

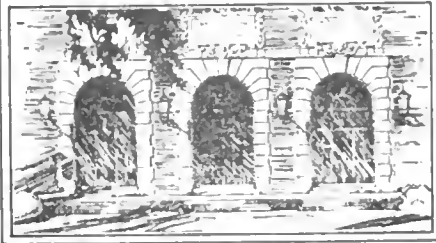
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INVENTORY OF CITY RECORDS OF ILLINOIS



NUMBER 72
PEORIA

THE HISTORICAL RECORDS SURVEY CHICAGO, ILLINOIS



INVENTORY OF THE COUNTY ARCHIVES
OF ILLINOIS

NO. 72. PEORIA COUNTY

To bring together the records of the past and house them in buildings where they will be preserved for the use of men living in the future, a nation must believe in three things. It must believe in the past. It must believe in the future. It must, above all, believe in the capacity of its people so to learn from the past that they can gain in judgment for the creation of the future.

—Franklin Delano Roosevelt

INVENTORY OF THE COUNTY ARCHIVES
OF ILLINOIS

NO. 72. PEORIA COUNTY (PEORIA)

Prepared by

Illinois Historical Records Survey
Division of Community Service Programs
Work Projects Administration

Sponsored by

The Governor of Illinois

* * * * *

Chicago, Illinois
Illinois Historical Records Survey
Illinois Public Records Project
January 1942

Historical Records Survey Projects

Sargent B. Child, National Director
Thomas R. Hall, State Director

Research and Records Section

Harvey E. Becknell, Director
Willard N. Hogan, Regional Supervisor
Frank J. Morris, State Chief

Division of Community Service Programs

Florence Kerr, Assistant Commissioner
Mary Gillette Moon, Chief Regional Supervisor
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WORK PROJECTS ADMINISTRATION

Howard O. Hunter, Commissioner
George Field, Regional Director
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FOREWORD

The Inventory of the County Archives of Illinois is one of a number of guides to historical materials prepared throughout the United States by workers on the Historical Records Survey Projects of the Work Projects Administration. The publication herewith presented, an inventory of the archives of Peoria County, is number 72 of the Illinois series.

The Historical Records Survey was undertaken in the winter of 1935-36 for the purpose of providing useful employment to needy unemployed historians, lawyers, teachers, and research and clerical workers. In carrying out this objective, the project was organized to compile inventories of historical materials, particularly the unpublished government documents and records which are basic in the administration of local government, and which provide invaluable data for students of political, economic, and social history. Up to the present time, approximately 1,700 publications have been issued by the Survey throughout the country. The archival guide herewith presented is intended to meet the requirements of day-to-day administration by the officials of the county, and also the needs of lawyers, business men, and other citizens who require facts from the public records for the proper conduct of their affairs. The volume is so designed that it can be used by the historian in his research in unprinted sources in the same way he uses the library card catalog for printed sources.

The inventories produced by the Historical Records Survey Projects attempt to do more than give merely a list of records - they attempt further to sketch in the historical background of the county or other unit of government, and to describe precisely and in detail the organization and functions of the government agencies whose records they list. The county, town and other local inventories for the entire country will, when completed, constitute an encyclopedia of local government as well as a bibliography of local archives.

The successful conclusion of the work of the Historical Records Survey Projects, even in a single county, would not be possible without the support of public officials, historical and legal specialists, and many other groups in the community. Their cooperation is gratefully acknowledged.

The Survey was organized by Luther H. Evans, who served as Director until March 1, 1940, when he was succeeded by Sargent B. Child, who had been National Field Supervisor since the inauguration of the Survey. The Survey operates as a nation-wide series of locally sponsored projects in the Division of Community Service Programs, of which Mrs. Florence Kerr, Assistant Commissioner, is in charge.

HOWARD O. HUNTER
Commissioner

PREFACE

This inventory of the records of Peoria County is the thirty-second publication in the county archives series now being prepared by the Illinois Historical Records Survey. Similar inventories are being compiled by other Historical Records surveys throughout the country, the ultimate goal being to survey the archives of the 3,066 counties in the United States. The program was initiated nationally in 1936 as part of the Works Progress Administration, now the Work Projects Administration. Under the administration of the Division of Community Service Programs the nation-wide project was technically directed by Dr. Luther H. Evans until March 1940, when he was succeeded by the present National Director, Sargent B. Child. Since February 1941, the Survey in Illinois has been a unit of the Illinois Public Records Project. The present state sponsor of the project is the Honorable Dwight H. Green, Governor of Illinois.

In compiling this inventory, the Survey has sought to locate, describe and classify all extant county records and to make them more easily accessible to county officials, the general public, and research workers. It is believed that the inventory will be useful as a guide to the archives wherein may be found much important information in the field of history, sociology, political science, and economics, and that it will result in a greater interest in their preservation. While some historians have realized this for many years, the general public has never been made aware of the intrinsic worth of this material. In the official documents of Peoria County are found the materials of another chapter of the story of the coming into the Illinois wilderness of settlers who created a territory and the rudiments of a simple frontier government, bought and sold land, built roads, established schools, and later founded a state.

A more immediate use to which the county inventories may be put has developed as a result of the increased utilization of public vital statistics records in the present national emergency. The surveying of county records during the past five years as part of its regular public archives program has enabled the Survey to publish a Guide to Public Vital Statistics Records in Illinois which is simply a condensed inventory of all birth, death, and marriage records in the 102 counties in the state. Consultation of this guide and all county inventories published thus far has proven helpful in locating birth and other vital records.

The Illinois Historical Records Survey has been of considerable assistance to local and county governments. Records have been re-arranged and made more accessible, material believed to be lost has been located, indexing projects have been fostered, and county officials have been encouraged and induced to provide new equipment for their offices and better storage space for the records.

In addition, the program of the Survey has been planned to dovetail with the long-range plans of the State of Illinois for the care of state and local archives. For example, the first step, the removal of all state records to a new Archives Building, has been materially aided by the preparation of preliminary inventories by survey workers for the various state departments. Furthermore, the program of the state for the preservation of county records, including the making of microphotographic copies of all important historical documents, obviously presupposes inventories such as the Illinois Historical Records Survey is now making.

The inventories being compiled by the Historical Records Survey Projects also make possible for the first time a scientific study of the question of record destruction. Under Illinois law no records may be destroyed without specific enabling legislation. This provision, together with the tremendous increase in the quantity of records in recent years, has made it impossible for either the state or the counties to take care of the documents adequately. Hence, a certain amount of record destruction has been inevitable. If, as seems probable, a study of these inventories should lead to the enactment of adequate and sensible legislation governing the disposition of public records, these compilations may prove to be the most important contribution of the Survey.

Other phases of the Historical Records Survey's program now in active operation in Illinois are the publication of inventories of Federal, state, municipal, and church archives; guides to manuscript depositories and collections; calendars of certain selected collections; and checklists of early American imprints. (For list of Illinois publications, see p. 421.)

Preliminary work on the survey in Peoria County, the seventy-second on the alphabetically arranged list of the one hundred and two counties in Illinois, was begun March 12, 1936 and completed July 10. The bulk of inventory forms was received in the state editorial office in Chicago on June 1, 1937. On October 1, part of the forms were returned to the field for check and these were returned August 18, 1938. More of the forms were sent back on October 31. Corrected forms for several offices were received in Chicago on June 15, 1939 and for all offices on February 26, 1940. As a final check, forms for ten offices were sent to the field in September and returned in October. Abstracting and transcribing of county board records, upon which much of the contents of this inventory is based, was begun March 22, 1939 and finished July 9, 1941. The inventory was taken by Harold Futhey, Charles Wright, Carl E. Grebe, Raymond Talbott, Leonard Armstrong, Charles Mohr, Bert Heiser, Lewis Elder, William Brewster, James Miller, Edwin C. Fulford, Harry Cowie, and Paul V. Winsouer, under the supervision of Kenneth C. Blood. Abstracting and transcribing of county board records was done by Lewis Elder, Margaret Wells, Beatrice Hoff, Grace Bachmann, Charles Mohr, Edwin C. Fulford and Clarence Coats.

The inventory was prepared for publication by the state editorial staff of the Illinois Historical Records Survey at Chicago under the supervision of Herbert R. Rifkind, State Editor. Entries in Part B were prepared by Isadore Markin under the direction of Martine O'Connor; the legal essays were prepared by Romeo Burwell; Floyd I. Mulkey wrote the historical sketch. Under the supervision of Edward J. McDonough in charge of collation and supplementary units, research data on the housing and care of records were assembled by Fred A. Komarek, and Charles J. Cooley compiled the roster of county officers. The inventory was indexed by John Kristy, and the maps and charts were drawn by Louis J. Mader and William Fluker. Dorothy Herold supervised typing and mimeographing. Credit also must be given to the other members of the editorial, research, and typing staffs for their intelligent and diligent cooperation in the compiling of this inventory.

All of the officers of Peoria County cooperated in every way with the workers, and grateful acknowledgment of their aid is hereby made. Special recognition is due Ernest E. East, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Peoria Historical Society and Henry H. Grimes, also of Peoria, for their valuable help in the preparation of the Historical Sketch. I also wish to express appreciation for the assistance rendered by the officials of the Illinois Work Projects Administration. For the cover design we are indebted to the Illinois Art Project.

The inventory of the records of Peoria County will be available for distribution to governmental offices, libraries, schools, and historical societies in Illinois, and libraries and governmental agencies in other states. Requests for information concerning this or other publications of the Illinois Historical Records Survey should be addressed to the State Director.

Thomas R. Hall
State Director
Illinois Historical Records
Survey

January 30, 1942

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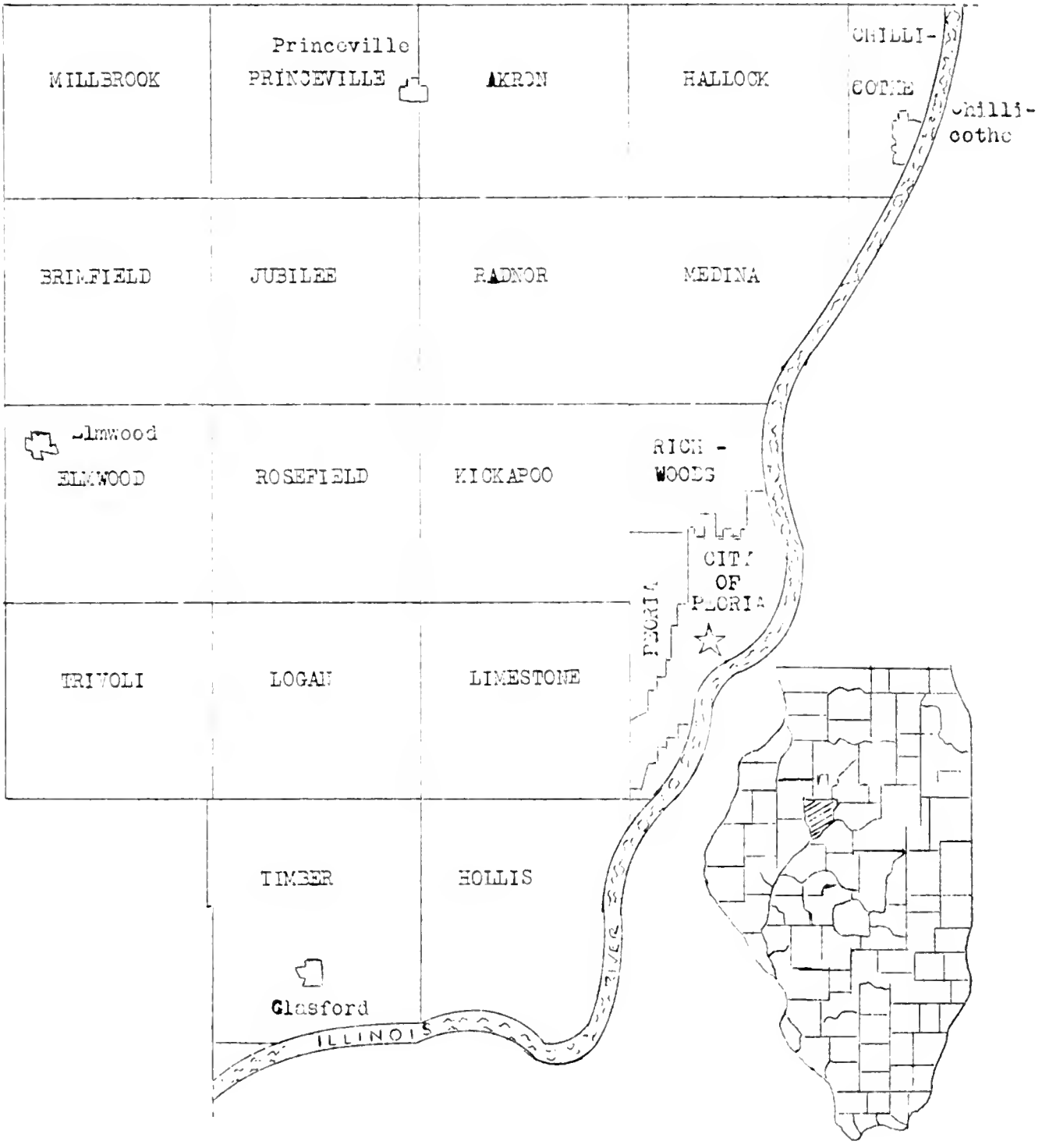
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A. PEORIA COUNTY
AND
ITS RECORDS SYSTEM





PEORIA COUNTY — ILLINOIS

1. HISTORICAL SKETCH

Introduction

Overview of Peoria County

Peoria County has many features worthy of special mention. Its population of 153,374 in 1940 gives it third place among the counties of Illinois, ranking it behind Cook and St. Clair.¹ The City of Peoria with 105,087 people is the largest municipality in the state outside the great metropolis of Chicago on the shores of Lake Michigan. In historic prominence the Peoria region takes high rank in the state. The site where the City of Peoria has grown to national importance has been a seat of white population since La Salle constructed Fort Crevecoeur in 1680, with only a few brief interruptions; before that time it was the location of large Indian villages. The circumstances surrounding the establishment of the French settlement at Peoria have never been thoroughly studied by modern historians. History does, however, give the region a page of authentic mention as early as 1673 when Father Jacques Marquette and Louis Jolliet halted along the shore of Lake Peoria.

Peoria County has an advantageous location on the Illinois River, occupying approximately a mid-position along the course of this river system. From the earliest days of settlement Peoria has been the principal city in this fertile valley. It is located at a point where the river widens into beautiful Lake Peoria, formed by a dam of the flood sediment from Farm Creek, which enters the sluggish river opposite the city. This lake extends up the valley to Chillicothe, a distance of 20 miles. No other point along the river for more than 200 miles offers a better crossing than the one at Peoria.² Consequently, in pioneer days important ferries were established there. Later, numerous railroads were projected through this area because of the comparative ease with which bridges could be constructed. Today Peoria is the chief railroad center of central Illinois, and only surpassed in all the state by Chicago and by East St. Louis, the front door of the great city in Missouri.

Peoria County is bounded on the north by Stark and Marshall counties; on the east and southeast by the Illinois River, which constitutes

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1. U.S. Bureau of the Census, Sixteenth Census, 1940, Illinois Final Population, Series P-2, No. 47 (Press Release January 11, 1941). The population of Cook County was 4,063,342 and that of St. Clair was 166,899.
 2. Douglas C. Ridgley, The Geography of Illinois, p. 284, 285.

the county boundary for nearly 50 miles; on the southwest by an indentation of Fulton County; on the west by Fulton and Knox counties. It includes within its boundaries 13 full congressional townships and fractional parts of 8 others, the latter all bordering the Illinois River.¹ The area of the county is 630 square miles.²

Physiography

When the white men first came to the Peoria region they found the area now within the county divided almost equally between the Grand Prairie and the timber lands. The timber was confined largely to the river bottoms, ravines, and bluffs.³ Both sections have soil that can hardly be surpassed for fertility. As to elevation, the range is from about 400 to 800 feet above sea level. Most of the region beyond the river bluffs is quite level and lies somewhat over 700 feet.⁴

The soil of Peoria County has been affected by two great periods of glaciation, the Illinoian and the Wisconsin. The former extended into and beyond Peoria; the latter coming thousands of years later cut through a narrow strip in the eastern part of the county. Each ice invasion left its own peculiar drift mixed with the soil which it had covered.⁵ Another physiographical feature of significance is the nature of the valley area. The strip of land along the Illinois forms a narrow terrace, called La.Salle Prairie, which rises gradually from the river's edge to the wooded bluffs, varying in width from 1 to 3 miles, with soil composed of modified drift rather than alluvium. This characteristic is typical of the entire Illinois River Valley.⁶

Of the smaller streams the principal one is Kickapoo Creek, formed near the center of the county by the union of two branches, the west

-
1. The county contains 20 political townships. The following 13 are coterminous with the congressional townships, containing 36 square miles each: Trivoli, Logan, Limestone, Kickapoo, Rosefield, Elmwood, Brimfield, Jubilee, Radnor, Halleck, Akron, Princeville, and Millbrock. Those containing fractional areas are Chillicothe, Medina, Richwoods, Peoria, Town of the City of Peoria, Hollis, and Timber.
 2. Illinois Department Secretary of State, Counties of Illinois, p. 67.
 3. See the vegetation map of Illinois in Ridgley, The Geography of Illinois, p. 92.
 4. "Dictionary of Altitudes in Illinois," in Illinois State Geographical Survey, Biennial Report for 1913 and 1914, Bulletin No. 30, p. 115-25.
 5. Ridgley, The Geography of Illinois, p. 30,31; see also map opposite p. 152.
 6. A. H. Worthen, "Geology of Peoria County," in Geological Survey of Illinois, V, 235.

Historical Sketch

branch flowing from Knox County and the main branch originating in northern Peoria County; the stream enters the Illinois just below the City of Peoria. Although the length of its course is not great it is of considerable size and importance. In the northeastern corner of the county is Senatchwine Creek, named for a Potawatomie chief whose village was located on its banks. Spoon River flows across Millbrook Township in the northeast. A fourth stream of prominence is Lamarsh Creek which drains Limestone and Hollis townships in the southeastern corner of the county.

Over most of the county the soil is a dark chocolate-colored loam, rich in organic matter. On the more broken lands near the streams the color is somewhat lighter. The soil on the terrace and bottom lands is a sandy loam. These different types are all quite productive.¹

The French Period at Peoria

Visit of Marquette and Jolliet

The Peoria region first entered the stream of modern history in 1675. In that year Louis Jolliet was commissioned by the French government in Canada to explore the Mississippi; he was accompanied by Father Jacques Marquette, chaplain of the expedition and missionary to the Indians. Returning to Canada by way of the Illinois River, Marquette and Jolliet halted briefly on the shores of Lake Peoria. In his journal of the expedition, Father Marquette tells that he spent three days preaching the faith in the cabins of the Peoria Indians and that as he was leaving he baptized a dying child brought to him.²

These two explorers were greatly impressed by the evident fertility of the Illinois River valley. "We had," wrote Marquette, "seen nothing like this river for the fertility of the land, its prairies, woods, wild cattle, stags, deer, wildcats, bustards, swans, ducks, parrots, and even beaver; its many little lakes and rivers."³ The Indians had their own expressive name for the Peoria region; they called it "Pimiteoui" -- "The Land of Great Plenty." This word has its equivalent in the Hebrew term signify-

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1. The History of Peoria County, Illinois (Johnson & Company), p. 293. Hereinafter referred to as History of Peoria County (Johnson).
 2. "The Voyages and Discoveries of Father James Marquette in the Valley of the Mississippi," in John Gilmory Shea, ed., Discovery and Exploration of the Mississippi River, p. 52. Hereinafter referred to as "The Voyages and Discoveries of Father Marquette."
 3. Ibid.

ing a land that floweth with milk and honey¹ -- a land rich in pastures for the flock and in blossoms for the bees.²

The Peoria Indians here encountered by Marquette and Jolliet apparently belonged to the same subtribe which they had previously visited in present-day Iowa (probably the region of the Des Moines River) as they were going down the Mississippi.³ Marquette described in some detail the customs of these "Peouarea," whom he identified as a division of the great Illinois tribe.

Father Marquette soon returned to the Illinois country but not to the Peoria region. On Good Friday, April 1675, he opened a mission among the Kaskaskia Indians, who had heard his message two years previously and had exacted a promise from him to return. Marquette, however, was soon forced to give up his work because of failing health. He died on May 18, 1675.⁴

La Salle and Fort Crevecoeur

The Peoria region again takes a prominent page in early western history in connection with the great French explorer, Robert Cavalier, sieur de la Salle. In 1678, three years after Father Marquette had opened his mission, the "Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin," in the Illinois River country, La Salle obtained permission from Louis XIV to explore the country south of the Great Lakes, to erect forts therein, and to hold a monopoly of the fur trade.⁵ La Salle with his faithful

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1. Joshua 5:6.
 2. David McCulloch, ed., History of Peoria County, in Newton Bateman, ed., Historical Encyclopedia of Illinois, II, 4. Hereinafter referred to as McCulloch, History of Peoria County. Although McCulloch is designated the editor of this history he actually wrote much of the book; he deserves much credit for his historical perspective and careful scholarship. For McCulloch's services in education, see p. 122, 123.
 3. "The Voyages and Discoveries of Father Marquette," p. 22-37.
 4. Ibid., p. 53-61; also Reuben Gold Thwaites, ed., The Jesuit Relations and Allied Documents, Travels and Explorations of the Jesuit Missionaries in New France, 1610-1791, LIX, 164-209 (hereinafter cited as Thwaites, Jesuit Relations). This second reference contains the unfinished journal of Father Marquette, the entries covering the period from October 25, 1674, until April 6, 1675, also an account of his uncompleted journey back to Canada, together with the story of his death and burial; this latter account was written by an unnamed contemporary, probably a fellow Jesuit.
 5. Pierre Margry, Decouvertes et Etablissements des Francais dans l'Ouest et dans le Sud de L'Amérique Septentrionale (1614-1754), Memoires et Documents Originaux, I, 329-40. Hereinafter cited as Margry, Decouvertes et Etablissements.

Historical Sketch

lieutenant, Henri "Iron Hand" de Toni, reached the Illinois country in the winter of 1680-81. On January 5, 1680, the little band of Frenchmen, numbering thirty in eight canoes, entered Lake Peoria, on the bank of which they found an Indian village of eighty cabins. The Indians at first showed signs of hostility. Adopting a bold policy to overawe the natives, La Salle drew up his men in battle array and by this strategy won over the Indians. Nevertheless they continued to be suspicious and rather unfriendly.¹

After attempting to calm the fears and allay the suspicions of the Indians, La Salle began the construction of a fort which he located nearby on a little knoll about 200 paces from the river and just beyond the high water mark. Two sides of the fort were protected by deep ravines, while the fourth side, opposite the river, was fortified by a moat, which connected the two ravines. A palisade twenty feet high was erected in order to prevent surprise.² This fort, which La Salle called Crevecoeur (Broken Heart), was probably the second building constructed by white men within the borders of present-day Illinois; it was the second fort established in the whole western region by the French.³ Fort de Crevecoeur, however, was located on the east side of the Illinois River, a short distance below the foot of Lake Peoria on a site now within Tazewell County.⁴

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1. Margry, Decouvertes, et Etablissements, I, 461-75; II, 37-48.
 2. Ibid., I, 476,477; II, 48,49.
 3. The first building erected in Illinois was Father Marquette's winter cabin, built during the winter of 1674-75 near the Chicago River (Thwaites, Jesuit Relations, LIX, 173).
 4. The exact site of Fort de Crevecoeur has long been a matter of dispute. Space does not permit discussion of the several sites which local residents have promoted for the honor. In 1925 a committee to fix the site was appointed by the President of the Illinois State Historical Society, in accordance with an act of the General Assembly of the State of Illinois. This committee consisted of Otto L. Schmidt, President, Illinois State Historical Society, Jesse Palmer Weber, Secretary of the Society, and J. C. Thompson, Chairman. The committee finally came to the conclusion that a site near Wesley, just below the lake, was the most likely location; this place had previously been marked by the Daughters of the American Revolution (Illinois State Historical Society, The Site of Fort de Crevecoeur, p. 21,22). For an account of the research of the Peoria Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, see Ada Greenwood McLaughlin, "The Site of Fort Crevecoeur," in Publications of the Illinois State Historical Library (1902), No. 7, p. 179-89. Mrs. McLaughlin's article shows exhaustive and careful research. The site is now a state park.

Fort Crevecoeur, true to its name, brought only trouble and grief for its founder. Needing more supplies before he could undertake his voyage down the Mississippi, La Salle left Tonti in command of the fort while he returned to Canada. A few months later La Salle received a report that the soldiers under Tonti had plundered the fort and then deserted. He hurried back to the Illinois valley, where he was confronted with even a worse disaster: complete destruction of the Indian villages wrought by the dreaded Iroquois. Tonti had escaped but had been forced to flee from the region.

Thus came to a quick end the first European settlement in the Peoria region. When La Salle and Tonti established their second fort in the Illinois region, late in 1682 after their successful journey to the mouth of the Mississippi, they chose the famous Starved Rock location for their stronghold, which they called Fort St. Louis. Around this new fort, La Salle collected numerous Indian tribes for mutual protection.

Pimiteoui under the French Regime

The French, however, soon returned to the Peoria region. Meanwhile Tonti had succeeded to the command at Fort St. Louis after the death of La Salle. In 1691, after consulting with his Indian allies, he determined to remove his fort to the vicinity of Lake Peoria. The change was made during the following winter.¹ The new post, still called Fort St. Louis, but better known as Fort Pimiteoui, soon became the center of both French and Indian activities in the Illinois River valley. Father Jacques Gravier, then in charge of the mission originally established by Father Marquette, followed his Indian parishioners. Outside the fort a small chapel was built, also a cross 35 feet high.² This western outpost of civilization stood on land now occupied by the City of Peoria, the exact location being about a mile and a half from the lower outlet of the lake.

Fort Pimiteoui continued as the center of French life for nearly a decade. About 1700 the fort was abandoned and the Indian tribes scattered, only the Peorias remaining in their old home region. A new center of French life in Illinois was established around Kaskaskia and Cahokia in the American Bottom along the Mississippi. Nevertheless the Peoria region remained the seat of a French population during the

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1. "De Gannes Memoir," in Theodore Calvin Pease and Raymond C. Werner, eds., The French Foundations, 1680-1693, in Collections of the Illinois State Historical Library, v. XXIII, France Series, I, 326, 327.
 2. Thwaites, Jesuit Relations, LXIV, 161.

Historical Sketch

eighteenth century, although not continuously. Unfortunately very little is known about this settlement until about 1760; history reveals only a few tantalizing references to the French at Peoria during these two generations.

In 1699 Jean Francois Buisson de St. Cosme, a missionary priest, made a trip down the Illinois River in a party which included Tonti. A stop was made at the "Fort of the Permavevvi," where the Indians were then living. St. Cosme commented very favorably on the work being done there by Father Gabriel Marest, and he mentioned the fact that some Christian Indian women were married to Frenchmen.¹

Late in 1700, as has been mentioned previously, the concentration of Indian tribes at Peoria broke up. Father Gravier, the resident priest at the mission, stated that the migration of the Kaskaskias and the French occurred during his temporary absence. The Peorias, however, remained and they promised their reverend father that they would preserve the chapel.² After another absence Father Gravier returned to his post and remained there until 1706, at which time he sustained an arrow wound from a Peoria youth incited by the medicine men. The next year while in Paris he wrote that he had worked among the Indians in the Illinois country for nineteen years without a companion or colleague most of the time.³ He died soon afterwards from his old wound.

For several years thereafter the mission at Lake Peoria remained closed.⁴ In 1712 Father Gabriel Marest, the priest with the Kaskaskias in the American Bottom, wrote that the governors of Canada and Mobile had forbidden French traders to go among the Peorias as a punishment for the treatment of their late pastor. Father Marest then noted that these Indians were penitent and were anxious to have another missionary; he suggested also that their change of heart may have been caused by recent defeats in battle due to their lack of powder.⁵ Not long afterwards, Father Marest paid a short visit to the Peorias and then recommended the reopening of the mission. Father Jean Marie de Ville was later sent out to this post. After his visit to the Peorias, Father Marest mentioned the fact that he had encountered Frenchmen in the region. Unfortunately he gave no details about them.⁶

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1. John Gilmary Shea, ed., Early Voyages up and down the Mississippi by Cavelier, St. Cosme, Le Sueur, Gravier, and Guignas, p. 59,60. Hereinafter cited as Shea, Early Voyages up and down the Mississippi.
 2. Ibid., p. 117.
 3. Thwaites, Jesuit Relations, LXVI, 120-23.
 4. For an account of the early Catholic missions at Peoria, see (Rev.) J. B. Culemans, "Missionary Adventures among the Peorias," in Illinois Catholic Historical Review, V, 27-40.
 5. Thwaites, Jesuit Relations, LXVI, 267.
 6. Ibid., p. 265,267,287,341.

It is not known how long Father de Ville remained at Lake Peoria. The next reference to this region comes from the pen of Pierre Francois Xavier de Charlevoix who made a voyage down the river in 1721. He stopped briefly at the Indian village where he met four French Canadians.¹ This statement implies that there were no other French people living at Peoria. Nothing is said about a fort or a chapel.

The following year the Peoria Indians were badly worsted in a war with the Foxes (a struggle mentioned by Charlevoix in the above account) and as a result they removed to the American Bottom where the other Illinois tribes were concentrated. It is probable that the Frenchmen living in the Pimiteoui region followed their Indian friends. In 1732, immediately after the return of the Peorias to their old homeland following the defeat of the Foxes, Chief Mtachine made a request to the French authorities to send some Frenchmen to settle among them. Governor Perier of Louisiana, without waiting for orders from home, granted this request since it would facilitate communications between Canada and the Illinois country, but he refused to send troops until he had received the consent of the King.² The French government promptly disapproved of the suggestion to send troops to Pimiteoui because of the danger of separating the weak forces in Illinois, but it did recommend that the Peorias should be encouraged to remain in that region.³

The next two decades are a gap in the present historical knowledge of Peoria. In 1751 the French authorities revealed that the Peoria Indians had made several requests for an officer and garrison to be established among them to control the voyageurs from Canada. Sieur de Bertet, the previous commandant in the Illinois country, had given a trade monopoly to a certain Decaris from Canada, who had then built a fort at his own expense. The commandant, Major de Macarty-Mactigue, was instructed that he might use his own judgment about acceding to the request of the Indians, but if he did so he should compel the traders and voyageurs passing the place to bear all the expenses of the fort.⁴ A year later Macarty-Mactigue wrote that he had sent a M. Adam to Peoria.⁵ Apparently the French maintained an officer and a garrison

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1. Pierre Francois Xavier de Charlevoix, Journal of a Voyage to North America, II, 197-213.
 2. Dunbar Rowland and Albert Godfrey Sanders, eds., Mississippi Provincial Archives, 1704-1743, III, 555, 556.
 3. Ibid., I, 201.
 4. Theodore Calvin Pease and Ernestine Jennison, eds., Illinois on the Eve of the Seven Years War, 1747-1755, in Collections of the Illinois State Historical Library, v. XXIX, French Series, III, 317.
 5. Ibid., v. 466.

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there until the region passed under British domination in 1763.¹ At that time the commandant of Fort Chartres called in Toulon from Peoria with his garrison.²

Very little is known about the French settlement at Peoria during these years. The date of its establishment apparently was within the two-decade period from 1732 to 1751. A memorial to Congress signed by twenty-four inhabitants of Peoria, received on February 26, 1807 stated that the village had been established about the year 1730, and that some of the memorialists had been born in the village and had inherited land from their fathers.³ This statement is not conclusive but it does tend to substantiate the other evidence available.⁴

French Peoria, 1765-1812

French Peoria was almost a forgotten village under the British regime. Indeed the whole Illinois country was badly neglected by the new masters. The French flag continued to fly over Fort Chartres near St. Louis for two years after the sovereignty of France came to an end in 1763. During the period of active British control, lasting from October 10, 1765 to July 4, 1778, the government at London permitted its new western territory to remain under the power of the military. Hence almost nothing was done to survey the Illinois country and its French inhabitants. The records of this short period, at least those which

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1. Louis Antoine Bougainville in his memoir, written in 1757, mentioned the Peoria fort and its commandant (Reuben Gold Thwaites, ed., "The French Regime in Wisconsin, 1743-1760," in Collections of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, XVIII, 177).
 2. Clarence Walworth Alvord and C.E. Carter, eds., The Critical Period, 1763-1775, in Collections of the Illinois State Historical Library, v. X, British Series, I, 55.
 3. U. S. Department of State, The Territorial Papers of the United States, v. VII, The Territory of Indiana, 1800-1810, p. 431, 432. Hereinafter cited as Papers of the Territory of Indiana.
 4. Very little research has been done on the origins of French Peoria. Here is a project worthy of the fullest investigation. Probably most of the source material is still in manuscript, yet much has doubtless been published in widely scattered collections during recent years. The research for this sketch, necessarily done rather superficially, has revealed certain facts concerning Peoria not previously brought together. See Theodore C. Pease, "The French Regime in Illinois, a Challenge to Historical Scholarship," in Illinois State Historical Society Transactions for the Year 1936, p. 69-79:

have now been published, reveal nothing about Peoria.¹ Patrick Kennedy made an expedition up the Illinois River in 1773 but in his journal he wrote nothing about the Peoria village, although he did mention a brief stop in the vicinity.²

During the early years of American control there is little mention of Peoria. The French settlements in far-off Illinois were neglected even more than they had been under the British. It is not then surprising that the published records pertaining to Illinois at this time barely mention Peoria.³ The British records of 1779 and later, however, contain many passing references to the town. Unfortunately, the story as revealed in these accounts cannot be told here.⁴

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1. Clarence Walworth Alvord and Clarence Edwin Carter, eds., The Critical Period, 1763-1765; The New Regime, 1765-1767; Trade and Politics, 1767-1769; these volumes are found in Collections of the Illinois State Historical Library, v. X, XI, XVI, British Series, v. I, II, III. Hereinafter cited respectively as Alvord and Carter, The Critical Period, The New Regime, and Trade and Politics. The manuscript materials for the later years of the British period have not yet been published, although as early as 1913, Solon Justus Buck stated that publication was projected under title of The Eve of the Revolution, 1770-1776 (Travel and Description, 1765-1865, in Collections of the Illinois State Historical Library, IX, 21,22).
 2. "Mr. Patrick Kennedy's journal of an expedition . . . in the year 1773, from Kaskaskia village . . . to the headwaters of the Illinois river," in Gilbert Imlay, A Topographical Description of the Western Territory of North America, p. 504-11.
 3. Clarence Walworth Alvord, ed., Cahokia Records, 1778-1790 (Peoria mentioned, p. 61,247,417); Alvord, ed., Kaskaskia Record, 1778-1790 (mention of expedition to Opee [Peoria], p. 198); James Alton James, ed., George Rogers Clark Papers, 1771-1781 (no mention); James, ed., George Rogers Clark Papers, 1781-1784 (mention of expedition to Peoria, p. 61); these four volumes are found in Collections of the Illinois State Historical Library, v. II, V, VIII, XIX, Virginia Series, v. I, II, III, IV.
 4. Daniel Maurice Godefroy de Linctot, a French ally of George Rogers Clark, was active in the Peoria region in 1779. See "Papers from the Canadian Archives -- 1778-1783," in Collections of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin (1888), XI, 97-212; also "The British Regime in Wisconsin," ibid. (1908), XVIII, 223-468 (see index under Peoria and Linctot); also a good secondary source, George A. Brennan, "De Linctot, Guardian of the Frontier," in Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society (1917), X, 323-66.

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In spite of this oversight in contemporary American accounts, Peoria was a wilderness village of no mean size for the western territory. Much of our present knowledge of the settlement is derived from testimony given much later in the French claims controversy, which information was included in a report of November 10, 1820, made by Edward Coles, then Register of the land office at Edwardsville, and later Governor of Illinois.¹

Coles learned that there had been two villages at Peoria, Old Peoria, also called Old Peorias Fort and Village,² and the new village, called La Ville de Maillet.³ The old village was situated on the northwest shore of Lake Peoria, about one mile and a half above the lower outlet. According to the testimony, this village had been inhabited previous to the recollection of any person still living in 1820. About 1778 or 1779 the first house was built on the site of what came to be called Le Ville de Maillet, located about a mile and a half below the old village, just at the outlet of the lake. Apparently because there was better water at the new location, and also because it was considered more healthful, the inhabitants gradually abandoned the old village, until by 1796 or 1797 it had been deserted entirely. During the period of memory spanned by Coles' witnesses, residence at Peoria was continuous up until 1812, except for an interval from 1781 to 1783, at which time the French settlers abandoned their homes because of the fear of Indian hostility, returning after the peace between the United States and Great Britain.

Coles concluded that the French inhabitants had settled at Peoria without any grant or permission from the government. The only title to land then was derived from possession and the only value attached to it grew out of improvements placed upon it. Each person took whichever tract he wished and as much as he desired, making it his own by incorporating his labor with it, giving up his claim when he ceased to occupy and to improve it. Hence in different cases Coles found several claimants for the same tract of land. The property in Peoria consisted generally of village lots on which the buildings and gardens were placed, and of out-lots or fields in which the people cultivated

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1. U. S. Congress, American State Papers, Class VIII, Public Lands, III, 476-86, also plate 2 in the appendix for a map of the village of Peoria.
 2. Ernest E. East, comp., The Inhabitants of Three French Villages at Peoria, Illinois, p. 5. Hereinafter cited as East, The French Inhabitants at Peoria.
 3. Ibid., p. 9. The new village was also known as Au Pied du Lac (at the foot of the lake) and numerous corruptions of this name were used, including Au Pay, Dupee, Dupice, Le Fe, Lee Pee, Opa, Opea, Opee, Pay, Pays, and Fe and Pees.

grain. The village lots contained usually about one half of an arpent¹ of land while the fields varied widely in size according to the needs and industry of the owner. Neither village had ever been formally laid out. Hence it was impossible to draw an accurate map, but Coles did sketch one from the evidence available.

Coles reported also that the French inhabitants consisted generally of Indian traders, hunters and voyageurs, and that Peoria formed a link between the settlements on the Great Lakes and those on the Mississippi. Adapting themselves easily and happily to their environment and savage neighbors, they had generally lived in harmony with the Indians of northern Illinois.

The principal person at Peoria during the early years of the American period was Jean Baptiste Maillet, who had settled there by 1773 or earlier.² About 1778 Maillet founded the new village, which was often called by his name. When Arthur St. Clair, Governor of the Northwest Territory, came to Illinois in 1790, he found Maillet acting as commandant of the Peoria village, a position he had filled ever since his appointment by George Rogers Clark, more than a decade earlier. Since Maillet had considerable influence with the Indians and had conducted himself ably and honorably, St. Clair gave him a commission as captain of the militia. He was instructed to conduct himself with impartiality between the whites and the Indians so as to maintain the confidence of the latter; he should see that justice was done, relieve distress as far as practicable, and see that his people did not act imprudently.³ Maillet maintained his position of leadership at Peoria until he was killed about 1801.⁴

Another prominent resident of French Peoria was Thomas Forsyth, a British subject who established a trading post in the village about 1806.⁵ He was a half-brother of John Kinzie, famous as an early settler of Chicago.

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1. An old French measure of land varying in size with the locality from .84 to 1.28 acres.
 2. Maillet sold a tract of land at Peoria to Jean Baptiste Pointe de Saible on March 13, 1773 (East, The French Inhabitants at Peoria, p. 7). This Pointe de Saible, remembered as being the first settler at Chicago, was a French mulatto. He continued to reside at Peoria until at least 1783 (American State Papers, Class VIII, Public Lands, III, 4).
 3. William Henry Smith, ed., The St. Clair Papers, II, 138, 176.
 4. American State Papers, Class VIII, Public Lands, III, 478.
 5. 15 Howard's Reports, U.S. Supreme Court 357.

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The evidence at hand does not indicate what happened to the old fort which was abandoned by Commandant Toulon in 1763. David McCulloch, county historian, stated that it was probably destroyed by 1773.¹ Certainly it fell into disuse after the abandonment of the old village.² It appears that about 1778 a new fort was erected at the new village site,³ but this structure had only a brief existence.⁴ Years later when William Henry Harrison was Governor of Indiana Territory there was some discussion about establishing a fort at Peoria.⁵ Previously, by the Treaty of Greenville made with various Indian tribes in 1795 by General Anthony Wayne, a piece of land six miles square "at the old Peorias fort and village" had been ceded to the United States.⁶ But nothing was done about the construction of a fort in the region until 1813.⁷

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1. History of Peoria County, p. 24.
 2. The site of this fort has been fixed by tradition, by relics found, and by a government survey as near the foot of Caroline Street. The location has since been called "Old Peorias Fort and Village."
 3. Hypolite Maillet, 42 or 43 years of age in 1820, son of the founder of the new village, testified before Coles that according to his understanding he had been born in a stockaded fort standing on his father's tract of land just below the outlet of the lake (American State Papers, Class VIII, Public Lands, III, 478).
 4. Charles Cautier de Verville, military agent for the British in this territory, was ordered to burn the fort in 1779 ("Papers from the Canadian Archives -- 1778-1783," in Collections of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, XI, 137). But Cautier did not reach Peoria. All accounts indicate that the fort was destroyed soon after this time.
 5. Papers of the Territory of Indiana, p. 74.
 6. U. S. Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Treaties Between the United States of America and the Several Indian Tribes from 1778 to 1837, p. 56.
 7. The Federal Government, however, maintained its title to the small tract at Peoria. In 1802 the citizens of the village in a petition to Governor Harrison complained that Commandant Maillet had granted this land to a number of individuals who then forbade their neighbors from cutting hay or wood on their land. Harrison promptly issued a proclamation declaring such grants void because the land within a square of six miles belonged to the United States. No new settlement of any kind should be made in the government tract (William Wesley Woollen, Daniel Wait Howe, and Jacob Piatt Dunn, eds., Executive Journal of Indiana Territory, 1800-1816, in Indiana Historical Society Publications, III (No. 3), 107, 108).

Little more than a guess can be made about the size of the population of French Peoria. Ernest E. East, a historian of Peoria, has compiled a list of inhabitants for each of the three French villages in the Peoria region. He lists sixty-three persons, including only a few women, as inhabitants of the old village in the period from 1765 to 1795.¹ This list certainly is not complete, as the writer admits. But on the other hand, many of these persons probably lived at Peoria only a short time since the population was uncertain and migratory. East lists ninety-eight persons known to have lived at the new village at various times.² Yet Governor St. Clair reported in 1790 that only five or six families lived at Peoria.³ The Federal census of 1790 has no report for the Northwest Territory. In 1800 the population of "Cpee on the Illinois River" was fixed at one hundred,⁴ which figure was apparently an estimate since no breakdown was given.. The census of 1810 overlooked Peoria entirely.

From the evidence available, French Peoria was indeed a wilderness village with very few of the amenities of civilization. The population was uncertain and migratory. Agriculture was apparently a subsidiary occupation. Charles Ballance, an early settler, a careful student of French Peoria because of the many years spent as a lawyer in fighting the French claims through the lower courts up to the United States Supreme Court and later a historian of his city, reported that the first American pioneers had found no fruit trees, shrubs or cultivated plants growing in the region. The total area claimed to have been under cultivation at different times amounted to less than 300 acres. When the village was burnt the acreage being farmed was probably less than 200 acres.⁵ Ballance also stated, from his personal examination of the town ruins, that the French inhabitants had no dwellings worthy of the name. They had neither church nor school house. Literacy was almost unknown at Peoria. Among all the affidavits Ballance had seen in the claims controversy there were only three former residents able to sign their own names, including Thomas Forsyth, the English Canadian.⁶

1. The French Inhabitants at Peoria, p. 5-8.

2. Ibid., p. 9-14.

3. Smith, The St. Clair Papers, II, 138.

4. Second Census, 1800, Return of the Whole Number of Persons within the Several Districts of the United States, p. 87.

5. Charles Ballance, The History of Peoria, Illinois, p. 19-21. Hereinafter cited as Ballance, History of Peoria. Of course it must be remembered that Ballance was an advocate for a cause (as a property owner he was personally concerned) and not an impartial historian.

6. Ibid., p. 19, 20.

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French Peoria, however, occupied a more important place in the economy of early Illinois than these facts might indicate. In the memorial sent to Congress in 1807, signed by twenty-four residents or former residents, Peoria was represented as a deposit of the fur trade west of the Great Lakes and north of the Illinois River and it was designated as the yearly rendezvous of several nations of Indians.¹

End of French Peoria

The sudden and tragic end of French Peoria is a familiar story which need not be told here at length. During the War of 1812 the unconquered Indian tribes of northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin, as friends of the British assumed a menacing attitude toward the scattered American settlements to the south. French Peoria, located in the wilderness of the Illinois River country, with villages of Potawatomes, Kickapoos, and Miamis near by, was regarded by the settlers as a center of Indian life. Hence in 1812 Governor Ninian Edwards of Illinois Territory sent two expeditions of militia to the Peoria region. The first expedition led by Governor Edwards marched to Lake Peoria and destroyed a deserted Indian village, then turned hastily homeward.²

The second expedition was led by Captain Thomas E. Craig, who was ordered to proceed to Peoria and there arrest certain persons who were encouraging the Indians to murder the frontier settlers.³ Craig's company soon arrived at Peoria where the village was found deserted. Some of the property was immediately seized, while the pork and the fowls were used for rations. When Thomas Forsyth returned, with some of the other residents, negotiations proceeded amicably at first. Then one night Craig's company, anchored in boats on the lake, was fired on by persons unknown. Convinced that the residents of Peoria were at least guilty of complicity, Craig burned half the village and carried the people off as captives.⁴

This hasty and heartless action of Craig was generally condemned by his contemporaries in Illinois. John Reynolds tells how the people were landed below Alton in a starving condition, without food or

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1. Papers of the Territory of Indiana, p. 431.
 2. John Reynolds, My Own Times (1855), p. 140-42. Reynolds, later Governor of Illinois, was a private soldier in this expedition.
 3. E. B. Washburne, ed., The Edwards Papers, in Chicago Historical Society Collections, III, 68. Hereinafter cited as The Edwards Papers.
 4. Letter of Craig to Governor Edwards, in The Edwards Papers, p. 86-90.

shelter. He tells also that Forsyth was in the pay of the Federal Government and that he was doing all he could to bring about the release of the prisoners taken in the recent Fort Dearborn massacre. Necessarily Forsyth had to act cautiously because of the exposed condition of Peoria; his actual position was unknown to the authorities in Illinois.¹

These French people did not return to Peoria. In 1813 the site of the abandoned village was used for the establishment of a military outpost, called Fort Clark. This fort was discontinued shortly after the end of the war and for several years thereafter the location remained unoccupied. It is of course possible that some of these Peoria French did make their way back to the region after the establishment of the American settlement there. Yet in the first tax list for Peoria County made in 1825 there were only 15 French or probable French names out of 123; only 2 of these 15 lived within the borders of the present-day county.² There was, however, a French trading post on the east bank of the Illinois River, across from Peoria and several miles to the south. East gives a list of 23 persons mentioned as residing there in the period from 1818 to 1828;³ only 3 of these are in the list of inhabitants for French Peoria.

The American residents of Peoria were, however, troubled by the French land claims for nearly half a century. These claims were based not on specific land grants (the French inhabitants had been mere squatters in the region), but rather on a series of Federal laws extending back to the early years of American control over the Northwest Territory. These laws provided for land grants to French inhabitants who could offer required proof of bonafide possession and to others who had given militia service to the United States. Under provision of these laws, many Peoria land claims were recommended for confirmation, but action was delayed because of the general confusion in Illinois land titles. Before a final settlement could be reached, Peoria was destroyed by Captain Craig and the inhabitants were forcibly removed from the region. Thereupon the French claims entered a new phase.⁴

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1. Reynolds, My Own Times, p. 142. For an account of the destruction of Peoria, see also Thomas Forsyth, "Journal of a Voyage from St. Louis to the Falls of St. Anthony, in 1819," in Reports and Collections of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin (1872), VI, 196, 197.
 2. History of Peoria County (Johnson), p. 310.
 3. The French Inhabitants of Peoria, p. 15, 16.
 4. David McCulloch, "Old Peoria," Transactions of the Illinois State Historical Society, Publication No. 6, Illinois State Historical Library, p. 41-51.

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Numerous memorials for relief were then submitted to Congress by the former French inhabitants. As a result, Congress passed an act, approved May 15, 1820, "for the relief of the inhabitants of Peoria."¹ This act provided that all the claimants should file notice of their claims with the register of the land office at Edwardsville. These claims were promptly filed, and from them Edward Coles made the report already noticed. Following this report, Congress passed a second act, approved March 3, 1823, "to confirm certain claims to lotts in the village of Peoria."² All those claims filed before Coles were ordered to be confirmed, and the district surveyor of public lands was instructed to survey the lots concerned so that patents might be issued. This survey, however, was delayed for many years and was not completed until 1840.

After the completion of this survey, many of the French claimants sued to recover possession from the American owners who had settled at Peoria and had improved the lots. Charles Ballance, the historian of Peoria, was active for many years in fighting these claims. Numerous cases were finally carried all the way to the United States Supreme Court, where by 1867 the last ones were decided against the claimants, chiefly because the operation of the statute of limitations. A moral justification can be made for this decision since most of the claims had been bought up years before by speculators.³

Settlement of Peoria County

Passing of the Indians

The Peoria Indians abandoned their old homeland about the time that the French regime came to an end in 1763. Captain Thomas Sterling, after raising the British flag over Fort Chartres two years later, reported that this tribe, then residing under the shadow of the fort, numbered about 250 warriors.⁴ In 1796 an American traveler visited the Peorias on the west side of the Mississippi near St. Louis; he found that these Indians, reduced to only 40 men, were thoroughly debauched,

1. 3 U. S. Stat. 605.

2. Ibid., p. 786.

3. Very little study has been made of these French claims. Ballance gives the best treatment, although from a partisan point of view (History of Peoria, p. 193-98).

4. Alvord and Carter, The New Regime, p. 126. A member of the Peoria tribe killed the famous Pontiac a short time later (Alvord and Carter, Trade and Politics, p. 548, 561).

and gave his opinion that they would be extinct within a short time.¹ When William Henry Harrison became Governor of the newly created Indiana Territory (then including the Illinois country) in 1800, he made a report on the Indian population under his jurisdiction, listing just 4 men for the Peorias. In 1829, a census of the tribe gave the total population as 120 persons; much of the increase during the preceding generation was due, however, to the merging of several related tribes with the Peorias.² Soon after this time these Indians were removed to a reservation in Kansas; in 1854 they were assigned to a new home located in the northeastern corner of present-day Oklahoma.³

The Potawatomes took over control of the Illinois River country as the weakened Peorias retreated to the American Bottom of the Mississippi. Thereafter the Potawatomes remained in the Peoria region until they in turn were crowded out by the incoming settlers, but they shared possession at times with groups of Kickapoos and Miamis.

In 1804, Governor Harrison, following his policy of extinguishing Indian land claims as rapidly as possible without careful regard to method, made a treaty with certain men of the Sacs and Foxes by which the United States secured the cession of a large area north of the Illinois River, including present-day Peoria County.⁴ The Potawatomes, who were in actual possession of much of this territory, refused to recognize the validity of this treaty. In 1816, however, they yielded

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1. "A Memorandum of M. Austin's Journey from . . . Virginia to . . . Louisiana West of the Mississippi" (1796-97), in The American Historical Review (1900), V, 539.
 2. Smithsonian Institution, Bureau of American Ethnology, Handbook of American Indians North of Mexico (1912), Part 2, p. 228. Hereinafter cited as Handbook of American Indians.
 3. According to a census of 1906, the Peorias had a population of 192, only 71 of whom were half-bloods or more (Handbook of American Indians, p. 228). Most of them were then living in or near Peoria, Oklahoma. It appears that the process of assimilation for this tribe has now been completed since recent census reports on the American Indians do not include the Peorias. Mention should be made of Baptiste Peoria, a tribal chief who provided able leadership during the period when his people were being moved about to make way for the incoming American settlers; he used his influence to persuade the Peorias to adopt the ways of the white men, thus probably saving them from early extinction and preparing them for eventual assimilation (Rice, Peoria, City and County, I, 15).
 4. Charles J. Kappler, comp. and ed., Indian Affairs, Laws and Treaties, II, 54. See Grant Foreman, "Illinois and Her Indians," in Papers in Illinois History and Transactions for the Year 1939 of the Illinois State Historical Society, p. 75.

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their claims to the region south of a line drawn from the southern extremity of Lake Michigan to the Mississippi River.¹ The Indian claims to the Peoria region were thus extinguished. The Potawatomies remained in Illinois, however, for over twenty years longer before they finally left the state. During this period they were never a menace to the incoming settlers.

Fort Clark

The Peoria location was used as an outpost of American military power in Illinois during the latter part of the War of 1812. In 1813 an expedition under General Benjamin Howard marched to Peoria and built a fort, named in honor of George Rogers Clark,² at which location a garrison of about a hundred men was stationed throughout the war.³ The fort was finally abandoned in 1818.⁴

Fort Clark was a simple stockade, constructed by planting two rows of logs firmly in the ground near each other, with the space between filled with logs, protected on each side with a ditch. It was about 100 feet square but stood with one corner toward the lake.⁵ The abandoned fort was burned late in 1818 or early in 1819.⁶ When Charles Ballance arrived at Peoria in 1831 there was no vestige of the fort except some burned posts.⁷

First American Settlers at Peoria

The first American settlement in Peoria County was made in the spring of 1819, shortly after the admission of Illinois to the Union. Yet the census of the preceding year, taken to prove the right of Illinois to become a state, has the following addendum in the returns of Joseph Borough, census commissioner for Madison County: "I beg leave further to state

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1. Kapler, Indian Affairs, Laws and Treaties, II, 91.
 2. "Antoine Le Clair's Statement, Fragmentary Notes Taken by Lyman C. Draper," in Collections of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, (1888), XI, 242; also "Dickson and Grignon Papers - 1812-1815," ibid., p. 283.
 3. Ibid., p. 290; see also p. 263, 294, 296, 305.
 4. The Edwards Papers, p. 144. Some historians, however, basing their conclusions on stories of hunters and traders, state that the fort was abandoned in 1815 (Nehemiah Matson, Pioneers of Illinois, p. 300).
 5. Ballance, History of Peoria, p. 40, 41.
 6. Ibid., p. 42-44.
 7. Ibid., p. 41, 42.

from good information that there are at . . . Fort Clark 80 souls."¹ Perhaps this was part of the padding put in by the patriotic census takers in order to show the required population of 40,000,² or it may have been an estimate of the number of soldiers in the garrison.

In the spring of 1819, a party of seven men set out from Shoal Creek, now in Clinton County, Illinois, to seek new homes near present day Naples on the Illinois River. Finding this locality not satisfactory, they pushed on to Fort Clark, about which they had heard favorable reports, reaching their destination on April 15. In the party were Abner Eads, Seth Fulton, and Josiah Fulton, Virginians by birth; S. Dougherty, J. Davis, and T. Russell, Kentuckians; and Joseph Hersey, a New Yorker.

These men found the walls of two small log cabins, apparently left by the soldiers; these cabins when completed became the first buildings in Peoria. Next they enclosed a 15-acre tract with rails found already prepared and planted the land to corn and potatoes. In June, Eads brought his wife and three children to their new home, where Mrs. Eads was promptly installed as housekeeper for the whole company. The little settlement was soon firmly established although the first winter was a time of considerable difficulty.⁴

Of the original group, Seth Fulton, Dougherty, Davis, Hersey, and Russell did not remain long at Peoria. Eads stayed there some years and became a prominent figure in the early days of the county. Josiah Fulton was the only one to remain in the Peoria region throughout life.⁵ Other early settlers of prominence were John L. Bogardus, Joseph Bryant, John Dixon, William Eads, Samuel Fulton, Isaac Funk, John Hamlin, William Holland, Elijah and Norman Hyde, James Latham, George Sharp, and Isaac Waters.⁶

Other Early Settlements

Outside the Peoria vicinity settlement proceeded slowly. Probably the first settler elsewhere in the county was Lewis Hallock, originally

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1. Margaret Cross Norton, ed., Illinois Census Returns, 1810, 1818, in Collections of the Illinois State Historical Library, v. XXIV, Statistical Series, II, 136.
 2. The population as finally reported was 40,258 (ibid., p. xxx).
 3. McCulloch, History of Peoria County, p. 53.
 4. Ibid., p. 54.
 5. Ibid.
 6. Ibid., p. 55. These persons had all arrived by 1825. A tax list of that year contained the names of thirty persons living at the Peoria settlement.

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from Long Island, who had spent some years with the Indians of Wisconsin living by hunting and trapping. About 1820 he built a cabin in what is now called Hallocks' Hollow of Hallock Township. He entered land at the location, married later, and spent the rest of his life there. Other early settlers in this community, who came about 1825, were Moses and Samuel Clifton, Resolved and Hiram Cleveland, and Gershom Silliman.¹

In Limestone Township, located just west of the village of Peoria, the first settlers were Joseph Moffatt and his three sons, Alva, Aquila, and Benjamin; this family arrived in 1822. Alva and Aquila Moffatt later became prominent in the county. Henry W. Jones, James Crowe, James Heaton, and Pleasant Hughes arrived some years later.²

Daniel Prince also arrived in 1822 and settled in what is now Princeville Township, located in the northern part of the county. His only neighbors during the early years were the Potawatomie Indians; some years later (about 1839) he moved on, hunting a new home where there was less congestion. Other early settlers were Myron Prince, brother of Daniel, and Stephen French.³

Medina Township, located on Lake Peoria above the main village, had a few early settlers. George Love and John Ridgeway arrived there in 1824. Several others came within the next few years, including Abner Cooper, Henry Thomas, and Samuel Clifton.⁴

These settlements were the only ones in existence in 1825 at the time of the county organization. Most of the other townships were not settled until the early 1830's.

Only an estimate can be made of the population of Peoria County proper in 1825. John L. Bogardus took a census of Peoria County and attached territory in that year, finding a total of 1,236 persons.⁵ In the same year Bogardus, as tax assessor, listed 120 taxable inhabitants; from the locations given for each person it appears that 44 of these were in Peoria County proper.⁶ In other words, slightly more than one third were in the present-day county. If the same proportion obtained for population, the number of people within the present-day county limits was around 450.

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1. McCulloch, History of Peoria County, p. 699.
 2. Ibid., p. 734.
 3. Ibid., p. 767,768.
 4. Ibid., p. 753.
 5. Ballance, History of Peoria, p. 199.
 6. McCulloch, History of Peoria County, p. 56.

Population Growth, 1830-1940

The growth of population was very modest during the next five years. The Federal census of 1830 listed 1,310 persons in Peoria and Putnam counties.¹ There are no statistics on the population of the village of Peoria but it is known that in 1832 there were only twenty-two buildings of all types in the settlement.²

With the rapid development of steamboat transportation on the Illinois River during the 1830's settlement proceeded much more rapidly. In 1835 a county census, taken by Isaac Waters, gave Peoria County proper a population of 3,199.³ The Federal census of 1840 found 6,153 persons in the county. The following figures for county districts show how the population was distributed; Benton, 297; Charleston, 343; Chillicothe, 195; Copperas, 559; Harkness, 375; Jackson, 232; Lafayette, 316; La Grange, 410; La Marsh, 320; La Salle, 405; Middle, 402; Northhampton, 316; Peoria, 1,467; Prince's Grove, 351; Rochester, 165.⁴

Economic Development

Early Economy of Peoria County

The early economy of Peoria County is the old story of American frontier life - a story repeated decade after decade as the restless pioneers pushed ever farther westward, out beyond the reach of existing transportation facilities, where at first Nature with all her rich resources could offer nothing better than bare subsistence. In this region, as elsewhere in the West, some of the first settlers were trail blazers of civilization, who always moved on as the tide of population threatened to engulf them.

For approximately a decade after the first American settlement at Peoria in 1819, the community there had only irregular and uncertain connections with the outside world. Roads leading to other settlements did exist but they were of limited value at this time.⁵ The first bridge in

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1. Fifth Census, 1830, p. 148,149. Putnam County, still attached to Peoria County for administrative purposes, contained a large area of northeastern Illinois, including the village of Chicago.
 2. History of Peoria County (Johnson), p. 285.
 3. Ballance, History of Peoria, p. 199. This figure, however, was probably somewhat padded, as comparative reports made by county agents and Federal census takers in decennial years indicate.
 4. Sixth Census, 1840, p. 388,389. For growth of population in Peoria County from 1830 to 1940 by county and by incorporated municipalities, see Table I.
 5. County Commissioners' Court Record, v. A, p. 32,47,65,127,128, in Supervisors' Record, see entry 2.

TABLE I: Population of Peoria County from 1830 to 1940 by County and Municipalities¹

Year	Peoria County	City of Peoria	Bartonville	Brimfield	Chillicothe	Elmwood	Glassford City	Hanna City	Kington Mines	North Chillothe	Peoria Heights	Princeville
1830	1,310											
1840	6,153											
1850	17,547	5,095										
1860	36,501	13,936		565	663	1,178						263
1870	47,540	22,849				1,476						424
1880	55,355	29,259		832	936	1,504	154		210			509
1890	72,378	41,024		719	1,632	1,548	286					641
1900	88,608	56,100		677	1,699	1,582	409		509	417	309	735
1910	100,255	66,950	1,536	576	1,851	1,390	625		492	911	582	982
1920	111,710	76,121	1,588	617	1,986	1,242	645	975	360	1,002	1,111	1,035
1930	141,344	104,969	1,886	572	1,978	1,166	671	563	326	1,004	3,279	994
1940	153,374	105,087	1,879	618	2,303	1,348	782	633	390	1,216	4,376	996

1. Fifth Census, 1830, p. 148, 149; Sixth Census, 1840, Enumeration of the Inhabitants, p. 388, 389 (population is not given by towns but by districts); Compendium of Seventh Census, 1850, p. 702, 714; Eighth Census, 1860, I, Population, 81, 83, 87; Ninth Census, 1870, I, Population, 23, 117, 118; Tenth Census, 1880, I, Population, 57, 140, 145, 146; Report on Population, Eleventh Census, 1890, I, Part 1, 113; Twelfth Census, 1900, I, Population, Part 1, 128; Thirteenth Census, 1910, I, Population, 119; Fifteenth Census, 1930, Population, I, 305 (includes Fourteenth Census 1920 data); Sixteenth Census, 1940, Illinois Final Population, Series F-2, No. 47 (Press Release January 1941).

Peoria County was not completed until 1829.¹ The usual method of crossing streams was by ferry.² Steamboat transportation was expanding steadily on the Illinois River system but it did not reach Peoria until 1830.³

In December 1829, the steamboat Liberty arrived at Peoria, the first power vessel to make this trip. The expansion of this type of transportation was rapid. In 1840 there were forty different boats which made trips between St. Louis and Peoria; many, however, made only irregular runs. In 1850, fifty-nine steamboats with a total tonnage of 9,463 tons were engaged in the Illinois River trade as far as Peoria.⁴ During this period from 1830 to 1850 the population of Peoria County increased from 1,310 to 17,547.⁵

Coming of the Railroads

Important as Peoria had been as a river port, it was later to become even more prominent as a railroad center. It is now one of the principal distributing points in Illinois.

The first railroad project for Peoria County was a part of the ill-fated internal improvement system which the Illinois General Assembly promoted in 1837. Nevertheless, considerable grading and other construction was completed for the Peoria and Warsaw Railroad. Then came the financial crash and the end of the whole scheme of development.

The period of railroad construction really began about 1850. The Peoria and Oquawka Railroad Company was chartered by the state legislature on February 12, 1849.⁶ The road, however, was not completed to Peoria until January 1857.⁷ This line has since become a part of the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad. The second railroad organized to serve Peoria, chartered February 12, 1853, as the Peoria and Bureau Valley Railroad Company, was the first to begin service; it was completed to Peoria in early November 1854.⁸ The city of Peoria was then brought into railroad communication with the rest of the nation.

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1. County Commissioners' Court Record, v. A, p. 73,105,137,164, in Supervisors' Record, see entry 2.
 2. The granting of ferry licenses and the fixing of rates was one of the principal duties of the court at this time.
 3. Theodore Calvin Pease, The Frontier State, 1818-1848, v. II, The Centennial History of Illinois, p. 191.
 4. History of Peoria County (Johnson), p. 527.
 5. Table I, p. 25.
 6. Priv. L. 1849, p. 99-103.
 7. McCulloch, History of Peoria County, p. 123-25.
 8. Ibid., p. 126.

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With the completion of these two railways Peoria had 53 miles of railroad tracks.¹ After the Civil War there began another period of railroad construction; by 1870 Peoria County had 95 miles of track.² Since that date there has been a steady expansion in railroad mileage decade by decade up to the present time, the county having 281 miles of track in 1900³ and 421 three decades later.⁴ In 1939 the railroads of the county with the mileage of each were as follows: Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific (Rock Island and Peoria Branch), 92.08 miles; Peoria Railway Terminal (Peoria, Hanna City and Western), 24.64; Toledo, Peoria and Western, 14.51; Chicago, Burlington and Quincy, 76.36; Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe, 96.34; Chicago and Northwestern, 50.05; Peoria and Pekin Union, 58.39; Minneapolis and St. Louis, 29.99; and the Illinois Traction System, 1.17; the total railroad mileage in the county was then 434.53.⁵

Industrial Development

The industrial development of Peoria began about 1850. The exact status of local manufacturing at that time is revealed in a contemporary report made by Mark M. Aiken for the Peoria Republican; this report comprises a list of manufactures shipped from the city during 1850.⁶

TABLE 11: List of Manufactured Products Shipped from the City of Peoria in 1850

Product	Quantity	Value per Unit	Total Value
Flour	33,753 barrels	\$ 4.50	\$151,888.50
Whiskey	5,685 "	10.00	56,850.00
Brooms	1,300 dozen	2.00	2,600.00
Cooperage			47,485.00
Miscellaneous			100,000.00
Total			<u>358,823.50</u>

The Illinois state census of 1855 furnishes a complete list of the different types of manufactories then operating in the city. This list indicates that considerable progress had been made in the preceding five years. The list is given in Table III which, however, includes only the types of manufactories with output exceeding \$20,000 in value.

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1. Supervisors' Record, v. B, p. 217,218, see entry 2.
 2. Railroad Tax Books (1870), v. not labeled, see entry 25.
 3. Ibid., (1900).
 4. Ibid. (1930), p. 127-56.
 5. Ibid. (1939), p. 100-125.
 6. McCulloch, History of Peoria County, p. 314.

TABLE III: List of Leading Manufactories
of the City of Peoria in 1854¹

Types	Number	Total Value of Output
Flouring mills	4	\$ 650,000
Distilleries	3	502,800
Sash, door and blind, saw and planing mills	5	296,300
Cooper and barrel factories	9	137,620
Wagon and carriage factories	7	103,536
Foundries	3	75,000
Furniture factories	4	67,500
Flow factories	3	60,600
Foot and shoe factories	16	36,514
Harness factories		36,000
Cut stone and monument factories	3	29,800
Fanning-mill and corn-sheller factories	4	28,000
Tin, copper and sheet iron factories	5	28,000
Fat soap and candle factories	3	26,300
Breweries	5	24,900
Brick yards	5	20,750
Miscellaneous ²		78,500
Total		\$2,221,470

(Note: the correct total is \$2,202,100)

Table IV shows the growth of manufacturing in Peoria, both county and city, from 1850 until 1930. This table indicates the way in which the city has dominated the economic life of the county and shows also the steady progress which Peoria has made in manufacturing. Peoria County has always had high rank among the manufacturing counties of Illinois.³ Among the principal industrial products of the City of Peoria at the present time are alcoholic liquors, commercial solvents, washing machines, agricultural implements, furnaces, oil burners, stock feed, and corn products.⁴

1. McCulloch, History of Peoria County, p. 314.
2. The list of miscellaneous factories included 2 potteries, 1 fish oil factory, 6 cigar and tobacco factories, 1 lightning rod factory, 1 match factory, 2 agricultural and threshing machine factories, 2 merchant tailoring factories, and 3 hat and cap factories.
3. In 1850 Peoria County stood fourth among the counties of Illinois; its rank was eighth in 1919 and sixth in 1929 (Compendium of Seventh Census, 1850, p. 223,229; Fourteenth Census, 1920, v. VIII, Manufactures, p. 311,312; Fifteenth Census, 1930, Manufactures, I, 299,360).
4. "Peoria," The Encyclopedia Americana (1938), XXI, 561; article contributed by Ernest E. East, President, Peoria Historical Society.

