

## Annotated Bibliography – Primary Sources

Humanities, National Endowment for the. “Morgan County Democrat. (Versailles, Mo.) 1900-1906, February 23, 1906, Image 3.” *News about Chronicling America* RSS, Tillman & Price,

[chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn90061782/1906-02-23/ed-1/seq-3/#date1=1906&index=0&rows=20&words=Chicago river&searchType=basic&sequence=0&state=Missouri&date2=1906&proxtext=chicago river&y=7&x=19&dateFilterType=yearRange&page=1](http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn90061782/1906-02-23/ed-1/seq-3/#date1=1906&index=0&rows=20&words=Chicago%20river&searchType=basic&sequence=0&state=Missouri&date2=1906&proxtext=chicago%20river&y=7&x=19&dateFilterType=yearRange&page=1).

This source is an image of an old newspaper that covered the Missouri v. Illinois case trial. It provided some information on the process of rerouting the river and showed the legal and environmental impacts of the event. Some limitations we found were that the paper is damaged and there isn't a lot of information on the reversal.

Humanities, National Endowment for the. “Rock Island Daily Argus. (Rock Island, Ill.) 1886-1893, August

30, 1892, Image 1.” *News about Chronicling America* RSS, John W. Potter, [chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn92053945/1892-08-30/ed-1/seq-1/#date1=1777&index=1&date2=1963&words=Cholera CHOLERA cholera&searchType=basic&sequence=0&state=Illinois&rows=20&proxtext=cholera&y=21&x=14&dateFilterType=yearRange&page=1](http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn92053945/1892-08-30/ed-1/seq-1/#date1=1777&index=1&date2=1963&words=Cholera%20CHOLERA%20cholera&searchType=basic&sequence=0&state=Illinois&rows=20&proxtext=cholera&y=21&x=14&dateFilterType=yearRange&page=1).

This source is a newspaper article about the cholera outbreak in civilizations surrounding Chicago. The reports claim that there has been a substantial amount of people infected with cholera, and presents how desperate the citizens of Chicago are, providing some justification for the Chicago River Reversal, as Chicago was in a dire situation and authorities felt the reversal was their only option. However, the article is from Rock Island, which although it is a municipality located within Illinois, it is not Chicago and cannot fully capture the Chicago experience.

Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago. “The District to the MWRD: A history of protecting our water environment.” *History*, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, Page 1

[https://mwrdd.org/sites/default/files/inline-images/History\\_3\\_1.jpg](https://mwrdd.org/sites/default/files/inline-images/History_3_1.jpg)

This source is an image of the process of installing new and improved sewage systems. It demonstrates how the Chicago River Reversal provoked more concepts and ideas regarding a safer and more hygienic water supply, which is continuing to benefit us today. However, this picture does not show the construction of the Chicago River Reversal itself, only the development of better sewage disposal methods formed as a result of the Chicago River Reversal.

Miles, Irene. Woodward, Gregg. “The river runs backwards.” *Chicago River Mouth*, The Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois, © 2014, Page 1

[https://www.iiseagrant.org/chicagowaterwalk/images/Chicago\\_River\\_TheRiverrunsbackw](https://www.iiseagrant.org/chicagowaterwalk/images/Chicago_River_TheRiverrunsbackw)

This source is a picture of part of the process of the reversal of the Chicago river which

provides evidence to support the claim that better sewage systems were implemented. This source did not provide information surrounding the effects of pollution on other places downstream, however it was helpful in helping one understand the effort put into establishing better sewage systems and cleaner drinking water.

“Missouri v. Illinois, 200 U.S. 496 (1906).” *Justia Law*,  
[supreme.justia.com/cases/federal/us/200/496/](https://supreme.justia.com/cases/federal/us/200/496/).

This source is a transcript of the original Missouri v. Illinois case syllabus. This source provided necessary information on the legal consequences of the reversal of the Chicago River. A limitation we found was that the case only covers the damages to Missouri’s water source issue but the reversal had a myriad of other issues that needed to be addressed.

