

AMERICA

250TH

Anniversary

**DEMOCRACY &
WEST DEERFIELD
TOWNSHIP
ILLINOIS**



*Your
Community
Resource
for Life*

**WEST DEERFIELD
TOWNSHIP**

AMERICA
250TH
Anniversary

July 4, 2026, marks the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. This document proclaims key principles of American democracy, including the following ...

-
- **Natural and unalienable rights, including life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness,**
 - **All men [persons] are created equal,**
 - **Government gets its legitimacy from the consent of the governed,**
 - **Right of revolution, if a government fails to protect or destroys a people's rights.**

We the People



WEST DEERFIELD
TOWNSHIP

Although it would not become a state until 1818, Illinois played an important role in the development of the United States as a democratic nation. For example, an early form of American democracy in Illinois was township government. Originally, Illinois was settled largely by people from the South. Often, they followed their Southern heritage of setting-up a commission form of government headed by three to five elected officials who governed the entire county. A county could cover a large area, which meant that its officials weren't close to their constituents.

However, by the early 1800's, improvements in transportation, like the Erie Canal, led to increased settlement from New England and New York. These Northern settlers brought with them their township form of government. Townships were smaller than counties, but included a supervisor, town auditors (later called trustees), assessor, and a highway commissioner.

Illinois townships have three basic functions – general assistance (food, shelter, and emergency relief for those in need until they can support themselves), road and bridge maintenance (for roads not under other jurisdictions), and property assessment for tax purposes. Townships can provide other assistance, such as youth and senior programs, and health services.

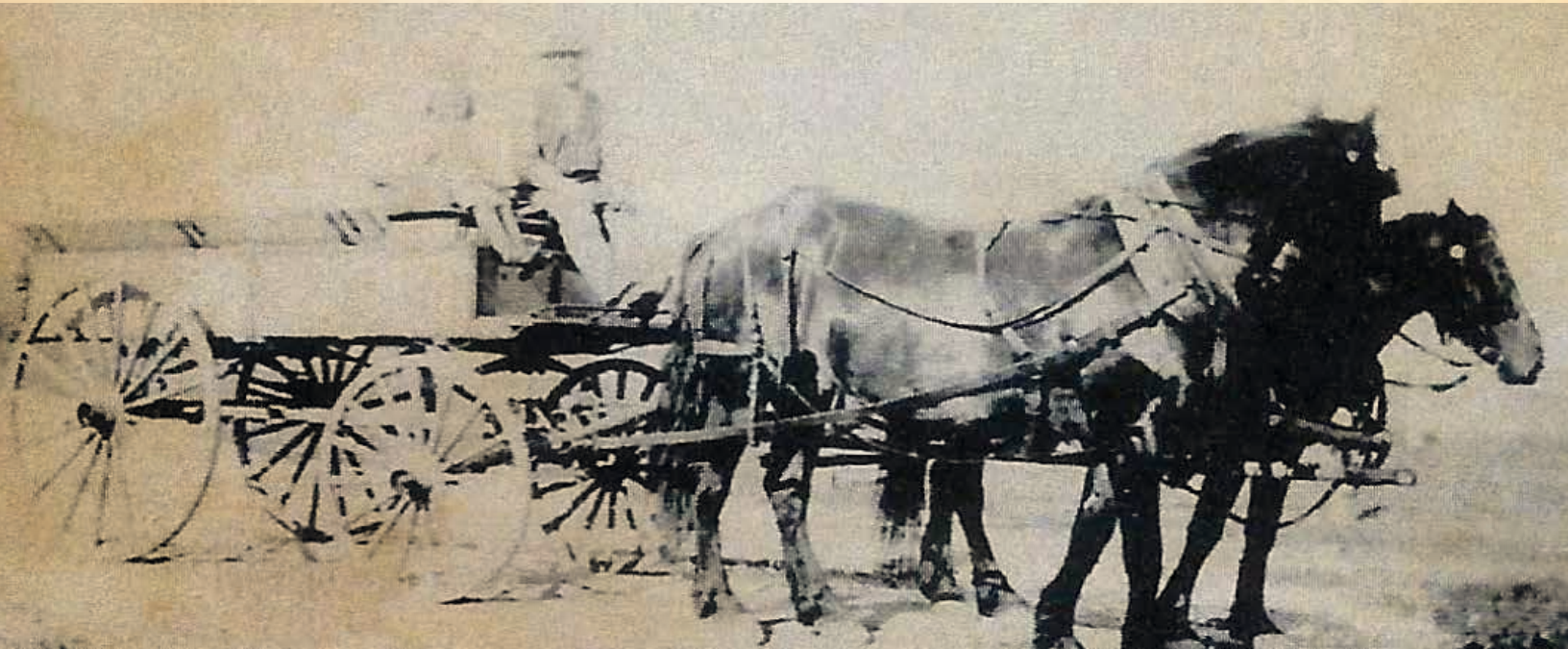
Wendell Cox, researcher on local government, wrote *Local Democracy and the Townships of Illinois: A Report to the People*. He stated that townships consider themselves as not only democratic, but the form of government closest to the people. He explained that because townships are small, the elected officials are closer to their constituents and thus more likely to listen to them. In contrast, he believed that interest groups have less influence over local officials.



