

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

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

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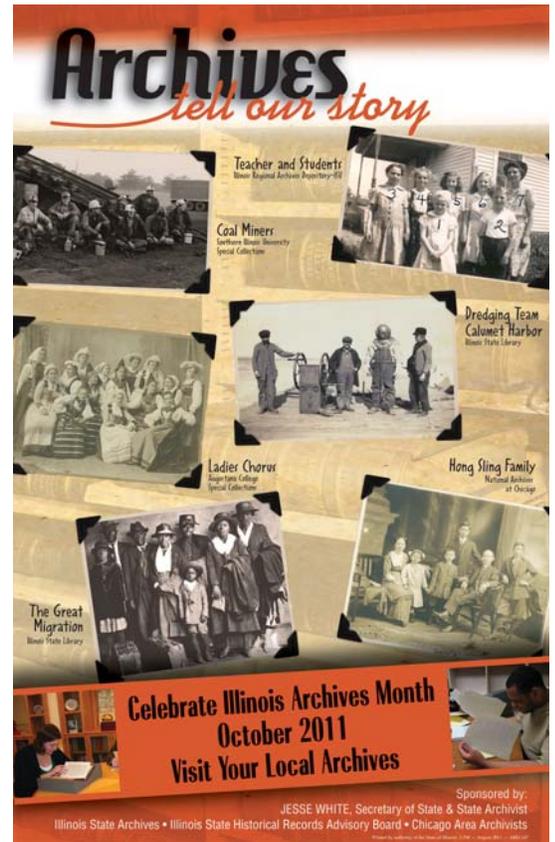
## Illinois Archives Month is October

October 2011 marks the fifth consecutive year that Secretary of State and State Archivist Jesse White, the Illinois State Archives, the Illinois State Historical Records Advisory Board (ISHRAB) and the Chicago Area Archivists have joined together to cosponsor Illinois Archives Month. This year's theme is "Archives ... Tell our story." The celebration is the state-sponsored arm of the national celebration designated by the Society of American Archivists (SAA) to promote the importance of archival and historical institutions.

"Whether they tell the story behind certain laws, the development of a community, or help nourish the roots of a family tree, archival materials are invaluable storytellers of Illinois' rich documentary heritage," said Secretary White. "Recognizing and celebrating the institutions that maintain and preserve archival and historical collections is essential in continuing to write and expand upon the many chapters in Illinois history."

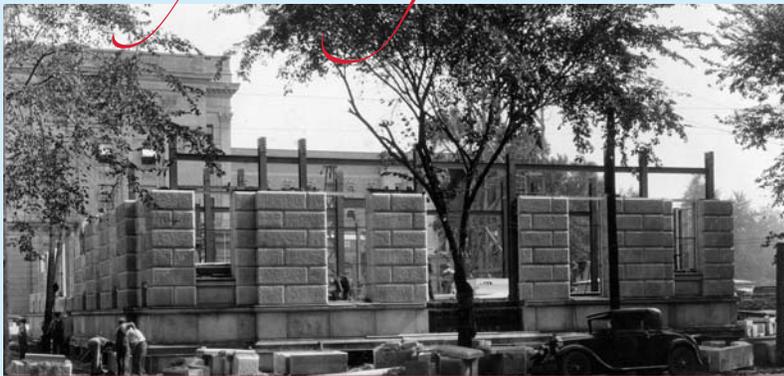
Institutions that maintain historical collections are encouraged to plan special events during October to help tell the many "stories" their materials represent, and to promote their programs and services. Event ideas include creating exhibits, hosting receptions, giving tours, writing articles and developing educational programs on the use of their archival and historical resources.

To assist in publicizing Illinois Archives Month events, ISHRAB is again hosting an online Events Calendar. The



Archives Month poster is funded in part by a State and National Archival Partnership (SNAP) Grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, and is available in print or as a PDF. For information on obtaining posters, showcasing your institution's collections and activities, or promoting your Archives Month activities on the Events Calendar, visit [www.cyberdriveillinois.com](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com) (click Departments, Illinois State Archives), or call 217-782-2226.

