Secretary of State Jesse White recently appointed three new board members to the Illinois State Archives Advisory Board/Illinois State Historical Records Advisory Board. Dana Lamparello (below), Martin Tuohy of the National Museum of the American Sailor and Valerie Harris of the University of Illinois at Chicago will serve for the 2017-2020 term. The new members replace Alison Eisendrath of the Chicago History Museum, Martin Tuohy of the National Museum of the American Sailor and Valerie Harris of the University of Illinois at Chicago. Secretary White re-appointed Johanna Russ of the Illinois State Historical Records Advisory Board for another 3-year term as well. For a complete listing of the ISAAB/ISHRAB members and their contact information, visit www.cyberdriveillinois.com (Departments, Illinois State Archives, Illinois State Historical Records Advisory Board).

Basics of Archives scholarships for Illinois archivists

The Illinois State Historical Records Advisory Board (ISHRAB) is offering scholarships to Illinois archivists and archival volunteers to take the American Association for State and Local History’s online “Basics of Archives” course. This online course, available Feb. 26 through March 30, 2018, provides an introduction to the management and protection of historical records for staff and volunteers who have little to no experience with archival materials. Complete information and an application form can be found at www.cyberdriveillinois.com (click on Departments, Illinois State Archives, Illinois State Historical Records Advisory Board). Funds for this opportunity are provided by a State Board Programming Grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission.

Secretary of State service awards

Secretary of State Jesse White recently honored three employees for years of service to the State Archives. Micrographic equipment operator Della Kay Castiglione (above) received a 35-year service award. Jane Roberts (below), an administrative assistant I, received a 40-year service award. Lead computer output microfilm operator Steve Rebbe (not pictured) also received a 35-year service award.

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2018 historical records grants

Application deadline March 9

The Illinois State Historical Records Advisory Board (ISHRAB) is pleased to announce the 2018 Historical Records Preservation Grant program. Grants of up to $5,000 will be awarded to Illinois historical records repositories with funds provided by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC). This is the 9th year the ISHRAB has awarded these grants.

Grants will be awarded to institutions that demonstrate need, both financially and programmatically, and show commitment to developing and/or implementing projects that will lead to enhanced online access to their holdings. These projects include creating online finding aids; digitizing records and placing the content online; making an inventory of records; properly storing the records with the goal of preparing them for future online access; or placing information about the records on a blog, wiki page or Facebook. Eligible institutions may be public or private. Although any size institution may apply, preference will be given to those with archival holdings of 500 cubic feet or less and/or two or fewer professional staff.

The ISHRAB will begin accepting grant proposals on Jan. 29, 2018, with a deadline for submission of March 9. Grant award winners will be announced in May. For additional information, application instructions and a list of previous grant funded projects, visit www.cyberdriveillinois.com (click Departments, Illinois State Archives, Illinois State Historical Records Advisory Board) or call 217-782-3492.

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This year Illinois is celebrating its 200th birthday. For the Record is featuring a document from the State Archives’ holdings relevant to a significant event in Illinois history in each issue. The 11th feature document concerns the Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site and is from the Department of Conservation’s Park Land Acquisition and Improvement Files, 1893-1880.

The Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site is the site of a pre-Columbian native civilization located a few miles west of Collinsville, across the Mississippi River from present-day St. Louis. Cahokia was the largest urban settlement of the Mississippian peoples and is the largest pre-Columbian archaeological site north of Mexico. At its height in 1200, Cahokia encompassed approximately six square miles and included an estimated 120 man-made mounds; however, by the late 1300s, Cahokia was abandoned.

The State of Illinois obtained 145 acres of the site in 1925, and the grounds operated as a state park held by the Department of Public Works and Buildings. During the 1960s and 1970s, the state acquired several more tracts of land. It was designated a state historic site in the early 1980s. Presently, the park covers 2,200 acres and protects 72 whole or partial mounds. Cahokia Mounds was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1966 and in 1982 was designated a World Heritage Site by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

The featured document is a 1929 letter from Warren King Moorehead, then director of the Department of American Archaeology at Phillips Academy in Andover, Maine. Moorehead was considered the “Dean of American Archaeology” and worked at Cahokia from 1921 to 1927. He played a significant role in persuading the Illinois Legislature to make the original purchase of a portion of the Cahokia site. Moorehead writes to Dr. Robert J. Terry, head of the Anatomy Department at Washington University Medical School, who undertook a study of the skeletal material at Cahokia. In this letter, Moorehead pleads with Terry to save Mound 86 from destruction.