TABLE IV: Growth of Manufacturing in Peoria, County and City, from 1850 to 1930¹

Year	Area	Number of Establishments	Average Number of Employees	Wages Paid	Cost of Materials	Value of Products	Capital
1850	county	--	577	--	--	\$ 722,957	\$ 419,730
1860	county	148	1,397	\$ 501,496	\$ 3,222,130	4,930,746	3,396,850
1880	county city	402 296	4,486 4,067	1,612,974 1,507,666	9,809,882 9,556,476	14,703,382 14,228,134	4,450,872 4,160,707
1900	county city	1,025 871	8,462 8,022	4,126,604 3,901,186	15,384,946 14,986,348	49,730,920 48,871,596	28,513,608 27,971,613
1919	county city	295 253	9,313 7,977	10,001,414 8,151,000	46,610,520 35,919,000	71,903,042 57,075,000	-- -- --
1929	county city	202 185	8,473 6,738	11,433,050 8,372,091	60,054,147 36,727,152	101,952,359 67,266,317	-- -- --

1. Seventh Census, 1850, Compendium, p. 223; Eighth Census, 1860, III, Manufactures, 111; Tenth Census, 1880, II, Manufactures, 108, 380; Twelfth Census, 1900, VIII, Part 2, Manufactures, 168, 169, 190, 191; Fourteenth Census, 1920, IX, Manufactures, 311, 346; Fifteenth Census, 1930, Manufactures, I, 260, 294.

Labor and Capital

Throughout the period of its history as an industrial city, Peoria has undergone many conflicts between capital and labor. The earliest strikes on record occurred during the Civil War. In October 1862 the street car drivers went on strike because the company refused to allow them to sit on stools during their seventeen-hour work shift each day. They drove their horses and cars into the barns, after which action not a wheel turned until the company met the demands of the strikers.¹ Two years later, 129 coopers quit work and threatened that if their wages were not raised they would join the Union Army.² In 1867 the Peoria Workmen's Association put on a demonstration for the eight-hour day; the affair became a riot but finally dissolved without police action.³

During the severe depression of the 1870's, several outbreaks of violence occurred in Peoria. In 1873 trouble broke out in the coal mines because of a reduction in wages. After some weeks of inactivity the mines were reopened, apparently on the terms of the mine operators.⁴ In 1877, striking railroad men, coopers, and miners engaged in rioting through the downtown district of the city. The mayor banned all large gatherings but the police were powerless to control the situation. Finally, four companies of state militia were summoned to restore order. The trouble ceased with the arrest of the leaders.⁵

In 1893 there was an epidemic of strikes as various groups of workers struck for increased wages. The settlements were generally favorable to the workers.⁶ A year later, during the nation-wide railroad strikes, train service at Peoria almost stopped as the rail workers left their work in sympathy with the Pullman strikers. After three days, however, the men returned to their old jobs in Peoria even though their fellow workers in other cities continued the losing struggle.⁷

Peoria underwent many months of strife during the widespread steel strikes of 1919. The center of this struggle was the Keystone Steel and Wire Company located at South Bartonville, a suburb of Peoria. Months before the general steel strike of September, trouble began to brew at this plant as company officials attempted to organize a company union

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1. George Johnson, comp., Peoriana (newspaper clipping file in Peoria Public Library), v. 8, October 24, 1862. Hereinafter cited as Peoriana.
 2. Ibid., August 5, 1864.
 3. Ibid., May 2, 1867.
 4. Peoria Daily Transcript, August 20, October 4, 1873.
 5. Peoriana, v. 8, July 26, 1877.
 6. Peoria Daily Transcript, January 6, August 31, September 2, November 7, 1893.
 7. Peoriana, v. 8, July 9, 1894; Peoria Daily Transcript, July 13, 1894.

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under the guise of a shop welfare association.¹ Meanwhile, union organization among the steel workers was proceeding rapidly, and soon labor leaders claimed that over 1,100 of the 1,500 Keystone employees were members of the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel, and Tin Workers of America.² Relations between management and workers then moved toward an impasse. When the company submitted its welfare association to a vote the union members defeated it by casting blank ballots.³ Company officials then announced that they would maintain an open shop and would not recognize the union. On their side, the union leaders were not seeking a closed shop but merely union recognition.⁴

After months of further controversy the employees of the Keystone Company went out on strike early in July over the issue of union recognition.⁵ The wheels of production were brought to a complete stop.⁶ Negotiations for a settlement continued for weeks but proved fruitless because neither side would yield.⁷ On August 11, the company management announced the reopening of the plant on an open-shop basis.⁸ Violence then broke out because of the importation of strike-breakers.⁹ The National Guard was summoned to preserve order, but the violence continued, resulting in serious injury to four persons.¹⁰ A settlement then seemed near as the company removed the strike-breakers and permitted the National Guard to leave.¹¹ At last, a compromise formula was accepted by the negotiators but was overwhelmingly defeated by the strikers because it did not involve union recognition.¹²

The strike situation continued without change throughout the month of September. On September 22, the nation-wide steel strike began.¹³ The

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1. Peoria Daily Journal, March 14, 1919.
 2. Peoria Sunday Journal Transcript, March 16, 1919.
 3. Ibid., April 20, 1919. Of the 981 ballots cast, 220 were for the plan and 196 were opposed, while 10 ballots were defective and 505 blank.
 4. Ibid.
 5. Peoria Daily Journal, July 12, 1919. Although working conditions were not directly at issue, they did enter into the controversy. The steel workers complained of twelve- and fourteen-hour shifts; they had two Sundays off each month and double shifts on the other Sundays (Peoria Sunday Journal Transcript, July 13, 1919).
 6. Peoria Journal, July 14, 1919.
 7. Ibid., July 24, 25, 26, August 14.
 8. Ibid.
 9. Ibid., August 13, 1919.
 10. Ibid., August 14, 1919. The person most seriously injured was the young son of F. W. Sommer, president of the plant; another was the son of John Sommer, assistant superintendent.
 11. Ibid., August 15, 1919.
 12. Ibid., August 18, 19, 22, 1919.
 13. Ibid., September 19, 1919.

end, however, was near in Peoria. The Keystone plant began partial operation on October 4.¹ Most of the strikers remained out for some weeks longer but with the collapse of the general steel strike they had to give up the struggle.²

During 1922, Peoria was seriously affected by two historic national strikes. The first was the coal strike called by the United Mine Workers on April 1 because of a threatened wage reduction. The strike lasted until August 15, at which time President Harding stepped in and arranged a settlement which retained the old wage scale.³ In Peoria County, there was little violence although the situation did become delicate with the reopening of the nonunion mines early in July.⁴ About this time the local supply of coal ran low but the ending of the strike in mid-August prevented the situation from becoming acute.⁵

Much more serious was the railroad shopmen's strike. This strike was ordered throughout the nation because of wage reductions announced by the railroads and changes in working conditions ordered by the United States Railway Board. Beginning on July 1, 1922, the strike continued until September 25, when it was ended by an agreement essentially on the terms of the railroad companies.⁶ In Peoria there was considerable violence between strikers and strike-breakers. This disorder led to the summoning of National Guard troops and prompted Federal Judge Fitzhenry to issue an injunction seriously restraining union strike activity.⁷ The strike continued but became steadily less effective as the weeks passed into August and September. By the time the national agreement was reached on September 25, most of the Peoria shops were in nearly full operation.⁸

Whiskey Industry

The distillation of alcoholic liquors has always been the principal industry of Peoria, except during the period of national prohibition. In 1844, Almiran S. Cole started the first distillery; his plant was a small affair, capable of using only two hundred bushels of corn a day. Much to the surprise of his neighbors, Cole prospered in his new business, and consequently others soon entered the field.⁹ Peoria was almost ideally located for the whiskey industry since the city was in the center of a

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1. Peoria Journal, October 4, 1919.
 2. Ibid., October 20, November 7, 1919.
 3. The Americana Annual, 1923, p. 805, 806.
 4. Peoria Journal Transcript, July 2, 3, 1922.
 5. Peoria Transcript, July 21, August 24, 1922.
 6. The Americana Annual, 1923, p. 806.
 7. Peoria Transcript, July 10, 11, 14, 27, 1922.
 8. Ibid., September 15, 21, 1922.
 9. Ballance, History of Peoria, p. 136.

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great corn-producing area. In the early days when river transportation was the principal outlet for commerce, it was much easier to market corn in liquid form than as grain.

By 1880 Peoria had attained world-wide prominence in the whiskey industry. The fifth revenue district of Illinois, of which Peoria was the center, ranked above all others in the country in the amount of internal revenue (derived almost entirely from liquor taxes) paid to the Federal Government.¹ There were then eleven distilleries in Peoria with a capacity of 77,660 gallons of proof spirits a day. In 1878 this industry used 3,001,308 bushels of grain and produced 11,520,360 gallons of liquor.² Not long afterwards, other distilleries were constructed, including the Great Western Distillery, which until the coming of prohibition was considered the largest in the world.³ As a sideline the distilleries fattened large numbers of hogs and cattle on the waste products.⁴

During the two decades before 1900 the "Whiskey Trust" formed by the great Peoria distilleries became well known throughout the country. Since the production capacity greatly exceeded the demand, the principal plants formed a pool which regulated the industry by fixing prices and by allocating quotas of production to all the members. This trust continued to function although it underwent many changes in organization because of adverse court decisions and violations of agreement by members of the pool.⁵

When the "great drought" fell upon Peoria in 1919 most of the plants were closed and some were dismantled. Several, however, continued in operation for the production of medicinal and mechanical alcohols under extremely strict governmental supervision. In 1933 when prohibition repeal appeared certain, whirlwind preparations were made for the resumption of the whiskey industry. Peoria immediately regained her former position of leadership in this field.⁶

Mining Industry

Peoria County is rich in mineral resources, especially coal, which can be mined very cheaply. For this reason, much coal has been mined here throughout the history of the county. In 1939 Peoria County produced 1,180,653 tons of coal, ranking fifteenth among the counties of

1. History of Peoria County (Johnson), p. 535.

2. Ibid.

3. Peoria Journal Transcript, May 24, 1936.

4. Ibid.

5. Peoria Daily Transcript, February 12, 1890; Peoria Journal Transcript, May 24, 1936.

6. Ibid.

Illinois.¹ From 1862 to 1939, 56,199,199 tons were mined in the county.² A total of 1,517 persons were employed in 1939, of whom 865 were employed by shipping mines and 652 by local mines.³ Over two thirds of the coal was sold to railroad companies.⁴

Peoria County also ranks high in the production of limestone. In 1939 it produced 452,607 tons, which production gave it third place among Illinois counties for this item. This industry gave employment to 1,500 persons.⁵

Agriculture

Although Peoria County has high rank as an industrial center,⁶ it is also important in agriculture. In 1930 the rural farm population was 10,769 out of the total of 141,344, a percentage of 7.62.⁷ Five years later approximately 350,000 acres, or 86.1 percent of the total area, were in 2,687 farms.⁸ Beyond the bluffs bordering the streams there is very little land not suited for farming purposes. In Primfield Township⁹ it is claimed that not more than 40 acres are unsuitable for cultivation. In soil productivity 64.6 percent of the soil is in the five most fertile grades and 35.4 in the five least fertile.¹⁰ The crop yield index for Peoria County is 105.2, compared with 100 for the state as a whole.¹¹ Table V shows the changes in and the development of Peoria County agriculture from 1850 to 1930.

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1. Illinois Department of Mines and Minerals, Fifty-eighth Coal Report of Illinois, 1939, p. 58.
 2. Ibid., p. 112. Peoria ranked fourteenth among the counties during this period.
 3. Ibid., p. 139.
 4. Ibid., p. 138.
 5. Ibid., p. 272.
 6. In 1933 Peoria County ranked one hundred and second among the approximately 3,000 counties in the United States (Illinois State Planning Commission, Value of Products Manufactured by Counties, p. 5).
 7. University of Illinois, Agriculture Experiment Station, Information Pertaining to Farm, Home and Community, with Special Reference to Type of Farming Area 8, p. 8. Hereinafter cited as Farm, Home and Community.
 8. Ibid., p. 4.
 9. McCulloch, History of Peoria County, p. 653.
 10. Farm, Home and Community, p. 14.
 11. Ibid., p. 24. The crop yield index for each county is based on the yields of corn, oats, and wheat. It is a weighted average for each county of the percentages which the yields of the several crops during the years from 1924 to 1933 bear to the state average yields over the same period. The weighting is according to the acreage of the various crops in the county in 1929.

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TABLE V: Changes in Peoria County Agriculture from 1850 to 1930¹

Years	No. of Farms	Acres Improved	Value of Farms	Value of Implements	Value of Livestock	Estimated Value of Products
1850	1,191	83,718	\$ 2,213,933			
1860		173,557	6,812,219	\$ 314,944	\$1,229,978	
1880	2,956	267,624	13,386,849	389,996	1,439,049	\$2,332,841
1900	2,813		19,177,020	567,060	2,400,701	5,453,188
1920	2,499	348,711	81,407,265		5,814,990	9,410,467
1930	2,373	322,754	45,691,045	2,017,655	3,513,250	4,251,780

Corn has always been the principal crop of Peoria County. In 1860 there were 32,802 acres of wheat, 80,765 of corn, and 26,395 of other field products.² Later, as the City of Peoria laid less emphasis upon its wheat receipts, corn acquired even greater predominance. In 1876 there were 6,007 acres in wheat, 104,178 in corn, 24,500 in meadows, 14,499 in other field products, 28,779 in inclosed pastures, 3,307 in orchards, and 45,085 in woodlands.³ Shortly before this latter date the grain production was given as follows: spring wheat, 92,361 bushels; winter wheat, 31,843; rye, 99,502; corn, 969,224; and oats, 354,892 bushels.⁴ In 1938 the county had the following production and acreage for its principal crops: corn, 4,753,200 bushels on 93,200 acres; wheat, 30,700 bushels on 1,700 acres; oats, 1,329,400 bushels on 39,100 acres; rye, 15,600 bushels on 1,200 acres; and soy beans, 334,400 bushels on 15,200 acres.⁵ In addition to these cereal crops the farms of Peoria County produce large numbers of livestock, especially hogs and cattle. According to one estimate, the farm income of the county in 1929 was derived as follows: 30.9 percent from crops, 36.4 from livestock, 21.5 from livestock products, nearly all of the remainder consisting of products used by farm families.⁶

In 1930 the value of the average Peoria County farm was \$19,262, as against \$15,553 for the state average; the corresponding values per acre

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1. Seventh Census, 1850, Compendium, p. 220, 221, 223; Eighth Census, 1860, II, Agriculture, 34; Tenth Census, 1880, III, Agriculture, 112; Twelfth Census, 1900, V, Part 1, Agriculture, 75, 278; Fourteenth Census, 1920, VI, Part 1, Agriculture, 382; Fifteenth Census, 1930, Agriculture, II, Part 1, 575, 588, 640.
 2. Supervisors' Record, v. B, p. 35, see entry 2.
 3. Ibid., v. E, p. 461.
 4. Ibid., v. D, p. 217.
 5. Illinois Department of Agriculture, Illinois Crop and Livestock Statistics, 1937-1938, p. 24, 26, 28, 32, 34, 42.
 6. Farm, home and Community, p. 64.

were \$137.31, and \$108.68.¹ Other figures, however, are less encouraging. In 1930 no less than 58.2 percent of the farms were operated by tenants.² Of the owner-operated farms, 48.2 percent were mortgaged, the average farm mortgage being \$7,311.³

Social Development

Population Changes

Most of the early settlers of Peoria County came from the northeastern states, especially New York. Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, and Ohio also were well represented among these pioneers. Of the southern states, only Virginia and Kentucky made contributions worthy of mention.⁴

After 1840 large numbers of foreign-born persons came into Peoria County. The Germans were most numerous with the Irish next in importance. The Negro population was negligible until 1890, but since that time there has been a small migration of this race into the county. Table VI shows the population changes from 1840 to 1930.

TABLE VI: Population Changes in Peoria County from 1840 to 1930 by Nativity and Color⁵

Year	Peoria County	Foreign-born	Colored
1840	6,153		9
1850	17,547	2,633	86
1860	33,608	9,169	126
1870	47,540	11,673	155
1880	55,355	10,886	512
1890	70,738	12,412	966
1900	88,608	12,469	1,535
1910	100,455	12,437	1,737
1920	111,710	10,680	2,334
1930	141,344	9,389	3,216

1. Farm, Home and Community, p. 68.
2. Ibid.
3. Ibid., p. 68.
4. Ballance, History of Peoria, p. 201,202.
5. Sixth Census, 1840, p. 338; Seventh Census, 1850, Compendium, p. 218, 219; Eighth Census, 1860, I, Population, 87,103; Compendium of Eleventh Census, 1890, p. 483 (population figures also for 1870 and 1880); Thirteenth Census, 1910, Abstract of the Census, with Supplement for Illinois, p. 630; Fourteenth Census, 1920, III, Population, 268; Fifteenth Census, 1930, Population, III, Part 1, 619.

Historical Sketch

The 12,457 persons of foreign birth residing in the county in 1910 represented the following countries of origin (including only those with 400 or more nationals): Germany, 5,028; England and Scotland, 1,480; Ireland, 1,310; Sweden, 824; Hungary, 646; Russia, 476; Canada, 437; and Austria, 435.¹ In general the great majority of these persons belonged to the older immigration groups from western and northern Europe. The census of 1930 showed much the same distribution.²

Political Cast of the County

In its political affiliation Peoria County has been Democratic during most of its history. Nevertheless in the election of 1828, the first presidential contest held after the organization of the county, the vote was 93 for John Quincy Adams and 46 for Andrew Jackson.³ Thereafter the county voted regularly for the Democratic candidates for president by narrow majorities until 1848 when it gave its support to the Whig, General Zachary Taylor.⁴ The county was almost as loyal in its support of other Democratic candidates.

During the years of anti-slavery agitation which preceded the Civil War, opinion in Peoria County was sharply divided. Apparently there were few willing to defend slavery as an institution, yet many preferred to leave it unmolested in the southern states, fearing that abolition agitation might disrupt the Union. So strong was this sentiment that an anti-slavery meeting held in 1843 was broken up by mob action organized by persons of the highest respectability.⁵ During the 1850's, sentiment within the county crystallized around the opposing points of view held by Stephen A. Douglas and Abraham Lincoln, with the former enjoying a narrow predominance of support.

Peoria had no part in the famous Lincoln-Douglas debates of 1858, yet four years previously it had been the scene of a notable debate between these two protagonists. During the early controversy occasioned by the passage of the Kansas-Nebraska Bill, Senator Douglas planned a speech at Peoria on October 16, 1854. Local leaders opposed to the Douglas policy on slavery invited Lincoln to respond to the senator's speech. Arrangements were made for a debate on the public square in Peoria; Douglas was to open in a speech of three hours, Lincoln to have the same time for reply; and then Douglas to close in another hour. On the occasion, Douglas

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1. Thirteenth Census, 1910, Abstract of the Census, with Supplement for Illinois, p. 630.
 2. Fifteenth Census, 1930, Population, III, Part 1, 656.
 3. Theodore Calvin Pease, ed., Illinois Election Returns, 1818-1848, in Collections of the Illinois State Historical Library, v. LVIII, Statistical series, I, 58. Hereinafter cited as Illinois Election Returns.
 4. Ibid., p. 62.
 5. McCulloch, History of Peoria County, p. 139, 140.

spoke nearly three hours, closing late in the afternoon. Arising for his turn, Lincoln suggested adjournment for dinner. This pause gave Lincoln a chance to arrange his thoughts better and to have the advantage of a larger attendance in the evening. In this Peoria speech he stated clearly many of the principles which later became the fundamental articles of faith of the new Republican Party. Douglas in his rebuttal exhibited concern and ill-concealed anger. The next day, with Lincoln hard on his trail, Douglas cancelled an appearance at Lacon, feigning indisposition. The senator then sought and made an agreement with his opponent to discontinue this public discussion, each one agreeing to speak no more on the issue. Lincoln promptly retired to his home but Douglas, miraculously relieved of his throat trouble, spoke the following day at Princeton.¹

As a candidate for president Lincoln failed to carry Peoria County either in 1860 or in 1864, but each time he lost only by a narrow margin, which through strange coincidence was almost exactly the same for both elections.² Nor did Lincoln's war policy have the undivided support of the county. Many of the Democrats actively opposed the prosecution of the war. The Democratic county convention of 1862 adopted a resolution declaring the Emancipation Proclamation to be "unwise, unconstitutional, and calculated to prolong the present rebellion."³ Throughout the war the "Knights of the Golden Circle," a secret organization of secessionist sympathies, remained active in Peoria, often going to extreme limits in denunciation of the President. At a meeting held in Peoria on August 4, 1864, many leading opponents of Lincoln denounced the war and demanded an immediate armistice. But after the assassination of the President the board unanimously passed a resolution expressing its "Abhorrence of the murder of our late Respected President and of Condolence with his bereaved family."⁴

Another resolution of political significance was one adopted in April 1866, endorsing "the constitutional action of President Johnson in his measures to restore the Union at the shortest possible period." The board passed this resolution by a vote of 15 to 9 after some parliamentary maneuvering.⁵

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1. McCulloch, History of Peoria County, p. 145-50. The site of this little-known debate in Peoria is now marked by a monument (Supervisors' Record, v. Q, p. 210, 221, see entry 2).
 2. In 1860 the vote was 3,539 for Lincoln, 3,738 for Douglas, 40 for Bell, and 51 for Breckinridge; in 1864, it was 3,536 for Lincoln and 3,739 for McClellan (John Moses, Illinois, Historical and Statistical, II, 1209).
 3. McCulloch, History of Peoria County, p. 189.
 4. Supervisors' Record, v. C, p. 264, see entry 2.
 5. Ibid., p. 387.

Historical Sketch

After the Civil War the county remained steadfast for a generation in its support of Democratic presidential candidates, but by small majorities.¹ In 1896 came the first break as the county voted 10,486 for McKinley to 9,042 for Bryan in the heated campaign of that year.² Since that date, Peoria county has usually been Republican territory by substantial majorities, but in both 1932 and 1936 it gave its vote to Franklin Roosevelt.³ In November 1940, the county was back in the Republican column again, giving 42,009 to Wendell L. Willkie and 34,911 to Roosevelt in his third-term candidacy.⁴

Churches of Peoria County

Christianity first came to the Peoria region when Father Marquette and Jolliet halted there in 1673. The dying child brought to Marquette was probably the first person to be baptized within the present state of Illinois.⁵ In 1691, with the establishment of Fort St. Louis at Pimiteoui, Father Gravier set up his mission at that place, and even after the abandonment of the fort he remained to minister to the Peoria Indians. Following his death, caused by an arrow wound inflicted by a hostile Indian, the mission was left unfilled; after being closed for several years it was reopened in 1711.⁶ Nothing further is known about this mission but it probably remained open only a short time.⁷

The evidence available indicates that the French village at Peoria passed through the whole period of its existence without benefit of clergy. It appears also that the Indians of the region were beyond the reach of the existing missions.

After the settlement of American Peoria there were few Catholics in the county during the early years. The first Catholic service of record was held in December 1837, near Peoria in the home of Thomas Mooney,⁸ an

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1. Moses, Illinois, Historical and Statistical, II, 1208-11.
 2. "Comparative Votes for President, 1892-1920, by Counties," in Illinois Department Secretary of State, Blue Book of the State of Illinois, 1923-1924, p. 752-54.
 3. The returns from 1912 to 1936 are found in The Chicago Daily News Almanac and Year Book; see yearbook for year following each election. The vote in 1932 was 37,605 for Roosevelt and 25,166 for Hoover; in 1936 it was 48,063 for Roosevelt and 25,425 for Landon.
 4. Illinois Department Secretary of State, Official Vote of the State of Illinois Cast at the General Election, November 5, 1940, p. 9.
 5. See p. 5.
 6. See p. 8,9.
 7. (Rev.) J. B. Culemans, "Missionary Adventures among the Peorias," in Illinois Catholic Historical Review (July 1922), V, 27-40.
 8. Rice, Peoria City and County, I, 147.

Irish settler, later prominent in county politics. In 1639 the Rev. J. M. St. Cyr, the first resident priest of Chicago, walked the 150 miles to Peoria to celebrate Mass on more than one occasion.¹ St. Mary's Church in Peoria was built in 1852.² The first Catholic church in the county, however, was erected at Kickapoo in 1839.³ In 1935 the Catholics had twenty churches in Peoria County, and in addition they had eleven elementary schools, one high school, an academy, a home for the aged, a church charity organization, a sanitarium, a hospital, an orphanage, a home for young women, and a House of the Good Shepherd.⁴ The City of Peoria is also the headquarters of Peoria Diocese which includes twenty-eight counties of central Illinois.

Apparently the Methodist Church was the first denomination active in American Peoria. In 1824 Jesse Walkor, sometimes called the Daniel Boone of Methodism, came to Fort Clark as a missionary to the Potawatomie Indians. In addition, he was quite active in organizing classes among the white settlers.⁵ The first Methodist Church in the village of Peoria was organized in 1833.⁶ At present there are seventeen churches of this denomination in the county with a total membership of 7,459.⁷

The First Presbyterian Church in Peoria was organized in October, 1840, with twenty-four members under the pastorate of the Rev. Isaac Koller.⁸ Since that time the members of this church have been quite active in the county. At present there are thirteen Presbyterian churches with a total membership of 3,804.⁹

Other churches well represented in Peoria County, with the number of churches and total membership of each, are as follows: Congregationalist, six churches with 1,495 members;¹⁰ Baptist, seven churches with 1,924;¹¹ Disciples of Christ, four churches with 2,961 members;¹² Evangelical

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1. Rice, Peoria City and County, I, 147.
 2. Ibid.
 3. Ibid.
 4. The Official Catholic Directory, Year of Our Lord 1935, p. 446-50.
 5. James Leaton, History of Methodism in Illinois 1793 to 1882, p. 213.
 6. Centennial Commemoration, Methodism in Peoria 1833 to 1933, p. 5-14.
 7. Methodist Episcopal Church, Illinois Annual Conference, Journal and Yearbook, 1939, p. 872.
 8. History of Peoria County (Johnson), p. 474,475.
 9. Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, Minutes of the General Assembly, v. I (1939), Part 1, Journal and Statistics, p. 495.
 10. Congregational and Christian Churches, Yearbook, Statistics for 1939, p. 80-88.
 11. Illinois Baptist State Convention, Illinois Baptist Annual 1939, p. 115.
 12. Disciples of Christ, 1939 Yearbook, International Convention, p. 398.

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Lutheran, five churches and 2,075 members;¹ Episcopalian, six churches with 1,134.² Additional religious groups represented in the county are the Universalist, German Evangelical, United Lutheran, Swedish Evangelical Lutheran, Christian Scientist, United Brethren, and Jewish.

Colleges

In higher education Peoria has been well served since the organization of Bradley Polytechnic Institute in 1897. Before this date the city was completely lacking in college facilities.³

In 1839 Jubilee College was established in the present-day Jubilee Township by Bishop Philander Chase of the Episcopal Church.⁴ Coming to Illinois as bishop of a pioneer land which was rich in prospects but poor in church facilities, this remarkable man, then in his later years and already famous as the founder of Kenyon College in Ohio, determined to build a new school on the unbroken prairie overlooking Kickapoo Creek. The school enjoyed a measure of success during the lifetime of its founder. After the coming of the railroads, which unfortunately did not come to Jubilee College or even near it, students turned elsewhere. During the hard times of the panic of 1873 the school closed its doors, never to reopen, although several attempts were made to revive it.⁵

The tract of land belonging to the college corporation, originally thousands of acres in area, was gradually reduced as piece after piece was sold to pay obligations. In recent years the remainder was sold but later was repurchased by members of the Episcopal Church, who then deeded it to the state. It is now preserved as Jubilee College State Park. The original chapel still stands as a shrine of pioneer days.⁶

In 1855 the Presbyterians projected a Peoria University, but the destruction of the first building by a tornado ended this effort before the school even opened. The funds collected were given to Knox College in Galesburg.⁷

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1. Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri, Ohio and Other States, Statistical Yearbook, 1938, p. 41.
 2. Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America, The Living Church Annual, Yearbook, 1940, p. 305.
 3. The larger aspects of education are treated below in a separate section. See p. 117.
 4. C. F. Leffingwell "Bishop Chase and Jubilee College," in Publications of the Illinois State Historical Library (1905), No. 10, p. 82-100.
 5. Ibid.
 6. Information obtained from Bishop William L. Essex, Bishop of Quincy Diocese, Protestant Episcopal Church, Peoria, Illinois, by Paul Reid, Church Editor, Illinois Historical Records Survey.
 7. Rice, Peoria, City and County, I, 161.

Peoria remained without any institution of college rank until Bradley Polytechnic Institute was opened in 1897. It was founded by Mrs. Lydia Bradley in honor of her deceased husband and children.¹ In her will she later made provision for the permanent endowment of the school. Bradley Institute is much more than a school of technology. It is a coeducational college offering a wide variety of courses leading to the A. B. and B. S. degrees. Special mention should be made of its horological department which is closely affiliated with a station of the United States Weather Bureau.²

Robert G. Ingersoll

Peoria has had its share of prominent personalities; among these the name of Robert G. Ingersoll easily stands foremost. Born in New York State, Ingersoll and his older brother Ebon C. came to Shawmeatown, Illinois, in the middle 1850's; there they were admitted to the bar and were soon involved in politics. In 1857 the brothers removed to Peoria. Even before the Civil War both had become prominent in local Democratic politics, although their efforts to win election to public office were unsuccessful. Later, however, Ebon C. Ingersoll served three terms in the national House of Representatives. In the meantime Robert Ingersoll helped to organize the Eleventh Regiment, Illinois Cavalry in which he received a commission as colonel. After the war he held the office of attorney general of the state by appointment of the governor. In 1868 he was a candidate for the Republican nomination for governor, but was defeated in the convention by General John M. Palmer. A few years later he removed to Washington, rejoining his brother. His later years were spent in New York City, where he died in 1899.

As an orator Ingersoll was perhaps the outstanding platform speaker in America after the Civil War. Unfortunately he was subjected to much slander and abuse because of his lectures and writings against institutionalized religion. Among his friends and acquaintances in Peoria he was esteemed as the soul of generosity and as a man entirely free from any spirit of greed.³ In 1911 Peoria honored its most illustrious citizen by erecting to his memory a bronze statue in Glen Oak Park. On the occasion of the unveiling, addresses were delivered by speakers of national prominence.⁴

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1. Beautiful Bradley Park in Peoria also owes its establishment to her generosity.
 2. Bradley Polytechnic Institute, Peoria, Illinois, Bulletin, College of Arts and Sciences (January 1941), p. 6,7,149.
 3. McCulloch, History of Peoria County, p. 459.
 4. For an account of the monument and the ceremony, see Rice, Peoria, City and County, I, 385,386.

Historical Sketch

Administrative Beginnings

Fort Clark before 1825

Peoria County came into existence in 1825. Previous to this time the Peoria region had been included under several different county jurisdictions, beginning with Randolph County in 1800. From 1823 to 1825 the region was a part of Fulton County.

One incident of this early period is worth retelling because it illustrates the political and social conditions of the new prairie state. In 1823 at the first election held under Fulton County the voters were required to go to Lewistown, the county seat, to exercise their franchise. The citizens of Fort Clark had a candidate for sheriff, Abner Eads, and they were determined to see him elected. Mustering their whole number in two canoes, they traveled in force to the polling place. Eads had a majority of one over Ossian Ross, the Fulton candidate. Ross then contested the election, alleging that some of the men brought to the polls were not residents of the county, and also that Eads was ineligible since he could not write. In order to obviate the latter difficulty, it is said that Eads took lessons in penmanship; in four weeks he had become the master of his own signature. After legal action Eads was declared elected amid great excitement in the county.¹

Establishment of Peoria County

On January 13, 1825 an act of the Illinois General Assembly was approved, entitled, "An Act to form a new county out of the country in the vicinity of Fort Clark."² Section 1 of this act gave the name Peoria to the new county and fixed the boundaries,³ which have remained unchanged to the present day. The act did, however, attach to the new county a large unorganized territory in northern Illinois; this region was placed temporarily under the Peoria jurisdiction for administrative purposes. The attached territory included the country north of town 20 and west of the third principal meridian, formerly part of Sangamon County, also the region north of Peoria County and north of the Illinois and Kankakee rivers.

1. McCulloch, History of Peoria County, p. 59,60.

2. L. 1825, p. 85-87.

3. The boundaries were designated as follows: "Beginning where the line between towns 11 and 12 north intersects the Illinois River; thence west with said line to the line between ranges 4 and 5 east; thence south with said line to the line between towns 7 and 8; thence east to the line between ranges 5 and 6; thence south to the middle of the main channel of the Illinois River; thence up said middle of the main channel to the place of beginning. . . ."

Section 3 provided that the Peoria county seat should be on the north-east quarter of section 9, township 8 north, range 8 east, and authorized the county commissioners' court to purchase this tract from the United States as permitted by a law of Congress. The act creating the new county further stipulated that the first election should be held at the house of William Eads on March 1, but a later section provided for notice to be given "at least ten days previous to the election to be held on the first Monday in March next." Another important provision granted \$200 out of the public treasury to Peoria County as full compensation for the county's share of the nonresident land tax.

Organization of the County

With two dates given for the first election, namely, March 1 and the first Monday in March, the later section was held to control, hence the election was set for March 7. Only one polling place was provided for all the county and the attached territory. The first duty of the voters was to select from their own number three persons to act as judges. Jacob Wilson, Isaac Perkins, and William Smith were chosen. These three judges then chose Aaron Hawley and Peter Du Mont as clerks. After these officials had sworn themselves in, the polls were officially declared open. Only sixty-six votes were cast out of a population soon afterwards fixed at 1,236.¹ The following county officials were elected: William Holland, Nathan Dillon, and Joseph Smith, commissioners; Samuel Fulton, sheriff; and William Philips, coroner.² It is interesting to notice that two of the commissioners, Dillon and Smith, and Coroner Philips lived in the attached territory across the Illinois River, the region now comprising Tazewell County. But it should be noticed that the population across the river then exceeded that of Peoria County proper.³

The first meeting of the county commissioners' court was on March 8, 1825,⁴ the day following the election. All three elected commissioners were present, also the sheriff. This meeting was held at the home of

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1. For an account of this first election, see History of Peoria County (Johnson), p. 288,289. The list of voters appears on page 289.
 2. Ibid. In 1935 a memorial plate was placed in the courthouse yard bearing the names of these first county officers. Ernest E. East, President of the Peoria Historical Society, then a member of the board of supervisors, was active in pushing this commemoration of Peoria's early history (Peoria County Board of Supervisors, Proceedings 1934-1935, p. 83,115,166,201,207; hereinafter cited as Proceedings).
 3. These conclusions are based on the first list of taxpayers (McCulloch, History of Peoria County, p. 56).
 4. County Commissioners' Court Record, v. A, p. 1, in Supervisors' Record, see entry 2.

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Joseph Ogee.¹ The court began its duties by appointing Norman Hyde to serve as clerk and Aaron Hawley as county treasurer. The third action was the order that the county seat should be called Peoria.²

Without delay the court next ordered the construction of a courthouse and a clerk's office, each to be of dimensions fixed in the order, with public bidding set for March 12. The last action of the first meeting was the appointment of Robert Berresford, Reuben Bratton, and Seth Wilson as constables. Adjournment was then ordered until March 12.³

When the court met for its second meeting on March 12 it immediately revoked the orders for the construction of a courthouse and a clerk's office without giving any explanation.⁴ Little else was done at this session. An order was made that all property subject to county taxation should be taxed "one half per cent on the value of the same." Abner Eads, Stephen French, and Daniel Prince were appointed trustees of the school lands in township eight north, range eight east. Adjournment was then ordered "till court in course."⁵

The next meeting was on April 16. Petit and grand jurors for the circuit court meeting in June were then selected and the sheriff was ordered to summon them for appearance.⁶ William Smith was recommended to the Governor as a suitable person to fill the office of justice of the

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1. It appears that this court, and also the circuit court, met at Ogee's home over a considerable period (County Commissioners' Court Record, v. A, p. 10,24, in Supervisors' Record, see entry 2). This house was the best in Peoria, being the only one constructed of hewn logs (McCulloch, History of Peoria County, p. 92). Ogee, a half-breed Indian, was often employed as an interpreter.
 2. County Commissioners' Court Record, v. A, p. 1.
 3. Ibid., p. 1,2.
 4. Ibid., p. 2. The reason was the difficulty in securing title to the tract which the act creating the county had fixed for the seat of justice. See p. 48-50.
 5. Ibid., p. 3.
 6. Ibid., p. 3,4. Those selected for grand jurors were William Eads, Abner Eads, Alvah Moffatt, Elijah Hyde, Noah Beaubien, Senior, William Wright, John Ridgeway, Robert Berresford; Josiah Fulton; Thomas Hamlin, John Philips, George Ish, David Matthews, Jacob Willson, Elisha Fish, Isaac Perkins, Nathaniel Cromwell, Walter Dillon, William Davis, and Alex McNaghton. The petit (called traverse in the records) jurors were Stephen French, Joseph Ogee, Abner Cooper, George Love, Joseph O'Brien, Elias P. Avery, Thomas Dillon, Jesse Dillon, Seth Willson, John Klein, George Klein, Stephen Carle, and James Walker.

peace.¹ Nathan Dillon was authorized to make application to the register of the land office at Springfield for the right of free inspection of the tract designated for the seat of justice.²

Other Early Actions

The early county commissioners' court had a wide variety of duties. Many offices were then appointive which are now elective. Besides the three commissioners, the other elective officials were the sheriff and the coroner. In June 1825, Norman Hyde resigned as clerk of the commissioners' court to take over his duties as probate judge on appointment by the General Assembly and John Dixon was appointed to the vacant post.³ John L. Bogardus was appointed as the first assessor.⁴ Rivers Cormack was appointed to take the census of the county⁵ and, when he declined to accept, John L. Bogardus was selected.⁶ Numerous constables were chosen for the various sections of the county and other men were recommended to the Governor for justices of the peace. In March 6, 1826, Augustus Langworthy, John Hamlin, and Archibald Allen were appointed as fence viewers.⁷ During the following years only occasional references were made to these last-mentioned officials.

In December 1825 the court divided the county into three election precincts. The Chicago precinct included all the country east of the mouth of the Du Page River where it empties into the Des Plaines; elections were to take place at the agency house with Alexander Wolcott, John Kinzie, and J. B. Beaubien as judges. The Peoria precinct was even larger, including the territory north and west of the Illinois River, with the voting place in the clerk's office, where Stephen French, Abner Eads, and John Philips were to serve as judges. The remainder of the county, lying across the Illinois, was constituted as the Mackinaw precinct; Isaac Perkins, William Eads, and Thomas Dillon were to be judges, and elections were to be held in the home of Jesse Dillon.⁸ In March 1826, however, the Peoria precinct was divided; the territory from Senatchwine Creek to the Du Page River was set apart as Fox River precinct, in which the voting was to be at the

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1. County Commissioners' Court Record, v. A, p. 4, in Supervisors' Record, see entry 2. In 1827 the office of justice of the peace was made elective by special justices' districts; the districts were to be laid off and fixed by the county commissioners' court (R.L. 1827, p. 256).
 2. County Commissioners' Court Record, v. A, p. 4.
 3. Ibid., p. 10.
 4. Ibid., p. 12.
 5. Ibid., p. 5.
 6. Ibid., p. 11.
 7. Ibid., p. 31.
 8. Ibid., p. 24, 25.

Historical Sketch

home of Jesse Walker with Aaron Hawley, Henry Allen, and James Walker as judges.¹ In June 1826, Mercer and Warren counties, then attached to Peoria, were made into election precinct number five; Jesse W. Shull, Nehemiah Bates, and William Tate were named judges and the home of James Smith was made the place of elections.² For the elections of August 7, 1826, the votes cast were as follows: Peoria, 81; Mackinaw, 51; Chicago, 31; Fever River (later named Galena River), 202; Fox River, no report.³

The county commissioners' court at the beginning showed a proper sense of the importance of the county records. In July 1825 the court ordered that its records from the first meeting in March should be properly transcribed in a book provided for the purpose and brought into court at the next meeting for "approbation."⁴ During the early years when courthouse facilities were lacking the county records were kept by the several county clerks in their homes, which were invariably too crowded for their primary function.⁵

The matter of road administration and supervision was another important responsibility of the court. In September 1825 three road districts were laid but these included no more than Peoria County proper and present-day Tazewell County.⁶ Seven months later the court established eight districts, comprising most but probably not all of the attached territory. A supervisor was named for each.⁷ The number of districts was later greatly enlarged. In addition, the court frequently appointed road viewers following the reception of petitions from the citizens concerned, and later, with the report of the viewers, officially ordered the roads opened.

The licensing power of the court was also important. In June 1825 the court confirmed the ferry license of John L. Fogardus at Peoria originally granted by the county courts of Sangamon and Fulton counties.⁸ During the next few years numerous other ferry licenses were granted on

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1. County Commissioners' Court Record, v. C, p. 36, in Supervisors' Record, see entry 2.
 2. Ibid., p. 43,44.
 3. History of Peoria County (Johnson), p. 312.
 4. County Commissioners' Court Record, v. A, p. 13.
 5. The subsequent proceedings of ~~the~~ commissioners' court and of the later board of supervisors reveal a commendable concern for the preservation of the county records. At the present time the records are in very good condition with few serious gaps.
 6. Ibid., p. 18.
 7. Ibid., p. 33-35.
 8. Ibid., p. 6-8.

the payment of a small fee and the rates for ferrriage were fixed. Taverns and dram shops were also licensed in the same way.

Laying out the Village of Peoria

Section 3 of the act creating the county provided that the county seat should be established on the northeast quarter of section nine, town eight north, and it authorized the county commissioners to purchase this tract from the United States.¹ Not until 1834 were the commissioners able to secure title to the land.² Yet the inchoate title of the county did not prevent the commissioners from laying out the town and selling the lots.

On September 6, 1825 the court received a petition from William Holland and others that a town site be laid out as the county seat, "having an eye to the present and future convenience of the citizens." Rules were immediately drawn up to govern the platting. Holland was to receive \$4 in specie or its equivalent in state bank paper for running the exterior lines and making the plat.³

On May 2, 1826 the court ordered a public sale of lots for July 10 next, and then it provided for a resurvey of the town;⁴ in July it paid \$10.50 to Holland and \$58.45 to William S. Hamilton⁵ for the platting of the town.⁶ At the public sale twenty-nine lots were sold for \$1,445.87 $\frac{1}{2}$ on terms requiring a ten percent payment in cash and the rest in twelve or eighteen months.⁷ Other sales of lots were made during the next few years.

The County Seat Land Conflict

The most difficult matter faced by the county commissioners' court during the first decade was the problem of securing title to the land tract for the county seat. Congress had passed an act providing that new counties

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1. L. 1825, p. 86.
 2. For an account of this difficulty, see The County Seat Land Conflict.
 3. County Commissioners' Court Record, v. A, p. 16,17, in Supervisors' Record, see entry 2.
 4. Ibid., p. 42.
 5. William Steven Hamilton (1797-1850) was the son of Alexander Hamilton. He lived in Illinois (never in Peoria) for a few years but later moved to Wisconsin and afterwards to California where he died. According to a tradition current in Peoria he had once met Aaron Burr in St. Louis and had challenged him to a duel for the murder of the older Hamilton; this challenge was declined by Burr because of difference in ages (History of Peoria County [Johnson], p. 320).
 6. County Commissioners' Court Record, v. A, p. 53.
 7. Ibid., p. 53,54.

Historical Sketch

might locate the seat of justice on public lands subject to pre-emption and purchase upon the same terms as those provided for individuals.¹ The General Assembly, in the act establishing the county, had provided that the Peoria seat of justice should be on the northeast quarter of section nine, town eight north. But when the commissioners tried to purchase this tract, objections were raised at the land office. The quarter section designated was a fractional one and hence not subject to entry. Also, there were certain French claims involving the tract. As a final complication, one James Latham had made a prior entry on the quarter section, on which basis he now raised a counterclaim.² These objections caused a long controversy which delayed the construction of the courthouse for ten years.

The first step taken by the county commissioners' court, after having their entry rejected at the land office, was to send a petition directly to President John Quincy Adams requesting him to use his influence on their behalf.³ Apparently Representative Daniel Cook also interceded with the President. Adams promptly referred the matter to the land office, giving instructions to the register to disregard the first objection, which was that the land was a fractional quarter section. But the Register could not take action because of the French claims and the counterclaim of Latham.⁴ On March 6, 1826 the commissioners sent an expression of thanks to President Adams but reminded him that his kind intervention had not produced the desired results.⁵ Two days later John Dixon was constituted agent to obtain a full statement of the objections and to make arrangements in St. Louis for a resurvey, if necessary; later he was authorized to borrow \$184.82 1/2 on the credit of the county to make a full payment for the land.⁶ Next, a committee was appointed to arrange a settlement with James Latham to induce him to withdraw his counterclaim.⁷ William S. Hamilton was later employed as council for the county in the matter.⁸ All these efforts produced no results. The matter became even more complicated when the tract was granted to Latham on his pre-emption claim.⁹ Shortly thereafter Latham died, leaving the land to his heirs.

Memorials were then sent to Senator Elias Kane, Senator John McLean, and Representative Joseph Duncan requesting special legislation, if that

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1. U. S. Congress, General Acts of Congress Respecting the Sale and Disposition of the Public Lands, I, 383.
 2. Rice, Peoria, City and County, I, 87,88.
 3. This petition was not entered in the county records.
 4. Rice, Peoria, City and County, I, 88,89.
 5. County Commissioners' Court Record, v. A, p. 32, in Supervisors' Record, see entry 2.
 6. Ibid., p. 36,37,41.
 7. Ibid., p. 53.
 8. Ibid., p. 64.
 9. Rice, Peoria, City and County, I, 90.

should be necessary.¹ Five years later, after every other effort had failed, Congress did pass an act, approved March 2, 1833, permitting the county to enter the land.² This act eliminated the French claims objection. The commissioners then made another attempt to purchase the tract from the land office, as they had done at regular intervals ever since 1825, but were again rebuffed.³ Legally the Latham heirs still had a prior and superior claim to the land. A year later, however, a compromise was arranged with the Lathams by which they relinquished their claims for \$700.⁴ With the payment of this amount in installments during 1835 the long controversy came to an end.

Original Jurisdiction of Peoria County

The boundaries of Peoria County have remained unchanged from 1825 to the present day. During the early years, however, a vast area outside the county proper was attached for administrative purposes. The act creating the county attached two large regions to Peoria.⁵ The first of these two regions lay across the Illinois River, including the following present-day counties: all of Tazewell, approximately the northern two thirds of Mason, a northern strip of Logan, a western strip of McLean, more than half of Woodford, and nearly half of Marshall. The second area included everything north of Peoria and north of the Illinois and Kankakee rivers to the Wisconsin border. Included in this area were fourteen present counties and major or minor portions of ten others.⁶ Later both Warren and Mercer counties⁷ were attached to Peoria for administrative purposes. These two counties bordered the Mississippi River and were separated from Peoria by Knox and Henry counties.

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1. Rice, Peoria, City and County, I, 90.
 2. U. S. Congress, General Acts of Congress Respecting the Sale and Disposition of the Public Lands, I, 517.
 3. County Commissioners' Court Record, v. B, p. 76,78,81, in Supervisors' Record, see entry 2.
 4. Ibid., p. 176,177. The amount paid was several times greater than the \$184.62 $\frac{1}{2}$ (\$1.25 an acre) which the commissioners had originally offered to the land office.
 5. L. 1825, p. 86,87.
 6. This second area was established as Putnam County by act of January 13, 1825 (L. 1825, p. 94), the same date on which the act creating Peoria County was approved. Putnam County, however, did not begin to function as a separate county until 1831.
 7. They were likewise established on January 13, 1825 (L. 1825, p. 93); apparently they were at first attached to Schuyler but in 1826 they came under the jurisdiction of Peoria in some manner not now clear; in June of that year the Peoria commissioners constituted these two counties as election district number five (County Commissioners' Court Record, v. A, p. 43,44).

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It appears from the records and from other information available that the administration of this attached territory was an onerous responsibility, which under pioneer transportation conditions could be met only in part. The commissioners' court records contain only a few references to the attached territory and its people. It is not then surprising that the sheriff as collector experienced some difficulty in collecting taxes. In December 1826, \$416.69 $\frac{1}{2}$ was reported delinquent out of a total levy of \$855.93.¹ In that year 204 persons in the Fever River settlements were delinquent in their taxes. When Josiah Fulton, deputy sheriff, presented the tax warrants to the miners of this settlement he was told in very emphatic language to get out as fast as he could.² But in the elections of August 1826, the Fever River voters turned out in full force to the number of 202,³ while all the rest of the Peoria jurisdiction combined cast only 163 votes.

In 1827 the whole region east and south of the Illinois River was detached from the Peoria jurisdiction with the establishment of Tazewell County.⁴ Also, the western part of vast Putnam County was transferred to the new Jo Daviess, which then included a large area in northwestern Illinois.⁵ In 1830 Warren County was organized, five years after its legislative establishment.⁶ Mercer County was removed from the Peoria jurisdiction and attached to Warren. Finally, in 1831, Cook County was created and Putnam was reestablished with much smaller limits.⁷ When these changes were consummated Peoria County was reduced to its present jurisdiction.

County Public Buildings

Log Cabin Days

The first courthouse was not completely ready for use until 1836. The long delay was due to the difficulty in securing title to the tract designated for the seat of justice. As already noticed, one of the first actions of the county commissioners' court was to order the construction of both a courthouse and a clerk's office; these orders, however, were rescinded at the second session.⁸

The early meetings of the commissioners' court and the circuit court were held in the home of Joseph Ogee,⁹ then one of the best residences in

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1. County Commissioners' Court Record, v. A, p. 67, in Supervisors' Record, see entry 2.
 2. History of Peoria (Johnson), p. 314.
 3. Ibid., p. 312.
 4. L. 1827, p. 113.
 5. Ibid., p. 117.
 6. County Commissioners' Court Record, v. A, p. 174.
 7. L. 1831, p. 54.
 8. County Commissioners' Court Record, v. A, p. 1,2.
 9. Ibid., p. 24,52.

the village, which building was only 16 by 18 feet in size.¹ Later meetings were held at a house belonging to Louis Bruissey.² During the early years the clerk had to use his home for an office. Issac Waters, for a time clerk of both the commissioners' and circuit courts, kept the public records in his home, which was not half large enough for his family; hence he was often unable to find his books when they were needed.³

The county was also without jail facilities during the early years. It was therefore necessary to confine prisoners in the jails of neighboring counties or to hire someone to guard them. Both methods were employed but proved very expensive. During 1825 and 1826 a murder case almost bankrupted the county. Nomaque, an Indian, was convicted of the murder of a Frenchman; his case was appealed to the Supreme Court where it was overruled and remanded for a new trial.⁴ For many months the county had to pay for his confinement and care. In December 1825, Abner Eads was paid \$12 for dieting and guarding Nomaque; also Elijah Hyde was allowed \$17.37¹/₂ for the same and also for conveying the prisoner to the Sangamon jail.⁵ Numerous other allowances for the care of Nomaque were made throughout 1826. At the December 1826 term, \$48.03 was paid out.⁶ It is said that the county commissioners finally permitted the prisoner to escape in order to eliminate this expense.⁷

In September 1826 the commissioners' court ordered that a jail be contracted for according to specifications set forth at length,⁸ but no further reference of any kind was ever afterwards made to this order. On March 3, 1829 the court purchased a log cabin from John Hamlin for \$75.⁹ This building, 14 by 16 feet, served as the courthouse for several years. The court later ordered the cellar to be used for a jail.¹⁰ Apparently, however, the building was found unsuited for jail use; the cellar was rented out as a storeroom while payments were allowed regularly for the confinement of prisoners in other counties.¹¹

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1. Ballance, History of Peoria, p. 30.
 2. County Commissioners' Court Record, v. A, p. 66,173, in Supervisors' Record, see entry 2. It is possible that the house of Bruissey was the same as that formerly owned by Ogee.
 3. Ballance, History of Peoria, p. 83.
 4. Ibid., p. 60.
 5. County Commissioners' Court Record, v. A, p. 22.
 6. Ibid., p. 66,70.
 7. Ballance, History of Peoria, p. 60.
 8. County Commissioners' Court Record, v. A, p. 60,61.
 9. Ibid., p. 126.
 10. Ibid., p. 140.
 11. Ibid., p. 154,179; v. B, p. 204.

Historical Sketch

Again, in September 1832, the court officially ordered the construction of a jail according to detailed specifications.¹ For the second time the whole project was dropped without explanation. During the next two years the records were completely silent about the construction of a jail.

In December 1834 the commissioners' court ordered that fractional lot three in block twenty-seven should be appropriated for the jail.² The next entry regarding a jail was an order to pay George Depree \$150 in part payment on his contract for the jail.³ Other payments totaling \$698.95 were made to Depree, the last one being in June 1835.⁴ The commissioners' court records are silent about the details of the contract and the specifications. Descriptions of the jail indicate that it was not built on the specifications drawn up in September 1832. It was built of square logs and was 16 feet square and 14 feet in height. Ballance wrote that according to his information the building had cost \$1,000, which he said was much too high.⁵

First Courthouse

Meanwhile, the construction of the first courthouse had begun. The proceedings of the commissioners' court give many of the details of this project but omit certain matters of the greatest importance. No specifications are given. The first entry ordered sealed proposals to be received for the furnishing of 150,000 bricks;⁶ in July 1833 this contract was awarded to Samuel Hackelton for \$5 a thousand.⁷ The proposals of Reuben B. Hamlin and Alvah and Aquila Moffatt to furnish lumber was accepted, "reference being had to their proposals on file giving bond."⁸ Daniel Fash was given a contract to furnish "materials" and to make the stone work of the foundation.⁹ Reuben Hamlin furnished the draft for the building.¹⁰ After public bidding, the masonry contract for the foundation was awarded to Charles W. McClellan and the contract for the carpenter work was given

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1. County Commissioners' Court Record, v. B, p. 13-16, in Supervisors' Record, see entry 2.
 2. Ibid., p. 178. This lot belonged to the fractional quarter section to which the county had just obtained title through the compromise with the Latham heirs. The other lots were sold as the town developed.
 3. Ibid., p. 211.
 4. Ibid., p. 211,212; v. C, p. 6,14,15.
 5. History of Peoria, p. 81.
 6. County Commissioners' Court Record, v. B, p. 70.
 7. Ibid., p. 74.
 8. Ibid.
 9. Ibid., p. 90.
 10. Ibid., p. 109.

to George E. Macy,¹ with whom John Hamlin was later associated. Other contracts for specific work were awarded from time to time during the course of the construction. Francis Voris was appointed the agent of the county commissioners' court to superintend the building work.²

Construction did not get under way until the summer of 1834. The work proceeded slowly because of disputes and changes in policy. After a few months John Hamlin was appointed superintendent in place of Voris, but he promptly resigned and was succeeded by William A. Stewart.³ The records indicate that Stewart did not serve very long but nothing is said about a successor. It appears that the building was ready for occupancy early in 1836, according to the circumstantial evidence found in the records. Payment for the building was made in many small sums spread over a period of two years. Altogether, 149 payments were authorized, totaling \$5,545.65.⁴

Pictures of the building show that in appearance it somewhat resembled a typical old-fashioned country church, with a cupola at the front. The lower story was at first divided into six rooms, three of which were assigned to county officials while the others were rented out to lawyers.⁵ This first courthouse served the county forty years. During the first two decades the courthouse was used extensively as a meeting place, especially for religious services, community gatherings, and entertainments, although the court usually forbade the charging of admission.⁶ Until 1843, office space in the building was rented out to lawyers;⁷ in that year one room was appropriated for the use of the mayor of Peoria.⁸ Two years later the mayor was ordered to move out because the space was needed for county purposes.⁹ By 1854 there was need for even more space; also, there was concern for the public records because the courthouse was not fireproof.¹⁰ A new courthouse was proposed at that time but the project was defeated

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1. County Commissioners' Court Record, v. B; p. 101,107, in Supervisors' Record, see entry 3.
 2. Ibid., p. 116.
 3. Ibid., p. 154,159.
 4. This total is an unofficial computation. Ballance in his History of Peoria, p. 80, wrote that he understood the cost had been \$13,000, which he said was twice what the cost should have been. Commenting on the matter, he said that "the people understood then as now how to pluck the public goose."
 5. History of Peoria County (Johnson), p. 326.
 6. County Commissioners' Court Record, v. C, p. 395; v. E, p. 254; Supervisors' Record, v. A, p. 33,221,231,254,315, see entry 2.
 7. County Commissioners' Court Record, v. F, p. 114.
 8. Ibid., p. 104.
 9. Ibid., p. 299.
 10. Ibid., v. A, p. 221,236,247.

Historical Sketch

by the farmers and the large taxpayers.¹ As a compromise, the board of supervisors voted to construct fireproof wings, the contract cost of which was \$16,500.² In spite of this addition, however, the county had to continue the rental of outside office space for the circuit court judge.³

Present Courthouse

During the Civil War years the proposal for a new courthouse was dropped. Early in 1868, however, the board of supervisors and the Peoria city council worked out a plan for a joint county building and city hall. After considerable discussion a committee report recommending the plan was rejected by the board, 14 to 11.⁴

The issue was then shelved for several years, although the need for a new building was becoming ever more acute. In December 1873 the county surveyor was ordered to vacate his office because the space was urgently needed for an additional jury room.⁵ During the next two years there was considerable discussion on the problem. A resolution presented by the building committee of the board condemned the courthouse as "dclapidated, unsightly and uncomfortable, unwholesome and unsavory, leaky in the roof . . . inadequate in accommodations . . . and in looks and appearance a disgrace to the county and city of Peoria."⁶ After further study and discussion the citizens of the county voted in November 1875 to issue bonds to the amount of \$250,000 for a new courthouse.⁷

The board initiated the project without delay. Plans for a joint city and county building were studied but rejected.⁸ The board then spent several days in committee of the whole discussing the various architects' plans submitted to them. No records were kept of these committee meetings, except the recommendation that the plans of Wilcox and Miller be accepted, which report was promptly adopted by the board.⁹ Following this action there came a protest from the citizens of Peoria, asking delay and reconsideration.¹⁰ The request was granted but after three days of further discussion the board again voted for Wilcox and Miller, admonishing them, however, that they would be held responsible for the accuracy of their

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1. History of Peoria County (Johnson), p. 326.
 2. Supervisors' Record, v. B, p. 151,152, see entry 2.
 3. Ibid., p. 365; v. C, p. 128; v. D, p. 28.
 4. Ibid., v. C, p. 613; v. D, p. 7,8,9,26.
 5. Ibid., v. E, p. 148.
 6. Ibid., p. 235.
 7. Ibid., p. 167,188,199,274,319,322.
 8. Ibid., p. 361.
 9. Ibid., p. 366,367.
 10. Ibid., p. 369.

plans.¹ Protests continued, but the board refused to yield, although it did acknowledge that the plans were incomplete; it then required the architects to revise their plans.² With this issue finally decided, the board accepted the proposal of P. H. Decker, whose bid of \$206,071.30 to erect the building using Amherst Stone was the lowest for this type of material.³

When the board met in December 1876, several members made insistent demands for an investigation of the construction, charging that the work was not being done according to the plans and that defective materials were being used.⁴ These resolutions were voted down without discussion. Again in March 1877 these criticisms were renewed and reinforced with specific charges of bribery, which had been widely circulated in the newspapers. The board at last agreed to have the bribery charge investigated by a special committee of its members.⁵ This committee reported that the bribery charge had its origin in a disagreement between the two architects and in certain statements made by one of them. The man concerned denied that any money had been given to members of the board. The committee reported that no evidence to sustain the charge had been presented.⁶ Immediately afterward a committee of three outside architects was employed to investigate the construction. They reported that specific charges unjustified but they did recommend certain minor changes.⁷

In September 1877 further charges against both architects and contractor were made.⁸ William W. Boyington, a Chicago architect, testified that immediate steps were necessary to make the courthouse safe.⁹ Then followed a series of charges and countercharges between architects and contractors.¹⁰ A resolution to compel the contractor to remedy the defective work without cost to the county was voted down by the board.¹¹ A motion to discharge the superintendent of the construction was tabled.¹² A third motion to discharge the architects and to instruct the county attorney to proceed against them and their bondsmen was sidetracked.¹³ After further evidence of incompetent and defective construction,¹⁴ one

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1. Supervisors' Record, v. E, p. 372-81, see entry 2.
 2. Ibid., p. 400, 401.
 3. Ibid., p. 415-21.
 4. Ibid., p. 493, 494, 496, 497.
 5. Ibid., p. 522, 523, 527.
 6. Ibid., p. 548.
 7. Ibid., p. 555-60.
 8. Ibid., p. 612.
 9. Ibid., p. 612-20.
 10. Ibid.
 11. Ibid., v. F, p. 7.
 12. Ibid.
 13. Ibid., p. 1, 2.
 14. Ibid., p. 55, 63.

Historical Sketch

member sarcastically offered a resolution to tender thanks to the contractors for their competence in throwing "dirt into the eyes of the superintendent and building committee." This motion was tabled.¹

The board did, however, hire Boyington, the Chicago architect, to superintend the completion of the building.² Construction then proceeded without much further incident. The building was opened late in 1876. On November 18, there was a grand reception for the public with Judges David McCulloch and Sabin D. Puterbaugh among the speakers.³ The total cost was \$258,436.82; plus \$6,839 for the boiler house and tunnel,⁴ a total of \$265,275.82, which sum, however, probably did not include the architects' fees.

This building has served as the Peoria County courthouse for over sixty-three years. Extensive repairs have been made on several occasions. In 1911, certain members of the building committee, assuming the authority for the whole committee, engaged a contractor to make extensive rearrangements in the interior of the courthouse, which changes might possibly have affected the stability of the building. Thereupon the board dismissed the whole membership of the committee and ordered the contractor to cease work. The arrangement of rooms was ordered restored to the original condition as nearly as possible.⁵

In 1912 the board found that new office space was urgently needed. This need was met by enclosing two portico spaces in the second story.⁶ Twelve years later the board initiated a proposal for a new building. The old courthouse was declared to be wholly inadequate for present-day county functions and for the proper protection of the public records; moreover extensive repairs were needed throughout the building.⁷ But in an election in April 1925 the voters rejected the proposal to issue bonds to the amount of \$1,250,000 for a new courthouse.⁸ The board then considered a proposal to erect a fireproof building for the care of the public records but took no action.⁹

The need for more courthouse space has become even more acute since 1925. In 1930 the various county departments united in a plea for action, contending that their offices were cramped and that the records had to be stored in the basement where they created a fire hazard. The board agreed

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1. Supervisors' Record, v. F, p. 64, see entry 2.
 2. Ibid., p. 11.
 3. Rice, Peoria, City and County, I, 114.
 4. Supervisors' Record, v. E, p. 598; v. F, . . . 253.
 5. Ibid., v. 2, p. 458-63.
 6. Ibid., v. R, p. 231,232,280,294.
 7. Ibid., v. 10, p. 465,466.
 8. Ibid., p. 556.
 9. Ibid., p. 556,563.

with the petition but made reply that it was helpless to remedy the situation.¹ Complaints from the county officers continued during the following years. In February 1940, the board submitted a proposal to the county voters to float a bond issue of \$1,500,000 for the construction of a new building, but the proposition was overwhelmingly rejected by the voters.² The matter of providing additional courthouse space is one of the most difficult problems now facing the board of supervisors. It is generally agreed that an addition to the present building would be unwise.

Early Jail Facilities

The first jail, which was completed in 1835, was only 16 feet square and 14 feet high. Built for log cabin days, then coming to an end in Peoria, it soon became inadequate for the needs of the county. By 1844 the commissioners' court was studying plans for a new building.³ In December 1845 the contract was let to George O. Kingsley, whose bid of \$6,640 was the lowest and "best."⁴ Later, however, the contract was canceled, for reasons not given, on the payment of \$100 to the contractor.⁵

In January 1847, after public bidding, the court accepted the bid of Thomas Turbett, Thomas P. Smith, and William Smith, who offered to build the jail for \$7,450.⁶ The construction on the jail did not get under way until late in the summer of that year.⁷ Work then proceeded slowly, due apparently to lack of funds in the county treasury.⁸ The building was accepted in April 1849, although it was not yet completely finished,⁹ its total cost being about \$11,000.¹⁰

This second jail was not much more satisfactory than the first. In June 1851, after certain repairs had already been made,¹¹ the public building committee reported that the jail was in an unsafe and dilapidated condition.¹² More repairs were ordered during the next several years,¹³ and

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1. Proceedings 1930-1931, p. 9,68,78,167.
 2. Supervisors' Record, v. 15, p. 74, see entry 2.
 3. County Commissioners' Court Record, v. E, p. 111,163, in Supervisors' Record, see entry 2.
 4. Ibid., p. 253.
 5. Ibid., p. 332.
 6. Ibid., p. 347. Thomas P. Smith was a county commissioner at the time.
 7. Ibid., v. F, p. 24,43.
 8. Ibid., p. 149,238.
 9. Ibid., p. 198,238,245.
 10. Ballance, History of Peoria, p. 81.
 11. Supervisors' Record, v. A, p. 21,23,28.
 12. Ibid., p. 56.
 13. Ibid., p. 183,265.

Historical Sketch

later a proposal was made to build an addition with six new cells.¹ In 1857 a special committee reported against this proposal, declaring that the condition of the jail made it inexpedient to construct any addition. The jail was held to be totally unfit for the needs of the county; it was not large enough, nor was it healthy or secure. Moreover, it was located too far from the courthouse. The committee suggested the purchase of a site in the center of the city for a new jail.² Debate on the issue continued for a decade longer before action was taken. Everyone agreed that a location much closer to the courthouse was necessary but the board objected to paying \$5,000 for a lot which the county had sold in 1826 for less than \$100.³ Nothing was done until after the Civil War.

Third Jail

The construction of the new jail was delayed for a time by disagreement over the location. Early in 1867 a lot near the courthouse was purchased for \$5,700 but the very next day it was sold for the same price,⁴ following which action the board voted to rebuild on the old jail lot.⁵ This action aroused considerable objection. Finally, the location was left in the hands of the committee charged with the construction.⁶

Erection of the jail began early in 1868. The first step was to vote \$65,000 in county bonds.⁷ The plans of O. L. Wheelock were adopted, then the bid of H. H. Pierce, contractor, for \$60,000 was accepted.⁸ Work on the jail proceeded rapidly and without incident. In February 1869 the special building committee reported that the construction was nearly completed. The total cost, including the price of the lot, was fixed at \$81,685.34.⁹ Charles Ballance, writing at this time, stated that the building was the most beautiful jail that he had ever seen.¹⁰

Present Jail

The third jail served Peoria County for nearly fifty years. In 1914 a special committee was appointed to study the advisability of constructing a new jail, which committee later reported that the old jail, like

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1. Supervisors' Record, v. A, p. 341,346.
 2. Ibid., v. B, p. 66.
 3. Ibid., p. 320,326,363; v. C, p. 43,441.
 4. Ibid., p. 479,481. The first vote was 24 to 1, only George Jenkins voting in the negative. The resale the next day was on a motion by Jenkins.
 5. Ibid., p. 607.
 6. Ibid., p. 618,619. Lot 3, block 9, was purchased for \$7,000 (ibid., v. D, p. 21).
 7. Ibid., v. C, p. 612.
 8. Ibid., v. D, p. 48,144.
 9. Ibid., p. 144,145.
 10. History of Peoria, p. 82.

most other penal institutions in the United States, was very deficient in ventilation and modern conveniences. The existing jail in years past had been criticized by every grand jury and the state examining board. A subcommittee had investigated the building recently constructed in St. Joseph, Missouri and it recommended the adoption of similar plans for Peoria County.¹ The proposal was tabled temporarily,² but in March 1915 was adopted by a unanimous vote of the supervisors.³ At the judicial election held in June following, the voters approved a bond issue of \$100,000 for the construction project.⁴

The board lost no time in proceeding with the construction. Plans and specifications of Frederick J. Klein were adopted after A. L. Bowen, executive secretary of the State Charities Commission, had approved them as being in conformity with the latest developments in prison reform.⁵ The contract for the jail construction was awarded to R. Iber on his low bid of \$39,827;⁶ iron construction was let to the Van Horn Iron Works for \$35,827.⁷ Work on the building began immediately but later was delayed for many months because of the wartime shortage of steel. The jail was not completed until early in 1917 at a cost slightly over \$100,000.⁸ This jail has remained in service to the present time with only a few changes and repairs.

