

BARRINGTON
AND
THE CIVIL WAR

1861 – 1865

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November, 2009

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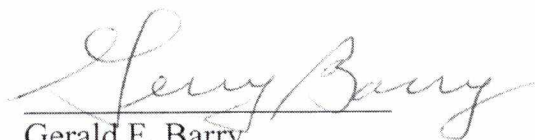
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PROLOGUE

The theme of the year 2000 White House Millennium Council was to “Honor the Past, Imagine the Future.” The intent was to help Americans of all ages to build new bridges and repair old breaches – welcoming the next one thousand years in a spirit of remembrance, hope and joy. It is in this spirit that this project, identifying the township of Barrington’s involvement in the Civil War, is undertaken. We honor all those citizens who participated in this great conflict and pay special tribute to those who gave their lives to enable our country to remain intact and develop to be the great nation that it is today. It is important that significance of the events of the Civil War is not lost in today’s lifestyle both for our own well-being and that of our children.

The Civil War was the most wide-spread and costliest war ever fought on our homeland. The number of men involved and casualties, both wounded and killed, far exceeded all of the military encounters that the United States had encountered at that time put together (6,300,000 involved, 620,000 killed or wounded). Interestingly enough, the inevitability of the encounter between the North and the South was recognized back at the time of our Nation’s birth when the Declaration of Independence and Constitution were being written. In a real sense, the Civil War and its effects are a work-in-progress with the results still being felt today in our every-day lives.

What was the make-up of Barrington at that time? What was its response to our nation’s crisis? It is inevitable in an endeavor of this sort that names of important individuals will be inadvertently omitted along with important happenings. We invite you, the readers, to submit your thoughts and ideas along with any oversights to be used in possible future updatings of this effort.



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INTRODUCTION

Our Founding Fathers in 1776 declared that “all men are created equal” but could not reach agreement to abolish the institution of slavery. It was believed and hoped that slavery would soon wither away, but it didn't. It persisted and grew in intensity along with State's rights and beliefs in the South. At 4:30 a.m. on April 12, 1861, the Confederate States fired the opening shot of the Civil War at Fort Sumpter, a Union fort on an island in Charleston Bay. Ironically, both sides thought that the war would last but 3-6 months at the most. Each side thought that the other would not have the gumption nor the means to conduct a prolonged encounter. How wrong they both were!

Barrington was a small but thriving community at that time, growing from the first settlers in 1834, to the naming of the township in 1840 and finally being granted a charter by the State of Illinois on February 16, 1865. Railroad activity began in the mid-1850's, which had great influence in population and industrial growth. The first great battle of the Civil War was at Bull Run (Manassas) on July 21, 1861, which resulted in a Union defeat and the bloody encounter at Shiloh (Pittsburgh Landing) on April 7, 1862, a Union victory, but extremely costly (Union casualties killed, wounded or missing were 13,047 and the South 10,694) made both sides realize that the war would not be an easy one.