

Newsletter
of the
Illinois
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Archives
&
The Illinois
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Advisory Board

Jesse White
Secretary of State
&
State Archivist

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Daly retires as State Archives director

John Daly retired as director of the Illinois State Archives at the end of July 2004 following 30 years of service with the institution. During his career with the State Archives, Daly instituted and oversaw significant activities that greatly enhanced Archives services, a few of which are highlighted in this issue of *For the Record*.

The newsletter itself was Daly's idea, with the first issue appearing in April 1975. In that issue, Daly outlined the planned publication of a descriptive inventory of state governmental records holdings, the creation of a regional archival depository system, and the development of an information management utility to control and manipulate record series holdings of particular importance and bulk. Since 1975, all these initiatives have been implemented skillfully and, in varying applications, have been emulated by a number of comparable state institutions nationwide.

"Director Daly has been the backbone of the State Archives for three decades, providing leadership and direction for the 50-plus employees under his watch," said Secretary of State and State Archivist Jesse White. "John's dedication to preserving Illinois history and making it available for the people of Illinois for years to come has earned him the respect of his colleagues and archives professionals across the country."

"Perhaps more importantly, a broad range of users have come to value the high level of service the State Archives provides through its online databases and one-on-one contact with staff at the Margaret Cross Norton Building and the seven regional depositories across the state. We have Director Daly to thank for laying the groundwork for these services for the people of Illinois."



Secretary of State Jesse White congratulates Archives Director John Daly on his retirement following 30 years with the Office of the Secretary of State/State Archives.



Staff members of the State Archives join Secretary White and Director John Daly during Daly's retirement celebration.

Former Secretary of State employee memorialized with scholarship

Roger Giannini was always quick to greet Secretary of State employees and visitors who entered the Howlett and State Archives Buildings on the State Capitol Grounds in Springfield. He would strike up a conversation with anyone about the weather, sports or history. Roger was a security guard for the agency at the time of his death on July 25, 2003, at age 56.



In memory of his son, Jack L. Giannini, a retired lawyer and Air Force veteran from Belleville, recently established the Roger Giannini Memorial Scholarship at Southwestern Illinois College. Roger attended Southwestern (formerly Belleville Area College) and graduated from SIU-Carbondale with a bachelor's degree in history. He also served as a county fair coordinator for Region 12 for the Secretary of State's office and was an Air Force veteran.

"I set up the criteria as a returning adult student who couldn't attend college without financial help because that's the person I want to help," said Jack Giannini.

The scholarship will be reserved for a returning college student(s) age 25 or older with a financial need. Each year, two scholarships of \$1,000 each or one \$2,000 scholarship will be awarded. For more information about the scholarship, visit www.swicfoundation.com.

State Archives database transcription policy

The State Archives' page on the Secretary of State's Web site at www.cyberdriveillinois.com includes a major section made up of 52 separate databases. These range from databases of local records, such as the Adams County Almshouse Register Index, 1873-1898, to others with statewide interest, such as the database of Illinois Civil War Veterans.

Individual database name entries have been transcribed exactly as they appear in the original records from which they were drawn. Each part of a person's name (first, middle and surname) and each letter of those constituent parts were entered for database display and manipulation as individual data encoders perceived those name entries to be. This policy is in keeping with the Association for Documentary Editing recommendations regarding government records: "Official records of any government or its agents cannot bear emendations in the name of clarity, readability, or enjoyability. They are what they are what they are."

Data encoders ranged from professional archivists to archival interns to interested volunteers. Regardless of their levels of training and experience, the encoders involved were subject to errors in the course of their transcriptions. Should a researcher question the accuracy of a transcription, State Archives staff will investigate and compare original record entries with database transcriptions. Corrections will be made to reflect entries as they appear in original records; however, if an original recording noted a name or given circumstance incorrectly, the database entry will stand as is. Even though the original record may not be accurate, it remains as the record of the time of its creation.

