

destroyed in the Chicago Fire of 1871, he endured legal battles over his work for the South Parks, and he suffered the death of a son—all of which combined to make Chicago far less appealing than it once had been.¹²³ In 1886, at the age of seventy-two, Cleveland moved to Minneapolis, where he worked to create the city's park and recreation system.

Kenwood

12 Sheehan Residence, “The Bailey,” c. 1855. Demolished.

Cottage Grove Avenue between 48th and 49th Streets. Builder unknown.

But you must see Kenwood as I saw it when we came here in 1861. As we approached, we passed Dr. Eagen's [Egan's] Lodge on the corner of Cottage Grove and Forty-seventh, where Mr. Liston and his five children managed to live in the only one-roomed thatched cottage any where near Chicago.

—Annie McClure Hitchcock, “Reminiscences of Kenwood in 1859”

When Peggy Sheehan died in 1897, few of her aristocratic neighbors mourned her passing. Sheehan had for years occupied a slice of their prestigious neighborhood, living in a small lean-to, a thatched shanty at the edge of the community. As Kenwood transformed into the “Lake Forest of the South Side,” this Irish immigrant fought to keep a simple home for her family.¹²⁴ Like many other pre-development families, they were squatters on the land. Unlike other squatters, the Sheehans remained.

Sheehan and her husband Thomas came to Chicago at the recommendation of a relative, James Liston, who had arrived fifteen years earlier.¹²⁵ A lease of a nine-by-twelve lean-to on land in an area then known as the “Bailey” awaited their arrival.

1.19. The controversial, long-standing shanties occupied by the Sheehan family at the western edge of patrician Kenwood, as they appeared in 1888.



The area was named for Elisha Bailey, who in the summer of 1858 purchased property between 48th and 50th Streets along Cottage Grove Avenue.¹²⁶ A former squatter named Parker claimed to have built the lean-to, and although Liston said he had purchased rights to the house, there were other claimants to the homestead.

Lively legal battles followed, but the Sheehans kept the place as their family grew. For nearly fifty years, the shanty, with its unwelcome tenants, proved unmovable by the due process of law.

After Thomas' death in 1889 his wife continued the fight, although confronted with numerous attempts to remove her. She held her own until 1895, when she capitulated and for the two years prior to her death paid an annual rental of \$40. Peggy Sheehan was known as the oldest surviving pioneer of Egandale "squatting" at the southwest corner of 48th Street, until death finally dislodged her.¹²⁷

13 Judd Residence, c. 1857. Demolished.

Lake Street near Mason (47th) Street. Architect/builder unknown.

Kenwood's political ties can be traced to the earliest citizens of the area. A New York native, Norman Buel Judd, came to Chicago in November 1836 and was attorney for the newly incorporated city from 1837 to 1839. Judd was involved in politics on the state and national level. During his years as a member of the Illinois senate, from 1844 to 1860, he maintained a large legal practice and specialized

1.20. On the wide verandah of the Judd residence, President Lincoln once spent a relaxing summer evening during the fall of 1857. Later purchased by the Kenwood Club, the structure was enlarged with a 40' · 75' addition in 1886 and moved to a 47th Street location, as seen in this photograph taken about 1890 for *Picturesque Kenwood, Hyde Park, Illinois: Its Artistic Homes, Boulevards, Drives, Scenery, and Surroundings*.



in railroad law, becoming attorney for the Illinois Central Railroad. Judd was a loyal supporter of his fellow South Side resident Lyman Trumbull for the United States Senate in 1855. And it was Judd who arranged for the “celebrated debates” between Stephen Douglas and Abraham Lincoln and helped to bring Illinois into the antislavery fight.¹²⁸

Late in the 1850s, Judd purchased ten pastoral acres of land that stretched from 47th to 48th Street and east from Woodlawn to Lake. Set well back on the land was his large frame house, “quite the most stately home in the neighborhood.”¹²⁹ A three-story central tower distinguished the façade and the broad porch caught the summer breezes off Lake Michigan. The property was improved with a lake of fish, walks, drives, and “a sensible garden,” and the although the house was, according to James Runnion, “without any decided architectural beauty,” it afforded “great room and comfort.”¹³⁰

Judd’s wife Adeline, “tall and very slender, with dark hair, and a clear delicate skin,” and “a beautiful face that expressed her lovely character,”¹³¹ recalled a visit by Mr. Lincoln to their Kenwood home.

