

The Laws of Illinois Website

An Introduction

Linda Zellmer

Government Information & Data Services Librarian

Western Illinois University Libraries

LR-Zellmer@wiu.edu



Introduction

- Describe the Laws of Illinois Project & Website.
- Types of Laws – Public & Private Laws.
- Survey of topics included.
 - Laws
 - Treasurer Reports
 - Auditor Reports
- How to find laws on a particular topic.
- Demonstration via screen capture (more reliable than live).
- The Bicentennial Recognition Process

Project History

- Until 2013, CARLI gave awards for book digitization, especially for items on Illinois History.
- Illinois State Library digitized the Laws of Illinois from 1835-1842 (Lincoln in General Assembly).
- Used print volumes of the Laws from a closed collection several times to help people find historical laws on various topics.
- Thought they might be a good resource to digitize, given that the Bicentennial was approaching.
- Submitted proposals to digitize volumes from WIU in 2009, 2010 and 2011.

Project History, Continued

- Eventually sent WIU volumes containing the laws for Indiana and Illinois Territories, and the state of Illinois from 1818 - 1831, and 1849-1919.
 - Other libraries contributed volumes.
 - WIU volumes deposited in the Internet Archive.
- Built a website that links to all digitized volumes of the Laws available from any source, including the Internet Archive, Hathi Trust and Google Books.
- Internet Archive volumes can be downloaded. Other volumes cannot (unless your Library is a Hathi member).

Types of Laws

- In some cases, people using the website will see volumes labeled General or Public laws and Private laws.
- General or Public laws deal with the relationship between government and the people, and the structure and operation of state government.
- Private laws include:
 - Laws passed for the benefit of private individuals.
 - Laws dealing with private property and relationships.
 - Laws dealing with county & local government activities.
- Volumes containing both public & private laws are noted on the website.

Public Laws Examples

- Organize & compensate Militia.
- Apportionment.
- Establish counties and county seats.
- Build roads & bridges.
- Regulate resource use (saltpeter).
- School appropriations.
- Duties of public employees (sheriffs, county commissioners).
- License and regulate businesses (taverns).
- Taxation.

Private Laws Examples

- Allow divorces (sometimes listed in General Laws).
- Allow women to inherit property or serve as trustees for property of their deceased husbands.
- Establish businesses (ferries, floating bridges, inns, road companies, canal companies, railroads).
- Establish cities, villages & counties.
- Incorporations & place names.
- City charters
- Duties of county & local governments.

Unusual Laws

- Estrays, passed by the 8th General Assembly in June, 1827 deals with stray watercraft, goods and animals (all in one law).
 - Attempts must be made to find the owner.
 - If owner is not found, property above a certain value is sold after a year.
 - Funds are retained for a year in case the owner appears.
 - Funds forfeited to county after a year.

Unusual Laws

- City Council duties from charters revised in 1857 (Macomb, p. 713):
 - Prevent disease by cleaning up “nauseous houses” (privies, stables, tanneries & groceries).
 - Suppressing “disorderly houses, tippling shops . . . bawdy houses, gaming and gambling houses.”
 - Prohibiting “rolling of hoops, flying of kites or any other amusements or practices tending to annoy persons passing on the streets.”
- Other city charters that year included the same duties.

Compiled & Revised Statutes

- On occasion all existing laws were collected into one or more volumes, called Compiled or Revised Statutes (even exist today).
- Can be used to find the laws on a topic that were in effect at a given time.
- Volumes are included on a separate page for Revised & Compiled Statutes and the pages for the decade.
- I have used and referred people to these volumes when they were looking for the law in force at a given time.
 - How to become a pharmacist.
 - Adoption laws at a given time.

Auditor & Treasurer Reports

- Volumes from the 1850s and 1860s include reports of state auditors & treasurers.
- Report on state finances and how they were spent.

Auditor Reports

- General descriptions of salaries (Judge 3rd Circuit Salary in 1857 was \$243.45; 3rd Circuit State's Attorney paid \$215.25)
- Some include people's names (R.R. Hitt was paid \$260 for services as State Senate reporter in 1859).
- Stock purchases by the state.
- Property ownership tables by county.
 - Number and value of domestic animals (horses, cattle, mules, sheep & hogs).
 - Real & personal property (carriages & wagons; clocks & watches; pianos; banker's property; manufactured goods; stocks & bonds; land & town lots).
- Reports on bank finances in the state (by county).
- List of banks and bank officers.

Treasurer Reports

- Include information on State Debt.
- Interest payments on bonds.
 - Some bondholders were in New York.
 - Interest was paid in coin *in person* (State treasurer & a clerk took a state-funded trip to New York to pay interest).
- Stock [bonds] issued and purpose.
- Interest payments to specific people who had bought state bonds (by name).
- Revenues received for taxes, stock (bond) sales, school funds, railroad fund (Illinois Central) and Land fund.

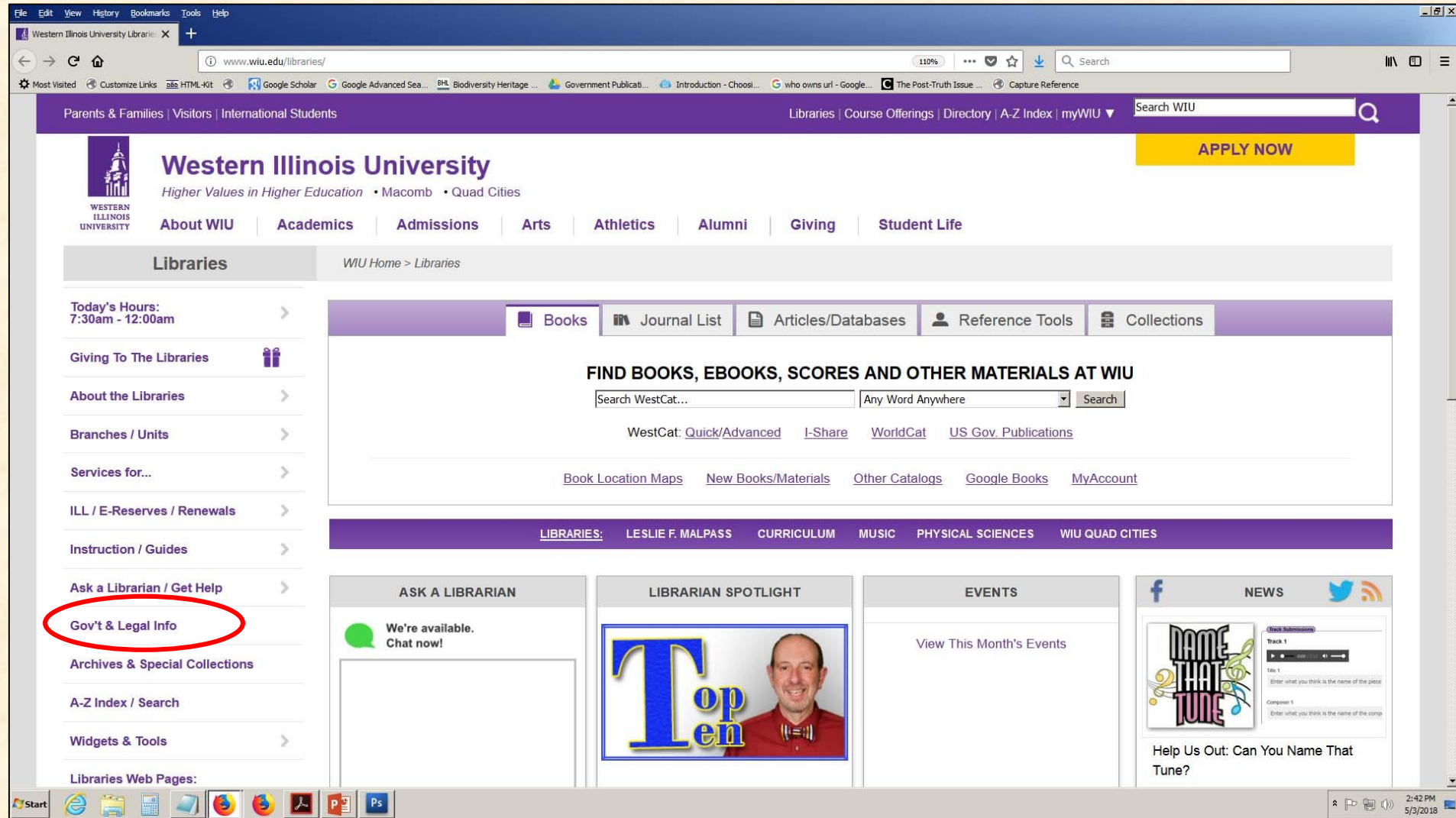
Auditor & Treasurer Reports

- Sound somewhat boring but could be a wealth of information for genealogists.
- Tables for counties could provide some interesting data for computer-aided mapping (GIS).

Using the Site

- Accessible from the [WIU Libraries Home Page](#).
- Click on Gov't & Legal Info
- Cursor down and click on Illinois Laws.

