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Illinois State Archives
Margaret Cross Norton Building
Capitol Complex
Springfield, IL 62756
217-782-4682; 217-524-3930 (Fax)
Monday-Friday
8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Closed all state holidays.

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Select Archives Publications

**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 – $10.00**


**From the Ashes, 1872-1900: A Selection of Documents from the Proceedings Files of the Chicago City Council (1999), teacher’s manual (123 pp.) and 50 document facsimiles with transcriptions – $10**


*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, 217-524-9844. Please make checks payable to Secretary of State. For a complete list of Illinois State Archives publications, please visit: [http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/archives/publications.html](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/archives/publications.html)*

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For the Record
www.cyberdriveillinois.com

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

Jesse White
Secretary of State & State Archivist

Volume 32 Number 2

Spring 2018

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Being prepared

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MayDay is an ideal time to review your institution’s disaster recovery plan. Institutions should review their procedures with all staff and make any necessary updates.

Don’t have a plan yet? Now is the time to create one. There are a number of resources available to establish a plan of action. To outline the basic components of an effective recovery plan, please visit the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). It created an outline of elements to be included in a recovery plan. Although this guide was designed for use at federal agencies, the information can be applied at any institution entrusted with caring for archival records. Additional information can be found at [http://www.archives.gov/records-mgmt/records_management/records_management_policies.html](http://www.archives.gov/records-mgmt/records_management/records_management_policies.html). 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 online at [http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/archives/SHRAAD/archival_repositories_directory/home.html](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/archives/SHRAAD/archival_repositories_directory/home.html).

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Celebrating Illinois’ Bicentennial

As part of the state’s Bicentennial celebration, the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum (ALP) in Springfield is sponsoring a yearlong special exhibit entitled “From Illinois to the White House: Lincoln, Grant, Reagan, Obama.” The exhibit focuses specifically on the four presidents who called Illinois their home.

For the exhibit, the Illinois State Archives loaned the ALP the 1818 State Constitution – the first of the state’s four constitutions. The Secretary of State’s office also loaned the ballot box used by the Illinois Electoral College in the election of Barack Obama as president in 2008 and 2012. That ballot box, along with the 2008/2012 Electoral College ballot box as it is delivered to the ALP.
Electoral College ballot and ballot box on display at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum.

Celebrating Illinois’ Bicentennial (cont. from pg. 1)

typically housed at the Archives, is made of wood from a desk that was used in the state Senate during President Obama’s tenure. The exhibit runs through Dec. 31.

For more information, visit: https://www.illinois.gov/ALPLM/Documents/Bicentennial%20Postcard.pdf.

For additional information on other events related to Illinois’ Bicentennial celebration, please visit: https://illinois200.com/.

This year, Illinois is celebrating its 200th birthday. Each issue of For the Record features a document from the State Archives’ holdings that is especially relevant to a significant event in state history. The 12th featured document is a muster roll for Company I of the 8th Illinois Regiment.

After the Civil War, African-Americans in Chicago attempted to organize an all black military unit. In 1890, under the leadership of John R. Marshall, James Bish and J.C. Buckner, Chicago African-Americans created the 9th Battalion of the Chicago Guard. Although it trained as a military unit, Illinois Governor Joseph Fifer would not allow the battalion to be a part of the National Guard. After Buckner was elected to the state legislature, Governor John Altgeld let the battalion join the National Guard. When war broke out with Spain in April 1898, the battalion was expanded from four companies to 12. Six companies were from Chicago and six were comprised of companies from the rest of the state. In all, there were more than 1,200 men in the regiment. The 8th Illinois Regiment became the first unit consisting of all African-Americans – from commanding officers to enlisted men – in the U.S. Army.

Company I, along with the rest of the regiment, was mustered into service on July 13, 1898, at Camp Tanner in Springfield. The 8th Illinois was led by Colonel John R. Marshall of Chicago. Company I was led by Captain Frederick Ball, Jr. of Quincy. A majority of the soldiers in the unit were from Quincy. The 8th Illinois arrived in Cuba shortly after the brief war ended on Aug. 13, 1898, and spent its time as an occupation force. The unit spent seven months in Cuba and lost 18 men, mostly to disease. Despite not having seen action, the soldiers received heroes’ welcomes when they returned home.

The 8th Illinois was mobilized for four months in 1916 for duty along the Mexican border. In 1917, its efforts were again required and it remained the only all-black unit of the American Armed Forces. It was renamed during World War I. The 370th Infantry Regiment after the unit was federalized, but the Army would not allow the unit to fight alongside white soldiers. Instead, the 370th was assigned to fight with the French, where it performed with great valor until the conclusion of the war.

This muster roll can be found in Record Series 301.087, Military and Naval Department (Spanish-American War) Muster in Rolls, April 1898-April 1899.
Celebrating Illinois’ Bicentennial (cont. from pg. 1)

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FROM LEFT: CATHY RAPPELCHI, ILLINOIS STATE ARCHIVES; CARLA SMITH, EXHIBITS REGISTRAR OF THE ABRAHAM LINCOLN PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM; AND BONNIE PILL, CONSERVATOR AT THE ALPMA, REVIEW THE 2008/2012 ELECTORAL COLLEGE BALLOT BOX AT THE ALPMA IN SPRINGFIELD.