Mr. Judd had invited Mr. Lincoln to spend the evening at our pleasant home on the shore of Lake Michigan. After tea, and until quite late, we sat on the broad piazza, looking out upon as lovely a scene as that which had made the Bay of Naples so celebrated. A number of vessels were availing themselves of a fine breeze to leave the harbor, and the lake was studded with many a white sail. I remember that a flock of sea-gulls were flying along the beach, and dipping their beaks and white-lined wings in the foam that capped the short waves as they fell upon the shore. Whilst we sat there the great white moon appeared on the rim of the eastern horizon, and slowly crept above the water, throwing a perfect flood of silver light upon the dancing waves. The stars shone with the soft light of a midsummer night, and the breaking of the low waves upon the shore, repeating the old rhythm of the song which they have sung for ages, added the charm of pleasant sound to the beauty of the night. Mr. Lincoln, whose home was far inland from the great lakes, seemed greatly impressed with the wondrous beauty of the scene, and carried by its impressiveness away from all thought of the jars and turmoil of earth.¹³²

Evidently Mrs. Lincoln did not share her husband’s affection for Judd. She never forgave him for supporting Trumbull, not Lincoln, in the 1855 US Senate election. Judd did back Lincoln at the 1860 Republican presidential convention. However, when it appeared he would receive a position in her husband’s cabinet Mrs. Lincoln interceded, writing to David Davis in January 1861,

Perhaps you will think it is no affair of *mine*, yet I see it, almost daily mentioned in the Herald, that *Judd* & some *few* Northern friends, are *urging* the *former’s* claims to a cabinet appointment. *Judd* would cause trouble & dissatisfaction, & if Wall Street testifies correctly, his business transactions, have not always borne inspection. I heard the report, discussed at the table this morning, by persons who did not know, who was near, a party of gentlemen, evidently strong Republicans, they were

laughing at the idea of *Judd*, being any way, connected with the Cabinet in *these times*, when honesty in high places is so important. Mr. Lincoln's great attachment for you, is my present reason for writing. I know, a word from you, will have much effect, for the good of the country, and Mr. Lincoln's future reputation, I believe you will speak to him on this subject & urge him not to give him so responsible a place. It is strange, how little delicacy those Chicago men have.¹³³

Judd's consolation prize was an appointment as the administration's minister to Prussia, where "his good hearted and courteous demeanor endeared him to the people of that city [Berlin] as well as to American travelers."¹³⁴ Judd remained in Berlin until 1865; however, when he returned to Kenwood he did not resume his legal practice. Judd was twice elected to Congress, and in his private affairs invested heavily in Colorado silver mines, eventually putting most of his fortune in establishing a silver-reduction company. The panic of 1873 and subsequent depression resulted in the "ruin of his schemes and he was hopelessly impoverished, even his homestead being swept away."¹³⁵ He withdrew from active political life when the loss crippled him financially, and his friends believed the losses affected his health as well. Judd suffered a severe illness, never fully recovered, and died in their home on North Dearborn Avenue on November 11, 1878.

Judd's house and grounds were sold to developers who opened Kimbark Avenue and put a portion of the land on the market in subdivided lots. In June 1884 the Kenwood Club leased the house for five years and reworked the interior to serve the needs of their 130 members. The structure was eventually purchased by the club, moved to a location facing 47th Street, and was for many years the second home of Kenwood's wealthy residents.

14 Hitchcock Residence, 1859. Demolished 1964.

4741 South Greenwood Avenue. Architect/builder unknown.

In 1922, Annie McClure Hitchcock was buried alongside her husband in Oak Woods Cemetery. As she left her flower-filled home for the last time, the neighborhood bid a final goodbye to a woman, who for sixty years had been "a force for good in the community."¹³⁶ She was one of the last of the old pioneers of the area, and her homestead was one of the few early residences that remained relatively unchanged.

Born north of the city in Waukegan in 1839, Annie McClure wed one of Chicago's early lawyers of note, Charles Hitchcock, on the eve of the Civil War. It was in the company of Charles and her childhood friend Marion Heald (and Marion's future husband, attorney Marland Leslie Perkins) that Hitchcock first laid eyes upon the land she would occupy until her death. It was a glorious afternoon in 1859 when Annie McClure's close friends, all busily planning their futures, rode out of the city. Charles pointed out to Annie "in a most casual and modest way, the roof of a wooden house, rising above a thick grove of oaks as the only house and land he *owned*, but it was too far from business."¹³⁷

Not long after their wedding, the Hitchcocks gave up their city residence and came



