

*"CRESCIT EUNDO."*

# HISTORY OF CHICAGO.

FROM THE  
EARLIEST PERIOD TO THE PRESENT TIME.

IN THREE VOLUMES

VOLUME I.—ENDING WITH THE YEAR 1857.

BY A. T. ANDREAS.

CHICAGO:  
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east angles. The block-house was in the southwest corner. The officers' quarters were on the west side and the soldiers' barracks on the east side. It had two gates, one on the north and the other on the south side. A garrison was stationed at the fort, under various commanders, until 1823, when it was ordered to be evacuated. The frontier line had moved westward to the Mississippi, and a garrison at Chicago was not considered necessary. During these years the officers in command were as follows: 1816 to 1817, Captain Hezekiah Bradley; 1817 to 1820, Major Daniel Baker; 1820 to 1821, Captain Hezekiah Bradley; 1821, Major Alexander Cummings; 1821 to 1823, Lieutenant-Colonel John McNeil; 1823, Captain John Greene.

In October, 1828, a garrison was again stationed at Chicago, under the command of Major John Fowle; First-Lieutenant David Hunter (subsequently General). The troops remained until May, 1831, when they were withdrawn. But the time came when the affrighted settlers sought refuge in the fort. In 1832 Black Hawk and his warriors commenced hostilities, which will be found described in later pages of this work. In June the fort was once more garrisoned, Major William Whistler being assigned to the command. This officer had helped his father in the building of the first Fort Dearborn, and now after twenty-nine years of absence returned to be the commander of the second fort.

On the 8th of July, 1832, General Scott, with troops, arrived in a steamer off Fort Dearborn.\*

In May, 1833, Major Whistler was succeeded in command by Major John Fowle, who, however, remained but about one month, when he was succeeded by Major DeLafayette Wilcox, who commanded until December 18, 1833, and again from September 16, 1835, to August 1, 1836. Major John Bendu, Major John Greene and Captain and Brevet-Major Joseph Plympton were in command at various times, until December 29, 1836, when the troops were permanently withdrawn, under the following order:

"The troops stationed at Fort Dearborn, Chicago, will immediately proceed to Fort Howard, and join the garrison at that post. Such public property as may be left at Fort Dearborn will remain in charge of Brevet-Major Plympton, of the 5th Infantry, who will continue in command of the post until otherwise instructed."

And so the last morning and evening salute was fired; the last sentinel withdrawn, the last soldier marched out, and Fort Dearborn as a military post ceased to be.

#### AFTER THE MASSACRE.

In the year 1812, as before stated, there were five houses at Chicago, besides the fort and building attached to it. Of these, four were occupied by the families of Kinzie, Ouilmette, Burns and Lee. The fifth was on the Lee farm, on the South Branch. It has often been stated that all the houses in Chicago, except Mr. Kinzie's, were destroyed in 1812, by the Indians, but probably no buildings were destroyed except the fort and agency house.

The house of Ouilmette was occupied by himself and family, who remained in Chicago. The "Burns House" was afterward occupied by Mr. Jouett, when he was Indian Agent at Chicago, in 1817. The cabin on the Lee farm was fitted up and used as a trading house by John Crafts, and the house of Mr. Lee near the fort, on the lake shore, was evidently sold by his widow to Jean Baptiste Beaubien, who bought "of the rightful owner thereof," a "house and piece of cultivated ground" in

that exact locality in 1812. Mrs. Lee escaped the massacre, and with her infant child was carried captive to the village of Black Partridge. She was subsequently ransomed by M. DuPin, a French trader, became his wife, and lived in the Kinzie house during the absence of the family.

JEAN BAPTISTE BEAUBIEN, who may be considered the second permanent settler of Chicago, first visited the place in 1804, but did not purchase property till the year 1812, some time after the massacre. He then bought "of the rightful owner thereof" a house or cabin south of the ruins of the fort and near the lake shore, which had been standing there since 1804.† Here he resided when in Chicago, and although frequently absent at his trading-houses in Milwaukee and Green Bay, always considered the cabin in Chicago his home, and the home of his family, until a better house was bought five or six years later.

Jean Baptiste Beaubien was, at the time he settled at Chicago, the third of that name in America. His grandfather, Jean Baptiste Beaubien, emigrated from France at an early day and settled on the St. Lawrence. The home of the second generation of American Beaubiens was Detroit, where lived Jean Baptiste, jr., Joseph, Jean, Marie, Lambert, Antoine, Genevieve, Marion and Susan. The names of two of these brothers (Jean Baptiste and Lambert) appear in a list of the members of a company of Detroit citizens, who, under the lead of General Cass, made a raid in 1814 upon the hostile Indians in the vicinity. The names of three of the Mel-drums, prominent traders of Detroit and Mackinaw, also appear. Joseph Beaubien was the father of Jean Baptiste Beaubien of Chicago, who was born in the year 1780, at Detroit. When a young man he pushed out into the Michigan woods, and became a clerk for Wm. Bailly, a fur-trader, on Grand River. Through Bailly's instruction and help Mr. Beaubien acquired the rudiments of an education, which, supplemented by native shrewdness and vivacity, made him quite superior to the ordinary French traders of the day. He married, for his first bride, Mah-naw-bun-no-quah, an Ottawa woman, who became the mother of his two sons, Charles Henry and Madore. He was settled as a trader in Milwaukee as early as 1800, and until 1818 had a trading-house there. As before stated, he came to Chicago and bought the cabin and cultivated field south of the old fort in 1812. During that year he married, for his second wife, Josette LaFramboise, daughter of Francis LaFramboise,‡ an influential French trader then living on the

\* Abolition of Madore Beaubien.

