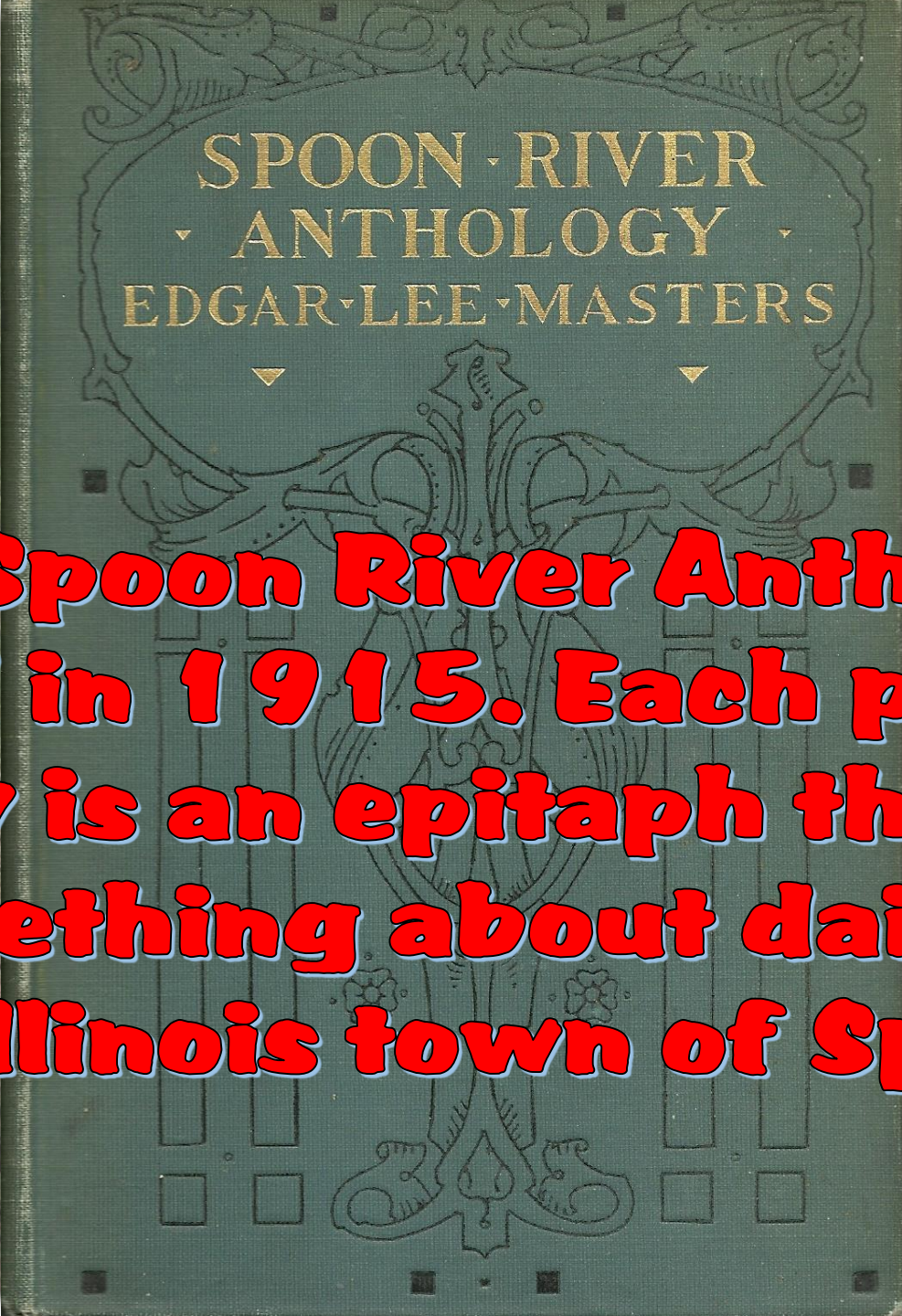