The relationship of a township to its constituents recalls the words of Aristotle –
“For, if liberty and equality, as some persons suppose, are chiefly to be found in a democracy,
they will be attained when all persons alike share in the government to the utmost.”

In many ways, West Deerfield is a typical Illinois township. It was formed in 1849. Its
constituents, by a vote of 17-13, chose the name “Deerfield” over “Erin,” another name
for Ireland. In 1889 it split into two townships, now called West Deerfield and Moraine.

17-13



1889

AMERICA
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Illinois

Besides emphasizing the major principles of the Declaration of Independence, the State of Illinois has chosen three core themes for Illinoisans to explore-

Power of Place – We are encouraged to go beyond our state’s modern political boundaries to consider a full history of that space which is called the United States. How have inhabitants used land, waterways, and natural resources? How has “place” changed over time? Who has lived here? How has natural environment helped to shape settlement and migration?

We the People – Most of our history has excluded women, immigrants, indigenous people, and the poor from full participation in our nation’s political, economic, and cultural life. Yet over time, our nation has incorporated people of many backgrounds. Debates over questions of citizenship continues. Who is an American? Who decides?

Doing History – How do we interpret evidence and create stories about our past? Whose stories are included / excluded? Where do we find primary sources? How do we work with these sources?

(This information summarized from *The Field Guide for the Semiquincentennial – Making History at 250*, by the American Association for State and Local History)



Primary Documents from Township Records

Below are four documents from the records of West Deerfield Township. Use these documents to consider the core themes.

For example:

Power of Place – How might the document on “assessment” prompt you to think about one way land in West Deerfield Township was used in 1868. How has the use of land in this area changed over the years?

We the People – Compare the position of Overseer of the Poor (“Oath of Office” document) with the “Illinois Emergency Relief.” How do you think people with economic challenges were treated? What role does the township play today in helping those with economic insecurity?

Doing History – Read about the Civil War in a U.S. History textbook. Compare the textbook to the “Civil War Bounty” document. What does the bounty document explain about the Civil War that the textbook does not?

How do local documents that are primary sources enrich our knowledge of the past?

Which of the four documents interests you the most? Why?

What other documents would you guess are to be found in the township records?



Oath of Office

State of Illinois
Lake County

I, Philemon Cadwell, do solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States and of the State of Illinois, and that I will, according to the best of my judgment, skill and ability, diligently faithfully and impartially perform all the duties enjoined on me as Overseer of the Poor for the Town of Deerfield in the County of Lake and State of Illinois.

I do Solemnly swear that I have not fought a duel, nor sent or accepted a challenge to fight a duel, the probable issue of which might have been the death of either party, nor been a second to either to party, nor in any manner aided or assisted in such duel, nor been knowingly the bearer of such challenge or acceptance since the adoption of the Constitution, and that I will not be so engaged or concerned directly or indirectly in or about any such duel during my continuance in office so help me, God.

Philemon Cadwell

Taken and subscribed
Before me this 8th day
Of April A.D. 1861

Sidney Hall J.P. (Justice of the Peace)

State of Illinois }
Lake County } ss

I Philemon Cadwell do solemnly swear that I will support the constitution of the United States and of the State of Illinois and that I will according to the best of my judgment skill and ability diligently faithfully and impartially perform all the duties enjoined on me as Overseer of the Poor for the Town of Deerfield in the County of Lake and State of Illinois.

I do solemnly swear that I have not fought a duel nor sent or accepted a challenge to fight a duel the probable issue of which might have been the death of either party nor been a second to either to party nor in any manner aided or assisted in such duel nor been knowingly the bearer of such challenge or acceptance since the adoption of the Constitution and that I will not be so engaged or concerned directly or indirectly in or about any such duel during my continuance in office so help me God.

Philemon Cadwell

Taken and subscribed
before me this 8th day
of April A.D. 1861

Sidney Hall J.P.

West Deerfield Township Document Oath of Office (April 8, 1861)

Background

Local History –

Oaths of office are a common way for public officials to begin their term of office. An oath is a pledge that an official will carry out the responsibilities of office. For example, in Article II, Section 7 of the Constitution, the President promises to “...preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States.” Oaths were considered so important, that they often included the words, “...so help me God.”

This document describes the oath of office taken by a man named Philemon Cadwell, who was about to become Overseer of the Poor. The “town of Deerfield” really means township. Deerfield became a township in 1850. After another vote in 1889, the township split in two. West Deerfield Township was created at this time. The Village of Deerfield was not created until 1903.

Philemon Cadwell came from an important family. In 1835 his parents and their children were the first family to settle in what later became the Village of Deerfield. In fact, this area was first known as Cadwell Corners. His family built the first area school, Cadwell School, which opened in 1848 with his sister Rosella as the first teacher. His brother Caleb became the first Township Supervisor and Postmaster in 1850. That same year Philemon, who was a judge, was elected the Township’s first Overseer of the Poor.

The name “Philemon” comes from the New Testament, where Philemon was a good friend of St. Paul.



