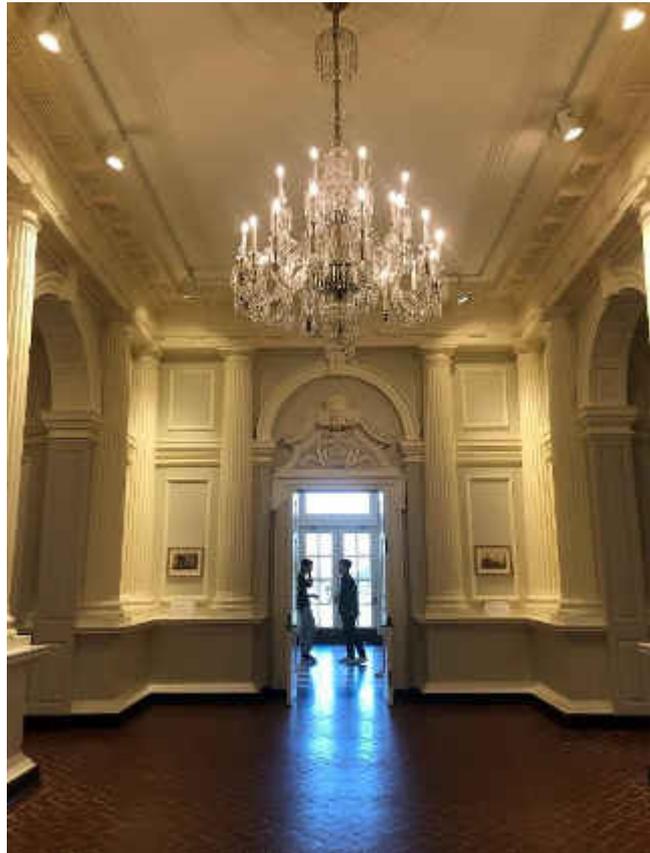


# Chicago History Museum – by Philippa Reuke

The Chicago History Museum was founded in 1856 by the Chicago Historical Society to learn and preserve Chicago's history. Since the 1930's, it is located at its current site, but it wasn't always there.

The first collection of the museum was mostly destroyed in the Great Chicago Fire in 1871. It included lots of documents, like the Abraham Lincoln's final draft of the Emancipation Proclamation. After this huge loss, they started collecting again, but the pieces became victim of a fire again in 1874. Scared another fire might destroy the collections, they built a fireproof home for Chicago's history.



In 1920, the CHS bought exhibits from a famous collector and changed their focus from research to public display. In the 1930's, they started building the current museum. It was expanded twice to create its look like we know it today.

Nowadays, the collection is quite huge again. It includes Chicago's history, as well as America's history, especially Abraham Lincoln and the America Civil War. We could see the deathbed of Abraham Lincoln and other belongings and furniture from his death room, an exhibition about the Great Chicago Fire and some more modern history items.

All in all, there was a huge range of display items, from fashion to models of old firetrucks to old documents. We ended our visit with watching a short movie about one exhibit, but not everybody liked it.

I know that museums aren't for everybody, but this museum has a wide range of topics and items, so I think everybody found something they enjoyed or found interesting.