

BARRINGTON – (1800-1865)

It is hard to believe, looking back at the 1800-1865 period from our viewpoint in 2009, that Barrington, which didn't become a Township until 1863, had to concern itself with Indians peering through their windows, were part of the Indiana Territory for awhile, and didn't enjoy a railroad connection until late in that time span. Take a look at what Barrington and its inhabitants were at that time:

PERIOD	EVENT
1790	Indiana Territory, including Illinois, organized by Congressional Action. William Henry Harrison was Governor.
1809	Illinois Territory was established, to include the present state of Wisconsin. Kaskaskia was the territorial capital and Ninian Edwards the Governor.
1818	Illinois was admitted as the twenty-first state of the United States. The State capital at Kaskaskia was moved to Vandalia in 1820. In 1839, the seat of the government was moved to Springfield.
1820-1845	Pottawatomies and other tribes were active in the area during this period but were mostly friendly. Early settlers tell of waking in the morning to find Indians peering through their windows.
1831-1839	The Barrington area was under the rule of ten county governments from the erection of the Northwest Territory in 1790 (Knox County) to Cook County in 1831 and Lake County in 1839.
1834	The first settlers in Barrington Township were Jesse F. Miller and William Van Orsdal. Amos Flint was also reported as having settled about that period
1841	The first frame house in Barrington Township was built by Shubuel W. Kingsley on Penny Road west of Sutton Road. Before that, all houses were built of logs.
1850	First Town meeting of the Township of Barrington held on April 2 at the south end of Miller's Grove.
1854	First railroad stop in Barrington.
1863	By a vote of 29 to 4, the Township government of Barrington Station voted to incorporate as Barrington. This was chartered by the State of Illinois on February 16, 1865. The population was about 300.

This is what Barrington resembled on April 12, 1861. At 4:30 a.m., in Charleston Harbor in South Carolina, General A. T. Beauregard of the Confederate forces ordered firing to begin on Fort Sumpter, under the command of Major Anderson. The Civil War had begun and the supporters for both sides were quick to respond. The most tragic and costliest war in our nation's history was underway!

RESPONSE TO MR. LINCOLN'S CALL

In July, 1862, President Abraham Lincoln called for 300,000 volunteers which was met most enthusiastically throughout the North with new recruits chanting to a popular hymn of the day "We are coming, Father Abraham, three hundred thousand more" as they marched to the war. 179 men registered for military service with the Township of Barrington as their address. Over the span of the war, the Miller's Grove Methodist Church was an active enlisting center. Today it is the site of a Korean church and has a memorial with the names of 98 Barringtonians who enlisted at that recruiting center. An adjoining cemetery contains the gravesites of 10 Civil War veterans.

In the book entitled "A History of Barrington, Illinois" by Arnett C. Lines, the spirit that existed at the time is beautifully described:

Bob Purcell, who lived on Main Street back of the round-house, and his fireman Peter Miller, next door were an engine crew for years on the in-and-out of Barrington local trains. Purcell was running an engine at the outbreak of the Civil War, with Charles Thorp Sr. and said to his partner, "Come on, let's join up; they are calling for volunteers. We can have this war ended in three months." He "joined up" and so did Thorp, and they were in the same company until Purcell was taken prisoner.

BARRINGTON HAS BEGUN TO RESPOND TO OUR NATION'S CALL!!!