West Deerfield Township Document Oath of Office (April 8, 1861)

Overseer of the Poor –

A township Overseer of the Poor was required to make sure that poor people were provided for. Although there is no specific information regarding how the poor were treated in Deerfield Township, states like Illinois authorized counties to create a “poor house” or “poor farm” where people with no money would be sent to work. These might include orphans and the mentally ill. Sometimes a poor person would be indentured to someone who would care for the person in exchange for their work. All this was done publicly. Sometimes poor people were mistreated and ridiculed.

Today the Township through its Supervisor still provides “General Assistance,” helping people with such necessities as heat in the winter, food, and educational opportunities. A food pantry is run from the township’s headquarters. The identity of anyone who receives this kind of help remains private. In addition, national and state governments offer assistance for those people in need.



Dueling

An important section of Philemon Caldwell's oath was that he had not participated, nor would he participate in a duel. The American Heritage Dictionary defines "duel" as follows – "A prearranged combat between two persons, fought especially to settle a point of honor." There were specific rules created for duels; the first were written in 1410 during the Renaissance in Italy. Initially, duels were fought with swords, but by eighteenth century, pistols were generally used. Dueling pistols, usually smoothbore flintlock, were not very accurate and frequently misfired.

Still, there was always a chance of killing one's opponent or being killed. In 1777, one year after having signed the Declaration of Independence, Button Gwinnett died of wounds sustained in a duel. In 1804, Vice President Aaron Burr killed Alexander Hamilton, our country's first Secretary of the Treasury. In 1806, future President Andrew Jackson was seriously wounded while killing his opponent, Charles Dickinson.

If insulted, defending one's honor by fighting a duel was considered necessary by many officers and gentlemen in both the East and on the frontier. In his book, *A Rage for Glory*, James DeKay states that, "...between 1798 and the Civil War, two-thirds as many American naval officers were to die in duels as in all of the country's sea fights." The most famous of these officers to die in a duel was Stephen Decatur, even though he wrote to his opponent a few weeks before their fight, "I do not think that fighting duels, under any circumstances, can raise the reputation of any man, and having long since discovered, that it is not even an unerring criterion of personal courage."

Many famous Americans, like Benjamin Franklin and George Washington, condemned dueling. Many duels were seen, not as defending one's honor, but as an excuse for murder. By the Civil War, dueling was dying out in the United States. Therefore, it is not surprising that many state and local officials like Philemon Cadwell, Overseer of the Poor for Deerfield, had to swear not to have participated in, and not to participate in, any such activity.



Questions for “Oath of Office – April 8, 1861”

1. Philemon Cadwell’s office was

What do you think were some responsibilities of his office?

2. What were the four promises that Philemon Cadwell made?

a. To support the Constitution of:

b. To support the Constitution of:

c. To perform the duties of:

d. Not to have been involved in or become involved in:

3. In our nation’s early history, some people thought that dueling was a civilized way for gentlemen to settle an argument. Others thought that it was uncivilized – foolish and a waste of life. What’s your opinion?

4. Do poor people have a right to welfare from the government, or should any such help be based on charity (whatever individuals choose to give to help the poor)?

5. Philemon Cadwell took his oath of office on April 8, 1861. What famous event occurred in the United States just four days later?

Oath of Office

Civil War Bounty

We the undersigned, town officers and twelve freeholders of the town of Dunfield, in the County of Lake Co State that a special town meeting is necessary to the interest of said town for the purpose of raising a bounty of two hundred dollars apiece for all the men that has been drafted, or that may hereafter be drafted, for to fill the quota of our town, under the last call of the President, said bounty to be paid as soon as the drafted man has been mustered into the United States Service, or furnished an acceptable substitute - And for the purpose of electing a Highway Commissioner to serve the remainder of the term for which M. Chase was elected, - We would therefore request that immediate notice be given thereof and that such meeting be held at Hennepin Park on the 4th day of Nov. A.D. 1864

