

Newsletter
of the
Illinois
State
Archives
&
The Illinois
State Historical
Records
Advisory Board

Jesse White
Secretary of State
&
State Archivist

Volume 16
Number 3

Secretary of State Jesse White



Three new resources are available through the Illinois State Archives. The Illinois Statewide Death Index, 1916-1950, is now online, allowing researchers to access this valuable resource from the comfort of home or work.

In the past, the Archives has made the Illinois portion of each decennial U.S. census available as they are released by the federal government. This year, the 1930 census was released and is available for viewing in the reading room at the Margaret Cross Norton Building in Springfield.

Finally, since 1982, my office has published several historical teaching packages to be integrated into Illinois classrooms. The latest one, *Hard Times In Illinois, 1930-1940* — a historical account of the Depression era — has been distributed to some 1,410 schools across the state.

As State Archivist, I pride myself in providing the people of Illinois access to the most up-to-date historical and archival documents available. I hope you find these new resources valuable in your genealogical or historical projects.

Jesse White

Jesse White
Secretary of State & State Archivist

New genealogical tool on Secretary of State Web site

In a boon to genealogists and historians, Secretary of State Jesse White's Web site now offers an index listing of death certificates in Illinois for the years 1916 through 1950. Death certificates contain valuable information to researchers, including the deceased person's full name, date of death, marital status, birth date and birthplace, occupation, and father and mother's names.

"My office has tried to make more information available online for researchers and genealogists," said Secretary White. "The Illinois Statewide Death Index is the 51st one made available on my office's Web site."

The database begins in 1916, the first year the state was mandated to keep death records. From 1877 to 1916, only county governments were responsible for recording deaths. Therefore, researchers seeking information about a death during that time period need to contact the appropriate County Clerk's office of the county in which a person died. Before 1877, death records were not publicly maintained.

The database ends with the year 1950 because of a state law mandating a 50-year waiting period before death records are available to the public. The database will be updated annually.

Other online databases on the Secretary of State Web site include the Statewide Marriage Index, 1763-1900, lists of Illinois soldiers who fought in 19th century wars, and various county and city records. Many of the databases, including the Statewide Death Index, are merely lists that acknowledge a record exists. A researcher must then request a copy of an actual record from the Archives or local government entity.

Non-certified copies of death certificates for the years 1916-1950 may be obtained by contacting the State Archives or the appropriate County Clerk's office. Requests to the State Archives are processed within about six to seven weeks. Death certificates are provided only for persons who were age 25 or older at the time of death.

Certified copies of Illinois death certificates, usually sought for legal purposes, may be obtained from the Illinois Department of Public Health for \$17. Please address requests for certified copies to:

Illinois Department of Public Health
535 W. Jefferson St. • Springfield, IL 62761
217-782-4977 • 217-782-3987 (fax)

1930 Illinois census released

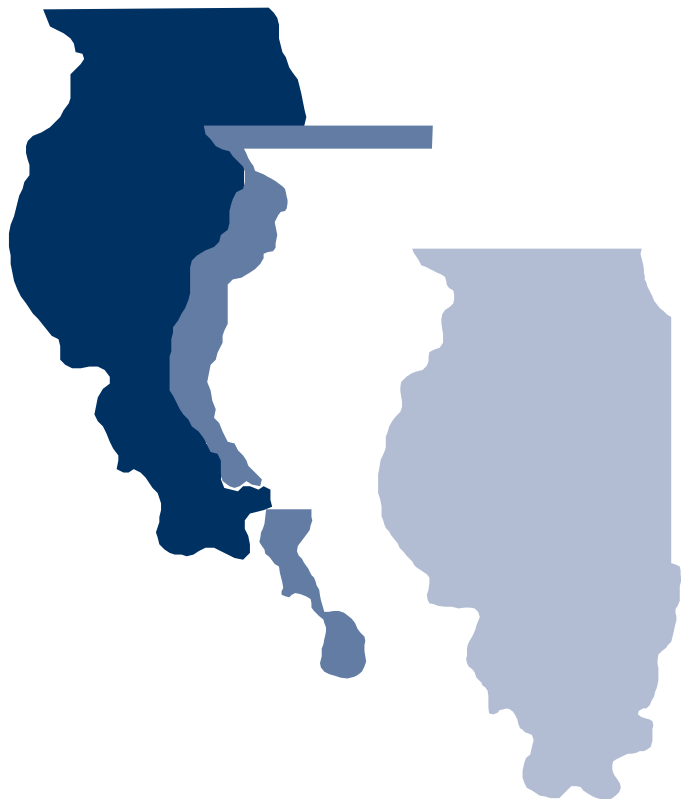
With the 72-year privacy restriction on federal census records now lapsed, the 1930 U.S. census for Illinois is now available through the State Archives.