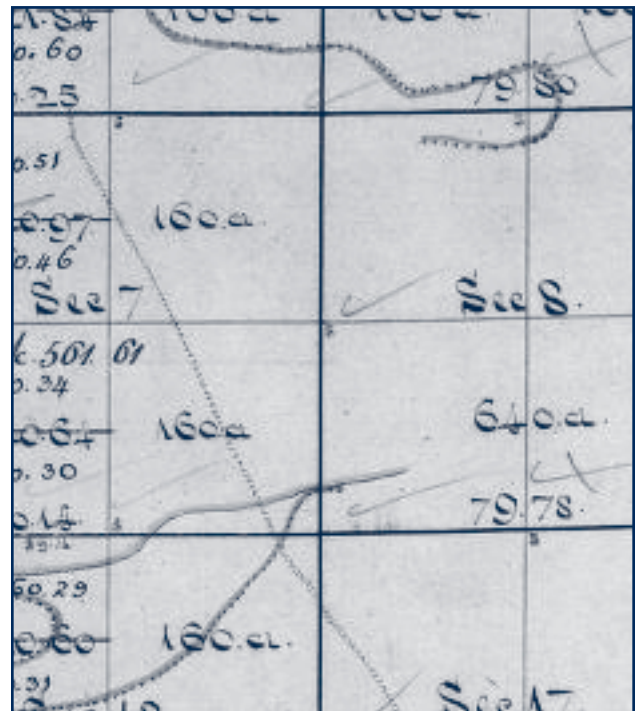
Illinois Federal Township Plats provide glimpse of Illinois' past

The Illinois Federal Township Plats on CD-ROM became available for public purchase in October 2003. Since then, more than 850 CDs have been distributed to a diverse audience, including surveyors, engineers, librarians, government professionals, historians and genealogists.

Each CD-ROM contains all the plats for a particular county. The hand-drawn plats show the Illinois landscape as it was before American settlement and legal surveying measurements. The plats indicate various types of natural features and vegetation, including areas of prairie, barrens, timber, cliffs, mounds, ravines, bluffs, salt licks, salt springs and mineral deposits, as well as watercourses, swamps and other bodies of water. For navigable watercourses, the plats show surveys of bank meanders, islands, bars, rapids, cascades and waterfalls. Previously established names of natural features such as rivers, prairies and caves (e.g., The Rock & Cave) are provided. Man-made features occasionally are included, such as wagon trails, roads, settlements, towns, fortifications, buildings, farm fields and Indian traces and sites.

CD-ROMS may be purchased for \$20 each (shipping included). To request a CD-ROM, please write to:
Illinois State Archives
Publications Unit
Margaret Cross Norton Building
Springfield, IL 62756

Please specify the county of the CD being purchased and include a check for \$20, payable to Secretary of State, for each CD requested.



Northwestern Law School assists in making Chicago homicide records more widely available

In the early 1990s, Chicago Police Department officials requested preservation assistance for its records from the State Archives. The Police Department records included five volumes, which summarized city homicides during 1870-1930. Nearly 11,500 separate homicides were itemized.

Archives staff moved the records to Springfield where the State Archives Micrographics Unit filmed the volumes to ensure the long-term preservation of their content. The records were then turned over to the Archives Preservation Laboratory where paper sheets were removed from their deteriorating bindings and each page was methodically cleaned, deacidified, repaired, laminated and precision trimmed. A commercial library bindery sewed the restored sheets together and enclosed them in their respective new covers. Each volume required approximately three months of preservation labor, which was complete in a two-year period.

Each homicide entry provides the occurrence date, names and ages of the perpetrator and the victim, a close narrative description of the circumstances involved, the court's sentence, the judge's name and occasional additional remarks. Of the five volumes, each spans a sequential time period. Volume by volume entries are then grouped alphabetically by the victims' last names.

The original restored volumes were returned to the Chicago Police Department. Microfilmed copies have been accessioned into the Illinois Regional Archives Depository at Northeastern Illinois University in Chicago and elsewhere. The Northwestern University School of Law, with the help of a variety of funding sources, hosted a faculty conference on this State Archives record series in November 2000. The law school's Chicago Historical Homicide Project had several goals, among which was:

...not just make the case entries and quantitative data set available to a variety of researchers, not just to criminologists and legal scholars, but to college and high school teachers, genealogists, amateur historians and other interested persons and to link the data to other sources.