Witness our hands this 24th day of Oct / 64

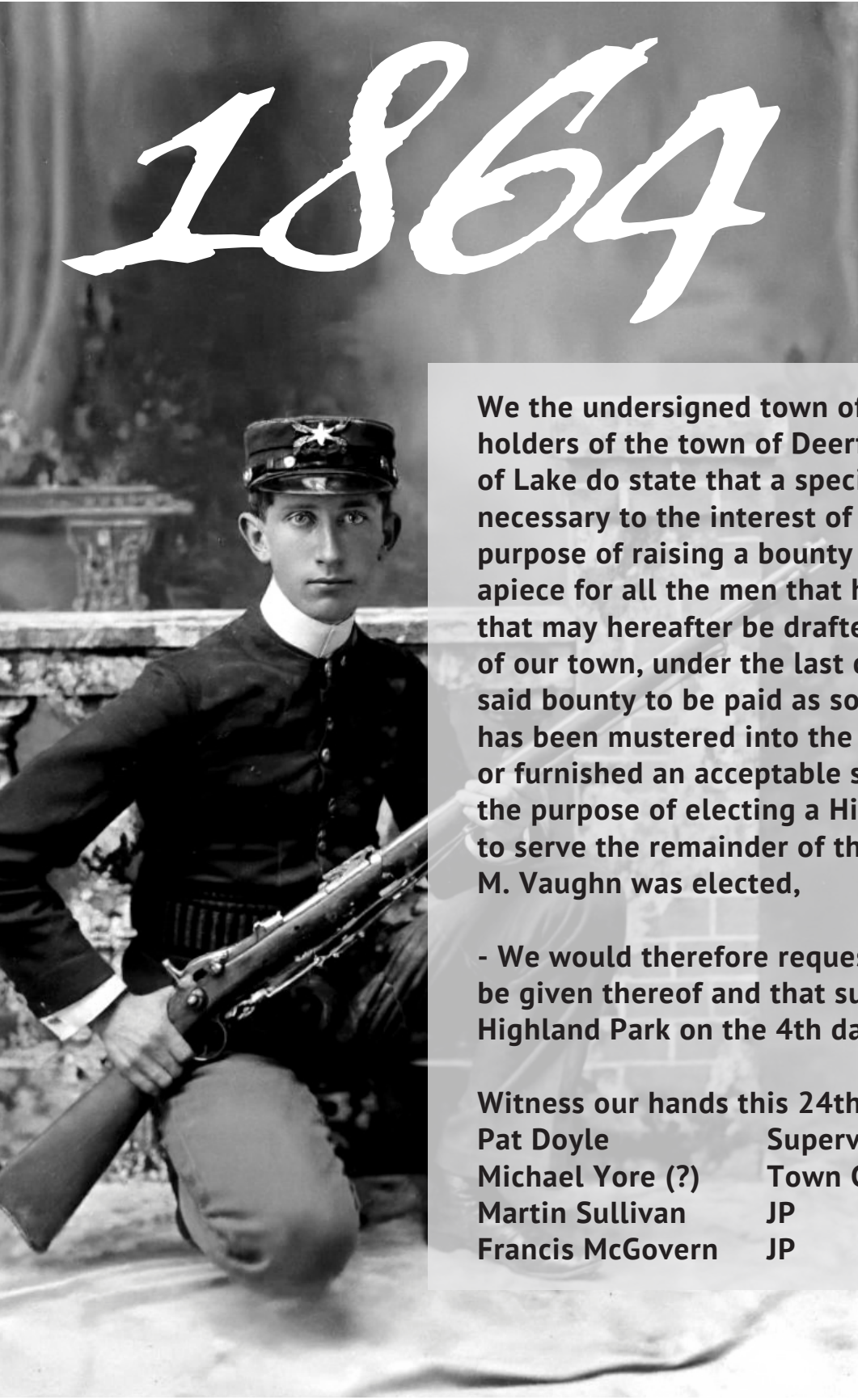
Pat Doyle Supervisor
Michael Gore Town Clerk
Martin Sullivan J.P.

Francis McQueen J.P.
Aron Monaghan
Nicks Mullooly
Jas Duffly
Nicks And
Patrick Carlin
Avel Doye
Patrick Dully
Jas Mahan
Christy Fagare
William Hele
Nicholas Reilmald
Patrick Faye Sr.



Civil War Bounty

1864



We the undersigned town officers and twelve freeholders of the town of Deerfield, in the County of Lake do state that a special town meeting is necessary to the interest of said town for the purpose of raising a bounty of two hundred dollars apiece for all the men that has been drafted, or that may hereafter be drafted, for to fill the quota of our town, under the last call of the President, said bounty to be paid as soon as the drafted man has been mustered into the United States service, or furnished an acceptable substitute – And for the purpose of electing a Highway Commissioner to serve the remainder of the term for which M. Vaughn was elected,

- We would therefore request that immediate notice be given thereof and that such meeting be held at Highland Park on the 4th day of Nov. AD 1864


Witness our hands this 24th day of Oct / 64

Pat Doyle	Supervisor
Michael Yore (?)	Town Clerk
Martin Sullivan	JP
Francis McGovern	JP



Civil War Bounty

October 24, 1864



When the Civil War broke out in April 1861, President Lincoln's initial call for three-month volunteers met with an overwhelmingly positive response. However, following Union defeats at Bull Run and the Peninsular Campaign, the President's request for more men was poorly received. Therefore, in July of 1862 Congress passed the Militia Act. This law required the enrollment of all men between the ages of 18 and 45, granted the President power to issue quotas based on a state's population and to call the militia to serve up to nine months. However, in most cases, the power to draft remained in the hands of the state governors. The act also allowed the President to accept African-Americans into the Union army.

Because the Militia Act did not produce enough soldiers, Congress passed the Enrollment Act (March, 1863), which for the first time in our nation's history placed military conscription (the draft) directly under the control of the national government. 185 enrollment boards -- one for each congressional district -- were established, each under the authority of a military officer. Each board was divided into sub-districts, usually wards in cities and townships in more rural areas. An enrolling officer would go through his assigned area and list all men between the ages of twenty and forty-five. Once the President issued a call for men, each district had about fifty days to fill its quota through volunteers, to avoid its local men being drafted.

