

NAVIGATING THE ILLINOIS STATE ARCHIVES

GETTING THE MOST OUT OF THE STATE ARCHIVES SYSTEM

The Illinois Secretary of State is also both the Illinois State Librarian and the Illinois State Archivist. All databases and catalogs created by both departments are available through the Illinois Secretary of States Website: <http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com> To reach the archives, you must click on Departments and choose Illinois State Archives to reach the online card catalog or their online databases.

Several indexes are housed on the Illinois Secretary of State's website including:

Marriages 1736-1900

Deaths pre- 1916

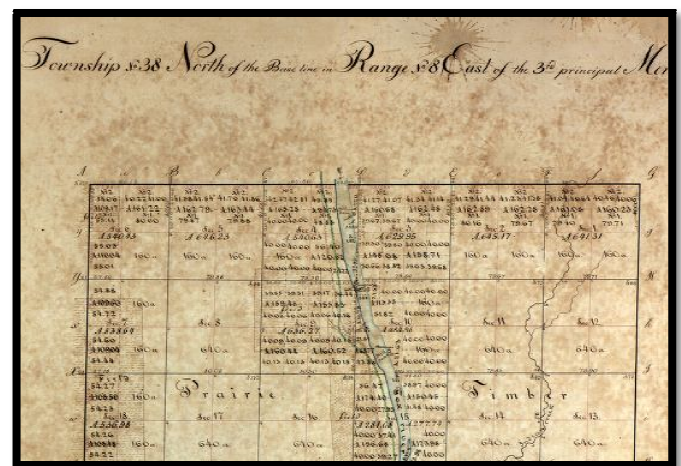
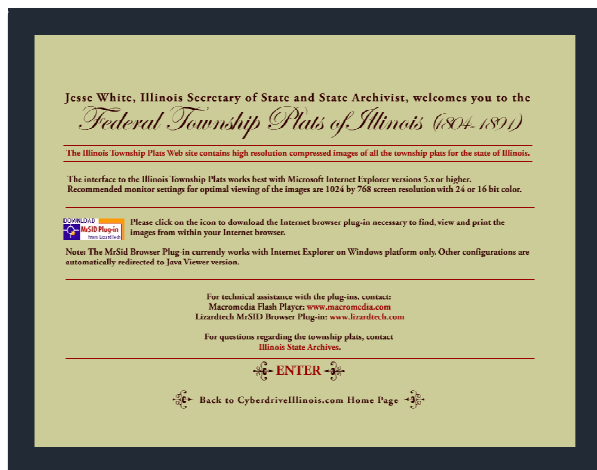
Deaths 1916-1950

Civil War Muster Rolls

Misc. Veterans Indexes



This site also has access to the original plat maps created during the creation of the township system from 1804-1891. www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/archives/databases/data_lan.html



The Illinois State Archives system is comprised of the Illinois State Archives in Springfield and seven regional facilities, each located at a state-run university. The Illinois Regional Archives Depository (IRAD) is divided into roughly 15-20 county units. The offices are largely staffed by student workers.

Microfilm and print records are available to researchers Monday through Friday. The archives are closed all major holidays and may be closed while school is out of session. Check with the repository in advance if you'll be visiting during summer or a holiday break.

Illinois Regional Archives Depositories:

Northern Illinois University (NIU)

Northeastern Illinois University (NEIU)

Eastern Illinois University (EIU)

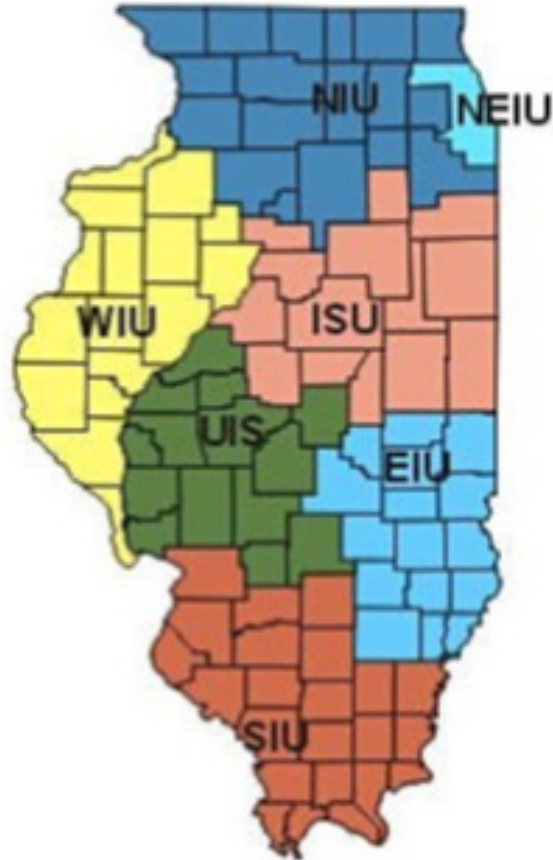
Western Illinois University (WIU)

