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MARTHA, THE GROUND IS SHAKING AGAIN A CHRONICLE OF AN UNCOMMON ROCKFORD EVENT

By Dean McMakin



Fault lines and structural features in northern and central Illinois

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

This issue presents some interesting research on an uncommon phenomenon in Northern Illinois, the earthquake! We have had two earthquakes felt in Rockford so far this year which is a rare event. Due to the extensive research done by Dean McMakin you can learn much more that you may have never known.

Dean McMakin is a native of Rockton and has been doing historical and genealogical research in the Rockton area for 40 years. He collects and researches local genealogies and has a special interest in the *Métis* families (These were people who were half white, usually French, and half Indian. They were the children of fur traders and their Indian wives.) Dean is the author of *The French Trappers and Traders, Friends of Stephen Mack and Residents of Pecatonic*. This is a collection of articles from books and periodicals containing anything of relevance pertaining to their lives. This volume is available at the Talcott Free Library. Dean is the great-great-grandson of Benjamin Franklin Richardson, the first white male born in Roscoe Township. He also plays in the Rockford Wind Ensemble.

NOTICE TO RESEARCHERS

If you have a subject that you have researched, or an idea for an article that you would like to pursue, give me a call. I would like to encourage original research into some aspects of local history that have not been adequately pursued. I can be reached at 986-4867 or 987-5724.

Thomas Powers, Editor

MARTHA, THE GROUND IS SHAKING AGAIN A CHRONICLE OF AN UNCOMMON ROCKFORD EVENT

By
Dean McMakin

Earthquakes are a rare occurrence to the Rockford area. A few of them have been strong enough to fray some nerves and to do minimal damage, but most of them have been so inconsequential that many people have slept through them, or, often enough, are completely oblivious to them. Periods of several years can pass between our quakes. We can be easily lulled into a state of denial and indifference about the geology of the area, and then, when the ground begins to shake, we are once again re-awakened to the reality that we do live in an earthquake zone – albeit a very minor one, and certainly not in any way do our lives compare to the lives of those who live along the San Andreas Fault on our nation's west coast.. When the number of quakes is added up, a person living in the Rockford area may experience ten or more earthquakes in their lifetime, which may come as a surprise.

There are some minor fault lines in northern Illinois. Those earthquakes occurring in the Rockford area whose epicenters have been located in northern Illinois often follow fall along one of several fault zones in the region:

1. The Pecatonica Anticline: a very short fault confined to Pecatonica Township, running from northwest to southeast.

2. The Plum River Fault Line and Upton Canal Syncline: They start at Byron in Ogle County and travel in a westerly direction across Carroll County to the Mississippi River.

3. The Peru Syncline: It is confined to eastern Ogle County; its most southerly point touches the northeast corner of Carroll County.

4. The Sandwich Fault Line and Aston Anticline: It begins in central Ogle County heading southeast across Lee, Dekalb, Kendall, to southern Will County.

5. A small fault line which name was not found, almost wholly limited to southern Kane County, beginning at Aurora and extending a number of miles to the west.

6. Des Plaines Fault Zone: a complex of fault lines confined to the northern half of Cook County.

7. Peru Monocline: begins south of Dixon and runs in a southerly direction across the extreme northeasterly corner of Bureau County to the southern extreme of LaSalle County and further into central Illinois.

As one heads downstate towards St. Louis, to south central Illinois, and to the Wabash River Valley, the frequency of earthquakes increases considerably as well as their potential to do heavy damage. The locations of 81% of the epicenters of quakes which fall within Illinois occur in the southern one-third of the state. Nearly all of the earliest recorded quake

activity in Illinois comes from this part of the state. Rockford earthquake history begins in the 1880s and coincides with the appearance of daily newspapers in the largest communities. Before that era, several factors may contribute to the paucity of records – a lack of population, weekly newspapers with their poor journalism and an inability to access news from other places, the science of seismology being in its infancy, and a lack of a centralized location for reporting them, etc.

The history of Illinois earthquakes begins on **January 8, 1795** when a moderate trembler jolted Kaskaskia at about 3:00 a.m. It was reported that the Mississippi River was in tumult. The quake was also felt in Kentucky. The second occurred at 5:10 p.m. on **August 20, 1804**, a quake estimated between 4.4 and 4.5 in magnitude with an epicenter believed to be at Fort Dearborn (Chicago), Illinois. The earthquake was felt at the south end of Lake Michigan and at Fort Wayne, Indiana.