Administration of County Affairs

Government Under the County Commissioners' Court

Peoria County has had two quite different types of administrative machinery during its history.⁹ The county commissioners' court was in operation nearly twenty-five years before it was brought to an end by the Constitution of 1848 and subsequent legislation.

The Constitution of 1818 provided for county government by a board of three elected commissioners.¹⁰ The first General Assembly designated

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1. Supervisors' Record, v. 7, p. 179,180, see entry 2.
 2. Ibid., p. 219.
 3. Ibid., p. 328,330.
 4. Ibid., p. 372.
 5. Ibid., p. 435,436.
 6. Ibid., p. 474.
 7. Ibid., p. 475. At least two bids were lower than the one adopted. The lowest bid was for \$33,333.
 8. Ibid., v. 8, p. 165,171.
 9. A third type, the county court, was a mere interlude, lasting only a few months in the transition from the county commissioners' court to the board of supervisors.
 10. Schedule, sec. 4.

Historical Sketch

this body, "The County Commissioners' Court" and then defined its jurisdiction and powers.¹ This court was given full jurisdiction over county revenue, with power to regulate and impose county taxes, and to grant licenses for ferries and taverns, and other licenses which might bring in revenue. It had authority over public roads, canals, turnpike roads, and bridges, where its jurisdiction was not prohibited; it had also the power to issue all kinds of writs, warrants, processes, and proceedings in order to execute the authority vested in it by law.

The commissioners' court was constituted primarily as an administrative body with incidental judicial powers, yet it did have jurisdiction in all cases where the matter or thing brought before the court related to public concerns of the county or to county business, and it had the power to punish for contempt.²

The commissioners' court was required to meet on the first Monday of March, June, September, and December, and continue for six days, unless it should finish its work sooner. Any one of the three commissioners might call a special meeting for urgent business on giving due notice to the others and to the clerk. Two members constituted a quorum. The law provided that each member should be paid \$2.50 for each day of attendance at court.³

During the early years of Peoria County the commissioners appointed many of the local officials. In 1825 only the sheriff and the coroner, besides the commissioners, were elected directly by the people. The following officials were appointed by the commissioners: the clerk of the county commissioners' court, the treasurer (after 1827), the assessor,⁴ district constables, election officials, road district supervisors, fence viewers, the county school commissioners (after 1829), township trustees (after 1827), overseers of the poor, and commissioners to take the quinquennial county census.⁵

Other governmental functions were vested in elected officials or in appointees of the General Assembly or Governor. Tax collection was vested in the sheriff.⁶ The recorder was appointed by the Governor with the

1. L. 1819, p. 175,176.

2. Ibid., p. 176.

3. Ibid.

4. In 1827 the assessment function was given to the treasurer who was then made an appointee of the commissioners' court (R.L. 1827, p. 329).

5. County Commissioners' Court Record, v. A, p. 1,76,12,43,17-19,31, 204,3,32,and 11 (citations arranged according to the series in the text), in Supervisors' Record, see entry 2.

6. L. 1819, p. 19.

advice and consent of the Senate,¹ while the surveyor was an appointee of the General Assembly; during the recess of the legislature the latter official might be nominated by the county commissioners' court to the Governor.² The state's attorney (designated as the circuit attorney before 1827) was first appointed by the Governor, but after 1835 by the General Assembly.³ The probate judge was appointed by the General Assembly for an indefinite term during good behavior,⁴ likewise the circuit court judge, but for a period after 1827 the Supreme Court justices were required to hold circuit courts.⁵ Sitting judges in the circuit court appointed their own clerks.⁶ Justices of the peace were appointed by the Governor on the recommendation of the county commissioners' court.⁷

This outline of the early system of public administration indicated that local government was not yet completely subject to popular control. After 1825, however, this condition underwent a rapid change as the ideas of Jacksonian democracy spread throughout the American nation. Officials previously appointive were made elective.⁸ By 1845 the following officials had become subject to election: the clerk of the county commissioners' court,⁹ the treasurer,¹⁰ the assessor (treasurer ex officio),¹¹ the school commissioner,¹² the recorder,¹³ the surveyor,¹⁴ the probate justice of the peace (probate judge),¹⁵ justices of the peace,¹⁶ and constables.¹⁷

This democratic trend reduced the appointive powers of the county commissioners' court. In other fields, however, its authority remained quite extensive. The court continued in general charge of road and elec-

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1. L. 1819, p. 19.
 2. L. 1821, p. 62.
 3. L. 1819, p. 204; L. 1835, p. 44.
 4. L. 1821, p. 119.
 5. L. 1824, p. 41; R.L. 1827, p. 118.
 6. Const. 1818, Art. IV, sec. 6.
 7. In March 1826, James Walker and Billy Caldwell (of Chicago) were recommended to the Governor as suitable persons for the office of justice of the peace (County Commissioners' Court Record, v. A, p. 31, in Supervisors' Record, see entry 2).
 8. Section B of this inventory traces the changes in detail made in each governmental function (see Table of Contents for list of administrative offices and officers).
 9. L. 1837, p. 49.
 10. Ibid.
 11. L. 1845, p. 231, 237.
 12. L. 1841, p. 261, 262.
 13. L. 1835, p. 166.
 14. Ibid., p. 61, 166.
 15. L. 1836-37, p. 176.
 16. R.L. 1827, p. 256.
 17. Ibid., p. 258.

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tion administration. It retained the authority to grant ferry licenses, to fix the rates,¹ and to settle the frequent disputes between operators and claimants.² Yet the court did lose its power to grant licenses for taverns and for other purposes in the village of Feoria after its incorporation.³ Its power over financial matters was very broad. It fixed the tax rate each year, heard complaints against assessments,⁴ and examined the sufficiency of the bonds of county officials.⁵ On one occasion it fined the sheriff \$5 for contempt because he failed to attend court, although it did later remit the fine.⁶ Other officials, especially road supervisors,⁷ were fined for neglect of duty. It acted on claims for damages to property caused by the construction of roads.⁸ Whenever an application was made for a license to construct a mill dam the court ordered the issuance of a writ of ad quod damnum to determine the need for the project and the damages which would be sustained by neighboring property.⁹ On occasion the commissioners' court even remitted fines imposed by the circuit court.¹⁰ With all these powers, and many others in addition, the three commissioners were officials of considerable local authority.

Adoption of Township Organization

The Constitution of 1848 required the General Assembly to make provisions for optional township organization.¹¹ The legislature promptly enacted a law, approved in February 1849, which provided that the administrative body of each county should submit to the voters at the next general election the question of adopting such a form of organization.¹² This plan of local government was an alternative to the "county court," then replacing the "county commissioners' court."¹³ The county court was to consist of the county judge and two county justices of the peace. For those counties immediately adopting township organization, the county court plan would be in effect only temporarily, until after the first township elections in April 1850.

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1. County Commissioners' Court Record, v. F, p. 67, in Supervisors' Record, *see* entry 2.
 2. *Ibid.*, v. C, p. 323; v. D, p. 90, 157.
 3. Priv. L. 1857, p. 65; County Commissioners' Court Record, v. C, p. 506; v. D, p. 134; v. E, p. 114, 155, 277; v. F, p. 85. There was a long litigation over this matter; the county finally lost after carrying the case to the state Supreme Court.
 4. *Ibid.*, v. E, p. 335.
 5. *Ibid.*, p. 5.
 6. *Ibid.*, v. D, p. 127, 129.
 7. *Ibid.*, v. A, p. 143; v. D, p. 186.
 8. *Ibid.*, v. F, p. 69, 78, 86, 137.
 9. *Ibid.*, v. B, p. 63; v. C, p. 47, 49.
 10. *Ibid.*, v. D, p. 323.
 11. Art. VII, sec. 6.
 12. L. 1849, p. 190.
 13. Const. 1848, Art. V, sec. 19; L. 1849, p. 65.

Peoria County adopted township organization without delay. The commissioners' court remained in charge of county affairs until the election of November 1849, at which time a county judge and two associates were elected for the new county court. At the very same election the voters adopted township organization by a vote of 2,147 to 19.¹ The new county court held its first meeting on December 3, 1849, with Thomas Bryant as county judge, and Joseph Ladd and John McFarland as county justices of the peace.² One of the first items of business brought before the court was the appointment of David Sanburn, George Holmes, and Mark W. Aiken as commissioners to divide the county into townships in accordance with the law.³ There is no record of the report of these commissioners and no further mention of the matter, although payments for legal services in connection with township organization were allowed to Thomas Ford⁴ and Norman H. Purple.

The first township meetings were held according to law on the second Tuesday in April 1850, and the newly elected township supervisors assembled six days later to organize the county board of supervisors. At the first meeting the following 12 supervisors were present: Stephen C. Wheeler, of Hollis Township; John Combs, Rosefield; Samuel Dimon, Orange; Josiah Fulton, Richwoods; Charles S. Strother, Chillicothe; Jonathan Brassfield, Benton; Benjamin Slane, Akron; Isaac Brown, Limestone; L. B. Cromwell, Princeville; William W. Church, Jubilee; Clark W. Stanton, Millbrook; and David R. Gregory, Trivoli.⁵ The next day William Hale of Peoria and Samuel Pulsipher of Brimfield appeared.⁶ At the June meeting the following additional members appeared: Walter S. Evens, Hollock Township; John Jacobs, Franklin; Justice Gibbs, Elmwood; Thomas P. Smith, Logan; and William L. Scott, Timber.⁷ The board was then complete with a membership of 19, one from each township. Little business was transacted at the April meeting. Samuel Dimon was elected chairman.⁸ The board then "ordered that E. N. Powell, Esqr., be requested to attend to give legal advice concerning its duties and future action." On the second day a committee was appointed to make a complete investigation of county financial affairs since 1842; a second committee was appointed to study the condition of the poor farm.⁹ At the later meetings during 1850 the supervisors were very cautious in their actions while they oriented themselves in their new work.

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1. County Commissioners' Court Record, v. F, p. 268, in Supervisors' Record, see entry 2.
 2. Ibid., p. 257.
 3. Ibid., p. 268, 269.
 4. Ford had served a term as Governor of Illinois from 1842 to 1846; after leaving this office he settled in Peoria and was often employed by the commissioners' court for legal services.
 5. Supervisors' Record, v. A, p. 1.
 6. Ibid.
 7. Ibid., p. 4, 6.
 8. Ibid., p. 1.
 9. Ibid., p. 2, 3.

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The township organization established in 1850 has continued to the present day with only a few changes, although several township names have been changed. Of the original list of township names the state auditor rejected 3, Franklin, Orange, and Benton, because they had previously been accepted for townships in other counties. The following changes were then made: Franklin to Medina; Orange to Kickapoo; and Benton, first to Freemont, then after a second rejection, to Radnor.¹

The political township lines were drawn to correspond with the congressional township surveys as closely as possible. Thirteen of them were full townships with 36 sections included within each. The other 6 corresponded with the fractional township areas located along the Illinois River. The only township changes made since 1850 have involved Peoria and Richwoods. A law of 1877 provided that the territory embraced within any city, with a population of not less than 3,000, might be organized as a town on the petition of the city council.² Two years later the county board of supervisors constituted all the territory within the City of Peoria as the Township of Peoria (later called the Town of the City of Peoria); the rest of Peoria Township was designated West Peoria (later renamed Peoria Township).³ The area of the former has since been extended several times to correspond with the corporate limits of the growing city.⁴ These extensions of the Town of the City of Peoria have been at the expense of Peoria and Richwoods townships.

Representation on the Board of Supervisors

When township organization was first established in 1850 the board of supervisors contained 19 members, 1 from each township. This system was disadvantageous to Peoria which had approximately one third of the county population. The first law on township organization, enacted in 1849, had provided for the election of 1 supervisor from every township without regard to population.⁵ Two years later a supplementary act authorized townships with 800 or more voters to elect an "additional supervisor."⁶ Under authority of this act, Peoria Township elected 2 supervisors in April 1851.⁷

An act of 1854 amending the basic law provided that the several wards in the City of Peoria should each be entitled to elect a supervisor;

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1. Supervisors' Record, v. A, p. 5,6,11, see entry 2.
 2. L. 1877, p. 212.
 3. Supervisors' Record, v. F, p. 398.
 4. *Ibid.*, v. O, p. 500; v. Q, p. 173,207,208.
 5. L. 1849, p. 192.
 6. L. 1851, p. 38. This act, which was very loosely drawn, did not fix the status of this "additional supervisor" either as a township official or as a member of the county board of supervisors.
 7. Supervisors' Record, v. A, p. 51.

these additional members, designated assistant supervisors, were to have no power or authority except as members of the county board.¹ In April 1855, Peoria Township elected 1 supervisor and 5 ward supervisors.² By 1859, Peoria had 7 representatives;³ 5 years later it had 8: 1 supervisor, 1 assistant, and 6 ward supervisors,⁴ and in 1870 it had a total of 9.⁵ Finally, in April 1873, Peoria Township presented 18 supervisors with credentials of election, of whom 2 were supervisors at large, 2 were assistant supervisors at large, and 2 supervisors from each of the 7 wards. After much debate and parliamentary maneuvering the additional supervisors were rejected.⁶

A law of 1874 established a new rule for the determination of representation on the board of supervisors. This law provided that any township with a population of 4,000 or more might have an assistant supervisor; it might have 2 assistant supervisors with a population of 3,500 and 1 more for every additional 2,500.⁷ Under this law the representation of Peoria Township remained at 9.⁸ In the years following, however, the Town of the City of Peoria gained rapidly in representation as its population increased. By 1908 the city had 24 supervisors.⁹ In 1919 it had 27 supervisors out of the total of 48.¹⁰ After the census of 1930 the city elected 35 members.¹¹ Then in 1931 a state law modified the principle of representation so that it was made applicable only to counties with population under 100,000;¹² this differentiating figure was reduced two years later to 90,000.¹³ Under these new laws the representation of townships in the more populous counties, including Peoria, was reduced substantially; each township with a population over 5,000 might have an additional supervisor

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1. L. 1854, p. 30.
 2. Supervisors' Record, v. A, p. 270, see entry 2.
 3. Ibid., v. B, p. 112.
 4. Ibid., v. C, p. 19.
 5. Ibid., v. D, p. 327.
 6. Ibid., v. E, p. 30. If the additional supervisors had been admitted, Peoria Township would have had 18 representatives to match the 18 supervisors from the rural townships.
 7. R.S. 1874, p. 1075.
 8. The population of the City of Peoria was 22,849 in 1870 (Ninth Census, 1870, I, Population, 117).
 9. Supervisors' Record, v. P. p. 6. The city was divided into 8 wards, 6 of which had 3 representatives each, while the other 2 had 2 each. In addition there was a supervisor at large and an assistant supervisor at large.
 10. Peoria County Auditor, Second Annual Report, General Statistics, 1919, p. 3.
 11. Ibid., Fourteenth Annual Report, General Statistics, 1931, p. 5.
 12. L. 1931, p. 908.
 13. L. 1933, p. 1118.

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for every 5,000 inhabitants, or major fraction thereof. This reduction gave the City of Peoria only 21 supervisors out of the board membership of 42.¹ By 1939 the city had 23 representatives; Richwoods and Limestone townships, both within the Peoria urban region, had 2 each, while the remaining 17 townships had 1 each - a total of 44.²

Powers of the Board of Supervisors

In general, the board of supervisors has had much the same powers as those previously exercised by the county commissioners' court. The law of 1851 on township organization provided that the board of each county should have power to make orders concerning the corporate property of the county; to audit all accounts chargeable against the county and to direct the raising of revenue to defray the same; to audit the accounts of town officers and other persons against their respective towns, as were not otherwise by law provided for, and to direct the raising of funds to defray the same; to appropriate funds to aid in the construction of roads and bridges on a vote of a majority of the whole board; and "to perform all other duties, not inconsistent with this act, which may be required of or enjoined on them by any law of this state to the county courts."³ The board also was given the power to equalize the assessments as between the several townships;⁴ to fix the rates of county and town assessments;⁵ and to determine the proper bond for the county treasurer.⁶ Other functions of the superseded commissioners' court were left with the board of supervisors and were restated in the general revision of the state laws in 1874; these powers included the supervision of elections, the selection of jurors, and the care of the indigent, infirm, and disabled.⁷ Also, with the creation of independent county officers, the board was given the authority to examine their receipts and expenditures.⁸

The principal functions of the board of supervisors and the manner in which each one was administered from 1850 to 1940 will be treated in the remaining sections of this sketch. Two interesting episodes, however, may be told here. In 1865 the board entered a protest against a state law which required counties to index all cases determined in the local courts during the preceding seven years, also those cases then pending, and to provide books for the index. The supervisors contended that the act was

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1. Peoria County Auditor, Sixteenth Annual Report, General Statistics, 1933, p. 5.
 2. Supervisors' Record, v. 15, p. 113, see entry 2.
 3. L. 1851, p. 51.
 4. Ibid., p. 57.
 5. Ibid.
 6. Ibid., p. 53.
 7. R.S. 1874, p. 456, 468, 630, 757, 758.
 8. Ibid., p. 306, 307.

unnecessary, that it would cost the county thousands of dollars, and that the passage of the law had been brought about by a combination of selfish interests. Notifying the clerk that it would make no payments for the work but that it would pay any fines imposed upon him, the board instructed the official to disregard the law.¹ It appears, however, from payments later allowed for the indexing that the board backed down from its original position.²

In 1911 a dispute arose between the board of supervisors and the sheriff over the power to appoint the janitor of the courthouse. Previously, the board had appointed the numerous caretakers of the building. The dispute began when the sheriff appointed a janitor to supersede the person selected by the board. After getting legal advice, the board learned that the sheriff had the custody of the courthouse and jail with the power to appoint the janitor, the engineer of the heating plant, the elevator operators, and other employees whose services were required in and about the buildings, while the board had the general care and custody of the real and personal property owned by the county.³ A compromise was finally arranged, by which appointments were to be submitted to the board for confirmation. The sheriff agreed to keep his expense accounts as low as possible.⁴ A little later the board refused to allow bills amounting to \$124.12 for work on the courthouse ordered by the sheriff without consulting the public buildings committee.⁵

Committee Organization

Most of the detailed work of county administration has always been done by committees of the board. This committee organization began during 1850 as the first board of supervisors was orienting itself in its work. Temporary committees were at first appointed for various purposes, such as the auditing of accounts against the county, the equalization of assessments, arranging a settlement with the county treasurer, and reporting on the condition of the public buildings.⁶ Another expedient adopted was to have the entire board go into a committee of the whole.⁷

After a year of experience, the second board organized the following standing committees, each with 3 to 5 members: finance, claims, county

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1. Supervisors' Record, v. C, p. 258, see entry 2.
 2. Ibid., p. 335
 3. Ibid., v. R, p. 3,4.
 4. Ibid., p. 169,170.
 5. Ibid., p. 239,240. According to board rules the sheriff had to consult the committee for all work which would cost over \$100.
 6. Ibid., v. A, p. 4,15.
 7. Ibid., p. 17.

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buildings, poor farm, petitions, roads and bridges, equalization, and auditing the treasurer's accounts.¹ The committees on petitions and auditing the treasurers' reports were soon dropped, while committees for the judiciary and education were added.² After the establishment of these committees the organization remained substantially unchanged for many years.

In later years, however, the number of board committees greatly increased. By 1911 there were 17 standing committees as follows: judiciary; finance and bonds; education; poor of the Town of the City of Peoria; poor of the county other than the Town of the City of Peoria; poor farm inspectors; public buildings; roads and bridges; mines and mining; supervisors' claims; printing and county officers supplies; jurors and elections; charitable institutions and dependent children; coroner, coroner's bills and expenses, auditing books of county and probate clerks; auditing books of circuit clerk and county recorder; and auditing books of sheriff, including the prisoners' diet at the jail. Each committee had 5 members.³ Since that time several additional committees have been created while some of the others have been reorganized. In operation this committee organization has both advantages and disadvantages. Perhaps the greatest advantage of the system is the encouragement that it gives to specialization. Some members, with many years of service on the board, have become quite expert in the work of their several committees. The chief disadvantage is that committee reports often have not given enough details for intelligent board action. Many long reports recommending payment on scores of claims against the county have been adopted at every session, usually without change and without debate; at times, however, the board has requested committees to furnish fuller information.⁴

Rules for Board Procedure

The rules for board procedure have always closely followed accepted rules of parliamentary practice. In 1851 the board adopted the following order of business: (1) calling the board to order (at 8:00 A.M. unless otherwise ordered); (2) the presentation of petitions or claims; (3) reports of standing committees; (4) reports of select committees; (5) presentation of resolutions; (6) passing on the reports of committees or any other business.⁵ This order of business was later changed in some of its details. The board also ordered that every resolution should be reduced to writing by the person presenting it.⁶ Another rule was that no bill or claim

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1. Supervisors' Record, v. A, p. 52, see entry 2.
 2. Ibid., v. B, p. 2; v. C, p. 62.
 3. Ibid., v. Q, p. 552-555.
 4. For example, in 1867 the board requested the various committees to give summaries of all claims (ibid., v. C, p. 522).
 5. Ibid., v. A, p. 52.
 6. Ibid., p. 9.

against the county) should be allowed until after it had been referred to a committee and reported back to the board.¹ A committee might be forced to report any matter by a resolution of the board.²

Administration of Financial Matters

Early Items of County Finance

When the first commissioners' court met on March 3, 1825, its second action was to appoint Aaron Hawley as treasurer.³ At the following session a tax levy of one-half percent was ordered to be levied against all property subject to county taxation.⁴ John L. Bogardus was appointed tax assessor of Peoria County and the attached territory.⁵ Sheriff Samuel Fulton was authorized to draw and receive \$200 from the state treasury, which amount was Peoria's share of the nonresidents' land tax as allotted in the act establishing the county.⁶ In September 1825 the court ordered that Bogardus should be paid \$37.50 in specie or its equivalent in state paper for his services as assessor.⁷ The first financial report, made on December 8, 1825, appeared in the following entry:

Ordered by the court that the sheriff be charged with \$399.15 1/3 as per amount returned on the Assessors book including 30 dollars received of the clerk for tavern Licenses and credited for amount of bad debts \$29.90, also for County orders and percentage on the same amounting to \$135.24, also \$46.50 in State Paper, also \$21.60 in State Paper including interest thereon, also \$33.45 it being equal to \$66.70 in State Paper, also \$19.21 in State Paper.⁸

1. Supervisors' Record, v. A, p. 271; v. C, p. 522, see entry 2.
2. Ibid., v. A, p. 208.
3. County Commissioners' Court Record, v. A, p. 1, in Supervisors' Record, see entry 2. The commissioners were not aware that a recent law, approved January 17, 1825 (L. 1825, p. 173), had constituted the sheriff as treasurer, ex officio. In March 1826 the court made official mention of the criticism directed at it for the appointment of and the compensation given to this official; hence the commissioners voted that each of them should voluntarily deduct \$5 from his own salary to recompense the county (ibid., p. 39).
4. Ibid., p. 3.
5. Ibid., p. 12.
6. Ibid., p. 13.
7. Ibid., p. 17.
8. Ibid., p. 27.

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Taxes and Taxation, 1825-1849

During the early years of Illinois the county officials had limited powers of taxation. An act of February 18, 1823, repealing an earlier law of 1819, laid down the main outlines of the state taxing system.¹ All lands claimed by individuals were subjected to a tax of one-half percent. The same tax was imposed upon slaves. Nonresidents with land claims were to pay their taxes directly to the state auditor. The sheriff of each county was made the tax collector for the residents within his jurisdiction. After deducting his fees for collection, the sheriff was to pay one third of the resident land taxes into the state treasury and the remainder to the county. In case the taxes imposed by this act should not prove sufficient for county expenses, the county commissioners' court was authorized to levy a tax not to exceed one-half percent on the value of the following property: "town lots, except on lots of incorporated towns, whereon a tax not less than one-half percent shall have been levied by the trustees of said towns, of that or the preceding year, pleasure carriages for the conveyance of persons, and not such as are for common farming purposes, distilleries, stock in trade, and such other personal property as they may think proper."² A law of 1825 provided that this tax might be raised to one percent if necessary.³

The tax system of early Peoria County was complicated still further because of the provisions regarding the military bounty lands. During the War of 1812 Congress had provided for land grants to volunteers; the President was authorized to have surveyed 2,000,000 (later made 1,500,000) acres in Illinois north of the Illinois River for such bounties.⁴ The law of 1818 providing for the admission of Illinois into the Union stipulated that the bounty lands while held by the patentees or their heirs should remain exempt from taxes for three years from and after date of patents.⁵ Actually, all lands within the military bounty tract remained exempt from local taxes during the early years. The law of 1823 cited above provided that \$750 should be paid annually to Pike County and \$450 to Fulton in lieu of any part of the tax upon lands lying in those counties.⁶ When Peoria was established two years later, provision was made for the payment of \$200 annually to the new county from the state treasury.⁷

1. L. 1823, p. 203-12.

2. Ibid., p. 210,211.

3. L. 1825, p. 176.

4. U.S. Congress, General Public Acts of Congress Respecting the Sale and Disposition of the Public Lands, I, 214,282.

5. Ibid., p. 302.

6. L. 1823, p. 209.

7. L. 1825, p. 87.

The first tax levy in Peoria County was fixed at one-half percent on "all property subject to a county tax," but this was soon superseded by a levy of one percent.¹ The rate was kept at one percent for 1826,² then lowered to one-half percent for 1827.³ In 1830, the commissioners' court fixed the levy as follows: one-half percent for "pleasure carriages and wagons; clocks and watches with their appendages; distilleries and stock in trade; horses, mares, mules, asses and neat cattle over 3 years old."⁴ The rate of one-half percent was retained until 1839.⁵ In 1837, town lots, slaves and indentured or registered Negro or mulatto servants were made subject to the tax.⁶ The General Assembly changed the tax system in 1839 when it passed a law making real property generally subject to taxation. County commissioners' courts were permitted to levy a tax not exceeding one-half percent on real or personal property.⁷ The Peoria commissioners responded immediately by levying a tax of thirty cents on \$100 of real and personal property for county purposes.⁸ During the 1840's the tax rate varied from thirty to fifty cents, but often with ten cents additional for road purposes.⁹

Tax Levies and Assessments, 1825-1849

John L. Bogardus took the first assessment in 1825. In the county and the attached territory he listed 123 taxpayers. John Crafts of Chicago was assessed for \$5,000 and John B. Beaubien, also of Chicago \$1,000; Abner Eads and William Holland, both of Peoria, were assessed \$800 each. These four were the wealthiest men in the early county.¹⁰ From 1827 to 1839 the assessment function was in the hands of the county treasurer who was (until 1837) appointed by the county commissioners' court.¹¹ In 1839 the legislature provided for the appointment of district assessors.¹² The Peoria commissioners thereupon divided their county into nine districts and named an assessor for each.¹³ In 1841 a new law required the commissioners to name but one assessor for the entire county.¹⁴

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1. County Commissioners' Court Record, v. A, p. 2,13, in Supervisors' Record, see entry 2.
 2. Ibid., p. 45.
 3. Ibid., p. 76.
 4. Ibid., p. 154.
 5. Ibid., p. 190,224; v. B, p. 61,113,199; v. C, p. 87,158,236.
 6. Ibid., v. C, p. 158.
 7. L. 1839, p. 3,10,11.
 8. County Commissioners' Court Record, v. C, p. 368.
 9. Ibid., v. D, p. 103,163,303; v. E, p. 4,115,193,279,360; v. F, p. 93, 186,293.
 10. History of Peoria (Johnson), p. 310.
 11. R.L. 1827, p. 329,330.
 12. L. 1839, v. 4.
 13. County Commissioners' Court Record, v. C, p. 332,333.
 14. L. 1841, p. 34.

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Three years later the function was restored to the county treasurer.¹ The records of the commissioners' court do not give the assessed valuation for the early years, but the assessment can be estimated fairly accurately from the collector's annual reports. Table VII shows the taxes charged to the collector on the assessor's books, the tax rates fixed by the court, and the estimated assessed valuation.

TABLE VII: Taxes Charged, Tax Rates, and Estimated Assessed Valuations
from 1825 to 1838²

Year	Taxes Charged	Tax Rate	Estimated Assessed Valuation
1825	\$379.15 1/2	1 %	\$ 37,915.50
1826	855.93	1	85,593.00
1827	238.67 1/2	1/2	47,735.00
1828	142.84	1/2	28,568.00
1829	153.73	1/2	30,746.00
1830	139.42 1/2	1/2	27,885.00
1831	65.64	1/2	13,128.00
1832	55.54	1/2	11,108.00
1833	73.18 3/4	1/2	14,637.50
1834	105.03	1/2	21,006.00
1835	166.04 1/2	1/2	33,209.00
1836	283.27 1/2	1/2	56,655.00
1837	485.65 1/2	1/2	97,131.00
1838	692.49	1/2	138,498.00

Some of the fluctuations in the assessed valuation can be explained. It must be remembered that the categories of property subject to taxation changed somewhat from year to year. The great increase in 1826 was doubtless due to the inclusion of Warren and Mercer counties in the Peoria jurisdiction. In 1827 Tazewell County was dropped. The great decline in 1831 was caused by the separation of the remaining attached territory, while the increase after 1836 was due partly to the addition of town lots to the list of taxable property.

The county tax system underwent a complete change in 1839 when the state General Assembly made real and personal property alike subject to local taxation. Table VIII shows the tax rates, the taxes charged to the collector for county purposes (but not for roads), and the estimated assessed valuations from 1839 to 1849.

1. L. 1843, p. 231,237; effective in 1844.
2. County Commissioners' Court Record, v. A, p. 13,27,45,67,76,98,119,150,154,189,190,223,224; v. B, p. 44,61,113,199,259; v. C, p. 42,87,138,183,236,260; v. D, p. 252,361, in Supervisors' Record, see entry 2.

TABLE VIII: Tax Rates, Taxes Charged, and Estimated Assessed Valuations
from 1839 to 1849¹

Year	Taxes Charged	Tax Rate	Estimated Assessed Valuation
1839	\$ 4,314.27 $\frac{1}{4}$.30	\$1,438,090.63
1840	7,064.27	.50	1,412,854.00
1841	4,796.93	.30	1,598,976.66
1842	5,431.66	.30	1,810,553.33
1843	7,048.14	.40	1,762,035.00
1844	8,156.49 $\frac{1}{2}$.40	2,039,123.75
1845	not given	.30	not given
1846	not given	.40	not given
1847	9,949.98	.40	2,487,495.00
1848	10,182.77	.40	2,545,492.50
1849	10,997.01	.40	2,749,252.50

This table includes only the taxes for general county purposes. In addition, the commissioners' court usually fixed a rate of ten cents on real property for road purposes. The commissioners' records do not give the reports of the collector (sheriff, ex officio) for 1845 and 1846. Even the treasurer's reports for these two years were not recorded in the court proceedings.

Other Sources of Revenue, 1825-1838

The amounts received by the county in direct taxes from 1825 to 1838 were quite inadequate for county needs. During these years Peoria County received annually a large sum (for those days) from the state treasury. The act establishing the county provided that Peoria should receive \$200 for its proportion of the nonresident land tax;² later laws increased this amount.³ By 1835 Peoria County was receiving annually \$400 from the state.⁴ Considerable revenue was also derived from the sale of town lots in the village of Peoria. In July 1826, 29 lots were

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1. County Commissioners' Court Record, v. C, p. 368; v. D, p. 74, 103, 163, 185, 303, 304; v. E, p. 4, 41, 115, 157, 193, 237, 279, 360; v. F, p. 93, 114, 166, 254, 304, in Supervisors' Record, see entry 2. The tax rate is the levy for each \$100 of assessed valuation of real and personal property.
 2. L. 1825, p. 87.
 3. L. 1826, p. 89; R.L. 1829, p. 119.
 4. County Commissioners' Court Record, v. C, p. 64. These payments were discontinued after 1838.

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sold at auction for a total of \$1,445.87 1/2.¹ In May 1832 the court sold 165 more lots for \$7,577.75.² Other lots were sold later, some at private sales, some at auctions, the last of them passing into private ownership in 1845.³ Payments were made in installments, some of which were delayed many years.⁴ License fees also furnished some revenue. The holders of ferry licenses were required to pay annual fees which varied in amount. In 1827 John L. Bogardus, with an advantageous location at Peoria, paid \$20 while William Clark paid only \$2 for his ferry at Mackinaw Bluffs.⁵ Tavern licenses were at first set at \$10.⁶ Later the amount of the fee was fixed for each individual applicant. In 1834 the records listed eleven tavern keepers who paid fees ranging from \$6 to \$12.⁷ About this same time the court charged from \$5 to \$25 for licenses to sell goods at retail.⁸ In some cases the same individuals had two licenses, one to sell liquor and another to retail goods. Licenses for other purposes were also granted. In 1833 Timothy Qualey, Jr., was given license to peddle clocks for a fee of 12 1/2 cents.⁹ An auctioneer's license was granted to Giles C. Dana for \$10.¹⁰ I. Gibbs paid \$5 for a peddler's license.¹¹

Even at this early date the license fees amounted to a considerable sum. In 1836 the total was \$613.50;¹² two years later it was \$784.¹³ These amounts greatly exceeded the taxes levied by the county at this time. The county commissioners, however, lost the licensing power in the village of Peoria soon after the incorporation of this place in 1837. The issue was carried into the courts where it was decided in favor of the village authorities.¹⁴ With the incorporation of other villages soon afterward the licensing power of the county commissioners' court declined in importance.

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1. County Commissioners' Court Record, v. A, p. 53-55, in Supervisors' Record, see entry 2.
 2. Ibid., p. 239,240; v. B, p. 1-4.
 3. Ibid., v. E, p. 232.
 4. In 1835 and 1836 the court threatened that if the notes were not promptly paid they would be put in the hands of an officer for collection (ibid., v. B, p. 191,220; v. C, p. 11,27,128).
 5. Ibid., v. A, p. 92.
 6. Ibid., p. 9,12.
 7. Ibid., v. B, p. 178.
 8. Ibid., v. C, p. 51.
 9. Ibid., v. B, p. 99.
 10. Ibid., p. 178.
 11. Ibid., v. C, p. 108.
 12. Ibid., p. 183.
 13. Ibid., p. 260.
 14. Ibid., p. 305; v. D, p. 221; v. E, p. 95.

Financial Reports, 1825-1849

Because of the faulty bookkeeping methods used during the early years it is difficult to obtain from the financial reports much significant information. Also, since values were sometimes expressed in terms of specie, and sometimes in terms of depreciated state paper, the figures are not comparable from year to year.¹

The financial report of December 1826 was given in fairly good form on the revenue side. County revenue for that year was derived from the following sources: taxes on personal property, \$329.43; payment from the state treasury, \$168.75; fines, \$16.50; tavern license, \$3; from the sale of town lots, \$21; other sources, \$18.07½; balance from December 1825, \$54.15½; total, \$610.91. Even though the collector reported tax delinquencies amounting to \$512.52, the treasury closed the year with a balance of \$294.36. These values were all expressed in terms of specie.²

For the next few years, little can be made from the financial reports. In 1830 the treasurer accounted for \$647.26½, of which \$350 had come from the state treasury; he reported a balance of \$164.11½ (values in state paper).³ There was little change in the total revenue for the next several years.⁴ No reports were given for the years 1834, 1835, 1836. In 1837 the treasurer was debited with \$6,383.43½, most of which was derived from the old notes given for the Peoria town lots; in 1838 the amount was \$2,635.34½.⁵

The reports give absolutely no information about the expenditures of the county. Ordinarily the total paid out in county orders is given, also the commissions paid to the collector and the treasurer.⁶ For many years no breakdown was given of the amounts paid out in county orders. Beginning in 1839 the financial reports were given in much better book-keeping form,⁷ and some of them were ordered to be printed in local newspapers.

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1. The depreciation of state paper was about twenty-five percent from 1825 to 1830 (County Commissioners' Court Record, v. A, p. 67, 94, 117, 152, in Supervisors' Record, see entry 2).
 2. County Commissioners' Court Record, v. A, p. 67, 68.
 3. Ibid., p. 151, 152.
 4. Ibid., p. 189, 223; v. B, p. 45.
 5. Ibid., v. C, p. 160, 161, 232.
 6. This system of payments was advantageous to the sheriff and treasurer. The county orders issued by the county clerk were worth much less than specie. The collector and treasurer, however, always had the opportunity to take their commissions in the best money at hand.
 7. County Commissioners' Court Record, v. C, p. 397, 398; v. D, p. 74, 181, 206, 304; v. E, p. 120; v. F, p. 114.

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It appears from the records that the Peoria County finances were well managed during the first quarter century. Even though the revenues were small and the tax delinquencies rather large, the treasury showed a surplus each year. In 1844 the county had \$2,417.06 loaned out on interest.¹ The records reveal few financial irregularities among county officials, although such practices were extremely common throughout Illinois.²

Financial Administration under Township Organization

Under the system of township organization, which Peoria County established early in 1850, the administration of finance was divided between township and county officials. Rates of taxation, both for county purposes and for township expenses, were fixed by the board of supervisors.³ The assessment function was placed in the hands of elective township assessors.⁴ The several township assessment rolls when completed were equalized throughout the county by the board of supervisors,⁵ and collection of taxes was placed in the hands of elected township collectors.⁶ Money collected for township expenses was paid over to the township supervisors, while the remainder was paid to the county treasurer.⁷ The collection of taxes on delinquent property and on the lands and lots of nonresidents was a function of the county treasurer.⁸

In the equalization of assessments the board of supervisors ascertained whether the valuations in each township bore a just relationship to those in other parts of the county; the board might increase or decrease the aggregate valuation in any township by percentage adjustments,

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1. County Commissioners' Court Record, v. E, p. 120, in Supervisors' Record, see entry 2.
 2. One sheriff was found in default in his tax collections. The commissioners, after treating the matter in a tolerant manner, ordered suit brought against him and his sureties. It appears that the county eventually recouped its losses. This sheriff, however, continued in office to the end of his term, although he did not attend the commissioners' court. After the expiration of his term he was employed by the court in various capacities. He was afterward elected county judge and served as a member of the county court. Later as keeper of the courthouse, while still county judge, he was censured for violating board rules and then dismissed from his job.
 3. L. 1849, p. 202; L. 1851, p. 51.
 4. L. 1849, p. 194,205,206; L. 1851, p. 38,54,55.
 5. L. 1849, p. 207; L. 1851, p. 57.
 6. L. 1849, p. 194;208; L. 1851, p. 38;59.
 7. L. 1849, p. 197,210; L. 1851, p. 45,62. The collector was allowed three percent on his collections for his compensation.
 8. L. 1849, p. 204; L. 1851, p. 53.

and also it might assess property omitted by the assessors.¹ Later it was given the power to review assessments upon complaint, also to hear and determine the application of any person who was assessed on property claimed as exempt from taxation.²

In 1898 the equalization function was transferred to the newly created board of review, which consisted of the chairman of the county board (who became chairman ex officio of the board of review), the clerk, and one citizen appointed by the county judge.³ Since 1923 the board of review has consisted of the chairman of the board of supervisors and two citizens appointed by the county judge.⁴

Until 1867 the county board of supervisors was the final authority in the equalization of taxes. In that year the General Assembly provided for the establishment of a state board of equalization, which should consist of the state auditor and of one person from each senatorial district as designated by appointment of the Governor. The equalized assessments fixed by this board, however, were used only for state taxes.⁵

New System in Operation

When the board of supervisors met for the first time in April 1850, the tax rates had already been fixed for that year.⁶ During the first year the board did little except to investigate and study the financial condition of the county. A committee was appointed to investigate the county finances from the year 1842 and to report the existing indebtedness.⁷ Two other special committees were later appointed, one to audit accounts against the county, the other to devise some means to raise and maintain the credit of the county.⁸

In November 1850 a special committee made a verbal report on the equalization of taxes by townships, which report was accepted but not entered upon the record.⁹ A short time later another special committee reported on the amount of township taxes necessary for town expenses and for roads and bridges. This report, which was promptly accepted by the board, fixed the following rates by townships: Hollis, Logan,

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1. L. 1849, p. 207; L. 1851, p. 57.
 2. L. 1871-1872, p. 24.
 3. L. 1898, p. 46.
 4. L. 1923, p. 496, 497.
 5. L. 1867, p. 105-10.
 6. County Commissioners' Court Record, v. F, p. 293, in Supervisors' Record, see entry 3. The rate was forty cents on \$100 of assessed valuation for county purposes and twenty cents for roads.
 7. Supervisors' Record, v. A, p. 2.
 8. Ibid., p. 4, 9.
 9. Ibid., p. 24.

Historical Sketch

TABLE IX: County Financial Report as Made by County Treasurer, June 1851¹

1851	In account with County of Feoria		[Cr]
June 16	By commissions allowed Town collectors as per statements		411 19
"	" By Errors and personal property Delinquencies		253 73
"	" By Receipts & commissions allowed per amt of Town Tax		2212 60
"	" By Recpts & comm allowed for amt of Road Tax	472.78	
"	" Less amt from Logan not included	17.35	[455 43]
"	" Road Tax on hand for which I am liable to Commissioners of Highways		72 76
			<u>3405 71</u>
"	" This Pallance of Tax due County carried down		13982 91
			<u>17388 62</u>
			[Dr.]
	By County Orders Pd Supervisors as per Recept of March 4, 1851		8829 42
June 18	By Comm on \$13644.04 as Treas 1%	136.44	
"	" " " 3479.78 " "		
	since April 1st. 1851 2%	69.60	
	By Comm on \$500 part of Delinquent List at 3%	25.00[sic]	
	By Comm on \$2579.66 balance of Delin- quent list 3%	77.49	308 53
	By Comm on Errors too much of Delinquent list abated		11 07
June 18	County orders for this balance paid this day as per recpt		4833 89
			<u>13982 91</u>
1850	Ralph Hamlin as Treasurer and Collector of the revenue of 1850		
Dec	To amount of County Tax as charged		14647 83
"	To amount of Road Tax as charged \$545.54		
	Less this amount due Logan nct included 17.35		528 19
	To amount of Town Tax account as charged		2212 60
			<u>17388 62</u>
1851			
June 16	To Bal of Tax due County Brot down		13982 91
			<u>17388 62</u>

1. Supervisors' Record, v. 1, p. 60, see entry 2.

Padner, Akron, Hallowell, and Princeville townships, one mill each; Richwoods, Medina, Privoli, Limestone, Blawood, and Trimfield, half a mill each; Millbrook, Timber, and Rosefield, two mills each; Pickapoo and Jubilee, one and a half mills; Peoria, two tenths of a mill; and Chillingthe Township, three fourths of a mill.¹

The first financial report (given in Table IX) was presented in June 1851. In November of the same year the county treasurer presented a complete summary of the taxes in Peoria County by township and by purpose. Table X (page 82) includes this report as it was given to the board. The total assessed valuation at this time was \$4,066,674.82, of which \$3,075,184.32 was real property and \$981,490.52 was personal property.²

Taxes and Taxation, 1850-1880

The period from 1850 to 1880 was a time of great growth in Peoria County. Population increased from 17,547 to 50,355 during these years; the City of Peoria had 29,259 people in 1880, which figure was nearly six times its population at the beginning of this period.³ But the economic development was even more striking. In 1850 Peoria County was still largely agricultural with very little industry and without railroad connections with the rest of the nation. The first railroad reached the City of Peoria in 1854 and others followed soon afterwards. By the end of this three-decade period the county produced manufactured products valued at \$14,228,134.⁴

This social and economic development is clearly reflected in the tax figures and financial reports as given in the records from year to year. Table XI (page 83) shows the county tax levies and the assessed valuations from 1850 to 1880. This table shows how the county taxes rose steadily as the assessed valuation increased and as governmental functions expanded. Until 1859 all county taxes were levied for "general county purposes." In that year the county board began the practice of making additional levies for special purposes, especially for the payment of county bonds.⁵ Table XI does not show the tax rates for 1873 and the following years. At that time the board began the practice of fixing the amounts needed for the various purposes. Under this policy the determination of the actual rate was a more clerical matter.

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1. Supervisors' Record, v. A, p. 29, see entry 2.
 2. Ibid., p. 107.
 3. Table I, see p. 25.
 4. Table IV, see p. 29.
 5. The special levies were made for the following purposes by years; (1859), 5 cents on \$100 of assessed valuation for the interest on the county railroad bonds and 4 cents for the principal and inter-

Historical Sketch

The fact that all these details are available in the proceedings of the board of supervisors is worthy of mention. In county records elsewhere in Illinois financial reports are often omitted entirely, sometimes for periods covering many years; often they are given in defective or incomplete form.

Peoria County also derived some income from the sale of swamp lands granted to it.¹ In 1858 the board of supervisors voted to sell the county swamp lands and to distribute the proceeds equally among the townships for school purposes.² Thereupon, 4,224.87 acres were sold for \$5,634.09,

est on the courthouse bonds (for additions to the old building); (1860), same as for 1859; (1861), 10 cents for the railroad and courthouse bonds; (1862), 10 cents for county bonds, also 40 cents for aid to volunteers in Civil War service; (1863), 10 cents for bonds and 30 cents for aid to volunteers; (1864), 10 cents for bonds and 20 for volunteers; (1865), same rates as for 1864; (1866), 10 cents for interest on county bonds and 25 for the construction of the poorhouse; (1867), same rates as for 1866; (1868), 15 cents for principal and interest on the jail bonds, 5 to pay the interest on the Peoria and Hannibal Railroad bonds, and 20 cents for the poorhouse building fund; (1869), 20 cents for the jail bonds, 10 for interest on the railway bonds, 20 for a building fund, and 10 for the poorhouse building fund; (1870), 25 cents for the jail bonds, 10 for the poorhouse bonds, 5 for the interest on the railroad bonds, 20 cents to pay the principal on the county debt; (1871), 20 cents for the jail bonds, 5 for interest on the railway bonds, 60 for the county debt, 10 for the poorhouse bonds, and 25 for purposes not stated in the proceedings of the board of supervisors; (1872), 15 cents for principal and interest on the jail bonds, 5 for interest on the railway bonds (Peoria & Hannibal), 10 for the poorhouse bonds, and 25 for the county debt; (1873), \$16,500 for principal and interest on the jail bonds, \$4,000 for principal and interest on the railway bonds, and \$18,000 for the poorhouse bonds; (1874), \$2,500 for interest on the poorhouse bonds, \$4,500 for the railroad bonds, and \$1,800 for the jail bonds; (1875), \$4,000 for interest on the Peoria & Hannibal Railroad bonds, \$40,000 for principal on the railroad bonds, and \$15,000 for the jail bonds; (1876) \$35,000 for the principal and \$2,000 for interest on the railroad bonds, and \$500 for interest on the jail bonds; (1877), \$54,000 for the construction of the courthouse and \$6,000 for the jail bonds; (1878), \$33,000 for courthouse purposes; (1879), \$37,000 for courthouse purposes; (1880), \$38,500 for courthouse purposes.

1. In 1850 an Act of Congress provides for the granting of swamp and overflowed lands to various states (9 U.S. Stat. 519). The land granted to Illinois was turned over to the counties for reclamation and for sale (L. 1852, p. 178).
2. Supervisors' Record, v. B, p. 65,106, see entry 2.

TABLE X: Peoria County Taxes Extended in 1851, by Township and by Purpose

Township	Collector	State Tax ²	County Tax	Town Tax	School Tax	Road Tax	Total Tax
Trivoli	Isaac Hamlin	\$ 1,182.10	\$ 801.42	\$ 180.32	\$ 119.31 ¹ / ₂	\$ 16.85	\$ 2,300.00
Elmwood	Israel Aiherton	1,096.08	743.10	114.46			1,953.64
Brimfield	Curtis Cady	835.80	566.64	141.66	40.64	78.35	1,663.09
Millbrook	George Ewycoff	622.24	421.86	126.55	47.78	41.51	1,260.00
Timber	Walter Stewart	709.42	480.96	360.72		95.85	1,646.95
Logan	John D. Smith	710.04	481.38	108.31		56.52	1,356.25
Rosefield	Nelson Shepard	749.59	508.20	266.80		51.62	1,576.21
Jubilee	George Badley	561.99	381.01	76.21	124.77	48.83	1,192.81
Princeville	Milton Wilson	715.73	485.24	60.65	280.77	69.56	1,611.95
Hollis	Isaac T. Maple	427.04	289.52	65.14	110.93	23.32	915.95
Limestone	James Jones	737.17	496.76	62.47	110.42	96.11	1,503.93
Kickapoo	Joseph Eaton	791.19	536.40	348.66	190.68	111.40	1,978.33
Radnor	Joseph Chapin	895.20	606.98	212.42		43.14	1,757.68
Akron	Phineas Bronson	629.29	426.64	106.65		73.87	1,236.44
Peoria	John T. Lindsay	9,917.15	6,723.49	336.17	1,046.91	172.35	18,196.07
Richwoods	George Stringer	858.47	582.01	145.50	131.29	65.76	1,783.03
Medina	John Holmes	876.06	593.93	59.39	197.95	27.34	1,754.67
Hallock	Francis Thomas	646.81	438.51	164.44	49.89 ¹ / ₂	73.38	1,373.03
Chillicothe	Charles R. Hall	972.93	659.61	115.43		45.39	1,793.36
Total		23,934.30	16,223.60	3,951.95	2,451.34	1,191.15	46,852.40

1. Supervisors' Record, v. A, p. 107, see entry 2.
2. The state tax was broken down as follows: general state purposes at two mills, \$8,111.80; state debt at two mills, \$8,111.80; interest on state debt at one and one-half mills, \$6,083.65; hospital for insane at one-fifth mill, \$813.42¹/₂; and education of the blind at one-fifth mill, \$813.42¹/₂.

Historical Sketch

TABLE XI: County Tax Levies and Assessed Valuations from 1850 to 1880¹

Year	General County Purposes		Special Purposes		Total Taxes Levied	Assessed Valuation
	Rate ²	Amount Levied	Rate	Amount Levied		
1850	40	\$ 14,647.83			\$ 14,647.83	\$ 3,661,957
1851	40	16,223.62			16,223.62	4,066,674
1852	35	14,543.93			14,543.93	4,155,757
1853	32.50	18,445.47			18,445.47	5,744,861
1854	39.66	22,465.08			22,465.08	5,662,671
1855	40	29,302.98			29,302.98	7,326,148
1856	40	31,203.47			31,203.47	7,793,333
1857	40	39,477.57			39,477.57	9,867,236
1858	30	29,927.30			29,927.30	9,974,727
1859	40	35,045.34	9	\$ 8,785.19	43,830.53	9,761,140
1860	40	35,853.77	9	8,067.08	43,920.85	8,945,553
1861	50	41,588.19	10	8,317.45	49,905.64	8,320,039
1862	50	39,742.87	50	39,742.87	79,485.74	7,950,931
1863	50	41,382.73	40	33,106.18	74,488.91	8,277,191
1864	50	45,362.73	30	27,217.36	72,580.09	9,072,523
1865	50	46,370.52	30	27,822.35	74,192.87	9,273,992
1866	50	48,852.54	35	34,196.78	83,049.32	9,770,509
1867	50	53,509.33	35	37,456.53	90,965.86	10,701,865
1868	50	54,346.70	40	43,477.36	97,824.06	10,869,340
1869	50	51,389.62	60	61,667.54	113,057.16	10,277,924
1870	50	59,147.63	80	94,636.72	153,784.35	11,829,527
1871	50	48,368.89	120	116,133.32	164,522.21	9,677,777
1872	75	70,784.85	55	42,365.25	123,150.10	9,437,979
1873		100,000.00		39,000.00	139,000.00	27,547,394
1874		131,200.00		8,800.00	140,000.00	24,899,183
1875		100,500.00		59,500.00	160,000.00	20,611,413
1876		110,000.00		37,500.00	147,500.00	19,436,718
1877		100,000.00		60,000.00	160,000.00	17,187,754
1878		100,000.00		33,000.00	133,000.00	16,288,526
1879		86,000.00		37,000.00	123,000.00	16,071,355
1880		100,000.00		38,500.00	138,500.00	15,548,576

- Supervisors' Record, v. A, p. 60(1850),46,107,120(1851),157(1852), 180,202,203(1853),234,243(1854),304,403(1855),361,367(1856); v. B, p. 34,71(1857),155,165(1858),240,250,253(1859),340,341,354(1860), 454,465,485(1861),551,583,593(1862); v. C, p. 80,109,111(1863),160, 189,213(1864),294,306(1865),400,421(1866),531,586(1867); v. D, p. 89, 102(1868),229,290(1869),373,402(1870),501,562(1871),626 and v. E, r. 27, 28(1872),105,150(1873),212,247(1874),310,346(1875),310,461(1876),605 and v. F, p. 3(1877),174,192(1878); v. 3 (transcribed), p. 354, 369(1879), 391,402(1880), see entry 2.
- Rate is shown by amount in cents per one hundred dollars of assessed valuation.

the down payments amounting to \$2, 17.05.¹ This fund was distributed in accordance with the previous board resolution and later payments were disposed of in the same manner.² Peoria County continued to receive some revenue from other sources, such as licenses, fees, and fines. Little detailed information is available concerning this additional income. The amount certainly was small.³

County Aid to Civil War Volunteers

The county appropriated and expended large sums of money to stimulate volunteering during the Civil War. This money was spent chiefly to give aid to the families of soldiers. Adopting a policy contrary to that employed in most other counties, Peoria paid out very little as bounties to volunteers.

When war broke out in 1861 the patriotic reaction of Peoria County was immediate. Meeting on April 13, only four days after the evacuation of Fort Sumter, the county board of supervisors took official notice of petitions asking for public support of the families of volunteers who had enlisted "to protect the Flag of our Country and sustain our Country's honor."⁴ The next day the board unanimously adopted a resolution appropriating \$10,000 for the purpose requested; this fund was to be paid out by a special committee of five supervisors, who were to investigate every family before granting aid.⁵ At the same time the board passed a resolution asking the General Assembly to legalize special tax levies by counties and cities for aid to volunteers.⁶

In September of the same year the disbursing committee reported that it had spent \$2,700.35. Altogether seventy families were then receiving aid, ranging from \$6 to \$20 a month. The committee members, working with the township supervisor in each case, had investigated carefully the need of every family in order to prevent imposition. Aid was given to each

1. Supervisors' Record, v. B, p. 102, see entry 2.
2. Ibid., p. 127,215,358,402.
3. One minor source of income, the dog tax, aroused a bitter controversy, which continued for many years. When this tax was first imposed during the early 1850's there was a threat of local rebellion. One township was notified that it would receive no road and bridge appropriations until the township assessor included the dogs in his list (ibid., v. C, p. 178). The following year, in 1865, the opponents of this tax won an important concession but lost in 1866 (ibid., p. 243,367). This tax was apparently not a revenue device but a measure against a community nuisance.
4. Ibid., v. B, p. 404.
5. Ibid., p. 411.
6. Ibid., p. 413.

TABLE XII: All Taxes Levied in Feoria County
from 1850 to 1880 by Selected Years

Year	County Levies	State Levies	Township Levies	Roads and Bridges	District School ²	Other Levies ³	Total Levies
1851	\$ 16,223.62	\$ 23,934.30	\$ 3,051.95	\$ 1,191.15	\$ 2,451.34		\$ 46,852.40
1855	29,302.98	49,082.48	4,741.35	1,427.47	15,332.33		99,896.63
1860	43,920.85	60,055.07	2,940.53	6,979.46	23,834.79	\$ 106.84	137,837.54
1865	74,192.87	131,847.67	4,978.75	7,786.19	49,130.36	128.00	268,067.84
1872	124,670.74	71,781.60	20,568.91	19,281.47	65,189.49	35,436.74	336,928.95
1875	163,919.29	57,116.79	20,421.19	21,115.50	71,380.83	48,659.62	382,580.27
1880	138,651.93	51,537.29	16,276.26	22,295.89	89,054.11	189,245.16	507,110.64

1. Supervisors' Record, v. A, p. 107 (1851), 313-13 (1855); v. B, p. 354 (1860); v. C, p. 329 (1865); v. E, p. 28 (1872), 346 (1875); v. 3 (transcribed), p. 402 (1880), see entry 2.
2. The method of taxation for school purposes varied somewhat from year to year during this period. The taxes in 1851 were levied by districts. In 1855 the several townships levied \$4,949.99 and the school district levied \$10,382.39. Later levies given here were levied by districts.
3. The \$106.84 listed here for 1860 was for back taxes. A sum of \$128 for 1865 was for dog taxes. The total given for 1872 included the following: amount levied by the state auditor for payment of interest on both county and town-ship bonds, \$16,856.87 (state law required the state auditor to levy local taxes for the payments of interest on local bonds, usually for the construction of railroads, when the local authorities refused to levy taxes for the purpose); back taxes on the above, \$180.82; levies by incorporated towns, \$2,264.75; back taxes on the above, \$10.74; all other taxes, \$16,123.55. For 1875: amount levied by the state auditor, \$31,574.75; taxes levied by incorporated towns, \$3,572.11; all others, \$13,212.76. For 1880; city taxes (not included previously), \$170,724.29; incorporated town taxes, \$3,942.45; other taxes, \$14,807.51.

family as determined by the need and the previous standard of living.¹ The board approved the report and authorized the committee to continue under the same policies. No family, however, should be given aid unless the husband should send home one half of his monthly pay.² In April 1862 the committee asked for a new appropriation since it had completely spent the \$10,000 turned over to it. After considerable discussion \$2,000 was appropriated.³ During the rest of this year aid was granted much less generously, due apparently to rising opposition.⁴

In August 1862 the board voted 14 to 11 to pay each soldier enlisting before "August 28 next" a bounty of \$25 in county orders bearing interest at ten per cent and payable in one year.⁴ Attempts were later made to continue these bounty payments but they were decisively defeated.⁵

Early in 1863 there was widespread criticism of the whole policy of aid to the families of soldiers. Requests were made for a liberalization of the system, also for the adoption of definite standards of relief. The disbursing committee acknowledged that many families were entirely destitute even with the aid it was able to give. Most families made every effort to get along without assistance. Others, however, had made no attempt to take care of themselves, and these were the ones that had caused most of the trouble. Some families had become dependent on the local charities, both public and private. Nevertheless the old system was approved by the board.⁶ Little change was made during the remaining two years of the war, although the administration was probably liberalized somewhat.

This program of the county aid to the families of soldiers was continued for a full year after the end of the war since many soldiers remained in service throughout 1865. In April 1866 the disbursing committee was finally discharged.⁷

The system of bounty payments was readopted briefly in the autumn of 1864. A bounty of \$200 was voted to each volunteer in order to fill the county's quota of troops at that time.⁸ Again in February 1865, shortly before the close of the war, bounty proposals were presented to the board but were defeated.⁹

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1. Supervisors' Record, v. E, p. 430, see entry 2.
 2. Ibid., p. 454.
 3. Ibid., p. 514, 516.
 4. Ibid., p. 526-30.
 5. Ibid., p. 535, 536.
 6. Ibid., v. C, p. 16, 17, 22, 31, 33, 42.
 7. Ibid., p. 383, 395.
 8. Ibid., p. 181.
 9. Ibid., p. 224-26.

Historical Sketch

The total amounts spent in aid of the families of volunteers were given each year by the several disbursing committees. These sums by years (each year beginning in April) were as follows: 1861, \$10,003.43; 1862, \$10,147.57; 1865, \$17,367.48; 1864, \$21,184.90; 1865, \$7,296.94; total, \$66,000.32.¹ This total does not include the bounty payments.² In addition large amounts were paid out by the townships and municipalities for bounties and for other war purposes. Peoria County indeed made a heavy sacrifice on behalf of the Union.³

Taxation, 1880-1940

The system of tax administration has continued without much change from 1880 to the present time. Table XIII and XIV (pages 88, 90) gives summaries of the taxes levied in Peoria County during these years.

In 1881 the total tax rate for all taxes levied in Peoria County was \$3.58 for each \$100 of assessed valuation; in 1920 it was \$5.20. By 1939, however, the rate was \$3.74 even though the total taxes levied had increased from \$5,479,608.50 in 1920 to \$5,119,000 in the later year. The reduction in the rate was caused by the increase in the assessed valuation.⁴ In 1939 the combined tax rate was \$4.79.

The principal tax levies showed the following increases from 1881 to 1939: county, 3.52 times; incorporated cities, towns, and villages, 8.66

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1. Supervisors' Record, v. B, p. 514 (1861); v. C, p. 33 (1862), p. 128 (1863), p. 251 (1864), p. 359 (1865), see entry 2.
 2. The total of all taxes levied for the purpose from 1862 to 1865 inclusive was \$95,265.18 (ibid., v. B, p. 551, v. C, p. 80,100,294). In 1866, \$15,234.48 was transferred from the volunteer fund to the general fund (ibid., v. C, p. 395). This leaves \$12,030.38 as unaccounted for. Possibly it may have been paid in bounties.
 3. The number of soldiers credited to Peoria County during the war was 4,907; the total of all quotas was 5,193. The slight deficiency was due to the closing of the enlistment program in 1865 before the last quota was filled. When the enrollment was taken in 1863 the number of men subject to service was 7,630; the number already enlisted was 1,975. The percentage of men in service at the time of enrollment was 25.8 for the whole county; for the city of Peoria alone, 10.5; for the county outside the City of Peoria, 34; and for Chillicothe Township (which had the highest percentage), exactly 50 (McCulloch, History of Peoria County, p. 173,174).
 4. Beginning in 1927 the assessment was on the full valuation of the property; previously it had been on one-half valuation.

TABLE XIII: County, State, and Local Taxes from 1880 to 1939

Year	County Taxes	Other Local Taxes ²	State Taxes ³	Total Taxes	Assessed Valuation
1881	\$141,817.28	\$ 324,630.82	\$ 93,947.68	\$ 560,395.78	\$ 15,639,809
1885	160,426.17	411,963.95	84,100.39	656,490.51	15,987,367
1889	140,688.44	412,450.38	79,110.56	628,249.38	15,961,995
1895	111,336.28	738,546.84	101,551.74	951,434.86	14,836,848
1900	151,083.96	796,143.80	89,668.16	1,036,895.92	15,108,396
1905	144,944.96	1,099,915.27	106,653.87	1,351,514.10	19,393,589
1910	163,479.28	1,078,421.98	116,821.38	1,358,722.64	35,539,721
1915	354,074.19	1,460,697.85	225,620.21	2,040,392.25	35,730,749
1920	400,700.52	2,804,687.81	274,219.97	3,479,608.30	66,783,576
1924	568,698.58	3,190,435.59	434,956.64	4,193,890.81	66,905,385
1929	525,300.00	4,021,500.00	532,200.00	5,119,000.00	136,713,000
1932	434,600.00	4,070,200.00	641,000.00	5,145,800.00	128,197,000
1936	339,600.00	4,187,100.00	- - - -	4,526,700.00	109,511,000
1939	495,894.00	4,844,432.00	- - - -	5,344,019.00	111,434,000

1. Supervisors' Record, v. G, p. 136 (1881); v. 3 (transcribed), p. 560 (1885); v. 4 (transcribed), p. 23 (1889); v. 4, p. 258 (1895), 538 (1900), see entry 2. (County Clerk's Miscellaneous Files), f.b. 470 (1905); 463 (1915), see entry 7c. The statistics for 1920 and 1924 are drawn from the county auditor's annual reports, as follows: 1920 (Third) table following last page; 1924 (Seventh), table following last page. The statistics for 1929, 1932, and 1936 are from Illinois Tax Commission, Survey of Local Finance in Illinois, v. 11, Property Taxation: Assessed Valuations, Tax Rates and Extensions, 1927-1936, p. 443, 608-19. The statistics for 1939 are from the Illinois Tax Commission, Property Tax Assessments, Levies, Rates, and Extensions: 1939, Property Tax Statistics for Illinois Local Governments, No. 1, p. 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12.

2. The local taxes by years were as follows: (1881), township taxes, \$14,969.12; city taxes \$171,222.39; incorporated town taxes, \$4,142.32; district school taxes, \$98,606.88; road and bridge taxes, \$26,115.33; all other taxes, \$9,574.78; (1885), township, \$18,150.66; city, \$198,100.22; incorporated towns, \$18,892.39; district school, \$137,770.49; road and bridge, \$36,992.19; all other taxes, \$2,058; (1889), township, \$31,581.32; city, \$143,344.45; incorporated towns, \$5,917.37; district school, \$181,247.23; road and bridge, \$40,165.68; district road taxes, \$3,845.33; dog taxes, \$2,349; (1890), township, \$27,272.85; city, \$251,266.87; district school, \$314,778.74; road and bridge, \$77,439.66; all other taxes, \$67,788.72; (1900), township, \$24,877.41; city, \$275,331.99; district school, \$334,641.60; road and bridge, \$89,473.51; all others, \$71,819.29; (1905), township, \$30,845.71; city, \$294,733.13; district school, \$521,979.09; road and bridge, \$169,149.23; all others, \$83,208.11; (1910), township, \$13,323.76; city, \$356,247.99; district school, \$545,261.24; road and bridge, \$66,540.96; all others, \$97,048.03; (1915), township, \$19,577.52; city, \$429,230.08; district school, \$704,643.50; road and bridge, \$178,027.65; all others, \$129,219.10; (1920), township, \$30,262.33; road and bridge, \$323,903.73; township railway tax, \$6,373.13; school, \$1,315,774.76; city, \$873,783.05; township high school tax, \$76,929.56; non-high school, \$19,789.51; library tax, \$1,981.96; park tax, \$155,889.78; (1924), township taxes and road bonds, \$46,470.81; road and bridge, \$327,098.19; township railway tax, \$5,640.48; school tax and bonds, \$1,483,556.15; city, \$959,364.56; high school, \$117,336.41; park, \$189,411.68; non-high school, \$57,945.54; library, \$2,715.77; dog tax, \$696; (1929), township, \$200,300; incorporated towns, \$1,426,700; park, \$198,100; sanitary district, \$355,900; school districts, \$1,839,500; (1932), township, \$316,600; incorporated cities and towns, \$1,337,300; park, \$190,100; sanitary, \$348,900; school, \$1,877,200; (1936), township, \$489,800; incorporated cities and towns, \$1,323,400; park, \$177,200; sanitary, \$333,400; school, \$1,863,200; (1939), township, \$675,388; incorporated cities and towns, \$1,518,653; sanitary district, \$334,414; park, \$285,727; tuberculosis sanitarium district, \$45,749; all schools, \$1,934,501.
3. The state taxes included the following amounts levied by the state auditor for the interest on registered bonds: (1881), \$25,209.77; (1885), \$22,846.88; (1889), \$25,645.39; (1895), \$24,392.42; (1900), \$14,125.33; (1905), \$11,265.64; (1910), \$10,202.46; (1915), \$6,824.08. Since 1932 there has been no state tax levied on real and personal property.

times; schools, 20.12 times; state (from 1881 to 1932), 9.32 times;¹ roads, 15.36 times;² townships, 27.50 times.³ The total taxes levied in the county increased 9.53 times while the assessed valuation went up 6.93 times.

