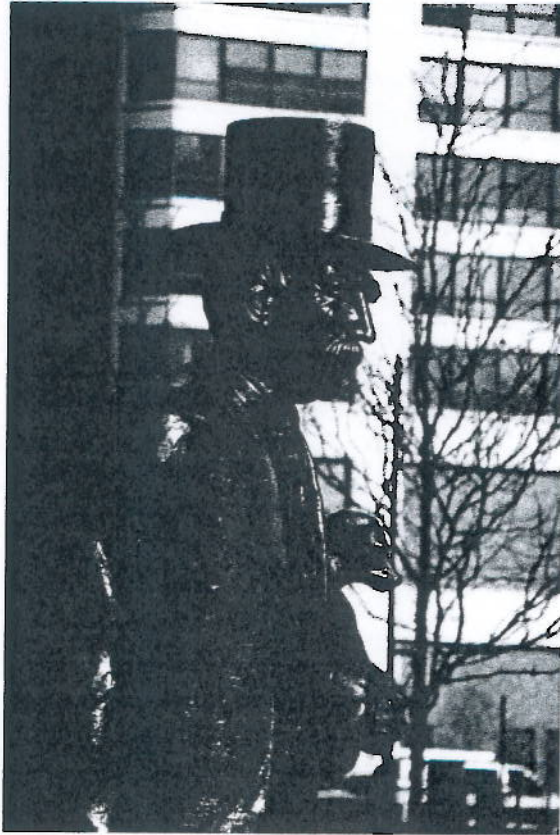


Captain George Wellington “Cap” Streeter — the man Streeterville is named after — was a colorful, eccentric and definitely controversial character. While some say his boat ran aground in 1886 on a sand bar in Lake Michigan at what is now the intersection of Fairbanks and Superior, others say it was simply driven there. And depending on who you talked to, Cap was either a pioneering homesteader or a scoundrel and a squatter. Yet no matter what your take on ol’ Cap was, “You can’t take away his love of his wives (he had three) and his love of the area,” said Streeterville resident **Dennis Downes**. Downes is the artist/sculptor who recently unveiled his year-long labor of love, an eight-foot bronze sculpture of Cap Streeter now in place on the northwest corner of Grand Avenue and McClurg Court. The realistic piece was commissioned by the Streeterville-based investment/development firm, Golub & Com-



pany. Cap wears period clothing and is striding forward as if he’s headed somewhere, with his Russell Terrier, Spot, tucked under his left arm. Downes, a history-based and Great Lakes-focused artist, thoroughly researched the Streeterville founder before starting the sculpture, which is his first permanent, public piece in Chicago. “For me to be given an opportunity to sculpt a realistic character who lived in the Great Lakes was a great opportunity,” said Downes, whose passion for art was triggered early in life on



frequent road trips from Illinois to Idaho to visit his mother's family. "I wanted to portray Cap as a powerful figure on the move, based on what people said about him," explained Downes. "Even in his late age, whether you liked him or not, no one could deny Cap was always dynamic." Downes said he read all he could about Cap, from all sides. During the construction boom following the Great Chicago Fire, it's said that Cap encouraged excavation contractors to dump their rubble into the lake near his boat, thereby creating 186 acres of new landfill along the lakefront where Streeterville now lies. Cap then claimed the land and fought off all other claimants with what was said to be brute force. "He couldn't have been that bad of a man or he couldn't have battled the city of Chicago for 34 years," and folks like Palmer Potter, said Downes. And, "They tried to kill him on several occasions and he survived all that," said Downes, whose works are on permanent display at museums, public libraries, historical societies and national landmarks, as well as private collections nationwide. Downes said he hopes the sculpture makes his Streeterville neighbors think more about where they live, and that they study up on other historical figures



Cap and Posse. Looks like everyone was trying to get some publicity here



April 12, 2011 is the 150th Anniversary of the start of the war between the States commonly called the American Civil War

Established June 1984

At the outset of hostilities in April 1861 a call went out from President Lincoln for the states loyal to the union to muster hundreds and eventually thousands of young men to put down the rebellion of the southern states. Many Vermont boys heard the call and responded. One of these young 19 year old "boys," was the son of a blacksmith from Vernon, Vt. in the southeast corner of the state. His name was Philander Alonzo Streeter. At the time of his enlistment he was living and working in Brattleboro as a carriage maker. Philander was one of nine children in this small town made up mostly of farmers and dairymen. Philander enlisted and was mustered in to Co. "C" at Burlington on the 20th of June 1861. Within a week he and the rest of the nearly 900 men of the 2nd Vermont Regiment were headed for Washington, D.C. and the defense of the capital of the United States. Not much time went by before they were headed into harms way in a little town 25 miles west of Washington called Manassas. The ensuing battle went initially well for the Union boys but by early afternoon rebel reinforcements started turning the tide in favor of the Confederate army. What became forever known in the north as the battle of Bull Run was the turning point in the knowledge that this war was destined to be a long and difficult struggle.

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**Philander Alonzo Streeter
Co. "C" 2nd Vermont Infantry**