

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

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

Volume 26  
Number 2

## Archival Education & Scholarship Opportunities

### Archives Overview workshop

The Illinois State Historical Records Advisory Board is again sponsoring the Society of American Archivists' workshop, "Archives Overview," on October 22 at Danville Area Community College. The workshop is designed specifically for persons new to the archives profession, those with limited archival experience, or individuals who are responsible for archival collections but have no formal archival training.

The one-day workshop provides an overview of the core archival functions of appraisal, accessioning, arrangement and description as well as preservation, reference and access. Participants will learn the responsibilities and obligations that historical records programs accept when they bring collections into their institutions.

The registration fee for the workshop is \$185 for SAA members and \$235 for non-members. The ISHRAB will pay the registration fee of the first 15 Illinois applicants using funds provided by an NHPRC grant. Registrations

will be handled through the SAA at [www.archivists.org](http://www.archivists.org) (click Education & Events, Continuing Education Calendar).

### Professional development scholarships

The ISHRAB is offering scholarships to Illinois archivists and archival volunteers to attend a professional archival workshop/seminar of their choice in Illinois. Awards are available for up to \$200 per applicant, per year, toward the cost of registration, housing and/or travel to the event. Scholarships will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis until the funding is exhausted.

Beginning July 1, information and an application form can be found at [www.cyberdriveillinois.com](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com) (click Departments, Illinois State Archives, Illinois Historical Records Advisory Board). For further information, please contact:

Illinois State Archives  
David Joens, Director; [djoens@ilsos.net](mailto:djoens@ilsos.net)  
Norton Building, Springfield, IL 62756  
217-782-3492; 217-524-3930 (fax)

# NHPRC

DOCUMENTING DEMOCRACY  
National Historical Publications and Records Commission

The ISHRAB archival educational opportunities are 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.

## 75 years ago...

Dated April 8, 1937, this photo shows the completed exterior walls of the Illinois State Archives. In addition to a \$500,000 appropriation from the General Assembly, the federal Public Works Administration contributed \$320,000 toward the cost of the building. Authorized by the National Industrial Recovery Act in June 1933, the P.W.A. was a large-scale public works construction agency established as part of President Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal program. Between July 1933 and March 1939, the P.W.A. funded and administered the construction of more than 34,000 projects,



including airports, electricity-generating dams, bridges and roads, schools and libraries, courthouses, hospitals and sewage disposal plants. Many of these construction projects, like the State Archives building, are still in use today.

## DATES & REMINDERS

### Society of American Archivists

76th Annual Meeting: "Beyond Borders"  
August 6-11, San Diego, CA  
[www.archivists.org/conference](http://www.archivists.org/conference)

### Illinois Association of Museums

Annual Meeting and Conference  
September 19-22, Collinsville  
[www.illinoismuseums.org](http://www.illinoismuseums.org) • 217-524-6977

### Illinois Historic Preservation Agency

2012 Conference on Illinois History  
October 11-12, Springfield  
[www.illinoishistory.gov](http://www.illinoishistory.gov) • 217-557-8336

### Midwest Archives Conference

Fall Symposium 2012  
"K-16 Students and Primary Sources"  
October 18-20, Cincinnati, OH  
[www.midwestarchives.org](http://www.midwestarchives.org)

### Illinois State Genealogical Society

2012 Fall Conference  
"Family History in Profile"  
October 19-20, Rockford  
[www.ilgensoc.org](http://www.ilgensoc.org) • 217-789-1968

### ISHRAB/Society of American Archivists

"Archives Overview" Workshop  
October 22, Danville  
[www.archivists.org](http://www.archivists.org)

### Downstate Local Records Commission Meeting

1st Tuesday of the month, 10 a.m.  
Norton Building, Springfield  
[www.cyberdriveillinois.com](http://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](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com)

### State Records Commission Meeting

3rd Wednesday of every month, 9:30 a.m.  
Norton Building, Springfield  
[www.cyberdriveillinois.com](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com)

## Dave Joens, Wayne Temple publish historical works

### *From Slave to State Legislator*

by David A. Joens

State Archives Director Dave Joens recently had his book published through Southern Illinois University Press. *From Slave to State Legislator, John W. E. Thomas, Illinois' First African American Lawmaker* is a comprehensive account of Thomas's ascent



from a slave in Alabama to a prominent, wealthy attorney in Chicago and influential lawmaker during the 1870s and 1880s.

The book is the culmination of extensive research on Thomas's life by Joens, which became the subject of his master's thesis and eventually his dissertation for a doctorate in history, which he received from SIU Carbondale in 2009.

"It is with great pride that I commend Director Joens on his accomplishment in publishing this insightful biography of one of the most interesting and influential African-Americans in Illinois history and politics," said Secretary of State Jesse White.

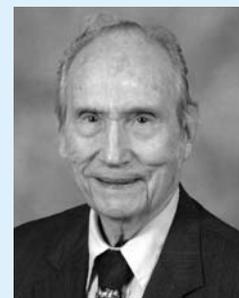
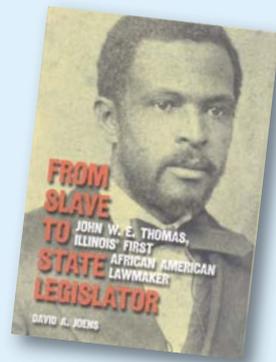
### "Ulysses S. Grant — Civil War Hero"

by Dr. Wayne C. Temple

Wayne Temple, chief deputy director of the State Archives, had his article, "Ulysses S. Grant — Civil War Hero," published in the new 2011-2012 *Illinois Blue Book*. The article is a synopsis of Grant's life in Galena and his role as the Civil War general who commanded the victorious Union Army under President Lincoln. The article was written in conjunction with the observation of the Civil War sesquicentennial, which is featured throughout the new *Blue Book*.

