

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

Jesse White
Secretary of State
&
State Archivist

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Number 2

NHPRC grant application deadlines near for archival projects

The Illinois State Historical Records Advisory Board is responsible for reviewing grant applications from the state made to the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC). The commission has two deadlines each year for submission of grant applications:

June 1

In line with its strategic plan, the NHPRC is concentrating its resources on three strategic goals outlined below. Grant proposals for projects addressing these goals must be postmarked by June 1, 2002, to be considered at the commission's November meeting.

- The NHPRC will provide the American public with widespread access to the papers of the founders of our democratic republic and its institutions by ensuring the timely completion of eight projects now in progress to publish the papers of George Washington, John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, and papers that document the First Federal Congress, the early Supreme Court and ratification of the Constitution.
- The NHPRC will promote broad public participation in historical documentation by collaborating with state historical records advisory boards to plan and carry out jointly funded programs to strengthen the nation's archival infrastructure and expand the range of records that are protected and accessible.
- The NHPRC will enable the nation's archivists, records managers and documentary editors to overcome the obstacles and take advantage of the opportunities posed by electronic technologies by continuing to provide leadership in funding research and development on appraising, preserving, disseminating and providing access to important documentary sources in electronic form.

For an application or more information about the grants, please contact:

National Historical Publications
and Records Commission (NHPRC)
700 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Rm. 111
Washington, D.C. 20408-0001
202-501-5610 (phone) • 202-501-5601 (fax)
www.nara.gov/nhprc/deadline

October 1

All other types of grant proposals, including publication projects other than the eight founding era editions, must be submitted by Oct. 1, 2002, to be considered at the commission's May 2003 meeting. These projects may include:

- Collecting, describing, preserving, compiling and publishing (including microfilming and other forms of reproduction) documentary sources significant to the history of the United States.
- Conducting institutes, training and educational programs, and fellowships related to the activities of the commission.
- Disseminating information about documentary sources through guides, directories and other technical publications.
- Or specifically: documentary editing and publishing (other than those editions funded for the June 1 deadline); archival preservation and processing of records for access; developing or updating descriptive systems; creation and development of archival and records management programs; development of standards, tools and techniques to advance the work of archivists, records managers and documentary editors; and promotion of the use of records by teachers, students and the public.



Ted Slater of Data Management Internationale shows Secretary of State and State Archivist Jesse White a scanned image of an early-1800s Public Domain plat map. Looking on are Bob Church, second from the right, of the Illinois Professional Land Surveyors Association, and Wayne Temple of Archives. Using a federal Library Services & Technology grant, the Secretary of State's office contracted with the Delaware-based technology company to scan and digitize 3,478 Public Domain plat maps held by the State Archives. The Archives staff is now indexing the images, which will soon be available online.

Secretary of State Jesse White

Based on findings from a study of historical records needs in the state, the Illinois State Archives Advisory Board/State Historical Records Advisory Board has concluded that small state historical records depositories have been long neglected in terms of funding and associated resources.

In most small repositories (institutions with less than 500 cu. ft. of historical records and having annual budgets of less than \$20,000) historical records are a small adjunct of the host institution's overall function (i.e., historical society, library, museum, academic organization, religious body, business enterprise). Nevertheless, many of these institutions maintain important historical records as a part of their function.

In an effort to become more familiar with the holdings of these smaller repositories and promote awareness of the importance of these archival jewels, we hope to add a regular feature in For the Record that profiles the historical records of these small depositories. We are asking for your input on this project by letting us know what types of historical records your organization holds and where they come from.

Include information such as how you acquired the records, how they are used, how they are made accessible to the public and how they have been preserved. Are they falling apart, are they available for use or are they in danger of being destroyed? Please send your information to: For the Record, Illinois State Archives, Norton Building, Springfield, IL 62756, 217-524-3930 (fax) or e-mail eevans@ilsos.net. We look forward to hearing from you.