† Captain Thomas C. Anderson, who came to Mackinaw in the spring of 1800, and was for many years engaged in trade with the Indians of the Northwest, states in his "Personal Narrative," published in Vol. IX, Wis. Hist. Coll., that his first winter (1800-1801) was spent on the Mississippi, near the present site of Quincy, Ill.; his second (1801-1802) among the Iowas on the Des Moines; and his third (1802-1803) among the Winnebagoes of Rock River. Toward the close of 1803 he started a trading house at "Mill-wick," having LaFramboise and LaFaire for neighbors. Here he remained until the spring of 1804. He says: "During my second year at Min-wick, or Mill-wick, in (1804-1805) Captain Whistler, with his company of American soldiers, came to take possession of Chicago. At this time there were no buildings there, except a few dilapidated log huts, covered with bark. Captain Whistler had selected one of these as a temporary, though miserable, residence for his family, his officers and men being under canvas. On being informed of his arrival, I felt it my duty to pay my respects to the authority so much required in the country. On the morrow I mounted Kee-ge-kaw, or Swift Goat, and the next day I was invited to dine with the captain. On going to the house, the outer door opening into the dining-room, I found the table spread, the family and guests seated, consisting of several ladies, as politely as knitters."

‡ Probably a son of either Alexander or Francis LaFramboise, traders of Mackinaw and Milwaukee. As early as 1795 Alexander LaFramboise of Mackinaw established a house at the mouth of the Milwaukee River. After it was well established he returned to Mackinaw and sent his brother Francis to take charge of the Milwaukee house. The latter had some trouble with one of the neighboring chiefs, whose hostility, added to his own mismanagement, brought the house, and with it his brother Alexander, to ruin. Francis LaFramboise was afterwards murdered at a trading-house, which he established among the Winnebagoes, in what is now central Wisconsin, and his business fell into the hands of his widow, Madame LaFramboise, who, with her brothers at Mackinaw, managed it with prudence and great success. The children of Francis, who were well grown when he lived in Milwaukee, are mentioned in the early history of that city, as Claude, Alexis and LaFortune. The Chicago LaFram-

\* See narrative of Captain Augustus Walker.

South side of the river, not far from Beaubien's place. In 1815, a short time before the rebuilding of the fort, an army contractor named Dean, built a house on the lake shore, at the mouth of the Chicago River, near where is now the foot of Randolph Street. In 1817, Mr. Beaubien purchased this house, which was a low, gloomy building of five rooms, for \$1,000—a large sum for those days. After this purchase he lived in the Dean house for several years, his son Alexander being born there. He used the old cabin after this for a barn.\*

In the fall of 1818, he was appointed Chicago agent of the American Fur Company, and built a small trading-house near his residence.

In 1823 the fort was evacuated, and remained for several years without a garrison. The U. S. Factory-house, just outside the south wall, was sold to the American Fur Company, and again sold by the company to Mr. Beaubien for \$500. He moved into this building, and resided there until he left Chicago for his farm on the Desplaines, in or about the year 1840. During the winter of 1831-32, Mr. Beaubien was president of the village Debating Society, the meetings being held within the fort. It is said the presiding officer filled his responsible position with "much efficiency and dignity." During the Black Hawk troubles, he led a party of valiant Chicagoans to the scene of anticipated warfare, as related in the history of that war in another chapter. Two years later when the militia of Cook County was organized, he was elected its first colonel, at the famous meeting at "Laughton's Tavern," when "The Punch Bowl of Ogden Avenue" sparkled with good cheer, and the hearts of the lively crowd with fun and jollity.

**THE BEAUBIEN CLAIM.**—Colonel Beaubien made two pre-emption claims for the land upon which he had resided since the rebuilding of the fort, which were rejected. Finally in May, 1835, he entered at the land office in Chicago, of which Edmund D. Taylor was Receiver, and James Whitlock Register, a pre-emption claim to the southwest fractional quarter of Section 10, Township 39, Range 14 east, the quarter-section upon which he resided. After consulting the United States District Attorney for Illinois and Hon. Sidney Breese, afterward Judge of the Supreme Court of the State, the officials of the land-office allowed his claim, and Colonel Beaubien became the purchaser of a fraction over seventy-five acres of land in what was known as the "Fort Dearborn Reservation," for the sum of \$94.61. Payment was made, entry recorded and certificates and receipts delivered to Mr. Beaubien. The following year 1836, Murray McConnell, a lawyer of some ability residing at Jacksonville, Ill., to whom Mr. Beaubien had conveyed a portion of this land, brought an action of ejectment against Colonel DeLafayette Wilcox, then in charge of United States property at Fort Dearborn, which stood on a portion of the land in question. This suit was entitled "John Jackson ex. dem. Murray McConnell v. DeLafayette Wilcox," and was brought before Judge Thomas Ford of the Cook County

Circuit Court, at the October term of 1836. The suit was popularly known as "the Beaubien claim."