To encourage enlistments, national, state, and local governments offered bounties, or bonuses for men to join the army. Sometimes these bounties totaled over \$1000 (about three months' wages for a typical workingman). The total collected for bounties by all levels of government during the Civil War exceeded \$700,000,000. So much money was bound to cause problems. "Bounty jumpers" (skedaddlers) would accept money to enlist, desert and re-enlist elsewhere for another bounty. A few men "jumped" as much as thirty times. When caught, some died trying to escape by jumping off a train or were executed by a firing squad.

The draft would be held in a public place, either indoors or outside. A blindfolded man would draw names from a container. Usually many more names were drawn than were required. It was assumed that some enrolled men would have moved, already volunteered, run away, or would be excused for medical reasons.

If a man was drafted, he had several choices. He could, of course, agree to serve. He might seek a medical release. Each district had a doctor who heard such appeals. Trying to avoid service, some men had their teeth pulled (so they couldn't chew food or bite off the end of a cartridge) or cut off a finger or toe.

There were two other choices. A man had ten days to choose commutation, also called paying an exemption; for \$300 he would be excused from military service. Or he could hire a substitute to serve in his place. In some places, men formed draft insurance societies; dues were collected to pay commutation or a substitute for members who were drafted. Some communities imposed a real estate tax to pay for those who did not wish to serve. Employers, like the railroad, would sometimes pay the commutation fee for their skilled workers.

Only those not eligible for the draft could be substitutes – minors (under twenty years old), aliens, veterans who were willing to serve again, and refugees from the Confederacy. Brokers, men who specialized in finding substitutes to fill an area's quota, would sometimes trick immigrants into the army, kidnap men from Canada, or dye the hair of old men to make them appear younger and, therefore, able to serve.

The draft was generally unpopular. Enrollment officers were sometimes threatened, shot at, or driven from town. A few were even killed. The most famous incident of draft resistance was the New York City Draft Riots in July of 1863. For nearly a week, mobs destroyed large areas of the city. Order was finally restored with the help of Union troops sent from their recent victory at Gettysburg.

Although nearly 777,000 men's names were drawn, only about 46,000 were actually drafted – less than 6%. What the Enrollment Act did was to spur men to avoid the draft – through running away, medical deferment, commutation, hiring a substitute or, most importantly, volunteering and receiving a bonus. For the last two years of the war, draftees and substitutes totaled only about 13% of men raised for the Union army.

The Confederacy also had a draft. It did not allow commutation but did permit substitution. It also exempted men responsible for twenty or more slaves. Several state governments sued the national government over conscription. After all, should a nation fighting for states rights allow a national draft?

The document that accompanies this background reading deals with a Deerfield Township meeting called to raise a bounty for the latest Presidential call for troops (at that time, "Deerfield" referred to the township; the Village of Deerfield wasn't established until 1902). In the fall of 1864, President Lincoln issued the third of four draft calls. Although winning the war, the Union Army of the Potomac had been facing dreadful casualties fighting Lee's Confederates that spring and summer in battles such as the Wilderness, Cold Harbor, and Petersburg. In order to attract more men to serve, bounties were becoming more expensive. It is no wonder that our township decided to call a special meeting to approve a bounty.

For further reading:

James W. Geary, *We Need Men:*

The Union Draft in the Civil War. DeKalb: Northern Illinois University Press, 1991.

Eugene C. Murdock, *One Million Men:*

The Civil War Draft in the North. Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1971.

Eugene C. Murdock, *Patriotism Limited, 1862-1865:*

The Civil War Draft and the Bounty System. Kent State University Press, 1967

Civil War Bounty

“Town Meeting to Raise a Bounty for Union Soldiers”

Study Guide

1. Define the following:

A. bounty:

B. skeddaddler:

C. commutation:

D. substitute:

E. broker:

2. Document:

A. For what two reasons was this special township meeting called?

I.

II.

B. How much bounty would be offered each soldier?

C. Under what two circumstances would the bounty be paid?

I.

II.

D. (Further research) The meeting was to be held on _____.

What important event occurred four days later? _____.

3. Background:

A. Why did men stop volunteering in large numbers for the army?

B. What did the Enrollment Act do for the first time in our nation's history?

C. How did bounties sometimes cause problems?

D. How might a poor man afford \$300 for commutation?

E. What evidence supports the argument that the draft was unpopular?

F. Why did President Lincoln call for a draft in the fall of 1864?

G. In what way(s) did the draft help to raise soldiers for the Union Army?



ASSESSOR'S NOTICE.

To _____

You are hereby notified to make out and leave at _____
 or at my office in _____ on or before the 20th day of
 June, 1868, a statement in the following form, of all the personal property, moneys and credits which you are required
 by law to list, together with a list showing the description of all real property in this County, sold or purchased by you
 since the first day of April, 1867, and the name of the person purchased from or sold to.

Assessor

STATEMENT of Personal Property, Moneys and Credits subject to Taxation in Lake County, for the year 1868, belonging to _____ and listed by _____

NOTE.—Farmers, Merchants and Manufacturers are authorized to deduct from the value of the products of this State, the amount they may owe for such products, or that they may owe for moneys invested therein, but such indebtedness can only be deducted from such products actually purchased and in their possession, and they cannot deduct such indebtedness from the value of any other property.

