

VILLAGE HISTORY

Under the provisions of the Act of Congress of April 1820 entitled "An act making further provision for the sale of Public Lands," the early pioneers staked out their claim on the land they hoped to build their homes. The law required that they clear the land, establish homes and when the land was put on sales in the land grant office in Chicago these pioneers would be permitted to purchase the land at \$1.25 per acre. Settlers began arriving in Kane County in greater numbers. These people were of Scottish, English, Welsh, French, Irish, Scandinavian and German descent.

When the pioneers arrived in this area in the spring of 1835, they found a wilderness inhabited by the Pottawattomie Indians as well as other tribes, and by an abundance of wildlife. At that time, there were only a few hundred people living in Chicago, but Galena, in the north western part of the state was a busy city, having been settled in 1827. Mining interests drove business in Galena, in 1834, Aurora was settled while St. Charles and Geneva, then called Harrington's Ford was settled in 1834. Kane County was named after Elias Kent, a highly regarded attorney and Senator from Kaskaskia. Elias Kent helped draft the first State Constitution and served as Secretary of State when the Kane, DeKalb and Kendall County region had an estimated population of 200.