The property involved, as before stated, was what was then known as the "Fort Dearborn Reservation," now Fort Dearborn Addition, and was by Government survey the southwest fractional quarter of Section 10, Township 39, North Range 14, East of the Third principal meridian, in Illinois, containing 75.69 acres. Colonel Wilcox was defended by David J. Baker, United States District Attorney for Illinois. Waiving any right that may have arisen from the purchase and occupation of a certain claim of land at an earlier date by Colonel Beaubien, his attorney based his case on the purchase made by him from John Dean, an army contractor or sutler, in 1817, of a house near the fort, and not far from his former residence, and for which, with its field and garden, he claimed to have paid \$1,000. The land in question was not surveyed, and was therefore not open to pre-emption until 1821. In 1822 the United States Factory at Chicago was finally closed by Government, and during 1823, the building was sold by order of the Secretary of the Treasury to Wm. Whiting, who resold it to the American Fur Company. Mr. Beaubien bought it of this company for \$500, and moved into it with his family, thus becoming by right of purchase and occupation the owner of all there was in the quarter-section on which he lived, except the fort and its immediate enclosure, still in possession of the Government. In 1824 the Commissioner of the General Land Office, at the request of the Secretary of War, "set apart" the whole of Section 10 for military uses. In 1831 the heirs of John Kinzie claimed pre-emption of the fractional quarter of Section 10, north of the river, at the nearest land-office, at Palestine, in Crawford County, which was allowed. Mr. Beaubien made a similar claim for the fractional-quarter-section south of the river, which was refused. In 1834 he again entered claim at the land-office at Danville, Vermillion County, which was again rejected, and finally in 1835, as before related, he presented his claim at the Chicago land office, which was allowed, and he bought the Fort Dearborn Reservation, at the regular rate of \$1.25 per acre, and obtained his certificate, which was dated May 28, and recorded June 26. When the suit was brought into the Circuit Court at the fall term of 1836, Judge Ford decided that Beaubien's claim was valid, but could not be enforced until he procured a patent from Washington; or, in technical terms, that "although Beaubien's claim is legal in every respect, yet he cannot assert his right against the United States in this form; a writ of mandamus against the proper officer for the patent is the proper remedy." The judgment of the Circuit Court was approved by the Supreme Court of the State, and in 1839 an effort was made in the House of Representatives at Washington, to establish Beaubien's title in accordance with the decision of the State courts. But the Solicitor of the Treasury, Henry D. Gilpin, informed the committee of the House in charge of the claim that the Government lawyers at Chicago—Butterfield, Collins and Morris—had drawn up a bill charging the local land-office with collusion in giving the original certificate to Beaubien in 1835. This information killed the hopes of the claimant in the House. Meanwhile the law suit had been carried into the Supreme Court of the United States, and Francis Peyton, attorney for Beaubien, on the last day of February, 1839, applied to the Government for certain maps which he deemed important, if not essential, to the support of his client's claim. They were not furnished, and in March, 1839, the judgment of the State Courts

\* The claim to this place from Milwaukee, and was doubtless the son of one of the first settlers. The family moved to the place called "Hardy's rabbit," and lived there many years, Francis LaFramboise or his sons being tax-payers in 1815 and 1816.

\* The claim must have come to its end in the cholera summer of 1832. Captain A. Walker, commander of the steamer "Sheldon Thompson," which came to Chicago with a part of General Scott's troops on the 10th of July of that year, set, in a letter published in the Chicago Democrat in 1861: "The summer of 1832 was a time of great pestilence where your populous city now stands, and but few, those of which were log tenements—one of them, without a roof, was a stable. We remained four days after landing the troops, procuring for the homeward voyage, etc. The only means of obtaining anything for the purpose of purchase the roofless log-building used as a stable. That, together with the red fence enclosing a field of some three acres near by, was sufficient to enable us to reach Mackinaw. Being drawn to the beach and prepared for a boat was boarded by the crew, which operation occupied most of four days more, as I have explained."

was reversed.\* The Secretary of War ordered the land to be divided into blocks and lots, constituting the Fort Dearborn Addition to the city of Chicago, and to be sold to the highest bidder, except block one, and fourteen lots in block two, and blocks four and five reserved to the Government. The Government was censured by the opposition journal in Chicago for its "indecent haste" in advertising in April, almost before the decision of the Court had placed on record the sale of the disputed land on June 10, 1839. It was understood that Colonel Beaubien desired to secure six lots in block five; and by general consent the citizens declined to bid against him. This kindness was, however, neutralized by James H. Collins, one of the attorneys for the Government, who secured five of the six, Beaubien obtaining only one lot in block five, for \$225; an advance of fourteen dollars on the highest price paid by Collins. This sale took place June 20, 1839. On the morning of the 21st an indignation meeting was held by the citizens, at which Wm. H. Brown was president, and John H. Kinzie and James Wadsworth were secretaries. Resolutions were passed denouncing Collins and expressing the regret that the Government should find it necessary to be so ungenerous to an old and respected citizen, who had been of great service to the early settlers of Chicago in their relations with the Indians; but all this could not change court decisions. June 13, 1840, the United States filed a bill in the Circuit Court for Illinois, to set aside the receipt and certificate given to Beaubien in 1835. The Court decreed that he should deliver them up for cancellation, and they were duly surrendered by Beaubien, accompanied with his receipt dated December 18, 1840, for the original purchase money then refunded. In 1878, Wm. H. Standish, a lawyer of Chicago, again brought the case before Congress, "explaining the Beaubien title to the Lake front lands, etc." He went over the points above given, re-enforcing them by affidavits of old residents, including one of E. D. Taylor, the Receiver in 1835, in which he states that he and his colleague, James Whitlock, Register, took the advice of David Jewett Baker, at that time United States Attorney for Illinois, who declared that "the law made it their duty to let said Colonel Beaubien pre-empt this land, whether it hurt or benefited the United States Government," and that they received the same advice from the Hon. Sidney Breese, who "even at that day enjoyed the reputation of being an eminent lawyer." The strong points of the claim were that from August 15, 1812, to July, 1816, the land in question could scarcely be said to be a post of any sort in the actual possession of the United States, having neither Government buildings, nor soldiers nor agents there; that it had not been formally reserved for military purposes until 1824, that it was therefore subject to pre-emption by Beaubien under the law of 1813, and that it should have been as open for pre-emption to him on the south side as it was to R. A. Kinzie on the north side of the river. To which it was answered by Senator Bayard, from the committee of Congress on private land claims, May 31, 1878; that there was a reservation and appropriation for Government uses as shown by the actual occupation from 1804 to 1812; that the non-occupation from 1812 to 1816 "was caused by the compulsion of war," and "a citizen could not take advantages of the misfortunes of his Government." This bounty of pre-emption, it cannot be supposed was designed to be extended to the sacrifice of public establishments or of great public interests (13 Peters, 498). "For these and other considerations your committee," says the Senator, "report