	No.	Value.	Net Value.
1. Horses.....			
2. Cattle.....			
3. Mules and Asses.....			
4. Sheep.....			
5. Hogs.....			
Aggregate.....			
Amount of Indebtedness for above Stock.....			
6. Carriages and Wagons.....			
7. Watches and Clocks.....			
8. Piano Fortes.....			
Amount of Domestic Animals and enumerated articles.....			
9. Average Value of Merchandise.....			
Indebtedness for Products of this State, included in above amount.....			
10. Value of property owned as Broker.....			
11. Value of materials, manufactured articles, &c., owned as Manufacturer.....			
Indebtedness for Products of this State, included in above amount.....			
12. Value of Money and Credits.....			
Amount of bona fide debts owing.....			
13. Value of Moneys invested in Bonds, Stocks, &c.....			
14. Value of Personal Property not enumerated.....			
Total Value of Personal Property, Moneys and Credits.....			
15. No. of Dogs.....	2		

The owner or person listing the property is not required to fix a value thereon, but if the property be not shown to the Assessor, he should describe the quality of the property, and when the list is left to be filled up, he should give the number, and should note the quality of the property on the back of the certificate. Property is to be listed with reference to the quantity on hand on the first day of April, and valued at its cash value.

The fourteenth item must include all personal property which is not included in any of the other items, such as household furniture, steamboats and other boats, and all shares in such boats, &c., &c.

NUMBER OF ACRES IN CULTIVATION.

Acres Wheat.	Acres Corn.	Other Field Products.

NOTE.—The return of acres in cultivation is for statistical information only, and not for purpose of taxation; therefore no valuation of the crops need be given. The blanks are to be filled with the whole number of acres cultivated during the previous year, as owing to the date at which the property is required to be assessed, the acres in cultivation during the current year, cannot be determined. The blank for "other field products" should be filled with the whole number of acres cultivated in other crops than wheat or corn, not including meadow or pasture lands.

STATE OF ILLINOIS, }
 Lake County, } ss. I hereby certify, that I have, according to the best of my knowledge and belief, listed all the personal property, moneys and credits subject to Taxation, owned or held by me, and all that I am required by law to list, either for myself or for others, and that the above statement thereof is true and correct, as I verily believe.

[Signature]

Assessor's Notice – Background Information

The township assessor serves a four-year term and is the only elected official required by state law to have specialized training in order to hold office. Assessors need to know mathematics, especially geometry, because they must calculate the area of so many shapes of property. They should also have a strong understanding of economics, because they must explain how the marketplace affects the value of property. The assessor is really an appraiser. Rather than determine or collect taxes, s/he places a value on all real property in the township for tax purposes.

There are two kinds of property. Real is land and anything permanently attached to it. The key word is “attached.” A shed purchased from a department store that rests on your lawn is not real property (and can't be taxed). However, if the shed were bolted to a concrete foundation, it would be considered real property and taxed. An assessor could tax landscaping, sidewalks, and driveways, but generally doesn't. However, whatever type of real property that is assessed for one person must be assessed for everyone else.

Personal is any other type of property, such as a car, money, and furniture. Although the accompanying document deals with personal property, in 1979 the State of Illinois abolished the personal property tax. In part, this was because of the difficulty collecting data.



The assessor determines the market value of all taxable property. There are 960 assessors in Illinois, and each can create his/her own method of assessment. For someone's home, the assessor generally uses a "cost approach" (what it would cost to build the home today) as well as a "market approach" (how much have similar homes in the neighborhood sold for). The purpose of this assessment is to divide the tax burden fairly among all taxpayers in the township. This helps to ensure that everyone pays his/her fair share of taxes.

In 1850 the total assessed valuation of Deerfield Township was \$56,740. In 2004, the assessed valuation of West Deerfield Township (a smaller area within the old township) was \$2.1 billion. Property is assessed at one-third its market value; therefore the actual value of property in West Deerfield Township is over \$6 billion.

Today the assessor is helped greatly by modern technology. Although state law mandates property reassessment every four years, computers work so quickly and are so accurate, that reassessment can be done yearly. Digital photography has given the assessor an accurate photograph of every piece of property in the township. Both the computer and the camera can help the assessor answer questions about a person's tax bill.

The "Assessor's Notice" is an excellent document for helping us better understand life in Lake County in the mid-nineteenth century.

Assessed valuation of West Deerfield Township

1850 = \$56,740

2004 = \$2.1 billion

2026 = \$3.72 billion



WEST DEERFIELD
TOWNSHIP

“Assessor’s Notice” – Study Guide

1. This notices covers the period

from _____ (month / year)
to _____ (month / year).