Getting to the Laws of Illinois Website



Getting to the Laws of Illinois Website

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the WIU Libraries Gov/Legal website. The address bar shows www.wiu.edu/libraries/govpubs/. The page has a purple header with navigation links: Home, Starting Points, Subject Guides, Nexis Uni, and Get Help. A central banner image shows two people in a library, with the text "Visit us on the fourth floor of Malpass Library!". Below the banner is a search bar labeled "Search Gov/Legal Pages" and contact information including an online form, phone number (309) 298-2722, and hours. A sidebar on the left lists various resources: Gov/Legal Home, Legal Links, Patents/Trademarks, Map Collection, Fed. Agencies, IL Agencies, International Info, and A to Z List. The A to Z List includes links for TAX FORMS, Illinois Legal Aid Online, and ILLINOIS LAWS, which is circled in red. A text box on the right says "Page down to see the link to the Illinois Laws. Click on this Link." with an arrow pointing to the ILLINOIS LAWS link. The right sidebar also features a "Browse by Topic" section with various subject links. The bottom of the browser window shows the Windows taskbar with the Start button and several application icons.

Gov/Legal Home

Legal Links

Patents/Trademarks

Map Collection

Fed. Agencies

IL Agencies

International Info

A to Z List

TAX FORMS

Illinois Legal Aid Online

ILLINOIS LAWS

Search Gov/Legal Pages

Contact Information:

Online Form

Ask a Question

Phone

(309) 298-2722

Gov/Legal Info office hours

Monday - Friday, 8 am - 4:30 pm

Saturday - Sunday, Closed

Location

Malpass Library (4th level)

More Information About the Unit

WIU Libraries is now a PTRC!

PTRC patent & trademark resource centers

Browse by Topic

Aging

Agriculture

Business/Economics

Careers

Children/Juvenile

Civil War (U.S.)

Constitutional Issues

Crime/Justice

Defense

Demographics

Education

Elections

Environment

Foreign Affairs

Government/Congress

Haiti

Health/Nutrition

Illinois History

Illinois Sites

Labor

McDonough County

Native Americans

Page down to see the link to the Illinois Laws. Click on this Link.

Laws of Illinois Website



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Laws of Illinois

Introduction

Through an award from the Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Illinois (CARLI), the Western Illinois University Libraries and Illinois State Library have digitized many volumes of the Laws of Illinois; some volumes are also available through Google Books and the Hathi Trust Digital Library. In most cases, the text of individual volumes can be searched. Indexes to the Laws of Illinois have been digitized by the University of Illinois-Urbana-Champaign and the Illinois State Library.

While this is not a complete collection, it is hoped that additional volumes will be added to the online collection over time. Any organization or person with volumes of the Laws of Illinois that are not included on this list should contact [Linda Zellmer](#), Government Publications & Data Services Librarian, Western Illinois University.

The links shown in the left sidebar connect to pages containing digitized volumes of the laws that governed Illinois from the time it was part of the original Northwest Territory through 1920. For ease of use, they are divided by territory and decade.

Prior to Statehood

Illinois was part of the Northwest Territory (1788-1800), Indiana Territory (1800-1809), and a separate Illinois territory until it was admitted into the Union in 1818. The laws that were passed when Illinois was part of the Northwest Territory and Indiana Territory continued to apply in Illinois until they were modified or replaced by the Territorial legislature or until a state was admitted into the Union.

Laws of the State of Illinois

Originally, the Illinois General Assembly met every two years, although special sessions were sometimes held. The laws passed during a session were printed within a year of each session. Early volumes of Illinois laws contained public and private laws, as well as the auditors and treasurer's report for that biennium. Later, especially during and after the Civil War, public and private laws were printed in separate volumes. Private laws are passed for the benefit of private individuals; they deal with private property and relationships. For example, many early private laws were passed to allow wives to inherit the property owned by their deceased husbands (women did not have the right to own property in Illinois until 1861). Public laws deal with the relationship between



Laws of Illinois Website, Western Illinois University has been recognized by the Governor's Office of the Illinois Bicentennial as an [officially designated Project](#) celebrating Illinois' 200th birthday. This site is recognized as an important resource for Illinois history and genealogy.

Using the Site


- Separate links to territorial laws (Northwest, Indiana & Illinois).
- Road to Statehood - Documents related to the Act passed by Congress leading to Illinois' statehood.
 - Traces history of the Act that resulted in Statehood in the the House & Senate Journals and Statutes at Large (15th Congress, 1st Session).
 - Act signed by President James Monroe April 18, 1818.
- Constitutions – Records of the original and subsequent Illinois constitutional conventions and constitutions including constitutions that were not approved by voters.

Laws of Illinois Website (State Laws)

- Indexes - digitized by the University of Illinois & Illinois State Library.
- Separate page of Compiled & Revised Statutes when available.
- Laws - organized by decade (oldest first).
 - Includes links to laws from 1971-Present available from General Assembly website.

Laws of Illinois Website

Additional
Decades
Below



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Laws of Illinois Website

Illinois State Constitution	Prior to Statehood
The State of Illinois	Illinois was part of the Northwest Territory (1788-1800), Indiana Territory (1800-1809), and a separate Illinois territory until it was admitted into the Union in 1818. The laws that were passed when Illinois was part of the Northwest Territory and Indiana Territory continued to apply in Illinois until they were modified or replaced by the Territorial legislature or until a state was admitted into the Union.
Indexes	
Compiled & Revised Statutes	Laws of the State of Illinois
1818-1839	Originally, the Illinois General Assembly met every two years, although special sessions were sometimes held. The laws passed during a session were printed within a year of each session. Early volumes of Illinois laws contained public and private laws, as well as the auditors and treasurer's report for that biennium. Later, especially during and after the Civil War, public and private laws were printed in separate volumes. Private laws are passed for the benefit of private individuals; they deal with private property and relationships. For example, many early private laws were passed to allow wives to inherit the property owned by their deceased husbands (women did not have the right to own property in Illinois until 1861). Public laws deal with the relationship between government and the people, and the state government's structure and operation. Public laws were passed to establish new counties, designate county seats, map the routes of roads, improve river navigation and provide other public services. Public laws affect everyone; private laws affect only one or a few people.
1840-1849	
1850-1859	
1860-1869	
1870-1879	
1880-1889	Using The Collection
1890-1899	The web site is divided by time period and resource: Territorial Laws, a page with links related to Illinois Statehood, Illinois Constitutions, and the Laws of the State of Illinois. The Laws section is further divided: a separate page provides links to indexes to the Laws of Illinois, laws divided by decade (more or less), and links to current laws.
1900-1909	To research an issue, start with the indexes. There are three different indexes: an index to the laws of Indiana Territory & state (for information on territorial laws while Illinois was part of Indiana Territory), an index to the laws of the state of Illinois from 1818 to 1868, and an index to all of the laws of Illinois from 1812 to 1968, which was developed by the Illinois Secretary of State. The 1818-1869 index is cumulative, although it is divided into separate sections for General and Private & Special laws. It can be searched to find specific terms, although the search capabilities are not always perfect (for example, hyphenated terms may not be found by a search). Information about places are found in the Private & Special Laws.
Recent/Current	
Reports to General Assembly	The 6-volume Secretary of State's Index is organized by biennial session. Public and private laws for each session are indexed separately. The individual volumes can be reliably searched, which greatly improves access. Once a law of interest is found, note which General Assembly session passed the law, the volume (private or public laws) and page number. Then use the sections which are divided by decade to connect to the appropriate volume for that General Assembly session. A few of the larger volumes of the Laws were divided into sections during the digitization process. Page numbers for those volumes are indicated in each citation.

Laws of Illinois Indexes



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Indexes

- Easiest way to find information is by using the Indexes available.
- Index for the laws of Indiana Territory & State to 1890 (Illinois was part of Indiana Territory from 1800 to 1809).
- Index to the Laws of Illinois to 1869 (Eugene & William Gross).
- Indexes from the Secretary of State (includes laws passed by Illinois Territorial Legislatures).

Indexes – Gross Index

- Early index to 1869 by Eugene & William Gross.
- *Not* searchable. Users must browse for information on topic.
- Easier to use as a PDF (download and keep it).
- Digitized by the University of Illinois from UIC collections.
- Contains an inventory of the volumes of Illinois Laws to 1869 at front with information on how they are cited in the volume.
 - Inventory includes Assembly number and date begun.
- Also includes information on the Territorial legislatures and their sessions.

Indexes – Gross Index

- Volume organized by subject.
- Brief contents of subjects at front.
- Separate sections for General & Private laws.
- Includes historical information related to Illinois Counties.
 - Information about Counties included in the Private Laws.
 - Remember that county boundaries changed over time.
- Laws on cities and towns are listed under their counties.
- Includes names of people (divorces granted, name changes, business licenses, Illinois Supreme Court judges, Circuit judges).

