

# **CHICAGO PAST AND PRESENT**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649512836

Chicago Past and Present by S. R. Winchell

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**S. R. WINCHELL**

**CHICAGO PAST  
AND PRESENT**



# CHICAGO PAST AND PRESENT

A MANUAL FOR THE CITIZEN, THE TEACHER  
AND THE STUDENT

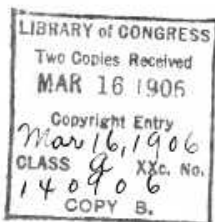
HISTORY, GOVERNMENT, OFFICIALS, THEIR DUTIES AND SAL-  
ARIES. ALSO COUNTY, STATE, AND UNITED STATES  
GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS OF SPECIAL INTEREST  
TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC.

BY  
S. R. WINCHELL

*ILLUSTRATED*



1906  
A. FLANAGAN COMPANY  
CHICAGO



COPYRIGHT 1905  
BY  
A. FLANAGAN COMPANY

# CONTENTS

---

PREFACE	5
THE HISTORY OF CHICAGO—The Name—LaSalle's Prophecy— Topography—How the Marsh was Removed—The Chicago River—Discovery of Chicago—First Settlement—John Kin- zie—Fort Dearborn Massacre—Illinois Becomes a State— Chicago Begins to Grow—Great Land Treaty with the In- dians—The Wolf-hunt—Causes of Growth—The First Rail- road—Illinois and Michigan Canal—Drainage of the City— Drainage Canal—The Great Fire—The Anarchist Riots— Columbian Exposition—Railroad Riots of 1894	7-37
THE CITY GOVERNMENT	38, 39
LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT—The Mayor—City Council	40, 41
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT—General Government—Mayor and City Clerk—Law Department—Department of Finance— Civil Service Commission—Election Commissioners—De- partment of Supplies—City Art Commission—City Market —Special Park Commission—Department of Track Eleva- tion—Bureau of Statistics	42-58
PUBLIC SAFETY—Police Department—Detective Bureau—Bu- reau of Identification—Bureau of Records—Municipal Lodging House—Vehicle-inspection Department—Construc- tion Department	59-68
THE HOUSE OF CORRECTION	69
THE FIRE DEPARTMENT	69
THE BUILDING DEPARTMENT	72
THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT	74
THE INSPECTION DEPARTMENT	79
POUNDS AND POUNDMASTERS	80
THE BOARD OF EXAMINING ENGINEERS	81
PUBLIC WORKS—Bureau of Engineering—Bureau of Water—Bu- reau of Sewers—Bureau of Streets—Bureau of Maps and Plats	82-101
BOARD OF LOCAL IMPROVEMENTS	102
DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRICITY—Bureau of Municipal Lighting— Bureau of Fire-alarm Telegraph—Bureau of Police Tele- graph—Bureau of Electrical Inspection—Bureau of Gas- lighting and Repairs—Bureau of Automobile License	103-108

## CONTENTS

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION . . . . .	109
THE JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT . . . . .	117
VARIOUS CITY ORDINANCES . . . . .	120
FARES FOR HACKS AND CABS . . . . .	124
TABULAR VIEW OF CITY GOVERNMENT . . . . .	126
THE NEW CITY CHARTER . . . . .	129
TAXATION IN CHICAGO. . . . .	130
CHICAGO INSTITUTIONS AND INDUSTRIES—The Parks—Monu- ments—Libraries—Art Institute—Municipal Art League— Public School Art Society—Coliseum—Street-railways— River Tunnels—Schools and Colleges—City Directory— Newsboys—Electricity—Telephones—Gas—Chicago Relief and Aid Society—Chicago Bureau of Charities—Illinois Humane Society—Theaters—Weather Bureau—Life-sav- ing Stations—Union Stock-yards—Ship-building—High Buildings—The Tunnel . . . . .	133-187
CHICAGO'S COMMERCIAL INTERESTS—The Board of Trade—The Lumber Business—Shipping Interests—Clearing-house— Federal Building—Post-office . . . . .	188-197
SOME OF THE LEADING FEATURES OF CHICAGO—Statistics of Roman Catholic Church—The Wonderful Growth of Chi- cago—The Languages of Chicago—One Day's Events in Chicago—Chicago's Greatness—Non-partisan Political As- sociations—Charitable Organizations—Social Settlements —Cemeteries—Location of Railroad Depots—Museums— Fountains—Lighthouses—Other Interesting Facts—Gov- ernment Offices—State Offices—Illinois National Guard— Independent Military Organizations . . . . .	198-216
CHIEF EVENTS IN THE HISTORY OF CHICAGO . . . . .	217
COOK COUNTY—Divisions of the County—County Court-house . . . . .	218-220
GOVERNMENT OF COOK COUNTY—County Commissioners— County Clerk—Recorder of Deeds—County Treasurer— Coroner—Sheriff—State's Attorney—County Superintend- ent of Schools—Jury Commissioners—County Surveyor— County Attorney—Superintendent of Public Service— Civil Service Commission—Board of Review—County Arch- itect—Courts of Cook County—Cook County Charity Work —Outdoor Relief—County Hospital—Institutions at Dun- ning—United States Courts . . . . .	221-237
SOME INTERESTING FACTS AND FIGURES . . . . .	238



## PREFACE

It has not been the purpose of the writer of this volume to present an exhaustive treatise on Chicago, but rather to mention the most important events in its most remarkable history, and to set forth briefly the leading features of its present condition and government. These facts are of interest to every citizen, and many of them are required to be taught in the public schools.

The book may be used as a text-book or for reference, and should be followed by a more exhaustive study of Chicago as it is, if one wishes to learn all about the great city. No one book can describe adequately its great industries, its commercial, social, religious, political, and educational life, its streets, buildings, railroads, newspapers, etc. These must be studied and seen at first hand, and it is suggested that teachers should make trips with their pupils to the City Hall, the Stock-yards, the Drainage Canal, the Water-works, the Fire-engine Houses, the Lumber District, the Harbors, etc., and make a special study of these places, and the many departments of the city's life and activity, or have their pupils make such trips and report what they have seen and learned. Nothing is more interesting to young people than the

---

## P R E F A C E

---

study of things about them, and in these days of industrial training in the schools, the same methods and aims may well be applied in teaching the practical and vital facts of civil life in all its departments.

It is scarcely necessary to say that the facts set forth herein have been gathered from various publications, from the annual reports of the several departments of the city government, and by personal investigation. For courtesies shown the writer by heads of departments and others in his efforts to obtain the latest and most authoritative information, he would here express his thanks.

CHICAGO, December 1, 1905.

# CHICAGO: PAST AND PRESENT

---

## THE HISTORY OF CHICAGO

### THE NAME

MANY theories have been given to explain the origin of the name "Chicago." The one generally accepted is, that this name was given to the place by the Indians, and is derived from the Indian name for wild onion, or, as some claim, from the Indian name for skunk (seganku), so illsmelling were the odors which arose from the marshy region in its early days.

Dr. William Barry, first secretary of the Chicago Historical Society, says: "Whatever may have been the etymological meaning of the word 'Chicago,' in its practical use it probably denotes strong or great. The Indians applied this term to the Mississippi River, to thunder, or to the voice of the great Manitou. Edward Hubbard, the genealogist, adopts a similar view, and says that the word 'Chicago,' in its applications, signifies strong, mighty, powerful."

### LA SALLE'S PROPHECY

A remarkable prophecy, said to have been made by the explorer La Salle in 1682, in a letter written to a friend in France, is recorded in Gale's *Reminiscences of Chicago*. This prophecy is as follows: