

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

**Jesse White**  
Secretary of State  
&  
State Archivist

Volume 26  
Number 3



Secretary of State Jesse White joined fellow veterans at the Illinois State Library on September 24 to commemorate the Illinois Veterans' History Project. The project was launched in 2005 by Secretary White's office to provide a permanent record of the memories of Illinois war veterans and civilians. These histories are available through the Illinois Digital Archives at [www.idaillinois.org](http://www.idaillinois.org).

## Archives launches Archon™

### New online archival information system

Secretary of State and State Archivist Jesse White's mission is to make the State Archives records holdings as fully known and accessible as possible. Since 1978, the Archives has published a finding aid to achieve this goal. The last edition of the *Descriptive Inventory of the Archives of the State of Illinois* was published in 1997. In anticipation of a new edition, Archives staff decided to no longer issue a holdings guide in print. Instead, a new electronic format — Archon™ — has been launched.

An open-source archival collection management system, Archon was developed by archivists at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. It provides both a way to record descriptive information about collections and a means to view, search and browse that information in a fully functional public website. Archon's public interface always shows the most cur-

*(continued on page 2)*

*75 years ago*



By fall 1937 the outside of the Archives building was nearly complete and the inside was progressing. A three-panel stone mural by sculptor Alvin Meyer of Chicago was placed on the walls of the first-floor lobby. The center panel features Hammurabi holding the scales of justice symbolizing law and a lamp symbolizing science. At the base of the panel is a spread eagle symbolizing government. The left panel illustrates an Egyptian making hieroglyphics, a cave man drawing animals and a monk writing a manuscript. The right panel shows a Greek man holding a roll of papyrus, an early printer working his press and a woman seated at a typewriter.

## DATES & REMINDERS

### National Archives & Records Administration (Great Lakes Region)

15th Civil War Symposium and Reenactment  
"1862: The Reality of War"  
October 6, Wheaton (Cantigny First Division Museum)  
www.archives.gov • chicago.archives@nara.gov  
773-948-9001

### Illinois Historic Preservation Agency

14th Annual Conference on Illinois History  
October 11-12, Springfield  
www.illinoishistory.gov/conference.htm  
217-558-9014

### Midwest Archives Conference

Fall Symposium 2012  
"Engaging Students and Teachers: Integrating  
Primary Sources in K-16 Curricula"  
October 18-20, Cincinnati, OH  
www.midwestarchives.org/2012-fall-symposium

### Illinois State Genealogical Society

2012 Fall Conference  
"Family History in Profile"  
October 19-20, Rockford  
www.ilgensoc.org

### Illinois State Historical Society

Fall Tour  
October 19-20, Galena  
217-525-2781  
www.historyillinois.org

### ISHRAB/Society of American Archivists

"Archives Overview" Workshop  
October 22, Danville  
www2.archivists.org

### Downstate Local Records Commission Meeting

1st Tuesday of the month, 10 a.m.  
Norton Building, Springfield  
www.cyberdriveillinois.com

### Cook County Local Records Commission Meeting

2nd Tuesday of the month, 11 a.m.  
Video Conference Room, 9th floor  
Thompson Center, Chicago  
or Capital City Center, Springfield  
130 W. Mason St.  
www.cyberdriveillinois.com

### State Records Commission Meeting

3rd Wednesday of every month, 9:30 a.m.  
Margaret Cross Norton Building, Springfield  
www.cyberdriveillinois.com

## Archives launches Archon™ (continued from page 1)



rent information about the Archives' records because it is updated automatically when records are added or edited. When information is entered, it is instantly accessible, searchable and browseable. Check out Archon at [www.cyberdriveillinois.com](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com) (click Departments, Illinois State Archives).

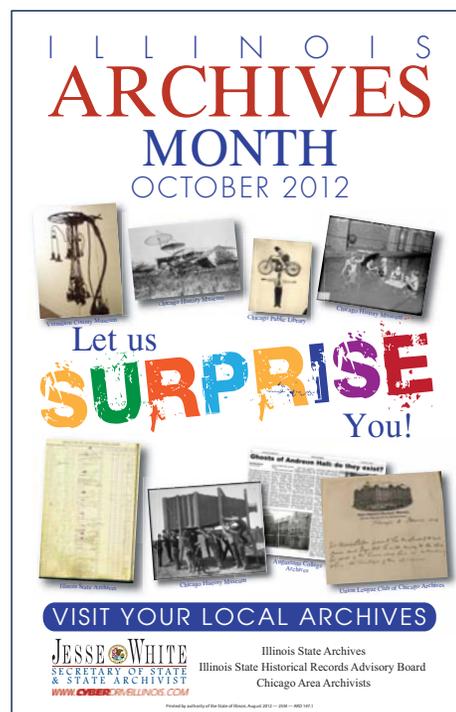
Dan Vilmure (seated) and Dallas Harris of the Secretary of State Information Technology Department were instrumental in the installation and implementation of the State Archives' new Archon information system.

