

Timeline of Rockford's History



Midway Village Museum
Rockford's
HISTORY MUSEUM



1818

Illinois becomes a state

1837

The state of Illinois officially recognizes the name city's name to be "Rockford."

1842

Lewis Lemon receives his manumission (freedom) papers from Kent. Lemon lived the rest of his life in Rockford until his death in 1877



1923

Prof. James Henry Breasted helped Howard Carter in deciphering the hieroglyphics in the newly discovered tomb of King Tut.

1893

A national economic depression hits Rockford and puts 27 businesses in Rockford out of business in one day!

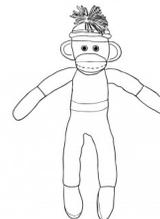
1989

Charles Box is elected the first African-American Mayor of Rockford.



1852

The first train, pulled by the engine *Pioneer*, arrives in Rockford



1870

John Nelson and William Worth Burson make a sock on an automatic machine for the first time. The red heel sock would eventually turn into the Sock Monkey toys we have today.

1943

The Peaches were one of four original teams in the All American Professional Baseball League, and one of the best: winning 4 championships. The team played from 1943-1954.



1960

Rockford officially becomes the second largest city in Illinois.

1834

Germanicus Kent, Lewis Lemon and Thatcher Blake arrive as the first settlers on the west side of Rock River.



1835

Daniel Shaw Haight arrived on the east side of Rock River, and constructed a cabin.