# Vermilion County Illinois

## Posted 17 May 2012 by Dan Olson on Ancestry.com

Nathan lived for a time in Vermilion County, Illinois, as did many of his relatives.  It was an area where many Quakers settled in the 1830s.  Here is a history of the County from Wikipedia:

Vermilion County is named after the Vermilion River, which passes through the county and empties into the [Wabash River](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wabash_River) in Indiana near[Cayuga](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cayuga,_Indiana); the river was so named because of the color of the earth along its route.[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vermilion_County%2C_Illinois#cite_note-4)[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vermilion_County%2C_Illinois#cite_note-5)

The area which became Vermilion County was under the flag of France from 1682 to 1763, as part of New France. It was owned by Great Britain for fifteen years after the French and Indian War; it then became part of the colonies after the Revolutionary War when the area was ceded to Virginia and was known as "the Illinois County of Virginia". Later it was part of the Indiana Territory, then the Illinois Territory, and finally the state of Illinois.[[6]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vermilion_County%2C_Illinois#cite_note-6) The county was officially created on January 18, 1826 from a portion of Edgar County. There was an unorganized territory to the north and west which was attached to the county; Champaign and [Iroquois](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iroquois_County,_Illinois) counties were formed from part of this territory in 1833. The remainder was used to create [Ford County](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ford_County,_Illinois) in 1859; this was the last county to be formed in the state.

The existence of saline springs in the county proved to be a strong attraction to early white men, and were mentioned as early as 1801, when Joseph Barron, an interpreter fluent in a number of Native American languages, stated in an affidavit that he was present at the "Vermilion Salines" that year. The production required 100 gallons of water for one bushel of salt and proved to be profitable from the first run 1822 to 1829, when salt became less expensive and the venture was no longer economical.[[7]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vermilion_County%2C_Illinois#cite_note-7)

The saline springs were also the site of the first settlement, made by Seymour Treat in 1819, along with the Beckwith and Whitcomb families. James Butler, from Ohio, followed in 1820 and settled in the Catlin area; within a few years, the settlement grew to encompass several families and became known as "Butler's Point". About the same time, the southern area of the county also attracted an early settler named Henry Johnson, who built a cabin approximately two miles west of Georgetown; this area later became known as "Johnson's Point". The southern portion of the county soon became populated with a number of cabins and small settlements. The majority of those coming to Vermilion County originated in the American South and left because of their opposition to slavery.[[8]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vermilion_County%2C_Illinois#cite_note-8)

Some of the early settlers were of the [Religious Society of Friends](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Religious_Society_of_Friends), or Quakers. Some of these settlers founded the settlement of Vermilion Grove in the south part of the county; it is not only one of the oldest settlements in the county but also the site of the second school in the county.

The county has strong ties to [Abraham Lincoln](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abraham_Lincoln). He practiced law in Danville from 1841 to 1859 with [Ward Hill Lamon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ward_Hill_Lamon), who later served as his bodyguard. Lincoln also gave a brief speech in Danville in 1858 while campaigning for U.S. Senate against Stephen A. Douglas; Lincoln gave the speech in his stocking feet while standing on the balcony at the home of Dr. William Fithian, a prominent local physician. Today, the Fithian home is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and serves as the Vermilion County Museum;[[9]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vermilion_County%2C_Illinois#cite_note-9) visitors can see Lincoln memorabilia including a bed in which Lincoln slept.[[10]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vermilion_County%2C_Illinois#cite_note-10)

## **References**

* 1. [*"Vermilion County QuickFacts"*](http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/17/17183.html).[*United States Census Bureau*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Census_Bureau)*. Retrieved 2011-11-05*.
  2. [*"Find a County – Vermilion County, IL"*](http://www.uscounties.org/cffiles_web/counties/county.cfm?id=17183). National Association of Counties*. Retrieved 2011-01-06*.
  3. [*"Townships by County – Vermilion"*](https://www.toi.org/townshipsbycounty#vermilion). Township Officials of Illinois*. Retrieved 2016-01-21*.
  4. Callary, Edward (2009).Place Names of Illinois. Urbana: University of Illinois Press. p. 358.[*ISBN*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Standard_Book_Number) [*978-0-252-03356-8*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special:BookSources/978-0-252-03356-8).
  5. Jones 1911, p. 25.
  6. Jones 1911, pp. 32–35.
  7. Jones 1911, pp. 40–48.
  8. Jones 1911, pp. 57–62.
  9. [*"Vermilion County Museum"*](http://www.vermilioncountymuseum.org/). Vermilion County Museum*. Retrieved 2010-10-16*.
  10. [*"Vermilion County Village Profile"*](http://www.villageprofile.com/illinois/danville/03his/topic.html). Community Profile Network*. Retrieved 2010-10-16*.