## Illinois Archives Month

October 2012 marks the sixth consecutive year that Secretary of State and State Archivist Jesse White, the Illinois State Archives, the Illinois State Historical Records Advisory Board and the Chicago Area Archivists have joined together to cosponsor Illinois Archives Month. This year's theme is "Let Us Surprise You."

Archives, libraries, museums, historical societies and other institutions that regularly maintain historical collections are encouraged to plan special events in October to promote their programs, holdings and services. Event ideas include exhibits, receptions, tours, articles and educational programs on the use of their archival and historical resources.

The new Archives Month poster, funded in part by a federal SNAP Grant from the NHPRC, is available in print or as a PDF. For more information or to promote your Archives Month activities on the Events



Calendar, visit [www.cyberdriveillinois.com](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com) (click Departments, Illinois State Archives, Illinois State Historical Records Advisory Board), or call 217-782-2226.

## Archives Overview Workshop

The ISHRAB is again sponsoring the Society of American Archivists workshop "Archives Overview" on October 22 at the Bremer Conference Center, Danville Area Community College. The workshop is designed for persons new to the archives profession, persons with limited archival experience, or individuals who have responsibility for archival collections but

have no formal archival training.

The cost of the workshop is \$185 for SAA members and \$235 for non-members. The ISHRAB will pay the registration fee for the first 15 Illinois applicants. Registrations are being handled through the SAA at [www.archivists.org](http://www.archivists.org) (click Education & Events, Continuing Education Calendar).

The Archives Overview workshop is funded by a State and National Archival Partnership grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission. The NHPRC is a statutory body affiliated with the National Archives and Records Administration. It supports a wide range of activities to preserve, publish and encourage the use of primary source documents.

## Historical Records Preservation Grants awarded

The ISHRAB awarded Historical Records Preservation Grants totaling \$36,350 to the following 14 Illinois historical records repositories. The grants help develop and/or carry out projects to identify, preserve, access and use historical records in the state. Funding is provided by a State and National Archival Partnership Grant from the NHPRC.

**Bureau County Historical Society, Princeton** — \$4,935 to purchase archival boxes and shelving for preserving a collection of 18,000 glass negatives taken by Princeton photographer H.W. Immke in 1866-1923.

**Champaign County Historical Archives, Urbana** — \$1,691 to purchase archival boxes to rehouse the McCandless Photography Collection in order to provide long-term preservation and facilitate physical access and storage.

**Darien Historical Society, Willowbrook** — \$500 to purchase archival storage materials to house historical documents and photographs.

**Effingham County Cultural Center and Museum Association, Inc.** — \$847 to purchase archival storage boxes and shelving to

adequately store historical documents and make them more accessible.

**Flagg Township Museum and Historical Society, Rochelle** — \$864 to purchase preservation materials to inventory, document, store and preserve a collection of maps and plats of Rochelle and Ogle County.

**Frances Willard Historical Association, Evanston** — \$4,500 to digitize and provide online access to the transcription of American social reformer Frances Willard's 50 volumes of handwritten journals (1855-1896).

**Historical Society of Quincy and Adams County** — \$2,298 for the purchase of and conversion to PastPerfect-Online to make historical records holdings more accessible to a wider audience.

**Illinois College, Jacksonville** — \$3,022 to strengthen and organize work currently under way to preserve local historical documentary materials, organize a local history archives and make these documents available to students, scholars and the general public.

**Kankakee County Historical Society** — \$500 to purchase archival enclosures to preserve and store local historical newspapers

and photographic materials.

**LaSalle County Historical Society, Utica** — \$3,735 to identify, record, label and scan 5,000-6,000 photographs of subjects such as state parks, the Illinois & Michigan Canal, local architecture and the interurban railroad.

**Loyola University Chicago** — \$5,000 to digitize the Mundelein College Audiovisual Collection, documenting Illinois' last all-women's college, in order to increase access and use of the collection and ensure its preservation.