adversely upon the bill No. 773, and recommend that it be indefinitely postponed." The apparent similarity of the interest involved with that of the Kinzie claim, could furnish no solid basis for a claim against the Government, as pre-emption has been decided by the courts to be a matter of bounty on its part and could not be turned into a right against it, on the part of a citizen. Moreover, the Government had need, or use, for the southern fraction which it was actually occupying when suit was brought, while of the northern fraction it had never made any use. Had the Beaubien claimant awaited the abandonment of the land by the Government it is not improbable that they would have succeeded. Indeed, it was rumored that the patent had been actually signed in favor of Beaubien when the news of the suit aroused the indignation of President Jackson, who in his impulsive wrath tore it into fragments. The story is somewhat open to suspicion, being such as the known character of the President would have given rise to, without any foundation in fact. Eventually Congress donated to Beaubien four or five lots in the Fort Dearborn Addition as a compensation for his original outlay; but the effort to prosecute the claim before Congress in 1878, was, as has been shown, resisted with so much firmness as to leave but little hope of its successful revival at any future time.

The Fort Dearborn Addition was sold by the Government under Act of Congress of March 3, 1879. There was also some abortive agitation about obtaining the contested land for county purposes, in virtue of an act of Congress of May 26, 1824, granting any unsold public lands at \$1.25 an acre for such purposes. But it was too late, and the Beaubien Claim went into the real estate market, as stated, under the auspices of the General Government.

The homestead of Colonel Beaubien was where now is the southwest corner of South Water Street and Michigan Avenue. This was bid in at the land sale in June, 1839, by James H. Collins, for \$1,049, and, in the words of Madore, son of the old pioneer, the "very house his father was inhabiting, in which his family had been born and reared, and around which were the graves of his departed children, was sold from him in his old age. No wonder the citizens of Chicago held an indignation meeting."

Colonel Beaubien owned a farm near the place, called "Hardscrabble," to which he removed about the year 1840, and where his wife died in September, 1845. In 1850 he was commissioned Brigadier-General of militia. He returned from his farm to Chicago where he married, in 1855, Miss Louise Pinney. In 1858 he removed to Naperville, where he died January 5, 1863.

#### UNITED STATES INDIAN AGENTS AND FACTORS AT CHICAGO.

When old Fort Dearborn was built in 1803-4, an agency-house, for the use of the United States Indian Agents to be stationed at the post, was erected under the protection of its guns. It was situated a short distance above the fort on the same side of the river, and is described as an old-fashioned log building with a hall in the center, and one large room on each side. Porches extended the whole length of the building, front and rear. The Chicago Agency included the Pottawatomies, Saes, Foxes and Kickapoos. All negotiations with them, all payments made to them by the United States, all settlements of disputed questions, were through the medium of the Indian Agent.

CHARLES JOHNETT, the first Indian Agent at Chi-

\* 13 Peters, 498.

Chicago River who did not know this young, brave, and vigorous trader.

Mr. Hubbard continued in the employ of the American Fur Company two years beyond the term for which he was bound—seven years in all—during which time he had accumulated some wealth, and had acquired what was better, the entire confidence of every man connected with the trade of the Northwest, both American and Indian. His wages, as has been stated, were, during the six years of his indenture only nominal—\$120 per year\*—but, for the succeeding two years, while he remained in the employ of the company, he received \$1,300 per year and was, during the last year of his engagement a special partner. He severed his connection with the American Fur Company in the spring of 1827. During the last year of his engagement, he, at his own solicitation, was allowed to open up an inland trade, on the *Troquois*, his station being at the site of the present town of Watseka. While there he laid his plans, afterwards carried out, for an immense trade all along the line of what afterwards became famous as Hubbard's trail.

During the period of Mr. Hubbard's engagement with the American Fur Company, he made twenty-six voyages to and from his interior posts and via Chicago, to the headquarters at Mackinac. In 1827, having purchased of the company its franchises and good-will, he commenced business for himself. He no longer confined his trade to the water-ways as had been formerly done, but, scuttling his boats for safety within the South Branch of the Chicago River, he fitted out what at that time might be termed a most formidable caravan, consisting of nearly fifty heavily laden ponies, which he had bought of the Pottawatomie chief Big Foot at his village fifty miles away, at the head of what is now known as Geneva Lake, Wisconsin. With this outfit he moved south toward the Wabash River, and established trading-posts all along the line, nearly to the mouth of the Wabash, at intervals of thirty to fifty miles. The trail thus first marked out by Hubbard's caravan, and for years after traveled between his trading posts, became familiarly known as "Hubbard's trail," and was for fifteen years the only well-known and constantly traveled road between Chicago and the Wabash country. Danyville, now the shiretown of Vermillion County, was the principal inland depot of supplies, and there Mr. Hubbard made his home for several years, although his business kept him mostly on the trail between his various posts. Thus it happened that, although not at the time a resident of Chicago, he was present at the partial burning of the fort in 1827; and, during the "Winnebago scare" which succeeded, made his memorable ride from Chicago to the Wabash country for help, the particulars of which are related elsewhere.