TABLE XIV: County Taxes Levied for the Various Purposes from 1920 to 1940⁴

Year	Corporate	Highway	Mothers' Pensions ¹	Detention Home	Total Taxes ⁷	Assessed Valuation ⁸
1920	\$362,240	-----	\$20,000	\$ 9,000	\$391,000	\$ 66,855,254
1921	337,970	\$165,000	20,000	9,000	573,970	67,397,350
1922	366,040	165,000	20,000	9,000	560,040	67,236,329
1923	358,940	100,000	20,000	9,000	487,940	66,511,940
1924	350,200	165,000	25,000	11,000	559,200	66,862,764
1925	347,590	165,000	25,000	12,000	549,590	68,392,872
1926	349,830	165,000	25,000	12,000	551,830	67,310,874
1927	350,170	140,000	25,000	12,000	527,170	136,165,612
1928	350,120	165,000	25,000	17,000	557,120	136,360,851
1929	346,000	165,000	15,000	12,000	538,000	136,430,575
1930	340,560	165,000	28,000	12,000	545,560	136,713,367
1931	332,500	162,000	30,000	12,000	536,500	132,500,967
1932	292,400	90,000	30,000	9,000	421,400	128,213,662
1933	290,000	90,000	-----	15,000	395,000	124,077,000
1934	310,000	90,000	-----	12,000	412,000	124,627,000
1935	280,000	75,000	11,000	11,000	659,000	109,587,000
1936	122,000	136,000	32,000	10,596.87	332,596	109,511,000
1937	184,676	140,000	33,000	9,392	400,068	112,515,000
1938	247,906	142,000	33,000	9,978	461,884	113,227,000
1939	278,500	138,750	33,000	11,642	494,832	111,434,000
1940	280,000	140,000	32,000	10,831	465,927	112,257,210

1. No state taxes were levied on property after 1932. The total of state taxes levied in 1881 was \$93,947.68 but the \$25,209.77 levied by the state auditor for interest on local bonds was subtracted from this figure to get the amount levied for actual state purposes.
2. The road taxes levied in 1881 amounted to \$26,115.33; the amount levied in 1939 was \$401,297, which included \$138,000 levied by the county and \$263,297 levied by townships.
3. The amounts levied for roads were excluded in both years. The greatest increase in township levies during this period was for poor relief. In 1881 the amount levied for this purpose was small but in 1939 it amounted to \$317,376.
4. Statistics from 1920 to 1934 inclusive are taken from the county auditors' annual reports, Third to Seventeenth, as follows: (1920), p. 34,46-48; (1921), p. 33,40,41; (1922), p. 34,41,42; (1923), p. 36,43,44; (1924), p. 32,36,44; (1925), p. 35,43,44; (1926), p. 40,41,43; (1927), p. 39,49,51; (1928), p. 39,50,51; (1929), p. 40,51,52; (1930), p. 55,57,59; (1931), p. 55,57,59.

Historical Sketch

TABLE XV: List of Taxable Property for 1853¹

Item	Number	Assessed Value
Horses	7,413	\$326,895
Cattle	15,355	149,143
Sheep	7,408	7,802
Hogs	23,562	47,714
Mules and Asses	110	5,240
Carriages and Wagons	2,957	96,317
Clocks and Watches	2,497	16,729
Pianos	45	5,350
Goods and Merchandise		252,884
Bank Property		107,571
Manufactured Articles		27,515
Money and Credits		256,205
Stocks and Bonds		17,500
Unenumerated Articles		227,877
Total Value Personal Property		\$1,044,834
" " Lands		2,040,214
" " Town Lots		1,456,753
Aggregate Valuation of Resident Property		5,152,731
Value of Non-Residents' Lands		488,548
" " " Town Lots		5,328
Total Value of Non-Residents' Property		493,876
Aggregate Valuation of all Taxable Property		5,646,607

(1932), p. 56,58,59; (1933), p. 63,65; (1934), p. 53,58. The statistics for 1935 and 1936 are from the Supervisors' Record, v. 13, p. 520,522 (1935); v. 14, p. 93,95 (1936), see entry 2. Those for 1937 and 1938 are from the Illinois Tax Commission, Survey of Local Finance in Illinois, v. III, Property Taxation: Assessed Valuation, Levies, Tax Rates, and Tax Extensions, 1937 and 1938, p. 14,15,16,17. Those for 1939 are from Illinois Tax Commission, Property Tax Assessments, Levies, Rates, and Extensions: 1939, Property Tax Statistics for Illinois Local Governments, No. 1, p. 12,13. Those for 1940 were obtained from the office of the Illinois Tax Commission by Floyd Mulkey.

5. The corporate levy included an amount for blind pensions during the early years. In 1935, however, the board began making a separate levy for this purpose. In 1933 and 1934, as a result of a court decision, the board also included mothers' pensions under the corporate levy.
6. In 1933 the corporate levy included \$31,750 for mothers' pensions; in 1934 the amount was \$28,700.
7. During the years 1935 to 1940 there were additional tax levies as follows; (1935), blind pensions, \$32,000; poor relief, \$250,000; (1936), blind pensions, \$32,000; (1937), blind pensions, \$33,000; (1938), blind pensions, \$33,000; (1939), blind pensions, \$33,000; (1940), blind pensions, \$33,000.
8. The assessment was given at half valuation until 1926 but after that year it was given a full valuation.

1. Supervisors' Record, v. A, p. 201, see entry 2.

Property Assessments

Since 1850 the lists of taxable property have usually been entered upon the Supervisors' Record. The first list given is the one for 1853, which is reproduced in full in Table XV. It shows that the economy of Peoria County was still largely agricultural. Industrial wealth, however, had already become quite important.

After 1853 the assessed valuation rose steadily as the county developed. A comparison of the valuations from year to year indicates the growing industrialization of Peoria. Table XVI shows the changes in property assessments by classes from 1869 to 1940. Table XVII gives the percentage of assessed valuations by property classes from 1853 to 1940.

TABLE XVI: Changes in Property Assessments by Classes from 1869 to 1940¹

Property Class	1869	1900	1919	1940
Personal Property	\$ 2,180,994	\$ 3,272,285	\$ 4,570,422	\$ 23,224,840
Lands and Improvements	3,657,809	4,786,997	14,792,831	16,600,750
Town and City Lots and Improvements	3,936,839	8,064,764	29,712,328	62,595,585
Railroads	443,005	1,737,582	5,808,456	4,977,390
Stocks, Other than Railroad		71,000	788,000	4,759,060
Total Assessed Valuation	10,219,047	17,932,628	66,802,097	112,247,625
State Equalized Valuation	8,968,747	15,108,192	68,577,787	112,117,210

TABLE XVII: Percentages of Assessed Valuations by Property Classes from 1853 to 1940

Property Class	1853	1869	1900	1919	1940
Personal Property	29.1%	21.1%	18.2%	23.4%	20.6%
Lands and Improvements	44.9	35.7	26.7	22.1	14.8
Towns Lots and Improvements	25.9	39.0	44.9	44.4	55.6
Railroads		4.2	9.6	8.7	4.4
Stocks, other than Railroads			.4	1.2	4.3

1. Illinois State Board of Equalization, Proceedings, Season of 1869, p. 19, 22, 24, 32, 37, 42, 69, 73, 105, 109; Proceedings, Season of 1900, p. 29, 33, 37, 83, 84, 86, 119, 122, 125, 129, 132, 136, 167, 177. Illinois Tax Commission, First Annual Report, 1919, p. 37, 40, 42, 45, 52, 311, 315, 318, 322, 326, 330; Twenty-First and Twenty-Second Annual Reports, Assessment Years 1939 and 1940, p. 182, 196, 197, 256, 287.

Historical Sketch

The percentage of land valuation to the total county valuation has steadily declined from 44.9 in 1853 to 14.8 in 1940. Meanwhile the percentage for town lots and improvements has increased from 25.9 in 1853 to 55.6 in 1940. The doubling of the assessed valuations in the 1920's (from one half to full valuation) was largely at the expense of town lots and improvements.

County Expenditures Compared,
1853 and 1939

It is interesting to compare the county expenditures of today with those of the early period. A report on the estimated expenses for 1854 is a good example for study and comparison. This report is as follows:

Outstanding county orders due and unpaid-----	\$ 4,792.82
Estimated cost of extending taxes-----	250.00
" " of the ensuing county election-----	150.00
Amount to be paid to the City of Feoria for paupers-----	600.00
Estimated expenses of circuit court-----	4,000.00
" " " county " -----	800.00
" cost of repairing jail-----	1,000.00
" " " " poor house-----	1,500.00
" " " board of supervisors-----	1,000.00
Appropriations to five townships for bridges-----	2,400.00
Expense of transcribing old records-----	600.00
Contingent fund-----	871.50

Total of estimated expenditures by taxation to be raised 17,964.32¹

It should be noted that this figure of \$17,964.32 does not represent the total of county expenditures for the year, but rather the sum to be raised by county taxes. Other county expenditures were to be met out of fees, licenses, and other sources of revenue. For this reason the total of county expenditures for 1853 cannot be determined from the information at hand.

In recent years the county has published complete annual reports of both revenues and expenditures. But it is still difficult to present a concise and clear-cut picture of county expenditures because of the complications and intricacies of the bookkeeping. Table XVIII shows the estimated expenditures for the fiscal year beginning December 5, 1938.

1. Supervisors' Record, v. A, p. 180, see entry 2.

TABLE XVIII: Estimated County Expenditures, Appropriations, and Amounts to be Raised by Taxation for the Fiscal Year beginning December 5, 1938¹

Item	Amount Appropriated	Amount to be Raised by Taxation
Mines and Mining-----	\$ 3,000	\$ 1,300
Judicial Cost-----	17,800	10,300
Circuit, County, and Probate Courts-----	60,450	41,520
County Officers' Fees-----	32,825	20,600
County School Nursing and Public Health Work-----	13,500	3,370
Public Buildings-----	58,195	34,750
Dieting Prisoners in Jail-----	7,900	4,360
Education-----	10,550	6,000
Coroner's Fees-----	6,000	3,270
Coroner's Bills and Expenses-----	4,475	2,890
Elections-----	36,470	24,400
Dependent Children and Charitable Institutions-----	34,500	20,800
Bovine Tuberculosis Eradication-----	4,550	2,550
Veteran Relief Commission-----	3,580	2,300
Miscellaneous Costs-----	43,450	28,306
Board of Supervisors-----	11,000	1,740
Bridges-----	5,000	3,270
State's Attorney-----	13,940	11,000
County Home and Hospital-----	50,800	14,350
Total General County Fund-----	422,985	243,906
Detention Home (Detention Home Fund)-----		9,977.98
County Officers Legal Publications, Blanks, Supplies, etc. (County Officers Fund)---	50,500	
Pensions for the Blind (Blind Pension Fund)-----	95,000	33,000
Mothers' Pensions (Mothers' Pension Fund)	50,000	33,000
County Highways (County Highway Fund)-----	160,000	142,000
Care of Paupers (Pauper Fund)-----	15,000	
Motor Fuel Tax Roads (Motor Fuel Tax Fund)	210,000	
Road Refund Account (Road Refund Fund)----	30,000	
Grand Total for all Funds-----	1,060,485	461,883.98

The total of estimated expenditures to be raised by taxation was \$461,883.98. Estimated expenditures for the general county (corporate fund) amounted to \$422,985, of which total, \$243,006 was to be raised by taxation and the remainder by fees and departmental earnings. Special

1. Proceedings 1938-1939, p. 132-42.

Historical Sketch

funds were the following: detention home fund, county officers fund, blind pension fund, mothers' pension fund, county highway fund, indigent and pauper fund, motor fuel tax fund, and road refund fund. The revenues for the various funds were derived from the following sources; detention home, entirely from county taxation; county officers fund, entirely from fees and departmental earnings; blind pensions, partly from a special county tax and partly from state contributions; mothers' pensions, partly from a special county tax and partly from state contributions; county highway fund, entirely from a special county tax; indigent and pauper fund, the unexpended balance of a discontinued fund (caused by the transfer of the relief function from the county to the townships), which amount had originally been raised by a special county tax; motor fuel tax fund, entirely from motor fuel taxes collected by the state and distributed to the various counties; road refund fund, back payments by the state for state-aid roads.

County Debt

In the matter of public debt, Peoria County has an excellent record. The first mention of unpaid obligations was entered upon the records in 1850, at which time a special committee of the first board of supervisors reported the county debt to be \$13,118.91. Against these obligations the treasurer held claims and notes amounting to \$5,573.46.¹ Apparently most of this debt had been incurred in the construction of the jail completed in 1849 at a cost of about \$11,800. Probably the remainder was in county orders issued and unredeemed. No further mention was made of this indebtedness during the following years.

In 1857, the board voted to subscribe \$75,000 to the capital stock of the Peoria and Hannibal Railroad.² Two years later, \$29,000 of additional bonds were issued for the construction of additions to the courthouse.³ During the Civil War years the county refrained from issuing more bonds to meet the extraordinary expenditures of the war period, although it did use interest-bearing county orders. Not only did the board vote taxes to meet the war expenditures but it also made special levies for the liquidation of the courthouse bonds.⁴

During the years following the war the county built a new jail and also a poorhouse. The construction costs for both were promptly paid. By 1874 the county debt amounted to \$187,000, as follows: Peoria and Rock Island Railroad bonds, \$100,000; Peoria and Hannibal Railroad bonds,

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1. Supervisors' Record, v. A, p. 4, see entry 2.
 2. Ibid., p. 339,340.
 3. Ibid.; v. B, p. 245,247,271.
 4. Ibid., v. C, p. 161,200,246,294.

\$75,000; jail bonds, \$17,000.¹ With the construction of the courthouse in 1878 the county issued \$182,000 in additional bonds. The debt then amounted to \$300,000.²

By 1911, the county debt had decreased to \$230,000. This amount was further reduced during that year by \$12,000.³ At the end of 1920 the debt stood at \$170,000,⁴ even though a new jail had been constructed in 1917 at a cost exceeding \$100,000. This debt was completely liquidated by the beginning of 1930.⁵ Since that time the county has remained entirely free of bonded indebtedness.⁶ This debt-free condition, of which the county is very proud, must soon be abandoned, however, because the present courthouse cannot serve much longer.

County Finance during the Recent Depression

County finance was an easy problem during the years of prosperity preceding 1930. Because taxes were easy to collect, new financial obligations were often assumed without much debate.⁷ The board of supervisors showed a very human tendency to spend their annual appropriations in nine months. Regularly each spring, Harry R. Scranton, county auditor, made his plea for economy, reminding the supervisors that the funds appropriated for a full year (ending early in September) were nearly exhausted.⁸

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1. Supervisors' Record, v. E, p. 213, see entry 2.
 2. Ibid., v. F, p. 199.
 3. Ibid., v. 2, p. 512.
 4. Peoria County Auditor, Third Annual Report, p. 34.
 5. Ibid., Twelfth Annual Report, p. 40.
 6. Illinois Tax Commission, Survey of Local Finance in Illinois, v. V, Bonded Indebtedness of Local Governments, 1927-1940, p. 277.
 7. During this period the county taxes were kept very close to the limits permitted by law. Until after 1926 the maximum statutory limit for general county purposes was fifty cents on each \$100 of assessed valuation; thereafter the rate was fixed at twenty-five cents (L. 1927, p. 384). The maximum rate for all purposes permitted by the present constitution is seventy-five cents (Art. IX, sec. 8). The total of all county taxes during the 1920's varied from \$573,970 in 1921 to \$487,940 in 1923 (see Table XIV, p. 30). When the maximum corporate rate was reduced from fifty to twenty-five cents for 1927 the county authorities increased the assessment ratio from half to full valuation, thus enabling them to continue the previous taxes.
 8. Proceedings 1924-25, p. 10; 1925-1926, p. 4; 1929-1930, p. 2.

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In December 1930, Scranton reported financial overdrafts of \$99,086,21.¹ This condition forced the board to issue \$200,000 in tax anticipation warrants bearing interest at six percent.² A year later the auditor reported an overdraft of \$126,057.20; he then made a special plea for economy in order to avoid bonded indebtedness, "which the people of this county would not welcome."³ During the next few months many petitions were made to the board for the reduction of taxes and for economy in all expenditures except for relief.⁴ As a result, the annual appropriation made in September 1932, was fixed at \$482,340, a reduction from \$625,340 in 1931 and \$682,140 in 1930.⁵ The board established a policy of rigid economy, although it was quite liberal in the matter of relief appropriations.⁶ The annual deficit was reduced to \$18,511.74 for the fiscal year ending early in September 1933;⁷ a year later, the auditor reported a substantial balance.⁸ The financial crisis thus came to an end after 1933. Since that date expenditures have risen. County taxes have been increased from \$395,000 in 1933 to \$495,927 in 1940.⁹ At the present time, the finances of Peoria County appear to be on a very substantial basis.¹⁰

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1. Proceedings, 1930-1931, p. 142.
 2. Ibid., p. 189,190. This practice of issuing tax anticipation warrants, which was begun in 1930, has been continued to the present time.
 3. Ibid., 1931-1932, p. 105.
 4. Ibid., 1932-1933, p. 8,12.
 5. Ibid., 1930-1931, p. 61; 1931-1932, p. 68; 1932-1933, p. 57.
 6. The supervisors, however, tabled a motion to cut their own per diem allowance from \$5 to \$4 (ibid., 1931-1932, p. 157). Later this cut was made mandatory by state law (L. 1933, p. 615) but was restored in 1937 (L. 1937, p. 601). A petition from the Association of Taxpayers of the City of Peoria asked the board to pass a rule denying per diem compensation to members not present at meetings (Proceedings 1933-1934, p. 204); the board did not pass the resolution but it did **comply** with the request in its later practice.
 7. Proceedings 1933-1934, p. 239.
 8. Ibid., 1934-1935, p. 47,48. The total appropriations for all funds amounted to \$1,010,250.15 while the expenditures were \$717,694.48. The appropriations, however, were for fifteen months and the expenditures for only twelve. In December 1935, total expenditures for all funds were \$750,182.93 although \$891,500 had been appropriated (ibid., 1935-1936, p. 122,123).
 9. Ibid., 1933-1934, p. 251-54; 1940-1941, p. 115-19. In 1935, however, the board levied \$659,000 because of the inclusion of \$250,000 for poor relief (the first and only such levy); in 1936 the levy was only \$332,596.87, a reduction made possible by the transfer of \$70,453.94 from the pauper fund (a part of the unexpended balance) to the general fund (ibid., 1935-1936, p. 145-48; 1936-1937, p. 78,98-102).
 10. Since 1933 formal annual budgets have been prepared, as required by state law (L. 1933, p. 417-19). These budgets give full information about every aspect of county finances. The very completeness of detail, however, makes it difficult to grasp the significance of the whole.

Liquor Licenses

Peoria County has had an interesting history in the matter of liquor licenses. As a liquor-producing center Peoria has long occupied a leading position in the United States. Nevertheless, local prohibition was a prominent issue in the county for many years.

The first tavern license issued by the county commissioners' court was made on June 8, 1825, when John Barker was authorized to keep a dram shop in Peoria; he paid \$10 for his license and \$1 for the clerk's fee. His rates as fixed by the court were as follows:¹

For each half pint of wine, rum, or brandy-----	25 cents
For each pint of wine, rum, or brandy-----	37 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
For each half pint of gin-----	15 $\frac{3}{4}$ "
For each pint of gin-----	31 $\frac{1}{4}$ "
For each gill of whiskey-----	6 $\frac{1}{4}$ "
For each half pint of whiskey-----	12 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
For each pint of whiskey-----	18 $\frac{1}{4}$ "
For breakfast, dinner, or supper-----	25 "
For each horse fed-----	12 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
For keeping horse one night-----	25 "
For each night's lodging for one person-----	12 $\frac{1}{2}$ "

Shortly afterwards several other liquor licenses were granted by the court, the fees charged and prices allowed being the same as those fixed for Barker.² During the following years, however, liquor license fees varied from \$10 to \$2,³ and were sometimes granted under the euphemism of "grocer licenses." The rates for taverns and grocery stores were fixed periodically by the court. After 1838, however, this power apparently fell into disuse.⁴

One of the early actions of the first board of supervisors in 1830 was to pass by a vote of 7 to 5 a rule that no grocery license should be granted during the year.⁵ This policy was continued for years in spite of many protests and petitions.⁶ In 1857 the board approved a

1. County Commissioners' Court Record, v. A, p. 9,10, in Supervisors' Record, see entry 2.
2. Ibid., p. 12,19,27.
3. Ibid., p. 131,184,186,188,224. A law of 1839, however, stipulated that the fee for a "grocery license" should be not less than \$25 nor more than \$300 (L. 1839, p. 71).
4. Ibid., p. 86,142; v. B, p. 59; v. C, p. 136,215,287.
5. Supervisors' Record, v. A, p. 14, see entry 2.
6. Ibid., p. 176,179; v. B, p. 17,24.

Historical Sketch

committee report declaring it was "contrary to the Best Interests of the community to grant Licenses to sell Liquor."¹ The vote was 15 to 9; 5 of the 7 representatives from the City of Peoria voted with the minority, while only 1 voted in favor of the resolution, the seventh being absent.

The issue became very heated in 1859 and the years following. Petitions to the board mentioned widespread illegal selling of liquor.² Finally, in 1862, the board abandoned its prohibition policy; the license fee was fixed at \$50 and an amendment was adopted stating that no license should be granted in any township unless the majority of the legal voters in the township should petition for such license.³ This policy was continued despite the protests of the anti-licensing faction.⁴ On the other side, the pro-license group opposed the restriction adopted by the board.⁵ Nevertheless the rule adopted in 1862 was retained as the best possible compromise.

Transportation

Ferries

The Illinois River during early years was an important carrier of commerce, but it was also a difficult barrier to overland transportation. Hence ferry service was necessary at many points along the course of this stream. The supervision of ferries was for many years an important responsibility of the county commissioners' court.

The first ferry license was granted to John L. Bogardus who was authorized to keep a ferry across the Illinois River opposite the village of Peoria. The following rates were allowed for this ferry:

For each man and horse-----	18 3/4	cents
For each foot person-----	12 1/2	"
For each Dearborn sulky or chair-----	50	"
For each wagon or other four wheeled carriage with horses or oxen-----	37 1/2	"

1. Supervisors' Record, v. B, p. 39, see entry 2.
 2. Ibid., p. 202,390.
 3. Ibid., p. 501,502.
 4. In 1866 an anti-licensing motion quoted from a current report of the poor farm overseer, which statement contended that nine tenths of the county's paupers were reduced to their condition of dependency either directly or indirectly by the use of liquor (ibid., v. C, p. 399).
 5. Ibid., v. C, p. 486; v. D, p. 28,169,296.

For each cart with two oxen-----	37½ cents
For every head of neat cattle, horses, or mules-----	12½ "
For each hog, sheep, or goat-----	4 "
For every hundred weight of goods, wares, or merchandise-----	12½ "
For every bushel of wheat or other article sold by the bushel-----	3 "
All other articles not enumerated in this list in equal and just proportion.	

Double rates were allowed "when the lake or river is over its banks at the first material bend of the creek from its mouth, when a landing cannot be had at that place."¹

These rates were made applicable to other ferries as new licenses were granted. In 1827, however, reduced rates were established for many of the items.² The annual license fees varied greatly according to the value of the location, as the following list of 1827 indicates: Bogardus, \$20; David Matthews (on Illinois River at Little Detroit), \$6; George Sharp (Sharp's Landing), \$3.50; William Clark (Wackinaw Bluffs), \$2.³ Other early licenses were granted to Jesse Walker across the Illinois near the mouth of the Fox River, William Eads "from opposite the Trading Post in Tazewell County," Archibald Clybourn and Samuel Miller across the Chicago River near Wolf Point, James Adams on the Illinois near Little Vermillion, William See across the Calumet River at the head of Lake Michigan, and Jesse Egman near present-day Kingston Mines.⁴

Ferry licenses were much sought after and the best locations were often matters of bitter controversy. Probably most such disputes were settled by direct action without recourse to the courts. Nevertheless, the commissioners' court heard and decided many cases of this nature, subject to appeal to the circuit court. Because Bogardus had the location at the village of Peoria he was involved in several litigations. In 1829 he protested against the issuance of a license to William Eads below Kickapoo Creek.⁵ Later, Abner Eads asked for the revocation of the Bogardus license, charging neglect of duties as required by law.⁶ While the case was pending the board granted Eads a license near the location of Bogardus.⁷ In taking this action the board disregarded the protests

1. County Commissioners' Court Record, v. A, p. 6,7, in Supervisors' Record, see entry 2.
2. Ibid., p. 87.
3. Ibid., p. 92.
4. Ibid., p. 48,133,134,162,177.
5. Ibid., p. 123.
6. Ibid., p. 192.
7. Ibid., p. 197.

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of a third ferryman who held a license from Tazewell County.¹ The case between Bogardus and Abner Eads dragged on for many months; finally the court, after hearing much testimony, ordered the Bogardus license revoked because the ferry had not been kept according to law.² It appears, however, that Bogardus appealed to the circuit court and gained a decision in his favor.³ Ten years later, in 1841, Eads brought a second suit of the same nature against Bogardus.⁴ This long controversy between Eads and Bogardus was a classic of early-day Peoria.⁵

The evidence from the commissioners' records indicates that the system of ferry service reached its peak about 1840. In that year there were eight ferries paying taxes amounting to \$159, the rates varying from \$5 to \$50.⁶ The court then had to devote considerable attention at each session hearing disputes between rival ferry owners.⁷ After 1841, however, the whole matter declined in importance as bridges rapidly displaced ferries on the smaller streams. By 1849 only three ferries were under license by the Peoria county commissioners' court, all carrying traffic over the wide Illinois.⁸ The court continued to fix the ferry rates, which were much lower than those set in 1825.⁹

After 1850 there is very little mention of ferries in the proceedings of the Peoria county board of supervisors, ferry licenses over the Illinois River being taken over by the State General Assembly. This procedure eliminated all controversy between rival operators holding authority from different counties. In 1874, however, the board of supervisors of Peoria County did grant a ferry license to Alexander Partridge for a ferry across the narrows above the city.¹⁰

Road Administration, 1825-1850

During the early years the road system of Illinois was based primarily

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1. The records do not indicate what happened to the ferry of William Eads, a brother of Abner.
 2. County Commissioners' Court Record, v. A, p. 204,208,211, in Supervisors' Record, see entry 2.
 3. Bogardus was a trained lawyer and as such often appeared before the commissioners' court as counsel for ferry owners at other locations.
 4. Ibid., v. D, p. 157.
 5. Ballance, History of Peoria, p. 179-81. Ballance, the historian, operated a ferry for a short time in 1833 (County Commissioners' Court Record, v. B, p. 95).
 6. County Commissioners' Court Record, v. D, p. 19.
 7. Ibid., p. 90ff.
 8. Ibid., v. F, p. 369.
 9. Ibid., v. C, p. 212,289; v. D, p. 20,133,238,287; v. F, p. 67.
 10. Supervisors' Record, v. E, p. 195,198.

on the cooperative efforts of the people.¹ In each county the commissioners' court was vested with general supervision of the public roads, with power to divide their county into road districts and to appoint a supervisor for each. Every man appointed road supervisor was required to serve under penalty of a fine of five dollars for refusal, being granted merely exemption from military duty and from jury service during his term in office. It was the duty of each supervisor to cause all public roads in his district to be cleared, smooth, and in good repair; also to see that bridges and causeways were made where needed, and to have erected at road intersections a post giving direction and distance to the next town. The supervisor was authorized to call out every able-bodied man, between eighteen and fifty, to work not over five days each year, designating the tools each man should bring; those summoned to work were required to respond under penalty of fine. For any expenditure amounting to more than ten dollars the supervisor was required to submit the matter to the county commissioners. The location of new roads and the vacating of old roads might be determined by the commissioners on the petition of thirty-five voters.²

The first action relating to roads taken by the Peoria county commissioners was ordered on June 7, 1825, when they acceded to the petition of sundry citizens requesting the appointment of viewers to lay out a road from the ferry landing in Peoria to the old crossing on Sugar Creek near Robert Mussick's. Several weeks later the three viewers, Samuel Fulton, Alexander McNaughton, and Norman Hyde, made their report, which was promptly accepted by the court.³ In September of the same year three viewers were appointed to view a road from Peoria to the southern boundary of the county, and three others to lay out a route from Peoria to the northern boundary of the county.⁴ At the same time the commissioners laid out the county in three districts, designated first, second, and third, and named Stephen French, John L. Bogardus, and Thomas Dillon as the respective supervisors.⁵ The court next fixed the rates of labor on the public roads, as follows:⁶

Each man for one day's labor with necessary implements as directed by the supervisor-----75 cents

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1. In 1825 a progressive road law, introduced by William S. Hamilton, was enacted by the General Assembly; this law provided for a road tax levy, payable either in money or labor, for the construction and repair of roads. The law worked well and produced excellent results but it was very unpopular because of the general dislike of taxes. In 1827 this law was repealed, together with the progressive school law of 1825 (Thomas Ford, A History of Illinois, 1812-1847, p. 58, 59).
 2. R.L. 1827, p. 346-46.
 3. County Commissioners' Court Record, v. A, p. 8, 15, in Supervisors' Record, see entry 2.
 4. Ibid., p. 16.
 5. Ibid., p. 17, 18.
 6. Ibid., p. 19.

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Each yoke of oxen with necessary log chain-----	50 cents
Each plow or cart per day-----	12 "
Each sled per day-----	6 "
Each wagon per day-----	25 "
Each scraper per day-----	25 "

During the first few years the commissioners' court laid out a number of additional new roads, using the procedure already mentioned, on the petition of interested citizens. The court regularly accepted the reports of the viewers on their findings that the public interest would be served by the opening of the road in question.¹ In certain instances, road viewers were appointed on the petition of a single individual; the person petitioning, however, was required to post a sum of money sufficient to pay the viewers in case their report was adverse.² A similar procedure was used for the vacation of roads.

The commissioners reorganized the road districts nearly every year, increasing the number steadily as the county grew in population. In 1826, 8 districts were established;³ by 1848 there were 75.⁴ New road supervisors were appointed each year; in certain cases appointees were excused from service on their protests that they had served previously.⁵ Fines were assessed, however, for refusal to serve without cause,⁶ for failure to make annual reports,⁷ and for neglect of duty.⁸ Road supervisors were not ordinarily paid, although they were allowed compensation for extra labor.⁹

The county commissioners made all decisions of consequence pertaining to roads. All contracts for road and bridge construction were made by the court,¹⁰ although it did on occasion authorize the district supervisors to take action, even for the building of bridges.¹¹ The purchase of road scrapers was the responsibility of the court, except when delegated.¹²

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1. County Commissioners' Court Record, v. A, p. 23,47,65, in Supervisors' Record, see entry 2.
 2. Ibid., p. 127,128.
 3. Ibid., p. 33-35.
 4. Ibid., v. F, p. 95-98.
 5. Ibid., v. D, p. 170,178,183.
 6. Ibid., v. A, p. 143; v. D, p. 187.
 7. Ibid., v. C, p. 33.
 8. Ibid., v. F, p. 315.
 9. Ibid., v. C, p. 75,149,172.
 10. Ibid., v. D, p. 8; v. F, p. 15.
 11. Ibid., v. C, p. 109.
 12. Ibid., v. A, p. 150; v. D, p. 32.

In addition to the roads opened under the authority of the commissioners, there were also state roads, laid out across county boundaries by viewers appointed by the General Assembly. The county commissioners had nothing to do with the procedure of laying out such roads, except to order these routes to be opened by the district supervisors and to be kept in good condition. By 1837 Peoria County had become the center of a system of state roads leading to every important town in the state. Altogether there were thirteen state roads passing through the county.¹

During the 1840's the commissioners had to contend constantly with excessive claims made by landowners for damages caused by the opening of roads over their property. In one case the road viewers fixed the damages to the owners at \$500. The court rejected the report because the county finances did not justify such a payment.² Road viewers in many other cases reported large damages, which the court invariably refused to accept.³ The court met the situation by ordering roads opened without making any provisions for the payment of damage claims. The owners then appealed to the circuit court for adjudication.⁴ Available evidence does not indicate what happened to these cases. One landowner took direct action by obstructing the road over his land. The commissioners ordered this case taken to the local justice of the peace, who promptly decided for the defendant, after which the commissioners appealed to the circuit court.⁵ It appears that the county officials finally won this controversy. In 1849, road viewers in one case declared the benefits to land owners equal to the damages. The court accepted this report with alacrity.⁶ In another instance \$19.35 was allowed in damages.⁷

The first bridge in Peoria County was constructed over Kickapoo Creek just below the village of Peoria. In 1827 the General Assembly, by an act appropriating money for bridges in the bounty-land counties, donated \$250 to Peoria County for a bridge over this stream.⁸ The project was initiated at once but was delayed because the first contractor, John L. Bogardus, found the task extremely difficult. In 1829 a second contract was let out to John Cameron after public bidding. This bridge, completed by the summer of 1830, was 164 feet in length and was built so that it

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1. McCulloch, History of Peoria, p. 89.
 2. County Commissioners' Court Record, v. D, p. 293, in Supervisors' Record, see entry 2.
 3. Ibid., v. E, p. 343; v. F, p. 17,37,44.
 4. Ibid., v. D, p. 343.
 5. Ibid., v. F, p. 122.
 6. Ibid., p. 178.
 7. Ibid., p. 288.
 8. R.L. 1827, p. 63.

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rested against a tree at each end.¹ A year later, however, the court ordered John Coyle, one of its members, to make needed repairs on this bridge and draw upon the ferry tax for the costs.²

Several other bridges were built during the next few years. In 1833 the court contracted with John Coyle to build a bridge across the Dry Run in what is now Richwoods Township at a cost of \$25.³ Two other bridges were next built across the Kickapoo.⁴ This latter stream presented problems which were almost too difficult for the bridge construction methods of that time.⁵ The early bridges were evidently not very strong structures; in March 1836 the court ordered that no person might go over any bridge in the county with more than four yoke of oxen or six horses and the load drawn by them.⁶ The first bridge built across the Kickapoo was condemned in 1848 and replaced the following year.⁷ About this time a bridge was built across Senatchwine Creek.⁸

The first county road taxes were levied in 1835, ten years after the organization of the county. At that time, the commissioners' court ordered all able-bodied men between 21 and 50 to pay a road tax of three days' labor,⁹ the usual amount of road work required until 1850.¹⁰ Also beginning in 1835, the court ordered a county tax for roads to be levied on all lands liable for state taxes, equal to one half of the state tax.¹¹ The proceeds of this tax were distributed as follows: one third for a bridge across Kickapoo Creek, one fourth each for the improvement of the roads in districts four and ten, and the remainder for contingencies.¹² In 1836 a tax of \$1.20 was levied on each tract of land subject to taxation.¹³ This tax was continued for 1837 and 1838.¹⁴ In 1839 the court again ordered the road tax to equal one half the state taxes;¹⁵ two years later this tax was fixed at ten cents on every \$100 of assessed value-

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1. County Commissioners' Court Record, v. A, p. 73,105,137,164, in Supervisors' Record, see entry 2.
 2. Ibid., p. 215.
 3. Ibid., v. B, p. 58,85.
 4. Ibid., v. C, p. 169,181,188,234,244.
 5. Ibid., p. 320. The court officially noted that one bridge had not been built in a workmanlike manner.
 6. Ibid., p. 73.
 7. Ibid., v. F, p. 140,198,239,242.
 8. Ibid., p. 245.
 9. Ibid., v. B, p. 188.
 10. Ibid., v. C, p. 71,158,241,331; v. D, p. 48,154,274,396; v. E, p. 73,192,280,362; v. F, p. 99,186,294. In 1850, men of color were exempted.
 11. Ibid., v. B, p. 188.
 12. Ibid., p. 201,202.
 13. Ibid., v. C, p. 84.
 14. Ibid., p. 158,242.
 15. Ibid., v. D, p. 33.

tion.¹ This tax of ten cents was continued until 1845, after which it was raised to twenty cents and was kept at this latter figure until 1850.² The road tax was collected by the district road supervisors, who were paid a percentage for collection. In 1843 the seventy supervisors received a total of \$33.75.³

The amount of money raised in road taxes rose rapidly during these years. In 1837 the total amount was \$793.06;⁴ by 1844 it had grown to \$1,688.73 and four years later to \$3,987.16.⁵ Out of these annual funds the court made appropriations for numerous large road and bridge construction projects. It appears that Peoria County made considerable progress in its road system during the 1840's.

Township Road System in
Operation, 1850-1890

Under the system of township organization most of the responsibility for road administration was placed in the hands of township officials. In each township the voters elected three commissioners of highways and one overseer of highways for each road district.⁶ District overseers were charged with the duty of keeping the roads in good condition and were empowered to call out all the men from whom road labor was due. Township commissioners supervised the work of the district overseers and made general rules pertaining to road administration.⁷ The amount of money necessary for road taxes was determined by the board of auditors of town accounts,⁸ and levied by the board of supervisors.⁹

In Peoria County the board of supervisors each year ordered township levies made for road and bridges. It appears that these levies were ordered as a matter of routine. The board did, however, adopt the policy of county aid in the construction of bridges. In 1851 it ruled that the township commissioners should make an application requesting aid, giving also the estimated cost of the structure and the amount being levied in the town for the purpose.¹⁰ Later in that year the board appropriated

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1. County Commissioners' Court Record, v. D, p. 154, in Supervisors' Record, see entry 2.
 2. Ibid., p. 274, 336; v. E, p. 4, 73, 115, 279, 362; v. F, p. 93, 186, 293.
 3. Ibid., v. D, p. 394-98.
 4. Ibid., v. C, p. 160.
 5. Ibid., v. E, p. 237; v. F, p. 114.
 6. L. 1851, p. 38.
 7. Ibid., p. 64, 65.
 8. This board was composed of the supervisor, town clerk, and justice of the peace.
 9. L. 1851, p. 47.
 10. Supervisors' Record, v. A, p. 58, see entry 2.

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\$787 to 14 townships for bridges.¹ The amount appropriated for this purpose rose steadily during the following years. In 1857, \$3,575 was paid out to 18 townships.² During the early years the board usually did not impose conditions on the grant of such funds.

In 1863 the City of Peoria protested against this system, claiming that it paid over one half of the county taxes but had never received any benefit from the county road appropriations. The board then voted \$500 to help the city put gravel on a certain street, provided the city would match this amount,³ but the following year it reduced the amount to \$150.⁴ At the same time the board considered but rejected a resolution to limit aid to those townships levying at least one mill for roads and bridges in addition to the district road tax.⁵ In 1866 a similar resolution was adopted requiring a township road levy of twenty cents as a condition of county aid for bridges.⁶ Later the board required certificates from the commissioners of highways and the township supervisor concerned that the money had been spent for the purpose intended.⁷ In 1873 the board also warned the local road officials that they must exercise ordinary care of their bridges or they would lose all county aid.⁸ Another board rule was that whenever the county appropriated over \$300 for any bridge, the highway commissioners were required to follow certain specifications in the construction. Complaints were made that this rule was often disregarded.⁹ With the passage of time these various rules were steadily made more strict. There is reason to believe, however, that they were often disregarded in operation.

In certain cases the board ordered local road officials to take specified action. On one occasion certain road commissioners were ordered to replace a particular bridge within thirty days; otherwise, the board would order the work done at township expense.¹⁰ Similar orders were issued at this time concerning the repair of certain roads.¹¹ During the 1870's several steel bridges were constructed directly under the supervision of the board.¹² Apparently the board felt that the construction of the larger bridges was too difficult for technically untrained local officials.

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1. Supervisors' Record, v. A, p. 37, see entry 2.
 2. Ibid., v. B, p. 5.
 3. Ibid., v. C, p. 45,49,66.
 4. Ibid., p. 140.
 5. Ibid.; p. 45,49,66.
 6. Ibid.; p. 456.
 7. Ibid.; p. 498.
 8. Ibid.; v. E, p. 118.
 9. Ibid., v. D, p. 215,312.
 10. Ibid., p. 47. The work was done by the county board after due notice (ibid., p. 65).
 11. Ibid.; p. 86,186.
 12. Ibid., v. E, p. 76,77,124,125.

Occasionally the board of supervisors granted county funds to townships for road construction and repair. In 1868 it appropriated \$2,000 to one township and \$1,000 to another for the graveling of roads.¹ Several years later, aid was granted to Limestone Township for the repair of roads badly damaged by floods.² It appears that this policy of occasional county aid was continued.

Peoria County had one plank road during the 1850's. In 1851 the board of supervisors entered into a contract with the Peoria and Farmington Plank Road Company, by which agreement the company was granted the right of way on so much of the Peoria and Farmington road as lay between Peoria and the poor farm. The company in turn agreed to give free passage over its road to all county officials while on official business; also to the overseer of the poor farm and the county physician. Under the terms of the contract no toll gate was to be erected within two miles of the courthouse.³

Complaints later arose over this agreement. In 1856, sundry citizens presented a protest because the company had violated the contract by erecting a toll gate within two miles of the city. The board promptly dissolved the contract, but rescinded its action the next day following a threat of legal action by the company.⁴ Responding later to indignant protests on the matter, the board made reply that the road was not under its control.⁵ In 1859, however, the county acquired title to the road, which apparently had not proved a profitable venture.⁶

Road Administration,
1880-1913

Township administration of road construction and maintenance continued as the prevailing system until 1913. During the third of a century covered by this period, several significant trends can be traced in Peoria County. The first was the beginning of the hard-roads movement, which gained rapid headway with the coming of the automobile. A second trend was the growth of county aid in the construction of hard roads. Finally, there was a growing sentiment, not confined to Peoria County or even to the State of Illinois, that road administration was not just a local matter to be placed in the hands of technically untrained township

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1. Supervisors' Record, v. D, p. 75, see entry 2.
 2. Ibid., v. E, p. 59.
 3. Ibid., v. A, p. 57, 64.
 4. Ibid., p. 358, 360.
 5. Ibid., v. E, p. 17.
 6. Ibid., p. 227, 231, 236, 237, 336, 395. The board acquired title to the road from Charles Ballance by agreeing to rebuild the bridge over the Kickapoo.

Historical Sketch

officials, but was rather a problem for the large geographical units of government which alone had the financial resources to employ road technicians and the means to establish a unified system of highways.

During the 1880's the board of supervisors expended large sums for road purposes. County aid continued to be granted to the townships for the construction of bridges, usually equal to one half the total cost. Large expenditures were made each year for the construction of gravel and macadamized roads. In December 1881, the board appropriated \$25,000 to be spent equally on five main highways.¹ In later years, still larger amounts were appropriated for road improvement. By 1890, Peoria County boasted approximately 75 miles of hard-surfaced roads; there were four highways radiating from the City of Peoria with gravel cover for distances ranging from 7 to 10 miles.²

In the period about 1900, however, even though the need for hard-surfaced roads increased with the appearance of the motor car, county aid for road construction was decreased and finally was discontinued entirely. In 1896 the roads and bridges committee reported that during the preceding year it had constructed only 1,950 $\frac{1}{2}$ rods (3.28 miles) of graveled and macadamized roads at a cost of \$3,488.³ In 1903 the committee made the following report: 399 $\frac{1}{2}$ rods (nearly a mile and a quarter) of lime rock macadamized roads in three short strips at a cost of \$5,186, and 1,270 $\frac{1}{2}$ rods (slightly over three miles and three quarters) of graveled roads in six different stretches at a cost of \$4,800.⁴ Two years later, the board voted to discontinue the policy of constructing hard-surfaced roads because of the county financial condition. At the election of November 1904 the voters of the county had rejected a proposal to increase the tax levy above the constitutional limit of seventy-five cents on each \$100 of assessed valuation; with this limitation in effect the board faced a deficit of \$25,000 for the current year on its mandatory expenditures. Moreover, the policy of road construction by the county had prevented any reduction in the county debt, then totaling \$308,635.06, which amounts might have been reduced by seventy-five percent if the expenditures for hard roads since 1872 had been applied to the liquidation of the bonded indebtedness. The board thereupon served notice on the township officials that they must construct their own roads without county aid.⁵ In the matter of bridge

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1. Supervisors' Record, v. 3 (transcribed), p. 477, see entry 2.
 2. Peoria Daily Transcript, October 9, 1890, p. 2.
 3. Supervisors' Record, v. 4 (transcribed), p. 297.
 4. Ibid., v. 5, p. 63.
 5. Ibid., p. 182. A law of 1883 (L. 1883, p. 132-35) had authorized townships, with the approval of the voters, to levy a special tax not exceeding one dollar on each one hundred dollars of assessed valuation for hard roads. It appears that this authority was little used in Peoria County.

construction, however, the county continued to share expenses with those townships which made sizeable local levies for road purposes. These policies were continued until 1913.¹

Development of a Modern Highway System

The hard-roads movement brought about a fundamental change in road administration in 1913 with the passage of an "Act Revising the Law in Relation to Roads and Bridges."² This law created a State Highway Commission of three members whose duty it was to supervise and unify the road system of the state. For the local administration of the new road program, the position of county superintendent of highways was established. In the filling of this office an attempt was made to insure some degree of technical competence while retaining local autonomy; the county board was required to submit a list of three to five persons, residents of the county, to the State Highway Commission for a competitive examination, following which, the appointment was to be made by the county board from among those certified as eligible. Another article of the act provided for fifty percent of state support for roads designated as "State Aid Roads." In each county the board was authorized to select the highways within its borders for this designation, not to exceed twenty percent of the total road mileage for counties of the second class (the classification of Peoria); the State Highway Commission might, however, revise these selections in order to make possible a unified state network of roads. For the administration of secondary roads, the former township system was continued without much change. The former road work-tax imposed on able-bodied men between twenty-one and fifty was replaced by a poll tax of not less than one nor more than three dollars.

In September 1913 the Peoria board received a communication from the State Highway Commission requesting it to designate the state-aid roads in the county. Without delay the following roads were selected: Knoxville Road, Farmington Road, Mt. Hawley Road, and the Peoria and Canton Road. The board also appropriated \$9,551 to match the first state allotment.³ Later, the salary of the county superintendent of highways was fixed at \$2,000, and W. E. Emery was named to the position.⁴

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1. In 1910 the board reaffirmed its stand when one township made a request for an appropriation for road graveling (Supervisors' Record, v. Q, p. 287, see entry 2). It is interesting to notice that in 1905 the board began a policy of debt retirement; by 1911 the indebtedness was reduced to \$218,000 (ibid., p. 512), and by 1930 was liquidated entirely (Proceedings 1930-1931, p. 67; 1931-1932, p. 73), even with the \$100,000 additional expended for the jail in 1917 (Supervisors' Record v. 7S, p. 482).
 2. L. 1913, p. 521-81.
 3. Supervisors' Record, v. 6R, p. 575, 584, 620.
 4. Ibid., v. 7S, p. 20, 61.

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In spite of this state aid, amounting to \$16,714 in the year 1914-15,¹ road construction proceeded much too slowly for the hard-roads enthusiasts. In 1916 a petition was presented to the board for an election on a road bond issue of \$1,500,000. The supervisors acceded in part by calling a special election on an issue of \$500,000.² The proposition was defeated by a decisive vote.³ Next, the board entertained a suggestion to levy a tax of \$100,000 a year for five years;⁴ the supervisors withheld action while giving further study to various problems of road policy. A special committee after months of study recommended many changes in the state-aid road system of the county and it suggested the calling of an election on a bond issue of \$1,700,000. The board adopted the committee's report but the voters again rejected the bond proposal.⁵

Road construction proceeded slowly under the state-aid system adopted in 1913. By 1919 Peoria County had about 73 miles of hard roads.⁶ Throughout the state there was a feeling of dissatisfaction with the slow operation of the existing system. Hence in 1917, the General Assembly passed and submitted to popular referendum a proposal for a state bond issue of \$60,000,000 for the construction of 48 state highways;⁷ this proposition was ratified in November 1918 by a vote of 661,815 to 154,396.⁸ In 1923 a similar proposal for \$100,000,000 of additional bonds was submitted and adopted.⁹ The adoption of these two bond issues took much of the responsibility for hard-road construction out of the hands of the county authorities. After these state highways were completed they were maintained by the state.¹⁰

Even with this extensive state aid, road construction and maintenance continued to be a heavy financial burden on the county. In Peoria County the board continued to receive petitions for road bond issues.¹¹ In 1921 the General Assembly authorized a "county highway tax" for road purposes.¹²

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1. Supervisors' Record, v. 7S, p. 95, see entry 2.
 2. Ibid., p. 440,462,463.
 3. Ibid., p. 587.
 4. Ibid.
 5. Ibid.; v. 8T, p. 48,49, 84-87, 90,120,130.
 6. Ibid., v. 9U, p. 21.
 7. L. 1917, p. 696-709.
 8. Illinois Department Secretary of State, Illinois Blue Book, 1919-1920, p. 633. The vote in Peoria County was 12,644 to 2,572 in favor of the proposal (ibid., p. 646).
 9. L. 1923; p. 512-41; Illinois Blue Book, 1925-1926, p. 811.
 10. L. 1917, p. 707; L. 1923, p. 537. The roads constructed under the state-aid provisions of the 1913 road law were likewise maintained by the state (L. 1913, p. 534).
 11. Supervisors' Record, v. 9U, p. 94,300.
 12. L. 1921, p. 793.

The Peoria board immediately levied \$165,000 for roads,¹ which amount was the maximum levy permitted.² During the following years the highway tax was usually kept at \$165,000.³ In addition to this special tax, the board made annually an appropriation from the corporate fund for bridges and approaches on the township roads. In 1925 a total of \$19,946.25 was spent for this latter purpose.⁴

A law of 1923 raised the state-aid mileage quota for Peoria County from twenty to twenty-five percent of the total highway mileage in the county.⁵ (This quota did not include the state bond-issue roads). Previously, Peoria's allotment had been 215.6 miles; this increase raised it to 269.5. The board immediately recommended 42.5 additional mileage for state aid; it then notified the township authorities that it would take over no more roads except those standardized at township expense.⁶ Nevertheless, many of the roads designated as state-aid routes remained unimproved for years because of the lack of funds.⁷ Hence the Peoria board endorsed the proposal to levy a two-cent tax on gasoline.⁸ The suggestion was made that the revenues from this tax be turned over to the State Highway Commission for seven years so that the highway system projected in 1923 might be completed; the later tax receipts should then be given to the counties.⁹ In 1927 the General Assembly imposed a two-cent tax on each gallon of motor fuel sold in the state, but, contrary to the suggestion made by the Peoria board, it provided that fifty percent of the net proceeds should be distributed to the counties.¹⁰ A few months later the Peoria superintendent of highways reported that the first allotment to the county would be about \$70,000.¹¹ The county of-

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1. Peoria County Auditor, Fourth Annual Report (1921), p. 40.
 2. The law did not limit the amount of this tax levy, but the constitution fixed an over-all limit of seventy-five cents on \$100 of assessed valuation (except for levies made to meet bonded indebtedness existing in 1870 and except for special levies approved by the voters). Actually, in Peoria County, the highway tax was limited to about twenty-five cents since the corporate tax was near the limit of fifty cents.
 3. See Table XIV, p. 90.
 4. Proceedings 1925-1926, p. 50.
 5. L. 1923, p. 561.
 6. Proceedings 1923-1924, p. 117, 118.
 7. A report of 1924 stated that of the 355.85 miles of state-aid roads, the state maintained the 81.2 miles which had already been improved; the county then had to maintain and improve the remaining 174.65 miles of road, some of which were not even adequate for wagon traffic (Proceedings 1924-1925, p. 68).
 8. Proceedings 1925-1926, p. 148, 149.
 9. Ibid., 1926-1927, p. 113.
 10. L. 1927, p. 758-62.
 11. Proceedings 1927-1928, p. 70. At the same time, Peoria County received an allotment of road refunds (L. 1925, p. 79) amounting to about \$227,000 (Proceedings 1927-1928, p. 50).

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officials were notified, however, that these funds could be obtained, not in lump amounts to be used at local discretion, but only for specific construction projects actually undertaken, and then only after obtaining full approval by the State Department of Public Works and Buildings for all contract details. The same procedure applied to state refunds for roads.¹

Meanwhile, the secondary roads, comprising seventy-five percent of the total county mileage, remained entirely under township responsibility. In the fiscal year, 1925-26, township disbursements for road purposes amounted to \$145,500; in 1928-29, the total was \$195,000, after which time it fell to \$101,400 in 1934-35.² These road expenditures were a heavy burden on the rural districts, but even so they were quite inadequate. Indeed, there was considerable resentment among the farming communities over the operation of the state-aid road program.³ A petition to the Peoria board in 1919 had complained that the section line roads were so impassable that the farmers could not reach the new highways.⁴ During later years, the selection of roads for state aid became a political issue. (Roads designated for state aid passed under county responsibility). By 1929, Peoria County had exceeded its quota of 275 miles of roads for state aid.⁵ Faced with numerous petitions for additional state-aid designation, the board voted to release 73.1 miles of highway already paved under the road-bond program; after obtaining the approval of the State Department, the supervisors added 58 miles to the state-aid system.⁶ At the same time, limited county aid was granted to various townships for graveling, but only on condition that each township match this assistance.⁷ The county spent \$19,042.88 during 1929-30, and \$11,495.75 in 1930-31,⁸ after which time this appropriation was discontinued.

The road system of Peoria County has undergone little change since 1930, except for provisions of Federal aid. In 1935 the county made the following expenditures for roads by funds: bridges and approaches, \$51,000

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1. Proceedings 1927-1928, p. 100.
 2. Illinois Tax Commission, Survey of Local Finances in Illinois, v. IV, Receipts and Disbursements of Townships and Road Districts, 1925-1936, p. 24.
 3. The rural districts had opposed the hard-roads program for years before the adoption of the state-aid road law in 1913. The farmers wanted good secondary roads, "farm-to-market" highways, but they cared little about great trunk routes from city to city; they feared - and correctly, as events proved - that a state program of hard-roads construction would neglect their interests.
 4. Supervisors' Record, v. 9U, p. 21, see entry 2.
 5. Proceedings 1928-1929, p. 107.
 6. Ibid., 1929-1930, p. 57, 67, 82, 115.
 7. Ibid., p. 67.
 8. Ibid., 1930-1931, p. 67; 1931-1932, p. 73.

appropriated but none expended; county highway fund, \$131,942.08 expended; motor fuel tax fund, \$149,762.49; road refund account, \$13,466.37; a total of \$290,171.14.¹ In 1940 the following expenditures were made; bridges and approaches, \$5,000; county highway fund, \$145,120.78; motor fuel tax fund, \$289,393.24; road refund account, \$19,697.74; a total of \$459,211.86.² During the last-mentioned year, the townships of Peoria County levied \$277,453 for road purposes.³

The Federal-aid program should also be mentioned. In 1916, after several years of committee study, Congress passed "An Act To Provide that the United States shall aid the States in the construction of post roads and for other purposes." This act appropriated \$5,000,000 from the Federal Treasury to be apportioned among the several states during the next fiscal year to aid in the improvement of "rural post roads."⁴ This aid has been continued to the present time but the amount appropriated has increased to about \$125,000,000 a year. In 1921 a second step in national aid was made with the passage of a law providing for a Federal system of highways. This law authorized each state to designate for Federal aid a system of highways which in mileage should not exceed seven percent of the total highway mileage of the state. The roads designated should fall into two classes, primary or interstate highways not to exceed three sevenths of the whole and secondary or inter-county highways. For the improvement of such roads, the Federal Government would pay not over fifty percent of the total estimated cost of each project after the Secretary of Agriculture had approved the construction details. The act appropriated \$75,000,000 to be apportioned among the states during the next fiscal year.⁵ Later legislation continued this policy of Federal aid. Actual administration was in the hands of the state government. Hence the county authorities had little official connection with the Federal road program.

During the early depression years the Federal Government made additional road appropriations in order to stimulate employment. In 1930 the sum of \$80,000,000 was appropriated, two years later the amount was increased to \$130,000,000. Congress provided, however, that the allotments made from these appropriations should be deducted from the later regular

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1. Proceedings, 1935-1936, p. 122,123.
 2. Ibid., 1939-1940, p. 93.
 3. Illinois Tax Commission, Property Tax Assessments, Levies, Rates, and Extensions: 1939, Property Tax Statistics for Illinois Local Governments, No. 1, p. 40. The figures on road expenditures are not available.
 4. 39 U.S. Stat. 355-59.
 5. 42 U.S. Stat. 212-20.

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allotments.¹ Federal emergency aid for road construction was increased in 1933 with the passage of the National Industrial Recovery Act. Section 204 of this act appropriated \$400,000,000 for the emergency construction of highways and related projects. This money might be spent on secondary roads as well as for Federal-aid highways.² In 1934 the emergency appropriation amounted to \$200,000,000 of which not less than twenty-five percent was to be expended on secondary roads.³ The following year, in the first appropriation for the Federal work program of the Works Progress Administration, Congress earmarked \$800,000,000 for projects on highways, roads, streets, and grade-crossing elimination.⁴ Later W.P.A. appropriations included substantial amounts for highways.

This Federal emergency program for road construction helped the rural districts to obtain the "farm-to-market" highways which they had long sought. By the end of 1939 the Work Projects Administration had constructed or repaired 258 miles of highways, roads, and streets in Peoria County. Most of these roads were provided with mine gob, gravel, and other low type surfaces. In addition, numerous other road improvement projects were undertaken by the W.P.A.⁵

A report made by Everett Wendell, county superintendent of highways, as of April 1, 1941, gave the following facts about the highways of Peoria County: state highway mileage, 163.05, all surfaced; county highway mileage, 303.5, of which all except 3.3 miles were surfaced (262.9 miles of gravel surface); township road mileage, 642.4, with 81.2 percent (521.75 miles) surfaced; total highway mileage, 1,108.75, of which 984.8 were surfaced. Two townships, Chillicothe and Peoria, had no dirt roads within their borders. This report did not include the Town of the City of Peoria.⁶ Federal-aid mileage totaled 142.5 miles, while state-aid mileage was 308.2.⁷

County Subscription to
Railroad Stock

During the early period of railroad construction, Peoria County contributed public aid to two railway companies, but did not overburden itself in its subscription to railroad stock, as did many other local gov-

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1. Elmer A. Lewis, comp., Laws Relating to Federal Aid in Construction of Roads, p. 55,59. A compilation of all laws passed up to 1938.
 2. 48 U.S. Stat. 203,204.
 3. Ibid., p. 993,996.
 4. 49 U.S. Stat. 115.
 5. Work Projects Administration, Report on 4½ years W.P.A. work in Peoria County (Press Release).
 6. Peoria County, Superintendent of Highways, Survey of Roads and Houses in Peoria County (chart).
 7. Information obtained from F. N. Barker (State) Division of Highways, Bureau of Highway Research, by Thomas R. Hall.

ernmental units in Illinois. In 1855, after three years of discussion, the board granted a petition for an election on the question of subscribing \$75,000 to both the Rock Island and Peoria Railroad and the Peoria and Hannibal Railroad. Certain conditions as to routes were imposed.¹ The election favored both subscription proposals.² There was still, however, great opposition in the board of supervisors. Early in 1856 it discussed the matter for several days, making first one decision, then another, reversing itself several times before finally voting to subscribe to the capital stock of the Peoria and Hannibal Railroad.³ The heated nature of this controversy is indicated by the unusually large attendance at board meetings during this discussion. In February 1857 the board executed county bonds to the amount of \$75,000 to the Peoria and Hannibal Railroad. These bonds were to run twenty years with interest at six percent.⁴ Several years later, however, the board had to take strong action in order to prevent the railroad officials from by-passing Peoria in the construction of the line. The matter was taken to court and the railroad officials were enjoined from action contrary to the conditions laid down by the county board in its subscription agreement.⁵

Meanwhile, the board had taken no action on the proposed subscription to the Peoria and Rock Island Railroad, even though the voters of the county had given their approval in 1855.⁶ Finally in 1867, the board voted to order an election on the matter of subscribing \$100,000 to this railroad. Conditions imposed were that the track was to be built on the shortest possible line between Rock Island and Peoria with no deflection of more than three miles; half of the bonds were to be delivered on the completion of 15 miles of track in the county, the other half on the completion of the road through the county.⁷ The election, held in November 1868, favored the subscription.⁸ This railroad was completed early in 1871.⁹ The Supervisors' Record does not indicate just when the bonds were executed to the company; in September 1874, however, they were listed in a summary of the county debt.¹⁰

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1. Supervisors' Record, v. A, p. 322,326, see entry 3.
 2. Ibid., p. 339,340.
 3. Ibid., p. 326,328,329,338,339,340,341.
 4. Ibid., p. 390,399.
 5. Ibid., v. E, p. 231,284.
 6. In 1859 the president of the Peoria and Rock Island Railroad invited the members of the board of supervisors to accept free transportation to Chicago to attend the National Fair. The board accepted the invitation with thanks (ibid., p. 225). This was a common practice of all railroads at this period.
 7. Ibid., v. C, p. 527-530.
 8. Ibid., v. D, p. 72.
 9. History of Peoria County (Johnson), p. 529.
 10. Supervisors' Record, v. E, p. 213.

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Development of Education

Beginnings of the Public
School System, 1825-1850

When Peoria County was organized in 1825, education throughout Illinois was not a system but a makeshift matter.¹ Existing schools were private affairs, organized by community effort or by the initiative of the teachers, and financed by subscriptions with a modicum of public support.

The development of a school system in Peoria County had to wait many years for favorable state legislation. Certain basic laws enacted before 1825, however, should be noticed. The first act of real educational significance was the Federal Ordinance of 1785, which provided that the section numbered sixteen in each township should be reserved for the maintenance of public schools in that township.² The Federal enabling act of 1818, providing for the admission of Illinois into the Union, repeated this provision, and, in addition, it promised to the state five percent of the net proceeds of the sale of public lands, of which three fifths should be for the encouragement of education.³

In 1825 the General Assembly enacted a progressive school law authorizing the legal voters of every school district to levy a tax for educational purposes upon all inhabitants of the district.⁴ Unfortunately, the free school features of this law were repealed two years later by the provision that no person should be taxed for the support of any school except with his express consent given in writing.⁵ This later law further provided that the county commissioners' court should appoint three trustees of school lands in each township; these trustees were to lay off the township into school districts, dividing them so that each should contain not less than eighteen pupils.⁶ Two years later, another law provided for the appointment by the court of a single county school commissioner who should have power to dispose of the school lands.⁷

The first school in the Peoria region was held in 1821 or 1822 by Peter Grant. In 1823 or 1824 Isaac Essex opened a school for Indians but permitted

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1. For a brief account of early education of Illinois, see Theodore C. Pease, The Story of Illinois, p. 139,140.
 2. General Public Acts of Congress Respecting the Sale and Disposition of the Public Lands, v. I, Part 1, Laws, p. 14.
 3. U. S. Stat. 536.
 4. L. 1825, p. 124.
 5. R.L. 1827, p. 364,365.
 6. Ibid.
 7. R.L. 1829, p. 150.

white children to attend.¹ Norman Hyde, probate judge, held a school in the village of Peoria in 1825-1827.² Maria Waters, daughter of Isaac Waters and later wife of James F. Harkness, also taught at Peoria in 1826, holding school for three months in the log cabin of William Holland, where she taught spelling, reading, writing, arithmetic, geography, and needlework to thirty pupils (the average daily attendance was twenty-four) for \$1.50 per pupil.³ Yet when Charles Ballance tried to open a school in 1832 the venture quickly failed "for want of children."⁴ During the 1820's and early 1830's there were few houses in Peoria available or suitable for school purposes.⁵ Elsewhere in the county a few scattered schools were found. There were no school houses built specifically for the purpose until about 1835.⁶ In the village of Peoria the first school building was constructed by Charles Ballance in 1846.⁷

The census of 1840 showed twenty-seven primary and common schools in the county with a total enrollment of 1,161 pupils.⁸ Ten years later, the number of pupils was 3,260; during this decade the county population had increased from 6,123 to 17,547.⁹

During the period from 1825 to 1850 the Peoria county commissioners' court had little to do with educational matters, although it was concerned with the administration of school lands. The first act of educational significance was taken in September 1825 when the court officially acknowledged the receipt of a petition from the voters of the village of Peoria asking for the establishment of a school district; the commissioners acceded to this request in pursuance of "an act for the establishment of free schools."¹⁰ There is no further record of this school district either in primary or secondary sources; it is possible that Norman Hyde, already mentioned, may have been employed as a teacher. A short time later, another school district was organized to include a large area in the northeastern section of the county.¹¹

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1. History of Peoria County (Johnson), p. 423.
 2. McCulloch, History of Peoria County, p. 111, 112.
 3. History of Peoria County (Johnson), p. 423.
 4. Ballance, History of Peoria, p. 84, 85.
 5. Ibid., p. 85.
 6. History of Peoria County (Johnson), p. 424.
 7. Ballance, History of Peoria, p. 88.
 8. Sixth Census, 1840, p. 87.
 9. Compendium of Seventh Census, 1850, p. 219.
 10. County Commissioners' Court Record, v. A, p. 15, in Supervisors' Report, see entry 2. The act referred to was the short-lived law of 1825.
 11. Ibid., p. 30.

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In 1827, after the enactment of the new law providing for trustees of school lands, the commissioners' court appointed Resolved Cleveland, John Thomas, and Simon Reed trustees for the school lands in township eleven north, range eight east (present-day Hallock Township); Henry Thomas, Stephen French, and Elias P. Avery for township ten north, range eight east (Medina); George Sharp, William Clark, and William Birket for township eight north, range eight east (Peoria).¹ Other school land trustees were appointed later as the settlement of the county proceeded. The commissioners' court continued to make regular appointments for this purpose until 1842.² A law of 1845 made the township school trustees elective.³

The first school commissioner of Peoria County was Jerial Root, who was appointed by the commissioners' court in 1831.⁴ The principal duty of this official was to dispose of the school lands and to administer the money resulting from those sales; he was accordingly placed under a heavy bond.⁵ In 1841 the office was made elective.⁶ Charles Kettelle, who had already served four years in this capacity on appointment, was elected to the office in that year.⁷ The school commissioner made periodic reports to the commissioners' court of his land sales and the funds at his disposal. It appears that the last of the school lands were sold in 1847.⁸

During the 1840's some educational progress was made in Illinois. In the summer of 1844 an educational convention, the first ever held in Illinois, met in Peoria, and drew up a memorial requesting the enactment of a free school law.⁹ The General Assembly acceded in part by passing

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1. County Commissioners' Court Record, v. A, p. 91,92, in Supervisors' Record, see entry 2.
 2. Ibid., v. D, p. 277,278. At this time trustees were appointed for fifteen districts.
 3. L. 1845, p. 60.
 4. County Commissioners' Court Record, v. A, p. 204. Root was appointed "commissioner and agent for the disposal of school lands in the county." The law providing for the appointment of such an official was enacted in 1829 (R.L. 1829, p. 150).
 5. In 1837 the bond was set at \$20,000 (County Commissioners' Court Record, v. C, p. 185).
 6. L. 1841, p. 261,262.
 7. County Commissioners' Court Record, v. C, p. 185. Kettelle served in this office with the exception of six months until 1848, when he resigned; he later was county clerk from 1849 to 1865.
 8. Ibid., v. E, p. 353.
 9. Rice, Peoria, City and County, I, 587.

a law providing that the legal voters of the different school districts might meet together to vote on the matter of levying a school tax; if two thirds of those present should vote for such a tax, they should then agree on the amount to be raised, not exceeding fifteen cents on one hundred dollars.¹ The law incorporated each congressional township as a township for school purposes, provided for the election of three trustees of school lands in each township, and gave these officials the power to divide the township into school districts.² The county school commissioner was made county superintendent of common schools, ex officio, with power to supervise the schools and to examine teachers as to their qualifications.³ This act was an important landmark in the educational history of Illinois, although it was defective in making district school taxes optional with the local voters.

