

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

Jesse White
Secretary of State
&
State Archivist

Volume 27
Number 2



Historical Records Preservation Grant — May 31 deadline

The Illinois State Historical Records Advisory Board is pleased to announce that applications are available for the 2013 Historical Records Preservation Grant program. Grants of up to \$5,000 will be awarded to Illinois historical records repositories to develop and/or carry out projects to identify, preserve, access and use historical records in Illinois. Funding for the grants is provided by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission.

At least six grants will be awarded to Illinois historical records repositories that demonstrate both financial and programmatic need, and show commitment to developing and/or carrying out projects to identify, preserve, access and use historical records in Illinois. Eligible institutions may be public or private. Although any size institution may apply, preference will be given to institutions with archival holdings of 500 cubic feet or less and/or two or fewer professional staff.

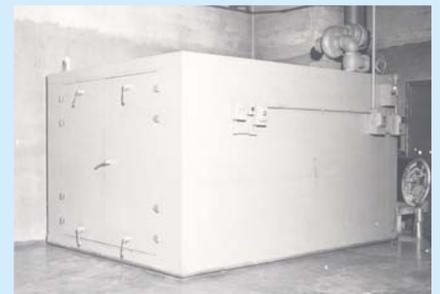
Under previous Historical Records Preservation Grant

programs, ISHRAB awarded grants in amounts ranging from \$500 to \$5,000. Projects have included digitizing a rare and fragile glass-plate negative collection; transferring a collection finding aid from an unsustainable database to an industry-standard software package; purchasing archival enclosures and boxes to re-house paper documents, photographs and negatives; hiring a preservation specialist to conduct a preservation assessment for a collection of 19th-century original, oversized maps of Illinois towns and counties; and expanding and strengthening a small college's local history archives.

Grant proposals will be accepted beginning May 15, 2013, with the deadline for submission of May 31. The official grant cycle will run September 1, 2013, through August 31, 2014. Actual starting and ending dates for individual projects may vary within those parameters. Grant award winners will be announced in August. For more information and application instructions, visit www.cyberdriveillinois.com (click Departments, Illinois State Archives, Illinois Historical Records Advisory Board) or call 217-782-3492.

75 years ago...

All records coming into the Illinois State Archives pass through the receiving room. During the early years of the building, the records were cleaned and fumigated before being taken to the vaults. The cleaning apparatus (top right) was copied from one designed by the U.S. Bureau of Standards for the National Archives. Dust was blown from the files by condensed air and into vacuum filters. At the time, this method was least destructive to paper and more effective in removing loose dirt than straight vacuum cleaning. For fumigation, records were placed in the fumigator (right) with a fumigant developed to kill insects and mold. Today, the dust-removal apparatus is no longer used but the original fumigator still performs as it did 75 years ago.



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.

DATES & REMINDERS

National Association of Government Archives & Records Administrators

Annual Meeting
July 10-13, Indianapolis, IN
www.nagara.org • 518-694-8472

Society of American Archivists/Council of State Archivists

Joint Annual Meeting
August 11-17, New Orleans, LA
www2.archivists.org

Federation of Genealogical Societies

2013 Conference: *Journey Through Generations*.
August 21-24, Fort Wayne, IN
www.fgskonference.org • 1-888-FGS-1500

Society of American Archivists

Workshop: *Archives: Principles and Practices*
September 13-14, Mount Carroll
<http://saa.archivists.org/events>

Midwest Archives Conference

Fall Symposium 2013: *Redefining the On-Line Presence of the Archive*
September 25-27, Green Bay, WI
www.midwestarchives.org

Illinois Historic Preservation Agency

2013 Conference on Illinois History
September 26-27, Springfield
www.illinoishistory.gov • 217-557-8336

Downstate Local Records Commission Meeting

1st Tuesday of the month, 10 a.m.
(unless otherwise noted)
Margaret Cross 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 receives Lake County naturalization records

In January, the Lake County Circuit Clerk's office contacted the Illinois State Archives regarding its collection of late 19th- and early 20th-century naturalization records. The records dating back to the 1860s had been housed in the Circuit Clerk's storage area for many years.