As the settlements increased along the line of trading-posts established, the Indian trade gradually languished, and, one after another, Mr. Hubbard abandoned them on the south, until, after the extinction of the Indian title in 1833, and the certainty that his Indian customers would leave the country within two years, he abandoned the trade altogether, and became a permanent resident of Chicago, transferring his wonderful energy to his new home. This occurred in 1834. The intimate connection of Mr. Hubbard with the history of Chicago since that date is apparent on nearly every page, and in nearly every topic. It is unnecessary to repeat, it stands prominent as one of the foremost merchants for the succeeding twenty years, during which period, besides carrying on one of the largest shipping, commission, packing, and forwarding trades in the city, he held nearly every office of trust and honor that his fellow-citizens could thrust upon him. It may be said here that he never violated any trust bestowed, and, in his old age, he lives among the scenes of his active and useful life, with a character above reproach and a reputation untarnished by the business vicissitudes of half a century.

In the spring of 1831 Mr. Hubbard married Elenora Berry, daughter of Judge Elisha Berry, of Urbana, Ohio. They had one child, Gordon S. Hubbard, Jr., who was born in Chicago, February 22, 1830, and is now (1883), an honored citizen of the town where he was born. Mrs. Hubbard died February 28, 1838.

In 1843 Mr. Hubbard married Miss Mary Ann Hubbard, daughter of Alhina Hubbard, Chicago, who, with her honored husband still lives after forty years of married life, the worthy wife of the oldest and one of the wealthiest of Chicago's citizens.

### CHICAGO IN 1830-33.

Prior to 1830 there was no town of Chicago. The region round about, and the embryo settlement outside Fort Dearborn, had been known by that name,

\*Mr. Hubbard's father died in 1809. Out of the very moderate pittance of \$1,000 he left, during the years of his indenture, he set apart for his widowed mother a part of his earnings. A letter from the agent, January 26, 1824, to Mr. Hubbard, at Middle town, Conn., speaks in the highest terms of his faithful and notes the indebtedness to her of \$75, which he had set apart for her before leaving for his winter trip.

which had been applied since the time of the early French explorations quite indiscriminately to the Desplaines River, to all the marshy district lying about its source, and extending to and embracing the site of the present city.\*

The canal commissioners † appointed by the Legislature of 1829 were empowered to "locate the canal, to lay out towns, to sell lots, and to apply the proceeds to the construction of the canal." The members of this board were Dr. Jayne of Springfield, Edmund Roberts of Kaskaskia, and Charles Dunn. These commissioners were the official fathers of the city. They employed James Thompson to survey and plat the town of Chicago on Section 9, Township 39, Range 14. The completion of this survey, and the filing of the plat bearing date August 4, 1830, marks the date of the geographical location of the town, now the great city of Chicago.

The part of Section 9, platted as above, was bounded as follows: Commencing at the corner of Madison and State streets, on the south by Madison Street to its intersection with Desplaines; on the west by Desplaines; on the north by Kinzie; and on the east by State Street. It embraced the little settlement at Wolf Point and the lower village on the South Side, and comprised an area of about three-eighths of a square mile.

The population of the new town and suburbs, outside the fort (where two companies of United States infantry, under command of Major Fowle, were stationed, numbered, including the white families, half-breeds, and three or four French traders, not to exceed a hundred. Colbert's *Chicago* (pp. 5 and 6, gives the following regarding the residents of Chicago in 1829 and 1830.

"In 1829, the residents of the town besides the garrison were the following: John Kinzie, ‡ residing on the North Branch; Dr. Wolcott, Indian Agent, and son-in-law to Mr. Kinzie, residing near the site of the present Galena freight depot, just east of Clark Street (he died in the fall of 1830); John Miller, keeper of a log tavern, near the forks of the river, at Wolf Point, North Side; John B. Beaubien, residing near the lake shore, a little south of the fort; three or four Indian traders whose names have not been preserved, residing in log cabins west of the river."

The more elaborate "directory," given by the same author at the date of the finishing of Thompson's plat of the town, shows considerable increase of the resident population, or that the "census" of the previous year was imperfectly taken. It reads as follows:

"At this time (August 4, 1830,) the commercial strength of Chicago was composed and located as follows:

"Taverns—Elijah Wentworth, north side of the river, near the fork; Samuel Miller, west side of the river, just north of the fork; Mark Beaubien, east side of the river, just south of the fork. §

"Indian Traders—Robert A. Kinzie, near Wentworth's tavern; Mr. Bourisso (Leon Bourissen), just south of Beaubien's

\*The earlier maps do not designate the present Chicago River by that name, although many of them mark the region about the mouth of the present Chicago, as "Chicago," while on the same map the river Desplaines was designated as the Chicago River. It was also recognized as a locality under the name of Chicago in the official records of Fulton County, then embracing the present county of Cook. Concerning this, Hon. John Wentworth, in a historical lecture published in Fergus's Historical Series, No. 7, says: "From St. Clair County, what is now Cook County was set off in the new county of Madison, thence in the county of Crawford; in 1819, in the new county of Clark, and so little was then known of the northern country that the act creating Clark County extended it to the Canada line. In 1821 we were set off in the new county of Pike, in 1824, in the new county of Fulton; and in 1828, in the new county of Peoria. I have not only caused the county records of these counties to be examined, but have also corresponded with their earliest settlers, and I can find no official recognition of Chicago until we reach Fulton County. The clerk of that county writes me that the earliest mention of Chicago in the records is the order of an election at the term of the Fulton County Commissioners' Court, September 3, 1824, to choose one major and company officers, polls at Chicago to be opened at the house of John Kinzie. The returns of this election cannot be found, if they were ever made." Chicago was also a voting precinct of Peoria County, an election being held there as early as August 7, 1826.