Vaughan, Carson. “Floods, Carp, and Crap: The Environmental Impacts of the Chicago River Reversal.” *Floods, Carp, and Crap: The Environmental Impacts of the Chicago River Reversal*, edited by NPR Editors, published by WBEZ Chicago, © 2019, Page 1  
[https://media.npr.org/assets/img/2019/10/11/lost%20panoramas%20color%20pop%20rgb-01%20smaller\\_wide-s800-c85.webpards.jpg](https://media.npr.org/assets/img/2019/10/11/lost%20panoramas%20color%20pop%20rgb-01%20smaller_wide-s800-c85.webpards.jpg)

This source is an image displaying the destruction inflicted upon property downstream. As represented in the picture, there is considerable damage brought by the polluted water, causing the land to be unusable and ruining any potential crops. However, this image restricts us to the perspective of those who have been harmfully affected by the Chicago River Reversal, and does not give any input regarding those who benefited from the Chicago River Reversal.

WTTW. “How Chicago Reversed Its River: An Animated History.” *The Chicago River tour with Geoffrey Baer*, WTTW, © 2022, Page 1  
<https://interactive.wttw.com/sites/default/files/chesbrough-i009793-pd-chm.jpg>

This source is a picture that displays Walter Chesbrough, the man who created ideas to save Chicago from demise, which supports the claims that clean drinking water and better sewage systems were implemented; his ideas allowed for these things to happen. Some limitations this source contains was that it did not provide information regarding the effects of pollution from the river reversal on places downstream. This source is quite different from others, as this is a picture of the man who created the idea that saved Chicago from disease.

WTTW. “How Chicago Reversed Its River: An Animated History.” *The Chicago River tour with Geoffrey Baer*, WTTW, © 2022, Page 1  
[https://interactive.wttw.com/sites/default/files/13-0313\\_historical\\_Box\\_125\\_013.jpg](https://interactive.wttw.com/sites/default/files/13-0313_historical_Box_125_013.jpg)

This source is an image portraying the implementation of better sewage systems which helps support the argument that through experimentation of different sewage systems, we were able to create the safest and cleanest sewage system available. This source does not contain information on damage done by the Chicago river. This source is similar to the source “The District to the MWRD: A history of protecting our water environment.”

WTTW. “How Chicago Reversed Its River: An Animated History.” *The Chicago River tour with*

*Geoffrey Baer*; WTTW, © 2022, Page 1

<https://interactive.wttw.com/sites/default/files/downstate-erosion-1.jpg>

This source is a picture that present the effects of pollution on land downstream which provided evidence to support the claim that the Chicago river reversal caused negative impacts to places downstream. This source does not help support the claim that due to pollution of the river, death rates in places downstream increased. This source is also similar to the primary source “Floods, Carp, and Crap: The Environmental Impacts of the Chicago River Reversal.”

## Annotated Bibliography – Secondary Sources

“Ask Geoffrey: How Did Chicago Manage Epidemics Throughout Its History?” [WTTW News, news.wttw.com/2020/04/09/ask-geoffrey-how-did-chicago-manage-epidemics-throughout-its-history](https://news.wttw.com/2020/04/09/ask-geoffrey-how-did-chicago-manage-epidemics-throughout-its-history).

This source is a website article that describes the outbreak of water-borne disease due to the excess amount of pollution in the Chicago river and the different waste systems that were experimented with in order to best approach the disease problem. This source provided me with information on the many actions that Walter Chesbrough took in order to solve the problem of the polluted river, but it did not contain much information on the effects of the different waste systems on people other than Chicago residents, however it also allowed me to understand the diplomatic actions that were taken in order to develop newer and safer waste systems.

*Chicago River*, [www.encyclopedia.chicagohistory.org/pages/263.html](http://www.encyclopedia.chicagohistory.org/pages/263.html).

This source is a website article regarding the different projects that were implemented into the Chicago river system which provides information to support the claim that the river reversal was a great engineering feat. This source does not contain much evidence on the effects of the reversal of the Chicago river, thus being very similar to the source “Chicago River Mouth.”

“Chicago River Mouth.” *The River Runs Backwards/Chicago River Mouth/CR/CWW/IISG*, [www.iiseagrant.org/chicagowaterwalk/cww5\\_rter\\_crm\\_riverruns.html](http://www.iiseagrant.org/chicagowaterwalk/cww5_rter_crm_riverruns.html).

