Chicago Tribune

Pictorial History of Chicago

WHERE HISTORY WAS MADE—The Republican "Wigwam," at the southwest corner of Lake and Market streets, was the scene of the national convention in 1860, and this photograph was taken while the convention was in progress. It was here that a great controversy over the "canal issue" took place. Abraham Lincoln was nominated there.

(CHICAGO IN 1835—Three-quarters of a century ago the struggling city was beginning to lift its impressiveness from the soil and its memories from the minds of its early settlers. The first normal school was started here in 1835, and it was in this city that the first tunnel under the river to connect the north and south sides was proposed, discussed, and recommended.

The oldest extant copy of the Chicago Tribune is dated December 18, 1836. It was published on the third floor of the Masonic Hall building at Lake and LaSalle streets, and its circulation was 1,200. Among the advertisements were those of lamp wicks, quicksilver, and marbles and toys.

Randolph Street in 1835—It was planted, and provided with sidewalks of the same material. This was just before the Mexican war, and before the completion of the Chicago & Northwestern bridge. The trade of the city was great, but its growth was slow. The city was still in its infancy—strong in novel, and important business.

The first postoffice was a log cabin, and it was established in 1835 at South Water Street and "The Forks," near the present intersection of Lake streets and Wacker Drive. At that time there was only one east to west a week; it was carried on horseback to and from Wino, Michigan.

The Tremont House, long famous as a hotel, dates back to 1833. Situated at the northwest corner of Lake and Dearborn streets, the first one was built by Abner Dean and was a two-story frame structure. It was replaced by a larger one, which in turn went up in flames ten years later.

The Old Blockhouse and lighthouse as they appeared in 1837. This was the last of Fort Dearborn, the post with which the early history of Chicago was so closely identified.

Chicago's first drawbridge was built at the foot of Dearborn street in 1834. It was in the year before that—and Aug. 5, 1835—that the citizens got together and incorporated as a town. Four years hence that event is to be commemorated by the Century of Progress.

Jean Baptiste Aubinien in 1837, ordered and supervised the building of Chicago's first iron bridge. The masts that did much to quiet the people were the Wigwam Indians on the west side. His picture brings to a close chapter two of this chronicle.

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