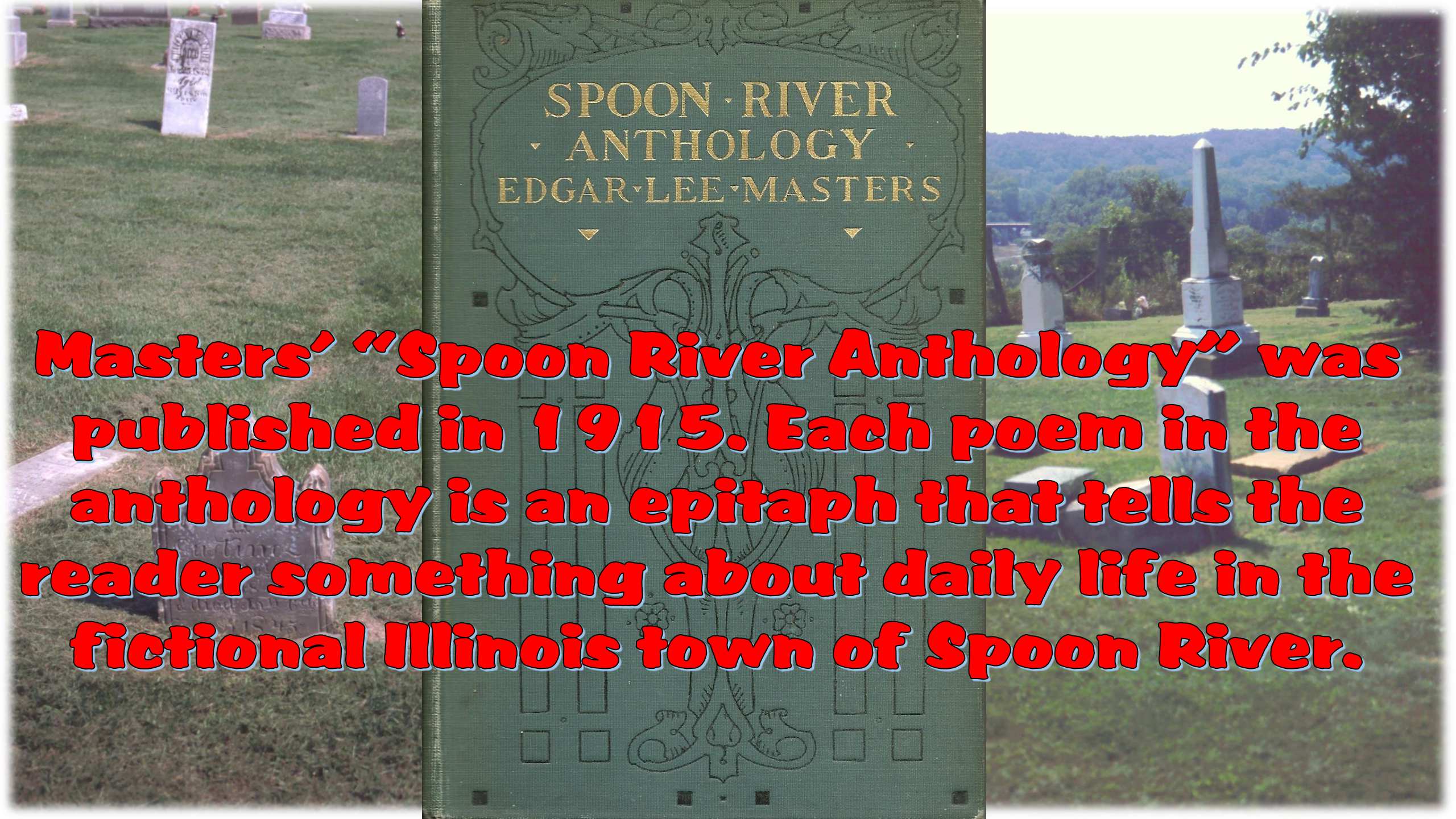


