

It's Our 200th Birthday

The citizens of Illinois are ready to recognize and celebrate an important milestone in state history. August 26, 2018, will mark the 200th anniversary (or *bicentennial*) of the adoption of the Illinois Constitution of 1818 at the Kaskaskia Convention, and December 3, 2018, will mark the 200th anniversary of the admission of Illinois into the Union as a state.

To commemorate our state's 200th birthday, a yearlong celebration is planned. The activities will begin to take place on December 3, 2017, and will last for one year, until December 3, 2018. Much of the following information has been provided by the Illinois Bicentennial Commission established by Governor Rauner.

The Bicentennial Logo



You will become familiar with the above logo as we head into the many state-sponsored activities and celebrations. Governor Rauner kicked off planning for the state's 200th birthday by unveiling the bicentennial logo at the historic Old State Capitol in Springfield, where Abraham Lincoln once served in the Legislature.

Rauner showed off the gold-and-blue symbol with its designer at the first meeting of the Illinois Bicentennial Commission, which was formed to organize the festivities in 2018. "We reflect virtually every aspect of America," he said. "We are a crossroads of the nation."

The logo was created and donated by Ben Olsen, of Schaumburg PR agency 3 Monkeys and Aardvark Studios.

The navy and gold design with 21 gold stars represents Illinois' entry as the 21st state in the union. The colors are a nod to the State of Illinois' official seal. "The sunburst in the middle of the state outline portrays the impact Illinois has made on the country and the world over the past two centuries and the bright future we aspire to for the next 200 years," said Stuart Layne, the Bicentennial Executive Director.

Bicentennial Celebration Details

You will find many more details of activities at www.illinois200.com. There will be three main aspects to this big event: (1) Celebration, (2) Inspire, and (3) Invest - in the next 200 years.

This once-in-a-lifetime event will offer many opportunities to **celebrate**. You will see the bicentennial flag flown proudly displaying the special logo during the year-long celebration. Other events include:

1. Kickoff events in Springfield and Chicago on December 3, 2017.
2. At least one event in every region of Illinois, with all 102 counties joining in the celebration, watch your local newspapers for a listing of these activities.
3. Illinois' 200th Birthday Gala at the United Center in Chicago on December 3, 2018.

The state will **inspire** Illinoisans to be #IllinoisProud. There will be several forums, including social media, to share your love of Illinois and the land where we live. A statewide multimedia campaign will celebrate Illinois' influence on the world through music, sports, agriculture, literature, commerce, history, technology and innovation, transportation, and art and architecture. The shareable, lighthearted infotainment segments will feature facts about Illinois told in surprising and compelling ways. Sports teams will be asked to wear a commemorative patch and to designate games to commemorate Illinois 200. A music compilation CD will feature a wide variety of Illinois artists and genres, in addition to one or more new songs written for the Illinois Bicentennial celebration.

And finally, let's **invest** our time, support, and efforts to keep Illinois great for the next 200 years. How will you leave a lasting legacy? "Everyday Heroes" throughout the state will be inspired to apply for monetary awards by sharing their stories and dreams through video

(over)

submissions. In addition, Illinois Bicentennial Commission will support legacy projects by working with partner agencies, charitable foundations, sponsors, and other organizations to commemorate our history and create or support programs that invest in our future.

Celebrate our Great History!

This celebration is a good time to remember where we came from. This should make all citizens proud and to become reacquainted with our distinguished state. Here are a few of these historical high points:

- **First Permanent Settlement (1699)** - French missionaries from Quebec establish the Mission of the Holy Family at Cahokia, making it Illinois's first permanent European settlement. It stands across the Mississippi River from the future site of St. Louis.
- **du Sable in Chicago (1779)** - Jean Baptiste Pointe du Sable establishes a trading post at present-day Chicago, becoming the area's first permanent resident. Du Sable was African American but little else is known about his life before settling in "Eschecagou."
- **Northwest Ordinance (1783)** - Congress passes the Northwest Ordinance, creating the Northwest Territory, which includes all of present-day Illinois and all or part of Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota. It also forbids slavery, except as a punishment for a crime.
- **Lewis and Clark (1804)** - Lewis and Clark depart on their expedition into the Louisiana Territory from Camp Wood, near the Wood River in Illinois. They had wintered there to prepare for their long journey.
- **Constitution and Statehood (1818)** - Illinois, with 34,620 residents, becomes the twenty-first state. Kaskaskia remains the capital and Shadrach Bond is the first governor. Most people live in the south along rivers and forested areas. The prairies are largely unsettled and Chicago is an unimportant village.
- **John Deere (1837)** - In northern Illinois, John Deere designs a self-scouring steel plow that will cut through prairie sod, making farming much easier for vast swaths of the country. He then decides to mass-produce it, rather than making it to order, beginning one of the nation's most successful companies.
- **Lincoln-Douglas Debates (1858)** - Republican Abraham Lincoln and Democrat Stephen A. Douglas, rivals for the U.S. Senate, hold seven debates across Illinois. The topic of slavery's expansion into the western territories dominates the proceedings, with Douglas espousing "popular sovereignty"—the idea that voters in each state and territory should decide whether to accept or reject slavery. Lincoln argues slavery must not be allowed to expand. Douglas wins

the Senate seat, but the debates make Lincoln and political star, helping pave his way to the presidency.

- **President Grant (1868)** - Ulysses S. Grant, Civil War general from Galena, is elected President of the United States. He oversees Reconstruction of the former Confederacy and faces the financial Panic of 1873. He retires after two terms and writes his memoirs, now considered a classic of the form.

Be a Leader in Illinois

From leaders like Abraham Lincoln, Ulysses S. Grant, Ronald Reagan, and Barack Obama to pioneers like Jane Addams, John Deere, and Enrico Fermi have called Illinois home, not to mention icons like Ernest Hemingway, Muddy Waters, Walt Disney, Oprah Winfrey, and Michael Jordan. What will be your legacy and will you make history?

Throughout the last 200 years, Illinoisians have made a massive impact on the country and the world. Illinois Bicentennial will commemorate and celebrate all of the great things that instill pride in people who live here, grew up here, and have roots here.

Student and Discussion Review

TRUE OR FALSE? Write a **T** or **F** in the space provided.

- ____ 1. Abraham Lincoln served as the first governor of Illinois.
- ____ 2. The 21 stars on the Bicentennial logo represent Illinois as the 21st state.
- ____ 3. Illinois still operates under its first Constitution of 1818.
- ____ 4. The state has 202 counties that will participate in the celebration.
- ____ 5. Illinois had approximately 34,000 residents when it became the 21st state.
- ____ 6. John Deere helped revolutionize the plowing of farm fields with its plow design.
- ____ 7. The Lincoln-Douglas Debates were held to see who would become the President of the U.S.
- ____ 8. Ulysses S. Grant was a civil war general before becoming president.
- ____ 9. Abraham Lincoln, Ronald Reagan, and Barack Obama all have presidential ties to Illinois.
- ____ 10. Illinois became a state on December 3, 1818.

Answers to the T-F Questions:
1. F 2. T 3. F 4. F 5. T 6. T 7. F 8. T 9. T 10. T



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