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Archives, museums, historical societies, libraries and other groups are invited to participate in Illinois Archives Month by hosting local events, exhibits and activities that highlight the management and preservation of our documentary heritage.

To assist in publicizing Illinois Archives Month events, the ISHRAB is hosting an online Events Calendar. To add your institution’s Archives Month activities on the Events Calendar, please visit www.cyberdriveillinois.com (click Departments, Illinois State Archives, Illinois State Historical Records Advisory Board, Illinois Archives Month 2013) or call 217-782-2226.

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For the Record

Volume 28 Number 3

Illinois Archives Month – October 2014

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ST. CLAIR COUNTY RECORDS AT THE STATE ARCHIVES — St. Clair County Clerk Thomas Holbrook (left) and State Archives employee Karl Moore discuss pre-statehood records kept at the State Archives in Springfield. The records, coming as they do back to the early 1800s, include documents from the St. Clair County area covered during the French, British and territorial era in Illinois. The St. Clair County Clerk’s office and the State Archives are working together to make the records accessible to researchers through both the clerk’s office and the IRAD at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale.

In 2018, Illinois will celebrate its 200th birthday. In anticipation of this bicentennial celebration, over the next four years For the Record will feature a document from the State Archives’ holdings relevant to a significant event in Illinois history. The first featured document is the first page of the 1818 Illinois Constitution.

Illinois’ first constitutional convention assembled in Kaskaskia on Aug. 3, 1818. After 21 days in session, the convention completed its work. On that day, Aug. 26, 1818, the convention adopted a constitution and Kaskaskia as the first state capital. Illinois officially became the 21st state in the Union on Dec. 14, 1818, when President James Monroe signed the congressional resolution admitting Illinois to the union.


For the Record is published three times a year by the Illinois State Archives Advisory Board, Office of the Secretary of State. Jesse White, Secretary of State & State Archivist

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200 Years of Illinois History

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The Illinois State Archives recently assisted the Madison County Recorder's Office with the restoration of two original land plats of Alton dating from 1818. Above left is one of the plats that arrived at the State Archives for restoration. Above right, Madison County Recorder Amy M. Meyer and Alton Mayor Brant Walker (right), along with State Archives Director David Joens, hold the restored plats, which were humidified, cleaned, repaired with Japanese mending tissue, de-acidified and then encapsulated.

Closing state holidays.

ICHRAH RESTORES ALTON PLAT MAPS — On Tuesday, October 22, 2014, at City Hall, the Illinois State Archives held a ceremony to mark the completion of its restoration work on two land plats that are part of the Recorder of Deeds collection at the Department of Natural Resources.

The two plats, which were deposited in the State Archives in 2008, were restored to their original condition. They are among the oldest land plats in Illinois and were originally recorded in 1818. The plats were humidified, cleaned, repaired with Japanese mending tissue, de-acidified and then encapsulated.

The restoration project was funded through a grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC). The NHPRC is a federal agency that provides grants to states and local institutions to help them preserve and make accessible their historical records.

The restoration project also included the creation of digital images of the plats, which are now available online through the State Archives website. The plats can be viewed in their entirety and downloaded for free.

The restoration project was led by the State Archivist, Amy M. Meyer, and the Restoration Specialist, David Joens. The project involved the use of specialized techniques, such as the use of Japanese mending tissue, to repair and stabilize the plats. The plats were then de-acidified and encapsulated to prevent further deterioration.

The restoration project is part of the State Archives' ongoing commitment to the preservation of historical records. The State Archives is a state agency that is responsible for the preservation and management of the state's historical records. The State Archives is located in the Illinois State Capitol, in Springfield, Illinois.

The State Archives is one of the largest state archives in the United States, and it is home to millions of records, including official records of state and local governments, personal papers, and other materials. The State Archives is dedicated to the preservation and accessibility of these records, and it provides a range of services to help individuals and organizations manage and access their records.

The State Archives is also home to a range of public programs and educational initiatives, such as the Illinois Historical Records Advisory Board (IRAD), which provides assistance to state and local governments in the preservation and management of their historical records.

The State Archives is an important resource for researchers, historians, and the general public, and it plays a critical role in the preservation and accessibility of Illinois's history.
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Recorder Amy M. Meyer and Alton Mayor Brant Walker (right), along with State Archives Director David Joens, hold the restored plats, which were humidified, closed state holidays.

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The Illinois State Archives recently assisted the Madison County Recorder’s Office with the restoration of ARCHIVES RESTORES ALTON PLAT MAPS —

Margaret Cross Norton Building, Springfield

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Scholarships available to Illinois archivists

The ISHRAH is offering professional development scholarships to Illinois archivists and archival volunteers to attend an archival workshop/seminar of their choice in Illinois (or an online professional archival development course). Awards are available for up to $300 per applicant, per year, and may be used 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. This archival educational opportunity is funded by a SNAP grant from the NHPRC. For more information and an application form, visit www.archivists.org/snap. Departments, Illinois State Archives, Illinois Historical Records Advisory Board, or contact:

David Jensen, Director, Illinois State Archives, IRC, 204 Northfork Building, Springfield, IL 62704-4032; djensen@ilsos.net

2014-2015 IRAID interns

The Illinois Regional Archives Depository (IRAD) system, a program of the Illinois State Archives, is dedicated to the preservation of local governmental records. The IRAID deposits, located at seven custodians throughout the state, preserve the official records of local governmental agencies that have permanent legal, administrative, historical or other research values.

Each year graduate students are selected to serve as interns at the depositories. IRAID interns provide graduate students to the functions of an archives institution and allow them to develop archival and research skills. Duties include arranging and processing records, preparing descriptive inventories and providing reference service to the public.

The IRAID interns for the 2014-2015 academic year attended an intensive two-day training session in Springfield in August. This training session was funded by a SNAP grant from the NHPRC. Following are the 17 interns along with their academic majors and the IRAID where they are serving.

Continuing Education Program

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Training the 17 interns with on-the-job training at the depositories. IRAID internships introduce graduate students to the functions of an archives institution and allow them to develop archival and research skills. Duties include arranging and processing records, preparing descriptive inventories and providing reference service to the public.

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