Illinois State University (ISU)

University of Illinois at Springfield (UIS)

Southern Illinois University (SIU)

www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/archives/IRAD/iradregn.html



Records available at the regional archives facilities can vary greatly. Not all counties have submitted records to the Illinois State Archives for safekeeping. Counties, such as Will County, have provided very few records and therefore are underrepresented in the archives system. The most common types of records available within the archives facilities are:

Birth Registers/Birth Certificates

Burial Permits/Removal Permits

Coroner's Inquest Records

Death Registers/Death Certificates

Jail Registers

Marriage Registers & Marriage Certificates

Naturalizations (Naturalizations of Soldiers)

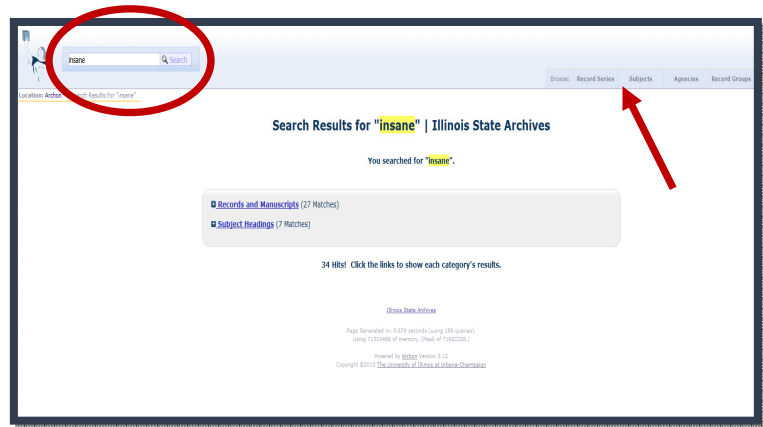
Probate Files

Contact the archives facility to verify availability of the collection and to schedule a visit.

RESEARCH IN THE ILLINOIS STATE ARCHIVES SYSTEM USING THE ONLINE CATALOG

The Illinois State Archives system is based on Record Groups (RG) like the U.S. National Archives System. If you know the Record Group number already you can put that number into the online catalog or browse by key word or subject.

- Go to: <http://archon.ilsos.net>
- Use the tabs at the top right corner of the screen to browse Record Groups and subjects
- The search box in the upper left-hand corner can be used for keyword searches



There can be multiple record groups that cover your keyword or subject search. For instance, a search for the keyword 'insane' brings up twelve different RG numbers including Federal census record collections, Department of Public Welfare, Department of Corrections as well as individual mental health centers within Illinois. The Record Group and Series are listed to the right of the collection title

Department of Public Welfare: Admission and Discharge Reports January 1920-June 1951 206/008

If you were going to visit the state archives you would need to provide the title, RG 206 and file 008 to access these records.



Clicking on Arrangement provides the details to how the collection is organized. In this case the files are alphabetical by institution and then chronological by date.

Administrative Information tells me that these records are restricted and to contact

the Archives staff for additional information.

Scope and Content will tell you if the facility you are seeking is included in this Record Group.

