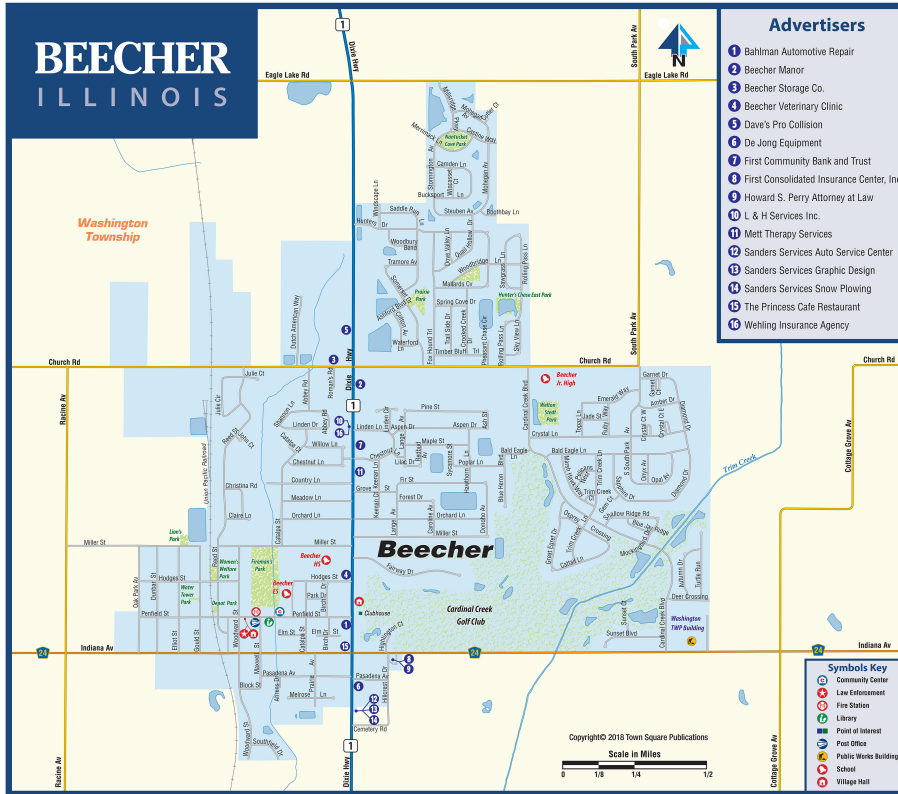




IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Village of Beecher.....	(708) 946-2261
Police (Non Emergency).....	(708) 946-2341
Post Office.....	(708) 946-2550
Township Assessor.....	(708) 231-1175
Chamber of Commerce.....	(708) 946-6803
Library.....	(708) 946-9090
Washington Township Center.....	(708) 946-2026
Dial a Ride.....	(708) 231-1172
Police Fire & Ambulance Emergency.....	911
Elem. School.....	(708) 946-2202
Jr. High School.....	(708) 946-3412
High School.....	(708) 946-2266
Zion Lutheran School.....	(708) 946-2272



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THE HISTORY OF BEECHER



EARLY DAYS OF BEECHER

T.L. Miller arrived in Washington Township in 1862 and began purchasing land. His plan was to begin breeding and raising Hereford cattle. He knew the area offered good grazing

lands and he was convinced that the Hereford breed of beef cattle showed great promise for the future. At the time, T.L. Miller lived in Chicago and was in the fire and insurance business. Miller was a great admirer of Henry Ward Beecher, the most famous orator of that time, and named the new village after him.

Miller purchased his first 320 acres of land from the government. Later he added another 400 acres. He began making improvements immediately on his property, which he called Highland Stock Farm. His son, T.E. (Timothy Elliott) Miller recalled: "On his beautiful farm, he established the finest and largest herd of Hereford cattle in America. To him is due the credit of the wide dissemination of this great breed of beef cattle in the United States. A man of great energy, his name was widely known in England and America in connection with the Hereford breed of cattle."

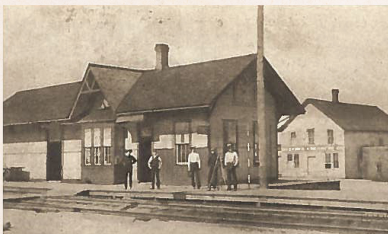
To further promote Hereford cattle, he established the "Breeder's Journal" in 1880 and published it for eight years. In addition, he gathered and assembled the pedigree of Hereford cattle in the first two volumes of the "Hereford Herd Book." Both were published in Beecher.

THE RAILROAD

Sometime after his initial purchase of land, Miller learned that the Chicago, Danville and Vincennes Railroad was coming through the area. He was able to acquire an additional 340 acres west of his original property and adjoining the proposed railroad on both sides. He secured the promise of a railroad station within his property. Early in 1869, work began on

the new railroad. It would run from Chicago, through Danville and eventually cross the Wabash River to Vincennes, crossing through the easternmost tier of Illinois counties. Sometime before October 1869, the track was laid through the future Village of Beecher. By January 1870, there was complete rail service to Chicago.