The most violent earthquakes ever experienced in the eastern and central United States occurred in late 1811 and early 1812. On **December 16, 1811** a severe quake with an estimated magnitude of 7.2 occurred at 2:15 a.m, followed by an aftershock of about the same magnitude later that morning at 8:15 a.m. The first quake did enormous damage to Memphis, Tennessee. Both quakes had their epicenters in northwest Arkansas.

At 9:00 a.m. on **January 23, 1812**, another violent earthquake with an estimated magnitude of 7.1 shook the same area. The epicenter of the quake was in the Missouri bootheel. The final and most memorable of them all occurred on **April 7, 1812** at 4:45 a.m. at New Madrid, Missouri with an estimated magnitude of 7.4. The town of New Madrid was completely destroyed. The quake was so violent that, as a result, Reelfoot Lake in Tennessee was created. It was felt as far away as New York City and rang church bells in Boston.

From 1812 to 1886 about forty earthquakes are recorded for the state of Illinois, all having epicenters in the southern one-third of the state. It is possible that the strongest quakes might have been felt in the Rockford area, and it is also possible that there were earthquakes with epicenters in northern Illinois during these years, but we have no record of them. On **April 24, 1867**, a magnitude 5.1 earthquake with an epicenter near Manhattan, Kansas is listed by the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Department of Geosciences as having been felt in Milwaukee, so it is possible that it may have been felt in the Rockford area as well, but all the existing newspapers from that time were weekly publications, and none of them mention it. This quake remains to this day the most powerful earthquake with an epicenter in Kansas. It was powerful enough to cause damage in neighboring Missouri and in Iowa.

The great Charleston, South Carolina earthquake occurred on **August 31, 1886** at 8:51 a.m. The magnitude 6.7 quake had its epicenter 25 miles north of that city and was felt as far north as New York City and as far west as Omaha, Nebraska. The quake did enormous damage to Charleston, but the outside world would not learn of this for three days, because the effects of the quake cut off telegraph service to that community. The *Beloit Daily Free Press* reported that "the earthquake was slightly noticeable in Beloit,

and several citizens experienced an uncomfortable and to some a sickening sensation, and only in the most solidly made buildings was it discernable." The report made no mention at all of Charleston. The *Rockford Register* reported "slight earthquake shocks lasting several seconds." (*Rockford Register*, Weds., Sept. 1, 1886; *Rockford Daily Gazette*, Weds., Sept. 1, 1886; *Beloit Daily Free Press*, Weds., Sept. 1, 1886; *The Weekly Argus*, Fri., Sept. 3, 1886; *Janesville Daily Gazette*, Wed., Sept. 1, 1886)

The seismic activity experienced on **October 31, 1895** came as three distinct shocks, the first occurring at 5:05 a.m. and the last about twelve minutes later. The contemporary accounts report that the tremors lasted anywhere from about twenty seconds to more than a minute. This magnitude 6.6 quake had its epicenter near Charleston in Mississippi County, Missouri, and was felt in Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Wisconsin, Michigan, Iowa, Missouri, Kentucky, Tennessee and Louisiana. (*The Morning Star*, Tues., Nov. 1, 1895; *Rockford Daily Register-Gazette*, Thurs., Oct. 31, 1895; *Beloit Daily Free Press*, Thurs., Oct. 31, 1895; *Janesville Gazette*, Fri., Nov. 1, 1895)

