

# ILLINOIS HISTORICAL JOURNAL

Volume 90 / Number 1 / Spring 1997

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**Cover:** Patrick and Catherine O'Leary's house on De Koven Street was not destroyed by the Great Chicago Fire of 1871. Although the legend that the fire started when Mrs. O'Leary's cow kicked over a lantern in the barn persists, the cause of the fire has never been established. Richard F. Bales offers a new theory on who started the Great Fire. The article begins on page 2.

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