

Historic Markers in Lake County, Illinois

Historic Marker: **Adlai Ewing Stevenson II, 1900-1965**

County: Lake

Location: The marker is located in Mettawa, .8 miles south of IL 60 and St. Mary's Road.

Erected: 1984

Erected By: Village of Mettawa and the Illinois State Historical Society

Marker Text:

Adlai Ewing Stevenson - Governor of Illinois from 1948 to 1952, twice the Democratic Party Nominee for President, and United States Ambassador to the United Nations - built this residence in 1938. Known as 'The Farm,' the house, outbuildings, and surrounding meadows and woods comprise seventy acres. Throughout his career of public service, Stevenson often returned to The Farm for rest and inspiration. The property is now owned by the Lake County Forest Preserve District.

Historic Marker: **Andrew C. Cook House**

County: Lake

Location: The marker is located in Wauconda.

Erected: 1992

Erected By: Wauconda Lions Club, Wauconda Township Historical Society and the Illinois State Historical Society

Marker Text:

In 1840, Andrew C. Cook and his wife Mary Oakes came to Wauconda Township from Vermont via the Erie Canal, the Great Lakes to Chicago and then to Wauconda. They purchased 380 acres of land at \$1.25 per acre. A log cabin was erected before clearing the land. Early in 1850 he began construction on this rural Greek Revival style farmhouse, making the bricks from the clay and limestone of the nearby area. The house was built in three stages. As seen by the three colors of brick fired at different temperatures and times in his kiln. He was a stalwart Republican in Lake County politics, holding many offices including township supervisor. The first township meeting was held in this house.

Historic Marker: **Dwyer Settlement In Lake County, Illinois, The**

County: Lake

Location: The marker is located near the northwest corner of Washington Avenue and Green Bay Road on Lake Bluff School District #65 property.

N: 42° 16.958 W: -087° 51.274

Erected: 3/1/2009

Erected By: Vliet Center for Lake Bluff History and the Illinois State Historical Society

Marker Text:

In 1837, William Dwyer, his wife Mary, and Mary's brother, Dr. Richard Murphy, a physician, established a claim to the property on this site and created what was known as the Dwyer settlement. The Dwyer's Homestead included a tavern and one of the five stage stops along the Green Bay Trail in Lake County. It became known as the center of social activity: nurturing political, intellectual, and religious ties in the newly settled area. The Dwyer Settlement was the site of St. Ann's Church and Cemetery (1844), the first Catholic Parish in the area. William Dwyer served as the first road supervisor for this portion of Green Bay Road and served as a tax collector. Dr. Murphy was appointed first magistrate for the area and, as deputy to the federal marshal, recorded the Lake County Census for 1840. Murphy served for six years (1839-'45) in the Illinois State Legislature, drafting the first Illinois Public School Law, and acting as chair of the State Finance Committee. Dwyer and Dr. Murphy were instrumental in the 1839 formation of Lake County through the division of McHenry County, also in moving the county seat from Libertyville to Waukegan. The Dwyer's Tavern was the first polling place in the area and the site of the first Shield Township meeting on April 2, 1952. The Dwyer Settlement gave a permanent character to this area and from it grew the community now known as Lake Bluff.

Historic Marker: **Fort Sheridan**

County: Lake

Location: N: 42° 13.007 W: -087° 48.968

Erected: 1997

Erected By: Fort Sheridan Historic Preservation Society and the Illinois State Historical Society

Marker Text:

This U.S. Army Post was named after Civil War Cavalry General Philip Sheridan, to honor his many services to Chicago. The Commercial Club of Chicago, concerned since 1877 with the need for a military garrison, was motivated by the Haymarket Riot in 1886 to arrange for the donation of 632 acres of land to the Federal Government for this purpose. Troops arrived in November 1887 and were used in 1894 to quell labor unrest during the Pullman strike. Fort Sheridan became a mobilization, training, and administrative center beginning with the Spanish American War in 1898. During World War II, over 500,000 men and women were processed through military service here. Many Army officers who later became famous lived here, including George Patton and Jonathon Wainwright. The 94 Historic District buildings, built 1889-1910, include 64 structures that were the first major works of architects William Holabird and Martin Roche of Chicago. These earliest buildings are made of bricks molded and fired on site, using clay mined from lakefront bluffs. The water tower, originally the tallest structure in the Chicago area, was altered and shortened by 60 feet in 1940. The row of buildings flanking the tower were troop barracks. The 110-acre Historic District, placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1980, was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1984. Fort Sheridan closed in 1993.