The most significant earthquake ever to occur in the Rockford area since the earliest years of settlement occurred on **May 26, 1909** at 8:40 a.m. In Rockford, three distinct movements were noted in rapid succession, the first lasting twelve, the second ten, and the third fifteen seconds. The temblors were strong enough to cause objects to fall off tables and shelves. Charles Baumgarten, who was tending to his store on East State Street, thought he was seeing things when the floor safe began to dance. Fearing their imminent collapses, a number of Rockford schools were evacuated. Dr. George Collie of Beloit College had just called his class to order when the building began to shake. He reported a single tremor that lasted 53 seconds, starting slowly and working up to a crescendo, and then slowly receding. The communities outside of Rockford often reported only one tremor which lasted several seconds. Dixon and Joliet reported a single tremor lasting up to three minutes. The most severe damage was done in Aurora where chimneys were shaken apart, and small fires were started when the tremors overturned stoves. This magnitude 5.1 quake remains one of the most interesting geologic episodes to occur in our region. The quake had three epicentral tracts, the first located near Dubuque, the second near Waukegan, and the third near Bloomington. The three slipped all at once sending shock waves over an area of some five hundred thousand square miles. It was felt in Rochester, Muskegon, Muncie, Des Moines, and Hannibal. Rockford and Beloit were situated within the triangle formed by the three epicenters, so when they slipped, these communities experienced shock waves coming from three different directions. This would explain why three different jolts were felt here, and why the quake lasted nearly a minute. (*Rockford Morning Star*, Thurs., May 27, 1909; *Rockford Daily Register-Gazette*, Weds., May 26, 1909; *The Rockford Republic*, Weds., May 26, 1909; *Beloit Daily News*, Weds., May 26, 1909; *Beloit Daily Free Press*, Weds., May 26, 1909; *Janesville Daily Gazette*, Weds., May 26, 1909; J.A. Udden 'Observations on the Earthquake of May 26, 1909' *The Popular Science Monthly*)

About two months later, on **July 18, 1909** at about 10:35 p.m., a second earthquake was felt throughout the region. It was a magnitude 4.8

quake with its epicenter in Fulton County, Illinois. Rockford experienced nothing more than the rattling of windows and dishes. (*The Register-Gazette*, Mon., July 19, 1909; *The Daily Journal*, Mon., July 19, 1909; *Freeport Daily Bulletin*, Mon., July 19, 1909; *Freeport Evening Standard*, Mon., July 19, 1909; *The Sterling Daily Standard*, Mon., July 19, 1909)

A magnitude 4.5 earthquake was experienced in northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin on **January 2, 1912** around 10:23 a.m. It was most noticeable on the north side of Rockford where they experienced three shocks, all of them very slight in nature. The quake was the strongest in Aurora where a newspaper press for the *Aurora Beacon* was shifted off its base and sent crashing to the floor, and in Elgin dishes were thrown off shelves. The quake was reported in Dixon, Mendota, Ottawa, Joliet, Chicago, Waukegan, Milwaukee, and Madison. The epicenter was located south of Yorkville in Kendall County. (*Rockford Daily Register-Gazette*, Tues., Jan. 2, 1912; *Rockford Daily Republic*, Tues., Jan. 2, 1912; *Beloit Daily News*, Tues., Jan. 2, 1912; *Janesville Daily Gazette*, Tues., Jan. 2, 1912; F.M. Fryxell 'The Earthquakes of 1934 and 1935 in Northwestern Illinois and Adjacent Parts of Iowa' *Bulletin of the Seismological Society of America*, Vol. 30, pp. 213-218; A.D. Udden, 'On the Earthquake of January 2, 1912, in the Upper Mississippi Valley,' *Transactions of the Illinois State Academy of Science*, 5:111-115)

An amusing incident in Rockford earthquake lore occurred on Wednesday, September 27, 1912 at about 12:10 p.m. when the west side of Rockford was shaken by a small earthquake. Two days later the local newspapers revealed that the cause of the quake was due to employees of the Hart & Page stone quarry detonating 600 lbs. of dynamite in order to remove a ledge of rock. Despite the published retractions, the scientific literature has not caught on to the error and continues to list an earthquake happening at this time. (*Rockford Morning Star*, Thurs., Sept. 26, 1912; *Rockford Daily Register-Gazette*, Weds., Sept. 25, 1912; *Rockford Republic*, Weds., Sept. 25, 1912; *Rockford Republic*, Fri., Sept. 27, 1912; *Beloit Daily News*, Sat., Sept. 28, 1912)

An earthquake occurred at 2:52 p.m. on **April 9, 1917**, and it may have been felt in parts of Rockford. It was a magnitude 5.2 quake with an epicenter in downstate Randolph County, Illinois. (*Rockford Morning Star*, Tues., Apr. 10, 1917; *Rockford Register-Gazette*, Mon., Apr. 9, 1917; *Rockford Republic*, Tues., Apr. 10, 1917)