**Plainfield Historical Society** — \$4,648 to arrange and describe the Vertical Research Files of the Main Street Museum in order to identify primary source materials, improve access, digitize primary documents and photographs, and create a new finding aid.

**Ridge Historical Society, Chicago** — \$2,410 to develop the Morgan Collection by prioritizing and implementing actions addressing its preservation, access and organization.

**Western Illinois Museum, Macomb** — \$1,400 to upgrade the current collection management software program to more effectively and accurately manage archival holdings.

## 2012-2013 IRAD interns

The State Archives' Illinois Regional Archives Depository (IRAD) system is dedicated to the preservation of local governmental records. Since 1976, county, township, municipal, school district and special district records having legal, administrative, historical, genealogical or other research value have been transferred to regional depositories housed at universities statewide. IRAD depositories are located at Eastern Illinois University, Illinois State University, Northeastern Illinois University, Northern Illinois University, Southern Illinois University, University of Illinois at Springfield and Western Illinois University.

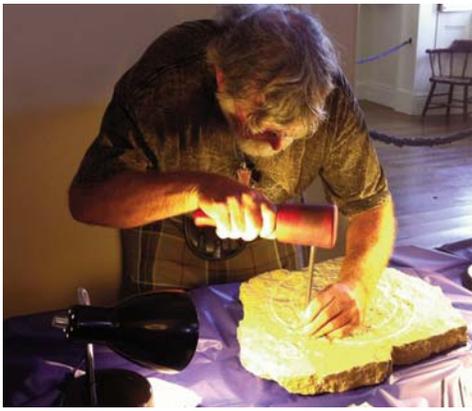
Each year graduate students are selected to serve as interns at the depositories, where they learn basic archival and research skills. Duties include arranging and processing



**IRAD INTERNS** — (Front row, left to right) Julia Mackert, Cheryl Thompson, Anna Mullen, Lakeesha Harris, Christina Rum, Pam Smith and Victoria Stewart; (second row, left to right) Michael Bugajski, Kevin Taylor, Scott Drapalik, Marc Arenberg, Benjamin Aberle and Adam Schuster; (third row, left to right) Matthew Nichols and Edward Byrd.

records, preparing descriptive inventories and providing reference service to the public. The students began their internships

with an intensive two-day training session in Springfield, which was funded by a SNAP grant from the NHPRC.



**ILLINOIS RECEIVES TARTAN STONE** — California sculptor Frank Maurer (left) recently visited Springfield to donate a tartan stone to the State Archives. He also discussed Scottish history and the significance of the tartan, a traditional Scottish clan symbol. Maurer is sculpting a unique tartan stone for every state. The Illinois tartan stone comes from limestone quarried near Joliet and bears the state seal as it appeared in 1860. The stone is on display in the Secretary of State's office in the Old State Capitol.

## Illinois Archival Repositories Directory

The Illinois Archival Repositories Directory is an online resource that provides Illinois archivists a way to locate other archivists in the state to exchange ideas and concerns. It also serves as a useful tool for researchers to use when trying to locate appropriate research centers. The directory is available at [www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/archives/ISHRAB/archival\\_repositories\\_directory/home.html](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/archives/ISHRAB/archival_repositories_directory/home.html). The ISHRAB uses the directory to send news about upcoming grant opportunities and funding possibilities. The directory is searchable by name of repository, region, or name of county or city. To add your organization to the directory or update an existing listing, use either the online Submission Form ([www.ilsos.gov/archivalrepositories/emailForm](http://www.ilsos.gov/archivalrepositories/emailForm)) or the printed version ([www.cyberdriveillinois.com/publications/pdf\\_publications/ard143.pdf](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/publications/pdf_publications/ard143.pdf)).



**TEACHER RECOGNIZED FOR USING ARCHIVES RESOURCES IN CLASSROOM** — Don Barbour (right) of Urbana was presented the Olive Foster Outstanding Teacher Award by Happy Dean of the Illinois State Historical Society in April. The award was established in 1988 in honor of Olive Foster, former Illinois state historian, director of the School Services Program and originator of the Illinois History Program for students. It recognizes full-time teachers for outstanding contributions to the study and teaching of state and local history. Since 2006, Barbour has spent one week every summer at the State Archives finding primary source documents that help him bring history alive to his Urbana Middle School students.

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Jesse White • Secretary of State & State Archivist  
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