Educational Progress, 1850-1880

The public school system of Peoria County was still in a rudimentary stage during the early 1850's, a period which, however, marks the beginning of educational progress throughout the state of Illinois. A law of 1855 empowered each township board of trustees to levy a tax for school purposes.⁴ The same act authorized the board of directors of any school district to levy district taxes for purchasing schoolhouse sites, erecting and repairing buildings, and for purchasing equipment.⁵ Local school taxes could no longer be blocked by a minority barely exceeding one third. This act finally gave to Illinois a system of free schools. A law of 1857 abolished the township school tax and authorized the board of directors of each district to levy all local taxes needed.⁶

State legislation also provided for better school supervision. The act of 1855 created the state superintendent of public instruction and made the office elective.⁷ The county school commissioner was given increased supervisory powers over district schools and was also given sufficient authority to require annual reports from the township boards of trustees. In turn he was required to make annual reports to the state superintendent.⁸ Ten years later, the title of the school commissioner was changed to that of county superintendent of schools.⁹ This change in title was indicative

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1. L. 1845, p. 72.
 2. Ibid., p. 60, 61, 64.
 3. Ibid., p. 54.
 4. L. 1855, p. 79.
 5. Ibid., p. 60.
 6. L. 1857, p. 274.
 7. L. 1855, p. 51.
 8. Ibid., p. 56, 57.
 9. L. 1865, p. 112.

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of his increasing supervisory function. With the enactment of this law a county school system was made possible.¹

School taxes levied during this period are a good index of the educational progress of the county. Table XIX shows the total of school taxes in the county from 1851 to 1865.

TABLE XIX: District School Taxes Levied in Peoria County from 1851 to 1865²

Year	District Taxes Levied	Year	District Taxes Levied
1851	\$ 2,451.34	1859	\$21,268.15
1852	4,814.40	1860	24,306.22
1853	6,229.14	1861	18,962.39
1854	5,219.28	1862	17,562.80
1855	15,332.38 ³	1863	23,239.63
1856	23,352.94 ³	1864	32,706.65
1857	29,331.77	1865	49,150.30
1858	27,369.29		

The insignificant amounts of school taxes levied before 1855 indicate that most of the school districts did not levy any school taxes at all under the optional provision in the law of 1845. The effect of the free school

1. John A. Hayes, county superintendent of schools from 1910 to the present time, has compiled a manuscript history of the Peoria County schools, giving the details of organization for each district and many other pertinent facts. The information is derived from school records, reminiscences of large numbers of older persons, and numerous other sources, including diaries. Superintendent Hayes has done an invaluable service in collecting this information; his material is worthy of publication.
2. Supervisors' Record, v. A, p. 107 (1851), 157 (1852), 203,204 (1853), 242,243 (1854), 313 (1855), 366 (1856); v. B, p. 68,69 (1857), 166,167 (1858), 251 (1859), 346,347 (1860), 464,465 (1861), 587 (1862); v. C, p. 109 (1863), 213 (1864), 306 (1865), see ontry 2.
3. In 1855 the township school taxes were \$4,949.99 and the district school taxes were \$10,382.39; in 1856 the township taxes were \$5,991.49 and the district taxes were \$17,361.45.

law of 1855 is indicated by the jump in school taxes from \$5,219.28 to \$15,332.38. A decline in the school taxes after 1857 was probably due to an upsurge of the old opposition to such levies. By 1865, however, the trend was again toward more adequate school taxation.

Taxes for educational purposes rose steadily after the Civil War period. In 1872 the taxes for educational purposes levied in the county amounted to \$65,189.49;¹ in 1875 the total was \$71,320.88.² By 1880 the school taxes had increased to \$89,054.11.³

The district school taxes, however, did not cover all educational expenditures in the county. For example, in 1864, School Commissioner N. E. Worthington reported that the county school fund for that year amounted to \$15,599.29. Of this amount, \$12,136.04 has been obtained from the state common school fund.⁴ This fund was spent for various educational purposes, including fees and other payments to the county school commissioner, the major part, however, being distributed among the various school districts, as shown by Worthington's report of 1865.

A report of county school superintendent J. E. Pillsbury for the school year from October 1, 1878 to June 30, 1879, shows the following sources of school income: balance in treasury on October 1, 1878, \$38,857.59; amount of state and county funds received by county superintendent, \$19,729.09; amount of interest on township funds received, \$3,526.85; district taxes received, \$72,735.55; amount from bonds to pay indebtedness, \$18,000; received from other sources, \$4,543.49; total amount received during the school year, \$157,392.55. The total expenditures for the period were \$121,634.70, including \$75,935.41 paid to 335 teachers.⁵

Peoria County had able educational leadership during this period. David McCulloch, author of a scholarly history of Peoria County, deserves special mention. The Supervisors' Record contains many references to his activities as county school commissioner from 1855 to 1861. In his history, written nearly half a century later, McCulloch tells about some of his activities and accomplishments (designating himself as "the person of a young man in his twenty-fourth year"); although the free school law of 1855 was complicated and ambiguous, he went into action with youthful

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1. Supervisors' Record, v. E, p. 28, see entry 2.
 2. Ibid., p. 346.
 3. Ibid., v. 3 (transcribed), p. 402.
 4. Ibid., v. C, p. 290. The state common school fund was derived from the five percent (three fifths of this for education) of the net proceeds of the sale of public lands (3 U. S. Stat. 536), and from a state educational tax of two mills (L. 1855, p. 77).
 5. History of Peoria County (Johnson), p. 426.

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enthusiasm, visiting schools, holding numerous meetings to stimulate local officials, and in every way possible pushing forward the work of organization. Within two years, thirty-four school buildings were erected.¹ In 1856 the number of pupils enrolled was 4,370; by 1861 the number had risen to 8,154, although the school population had risen only from 14,267 to 18,009 during these years.²

In 1873, Miss Mary W. Whiteside, newly elected county superintendent, inaugurated a system of township institutes held on successive Saturdays during the school year for the purpose of bringing together superintendent, teachers, pupils, and parents. Miss Whiteside also began the practice of general public examinations of pupils throughout the county on a given day.³

A report made by Miss Whiteside in 1874 gives a general picture of the county schools. There were then 9,992 pupils enrolled. The total outlay for schools during the year was \$128,887.67. There were in the county fourteen graded schools, of which seven were in the City of Peoria. The county boasted three high schools, located at Peoria, Elmwood, and Chillicothe; enrollment at the Peoria high school was 150.⁴

In 1868 Peoria County took an important step forward in education when the county normal school was established under joint city and county auspices, the county board agreeing to pay three fourths of the expenses.⁵ The following year, however, under authority of a new state law, the school passed under the sole responsibility of the county board.⁶ In 1873 a report of the principal of the normal school showed an enrollment of 114; the new course of instruction, he reported, had done much to raise educational standards.⁷ Nevertheless, there was considerable opposition to the project. Some of the rural districts felt that they did not derive sufficient benefit.⁸ In 1877 one member of the board made a vigorous protest against continuing the former appropriation of \$5,300 for the school and demanded a reduction in the amount, or better still the closing of the school, which he called an outrage on the taxpayers.⁹ As a result, the appropriation was reduced to \$4,500.¹⁰ In 1879 the board, after

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1. McCulloch, History of Peoria County, p. 118,119.
 2. Ibid., p. 120.
 3. History of Peoria County (Johnson), p. 425.
 4. Ibid., p. 426.
 5. Supervisors' Record, v. C, p. 619, see entry 2.
 6. Ibid., v. D, p. 235.
 7. Ibid., v. E, p. 69-72.
 8. Ibid., v. D, p. 186,187.
 9. Ibid., v. E, p. 585.
 10. Ibid., p. 596.

considerable discussion, further reduced the appropriation from the \$5,500 allowed the preceding year to \$3,000.¹ The inadequacy of this amount forced the school to close.

School Statistics, 1881-1938

Since 1880 there has been no fundamental change in the Peoria County school system. The educational progress from that date to the present time has been due chiefly to the extension of previously accepted principles. Table XX gives some of the general educational statistics from 1881 to 1938 by selected years.

TABLE XX: School Statistics from 1881 to 1938 by Selected Years²

Year	School Population	School Enrollment	Teachers, Number	Value School Property	District Tax Levies	Total Expenditures	Private Schools
1881	18,543	10,761	328	\$ 399,430	\$ 88,155.87	\$ 161,261.35	1,758
1901	28,628	16,854	465	1,143,250	332,828.74	409,792.88	2,198
1910	23,832	16,173	513	1,598,169	535,687.00	641,503.92	1,844
1920	26,236	18,972	655	3,135,472	1,051,665.00	1,093,411.73	3,300
1930	26,350	22,067	744	5,761,135	1,885,439.00	1,585,209.01	2,891
1938	26,042	24,187	856	8,667,979	1,911,806.00	1,586,829.46	4,338

This table shows that the school enrollment has gradually increased over the period. The proportion of the school enrollment to the school population (ages 6 to 21) has grown steadily larger. It is interesting to notice that the school population actually decreased from 1930 to 1938, but the number in school increased. It is interesting to notice also, that the total enrollment in all schools, both public and private, in 1938 was 28,525, which figure exceeded the school population of 26,042.³

District tax levies increased 21.6 times from 1881 to 1938. The

1. Supervisors' Record, v. F, p. 333, 337, 344, see entry 2.
2. Illinois Department Superintendent of Public Instruction, Biennial Reports: Fourteenth (1881), p. 363, 367, 369, 379, 381; Twenty-Fourth (1901), p. 182, 183, 185, 189, 201, 220; Twenty-Ninth (1910), p. 790, 791, 797, 802, 819, 838; Thirty-Third (1920), p. 15, 23, 29, 53, 55, 63; Thirty-Ninth (1930), p. 15, 23, 29, 53, 55, 63; Statistical Report for Year ending June 30, 1938, p. 3, 9, 12, 38, 41, 49.
3. In the school year 1938-39 the total enrollment in public and private schools was 27,350 (*ibid.*, Statistical Report for Year ending June 30, 1939, p. 15, 51).

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greatest increase took place in the decade from 1910 to 1920, during which time school levies nearly doubled; the percentage of increase from 1920 to 1930 was not much less. There was a small increase during the depression years of the 1930's.

There are now ten senior high schools in Peoria County. Enrollment in secondary schools was 6,398 in the school year 1938-1939; the number of graduates was 1,030. Expenditures for all high schools amounted to \$684,766.31.¹

Administration of Poor Relief

Early Pauper System

The pauper system first employed in Peoria County was very simple. Its fundamental principles were derived originally from the Elizabethan poor laws of England and were quite widely accepted throughout the United States during the early nineteenth century. In 1807 a law of Indiana Territory provided that the court of common pleas, later the county court in each county should appoint two overseers of the poor for each township.² These overseers were instructed to farm out to the lowest bidders all persons who had become public charges, and to put out as apprentices, "bind out," all poor children whose parents were dead or were unable to give proper support. After the admission of Illinois to the Union, the new state continued this system.³ The county commissioners' court was required to appoint an overseer of the poor in every congressional township and to establish a poor house if necessary.

During the first year the Peoria county commissioners made no appointments of poor overseers. In March 1826, however, they appointed Stephen French and Isaac Perkins as "overseers of the poor for Peoria county."⁴ There is no further mention made of anything relating to the poor until the following March, at which time Resolved Cleveland and Abner Eads were appointed overseers.⁵ During the following years no further appointments of these officials were made since a law of 1827 vested the county commissioners "with entire and exclusive superintendence

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1. Illinois Department Superintendent of Public Instruction, Statistical Report for year ending June 30, 1939, p. 13,17,168,215.
 2. Pope's Digest, 1815, v. II, in Collections of the Illinois State Historical Library, v. XXX, Law Series, IV, 497,498.
 3. L. 1819, p. 127.
 4. County Commissioners' Court Record, v. A, p. 32, in Supervisors' Record, see entry 2.
 5. Ibid., p. 71.

of the poor, in their respective counties."¹ The commissioners might make the necessary contracts for the care of persons in need, or they might appoint agents to oversee and provide for the same. They might also bind out poor children. From 1827 until 1834, however, only one action was taken pertaining to relief. This was an order to a certain widow to provide maintenance and support to her children as required by law. Two agents were appointed to see that the order was carried out.²

By 1834 (which was the beginning of the period of rapid settlement of the Peoria region) the county commissioners found it necessary to devote considerable attention to matters of poor relief. In December 1834, George Depre was appointed overseer of the poor in the Peoria district.³ At the same session, \$94.15 was paid out for the care of the poor, chiefly for medical attention and for burial expenses.⁴ During the early part of 1835 numerous other payments were made for the same purposes.⁵

From 1834 to 1839 the county commissioners remained in charge of poor relief. At times they delegated their responsibility to agents appointed to act for them.⁶ Usually, contracts were made for the care of indigent persons, sometimes for board and room, sometimes for groceries and other articles. The evidence available indicates that the paupers were farmed out to the lowest bidders. Payments were made periodically for services rendered, according to contract. For example, in 1839, Henry B. Stillman received \$48 for taking care of a pauper for six months.⁷ Poor children were apparently treated the same as adults.⁸ Many payments were made for medical care of the poor and for burial expenses.⁹

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1. R. L. 1827, p. 309,310.
 2. County Commissioners' Court Record, v. A, p. 95, in Supervisors' Record, see entry 2.
 3. Ibid., v. B, p. 178.
 4. Ibid., p. 171,176,181,182.
 5. The evidence from the records indicates that the county was plagued by a severe epidemic at this time.
 6. In 1838 Andrew M. Hunt was appointed agent for the county and was authorized to take charge of all paupers for three months; he was permitted to use the jail for the purpose. He was paid at least \$139.87 1/2 for groceries and for his services (County Commissioners' Court Record, v. C, p. 285,286,318).
 7. Ibid., v. C, p. 352.
 8. Ibid., p. 308. There were apparently only a few pauper children at this time. During the later 1840's, however, several children were bound out (ibid., v. F, p. 135,138).
 9. Ibid., v. C, p. 171,280,285.

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In 1838 the commissioners issued an order directing the removal from the county of eight transient paupers, all named.¹ Later, one family was held in jail for a short time for refusal to comply with a removal order.² Similar orders involving transients were made during the following years.

Peoria had one pauper who was the object of charity for a number of years. The first mention of Black Charles (sometimes called "Governor" Charles or simply "Governor") was in 1835, at which time Josiah Fulton received \$10 for house rent and wood for the elderly man.³ He remained a county charge until 1845. It appears that he was highly regarded in the county, since in March 1843, the commissioners ordered "that the Sheriff be required to notify all negroes residing in the county of Peoria (except old black Charles) to enter into bond with security according to law or that he cause them to be removed from said county after ten days' notice."⁴

A law of 1839 changed the system of poor relief, authorizing the justices of the peace to act as overseers of the poor, but requiring each justice to share his responsibility with one special overseer appointed by the commissioners' court.⁵ The Peoria court promptly named an overseer for each of the thirteen districts.⁶ In 1840, fifteen overseers were appointed, none of whom had served previously.⁷ During the following decade there is no mention of such appointments, except for Peoria precinct. The overseers for the Peoria precinct made periodic reports to the court and received small payments for their services.⁸

Medical care for the poor was a heavy expense on the county. During a short period covering the later part of 1834 and the early months of 1835, Dr. Rudolph Rouse was paid \$95 for care given to a number of patients.⁹ In 1843 the board employed Nathaniel J. Tucker, M.D., as county physician for a year at a salary of \$125.¹⁰ The overseers of the poor were notified that Dr. Tucker must be employed in every case.¹¹ Nevertheless, payments

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1. County Commissioners' Court Record, v. C, p. 294, in Supervisors' Record, see entry 2.
 2. Ibid., p. 335, 337.
 3. Ibid., p. 57.
 4. Ibid., v. D, p. 397.
 5. L. 1839, p. 138.
 6. County Commissioners' Court Record, v. C, p. 386.
 7. Ibid., v. D, p. 102.
 8. In 1846, William H. Fessenden was allowed \$5 quarterly for his services as overseer (ibid., v. E, p. 283).
 9. Ibid., v. B, p. 176, 196.
 10. Ibid., v. D, p. 386.
 11. Ibid., v. E, p. 62.

were allowed to other physicians.¹ The position of county physician was awarded annually to the lowest bidder, although sometimes other considerations prevailed.

The county had to care for one insane patient, who was first sent to a Chicago hospital at county expense.² Later, however, the family of the patient was required to deed property to the county to pay the costs.³ After three years of confinement in the Chicago asylum, the insane person was ordered removed to the poorhouse.⁴

In 1849 a severe cholera epidemic plagued Peoria County for some months. The commissioners' court granted the use of the three upper rooms of the courthouse, and such other rooms as might be needed, to the board of health of the City of Peoria for use as a hospital and agreed to pay half of the expenses.⁵ For six months the courthouse was used as a hospital.⁶ During this period the county paid \$538.77 1/2 as its share of the expenses,⁷ and later, it paid at least \$264.18 additional.⁸ One of the victims of this epidemic was William Mitchell, who had served as county clerk since 1835.⁹

Establishment of Poor Farm

The county commissioners' court discussed proposals for a poor farm in 1840, but took no action at the time.¹⁰ In 1847 the court purchased eighty acres of land in Limestone Township from William Mitchell, paying \$1,000 for the tract.¹¹ A short time later sealed proposals were requested for an overseer.¹² From the several proposals received, the court selected that of Hiram W. Partridge on his bid of \$275 for one year, and placed him under bond of \$1,000.¹³ In 1849 Partridge was reappointed

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1. County Commissioners' Court Record, v. D, p. 386; v. E, p. 283, in Supervisors' Record, see entry 2.
 2. Ibid., v. F, p. 152.
 3. Ibid., p. 188.
 4. Ibid., v. A, p. 58.
 5. Ibid., v. F, p. 217.
 6. Ibid., p. 267.
 7. Ibid., p. 275.
 8. Ibid., p. 284.
 9. Ibid., p. 240.
 10. Ibid., v. D, p. 72.
 11. Ibid., v. F, p. 69.
 12. Ibid., p. 73.
 13. Ibid., p. 76.

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after other proposals were considered; he was to be paid \$360 for his own and his wife's services, also for the help of his three young sons, and for the use of one yoke of oxen, one wagon, and one horse.¹

After the opening of the poor farm the court ordered that all poor persons chargeable to the county must be conveyed to the farm.² Nevertheless, relief was granted in many cases to persons outside the poorhouse.³

Poor Relief under Township Organization

A new form of administration of poor relief went into effect when Peoria County established township organization. Under this system the voters of each township elected an overseer of the poor,⁴ whose functions, however, were rather uncertain. The law of 1839 creating the office had vested the entire and exclusive superintendence of the poor in the district overseer. A later section of the same act provided that after the establishment of a county poorhouse the authority of the district overseers in that county should cease to be in force, except in cases where the county commissioners' court might decide otherwise.⁵

In Peoria County the board of supervisors permitted large numbers of indigent persons to be cared for outside the poorhouse. This policy gave to the township overseers a great deal of responsibility. At one of the early meetings of the first board in 1850 the order was passed requiring each overseer to certify to the correctness of all bills presented by him, also to the fact that they had been incurred at his order and that the prices charged were reasonable and correct.⁶ Reports were received from the overseers periodically and small payments were made to them for their services.

Considerable friction soon arose between the board of supervisors and the township overseers. The board desired to cut down outside aid and to compel the overseers to remove their charges to the poorhouse. The overseers, on the other hand, wanted to keep the indigent under their own care. On one occasion, the board accused the overseers of granting aid to persons not in need and warned these officials that unjustified charges would not

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1. County Commissioners' Court Record, v. F, p. 173, in Supervisors' Record, see entry 2.
 2. Ibid., p. 93.
 3. Ibid., p. 110, 131, 152, 136, 159.
 4. L. 1851, p. 38.
 5. L. 1839, p. 138, 139.
 6. Supervisors' Record, v. A, p. 9.

be paid.¹ Later, the board ordered the overseers to send all their charges to the poorhouse and reinforced this order by declaring it would not pay any more bills for rent.² In certain cases, money for relief was appropriated to be spent under the direction of the supervisor.³ In 1866 the board passed a resolution asking the General Assembly to abolish the office of overseer of the poor and to vest this function in the township supervisor; the resolution further requested that the board be given the sole discretion and care of all poor relief in the county.⁴ Six years later, the General Assembly complied in part by abolishing the office of overseer.⁵ Since that time, the township supervisor has been overseer of the poor, ex officio.

Two standing committees of the board, the committee on poor in the County of Peoria and the committee on the poor in the City of Peoria, were organized in 1873 to supervise matters of poor relief.⁶ These committees have continued to the present time.

Policies Concerning Relief, 1850-1880

Peoria County was more liberal than most counties in granting aid to indigent persons outside the poorhouse. Although the board voted several times to refuse outside aid this rule was usually relaxed. The form of relief then became an issue. In 1868 the board officially declared that the payment of cash was not in accordance with the law or for the best interests of the county,⁷ but the records do not indicate how long this rule remained in effect.

In December 1872 the board voted to allow the township supervisors, as overseers of the poor,⁸ to give provisions, clothing, and fuel to a limited extent to persons deemed worthy.⁹ This rule, however, was rescinded four months later.¹⁰ During the depression of 1873 there were many protests against this policy. Nevertheless, the board reaffirmed the rule,

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1. Supervisors' Record, v. B, p. 506, see entry 2.
 2. Ibid., v. C, p. 5.
 3. Ibid., p. 452.
 4. Ibid., p. 440,441.
 5. L. 1872, p. 756.
 6. Supervisors' Record, v. E, p. 33.
 7. Ibid., v. D, p. 85.
 8. The law abolishing the township overseer of the poor and giving this function to the supervisors had just become effective.
 9. Ibid., v. E, p. 8.
 10. Ibid., p. 62.

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basing its decision on the widespread graft which had obtained under the more liberal policy.¹ In 1878 the rule was relaxed but aid was to be limited to actual necessities of life, which were designated as meat, flour, meal, beans, clothing, coal, and medicine. Eggs and rice were later added to the list,² but the furnishing of butter was not permitted. In 1888, however, the board voted to allow butter to be supplied instead of oleomargarine, which was held to be not good enough.³

An interesting item of similar import was the refusal of the board to allow the purchase of liquor for the poor farm. In 1864 it refused to allow a bill for liquor, ruling that the superintendent of the poor should furnish no more liquor except as prescribed for medicine by the county physician.⁴

The board made an constantly reaffirmed the rule that indigent persons should be cared for by relatives charged by law with their support.⁵ It likewise insisted that the county should wherever possible be reimbursed from property or personal effects owned by persons given relief.⁶ In one interesting case the board held that since a pauper had become insane through the inordinate use of liquor the county should recover for his care from the saloonkeeper who had supplied the liquor. Suit was ordered brought in this case, but the result was not recorded.⁷

The problem of aid to transients and other nonresidents troubled Peoria County a great deal. A report made in 1863 stated that many such persons had been sent to their homes.⁸ In one case a family was given \$100 for transportation to California.⁹ In several instances Peoria recovered from other counties of Illinois for aid given to nonresidents,¹⁰ and in turn, the board on occasion ordered Peoria residents brought back from other counties.¹¹

After the Civil War the county had to give some care to disabled soldiers. In 1868 the board recommended that certain men should be ad-

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1. Supervisors' Record, v. E, p. 141-43, see entry 2.
 2. Ibid., v. F, p. 153.
 3. Ibid., v. H, p. 219.
 4. Ibid., v. C, p. 204, 227.
 5. Ibid., v. B, p. 19, 41, 544; v. C, p. 430; v. E, p. 49.
 6. Ibid., v. B, p. 273, 283; v. C, p. 378. In one case, however, the board voted to refund \$145.35 which a widow had paid for past support at the poor farm (ibid., v. C, p. 476).
 7. Ibid., v. E, p. 55.
 8. Ibid., v. B, p. 94.
 9. Ibid., v. E, p. 245.
 10. Ibid., v. C, p. 483.
 11. Ibid., v. D, p. 81.

mitted to the soldiers' college set up at Fulton, Illinois.¹ The supervisors voted to donate \$100 to equip one additional room at this college.² Later they went on record stating their opinion that a maimed soldier should be removed from the poor farm and given better care.³

Indigent children ordinarily received care at the poor farm.⁴ In many cases, however, children were supported in private homes at county expense.⁵ The board ordered one crippled boy removed from the poor farm and placed in a home where he might be given education; it also ordered that he should later be apprenticed to a tailor.⁶

A large number of insane persons were kept at the poorhouse because the county's quota for the hospital at Jacksonville was inadequate. Payments were made regularly to the state hospital for care given to patients.⁷ In 1855 the board voted to construct a special building at the poor farm for insane persons; the cost was to be not over \$2,000.⁸ Four years later, after an investigation of conditions at the poor farm, steps were taken to provide better security for insane patients and to provide outside lots for exercise, also to separate the sexes.⁹ In 1872 plans were discussed for a new building for the insane, but the matter was postponed.¹⁰ Ten years later, the board ordered the construction of the building at a cost of \$28,390.¹¹

Medical care of the poor was placed in the hands of a county physician selected annually by the board after public bidding. In 1851 the supervisors elected Dr. John Murphy to the position on his offer to do the work for \$48 a year; the records state that his bid had been found the "best."¹² Dr. Murphy was later reappointed several times. The salary increased year by year; in 1865, Dr. George L. Lucas was hired for \$1,000.¹³

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1. Supervisors' Record, v. C, p. 577; v. D, p. 18, see entry 2.
 2. Ibid., v. D, p. 23.
 3. Ibid., p. 108.
 4. Ibid., v. C, p. 69,471.
 5. Ibid., v. A, p. 79,326; v. E, p. 411; v. C, p. 102,125,242.
 6. Ibid., v. C, p. 69,84.
 7. Ibid., v. A, p. 251,298; v. E, p. 138.
 8. Ibid., v. A, p. 272.
 9. Ibid., v. E, p. 397.
 10. Ibid., v. E, p. 4,55,63.
 11. Ibid., v. G, p. 160.
 12. Ibid., v. A, p. 41.
 13. Ibid., v. C, p. 314. Dr. Lucas was reelected at this time even though his bid was the highest offered. His reports indicate reason why the board might rightly have considered his bid the best (see ibid., p. 317).

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The county physician had charge of cases at the poor farm, jail, city hospital, also of outside cases of indigents in the City of Peoria. The city hospital here referred to was a municipal institution, but it took care of indigent cases through special arrangements with the county board.¹

The method used for selecting a county physician was employed also for the overseer of the poor farm and for the superintendent of the poor. In 1866 a resolution was introduced which would have given the power of making these appointments to committees of the board since, according to the resolution, the old method had resulted in the selection of some unqualified persons. This proposal, however, was tabled by a vote of fourteen to six.²

County Poor Farm, 1850-1880

When the board of supervisors took charge of county affairs in 1850 the poor farm was found to be in a rather unsatisfactory condition. The board voted to have a new house built at a cost of \$400 and other repairs made amounting to \$150.³ A more serious difficulty was the fact that the farm was too far from the City of Peoria. A proposal was made to sell the farm and to purchase a new place not over two and a half miles from that city; nothing, however, was done because the only satisfactory location was too expensive.⁴ The difficulty of access was soon eliminated by the construction of a plank road.⁵ The issue of the location came up again. In 1864 the board voted to buy a farm in Richwoods Township,⁶ but this purchase was never made. The following year the board voted to purchase the quarter section adjoining the poor farm from a man named Herron,⁷ paying \$9,000 for it,⁸ but two years later it voted to sell the Herron farm for "not less than the original cost."⁹ An effort was then made to obtain a new farm closer to the city, but nothing could be found for a fair price. Hence the Herron farm was purchased again at a "reasonable advance" over the price for which it had been sold.¹⁰

By this time the main residence at the farm had become inadequate.

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1. In 1865 the county paid \$12 a week for ordinary cases and \$21 for smallpox patients (Supervisors' Record, v. C, p. 317, see entry 2).
 2. Supervisors' Record, v. C, p. 408.
 3. Ibid., v. A, p. 10,14,42.
 4. Ibid., p. 44,57.
 5. Ibid., p. 57.
 6. Ibid., v. C, p. 209,210.
 7. There was a W.A. Herron then on the board.
 8. Supervisors' Record, v. C, p. 278.
 9. Ibid.; p. 494.
 10. Ibid., v. D, p. 24.

A new residence for the overseer had been constructed in 1856,¹ and four years later a building for the inmates had been erected for \$1,313.35.² Finally, in 1869, after the matter of location had been settled, a contract for a large residence home was let to Charles Ullricson for \$31,689.³ This building, which was designed to accommodate one hundred inmates, and the overseer with his family, was finished early in 1870.⁴

Management of the poor farm was placed in the hands of an overseer, appointed annually after public bidding. In 1850 Hiram W. Partridge was reappointed on his bid to do the work for \$275.⁵ By 1860 the salary paid was \$500,⁶ fifteen years later it was \$1,500.⁷ There were always plenty of bids for the position; the incumbent was often reappointed, however, without special regard to the matter of low bidding, if his work was satisfactory.

In addition, the board appointed an official to superintend the work of the poor farm overseer. By 1851 the board had provided for the annual appointment of such a superintendent after public bidding. This official was instructed that he should visit the farm at least once a month, order all supplies and certify all bills, and keep an account of all affairs at the poor farm.⁸ At times, the overseer of the poor farm was also appointed superintendent.⁹ Later, this official was placed in general charge of everything relating to poor relief administration in the county¹⁰ at a salary ordinarily about \$500 a year. In 1865 this position was abolished and the supervisory work was placed in the hands of the poor farm committee.¹¹ This system, however, soon proved to be very expensive, and for this reason a county agent was appointed.¹² In 1869 this function was given to the poor farm committee, the members of which were designated as poor farm inspectors.¹³

The periodic reports on conditions obtaining at the poor farm are

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1. Supervisors' Record, v. A, p. 360, see entry 2.
 2. Ibid., v. B, p. 302.
 3. Ibid., v. D, p. 210, 211.
 4. Ibid., p. 308, 309.
 5. Ibid., v. A, p. 41.
 6. Ibid., v. E, p. 360.
 7. Ibid., v. E, p. 332.
 8. Ibid., v. A, p. 44.
 9. Ibid., p. 193.
 10. Ibid., v. E, p. 329.
 11. Ibid., v. C, p. 320, 324, 338.
 12. Ibid., p. 478.
 13. Ibid., v. D, p. 280.

Historical Sketch

interesting and significant. As early as 1851 the poor farm committee reported the farm to be in poor condition, largely because of the unfavorable crop conditions. According to the committee, the total paid out the preceeding year for the support of the poor at the farm was \$671, while \$119 was spent for poor relief outside the county home.¹ In 1860 complaints were made against the superintendent of the poor. After an investigation the board found unjustified the charges against this official, but suggested that he had been somewhat too careful in guarding the public treasury.² In 1874 an inmate complained of mistreatment at the hands of the overseer. A special committee investigated and then reported that this man had been a constant troublemaker and had refused to work although in good health; the report explicitly exonerated the overseer, who was characterized as humane in his treatment of his charges. The food was found to be good, the rooms were well heated, and the health and comfort of the inmates were provided for as fully as the circumstances would allow; no more labor was required than the inmates were able to perform, and no more force used than was necessary to maintain order.³

During the period from 1850 to 1880 the poor farm was quite crowded with inmates. In 1860 there were 43 persons at the farm, of whom 20 were insane and 2 were feeble-minded. The total expense of the farm for the year was \$5,568.27; only \$380.45 of this, however, had come directly from the county treasury, the remainder being derived from the produce of the farm.⁴ A report of 1872 showed that the number of inmates was 80; the number admitted during the year was 102, while 83 had been discharged and 9 had died. Sales of farm products totaled \$1,396.75, which figure did not include those used on the place. The expenses for the almshouse amounted to \$7,688.53 during that year.⁵

Care of Poor in the
City of Peoria, 1850-1880

Special arrangements were sometimes made for the care of the paupers in the City of Peoria. In 1852 the board agreed to allow the city \$1,200 for this purpose, the actual administration to be in the hands of the municipal authorities. In addition, the county appropriated \$500 to help build a city hospital.⁶ The amount paid to the city for poor relief gradually

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1. Supervisors' Record, v. A, p. 93, see entry 2.
 2. Ibid.; v. B, p. 285.
 3. Ibid.; v. E, p. 244,245.
 4. Ibid.; v. B, p. 353.
 5. Ibid.; v. E; p. 15.
 6. Ibid.; v. A, p. 150.

rose, until by 1856 it amounted to \$2,750.¹ The following year, however, the board refused to renew the contract with the city, following which action it ordered the overseer of the poor to send all the city paupers to the county farm.²

During the depression years of the 1870's the cost of maintaining the city poor was quite heavy. In 1876 a total of \$15,912 was spent, of which \$10,000 was for groceries, \$2,420 for coal, with the remainder not given. The board considered this amount more than the county could afford; it objected especially to items such as butter, fruit, and tobacco, contending that these articles are not generally considered the staff of life. A motion was then passed to let out the furnishing of groceries to the lowest bidders, several to be selected in different sections of the city.³

Administration of Poor Relief, 1923-1930

During the 1920's the system of poor relief administration in Peoria County was essentially the same as that which had been established half a century before. Care at the county poor farm remained the normal method of relief. Large expenditures were allowed, however, for the home care of indigent persons; the administration of this relief remained in the hands of the township supervisors. Relief in the Town of the City of Peoria was placed in the hands of a salaried overseer selected by the board.⁴ Medical care of the poor was given by a county physician elected annually.

In 1923 the county spent the following amounts for the care of the poor and related welfare activities: county home, \$41,048.25; poor of the City of Peoria, \$29,609.01; poor of the county outside the City of Peoria, \$15,417.22; blind pensions, \$12,712.50; mothers' pensions, \$16,571.00; charitable institutions, \$8,493.76; total, \$123,851.54.⁵ The expenditures in 1929 were as follows: county home \$60,683.59; poor of the City of Peoria, \$28,657.67; poor of the county, \$20,844.72; blind pensions, \$37,868.75; mothers' pensions, \$23,301.00; charitable institutions, \$10,709.30; total, \$182,065.03.⁶ Even during these six years of prosperity the cost of relief and welfare activities increased by nearly fifty percent.

1. Supervisors' Record, v. A, p. 377, see entry 2.

2. Ibid., v. F, p. 52.

3. Ibid., v. E, p. 540, 541.

4. The customary practice was to give this position to the supervisor from the City of Peoria. The salary was \$2,400 a year, payable out of county funds. The Richwoods' supervisor was likewise selected as special overseer of the poor and was paid by the county.

5. Proceedings 1923-1924, p. 50.

6. Ibid., 1929-1930, p. 54.

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The administration of affairs at the county farm was without special incident during this period. The superintendent of the farm was selected for an annual term by the board; in practice, the incumbent was usually reappointed on application. Immediately after his appointment the superintendent would appoint, with board approval, his wife as matron. In 1930 a new administration building was constructed at a contract cost of \$35,743.¹

Changes in Relief Administration
During the Recent Depression

In September 1929, after the county auditor had reported relief and welfare expenditures of \$182,065.03 during the preceding twelve months, the board appropriated \$187,500 for those functions for the 1930 fiscal year; actually, however, the amounts appropriated for relief were reduced because the total included more than \$35,000 for the new building at the poor farm.² These appropriations proved quite inadequate in the face of increased relief needs as unemployment began to mount. At the end of the fiscal year the auditor reported that the total expenditures amounted to \$237,167.05, which figure included the cost of the new building at the county home.³

The first mention in the board proceedings of the approaching relief crisis was made in September 1930. The president of the Public Health Nursing Association requested an appropriation of \$300 for dental care; he reported that the association had been forced to close its clinic because of the lack of funds and had been able to continue its service only through the generosity of public-spirited dentists. The request was denied because the board had no funds available.⁴ Simultaneously with this request, came a petition from the American Legion requesting an appropriation of \$2,000 for the relief of indigent war veterans as provided by statute. An appropriation of \$1,500 was allowed.⁵ Even at this time, however, the board made little provision for the great increase in unemployment which was soon to swamp the normal relief facilities of the county. For the fiscal year beginning in September 1930 the following appropriations were made: county home, \$75,000; poor of the City of Peoria, \$57,100; poor of the county, \$25,000; mothers' pensions, \$28,000; blind pensions, \$35,000; charitable institutions, \$18,000; total, \$208,100.⁶

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1. Proceedings 1929-1930, p. 181.
 2. Ibid., p. 51,522.
 3. Ibid., 1930-31, p. 67.
 4. Ibid., p. 94,101.
 5. Ibid.
 6. Ibid., p. 61.

The relief and welfare expenditures for 1931 totaled \$218,463;¹ then in 1932 they fell to \$150,484.² The drop in the latter year was due, not to the decreasing relief needs, but to a change in local relief administration. Table XXI shows the county expenditures for relief and welfare activities from 1930 to 1943. These figures present only a partial picture of the relief situation in Peoria County; they do not give the large amounts spent by the various townships. The table does indicate some of the changes in the system of relief.

The first important change in the relief system came in 1931 when the General Assembly passed the so-called Finn Bill which transferred the care of the poor from the county to the township.³ When the Peoria county board of supervisors met in September of this year it made note of the fact that none of the townships had removed their indigent from the county home, although the Finn Law had become effective on July 1. The decision was then made to charge the townships eighty cents a day for each inmate.⁴ Later, some of the townships made complaints about this charge. In September 1932 the board reduced the charge to sixty cents but warned the townships that they would be held responsible for the actual maintenance costs.⁵

The township system of relief quickly proved inadequate to care for the growing problem of unemployment. In the fiscal year of 1931-32 the townships of Peoria County expended only \$53,400 for relief purposes.⁶ This expenditure was very much less than the amount which the county alone had spent the previous year.⁷ Consequently the relief crisis was greatly accentuated. Inasmuch as the same situation obtained in other counties, the Governor called the General Assembly in special session during the winter to take action. The result was the creation of the Illinois Emergency Relief Commission which was charged with the responsibility of cooperating with local relief authorities. A fund of \$20,000,000 was set up for distribution to the local governments.⁸ The Peoria board made an

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1. Proceedings 1931-1932, p. 76.
 2. Ibid., 1932-1933, p. 84.
 3. L. 1931, p. 725-726. The avowed reason for this change was the fact that most Illinois counties had reached the constitutional limit of their taxing power, while there was no limit on taxation by townships.
 4. Ibid., 1931-1932, p. 71. Eighty cents was the average cost of maintenance at the county farm during the preceding ten years.
 5. Ibid., 1932-1933, p. 81.
 6. Illinois Tax Commission, Survey of Local Finance in Illinois, v. IV, Receipts and Disbursements of Townships and Road Districts, 1931-32, p. 27. In previous years the townships in Peoria County had expended practically nothing for relief purposes.
 7. See Table XXI, p. 136.
 8. L. 1931-1932, Third S. Session, p. 161-97.

TABLE XXI: County Expenditures for Relief and Welfare Activities from 1930 to 1940¹

Year	County Home	Poor of City	Poor of County	Mothers' Pensions	Blind Pensions	Charitable Institutions	Dependent Children	Veterans' Relief	School Nursing, Tuberculosis	Total
1930	\$100,299	\$34,172	\$24,986	\$30,112	\$39,967	\$7,628	-	-	-	\$236,164
1931	70,534	34,720	27,840	33,644	44,165	6,580	-	-	-	216,483
1932	53,094	-	4,693 ²	35,806	51,556	7,765	-	-	\$ 5,570	158,484
1933	-	-	-	34,583	59,028	5,939	-	-	7,726	107,276
1934	-	-	-	35,499	55,851	6,890	-	\$1,187	8,216	107,643
1935	35,959	-	-	35,699	89,025	-	\$ 7,355	2,195	8,952	179,175
1936	-	-	-	37,031	70,990	-	11,590	2,287	12,382	254,889 ³
1937	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1938	48,874	-	-	39,128	81,851	-	21,620	2,588	18,120	212,201
1939	45,592	-	-	32,591	91,866	-	30,240	3,591	11,137	221,139
1940	40,236	-	-	39,021	81,577	-	35,138	4,200	5,862	206,034

1. Proceedings 1930-1931, p. 67; 1931-1932, p. 73; 1932-1933, p. 54; 1933-1934, p. 236; 1934-1935, p. 46; 1935-1936, p. 122; 1936-1937, p. 79; December Session, 1938, p. 84; December Session, 1939, p. 93; 1940-1941, p. 92.
2. In 1932 there was no separate appropriation for the poor of the City of Peoria. The \$4,693 listed as spent for the poor of the county was spent for the whole county.
3. This total of \$254,689 included \$120,699 expended from a special appropriation of \$250,000 for county relief.

immediate application for aid.¹ The first state funds were received in May 1932; the total amount allotted to the county up to the end of January 1933 was \$104,894.53.² A special committee of five members was organized under the chairmanship of John H. Marsh, Peoria, to cooperate with the state commission.³

During the fiscal year 1932-33 the townships of Peoria County increased their relief expenditures to \$103,700.⁴ These expenditures, however, even with substantial state aid, were still inadequate. Hence, in December 1932 the Peoria board voted to appropriate for relief \$30,000 a month until March from the motor fuel taxes allotted to the county for road purposes; later it appropriated \$25,000 a month from the same funds until the end of June 1933.⁵ Meanwhile, the county continued to receive funds from the Illinois Emergency Relief Commission; the total received from May 1932 to the end of June 1934 amounted to \$414,727.61.⁶ During the next two years the state commission allotted \$1,965,493.67 additional to the county.⁷ Township expenditures during this period were as follows: 1933-34, \$111,400; 1934-35, \$94,100; 1935-36, \$91,500.⁸

In June 1935 the General Assembly changed the relief system by transferring the care of the poor from the township to the county.⁹ When the Peoria board met in September it did not know how to meet the situation since it had no funds for relief purposes for the current fiscal year ending in December. Hence an emergency commission of seven was established to represent the county and was instructed to work with the townships and the state commission (I. E. R. C.).¹⁰ Later it was necessary for a special session of the General Assembly to remedy its previous oversight; this was done by validating township expenditures for relief.¹¹ In December 1935 the Peoria board

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1. Proceedings 1931-1932, p. 170,185.
 2. Illinois Emergency Relief Commission, First Annual Report (July 1932-February 1933), p. 123.
 3. Ibid., p. 140.
 4. Illinois Tax Commission, Survey of Local Finance in Illinois, v. IV, Receipts and Disbursements of Townships and Road Districts, 1935-1936, p. 27,127.
 5. Proceedings 1932-1933, p. 144,174; 1933-1934, p. 188.
 6. Illinois Emergency Relief Commission, Second Annual Report (February 1933-June 1934), p. 201.
 7. Ibid., Biennial Report (July 1, 1934 through June 30, 1936), p. 204.
 8. Illinois Tax Commission, Survey of Local Finance in Illinois, v. IV, Receipts and Disbursements of Townships and Road Districts, 1935-1936, p. 27.
 9. L. 1935, p. 1055-59.
 10. Proceedings 1935-1936, p. 71,72,89.
 11. L. 1935-1936, First Sp. Session, p. 174.

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made a special tax levy of \$250,000 for relief.¹ The finance committee of the board was instructed to work with the county auditor in administering county relief funds.² Meanwhile, the General Assembly continued to tinker with the relief machinery, adding to the bewilderment of the Peoria supervisors.³ In March 1936 the care of the poor was transferred back to the township authorities, who were authorized to levy a tax not exceeding three mills on each dollar of assessed valuation for relief purposes.⁴ Since that time there has been no fundamental change in the relief system. The care of the poor has remained a township function, with the supervisor, ex officio, overseer of the poor. The expenses of the poor farm have been borne by the county.

One important development was the establishment of a county commission of public welfare and a superintendent of public welfare by act of February 1936. The commission was created with three members who were made appointive by the county judge; the superintendent was to be appointed by the commission. The commission was placed under the supervision of the State Department of Public Welfare; it was given charge of the administration of old age assistance and was instructed to study problems of assistance, correction, and general welfare within the county.⁵ In March of the same year the Peoria board made a supplementary appropriation of \$4,395 in order to put the new organization into operation.⁶

Relief System in
Operation, 1930-1940

In 1930 the Federal Unemployment Census (taken in the early months of that year) showed that 2,925 persons in Peoria County were unemployed out of a population of 141,344; the number of gainful workers was 61,507.⁷ In 1937 the special census on unemployment listed 5,388 as totally unemployed and 3,477 as partly unemployed.⁸

During the decade of this depression the greatest problem of local

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1. Proceedings 1935-1936, p. 148.
 2. Ibid., p. 162.
 3. Ibid., p. 187; 1936-1937, p. 57.
 4. L. 1936, Second Sp. Sess., p. 73-78; 90-93.
 5. L. 1935-1936, First Sp. Sess., p. 70-73.
 6. Proceedings 1935-1936, p. 197, 198.
 7. Fifteenth Census, 1930, Unemployment, I, 314. The unemployed in class A numbered 2,026 and the class B, 899. By definition, class A included every person out of a job, able to work, and looking for work; class B included persons having jobs but on lay-offs without pay, excluding those sick or voluntarily idle.
 8. Census of Partial Unemployment, and Occupations, 1937, I, 604.

government was that of securing funds to care for the unemployed. Table XXII shows the relief expenditures during this period by source of funds (public funds only). This table indicates how the responsibility for poor relief passed from the county to the township in 1931, then soon afterwards to the state in large part, back again in part to the county in 1935, and finally returning once more to the township in July 1936. Relief expenditures remained at a modest level until the worst of the financial depression was over; in 1933 the amount spent was \$389,603, but the next year the total rose to \$761,115, an increase of nearly one hundred percent. Relief expenditures reached the peak in 1935 at \$1,235,916, then declined to \$720,991 in 1936 as the Works Progress Administration began its program of work relief. The rise of \$1,028,869 in 1938 was a result of the new business "recession."

The local financing of relief quickly proved inadequate. In 1933, state and Federal funds over balanced county and township expenditures, without counting the \$150,000 derived from motor fuel taxes. In 1934 over eighty-seven percent of the funds came from nonlocal sources. The local percentage increased to forty-one in 1936, after the organization of the W.P.A. Since that year local and state funds have been nearly equal in amount.

The work program of the W.P.A. became an important part of the relief picture beginning in December 1935. In that month 1,554 persons were employed in Peoria County by this Federal work agency;¹ at the same time the number of resident families receiving public unemployment relief was 3,816 which figure was only a slight reduction from the 4,136 of the previous December.² The number of persons on W.P.A. increased slightly during the following months, then decreased to 1,194 in June 1936 and went further downward to 769 in September 1937, after which time it rose rapidly with the new economic decline, until it reached 2,514 in September 1938. Twelve months later the number had declined to 1,442. Since then it has made little change, except for seasonal variations, rising slightly in the winter months and falling in the summer. In June 1941 there were 1,339 persons employed by the W.P.A.

At the depth of the depression in December 1932, it was estimated that 4,150 families in Peoria County were receiving public relief.³ The number

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1. Information obtained from Harold R. Sugarman, acting state statistician of the Work Projects Administration in Illinois. All statistics on W.P.A. employment given here are from this same source, unless otherwise stated.
 2. Illinois Emergency Relief Commission, Biennial Report (July 1, 1934 through June 30, 1936), p. 174,178.
 3. Ibid., First Annual Report (year ending February 5, 1933), p. 55.

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TABLE XXII: Relief Expenditures by Source from 1930 to 1940¹

Year	County Revenues ²	Township Taxes	State Funds	Federal Funds ³	Motor Fuel Taxes	Total
1930	\$123,714 ⁴	-----	-----	-----	-----	\$ 123,714
1931	133,094	\$ 53,400	-----	-----	-----	186,494
1932	57,737	103,700	\$ 37,129	\$ 67,253	\$ 30,000	295,819
1933		111,400	128,203	(3)	150,000	389,603
1934		94,100	607,015	(5)	-----	761,115
1935	35,952	91,500	1,108, 57	(3)	-----	1,235,916
1936	120,609	176,760	421,853	5,160	-----	729,543
1937	63,816	293,328	345,394	-----	-----	707,538
1938	49,367	336,103	381,199	-----	-----	766,669
1939	45,848	309,733	374,433	-----	-----	730,014
1940	40,236	317,369	324,672	-----	-----	682,277

1. Citations by source of funds as follows: (county revenues) Proceedings 1930-1931 p. 67; 1931-1932, p. 73; 1932-1933, p. 54; 1933-1934, p. 238; 1934-1935, p. 48; 1935-1936, p. 132; 1936-1937, p. 79; December Session, 1937, p. 82; December Session, 1938, p. 84; December Session, 1939, p. 93; 1940-1941, p. 92; (township taxes) Illinois Tax Commission, Survey of Local Finance in Illinois, v. IV, Receipts and Disbursements of Townships and Road Districts, 1925-1936, p. 27; Figures from 1936 to 1940 inclusive obtained from the Illinois Emergency Relief Commission; (state funds) Illinois Emergency Relief Commission, First Annual Report (year ending February 5, 1933), p. 117; Second Annual Report (February 6, 1933, through June 30, 1934), p. 199, 201; Biennial Report (July 1, 1934, through June 30, 1936), p. 196, 200, 204; Biennial Report (July 1, 1936, through June 30, 1938), p. 173, 176, 179, 182, 185, 188; later figures obtained from the Illinois Emergency Relief Commission by Jack Grieg; (Federal funds) Illinois Emergency Relief Commission, First Annual Report, p. 119; (motor fuel taxes) Proceedings 1932-1933, p. 144, 174; 1933-1934, p. 188.
2. County expenditures include home relief and care at the poor farm but not blind pensions, mothers' pensions and other welfare functions shown in Table XXI, p. 139.
3. The Federal funds were granted by the Federal Emergency Relief Administration to the Illinois Emergency Relief Commission; the latter agency then distributed these funds to the counties. These Federal grants were discontinued after December 1936, with the organization of the Works Progress Administration. The sources used do not separate Federal and state funds for 1933, 1934, and 1935.
4. The \$123,714 spent by the county in 1930 did not include the \$35,743 paid out for the new building at the poor farm.

declined steadily during 1933 but then rose to 8,730 in June 1934, after the liquidation of the C.W.A. (Civil Works Administration) work program.¹ Later figures on relief are as follows: January 1935, 4,456; August 1935, 3,353; January 1936, 3,273; June 1936, 2,461; January 1937, 3,027; September 1937, 1,741; March 1938, 4,132; December 1940, 1,837.² The average amount of relief granted for each home case was \$21.93 in December 1935 and \$24.92 in December, 1940.³

Other Forms of Public Assistance

There are three other forms of public assistance which constitute an important part of the relief and welfare activities in Peoria County. These are blind pensions, mothers' pensions, and old age assistance.

A law of 1903 authorized counties to make payments for the support of needy blind persons.⁴ At first these payments were made entirely out of county funds; in 1927, however, provision was made for the state to pay one-half of all pensions.⁵ In December 1940 the number of persons receiving blind pensions was 220.⁶ Each person received \$365 a year, payable monthly.⁷

Peoria County began paying mothers' pensions in 1914. A law of the previous year had authorized counties to grant aid to indigent mothers of small children.⁸ During the first year the county paid out \$4,666 to 33 mothers with 91 children.⁹ In 1930 there were 60 mothers and 153 children receiving these pensions which amounted to \$10,720.¹⁰ In December 1940, a total of 638 persons were dependent on this form of assistance.¹¹

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1. Illinois Emergency Relief Commission, Second Annual Report (February 3, 1933 to June 30, 1934), p. 137.
 2. Ibid., Biennial Report (July 1, 1934 through June 30, 1936), p. 174, 178 and (July 1, 1936 through June 30, 1938), p. 133, 143; Monthly Bulletin on Relief Statistics, v. 8, No. 1 (January 1941), p. 5.
 3. Ibid., v. 8, No. 1 (January 1936), p. 5 and v. 8, No. 1 (January 1941), p. 5.
 4. L. 1903, p. 133, 139.
 5. L. 1927, p. 205.
 6. Illinois Emergency Relief Commission, Monthly Bulletin on Relief Statistics, v. 8, No. 1 (January 1941), p. 17.
 7. L. 1941, I, 291, 292.
 8. L. 1913, p. 127. A law of 1935 provided for state aid for mothers' pensions (L. 1935, p. 195).
 9. Supervisors' Record, v. 7, p. 244, see entry 2.
 10. Ibid., v. 9, p. 274.
 11. Illinois Emergency Relief Commission, Monthly Bulletin on Relief Statistics, v. 8, No. 1 (January 1941), p. 17.

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Old age assistance payments began in Peoria County during 1936. Under this system regular monthly payments are made to needy persons 65 years of age and over; the cost of these payments is borne half by the state and half by the Federal Government.¹ In December 1940 there were 2,221 persons in Peoria County dependent on this form of assistance.²

A recapitulation shows that in December 1940 the following numbers of persons were dependent on the five forms of public assistance: general relief, 5,994; W.P.A., 5,029; old age assistance, 2,221; mothers' pensions, 386; blind pensions, 220; total, 13,233.³ In other words, 8.6 percent of the 1940 population was dependent on public assistance; this was considerably under that state percentage of 12.3.⁴

Conclusion

In general, the history as told here casts a favorable reflection on Peoria County. The County Commissioners' Court Record and the Supervisors' Record indicate that county affairs have been administered with rare integrity and competence. County financial administration is especially worthy of commendation. At all times the county commissioners' court and the board of supervisors endeavored to keep the revenues high enough to meet the necessary expenditures. From 1850 to 1880, which was the period of greatest development in the county, Peoria did acquire a public debt, which appears to have been in the nature of a legitimate capital outlay, since it was well within the county's ability to repay. During the prosperous years of the 1920's the debt was completely liquidated. This action was an exemplification of political wisdom in public office of which the citizens of Peoria County may well be proud.

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1. L. 1935, p. 121,259-63.
 2. Illinois Emergency Relief Commission, Monthly Bulletin on Relief Statistics, v. 8, No. 1 (January 1941), p. 17.
 3. Ibid.
 4. Ibid., p. 16.

2. GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION AND RECORDS SYSTEM

Introduction

The county in Illinois is a corporate body¹ and an administrative unit of the state; its governmental organization is at all times largely an expression of this dual nature.

The growth of the county as a body politic is reflected, in each of the state's three constitutional periods, in a progressive expansion of the powers which may by law be exercised by the county board, and in the creation of new, and the extension of existing, county offices. The latter phase of growth in Peoria County and in others similarly organized at present, has also been affected by the adoption of township organization, which for the first time constituted the civil towns as an additional level of government.

An analogous development appears in the state's invasion of new fields of government and the extension of the county's role as its agent. Originally, the county performed but a single important function for the state, that of collecting its share of the taxes levied within the county. Since then, however, education, public health, registration of vital statistics, public assistance, and many similar if less important matters have entered the province of state control or supervision. To effect this control, new governmental units, subcounty districts of various types, have come into existence or have been converted to new purposes; the county, because of its intermediate position, has become more important as a medium of that control.

Thus the complete operation of county government in Illinois brings into play a number of partly distinct authorities. Their relationships, at any time, are complex. The changing governmental organization of Peoria County, therefore, is more easily traced from the viewpoint of the major functions of county government.

General Administration

General administrative jurisdiction over county business has always been vested in the county board. During the first constitutional period the county commissioners' court acted as the county board in all counties.² It was expressly declared to have no original or appellate jurisdiction

1. R.S. 1827, p. 107; R.S. 1845, p. 130; R.S. 1874, p. 306.

2. Const. 1818, Schedule, sec. 4; L. 1819, p. 175, 176.

Governmental Organization
and Records System

in civil or criminal actions, but had all power necessary to the exercise of its jurisdiction in cases concerning the public affairs of the county collectively.¹ The commissioners were constitutional officers,² and elected;³ the court existed solely by statutory provision.⁴ Attached to it in a ministerial capacity was the independent statutory office of clerk of the county commissioners' court,⁵ at first filled at the appointment of the court,⁶ later by election.⁷

Under the second constitution, the newly created county court succeeded to the position of the county commissioners' court.⁸ As an administrative body,⁹ it was composed of the county judge, and elected constitutional officer,¹⁰ and two justices of the peace, elected at large.¹¹ Another new office, that of clerk of the county court, was created to provide it with a ministerial officer; the clerk also was elected.¹²

The Constitution of 1848 also made provision, for the first time, for an optional form of county government.¹³ The subsequent enabling acts¹⁴ provided that whenever the voters of a county might so determine, that county should adopt township organization; one of the principal results of such a change was to alter the form of the county board.¹⁵ Peoria County so elected in 1849 and in 1850 the county court was succeeded by a board of supervisors, composed of members elected, one in each of the several townships.¹⁶ The clerk of the county court was required by law to act as the ministerial officer of the new county board.¹⁷ In 1872,

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1. L. 1819, p. 176.
 2. Const. 1818, Schedule, sec. 4.
 3. L. 1819, p. 99; L. 1821, p. 80; L. 1837, p. 103,104.
 4. L. 1819, p. 175.
 5. Ibid.
 6. Ibid.
 7. L. 1837, p. 49; L. 1845, p. 28.
 8. Const. 1848, Art. V, sec. 19; L. 1849, p. 65.
 9. The county court was also a court of law. For its jurisdiction as such, see Administration of Justice, Courts, p. 153.
 10. Const. 1848, Art. V, sec. 17.
 11. Ibid., sec. 19; L. 1849, p. 65,66.
 12. Const. 1848, Art. V, sec. 19; L. 1849, p. 63.
 13. Art. VII, sec. 6.
 14. The original enabling act of 1849 (L. 1849, p. 190-224) was repealed two years later by a more comprehensive but essentially similar law (L. 1851, p. 35-78).
 15. Other effects of the change, within the sphere of county government proper, appear with regard to the taxation procedure. See Finances, p. 150.
 16. L. 1849, p. 192,202-4; likewise provided for by Const. 1870, Art. X, sec. 5.
 17. L. 1849, p. 203; L. 1851, p. 52.

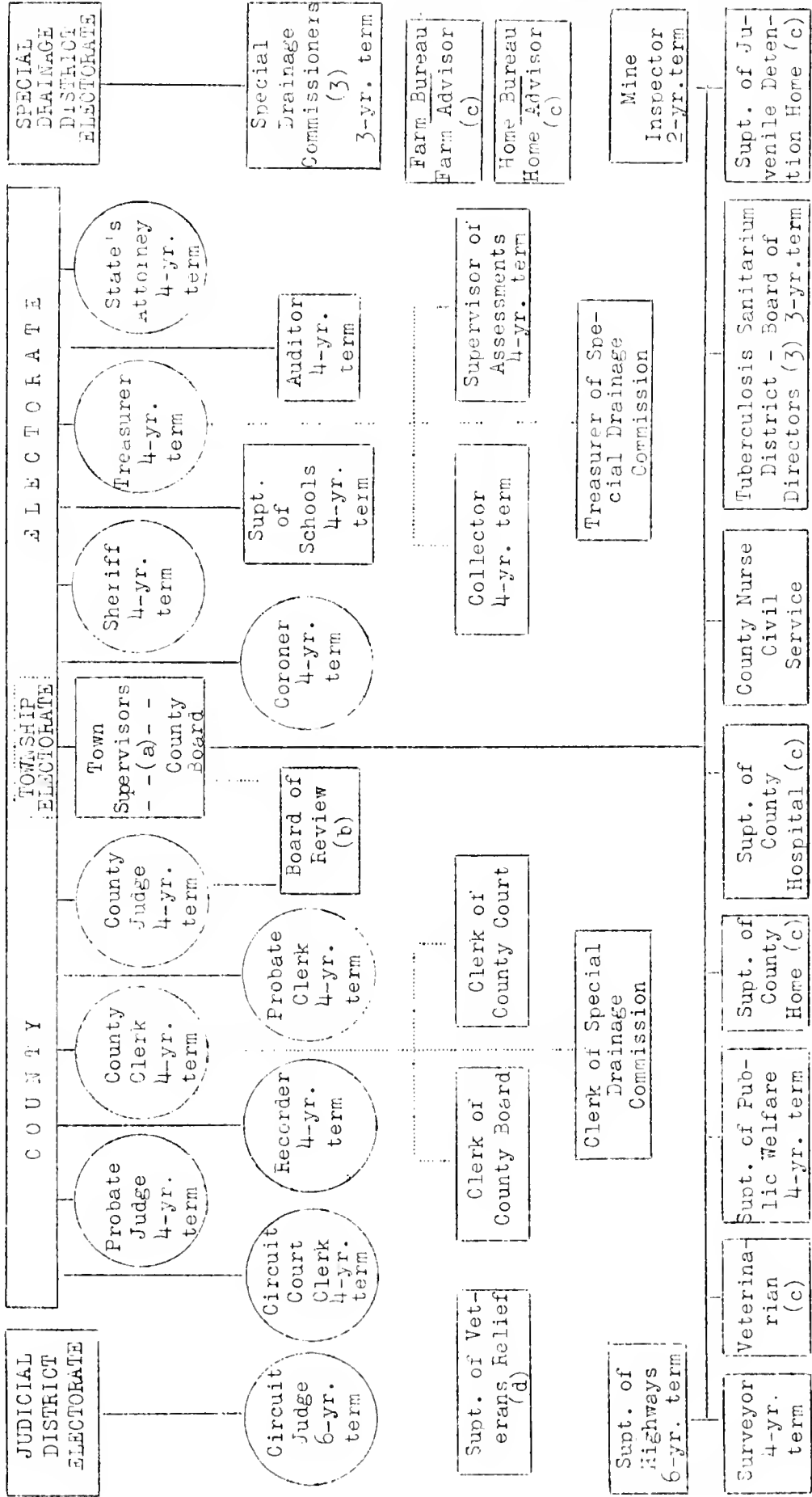
however, that clerk was replaced by a new officer, the county clerk, whose office had been created and made elective, by the third constitution,¹ and who was required by law to act as ministerial officer for the county board.² Another significant change in the form of the county board has been the addition to its membership of assistant supervisors, elected from the various towns on the basis of population;³ the assistant supervisors have no powers or duties as town officers, but are members of the county board and as such enjoy the same powers and rights as other members.⁴

The Constitution of 1870 provided a new form of county board in counties not under township organization. This board was to be composed of three officers, styled commissioners, who would transact all county business as provided by law.⁵ Subsequent legislation granted to the board of county commissioners all powers and duties formerly exercised by the county court when acting in its administrative capacity.⁶ These laws were ineffective in Peoria since this county has retained township organization from its institution in 1850.

Concurrent with the changing organization of the county board is an expansion of its functions without, however, considerable extension beyond the original jurisdiction conferred upon the county commissioners' court. The authority of that body extended to the imposition and regulation of taxes,⁷ a limited but increasing management of county property,⁸ and a growing fiscal control, stringent in regard to tax collections,⁹ sporadic in its check on the expenditures of other county offices.¹⁰ The court additionally had power to appoint judges of election,¹¹ select juries,¹² and, with limitations, to provide for the construction and maintenance of roads and bridges.¹³ Poor relief¹⁴ and a tentative supervision of education¹⁵

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1. Const. 1870, Art. X, sec. 8.
 2. R.S. 1874, p. 322.
 3. *Ibid.*, p. 1080; L. 1925, p. 605; L. 1929, p. 774; L. 1931, p. 905-10; L. 1933, p. 1115, 1116.
 4. R.S. 1874, p. 1080.
 5. Const. 1870, Art. X, sec. 5.
 6. L. 1873-74, p. 79.
 7. L. 1819, p. 175.
 8. *Ibid.*, p. 237, 238; L. 1842-43, p. 128.
 9. L. 1819, p. 238, 318; L. 1823, p. 208; R.L. 1827, p. 373, 375; R.L. 1829, p. 121; L. 1842-43, p. 112; L. 1845, p. 11, 12.
 10. R.L. 1827, p. 366; L. 1831, p. 175.
 11. L. 1819, p. 90.
 12. *Ibid.*, p. 255; L. 1823, p. 182.
 13. Either by calling on the able-bodied men of the county for labor, or by raising bond issues by subscription (L. 1819, p. 333, 334, 336, 337, 343; L. 1821, p. 167; L. 1825, p. 130-33).
 14. L. 1819, p. 127; L. 1839, p. 138, 139.
 15. R.S. 1845, p. 500, 501.

GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION OF PEORIA COUNTY, 1942



(a) County board composed of town supervisors, elected one in each township, plus assistant supervisors, elected on basis of town population.

(b) Composed of two appointees of county judge and chairman of county board, acting, ex officio, as chairman of board of review.

(c) Serves until successor is appointed.

(d) Elected by veterans' association and serves until successor is appointed.

L E G E N D

○ Constitutional Office or Body

□ Statutory Office or Body

--- Shows ex officio relationship

also fell within its general administrative jurisdiction.

The effect of subsequent legislation, in the main, has only been to broaden that jurisdiction. The county board has been given full power to purchase, contract for, dispose of, and make regulations concerning all real and personal property of the county.¹ Until 1912 it was required to audit all claims against the county and the accounts of such offices as were not provided for by law.² Otherwise, the changes in form of the county board in Peoria County have not materially affected the general administrative jurisdiction of that body.³

Finances

In Illinois counties, there has always been a close relationship between the taxation processes and fiscal control. This circumstance, as well as frequent evidence of the county board's ultimate control in such matters, appears in a resume of the legal status and duties of the officers involved.

Taxation

The assessment function in taxation was delegated by the first General Assembly to the county treasurer, a statutory officer appointed by the county commissioners' court.⁴ The administrative body, within statutory limits, fixed the amount of the levy, while the value of many categories of real and personal property was fixed by law; however, a limited discretion was left to the assessing officer.⁵ In 1825 assessments were made by the county assessor, also an appointee of the county commissioners' court.⁶ This duty reverted to the county treasurer in 1827⁷ and continued to be vested in that office until 1839, when the General Assembly provided for the appointment by the county commissioners' court of district assessors, not to exceed one in every justice's district.⁸ The earlier system was reestablished in 1844, with the treasurer, however, now having the status

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1. L. 1849, p. 202; L. 1851, p. 50,51; L. 1861, p. 235,236; R.S. 1874, p. 306,307; L. 1911, p. 245,246; L. 1923, p. 304,305; L. 1937, p. 453,454.
 2. L. 1849, p. 202; L. 1851, p. 51; R.S. 1874, p. 307. In 1911, provision was made for the election of an auditor in counties the size of Peoria (L. 1911, p. 242,243).
 3. Cf. this running summary with R.S. 1874, p. 306,307, and Ill. Rev. Stat. 1939, p. 942-44.
 4. L. 1819, p. 315.
 5. Ibid., p. 313,319; L. 1825, p. 173; L. 1839, p. 4-6; L. 1840, p. 4; L. 1845, p. 6.
 6. L. 1825, p. 173.
 7. R.L. 1827, p. 330.
 8. L. 1839, p. 4.

