



the

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Illinois and the Civil War's Sesquicentennial

This year marks the 150th anniversary of the beginning of the Civil War, which officially began with the attack on Fort Sumter on April 12, 1861. Commemorative Civil War-related activities are planned throughout the state. Learn about these activities, how Illinois and the nation reacted to events that led to the war, and to the conflicts that followed, by visiting www.illinoiscivilwar150.org.

The site includes a calendar of commemorative events around Illinois, a timeline of the Civil War, and a month-by-month description of what was going on in Illinois related to the war and how Illinoisans' opinions about it changed. This site is a treasure trove for teachers with materials developed for them by the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency (IHPA) and links to related sources and documents, like African-American genealogy resources at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield.

The web site is sponsored by Save Illinois History and the IHPA with a grant from the Illinois Humanities Council, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Illinois General Assembly.

The following is an excerpt from the site, reprinted with the IHPA's permission. It explains how Illinoisans felt about the possibility of war.

Illinois in February 1861

The election of a Republican (Abraham Lincoln) as president of the United States quickly led southern states to consider breaking up the nation. Illinois-

ans held many different views of the crisis and what should be done, and they would continue to do so through the months and years that followed.

As southern states declared independence from the United States, many in Illinois thought that they should be allowed to leave. Some antislavery men did so with an attitude of "good riddance" to what they saw as a way of life that made mockery of American ideals of freedom. Others saw secession as the only way that slaveholding states could react to a radical party taking power in Washington. A Democratic editor in Belleville wrote shortly after the election that the choice of a Republican president proved "that the



Civil War soldiers in action, firing from behind a barricade during a battle in Chancellorsville, Virginia in 1863. Photo courtesy of the Library of Congress Civil War Collection.

North is hopelessly abolitionized," and that the question "to submit...or secede, is forced upon the South... Thus far, they have justice and right on their side." The Rockford Register disapproved of secession but worried over the idea of forcing states to remain in the Union -- "If a separation must come, let it be a peaceful one."

Others thought secession to be disruptive of business,

misguided, or downright illegal. Some farmers and others who shipped produce and other goods via New Orleans, worried about a foreign power controlling the Mississippi River. However, most Illinois Democrats, though disappointed over the Republican election victory, thought that seceding before Abraham Lincoln was even inaugurated would be foolish. Democratic leader and Illinois Senator Stephen A. Douglas argued for the principle of majority rule -- that the constitutional election of a president provided

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Sergeant Cornelius V. Moore of Company B, 100th New York Volunteers, a sergeant of 39th Illinois Regiment, a corporal of 106th New York Volunteers, and a private of the 11th Vermont Regiment in camp scene poses in front of painted backdrop showing military camp, 1861. Photo courtesy of the Library of Congress Civil War Collection.

no excuse for disunion. Beyond that, he believed that no state could on its own decide to leave the Union. The Constitution, he reasoned, is a contract between all of the states, and a state can break from that contract only with the agreement of all the other parties.

Prairie State Republicans tended to be of one mind concerning secession. They had won an election and would not compromise their policies in order to quiet southern radicals. This view was expressed by W. H. Hanna of Bloomington, who wrote to Senator Lyman Trumbull: "I am in favor of 20 years of war rather than the loss of one inch of territory or the surrender of any principal that concedes the right of secession, which is the disruption of the government."

As the crisis deepened with the secession of more states, many hoped for compromise. Senator Douglas, a strong nationalist who believed secession to be illegal, seemed to hope for a cooling-off period. He feared that if war began it could end only with the complete, crushing defeat of one side or the other. Even if the Union was maintained by such a war, he thought that bitterness between the sections would be felt for years. Illinois Republicans continued to refuse serious consideration of compromise. Abraham

Lincoln's inaugural speech, denying the right of states to leave the Union and promising to "hold, occupy, and possess" federal property throughout the United States, suited them, perfectly.

The firing on U.S. troops and their flag at Fort Sumter on April 12, 1861, forced Americans to take sides after months of discussion about the wisdom or legality of secession. The majority of Illinois residents saw the attack as an outrage that could not be justified. A few Democrats continued to strongly support a right of secession, and others remained unsure as to just what stand they should take, looking to Senator Douglas for an answer. He gave it to them in speeches in Springfield and Chicago, calling all, regardless of party, to stand for the Union and the preservation of majority rule through the ballot box. Douglas died weeks later, with his last words telling his sons to "obey the laws and support the Constitution of the United



Portrait of Pvt. Charles H. Halstead, Company A, 52nd Illinois Infantry, U.S.A., and unidentified soldier between 1860 and 1865. Photo courtesy of the Library of Congress Civil War Collection.

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States.”

Fort Sumter brought Illinoisans together in support of Abraham Lincoln's effort to preserve the Union. As time passed, as costs in blood and treasure

grew, and as African Americans became more visible players in the conflict, the united front of Spring 1861 broke. The state's residents again divided, this time over exactly how the nation should be preserved.



