

Archives receives accolades from genealogy magazine

In the February 2005 issue of *Family Tree Magazine*, the readers voted the Illinois State Archives' page on the Secretary of State's Web site as one of the "25 absolutely best family history Web sites."

Since 2000, the magazine has pointed genealogists to the Internet's best family history resource sites through its annual 101 Best Web Sites list. The Archives site has been in the top 101 every year.

The State Archives received another mention in the February issue as well. In the article "Back to the Future," which describes how technology has

revolutionized genealogy and changed the way genealogists conduct their family histories, the State Archives is listed as one of the trend-setting states posting genealogical data on the Internet.

"With our ever-changing world of technology, Web-based research has become a mainstay for genealogists and historians," said Secretary of State and State Archivist Jesse White. "I am proud of what the State Archives site has to offer and that with the help of committed staff and volunteers the Archives continues to be at the forefront of America's genealogy trend."

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

Jesse White
Secretary of State
&
State Archivist

Volume 19
Number 2

Genealogy on the Web

Records in the Illinois State Archives

Public Domain Land Tract Sales Database
Database of Illinois Servitude and Emancipation Records
Databases of Illinois Veterans
Illinois War of 1812 Veterans
Illinois Winnebago War Veterans
Illinois Black Hawk War Veterans
Illinois Mexican War Veterans
Illinois Civil War Veterans
Illinois Civil War Veterans Serving in the U.S. Navy
Illinois Civil War Veterans of Missouri Units
Illinois Spanish-American War Veterans
1929 Illinois Roll of Honor
Illinois Soldiers' and Sailors' Home Residents

Illinois Statewide Vital Records Databases

Illinois Statewide Marriage Index, 1763-1900
Illinois Statewide Death Index, Pre-1916
Illinois Statewide Death Index (1916-1950)

Records in the Illinois Regional Archives Depositories (IRAD)

Local Governmental Records in the IRAD System
Name Index to Illinois Local Governments
Records at Eastern Illinois University
Arthur Local Registrar's Birth Certificates Index (1868-1925)
Mattoon Death Certificate Registers Index (1899-1918)
Mattoon Court of Common Pleas Case Files Index (1869-1873)
Shelby County Circuit Court Case Files Index (1828-1871)
Wayne County Coroner's Inquest Record Index (1888-1960)
Records at Illinois State University
DeWitt County Coroner's Inquest Files Index (1924-1977)
Livingston County Probate Case Files Index (1837-1958)
Logan County Circuit Court Criminal Case Files Index (1857-1945)
McLean County Probate Record Index (1834-1934)

McLean County Will Record Index (1838-1940)
Vermilion County Coroner's Inquest Files Index (1908-1956)
Woodford County Almshouse Registers Index (1868-1957)
Records at Northeastern Illinois University
Chicago City Council Proceedings Files, 1833-1871
Cook County Coroner's Inquest Record Index, 1872-1911
Chicago Police Department Homicide Record, 1870-1930
Records at Northern Illinois University
Carroll County Birth Certificates Index (1877-1913)
JoDaviess County Almshouse Registers Index (1846-1938)
Kane County Circuit Court Case Files Index (1836-1870)
Lake County Circuit Court Case Files Index (1840-1898)
Ogle County Almshouse Register Index (1878-1933)
Ogle County Naturalization Papers (County Court) Index (1872-1906)
Records at Southern Illinois University
East St. Louis City Court Naturalization Papers Index (1874-1906)
Madison County Probate Case Files Index (1813-1903)
St. Clair County Circuit Court Chancery Case Files Index (1815-1870)
St. Clair County Farm Board Record Index (1874-1879)
Records at the University of Illinois at Springfield
Macon County Circuit Court Case Files Index (1829-1861)
Macoupin County Coroner's Inquest Files Index (1835-1928)
Morgan County Poor Farm Records Index (1850-1932)
Sangamon County Guardian's Case Files Index (1825-1901)
Sangamon County Probate Case Files Index (1821-1885)
Records at Western Illinois University
Adams County Almshouse Register Index (1873-1898)
Brown County Almshouse Registers Index (1882-1963)
Fulton County Circuit Court Case Files Index (1825-1876)
Mercer County Almshouse Register Index (1859-1948)
Peoria County Probate Case Files Index (1825-1887)
Rock Island Probate Case Files Index (1834-1899)
Stark County Almshouse Register Index (1868-1941)

Illinois State Records Center

One of the most common problems state agencies face even in this day of electronic storage is the lack of adequate physical storage space for semi-current paper records. Semi-current records are defined by the SAA *A Glossary for Archivists, Manuscript Curators, and Records Managers* as “those records required so infrequently in the conduct of current business that they should be moved to a records center, pending their ultimate disposal.”