† For a full account of the development of the canal project, and the progress of the work to the time of its completion, see the article on "Canal," which appears elsewhere in this volume.

‡ John Kinzie died January 6, 1828.

§ Wentworth's tavern was on the West Side, and Miller's on the North Side.

tavern, Log Cabin, near foot of North Dearborn Street, J. B. Beaubien, present site of Illinois Central depot.

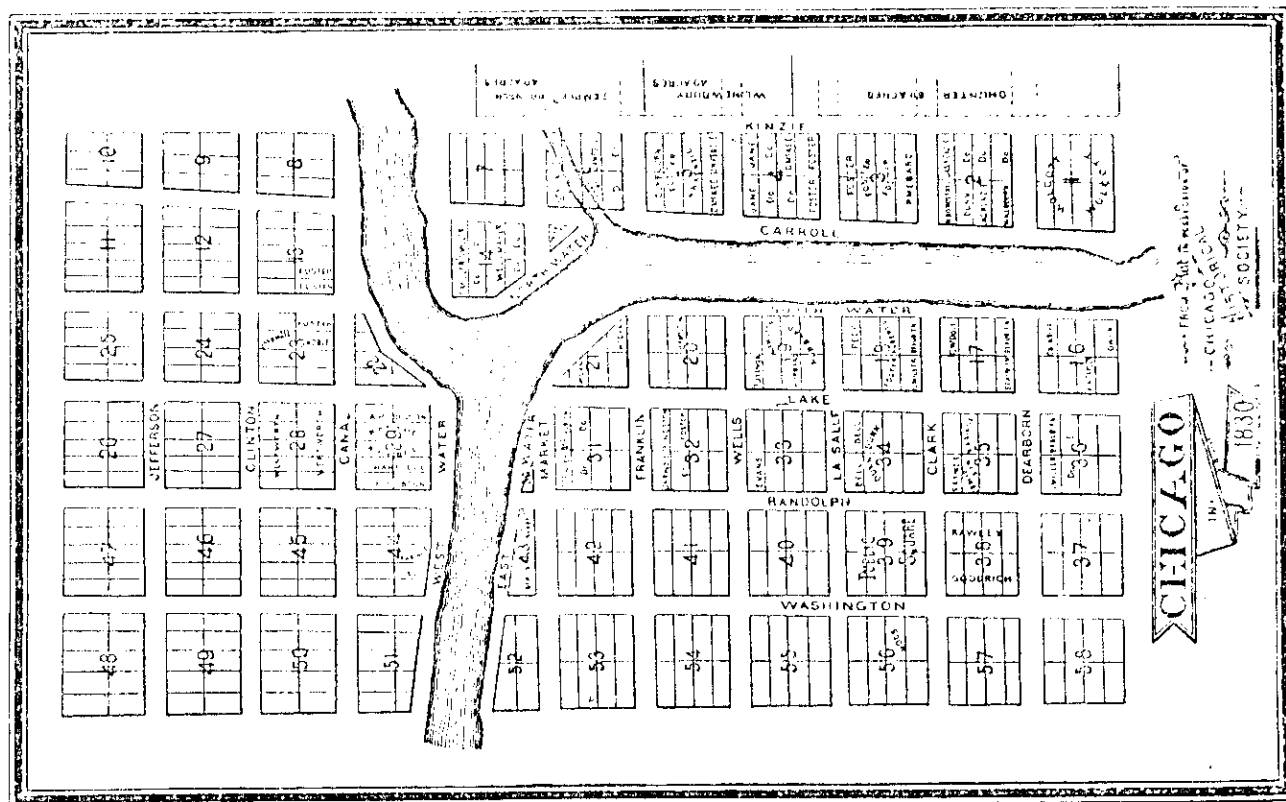
"Butchers--Archibald Clybourne,\* North Branch

"Merchants--George W. Dole†

"James Kinzie and family, William See and family, and Alexander Robinson and family, resided near Wentworth's tavern. The old Kinzie house, on the north side of the river and opposite the fort, was then unoccupied and in a dilapidated state. The Government agency-house, known as 'Cobweb Castle,' was left unoccupied by the death of Dr. Wolcott. In its vicinity were small log buildings occupied by the blacksmith, Mr. McKee, and Billy Caldwell, an Indian chief, who was also interpreter for the agency. At this time, or soon after, G. Kercheval and Dr. E. Harmon and James Harrington had arrived, and were making claims on the lake shore in the succeeding spring."

List of voters at an election held at Chicago August 2, 1830.\*

1. Stephen J. Scott, Chicago.
2. John B. Beaubien, Chicago.
3. Leon Bourrasca, Chicago.
4. B. H. Laughton, six miles southwest (now Riverside).
5. Jesse Walker,† Methodist minister, Plainfield, Ill., Fox River.
6. Medore B. Beant on, Chicago; now (1883) lives at Silver Lake, Kan.
7. Jean Baptiste Chevalier, Chicago.
8. James Kinzie, Chicago; see sketch of Kinzie family.
9. Russel E. Heacock, Chicago; see his biography.
10. James Brown, unknown.
11. Joseph Laframboise, Chicago; Indian chief by marriage.



THOMPSON'S PLAT.

