



## Timeline of Illinois Settlement

7 May 2024

### Indian Period

- Cahokia Mounds, holy ground
- First White settlers in 1673
- Illinois Confederacy of five tribes: Peorias, Cahokias, Kaskaskias, Mitchagamies, and Tamarrais. Only latter tribe has no legacy by name
  - 12,000 or so in number
- Most Indians were south of Illinois River before 1730
- Blended into Mississippi Indians and then moved to western side of river.
- Most Indians had crossed the Mississippi to Iowa and Missouri by 1800
- Notable persons: Black Hawk, Shabbona, Pontiac, Gomo

### French Period

- White settlers, mostly French
  - Explorers - Jacques Marquette – Jesuit missionary and M. Louis Jolliet, merchant of Quebec - 1673
  - Robert de La Salle established Fort Creve Coeur near what is now Peoria 1696
- 1717 – Illinois transferred from Spanish to French with Louisiana Colony
- Several missionaries were established by the French
- French and Indian War (1754-1763) ceded land from France to British Empire
- Treaty of Paris first ended French and Indian War – 1763 which ended French governance

### British Rule

- Once the British were in charge of Illinois, war broke out with the Indians
- George Rogers Clark – took possession of Illinois from British in the name of the State of Virginia, creating Illinois County
- Indians, allies of British, abandoned their posts without a fight
- Jean Baptists Point du Sable establishes a trading post in Chicago (1779-1800)
- Treaty of Paris continued to 1783 when Britain agreed to recognize US independence and cede significant western lands to US.

### Domesticating Illinois

- John Jacob Hays settles in Cahokia – 1790
- Illinois still not populated – 2,500 inhabitants, not including indigenous populations
- Small villages along the Mississippi and other rivers
- Mostly a trading economy



- John Kinzie buys homestead from du Sable and combines with other holdings
- Population coming from farmers moving north and soldiers
- Governance still under State of Virginia from 1783 - 1787

#### NW Territory

- 177 US passed the Northwest Ordinance including Illinois
- 20,000 Scots-Irish were first to migrate into NW Territory
- Kentucky was a major draw for soldiers after Revolutionary War
- Smaller land plots and increased military protection led to increase in migration
- Arthur St. Clair first Governor of Northwest Territory – 1788
- Meriwether Lewis and Willam Clark sent to survey land in NW Territory - 1804

#### IL Territory to Statehood

- 1809 IL Territory established – IL, WI, and part of MN, Ninian Edwards, Governor, Kaskaskia capitol
- Political instability
- Ft. Dearborn (est.1803) massacre 1812 – Pottawatomies
- US Army fortifies Ft. Dearborn
- Population increase from South to North
- Ex-British subjects and Germans
- First Coalmine opened in Illinois
- 1817 War of 1812 Veterans receive Military Bounty Land Grants north of Illinois River

#### Young 21<sup>st</sup> State

- Granted Statehood in 1818
- Provision in Statehood included slave-free state
- Population required was 40,000 for statehood, IL had 34,620
- Slaveholders in Nouth
- Abolitionists in North
- Abraham Lincoln moves to Illinois - 1830
- Rev. Peter Cartwright circuit-rider partners with Lincoln to abolish slavery

#### Growth & Settlement

- Galena becomes a center for Lead mining – 1833
- Chicago becomes a town in 1833
- John Deere starts operations - 1837
- John Smith founds City of Nauvoo in 1839
- Railroads and canals employ increased population



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