An Introduction to
The Dead of Spoon River
A Graphic Novel Adaptation of Edgar
Lee Masters' "Spoon River Anthology"
By
James M. Kemp

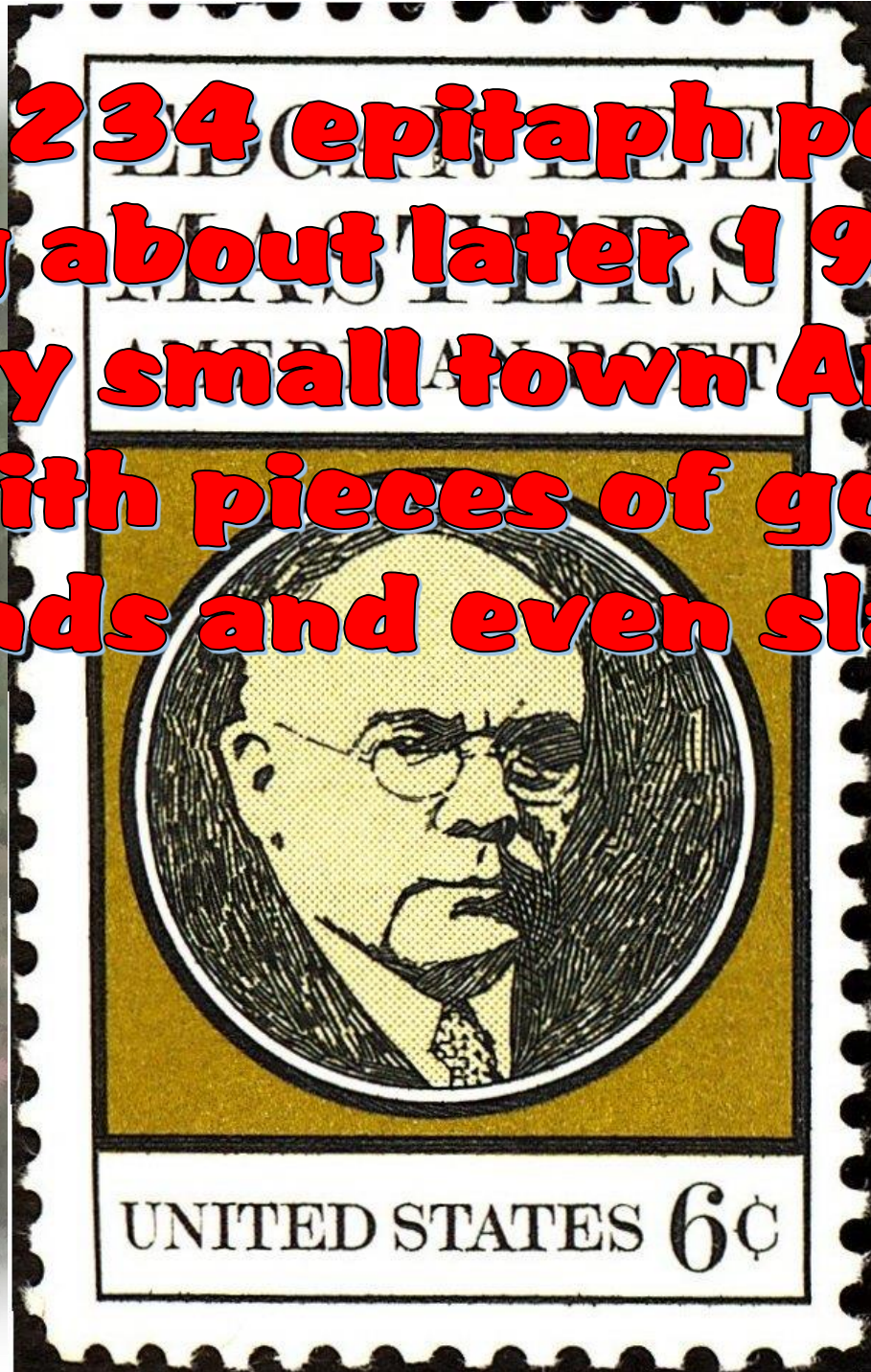


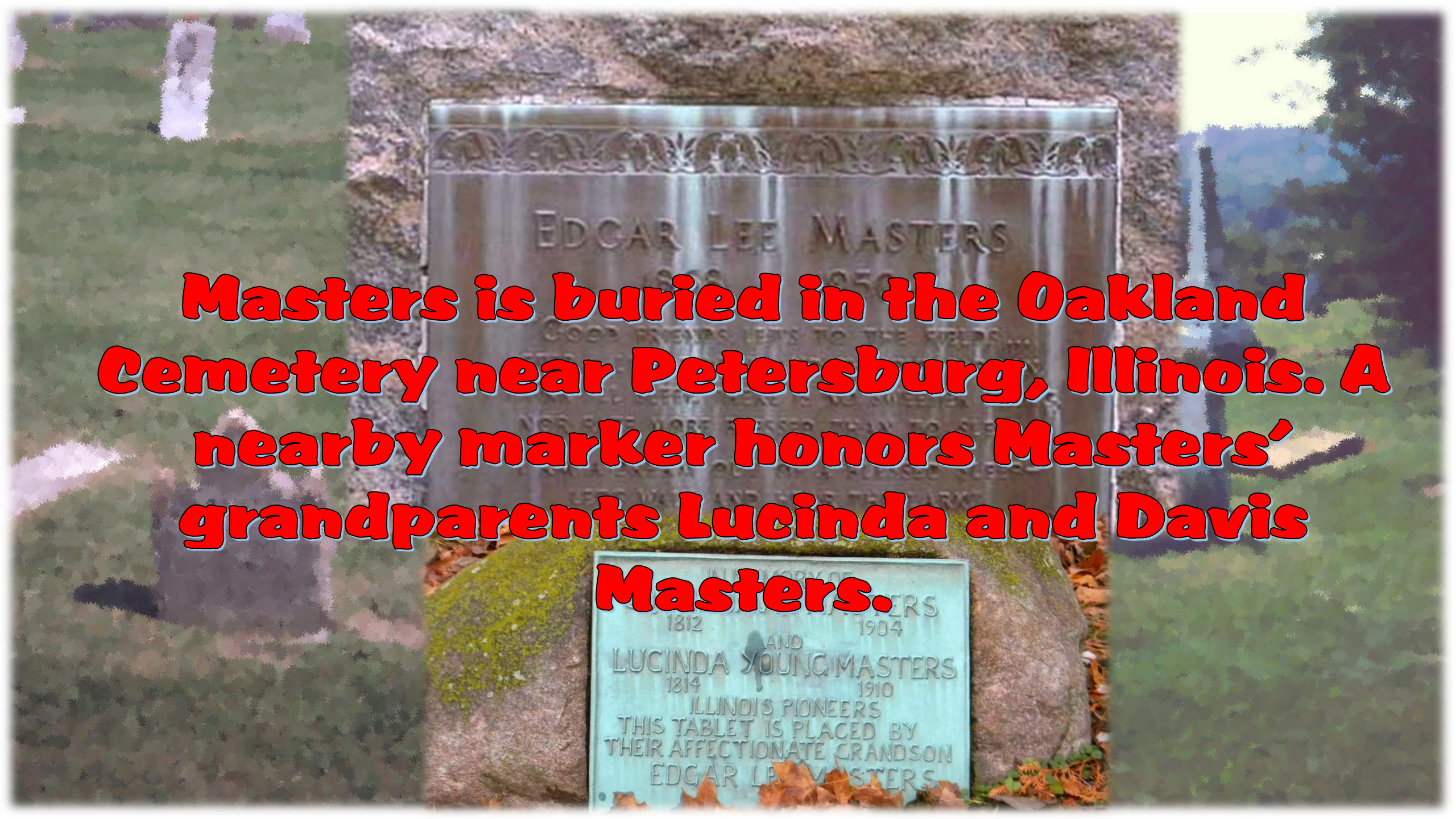
SPOON RIVER
ANTHOLOGY
EDGAR LEE MASTERS



Masters' "Spoon River Anthology" was published in 1915. Each poem in the anthology is an epitaph that tells the reader something about daily life in the fictional Illinois town of Spoon River.