The railroad assured Beecher's future. Chicago was just 37 miles to the north by rail, and from there, connections could be made to any part of the country. Then in 1870, Miller asked George Dolton to lay out the future village, with a business section on both sides of the railroad, and beyond that, 12 blocks on each side for future development of homes and other businesses.



BEECHER DEPOT (620 REED ST.)

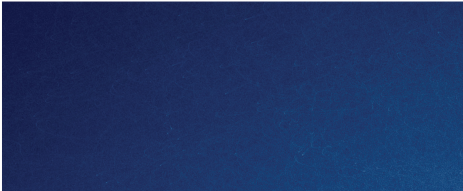
With efficient rail service running through the new village, further development began to build up near the railroad. By the end of the century, the depot became the center of activity. It was located on Reed Street, between Hodges and Penfield and was built in 1881 by the Chicago, Danville & Vincennes (CD&V) RR. The Chicago & Eastern Illinois (C&E) RR took it over and operated it until the 1960's when it closed.

The depot was sold and moved to Monee, Illinois, to Thompson's Winery where it was used as a gift shop until the 1980s. It was returned to its original site in Beecher in 2000, and renovated to its present state. It is a standard wooden depot and one of the last of its kind left on the former C&E route. It is the home of the local historical society and is open on Saturdays from 10 a.m. until noon.

TRIVIA

The streets of the original village were named for relatives and business associates of T.L. Miller, the founding father of Beecher.

- Miller St. — Family name of T.L. Miller
- Elliott St. — Abigail Starr Elliott, maiden name of Miller's first wife
- Hodges St. — Anna E. Hodges, maiden name of Miller's second wife
- Woodward St. — George B. Woodward, husband of daughter, Catherine Elliott
- Gould St. — Frank Gould, husband of daughter, Abby Almira
- Reed St. — Albert C. Reed, husband of daughter, Mary Phelps
- Block St. — Henry Block, business associate of T.L. Miller
- Maxwell St. — Joseph Maxwell, business associate of T.L. Miller
- Dunbar — David Dunbar, farm manager of T.L. Miller
- Penfield — David S. Penfield, brother-in-law of Anna E. Hodges



BEECHER ILLINOIS



BEECHER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
 P.O. Box 292, Beecher, IL 60401 • (708) 946-6803

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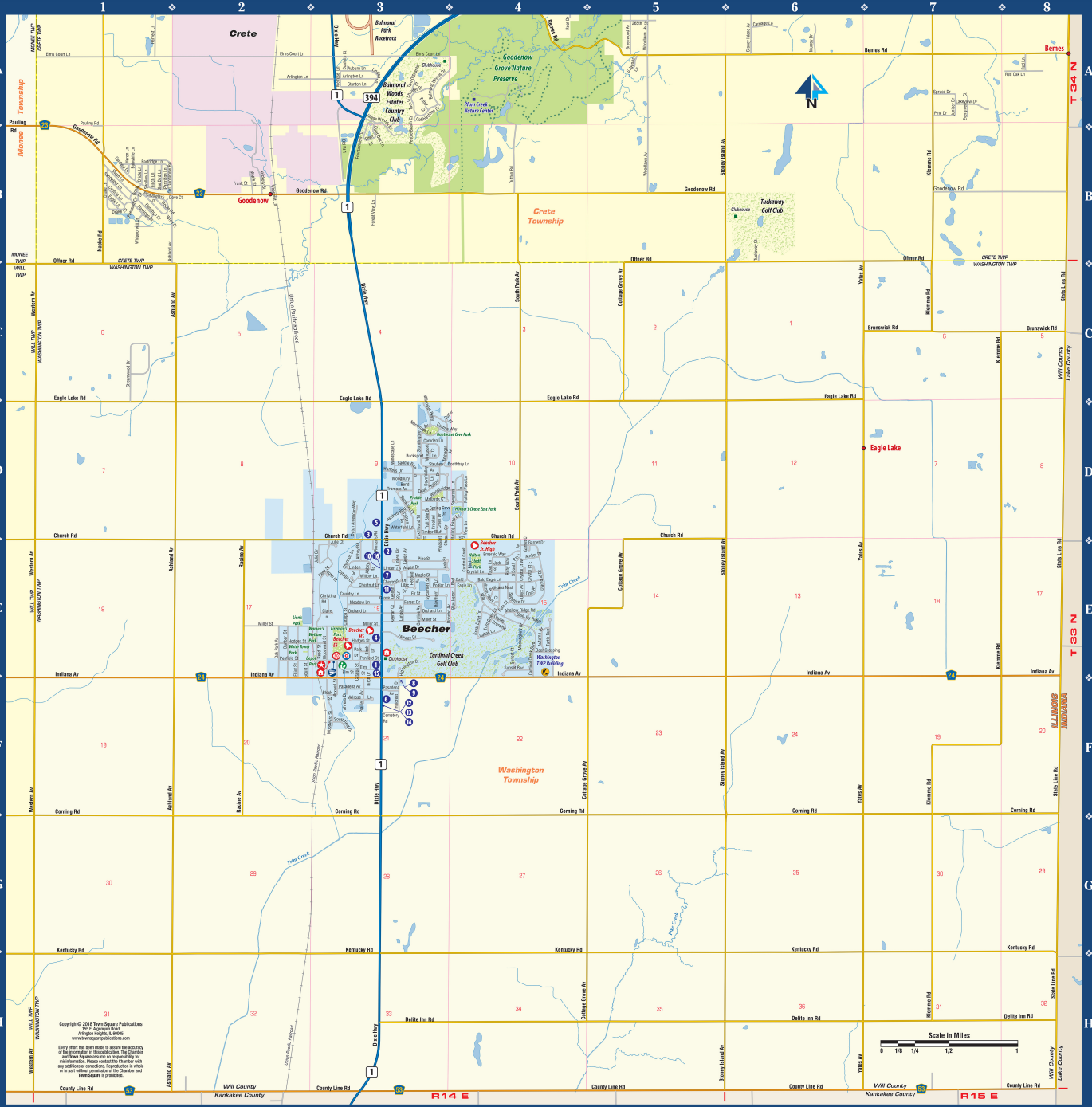
- ADVERTISERS**
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 - 4 Beecher Veterinary Clinic E3
 - 5 Dave's Pro Collision D3
 - 6 De Jong Equipment E3
 - 7 First Community Bank and Trust E3
 - 8 First Consolidated Insurance Center, Inc. F3
 - 9 Howard S. Perry Attorney at Law F3
 - 10 L & H Services Inc. E3
 - 11 Mett Therapy Services E3
 - 12 Sanders Services Auto Service Center F3
 - 13 Sanders Services Graphic Design. F3
 - 14 Sanders Services Snow Plowing F3
 - 15 The Princess Cafe Restaurant. E3
 - 16 Wehling Insurance Agency E3

