

# ChicagoHistoryMuseum

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## WILLIAM LE BARON JENNEY: FATHER OF THE SKYSCRAPER AND HIS LEGACY

Chicago History Museum celebrates the many talents of Jenney on the centennial of his death

CHICAGO (May 14, 2007) – The Chicago History Museum will present a symposium on the many achievements of architect, William Le Baron Jenney, on Saturday, June 9, in honor of the centennial of his death. A continental breakfast welcomes participants at 9:30 a.m., followed by a panel discussion of architects and historians at 10:00 a.m. This symposium is one of many events taking place across the city to honor Jenney as an innovator, leader, and mentor in the architectural field. Following the symposium, there will be a public dedication of the William Le Baron Jenney monument at Graceland Cemetery at 2:30 p.m.

The panel will discuss Jenney's contributions as a landscape engineer, structural engineer, furniture designer, and an advocate for the architectural profession. Panelists include Christopher Vernon from The University of Western Australia; Walker C. Johnson from Johnson-Lasky Architects; Rolf Achilles from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago; Wilbert R. Hasbrouck from the Prairie Avenue Bookshop; and moderating the event will be Russell Lewis from the Chicago History Museum.

Jenney first arrived in Chicago in 1867 where he formed the architectural firm Jenney, Schermerhorn, and Bogart. It was at this time that he worked closely with landscape architects Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux to help develop Riverside, Illinois. Jenney, most notably known for developing the steel-framed skyscraper, also made significant contributions to urban planning and the development of the architectural profession in America. His firm was an incubator for future architectural leaders such as Daniel Burnham, William Holabird, and Louis Sullivan.

The symposium, *William Le Baron Jenney: Father of the Skyscraper and his Legacy*, would not have been possible without the following co-sponsor organizations: The Chicago Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians, Greater Chicago Chapter of the Victorian Society of America; Chicago Architecture Foundation; Urban History Seminar of the Chicago History Museum; David R. Phillips, President, Chicago Architectural Photographing Company; Hegeler Carus Foundation; and Jensen & Halstead, successors to Jenney Mundie & Jensen. Tickets to the symposium are \$10 for the general public, and \$5 for Chicago History Museum members.

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The Chicago History Museum, a major museum and research center for Chicago and American history, is located at 1601 N. Clark Street. The Museum can be reached by CTA buses 11, 22, 36, 72, 151, and 156. Parking is conveniently located one block north of the Museum at Clark and LaSalle Streets (enter on Stockton Drive). Admission to the Museum is a suggested donation of \$12 adults, \$10 seniors/students, free for children 12 years and younger. General Admission is free on Mondays. Please call 312.642.4600 or visit us at [www.chicagohistory.org](http://www.chicagohistory.org).