2. This notice covers real / personal (circle one) property.

Define this type of property:

3. In this document, stock(s) refers to what two things?

A.: _____

B.: _____

4. What type of transportation is given as an example for Item 14 (see left margin)?

5. What two types of crops are listed (see left margin)?

6. What musical instrument is listed?

7. Why do you think “dogs” are listed as a separate item?

8. Does it seem that Lake County was more rural/agricultural or urban/industrial?

Explain, using examples from the Notice:

9. From this Notice, what inferences can you make regarding what people did for for recreation / entertainment?

10. What is the assessor’s major responsibility?

11. Why is the assessor’s job so important?

Note to Teacher

West Deerfield Township is working both to preserve its historic documents and to make them available to the public. One project is to use some of these documents to create lesson plans for junior high and high school U.S. history classes. The objectives of these lessons are as follows:

1. To give students a better understanding of local history, placing it in the context of our national history.
2. To familiarize students with primary sources.
3. To encourage higher level thinking skills, such as interpretation, analysis, and evaluation.

Of course, the teacher knows best how to incorporate these documents into her/his units of study. West Deerfield Township appreciates any feedback, including suggestions for improvement.

This particular document, "Assessor's Notice," is a great way to encourage students to draw inferences about life in the past, specifically mid-nineteenth century Lake County, Illinois. Students will probably be surprised to learn how rural our area was about 150 years ago.

Answers to worksheet:

1. April 1867 – June 1868
2. Personal – property not attached to the land
3. A. cattle, horses etc.
B. shares in a corporation
4. steamboats
5. wheat & corn
6. piano forte (today simply called piano)
7. answers vary. Perhaps concern with damage dogs could do; perhaps they were used for hunting and therefore valuable for breeding
8. rural/agricultural. Answers should include reference to livestock and grain cultivated.
9. Answers may refer to music (piano forte), riding, and hunting (dogs). This might be a good opportunity to remind students of the lack of electricity (no movies, radio, television), so a family gathered around a piano in the evening was quite common.
10. S/he places a value on all real property in the township for tax purposes.
11. S/he makes sure that everyone is charged with his/her fair share of taxes.

ILLINOIS EMERGENCY RELIEF COMMISSION

1319 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago

..... Sheets

Sheet No.....

Final Number

Temporary Number

[Empty box for Temporary Number]

From _____ County

[Empty box for Final Number]

Field of Activity _____

Date of Approval _____ Signature _____

Director of Work Relief

(APPLICANT WILL NOT WRITE ABOVE THE LINE)

APPLICATION FOR WORK RELIEF PROJECT

1. Application is hereby made for approval of a work relief project to the Lake County Relief Committee of the Illinois Emergency Relief Commission.

2. Name of Governmental Unit requesting project Village of Deerfield, Illinois

3. Project for Street Repairs, Repairing Water Mains, Cleaning & Repair of Sewer System, (Brief Description of General Type of Work) Village Clean-up

4. Description and location and Pruning & care of trees and shrubs, on streets. Development of Ball diamond, Skating rink, tennis courts. (Township High School property)

Within Village limits.

and on public works.

Project to be supervised by Marshall Pottenger, Deerfield, Ill.

(Name and Address)

5. Estimated cost: Labor as listed to be paid by I. E. R. C. \$ 10,950.00 *11835*
All other costs to be paid by applicant \$ 600.00
Total workers 30 Total cost \$ 11,550.00

Plans attached? _____ Who owns site of the work? Village - Deerfield-Shields Twp. H. School

Is this work provided for in current budget? No Are wage rates listed those customarily paid by you? Yes

Do you agree to make a complete detailed report on this project when completed or on request? Yes

For Village of Deerfield *Marshall Pottenger* Public Works Chairman

(Governmental Unit)

(Signature of Official Representative)

(Title)

440 Elm St., Deerfield, Ill.

(Address of Representative)

Dfd. 241

(Telephone Number)

9-11-34

(Date)

Application shall be routed, signed and dated as follows:

	Name	Date
Work Relief Superintendent.....	_____	_____
County Work Relief Committee.....	_____	_____
County Emergency Relief Committee.....	_____	_____
District Representative.....	_____	_____
Register Clerk.....	_____	_____
Project Analyst.....	_____	_____
Engineer.....	_____	_____
Director of Women's Work.....	_____	_____
Director of Work Program.....	_____	_____

NOTICE OF APPROVAL OF PROJECT

This project (when signed below) is approved by the Illinois Emergency Relief Commission subject to the following conditions; less labor may be supplied than requested, or it may be discontinued temporarily or permanently. The Illinois Emergency Relief Commission is under no obligation to complete this project.

State Administrator of Work Relief.

ILLINOIS EMERGENCY RELIEF COMMISSION

1319 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago

..... Sheets

Sheet No.....

