

Trivia: Was Chicago in OC?

From an article in the Orange County Historical Society *Record*:¹

“A correspondent sends us a clipping from a Chicago paper which appeared under the heading, ‘Dates to Remember’ in the history of Chicago. It read as follows:

The County of Illinois

December 9 1778. The Legislature of the State of Virginia created the ‘County of Illinois in the State of Virginia,’ which included the future city of Chicago, as well as a part of Wisconsin and Michigan, and the entire states of Ohio, Indiana and Illinois.

Not included in the note above is the fact that the area originally set and described was in Orange County, Virginia.

Note: “In 2018 an eagle-eyed Ross Hunter, while doing some unrelated research, unearthed this clipping from the October 7, 1949 issue of the *Orange Review*. As Frank Walker noted, it is interesting that the Illinois territory wasn’t formed until almost the end of the Revolution. He added that Lawrence Washington (1718-1752), older half-brother of George Washington, was one of the charter founders of the Ohio Company of Virginia back in the 1740s, so development in that region had to be well underway before the Revolution. The British had a titular ‘governor’ (Lt. Governor Henry Hamilton) out there. He was captured at Vincennes (Indiana) by Gerorge Rogers Clark.”

¹ Unknown, “The County of Illinois,” *Orange County Historical Society Record*, Vol. 50, No. 2 (Fall 2019), 8.