



Annual Conference

The Illinois Bicentennial: Our History, Our Future

Panel Participants

Illinois in a Global Context

Dr. Larry Bennett: Illinois in the 21st Century

Larry Bennett is Professor of Political Science at DePaul University. Professor Bennett holds a Ph.D. in Urban Planning from Rutgers University and is the author and coauthor of numerous publications including *Fragments of Cities: The New American Downtowns and Neighborhoods*, and *It's Hardly Sportin': Stadiums, Neighborhoods, and the New Chicago*. His latest book, published by the University of Chicago Press, is *The Third City: Chicago and American Urbanism* which one reviewer hailed as "Both succinct and wide-ranging, [striking] an exemplary balance between nuanced observation of the city's political history and deft evaluation of diverse urban development theories that attempt to explain Chicago's trajectory. The result is an engagingly written, ceaselessly questioning, fair-minded tale of urban reinvention."

Dr. Ann Keating: Illinois during the Age of Industry

Ann Durkin Keating, holds the C. Frederick Toenniges Professorship and Chair of the History Department at North Central College in Naperville, IL. A graduate of the University of Illinois, with an M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Chicago, Dr. Keating has taught at North Central since 1991. She spearheaded publication of the *Encyclopedia of Chicago*, and has authored several additional books, including *Chicagoland: City and Suburbs in the Railroad Age* and *Chicago Neighborhoods and Suburbs: A Historical Guide*. Dr. Keating has also served as the first newsletter editor of the Urban History Association (1989-1997) and as president in 2002. In addition, she has been a supporter of local history in Illinois, serving on the board of the Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society, and working with Naper Settlement on a USDA Teaching American History Grant.

Dr. Claiborne Skinner: Illinois in the Colonial Era

Born in St. Louis, Claiborne Skinner received his Bachelor's degree from the University of Chicago and an MAT and Ph.D. from the University of Illinois at Chicago. For the last quarter century, he has been an instructor at the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy. In 2008, he received the Daughters of the American Revolution teaching award for the State of Illinois. In 2015, the National Society of the Daughters of the Colonial Wars presented him their teaching award "for outstanding service by the exemplification and encouragement of patriotism and interest in American History." He is the author of *The Upper Country: French Enterprise in the Colonial Great Lakes* from Johns Hopkins University Press.