Although the original paper copy of the census was destroyed, a master microfilm copy was preserved and copies have been reproduced for public inspection. The Illinois portion of the census is contained on 168 microfilm rolls. Because there is no index, researchers must search for particular names geographically. Arrangement is alphabetical by county.

Each county return includes the names of the county and other legal subdivisions (i.e., cities, towns, townships, precincts, districts). Entries for each household include the dwelling number, if applicable; family number assigned in order of visitation; street name, if applicable; whether the home was owned or rented; home value if owned or monthly payment if rented; indication of radio set ownership; and the name of each individual in the household.

Individual entries include name, relation to head of household, occupation, sex, color or race, age, marital status, age at first marriage, year immigrated to the U.S. and whether they were naturalized. Other information includes schooling since Sept. 1, 1929, ability to read or write, birthplaces of the individual and his/her parents, native languages of the individual and his/her parents, indication of ability to speak English, type of business or industry in which employed, worker classification, indication if working on last regular working day, U.S. veteran status and war or expedition, and whether a farm resident. Returns are included for all 102 Illinois counties.

The State Archives provides copies of Illinois-specific federal population enumerations as they become available. The first such survey consists of the surviving portion of the 1810 territorial census. The next acquisition is expected in 2012 when the 1940 federal decennial will be opened for public inspection.



Archives acquires 1732, 1752 Illinois French census records

The Illinois State Archives has acquired microfilm copies of the 1732 and 1752 censuses taken by French authorities in the Illinois country. The Illinois country was comprised roughly of the Illinois River valley and French-influenced portions of the Ohio and Missouri River valleys. At that time, Europeans rarely settled areas very far inland from these rivers.

The U.S. Library of Congress filmed the 1732 census at the Archives Nationales Colonies in Paris in 1974. The State Archives obtained a copy of the census from the Library of Congress.

The acquisition of the 1752 census was a little more circuitous. The census currently is part of the Vaudreuil Papers in the Loudoun Collection at the Huntington Library in San Marino, California. Pierre Rigaud de Vaudreuil was the royal governor of French Louisiana from 1743 to 1753. He dispatched a body of records, among which was the 1752 census of the Illinois country, from New Orleans to France in 1755. The papers were captured at sea by the British and presumably turned over to intelligence authorities. Over time, the records were passed into private ownership. The Huntington Library purchased these French documents in 1923 through the Sotheby's agency of London. In early 2001, the State Archives purchased a microfilm copy of the census from the Huntington Library.

Besides providing the names of householders, each census provides a glimpse of the physical culture in the various communities. Itemized are the names of heads of households, numbers of men and women, numbers of children by sex, amount of land owned, numbers of black and Indian slaves by sex and age, and the number of livestock by type (i.e., cattle, pigs, horses). Additionally, the 1732 census shows the numbers of structures (i.e., mills, houses, barns), while the 1752 return indicates whether or not a householder was a member of the militia.

Both censuses are arranged by locality. For the 1732 census, localities include Fort de Chartres, Kaskaskia and Cahokia. The 1752 census includes the 1732 localities plus St. Philippe, Ste. Genevieve (across the Mississippi River in today's Missouri) and Prairie du Rocher.

Both of these early census returns have been translated and annotated by Robert Berardinis in issues of the Illinois State Genealogical Society Quarterly (1732 census: volume 32, number 3, fall 2000, pp. 155-164; 1752 census: volume 32, number 4, winter 2000, pp. 195-201). Researchers can view microfilm copies of the original 1732 and 1752 French censuses at the Norton Building in Springfield.