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of county assessor, ex officio.¹ Since 1850, the date of the institution of township organization in Peoria County, the assessment function has been performed on the lower governmental level by town assessors, elected one in each township.² Today, the principal duties of the assessing officers, taken together, are to bring up to date each year the periodic assessment of roal property, to take current lists of, and appraise personal property and special categories of other property.³ The treasurer now has the status of supervisor of assessments, ex officio.⁴

Before the creation of a board of review, the functions which today fall within its scope were performed, in substance, by various officers. In the first constitutional period, it was left to interested individuals or parties to report property omitted from assessment; the county commissioners' court could hear appeals from assessments, but there was no provision for their equalization by districts.⁵ In 1849 it was provided that appeals were to be made to the county court.⁶ After the institution of township organization in 1850, this jurisdiction was given to the township assessor;⁷ however, in 1851, town boards were empowered to review the assessments within their own jurisdiction, and the county board was required to meet annually to assess omitted property, review assessments upon complaint, and equalize valuations between towns.⁸ In 1898 this authority of the county board was transferred to the newly created board of review, composed of the chairman of the county board as chairman, ex officio, the county clerk, as clerk, ex officio, and an additional member appointed by the county judge.⁹ In 1923 the county clerk was replaced by another member appointed by the county judge;¹⁰ the board of review now appoints its own clerk.¹¹

The collection function was originally performed in all counties by the sheriff, an olected constitutional officer.¹² Its nature has changed little since that time. Essentially, the collecting officer collects taxes

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1. L. 1843, p. 231. Effective in 1844.
 2. L. 1849, p. 194; L. 1851, p. 38; L. 1871-72, p. 20-24.
 3. L. 1853, p. 16,17; L. 1871-72, p. 11,14,15,19,23; L. 1873, p. 51; L. 1879, p. 241-45; L. 1881, p. 133,134; L. 1885, p. 234; L. 1895, p. 300,301; L. 1905, p. 360; L. 1915, p. 568; L. 1923, p. 495,500; L. 1931-32, First Sp. Sess., p. 69.
 4. L. 1898, p. 36-44.
 5. L. 1819, p. 316; R.L. 1827, p. 330; L. 1839, p. 7; L. 1845, p. 8.
 6. L. 1849, p. 65.
 7. Ibid., p. 206.
 8. L. 1851, p. 56,57; L. 1871-72, p. 21,22,24,25.
 9. L. 1898, p. 46.
 10. L. 1923, p. 496; L. 1932, First Sp. Sess., p. 71,72.
 11. L. 1923, p. 496,497.
 12. Const. 1818, Art. III, sec. 11; L. 1819, p. 316.

according to information originating outside his jurisdiction, pays over such sums to authorities designated by statute to receive them, and reports on payments of taxes and delinquencies.¹ In 1839, by a development analogous to that which occurred with regard to assessments, the county board's control was extended to enable it to appoint a regular county collector.² Soon after the law reverted to the earlier situation with the sheriff acting as collector ex officio.³ This situation continued until the institution of township organization when town collectors were elected, one in each township,⁴ and the county treasurer became county collector, ex officio.⁵ The town officers paid over their collections directly to the county officer, and supplied the basic information for the latter's summary report of collections in the county.⁶ In 1917 the town office of collector was abolished in counties of less than 100,000 population. This provision did not affect Peoria County as it had already reached the population minimum.⁷

Coordination of the taxation processes has always been effected by the county clerk or his predecessors. The assessment books are made out by the clerk, and returned to him by the assessor; similarly, the collector reports on collections on delinquent property; finally, the treasurer's receipts to the collector for taxes paid come into his possession, and the centralization of records concerning the basic taxation procedure is completed.⁸

Fiscal Control

The fiduciary function in county finances is performed by the county treasurer alone. The duties of the office have remained substantially the same since its creation; namely, to receive, principally from the collectors of taxes, the revenue of the county; to have custody of its funds; and to disburse funds only on specific authorization by law, or in accordance with

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1. L. 1819, p. 316-18; L. 1821, p. 182,183; R.L. 1827, p. 332,333; R.L. 1829, p. 121-23; L. 1831, p. 125; L. 1837, p. 194,195; L. 1839, p. 7-12; L. 1843, p. 234; L. 1845, p. 11; L. 1847, p. 81; L. 1871-72, p. 55,57,58.
 2. L. 1838-39, p. 7.
 3. L. 1843, p. 234.
 4. L. 1849, p. 194; L. 1851, p. 38. Peoria county electorate adopted township organization in 1849, but the change did not become effective until 1850.
 5. L. 1853, p. 67.
 6. L. 1871-72, p. 41,56,57.
 7. L. 1917, p. 793.
 8. L. 1819, p. 317; R.L. 1827, p. 373; L. 1837, p. 194,195; L. 1839, p. 8-12; L. 1840, p. 3; L. 1845, p. 9,11; L. 1853, p. 71,111; L. 1871-72, p. 32, 34,35,46,56-58; L. 1873-74, p. 51; L. 1911, p. 485; L. 1917, p. 654; L. 1919, p. 765; L. 1931, p. 747.

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the order of the county board.¹ Through this last requirement, and that of the treasurer to report periodically to the board on the transaction of his office, in addition to his regular settlement with it, the lines of financial authority once more lead to the county board.²

The office of county auditor, in counties under township organization of more than 75,000 and less than 300,000 inhabitants, was first created in 1911.³ This officer was charged with such duties as auditing claims against the county, collecting information on the cost of maintenance of county institutions, and approving orders for supplies. Recommendations and reports were to be made to the county board. By 1911 Peoria County had already attained the population minimum, and the first auditor was elected in 1912.

Administration of Justice

Courts

Justice, in Illinois counties, has been administered by a constantly increasing number of bodies. The Constitution of 1818 vested the judicial powers of the state in a Supreme Court and such inferior courts as the General Assembly should ordain and establish; required the Supreme Court justices to hold circuit courts in the several counties; and provided for the appointment, in such manner and with such powers and duties as the General Assembly should direct, of a competent number of justices of the peace in each county.⁴

Federal statutes already allowed circuit courts in all states jurisdiction over the naturalization of aliens;⁵ the first state legislature additionally conferred jurisdiction over all causes at common law and chancery and over all cases of treason, felony, and other crimes and misdemeanors.⁶ The legislature further required that two terms of a circuit court be held in each county annually by one of the Supreme Court justices,⁷ but in 1824 provision was made for the holding of circuit courts by separate circuit court judges, to be appointed, as were the Supreme Court justices, by both branches of the General Assembly, and to hold office during good

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1. L. 1819, p. 315,316; R.S. 1845, p. 138; L. 1861, p. 239; R. S. 1874, p. 323,324.
 2. L. 1819, p. 318; L. 1837, Sp. Sess., p. 59,60; L. 1845, p. 33; R.S. 1845, p. 138,139; L. 1861, p. 239,240; R.S. 1874, p. 323,324.
 3. L. 1911, p. 242,243.
 4. Const. 1818, Art. IV, sec., 1,4,8.
 5. 2 U.S. Stat., 153-55.
 6. L. 1819, p. 380.
 7. Ibid., p. 378.

behavior.¹ In 1827 the General Assembly repealed the 1824 law, and again provided for circuit courts to be held by Supreme Court justices.² At the next session of the legislature, when a new circuit was established, provision was made for the appointment of a circuit judge to act therein.³ At that time, therefore, the circuit courts were held by Supreme Court justices in four judicial circuits and by a circuit judge in the fifth.⁴ A change was made again in 1835, when power to hold circuit courts was taken away from the Supreme Court justices and provision was made for the appointment of five circuit judges, in addition to the one already authorized, to hold circuit courts.⁵ The six judicial circuits existing at that time were supplemented during the next few years by the creation of new circuits,⁶ so that they numbered nine in 1841 when the office of circuit judge was again abolished and the Supreme Court justices, also increased to nine, were required to hold circuit courts.⁷

The authority of justices of the peace was limited by law to jurisdiction in specified civil cases and in misdemeanors, with appeals allowed from their judgments to the circuit court.⁸ The power of appointment, the legislature at first reserved to itself;⁹ in 1827, however, justices of the peace were required to be elected, two in each of such districts as should be determined within statutory limits by the county commissioners' court.¹⁰

Jurisdiction over probate matters was at the outset delegated to the county commissioners' court.¹¹ By act of the next General Assembly, it was transferred to the court of probate,¹² consisting in each county of one

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1. L. 1824, p. 41. The Constitution of 1818, which had required that Supreme Court justices be appointed by the General Assembly, further provided that they should not, after the first session of the legislature subsequent to January 1, 1824, hold circuit courts unless required to do so by law (Art. IV, sec. 4).
 2. R.L. 1827, p. 118, 119.
 3. R.L. 1829, p. 38.
 4. *Ibid.*, p. 42, 48.
 5. L. 1835, p. 150.
 6. L. 1837, p. 113; L. 1838-39, p. 155.
 7. L. 1841, p. 173.
 8. L. 1819, p. 185, 192, 195.
 9. *Ibid.*, p. 22.
 10. R.L. 1827, p. 255, 256. Since 1821, however, the county commissioners' court had been required to establish such districts, which also constituted general election precincts (L. 1821, p. 74). For changes in the statutory limitations of this power of the court, see R.L. 1827, p. 255, and R.L. 1829, p. 93.
 11. L. 1819, p. 223-33.
 12. L. 1821, p. 121.

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judge appointed by the General Assembly.¹ As a result of the substitution in 1837 of probate justices of the peace for the judges of probate,² jurisdiction over probate matters for the first time was placed in the hands of elected officers.³

The county court was the creation of the second constitution,⁴ which also made circuit judges elected officers.⁵ With regard to the new court, it was further provided by law that it should be held in each county by a single elected officer, the county judge.⁶ Its authority was extended to jurisdiction in all probate matters, and to such jurisdiction in civil and criminal cases as might be conferred by the General Assembly.⁷ In pursuance of this latter provision, the county court was first given the same civil and criminal jurisdiction as justices of the peace;⁸ at the next session of the General Assembly, however, it was declared that county judges when exercising this jurisdiction, acted only in the capacity of justices of the peace.⁹ Until the next constitutional period, the county court, as such, was given jurisdiction only in a limited number of special actions,¹⁰ it was however, considered entitled to equal jurisdiction with the circuit court over naturalization.¹¹ In this same period, provision was made for increasing, on the basis of population, the number of justices of the peace to be elected in each district. In Peoria County, and others similarly organized, one additional justice of the peace is now elected for every 1,000 inhabitants exceeding 2,000 inhabitants in each town.¹²

Provision was first made by the Constitution of 1870 for the establishment by the General Assembly of an independent probate court in each county having a population of more than 50,000 inhabitants.¹³ As first established by statute, the new courts were to be formed in counties of 100,000 or more inhabitants.¹⁴ This population requirement was lowered to

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1. L. 1821, p. 119. The Const. 1818 (Art. IV, sec. 4) had also designated this manner of election for judges of all inferior courts.
 2. L. 1837, p. 176,177.
 3. The Const. 1818 (Art. IV, sec. 8) had reserved to the General Assembly the right to prescribe the manner of appointment of justices of the peace.
 4. Const. 1848, Art. V, sec. 1,16.
 5. Ibid., sec. 7, 15.
 6. Ibid., sec. 17.
 7. Ibid., sec. 18.
 8. L. 1849, p. 65.
 9. Ibid., Second Sess., p. 15.
 10. L. 1849, p. 65,66; L. 1853, p. 103; L. 1861, p. 171,172.
 11. 2 U.S. Stat. p. 155.
 12. L. 1854, p. 30. No more than five justices, however, may be elected from any town or election precinct.
 13. Art. VI, sec. 20.
 14. L. 1877, p. 79,80.

70,000 in 1881.¹ The population of Peoria County reached this figure in 1890 and a separate probate court² was established in the county in 1890. The county court, early in this period, was given concurrent jurisdiction with the circuit court in appeals from justices of the peace;³ its original jurisdiction was extended to be equal with that of the circuit court in all that class of cases cognizable by justices of the peace⁴ involving in controversy sums not exceeding \$500.⁵ In 1906, however, it lost its naturalization jurisdiction since it failed to meet the additional requirement of Federal legislation that it possess jurisdiction at law without limitation upon amounts in controversy.⁶ The present constitution, also, for the first time, directed the manner in which the General Assembly should establish judicial circuits, requiring that circuits be formed of contiguous counties and that they should not exceed in number one circuit for every 100,000 of population of the state.⁷ At present there are 18 circuits in Illinois, and Peoria County is attached to the tenth circuit.⁸

Clerks of Courts

The clerk of the circuit court under the Constitution of 1818, was to be appointed by a majority of the justices of that court.⁹ Since 1849, however, by provisions of the constitutions of 1848 and 1870, the office has been filled by election.¹⁰ The office of clerk of the county court, which was an independent elective office under the second constitution,¹¹ is now filled in an ex officio capacity by the county clerk¹² who is also required by constitutional provision to be elected.¹³ The county commissioners' court, which for a brief period held jurisdiction over probate matters, had its own clerk who was at that time appointed by the court.¹⁴

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1. L. 1881, p. 72. In 1933, the act of 1877 was further amended to make the establishment of an independent probate court mandatory in counties having a population of 85,000 or more, and optional in counties having a population of between 70,000 and 85,000 (L. 1933, p. 458).
 2. Const. 1870, Art. VI, sec. 20; L. 1877, p. 80; L. 1881, p. 72.
 3. R.S. 1874, p. 340; L. 1877, p. 77; L. 1895, p. 212,223.
 4. The jurisdiction of justices has also been progressively increased during this period. See L. 1871-72, p. 524; L. 1895, p. 189,190; L. 1917, p. 562,563; L. 1929, p. 541,542.
 5. L. 1871-72, p. 325.
 6. 34 U.S. Stat. 596.
 7. Const. 1870, Art. VI, sec. 13.
 8. L. 1933, p. 436.
 9. Art. IV, sec. 6.
 10. Const. 1848, Art. V, sec. 21,29; Const. 1870, Art. X, sec. 8.
 11. Const. 1848, Art. V, sec. 19.
 12. R.S. 1874, p. 260.
 13. Const. 1870, Art. X, sec. 8.
 14. L. 1819, p. 175.

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Probate judges and justices of the peace who subsequently held probate jurisdiction, were required to act as their own clerks.¹ With the transfer of probate jurisdiction to the county court, the clerk of the county court was required to keep, separately, records of probate proceedings and business.² In Peoria County, since 1890, a clerk of the probate court has been elected by the county electorate at the same time and for the same term of office as the probate judge.³ Justices of the peace have always been required to keep their records in person.⁴

Ministerial Officers

The principal ministerial officer of all courts of record in Illinois counties is the sheriff. The first constitution provided that the sheriff should be elected.⁵ Later, in 1827, statutory provision was made for the appointment of deputies by the principal officer;⁶ since 1870, the number of deputies that the sheriff may appoint is determined by rule of the circuit court.⁷ The ministerial duties of the sheriff have undergone little change in more than one hundred years. Essentially he is to attend, in person or by deputy, all courts of record in the county, obeying the orders and directions of the court, and to serve, execute, and return all writs, warrants, process, orders, and decrees legally directed to him.⁸

The coroner was originally given equal power with the sheriff as a ministerial officer of the courts.⁹ He was also required to serve all process in any suit in which the sheriff was an interested party¹⁰ and to perform all the duties of the sheriff when that office was vacant.¹¹ The first two functions are still incumbent upon the coroner.¹²

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1. L. 1821, p. 119,120; L. 1837, p. 177,178.
 2. L. 1849, p. 66.
 3. L. 1877, p. 82.
 4. L. 1819, p. 185-97 (no specific record-keeping requirement listed among general duties of justices), p. 326 (establishing fees to be paid justices for keeping records); R.L. 1827, p. 260 (becomes definite provision for justices to keep own records); L. 1895, p. 221,222.
 5. Const. 1818, Art. III, sec. 11.
 6. R.L. 1827, p. 373.
 7. Const. 1870, Art. X, sec. 9.
 8. L. 1819, p. 111; R.S. 1874, p. 990,991.
 9. L. 1819, p. 111.
 10. L. 1821, p. 20-53.
 11. R.L. 1827, p. 372,373.
 12. Despite the absence from the present law of statutory provision for the coroner to serve process originally directed to him (R.S. 1874, p. 281, 282), the courts have held that he may so do, an emergency being presumed to exist without need for the process to recite reason for its issuance to the coroner (20 Ill. 185; 87 Ill. 268).

Justices of the peace are served similarly in a ministerial capacity by constables. Not until 1870 was the office of constable given constitutional recognition.¹ The county commissioners' court, at its creation by the first General Assembly, was empowered to appoint one or more constables in each township;² in 1827 it was provided that two constables should be elected in each justice of the peace district.³ Since that date, subsequent legislation has grouped justices of the peace and constables in all provisions regarding their election.⁴ Constables, like sheriffs and coroners, have always been required to serve and execute all process legally directed to them;⁵ process issuing from a justice of the peace court, however, may be directed only to some constable of the same county.⁶

Prosecutions

The duty of the present state's attorney to prosecute and defend all actions, civil or criminal, involving the county, the people, or officers of the state or county,⁷ was incumbent originally upon the circuit attorney.⁸ In 1827 this officer was replaced by the state's attorney.⁹ Also in effect from an early date is the officer's other major duty, apart from the enforcement of law,¹⁰ of giving opinions on any questions of law relating to criminal or other matters in which the people of the county may be concerned.¹¹

The offices of circuit attorney and early state's attorney, which existed solely by statutory provision,¹² were appointive by the Governor until 1835,¹³ and thereafter by the General Assembly.¹⁴ The second constitu-

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1. Const. 1870, Art. VI, sec. 21.
 2. L. 1819, p. 162.
 3. R.L. 1827, p. 258.
 4. See Courts, p. 153.
 5. L. 1819, p. 162, 163; R.S. 1874, p. 400.
 6. L. 1819, p. 186; R.S. 1845, p. 317; L. 1871-72, p. 526; L. 1895, p. 191, 193; L. 1937, p. 900. Similarly, process issuing from courts of record is required to be directed to the sheriff or, under certain conditions noted (footnotes 8, 9, and 10, p. 50), to the coroner (R.S. 1845, p. 413; L. 1871-72, p. 333; L. 1907, p. 445; L. 1933, p. 786; L. 1937, p. 989).
 7. R.S. 1874, p. 173, 174.
 8. L. 1819, p. 204; L. 1825, p. 178, 179.
 9. R.L. 1827, p. 79, 80.
 10. See Enforcement of Law, p. 160.
 11. R.S. 1845, p. 76; R.S. 1874, p. 174.
 12. L. 1819, p. 204-6.
 13. Ibid., p. 204.
 14. L. 1835, p. 44.

tion provided for an elected state's attorney;¹ since each judicial circuit was an elective district for this purpose, the territorial jurisdiction of the new officer remained the same as that of the former officer.² Not until the adoption of the present constitution was provision made for the election of a separate state's attorney in each county.³

Inquests

The holding of inquests, one of the duties of the coroner in Illinois counties, is also a part of the administration of justice. The office of coroner was created by the first constitution and required to be filled by election;⁴ the statutory provisions concerning the inquest function have not changed substantially since their enactment by the second General Assembly.⁵ The coroner, when informed of the body of any person being found dead, supposedly by violence, casualty, or undue means, is required to summon a jury to inquire how, in what manner, and by whom or what, death was caused; testimony of witnesses is taken; witnesses whose evidence implicates any person as the unlawful slayer of the deceased are bound over to the circuit court; the verdict of the jury is returned to the clerk of that court.⁶

The verdict of the coroner's jury, however, is not generally admissible in evidence;⁷ additionally, it is not held to be prima facie proof of matters stated therein with regard to the cause and manner of death;⁸ its essential nature, therefore, is that of a finding of facts upon the basis of which the coroner may be led to discharge his collateral duty to apprehend and commit to jail any person implicated by the inquest as the unlawful slayer of the deceased.⁹ To this extent, the coroner's inquest duties overlap his function as an officer for the enforcement of law.

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1. Const. 1848, Art. V, sec. 21. The new title however, had already come into occasional use in the interim (R.L. 1827, p. 79,80; L. 1835, p. 44; L. 1847, p. 18,19).
 2. Ibid., sec. 28.
 3. Const. 1870, Art. VI, sec. 22.
 4. Const. 1818, Art. III, sec. 11.
 5. Cf. L. 1821, p. 22-24; R.S. 1845, p. 517,518; R.S. 1874, p. 283-84; Ill. Rev. Stat. 1939, p. 820-22.
 6. L. 1821, p. 24,25; R.S. 1845, p. 518; R.S. 1874, p. 284; L. 1879, p. 82; L. 1907, p. 213; L. 1919, p. 403,404; L. 1931, p. 388,389.
 7. 46 N.W. 872. It is however, held to be proper practice to offer, in cross-examining witnesses sought to be impeached, excerpts from transcripts of testimony taken at the inquest (189 Ill. App. 556; 211 Ill. App. 474).
 8. 201 Ill. App. 287.
 9. L. 1821, p. 25; R.S. 1845, p. 518; R.S. 1874, p. 283,284.

Enforcement of Law

Sheriffs, coroners, and constables have always been charged equally with keeping the peace and apprehending all offenders against the law.¹ The state's attorney's powers as an officer for the enforcement of law originally derived by implication from another duty;² the gathering of evidence and the apprehension of offenders is necessarily involved in commencing and prosecuting actions in which the people of the state or county are concerned.³ In relatively recent years, however, the state's attorney has been given more specific statutory powers to enforce laws, and to investigate violations and secure necessary evidence thereof.⁴ But at any time the effective spheres of authority of law enforcement officers have been determined less by statutory provisions than by local conditions and individual circumstances.

Elections

Elections were originally under control of the county commissioners' court.⁵ It appointed three judges of election for each precinct, which at first consisted of an entire township.⁶

When the Constitution of 1848 was adopted, it provided for a new administrative county court⁷ and, by the enabling laws of 1849, this court was given the same jurisdiction over election officials formerly exercised by the county commissioners' court.⁸ Little change was made during this constitutional period; the judges of election continued to be appointed by the county court or board doing county business, and the clerks to be appointed by the judges. Even the event of registration⁹ and the new Constitution of 1870 brought but slight alteration in the main election procedure; county boards, whether made up of town supervisors or county commissioners, still appointed the judges of election. However, in counties under township organization, these judges now had to be the town supervisor, assessor, and collector in the election district in which they resided.¹⁰ The judges continued to appoint the clerks.¹¹ The election board also

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1. L. 1819, p. 111,162,163; R.S. 1845, p. 515; R.S. 1874, p. 400.
 2. See Prosecutions, p. 158.
 3. L. 1819, p. 204; R.S. 1845, p. 76.
 4. L. 1885, p. 3; L. 1907, p. 268; L. 1913, p. 395; L. 1915, p. 368; L. 1927, p. 33.
 5. L. 1819, p. 90; R.L. 1829, p. 55.
 6. L. 1819, p. 90,91.
 7. Art.V, sec. 16,17,19.
 8. L. 1849, p. 65.
 9. L. 1865, p. 54.
 10. L. 1871-72, p. 385.
 11. Ibid.

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became the board of registry.¹ Three judges of election and two clerks had been the rule, but in 1885 the number of clerks was increased to three.² By an amendment to the 1872 act³ in regard to elections, only the town supervisor in counties so organized was required to be one of the judges of election in the district or precinct in which he resided.⁴ The county board continued to appoint judges of election if they were not elected or appointed by election commissioners.⁵

When a city, village or incorporated town adopted the city election law,⁶ a marked change in procedure took place. This change called for the appointment by the county court of the county in which the city, village or incorporated town was located, of a board of election commissioners, composed of three members.⁷ Names of proposed precinct election board members, both judges and clerks, were to be submitted by the board of election commissioners to the county court for appointment and approval,⁸ and upon approval they like the commissioners, became officers of that court and liable in a proceeding for contempt for any misbehavior in their office.⁹

In 1819, voting was by ballot, either printed (but not at public expense) or written.¹⁰ Then in 1821, oral voting was introduced¹¹ only to be soon replaced by a combination of the two methods in which the elector prepared his ballot, handed it to a judge of election and the judge read aloud the names of the persons voted for and the clerks recorded the vote.¹² Constitutional recognition of voting by ballot was given in 1848.¹³ The Constitution of 1870 provided for cumulative voting so as to enable minorities to have representation in the General Assembly.¹⁴ The next great change was the introduction of the secret or Australian ballot, still in use today, and the printing and distribution of all ballots at public expense.¹⁵ Voting machines were authorized in 1903.¹⁶ Challengers and watchers for the various candidates, were first permitted in 1927.¹⁷

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1. L. 1873-74, p. 96.
 2. L. 1885, p. 195.
 3. L. 1871-72, p. 380.
 4. L. 1903, p. 173.
 5. L. 1905, p. 202; L. 1935-36 Fourth Sp. Sess., p. 28.
 6. L. 1885, p. 142.
 7. Ibid., p. 147; L. 1899, p. 163.
 8. L. 1885, p. 150,151; L. 1899, p. 167.
 9. L. 1885, p. 151; L. 1899, p. 107.
 10. L. 1819, p. 93.
 11. L. 1821, p. 73.
 12. R.L. 1829, p. 57; R.S. 1845, p. 217.
 13. Const. 1848, Art. VI, sec. 2.
 14. Art. IV, sec. 7,8.
 15. L. 1891, p. 108.
 16. L. 1903, p. 178.
 17. L. 1927, p. 443.

Registry of voters to prevent fraudulent voting was first required in 1865¹ and absentee voting was also allowed to enable those in military service of the United States to vote by giving a power of attorney to a resident elector to cast the vote for the absentee.² During the World War this was changed so that ballots were sent to the army officers, and soldiers, having chosen their election board, voted wherever they happened to be, but not less than five or more than twenty days prior to the general election day.³ Absentee registration, however, did not come until 1927.⁴ Permanent registration came nine years later,⁵ and was intended to make the elector's registration permanent until his death or change of residence or change of name.⁶ Registration is under the control of the county board, county clerk, and county court⁷ except in cities, villages, and incorporated towns which have adopted the election act.⁸ In these cities, villages, and incorporated towns, registration is under the direction of a board of election commissioners as well as the county court.⁹

Women were first allowed to vote in elections for school officials;¹⁰ twenty-two years later, in 1913, their voting power was enlarged to include elections for: presidential electors, members of the State Board of Equalization, clerk of the appellate court, county collector, county surveyor, members of the board of assessors, members of the board of review, sanitary district trustees, and all officers of cities and towns (except police magistrates) and on all questions and propositions submitted to a vote of the electors of such municipalities or other political divisions of this state. This franchise also extended to the following township officers: supervisor, town clerk, assessor, collector and highway commissioner, and an active participation in all town meetings.¹¹ They had to meet the same requirements as men as to age, residence, and registration.¹² General suffrage was granted to women in 1921¹³ in accordance with the Nineteenth Amendment to the Federal Constitution, which became effective on August 26, 1920.

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1. L. 1865, p. 54.
 2. Ibid., p. 60.
 3. L. 1917, p. 441.
 4. L. 1927, p. 443.
 5. L. 1936, Fourth Sp. Sess., p. 50-53.
 6. Ibid.
 7. L. 1865, p. 54, 59; L. 1871-72, p. 385, 390, 391.
 8. L. 1865, p. 147; L. 1936, Fourth Sp. Sess., p. 50-53.
 9. Ibid.
 10. L. 1891, p. 135.
 11. L. 1913, p. 333.
 12. Ibid.
 13. L. 1921, p. 430.

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Education

The act of Congress providing for the creation and admission of the State of Illinois to the Union, set aside section sixteen of every township for the use of schools.¹ The first state legislation on the subject was concerned only with the establishment of school districts and the sale or leasing of school land to provide necessary funds, for which purposes three trustees of school lands were appointed in each township by the county commissioners' court.²

In 1825, however, with a common school system in operation, provision was made for its educational as well as financial administration. Three elected officers, known as township school trustees, were charged in each township with superintending schools, examining and employing teachers, leasing all land belonging to the district, and reporting annually to the county commissioners' court; this report, however, was limited to such matters as were concerned in the financial administration of the schools.³ In 1827 the county commissioners' court was again empowered to appoint trustees of school lands, but despite the use of the earlier, more limited title, these officers were charged with all the duties of the former township school trustees.⁴ The creation of the office of county school commissioner in 1829 brought a new element into the complex situation. The commissioner was at first given limited duties with regard to the sale of school lands and the management of school funds;⁵ his subsequent gains in this respect at the expense of the township trustees foreshadowed the demarcation of spheres of authority that was made in 1847.⁶ In the interim, the school commissioner, who had first been appointed by the county commissioners' court,⁷ became an elected officer;⁸ in such townships as elected to incorporate for the purpose of organizing and supporting schools, township trustees also became elected officers and were there denominated trustees of schools.⁹

The situation created by the legislation of 1847 in certain respects has not since been substantially altered. In all counties, township trustees became, and are still, elected officers, styled township school trus-

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1. 3 U.S. Stat. 428.
 2. L. 1619, p. 107,108.
 3. L. 1825, p. 121,122.
 4. R.L. 1827, p. 366-70.
 5. R.L. 1829, p. 150-54.
 6. Cf. L. 1831, p. 176; L. 1841, p. 275-79.
 7. R.L. 1829, p. 150.
 8. L. 1841, p. 261,262.
 9. Ibid., p. 273,274. In unincorporated townships, trustees continued to be appointed by the county commissioners' court (ibid., p. 259,260).

tees.¹ The relative authority of the county school commissioner² and of officers of the township with regard to financial administration was fixed essentially as at present.³ However, township trustees lost practically all their former duties with regard to matters purely educational as a result of a development that occurred in 1845.

It was at that time that the county first entered into the actual administration of education through provisions of an act to establish and maintain common schools which act made the school commissioner ex-officio superintendent of schools.⁴ As a result of this change, most of the functions of the township trustees with regard to the advancement of education⁵ were absorbed by the school commissioner in carrying out his additional duties as ex officio superintendent of schools. Later, in 1865, legislation required the election of a county superintendent of schools who was to be successor to the school commissioner.⁶ As outlined in 1845, the duties of the school commissioner as ex officio superintendent of schools required him to visit all the townships in his county and inquire into the condition and manner of conducting their schools, to examine persons proposing to teach school, to grant certificates to persons qualified to teach in schools, and to report to the county board on all his acts relating to the management of school funds and lands.⁷ These duties were continued in later legislation including the act establishing the elective office of superintendent of schools.⁸ Subsequent legislation has enlarged the scope of this phase of the superintendent's functions, but it is in his role as an agent of state supervision that he has been charged with numerous duties of a new character.

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1. L. 1847, p. 126; L. 1909, p. 350.
 2. The subsequent substitution of an independent elected superintendent of schools for the school commissioner who had additionally been superintendent, ex officio (see footnotes 4 and 6), was only a change in the legal status of the officer of the county and had no further import.
 3. L. 1847, p. 123,124,128,129; L. 1909, p. 351-54; L. 1927, p. 794,795.
 4. R.S. 1845, p. 498.
 5. Ibid., p. 497-503. Cf. L. 1825, p. 121,122; R.L. 1827, p. 368-70; L. 1831, p. 173; L. 1841, p. 270,275,276,279. The only duty of this category that was left to township trustees in the laws of 1847 concerned the examination of prospective teachers and the issuance of certificates where merited (L. 1847, p. 130).
 6. L. 1865, p. 112,113.
 7. R.S. 1845, p. 498-501.
 8. L. 1847, p. 121-25; L. 1857, p. 261-65, 278,279,296,297; L. 1861, p. 190,191; L. 1865, p. 114,119-21.
 9. L. 1909, p. 347-50; L. 1915, p. 636-38.

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bounds. Originally the county superintendent was required only to communicate to the State Superintendent of Common Schools¹ information concerning the schools in his county.² Today, as a consequence of the state's increasing intervention in matters of public health and safety, the county superintendent is required to inspect, with regard to specifications, plans submitted to him for the heating, ventilation, lighting, etc., of public school rooms and buildings; to visit and notice such public school buildings which appear to him to be unsafe, insanitary, or otherwise unfit for occupancy; and to request the Department of Public Health,³ the state fire marshal, or the state architect to inspect such buildings and issue reports upon which condemnation proceedings can be based.⁴

Recordation

For the function of making legal record of written instruments, the first General Assembly established the office of recorder.⁵ Originally appointed by the Governor,⁶ the recorder was required to be elected after 1835.⁷ The second constitution made the clerk of the circuit court,⁸ ex officio, recorder in all counties;⁹ the present constitution continued the earlier provision in counties of under 60,000 population and provided for the election of a recorder in counties of that population or more.¹⁰ Peoria County was entitled to a separate recorder after the census of 1890 and the office was established in 1892.

The basic duty of the recorder, to record at length and in the order of their receipt all instruments in writing, has remained essentially unchanged; legislation has been directed toward the extension of categories of instruments entitled to be recorded.¹¹ Conveyances of title to land, a

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1. The Secretary of State, ex officio (L. 1845, p. 52). In 1854 the office became independent, filled by election, and known as that of Superintendent of Public Instruction (L. 1854, p. 13), which is its present status. (L. 1909, p. 343).
 2. L. 1845, p. 54.
 3. Prior to 1917, the rights, powers, and duties of this department were vested in the State Board of Health, abolished in that year (L. 1917, p. 4,17,27,28).
 4. L. 1915, p. 637-40.
 5. L. 1819, p. 18-20.
 6. *Ibid.*, p. 19.
 7. L. 1835, p. 166.
 8. An elected officer; see Clerks of Courts, p. 156.
 9. Const. 1848, Art. V, sec. 19; L. 1849, p. 64.
 10. Const. 1870, Art. X, sec. 8; R.S. 1874, p. 833.
 11. L. 1819, p. 18-20; R.L. 1829, p. 117,118; R.L. 1833, p. 511; R.S. 1845, p. 305,431,432,606; L. 1851, p. 80; L. 1859, p. 124; L. 1869, p. 2; R.S. 1874, p. 833,834; L. 1921, p. 756,757; L. 1925, p. 520-22.

major category of such records, frequently involve another county officer, the surveyor. Established by the second General Assembly, the office of surveyor was at first filled by appointment by that body,¹ later by election.² In 1936 the surveyor again became an appointed officer, with the power of appointment delegated to the county board.³ His duty to perform all surveys he may be called on to make within his county has undergone only minor change, but the importance of the office has declined; the acts of any surveyor, properly acknowledged and certified, have equal standing before the law with those of the county surveyor; no maps or plats have any legal effect unless recorded by the recorder.⁴

Public Works

Roads and Bridges

Public roads and bridges were first under the superintendence of the county commissioners' court which was authorized to locate new roads and alter or vacate existing roads.⁵ The act providing for such superintendence empowered the commissioners to appoint freeholders in each township to act as supervisors, each appointment to be for a one-year period. New roads were to be opened by the county commissioners' court upon petition of residents of the county and a favorable report from the road viewers and surveyor. A few years later the county commissioners were authorized to divide the county into road districts and to appoint annually one supervisor to serve in each district.⁶ With a change in the county administrative body under the second constitution, the county court was granted supervision and control over public roads,⁷ but the care and superintendence of roads and bridges in counties electing the township form of government were granted to the commissioners of highways, elected annually in each town.⁸ The commissioners divided the town into road districts, and overseers of highways in each district were to repair the roads and carry out orders of the commissioners. In counties not electing the township form, the system of road districts was continued.⁹ The supervision, control and maintenance of roads, highways and bridges in Peoria County were vested in the county court and the road district supervisors from 1849 to 1850, when township organization

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1. L. 1821, p. 62.
 2. L. 1835, p. 166.
 3. L. 1933, p. 1104. Provision effective in 1936.
 4. R.L. 1829, p. 173; R.L. 1833, p. 511; L. 1845, p. 201; L. 1869, p. 241, 242; R.S. 1874, p. 1050,1051; L. 1901, p. 307,308; L. 1915, p. 575.
 5. L. 1819, p. 333.
 6. L. 1825, p. 130.
 7. L. 1849, p. 65; L. 1851, p. 179.
 8. L. 1849, p. 212.
 9. L. 1847, p. 111-13; L. 1849, p. 65,212,213; L. 1851, p. 64,179.

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was instituted in this county.¹ In 1913 the State Highway Department was established, and provision was made for the appointment by the county board of a county superintendent of highways.² The entire system was centralized by subjecting the county superintendent to the rules and regulations of the state highway commissioner and by requiring candidates for county superintendent to be approved by the state commissioner before appointment by the county board. The term of office of the county superintendent was set at six years, and his salary was to be fixed by the county board. A board of highway commissioners was set up in each township to superintend matters relating to roads and bridges. Although the county superintendent was to act on behalf of the county in regard to roads and bridges, and although he was subject to removal by the county board, he was regarded as a deputy of the state highway engineer, subject to his directions. This indicates the intention of the legislature to unify the entire state system of roads and bridges. In 1917 the Department of Public Works and Buildings assumed the rights, powers, and duties vested in the State Highway Department,³ but the county organization has remained essentially the same since 1913.

Public Buildings

The county is given the power to hold, own and convey real estate for county purposes.⁴ This power is exercised by the county board which is charged with the care and custody of all the real and personal property owned by the county. Throughout the period of statehood it has been provided that a courthouse and jail be erected in each county,⁵ and that the sheriff of each county be charged with custody of such buildings.⁶ The county is further empowered to erect buildings for a county hospital, workhouse, tuberculosis sanitarium, and other county needs.⁷

The county superintendent of schools is charged with the inspection of plans and specifications for public school rooms and buildings; and the approval of only those which comply with the specifications prepared by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction.⁸ He is also to request the Department of Public Health,⁹ the state fire marshal or the state architect to inspect public school buildings which appear to be unsafe.

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1. Peoria County adopted township organization in 1849, but it did not become effective until 1850.
 2. L. 1913, p. 521-25, 537-46.
 3. L. 1917, p. 24; L. 1921, p. 780-86.
 4. R.S. 1874, p. 306.
 5. L. 1819, p. 237, 238; R.S. 1845, p. 135; R.S. 1874, p. 307, 308.
 6. R.L. 1827, p. 246, 247, 372; R.S. 1874, p. 990.
 7. Ibid., p. 307; L. 1909, p. 163; L. 1911, p. 246.
 8. L. 1915, p. 637-40.
 9. Created in 1917 to supplant the State Board of Health abolished in that year (L. 1917, p. 4, 17, 27).

unsanitary, or unfit for occupancy. Upon receipt of an unfavorable report from these officials, the county superintendent is to condemn the building and notify the board of directors or board of education, and the board of school trustees.

Drainage

In 1850 an act of Congress provided for the granting of swamp and overflowed lands to various states.¹ The land so granted to Illinois was turned over to the counties in 1852 to be reclaimed by drainage and used for county purposes.² Such lands were to be under the care and superintendence of the county court which was to appoint a "Drainage Commissioner" to conduct the sales of such lands. The county surveyor was to prepare plats of the swamp lands and return such plats to the clerk of the county court, whereupon the court fixed the valuation upon each tract. The purchasers of these tracts were given a certificate by the drainage commissioner, and a deed was later executed by the county court. The court was to sell only enough swamp lands to insure reclamation of all such land, any balance to be granted to the several townships to be used for educational purposes. At the discretion of the county, such balance could also be used for the construction of roads or bridges, or for other public works.

In 1865 the commissioners of highways in each town became a board of drainage commissioners, ex officio.³ Where a proposed drain ran through more than one town the commissioners of all the towns affected made up the board of drainage commissioners.⁴ In 1879 drainage construction by special assessment was handled by the drainage commissioners, a body corporate and politic composed of commissioners of highways.⁵

Provision was first made for the organization of drainage districts for agricultural, sanitary, and mining purposes in 1879. Petitions were to be filed with the county clerk and hearings on the same were to be had before the county court. When the court found in favor of the petitioners, it appointed three disinterested persons as commissioners to lay out and construct the work. Petitions for the construction of drains to cost less than \$5,000 were to be presented to justices of the peace, if the petitioners so elected, and the commissioners of highways were to perform the duties of drainage commissioners in such cases.⁶ In 1885 this law was amended to include drains costing less than \$2,000 and provided for the appointment of three residents as commissioners.⁷

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1. 9 U.S. Stat. 519.
 2. L. 1852, p. 178.
 3. L. 1865, p. 50.
 4. L. 1867, p. 91,92.
 5. L. 1879, p. 142.
 6. Ibid., p. 120.
 7. L. 1885, p. 130,131.

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Public Services

Public Health

The State Department of Public Health, created in 1917,¹ is charged with general supervision of the health and lives of the people of the state. In conformance with this legislative order it is empowered to supervise, aid, direct, and assist local health authorities or agencies in administration of the health laws. Public health districts may be organized along subcounty lines with a board of health in each. The names of such districts are to be filed with the county clerk to complete their organization. Annually, each board of health certifies to the county clerk the rate of a public health tax to be levied in each district, the clerk being responsible for setting out the proper taxes upon the warrant books and transmitting them to the collector as provided for in regard to other taxes.²

Control of the state health department over lodging houses, boarding houses, taverns, inns, and hotels is effected through the county clerk, the proprietors of such establishments being required to file with the clerk an annual statement containing details as to sleeping accommodations for guests.³ The clerk is also required to report annually to the state health department the names and addresses of township officials.⁴

Mosquito abatement districts are organized upon petition to the county judge of the county in which such territory lies, such petitions being filed with the county clerk. If, after hearing, the county judge determines that the organization of a district is necessary, the question is submitted to the residents of the territory at a special election. The judges of election make return to the county judge, and the results are entered upon the records of the county court. A majority of the votes favoring it, a mosquito abatement district is thereupon organized.⁵

County officials also enter into the state's control of public swimming pools. When a representative of the State Department of Public Health finds conditions that warrant the closing of such a pool, the owner of the pool and the sheriff and state's attorney of the county are notified to that effect, it being the duty of these officers to enforce such notices.⁶

Vital Statistics

The State Department of Public Health has charge of the registration

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1. L. 1917, p. 4.
 2. Ibid., p. 27, 28, 763, 765, 767, 768.
 3. L. 1901, p. 305.
 4. L. 1923, p. 480.
 5. L. 1927, p. 694.
 6. L. 1931, p. 735, 736.

of births, stillbirths, and deaths throughout the state.¹ To effect proper control of this matter the state is divided into vital statistics registration districts which, in Peoria County, are identical with the townships. The township clerk acts as the local registrar in these districts and receives certificates of births and deaths occurring in the district. Burial permits are issued by the registrar and are later returned to him for filing.

The local registrar is required to deposit monthly with the county clerk a complete set of records of births, stillbirths, and deaths registered during the month, and the clerk is charged with binding and indexing, or recording, and safekeeping of such records. The original certificates are sent monthly by the local registrars to the state health department which certifies annually to the county clerk the number of births, stillbirths, and deaths registered in the county.

The county board is to appropriate money for the payment of the local registrars' fees. Such amounts are charges against the county, and the county clerk is required to issue warrants on the county treasurer for the amount of fees payable to the registrars.

The county also enters into the enforcement phase of this matter. The state health department reports cases of violations of any provisions of the act relating to registration to the state's attorney who is to initiate and follow up court proceedings against violators.

Since 1937 the county clerk has been required to keep a record of applications for marriage licenses, together with certificates, showing that persons desiring to marry are free from venereal diseases.²

When a marriage has been performed the certificates of marriage together with the license is returned to the county clerk, who is required to keep a registry of marriages, showing the date, names of the parties and name and title of the official performing the ceremony.³

Public Assistance

Public assistance is administered through the services of the county department of public welfare, the county home, the blind examiner, the probation officer, the county clerk, and the county board.

The county department of public welfare is headed by a superintendent appointed by the county board after approval by the State Department of

1. L. 1915, p. 660-70.
2. L. 1937, p. 906-11.
3. R.S. 1874, p. 696.

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Public Welfare.¹ He assists the state department in the operation of welfare plans and policies within the county and has charge of the administration of old age assistance.² In this latter regard the county department acts merely as the agent of the state department, investigating applicants and reporting results.

The county home is an establishment for the maintenance and care of indigents. Its management and finances are provided by the county board.³ Blind assistance is administered in the county through appropriations by the county board together with state funds. An examiner of the blind, appointed by the county board, examines all applicants referred to him by the county clerk.⁴ The county court has jurisdiction in the administration of the mothers' pension fund. A probation officer, an appointee of the court for this purpose, investigates and visits cases of indigent mothers who are entitled to benefit.⁵

A veterans' relief commission may be organized in counties of 75,000 or more inhabitants where there are two or more veterans' posts. The county board and the commission have general supervision of the distribution of all moneys and supplies appropriated by the county for the benefit of indigent war veterans.⁶

Coordination of Functions

From the foregoing discussion of functions of the county government it is apparent that the county plays a dual role, that of a body politic and that of an agent of the state. In its first capacity the county, through its officials, is capable of suing and being sued, purchasing, holding, and selling property, making contracts, and raising revenue for its proper operation. As a state agent it fits into a state-wide program on various matters of public concern, acting under the supervision and control of the state and coordinating the activities of subcounty agencies and officials.

Coordination of county activities is effected chiefly through the county clerk. An illustration of this is the part this official plays in the election procedure where there is no board of election commissioners.⁷ As ministerial officer of the county board he notifies the judges and clerks

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1. L. 1937, p. 451,452.
 2. L. 1935-36, First Sp. Sess., p. 54-61,72; L. 1937, p. 265-70,452.
 3. L. 1936, p. 1057.
 4. L. 1903, p. 138; L. 1915, p. 256,257; L. 1935, p. 264,265.
 5. L. 1913, p. 127-30; L. 1915, p. 243-45; L. 1921, p. 162-64; L. 1935, p. 256-59.
 6. L. 1933, p. 211; L. 1935, p. 266.
 7. See Elections, p. 160, for explanation of development and control of the election machinery.

of elections of their appointment, supplies blanks and poll books, receives copies of registers of voters, issues notices of election, receives and preserves returns, canvasses votes with assistance of two justices of the peace and retains the abstracts, transmits copies of election returns and abstracts of votes to the Secretary of State, and issues certificates of election. Where there is a board of election commissioners most of the clerical work is done by the board, however, the county clerk completes the procedure by sending copies of election returns to the Secretary of State, and issuing certificates of election.

Records System

County records in the State of Illinois have suffered from the lack of an adequate program of legislation designed to secure uniformity in recordation and to insure the proper care of those documents which have permanent value. However, from the inception of statehood, some effort has been made to coordinate the records systems of the several counties and to preserve their archives.

In attempting to establish state-wide uniformity among counties, the General Assembly has at times provided detailed descriptions of required records and in many instances has supplied the very forms to be used. Laws relating to the duties and powers of county officers usually contained some such provisions. Thus in 1819, the recorder of the county was ordered to supply "parchment or good large books, of royal or other large paper, well bound and covered" wherein to record all deeds and conveyances brought to him for that purpose. He was also to keep a fair book in which to enter every deed or writing to be recorded, noting the date, the parties, and the place where the lands were situated, such entries to be made according to priority of time.¹ In 1833 he was required to keep an alphabetical index to each book,² and by 1874 the General Assembly had prescribed a complete list of books to be kept in the office of the recorder, with a description of the contents of each, which list has been continued, substantially unchanged, to the present.³

In like manner, legislation was enacted prescribing records to be kept by the county clerk and his predecessors, acting in their several capacities,⁴ the clerk of the circuit court,⁵ the judge⁶ and justice of the probate

1. L. 1819, p. 13,20.

2. S.L. 1833, p. 511.

3. R.S. 1874, p. 334.

4. L. 1849, p. 66,203; L. 1859, p. 92,94; L. 1865, p. 93; R.S. 1874, p. 261-35,352; L. 1933, p. 293-95.

5. R.L. 1833, p. 152; R.S. 1845, p. 147; L. 1847, p. 70; L. 1849, p. 9; L. 1865, p. 93; R.S. 1874, p. 282,265; L. 1933, p. 293,294.

6. R.L. 1829, p. 231.

Governmental Organization
and Records System

court,¹ the coroner,² the county superintendent of schools,³ the county surveyor,⁴ and the county treasurer.⁵

Description of records and forms to be used are frequently found in legislation pertaining to the holding of elections,⁶ assessments and the collection of revenue,⁷ the organization and maintenance of common schools,⁸ the registration of marriages,⁹ and the recording of vital statistics.¹⁰

While there has been enacted much legislation prescribing the kind of records to be kept, only a few laws deal with the safeguarding and preservation of county archives. In 1819 the General Assembly directed the clerks of the circuit and county commissioners' courts to provide "a safe press or presses with locks and keys for the safe-keeping of the archives of their offices..."¹¹ In 1843 the county commissioners' courts were authorized, and required whenever the finances of the county would justify the expenditure, to erect a fireproof recorder's office at the county seat, or if the commissioners were of the opinion that any unappropriated room in their court-houses could be made fireproof, to make it so and house the office and records of the recorder there. At the discretion of the county commissioners' court, the provisions of this act might be deemed to apply to the offices of the clerks of the circuit and county commissioners' courts.¹² Similar in content but slightly different in wording is a later enactment in which the county commissioners' courts were authorized to "erect, build, and provide permanent fireproof rooms, houses or vaults, for the purpose of placing therein and preserving from injury, damage, loss, or destruction by fire, the records and documents of their respective counties."¹³ The preser-

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1. R.S. 1845, p. 427,428.
 2. R.L. 1833, p. 574; L. 1869, p. 104,105; R.S. 1874, p. 233.
 3. L. 1849, p. 155,156; L. 1865, p. 120; L. 1909, p. 346,348,349.
 4. R.L. 1829, p. 173; R.S. 1845, p. 524.
 5. *Ibid.*, p. 138; R.S. 1874, p. 323,324.
 6. L. 1819, p. 92,94; R.L. 1827, p. 291,292; R.L. 1829, p. 59,60; L. 1845, p. 41,42; L. 1849, p. 73,74; L. 1865, p. 54,55; L. 1871-72, p. 386-89, 391; L. 1885, p. 143,148,173,176; L. 1937, p. 522-29,531-48.
 7. R.L. 1827, p. 329-33; L. 1838-39, p. 4,5,7,8,12,13,17; L. 1845, p. 6-9, 12,14,15; L. 1849, p. 37,38,124-26; L. 1851, p. 53,55,56; L. 1853, p. 17,24,50,55,77,78,111,112; L. 1871-72, p. 19,23,32,48,49,54.
 8. L. 1825, p. 127; R.L. 1833, p. 563; L. 1841, p. 263,270-72; L. 1845, p. 53,54,65-68; L. 1847, p. 121-23,142-44; R.S. 1874, p. 950,957,958, 964.
 9. L. 1819, p. 27; R.L. 1827, p. 283,289; R.S. 1874, p. 694,695.
 10. L. 1842-43, p. 210-12; L. 1877, p. 209; L. 1901, p. 301-4; L. 1903, p. 315-18; L. 1915, p. 666,667.
 11. L. 1819, p. 332.
 12. L. 1842-45, p. 210.
 13. L. 1845, p. 46.

vation of county archives has been greatly aided by an act to provide for the copying of old, worn-out records,¹ and by a law authorizing the transfer of county records having historic value to the Illinois State Historical Library, the Archives Division of the Illinois State Library or to the State University Library at Urbana.² Provision is made in this act for the substitution of accurate copies of these documents if such action be deemed necessary. In 1907 the act was amended to include among the institutions to which old records might be sent, any historical society incorporated and located within a particular county.³ Laws have also been enacted which provide for the restoration of certain classes of records destroyed by fire or other means.⁴ In 1935 the General Assembly appropriated money for the construction of a fireproof building at Springfield for the purpose of storing therein the archives and records of the state.⁵ The erection of this structure, the State Archives Building, has helped to make possible the inauguration of an intelligent, farsighted program for the preservation of papers and documents of historic value.

There are still serious omissions in legislation pertaining to recordation. For instance, Illinois has no law prescribing the kinds of inks to be used in keeping records. And, although laws have been enacted authorizing the provision of fireproof accommodations for county documents, they are permissive rather than mandatory in character.⁶ Legislation enabling the destruction of worthless archives apparently is nonexistent with the exception of laws relating to certain election papers.⁷ The enactment of legislation which would remedy these defects in the laws and continue the trend toward state-wide uniformity among counties would result in an intelligent, economical records system for the State of Illinois.

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1. L. 1871-72, p. 648,649.
 2. L. 1897, p. 205; L. 1939, p. 693.
 3. L. 1907, p. 375.
 4. L. 1871-72, p. 649,650,652.
 5. L. 1935, p. 138.
 6. L. 1843-45, p. 210; L. 1845, p. 46.
 7. L. 1861, p. 269; L. 1871-72, p. 382; L. 1385, p. 146,193; L. 1891, p. 118,119; L. 1917, p. 438,443.

3. HOUSING, CARE AND ACCESSIBILITY OF THE RECORDS

Sixty-five years old, the courthouse of Peoria County located in the City of Peoria is crowded with the records of over one hundred years of county government. The building is classical in design, the dome, pediments, balustrade, columned porch effecting a resemblance on a smaller scale to the State Capitol at Springfield. Located in the oldest section of the City of Peoria, the courthouse is only three blocks from the Illinois River which at this point flows from the northeast to southwest. The streets here were surveyed to run parallel with the river.¹ Main Street is at a right angle to the river and is the west boundary of the public square; streets running generally north and south parallel to the river are divided by Main Street. Thus, North Jefferson Avenue is on the north of the public square and North Adams Street on the south; Hamilton Boulevard is on the east.

Cruciform as to plan and three stories in height, with the third story in effect two and the north and south wings including a partial fourth floor, this distinctive building was erected in 1876-78 at a cost of over a quarter of a million dollars. It is the second expressly built county government headquarters unit; a temporary house was employed before the first courthouse was built in 1834-36.² The present building also has a basement - almost entirely unfinished; in it there is but one storeroom, where the circuit clerk keeps early naturalization papers and 83 volumes of minute books, and the coroner stores a box of inquest papers. There is an electric elevator in the center of the rotunda and stairways lead from the rotunda to the various floors. The main entrance is from the south, North Adams Street, up an ornamental flight of stairs to a pillared porch from which the second floor level is reached by a short series of steps. However, in practice, the public generally uses the Main Street entrance which is to the first floor. There is also a first floor entrance from the Hamilton Boulevard facade. Entrance to the first floor, on the North Jefferson Avenue front, is through the public comfort stations.

Most of the principal county officers have their offices located in the courthouse. Out of a total of 26 record depositories, only 6 are vaults, including the basement storeroom. These vaults are very small, that of the county clerk being 7 x 12 feet in size; the circuit clerk

1. County Commissioners' Court Record, v. A, p. 42, in Supervisors' Record, see entry 2.

2. See Historical Sketch, p. 51-58, for history of courthouses.

Does not use his vault as a record depository at all. That offices are large in size is fortunate as the bulk of records are filed therein. The building is well constructed of stone, brick, and steel and has been kept in good repair. However, the structure is only approximately fifty per cent fireproof and lack of adequate vault facilities endangers the best preservation of valuable records.

The question of space has been a problem since 1912. In that year, remodeling of the second floor of the porticos on Main Street and Hamilton Boulevard fronts gave several additional rooms. Recommendation was made at this time to build an additional floor in the branch courtrooms which are two stories in height. The Committee on Public Buildings reported on March 15, 1918 that they had investigated the possibility of preparing several rooms in the basement and outlined the changes necessary.¹ A letter from W. M. Allen & Company was included in the report, stating "that a price of \$3,000 is more than enough to do the work."² County board records do not show what action was taken subsequent to the March 1918 term. An attempt to build a new courthouse was made in 1924, but at an election held on April 7, 1925, voters refused to approve the issue of bonds for \$1,250,000, and the levying of a special tax.³ A similar attempt to launch the building of a new courthouse was made again in December 1939. The bond issue was to be for \$1,500,000. This proposition, too, failed to receive approval by the people on February 20, 1940.⁴

Five main county offices are on the first floor, those of the recorder, treasurer, coroner, probate judge, and probate clerk. The recorder and the treasurer have their offices in the west wing, to the south and north of the corridor from the Main Street entrance; the recorder has a rear office in the south wing and the treasurer as supervisor of assessments, ex officio, has a room for this purpose in the north wing. The coroner has his office in the north wing, the North Jefferson Avenue front. On the Hamilton Boulevard side, the east wing, is the office of the probate judge and the probate court room; the probate clerk's main office and center room are on the south side of the east wing and his rear room is in the south wing, the North Adams Street front.⁵

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1. Supervisors' Record, v. 8, p. 379,380,385, see entry 2.
 2. Proceedings of the Board of Supervisors (Supervisors' Files), f.b. Sept. 1915 - Dec. 1919, see entry 1.
 3. Supervisors' Record, v. 10, p. 455,456,556.
 4. Ibid., v. 15, p. 66,74,89.
 5. For floor plans of the courthouse, see p. 188-92.

Housing, Care and Accessibility of the Records

While the second floor is divided into a greater number of rooms or offices than the first floor, it too has five principal county offices - county clerk, circuit clerk, sheriff, state's attorney, and auditor. The county clerk's main office, west room, and record room occupy most of the space in the west wing; the circuit clerk's rear room is in the west wing and his main office and vault are in the south wing. The sheriff's office is across the hall from the circuit clerk's main office; the sheriff also has a private office and a vault. The main office of the state's attorney occupies the center of the north wing, extending into the North Jefferson Avenue portico where this officer has four private consultation offices. In this wing, west of the state's attorney's main office, is the mothers' pension office, a waiting room, and the office of the county judge. Entrance to the mothers' pension office may be made from the county clerk's main office and off the passageway is the county clerk's vault. To the east of the state's attorney's office is the office of the superintendent of highways, which includes a vault. Office of the auditor is in the east wing and includes a large main office with a small rear office and a private office. The board of review room is also in the east wing in the Hamilton Boulevard portico. Occupying a large portion of the east wing is the board of supervisors' room.

The third floor is mainly devoted to court rooms and judges' chambers. The principal court room for the circuit court is in the east wing and is two stories in height. In the west wing are two branch circuit court rooms with judges' chambers. Two other judges' chambers are in the north wing and in the east wing is the county court room and offices of the adult probation officer and master in chancery.

Offices on the fourth floor are only in the north and south wings; the upper parts of the third floor circuit court rooms occupy the east and west wings. The superintendent of schools has a main office and vault and a private office in the north wing. This officer also has a storage room in the south wing between the old jury room and the present jury room. In addition to the office of the superintendent of schools in the north wing is the office of the juvenile probation officer.

Besides these county offices in the courthouse, several other officials maintain offices in outside locations. The veterinarian has his office in the Peoria County Farm Bureau Building, 234 North Madison Street. The superintendent of public welfare, old age assistance, has his office in the Pere Marquette Garage Building, 115 North Madison Street. The superintendent of the county home and the superintendent of the county hospital have their offices in their respective institutions on Rural Route Number 1, six miles west of the courthouse. The superintendent of the juvenile detention home keeps his records at the home, 501 East Gift Street. Records of the superintendent of the veterans relief commission are maintained at Peoria Post Number 2, American Legion Building, 404 North Monroe Street. The sheriff, besides his office in the courthouse, also has an office in the county jail, 310 Hamilton Street; jail records are kept here.

Certain officers or official bodies do not maintain separate offices and such records or reports as are made become part of the records of other offices. Thus, the records of the surveyor are found in the recorder's office; the reports of the county nurse and mine inspector are made to the county board and are found in its records; reports of the county nurse are also made to the superintendent of schools. Records of special drainage commissioners are kept by the county clerk and in his miscellaneous files will be found reports by the board of directors of the tuberculosis sanitarium district. The Farm Bureau and Home Bureau have separate offices but are not closely related to the county governmental structure being in part private and also cooperative with the state and Federal governments.

As the accompanying charts show, the largest record offices like those of the county and circuit clerks' have little space available for storage of records. Vault space, too, is limited. Out of a total of 5,706 record volumes, only 210 are kept in vaults; this is less than four percent. The percentage of files kept in vaults is somewhat higher, approximately twelve percent or 805 files out of a total of 6,354. (For allocation of records in the depositories according to county offices, as well as percentages of records stored therein, see charts on pages 180-82; for detailed information concerning individual depositories with a description of facilities for the housing of records, see charts on pages 183-97.)

Several remedies suggest themselves to relieve the congestion of records in offices and provide fireproof vault space. A separate fireproof office building for offices might be built as county board records indicate was done in 1898,¹ and recommended to be done in 1925.² The installation of concrete floors walling off of rooms and other necessary construction, as reported by the Committee on Public Buildings in March 1918, to provide vaults in the basement of the courthouse, would be less costly than the erection of a separate building. Some counties whose courthouses were built on the cruciform plan have gained extra room by making additions at the various corners, thus changing the building to a rectangular structure.

Inasmuch as county records accumulate rapidly today, particularly in a county as large as Peoria, adequate vault storage room should be available. Some such step as those outlined would assure the depositories needed. Steel furniture, cabinets, counters, the county board has

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1. Supervisors' Record, v. B, p. 120-22, see entry 2. Contract reported made with A. J. Hodges and Luther Card, April 28, 1898, to build fireproof offices for the sum of \$16,500.
 2. Ibid., v. 7, p. 556.

Housing, Care and Accessibility of the Records

always provided, the first steel equipment being installed in the county and circuit clerks' offices in 1896.¹

County board records show that the binding and repair of record volumes has been scrupulously carried out. While the system of indexing and filing of records follows practices generally adopted and employed in other counties of Illinois, in Peoria County the quantity of records requires more extensive indexes.

1. Supervisors' Record, v. 4, p. 294, see entry 2.

CHART OF COUNTY OFFICES SHOWING PERCENTAGE OF RECORDS IN DEPOSITORIES

Office	Volumes	Files	Other	Depository and Percent of Records
County board	97	335 f.b.	1 box	co. clk.'s main off. 50.4; co. clk.'s record rm. 48.1; old jury room 1.5
County clerk	1848	817 f.b.	319 sacks	co. clk.'s main off. 62.1; co. clk.'s record rm. 13.5; co. clk.'s vlt. 1.1; old jury room 23.3
Recorder	1568	173 f.b.	78 plats	recorder's main off. 93.5; recorder's rear room 6.5
County court	438	783 f.b. 43 f.d.	- - -	co. clk.'s main off. 29.2; co. clk.'s vault 10.7; co. clk.'s record room 18.7; off. juv. pro. officer 0.3; old jury room 41.1
Probate court	562	1,296 f.b.	- - -	pro. clk.'s main off. 81.4; pro. clk.'s center rm. 18.6
Circuit court	852	2,490 f.b. 6 f.d.	1 carton	cir. clk.'s main off. 26.2; circ. clk.'s rear rm. 59.3; adult probation off. 4.8; strm. basement 7.7
Sheriff	98	25 f.b.	- - -	sheriff's off. 29; sheriff's vault 54; old jury rm. 12; off. in co. jail 7
Coroner	16	195 f.b.	1 box	cor.'s off. 79.3; cor.'s vlt. 18.2; strm. bsmt. 2.5
State's attorney	7	16 f.d.	- - -	state's attorney's main office 100
Supervisor of assessment	- - -	133 f.b.	- - -	co. clk.'s main off. 15; treasurer's office 85
Board of review	26	- - -	- - -	county clerk's record room 100
Collector	13	3 f.b.	46 bdl.	treas.'s off. 8.4; treas.'s vlt. 83.4; old jury rm. 4.2; county clerk's main office 4

Treasurer	35	28 f.b.	-- --	treas.'s off. 21; treas.'s vlt. 52.7; old jury room 26.3
Auditor	38	3 f.b.	-- --	auditor's main off. 31.6; auditor's rear rm. 55.3; auditor's private rm. 13.1
Superintendent of schools	70	29 f.b. 28 f.d.	121 bdl.	main off. of supt. of sch. 40; old jury room 31.1 vlt. of supt. of sch. 28.9
Superintendent of highways	14	46 f.d.	-- --	office of superintendent of highways 100
Surveyor	-- --	-- --	-- --	records are kept in recorder's main office
Drainage commissioners	4	.	-- --	county clerk's main office 100
Veterinarian	-- --	10 f.b.	-- --	office of veterinarian 100
Department of public welfare	-- --	40 f.d.	-- --	old age assistance office 100
County home	12	2 f.d.	4 bdl.	office of superintendent of county home 100
County hospital	3	3 f.d.	-- --	office of superintendent of county hospital 100
County nurse	-- --	-- --	-- --	reports sent to superintendent of schools and to county board
Tuberculosis sanitarium district	-- --	-- --	-- --	board of directors reports to county board

CHART OF COUNTY OFFICES SHOWING PERCENTAGE OF RECORDS IN DEPOSITORIES

Office	Volumes	Files	Other	Depository and Percent of records
Juvenile detention home	5	10 f.d.	--	office of supt. of juvenile detention home 100
Veterans' relief commission	--	3 f.d.	--	office of commissioner 100
Mine inspector	--	--	--	reports sent to State Department of Mines and Minerals; summary of mines inspected to county board
Farm bureau	--	--	--	reports sent to State and Federal Departments of Agriculture
Home bureau	--	--	--	reports sent to State and Federal Departments of Agriculture

CHART OF DEPOSITORIES, SHOWING LOCATION, CONTENTS, AND CONDITION

Peoria County Courthouse, Public Square, N. Jefferson Ave., Hamilton Blvd., N. Adams, and Main streets, Peoria
 (Three stories, stone and brick; 50% fireproof construction [1876-78]: 1,000,000 cubic feet)

Depository	Floor Location	Dimensions	Floors	Walls & Ceiling	Light & Ventilation	Accommodation	Housing Facilities			Accessibility and condition		
							Shelving		Quantity of Records			
							Type	In use	Vols.		Files	Other
Co. clk.'s main off.	2nd w.	17x45x34	lino-leum on wood	plaster	electric 4 win-dows	4 tables 6 chairs	steel 1450 ft.	1450 ft.	1326	916f.b.	---	crowded; more space needed
Co. clk.'s record rm.	2nd w.	17x28x14	lino-leum on wood	plaster	electric 5 win-dows	4 tables 4 chairs	steel 845 ft.	845 ft.	409	354f.b.	---	crowded; more space needed
Co. clk.'s vault	2nd w.	17x7x12	lino-leum on wood	plaster	electric no win-dows	1 small table	steel 395 ft.	395 ft.	19	685f.b.	319 sax	crowded; more space needed
Recorder's main off.	1st sw.	17x49x21	wood	plaster	electric 5 win-dows	4 counters	steel 1776 ft.	1776 ft.	1464	173f.b.	78 plats	crowded; more space, equipment needed
Recorder's rear rm.	1st sw.	15x22x25	wood	plaster	electric 3 win-dows	none	steel 505 ft.	505 ft.	104	--	---	more space needed
Pro. clk.'s main off.	1st se.	15x26x21	lino-leum on wood	plaster	electric 4 win-dows	2 stools 1 counter	steel 929 ft.	929 ft.	463	615f.b.	---	crowded; more space needed
Pro. clk.'s center rm.	1st se.	15x8x13	lino-leum on wood	plaster	electric 1 win-dov	1 table 2 chairs	steel 60 ft.	60 ft.	99	681f.b.	---	crowded; more space needed

CHART OF DEPOSITORIES, SHOWING LOCATION, CONTENTS, AND CONDITION
(Peoria County Courthouse cont.)

Depository	Floor Location	Dimensions	Floors	Walls & Ceiling	Light & Ventilation	Accommodation	Housing Facilities				Accessibility and Condition	
							Shelving		Quantity of Record			
							Type	In use	Vols.	Files		Other
Cir. clk.'s main off.	2nd sw.	17x24x22	lino-leum on wood	plaster	electric 4 win-dows	1 counter	steel 503 ft.	503 ft.	311	9 f.b.	---	crowded; more space needed
Cir. clk.'s rear rm.	2nd sw.	17x35x21	marble wood	plaster	electric 2 win-dows	1 desk	steel 1944 ft.	1944 ft.	408	2465 f.b. 6 f.d.	---	crowded; more space needed
Adult probation off.	3rd s.	14x13x16	lino-leum on tile	plaster	electric 1 win-dow	none	---	---	50	16 f.b.	---	good
Juvenile probation office	4th nw.	12x10x11	wood	plaster	electric 1 win-dow	none	---	---	---	10 f.d.	---	good
Sheriff's office	2nd se.	17x24x21	lino-leum on wood	plaster	electric 4 win-dows	none	steel 138 ft.	138 ft.	27	25 f.b.	---	good
Sheriff's vault	2nd se.	17x9x10	lino-leum on wood	plaster	electric no win-dows	none	steel 20 ft.	20 ft.	54	---	---	good
Coroner's office	2nd ne.	15x24x20	lino-leum on tile	plaster	electric 3 win-dows	2 tables 16 chairs	steel 30 ft.	10 ft.	13	105 f.b.	---	good

Coroner's vault	1st ne.	14x19x7	lino-leum on tile	plaster	electric no win-dow	1 desk 1 chair	steel 15 ft.	6 ft.	3	90f.b.	---	good
Main off. of state's atty	2nd n.	17x13x32	concrete	plaster	electric 1 win-dow	8 chairs	---	---	7	16f.d.	---	good
Treas.'s office	1st nw.	15x45x21	lino-leum on wood	plaster	electric 5 win-dows	1 counter	wood 104 ft.	104 ft.	10	113f.b.	1 bdl.	crowded
Treas.'s vault	1st nw.	15x10x6	wood	plaster	electric no win-dow	none	wood 127 ft.	127 ft.	26	30f.b.	44 bdl.	crowded; more space needed
Auditor's main off.	2nd ne.	17x24x21	lino-leum on wood	plaster	electric 2 win-dows	1 counter 3 chairs	steel 4 ft.	4 ft.	12	3f.b.	---	good
Auditor's rear rm.	2nd ne.	10x15x12	wood	plaster	electric 2 win-dows	1 desk 3 chairs	steel 4 ft.	4 ft.	21	--	--	good
Auditor's private rm.	2nd ne.	14x5x12	lino-leum on concrete	plaster	electric no win-dow	none	--	--	5	--	---	good

CHART OF DEPOSITORIES, SHOWING LOCATION, CONTENTS, AND CONDITION
(Peoria County Courthouse cont.)

