

HISTORY OF MATTESON AS PRINTED IN THE
"HISTORY OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS."

This Village which was named in honor of Gov. Joel Aldrich Matteson is situated at the junction of the Illinois Central, and the Michigan Central Railroads, and is one of the oldest German Hamlets in Cook County.

The first train over the Illinois Central road to Joliet passed thru Matteson in January 1852, and the first one over the Joliet division of the Michigan Central in June of the following year.

The Village was surveyed by N.D. Ellwood of Joliet and Jack Rich of Richton in 1855.

The first house was built by Charles Ohlendorf in July 1855. Mr Ohlendorf was also the first merchant in this place. In 1856 John Fox built a house and a wagon shop, and about the same time John Steichelman built and opened to the public the first Hotel in the Village.

The first school in the Village was established in 1865, and the first religious society four years later. Among the early German Settlers in the vicinity of Matteson were F.P. Weishaar, M. Emmerich, A. Krudenning, S. Lux, C. Stuenkel, H. Mahler, H. Merker, F. Klein, J. Blattner, F. Duensing, and C.H. Greenhagen.

The Village has by census of 1880 a population of nearly five hundred (500) and is a growing and thriving little place. It's business interests are represented by two General Stores, Two Hotels, Two Saloons and Boarding Houses, One Show Shop, a Clothing Store, a Hardware and a Furniture Store, Two Harness Shops, a Blacksmith and Wagon Shop.

The Matteson Grain Elevator was built in the year of 1881 for MARSH and SPIER, by whom it is now being operated. The building with the machinery cost some \$4000.00 and has a capacity of 200,000 bushels.

The religious societies of Matteson have not as yet erected a house of worship. The Lutherans use the German School House for services, while the English speaking people hold Union meetings in the Public School House of the District.

By A.T.Andreas.

Published in 1884.

Ella B.Schmeckebier.

"BITS OF INFORMATION."

July 25, 1848 Frederick Illgen purchased 40 acres of the first public lands sold in southern Cook County, for the total cost of \$50.00. This land was later subdivided, and was to become the Village of Matteson.

Joel Matteson was Gov. from 1853 to 1857.

The Village was incorporated in April 1889. The Village Hall was a 14x24 foot one story frame structure, with two jail cells built in it. There was a lean-to shed that housed the man drawn, hand-operated fire fighting equipment.

August, 1897 the Village Board voted to build a new Village Hall, Fire House and Police Station at a cost not to exceed \$2,500.00 for a two story building 32x70 feet, with a belfry. Contract was let to Ernest Seeman for \$3225.00, and in November 1897 it was completed and dedicated.

Oct. 1st, 1939, Matteson opened to the public inspection a modern sewage disposal plant. This plant along with sewer mains represents an investment of \$240,000.00. This sewer system will probably meet our most urgent sanitary needs for years to come. A branch of the Butterfield Creek ran thru our town, and just after a cloud burst which occurred this past June 1939 we finished tiling this creek with a four foot concrete tile. This removed another great menace for our Village.

In July 1947, the Village Board was again confronted with the problem of an outmoded building. The board voted to construct a new Village Hall. \$50,000.00 Bond Issue voted by the people of Matteson, and the new building was under way. The Building is 95x109 one story face brick combined with common brick, it is of modern structure, housing Council Rooms, Municipal Garages, Fire Station, Firemen's quarters, Police Station and Cells, and a Community Room.

A five foot wainscot of facing tile is installed completely around the fire apparatus room, and the room is one step below the rest of the building for easily cleaning with hoses. The Building is heated by an oil fired hot water boiler with circulation pumps to standard radiation and unit heaters.

All lighting is with fluorescent fixtures. The Firemen's quarters were built with kitchenette, sleeping room for four, shower and toilet room and several closets.

Ella B. Schmeckebier.