Lake County Circuit Clerk Keith S. Brin knew that the documents, which are in remarkably good condition, needed to be deposited where they would be carefully preserved. The process for finding a new home for the naturalization records started when the Clerk's office contacted the National Archives and Records branch in Chicago. Staff at the National Archives explained that responsibility for naturalizing citizens was primarily handled by state and local courts until about 1906, although many citizens were also naturalized in federal courts during this time.

Generally, the National Archives takes custody of naturalization records that were handled in federal courts. The State Archives handles the naturalizations performed outside the federal courts in Illinois through the Illinois Regional Archives Depository (IRAD) system.

Shortly after the Circuit Clerk's office made contact with the IRAD office, arrangements were made for the naturalization records to be transported to the State Archives for microfilming. IRAD staff arrived at the Lake County Courthouse on January 23 to begin the transfer.

A total of 208 volumes of Lake County naturalizations spanning 1864-1987 are now at the State Archives' Margaret Cross Norton Building in Springfield. The documents have been sorted, arranged and tagged for microfilming. The microfilm will then be scanned and the Lake County Circuit Clerk's office will receive DVDs of the documents. A user copy of the microfilm along with the original records will be moved to the IRAD at Northern Illinois University where they will be available for public use. A security copy of the microfilm will be stored in the State Archives.

Through the effort and cooperation of three levels of government agencies — federal, state and local — these vitally important immigration records will be preserved and made widely available for use by historians and genealogists.



Lake County naturalization documents arrive at the State Archives for sorting, arranging and microfilming.

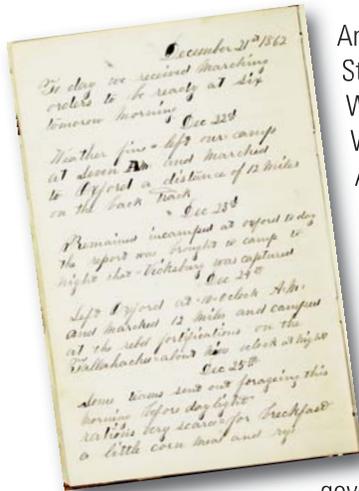




War of 1812 bicentennial commemorated

The Sangamon River Chapter of the U.S. Daughters of 1812 recently commemorated the bicentennial of the War of 1812 (1812–1815). A ceremony was held in front of the Illinois War of 1812 Memorial plaque at the state office Howlett Building in Springfield. Pictured with members of the Daughters of 1812 is State Archives Director David Joens, who provided the group with research on the history of the plaque. Artist Nellie Walker sculpted the plaque in 1914 to commemorate the centennial of the war.

Civil War soldier's diary donated to State Archives



An Arizona woman recently called the State Archives wishing to donate a Civil War diary written by an Illinois soldier. Within a month, the diary was in the Archives' possession thanks to her generous gift.

The State Archives serves as the repository of all official state government records determined to have a long-term historical value.

When a historic non-governmental record such as

this diary comes along, Archives staff will accept it but generally will look for an appropriate home for the item. Usually, that home is the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, which houses the Illinois history collection of the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency. That is what happened in this case.

The 75-page diary spans the years 1861-1863, and was

written by a soldier who served in Company I of the 45th Illinois Infantry. Some pages of the diary are missing but it appears to have been written by a William Kinkade, whose records can be found on the Archives' Civil War Muster and Descriptive Rolls database.

The diary may prove to be a valuable addition for persons researching Illinois and the Civil War. This type of cooperation with the public and between archival and historic institutions in Illinois helps preserve and make accessible valuable, historic records.



Illinois Collections Preservation Network
Preserving Illinois' cultural and natural heritage: a Connecting to Collections project

Access...resources on disaster planning, funding sources, best practices, and preservation information

Borrow...environmental assessment and disaster planning equipment

Build...relationships with professionals across Illinois

JOIN...ICPN

<http://icpn.museum.state.il.us>

ISHRAB receives \$65,000 NHPRC grant — At its November 2012 meeting, the National Historical Publications and Records Commission awarded a \$65,000 State and National Archival Partnership grant to the Illinois State Historical Records Advisory Board.

The grant, which runs from July 1, 2013, through June 30, 2015, will support a variety of board activities, including sponsorship of the IRAD intern training program, production costs of the Illinois Archives Month poster, and State Archives' membership in the Council of State Archivists. Grant funds also will be used to continue the Historical Records Preservation re-grant program (see page 1).

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.