The 6.2 magnitude Charlevoix-Kamarska earthquake, one of the most powerful Canadian quakes of the twentieth century, occurred at 8:19 p.m. on **February 28, 1925**, and is named for its epicenter in Quebec. Rockford was on the western edge of the quake, but it was still strong enough for residents here to report that the earth trembled for about 30 seconds. The quake was reported widely in the east to New York City, Washington, D.C., Louisville, and Indianapolis. (*Rockford Morning Star*, Sun., Mar. 1, 1925; *Rockford Register-Republic*, Mon., Mar. 2, 1925; *Rockford Republic*, Mon., Mar. 2, 1925; *Beloit Daily News*, Mon., Mar. 2, 1925; *Janesville Daily Gazette*, Mon., Mar. 2, 1925)

Ten years later, a second 6.1 magnitude earthquake struck at 12:04 a.m. on **November 1, 1935** with an epicenter ten kilometers east of

Témiscaming, Quebec. It was felt in Canada and in seventeen northeastern states. Only the *Rockford Register-Republic* reported one Rockford citizen having claimed to have felt the quake. The event had slightly more impact in Janesville where those who were awake at the time reported buildings swaying back and forth, but that a majority of residents slept through it without noticing it. (*Rockford Morning Star*, Sat., Nov. 2, 1935; *Rockford Register-Republic*, Fri., Nov. 1, 1935; *Beloit Daily News*, Fri., Nov. 1, 1935; *Janesville Daily Gazette*, Fri., Nov. 1, 1935)

The 4.6 magnitude earthquake of **August 9, 1947** had its epicenter in southern Michigan where the boundaries of Ohio and Indiana meet. It was also felt in Illinois and Wisconsin. The quake occurred at 9:47 p.m. Rockford residents reported trembling and shaking of their houses. (*Rockford Morning Star*, Sun., Aug. 10, 1947; *Rockford Register-Republic*, Mon., Aug. 11, 1947; *Beloit Daily News*, Mon., Aug. 11, 1947)

The earthquake which struck at 11:01 a.m. on **November 9, 1968** was felt in 22 states from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico. It was a magnitude 5.2 quake with an epicenter: near Dale in downstate Hamilton County. Rockford residents reported the rattling of windows and dishes, and the swaying of picture frames and drapes, anywhere from five to ten seconds, but there was almost no damage. It was also reported that the quake was not felt in some locales such as Lee County but was otherwise felt in surrounding areas. (*Rockford Morning Star*, Sun., Nov. 10, 1968; *Rockford Register-Republic*, Sat., Nov. 9, 1968; *Beloit Daily News*, Fri., Nov. 9, 1968; *Janesville Daily Gazette*, Sat., Nov. 9, 1968)

The earthquake of **September 15, 1972** happened at 12:33 a.m. Estimates of the time that the tremors lasted were anywhere from ten to twenty seconds. Some damage was reported. A chimney toppled at 517 Howard Avenue in Rockford, and a cracked window was reported in Rockton. A Rockford College student cut his head when he slipped in a dormitory stairwell while attempting to flee the building. A Janesville resident reported cracks in a cement block basement wall, and a Lake Delavan resident reported numerous cracks in the walls of her home. This was a magnitude 4.0 quake with its epicenter at Maytown in Lee County. Contemporary accounts report that the quake was felt as far north as Oshkosh, Wisconsin, to southwestern Michigan, to Bloomington, Illinois, and to a point east of Cedar Rapids, Iowa. (*Rockford Morning Star*, Sat., Sept. 16, 1972; *Rockford Register-Republic*, Fri., Sept. 15, 1972; *Beloit Daily News*, Fri., Sept. 15, 1972; *Janesville Gazette*, Fri., Sept. 15, 1972)

The earthquake of **April 3, 1974** was barely noticeable in Rockford. It happened at 6:05 p.m., and the epicenter was in downstate Williamson County with a magnitude of: 4.3. There is an apocalyptic note to this event. Some four hours previous to the quake, several tornadoes touched down in Illinois, killing two men and injuring 22 others. The most serious twister hit Harristown and Decatur. Other funnel clouds were reported at Carbondale, Tolono in Champaign County, Anchor in McLean County, Morris and Flanigan in Grundy County, and Bartlett in Cook County. The city of Chicago was pummeled by hail. (*Rockford Morning Star*, Thurs., Apr. 4, 1974; *Register-Republic*, Thurs., Apr. 4, 1974)

