus in DeKalb, killing six people, including himself, and wounding more than a dozen others.

AUGUST 23 — **U.S. Sen. Barack Obama** returns to the Old State Capitol during his presidential campaign to announce his vice presidential running mate, U.S. Sen. Joe Biden.

NOVEMBER 4 — **Barack Obama** of Chicago makes history when he becomes the first African-American to be elected President of the United States.

DECEMBER 9 — **Gov. Blagojevich** is arrested on federal corruption charges, including plotting to sell the U.S. Senate seat vacated by Barack Obama.

DECEMBER 30 — **Roland W. Burris** is appointed by Gov. Blagojevich to fill the vacant U.S. Senate seat.

2009 — JANUARY 20 — **Barack Obama** is sworn in as the 44th President of the United States.

JANUARY 29 — Following a historic impeachment vote by the Illinois House, the Illinois Senate unanimously votes to remove **Gov. Blagojevich** from office. **Lt. Gov. Pat Quinn** is sworn in as Governor.

FEBRUARY 12 — Illinois celebrates Abraham Lincoln's Birthday Bicentennial.

OCTOBER 9 — **President Barack Obama** is awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

2010 — Population: 12,830,632

As a result of the 2010 census, Illinois loses one of its congressional seats. The state is reapportioned into 18 congressional seats, down from 19 in the 2000s.

JUNE 10 — The **Chicago Blackhawks** win the Stanley Cup, beating the Philadelphia Flyers 4-3 in overtime in Game 6 for their first National Hockey League championship since 1961.

SEPTEMBER 7 — **Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley** announces his retirement at the end of his sixth term, marking 22 years of service. Daley was first elected in 1989.

Left: Bradley University professor Kevin Stein was named Illinois Poet Laureate in December 2003.

Center: Richard M. Daley served as mayor of Chicago from 1989 to 2011.

Right: Rahm Emanuel was elected mayor of Chicago in February 2011.

NOVEMBER 2 — **Gov. Pat Quinn** is elected to his first full term.

Sheila Simon, daughter of the late U.S. Sen. Paul Simon, is elected Lieutenant Governor, filling the post left vacant since January 2009.

Judy Baar Topinka is elected State Comptroller, the first woman to serve in two different statewide offices.

Jesse White is re-elected to a fourth term as Secretary of State, garnering more than 2.5 million votes statewide — more than any statewide constitutional candidate since the state switched to off-presidential-year elections in 1978.

2011 — JANUARY 31 — Gov. Quinn signs legislation legalizing **civil unions** for same-sex couples.

FEBRUARY 1-2 — A Groundhog Day blizzard blows through central and northern Illinois, dumping record snowfalls, closing airports and interstates, shutting down state offices in Springfield and Chicago, and shuttering schools for several days.

FEBRUARY 6 — Illinois celebrates the 100th anniversary of **Ronald Reagan's** birthday. The 40th President is the only American President to be born and raised in Illinois.

FEBRUARY 22 — **Rahm Emanuel** is elected mayor of Chicago. He previously served as a congressman and White House chief of staff under President Obama.

MARCH 9 — Gov. Quinn signs legislation repealing the **death penalty** in Illinois, in effect since 1976.

APRIL — Illinois commemorates the 150th anniversary of the start of the **Civil War.** Illinois contributed more than 285,000 soldiers to the Union effort, 34,834 of whom lost their lives during the four-year conflict.

APRIL-JUNE — Gov. Quinn issues a disaster proclamation for southern Illinois as flood waters threaten counties along the Mississippi and Ohio River confluence. A 14-county area is declared a federal disaster in June.

JUNE 27 — In a retrial, former **Gov. Rod Blagojevich** is convicted on federal public corruption charges, including trying to sell or trade President Barack Obama's former Senate seat. He is sentenced to 14 years in prison on December 7.

2012 — FEBRUARY 29 — An EF-4 twister ravages the southern Illinois town of Harrisburg, killing six people and injuring dozens of others.

JUNE–OCTOBER — Illinois and other Midwestern states suffer extreme drought conditions that lead to significant declines in crop production.

NOVEMBER 6 — **Barack Obama** is elected to a second term as President of the United States.

2013 — APRIL-JUNE — Record-breaking rain totals cause major flooding across the state. Forty Illinois counties are declared state disaster areas.

JUNE 24 — The **Chicago Blackhawks** clinch the Stanley Cup in a 3-2 victory over the Boston Bruins.

AUGUST 1 — Gov. Quinn signs legislation legalizing **medical marijuana**, making Illinois one of 20 states to allow the use of medical marijuana.

NOVEMBER 20 — Gov. Quinn signs **same-sex marriage** legislation, making Illinois the 16th state to do so.

NOVEMBER 17 — Late-season storms produce at least 24 tornadoes that pummel communities across Illinois, killing seven and injuring hundreds of others. The town of **Washington** takes a direct hit by an EF-4 tornado causing devastating damage.