Hard Times in Illinois —

Depression lives on in Archives teaching materials

Secretary of State and State Archivist Jesse White is proud to announce publication of the sixth in a series of teaching packages designed to encourage the use of primary archival documents in Illinois classrooms.

Hard Times in Illinois, 1930-1940: A Selection of Documents from the Illinois State Archives consists of 50 reprints of primary documents that tell the story of the Depression era in Illinois. The teaching packet allows middle, junior high and high school teachers to teach their students about the Depression era in a creative way, while encouraging the use of primary documents in historical research.

“Promoting the use of primary source materials in the regular study of American history has been an ongoing activity of the State Archives for the past 20 years,” said Secretary White. “Beginning in 1982 and every four years thereafter, the Archives has issued new teaching packages on a particular theme in American and Illinois history. I am pleased to continue this tradition of educational excellence with this hot-off-the-press documentation of Depression-era Illinois.”

Other Archives teaching packets include:

◆ Windows to the Past, 1818-1880 (1982, out of print)

Focuses on the rural development of the state through primary sources from downstate county records.

◆ Early Chicago, 1833-1871 (1986, 1999)

Based on Chicago City Council files from the city's incorporation through the Great Chicago Fire.

◆ From the Ashes, 1872-1900 (1990)

Documents Chicago's development after the fire up to the turn of the century.

◆ Illinois at War, 1941-1945 (1994)

Examines the home front during World War II.

◆ The Illinois and Michigan Canal, 1827-1911 (1998)

Explores the making, operation and demise of the canal.

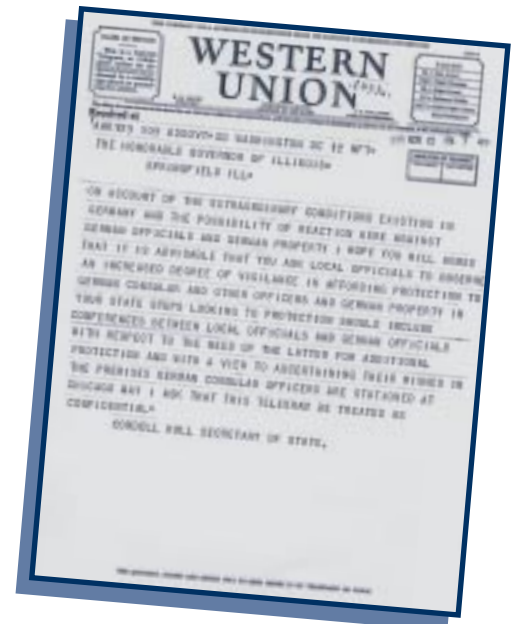
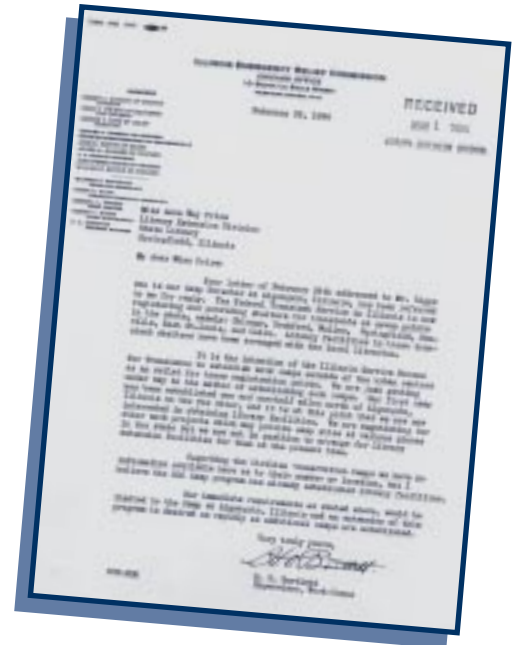
Hard Times in Illinois, like its predecessors, consists of a teacher's manual and a set of photographic reproductions of documents. The teacher's manual outlines the objectives of the package, discusses the nature of the documents, gives a brief historical background of the period and provides a bibliography and chronological listing of the documents.