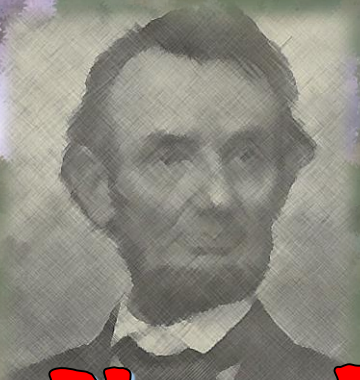
Each of the 234 epitaph poems reveals something about later 19th and early 20th century small town American life, replete with pieces of gossip, local legends and even slander.





Masters is buried in the Oakland Cemetery near Petersburg, Illinois. A nearby marker honors Masters' grandparents Lucinda and Davis Masters.

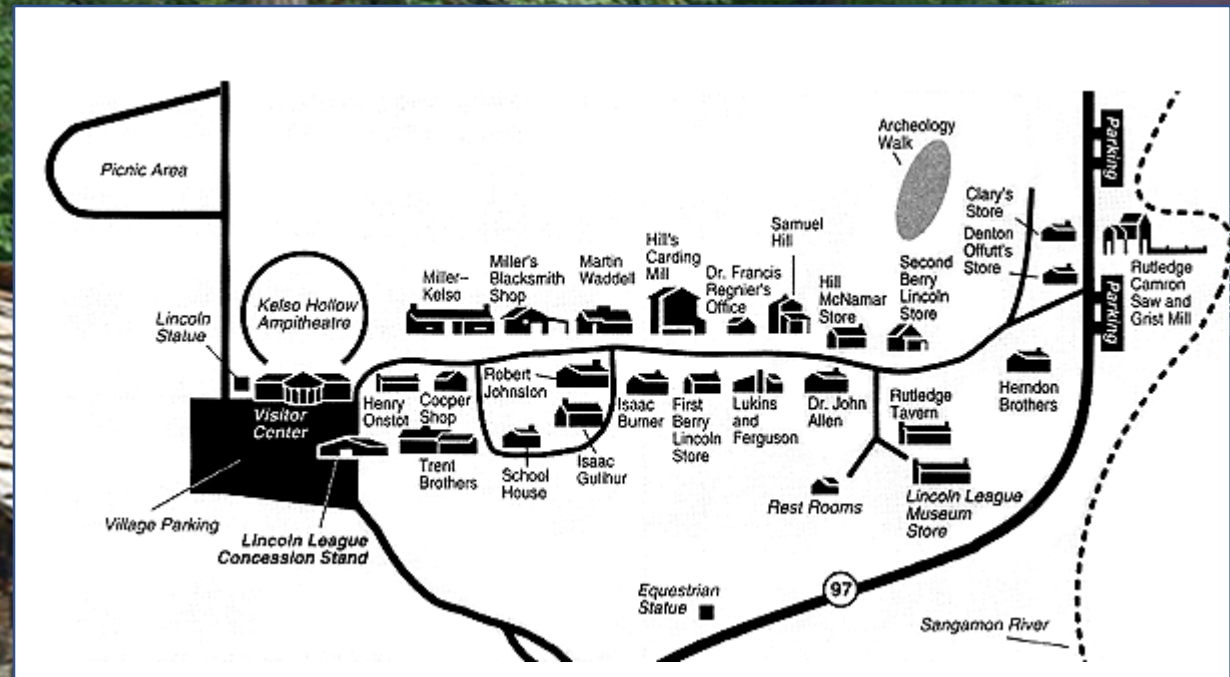
EDGAR LEE MASTERS
1812 1904
AND
LUCINDA YOUNG MASTERS
1814 1910
ILLINOIS PIONEERS
THIS TABLET IS PLACED BY
THEIR AFFECTIONATE GRANDSON
EDGAR LEE MASTERS