The poll-book used at an election held at the Chicago precinct of Peoria County, at the house of James Kinzie, August 2, 1830, gives additional information as to the inhabitants of Chicago and the surrounding country, embraced within the precinct of that time. The public are indebted to the Hon. John Wentworth for its publication. It appears in his lecture published in Fergus's Historical Series, No. 7, p. 16. The list embraces the names of thirty-two voters, some of whom were not residents of Chicago, although living within the limit of the precinct‡ and sufficiently near to attend the election. The list is given below, with residence so far as can be ascertained.

\* Clybourne's place might be said to be almost outside the limits, it being on the west side of the North Branch, nearly two miles above Wolf Point. He was, however, the butcher not only for the garrison but for the citizens, and might thus be counted in. Besides the wife and children of Archibald, his family included his father, James, and a half brother, John E. Clark.

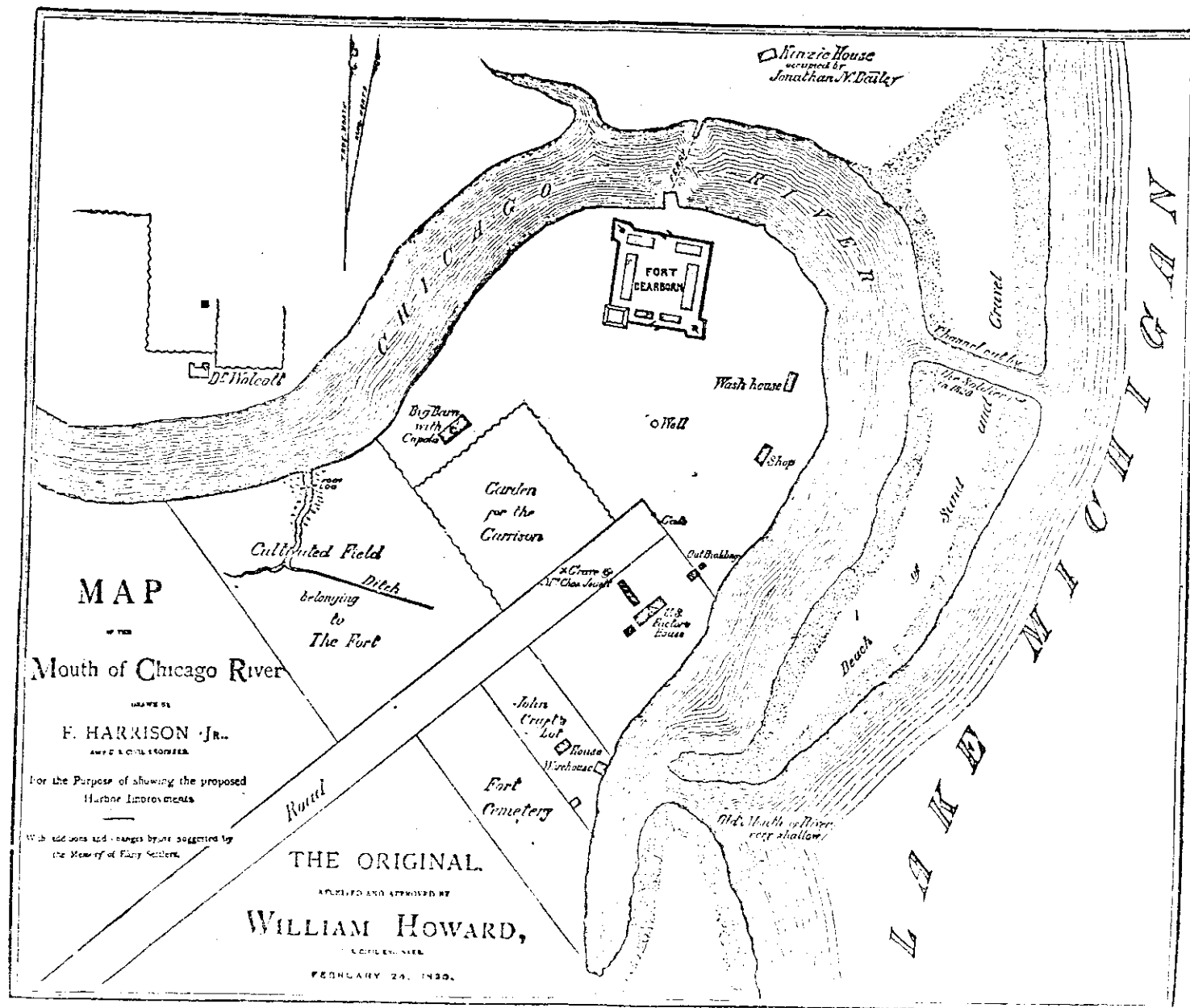
† The name of George W. Dole is erroneously inserted in the above list. He did not arrive until May 3, 1831. See same author, p. 1.

‡ The limits of the precinct (called the first) embraced all that part of Peoria County east of the mouth of the DuPage River, where its waters enter the Des Plaines River. The area was greater than all of Cook County, although not extending to its present western limits.