A strong earthquake of 5.0 magnitude with an epicenter 30 miles northeast of Cleveland, Ohio, occurred at 10:47 a.m. on **January 31, 1986**. It was felt in nine states and in southern Canada. A patient at Rockford Memorial Hospital reported that at the time of the tremor, his bed began to shake. The quake was also felt in Milwaukee and in eastern Wisconsin. The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee received a number of reports from frightened citizens, and the quake was most noticeable to people in the upper floors of tall buildings. (*Rockford Register Star*, Sat., Feb. 1, 1986; *Janesville Gazette*, Fri., Jan. 31, 1986)

During the following year, on **June 10, 1987**, another 5.0 magnitude earthquake was felt in Rockford. The epicenter of the quake was in downstate Richland County, and was felt in fifteen states along with several cities in Ontario. Contemporary reports say nothing about the effect of the quake on the residents of Rockford, but instead focused on reports on its effects in other areas. Janesville residents reported the rattling and swaying of pictures and mirrors, trembling furniture, shaking plant leaves, and the quivering or rocking of buildings. The quake happened 6:49 p.m. during a Detroit Tigers night game, and attendees felt the third deck of the stadium swaying back and forth. (*Rockford Register Star*, Thurs., June 11, 1987; *Beloit Daily News*, Fri., June 12, 1987; *Janesville Gazette*, Thurs., June 11, 1987)

A weak 3.5 magnitude earthquake with its epicenter at Amboy in Lee County, occurred at 11:17 a.m. on **September 2, 1999**. It was so weak that most people didn't feel it, and those who did attributed their shaking floors to the passing of heavy vehicles, or they described the sound of a distant explosion. The Beloit and Janesville newspapers reported that the quake was so weak in Rock County that the police received none of the usual barrage of phone calls which have inevitably followed other quakes in the past. (*Rockford Register Star*, Fri., Sept. 3, 1999; *Beloit Daily News*, Fri., Sept. 3, 1999; *Janesville Gazette*, Fri., Sept. 2, 1999)

The previous earthquake was not to be an isolated event for that locale, for nearly five years later, on **June 28, 2004**, a second and stronger 4.2 magnitude quake with its epicenter near Troy Grove in LaSalle County, struck at 1:10 a.m. This event was described as being sudden and convulsive, and it was often characterized by witnesses as being like an explosion, the sound of a sudden storm without any wind, or a vehicle colliding with a building. It was also felt in Indiana, Missouri and Iowa. (*Rockford Register Star*, Tues., June 29, 2004; *Beloit Daily News*, Mon., June 28, 2004; *Janesville Gazette*, Mon., June 28, 2004)

The earthquake of **April 18, 2008** was the strongest quake recorded in Illinois since 1968. The 5.2 magnitude quake occurred at 4:37 a.m., and its epicenter was six miles from West Salem in downstate Edwards County. It was felt within a 400-mile radius which touching the outskirts of Milwaukee, Atlanta, and Des Moines. Residents near the epicenter experienced several aftershocks, the strongest measuring 4.6 on the Richter scale. Rockford residents felt very little at that time of the morning, the most common experience likened to a gentle rocking sensation. (*Rockford Register Star*,

Sat., Apr. 19, 2008; *Beloit Daily News*, Fri., Apr. 18, 2008; *Janesville Gazette*, Fri., Apr. 18, 2008)

The first of the two most recent earthquakes occurred at 3:59 a.m. on **February 10, 2010**. This magnitude 3.8 quake, with its epicenter one mile east of Pingree Grove in Kane County, was also felt in Iowa, Wisconsin, Michigan and Indiana. The compiler of this report was awake at the time and experienced what seemed like an enormous and sudden gust of wind blowing through the trees before finally slamming into the house with a jolt, then followed by silence. By all standards, this was a very minor event, but a woman in rural Evansville, Wisconsin reported that her bed had shaken so badly that it moved away from the wall, and that it knocked a picture frame off a shelf and onto the floor. (*Rockford Register Star*, Thurs., Feb. 11, 2010; *Beloit Daily News*, Wed., Feb. 10, 2010; *The [Janesville] Gazette*, Thurs., Feb. 11, 2010).