The Illinois General Assembly approved a records management survey in 1955 in an effort to establish “efficient and economical methods of creating, managing, keeping and disposal” of records. The outcome of the survey was the first comprehensive inventory of state records, including volume, rate of accumulation, and value for legal, research and administrative purposes. The survey ultimately led to the passage of the State Records Act of 1957. In addition to providing a continuing archival and records management program for Illinois, the act authorized the Secretary of State to establish a records center to provide state agencies free storage and reference service for State Records Commission-approved, semi-current records.

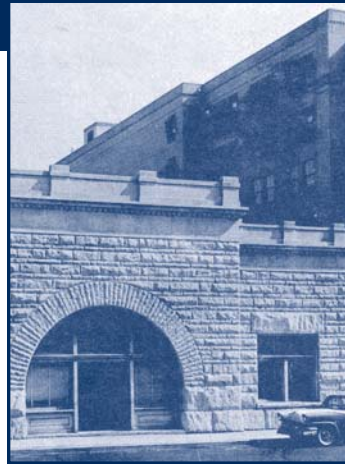
1956 — The first State Records Center opened on the second floor of the Old Power Plant, 107 E. Monroe in Springfield, with a storage capacity of 18,510 cubic feet. The state’s Finance Department made the first deposit, which consisted of 532 cubic feet of records.

1961 — The first floor of the Old Power Plant became available, and storage capacity increased to 35,954 cubic feet.

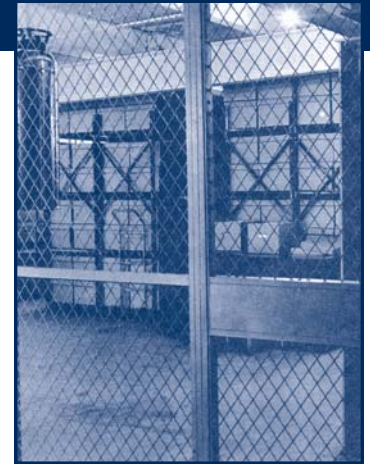
1965 — Two underground munitions bunkers were rented in Illiopolis for records storage, which brought total storage capacity to 37,554 cubic feet.

1973 — The Secretary of State’s office leased a building on Klein St. in Springfield with a capacity of 4,500 cubic feet. Records stored at the Illiopolis site were moved to the new Klein St. location.

1974 — One of the storage areas at the Old Power Plant was closed, and 4,090 cubic feet of records were moved to the Klein St. facility.



First Illinois State Records Center—1956, Old Power Plant, 107 E. Monroe



Records Center Storage Area—1956

These two moves actually reduced the Records Center’s storage capacity from more than 40,000 to 36,000 cubic feet.

1976 — The Records Center was relocated to W. Dorlan Ave. on Springfield’s near northwest side, which increased storage capacity to 46,486 cubic feet. However, records were still split between the Old Power Plant location and the new Dorlan Ave. site.

1977 — The State Archives leased a modern warehouse facility on Old Rochester Rd. on Springfield’s far eastside. Records were moved from the Dorlan facility to the new site, and the remaining records housed in the Old Power Plant were gradually moved to the new site as well.

1981 — For the first time since 1965, all State Records Center holdings were held in one facility. The 15,000-square-foot warehouse had the capacity of 52,000 cubic feet of records storage.

1984 — The Records Center once again outgrew its facility and a new facility was located at 3701 Winchester Rd. in Springfield. The new facility had 30,000 square feet of floor space, and the taller ceilings allowed for a storage capacity of up to 100,000 cubic feet. The facility also provided better security, a fire sprinkler system, loading docks for more convenient access, and a more efficient heating system.

1993 — Before the Records Center’s final move, Archives staff maintained physical inventory of each box housed in the center. After 18 months of data entry, the Records Center established an automated tracking and locator system.

2000 — After 16 years, the Records Center relocated next door to its current facility at 3765 Winchester Rd. The previous building had reached near capacity with some 90,000 cubic feet of records. The current facility is capable of housing 144,000 cubic feet of records and includes additional space for expansion. All new shelving extending 22 feet high is uniform and interchangeable, allowing for future alteration or reconfiguration.

