

The Outreach

Department of
Senior & Community Services

Jesse White
Secretary of State

Spring 2002

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World War II at Find-It! Illinois

Historians, veterans, teachers, students and others will find a gold mine of World War II-era materials through the Illinois State Library's Find-It! Illinois Web site. Log on to www.finditillinois.org and click Illinois Images to access the collection. Users may browse by title or keyword, but a search of "war" will retrieve all the materials. Most of the collection encompasses documents produced by the federal government during the war.



White releases World War II, Vietnam Vet military license plates

Secretary of State Jesse White has released two new military license plates — one honoring veterans of World War II and another for Vietnam vets. A special presentation was held on Veterans Day last November at the State Capitol to recognize those who served in the two military conflicts.

"As a veteran of the Army's 101st Airborne Division and the Illinois National Guard, I have great admiration for the men and women who have worn the military uniform of the United States," said White. "These special plates give due recognition to veterans who served so valiantly during these two military conflicts to help preserve our precious freedoms that we enjoy today. I am forever grateful to them for their sacrifices."

The two new plates add to the list of 13 military plates already available through the Secretary of State's office, including the Universal Veteran, Pearl Harbor Survivor, Bronze, Silver and Gold

Star, Retired Armed Forces and the Purple Heart.

World War II and Vietnam Veteran plates cost \$15, plus the annual registration fee. A \$2 fee is required upon renewal.

Documentation verifying military service must be submitted along with the application for both plates.

For more information or

to receive a free brochure on military license plates, please call 800-252-2904, or visit www.cyberdriveillinois.com.

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— Secretary of State Jesse White



Marriage Index exceeds 1 million entries

Nearly 1.3 million entries currently make up the Statewide Marriage Index database (1763-1900), a coordinated effort between the State Archives and the Illinois State Genealogy Society. The index is unique in that it provides access through both the bride and groom's names.

Each entry in the index includes the date of the marriage license or when the marriage took place, the county where the marriage took place, and the license file number or volume and page numbers of the relevant register. Ninety-six out of 102 Illinois counties are represented in the index.

To access the database, visit www.cyberdriveillinois.com (click Departments, then State Archives, then Search Our Online Databases).

Delap shares databases

Fred Delap of Kansas, IL has been donating databases of Illinois veterans to the State Archives since 1996. A volunteer with the Edgar County Genealogical Library, Delap has contributed more than 360,000 entries to the Archives' online databases, including names from the War of 1812, Black Hawk War and Civil War. Visit www.cyberdriveillinois.com to access the databases.



State Archives — a window to the past

Genealogists, historians, veterans and others will find the Illinois State Archives a valuable resource for their research. A friendly, helpful staff awaits you at the main building in Springfield, or at one of the Archives' seven regional depositories at universities throughout the state. You can also do your research by visiting the Secretary of State's Web site at www.cyberdriveillinois.com. Either way, you are sure to find the State Archives a window to the past and just what you may be looking for.

Among its holdings are nearly 49 databases — some dating back as far as the 1700s — including Public Domain Land Sales, Illinois Civil War Veterans and the Statewide Marriage Records Index. The Archives also publishes a series of genealogy pamphlets, teaching packets and indexes. Following are addresses and phone numbers for the Archives and its regional depositories.

Illinois State Archives
Norton Building, Capitol
Springfield, IL 62756
217-782-4682

Northern Illinois University
Founders Memorial Library, Rm. 400
DeKalb, IL 60115
815-753-1807

Eastern Illinois University
Booth Library, 600 Lincoln Ave.
Charleston, IL 61920
217-581-6093

Southern Illinois University
McLafferty Road
Carbondale, IL 62901-6632
618-453-3040

Illinois State University
Williams Hall, Campus Box 5500
Normal, IL 61790-5500
309-452-6027

University of Illinois at Springfield
Library 144, P.O. Box 19243
Springfield, IL 62794-9243
217-206-6520

Northeastern Illinois University
Ronald Williams Library
5500 N. St. Louis Ave.
Chicago, IL 60625-4699
773-442-4506

Western Illinois University
University Library, 1 University Cir.
Macomb, IL 61455
309-298-2716

Senior Health Education Video Series

Health issues top the list of concerns affecting senior citizens. New technology, better medicines and an active aging population have led to longer, healthier lives.