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Warren county.		Woodford county.	(140)

ORGANIZATION OF COUNTIES.—The time when the acts were passed, under which the several counties in this state were organized, are presented in the following table, with a reference to the book and page where the act is printed at large:

County.	Date of act.	Reference.	County.	Date of act.	Reference.
Adams.	13 Jan. 1825.	Laws 1825, 93.	Lee.	27 Feb. 1839.	Laws 1839, 170.
Alexander.	4 Mar. 1819.	" 1819, 133.	Livingston.	" 1837.	" Laws 1837, 83.
Bond.	" 1 Feb. 1839.	" Territorial.	Logan.	" 15 " 1839.	" Laws 1839, 104.
Boone.	4 Mar. 1837.	" Laws 1837, 95.	Macon.	19 Jan. 1829.	" 1829, 28.
Brown.	" 28 " 1837.	" Laws 1837, 93.	Macoupin.	" 17 " " "	" 26.
Bureau.	" 28 " 1837.	" Laws 1837, 93.	Madison.	14 Sept. 1812.	MS. 43.
Calhoun.	19 Jan. 1825.	" Laws 1825, 65.	Marion.	24 Jan. 1833.	" Laws 1833, 49.
Carroll.	22 Feb. 1839.	" 1839, 160.	Marshall.	19 " 1839.	" 1839, 43.
Cass.	3 Mar. 1837.	" Laws 1837, 101.	Masson.	20 " 1841.	" 1841, 69.
Champaign.	20 Feb. 1833.	Pr. L. 1833, 28.	Massac.	8 Feb. 1843.	" 1843, 74.
Christian.	15 " 1839.	Laws 1840, 80.	McDonough.	25 Jan. 1826.	" 1826, 76.
Clark.	22 Mar. 1819.	" 1819, 106.	McHenry.	16 " 1836.	" 1836, 273.
Clay.	23 Dec. 1824.	" 1825, 18.	McLean.	25 Dec. 1830.	" 1831, 57.
Clinton.	27 " " "	" 27.	Menard.	15 Feb. 1839.	" 1839, 104.
Colles.	25 " 1830.	" 1831, 59.	Merced.	13 Jan. 1825.	" 1825, 94.
Cook.	15 Jan. 1831.	" 54.	Monroe.	" " " " "	Territorial.
Crawford.	" " " " "	Territorial.	Montgomery.	12 Feb. 1821.	" Laws 1821, 143.
Cumberland.	2 Mar. 1843.	" Laws 1843, 94.	Morgan.	31 Jan. 1823.	" 1823, 108.
DeKalb.	4 " 1837.	" Laws 1837, 96.	Moultrie.	16 Feb. 1843.	" 1843, 83.
DeWitt.	1 " 1839.	" Laws 1839, 199.	Ogle.	" Jan. 1836.	" 1836, 274.
Douglas.	13 Feb. 1857.	" 1857, 71.	Peoria.	" 13 " 1825.	" 1825, 85.
DuPage.	9 " 1839.	" 1839, 73.	Perry.	29 " 1837.	" R. S. 1827, 110.
Edgar.	3 Jan. 1823.	" 1823, 74.	Platt.	27 " 1841.	" Laws 1841, 71.
Edwards.	38 Nov. 1814.	Pope 85.	Pike.	31 " 1821.	" 1821, 59.
Effingham.	15 Feb. 1831.	" Laws 1831, 50.	Pope.	" " " " "	Territorial.
Fayette.	14 " 1821.	" 1821, 164.	Pulaski.	3 Mar. 1843.	" Laws 1843, 99.
Ford.	17 " 1859.	" 1859, 29.	Putnam.	13 Jan. 1825.	" 1825, 94.
Franklin.	38 Jan. 1823.	" Laws 1823, 88.	Randolph.	24 Feb. 1841.	" Original.
Fulton.	14 Sept. 1812.	MS. 44.	Richard.	" 1841.	" Laws 1841, 77.
Gallatin.	20 Jan. 1821.	" Laws 1821, 26.	Rock Island.	9 " 1831.	" 1831, 52.
Greene.	17 Feb. 1841.	" 1841, 74.	Saline.	25 " 1847.	" Pr. L. 1847, 34.
Grundy.	30 Jan. 1821.	" Laws 1821, 45.	Sangamon.	30 Jan. 1821.	" Laws 1821, 45.
Hamilton.	8 " 1821.	" 1821, 113.	Schuyler.	13 " 1825.	" 1825, 92.
Hancock.	13 Jan. 1825.	" 1825, 93.	Scott.	16 Feb. 1839.	" 1839, 126.
Hardin.	2 Mar. 1839.	" 1839, 234.	Shelby.	23 Jan. 1837.	" R. S. 1837, 115.
Henderson.	20 Jan. 1841.	" 1841, 67.	Stark.	2 Mar. 1839.	" Laws 1839, 229.
Henry.	13 " 1825.	" 1825, 94.	St. Clair.	" " " " "	Original.
Iroquois.	26 Feb. 1838.	Pr. L. 1838, 19.	Stephenson.	4 Mar. 1837.	" Laws 1837, 96.
Jackson.	" " " " "	Territorial.	Tazewell.	31 Jan. 1827.	" R. S. 1827, 113.
Jasper.	15 Feb. 1831.	" Laws 1831, 50.	Union.	" " " " "	Territorial.
Jefferson.	26 Mar. 1819.	" 1819, 267.	Vermilion.	18 Jan. 1826.	" Laws 1826, 50.
Jersey.	28 Feb. 1839.	" 1839, 208.	Wabash.	27 Dec. 1824.	" 1825, 25.
Jo Daviess.	17 " 1827.	" R. S. 1827, 117.	Warren.	13 Jan. 1825.	" " 93.
Johnson.	14 Sept. 1812.	MS. 44.	Washington.	" " " " "	Territorial.
Kane.	16 Jan. 1836.	" Laws 1836, 273.	Wayne.	26 Mar. 1819.	" Laws 1819, 268.
Kankakee.	11 Feb. 1851.	" 1851, 30.	White.	" " " " "	Territorial.
Kendall.	19 " 1841.	" 1841, 73.	Whiteside.	16 Jan. 1836.	" Laws 1836, 274.
Knox.	13 Jan. 1825.	" 1825, 94.	Will.	12 " 1836.	" " 262.
Lake.	1 Mar. 1839.	" 1839, 216.	Williamson.	28 Feb. 1839.	" 1839, 110.
LaSalle.	15 Jan. 1831.	" 1831, 54.	Winnebago.	16 Jan. 1836.	" 1836, 273.
Lawrence.	16 " 1821.	" 1821, 16.	Woodford.	27 Feb. 1841.	" 1841, 84.

McDonough County - - - McHenry County.

compared and certified, effect thereof; L. 1853 (10 Feb.) 225. Fines and forfeitures go to county treasury; Pr. L. 1857 (9 Feb.) 312. Construct turnpike across the Cache ponds on Metropolis and Vienna roads; Id. (16 Feb.) 1069. Swamp lands; L. 1857 (12 Feb.) 44. S. Cope-land, ferry across the Ohio, Town 15-3; L. 1843 (28 Feb.) 146. John M. Robinson, the same, across the Mississippi at Massac; road from ferry to Wilcox, located; Id. (2 Mar.) 146. Thos. G. C. Davis, the same, across the Ohio at Brooklyn; Pr. L. 1851 (8 Feb.) 58. Adm'r of J. M. Robinson to deed property; L. 1845 (7 Jan.) 200. Robert Enders, adm'r John Hynes to join with proprietors of Massac in certain conveyances; Pr. L. 1847 (26 Feb.) 7. John W. Reed, sheriff, time to pay revenue for 1846 extended 3 months; Id. (1 Mar.) 192. Payment to Sam'l S. Marshall and others, for services in Massac troubles; L. 1849 (8 Feb.) 117. The same, to Anderson P. Corder, prosecuting attorney in Massac riots; L. 1851 (14 Feb.) 89. Brooklyn chartered; Pr. L. 1855 (15 Feb.) 170. Metropolitan Cemetery Association chartered; Id. 448. Emporium Real Estate and Manufacturing Co. chartered; Pr. L. 1857 (26 Jan.) 69.

Metropolis.—Plat altered; L. 1841 (24 Feb.) 313. Town chartered; L. 1845 (25 Feb.) 200; amendment; Pr. L. 1851 (15 Feb.) 242; further amends, license tippling houses etc., additions thereto; Pr. L. 1857 (16 Feb.) 876; further amends, and city chartered; Pr. L. 1859 (18 Feb.) 214; foregoing amended, qualification of voters; Pr. L. 1861 (21 Feb.) 235; limits extended; 1 Pr. L. 1867 (22 Feb.) 406. Wm. J. Stephenson allowed \$114.80 as clerk of District Court 19 Sept. 1849; Pr. L. 1851 (15 Feb.) 170. John M. Cunningham allowed \$100. as Marshall of District Court; Pr. L. 1853 (3 Feb.) 494. Lots 407-8, block 33, deed to trustees Methodist E. Church; L. 1853 (10 Feb.) 261. Elect police justice with \$150. jurisdiction; Pr. L. 1857 (10 Feb.) 924. Metropolis College chartered; Pr. L. 1861 (22 Feb.) 20. Library Association and Historical Society chartered; Id. 552. Jonathan C. Willis, ferry across the Ohio; 1 Pr. L. 1865 (15 Feb.) 565. Metropolis Seminary chartered; 1 Pr. L. 1867 (25 Feb.) 15.

