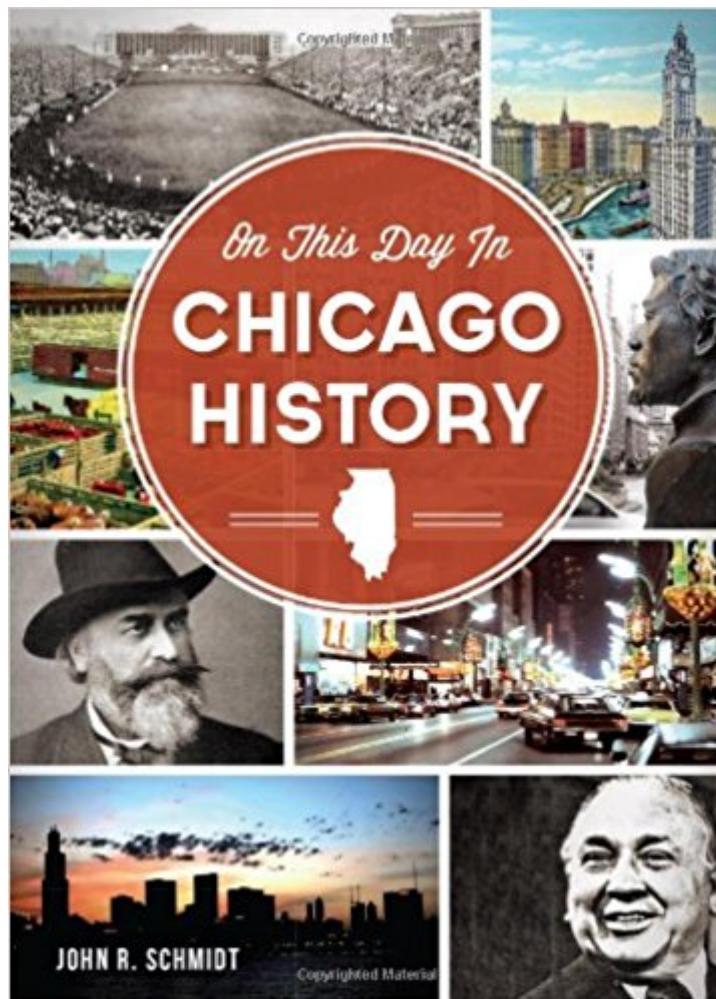


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# On This Day In Chicago History



## **Synopsis**

Think you know Chicago? If you are thinking of Al Capone, the L, the Cubs, Barack Obama or the Great Fire of 1871, then you are remembering the highlights from the tour bus. Here's the rest of the story, day by day. Chicago opened the first blood bank, invented the vacuum cleaner and sent a bowling ball around the world. One high school football game drew 120,000 people. Chicagoans fought nineteen years over the name of a street. For fifty years, they saved a gallows for an escaped killer. And those are just some of the stories.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

"...the book's real joy comes from Schmidt's ability to find interesting items in history's dust, dating back to 1779." --Rick Kogan, Chicago Tribune

John R. Schmidt is a fifth-generation Chicagoan with a PhD in history from the University of Chicago. He is the author of *The Mayor Who Cleaned Up Chicago* and senior writer at *Bowlers Journal*, where he has over 300 articles to his credit. He is a regular on-air contributor at radio station WBEZ and the proprietor of the blog *Chicago History Today*.

There has been numerous books written on specific historical events that happened in Chicago; however, this book takes a unique and interesting approach by giving a very brief historical overview for everyday of the year. There are 366 incidents listed which provide a fascinating look at the many things that make Chicago such a special place. (Even if it is most famous for mobsters

and crooked politicians who we keep sending to jail). The following is just a very small sample of the interesting things that happened in Chicago over the years. The first one is about (January 1, 1951) Bushman, who became the most popular civic figure (gorilla) in Chicago. He lived at the Lincoln Park Zoo and died at age 22 on this date. The first national bowling championships were held in Chicago, January 8, 1901. The Chicago Bears won the super bowl January 26, 1986. The infamous Saint Valentine's Day Massacre happened February 14, 1929. On February 17, 1977 Helen Voorhees Brach, a wealthy Glenview widow, (Brach Candy) was reported missing, which is something I am familiar with because I was one of the many detectives at that time who worked on that case. Unfortunately, this case was never officially solved. Jane Byrne became Chicago's first female mayor defeating Michael Bilandic February 27, 1979. December 13, 2008 is especially memorable because it was when Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich was arrested and charged with corruption. After two trials he was finally convicted March 15, 2012. He was the fourth of the last eight Illinois governors - and the second in a row, to wind up behind bars. I have always said that the people in Illinois must love corrupt politicians because they keep electing them to political offices. It is a sad commentary on Chicago and Illinois politics. There is so much information in this volume that this short review cannot do it justice. This text can serve as an excellent reference source on Chicago history. Rating: 5 Stars. Joseph J. Truncale (Author: Never Trust a Politician: A critical review of politics and politicians).

I have lived my entire 57 years in the Chicago area and am a product of Chicago public schools. Both Mr. Schmidt and my father were Chicago public school teachers. I am always interested in books about Chicago history. This book is very well done, easy reading and interesting. I keep it in the kitchen and read a couple of entries when I get a snack. Perfect for randomly flipping to a page. Each page describes a separate event in Chicago history associated with that day. I attended a book signing where Mr. Schmidt explained his method of selecting the event for each day and how he meticulously performed his research. I strongly recommend this book to those who consider themselves students of Chicago history.

Great format---366 short stories of Chicago, covering a wide range of subjects. Well-written and very interesting. Lots of marvelous old pictures. This is the book you want to send to former Chicagoans who've moved away, or to read yourself when you need a smile. All history books should be this much fun!

This was a very fun book to read over the past year. Of course it can't cover everything. History is being made everyday in Chicago, i.e. the Cubs winning the world series. I think the author update this or do sequel.

I gave this book as a gift.

Chicago is my third home town, and the largest, and with the richest history. Schmidt tells stories from all times and viewpoints, from the very early days in the 1830s into the 21st century and from King Richard to Dillinger and from Pullman to Lincoln Park. It's almost like still being there.

Lots of interesting information

enjoy the daily entries a lot. a day minder of Chicago history

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