1.21. Annie Hitchcock named the street on which this house stood, an area she recalled was a “green wood,” where children visited to gather wildflowers, nuts, and plums.

to live in Kenwood, on three acres of land south of 47th Street at Greenwood. Just to the north were an additional five acres for raising cabbage and potatoes. Their country home, with riding and carriage horses, two cows, and a chicken house “afforded Mr. Hitchcock all of the joys of a farmer in his leisure hours.” Hitchcock “trimmed the oaks so that the finest trees would have room to grow,” Annie reminisced, and “laid out a walk with such substantial asphalt that it has not been repaired to this day,” and they constructed a barn and gardener’s house.¹³⁸ “At the corner of Greenwood and Forty-seventh was another swamp, and for the first few years we drove out of our backyard at Forty-seventh and Woodlawn Avenue,” she continued, confirming the marshy conditions of the area. “I had the honor of naming Greenwood Avenue; indeed it was a green wood, much frequented by city children, bent on uprooting the wild flowers, and gathering the hazelnuts and wild plums.”¹³⁹

There were few neighbors near to the Hitchcocks, as each house was set on many acres. Kenwood’s very first settler, Dr. Jonathan Kennicott, divided his time between dentistry and his beautiful gardens. Judge Williams had a house similar to the Hitchcocks on “eight or ten” acres on 46th Street between Woodlawn and Lake. Two other early settlers, lawyer Pennoyer Sherman and his wife Louisa, had “undisputed sway over the corner of Lake and Forty-seventh, and possessed clear right to old Lake Michigan with its sunrises and sunsets, its bathing and fishing, only hindered by the two Illinois Central Railroad tracks and its infrequent trains.”¹⁴⁰

The early years of the Hitchcock’s marriage were at times filled with illness and sorrow; the war and “years of bereavement”¹⁴¹ took their toll and Kenwood

mourned a local tragedy. Like many of the men in the neighborhood, Charles would catch the early morning train to his office in the city. On a cold, snow-covered Thursday in January 1862, he boarded the 7:50 as usual, heading for the downtown offices of Hitchcock & Dupee. The small Illinois Central train, consisting of a passenger car and a baggage car drawn by a locomotive, was just leaving the Kenwood station when another train came up behind it.

The Cincinnati Express was running at a high speed when the engineer rounded a curve and saw the Illinois Central train just leaving the station. Alarms were sounded and gears thrown into reverse, but that was not enough to prevent a collision. Passengers on the IC heard the alarm and tried to get back to the platform before the train hit. Fortunately most managed to escape alive before the passenger car was torn apart. The list of the injured was a who's who of Kenwood and included the bruised Charles Hitchcock. But it was the sight of Judge Barron's head "hurled through the air . . . still quivering in some of its lineaments" that provided the greatest shock to all.¹⁴²

Several years later, after the end of the war and the assassination of Lincoln, General Ulysses Grant came to Kenwood. The neighborhood greeted the triumphant Grant with "the finest event ever of such a magnitude,"¹⁴³ welcoming him at the home of Norman Judd. Mrs. Hitchcock recalled being of great assistance to Judd on the receiving line that day, providing the name, occupation, and place of residence of each unfamiliar guest.

Annie Hitchcock broadened her involvement in many neighborhood activities well beyond the political spectrum. A forceful, childless woman with a lifelong passion for the printed word, she started a reading room in a Hyde Park storefront. Her early work culminated in the establishment of the present branch system of the Chicago Public Library.

"The years passed on and changes with them," she wistfully recalled. The Hitchcocks added a library wing to the house where, she recalled, the details and the maps for the Park System of Chicago were drawn up. Outdoors they decided to have only lawn and trees and a fountain on the homestead. In spite of the abundance of groundwater, there was not enough spring water on the land, so the fountain was supplied via pipes from an iron spring in Washington Park, several blocks west. A "pretty house" by the French architect Lemonier was built across the street. The five-acre cabbage patch was divided and sold, but Charles left his mark in the "stately row of elms" along the entire front of 47th Street between Greenwood and Woodlawn.¹⁴⁴

In 1871, when the great fire destroyed a major part of the city, Annie worked diligently to help alleviate the suffering it had brought to many. Unhappy that many of the funds were not reaching the needy, she undertook her own relief efforts. The story is told that she went to the destroyed Crosby's Opera House and rescued allegorical statues that had once graced the Washington Street façade—these could be seen on the grounds well into the 1950s. The fire brought other changes locally, with an influx of people moving away from the city center. Annie recalled that "each new neighbor who came to Kenwood was welcomed as a family friend."¹⁴⁵