Depository	Floor Location	Dimensions	Floors	Walls & ceiling	Light & Ventilation	Accommodation	Housing Facilities				Accessibility and condition	
							Shelving		Quantity of Records			
							Type	In use	Vols.	Files		Other
Main off. of supt. of sch.	4th ne.	12x24x21	lino-leum on wood	plaster	electric 4 win-dows	3 chairs	steel 42 ft.	42 ft.	18	29f.v. 105 bdl. 28f.d.		crowded; more space needed
Vault of supt. of sch.	4th ne.	12x12x13	lino-leum on wood	plaster	electric no win-dow	none	wood 224 ft.	6 ft.	25	---		good
Office of supt. of hws.	2nd n.	17x20x24	lino-leum on wood	plaster	electric 3 win-dows	1 desk 3 chairs	steel 72 ft.	72 ft.	14	46f.d.	---	good
Old Jury room	4th se.	12x31x25	lino-leum on wood	plaster	electric 4 win-dows	none	steel 354 ft.	354 ft.	708	33f.d. 17 bdl. 1 box		crowded; equipment needed
Store-room	bsmt.	10x12x23	con-crete	brick	electric no win-dow	none	wood 84 ft.	84 ft.	83	--	2 boxes	dusty

County Jail, 310 Hamilton Street, Peoria
(Four stories and basement; faced brick with stone trim construction [1916-17]; 288,000 cubic feet)

Sheriff's office	1st	11x15x14	con-crete	plaster	electric 1 win-dow	1 desk 4 chairs	--	--	7	--	---	good
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County Farm Bureau Building, 234 North Madison Street, Peoria
(Two stories; brick, stone trim construction [1923]; 36,000 cubic feet)

Office of veterinarian	2nd	10x10x12	wood	plaster	electric 2 win-dows	1 desk 2 chairs	-- --	-- --	10 f.b.	-- --	good
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Pero Marquette Garage Building, 115 North Madison Street, Peoria
(Three stories; brick and stone construction [1927]; 515,025 cubic feet)

Old age assistance office	1st	12x20x90	lino-leum on concrete	plaster	electric 4 win-dows	1 table 2 desks 6 chairs	-- --	-- --	40 f.d.	-- --	good
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County Home Administration Building, R.R. 1, Peoria, six miles west of courthouse
(Two stories and basement; brick, stone, and tile construction [1931]; 121,600 cubic feet)

Superintendent's office	1st	12x20x15	tile	plaster	electric 2 win-dows	1 desk 3 chairs	-- --	12	2 f.d.	4 bdl.	good
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County Hospital, R.R. 1, Peoria, six miles west of courthouse
(Two stories and basement; brick, stone, and tile construction [1904]; 133,000 cubic feet)

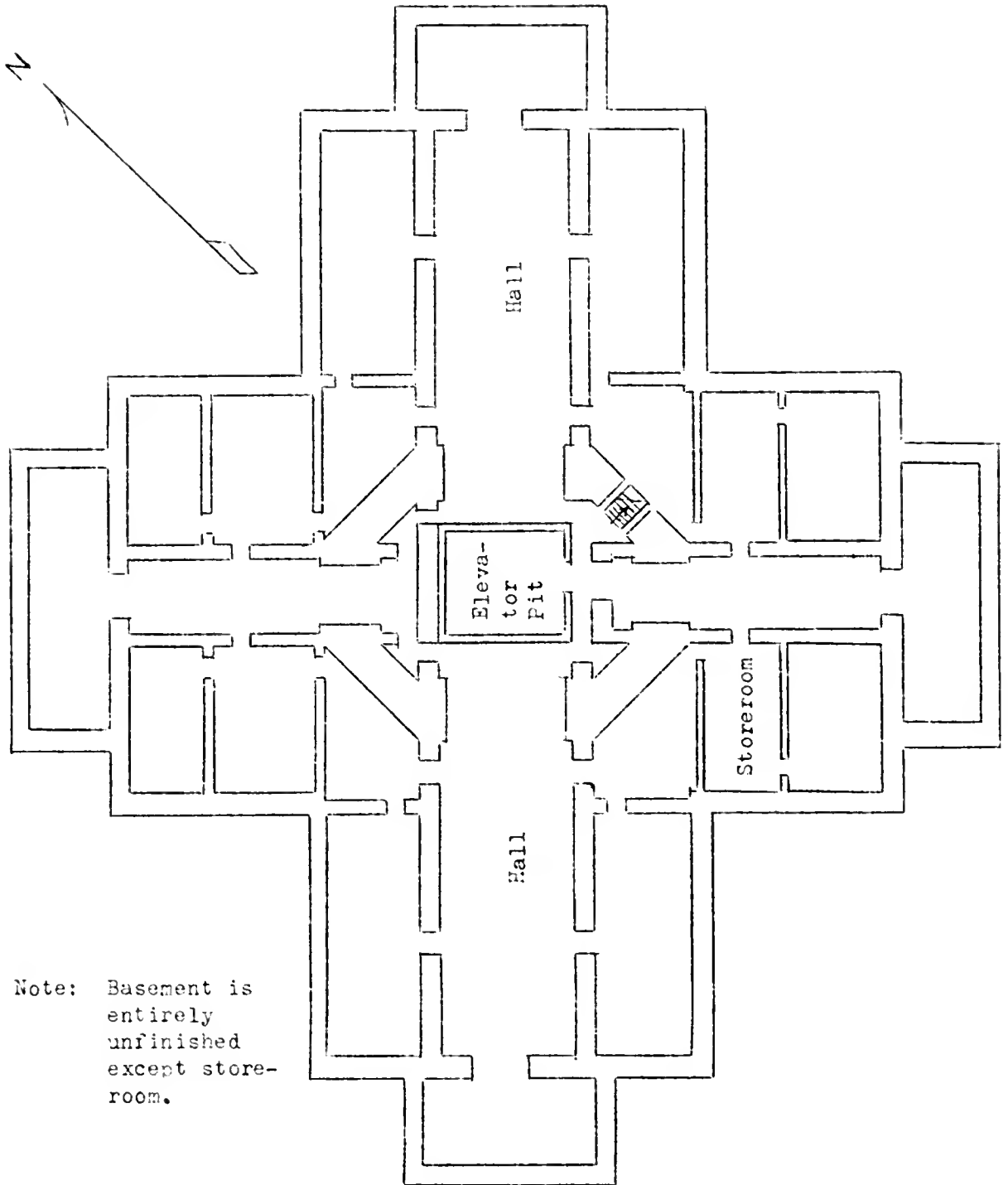
Superintendent's office	1st	12x10x16	lino-leum on wood	plaster	electric 2 win-dows	none	-- --	3	3 f.d.	-- --	good
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County Juvenile Detention Home, 501 East Gift Street, Peoria
(Two stories and basement; brick, stone, and tile construction [1922]; 216,000 cubic feet)

Superintendent's office	1st	12x10x12	wood	concrete plaster	electric 2 win-dows	1 desk 3 chairs	-- --	5	10 f.d.	-- --	good
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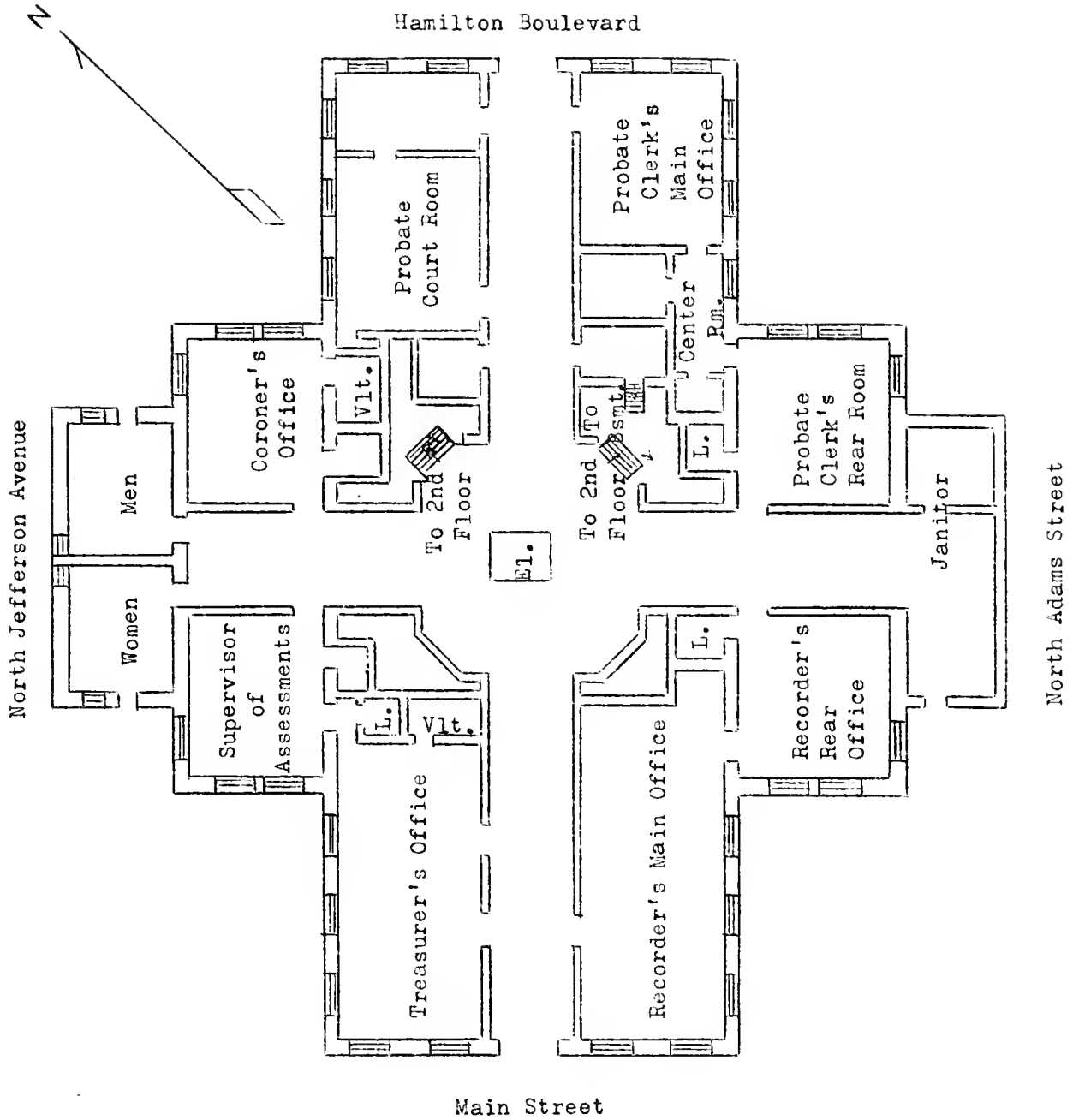
Peoria Post No. 2, American Legion, 404 North Monroe Street, Peoria
(One story; brick construction [1932]; 123,000 cubic feet)

Office of veteran relief commissioner	1st	10x12x30	concrete	plaster	electric 2 win-dows	1 desk 2 chairs	-- --	-- --	3 f.d.	-- --	good
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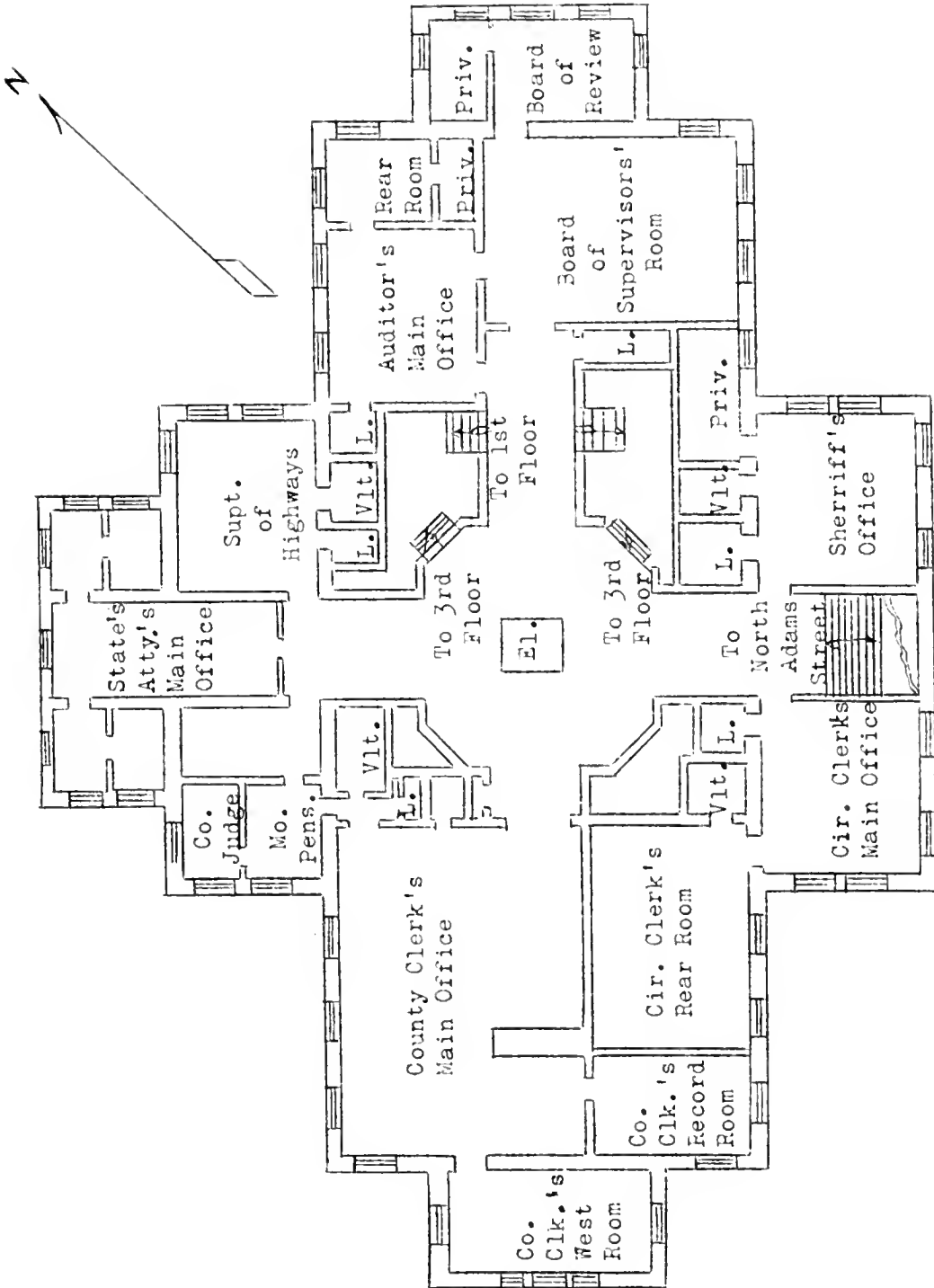


Note: Basement is entirely unfinished except store-room.

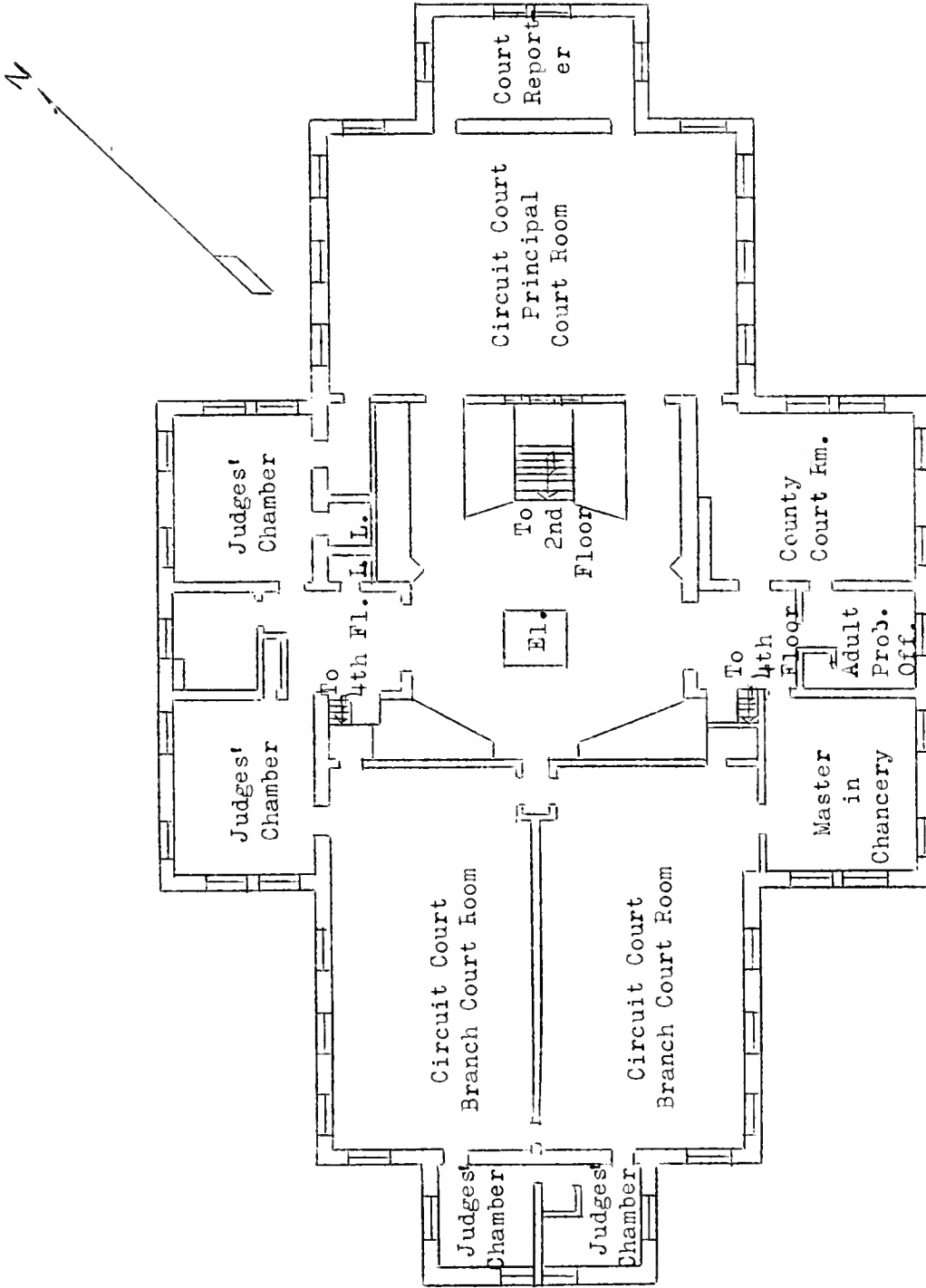
PEORIA COUNTY COURTHOUSE
Basement



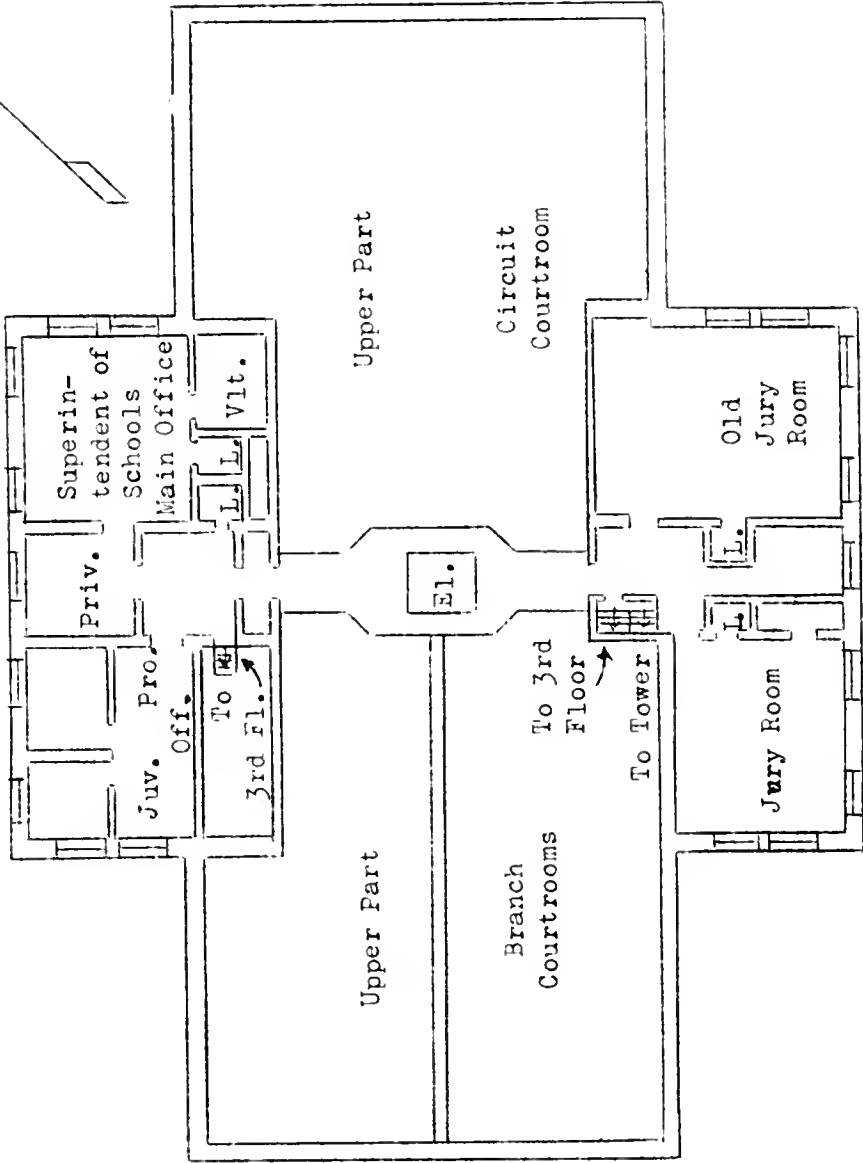
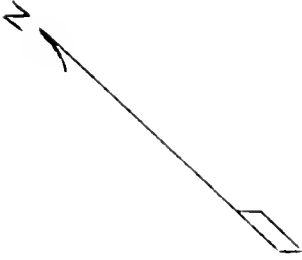
PEORIA COUNTY COURTHOUSE
First Floor



PEORIA COUNTY COURTHOUSE
Second Floor



PEORIA COUNTY COURTHOUSE
Third Floor



PEORIA COUNTY COURTHOUSE
Fourth Floor

4. ABBREVIATIONS, SYMBOLS, AND EXPLANATORY NOTES

alph.	alphabetical(ly)
app.	appendix
arr.	arranged, arrangement
Art.	Article
assr.	assessor
atty.	attorney
aud.	auditor
bd.	board
bdl.	bundle(s)
bldg.	building
bsmt.	basement
cf.	confer, compare
ch.	chapter(s)
chron.	chronological(ly)
cir.	circuit
clk.	clerk
co.	county
coll.	collector
comp.	compiler
Const.	Constitution
cont.	continued
cor.	coroner
ct.	court
dept.	department
ed.	edited, edition, editor
f.b.	file box(es)
f.d.	file drawer(s)
f., ff.	and following (page, pages)
fl.	floor
fm.	form
ft.	feet
gen.	general
hdgs.	headings
hdw.	handwritten
hwys.	highways
ibid.	ibidem (refers to last single source cited)
idem	the same
i.e.	id est (that is)
Ill.	Illinois Reports (Supreme Court)
Ill. App.	Illinois Appellate Court (Reports)
Ill. Rev. Stat.	Illinois Revised Statutes (Smith-Hurd)
Ill. S.A.	Illinois Statutes Annotated
in.	inch(es)
L.	Laws (of Illinois)
n.	footnote(s)
no(s).	number(s)

Abbreviations, Symbols,
and Explanatory Notes

N.W.	Northwestern Reporter
off.	office
p.	page(s)
pr.	printed
Priv. L.	Private Laws (of Illinois)
pro.	probate
rec.	recorder, record
R.L.	Revised Laws (of Illinois)
rm.	room
R.S.	Revised Statutes (of Illinois)
sch.	school(s)
sec.	section(s)
sep.	separate
Sess.	Session
sh.	sheriff
Sp.	Special
strm.	storeroom
supt.	superintendent
surv.	surveyor
treas.	treasurer
twp(s)	township(s)
U.S.C.C.A. Ill.	United States Circuit Court of Appeals (Illinois)
U.S.R.S.	United States Revised Statutes
U.S. Stat.	United States Statutes at Large
v.	volume(s)
vet.	veterinarian
vice.	in place of
vlt.	vault
--	current

1. Despite the inaccuracies in spelling and punctuation, titles of records are shown in the inventory proper exactly as on volumes and file boxes. The current or most recent title is used as the title of the entry and title variation is indicated.

2. Explanatory additions to inadequate titles and corrections of erroneous titles are enclosed in parentheses and have initial capitals.

3. In the absence of titles, supplied titles are capitalized and enclosed in parentheses.

4. In the title line, letters or numbers in parentheses indicate the exact labeling on volumes or file boxes. If no labeling is indicated, it may be assumed that there is none.

5. Title-line cross references are used to show the continuity of a record series which has been kept separately for a period of time and with other records for different periods of time, as in entry 4, "1936-- in Proceedings of the Board of Supervisors, entry 1." The description of the master entry shows the title and entry number of the record from which the

Abbreviations, Symbols,
and Explanatory Notes

cross reference is made, as, for example, these words do in entry 1. "Also contains (County Highway Payroll), 1936--, entry 4." Dates shown in the description of the master entry are only for the part or parts of the record contained therein, and are shown only when they vary from those of the master entry.

6. All dates used are inclusive.

7. When two or more types of containers are considered in a single entry, the quantity is shown in chronological order, insofar as possible.

8. The description of the contents of a record applies only to the current or most recent record unless change in contents is actually shown in a record entry.

9. Separate third-paragraph cross references from entry to entry and see also references with subject headings or subheadings are used to show prior, subsequent, or closely related records which are not parts of the same series.

10. Where no statement is made that the record was discontinued at the last date shown in the entry, it could not be definitely established that such was the case. Where no comment is made on the absence of prior, subsequent, or intermediate records, no definite information could be obtained.

11. Unless the index is self-contained, an entry for the index immediately follows its record entry. Cross references are given for exceptions to this rule. All indexes to records, unless otherwise stated, are self-contained.

12. Records may be assumed to be in good condition unless otherwise indicated.

13. On maps and plats records, the names of author, engraver, and publisher, and information on scale have been omitted only when these data were not ascertainable.

14. Unless otherwise specified, all records are located in the county courthouse. When all or the majority of the records of an office have a common location, the location is indicated in the last sentence of the office essay instead of in each individual entry.

B COUNTY OFFICES
AND
THEIR RECORDS



I. COUNTY BOARD

In Illinois, the county board is that body which exercises the corporate or politic power of the county.¹ In Peoria County since 1825² three bodies have successively acted as a county board; the county commissioners' court, the county court, and the board of supervisors.

The Constitution of 1818 provided that there should be elected in each county, for the purpose of transacting all county business, three commissioners whose term of service, powers, and duties should be regulated and defined by law.³ The first General Assembly denominated the commissioners a court of record, styled the county commissioners' court.⁴ Four annual sessions were required to be held for six days each, unless the business should be completed sooner; additionally, any one of the commissioners had power, upon giving five days' notice to the remaining commissioners and the clerk of the court, to call a special court which had the same authority as at a regular session.⁵ The first commissioners were elected for an irregular term;⁶ subsequently, it was provided that they should be elected at each biennial general election;⁷ and by an act of 1837, the term was lengthened to three years and staggered, with one new commissioner elected annually.⁸ Thereafter, the commissioner who was longest in office was to be recognized as the presiding officer of the court.⁹ Compensation, originally set at the sum of \$2.50 for each day's attendance in holding court,¹⁰ later was reduced to \$1.50.¹¹ In 1821, provision was made for the removal of commissioners for malfeasance or non-

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1. R.L. 1827, p. 107; R.S. 1845, p. 130; R.S. 1874, p. 306.
 2. Peoria County was created in 1825 (L. 1825, p. 85).
 3. Schedule, sec. 4.
 4. L. 1819, p. 175.
 5. Ibid., p. 175, 176.
 6. Ibid., p. 100. The commissioners were to continue in office from the election held on the fourth Monday in April 1819, until the first Wednesday in August 1820, and until their successors were elected and qualified. Not until 1821 was provision made for the election of such successors (L. 1821, p. 80). In Peoria County, the first commissioners held office from March 8, 1825 to August 7, 1826, the next occurrence of a regular biennial election.
 7. L. 1821, p. 80.
 8. L. 1837, p. 103, 104. In 1838, to initiate the new procedure, the three commissioners elected drew lots marked one, two, and three years to determine length of term.
 9. Ibid., p. 104.
 10. L. 1819, p. 176.
 11. R.L. 1827, p. 205.

reassessments, and proceedings as in criminal cases;¹ when the first criminal case was enacted in 1827, the penalty was modified to a fine of not more than \$200, with removal from office only upon recommendation of the jury.² Vacancies resulting from any cause were filled by special election upon order of the clerk of the court to district judges of election.³

In 1848 when the State of Illinois adopted a new constitution, the county commissioners' court was discontinued. In its place, the constitution provided for an administrative body to be composed of an elected officer, the county judge, and such number of justices of the peace as should be required by law.⁴ In the following legislative session, the General Assembly provided for the election of two justices of the peace to sit with the county judge to transact county business.⁵ Their term of office, like that of the county judge, was set at four years.⁶ This body, styled the county court, was required to hold four sessions annually and when so sitting, had all power, jurisdiction, and authority formerly conferred upon the county commissioners' court.⁷ The compensation of the county judge was originally set at \$2.50 for every day of holding court.⁸ In 1855 the amount was increased to \$3.⁹

The new constitution also directed the General Assembly to provide, by general law, for a township organization under which any county might organize whenever a majority of the voters in the county should so determine.¹⁰ By provision of the subsequent enabling acts,¹¹ a board of supervisors, whose members were to be elected one in each township annually,¹² was created to transact all county business in counties adopting township organization.¹³ The board of supervisors was to meet for

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1. L. 1821, p. 20. Conviction further carried disqualification from holding office for one year.
 2. R. L. 1827, p. 145.
 3. L. 1827, p. 104. No election was required to be held if the term of the commissioner vacating office would have expired within six months from the date of vacancy.
 4. Const. 1848, Art. V, sec. 16, 17, 19.
 5. L. 1848, p. 61, 66.
 6. Const. 1848, Art. V, sec. 17; L. 1848, p. 2, 35, 36.
 7. *Ibid.*, p. 67.
 8. *Ibid.*, p. 3.
 9. L. 1855, p. 181.
 10. Const. 1848, Art. VII, sec. 6.
 11. L. 1848, p. 150-224; L. 1851, p. 38-70. The later law repealed and was a complete substitute for the earlier, but so far as their effect on the sphere of county government is concerned, there was almost no difference between the two.
 12. L. 1848, p. 1 2; L. 1851, p. 53.
 13. L. 1848, p. 202-4; L. 1851, p. 50-52.

County Board

one regular session a year with the provision that special meetings might be held when convenient.¹ The board members were compensated at the rate of \$1.50 a day,² and a fine was provided in the sum of \$250, for refusal to perform, or neglect of duties.³

Peoria County was governed by the county court from 1849 to 1850, when township organization was instituted.⁴ In 1870 Illinois adopted a new constitution, which continued the provision for township organization in counties so electing,⁵ and provided for a different form of county board to supplant the county court as an administrative body. This board was to consist of three officers, styled county commissioners, and by subsequent legislation, was given all powers, jurisdiction, and authority formerly vested in the county court when acting in its administrative capacity.⁶ Peoria County was not affected by these laws as it has retained township organization from 1850 to the present.

Since 1874 population has been a factor in local representation on the board of supervisors. In that year, each town or city, besides its regular supervisor, became entitled to one assistant supervisor if it had 4,000 or more inhabitants, two if 6,500, and one more for every additional 2,500.⁷ In 1931, these population requirements were made to affect only those counties having less than 100,000 inhabitants.⁸ The differentiating figure was reduced in 1933 to 90,000;⁹ however, in counties having a population of 90,000 or more, each town or city was allowed one additional supervisor for every 5,000 inhabitants, or major fraction thereof.¹⁰ Peoria County, with its population of 158,874 according to the 1940 census was not affected by the latter change.¹¹

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1. L. 1849, p. 202; L. 1851, p. 51. In 1861 it was provided that special meetings could be called upon request of one third of the members of the board (L. 1861, p. 236). Since 1899 the board has been required to hold two regular meetings (L. 1899, p. 363).
 2. L. 1849, p. 203; L. 1851, p. 52. In 1861 compensation was increased to \$2.00 a day (L. 1861, p. 238).
 3. L. 1849, p. 203, 204. This fine was reduced in 1851 to \$200 (L. 1851, p. 52). Subsequent legislation reduced it still further and added the more frequent penalty for misfeasance, disqualification for office (R.S. 1874, p. 1080).
 4. Peoria County adopted township organization 1849, but the change did not become effective until 1850.
 5. Const. 1870, Art. X, sec. 5.
 6. *Ibid.*, sec. 6; L. 1873-74, p. 79, 80.
 7. R.S. 1874, p. 1075.
 8. L. 1931, p. 908.
 9. L. 1933, p. 1116.
 10. *Ibid.*; L. 1939, p. 1205, 1206.
 11. U.S. Bureau of the Census, Sixteenth Census 1940, Illinois, Final Population, Series P-2, No. 47. (Press Release, January 11, 1941)

The assistant supervisors, whose terms run concurrently with those of regular supervisors,¹ have no power or duties as town officers, but are members of the county board and enjoy the same powers and rights as other members.² At present its board of supervisors has forty-four members. The term of office of supervisors, lengthened in 1889 to two years,³ was further extended in 1929 to four years.⁴ Compensation was increased from \$1.50 to \$5 a day in 1919,⁵ lowered to \$4 in 1933,⁶ and raised again to \$5 in 1937,⁷ with an allowance of five cents per mile for necessary travel.

The functions of the Illinois county board, in contrast to its legal status, have undergone little change since the beginning of statehood, the development being merely one of accretion and increasing complexity of duties within a well-defined and nearly static sphere of authority and jurisdiction. The law establishing the court of county commissioners transferred upon it jurisdiction in all matters concerning county revenue.⁸ Of this basic provision, nearly all other statutory powers of the court can be considered extensions; some, enunciated in the same law, already show such a legislative viewpoint. The court was given power to regulate and impose the county tax, and to grant such licenses as might also bring in a revenue; additionally, it was given authority over all public roads, canals, turnpike roads, and toll bridges.⁹ Other legislation by the first General Assembly gave the court power to buy and sell lots whereon to erect buildings and to contract for their construction;¹⁰ later, in the case of the courthouse at least, the court was declared to have the care and custody of the property and the right to make certain disposition of it.¹¹ Care of the indigent was also made a function of the court; it was required to make appropriations, to be levied and collected in the same manner as other county revenue, for their support. As an extension of this fiscal function, it was required to appoint an overseer of the poor in every township and establish a county poorhouse if necessary.¹² Fiscal control over school lands was exercised at first solely through the court's power of appointment of the trustees of school lands;¹³

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1. L. 1933, p. 1115.
 2. R.S. 1874, p. 1078, 1080; L. 1925, p. 605; L. 1929, p. 774; L. 1931, p. 905, 907; L. 1933, p. 1115.
 3. L. 1889, p. 109; L. 1917, v. 793; L. 1925, p. 605.
 4. L. 1929, p. 774, 775; L. 1931, p. 905.
 5. L. 1849, p. 203; L. 1857, p. 186; L. 1871-72, p. 444; L. 1919, p. 569.
 6. L. 1933, p. 615.
 7. L. 1937, p. 601.
 8. L. 1819, p. 175.
 9. *Ibid.*
 10. *Ibid.*, p. 237, 238.
 11. L. 1843, p. 128.
 12. L. 1819, p. 127; L. 1839, p. 138, 139.
 13. R.L. 1827, p. 366.

County Board

after the erection of the office of county school commissioner,¹ firmer control was effected through the medium of reports which the commissioner was required to submit to the court.² The court also had authority to examine the full accounts of the commissioner.³ Other functions of the court were its duties in relation to elections and juries. It had authority to establish precincts,⁴ to appoint judges of election,⁵ and to allow compensation to officials for services and stationery.⁶ Two panels each of petit and grand jurors were required to be selected. The former were enrolled on the list of taxable inhabitants; the latter only to be free-holders or householders.⁷

The substitution of the county court for the county commissioners' court produced no important changes in the sphere of government; neither the second constitution nor the enabling legislation made any original pronouncements with regard to the powers or duties of the former.⁸

The revised law on township organization, in the main, only made more inclusive and definite the powers of the board.⁹ The board was given authority to purchase and hold any land within the county for the use of its inhabitants; it was also given authority to make such contracts, and to purchase and hold such personal property as might be necessary to exercise its powers; moreover, it could make such orders for the disposition, regulation, or use of the corporate property as might seem to be to the interest of the inhabitants.¹⁰ Explicit also, was the authority to audit all claims against the county, and the accounts of such officers as were not otherwise provided for by law.¹¹ The board was also given power to appropriate funds for the construction of roads and bridges in any part of the county whenever a majority of the whole board might deem it proper and expedient.¹²

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1. R.L. 1829, p. 150.
 2. L. 1831, p. 175; R.S. 1845, p. 500,501.
 3. L. 1831, p. 175.
 4. L. 1821, p. 74. There was in this law and in many of those following, a limit to the number of precincts which could be established. See L. 1825, p. 168; R.L. 1827, p. 256; R.L. 1829, p. 54; L. 1835, p. 141. Prior to 1821, each township was declared by statute to constitute an election district (L. 1819, p. 90).
 5. L. 1819, p. 90.
 6. Ibid., p. 99.
 7. Ibid., p. 255; L. 1823, p. 182.
 8. Const. 1848, Art. V, sec. 19; L. 1849, p. 65.
 9. The Act of February 17, 1851, previously cited (L. 1851, p. 35-78).
 10. L. 1851, p. 50.
 11. Ibid., p. 51.
 12. Ibid.

From the enabling legislation of the present constitutional period is drawn the following brief statement of the principal functions of the county board:

1. The purchase, sale, and custody of the real and personal property of the county.
2. The examination and settlement of accounts against the county.
3. The issuance of orders on the county treasury in pursuance of its fiscal administration.
4. The examination of accounts concerning the receipts and expenditures of county officers.¹
5. The supervision of elections;² the selection of juries;³ the construction and maintenance of roads and bridges;⁴ the care of the indigent, infirm, and disabled.⁵
6. The appropriation of funds necessary to the effecting of its functions;⁶ the raising of such sums through taxation; and in general, the management of county funds and county business.⁷

In caring for indigent war veterans, the Peoria county board is assisted by the Veterans' Relief Commission.⁸ The board is required to appropriate money for this purpose,⁹ and the funds thus allocated are then distributed under the supervision of the president (or chairman) of the county board, or some other county officer that he may appoint, and the superintendent of the Veterans' Relief Commission.¹⁰ The board, in Peoria County, is also required to supply additional sums of money, upon recommendation of the commission, for the compensation of those officers and employees who administer relief.¹¹

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1. R.S. 1874, p. 306,307.
 2. Ibid., p. 456,468.
 3. Ibid., p. 630.
 4. Ibid., p. 310.
 5. Ibid., p. 757,758.
 6. Ibid., p. 307.
 7. Ibid., p. 306,307.
 8. In counties of 75,000 or more inhabitants, where there are two or more veterans' posts, a central relief commission, styled the Veterans' Relief Commission, may be organized. This commission, when organized, consists of one delegate and one alternate from each post. The executive powers of the commission are vested in a superintendent, elected by the commission from among Civil War, Spanish, or World War Veterans (L. 1935, p. 266,267).
 9. L. 1907, p. 79,80; L. 1935, p. 266.
 10. Ibid., p. 267.
 11. Ibid., p. 267,268. This provision applies only to counties having more than 75,000 and less than 500,000 inhabitants.

County Board

At all times the county board has had a clerk who has served it in a ministerial capacity. The law creating the county commissioners' court provided that it should have such an officer, and gave it the power to appoint him.¹ This appointive power was rescinded in 1837 by an act which made the office elective.²

When the county court supplanted the county commissioners' court, the office of clerk of the latter body ceased to exist. A new office was created by statute, that of clerk of the county court.³ When the court sat for the transaction of county business, its clerk was in effect a clerk of county board; legal recognition of this distinction was given in the provision that the clerk should keep his records of the court's administrative actions separate from those of its judicial actions. For this purpose two sets of books were to be kept.⁴

In 1870 the new constitution established the office of county clerk;⁵ subsequently, the General Assembly provided that the county clerk should act as clerk of the county board⁶ as well as clerk of the county court.⁷ From that time to the present, the county board has been served in a ministerial capacity by this officer. The major record kept by the clerk for the county board is the minutes of its proceedings. This record includes orders to issue warrants on the county treasury; the board's action on committee reports on roads and bridges, indigent and infirm relief, schools, taxation, etc.; and its orders in regard to juries, licenses, and other matters within its jurisdiction.⁸

The clerk also keeps, separately, a register of orders issued on the county treasurer and lists of jury venire. He files and preserves all bills of accounts acted on by the board, and has custody of reports required to be made to the board by the county treasurer, various school bodies, and a number of other county officers.⁹ An obligation to preserve a multiplicity of other records is clearly set forth in the general provision requiring the clerk to have the care and custody of all papers appertaining to, as well as filed in his office.¹⁰

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1. L. 1819, p. 175.
 2. L. 1837, p. 49.
 3. L. 1849, p. 63.
 4. Ibid., p. 66.
 5. Const. 1870, Art. X, sec. 8.
 6. R.S. 1874, p. 322.
 7. Ibid., p. 260.
 8. L. 1819, p. 6, 28, 77, 127, 334, 335, 352; R.L. 1829, p. 151-53; L. 1831, p. 89, 90; L. 1835, p. 131, 132, 136; L. 1839, p. 71, 72; R.S. 1845, p. 287, 342, 403, 437; L. 1849, p. 66; L. 1861, p. 254-37; R.S. 1874, p. 322.
 9. R.L. 1827, p. 366; L. 1845, p. 169; R.S. 1845, p. 136; L. 1861, p. 237.
 10. R.S. 1874, p. 322.

(1-4)

County Board - Proceedings;
Disposition of Accounts

Proceedings of Board
(See also entries 76[ii, iv, xi], 338)

1. PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, 1907--. 219 f.t.
Documents of proceedings of the county board including: communications, county officers' and committees' reports, resolutions, petitions, bills and claims, financial statements, tax levies, county budgets, minutes of meetings, grand jury reports, jury lists, liquor licenses and bonds, appointments of deputy county officers, applications for dance hall, ferry, and liquor licenses, blind and mothers' pensions, motor fuel tax fund claims, reports from superintendent of state hospital, and tax complaints. Also contains (County Highway Payroll), 1936--, entry 4. Arr. by date of filing. No index. Hdw., typed, hdv. and typed on pr. fm. 8 x 8 x 10. Co. clk.'s record rm., 2nd fl.
2. SUPERVISORS' RECORD, 1825--. 38 v. (A-F, A-Q, 1825-1910; 1-5, 6R-14Z, 15, 1825--). Title varies: County Commissioners' Court Record, v. A-F, 1825-49.
Record of proceedings of the board of supervisors including: reports of committees, approval of salaries and expenses of county officers and employees, records of votes, hearings on claims allowed, approval of county officers' reports, resolutions adopted, and adjournment. Volumes 1-5, are transcripts of volumes A-F, A-Q, 1825-1910. Arr. by date of proceedings. 1825-49, indexed alph. by name of subject; 1850--, no index. V. A-F, A-Q, 1825-1910, hdw.; v. 1-5, 6R-14Z, 15, 1825--, typed. 600 p. 17 x 11 x 3. Co. clk.'s main off., 2nd fl.

Disposition of Accounts
(See also entries 1, 2, 76[vii], 317-337)

Bills and Claims

3. AUDITOR'S ORDERS, 1919--. 12 f.t.
Reports and orders of auditor confirming payment of bills and claims, showing voucher number, name of payee, and amount and date of payment. Arr. by date of payment. No index. Hdw. 8 x 5 x 10. Co. clk.'s record rm., 2nd fl.
4. (COUNTY HIGHWAY PAYROLL), 1932-35. 3 f.t. (887-889).
1936-- in Proceedings of the Board of Supervisors, entry 1.
County highway department payroll claim sheets authorizing county clerk to issue warrants on road and bridge fund, showing number and name of employee, rate of pay, and total amount, signatures of county superintendent of highways, auditor, and members of road and bridge committee, and date of payroll; also includes duplicate warrants. Arr. by date of payroll. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 8 x 8 x 10. Co. clk.'s main off., 2nd fl.

Registers of County Orders

5. REGISTER OF COUNTY ORDERS, 1859--. 22 v. (C-W, 1 not labeled). Register of county orders; showing name of recipient, date, number, purpose, and amount of order, and date of cancellation. Also contains Records of Warrants Drawn on Account of Board of Election Commissioners, 1930--, entry 7. Arr. by order no. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 300 - 500 p. 16 x 12 x 2 - 18 x 12 x 3. V. C-W, 1859-1937, co. clk.'s record rm., 2nd fl.; 1 v. not labeled, 1938--, co. clk.'s main off., 2nd fl.

6. STATE GAS AND STATE ROAD REFUND ACCOUNTS, 1931--. 2 v. Title varies: Register of County Highway Orders, 1 v., 1931-35. Record of payments from motor fuel tax funds to contractors and supply house for work and supplies, showing name of payee and fund, order number, date and amount of payment, and nature of services. Arr. by date of payment. No index. Hdw. 250 p. 18 x 10 x 2. Co. clk.'s main off., 2nd fl.

7. RECORDS OF WARRANTS DRAWN ON ACCOUNT OF BOARD OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS, 1915-29. 1 v. 1930-- in Register of County Orders, entry 5. Register of warrants issued on board of election commissioners' account, showing warrant number, date, purpose, and amount of warrant, name of recipient, and date of audit of account. Arr. by date of warrant. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 500 p. 18 x 12 x 2. Co. clk.'s record rm., 2nd fl.

Cancelled County Orders

8. COUNTY HIGHWAY VOUCHERS AND MOTOR FUEL REFUND, 1889--. 53 f.b. Cancelled highway fund vouchers, 1889--, and motor fuel tax fund vouchers, 1931--, showing name of fund, date, number, and amount of voucher, signature of recipient, and date of cancellation. 1889-1921, arr. by date of cancellation; 1922--, arr. by voucher no. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. 10 x 8 x 5. Co. clk.'s record rm., 2nd fl.

Pension and Relief

9. RECORD FOR RELIEF OF BLIND, 1916--. 3 v. Register of blind pension payments, showing name and address of pensioner, date, number, and amount of order, and signature of recipient. Arr. by date of payment. Indexed alph. by name of pensioner. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 250 p. 18 x 10 x 2. Co. clk.'s record rm., 2nd fl.

10. CASH AID TO WOMEN AND CHILDREN, 1913--. 7 v. Ledger of mothers' pension accounts, showing date of decree, name and address of mother, names and ages of dependent children, date and amount of payment, signature of recipient, and date and reason for discontinuance. Arr. by date of payment. Indexed alph. by name of pensioner. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 300 - 450 p. 17 x 11 x 2 - 20 x 12 x 3. 2 v., 1913-21, 1936--, co. clk.'s main off., 2nd fl.; 5 v., 1922-35, co. clk.'s record rm., 2nd fl.

(11-17)

County Board - Management of
County Properties

11. APPLICATIONS, 1893-1923. 1 v., 1 cardboard box.
Applications for poor relief, showing name, address, nativity, and religion of applicant, names and ages of dependents, amount of insurance carried, names of former employers, report of investigator, and date of application. Subsequent to 1912 kept in unbound form. Arr. alph. by name of applicant. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. 172 p. 15 x 10 x 1 1/2; box 14 x 10 x 14. Old jury rm., 4th fl.

12. BOOK OF GRANT (Relief Claims), 1907-24. 10 p. 1253-1300, 1923-- in (County Clerk's Miscellaneous Files), entry 75.
Bills submitted to county board for aid of city poor, showing name of recipient, amount of claim, and dates of claim and payment or rejection. Arr. by date of claim. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. 3 x 5 x 10. Co. clk.'s record rm., 2nd fl.

Management of County Properties

Contracts

13. CONTRACTS AND BONDS, 1855--. 2 v. (1, 2).
Copies of contracts and bonds of contractors in account with Peoria County, showing names of contractor and bondsmen, dates and amounts of contract and bond, and dates of expiration of contract and filing. Arr. by date of filing. Indexed alph. by name of contractor. 1857-1817, hdw.; 1918--, typed. 350 p. 17 x 11 x 3. Co. clk.'s main off., 2nd fl.

Bond Issues (See also
entries 76[iii]. 322)

14. REGISTER OF BONDS, PEORIA COUNTY, 1857--. 2 v.
Register of bonds issued by Peoria County, showing number, date, amount, and purpose of bond, rate and date of payment of interest, and dates of maturity and cancellation. Arr. by date of bond. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 200 p. 16 x 10 x 1 1/2. Co. clk.'s main off., 2nd fl.

15. RECORD OF TOWNSHIP ROAD AND BRIDGE BONDS, 1857--. 2 v.
Title varies: Register of Bonds, 1 v., 1857-1915.
Register of road and bridge fund bonds, showing date, amount, purpose, and number of bond, rate and date of payment of interest, dates of issue and maturity. Arr. by bond no. No index. 1857-1915, hdw.; 1916--, typed. 300 p. 12 x 8 x 1. Co. clk.'s main off., 2nd fl.

16. REGISTER OF SCHOOL BONDS, 1910--. 1 v. (1).
Register of school bonds, showing name and number of school district, number and amount of bond, rate of interest, and dates of issue and maturity. Arr. by date of issue. Indexed alph. by name of school district. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 200 p. 16 x 10 x 2 1/2. Co. clk.'s main off., 2nd fl.

Reports to Board
(See also entries 1, 2, 76[xiv])

17. QUARTERLY REPORTS OF PEORIA HOME AND HOSPITAL, 1909--. 32 f.b.
Reports to the county board of the superintendents of county home and
county hospital, showing date of report, name and address of institution,
number of patients, and amounts of operating and maintenance costs and
payroll. Arr. by date of report. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. 8 x 5 x 10.
Co. clk.'s record rm., 2nd fl.

18. MINES AND MINING, 1899--. 15 v. (L-Z).
County mine inspector's quarterly reports to the board of supervisors,
showing condition of mines in regard to ventilation and safety of the
miners, recommendation and enforcement of improvements, numbers of operat-
ing mines, accidents, and deaths, and date of report. Arr. by date of
report. No index. 1899-1911, hdw. under pr. hdgs.; 1912--, typed under
pr. hdgs. 600 p. 18 x 12 x 3. Co. clk.'s main off., 2nd fl.

19. SEMIANNUAL REPORT OF COUNTY CLERK, 1923--. 1 v.
County clerk's semiannual reports of county funds, showing names of
county clerk, treasurer, and payee, dates, amounts, sources, and purposes
of receipts and disbursements, balance available, and date of report.
Arr. by date of report. No index. Typed. 300 p. 17 x 11 x 2 1/2.
Co. clk.'s main off., 2nd fl.

II. COUNTY CLERK

Forerunner of the present county clerk was the clerk of the county commissioners' court. This court was the administrative body in Peoria County from 1825, the date of organization of the county, to 1849.¹ The Constitution of 1848 and laws of 1849 created a new judicial branch of county government presided over by the county judge and entitled the "county court," and provided for the quadrennial election of a "clerk of the county court."² In addition to his duties as clerk of the judicial court, the incumbent was also to act as clerk of the administrative branch of government which consisted of the county judge and two justices of the peace.³ In 1849 Peoria County adopted the township form of government necessitating election of a board of supervisors in 1850 to supplant the county court as the county administrative body;⁴ the clerk of the county court accordingly became clerk, ex officio, of the board of supervisors.⁵

The above-mentioned clerks all performed the duties of county clerk as well as those of clerks of a judicial or administrative body. In fact, legislation frequently referred to those incumbents as "county clerks" when defining duties relating to county business as distinct from their duties in other capacities. The Constitution of 1870 specifically provided for a county clerk⁶ who has continued to act to the present in this capacity, and also as clerk of the county board⁷ and clerk of the county court.⁸ The revised statutes of 1874 adopted the use of a distinction of titles for each of his ex officio capacities, applying the title "county clerk" only when referring to his duties as such.⁹ It is the performance of these duties that gives rise to the records dealt with in this section.

The clerk was an appointee of the county commissioners' court in Peoria County from 1825 to 1837.¹⁰ In the latter year the office became elective for a four-year term;¹¹ a two-year term became effective in 1847.¹² A bond of \$1,000 was required.¹³ The clerk of the county court served

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1. Const. 1818, Schedule, sec. 4; L. 1819, p. 175.
 2. Const. 1848, Art. V, sec. 16,18,19; L. 1849, p. 62,63.
 3. Ibid., p. 65,66.
 4. Const. 1848, Art. VII, sec. 6; L. 1849, p. 192,197,202.
 5. Ibid., p. 203.
 6. Art. VI, sec. 18 and Art. X, sec. 8.
 7. R.S. 1874, p. 322.
 8. Ibid., p. 260.
 9. Ibid., p. 260,322.
 10. L. 1819, p. 175.
 11. L. 1837, p. 49.
 12. L. 1845, p. 28. Effective in 1847.
 13. L. 1819, p. 176,177; R.L. 1833, p. 143; R.S. 1845, p. 131.

County Clerk

for a four-year term and was bonded in the sum of \$3,000.¹ The Constitution of 1870 and the revised statutes of 1874, establishing the office of county clerk, provided for his election for a quadrennial term, and that the amount of his bond be set by the county board.² The bond is entered upon the records of his office, and deposited with the clerk of the circuit court. He is required to take oath, and is commissioned by the Governor. The county seal is kept by the clerk and is used by him when required. The compensation of the county clerk is fixed by the county board within the limits set by the constitution. In counties the size of Peoria, with a population of 153,374, the compensation of the county clerk is not to exceed \$4,000 a year.³

In general, the county clerk's performance of his functions results in records relating to the following: taxation, vital statistics, licenses, and bonds. Various officials and agencies having authority over these matters report to, or deposit records with, the county clerk who in this manner acts as a coordinating factor in the execution of local and state affairs. In regard to other of these matters, the clerk is required to perform duties on his own behalf and retain the records resulting from such performance.

Illustrations of both of these procedures may be found by examining the various duties and records relating to taxation. The county clerk must procure all books and blanks used in the assessment and collection of taxes, and list in such books the lands and lots subject to taxation;⁴ they are then turned over to the supervisor of assessments who has the township assessors enter the valuations against each piece of property listed. The supervisor completes revisions and corrections upon complaint of property owners and returns the books in duplicate to the county clerk.⁵

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1. L. 1849, p. 63,64.
 2. Const. 1870, Art. X, sec. 8; R.S. 1874, p. 321.
 3. Const. 1870, Art. X, sec. 10.
 4. L. 1867, p. 106; L. 1871-72, p. 19,20,32; L. 1903, p. 297. During the period of the first constitution such books and lists were prepared by the auditor of public accounts and turned over to the clerk of the county commissioners' court (L. 1825, p. 173; R.L. 1827, p. 329; L. 1839, p. 3,4; L. 1847, p. 79).
 5. The first assessment officer was the county treasurer (L. 1819, p. 315; R. L. 1827, p. 328-36). In 1839 this function was performed by the district assessors, who received from the county clerk copies of the auditor's transcripts (L. 1839, p. 3,4). The treasurer resumed these duties in 1844 (L. 1845, p. 231), retaining them until the institution of township organization in 1850 resulted in township assessors acting in each township (L. 1851, p. 38). The treasurer now acts, ex officio, as supervisor of assessments (L. 1898, p. 36-44).

Personal property assessments are handled in essentially the same manner. The board of review then makes adjustments on complaints and equalizes assessments between districts, certifying corrections and revisions to the county clerk.¹ The county clerk then reports the entire assessment list to the State Tax Commission for equalization; the equalized list is afterwards used by the county clerk in ascertaining tax rates and extending taxes.²

The State Tax Commission also certifies to the county clerk the assessments on the capital stock of corporations and railroad and telegraph companies, it being the duty of the clerk to extend these taxes and retain the books after use by the collector.³

The books are next turned over to the county collector who, after collection, returns lists of collections, together with lists of uncollected real and personal property taxes.⁴ The county clerk attends all tax sales, prepares a list of all sales, and issues duplicate reports thereof, records affidavits of purchases of property for taxes, and keeps a record known as the "tax judgment, sale, redemption, and forfeiture record."⁵

An extensive group of records of vital statistics is kept by the county clerk, including records relating to births and deaths, marriages, physicians, and midwives. The first legislation in regard to the keeping of vital statistics was included in the act for the establishment of medical societies.⁶ One section of this act made it the duty of every physician to keep a record of births, deaths, and diseases occurring within the vicinity of his practice, and to transmit such record to his medical society, whereupon the record was to be published in the newspapers. In 1842 it was provided that a parent could appear before the clerk of the county commissioners' court and make affidavit as to the birth of a child, and the eldest next of kin of a deceased person could similarly appear and make affidavits as to death.⁷ It is probable that the tenor of the above-mentioned laws explains the fact that no death records existed in Peoria County prior to 1877 or birth records prior to 1878, the first law, 1819, requiring no public record to be kept, and that of 1843 providing that affidavits "may" be made. The act of 1877 creating the State Board of

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1. L. 1898, p. 36-44.
 2. L. 1919, p. 723.
 3. L. 1871-72, p. 11, 13, 16; L. 1937, p. 1011, 1012.
 4. L. 1849, p. 124, 125; L. 1871-72, p. 55; L. 1931, p. 759.
 5. L. 1838, p. 3; L. 1871-72, p. 40; L. 1879, p. 250.
 6. L. 1819, p. 233.
 7. L. 1842-43, p. 210-12.

County Clerk

Health required that all births and deaths in the county be reported to the county clerk by the attending physicians or accoucheurs.¹ Teeth were put into this and subsequent laws by providing penalties for noncompliance.

In 1901, death certificates issued by physicians, midwives, or coroners were to be presented to town clerks who as the local registrars issued burial permits and forwarded the certificates to the county clerk.² In 1903, certificates of death were to be turned over to the State Board of Health, which then delivered to the county clerk all certificates so received.³ Later it was provided that the township clerks should annually deposit with the county clerk a complete set of the records of births, stillbirths, and deaths registered with them. The county clerk was charged with binding and indexing, or recording, and safekeeping of such records.⁴ From the earliest date, the legislation in regard to these matters provided that the clerk retain the abstracts and certificates, keep a record of births and deaths, maintain alphabetical indexes, and issue certified copies of certificates upon request. The clerk has also been required to prepare a register of all physicians and accoucheurs in the county.⁵

Since the organization of Peoria County in 1825 the county clerk, or at that time clerk of the county commissioners' court, has been required to file marriage certificates and certificates of parents' consent to the marriage of minors.⁶ The clerk was also required to keep a separate register of marriages in addition to his file of certificates.⁷ Before 1877, persons desiring to marry were required to secure licenses from the county clerk only when they had not previously published such intention, but in that year the securing of a license was made mandatory.⁸ Although a record of applications for marriage licenses has been kept by the clerk in this county since 1825, an act of 1937 appears to be the first legislation requiring the maintenance of such a record.⁹ The same act provides that persons desiring to marry shall present to the county clerk a certificate setting forth that such persons are free from venereal diseases, such certificates to be filed with the application for license to marry.¹⁰ Indexes to marriage records have been kept in Peoria County since its organization in 1825.

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1. L. 1877, p. 209.
 2. L. 1901, p. 302,303.
 3. L. 1903, p. 315,316.
 4. L. 1915, p. 667.
 5. L. 1877, p. 209.
 6. L. 1819, p. 27; R.S. 1845, p. 354; R.S. 1874, p. 694.
 7. R.L. 1827, p. 289.
 8. L. 1877, p. 130.
 9. L. 1937, p. 909.
 10. Ibid., p. 910.

The county clerk is charged with a number of duties relating to elections: preparing and issuing blank ballots,¹ poll books,² and certificates of election,³ and keeping a record of registers of elections,⁴ petitions,⁵ and marked ballots,⁶ tally sheets,⁷ and election returns which are transmitted to him by the judges of election.⁸ Abstracts of returns were formerly prepared by the clerk, but these are now originated by the election commissioners or judges of election and deposited with the clerk. Returned ballots are destroyed by the clerk six months after election, provided no contest in which the ballots are needed is in progress.⁹ In 1889, when returns of elections for school trustees were made to the county clerk, he was charged with furnishing to the county superintendent of schools a list of all such trustees.¹⁰ Now the clerk does not enter into the procedure, the school trustees canvassing the returns and certifying directly to the superintendent of schools.¹¹

The bonds of a number of officials are required to be transmitted to the clerk for filing and entering in a book maintained for that purpose.¹² Justices' of the peace and constables' oaths, bonds, and securities are approved by the clerk and entered in a separate book in accordance with statutory requirement. This book shows the date on which each justice of the peace and constable was sworn into office and the date of commission by the Governor. Resignations from these offices are made to the county clerk who enters such fact in the justices' and constables' record.¹³

The clerk is also charged with issuing licenses to taverns,¹⁴ ferries,¹⁵ etc., and keeping records of the same. Other recordations made are: records relating to estrays;¹⁶ registers of professionals, including physicians,¹⁷

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1. L. 1891, p. 113, L. 1911, p. 311.
 2. L. 1871-72, p. 386.
 3. L. 1819, p. 96; L. 1821, p. 79; L. 1823, p. 64; L. 1885, p. 176.
 4. L. 1865, p. 59; L. 1871-72, p. 386.
 5. L. 1911, p. 310, 311; L. 1929, p. 422.
 6. L. 1891, p. 118.
 7. L. 1885, p. 143.
 8. L. 1819, p. 86; L. 1821, p. 77; L. 1823, p. 64; L. 1871-72, p. 389.
 9. L. 1917, p. 444.
 10. L. 1889, p. 271, 322.
 11. L. 1909, p. 352.
 12. R.S. 1845, p. 396, 397; L. 1861, p. 237, 238; R.S. 1874, p. 325; L. 1895, p. 188.
 13. Ibid.
 14. L. 1819, p. 77-79; L. 1933-34, Second Sp. Sess., p. 64-66.
 15. R.L. 1827, p. 221; R.S. 1874, p. 530.
 16. L. 1819, p. 206, 207; R.S. 1874, p. 483.
 17. L. 1877, p. 209; L. 1899, p. 275; L. 1923, p. 441, 442.

County Clerk

midwives,¹ dentists,² chiropodists,³ and veterinarians;⁴ list of town officers which is furnished annually by the town clerks;⁵ record of notaries public;⁶ and book of state civil service rules.⁷ Referring to his list of town officers, the county clerk reports annually to the State Department of Public Health the names and addresses of the supervisor, assessor, and clerk of each township, and the dates of expiration of their terms of office.⁸

Included in the provision that the county clerk be charged with the care and custody of all records, books, and papers appertaining to, and filed or deposited in, his office⁹ are those duties as clerk of the county board, wherein he is required to record the proceedings of the board and to file all their books, records, and accounts.¹⁰ Also included are his record-keeping duties as ex officio clerk of the county clerk.¹¹ The clerk is also requested to keep jury lists¹² and a book in which he enters details as to orders upon the treasurer. He is further required to maintain alphabetical indexes of all records and papers in his office, and to supply copies of these records or papers to any person upon request and payment of the required fee.¹³ The county clerk also acts as clerk, ex officio, of the special drainage district.¹⁴

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1. L. 1877, p. 209; L. 1899, p. 275; 1923, p. 441,442.
 2. L. 1881, p. 79; L. 1899, p. 273; L. 1909, p. 279; L. 1933, p. 711.
 3. L. 1899, p. 280; L. 1935, p. 995.
 4. L. 1917, p. 591.
 5. L. 1861, p. 226; R.S. 1874, p. 1077.
 6. L. 1871-72, p. 575; R.S. 1874, p. 721; L. 1875, p. 88.
 7. L. 1905, p. 115.
 8. L. 1923, p. 480.
 9. R.S. 1874, p. 322.
 10. L. 1861, p. 239; R.S. 1874, p. 322.
 11. R.S. 1874, p. 260.
 12. Ibid., p. 630.
 13. Ibid., p. 321.
 14. L. 1885, p. 95; L. 1915, p. 390; L. 1919, p. 468.

General Index

20. INDEX TO PAPERS IN COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE (File Boxes), 1817--.
1 v.

Index to Tax Levies, entry 21; Road Tax Lists, entry 28; Tax Deed Affidavits, entry 42; Birth Certificates, entry 45; (Delayed Certificates of Birth), entry 47; Death Certificates, entry 49; Marriage License and Returns, entry 52; Application for Marriage License, entry 53; Marriage Applications Licenses and Returns, entry 54; Lists of Town and Township Officers, entry 57; (County Clerk's Miscellaneous Files), entry 76; Lodging and Boarding House Affidavits, entry 77; Town Clerk's Certificate for Sparrow Bounties, entry 78; Tax Objections, entry 137; (Drainage Files), entry 138; Inheritance Tax Papers, entry 156; Naturalization Documents, entry 164; and Railroad Tax Schedules, entry 302, showing name of township, title and number of document, date of filing, and case or file box number. Arr. alph. by title of subject. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 200 p. 14 x 10 x 2. Co. clk.'s main off., 2nd fl.

Taxation

(See also entries 1, 76[xvii], 137-142, 148, 231, 302-316)

Lists of Taxable
Properties, Levies

21. TAX LEVIES, 1850--. 52 f.b. (386-402, 406-438, 823, 1006). School, road, and bridge tax levies, showing name of township, amount and date of levy, and tax spread; also includes corporation tax levies. Arr. by name of twp. For index, see entry 20. Hdw. on pr. fm. 10 x 4 x 14. Co. clk.'s main off., 2nd fl.

22. DOCKET OF TAXES WANTED AND EXTENDED, 1916--. 2 v. (1, 2). Docket of amounts of taxes wanted and amounts extended, showing date of levy, name of township, total assessed value of lands, lots, and personal property, tax spread, purposes of extension and tax, and total tax. Arr. alph. by name of twp. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 167 p. 18 x 12 x 2. Co. clk.'s record rm., 2nd fl.

23. ASSESSOR'S BOOK, 1917--. 780 v.
(Akron Township, Personal Property, 1921--. 17 v. Missing: 1922.
Lands and Lots, 1924--. 15 v.
Brimfield Township, Personal Property, 1917--. 18 v.
Missing: 1918-20, 1922. Lands and Lots, 1921--. 18 v.
Chillicothe Township, Personal Property, 1917--. 18 v.
Missing: 1918-19, 1921-22. Lands and Lots, 1921--. 18 v.
City of Peoria Township, Personal Property, 1922--. 48 v.
Missing: 1923.
Elmwood Township, Personal Property, 1923--. 15 v. Missing: 1924.
Lands and Lots, 1919--. 18 v. Missing: 1920-22.
Hallowack Township, Personal Property, 1922--. 16 v. Missing: 1923.
Lands and Lots, 1921--. 17 v. Missing: 1922.