2004 — The Illinois State Archives Records Center accessioned 19,308 cubic feet of records, disposed of 27,027 cubic feet of records, and provided 16,610 references to records in storage.

Current Records Center, 3765 Winchester Rd.



Current Records Storage Area, 3765 Winchester Rd.



NEH grant application deadline — July 15

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) is providing Grants to Preserve and Create Access to Humanities Collections, which, because of their intellectual content and value as cultural artifacts, are considered highly important for research, education and public programming in the humanities. Collections may include, but are not limited to, books, journals, newspapers, manuscript and archival materials, maps, still and moving images, sound recordings, and objects of art and material culture. The grant application deadline is July 15 for projects beginning May 2006 or later.

NEH grants typically are awarded to individuals and cultural institutions such as museums, archives, libraries, colleges and universities, historical societies, and public television and radio stations. Any U.S. nonprofit organization or institution is eligible for a grant as well as state and local government agencies. When two or more entities collaborate on a project, one must serve as the lead applicant and administer the grant on behalf of the others.

NEH grant projects may include: processing archival and manuscript collections; cataloging printed works, photographs, recorded sound and moving image collections; documenting art and material culture collections; preserving documents (e.g., brittle books, serials microfilming projects), conservation treatment and de-acidification of collections; digitizing collections to enhance accessibility; developing archival oral histories; and cataloging and microfilming U.S. newspapers.

For a grant application or more information, contact the Division of Preservation and Access at 202-606-8570, 866-372-2930 (TDD), preservation@neh.gov, or www.neh.fed.us/grants/grantsbydivision.html.

Archives Accessions

State records

Secretary of State

Index Division, Executive Files, 2001, 1 cu. ft.

General Assembly

Senate Records of the 93rd General Assembly, 2003-2005, 71 cu. ft.

Central Management Services

Illinois Information Services, Photographic Negatives and Prints, 1973-2003, 11 cu. ft.

Local records

Winnebago County

Marriage Licenses, 1836-1902

Death Certificates, 1877-1919

Birth Certificates, 1882-1905

New ISAAB/ISHRAB member appointed

Dr. Michael C. Batinski was appointed to the Illinois State Archives Advisory Board/Illinois State Historical Records Advisory Board to replace Katharine Salzmann for the 2003-2006 term. Dr. Batinski is a professor of history at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale. Below is his contact information:

Michael C. Batinski
History Department
Mail Code 4519
Southern Illinois University-Carbondale 62901
618-453-7862, 618-453-5440 (fax)
batinski@siu.edu

DATES & REMINDERS

Downstate Local Records Commission Meeting

1st Tuesday of every month, 10 a.m.
Illinois State Archives Conference Room
Norton Building, Springfield

Cook County Local Records Commission Meeting

2nd Tuesday of every month, 11 a.m.
Via teleconference:
Thompson Center, Chicago
Video Conference Room, 9th floor
or
Capitol City Center, Springfield
130 W. Mason St.

State Records Commission Meeting

3rd Wednesday of every month, 9:30 a.m.
Illinois State Archives Conference Room
Norton Building, Springfield

Midwest Archives Conference Fall Meeting

Sept. 29-Oct. 1, 2005

Bloomington, Indiana
Contact: Paul J. Eisloeffel, Nebraska State Historical Society,
P.O. Box 82554, Lincoln, NE 68501, 402-471-4750,
402-471-8922 (fax), pje@nebraskahistory.org
www.midwestarchives.org/

Society of American Archivists 69th Annual Meeting

Aug. 15-21, 2005

New Orleans
Contact: Society of American Archivists
527 S. Wells St., 5th Floor
Chicago, IL 60607
312-922-0140, 312-347-1452 (fax)
www.archivists.org/

11th Genealogical Institute of Mid-America

July 10-14, 2005

University of Illinois at Springfield
Contact: Michele Claypool, GIMA2005@aol.com, or Illinois State
Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 10195, Springfield, IL
62791-0195, 217-789-1968
www.rootsweb.com/~ilsgs/gima/gima2005.html

National Genealogical Society Conference in the States

June 1-4, 2005

Nashville Convention Center
Nashville, Tennessee
Contact: National Genealogical Society, 3108 Columbia Pike,
Ste. 300, Arlington, VA 22204-4304, 703-525-0050, ext. 112;
800-473-0060, ext. 112; 703-525-0052, Lund@ngsgenealogy.org
www.ngsgenealogy.org/

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.**