Other RG collections such as military records and School records can be found within the online card catalog and requested

MILITARY RECORD GROUPS

- RG 105: Auditor of Public Accounts
 - 105.011 Cancelled Warrants 1823-1971
 - 105.019 WWII Bonus Warrant Registers (numerical by warrant number)
 - Include the name, address, warrant number, and service information for men who petitioned for bonus after WWII. Includes bonus amount.
 - 105.120 WWII Bonus Warrant Registers (numerical by warrant number)
- RG 259 Illinois Veterans Home
 - Contain the admission and discharge records of soldiers and sailors who were living in the Old Soldiers and Sailors home in Danville, IL including rank, military unit, pension amount and date of death.
- RG 260: Illinois Veterans Widow's Home
 - Windows and orphans who were living in the home in Wilmington, IL are recorded including age, height, weight, birthplace, date of veteran's death.
- RG 301: Military and Naval Department
 - Black Hawk War to 1976
- RG 408: Illinois Veterans Commission Records
- RG 503: Service Recognition Board WWI
 - 503/01 WWI Bonus Application Files
 - Nearly 80% of these files were destroyed in a fire in 1934. What remains are parts of bonus applications containing name, rank, service number, next of kin, birth date and place and permanent address before and after the war.
- RG 504: Service Recognition Board WWII



SCHOOL RECORDS

- Several IRAD facilities contain school administration and school schedule records
- Auditor of Public Accounts: Record of School Land Sales 1831-1894 RG 105/086
 - School land sales records pertain to section 15 in each township across Illinois. These were the property of each school district to sell and distribute as they saw fit. All proceeds went to the school district.
- Illinois State Board of Education Annual Reports from County School Spuerintendants 1860-1961 RG 106/003

- Annual Reports include teacher salaries and expenses such as maintenance and repair fees
- Illinois State Board of Education: Public School Diploma Register 1909-1929 RG 106/023



- Teacher/Student Registers will include attendance and grades awarded per semester
- School Schedules (i.e., census) list each student and their corresponding age per district
- School Election Reports list include appointed and elected school board officials and district/regional superintendents

Monthly Schedule of a Common School,

Kept by J. C. Harrower at Wokema in District No. 7
 in Township No. 35 Range No. 12 E of the 3d Principal Meridian, in the County
 of Will and State of Illinois. Names and ages of Pupils residing in District
 No. 7 Township No. 35 Range No. 12 in Will County,
 who have attended my school during the interval between June 1, 1875 and June 26, 1876
 during which time the school was in session 20 days.

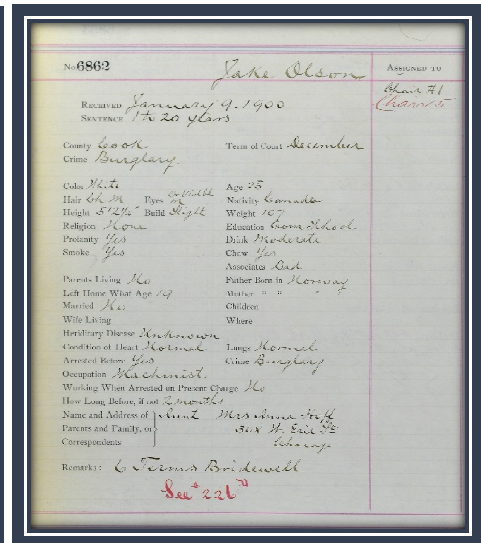
Pupil's No.	NAMES.	Age.	Ye. Days Attended.	Pupil's No.	NAMES.	Age.	Ye. Days Attended.
1	Clara Staley		20	46	Jacob Liss		18
2	Ada McLooney		20	47			
3	Minnie Schaub		20	48			
4	Rate Staley		20	49			
5	Phenia Schaub		19	50			
6	Selma Schaub		14	51			
7	Bertha Jones		19	52			
8	Hannie Hatch		14	53			
9	Lola Kinney		16	54			
10	Emma Cahill		11	55			
11	Louisa Cahill		13	56			
12	Louisa Schick		11	57			
			4	58			

ILLINOIS STATE DIGITAL ARCHIVES

<http://www.idaillinois.org>

IDA Illinois is sponsored by the Illinois State Library and includes digital collections from libraries, museums and archives across Illinois and cover all time periods from pre-statehood to the 2000s

The Illinois State Archives has several collections within IDA Illinois including the *Register of Illinois Prisons* shown here.



Other exciting collections in IDA Illinois are

- Eastern Illinois University Booth Library
 - Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society
- Field Museum of Chicago
 - World's Columbian Exposition of 1893
- Illinois State Geological Survey Library
 - Illinois Historical Aerial Photographs 1936-1941
- The Illinois State Library
 - Illinois State Blue Books
 - Illinois State highway Maps
 - Railroad Maps of Illinois
- Lake County Discovery Museum
 - Fort Sheridan Collection
- Spertus Institute
 - Jewish Sentinel Newspaper