

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

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Secretary of State
&
State Archivist

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Secretary of State Jesse White



This issue of *For the Record* highlights the significant role the joint Illinois State Archives Advisory Board/Illinois State Historical Records Advisory Board plays in promoting excellence in historical records. I salute the efforts of these mostly volunteer board members, whose work plays a critical role in the preservation and accessibility of historical documents statewide.

Also included are State Archives acquisitions for 2002, an electronic records initiative regarding the State Records Act, and some interesting historical discoveries uncovered in recently acquired Madison County court files.

As always, my office welcomes your input regarding this publication. Please direct any comments or suggestions to the Illinois State Archives, Norton Building, Springfield IL 62756, 217-782-3674.

Jesse White

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Secretary of State & State Archivist

Two interesting discoveries made in Madison County court documents

The Archives staff uncovered two remarkable findings while processing an accession from Madison County: Circuit Court Criminal Case Files, 1814-1922, 5 cu. ft. The first discovery was a criminal indictment against Maj. Zachariah Taylor of St. Louis — who went on to become our 12th president — for assault and battery. The second finding was an embossed impression of the official Illinois state seal dated Nov. 18, 1819 — the oldest embossed state seal on record.

Indictment of Major Zachariah Taylor

Madison County encompassed the northern three quarters of the geographical Illinois Territory when the Court of Common Pleas indicted Maj. Zachariah Taylor in Edwardsville in October 1814. Maj. Taylor of the U.S. Army had been stationed at St. Louis in April 1814 and had assumed second in command. During the course of the War of 1812, St. Louis and its surrounding countryside were vulnerable to attacks from native Indians allied with Great Britain. On Aug. 22, 1814, Taylor led an expedition of 300 Illinois militia and 40 army regulars up the Mississippi River from St. Louis to destroy the crops of hostile Indians and to establish a fort at the confluence of the Mississippi and Des Moines Rivers. They reached the mouth of the Rock River, near present day Rock Island, on Sept. 4, and settled on one of several islands in midstream. Before dawn the next day, the troops were attacked by some 1,000 Sauk Indians as well as more than 30 British regulars. Outnumbered nearly 3 to 1, Taylor and his forces withdrew down river.

On Sept. 29, 1814, Maj. Taylor was placed in Madison County where he was accused of beating Simon Bartrane so severely

“that his life was greatly dispaired of.” The connection this incident had to do with the battle near Rock Island is unclear; however, British war correspondence indicates that a “French gentleman from St. Louis” had warned the Sauk Indians of American intentions to advance to the vicinity of Rock Island.

Taylor eventually altered the spelling of his name to Zachary. “Old Rough and Ready” was a hero of the later Mexican War, and as a Whig he was selected as our nation’s 12th president in a close 1848 election. He died in office early in July 1850 in the midst of the battle over the great compromise of that year. The 1814 assault indictment was unknown to Taylor scholars until now.

Illinois State Seal

The second important finding in the Madison County court files was the earliest-known embossed seal of the state of Illinois. The impression appears on a commutation of a fine imposed on Joshua Atwater of Edwardsville for keeping a disorderly house. The Madison County Circuit Court had levied a \$100 fine, but on Nov. 18, 1819, Governor Shadrach Bond issued a commutation, reducing the fine to \$8.



On Feb. 19, 1819, two months after Illinois became a state, the General Assembly passed a law requiring the Secretary of State to procure a permanent state seal. That fall, gunsmith Philip Creamer was paid \$85 for manufacturing this device.

Prior to this discovery, the earliest-known imprint of the first state seal was found on a Sept. 4, 1820, Governor’s proclamation that divided the state into three electoral districts.

Advisory Boards work to ensure preservation and maintenance of Illinois historical documents

The Illinois State Archives Advisory Board (ISAAB) serves concurrently as the Illinois State Historical Records Advisory Board (ISHRAB). The ISAAB is authorized by the State Records Act and charged with overseeing the general operations of the State Archives. The ISHRAB is the state-level arm of the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), a statutory body affiliated with the National Archives and Records Administration. The Commission supports a wide range of activities to preserve, publish and encourage the use of documentary sources relating to the history of the United States.

The ISHRAB was made conterminous with the ISAAB in 1985 by an agreement between the Secretary of State and the Governor, and became state law in late 2002. With the exception of two ex officio appointments, members of the joint boards serve three-year staggered terms. Following are current members and their service terms.

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Electronic records legislation passed

During the fall 2002 veto session of the General Assembly, House Bill 4938 was passed and subsequently signed into law by the Governor. The bill amends the State Records Act (5 ILCS 160) by defining public agency electronic records as public property, permitting their disposal only with the approval of the State Records Commission. It also designates that such records remain the responsibility of their creating agency to maintain them (despite technological change) in usable, legible and "trustworthy" form for the entire period of time they are required to be retained.

This legislation addresses action 1.3.1 under objective 1.3 of the Illinois State Historical Records Advisory Board's 2001 strategic plan, which states, "The ISHRAB will work to ensure that state statutes reflect the fact that all state and local governmental records of enduring value, including those created, transmitted or maintained in electronic format, must remain accessible to the public."

Illinois is not alone as it deals with public electronic records inventory and appraisal, document storage and retrieval, and the provision of reference services to electronic records users. Federal, state and local governmental agencies across the country are awash with electronic records. Meanwhile, their respective records managers and archivists are developing practical means by which to handle them.