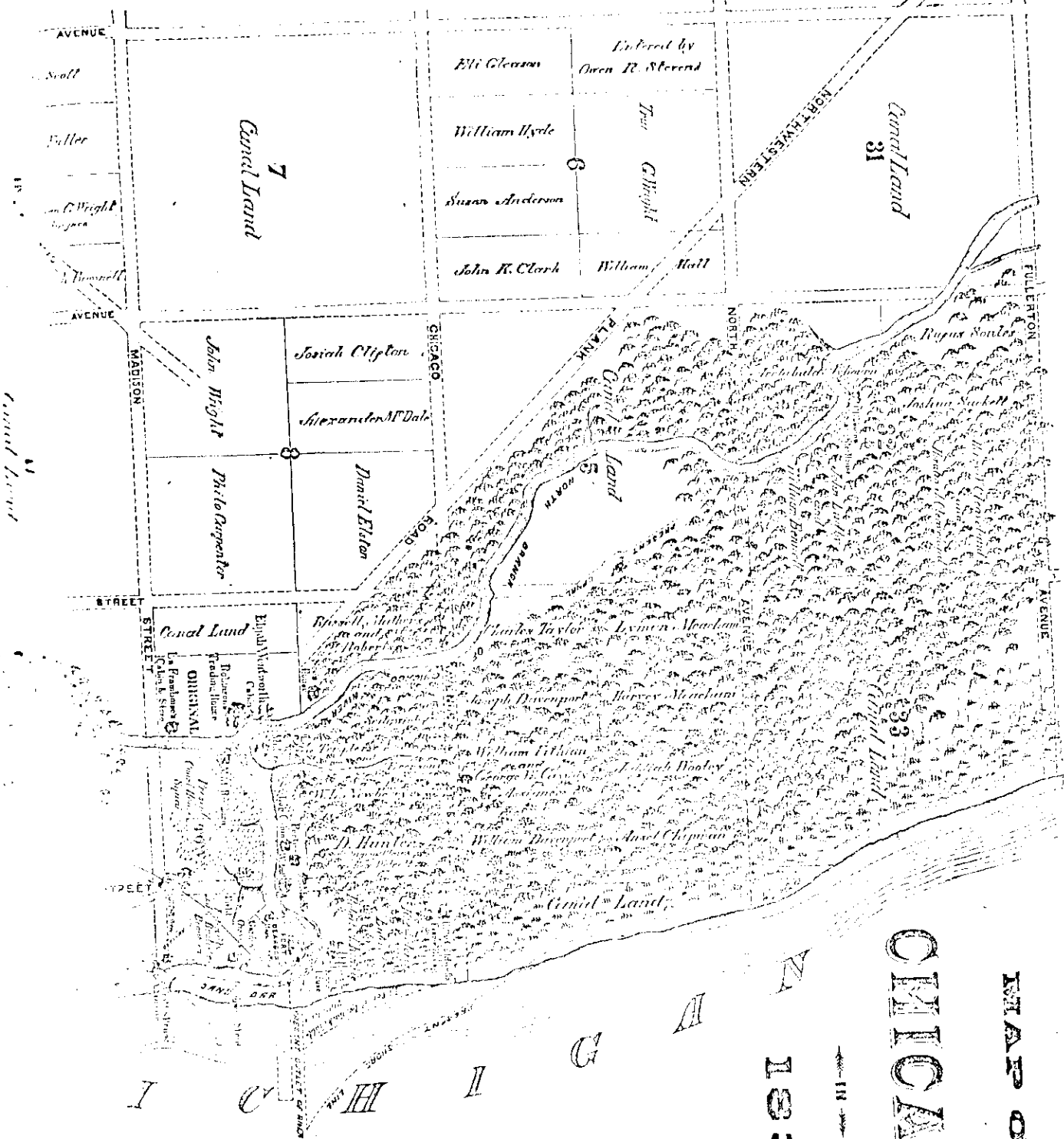
12. John L. Davis, Chicago; Welch tailor, afterward went to Milwaukee; lived there in 1882.
13. William See, Chicago; minister and blacksmith. See biography.
14. John Van Horn, unknown.
15. John Mann, unknown.
16. David Van Eaton, unknown.
17. Stephen Mack, Chicago; clerk of American Fur Company.
18. Jonathan N. Bailey, Chicago (first Postmaster); lived in part of old Kinzie house.
19. Alexander McDale, unknown.
20. John S. C. Hogan, Chicago.
21. David McKee, Chicago; blacksmith. Born in 1800, moved to Aurora, Ill.
22. Billy Caldwell, Chicago.
23. Joseph Thibault, Chicago.

\* Two other poll-books have been published (see appendix to second historical lecture of Hon. John Wentworth, Fergus's Historical Series, No. 7, p. 32, 33). One is of the voters at a special election for Justice of the Peace at the Chicago precinct, of Peoria County, at the house of John Kinzie on Saturday, July 26, 1830, which contains fifty-six names; the other is for a special election at the Kinzie's house for Justice of the Peace, for Peoria County, November 18, 1830, on which twenty-six names appear. At the latter election Stephen Leck was elected, receiving eighteen votes, against eight votes cast for Rev. William See. The full particulars of these early elections are recorded in the article on politics in this volume.

† Superintendent of missionary work from Peoria to Chicago (Harburt, p. 597). His family came in 1832 (Harburt, p. 592, note.)



TOWNSHIP 40 NORTH



CHICAGO

MAP OF

1830.





[NA Records of the War Dept.  
Office of the Secretary at War]  
[Schoolcraft to Secretary at War  
Calhoun. 34 pp.]

PROCEEDINGS OF THE TREATY AT CHICAGO

August 15 - 23, 1821

[Governor Cass:]

When I look around me, I see very few Pottowattomies, and their tents are thinly scattered over a very great extent of country, a great proportion of which, they cannot occupy, and do not want. Their country on the south embraces both banks of the Illinois, including all its rich tributaries -- on the north it reaches along the western shore of lake Michigan, to the lands of the Menomonies of Millwacky, and to those of the Winnebagoes of Green Bay -- on the east they have all the country south of the Grand river to the head waters of the Maumee and the Wabash; and on the west, their territories extend to the banks of the Mississippi. You also still occupy the tracts of land sold by the treaties of St. Mary and St. Louis; and will long retain possession of the country now proposed to be purchased. I am surprised, that with such ample territories, you should utter one word, about the smallness of your country. [p. 7]