THE VIBRATIONS OF DEATHLESS MUSIC!
"WITH MALICE TOWARD NONE, WITH CHARITY FOR ALL
OUT OF ME FORGIVENESS OF MILLIONS TOWARD MILLIONS
AND THE BENEFICENT FACE OF A NATION
SHINING WITH JUSTICE AND TRUTH.
I AM ANN RUTLEDGE WHO SLEEP BENEATH THESE WEEDS
WEDDED TO ABRAHAM LINCOLN
BUT THROUGH SEPARATION
FROM THE DUST OF MY DOG

Nearby is the tombstone of Ann Rutledge. Lincoln's law partner, William Herndon, suggested to Carl Sandburg, that Ann had been Lincoln's first love while they both lived in a log cabin village.





Illinois' New Salem State Park demonstrates daily living conditions as they were at the time of Abraham Lincoln's youth.



Edgar Lee Masters



SPOON RIVER
ANTHOLOGY

Dr. John E. Hallwas has written the annotated edition of "Spoon River Anthology" in which he discusses his research with local residents of Lewiston, Petersburg and other small towns along the Spoon River.

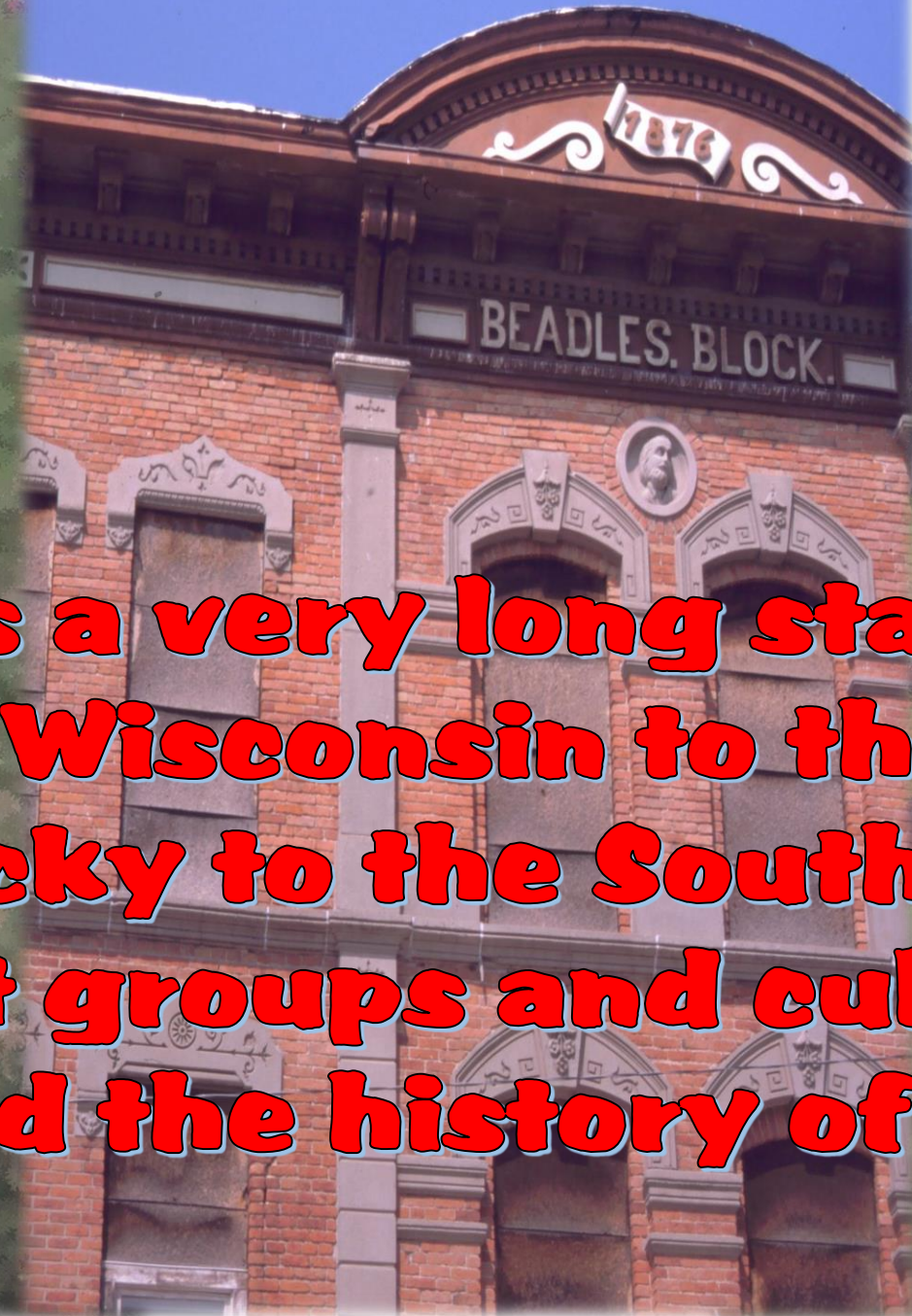
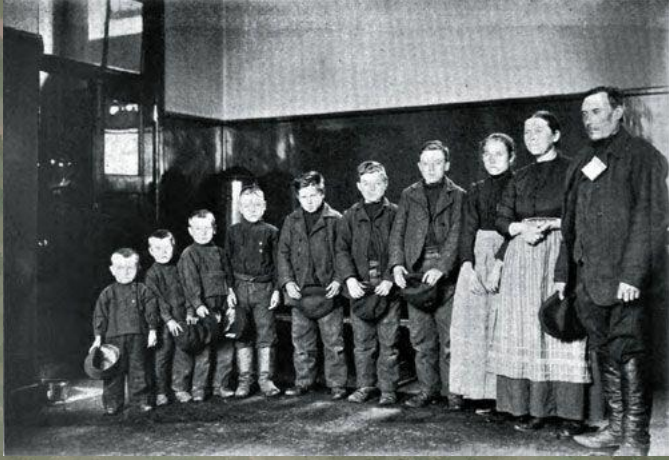
Edited and with an Introduction
and Annotations by
John E. Hallwas