The results of the conference were published in *The Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology* (2003, vol. 92, nos. 3 and 4). Leigh B. Bienen and Brandon Rottinghaus's lead article, "Learning From The Past, Living In The Present: Understanding Homicide In Chicago, 1870-1930," (pp. 437-554), sets the project's tone:

Although the world of 1870-1930 was strikingly different from our own world, many of the homicide patterns exhibited in this data set are familiar: killings related to what we now term domestic violence, lethal violence by police and the killing of police officers, seemingly senseless slayings in bars and saloons, what appear to be impulse murders over trivial amounts of money, random and spontaneous insults, or haphazard verbal exchanges, killings by persons who are drunk, and murders by the insane, the mentally deranged or mentally disabled. Overwhelmingly, men kill men, and sometimes women; and women kill children, and sometimes men. Our labels and language for these killings may have changed, but the elemental character of some of these crimes is recognizable in today's crimes.

Persistent patterns in generic categories of homicide can be seen; men kill their age cohorts, spouses, domestic partners or objects of sexual interest or hatred. Women kill children and sometimes their sexual partners or husbands, and occasionally sexual rivals. Petty thieves and crooks kill one another and the police, and are themselves apprehended and killed by law enforcement officers, who are themselves killed by thieves and robbers and gangsters. As the century advances everyone is killed by recklessly driven automobiles.

The homicide case files and data set have recently been made available by Northwestern at <http://homicide.northwestern.edu/>. In addition to the individual case files, the site also offers a narrative of the project's overview, historical context for the period considered, annotated bibliographies and online interviews with some of the project's participants. Significant crimes of the century have been given particular attention as well.

2004-2005 IRAD internships

The Illinois Regional Archives Depository (IRAD) system began its 29th year of operation, with 18 graduate students chosen as interns to work at the seven IRAD centers at Illinois universities. The interns will apply basic archival principles and skills to the local governmental records held in their respective depositories as well as provide reference services for these records. Following are the graduate students who have been awarded IRAD internships for the 2004-2005 academic year:

Eastern Illinois University

Jeffrey A. Drake
Erin M. Storc

Illinois State University

William Lindig
Ann Marie Zilic

Northeastern Illinois University

Olujimi Attere
Kevin Hogan
Ellen Larrimore
Joseph Hermanek

Northern Illinois University

Melissa Hayes
Sok Bunthoeun So

Southern Illinois University

Amanda J. Doherty
Bryan Johnson
Patricia Nunley
James L. Smith

University of Illinois at Springfield

Daryl Doubet
Joseph Szalankiewics

Western Illinois University

Jessica Davison
Laura Steffensmeier

Federal Township Plats, 1804–1891 (2002), 102 Illinois counties with each county on a single CD-ROM. — \$20 per county

A Summary Guide to Local Governmental Records in the Illinois Regional Archives, second edition (1999), 265 pp. — \$6

Descriptive Inventory of the Archives of the State of Illinois, second edition (1997), 940 pp.; or CD ROM — \$20

Chicago City Council Proceedings Files, 1833-1871: An Inventory (1987), 989 pp., and Chicago City Council Proceedings Files, 1833-1871: An Index (1987), 93 microfiche (18,714 pp.) — \$35

Illinois Public Domain Land Sales (2001), explanatory booklet (7 pp.), and CD-ROM (538,750 entries) — \$25

The Margaret Cross Norton Working Papers, 1924-1958 (1993), 8 - 35 mm microfilm rolls with An Inventory and Index (1993), 7 microfiche (1,055 pages) — \$60

Hard Times in Illinois, 1930-1940 (2002), teacher's manual (119 pp.) and 50 document facsimiles — \$10*

The Illinois and Michigan Canal, 1827-1911 (1998), teacher's manual (115 pp.) and 50 document facsimiles with transcriptions — \$12*

Illinois at War, 1941-1945 (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 (1986, 1999), teacher's manual (115 pp.) and 50 document facsimiles with transcriptions — \$14*

*** Teaching packets are available FREE to Illinois educational institutions by submitting a request on letterhead stationery. All other requests are filled for the fee listed. To order publications, please contact: Illinois State Archives, Norton Building, Publications Unit, Springfield, IL 62756, 217-782-2226. Please make checks payable to Secretary of State.**