This source is a website article that specifically vaguely provides information surrounding the idea behind reversing the Chicago river which provided evidence to support the claim that the river reversal was one of the greatest engineering feats that was completed. This source did not provide information surrounding the effects of the river reversal. This source is similar to the source “How the Chicago River was Reversed.”

“The Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal.” *The Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal | Oak Park River Forest Museum*, [oprfmuseum.org/chicago-sanitary-and-ship-canal](http://oprfmuseum.org/chicago-sanitary-and-ship-canal).

This source is a website article that talks about the effects of the reversal of the Chicago river which provided me with information on the miracle-like effects that the reversal of the Chicago river had on Chicago residents. Some limitations this source contained was that it didn’t talk about how the pollution coming from Chicago affected others down the river, but it allowed for me to understand some of the debate that went into the reversal of the Chicago river. The controversy within the reversal of the Chicago river sparked much debate with different groups of people causing diplomatic actions to be taken in order to best accommodate everybody.

“Chicago's Historical Ingenuity in the Face of Disease.” *WTTW Chicago*, 18 Mar. 2020, [interactive.wttw.com/playlist/2020/03/13/public-health-engineering-chicago#:~:text=In the second half of,to stop the spread of](https://interactive.wttw.com/playlist/2020/03/13/public-health-engineering-chicago#:~:text=In the second half of,to stop the spread of).

This source is a website article that mainly discusses the tactics that Chicago used to approach the ongoing problem of disease which provided me with information about sewage systems that were implemented to best approach the problem of waterborne

disease. Some limitations this source contains is that it doesn't describe how the reversal of the Chicago river affected the Mississippi and Missouri rivers. This source helps my argument by showing us the process that went into developing better sewage systems throughout the world.

"Floods, Carp, And Crap: The Environmental Impacts Of The Chicago River Reversal." *NPR*, NPR, 14 Oct. 2019, [www.npr.org/local/309/2019/10/14/769630864/floods-carp-and-crap-the-environmental-impacts-of-the-chicago-river-reversal](http://www.npr.org/local/309/2019/10/14/769630864/floods-carp-and-crap-the-environmental-impacts-of-the-chicago-river-reversal).

This source is a website article that describes the impact of the reversal of the Chicago river which gave me information on the impacts that the pollution coming from Chicago had on places downstream. Some limitations I encountered was that it didn't provide any information on how the reversal impacted cases of water-borne disease in places downstream. This source helps support my argument by providing me with information on the effect of the pollution on land in places downstream.

"History." *Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago*, <https://mwrld.org/history>

This source is a website article that describes many of the ways that the projects were done on the Chicago river which gave me information on how drinking water was cleansed. Some limitations I encountered was that it didn't provide information regarding the effects of the reversal of the river on other places. This source helps support my argument because it supports the claim that the river reversal was able to implement clean drinking water.

"How Chicago Reversed Its River: An Animated History: The Chicago Tour with Geoffrey Baer." *WTTW Chicago*, 4 Sept. 2018, [interactive.wttw.com/chicago-river-tour/how-chicago-reversed-river-animated](http://interactive.wttw.com/chicago-river-tour/how-chicago-reversed-river-animated).

This source is a website article that provides information on the pollution and false information caused by the reversal of the Chicago river which gave me evidence regarding how Missouri's concerns toward the pollution of their own drinking water were valid and how the pollution heavily impacted places downstream like Missouri. Some limitations I encountered was that this source did not contain information regarding death rates within states downstream like Missouri who were impacted by the reversal of the Chicago river. This source helped my argument because it provided information on how debate and diplomacy was used in order to solve the cases regarding the damages done by the pollution of the Chicago river.

Lyle June 28, and Lyle. "Report of the Board of Health of the City of Chicago: Chicago History Classics." *Chicago Public Library*, [www.chipublib.org/blogs/post/report-of-the-board-of-health-of-the-city-of-chicago-and-a-sanitary-history-of-chicago-from-1833-1870/#:~:text=Asiatic cholera epidemics periodically ravaged,North America after the 1860s](http://www.chipublib.org/blogs/post/report-of-the-board-of-health-of-the-city-of-chicago-and-a-sanitary-history-of-chicago-from-1833-1870/#:~:text=Asiatic cholera epidemics periodically ravaged,North America after the 1860s).