This was followed four months later by a magnitude 5.5 earthquake at 1:20 p.m. on **June 23, 2010**. The epicenter was 35 kilometers northwest of Buckingham, Quebec. It was noticeable in the upper floors of the taller buildings in Rockford where witnesses reported feeling vibrations, and observing the gentle swaying of light fixtures. (*Rockford Register Star*, Thurs., June 24, 2010)

In addition to those earthquakes mentioned above, there were a number of other quakes felt within an approximate one hundred mile radius of Rockford:

October 20, 1870. A possible magnitude 6.5 earthquake at 11:13 a.m., with an epicenter in the Charlevoix-Kamarska region in Quebec along the St. Lawrence River was felt primarily in the eastern U.S. It was felt in Milwaukee. (*The Rockford Journal*, Sat., Oct. 20, 1870; *The Janesville Gazette*, Thurs., Oct. 20, 1870)

May 27, 1881. A magnitude 4.2 earthquake occurred with an epicenter in LaSalle County.

September 27, 1891. A magnitude 5.2 quake with an epicenter in downstate Hamilton County occurred at 11:50 p.m. It was felt in Iowa, Missouri, Kentucky, Tennessee, Ohio and Indiana. It was felt in Chicago. (*The Morning Star*, Tues., Sept. 29, 1891; *Rockford Daily Register-Gazette*, Mon., Sept. 28, 1891; *Beloit Daily Free Press*, Mon., Sept. 28, 1891)

February 9, 1899. Five minor shocks experienced over a seven hour period had their epicenter in Chicago.

August 22, 1905. A magnitude 4.8 earthquake with an epicenter in downstate Clark County occurred at 11:06 p.m. It was felt mostly in Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky and Tennessee. It was barely perceptible in Chicago, and it was felt in west suburban Glen Ellyn and Wheaton. (*Rockford Daily Republic*, Tues., Aug. 22, 1905; *Beloit Daily News*, Tues., Aug. 22, 1905; *Beloit Daily Free Press*, Tues., Aug. 22, 1905).

July 29, 1911. A 3.2 magnitude "babyquake" with an epicenter in Chicago.

September 28, 1912. A local earthquake felt in Whiteside County within a fifteen mile radius of Sterling was strong enough to break dishes,

topple chimneys, and crack cement foundations to houses and silos. (*Rockford Morning Star*, Sun., Sept. 28, 1912; *Rockford Daily Register-Gazette*, Mon., Sept. 30, 1912)

October 2, 1912. Two shocks were felt in Joliet. (*Rockford Republic*, Weds. Oct. 2, 1912).

March 3, 1925. A magnitude 3.2 "babyquake" with an epicenter along Lake Michigan in north suburban Kenilworth.

January 23, 1928. A 3.5 magnitude earthquake with an epicenter in Carroll Co. Illinois occurred at 3:19 a.m. It was felt around Chadwick, north to Savanna. and south to Clinton, Iowa (*Freeport Journal-Standard*, Mon., Jan. 23, 1928)

November 12, 1934. A magnitude 4.0 earthquake with an epicenter in Rock Island County occurred at 2:45 p.m., and was felt in an elliptical-shaped area from Savanna to Roseville, and from Sterling to Muscatine. (*Rockford Morning Star*, Tues., Nov. 13, 1934; F.M. Fryxell 'The Earthquakes of 1934 and 1935 in Northwestern Illinois and Adjacent Parts of Iowa' *Bulletin of the Seismological Society of America*, Vol. 30, pp. 213-218)

January 5, 1935. A 3.4 magnitude earthquake with an epicenter in Rock Island County which was experienced as two shocks, the first at 12:40 p.m., and the second about five minutes later. It was mostly confined to the quad-cities area. (F.M. Fryxell 'The Earthquakes of 1934 and 1935 in Northwestern Illinois and Adjacent Parts of Iowa' *Bulletin of the Seismological Society of America*, Vol. 30, pp. 213-218)

March 2, March 3, and March 8, 1937. These three events had their epicenters near Anna in Shelby County, Ohio. The first magnitude 4.9 earthquake occurred at 8:48 a.m., and was felt in Canada, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Kentucky, Michigan, Illinois, and Wisconsin. On the following morning, a moderate quake was felt at 2:50 a.m. The third quake was a magnitude 5.4 event which remains the strongest recorded earthquake with an epicenter in Ohio. It occurred at 11:45 p.m. and was felt in the same areas as the quake one week previous. The first and third quakes were felt in Milwaukee. The March 8th quake was felt by a few Janesville residents in the upper floors of hotels. They reported the swaying of pictures and mirrors, and feeling the walls vibrate for up to twenty seconds. (*Beloit Daily News*, Tues., Mar. 2, 1937; *Janesville Daily Gazette*, Tues., Mar. 2, 1937, and Mar. 8, 1937)

