



Viewaukee Curriculum

Cross Keys Hotel/Milwaukee Public Market

Elementary Students -Cream City Bricks

This location has held one other building, originally called the **Cross Keys Hotel** and parking lot. The **Cream City Brick** building that was here suffered from three fires and eventually perished with the fourth. The clay building material helped it from the largest fire we have had in the Milwaukee area in 1892. Cross Keys and the nearby building, the **Jewett and Sherman** Building on the corner of Broadway and St. Paul, which was built in the 1870's survived the great blast, partly because of the Cream City Brick that enveloped both the buildings. Many of the surrounding buildings' exteriors were built with wood. You can see Cream City Brick on the Jewett and Sherman building today.

Cream City Brick was made in Milwaukee beginning in the 1840's with nearby **Menomonee River** clay that was full of magnesium and lime. Once it was fired in a kiln, the brick turned a beautiful cream-colored brick, much different than the usual red brick. Our city is nicknamed after that brick because of its popularity all around the world. Another reason that the Historic Third Ward is special is because the Third Ward is on the National Register of Historic Places. After the 1892 fire, most of the buildings that replaced the wood structures were built during the same time period and of a similar style which is still intact today.

1. While you are walking today around the city of Milwaukee, keep your eyes looking for other examples of buildings with Cream City brick.
2. Why do you think the Cream City brick was more fire resistant than wood?
3. Talk to your family or teacher about fire safety rules for you to know.





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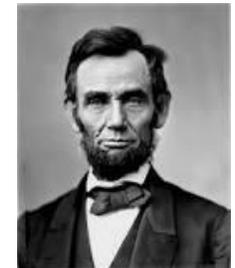
Abraham Lincoln's Visit to Milwaukee

Middle and High School Students

The **Cross Keys Hotel** and the location of the current **Milwaukee Public Market** was the setting of US Senator Abraham Lincoln's Speech for the Wisconsin State Agricultural Society on **September 30, 1859**. This was before he became president and before the Civil War (1861-1865).

As historians, we use primary sources for our learning. Here is a portion of the speech he gave. Please read the speech and share your thoughts with your family/class.

<https://www.nal.usda.gov/topics/lincolns-milwaukee-speech>



1. What connections can you make from 1859 and today?
2. Do you feel the same as Senator Lincoln that “**(Fairs) bring us together, and thereby make us better acquainted, and better friends than we otherwise would be**”? Is there anything we can do to provide friendship, camaraderie, or better acquainted with strangers? Can you think of another example of what makes us better acquainted?
3. “**To correct the evils, great and small, which spring from want of sympathy, and from positive enmity, among strangers, as nations, or as individuals, is one of the highest functions of civilization.**” Share with your adult or a friend how you feel about this statement. Do you agree or disagree? Why? What connections can you make from this quote from 1859 to today? Have we achieved some function of civilization? How can you provide evidence of that? What can we do to be better civil citizens?
4. “**And this, too, shall pass away.**” Have you heard that quote before? Is it consoling or is it sad? Tell a friend what it means to you.

Here is another famous speech of Abraham Lincoln's on June 16, 1858 and before he was president. What do you think about it and compare it with today?

<http://www.abrahamlincolnonline.org/lincoln/speeches/house.htm> House divided Speech



Cross Keys Hotel/Milwaukee Public Market

“Who are the People in the Neighborhood” Immigration

Elementary Students

Before the 1830’s, Milwaukee was originally home to the Potawatomi, Menominee, Fox, Sauk, Ojibwe, Ho- Chunk, and Mascouten **Native Americans**. They lived in this once marshy area harvesting wild rice, catching fish in the rivers, and hunting game for their families.

Even before we became a city in 1846, we became the land of immigrants. In Milwaukee, we have a long history of people settling here from other countries. Germans, Irish, Italians, Polish, African Americans, Puerto Ricans, Hmong and many others have made Milwaukee home.

In the Historic Third Ward, there were two major immigrant groups that called this area home. First, it was the hardworking manual laborers and political **Irish** that as early as 1839, but mostly after the Potato Famine in 1845, settled between the Milwaukee River and Lake Michigan. They lived in tight quarters in the ward and were devastated with the sinking of the Lady Elgin ship in 1860 when they lost at least 200 Irish mothers, fathers, and children. The Irish were Third Ward residents until the Great Third Ward Fire in 1892 when 440 mostly wooden buildings were burned down, and 2,000 people were homeless.

After the ash of the fire settled, the **Italians** moved in from the 1890’s -1920’s. They were hard laborers as well, building the streets and sidewalks of Milwaukee, and working in the surrounding manufacturing businesses. After World War I, the Italians were also fruit and vegetable produce merchants. The vibrant Italian community was strong until the 1960’s when Interstate 794 was built – tearing down homes and their beloved home-away-from-home, The Blessed Virgin of Pompeii Church.

1. Can you find Ireland on the map?
2. Can you find Italy on the map?
3. What countries did your family come from?
4. Can you find where Milwaukee, Wisconsin is?





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The Neighborhood That Fed Milwaukee

Elementary Students

In the early 1900's this neighborhood, The Historic Third Ward, was where ships and trains would bring in food. Just a block away, in what was called **Commission Row**, they would distribute the fruits and vegetables received from the trains and ships. They would also deliver the produce on their horse and wagons or carts to the corner stores so that customers could shop for fresh produce. The Italian immigrants that settled in Milwaukee were the produce handlers. They lived and worked in the Historic Third Ward. By 1915, there were 45 groceries that were owned by the Italian newcomers.

Commission Row is now a bustling commercial strip with restaurants, stores, and gift shops. **The Public Market** which opened in 2005 is a new type of Commission Row. You can still get fresh produce, but you can also find fresh fish, cheese, meats bakery, ice cream, candies, coffee, spices, and restaurants.

1. Where does your food come from?
2. Does your family shop in the store or online?
3. Do you help your parents shop?
4. How does your food get to the store?
5. Do you ever go to farmer's markets?
6. What is the difference between farmer's markets and a grocery store?
7. How often does your family shop? Every day or every week?





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The Sinking of the Lady Elgin

Middle to High School Students

Just a little less than a year after Abraham Lincoln came to speak at the Wisconsin State Agricultural Society on September 30, 1859 in Milwaukee, many residents of the Third Ward, mostly Irish men and women, boarded the **Lady Elgin** to Chicago on a fundraising trip for the Union troops on September 6, 1860.



On the return trip home on September 8, 1860, the Lady Elgin was hit by an unlit lumber schooner, **Augusta**, during a deadly thunderstorm where visibility was limited. Many of the approximately 300 deceased were from the Third Ward, orphaning about 1,000 children.

1. Was Abraham Lincoln the president yet?
2. Who was Wisconsin's governor during this time?
3. Can you make any connections to this event and today?
4. Research Joshua Glover, Sherman Booth, Captain Garrett Barry, and the Fugitive Slave Act for more information on how Wisconsin was involved with abolition of slavery before the Civil War.

<https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=37263>



<https://emke.uwm.edu/entry/ladyelgin/https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=lady+elgin+sinking&&view=detail&mid=B3A0726F2B384639EFBDB3A0726F2B384639EFBD&rvsmid=0960A2B4CDA9B21EC9230960A2B4CDA9B21EC923&FORM=VDQVAP> Lady Elgin sinking video