MCDONOUGH COUNTY.

County established, boundary defined; remain attached to Schuyler; L. 1826 (25 Jan.) 76. County seat located on S. E. 31. 6-2 and called Macomb; L. 1831 (24 Dec. '30) 62. Sheriff allowed time to collect taxes; 1 L. 1837 (4 Mar.) 323. Payments in lieu of resident lands tax; 2 L. 1837 (21 July) 59. Records copied from Madison legalized; L. 1845 (1 Mar.) 143. Assessments for 1850 legalized; L. 1851 (28 Jan.) 8. Tax to pay bounties to soldiers and relieve their families; 1 Pr. L. 1865 (6 Feb.) 137. Index to circuit court records; sectional land index; 2 Pr. L. 1865 (16 Feb.) 233. Tax and issue bonds to build court house; Id. (15 Feb.) 336. County Aid Soldiers Monument Association; 1 Pr. L. 1867 (18 Feb.) 877. For erection of new court house and jail; 2 Pr. L. 1867 (7 Mar.) 126. Refund to Q. C. Ward the amount of county funds taken from his safe by burglars;

L. 1869 (27 Mar.) 339. Section 2 act 22 Jan. 1831 [L. 1831, 38] concerning roads and bridges, to last Monday in Oct. 1833; Pr. L. 1833 (22 Feb.) 13; supplemental to said act; L. 1837 (4 Mar.) 26. Road, Macomb to Havana, changed in part; L. 1835 (27 Jan.) 124. Road, Troublesome creek via Bacons mill to Macomb and Burlington road; 1 L. 1837 (27 Feb.) 268. Road, Beardstown to Des Moines Rapids, re-locate in part; L. 1839 (24 Jan.) 51. Sewardsville plat vacated; Pr. L. 1847 (26 Feb.) 207. McDonough College chartered; Pr. L. 1849 (26 Jan.) 26; amendment; Pr. L. 1851 (23 Jan.) 11; appointment of trustees; Pr. L. 1855 (14 Feb.) 585; foregoing amended; act 1851 revived; Pr. L. 1859 (24 Feb.) 369. W. T. Head, late collector, allowed credits in 1850-1; L. 1855 (14 Feb.) 90. Prairie City Academy chartered; Pr. L. 1857 (30 Jan.) 117. Hill's Grove Academy chartered; Id. (16 Feb.) 880. Blandinsville Seminary and Joint Stock Education Society of the United Brethren in Christ; Pr. L. 1859 (24 Feb.) 358. Incorporation of Blandinsville confirmed and officers acts legalized; Id. 558. Middletown changed to Young; Id. 720. Creates additional voting precinct in Prairie City; 2 Pr. L. 1863 (16 Feb.) 560. School district of Blandinsville established; 3 Pr. L. 1867 (4 Mar.) 28. Colchester chartered; Id. (16 Feb.) 552. Industry chartered; Id. (19 Feb.) 611. Clarksville name changed to Sciota; L. 1869 (29 Mar.) 260. Sheridan name changed to Good Hope; Id. (31 Mar.) 290. Kate Lisk made heir of O. M. Lisk; Id. (29 Mar.) 341.

Macomb.—Town chartered; L. 1841 (27 Jan.) 317; vacates part of plat; Pr. L. 1847 (16 Feb.) 207; assessment and collection of taxes, sale of real estate for; L. 1853 (12 Feb.) 166. City chartered; Pr. L. 1855 (15 Feb.) 10; incorporating acts consolidated and amended; Pr. L. 1857 (14 Feb.) 713; foregoing amended; publish statement, penalty for neglect; take stock in any Railroad; Pr. L. 1859 (24 Feb.) 213; filling vacancies; Pr. L. 1861 (22 Feb.) 236; payment of fines; part of charter repealed; 1 Pr. L. 1865 (16 Feb.) 451; further amends, §4 repealed; 1 Pr. L. 1867 (21 Feb.) 392; election of supervisors and other officers; Id. (23 Feb.) 678. Additional judges of election; L. 1839 (15 Feb.) 120. McDonough College chartered; L. 1836 (12 Jan.) 164. Macomb Mutual Insurance Co. chartered; Pr. L. 1855 (14 Feb.) 407. Presbyter of Schuyler convey real estate to Macomb Lodge No. 17, A. F. and A. Masons; Pr. L. 1861 (21 Feb.) 89. McDonough Normal and Scientific College chartered; 1 Pr. L. 1867 (1 Mar.) 18. McDonough Home Insurance Co. chartered; 2 Pr. L. 1867 (7 Mar.) 186.

Bushnell.—Town chartered; 2 Pr. L. 1865 (16 Feb.) 387; tax to pay Peoria and Warsaw Railway; 3 Pr. L. 1867 (5 Mar.) 127. Bushnell College chartered; Pr. L. 1857 (17 Feb.) 1175. National Brick Machine Co. chartered; 2 Pr. L. 1867 (28 Feb.) 299. Township established for school purposes; 3 Pr. L. 1867 (13 Feb.) 6.

MCHEERY COUNTY.

County formed, boundary and organization; L. 1836 (16 Jan.) 273; to include Lak. Michigan; 1 L. 1837 (1 Mar.) 89; assessment for 1839 legal-

Gross Index

Macomb.—Town chartered; L. 1841 (27 Jan.) 317; vacates part of plat; Pr. L. 1847 (16 Feb.) 207; assessment and collection of taxes, sale of real estate for; L. 1853 (12 Feb.) 166. City chartered; Pr. L. 1855 (15 Feb.) 10; incorporating acts consolidated and amended; Pr. L. 1857 (14 Feb.) 713; foregoing amended; publish statement, penalty for neglect; take stock in any Railroad; Pr. L. 1859 (24 Feb.) 213; filling vacancies; Pr. L. 1861 (22 Feb.) 236; payment of fines; part of charter repealed; 1 Pr. L. 1865 (16 Feb.) 451; further amends, §4 repealed; 1 Pr. L. 1867 (21 Feb.) 392; election of supervisors and other officers; Id. (23 Feb.) 678. Additional judges of election; L. 1839 (15 Feb.) 120. McDonough College chartered; L. 1836 (12 Jan.) 164. Macomb Mutual Insurance Co. chartered; Pr. L. 1855 (14 Feb.) 407. Presbyter of Schuyler convey real estate to Macomb Lodge No. 17, A. F. and A. Masons; Pr. L. 1861 (21 Feb.) 89. McDonough Normal and Scientific College chartered; 1 Pr. L. 1867 (1 Mar.) 18. McDonough Home Insurance Co. chartered; 2 Pr. L. 1867 (7 Mar.) 186.