February 12, 1938. This earthquake occurred at about 12:30 a.m. and was felt along the south shore of Lake Michigan. (*Rockford Register-Republic*, Sat., Feb. 12, 1938)

March 2, 1942. A magnitude 4.0 earthquake with an epicenter in northeast Stark County occurred at 9:45 a.m. and was felt in Stark, Bureau, Knox, Rock Island, Mercer, Peoria and Henry Counties. (*Rockford Register-Republic*, Mon., Mar. 2, 1942; *Beloit Daily News*, Mon., Mar. 2, 1942)

March 16, 1944. A magnitude 3.4 earthquake occurred with an epicenter in Elgin.

September 4, 1944. A magnitude 5.6 earthquake with an epicenter at Cornwall-Massena, Ontario occurred at 12:38 a.m. The quake was felt in Illinois only on the north side of Chicago, in southeastern Wisconsin and in

Milwaukee (*Rockford Register-Republic*, Tues., Sept. 5, 1944; *Beloit Daily News*, Tues., Sept. 5, 1944; *Janesville Daily Gazette*, Tues., Sept. 5, 1944)

March 16, 1947. A magnitude 3.8 earthquake with an epicenter at Dundee in Kane County occurred at 9:29 a.m. It mostly affected the Fox River Valley in that area. (*Elgin Daily Courier*, Mon., Mar. 17, 1947)

May 6, 1947. A magnitude 4.0 earthquake occurred at 3:44 p.m. The epicenter of this quake was not determined with any certainty, but it is believed to have been centered along the Lake Michigan shore line between Milwaukee and the Illinois state line. It was felt in Sheboygan and some 35 miles west of Milwaukee, but not in Madison or Chicago. The *Rockford Morning Star* reported that it was felt by a Beloit resident who thought he had felt his house foundation settling. (*Rockford Morning Star*, Weds., May 7, 1947; *Rockford Register-Republic*, Weds., May 7, 1947; *Beloit Daily News*, Weds., May 7, 1947; *Janesville Daily Gazette*, Weds., May 7, 1947)

July 27, 1980. A magnitude 5.1 earthquake with an epicenter in northeastern Kentucky at 1:52 p.m. was felt in fourteen states from Alabama and South Carolina to southern Ontario. It was felt in Milwaukee. (*Rockford Register Star*, Mon., July 28, 1980; *Beloit Daily News*, Mon., July 28, 1980; *Janesville Gazette*, Mon., July 28, 1980)

September 9, 1985. A magnitude 3.0 "babyquake" with an epicenter around Hinsdale in Dupage County occurred at 5:07 P.M. It was felt in eastern Dupage and western Cook Counties. (*Beloit Daily News*, Tues., Sept. 10, 1985)

November 25, 1988. The magnitude 6.0 Sanguenay earthquake with an epicenter 35 kilometers south of Chicoutimi, Quebec occurred at 5:46 p.m. It was felt as far east as Rhode Island and New Hampshire, and as far west as Michigan. It was also felt in Milwaukee. (*Rockford Register Star*, Sat., Nov. 26, 1988; *Beloit Daily News*, Sat., Nov. 26, 1988; *Janesville Gazette*, Sat., Nov. 26, 1988)

September 25, 1998. A magnitude 5.2 earthquake with an epicenter fifteen miles northeast of Sharon, Pennsylvania occurred at 2:52 p.m. It was felt in New York, Pennsylvania, Michigan and Ohio. It was also felt in Milwaukee. (*Rockford Register Star*, Sat., Sept. 26, 1998; *Beloit Daily News*, Sat., Sept. 26, 1998; *Janesville Gazette*, Sat., Sept. 26, 1998)

June 18, 2002. A magnitude 5.0 earthquake with an epicenter in Evansville, Indiana occurred at 12:37 p.m. It was felt in southern Illinois, Ohio, Missouri, Kentucky, West Virginia, Tennessee, and in Milwaukee. (*Rockford Register Star*, Weds., June 19, 2002; *Janesville Gazette*, Weds., June 18, 2002)

General Reference: Paul C. Heigold and Timothy H. Larson 'Seismicity of Illinois,' (1990) Environmental Geology Notes 133, Department of Energy and Natural Resources, Illinois State Geological Survey

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