*75 years ago ...*



By October 15, 1936, the exterior walls of the Illinois State Archives Building are being set in place. The building is constructed of solid masonry faced with Indiana limestone. The first two stories of the building are faced with rusticated limestone, as shown in this photograph, and the remaining stories will be smooth. Architecturally, the building harmonizes with other buildings in the Capitol Complex, especially the Howlett Building (then called the Centennial Building) in the background.

## DATES & REMINDERS

### Illinois Historic Preservation Agency

2011 Conference on Illinois History  
September 29-30, Springfield  
[www.illinoishistory.gov/conference.htm](http://www.illinoishistory.gov/conference.htm)  
217-558-9014

### Polish Genealogical Society of America

33rd Annual Conference  
"Puzzled by the Past? Put the Pieces Together"  
September 30-October 1, Des Plaines  
[www.pgsa.org](http://www.pgsa.org)

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

14th Civil War Symposium and Reenactment  
October 1, Wheaton  
(Cantigny First Division Museum)  
[www.archives.gov](http://www.archives.gov) • [chicago.archives@nara.gov](mailto:chicago.archives@nara.gov)  
773-948-9001

### ISHRAB/Society of American Archivists

"Archives Overview"  
October 3, Carbondale  
[www2.archivists.org](http://www2.archivists.org)

### Illinois State Historical Society

Fall Bus Tour  
"Southern Illinois Part I: Ohio River Valley"  
October 7-8  
217-525-2781  
[www.historyillinois.org](http://www.historyillinois.org)

### Midwest Archives Conference

Fall Symposium 2011  
"Preservation of Magnetic Media"  
October 20-21, Sioux City, IA  
[www.midwestarchives.org](http://www.midwestarchives.org)

### Downstate Local Records Commission Meeting

1st Tuesday of the month, 10 a.m.  
Margaret Cross 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 the month, 9:30 a.m.  
Margaret Cross Norton Building, Springfield  
[www.cyberdriveillinois.com](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com)

## 2011 ISHRAB Historical Records Preservation Grants

The Illinois State Historical Records Advisory Board awarded Historical Records Preservation Grants totaling \$27,385 to the following 10 Illinois historical records repositories. The grants will be used to develop and/or carry out projects to identify, preserve, access and use historical records in Illinois. Funding for the program was provided by a State and National Archival Partnership (SNAP) grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission.

### Chicago Film Archives, NFP

*Processing Morrison-Shearer 16 mm Films* — \$4,000 to stabilize and catalog the final series of 16mm films in the Morrison-Shearer film collection.

### Coal City Public Library District

*Coal Reports of Illinois First District Index* — \$2,500 to hire staff to create a searchable online index of names of casualties in the First District as published in the *Coal Reports of Illinois, 1882-1927*.

### Decatur Public Library Foundation

*Preservation of Local History* — \$3,000 to hire a consultant to create a Local History Collection Mission Statement, with forms on accepting donations and a process for handling items to be added to the collection.

### General John A. Logan Museum, Murphysboro

*Digital Imaging of the General John A. Logan Collection* — \$3,000 to purchase a scanner to produce digital images of the documents, photographs and maps in the museum's archival collections in order to add images to collections files and store images on an off-site server.

### Geneseo Historical Museum

*Geneseo Historical Museum Archival*

*Project* — \$764 to catalog and preserve photographs, documents and other primary source materials.

### McLean County Museum of History, Bloomington

*Preserve and Create Public Access to A. L. Pillsbury Collection* — \$4,999 to purchase storage cabinets to properly organize and preserve the architectural renderings and documents related to central Illinois architect Arthur L. Pillsbury.

### Monmouth College

*Photography Collection Project* — \$2,650 to develop a detailed processing plan that addresses the needs of the 58-linear-foot collection: physical organization, intellectual control, description, preservation and digitization.

### Rock Island County Historical Society

*RICHS Photograph Collection Identification, Access and Preservation Project* — \$2,372 to purchase a thermohygrometer and archival folders and envelopes to process and preserve a collection of commercial photographs that depict Rock Island County businesses and the Quad Cities International Airport.

### Theatre Historical Society of America, Elmhurst

*Photographic Negative and Transparency Re-housing Project* — \$3,500 to purchase archival enclosures and boxes to re-house photographic slides, negatives and transparencies.