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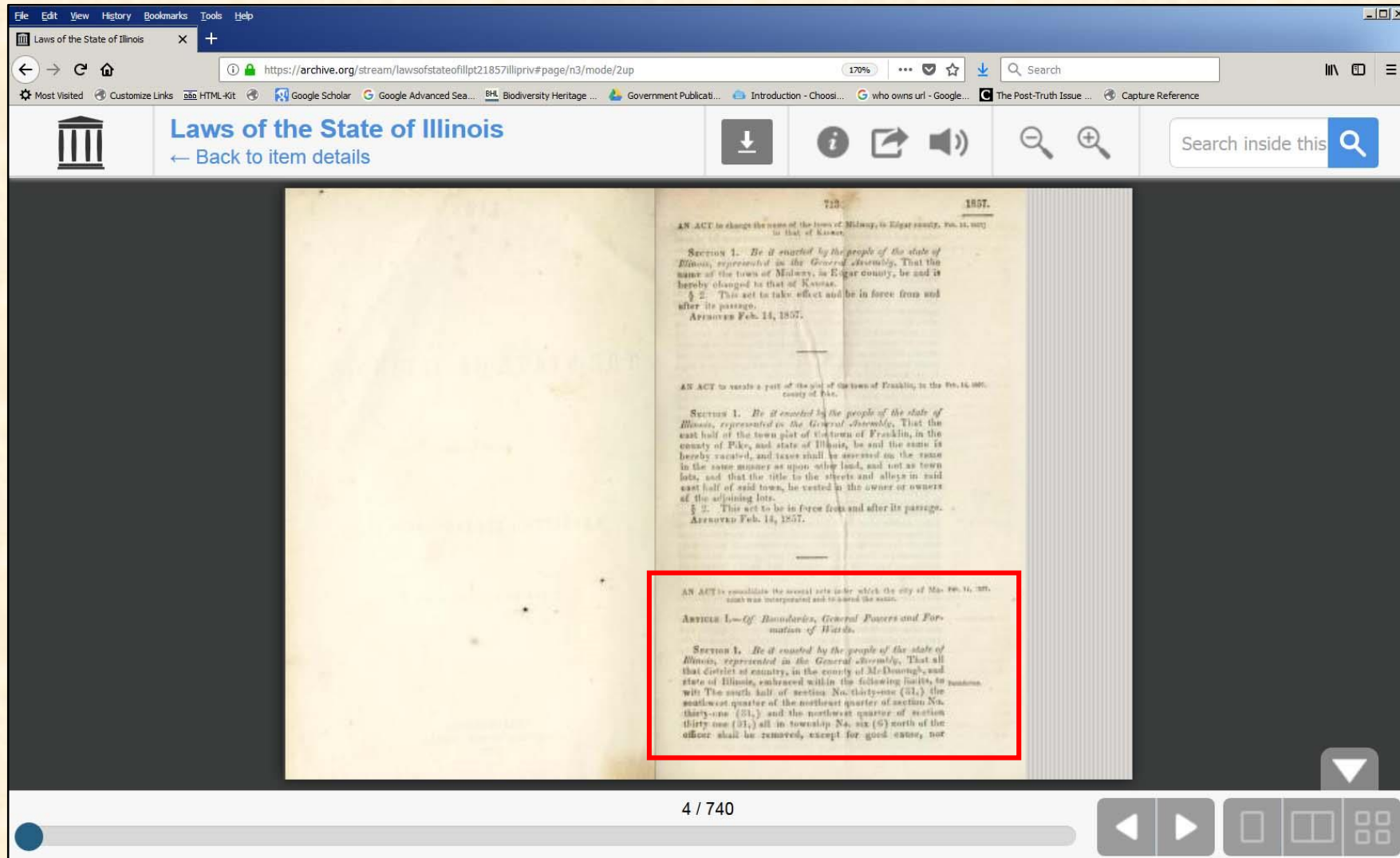
Laws of Illinois Website

Illinois State Constitution	Prior to Statehood
The State of Illinois	Illinois was part of the Northwest Territory (1788-1800), Indiana Territory (1800-1809), and a separate Illinois territory until it was admitted into the Union in 1818. The laws that were passed when Illinois was part of the Northwest Territory and Indiana Territory continued to apply in Illinois until they were modified or replaced by the Territorial legislature or until a state was admitted into the Union.
Indexes	
Compiled & Revised Statutes	Laws of the State of Illinois
1818-1839	Originally, the Illinois General Assembly met every two years, although special sessions were sometimes held. The laws passed during a session were printed within a year of each session. Early volumes of Illinois laws contained public and private laws, as well as the auditors and treasurer's report for that biennium. Later, especially during and after the Civil War, public and private laws were printed in separate volumes. Private laws are passed for the benefit of private individuals; they deal with private property and relationships. For example, many early private laws were passed to allow wives to inherit the property owned by their deceased husbands (women did not have the right to own property in Illinois until 1861). Public laws deal with the relationship between government and the people, and the state government's structure and operation. Public laws were passed to establish new counties, designate county seats, map the routes of roads, improve river navigation and provide other public services. Public laws affect everyone; private laws affect only one or a few people.
1840-1849	
1850-1859	
1860-1869	
1870-1879	
1880-1889	Using The Collection
1890-1899	The web site is divided by time period and resource: Territorial Laws, a page with links related to Illinois Statehood, Illinois Constitutions, and the Laws of the State of Illinois. The Laws section is further divided: a separate page provides links to indexes to the Laws of Illinois, laws divided by decade (more or less), and links to current laws.
1900-1909	To research an issue, start with the indexes. There are three different indexes: an index to the laws of Indiana Territory & state (for information on territorial laws while Illinois was part of Indiana Territory), an index to the laws of the state of Illinois from 1818 to 1868, and an index to all of the laws of Illinois from 1812 to 1968, which was developed by the Illinois Secretary of State. The 1818-1869 index is cumulative, although it is divided into separate sections for General and Private & Special laws. It can be searched to find specific terms, although the search capabilities are not always perfect (for example, hyphenated terms may not be found by a search). Information about places are found in the Private & Special Laws.
Recent/Current	
Reports to General Assembly	The 6-volume Secretary of State's Index is organized by biennial session. Public and private laws for each session are indexed separately. The individual volumes can be reliably searched, which greatly improves access. Once a law of interest is found, note which General Assembly session passed the law, the volume (private or public laws) and page number. Then use the sections which are divided by decade to connect to the appropriate volume for that General Assembly session. A few of the larger volumes of the Laws were divided into sections during the digitization process. Page numbers for those volumes are indicated in each citation.

Laws of Illinois Website

Libraries	WIU Home > Libraries > Govpubs > Illinois Laws
<div data-bbox="293 372 420 496"></div> <div data-bbox="267 525 631 1379"><ul style="list-style-type: none">Gov/Legal HomeLaws of Illinois HomePrior to StatehoodNorthwest TerritoryIndiana TerritoryIllinois TerritoryThe Road to Illinois StatehoodIllinois State ConstitutionThe State of IllinoisIndexesCompiled & Revised Statutes1818-18391840-18491850-18591860-18691870-1879</div>	<div data-bbox="644 354 1085 391"><h2>Laws of Illinois 1850-1859</h2></div> <div data-bbox="644 419 2211 1365"><p>General Laws of the State of Illinois passed by the Seventeenth General Assembly at the Session Commencing January 6, 1851, [1st Session], Public Laws, Springfield: Lanphier & Walker, Printers, 1851.</p><p>Private Laws of the State of Illinois, passed at the First Session Seventeenth General Assembly, begun and held at the City of Springfield, January 6, 1851. Springfield: Lanphier & Walker, Printers, 1851. [1st Session]</p><p>Biennial Report of the Treasurer of Illinois; Biennial Repot of the Auditor of Public Accounts of the State of Illinois. Springfield, 1850.</p><p>Laws of the State of Illinois, passed by the Seventeenth General Assembly, Second Session, commencing June 7, 1852. Springfield: Lanphier & Walker, Printers, 1852.</p><p>General Laws of the State of Illinois passed by the Eighteenth General Assembly, convened January 3, 1853. Springfield: Lanphier & Walker, Printers. 1853.</p><p>Private Laws of the State of Illinois, passed at the First Session Eighteenth General Assembly begun and held at the City of Springfield, January 7, 1853. Springfield: Lanphier & Walker, Printers, 1853.</p><p>Biennial Report of the Auditor of Public Accounts, 1853; Biennial Report of the Treasurer of Illinois; Springfield, 1852.</p><p>[Public & Private] Laws of the State of Illinois, passed by the Eighteenth General Assembly at its Second Session, commencing February 9, 1854. Springfield: Lanphier & Walker, Printers, 1854. Private Laws start on page 35.</p><p>Laws of the State of Illinois passed by the Nineteenth General Assembly, convened January 1, 1855. Springfield: Lanphier & Walker, Printers, 1855.</p><p>Private Laws of the State of Illinois, passed at the Nineteenth General Assembly, begun and held at the City of Springfield, January 1, 1855. Springfield: Lanphier & Walker, Printers. 1855.</p><p>Biennial Report of the Auditor of Public Accounts of the State of Illinois, 1854; Treasurer's Report. Springfield, 1854.</p><p>Purple, N. H. A Compilation of the Statutes of the State of Illinois: of a General Nature, In Force January 1, 1856. Chicago: Keen & Lee, 1856. From Google Books. Another Copy from the Hathi Trust Digital Library.</p><p>Laws of the State of Illinois, passed by the Twentieth General Assembly convened January 5, 1857. Springfield: Lanphier & Walker, Printers, 1857.</p><div><p>Private Laws of the State of Illinois, passed at the Twentieth General Assembly, begun and held at the City of Springfield, January 5, 1857. Springfield: Lanphier & Walker, Printers, 1857, Private Laws to Page 712.</p><p>Private Laws of the State of Illinois, passed at the Twentieth General Assembly, begun and held at the City of Springfield, January 5, 1857. Springfield: Lanphier & Walker, Printers, 1857, Private Laws Page 713 to End.</p></div></div>

Laws of Illinois, Private Laws, 1857, p. 713



Laws of Illinois, Private Laws, 1857, p. 713

AN ACT to consolidate the several acts under which the city of Macomb was incorporated and to amend the same. Feb. 14, 1857.