Jesse White

Secretary of State
And State Archivist



Local Governmental Records Group, Series Descriptions on the Web

The State Archives' Web page now provides narrative descriptions of individual record groups and record series in addition to a listing of IRAD holdings by county.

Record groups include the county offices of board of review, circuit court/circuit clerk, coroner, county board of supervisors/board of county commissioners, county clerk, county court, county home, county mine inspector, county treasurer, drainage districts, justice of the peace, probate court, recorder, sheriff, superintendent of educational service region and surveyor. Typical administrative histories provide capsule sketches of offices along with citations to laws that specify their authority over time.

Record series descriptions are arranged by county office and then alphabetically by series titles. Because record series contents generated by county officials were generally mandated by state law, generic descriptions are provided. For example, a birth certificate issued in Adams County will closely resemble one issued in Woodford County. In all, 499 record series descriptions are available.



Booth Library, Eastern Illinois University, Charleston

Regional depositories move to new facilities

Illinois Regional Archives Depositories at Northern Illinois University in DeKalb and Eastern Illinois University in Charleston recently moved to new facilities.

During the last two weeks of February, NIU staff moved the holdings of its regional depository from Swen Parson Hall to Founders Memorial Library. The depository, along with the university's regional history center and archives, are now part of the library's Department of Rare Books and Special Collections.

Archives staff moved the regional depository at EIU back to Booth Library in mid-March following renovation of the library. In July 2000, the depository was moved to a temporary off-campus facility while the library was remodeled and expanded. The depository now has twice the storage area and an up-to-date climate controlled environment.

These depositories are two of seven Illinois Regional Archives Depositories operating at university campuses throughout the state. The depositories house and administer archival records of local government agencies for its regions.

Following are the new addresses for the two regional depositories:
IRAD-NIU • Rare Books and Special Collections Department
Founders Memorial Library
Northern Illinois University
DeKalb, IL 60115

IRAD-EIU • Booth Library
Eastern Illinois University
600 Lincoln Ave. • Charleston, IL 61920

Founders Memorial Library, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb



Mystery Record Series found

The State Archives staff has located a mystery record series while systematically arranging and describing the backlog of unprocessed state government records.

The series in question consists of a bound volume measuring 18" high, 23" long and 3/8" thick. A tan brown cloth material covers binding boards. Outside labeling appears on the spine in gold letters on segmented black backgrounds. Segments read "ILLINOIS" "RECORD OF EARLY GRANTS A [unintelligible]" "VINCENNES, PEORIA, KASKASKIA [unintelligible]" "Auditor of Public Accounts" "537."

The U.S. Congress closed the last remaining Illinois office of the U.S. General Land Office with an act passed in July 1876. The U.S. Secretary of the Interior, who oversaw federal land sales, was authorized to turn over land office records no longer needed by the federal government to state authorities. The Illinois General Assembly authorized acceptance of these records and designated the Illinois Auditor of Public Accounts as their custodian in 1879. While in the Auditor's custody, all the federal land office record books were rebound to his specifications. The volume numbering system appears to be somewhat arbitrary today.

The Auditor formally transferred these bound federal land records to the Illinois State Archives in 1957. Over the ensuing years, nearly all these records have been arranged and described and their contents made known to the public (record groups 952.000, U.S. General Land Office for Illinois; and 953.000, U.S. Surveyor General's Records for Illinois). An exception is the volume in question, which until recently had been overlooked.

Inside the volume the first leaf is blank. The third page includes a scripted title contemporaneous with the body of the record: "Exhibit of private land claims in the State of Illinois confirmed and surveyed." Four separate sections follow, each with its own heading. Information is recorded on rectos only.