In this letter, dated June 13, 1929, archaeologist Warren King Moorehead urges Dr. R.J. Terry to do what he can to save Powell Mound from destruction. He opines, “...it would be nothing short of a crime to destroy that most beautiful and best-preserved of all the mounds in this vicinity.”

The mound, known as Powell Mound, was located on land that was owned at the time by the Powell family. The Powells were farmers and offered to pay archaeologists $3,000 and give them three years to excavate the mound. At the time, this excavation would have been too big of an undertaking for archaeologists. The state was not willing to purchase the property. In 1931, the Powell family began removal of the mound and used the excavated soil as fill.

Fortunately, archaeologists were allowed to observe the destruction of the mound, discovering evidence that it was initially built as a platform mound. It later was modified to a ridge-top mound, with burials deposited on the platform surface. In 2006, the Archaeological Conservancy purchased the land where remnants of Powell Mound are located.
200 years of Illinois history (1818-2018)

This year Illinois is celebrating its 200th birthday. For the Record is featuring a document from the State Archives' holdings relevant to a significant event in Illinois history in each issue. The 11th featured document concerns the Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site and is from the Department of Conservation’s Park Land Acquisition and Improvement Files, 1890-1980.

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Fortunately, archaeologists were allowed to observe the destruction of the mound, discovering evidence that it was initially built as a platform mound. It later was modified to a ridge-top mound, with burial deposits made on the platform surface. In 2006, the Archaeological Conservancy purchased the land where remnants of Powell Mound are located.

2017 Accessions of the Illinois State Archives

State Government Records

Board of State House Commissioners (Second Springfield State House) (Deed of Gift from Sangamon Valley Collection, Lincoln Library, Springfield)

Department of Children and Family Services

Director’s Office/Office of Inspector General

Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity

Illinois Workforce Investment Board Meeting Files, 2005-2008; 1 cu. ft.
Office of Regional Economic Development (Main Street Program)
Main Street Program Files, ca. 1990-2013; 8 cu. ft.

Illinois Community College Board

Finance Compliance and Program Accountability Division
Construction Project Files, ca. 2001-2015; 5 cu. ft.

General Assembly

Bills, Resolutions, and Related General Assembly Records, January 9, 2013, January 10, 2017 (98th-99th biennium); 213 cu. ft.

Governor

Deputy Chief of Staff
Patrick Quinn Deputy Chief of Staff’s Administrative Files, ca. 2010-2013; 1 cu. ft.
Patrick Quinn Deputy Chief of Staff’s Senior Health Policy Advisor’s Administrative Files, 2009-2013; 3 cu. ft.

Legal Counsel
Patrick Quinn Legal Counsel’s Administrative Files, ca. 2010-2013; 1 cu. ft.
Programs and Policies Staff (Human Services)
Programs and Policies Staff (Director)
Programs and Policies Staff (Human Services)
Patrick Quinn “Governor’s Office of New Americans” Administrative Files, ca. 2010-2013; 5 cu. ft.

Department of Human Rights

Legislative Affairs Section

Department of Insurance

Executive Office (Legislative Affairs Section)
Legislative Bill Analyses Files, 1976-2002; 143 cu. ft.

Illinois Legislative Investigating Commission

Legislative Research Unit

Military and Naval Department
Adjutant General
Administrative Files on Civil War Companies and Regiments, February 28, 1862-April 30, 1862; 0.02 cu. ft.

Illinois Department of Public Health

Division of Administrative Hearing Review
Nursing Home Involuntary Transfer and Discharge Final Orders Files, 2005, 2009-2013; 8 cu. ft.

Department of Revenue

Legal Services Division
Legal Files, 1998-1996; 33 cu. ft.

Secretary of State

Executive Office
Capital Building Murals, 1899; 2 cu. ft.

Index Department
Enterprise Zone Registration and Certification Files, 2012-2014; 1 cu. ft.
Executive Section. Extraction Papers, 2014; 1.2 cu. ft.
Lease and Contracts Files, 1955-1956; 0.05 cu. ft.

Illinois Department of Transportation

Division of Aeronautics (Bureau of Aviation Safety)
Children’s Memorial Hospital of Chicago Hepworth Hearing Files, 2006-2011; 7.5 cu. ft.
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