ARTICLE I.—*Of Boundaries, General Powers and Formation of Wards.*

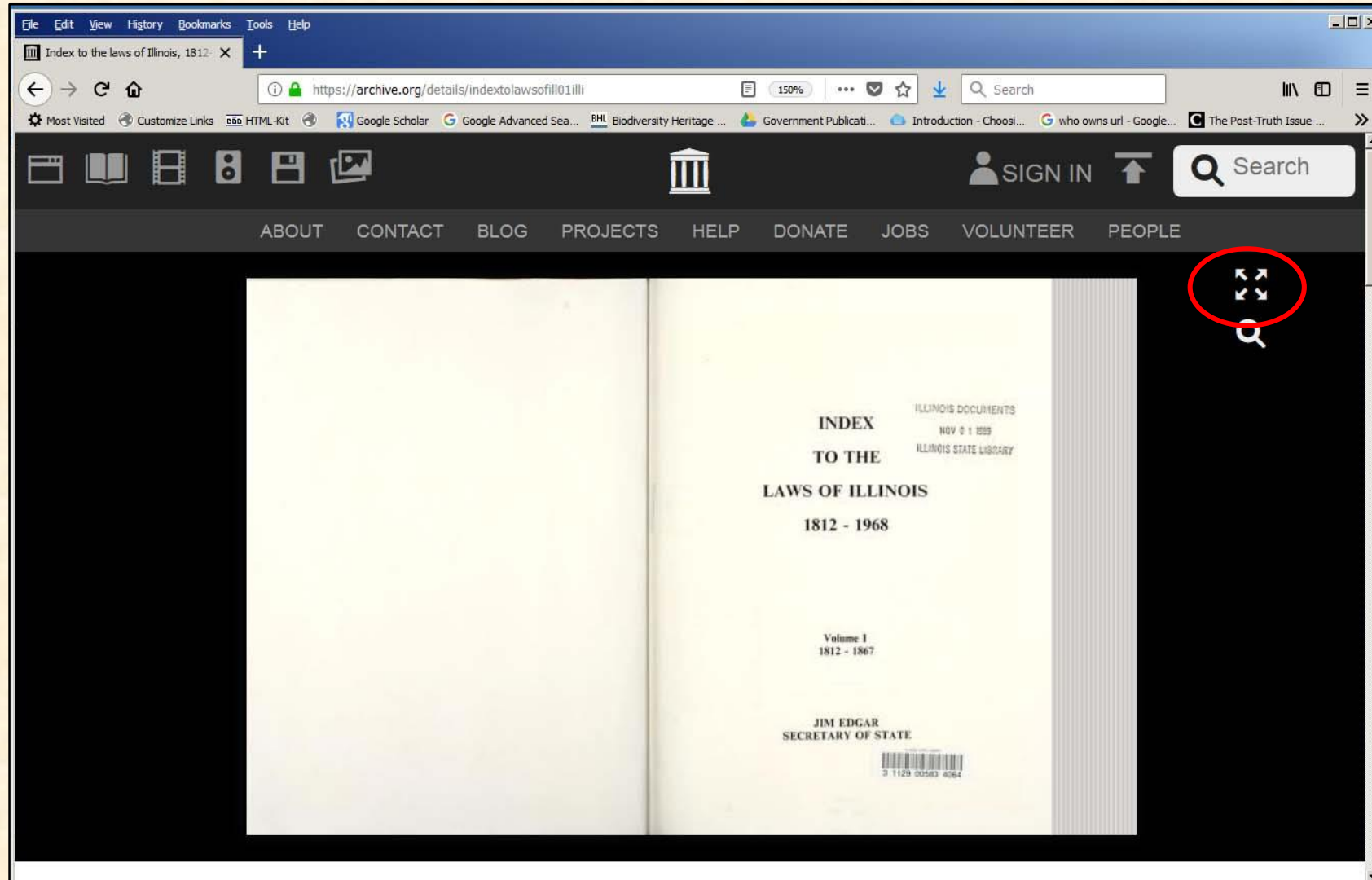
SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the people of the state of Illinois, represented in the General Assembly, That all that district of country, in the county of McDonough, and state of Illinois, embraced within the following limits, to wit: The south half of section No. thirty-one (31,) the southwest quarter of the northeast quarter of section No. thirty-one (31,) and the northwest quarter of section thirty one (31,) all in township No. six (6) north of the* Boundaries. *officer shall be removed, except for good cause, nor*

Law for Macomb includes duties for city officials. It ends on p. 752

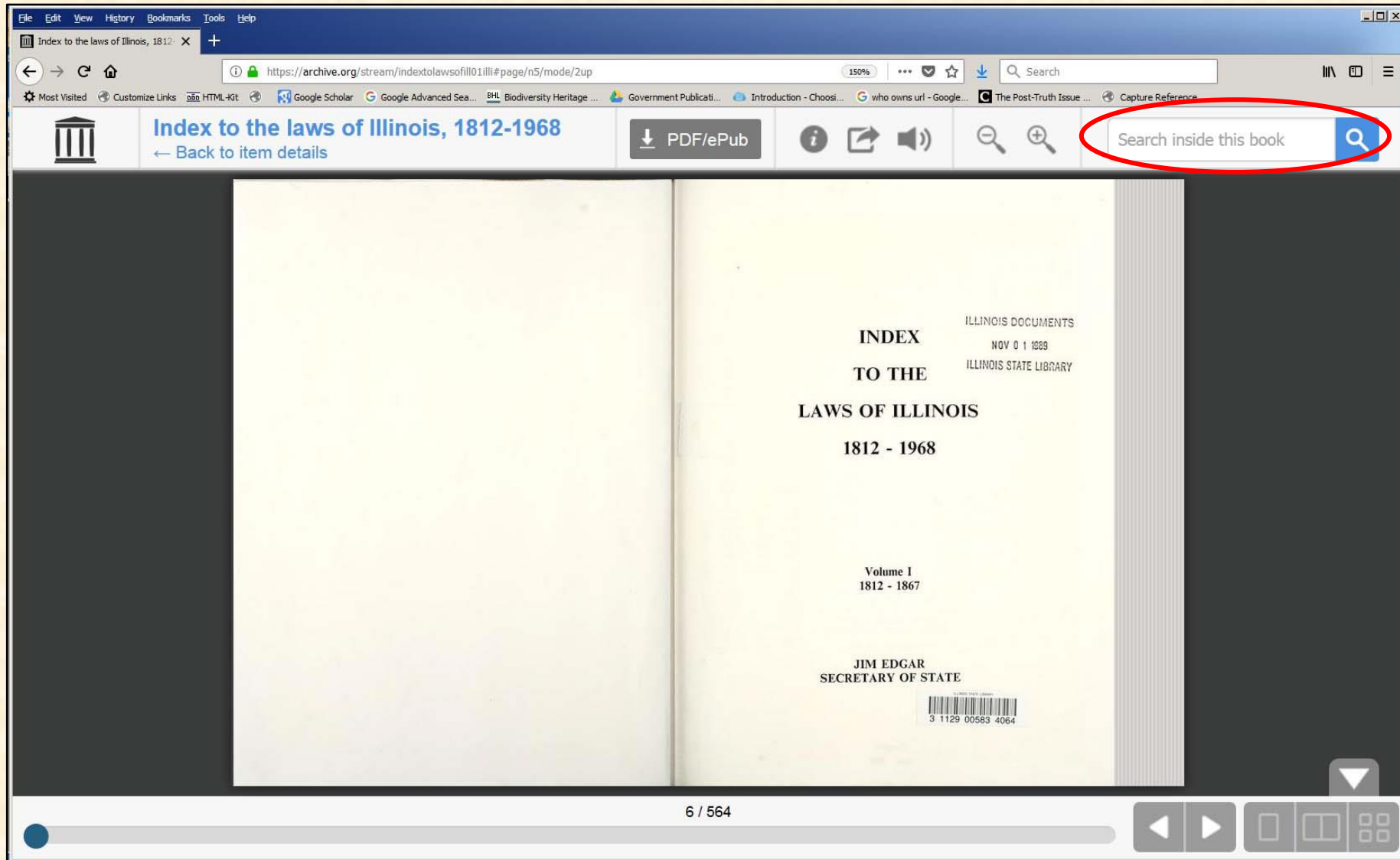
Indexes – Secretary of State

- Sent for digitization by the Illinois State Library.
- Is Searchable.
- Includes laws for Illinois Territory and the State of Illinois.
- Can find city and town incorporations by searching place names.
- Names sometimes included (divorces, ferries).
- To find the text of a law, note the year at the top and the page number, then go to the Laws of Illinois website to access the volume for that year.