Dr. Temple also has penned a chapter titled "I am so Fond of Sightseeing: Mary Lincoln's Travels up to 1865" in the soon-to-be-released book, *The Mary Lincoln Enigma: Historians on America's Most Controversial First Lady*.

Dr. Temple is an internationally recognized Lincoln and Civil War scholar and a recipient of the Bicentennial Order of Lincoln, the highest honor given by the State of Illinois.



## 2011-12 Illinois Blue Book

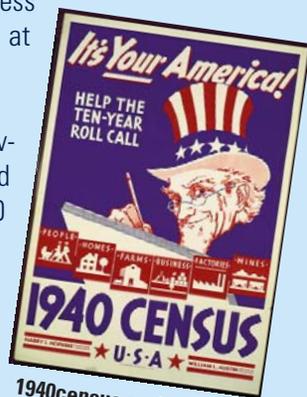


The 2011-2012 *Illinois Blue Books* have arrived! This edition of the *Blue Book* pays tribute to the 150th anniversary of the start of the Civil War. The *Blue Book* may be ordered on the Secretary of State's website at [www.cyberdriveillinois.com](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com) (click **Publications, Contact**) or by calling the Secretary of State Communications Department at 217-785-8234. Previous *Blue Books* also are available upon request

## 1940 U.S. Census available

The National Archives released the 1940 U.S. Census on April 2. The digital images are accessible free of charge at NARA facilities nationwide through its public access computers as well as remotely at [1940census.archives.gov](http://1940census.archives.gov).

A total of 132 million people were living in the 48 continental United States in 1940. This makes the 1940 census the largest, most comprehensive and most recent record set available of the names of those living in the United States when the census was taken.



Tens of millions of people living in the country in 1940 are still living today, making this a record set that connects people with recent family records. Many of these individuals are part of what has been called the greatest generation. These are people who:

- Survived the Great Depression.
- Fought in the Second World War.

- Innovated technology (TV, microwave).
- Sacrificed in the name of freedom.
- Practiced thrift and compassion.
- Understood hard work and industry.

### ISGS seeks volunteers for census index

A name index does not currently exist for the 1940 census; however, through a nationwide effort, the census will be indexed by volunteers. The Illinois State Genealogical Society has joined forces with genealogy societies and organizations around the country as part of the 1940 U.S. Census Community Project. Everyone is welcome to participate in the project and you can do the work from home on your own computer when time permits. The indexing software is free and easy to download by visiting [www.the1940census.com/society](http://www.the1940census.com/society). Register to participate by selecting Illinois State Genealogical Society on the profile screen when creating your account.

When completed, the index will allow the public to easily search every person found in the census and view digital images of the original census pages where he or she is listed.



The Illinois State Archives annually participates in MayDay, a national effort to prepare for disasters promoted by Heritage Preservation and other members of the Heritage Emergency National Task Force. This year, State Archives staff members will attend a program called Emergency Preparedness at Work and at Home, presented by Michael Grim, chief of Emergency Operations for the Secretary of State's office.

Each year, archival entities, libraries, museums, and arts and historic preservation organizations are encouraged to set aside May 1 to participate in a disaster preparedness program. Taking one simple step to protect the records, books, art and artifacts that you hold in trust can make a significant difference. Sample MayDay activities include:

- If you have a disaster plan, dust it off and bring it up to date.
- If you don't have a plan, develop one.
- Get to know your local firefighters and police. Invite them to tour your institution and give pointers on safety and preparedness.
- Identify the three biggest risks to your collection or building, such as dust storm, leaking water pipes, heavy snow, power failure, and outline steps to mitigate them.
- Evaluate your need for a priority contract with a disaster recovery firm.
- Conduct a building evacuation drill and evaluate the results.
- Update your staff contact information.
- Eliminate hazards such as boxes and furniture in hallways, blocked fire exits, or improper storage of paints and solvents.
- Join forces with nearby institutions and develop a protocol for helping each other in case of a disaster.
- Identify and label priority collections and objects for evacuation during emergencies. Which are most important to your mission, irreplaceable, or most fragile?

**Correction** — A photograph used in the Illinois Archives Month 2011 poster was incorrectly cited as belonging to the Illinois State Library. The photograph, "Dredging Team Calumet Harbor," belongs to the Southeast Chicago Historical Society and is part of their Southeast Chicago Historical Project collection. The Illinois State Historical Records Advisory Board regrets this error.

**Illinois State Archives • Margaret Cross Norton Building • Capitol Complex  
Springfield, IL 62756 • 217-782-4682**

**Monday-Friday • 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. • Closed state holidays.**

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

*Abraham Lincoln in Illinois: A Selection of Documents from the Illinois State Archives* (2008), teacher’s manual (87 pp.) and 35 document facsimiles with transcriptions – \$10\*

*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\*

*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* (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, Publications Unit, Norton Building, Springfield, IL 62756, 217-782-2226. Please make checks payable to Secretary of State. For a complete list of Illinois State Archives.

## Secretary of State website revamped, easier access

The Secretary of State’s office launched its redesigned website in March. The site features a fresh new look as well as improved tools for easier access to information and services. To provide a more user-friendly experience, content has been streamlined and overall navigation of the site simplified.

To find the Illinois State Archives on the redesigned website, go to [www.cyberdriveillinois.com](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com), click Departments then Illinois State Archives, or, under Quick Links, click Illinois State Archives.