

**OLD MONROE STREET:
NOTES ON THE MONROE
STREET OF EARLY
CHICAGO DAYS. 1914**

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Old Monroe Street: Notes on the Monroe Street of Early Chicago Days. 1914 by Edwin F. Mack

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EDWIN F. MACK

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*James Monroe, after whom
Monroe Street was named*

*Through the courtesy of
Mr. Rufus C. Dawes*

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of Early Chicago Days



1914

Compiled by Edwin F. ^{revised} Mack

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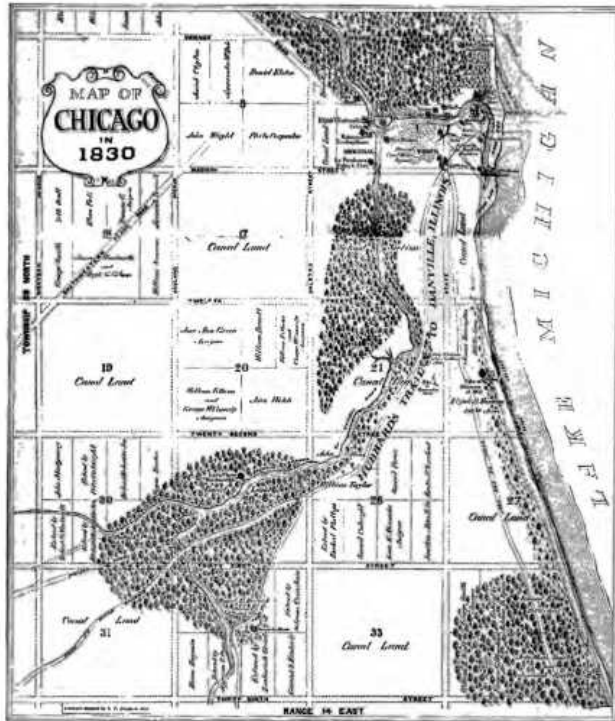
A WORD OF ACKNOWLEDGMENT

IN gathering these notes about old Monroe Street (from the River to the Lake), the compiler wishes to acknowledge the courteous assistance of Mr. M. E. Dahl, of the Chicago Historical Society, in the search among the books, pamphlets, maps and papers in the possession of the Society, from which much of the material of this little publication was secured.

The compiler has also drawn heavily upon the monumental History of Chicago by A. T. Andreas; upon the later History of Chicago, in five volumes, by J. Seymour Currey, as well as upon other publications mentioned in the text.

Among those whose personal recollections have been of service, special acknowledgments are due Mr. W. D. Kerfoot, Mr. Frank W. Smith, Mr. James Walsh, Mr. Nathan Dickinson, Mr. Herbert Darlington, Mr. Charles M. Sturges, Mr. A. B. Adam and Mr. Frank O. Butler.

E. F. M.



MAP SHOWING HUBBARD'S TRAIL

Reproduced from part of a map appearing in Andreas' History of Chicago

OLD MONROE STREET

FROM THE RIVER TO THE LAKE

A map of Chicago dated 1830, in the possession of the Chicago Historical Society, shows the village of Chicago clustered about old Fort Dearborn, near the mouth of the Chicago River. The present location of Monroe Street was then out in the country, in the section of land south of the village bounded by Madison, State, Halsted and 12th Streets.

*First map
of Chicago*

This map shows the district on the west side of the River pretty well wooded, while on the east side of the River the woods extend not quite halfway to Hubbard's Trail (about the present location of Clark Street), leading to Danville.

This trail was named after Col. Gurdon S. Hubbard, who was the first white man to blaze a trail from Chicago overland to the southern part of the State, instead of following the course of the rivers, as had been done previously.

*Hubbard's
Trail*

Monroe Street is located in what is known as a School Section (640 acres). Section No. 16 in every township in the State of Illinois was granted to the State by the U. S. Government for the use of the schools. The school section in this township was bounded by Madison Street on the north, 12th Street on the south, State Street on the east and Halsted Street on the west.

In order to raise money for school purposes, an auction sale was held on October 21, 1833, and continued for five days, in the first Tremont House, located at that time on the southeast corner of Dearborn and Lake Streets.

*Big Real
Estate
Auction*

*\$6.72 an
Acre*

Out of 140 blocks comprising the school section, all but four blocks were sold for a total of \$38,619.47, or an average of \$6.72 an acre. One of the four blocks remaining for school use was the block bounded by Monroe, Dearborn, State and Madison Streets.

*Golden
Jones'
Purchase*

It was at the foregoing auction sale that Benjamin Jones (also known as "Golden Jones" on account of his wealth) on October 22, 1833, purchased from the State of Illinois, Lot 2, Block 117, upon which the Central Trust Company of Illinois now stands, for the sum of \$78, being about the price today of one sq. ft. of the 16,920 sq. ft. in this lot.

This lot appears to have passed out of the Jones family April 13, 1868, through a deed given by the executors of the estate of William Jones, father of Fernando Jones, to John M. Douglas for \$58,500. Mr. Douglas was at that time President of the Illinois Central Railroad.

*Original
Town Limits*

Monroe Street was not within the original limits of Chicago when it was incorporated as a town on August 12, 1833, the southern limits of the town at that time being Madison Street.

However, the southern town limits were extended on November 6, 1833, as far south as Jackson Street; and on that date, therefore, Monroe Street became part of the town of Chicago.

Chicago was incorporated as a city March 4, 1837.

*Naming of
Monroe
Street*

The Chicago Democrat, in its issue of December 3, 1833 (in the files of the Chicago Historical Society), contains an ordinance passed by the Town Council on November 7th which was rather remarkable for the number and scope of its provisions.