Final Number

LABOR AUTHORIZATION FOR WORK RELIEF PROJECT

6. Wages and Salaries

Date _____

Check Kind							Shift:—				To Report For Work				
Union	Non-Union	Whites	Colored	Male	Female	Handicapped	Class of Workers	No. of Workers	No. of Days	Hours Per Day	Rate Per Hour	Total Man-Hours	Total Amount Dollars	Date	Hour
		X		X			Common Laborers	20	100	6	.50	12,000	\$6,000.00		
		X		X			Plumbers	3	100	6	1.00	1,800	1,800.00		
		X		X			Truck Drivers	2	100	6	.75	1,200	900.00		
		XX		X			Semi-skilled	5	100	6	.75	3,000	2,250.00		
Total									XXXX	XXXX	XXXXXX	18,000	10,950.00	XXXXX	XXXXX

Workers will report to Marshall Pottenger at Deerfield Village Hall

For further information relating to the assignment of labor on this project, or in case information in last two columns above is not given, the assignment office can contact Marshall Pottenger

440 Elm St., Deerfield, Ill. Deerfield 241

The undersigned hereby applies to the Illinois Emergency Relief Commission for Work Relief labor as specified above, and agrees to accept as its legal employees the workmen assigned to this project by the Illinois Emergency Relief Commission and to supplement the medical care and other relief* given to injured workmen and their dependents by the Commission, as may be necessary to fully meet the requirements of the Workmen's Compensation Act of the State of Illinois.

Village of Deerfield

*The Commission, during its legal life, will furnish adequate medical treatment for injured workmen and will place injured workmen on normal direct relief during the period of disability. However, medical treatment beyond first aid will not be furnished by the Commission in case compensation insurance policy covering these workmen is provided by the governmental unit since this would involve duplication of expense.

(Name of Governmental Unit)
Marshall Pottenger
 (Signature of Official Representative)

LESSON PLAN – “WORK RELIEF PROJECT” (THE NEW DEAL)

With the Stock Market Crash of October, 1929, the United States entered a period of economic hardship known as the Great Depression. Franklin Roosevelt became President in 1933. His administration developed what became known as the New Deal. The “Alphabet Agencies” of this economic program included the AAA (Agricultural Adjustment Act), REA (Rural Electrification Administration), and CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps). The goals of the New Deal were the three “R’s” – Relief, Recovery, and Reform.

The most important immediate goal was relief – helping the many thousands of people – who had lost their jobs, homes, and often hope – survive until economic recovery set-in. From 1933-1935, the Federal Emergency Relief Commission (FERC) distributed federal money, through state agencies, for emergency relief (such as food and clothing) and to develop work projects for the employment of those on relief. In Illinois, the FERC worked with the Illinois Emergency Relief Commission (IERC). For 1935, the federal government allocated about \$1,100,000 for relief in Illinois; the state provided nearly \$36,000,000 more (the state did this by adding an additional one cent to the sales tax). The average monthly relief grant was \$30.66. In 1936, the Works Progress Administration took over the work of the FERC. The IERC later became the Illinois Public Aid Commission.

There are many stories about relief efforts in Illinois during the Depression. Caseworkers for the IERC in Pope County distributed “surplus commodities”, such as flour, smoked and canned meat, and even grapefruit – which was quite an exotic fruit back then. In Elgin in 1935, people were employed to dredge part of the Fox River. The gravel was then used to expand the surface area, which was seeded and landscaped with trees and shrubbery. On April 18, 1934, in the town of Greenville, 500-600 men marched on the local IERC headquarters with signs demanding milk, more food and a greater variety of food. However, to emphasize the crowd’s loyalty, one man carried a large American flag. In the documents below, the Village of Deerfield makes a request both to put people to work and to complete projects that will benefit the community

Internet sources –

- www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/archives/hard_times/doc40 .
- www.springhousemagazine.com/sorrow4.htm
- www.elginhistory.com/eaah/eaah-ch08.htm
- www.greenvilleusa.org/akeith/protest.htm

DOCUMENT 1 – “APPLICATION FOR WORK RELIEF PROJECT”

1. What is the date of the document?

2. What was going on with the U.S. and world economy at that time?

3. In the document title, what do you think “relief” means?

4. Describe the project requested by the Village of Deerfield:

5. Who will benefit from this project (think private individuals or the public)?

6. How many workers will be employed? _____

Why do you think they need the work?



DOCUMENT 2 – “LABOR AUTHORIZATION FOR WORK RELIEF PROJECT”

1. Which worker gets paid at the highest rate?

The lowest rate?

Why the difference?

2. Looking at the project description in Document 1, what job might each worker do:

common laborer:

plumber:

truck driver:

semi-skilled:

3. Refer to the “Check Kind” categories in the upper left hand corner...

Who received all the jobs:

Who didn't receive any jobs:

Why do you think this was so (there could be several reasons)

4. Why do you think the U.S. government required this checklist?



AMERICA

250TH
Anniversary

How does
West Deerfield
Township support
President Abraham
Lincoln's famous
statement,

**“Democracy is a government of the
people, by the people, and for the people?”**

Regarding the “Illinois Emergency Relief” documents –
This Great Depression project belonged to the Village of Deerfield,
not to the Township. However, these documents were found in the
Township's records, leading to speculation that the Township may
have been involved with the planning and/or execution of this
project. One of the Township's major responsibilities was relief.
Regardless, this is yet another example demonstrating the
importance of local government.

For more information, pick-up a complimentary copy of
“The Early History of West Deerfield Township” at the township office

601 Deerfield Road, Deerfield IL; 847-945-0614;
www.westdeerfieldtownship.org.



WEST DEERFIELD
TOWNSHIP