

ChicagoHistoryMuseum

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact:
Lauren R. Dolan
312-799-2161
dolan@chicagohistory.org

GREAT CHICAGO STORIES: A VIRTUAL FIELD TRIP THROUGH HISTORY

Interact with history through the Chicago History Museum's award-winning fictional website.

CHICAGO (May 5, 2008) – The Chicago History Museum is proud to present its award winning website, *Great Chicago Stories*, an interactive tool containing powerful historical fiction narratives for use by elementary and high school students, teachers, and families to encourage students to critically engage with history and enhance their classroom curriculum. The website can be accessed through www.greatchicagostories.com.

Great Chicago Stories has been honored with three prestigious awards this year:

- The 2008 Gold MUSE Award for Teaching and Outreach from the American Association of Museums Media & Technology Committee
- The 2008 Award for Excellence in Published Resources for Students and Teachers, from the American Association of Museums Committee on Education
- The 2008 Best of the Web (Education) Award, from Museums and the Web, the annual conference sponsored by Archives and Museum Informatics.

Great Chicago Stories is comprised of twelve powerful historical fiction narratives on topics ranging from sports to transportation to public housing. Each narrative showcases photographs of artifacts from the Museum's *Chicago: Crossroads of America* exhibition and are available through the Museum's research center. The narratives also contain interactive history maps with then-and-now photographs and audio versions of each narrative. Additional resources are available for teachers and parents to assist students with critical thinking and historical engagement.

Great Chicago Stories is the result of a two-year collaborative effort between the Chicago History Museum, classroom teachers and their students, a national advisory board, and professional writers. *Great Chicago Stories* was made possible by a generous grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities: great ideas brought to life.

###

The Chicago History Museum, a major museum and research center for Chicago and American history, is located at 1601 N. Clark Street. The Museum can be reached by CTA buses 11, 22, 36, 72, 151, and 156. Parking is conveniently located one block north of the Museum at Clark and LaSalle Streets (enter on Stockton Drive). Admission to the Museum is \$14 adults with audio tour, \$12 seniors/students with audio tour, free for children 12 years and younger. General Admission is free on Mondays. Please call 312.642.4600 or visit us at www.chicagohistory.org. The Chicago History Museum is affiliated with the Chicago Historical Society.