LEGEND

- 1 State Highway
- 2 County Route
- 3 Major Road
- 4 Street
- 5 Railroad
- 6 Trail
- 7 Section Line
- 8 Township Line
- 9 County Line
- 10 State Line
- 11 Community Center
- 12 Law Enforcement
- 13 Fire Station
- 14 Library
- 15 Point of Interest
- 16 Post Office
- 17 Public Works Building
- 18 School
- 19 Village Hall
- 20 Golf Course
- 21 Nature Preserve
- 22 Park/Recreation

BEECHER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

BEECHER / WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP AREA



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STREET INDEX

26th St	A5	Lincoln Dr	E3
Abbey Dr	E5	Linden Ln	A3E3
Almond Dr	F5	Malvern Dr	D3
Arbor Dr	E4	Maple St	B2E3
Arthrop Lane	A2E3	Marsh Hawk Way	E4
Art St	D3	Mauvel St	F3
Aurifer Blvd	D3	Madison Ln	E3
Aurifer Ave	B1, C, F, H1	Madisonville Ln	E1
Austin Dr	E3	Manson Ln	A7E3
Auburn Ln	A3	Marionette Ln	D3
Aurora Dr	E4	Mason St	E2E3
Bald Eagle Ln	E4	Melzer St	E3
Baldwin Woods Dr	A3	Merrill Ptwy	C3
Balm Dr	A4	Miskington Pl	E4
Bank St	F5	Mohagan Av	D5
Block St	E1	Moran Dr	A6
Blue Heron Blvd	E4	Nashville Rd	E1
Blue Oak Ridge	E4	Oak Park Av	E3
Bohmer Ln	E1	Olin Rd	B5, C1
Boothby Ln	D4	Old Goodenow Rd	E1
Bransford Rd	C7	Old Pt	E1
Bricker Ln	D3	Oryn Av	E4
Butler Ct	A2	Orin Ln	E3
Camden Ln	D3	Orchard Ln	E3
Cardinal Creek Blvd	D3	Orenda Ln	E1
Cardinal Rd	E1	Orin Dr	E1
Cardinal Ave	E3	Oron Ln	E1
Carriage Ln	A6	Orrsp Crossing	E4
Cassidy Ln	E3	Orrsp Ln	E1
Catspa Ln	E3	Partridge Ln	E1
Catalpa Ln	E4	Passadena Av	F3
Central Ln	E2	Prairie Rd	E1
Central Ln	E4	Pauline St	E3
Central Dr	E3	Peddie St	E3
Central Dr	E3	Pelee Beach Ct	E4
Central Dr	E3	Pembroke St	E3
Central Dr	E3	Perennial St	E2E3
Central Dr	E3	Perennial St	E2E3
Central Dr	E3	Perennial St	E2E3