After Charles became ill with heart disease, his death at their home on May 6, 1881 did not come as a great surprise to his friends and family. He was remem-

bered as a “lawyer of great ability and a gentleman of culture and dignity.”¹⁴⁶ After his death, Annie expanded her humanitarian and philanthropic work. She was one of the founders of the Chicago Women’s Club and a charter member of the Fortnightly Club. Continuing many of these activities for the rest of her life, she remarked that they “made less lonesome the advancing years.”¹⁴⁷

Always forceful, Hitchcock saw the city swallow her homestead and was quite clear on her feelings about the 1889 annexation. She later spoke of “the disastrous day when Hyde Park Village voted itself part of Chicago, so selling its birthright.” She saw firsthand the transformation of the prairie into a small town, witnessing the Columbian Exposition, the founding of the university, and the effects of the First World War. As apartments and hotels surrounded her homestead, and as the larger city encroached on the beautiful landscape she had first seen on that sunny Saturday afternoon in 1859, Hitchcock always relied on her home as the center of influence.

Today it is hard to imagine the gracious estate that once occupied the land.¹⁴⁸ Here were held many social events, at all times of the year. One cold winter morning Annie Hitchcock had more than one hundred guests for a musicale and breakfast, bringing spring to Kenwood a bit early. “At the table in the dining room she served coffee and chocolate. The ice cream she had blocked into guitars, mandolins, violins and music books. The mantel in the reception hall was banked with primrose, hyacinth and ferns, while tulips, daffodils, and roses were used in profusion in all the rooms.”¹⁴⁹

As a strong supporter of the University of Chicago, Hitchcock may have given the trustees more than they anticipated. In 1899, she pledged a substantial donation for the construction of the residence hall in memory of her late husband.¹⁵⁰ When the university selected the Boston firm of Shepley, Rutan & Coolidge, she let her feelings be known to president William Rainey Harper. “I am not content,” Hitchcock wrote, “that the building should be put up as my expression of an adequate memorial to my husband, and as my ideal of what a boy’s dormitory should be, when I have not been consulted at all.”¹⁵¹ She lobbied for the commission to be awarded to rising young architect Dwight Heald Perkins, the son of her good friend Marion Perkins.

Hitchcock prevailed and donated her one-half interest in the building located downtown at the northwest corner of Madison and LaSalle Streets to the university.¹⁵² When Hitchcock Hall was completed in 1902 its Gothic design blended elements of the Arts and Crafts movement and the Prairie School, with a focus on “craftsmanship, simplicity and a geometric rectilinear style.”¹⁵³ Hitchcock personally selected and donated the furnishings, many of them designed by Gustav Stickley. Perkins and sculptor Richard Bock collaborated on an elaborate frieze for the library.¹⁵⁴ Mrs. Hitchcock would no doubt be pleased to know that Hitchcock Hall is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

In the summer prior to the dedication of the residence hall, a tea was held on the Greenwood house lawn. “With the wide lawns that surround the stately Kenwood homes, the lawn tea is one of the most successful ways of entertaining on the midsummer days in town,” noted the society pages. “Mrs. Charles Hitchcock of 4741 Greenwood avenue, who has one of the most beautiful lawns in the city,

entertained yesterday for Miss Mary Willard of Berlin, Germany, who had been her guest last week.”¹⁵⁵

Those gracious summer days did not last forever, and in 1916, after fifty-five years, Hitchcock sold what remained of her Kenwood property, although she continued to live in the house until her death, alone except for a cook and housekeeper and an Irish groundskeeper. “The old frame residence at the northeast corner of Greenwood Avenue and 48th Street, west front 145 × 298 feet on the north and 208 feet on the south, has been transferred by Annie Hitchcock to the First Trust and Savings bank.”¹⁵⁶

Annie McClure Hitchcock died on June 29, 1922, in Berea, Kentucky.

15 Remmer Residence, 1861. Demolished.

4833 South Lake Street. Architect/builder unknown.

Englishman John Remmer was one of the earliest residents of Kenwood. Remmer began as a clerk in the Illinois Central superintendent’s office and occupied the house at 4833 Lake Avenue from 1861 until 1878, which may have been the year of his death. The house was very near the Kenwood station, and Remmer was one of those seriously injured in the train accident that occurred in the early morning



1.22. Remmer, an employee of the Illinois Central, constructed his house adjacent to the railroad tracks. He was one of those listed as seriously injured in a deadly railroad accident during the winter of 1862.