2014 — JANUARY-FEBRUARY — A winter storm and historically cold temperatures prompt Gov. Pat Quinn to issue a statewide disaster declaration in early January. Record-low temperatures throughout the winter led to the eighth coldest January and the seventh coldest February on record for the state.

JANUARY 5 — **Concealed carry law** goes into effect; Illinois becomes the last state to allow citizens to carry concealed firearms.

JANUARY 8 — Former Chicago Cubs pitcher **Greg Maddux** and former Chicago White Sox first baseman **Frank Thomas** are elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame.

MAY 30 — **Jesse White** becomes the longest-serving Illinois Secretary of State, surpassing James A. Rose who served from 1897 to 1912. Rose was first inaugurated on Jan. 11, 1897. White was first inaugurated 102 years later on the same day in 1999.

JULY 6 — **Alan J. Dixon** dies at the age of 86. He served in a number of offices throughout his political career, which spanned more than 40 years. Those positions included state Representative, state Senator, Illinois Treasurer, Illinois Secretary of State and U.S. Senator.

NOVEMBER 4 — **Bruce Rauner** is elected as Governor. He is the first Republican Governor in 12 years.

NOVEMBER 6 — Rules are finalized to allow oil and gas drillers to apply for hydraulic fracturing licenses in the state.

NOVEMBER 8 — Former **Congressman Phil Crane** dies at the age of 84. At the time of his defeat in 2004, he was the longest-serving Republican member of the U.S. House of Representatives.

NOVEMBER 14 — **Jane Byrne**, Chicago's only female mayor to date, dies at the age of 81. She served from 1979 to 1983.

DECEMBER 10 — **Comptroller Judy Baar Topinka** dies at the age of 70 following re-election to a second term.

2015 — JANUARY-FEBRUARY — The first footage of the Eastland Disaster is discovered. The Eastland was a passenger ship based out of Chicago that rolled over while docked in the Chicago River in 1915, killing 844 people.

JANUARY 23 — Legendary Chicago Cubs baseball player **Ernie Banks** dies at age 83. Banks was known throughout the nation as "Mr. Cub."

FEBRUARY 3 — Illinois commemorates the 150th anniversary of the ratification of the 13th Amendment, which abolished slavery. Illinois was the first state to sign and implement the amendment.

MARCH 17 — **U.S. Congressman Aaron Schock** announces his resignation over misappropriation of campaign and federal fund allegations. His resignation became effective at the conclusion of the month.

APRIL 7 — **Rahm Emanuel** is elected to a second term as mayor of Chicago.

MAY 8 — The Illinois Supreme Court finds the December 2013 state pension legislation unconstitutional. The law ended cost-of-living increases, extended retirement ages, and limited the amount of salary that was used to calculate pensions.

JUNE 16 — The **Chicago Blackhawks** win the Stanley Cup for the third time in six seasons in Game 6 over the Tampa Bay Lightning at the United Center.

JULY 21 — Sweet corn becomes the official vegetable of Illinois.

AUGUST 14 — Pumpkin pie becomes the official pie of Illinois.

NOVEMBER 9 — Medical marijuana becomes legally sellable for the first time in Illinois.

2016 — MARCH 14 — First time in *Illinois Blue Book* history that a biennial edition was not published due to the ongoing budget impasse adversely impacting state government and disrupting the delivery of services to Illinois residents, including forced closures of many social service groups, community organizations and other not-for-profit groups.

JUNE 30 — A stopgap state budget is passed on the last day of the fiscal year.

SEPTEMBER 26 — Gold Star Family Day is held for the first time at the Capitol to honor and commemorate the families of men and women who gave their lives while serving with the U.S. Armed Forces.

Above: The Chicago Cubs celebrate their World Series victory. The 2016 team made history, ending a 108-year drought without a championship.

Left: Millions of Chicago Cubs fans pack the city streets during the Cubs 2016 World Series rally and parade. With approximately 5 million in attendance, this celebration was the seventh most-attended event in recorded history.

NOVEMBER 2 — The **Chicago Cubs** defeat the Cleveland Indians in Game 7, winning their first World Series since 1908, ending a 108-year-championship drought.

NOVEMBER 4 — The Chicago Cubs World Series parade and rally garnered approximately 5 million people in attendance to celebrate the iconic victory, according to the city of Chicago. This celebration was the seventh most-attended event in the recorded history of humankind.

NOVEMBER 8 — **Susana Mendoza** wins the Illinois Comptroller race against incumbent Leslie Munger in a special election. Mendoza will serve the remaining two years of the late **Judy Baar Topinka's** term.

NOVEMBER 10 — A grand jury indicts former **Congressman Aaron Schock** on 24 criminal counts.