The image is a composite. On the left and right are landscape photographs of a rural area with green fields and trees. In the center is a white map of Illinois with county boundaries. A region in the west-central part of the state is highlighted in red. Overlaid on the map is a large red text block with a blue outline.

Spoon River "Country" is an area of West Central Illinois that was set aside as a military reserve for men who had been soldiers in the War of 1812.



The geology of this part of Illinois was created when continental glaciers from the last ice age, expanded and contracted, leaving fertile soil and many rivers with many tributaries.



Illinois is a very long state which borders on Wisconsin to the North and Kentucky to the South. Many immigrant groups and cultures have influenced the history of the state.

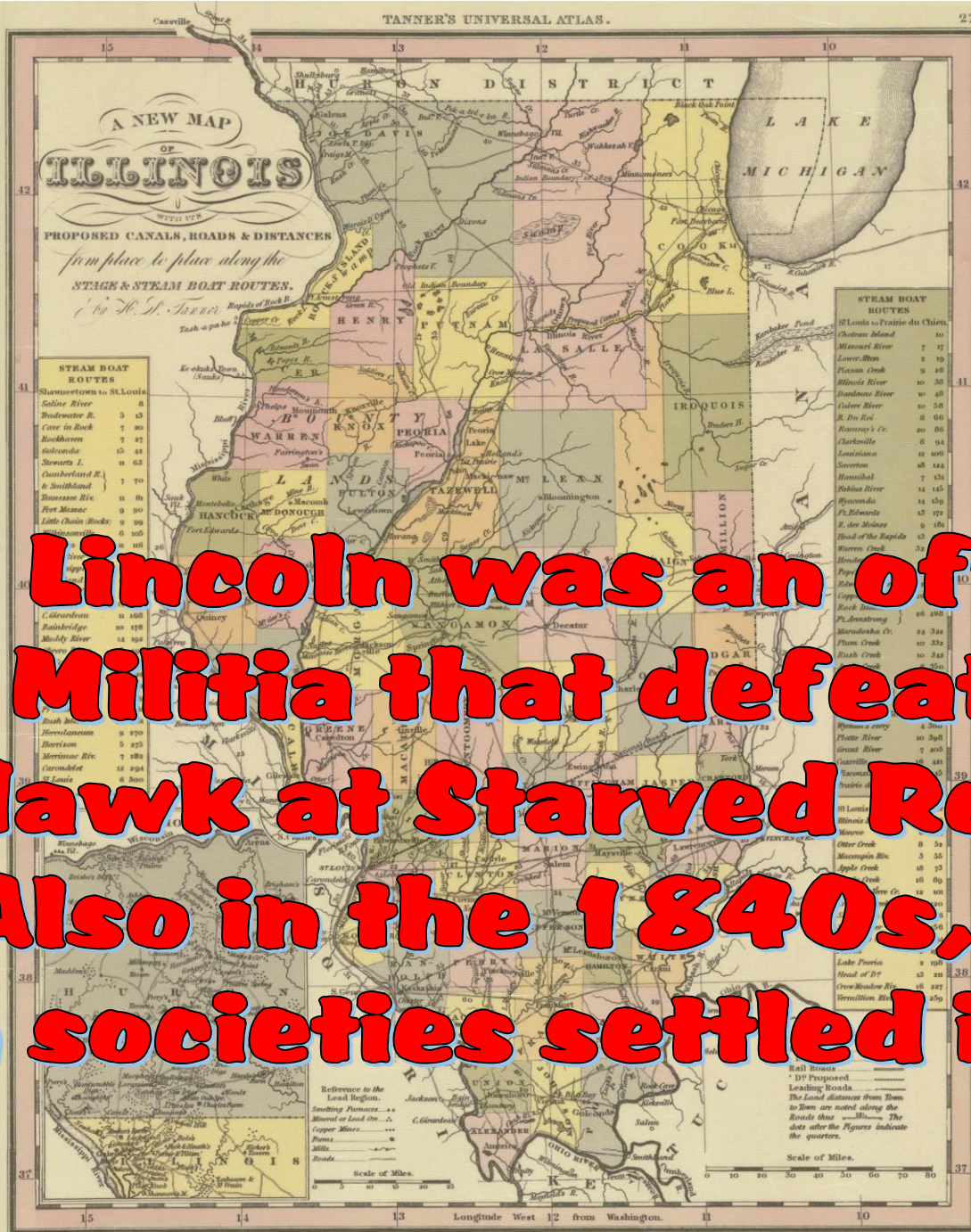
Bishop Hill



Nauvoo



Abraham Lincoln was an officer in the Illinois Militia that defeated Chief Black Hawk at Starved Rock in the 1840s. Also in the 1840s, numerous utopian societies settled in Illinois.



Entered according to Act of Congress, in the year 1833, by H.S. Tanner, in the Clerk's Office of the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. Philadelphia, Published by H.S. Tanner. Engraved by J.A. McKim.

Illinois is rich in mineral wealth and in agricultural wealth. The state was often a haven for land speculators and thugs of the corporate "robber barons" in the 19th century.



An aerial night view of the Chicago skyline, featuring prominent skyscrapers like the Willis Tower and the Trump Tower. The city lights are illuminated against a dark blue sky. The image is framed by a green, textured border on the left and right sides, suggesting a forest or natural setting. Overlaid on the lower half of the image is a large, bold, red text with a white outline.


Major American cities are located on the boundaries of Spoon River Country. Chicago borders to the Northeast.



St. Louis borders on the West.



**The Quad Cities - Davenport,
Iowa, Rock Island, Moline and
East Moline, Illinois - border to
the Northwest.**



Peoria

Peoria, Illinois is a city mentioned often in the anthology and lies within Spoon River Country.



Next, meet 45 of the deceased residents of "Spoon River Anthology" in this graphic novel adaptation titled The Dead of Spoon River.