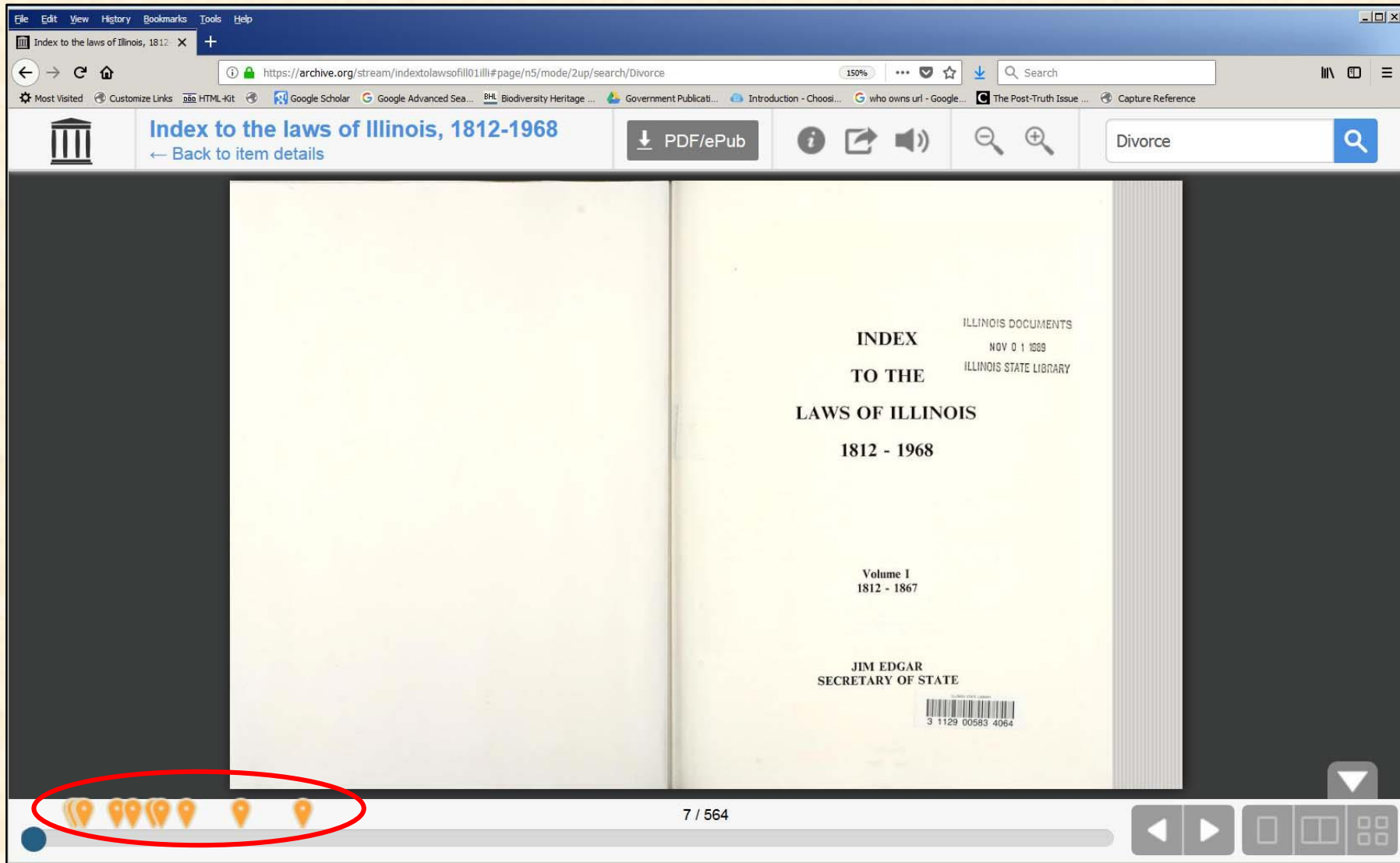
Secretary of State Indexes



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Index to the laws of Illinois, 1812-1968

← Back to item details

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Divorce

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Divorce

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Court Of Appeals:				
Act abolishing	98	H -	569	
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Laws of Illinois

Introduction

Through an award from the Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Illinois (CARLI), the Western Illinois University Libraries and Illinois State Library have digitized many volumes of the Laws of Illinois; some volumes are also available through Google Books and the Hathi Trust Digital Library. In most cases, the text of individual volumes can be searched. Indexes to the Laws of Illinois have been digitized by the University of Illinois-Urbana-Champaign and the Illinois State Library.

While this is not a complete collection, it is hoped that additional volumes will be added to the online collection over time. Any organization or person with volumes of the Laws of Illinois that are not included on this list should contact [Linda Zellmer](#), Government Publications & Data Services Librarian, Western Illinois University.

The links shown in the left sidebar connect to pages containing digitized volumes of the laws that governed Illinois from the time it was part of the original Northwest Territory through 1920. For ease of use, they are divided by territory and decade.

Prior to Statehood

Illinois was part of the Northwest Territory (1788-1800), Indiana Territory (1800-1809), and a separate Illinois territory until it was admitted into the Union in 1818. The laws that were passed when Illinois was part of the Northwest Territory and Indiana Territory continued to apply in Illinois until they were modified or replaced by the Territorial legislature or until a state was admitted into the Union.

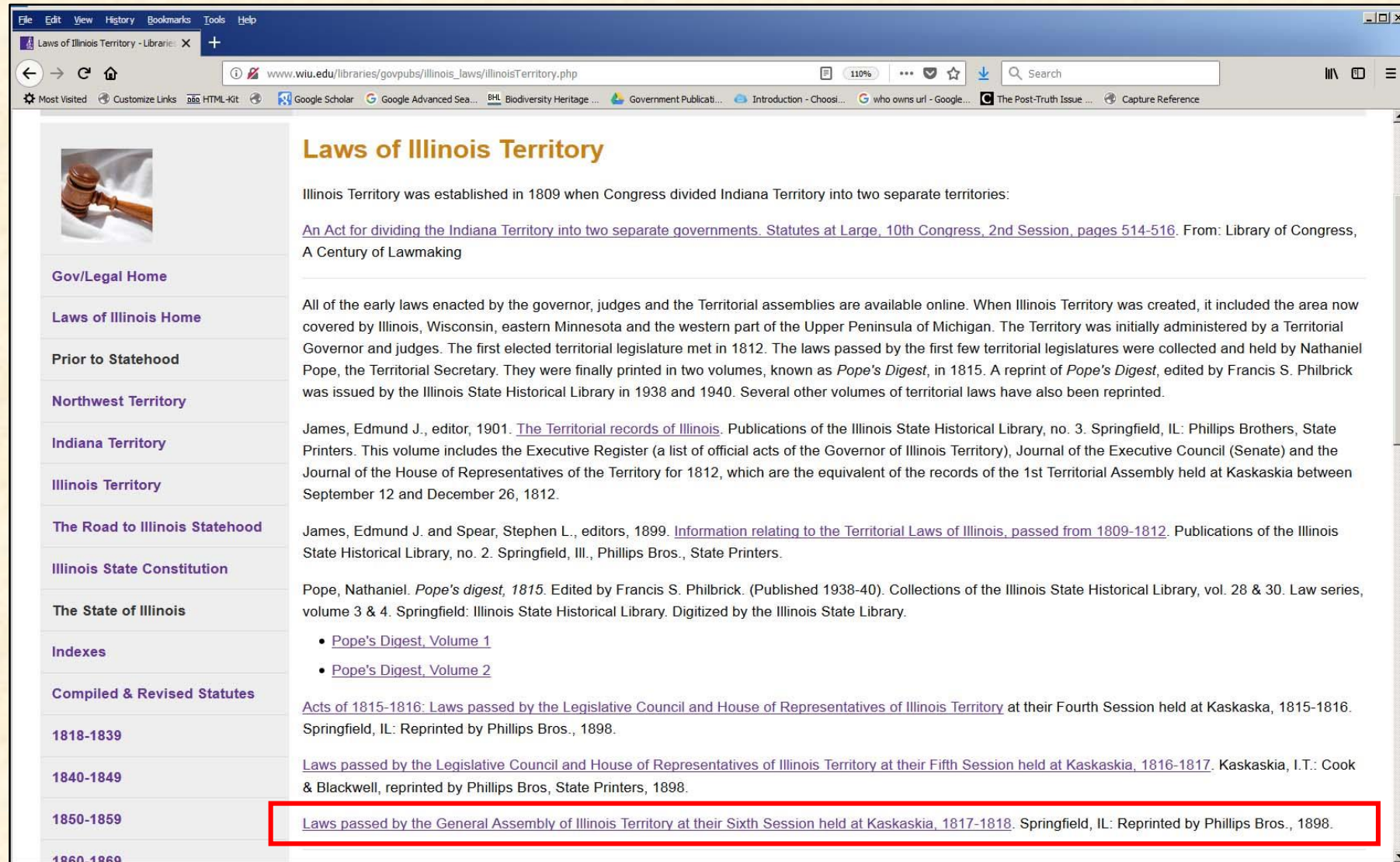
Laws of the State of Illinois

Originally, the Illinois General Assembly met every two years, although special sessions were sometimes held. The laws passed during a session were printed within a year of each session. Early volumes of Illinois laws contained public and private laws, as well as the auditors and treasurer's report for that biennium. Later, especially during and after the Civil War, public and private laws were printed in separate volumes. Private laws are passed for the benefit of private individuals; they deal with private property and relationships. For example, many early private laws were passed to allow wives to inherit the property owned by their deceased husbands (women did not have the right to own property in Illinois until 1861). Public laws deal with the relationship between



Laws of Illinois Website, Western Illinois University has been recognized by the Governor's Office of the Illinois Bicentennial as an [officially designated Project](#) celebrating Illinois' 200th birthday. This site is recognized as an important resource for Illinois history and genealogy.