NOVEMBER 15 — Illinois Secretary of State **Jesse White** unveils new passenger license plate design and replacement program to begin in January 2017.

NOVEMBER 19 — **Chicago Archbishop Blase Cupich** is elevated to rank of cardinal, one of the Roman Catholic Church's most prestigious titles, at a ceremony in Rome, Italy.

DECEMBER 31 — The stopgap budget expires, again leaving Illinois with no budget agreement since **Gov. Rauner** took office in 2015.

2017 — JANUARY 3 — **U.S. Sen. Tammy Duckworth** is sworn in, making her the first Asian-American Senator from the State of Illinois.

JANUARY 20 — Businessman **Donald J. Trump** is inaugurated as President of the United States. The Republican becomes the first President since 1933 to have neither served as a high-ranking military officer nor held elected office.

JANUARY 21 — The **Women's March on Chicago** draws an estimated 250,000 people.

FEBRUARY 17 — **Robert H. Michel**, the longest-serving Republican leader in the history of the House of Representatives, dies at the age of 93.

APRIL 6 — Billionaire businessman **JB Pritzker** announces his run for Illinois Governor.

JULY 1 — Illinois fails to pass a constitutionally required budget for the third consecutive year. A budget is passed on July 7, but it does little to assuage the state's financial woes.

AUGUST 4 — **Gov. Rauner** signs a law designating August 4 as **Barack Obama Day**, a state holiday.

AUGUST 21 — Tens of thousands flock to Carbondale, Illinois, to view total solar eclipse.

AUGUST 25 — Shelter cats and dogs become the official state pet of Illinois.

AUGUST 25 — Milkweed becomes the official state wildflower of Illinois.

DECEMBER 3 — Longtime **Congressman John B. Anderson**, who ran for President as an Independent in 1980, dies at the age of 95.

Kickoff events for the **Illinois Bicentennial celebration** are held by the Bicentennial Commission at Navy Pier in Chicago and the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in Springfield.

DECEMBER 4 — Units of local government throughout the state hold flag-raising ceremonies using the Bicentennial flag created by the commission.

2018 — JANUARY 1 — Corn becomes the official state grain of Illinois.

Cycling becomes the official state exercise of Illinois.

APRIL 9 — **U.S. Sen. Tammy Duckworth** welcomes a baby girl, Maile Pearl Bowlsbey, making her the first U.S. Senator to give birth while in office.

MAY 30 — Illinois lawmakers ratify the **Equal Rights Amendment** 45 years after it was approved by Congress, moving it one state away from possibly being included in the U.S. Constitution.

Above: Lori Lightfoot made history on May 20, 2019, as she became the first African-American woman and openly gay mayor of Chicago.

Left: The LGBTQ flag flies with the U.S. flag and the Illinois flag atop the Illinois State Capitol for the first time in state history on June 14, 2019. Gov. JB Pritzker requested that the flag fly in honor of Pride Month, which is celebrated throughout the month of June.

MAY 31 — Illinois lawmakers pass a state budget using the normal process for the first time in three years.

JUNE 27 — The U.S. Supreme Court sides with State of Illinois employee Mark Janus in ***Janus vs. AFSCME***, ruling that fees collected by labor unions from non-union members are a violation of First Amendment right to free speech.

AUGUST 7 — Chicago Blackhawk legend and Hockey Hall of Famer **Stan Mikita**, a two-time NHL Most Valuable Player, who led the Blackhawks to the 1961 Stanley Cup championship, dies at the age of 78.

SEPTEMBER 4 — **Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel** announces he will not seek a third term.

NOVEMBER 6 — Businessman **JB Pritzker** defeats incumbent **Bruce Rauner** in the most expensive gubernatorial race in U.S. history and is elected Illinois' 43rd Governor.

Jesse White is re-elected for a sixth term as Illinois Secretary of State. He received 3,120,207 votes — the most of any candidate during a midterm election in the history of Illinois.

DECEMBER 3 — The State of Illinois celebrates its bicentennial culminating with a gala celebration at the United Center in Chicago.

DECEMBER 22 — The U.S. federal government shutdown of 2018-2019 occurred from midnight on Dec. 22, 2018, until Jan. 25, 2019 (35 days). It was the longest U.S. government shutdown in history and the second federal government shutdown involving furloughs during the presidency of Donald Trump.

2019 — JANUARY 30-31 — A late January "polar vortex" closes state offices. Illinois set a new all-time record low temperature of -38 degrees in Mt. Carroll.

APRIL 2 — **Lori Lightfoot** is elected the first openly gay and African-American female mayor of Chicago.

JUNE 14 — In honor of Pride Month, Gov. JB Pritzker requested that a rainbow LGBTQ flag fly above the Illinois State Capitol for the first time in state history. The flag was provided by the Phoenix Center, the LGBTQ community center of central Illinois.