### Vliet Center for Lake Bluff History, Lake Bluff

*The Vliet Center Historical Map and Oversized Materials Digitization Project* — \$600 to purchase a Sandusky flat file for the safe storage of the center's maps and oversized documents.



**HISTORY OF THE CHICAGO RIVER** — Author Mike Williams makes a scan of a glass-plate negative that is part of a collection of photographs taken between 1894 and 1930 for the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago. Williams is using the negatives, now in the possession of the State Archives, for use in an upcoming book on the history of the Chicago River and the impact its reversal had on the Illinois River watershed.

## 2011-2012 IRAD interns



**IRAD INTERNS** — Front row, left to right: Julia A. J. Mackert, Abigail Stemmler, Ata Somo and Amanda Reyna; second row, left to right: Cheryl Thompson, Marlaina Haberman and Dennis Brammeier; third row, left to right: Johnathan Flowers, Matthew Nichols and Dalibor Sinik; fourth row, left to right: Kevin Taylor, John Parr, Benjamin Aberle and David Mizell; fifth Row, left to right: Jenna Self (ISU on-campus supervisor), Brooke Bowers, John Duerk and Nicholas Klein.

Eighteen graduate students will serve as Illinois Regional Archives Depository (IRAD) interns for the 2011-2012 academic year. The IRAD depositories, located at seven universities throughout the state, preserve the official records of local governmental agencies that have permanent legal, administrative, historical or other research value.

IRAD intern duties include arranging and processing 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 fund-

ed by a SNAP grant from the NHPRC. IRAD interns and their majors are:

### **Eastern Illinois University**

Benjamin Aberle, History  
Nicholas Klein, Historical Administration

### **Illinois State University**

Brooke Bowers, History  
David Mizell, Political Science

### **Northeastern Illinois University**

Dennis Glenn Brammeier, Political Science  
Amanda Reyna, History  
Dalibor Sinik, Political Science  
Ata Somo, Political Science

### **Northern Illinois University**

John Duerk, Political Science  
John Parr, History

### **University of Illinois at Springfield**

Cheryl Thompson, History

### **Southern Illinois University**

Johnathan Flowers, Philosophy  
Matthew Nichols, History  
Abigail Stemmler, Geography/Political Science  
Kevin Taylor, Philosophy

### **Western Illinois University**

Marlaina S. Haberman, History  
Julia A. J. Mackert, History

## State law mandates local records management

Illinois state law sets guidelines for the preservation and disposal of public records for all units of local government in the state. Two local records commissions are mandated under the law, one for Cook County and one for all other counties in the state. Their responsibilities include determining the disposition of all local governmental records generated in the state of Illinois.

The law charges the Secretary of State with assisting the two commissions in carrying out their mandated responsibilities. The State Archives provides each commission sufficient staff to meet its responsibilities. The staff schedules governmental records (including electronic records, paper records, and paper records that are digitized or microfilmed) for disposal, intermediate retention, microfilming, records center storage and transfer to the Archives.



Members of the State Archives Local Records Unit staff at the August Local Records Commission meeting include: seated, left to right, Michael Hall, Gloria Huston and David Wooten; standing, left to right, State Archives Director David Joens, Wanda Schmidgall, Rheta Miller, Jean Hynes, Steve Whitlow, Pat Sriner and Steve Colaizzi. Not pictured is Sheila Cowles.

# Illinois Archival Repositories Directory

The Illinois Archival Repositories Directory is an online resource that provides Illinois archivists with 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.ilsos.gov/archivalrepositories/introduction](http://www.ilsos.gov/archivalrepositories/introduction). The Illinois State Historical Records Advisory Board uses this directory to post 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 ([www2.ilsos.gov/archivalrepositories/emailForm](http://www2.ilsos.gov/archivalrepositories/emailForm)) or the printable Submission Form ([www.cyberdriveillinois.com/publications/pdf\\_publications/ard143.pdf](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/publications/pdf_publications/ard143.pdf)) in Adobe PDF format.



**ARCHIVES AT THE STATE FAIR** — State Archives staff member Lori Roberts greeted Secretary of State Jesse White in the Secretary of State tent at the Illinois State Fair in August.

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Jesse White • Secretary of State & State Archivist  
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