The Secretary of State's office offers a Senior Health Education Video Series. Videos are available on loan to senior centers and other community groups on a

variety of health-related topics.

To request a video or for more information, please call 800-252-2904 or 312-793-4943. Videos also are available through Illinois' 12 regional library systems. For the location of a library system in your area, please call the Illinois State Library at 800-665-5576.



SUPER SENIORS—

A Secretary of State field representative presents a Rules of the Road Review Course to more than 100 seniors in Naperville. The course is part of the Secretary of State's Super Seniors program, which provides a driving review course, a vision exam, driver's license and vehicle registration renewal and voter registration. For a Super Seniors program near you, call 800-252-2904.

Deicke Center assists visually impaired

Secretary of State personnel recently visited the Deicke Center for Visual Rehabilitation in Wheaton to learn about the latest technology and assistive devices available to those with visual impairments.

The Deicke Center is a nationally accredited, not-for-profit agency that serves people of all ages who are blind or visually impaired. The ultimate goal of the center is to provide these individuals with the tools and training necessary to function independently at home, at school, in the workplace and within the community. Services provided by the center include counseling to set visual goals and learn coping strategies, evaluations to determine usable sight, prescriptions for optical tools and training in the use of the tools.

Secretary of State Jesse White's office is working with the center to design a program to educate drivers about how vision loss can affect their driving ability. "For many older drivers and people with disabilities, driving not only is a privilege but an important part of staying active and maintaining independence," said White. "It is my goal to educate drivers on how to assess their vision as they age and to encourage regular vision testing to ensure safe driving."

For more information about the Deicke Center, please call 630-690-7115.

Take charge of your health

As we age, we must pay closer attention to our health by getting annual checkups to ensure our minds and bodies are at their optimum health. Below are guidelines on obtaining special health screenings or exams:

Blood pressure screening

Annually; more often if you have high blood pressure.

Cholesterol screening

At least every two years between the ages of 60 and 75; annually after age 75.

Dental exam

Twice a year, even if you have dentures.

Electrocardiogram (EKG)

Get a baseline EKG by age 65. The frequency after that depends on personal and family health history.

Vision/hearing exam

Annually, as part of your regular check-up.

Flu vaccination

Annually.

Breast exam

Annually, as part of your regular check-up; self breast exams recommended monthly.

Mammogram

Annually, after age 50.

Female pelvic exam/Pap test

Annually.

Occult Blood (tests blood in stool)

Annually.

Colon exam

Every three to five years, depending on your health history.

Male prostate/testicular exam

Annually, as part of your annual check-up; self testicular exams recommended monthly.

Disability parking program update

Secretary of State Jesse White's initiatives to reduce the fraudulent use of parking placards and disability license plates became effective Jan. 1, 2002. All current permanent placards expire on April 30. To receive a new permanent placard, a recertification application must be submitted to the Secretary of State's office, including a physician's statement verifying disability.

For a free brochure on the Parking Program for Persons with Disabilities or to schedule a presentation, contact the Senior & Community Services Department at 800-252-2904 (Voice/TTY).

Be Safe—Stay Alert

Follow these tips to ensure your safety in and around your vehicle:

- Check the back seat of your car before entering.
- Keep your car keys separate from your other keys.
- Never hide a set of keys on your vehicle.
- Make sure your driveway is well lighted. Install a light over your garage and an automatic garage door opener. Stay inside your locked car until the garage door has closed.
- Lock doors, roll up windows and close convertible tops and sunroofs before exiting your vehicle.
- Keep a cell phone in your car for emergencies.
- Equip your car with a NEED HELP banner or sign in case of an emergency. Stay inside your locked car until police arrive.
- Keep a first aid kit inside the car — not in the trunk.
- Keep the gas tank full. Top it off when the gas gauge dips below half a tank, and fill up during daylight hours.
- Have fluid levels and tire pressure checked often to reduce the risk of flat tires and mechanical problems.
- Make yourself more visible by driving with your lights on, even in full daylight.
- Never pick up hitchhikers.



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www.cyberdriveillinois.com

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