Two Centuries of Illinois History

This rare and unusual historical map of Illinois, which appears on this page, was published in 1883 as a guide to the study of the state's settlement and growth over two centuries, beginning with the appearance of the first white explorers in 1673. Highlights of Illinois history of these 200 years are set forth in the chronology below.

1673—Margaret and Jollet descend the Mississippi river.
1674—Marquette winters at Chicago.
1677—Allouez comes to Illinois.
1679—La Salle on the Illinois river.
1681—Tonty placed in command of the Illinois river region.
1685—Dunstan assumes command of Fort at Chicago.
1692—Father St. Marie enters Illinois.
1693—Father Gavot comes to Illinois.
1696—Missionary stations established on the C heterogeneous of Illinois.
1708—Kaskaskia settled by Father Pinet.
1721—Charlevoix enters Illinois.
1728—Four hundred Negroes brought to Illinois.
1734—Mississippi closed by war between English and French.
1742—River trade with New Orleans restored.
1745—Four thousand sacks of flour shipped from Illinois.
1764—St. Louis founded.
1766—English take possession of Illinois.
1769—Col. Reed is English commander of Illinois.
1773—English courts established at Kaskaskia.
1775—Clark sends spies into Illinois.
1778—Illinois organized as St. Clair county.
1779—Clark takes Vincennes.
1780—Illinois organized into ten counties.
1781—Spanish march across Illinois and take St. Joseph.
1782—Settlement of New Design in Illinois.
1784—Virginia cedes the Northwest (including Illinois) to the United States.
1787—Northwest territory organized; slavery thereby excluded from Illinois.
1788—English take possession of Illinois.
1789—Illinois organized as St. Clair county.
1790—Courts reestablished at Kaskaskia.
1792—Treaty of peace with the Illinois tribes.
1793—Harrison made secretary of the Northwest territory.
1800—Territory of Illinois organized.
1802—Ft. Dearborn massacre at Chicago.
1810—Large immigration to Illinois.
1811—Large immigration to Illinois.
1816—Bank of Illinois charted.
1818—Illinois admitted to Union as state; Shadrach Bond elected governor.
1823—Vandalia made state capital.
1824—Edward Cotee inaugurated governor.
1825—Illinois visited by Lafayette.
1828—Ninian Edwards inaugurated governor.
1831—John Reynolds inaugurated governor; Lincoln family moves to Illinois.
1832—Black Hawk war.
1833—Chicago organized as a town.
1834—Joseph Duncan inaugurated governor, Illinois and Michigan Canal began; Dred Scott brought to Illinois, creating famous slavery case.
1837—Chicago chartered as a city; Elijah P. Lovejoy assassinated at Alton; Springfield made state capital; Lincoln opens law office in Springfield.
1839—St. Louis founded.
1847—Chicago Tribune founded; construction began on Chicago and Galena railroad.
1848—Second constitution adopted for state.
1852—Free school law passed.
1855—Campaign for senatorship between Lincoln and Douglas; Douglas elected.
1856—Lincoln nominated for presidency in Chicago; Grant moves to Galena.
1861—Large enlistment of soldiers in Illinois for Civil war.
1862—Constitutional convention held first session.
1865—Lincoln assassinated; buried in Springfield.
1870—Third constitution adopted by state.
1871—Great Chicago fire.
1873—Free school law passed.
1874—Marquette made secretary of the Illinois tribunals.
1875—Lincoln and Douglas; Douglas elected.
1876—Second constitution adopted for state.