Governor's Budget Address

While the Illinois General Assembly is considering an array of legislation this spring, the overriding issue is money. The Big Question is how to get the state out of massive debt. Illinois Governor Pat Quinn presented his ideas for the next budget year, beginning July 1, in an address to legislators and state officials on February 16.

His proposed \$52.7 billion budget is \$1.7 billion greater than last year -- due to new funding mandates, not new programs, and includes \$1 billion in cuts, according to his administration. A key part of the governor's plan is to borrow money to pay the state's \$8.7 billion backlog of bills; however, Governor Quinn said, "This is not new borrowing," but "debt restructuring." Anticipating criticism, he added: "If you don't agree with our debt restructuring plan, tell us which programs you would eliminate to pay \$8.7 billion in overdue bills today." Without borrowing money, it will take the state "decades" to repay those bills, he said. In addition, the governor would like to borrow \$1.4 billion for state and university building repairs.

The governor listed actions he's taken which he says are helping our state step back from "the brink of economic disaster." These include recently passed pension reforms, state spending caps, Medicaid reform, and hikes in personal and business state taxes.

But Governor Quinn acknowledged that spending cuts are still necessary to improve the state's fiscal health. He suggested cuts in education and human services. The governor's recommendations included: eliminating state funding for regional school superintendents, cutting state support for school transportation by \$95 million, school consolidation, eliminating legislative scholarships, getting rid of the Illinois Cares Rx subsidized prescription program and Circuit Breaker program (both help seniors and the disabled), and closing Wildlife Prairie State Park in Peoria.

At the same time, the governor proposed increased funding for: early childhood education, the Employer Training Investment Program so Illinois can compete "in a global marketplace," and the Monetary Assistance Program, a scholarship program for needy college students. He renewed his promise to

build a third airport in the Chicago suburb of Peotone. The governor's budget also calls for adding around 800 new state workers; his administration says they are needed to counter increased overtime costs in some departments and to meet increased work demands in others.

In order to reform Illinois' "regressive" tax system, the governor said he's creating an Illinois Revenue Reform Commission to recommend ways to make the state's tax code more fair and to promote economic growth. He's also creating the Illinois Innovation Council to help the state "foster innovation and economic growth."

To help "double" the state's exports in five years, Governor Quinn said Illinois will reorganize its foreign trade offices. Currently the state has trade offices in: Mexico, Canada, Belgium, Poland, Israel, India, Hong Kong, Shanghai, and Japan.

He also cited the need for workers' compensation reform to create a better business environment and to protect workers' safety.

After the governor's budget address, lawmakers from both parties said his plan doesn't go far enough in cutting state spending and criticized his proposed cuts in human services. Illinois Republican Party Chair Pat Brady said in a statement released the day of the governor's address, "Pat Quinn has not proposed any specific, substantial budget cuts that are necessary to restore financial order. His only solutions continue to be borrowing against the future of Illinois and raising taxes." Senate Minority Leader Christine Radogno said Senate Republicans will not support borrowing \$8.75 billion to pay the state's unpaid bills. That could make the measure tough to get through the General Assembly since borrowing legislation requires a super majority (or three-fifths of a chamber voting for it) to pass.

Clearly, the legislature and governor will spend a lot of time this spring working out the details of the state's next budget. Currently, the legislature is scheduled to adjourn on May 31, but that could change. Check the Illinois General Assembly's web site for updates: www.ilga.gov.



In Memoriam

Former state legislator **A. C. “Junie” Bartulis** died on January 31. A Republican, Bartulis lived in Benld and served in both the Illinois House of Representatives and Illinois Senate intermittently between 1971 and 1982. He was a veteran of WWII and the Korean War.



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Thank you.

Transitions

Republican **Sen. Dale Risinger** resigned his seat in the Illinois Senate on February 28. He had represented Peoria since 2003. Peoria attorney **Darin LaHood** was sworn in on March 1 to replace him. LaHood is the son of former Illinois congressman and current U.S. **Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood**.

On February 28, Governor Pat Quinn appointed **Doug Scott** to head the Illinois Commerce Commission. Scott replaces **Manuel “Manny” Flores**, whom, on the same day, the governor appointed as director of the Division of Banking of the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation. Previously Scott directed the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency.

Also on February 28, Governor Quinn named **Andrew Ross** as the state’s chief operating officer and **Lisa Bonnett** as interim director of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency. Previously Ross was the governor’s deputy chief of staff and Bonnett was IEPA’s acting deputy director.

Sen. Rickey Hendon, D-Chicago, resigned from the Illinois Senate on February 25. He served as the assistant majority leader in the Senate and had represented the west side of Chicago since 1993.

On February 14, the governor appointed **Jonathon E. Monken** to head the Illinois Emergency Management Agency. Monken had been serving as director of the Illinois State Police. **Patrick Keen** will now serve as the Illinois State Police’s interim director. Prior to this appointment, Keen was the deputy director for the Division of Administration.

On February 7, Governor Quinn appointed two more people to positions in his office. **Cristal Thomas** became his deputy governor for public policy and **Sean Vinck** became his chief information officer. Before these appointments Thomas was the Region V director for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and Vinck was the governor’s chief legislative counsel and chief of intergovernmental affairs.



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