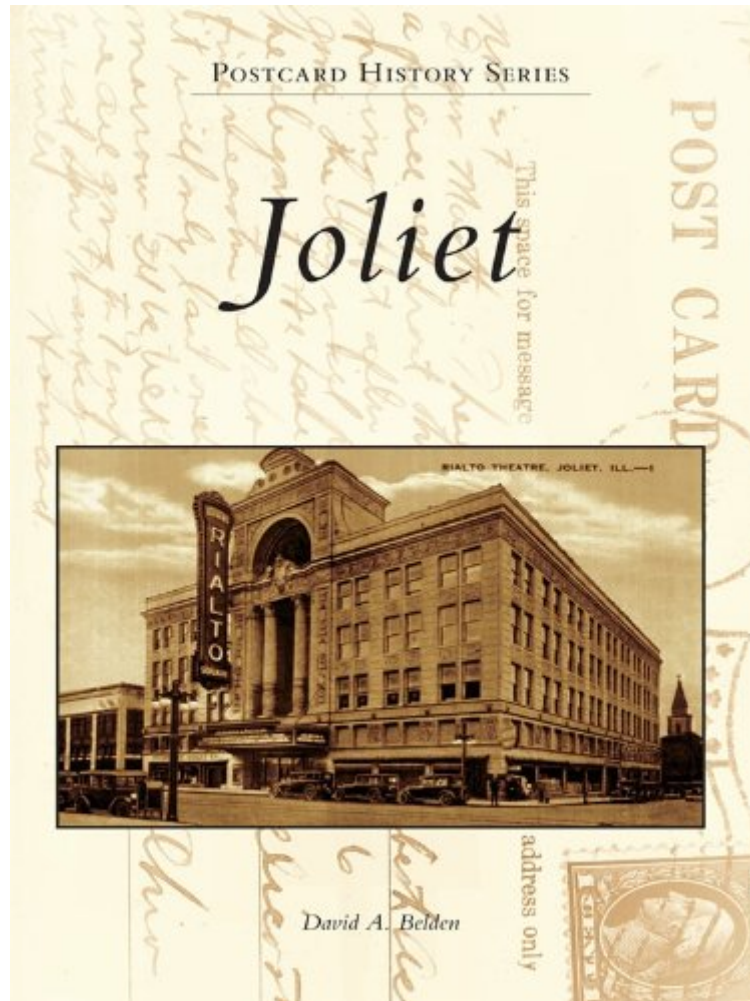




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# Joliet



## Synopsis

In 1673, Louis Jolliet and Fr. Jacques Marquette were the first Europeans to explore the Mississippi and the Illinois River valleys. Their explorations took them through what is now Joliet. Founded in 1834 as Juliet, the settlement's future was shaped by several important developments. The Des Plaines River provided an early waterway, and its power gave rise to mills and manufacturing. Native limestone rock beds helped build a 19th-century city, while Joliet quarries employed thousands of men. From the opening of the Illinois and Michigan Canal in 1848, to the building of the Illinois Central and Rock Island Railroads in the 1850s, to the intersecting of the Lincoln Highway and Route 66 in the 20th century, Joliet became an important hub between rural towns in Will and Grundy Counties and Chicago. Over 200 vintage postcards of Joliet reveal a unique city with a sense of community pride.

## Book Information

File Size: 50053 KB

Print Length: 128 pages

Publisher: Arcadia Publishing (June 23, 2008)

Publication Date: June 23, 2008

Sold by:Â Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B0093DOPI8

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #599,500 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #7 inÂ Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Antiques & Collectibles > Postcards #76 inÂ Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Antiques & Collectibles > Paper Ephemera & Cards > Postcards #439 inÂ Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > History > Americas > United States > State & Local > Midwest

## Customer Reviews

Local history comes alive when reading David Belden's Postcard History Series of Joliet. Upon

viewing the nostalgic area postcards that Mr. Belden and his history students have collected in his book, one gets acquainted or reacquainted with the people, places, and events of Joliet's past. I found that this book was a most appreciated gift to give family and friends. Generations were able to connect when sharing this Joliet book. My 92 year old mother enjoyed reminiscing with her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren as she pointed out postcards from the past and recalled memories. Mr. Belden has researched each postcard with informative and accurate details. As a genealogist researching my pioneer Joliet family, I found this book invaluable. A collector of postcards will cherish this book. The author explains the distinguishing characteristics of the particular year the postcard was made. He describes the five distinct periods of postcards. The Table of Contents and Index make reading enjoyable. I feel that David Belden has found almost every postcard ever printed about Joliet, and it is a great way to peek into our ancestors' lives. It is a real treasure to own or give as a gift.

Having grown up in Joliet, it was with great interest that I approached this book. The postcard selection is wonderful and takes one back to a Joliet most of us today would not know. The images are fascinating, however, the copy accompanying the images is superficial. Descriptions next to each card too often point out what is already evident by looking at the actual picture. On page 58 the description for the Central Presbyterian Church contains inaccurate information. The author writes that a wedding took place in the church on May 12, 1950 between "Marshall Field Jr.---who is the son of the founder of Marshall Field's of Chicago" and Katharine Woodruff. To begin with, Marshall Field Jr. died in 1905 of a gunshot wound. Marshall Field IV, great grandson to the founder, is the person who married in the Joliet church. Marshall Field, founder of the famous department store, died in 1906. The name that he specifically gave to his commercial concern, after parting with Potter Palmer and Levi Leiter, was Marshall Field and Company not Marshall Field's. Chicagoans often called the store Field's. When Marshall Field & Company was sold to buyers outside of the Field family, the name changed to Marshall Field's and coupled with the Dayton Hudson name. Chicagoans called it Field's. Macy's bought the store and named it Macy's. There are still some die-hards out there calling it Field's. So what's in a name? When the family was directly involved, the store retained the founder's name which is a detail that pinpoints the historical evolution of the enterprise. The point I want to make is one of accuracy in the details which is what creates reader confidence in an author's work. A doctoral candidate in history ought to have carefully proofed the copy or someone at the publishing concern should have taken on the role of fact checker. I know that this is a cut and paste history book but when I spend \$20 for the right to

read it, I'd like it to be informative and accurate.Marianne

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