Laws of Illinois Territory Page



Laws of Illinois Territory

Illinois Territory was established in 1809 when Congress divided Indiana Territory into two separate territories:

[An Act for dividing the Indiana Territory into two separate governments. Statutes at Large, 10th Congress, 2nd Session, pages 514-516.](#) From: Library of Congress, A Century of Lawmaking

All of the early laws enacted by the governor, judges and the Territorial assemblies are available online. When Illinois Territory was created, it included the area now covered by Illinois, Wisconsin, eastern Minnesota and the western part of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. The Territory was initially administered by a Territorial Governor and judges. The first elected territorial legislature met in 1812. The laws passed by the first few territorial legislatures were collected and held by Nathaniel Pope, the Territorial Secretary. They were finally printed in two volumes, known as *Pope's Digest*, in 1815. A reprint of *Pope's Digest*, edited by Francis S. Philbrick was issued by the Illinois State Historical Library in 1938 and 1940. Several other volumes of territorial laws have also been reprinted.

James, Edmund J., editor, 1901. [The Territorial records of Illinois](#). Publications of the Illinois State Historical Library, no. 3. Springfield, IL: Phillips Brothers, State Printers. This volume includes the Executive Register (a list of official acts of the Governor of Illinois Territory), Journal of the Executive Council (Senate) and the Journal of the House of Representatives of the Territory for 1812, which are the equivalent of the records of the 1st Territorial Assembly held at Kaskaskia between September 12 and December 26, 1812.

James, Edmund J. and Spear, Stephen L., editors, 1899. [Information relating to the Territorial Laws of Illinois, passed from 1809-1812](#). Publications of the Illinois State Historical Library, no. 2. Springfield, Ill., Phillips Bros., State Printers.

Pope, Nathaniel. *Pope's digest, 1815*. Edited by Francis S. Philbrick. (Published 1938-40). Collections of the Illinois State Historical Library, vol. 28 & 30. Law series, volume 3 & 4. Springfield: Illinois State Historical Library. Digitized by the Illinois State Library.

- [Pope's Digest, Volume 1](#)
- [Pope's Digest, Volume 2](#)

[Acts of 1815-1816: Laws passed by the Legislative Council and House of Representatives of Illinois Territory at their Fourth Session held at Kaskaskia, 1815-1816.](#) Springfield, IL: Reprinted by Phillips Bros., 1898.

[Laws passed by the Legislative Council and House of Representatives of Illinois Territory at their Fifth Session held at Kaskaskia, 1816-1817.](#) Kaskaskia, I.T.: Cook & Blackwell, reprinted by Phillips Bros, State Printers, 1898.

[Laws passed by the General Assembly of Illinois Territory at their Sixth Session held at Kaskaskia, 1817-1818.](#) Springfield, IL: Reprinted by Phillips Bros., 1898.

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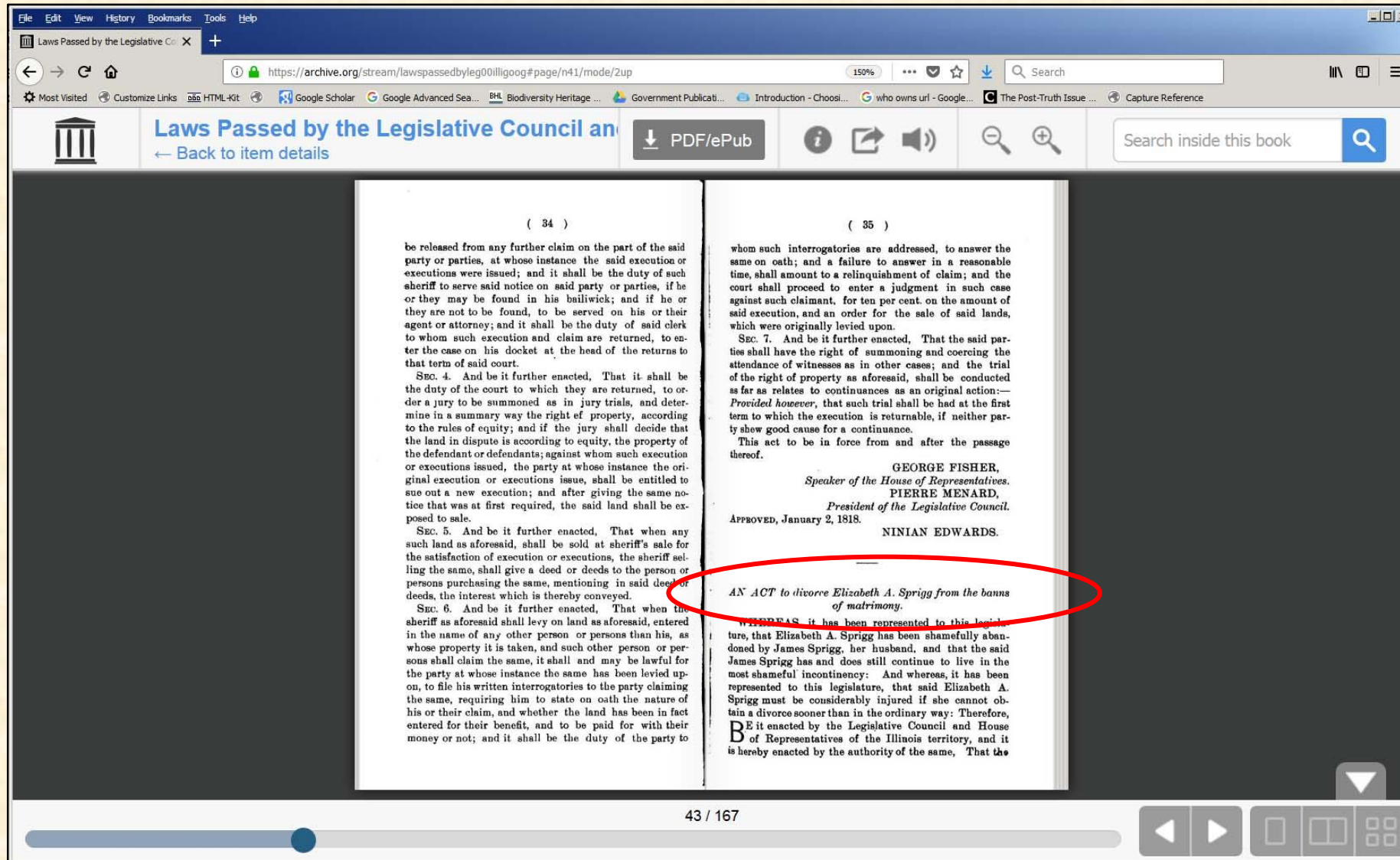
1818-1839

1840-1849

1850-1859

1860-1869

Secretary of State Index



Using Individual Volumes

- Search capabilities for volumes in the Internet Archive are not perfect (Macomb is hyphenated in the 1857 Law volume and is not found by a search).
- Using the indexes saves time when trying to find information on a specific topic.
- Compiled Statutes have their own table of contents (and sometimes indexes), and are not included in the Gross or Secretary of State Indexes.

The Bicentennial Recognition Process



Bicentennial Recognition

- Illinois Bicentennial Website (<https://illinois200.com/>).
- Endorsement information listed under PARTICIPATE.
- Can apply as a Partner, Project or Event (this webinar could be considered an event).
- All applications are similar.
- Need a letter of support from a local elected official or community organization (Mayor Mike Inman of Macomb and Larry Zigler of the McDonough County Historical Society co-signed the letter for WIU).
- Recognition came within 48 hours of submission.

Bicentennial Recognition Application

- Requirements:

Logo (if available)

Organization name

Statistics

How the Bicentennial
is incorporated

How you will comply with
criteria

Name (responsible party)

Contact Information

Description (250 words)

Involvement by staff, community
and others

Letter of Support

Bicentennial Recognition Application

- Used the website submission form as the basis of a document containing all of the required sections.
 - Wrote all of the content into a Word Document.
- All information is submitted online.
- Cut & pasted the sections in the document into the website once I had all of the pieces.
- Biggest problem – word limitations (Word Count on the Review tab of Word is useful for this).

Bicentennial Recognition Application

- Statistics (number of people positively impacted).
- I supplied the number of times the WIU volumes in the Internet Archive have been viewed (43,838 times in Early March) and page views of the Laws of Illinois website (27,988 times).
- This use shows that digitization of historical materials makes them accessible to more people.

Final Note

- The WIU site does not include all volumes, just volumes that we had available and that I found online.
- Volumes digitized by other Libraries have been added.
 - SIU digitized a volume we did not own.
 - Volumes in Hathi also linked.
- Volumes may be missing (I have a list – ask me).
- If funds were available it would be great to complete the project (digitize 1920-1970).
- If you find a digitized volume not on the site, please tell me about it.

Questions