"Indian Reservations or grants" is made up of three sheets. Provided are the survey number, name of the grantee, number of acres granted, where they were granted (i.e., at the missionary established on Fox River, at soldiers' village, five sections to include Little Rock Village), by what treaty (i.e., Prairie du Chien 1829, Camp Tippecanoe 1832), date surveyed, the surveyor's name, survey location (i.e., township, range, meridian), date the survey was approved by the Surveyor General, date the survey was returned to the General Land Office and remarks. The date span under this category is May 14, 1839 — April 17, 1857.

"Lots and out lots of the Village of Peoria" has five sheets. Entries include the survey or lot number, claimant's name, quantity confirmed in acres or arpents, indication if located in the old or new village, survey location (i.e., section, township, range), area of the survey in square feet, surveyor's name, survey date, date the Surveyor General approved the survey, dates the plats were transmitted to the General Land Office and to the Register, a page reference to the American State Papers and remarks. Span dates for this category are May 6, 1841 — March 14, 1848.

"Surveys in the district of Vincennes, Illinois West of the Wabash River" is made up of six sheets. Entries include the survey number or location on a township plat, claimant's name, quantity confirmed in acres or poles, survey location (i.e., township, range, meridian), survey date, surveyor's name, type of claim (i.e., militia right, British or French grant, donation), confirmation act date, volume and page reference to the American State Papers and remarks (i.e., part of the grant, not found in the State papers but appears in the transcript certified, this was confirmed by the board at Kaskaskia). Survey dates are July 1820 — July 1843.

"Claims in the District of Kaskaskia" consists of 20 sheets. Subsections are provided for the Kaskaskia Common Field, Kaskaskia Village, Prairie du Rocher, Cahokia, Prairie du Pont, Fort Chartres Common Field, St. Philips Common Field and Miscellaneous, which covers 10 of the 20 sheets. Entries show survey and claim numbers, names of the confirmees, names of original claimants, claim type (i.e., ancient French grant, improvement right, militia, donation), confirmation act date, survey area in acres and poles, survey location (i.e., township, range, meridian), volume and page reference to the American State Papers and remarks (i.e., includes several village lots belonging to sundry persons, part of this survey is in the common field of Ft. Chartres, the name of the original claim does not appear on the list). Confirmation act dates are May 1, 1810 — Aug. 29, 1842.

The series has been placed under record group 952.000, U.S. General Land Office Records for Illinois. This location was preferred over 953.000, U.S. Surveyor General's Records for Illinois, because actions ended with the General Land Office rather than the Surveyor General. The tentative name selected is "Private Claims Confirmed and Surveyed Record." No date has been assigned. Although the Archives has probable provenance, a sensible title, an acceptable "no date" designation and an abundance of narrative description for the series, there is no evidence why this record was created or what purpose it served. If you recognize the purpose of this volume, please contact:

Illinois State Archives
Norton Building
Publications and Finding Aids Unit
Springfield, IL 62756
bmbailey@ilsos.net • 217-524-3930 (fax)

Genealogical Research Pamphlet Series

A series of genealogical research pamphlets are now available on the Archives' Web page. The pamphlets are designed to assist the genealogical researcher in using the most pertinent federal, state and local governmental records. They also provide historical backgrounds, record series descriptions and research tips. Subjects include:

- ⇒ Land Sales Records
- ⇒ Probate Records
- ⇒ Military Records
- ⇒ Federal Census Records
- ⇒ State Census Records
- ⇒ African-American Records
- ⇒ Illinois State Genealogical Society's Microfilm Collection:
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
- ⇒ Illinois State Genealogical Society's
Prairie Pioneer Certificate Program

www.cyberdriveillinois.com

Descriptive Inventory of the Archives of the State of Illinois, second edition (1997) 940 pp. or (1998) CD ROM — \$20

A Summary Guide to Local Governmental Records in the Illinois Regional Archives (1992), 239 pp. — \$6

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 (1985), explanatory booklet, 7 pp., and CD ROM (538,750 entries) — \$25

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 (115 pp.) and 50 document facsimiles with transcriptions — \$14

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

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John Daly • Director, Illinois State Archives
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