Archives board remembers Brother Michael Grace

At its September 2002 meeting, the Archives Advisory Board adopted the following resolution in memory of the late Brother Michael Grace, who passed away May 3, 2002.

"Colleagues and friends who serve on the joint Illinois State Archives Advisory Board/Illinois State Historical Records Advisory Board, do hereby acknowledge our deep sense of loss at the passing of Brother Michael J. Grace, S.J., a former member of this board and long-time colleague to many. He is missed personally and professionally. He is the acknowledged founder of the Loyola University Archives, Chicago, where he devoted his efforts for nearly 25 years. He also served the archival community by his participation in many capacities with the Midwest Archives Conference, Society of American Archivists, service on this board and as an advocate for archives to the university, its staff, faculty and especially students. We offer our sincerest condolences to his many family members, friends, the Loyola University community and the Society of Jesus."



2002 Accessions of the Illinois State Archives

Department of Agriculture

Agricultural Industry Regulation • Co-operative Annual Report Files, 1995-1996, 2 cu. ft.
Division of Natural Resources • Federal/State Development Project Reports, 1991, 1 cu. ft.; Project Correspondence Files, 1990-1991, 1 cu. ft.

Department of Children and Family Services

Director's Administrative Files, 1998, 21 cu. ft.

Department of Employment Security

Occupational Information Coordinating Committee Administrative Files, 1978-2001, 10 cu. ft.

Environmental Protection Agency

Public Water Supply Inspection Reports, 1989-2000, 10 cu. ft.; "Responsible Property Transfer Act" Files, 1990-2002, 23 cu. ft.

Office of the Governor

Citizens Assistance • Correspondence Files, 1985; 1988-1990; 1996-1998, 271 cu. ft.
Deputy Chief of Staff • Administrative Files, 1980-1986, 3 cu. ft.
Legal Counsel • Administrative Files, 1990-1991, 1 cu. ft.
Legislative Affairs • Administrative Files, 1970-1980, 1 cu. ft.; Bill Analyses Files, 1989-2000, 93 cu. ft.
Programs and Policy Office • Economic Development Administrative Correspondence, 1988-1993, 3 cu. ft.; Education Administrative Files, 1986-1990, 6 cu. ft.; Energy and Natural Resources Administrative Files, 1985-1986, 1 cu. ft.; Human Services Administrative Files, 1990, 1 cu. ft.; Planning Administrative Correspondence, 1988-1989, 1 cu. ft.; Superconducting Super Collider Administrative Files, 1986-1988, 2 cu. ft.

Department of Human Services

Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Division • Administrative Files, 1960-1996, 3 cu. ft.

Intergovernmental Cooperation Commission

Grant Administration Files, 1972-1999, 2 cu. ft.; "Committee of 50 to Re-Examine the Illinois Constitution" Files, 1986-1988, 3 cu. ft.

Department of Natural Resources

Abandoned Mined Lands Reclamation Site Project Files, 1994-1996, 19 cu. ft.; Construction, Maintenance, Remodeling, Rehabilitation, and Site Development Plans, 1978-2000, 7 cu. ft.; Director's Administrative Files, 1980-2000, 13 cu. ft.; Endangered Species Consultation Files, 1994-1999, 4 cu. ft.; Policy and Procedures Files, 1970-1997, 1 cu. ft.

Illinois Nature Preserves Commission

Commission Minutes, 2001-2002, 0.1 cu. ft.

Department of Nuclear Safety

Radiation Safety Office Administrative Files, 1972-1981, 2 cu. ft.

Department of Public Health

Sudden Infant Death Syndrome Case Management Files, 1996-1999, 8 cu. ft.

Secretary of State

Index Department • Deeds to State-Owned Real Estate, 2001-2002, 0.75 cu. ft.; Enrolled Acts of the General Assembly, 2000, 4 cu. ft.; State Land Acquisition and Conveyance Files, 2001, 1 cu. ft.
Executive Section • Executive Files, 1999, 1 cu. ft.; Extradition Papers, 2001, 5 cu. ft.

Teachers' Retirement System

Administrative Files, 1993-1998, 1 cu. ft.

Department of Transportation

Aeronautics Division • Airport Construction Files, 1996, 52 cu. ft.
Highways Division • Highway Construction Monthly Reports, 2000, 1 cu. ft.

A Summary Guide to Local Governmental Records in the Illinois Regional Archives, second edition (1999), 265 pp. — \$6

Descriptive Inventory of the Archives of the State of Illinois, second edition (1997), 940 pp.; or CD ROM (1998) — \$20

Chicago City Council Proceedings Files, 1833-1871: An Inventory (1987), 989 pp., and Chicago City Council Proceedings Files, 1833-1871: An Index (1987), 93 microfiche (18,714 pp.) — \$35

Illinois Public Domain Land Sales (2001), explanatory booklet (7 pp.), and CD-ROM (538,750 entries) — \$25

The Margaret Cross Norton Working Papers, 1924-1958 (1993), 8 - 35 mm microfilm rolls with An Inventory and Index (1993), 7 microfiche (1,055 pages) — \$60

Hard Times in Illinois, 1930-1940 (2002), teacher's manual (119 pp.) and 50 document facsimiles — \$10

The Illinois and Michigan Canal, 1827-1911 (1998), teacher's manual (115 pp.) and 50 document facsimiles with transcriptions — \$12

Illinois at War, 1941-1945 (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, Norton Building, Publications Unit, Springfield, IL 62756, 217-782-4682 or 217-782-2226. Please make checks payable to Secretary of State.