Historic Marker: **Joseph T. Bowen Country Club**

County: Lake

Location: The marker is located in Waukegan at the Joseph T. Bowen Country Club on Sheridan Road.

Erected: 8/13/1989

Erected By: Waukegan Historical Society, the Waukegan Park District, and the Illinois State Historical Society

Marker Text:

From 1912 to 1962, Bowen Park was the site of the Joseph T. Bowen Country Club, owned by the Hull-House Association of Chicago. Here, children from many national, racial and religious backgrounds learned to respect each other and the environment. Bowen Park's natural environment also provided children of Chicago's hard streets an atmosphere never before experienced. Bowen Country Club influenced over 40,000 people and helped further the ideals of Nobel Peace Prize winner, Jane Addams, and Louise DeKoven Bowen. On this site the club achieved its motto, 'secure from the slow strain of the world's contagion.'

Historic Marker: **Rondout Train Robbery, The**

County: Lake

Location: The marker is located on the north side of Illinois Route 176, just east of the tollroad.

N: 42° 16.807

W: -087° 53.862

Erected: 10/4/1981

Erected By: Libertyville-Mundelein Historical Society, the Lake County Museum Association and the Illinois State Historical Society

Marker Text:

On June 12, 1924, the largest train robberies in U.S. history occurred near here. Bandits who boarded the train in Chicago forced postal clerks to surrender sacks containing more than two million dollars in securities and cash.

Local police apprehended the gunman within a few days. The U.S. Postal Inspection Service investigated the case and identified the masterminds, one of whom was a trusted employee of the postal service. Some of the loot was never recovered.

In all, eight men were convicted in federal court and sentenced within seven months of the robbery.

Historic Marker: **Washburn and Moen Manufacturing Company**

Erected By: North Chicago Center for the Arts, Inc. and the Illinois State Historical Society

Marker Text:

The Washburn and Moen Manufacturing Company of Worcester, MA, established a wire mill - the Waukegan Works - east of this location along Lake Michigan. The land for its Illinois operation was purchased January 16, 1891, on the recommendation of its advisers: Philip W. Moen, Charles G. Washburn, Fred H. Daniels, and Edwin Lenox and included much of the Elisha Wadsworth estate. In March 1891, on forty acres, construction of the mill complex was started. By September, a galvanizing operation began. In November, the company's subdivision, the Waukegan Highlands, was platted west of the mill. The first wire was drawn in December. In 1892, the Company, a principal manufacturer of Glidden Barbed wire, introduced Waukegan Barbed Wire, invented by John D. Curtis. The establishment of the plant led both an industrial and population boom. Workers from Worcester and immigrants from Finland, Sweden, and Eastern Europe moved to the Washburn and Moen subdivision. Slovenian workers called the area the "Kompanija" - the Company District. First named South Waukegan, the community that rapidly developed near the mill was later incorporated as North Chicago. The American Steel and Wire Company, which later became a part of the United States Steel Corporation, acquired the mill in 1899. By the 1950s, the plant had become one of Lake County's largest employers. In 1979, the mill was closed for economic reasons.

Historic Marker: **Welcome to Illinois**

County: Lake

Location: The marker is located 400 feet south of the Wisconsin state line on the west side of IL 45.

Erected: 9/14/1964

Erected By: Illinois Department of Transportation and the Illinois State Historical Society

Marker Text:

Lake County lies at the extreme Northeast corner of the state. It derives its name from being situated on Lake Michigan, as well as from the great number of lakes within. The land that comprises Lake County was acquired by the United States government by treaty with the Potawatomie and other Indians at Prairie Du Chein in August of 1829. The first white settler of Lake County was Captain Daniel Wright in 1834. The Potawatomie Indians helped him build the first house, which was north of Dutch man's Point in Vernon Township. The following year Hiram Dennicott arrived, and between the two families a settlement was established. Illinois acquired the fourteen northern counties, including the lead mine region around Galena and the site of Chicago, because of the foresight of Nathaniel Pope, Congressional delegate from the Illinois Territory. His amendment to the statehood act moved the upper boundary from an east - west line through the tip of Lake Michigan to the present location. Within this region, US 45 crosses the Des Plaines River which Joliet and Marquette followed in 1673. Between Kankakee and Effingham, US 45 parallels the Illinois Central, the first federal land grant railroad in the United States, and passes through the Lincoln country near Mattoon. In southern Illinois this highway passes Fort Massac State Park, a site which the French fortified extensively in 1757. George Rogers Clark entered the Illinois country near it on his way to capture Kaskaskia.

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