The majority of the documents were culled from state governmental records holdings at the Margaret Cross Norton Building in Springfield. Most of the documents originally came from the governor's office during the terms of Governor Louis Lincoln Emmerson (Jan. 14, 1929 - Jan. 9, 1933) and Governor Henry Horner (Jan. 9, 1933 - Oct. 6, 1940). Documents also were obtained from the Department of Agriculture, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, and the Secretary of State, Illinois State Library, Extension Services WPA Files.

Topics in the packet include a city budget crisis; statewide unemployment; drought and work relief; home and farm foreclosures and tax sales; prohibition; veterans' pensions; coal mining labor unrest; Franklin D. Roosevelt; inadequate funding for education; the American Communist Party; subsistence gardens; farm loans and race relations, among others. Several documents relate to world events, including the 10th anniversary of fascist Italy (1932); a state visit by German Graf Zeppelin (1933); a Champaign, Illinois pilot condemned to death in Francisco Franco's Spain (1937); “extraordinary conditions existing in Germany” (1938); and the mobilization of the Illinois National Guard (1940).

About 1,410 copies of Hard Times In Illinois have been distributed to public schools throughout the state. Any in-state educational institution can receive a free copy of the teaching packet by contacting:

Illinois State Archives
Publications Unit
Margaret Cross Norton Building
Capitol Complex
Springfield, IL 62756
217-782-2226



IRAD welcomes 2002-2003 interns

This year marks the 27th anniversary of the Illinois Regional Archives Depository (IRAD) system. During the past 26 years, more than 400 Illinois graduate students have interned with the IRAD program and learned basic archival principles and skills. Many of the interns now are pursuing successful archival careers. The following graduate students have been awarded IRAD internships for the 2002-2003 academic year:

Eastern Illinois University

James A. Sturgill, Charleston • Kelly S. Wieser, Cape Girardeau, MO

Illinois State University

Mark Angelcyk, Kewanee • Jude Geiger, Normal

Northeastern Illinois University

William Franz, Chicago • Lisa Petro, Glenview
Jeff Binmoeller, Evanston • William Sharp, Willmette

Northern Illinois University

Kathleen Rink, Crystal Lake • Nurliah Nurdin, DeKalb

Southern Illinois University

Patricia F. Nunley, Murphysboro • Daron Olson, Carbondale
Timothy J. Hubbell, Mt. Vernon • Jaime Ricklefs, Carbondale

University of Illinois at Springfield

Jenni Grigsby-Rogal, Springfield • David Markwell, Lincoln

Western Illinois University

Joshua Whitney, Davis

Archives Publications

The following publications are free to Illinois educational institutions. Please make requests for these teaching packages on letterhead. All other requests will be filled for the fee listed.

The Illinois and Michigan Canal, 1827-1911: A Selection of Documents from the Illinois State Archives (1998), teacher's manual (115 pp.) and 50 document facsimiles with transcriptions — \$12

Illinois at War, 1941-1945: A Selection of Documents from the Illinois State Archives (1994), teacher's manual (119 pp.) and 50 document facsimiles — \$12

From the Ashes, 1872-1900: A Selection of Documents from the Proceedings Files of the Chicago City Council (1990), teacher's manual (123 pp.) and 50 document facsimiles with transcriptions — \$10

Early Chicago, 1833-1871: A Selection of City Council Proceedings Files from the Illinois State Archives (first printing 1986, third printing 1999), teacher's manual (117 pp.) and 50 document facsimiles with transcriptions — \$14

Hard Times in Illinois, 1930-1940: A Selection of Documents from the Illinois State Archives (2002), teacher's manual (119 pp.) and 50 document facsimiles — \$10

To order publications, please contact: Illinois State Archives, Norton Building, Publications Unit, Springfield, Illinois 62756, 217-782-4682 or 217-782-2226. Please make checks payable to Secretary of State.

Illinois State Archives
Office of the Secretary of State
Margaret Cross Norton Building
Springfield, Illinois 62756

For the Record is published three times a year by the Illinois State Archives Advisory Board, Office of the Secretary of State.

Jesse White • Secretary of State & State Archivist
John Daly • Director, Illinois State Archives
Produced by the Secretary of State Communications Department.

Printed by authority of the State of Illinois. September 2002 — 4M — GA 45

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