This source is a website article that talks about the effects of disease in Chicago which gave me evidence surrounding deaths vs disease in Chicago. This source did not provide me with much information on how the reversal of the Chicago river was controversial but it did provide me with some of the diplomatic actions taken in response to the death rates

that were influenced by the pollution within the Chicago river.

Marklew, Tim. "How the Chicago River Was Reversed." *Culture Trip*, The Culture Trip, 18 May 2017,

[theculturetrip.com/north-america/usa/illinois/articles/how-the-chicago-river-was-reversed/](http://theculturetrip.com/north-america/usa/illinois/articles/how-the-chicago-river-was-reversed/)

This source is a website article that mainly focuses on the process of the reversal of the Chicago river which gave evidence to support the unsuccessful attempt Missouri made to stop the reversal. This source does not contain enough evidence to support the claim that disease-based death rates in Missouri increased.

Patowary, Kaushik. "Chicago River: The River That Runs Backward." *Amusing Planet*, Blogger, 23 Aug. 2021,

[www.amusingplanet.com/2021/08/chicago-river-river-that-runs-backward.html](http://www.amusingplanet.com/2021/08/chicago-river-river-that-runs-backward.html).

This source is a website article that provides information on the Chicago river reversal; this source provided evidence regarding how the reversal of the Chicago river implemented cleaner drinking water to Chicago residents. This source does not contain information surrounding the effects of the river reversal on states downstream. This source is also quite similar to the source "How the Chicago River was Reversed."

"Reversal of the Chicago River." *WTTW Chicago*, 10 July 2018,

[interactive.wttw.com/ten/modern-marvels/reversal-chicago-river](http://interactive.wttw.com/ten/modern-marvels/reversal-chicago-river).

This source is a website article that provides information on the different tactics used to try to solve the problem of disease and pollution thus providing evidence towards the claim that better sewage systems were implemented. This source does not contain information surrounding death rates but it does contain information on the effects of pollution on Missouri's water.

"Reversal of the Chicago River." *Invention & Technology Magazine*,

[www.inventionandtech.com/content/reversal-chicago-river](http://www.inventionandtech.com/content/reversal-chicago-river).

This source is a website article that provides information on smaller, lesser known facts on the process of the reversal of the Chicago river, which provides evidence towards the claim that the reversal of the Chicago river was a great engineering feat. This source does not provide evidence towards the claim that Missouri or places downstream were affected by the reversal of the Chicago river. This source contrasts some of the other sources because it does not focus on the Missouri vs Illinois case.

"Chicago Waterways – Still Flowing after over 100 Years." *Chicago Waterways – Still Flowing after over 100 Years | Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences :: College of ACES, University of Illinois*,

[nres.illinois.edu/news/chicago-waterways---still-flowing-after-over-100-years](http://nres.illinois.edu/news/chicago-waterways---still-flowing-after-over-100-years).

This source is a website article that provides information on studies that went into best preserving clean drinking water for Chicago residents which provides evidence to the claim that reversing the Chicago river provides clean drinking water for Chicago residents. The source did not provide information on disease-based death rates in places like Missouri. This source is different from the others because it focuses on how the water has been affected once it was reversed while other sources tend to focus on the

different ideas that were experimented with in order to find the best way to approach the problem of pollution.

“THE STORY BEHIND THE CHICAGO RIVER REVERSAL.” *Chicago Line Cruises*, 1 Aug. 2019, [www.chicagoline.com/blog/chicago-river-reversal/](http://www.chicagoline.com/blog/chicago-river-reversal/).

This source is an infographic that provides small facts surrounding the reversal of the Chicago river, which provides evidence towards the claim that the river reversal was a great engineering feat. This source does not provide evidence towards the claim that Missouri or places downstream were affected by the reversal of the Chicago river. This source is very similar to the source “Reversal of the Chicago River.” *Invention & Technology Magazine*.