Hollis Township, Personal Property, 1922--. 17 v.
 Lands and Lots, 1921--. 17 v. Missing: 1922.
 Jubilee Township, Personal Property, 1919--. 18 v.
 Missing: 1920, 1922. Lands and Lots, 1921--. 17 v. Missing:
 1922.
 Kickapoo Township, Personal Property, 1921--. 18 v.
 Missing: 1922. Lands and Lots, 1917--. 19 v. Missing: 1918-19,
 1922.
 Limestone Township, Personal Property, 1921--. 16 v.
 Missing: 1922-23. Lands and Lots, 1921--. 15 v. Missing: 1923,
 1926, 1930.
 Logan Township, Personal Property, 1921--. 16 v. Lands and
 Lots, 1918--. 17 v. Missing: 1919-20, 1922, 1925.
 Medina Township, Personal Property, 1920--. 17 v. Missing:
 1922-23. Lands and Lots, 1920--. 17 v. Missing: 1922.
 Millbrook Township, Personal Property, 1923--. 15 v. Lands and
 Lots, 1921--. 17 v. Missing: 1922.
 Peoria Township, Personal Property, 1920--. 18 v. Missing: 1922.
 Lands and Lots, 1921--. 18 v.
 Peoria Heights Village, Personal Property, 1930--. 9 v. Lands
 and Lots, 1929--. 10 v.
 Princeville Township, Personal Property, 1921--. 16 v.
 Missing: 1921, 1928. Lands and Lots, 1921--. 17 v. Missing:
 1922.
 Radner Township, Personal Property, 1921--. 17 v. Missing: 1922.
 Lands and Lots, 1916--. 19 v. Missing: 1917-20.
 Richwoods Township, Personal Property, 1921--. 17 v.
 Missing: 1922. Lands and Lots, 1921--. 17 v. Missing: 1922.
 Rosefield Township, Personal Property, 1919--. 18 v.
 Missing: 1920, 1922.
 Timber Township, Personal Property, 1921--. 18 v. Lands and Lots,
 1924--. 15 v.
 Trivoli Township, Personal Property, 1923--. 16 v. Lands and
 Lots, 1921--. 14 v. Missing: 1922-23, 1925-26).

Assessor's lists of taxable real and personal property, showing name of owner, description of property, assessed value, value of improvements, tax spread, and total tax due. Also contains Register of Dog Tags, 1917, entry 66. Real estate arr. by twp., sec., and range nos.; personal property arr. alph. by name of owner. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 80 p. 17 x 14 x 1. 356 v., 1917-26, old jury rm., 4th fl.; 424 v.; 1927--., co. clk.'s main off., 2nd fl.

24. SUMMARY OF ALL VALUATIONS AND TAXES, 1873--. 42 v.
 Missing: 1888-95.

Abstracts and statements of all assessed property, showing date, amount, and purpose of tax, description of property, assessed and equalized values, names of township, city, or village, and road, bridge, and school districts, tax spread, total tax, and date of statement. Arr. by date of statement. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 70 p. 16 x 20 x 1. Co. clk.'s record rm., 2nd fl.

25. RAILROAD TAX BOOKS, 1857--. 19 v. (7 not labeled, 3, 6-8, 8 not labeled). Missing: 1860-65. Title varies: Railroad Assessment List, 1 v. not labeled, 1857-59.

Lists of taxable railroad property, showing names of company and township, description of property, equalized value, tax rate, tax spread, and total tax. Arr. by date of assessment. Indexed alph. by name of twp. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 300 p. 20 x 20 x 1 1/2. 1 v., 1857-59, home of Ernest East, 1112 Prospect Road, Peoria; 18 v., 1866--., co. clk.'s main off., 2nd fl.

26. ASSESSOR'S BOOK (Telephone and Telegraph), 1917--. 140 v.

Lists of taxable real estate owned by telephone and telegraph companies, showing date of assessment, valuation, location, and description of property, assessed and equalized values, and total tax. Arr. by twp., sec., and range nos. No index. Hdw. and typed under pr. hdgs. 100 p. 18 x 12 x 3 1/2. 98 v., 1917-30, old jury rm., 4th fl.; 42 v., 1931--., co. clk.'s main off., 2nd fl.

27. TAX LIST, 1839-71. 26 v. Title varies: Record of Taxable Lands, 1 v., 1832-48.

Lists of taxable lands and lots in the Village of Peoria and Peoria County, showing date, owner's name, legal description of property, number of acres, valuation, tax spread, and amount to be collected. Arr. alph. by name of town or village. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 200 p. 14 x 12 x 1 1/2. Co. clk.'s record rm., 2nd fl.

28. ROAD TAX LISTS, 1887-1913. 14 f.b. (482-495).

Lists of persons paying road taxes by labor, showing date of assessment, name of taxpayer, amounts of personal and road taxes assessed, number of days worked, and amount earned per day. Arr. by date of assessment. For index, see entry 20. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 10 x 4 x 14. Co. clk.'s main off., 2nd fl.

Collections, Abatement

29. COLLECTOR'S BOOK, 1844--. 470 v.

(Peoria County as a whole, 1845-57. 13 v. Peoria and Peoria City townships, 1844--. 151 v. Missing: 1861-63. Rosefield, Jubilee, Princeville, Hollis, Limestone, and Kickapoo townships, 1858--. 76 v. Missing: 1859-62, 1869. Trivoli, Elmwood, Brimfield, Millbrook, Timber, and Lengan townships, 1858--. 77 v. Missing: 1859, 1861-62, 1866. Radnor, Akron, Medina, Hallock and Chillicothe townships, 1858--. 78 v. Missing: 1859, 1869, 1874. Richwoods Township, 1894--. 45 v.).

Lists of taxable real and personal property, showing date of assessment, name of owner, description of property, assessed and equalized values, tax spread, amounts of current and back taxes, and date and amount of collection. Real estate arr. by sec., twp., and range nos.; personal property arr. alph. by name of property owner. No index. 1844-57, hdw.; 1858--., hdw. under pr. hdgs. 300 p. 18 x 12 x 2. Co. clk.'s main off., 2nd fl.

30. (ABSTRACT OF COLLECTOR'S BOOKS), 1906--. 3 v.
Abstract of the footings of collector's books, showing date, page number, total of each page, kind of tax, and total amount collected. Arr. by date of assessment. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 500 p. 18 x 12 x 3. Co. clk.'s vlt., 2nd fl.
31. ABATEMENT LIST OF PERSONAL PROPERTY, 1887--. 8 v. (4 not labeled, 5-8). Missing: 1888-1903, 1912-17, 1919-22.
Lists of taxpayers whose personal property taxes have been abated, showing dates of assessment and abatement, name of owner, itemized listing and assessed and equalized values of personal property, rate and amount of tax, and amount of abatement. Arr. alph. by name of owner. No index. Hdw. 200 p. 16 x 10 x 2. Co. clk.'s record rm., 2nd fl.
32. COLLECTOR'S AND TREASURER'S ACCOUNT WITH COUNTY FUND, 1872--.
3 v. (1 not labeled, 2, 3).
Records of statements of county collector's and treasurer's accounts with county funds, showing date of statement, amount of tax to be collected, amounts received by sale and redemption of forfeited property, credit by errors on real estate, removals on personal property, commissions, and amount to be accounted for, total amounts collected, amount of commissions, and balance due county. Arr. by date of statement. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 250 p. 17 x 12 x 2. 1 v. not labeled, 1872-1918, co. clk.'s record rm., 2nd fl.; v 2, 3, 1919--, co. clk.'s main off., 2nd fl.
33. DELINQUENT TAX LIST, 1847-79. 20 v.
Lists of delinquent taxes as compiled by tax collector, showing names of collector and owner, date for which taxes are due and unpaid, legal description of property, and total amount due. Also contains (Nonresident Delinquent Tax List), 1847-61, 1865-79, entry 36. Arr. by twp., sec., and range, and block and lot nos. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 250 p. 16 x 12 x 2. Co. clk.'s record rm., 2nd fl.
34. DELINQUENT LIST OF REAL ESTATE IN THE CITY OF PEORIA, 1872-74.
1 v.
Lists of delinquent real estate in the City of Peoria, showing name of owner and addition, lot and block numbers, valuation, tax spread, date and amount of payment, and remarks. Arr. alph. by name of addition. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 300 p. 16 x 10 x 2. Home of Ernest East, 1112 Prospect Road, Peoria.
35. DELINQUENT LIST, PEORIA COUNTY, 1850, 1872-76. 6 v.
Peoria County delinquent list showing date, names of owner and township, subdivision of section, section, township and range numbers, value of tract, amount of taxes delinquent, tax spread, and remarks. Arr. alph. by name of twp. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 200 p. 16 x 10 x 1 1/2. Home of Ernest East, 1112 Prospect Road, Peoria.

36. (NONRESIDENT DELINQUENT LIST), 1862-64. 1 v. 1847-61, 1865-79 in Delinquent Tax List, entry 33.

Lists of nonresident town lots reported by the collector as delinquent, showing names of owner and collector, legal description and value of property, amount of tax, date due and tax spread. Arr. by lot no. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 200 p. 18 x 10 x 2. Old jury rm., 4th fl.

Judgment, Sale, Redemption,
and Forfeiture

37. TAX JUDGMENT, SALE, REDEMPTION, AND FORFEITURE RECORD, 1880--. 58 v. (10-16, 1 not labeled, 18, 19, 3 not labeled, 22-34, 2 not labeled, 37-43, 1 not labeled, 45-48, 1 not labeled, 50-66).

Record of tax judgments, sales, redemptions and forfeitures including real estate abatement lists, showing names of owner, purchaser and redeemer, legal description and value of property, amount of taxes, costs, and penalties due, dates of judgment, sale, or redemption, and certification of county clerk. Also contains Special Assessment Forfeiture Record, 1880-1931, entry 41. Tax Sale (and Forfeiture) Record, entry 38, and Tax Judgment Record, entry 40, formerly kept separately. Arr. by twp., sec., and range nos. Indexed alph. by names of twp., addition, and subdivision. 1880-1911, hdw. under pr. hdgs.; 1912--, typed under pr. hdgs. 250 - 500 p. 18 x 14 x 3 - 18 x 16 x 5. V. 10-16, 1880-86, co. clk.'s vlt., 2nd fl.; 1 v. not labeled, v. 18, 19, 3 not labeled, 22-34, 2 not labeled, 37-43, 1 not labeled, 45-48, 1 not labeled, 50-54, 1887-1925, co. clk.'s record rm., 2nd fl.; v. 55-66, 1926--, co. clk.'s main off., 2nd fl.

38. TAX SALE (and Forfeiture) RECORD, 1858-79. 6 v. (B, 5-9). 1880-- in Tax Judgment, Sale, Redemption, and Forfeiture Record, entry 37.

Lists of lands upon which taxes are due and unpaid with copy of petition and order for sale, showing amount of tax due, legal description of property, dates of petition, order, and sale, names of owner, petitioner, judge, sheriff, purchaser, and amount of sale; includes lists of forfeited lands. Also contains Sale and Redemption Record, 1858-72, 1877-79, entry 39. Arr. by twp., sec., range, block, and lot nos. Indexed alph. by names of twp. and addition. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 400 p. 18 x 14 x 3. Co. clk.'s vlt., 2nd fl.

39. SALE AND REDEMPTION RECORD, 1873-76. 1 v. 1858-72, 1877-79 in Tax Sale (and Forfeiture) Record, entry 38.

Lists of lands and lots against which judgment was entered for delinquent taxes and which have been sold or redeemed, showing legal description of property, and dates and amounts of judgment, sale, and redemption. Arr. by date of judgment. Indexed alph. by name of addition or subdivision. Hdw. 125 p. 18 x 14 x 3. Co. clk.'s vlt., 2nd fl.

- 40. TAX JUDGMENT RECORD, 1865-79. 6 v. (3 not labeled, 1, H, K). Title varies: Tax Judgment Docket, 3 v. not labeled, 1865-73. 1880-- in Tax Judgment, Sale, Redemption, and Forfeiture Record, entry 37.

Lists of tax delinquent property on which judgments for sale have been petitioned, showing name of owner, legal description and valuation of property, amounts of delinquency, costs and penalties, and date of judgment. Arr. by sec., twp., and range nos. No index. 1865-73, hdw.; 1874-79, hdw. under pr. hdgs. 200 - 250 p. 15 x 10 x 2 - 16 x 10 x 2. 3 v. not labeled, 1865-73, home of Ernest East, 1112 Prospect Road, Peoria; v. 1, 1874-76, co. clk.'s record rm., 2nd fl.; v. H, K, 1877-79, co. clk.'s vlt., 2nd fl.

- 41. SPECIAL ASSESSMENT FORFEITURE RECORD, 1932--. 6 v. (61, 63-66, 1 not labeled). 1930-1931 in Tax Judgment, Sale, Redemption, and Forfeiture Record, entry 37.

Lists of lands sold for unpaid special assessments, showing names of owner, clerk, purchaser, and redeemer, legal description of property, amounts of tax due and unpaid, amount of sale or redemption and dates of judgment, forfeiture, sale, or redemption. Arr. by date of judgment. Indexed alph. by names of addition and subdivision. Hdw. on pr. fm. 300 - 1000 p. 18 x 24 x 2 - 18 x 24 x 8. V. 61, 63-66; co. clk.'s record rm., 2nd fl.; 1 v. not labeled, co. clk.'s main off., 2nd fl.

- 42. TAX DEED AFFIDAVITS, 1847--. 11 f.b. (496, 502-509, 876, 877). Affidavits for tax deeds, showing legal description of property, consideration, amounts of taxes, interest and penalties, names of purchaser, owner, and clerk, and date of filing. Arr. by date of filing. For index, see entry 20. 1847-59, hdw.; 1860--, hdw. on pr. fm. 10 x 5 x 14. Co. clk.'s main off., 2nd fl.

- 43. AFFIDAVITS FOR TAX DEED, 1873--. 8 v. (2-4, 6, 8-11). Missing: 1894-98, 1904-8.

Copies of affidavits for deeds, showing legal description of property, dates of sale and affidavit, amounts of delinquent tax, interest, and penalty, names of property owner, purchaser, and county clerk, and acknowledgment. Arr. by date of affidavit. Indexed alph. by name of purchaser. 1873-1906, hdw. on pr. fm.; 1909--, typed on pr. fm. 300 p. 18 x 12 x 2. Co. clk.'s record rm., 2nd fl.

- 44. ABSTRACT OF TAX SALES, 1823-65. 11 v. (1-11).

Lists of tax delinquent real estate sold at tax sales, showing names of owner and purchaser or redeemer, legal description of property, amounts of tax, interest, and costs, acreage, date of sale, and book and page of sales records; includes lists of tax sale lands prior to formation of Peoria County. Arr. by sec., twp., and range nos. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. 320 p. 18 x 12 x 3. Co. clk.'s record rm., 2nd fl.

Vital Statistics
(See also entries 75, 76[xix])

Births

45. BIRTH CERTIFICATES, 1878---. 49 f.b. (260-276, 284, 288, 311-315, 320-330, 366-376, 403-405); 73 v.

Birth certificates showing name, sex, and color or race of child, date and place of birth, names of parents, maiden name of mother, parents' ages and occupations, previous number of children born to mother, name of attending physician or midwife, and treatment given child's eyes at birth. Subsequent to 1924 kept in bound form. 1878-1923, arr. by date of filing; 1924---, arr. by certificate no. For index, 1878-1923, see entry 20; for index, 1924---, see entry 46. 1878-1934, hdw. on pr. fm.; 1935---, typed on pr. fm. F.b. 10 x 5 x 14; v. 600 p. 6 x 8 x 2. Co. clk.'s main off., 2nd fl.

46. INDEX TO BIRTH RECORD, 1924---. 3 v. (1-3).

Index to Birth Certificates, entry 45, showing name of child, and date and number of certificate. Arr. alph. by name of child. Typed. 100 p. 18 x 11 x 1. Co. clk.'s main off., 2nd fl.

47. (DELAYED CERTIFICATES OF BIRTH), 1853-1909. 1 f.b. (310).

Certificates of birth filed to replace missing birth records, showing name, sex, color, and date and place of birth of child, names, birthplaces, residence, and occupations of each parent, certificate of attending physician or midwife or affidavit of relative confirming birth. Arr. by date of certificate. For index, see entry 20. Hdw. on pr. fm. 8 x 8 x 10. Co. clk.'s main off., 2nd fl.

48. REGISTER OF BIRTHS, 1878-1924. 15 v. (A-O).

Register of birth certificates, showing certificate number, date of return, names of child, parents, and physician or midwife, number of children previously born to mother, and sex, race, and color, and date and place of birth of child. Arr. by date of return. Indexed alph. by name of child. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 300 p. 20 x 12 x 2 1/2. Co. clk.'s main off., 2nd fl.

Deaths

49. DEATH CERTIFICATES, 1878---. 39 f.b. (329-364, 369, 718, 1006); 75 v.

Certificates of death, showing names of deceased, informant, undertaker, and physician, date, place, and cause of death, certificate number, age, birthplace, occupation, and nationality of deceased, names and birthplaces of parents, place of burial, certification of attending physician, and date of filing. Subsequent to 1924 kept in bound form. 1878-1923, arr. by date of certificate; 1924---, arr. by certificate no. For index, 1878-1923, see entry 20; for index, 1924---, see entry 50. 1878-1934, hdw. on pr. fm.; 1935---, typed on pr. fm. F.b. 10 x 5 x 14; v. 300 p. 6 x 8 x 2. F.b. 329-364, 369, 718, 1006, 1878-1923, co. clk.'s main off., 2nd fl.; 75 v., 1924---, co. clk.'s record rm., 2nd fl.

50. INDEX TO DEATH REGISTER, 1924--. 3 v. (1-3).

Index to Death Certificates, entry 49, showing date, name of deceased, and date and number of certificate. Arr. alph. by name of deceased. Typed. 200 p. 18 x 11 x 2. Co. clk.'s main off., 2nd fl.

51. CERTIFICATES OF DEATH, 1877-1924. 12 v. (1-12).

Copies of death certificates, showing names and addresses of deceased, informant, undertaker, and physician, date, place, and cause of death, certificate number, age, occupation, and nationality of deceased, names and birthplaces of parents, place of burial, and doctor's certification. Arr. by date of certificate. Indexed alph. by name of deceased. Hdw. on pr. fm. 320 p. 20 x 12 x 3. Co. clk.'s record rm., 2nd fl.

Marriages52. MARRIAGE LICENSE AND RETURNS, 1853--. 136 f.b. (166-259, 661-702).
1823-52 in Marriage Applications Licenses and Returns, entry 54.

Marriage license returns showing date and number of license, date and place of marriage, names of bride and groom, witnesses, and county clerk, name and title of person performing ceremony, and personal and statistical particulars of bride and groom, and date of return. Arr. by license no. For index, see entry 20. 1853-64, hdw. and hdw. on pr. fm.; 1865--, hdw. on pr. fm. 10 x 5 x 15. Co. clk.'s main off., 2nd fl.

53. APPLICATION FOR MARRIAGE LICENSE, 1853--. 117 f.b. (100-158,
605-660, 712, 713). 1825-52 in Marriage Applications Licenses
and Returns, entry 54.

Applications for marriage licenses, showing names, ages, and residences of applicants, relationship, date and number of application, signatures of applicants, and date of issue. Arr. by application no. For index, see entry 20. 1853-58, hdw.; 1859-64, hdw. and hdw. on pr. fm.; 1865--, hdw. on pr. fm. 10 x 5 x 15. Co. clk.'s main off., 2nd fl.

54. MARRIAGE APPLICATIONS LICENSES AND RETURNS, 1825-52.
3 f.b. (163-165).

Applications for marriage licenses and marriage license returns, showing names, ages, residences, and personal and statistical particulars of bride and groom, names of witnesses, county clerk, and official performing ceremony, dates and numbers of application and license, date and place of marriage, and date of return. Marriage License and Returns, entry 52, and Application for Marriage License, entry 53, subsequently kept separately. Arr. by application no. For index, see entry 20. 10 x 5 x 15. Co. clk.'s main off., 2nd fl.

55. MARRIAGE REGISTER (Record), 1825--. 23 v. (1-23).

Copies of marriage licenses, showing number and date of license, names, ages, races, color, residences, and occupations of bride and groom, number of previous marriages, names and residences of parents and witnesses, date and place of marriage, name of officiating person, and date of return of license. Arr. by license no. Indexed alph. by name of male. Hdw. on pr. fm. 300 p. 17 x 11 x 3. Co. clk.'s main off., 2nd fl.

Census

56. CENSUS OF PEORIA TOWNSHIP, 1888. 1 v.
Lists of Peoria Township residents, showing name, address, and age of resident, and total population. Arr. alph. by name of resident. No index. Hdw. 390 p. 18 x 14 x 2. Co. clk.'s main off., 2nd fl.

Licenses and Registers
(See also entry 76[i,v])

Registers of Officers

57. LISTS OF TOWN AND TOWNSHIP OFFICERS, 1928--. 1 f.b.
1890-1927 in (County Clerk's Miscellaneous Files), entry 76.
Lists of town officers elected, showing name and address of officer, title of office, date of election, and tenure of office. Arr. by date of election. For index, see entry 20. Hdw. on pr. fm. 8 x 10 x 15. Co. clk.'s main off., 2nd fl.

58. REGISTER OF TOWN AND COUNTY OFFICERS, 1858--. 1 v. (1).
Register of town and county officers, including county clerks, probate clerks, circuit clerks, recorders, treasurers, auditors, sheriffs, state's attorneys, superintendents of schools, coroners, supervisors, town clerks, road commissioners, town collectors, justices of peace, and constables, showing names of office and officer, length of term, dates of election and commission, and amount of bond. Arr. by date of election. No index, Hdw. 300 p. 14 x 8 x 2. Co. clk.'s main off., 2nd fl.

59. NOTARY PUBLIC REGISTER, 1872--. 3 v. (1 not labeled, 1, 2).
Register of commissions of notaries public, showing name and address of notary, and dates of beginning and expiration of commission. Arr. by beginning date of commission. Indexed alph. by name of notary. Hdw. on pr. fm. 200 p. 16 x 10 x 2. Co. clk.'s main off., 2nd fl.

Professional Licenses
and Registers

60. CERTIFICATES FROM STATE BOARDS, 1877--. 3 v. (1, C, D). Title varies: Record of Physicians' Certificates, v. 1, 1877-1901; Physicians' Certificate Record, v. C, 1902-15.
Copies of certificates from state examining board and Department of Registration and Education to physicians and surgeons, chiropractors, osteopaths, midwives, oculists, veterinary surgeons, maternity wards of hospitals and sanitariums, including: dentists, 1881--, nurses, 1907--, optometrists, 1915--, and chiropodists, 1917--, showing names of licensee, secretary and president of examining board, and institution from which graduated, authorization to practice, and date and number of certificate, and date of filing. Also contains Architects' License Record, 1916--, entry 62. Arr. by date of filing. Indexed alph. by name of licensee. Hdw. and typed on pr. fm. 600 p. 17 x 11 x 3. Co. clk.'s main off., 2nd fl.

61. REGISTER OF PHYSICIANS AND ACCOUCHEURS, 1878--. 2 v. (1, 2). Register of physicians' and accoucheurs' certificates, showing date and number of certificate, name, age, nativity, and address of practitioner, school and number of years of practice, certification of state board of public health, and date of filing. Arr. by date of filing. Indexed alph. by name of practitioner. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 200 p. 20 x 12 x 2. Co. clk.'s record rm., 2nd fl.

62. ARCHITECTS' LICENSE RECORD, 1877-1915. 1 v.
1916-- in Certificates from State Boards, entry 60.
Record of architects' licenses, showing name, age and address of architect, place of birth, name of institution from which graduated, names of president and secretary of examining board, and dates of license and filing. Arr. by date of filing. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. 300 p. 16 x 10 x 5. Co. clk.'s record rm., 2nd fl.

Militia Roll

63. MILITIA ROLL RECORD, 1861-62. 1 v.
Lists of all persons of Peoria County subject to military duty, showing name of township, class, name, and age of militia man, and date of enlistment. Arr. alph. by name of twp. No index. Hdw. 134 p. 15 x 10 x 2. Old jury rm., 4th fl.

Estrays, Marks and Brands

64. ESTRAY RECORD, 1851--. 2 v. Last entry 1901.
Record of estrays, showing description of estray, appraised value, name of finder, date of notice, amount of costs, and date of filing. Arr. by date of filing. No index. Hdw. 400 p. 17 x 11 x 4. Co. clk.'s main off., 2nd fl.

65. REGISTER OF BRANDS, 1861--. 1 v. Last entry 1889.
Register of marks and brands, showing name of owner, description of mark or brand, and date of filing. Arr. by date of filing. Indexed alph. by name of owner. Hdw. 150 p. 17 x 11 x 1. Co. clk.'s main off., 2nd fl.

Dog Licenses (See also entry 327)

66. REGISTER OF DOG TAGS, 1918--. 1 v.
1917 in Assessor's Book, entry 23.
Register of dog license tags, showing date and number of license, description of dog, and name and address of owner. Arr. by license no. Indexed alph. by name of owner. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 208 p. 14 x 10 x 1 $\frac{1}{2}$. Co. clk.'s main off., 2nd fl.

Liquor Licenses

67. LICENSE REGISTER, 1862--. 2 v.
Register of liquor licenses, showing names of licensee and clerk, date, number, type, and period of license, and amount of fee. Arr. by date of license. Indexed alph. by name of licensee. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 300 p. 12 x 8 x 2. Co. clk.'s main off., 2nd fl.

Bonds of Officers

68. (OFFICERS' BONDS), 1831--. 1 f.b. 1883-1930 in (County Clerk's Miscellaneous Files), entry 76.
Bonds of county and township officers including: county auditor, superintendent of schools, sheriff, coroner, treasurer, county clerk, circuit clerk, probate clerk, recorder, state's attorney, overseer of poor, surveyor, county physician, superintendent of county home, juvenile probation officer, township treasurers, assessor, justices of peace, constables, commissioners of highways, and supervisors, showing names of principal, sureties, and witnesses, amount and terms of bond, and date of filing. Arr. by date of filing. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. 6 x 8 x 10. Co. clk.'s main off., 2nd fl.

69. ASSESSORS' BOND RECORD, 1899--. 1 v. (A).
Copies of township assessors' bonds, showing date, amount, and terms of bond, names of assessor and sureties, and acknowledgment. Arr. by date of bond. Indexed alph. by name of assessor. Hdw. on pr. fm. 226 p. 17 x 11 x 2. Co. clk.'s main off., 2nd fl.

70. DOCKET OF OFFICIAL BONDS, 1889--. 2 v. (1, 2).
Record of examinations of county officials' bonds, showing names of principal and sureties, date, and amount and terms of bond. Arr. by date of bond. Indexed alph. by name of principal. Hdw. on pr. fm. 220 p. 16 x 10 x 3. Co. clk.'s main off., 2nd fl.

Elections

(See also entry 76[ix, xviii])

71. CANVASS SHEETS OF GENERAL ELECTIONS, 1934--. 1 f.b.
Canvass sheets of votes cast at general elections, showing precinct number, total of votes for each party, and canvasser's name. Arr. by precinct no. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 12 x 30 x 36. Co. clk.'s record rm., 2nd fl.

72. (ELECTION PAPERS), 1934--. 319 sacks.
Papers dealing with general, primary, and special elections including: poll books, election returns, tally sheets, ballots, and abstracts of votes. Arr. by precinct no. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 16 x 10 x 5. Co. clk.'s vlt., 2nd fl.

Fees, Receipts and Expenditures

73. CASH BOOK COUNTY CLERK, 1864--. 4 v.

Journal of county clerk's fees, showing name of payer, dates, amounts, and purposes of receipts and disbursements, and amount available. Arr. by date of transaction. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. 350 p. 18 x 12 x 3. Co. clk.'s main off., 2nd fl.

74. RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES, 1873--. 3 v.

Register of county clerk's receipts and expenditures, showing date of entry, name of payer, date, amount, and purpose of receipts, dates and amounts disbursed for salaries and expenses, and amount due county. Also contains Insanity Fee Book, 1873-93, entry 155. Arr. by date of transaction. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 500 p. 18 x 12 x 2. Co. clk.'s record rm., 2nd fl.

75. COUNTY CLERK'S ACCOUNT WITH REGISTRARS OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS, 1903--.
4 v. Title varies: Vital Statistics Reported to County Clerk,
3 v., 1903-18.

Ledger of accounts with local registrars for birth and death reports, showing names of registrar and township, number of births and deaths reported, date of report, and amount of payment. Arr. by date of report. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 260 - 375 p. 18 x 11 x 2 - 18 x 12 x 3. Co. clk.'s main off., 2nd fl.

Miscellaneous

76. (COUNTY CLERK'S MISCELLANEOUS FILES), 1817--. 387 f.b. (282-287, 343, 351, 365, 377-456, 463, 463, 470, 473, 474, 483-600, 717, 800-886, 890-912, 920-927, 951-967, 979-1003, 1005-1009).

Documents of miscellaneous proceedings filed in the office of county clerk, including:

- i. Appointments of deputy county officers, 1860-1930.
- ii. Board of review proceedings - applications for membership and appointments to board of review, 1899-1903; lists of mortgages held in foreign counties by local residents, 1899.
- iii. Bond issues - cancelled refunding bonds and coupons, 1895, 1896, 1898, 1901, 1909, 1915-17, 1923; cancelled jail construction bonds and coupons, 1915, 1921.
- iv. County board licensing proceedings - applications and bonds for liquor licenses, 1882-1918; list of ferry boat rates, 1917.
- v. County clerk's licensing and registration proceedings - certificates of partnership, 1884-97; affidavits of boarding and lodging house keepers for sale of unclaimed property, 1897, 1910-13; certificates of registered stallions, 1894, 1904; certificates of estrays, 1891, 1892, 1911; list of revoked architects' licenses, 1913; register of World War veterans, 1919; articles of incorporation of Eureka Farmers' Fire and Lightning Insurance Company, 1889; list of Second National Bank of Peoria stockholders, 1877; certificates of trademarks, 1891-94; certificates of land patents, 1817, 1837, 1840, 1848, 1856.

- vi. County court legal proceedings - attachment, replevin, and appearance bonds, 1905--; certificates of moral character for bar applicants, 1881, 1884, 1913, 1924-30; transcripts of proceedings in justice courts of appealed cases, 1877--; assignments, bonds, inventories, claims, lists of creditors, and reports of assets in assignment cases, 1875-97; nolle prossed case papers, 1922--; injunction writs restraining extension of taxes, 1899.
- vii. Disposition of accounts - cancelled county orders, and treasurer's descriptive lists of cancelled county orders, 1885--; duplicates of treasurer's receipts, 1890--.
- viii. Drainage district proceedings - appointments, oaths, bonds, and reports of commissioners, construction contracts, bids, estimates, and plans, tax schedules, assessment rolls, right-of-way releases and agreements, plats of areas, and court orders for Pekin and La March, 1839--, Banner, 1910, Tuscarora, 1921-23, and Hallock and Medina, 1906-16, drainage districts; lists of swamp and overflow lands, 1880.
- ix. Election proceedings, 1914--, including abstracts of votes, canvass and results of election, appointments of judges and clerks, candidates' nominating petitions, withdrawals of candidacy, and affidavits for absentee ballots.
- x. Indentures of minor children, 1876-80, showing names of minor and foster parents, age, sex, and color of minor, and date, period, and purpose of indenture.
- xi. Jury venire - county board lists of petit jurors, 1880--.
- xii. Plat recordings - plats of school districts, 1850-54, 1862-65; plats of additions and subdivisions to City of Peoria, 1914-29; plat of Buckeye Power Company property, 1903.
- xiii. Probate court proceedings - petitions of appointment of conservator, 1874-80; wills, 1860-83.
- xiv. Reports to county board - semiannual reports of county, probate, and circuit clerks, treasurer, sheriff, superintendent of schools, recorder, 1873-1906; annual financial reports of treasurer of greater Peoria Sanitary and Sewage Disposal District, 1935--; reports by grand jury of indictments and reports on conditions of jail and prisoners, 1915-30; reports by superintendents of state institutions on condition of county patients, 1896, 1897, 1902-18.
- xv. Reports to county court - state's attorney, 1938--; adult probation officer, 1912-27; cemetery associations, 1889--.
- xvi. Road commissioners' proceedings, 1833-49, including plats of road surveys, surveyor's field notes, and road viewer's reports.
- xvii. Taxation proceedings - affidavits for tax deeds, 1849--; certificates of purchase and redemption, 1825--; lists of township tax levies, 1855--; newspaper lists of tax delinquent property, 1851-61; objections to railroad taxes, 1922-24; schedules of railroad right-of-way property, 1873--; statements of collector's settlement with county clerk, 1891-1927;

statements of earnings by railroad companies, 1875-76; statements of school tax levies, 1845-54; and summaries of valuations and taxes by state auditor, 1865-94.

xviii. Village organization proceedings, 1883, 1884, 1889, 1890, 1895, 1898, 1907, including petitions of organization election, plats of proposed village, election notices, and results, lists and oaths of judges and clerks of election, abstracts of votes, affidavits of election and oaths of trustees.

xix. Vital statistics proceedings - supplemental birth and death correction reports, 1928--; board of health certifications of physicians' death reports, 1907-15; county clerk's classification of birth and death reports, 1890.

Also contains Poor of City (Relief Claims), 1853-1906, 1925--, entry 12; Lists of Town and Township Officers, 1890-1927, entry 57; and (Officers' Bonds), 1883-1930, entry 68. Arr. by date of filing. For index, see entry 20. Nature of recording varies. 10 x 5 x 15. Co. clk.'s main off., 2nd fl.

77. LODGING AND BOARDING HOUSE AFFIDAVITS, 1932--. 6 f.b. (945-950). Affidavits of keepers of lodging and boarding houses, inns, and hotels, for the state board of public health, showing dimensions of building, address, number of rooms, signatures of operator and county clerk, and date and number of affidavit. Arr. by affidavit no. For index, see entry 20. Hdw. on pr. fm. 8 x 8 x 10. Co. clk.'s main off., 2nd fl.

78. TOWN CLERK'S CERTIFICATE FOR SPARROW BOUNTIES, 1885-98. 2 f.b. (480, 481).

Certificates of town clerks certifying to county clerk claims for sparrow bounties, showing date and number of certificate, name of claimant, number of sparrow heads, rate of payment, and signature of town clerk. Arr. by certificate no. For index, see entry 20. Hdw. on pr. fm. 8 x 8 x 10. Co. clk.'s main off., 2nd fl.

III. RECORDER

The recorder of Peoria County was originally appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. His bond, set at \$1,500, was to be filed with the Secretary of State.¹ In 1829 the amount of his bond was reduced to \$500.² The office became elective in 1835 with a four-year term and the bond was subject to the approval of the county commissioners' court.³ A two-year term became effective in 1847.⁴ With the adoption of the second constitution the office of recorder was abolished, the duties of that office being delegated to the circuit court clerk in an ex officio capacity.⁵ The present constitution reestablished the office of recorder in counties having a population of 60,000 or more but continued the provision of the prior constitution for other counties.⁶ The population of Peoria County reached the minimum set by the constitution in 1890, and accordingly a recorder was elected in 1892.⁷ The amount of the recorder's bond was set at \$5,000 in 1872 and was to be approved by the county judge.⁸ This amount was raised in 1874 to \$20,000 for counties having the population of Peoria. A copy of the bond is entered upon the records of the county court.⁹ The compensation of the recorder is fixed by the county board within the limits set by the constitution. In counties the size of Peoria, with a population of 153,374, the compensation of the recorder is not to exceed \$4,000 a year.¹⁰

Assistants and deputies are appointed by the recorder in a number as determined by rule of the circuit court and as entered upon the court record.¹¹ The compensation of the assistants and deputies is set by the county board.¹² Written oaths of deputies are filed with the Secretary of State.¹³

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1. L. 1819, p. 19.
 2. R.L. 1829, p. 117.
 3. L. 1835, p. 166.
 4. L. 1845, p. 28. Effective in 1847.
 5. Const. 1848, Art. V, sec. 19; L. 1849, p. 64.
 6. Const. 1870, Art. X, sec. 8; R.S. 1874, p. 833.
 7. Census shows population of Peoria County, 70,378 in 1890 (Population Bulletin, p. 9).
 8. L. 1871-72, p. 645.
 9. R.S. 1874, p. 833.
 10. Const. 1870, Art. X, sec. 10.
 11. Ibid., sec. 9; R.S. 1874, p. 833.
 12. Const. 1870, Art. X, sec. 9.
 13. R.S. 1874, p. 833.

Recorder

In accordance with the duty of the recorder to record at length all written instruments, the following records are required to be kept:

1. An entry book in which data relating to date and order of receipt of instruments to be recorded or filed, and the names of parties and location of property, with a brief description of the premises, are entered. Each of such instruments is numbered by the recorder with the corresponding number of the entry. The entry book serves as a table of contents, with descriptive memoranda, for all instruments recorded at length or filed in the recorder's office.
2. Well-bound books for recording at length any instrument in writing entitled to be recorded, in the order of time of its reception. Separate books are allowed to be kept for the recording of different classes of instruments and two distinct series of document numbers may be used in recording documents received for recordation. One series preceded by the letter "D" is for the recordation of bills of sales of personal property, chattel mortgages, releases, extensions, and assignments thereof. The other series of document numbers is for all other instruments received for recordation.
3. Grantor and grantee indexes. In the grantor index are listed the names of the grantors in alphabetical order and the names of the grantees. The grantee index shows the names of the grantees in alphabetical order and the names of the grantors. Each index also shows the date of the instrument, time of receipt, kind of instrument, consideration, book and page of recordation, or the number under which it is filed and a brief description of the premises.
4. Indexes to each book of record in which are entered in alphabetical order, the names of each grantor and grantee and page on which the instrument is recorded. This series indexes instruments such as powers of attorney, chattel mortgages, and those recorded by corporations.
5. An index to recorded maps and plats, based on location of property, sometimes arranged by section, township, and range.
6. An abstract book, in effect indexing records by showing for each tract every conveyance or incumbrance recorded, its execution and filing date, and the book and page of its recordation. Series optional with county board.

7. A separate book to record certificates of honorable discharge from military, aviation, and naval service.¹

The recorder, in recording at length any instrument in writing, is permitted to make a handwritten or typewritten transcription, a photographic or photostatic reproduction, or use a combination of these methods.² In addition to the instruments received for recordation, the recorder is required, upon receipt, to file any mortgage, trust deed, or conveyance of personal property having the effect of a mortgage or lien upon such property which is endorsed with the words, "This instrument to be filed, but not recorded." The recorder marks such instruments "filed" and enters upon each the time of their receipt and files them in his office.³

All the records of this office are kept in the recorder's main office, on the first floor, excepting the records shown in entry 79 which are kept in the recorder's rear office.

Entry Books

79. ENTRY BOOKS, 1828-- . 104 v. (1-104).

Register of instruments filed for recordation, showing date, number, and kind of instrument, names of grantor and grantee, legal description of property, consideration, book and page of entry in record, and dates of filing and recordation. Also contains Marginal Release Entry Book (and Index), 1828-1904, entry 80, and Chattel Mortgage Entry Book, 1828-1916, entry 81. Arr. by date of recordation. No index. 1828-1900, hdw.; 1901-- , hdw. under pr. hdgs. 600 p. 16 x 22 x 3.

80. MARGINAL RELEASE ENTRY BOOK (and Index), 1905-- . 9 v. (1-9).
1828-1904 in Entry Books, entry 79.

Register of marginal releases recorded in Real Estate Mortgage Record, entry 98, showing names of grantor and grantee, description of property, consideration, amount of recording fee, dates of instrument and filing, by whom released, and book and page of entry. Arr. by date of filing. Indexed alph. by names of grantor and grantee. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 200 - 500 p. 20 x 14 x 2 - 17 x 12 x 4.

1. L. 1819, p. 8,20,31; R.L. 1829, p. 116,117; L. 1847, p. 69; L. 1853, p. 254; L. 1867, p. 148; L. 1869, p. 2; L. 1871-72, p. 645,646; L. 1873, p. 144; R.S. 1874, p. 834-46; L. 1917, p. 652; L. 1925, p. 521; L. 1933-34, Third Sp. Sess., p. 214.
2. Ibid.
3. L. 1925, p. 521; L. 1929, p. 592-94.

81. CHATTEL MORTGAGE ENTRY BOOK, 1917--. 11 v. (1-10,10).
1828-1916 in Entry Books, entry 79.

Register of chattel mortgages filed for recordation, showing dates of instrument, filing, and recordation, mortgage number, names of mortgagor and mortgagee, consideration, amount of recording fee, and book and page of entry. Arr. by date of filing. Indexed alph. by names of mortgagee and mortgagor. Hdw. on pr. fm. 400 p. 16 x 10 x 2.

General Indexes

82. INDEX TO DEED RECORDS, 1818--. 104 v. (1-15, 17-105).

Index to Miscellaneous Deed Record, entry 93; Warranty Deed Record, entry 94; Quitclaim Deed Record, entry 95; Masters' Deed Record, entry 96; Trust Deed Record, entry 97; Real Estate Mortgage Record, entry 98; Township Treasurers' Bonds, entry 103, showing names of grantor and grantee, date and kind of instrument, and book and page of entry. For the years 1818-78, this is a transcription of Index Grantor to Grantee, entry 91. Arr. alph. by names of grantor and grantee. Hdw. and typed. 600 p. 12 x 3 x 3.

83. NONDESCRIPT INDEX, 1818--. 1 v.

Index to nondescript instruments recorded in Miscellaneous Deed Record, entry 93, and Official Bonds, entry 104; showing names of principals, kind of instrument, date of recordation, and book and page of entry. For the years 1818-1918, this is a transcription of Grantors' Index to Nondescript Papers, entry 90. Arr. alph. by names of grantor and grantee. Typed and hdw. on pr. fm. 300 p. 18 x 12 x 3.

84. INDEX (Tract Book), 1825--. 111 v. (1, 1A, 2, 2A, 3, 3A, 4-108).

Register of instruments recorded for each tract or parcel of real estate, showing quarter section, township, range, and lot, and block numbers, names of addition or subdivision, and grantor and grantee, legal description of property, date, number, and kind of instrument, consideration, dates of filing and recordation, and book and page of entry in record. Arr. by sec., twp., and range nos., and alph. by names of addition and subdivision. For indexes to additions and subdivisions, see entries 85 and 86. Hdw. and typed under pr. hdgs. 600 p. 18 x 12 x 3.

85. KEY TO INDEX BOOKS, 1818--. 4 v.

Index to additions and subdivisions in Index (Tract Book), entry 84, and Plat Books, entry 112; and to instruments of former Fulton County lands, showing names of addition or subdivisions, section, township, and range numbers; and book and page of entry. Arr. alph. by name of addition, and by twp., and range nos. Typed. 115 p. 12 x 10 x 1.

86. GUIDE TO INDEX (Tract Book), 1825--. 3 v.

Index to additions and subdivisions in Index (Tract Book), entry 84, and Plat Books, entry 112, showing name of addition or subdivision, section, township, and range numbers, and book and page of entry. Arr. alph. by name of addition or subdivision. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 125 p. 12 x 10 x $\frac{1}{2}$.

87. POWER OF ATTORNEY INDEX, 1831--. 1 v.
Index to instruments of powers of attorney in Miscellaneous Deed Record, entry 93, showing names of grantee and grantor, dates of instrument and recordation, and book and page of entry. Arr. alph. by names of grantee and grantor. Hdw. and typed. 600 p. 18 x 12 x 3.
88. CEMETERY INDEX, 1895--. 1 v.
Index to cemetery deeds as recorded in Miscellaneous Deed Record, entry 93, showing names of grantee, grantor, and cemetery, and book and page of entry. Arr. alph. by name of grantee. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 600 p. 18 x 12 x 3.
89. SOLDIERS' AND SAILORS' ENTRY BOOK (Index), 1919--. 1 v.
Index to Soldiers' Discharges, 1919-25, entry 109, and to soldiers' and sailors' discharges recorded in Miscellaneous Deed Record, 1926--, entry 93, showing names of soldier and sailor, type of service, dates of enlistment, discharge, and recordation, and book and page of entry. Arr. alph. by name of soldier or sailor. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 300 p. 18 x 14 x 3.
90. GRANTORS' INDEX TO NONDESCRIPT PAPERS, 1818-1918. 1 v.
Index to nondescript instruments recorded in Miscellaneous Deed Record, entry 93, showing names of principals, date and kind of instrument, book and page of entry, and date of recordation. This index has been transcribed into and is superseded by Nondescript Index, 1818--, entry 83. Arr. alph. by name of grantor. Hdw. 500 p. 18 x 12 x 3.
91. INDEX GRANTOR TO GRANTEE, 1818-78. 8 v. (1-4 grantor; 1-4 grantee).
Index to Miscellaneous Deed Record, entry 93; Warranty Deed Record, entry 94; Quitclaim Deed Record, entry 95; Trust Deed Record, entry 97; Real Estate Mortgage Record, entry 98, showing names of grantor and grantee, date and kind of instrument, date of recordation, description of property, consideration, and book and page of entry. This index has been transcribed into and is superseded by Index to Deed Records, entry 82. Arr. alph. by names of grantor and grantee. Hdw. on pr. fm. 400 p. 18 x 12 x 3.

Instruments Recorded

Uncalled for Instruments

92. UNCALLED-FOR DOCUMENTS, 1818--. 142 f.b.
Files of original uncalled-for documents left for recordation, showing names of grantor and grantee, title, nature, and date of instrument, and dates of filing and recordation. Arr. alph. by title of instrument. No index. 1818-95, hdw. on pr. fm.; 1896--, hdw. and typed on pr. fm. 10 x 5 x 14.

Deeds

93. MISCELLANEOUS DEED RECORD, 1818--. 456 v. (179 v. labeled with alphabetical combinations, 1818-1936; 277 v., 3-543, not consecutive, 1847--). Intermittent title variations: Record.

Recordation of miscellaneous instruments not segregated by type including:

- i. Affidavits, 1857--, showing name of affiant, statement of facts, acknowledgment, and dates of instrument and recordation.
- ii. Agreements, antenuptial, 1854--, showing date, names of contracting parties and witnesses, provisions of agreement, and acknowledgment.
- iii. Appointments of deputy sheriffs, 1878--, showing date of appointment, name and oath of deputy, amount of bond, signature of sheriff, and acknowledgment.
- iv. Articles of agreement, 1835--, showing date, names of contracting parties, terms of agreement, expiration date, and acknowledgment.
- v. Articles of copartnership, 1869--, showing date and provisions of contract, names of partners, and date of recordation.
- vi. Assignments, 1838--, showing names of assignor, assignee, and witnesses, legal description of property, consideration, dates of mortgage and assignment, and acknowledgment.
- vii. Bills of sale, 1843--, showing names of purchaser and seller, list of articles sold, consideration, and acknowledgment.
- viii. Certificates of sale and redemption, 1835--, showing names of plaintiff, defendant, sheriff, and master, legal description of property, and dates of court decree, sale, and recordation.
- ix. Certificates, veterinary, 1891--, showing number and date of certificates, name of veterinary, school of graduation, signatures of board members, and dates of expiration and recordation.
- x. Changes of names, 1906--, showing date, name and term of court, former name, legally adopted name, court order, and date of recordation.
- xi. Contracts, 1868--, showing date and provisions of contract, names of contracting parties, acknowledgment, and date of recordation.
- xii. Deeds, administrators', 1884--; cemetery, 1852--; release, 1857--; right of way, 1872--; school lands, 1835-73; sheriff's, 1865--, showing names of grantor and grantee, legal description of property, consideration, and dates of instrument and recordation.
- xiii. Federal tax lien notices and certificate of discharge, 1922--, showing name of taxpayer, residence or place of business, collector's serial number, date of notice, amounts of tax and penalty, nature of claim, and filing date of certificate of discharge.
- xiv. Judgments, 1849--, showing term date, names of court, plaintiff, defendant, and attorneys, amounts of judgment and costs, and date of recordation.
- xv. Land patents, 1818-20, showing name of patentee, legal description of land, consideration, and dates of issue and recordation.
- xvi. Leases, 1818--, showing date and terms of lease, names of lessee and lessor, expiration date, and acknowledgment.

- xvii. Ordinances, annexations, 1864--, showing dates of petition, election, adoption, and recordation, legal description of property annexed, name of municipality, and signatures of municipal officials.
- xviii. Powers of attorney, 1818--, showing names of assignor and assignee, powers assigned, acknowledgment, and date of recordation.
- xix. Soldiers' and sailors' land grants, 1818-45, showing name of grantee, legal description of land, and dates of grant and recordation.
- xx. Wills, 1818--, showing names of testator, witnesses, attorney, and beneficiaries, provisions of will, and dates of execution and recordation.

Also contains Warranty Deed Record, 1818-64, entry 94; Quitclaim Deed Record, 1818-68, entry 95; Masters' Deed Record, 1818-91, 1938--, entry 96; Trust Deed Record, 1818-73, 1894-1909, 1929--, entry 97; Real Estate Mortgage Record, 1818-35, 1848-64, entry 98; Official Bonds, 1918--, entry 104, including Collectors' Bonds, entry 102, and Township Treasurers' Bonds, entry 103, and Soldiers' Discharges, 1926--, entry 109. Arr. by date of recordation. For general indexes, see entries 32, 83, 90, and 91; for sep. index to instruments concerning former Fulton County lands, 1818-24, see entry 85; for sep. index to powers of attorney, 1831--, see entry 87; for sep. index to cemetery deeds, 1895--, see entry 88; and for sep. index to soldiers' and sailors' discharges, 1926--, see entry 89. Hdw., typed, and hdw., and typed on pr. fm. 600 p. 18 x 12 x 3.

94. WARRANTY DEED RECORD, 1865--. 132 v. (74 v. labeled with alphabetical combinations, 1865--; 58 v., 54-540 not consecutive, 1879-84, 1911--). Intermittent title variations: Record. 1818-64 in Miscellaneous Deed Record, entry 93.

Copies of warranty deeds, showing date of instrument, names of grantee and grantor, legal description of property, consideration, acknowledgment, and date of recordation. Arr. by date of recordation. For indexes, see entries 82 and 91. Hdw., hdw. on pr. fm., typed and typed on pr. fm. 600 p. 18 x 12 x 3.

95. QUITCLAIM DEED RECORD, 1869--. 24 v. (KC, UC, ZC, DD, GD, RD, BE, HE, KE, YE, ZE, QF, IG, ZG, KI, AK, IK, CL, 1869--; 323, 337, 366, 381, 492, 528, 1918--). Intermittent title variations: Record. 1818-68 in Miscellaneous Deed Record, entry 93.

Copies of quitclaim deeds, showing names of grantor and grantee, legal description of property, consideration, notarial acknowledgment, and dates of instrument and recordation. Arr. by date of recordation. For indexes, see entries 82 and 91. Hdw., hdw. on pr. fm., and typed. 600 p. 18 x 12 x 3.

96. MASTERS' DEED RECORD, 1892-1937. 8 v. (DG, SH, TH, WI, DL, 1892-1930; 284, 299, 471, 1911-37). 1813-91, 1938-- in Miscellaneous Deed Record, entry 93.

Copies of masters' deeds, showing names of grantor, grantee, and master, legal description of property, acknowledgement, and dates of court decree, sale, instrument, and recordation. Arr. by date of recordation. For index, see entry 82. 1892-1912, hdw. on pr. fm.; 1913-37, typed on pr. fm. 600 p. 18 x 12 x 3.

Recorder - Instruments
Recorded

97. TRUST DEED RECORD, 1874-93, 1910-28, 23 v. (39, 42, 44-46, 50, 56, 59, 67, 69, 74, 77, 1874-93; 167, 172, 173, 177, 187, 193, 195, 196, 207, 237, 260, 1910-28). Intermittent title variations; Record. 1818-73, 1894-1909, 1929-- in Miscellaneous Deed Record, entry 93.

Copies of trust deeds, showing names of grantor and grantee, legal description of property, consideration, acknowledgment, and dates of instrument and recordation. Arr. by date of recordation. For indexes, see entries 82 and 91. Hdw. on pr. fm. 600 p. 18 x 12 x 3.

Mortgages - Real Estate

98. REAL ESTATE MORTGAGE RECORD, 1836-47, 1865--. 171 v. (1, 2, 1836-47; 169 v., 19-544 not consecutive, 1865--). Intermittent title variations: Record. 1818-35, 1848-64 in Miscellaneous Deed Record, entry 93.

Copies of real estate mortgages including marginal releases, showing names of mortgagor and mortgagee, date, amount, and terms of mortgage, legal description of property, and dates of maturity, release, and recordation. Arr. by date of recordation. For indexes, see entries 82 and 91; for sep. index to marginal releases, 1905--, see entry 80. 1836-47, hdw.; 1865-1921, hdw. on pr. fm.; 1922, typed on pr. fm. 600 p. 18 x 12 x 3.

Mortgages - Chattel

99. CHATTEL MORTGAGE RECORDS, 1828--. 270 v. (1-270).

Copies of chattel mortgages including chattel mortgage extensions, showing names of mortgagor and mortgagee, itemized list of chattels, amount of mortgage, date and amount of extension, dates of period of mortgage and recordation, and acknowledgment. Arr. by date of recordation. For index, see entry 100. 1828-1914, hdw. on pr. fm.; 1915--, typed. 750 p. 18 x 12 x 4.

100. INDEX TO CHATTEL MORTGAGES, 1828--. 11 v. (1-11).

Index to Chattel Mortgage Records, entry 99, showing names of mortgagor and mortgagee, consideration, dates of mortgage and filing, and book and page of entry. Arr. alph. by name of mortgagor. Hdw. 600 p. 18 x 12 x 3.

Certificates of Levy

101. SHERIFF'S CERTIFICATE OF LEVY, 1842--. 2 v. (1, 2).

Copies of sheriff's certificates of levy, showing certificate number, names of plaintiff, defendant, clerk, and sheriff, dates of certificate and service, amount of levy, and description of property. Arr. by date of recordation. Indexed alph. by name of defendant. Hdw. on pr. fm. 500 p. 18 x 12 x 3.

Bonds of Officers

102. COLLECTORS' BONDS, 1889-1920. 1 v. (C). 1850-88 in Official Bonds, entry 104; 1921-- in Miscellaneous Deed Record, entry 93.
Copies of bonds of county and town collectors, showing names of county, township, collector, and sureties, date, amount, and terms of bond, and dates of expiration and recordation. Arr. by date of recordation. Indexed alph. by name of official. Hdw. on pr. fm. 295 p. 18 x 12 x 3.
103. TOWNSHIP TREASURERS' BONDS, 1889-1918. 1 v. (D). 1850-88 in Official Bonds, entry 104; 1919-- in Miscellaneous Deed Record, entry 93.
Copies of township school treasurers' bonds, showing names of township, treasurer, and sureties, date, amount, and conditions of bond, approval of county board, acceptance by finance committee, and date of recordation. Arr. by date of recordation. Indexed alph. by name of official; for sep. index, see entry 82. Hdw. on pr. fm. 290 p. 18 x 12 x 3.
104. OFFICIAL BONDS, 1837-1917. 2 v. (1, 3).
1918-- in Miscellaneous Deed Record, entry 93.
Copies of bonds of county commissioners, 1847-48, circuit clerks, sheriffs, coroners, treasurers, 1837-1917, county clerks, 1849-1917, and superintendents of schools, 1857-1917, showing names of official and sureties, date and amount of bond, description and value of security, and date of recordation. Also contains Collectors' Bonds, 1850-88, entry 102, and Township Treasurers' Bonds, 1850-88, entry 103. Arr. by date of recordation. Indexed alph. by name of officer; for sep. index, see entry 83. Hdw. 575 p. 18 x 12 x 3.

Other Instruments

105. CORPORATION RECORD, 1850--. 20 v. (1-20).
Copies of certificates of incorporation, showing dates of certificate and recordation, names of corporation, officers, and stockholders, amount and par value of capital stock, nature and purpose of corporation, location of home office, and dates of board meetings. Arr. by date of recordation. For index, see entry 106. 1850-1910, hdw.; 1911--, typed. 580 p. 18 x 12 x 3.
106. INDEX TO CORPORATIONS, 1850--. 1 v.
Index to incorporation certificates in Corporation Record, entry 105, showing name of corporation, and book and page of entry. Arr. alph. by name of corporation. Hdw. on pr. fm. 500 p. 18 x 12 x 3.
107. REGISTER OF FARM NAMES, 1915--. 1 v.
Copy of certificates of registration of farm names, showing date of registration, names of owner and farm, and legal description of lands. Arr. by date of registration. Indexed alph. by name of owner. Hdw. on pr. fm. 290 p. 18 x 12 x 2.

108. STALLION RECORD, 1910-18. 1 v.

Copies of certificates of registration of stallions, showing registration number, names of stallion, owner, and breeder, description of stallion, copy of certificate of examination, and date of filing. Arr. by date of filing. Indexed alph. by name of owner. Hdw. on pr. fm. 600 p. 18 x 12 x 3.

109. SOLDIERS' DISCHARGES, 1863-1925. 4 v. (A-D).

Title varies: Soldiers' Discharge Record, v. A, 1863-1918.
1926-- in Miscellaneous Deed Record, entry 93.

Copies of honorable discharges from the United State military and naval service, showing name, age, and enlistment record of veteran, date, place, and reason for discharge, names of commanding officer and branch of service, and date of recordation. Arr. by date of recordation. 1863-1918, indexed alph. by name of veteran; for sep. index, 1919-25, see entry 89. 1863-1918, hdw. on pr. fm.; 1919-25, typed on pr. fm. 600 p. 1 x 12 x 3.

110. PATENT RECORD, 1872-1911. 1 v.

Copies of patent certificates, showing name of patentee, nature and description of patent, and dates of certificate and recordation. Arr. by date of recordation. Indexed alph. by name of patentee. Hdw. on pr. fm. 400 p. 18 x 12 x 4.

Plats

111. (PLATS AND SURVEYS), 1835--. 31 f.b.

Plats of cities, towns, cemeteries, coal mines, and powder magazines, showing names of addition, subdivision, cemetery, coal mine, surveyor, and patentee, street, section, range, township, and block, and lot numbers, widths and lengths of lots and alleys, location of creeks, railroads, entries, air shafts, buildings, territory adjacent to powder magazine, and gas and water mains, and dates of survey and recordation. Author: county surveyor, Peoria. Arr. by names of addition, subdivision, cemetery, or magazine. No index. Hand-drawn and blueprint. 1 in. to 20 ft. - 1 in. to 100 ft. 10 x 5 x 14.

112. PLAT BOOKS, 1836--. 19 v. (1, A1-A4, 1836-1905; B2, B3, 1873-1911; B-I, K-M, O, 1875--).

Record of plats of additions and subdivisions, showing names of addition, street, and surveyor, lot and block numbers, description of area, and dates of survey and recordation. Arr. by date of recordation. For indexes to subdivisions and additions, see entries 85 and 86. Hdw. and hand-drawn. 100 p. 16 x 20 x 2.

113. SURVEY RECORD, 1839--. 8 v. (B-D, 1-5). Last entry 1936.

County surveyor's record of surveys of lands, additions, and subdivisions, showing name of owner, legal description of property, description and location of markers, outline of boundary lines, acknowledgment, and date of survey. Arr. by date of survey. Indexed alph. by names of townships and addition or subdivision. Hdw. on pr. fm. 200 - 400 p. 14 x 8 x 2 - 18 x 12 x 3.

114. PLATS OF ADDITIONS AND SUBDIVISIONS OF CITY OF PEORIA, 1920.

52 plats.

Plats of additions and subdivisions of City of Peoria, showing name, location, and boundaries of addition or subdivision, name and location of street, locations of alleys, and lot and block numbers. Peoria, Illinois: Huebinger Publishing Company. No obvious arr. No index. Printed. 1 in. to 300 ft. 18 x 23.

115. PEORIA COUNTY, OUTSIDE OF CITY OF PEORIA, 1920. 3 v.

Plats of townships in Peoria County, outside of City of Peoria, showing name, location, and legal description of township, name or number and legal description of school district, and location and names of towns, villages, and roads. Peoria, Illinois: Huebinger Publishing Company. No obvious arr. No index. Printed. 2 in. to 1 mi. 50 p. 18 x 16 x 1.

116. (PLATS OF MINES), No date. 26 plats.

Plats of mines in Peoria County, showing name and location of mine, outline of coal rights, and locations of excavated and abandoned areas, slate falls, entries, roadways, air courses, cross-cuts, overcasts, and trapdoors. No obvious arr. No index. Hand-drawn. 1 in. to 200 ft. 16 x 24.

Fees

117. ENTRY BOOK (Cash Receipts), 1897--. 50 v. (56-105).

Register of fees received for recording instruments, showing date of recordation, amount of fee, kind of instrument, and name of owner. Arr. by date of recordation. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 500 p. 18 x 10 x 3.

IV. COUNTY COURT

The county court serves as the judicial branch of county government. This court is administered by the county judge who is elected for a four-year term by the county electorate. Before entering upon the duties of his office, the county judge is required to take and subscribe to an oath which he files with the Secretary of State. The compensation of the Peoria county judge was originally set at \$2.50 per diem for holding court, which was paid quarterly out of the county treasury.¹ Today, the judge in this county receives \$6,000 per annum.² The court hears and determines matters in which it has original or concurrent jurisdiction, including appeals from the justices of the peace and police magistrates.³

At the time of the organization of Peoria County, the powers of the judiciary in all counties were administered only by the justices of the peace,⁴ the probate judge,⁵ and the circuit court.⁶ Later, a civil and criminal court with jurisdiction cointensive with the county lines was established under the provisions of the Constitution of 1848 and legislation of 1849.⁷ The court created was the county court. This unit of county government was established with a partial reversion to the dual function, administrative and judicial, of the local judiciary in Illinois under the Territorial Laws prior to 1818. The court was different from the territorial courts in that its composition varied for each of the two functions. The judicial court was administered by the county judge, who was elected by the county electorate and commissioned by the Governor.⁸ His original four-year tenure of office has remained effective to the present. As the administrative body, the court was made up of the county judge and two justices of the peace.⁹

Under the second constitution complete separation of county business powers from the judicial court could be had with the acceptance by the county electorate of an independent administrative body, the board of supervisors, established under township organization.¹⁰ This plan of government

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1. L. 1849, p. 62,63.
 2. L. 1938, First Sp. Sess., p. 80.
 3. L. 1881, p. 70.
 4. Const. 1818, Art. IV, sec. 8; L. 1819, p. 192.
 5. L. 1821, p. 119.
 6. L. 1819, p. 380.
 7. Const. 1848, Art. V, sec. 1,16; L. 1849, p. 62.
 8. Const. 1848, Art. V, sec. 17; L. 1849, p. 62,66; R.S. 1874, p. 339; L. 1933, p. 451.
 9. L. 1849, p. 65.
 10. Const. 1848, Art. VII, sec. 6; L. 1849, p. 192,202-4; L. 1851, p. 38,50-52.

was accepted but was not effective immediately and Peoria was governed by the dual county court until 1850 when the board of supervisors became successor to the county court in its jurisdiction over county affairs and business. From that date on, the county court has served only as a judicial court in Peoria County.

The county court as established in 1849 was vested with the same civil and criminal jurisdiction as the justices of the peace. The county judge was made a conservator of the peace. He was given the same power and authority as the circuit judge in preserving order in the court and punishing contempts offered the court while in session.¹ Between 1855² and 1861³ the Peoria county court exercised concurrent jurisdiction with the circuit court in all civil cases at law and chancery except actions in ejectment. Suits for the sale of delinquent lands for taxes of 1848, and prior years, could be brought and presented in either the circuit or county court, but for taxes of subsequent years, the county court was given exclusive original jurisdiction.⁴ The court also exercised jurisdiction equal with that of the circuit court over naturalization.⁵

In addition to its civil and criminal jurisdiction, the court was vested with all the powers and jurisdiction in probate matters which were vested prior to this date in the court of the probate justice. The court was given concurrent jurisdiction with the circuit court in hearing and determining applications for the sale of real estate of deceased persons and for the payments of debts of the estate.⁶ In 1890, when the population minimum as fixed by the constitution⁷ was reached, a separate probate court was established and the county court lost this jurisdiction.

The law jurisdiction of the county court in Peoria County is concurrent with that of the circuit court in that class of cases wherein the justices of the peace have jurisdiction where the value of the amount in controversy does not exceed \$2,000,⁸ in all cases of appeals from justices of the

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1. L. 1849, p. 65.
 2. L. 1855, p. 194, 195.
 3. L. 1861, p. 109.
 4. L. 1849, p. 126.
 5. 2 U.S. Stat. 155.
 6. L. 1849, p. 65.
 7. Const. 1870, Art. VI, sec. 20; L. 1877, p. 79; L. 1881, p. 72.
 8. Under the laws of 1872 and the revised statutes of 1874, the jurisdiction was in cases wherein the amount involved did not exceed \$500 (L. 1871-72, p. 325; R.S. 1874, p. 339, 340). Legislation enacted in 1933 extended the jurisdiction to \$2,000 (L. 1933, p. 452, approved May 8), but a later amendment approved June 21, 1933, placed the jurisdiction in cases where the amount involved is not over \$1,000 (*ibid.*, p. 449). In 1939, jurisdiction was again extended to \$2,000 (L. 1939, p. 492).

County Court

peace and police magistrates, and in all criminal offenses and misdemeanors where the punishment is not imprisonment in the penitentiary or death.¹ The county court also has original jurisdiction in matters relating to indigent mothers,² and jurisdiction over insane persons not charged with crime.³

The county and circuit courts have original jurisdiction in cases of juvenile offenders. This jurisdiction is over matters dealing with dependent, neglected, and delinquent children. The authority includes provision for the treatment, control, maintenance, adoption, and guardianship of such children.⁴

In 1899, provision was made for the appointment by the court of a juvenile probation officer to serve without compensation from the public treasury and at the pleasure of the court.⁵ In 1907 an amendment to this act authorized the court to allow compensation to such officer in a sum to be set by the county board, but the power of the court to appoint probation officers to serve without pay was in no way abridged by this legislation.⁶ An amendment of 1925 provided that if more than one probation officer were appointed one was to be designated as chief probation officer. To be eligible for the position of chief probation officer, the candidate was required to have had experience in social welfare work equivalent to one year spent in active practical welfare work. Minimum rates, based upon population, were established for the compensation of these officers, the county board to fix the amount. Where a county had only one probation officer, the salary rates were made to apply to that individual. The court, however, retains the power to appoint probation officers to serve without pay.⁷ Legislation enacted in 1939 abolished minimum rates based upon population but retained the other 1925 provisions.⁸

The officer under consideration makes investigation on order of the court and takes charge of the child before and after trial. He is required to be present at the court hearings in order that he may represent the interest of the child. This officer also furnishes information and assistance as required by the court.⁹

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1. R.S. 1874, p. 340; L. 1877, p. 77; L. 1895, p. 212,223; L. 1933, p. 440-51.
 2. L. 1913, p. 127; L. 1915, p. 243; L. 1921, p. 162-64; L. 1935, p. 256-59.
 3. L. 1869, p. 366; R.S. 1874, p. 685.
 4. L. 1899, p. 131-57; L. 1901, p. 141-44; L. 1905, p. 152-56; L. 1907, p. 70-78.
 5. L. 1899; p. 133.
 6. L. 1907, p. 69,70.
 7. L. 1925, p. 187,188.
 8. L. 1939, p. 329,350.
 9. L. 1899, p. 133; L. 1925, p. 187,188.

Upon petition filed with the clerk of the court for the removal of a neglected or dependent child from the custody of its parents or guardian, process is issued for appearance. The summons may be served by the sheriff or the duly appointed probation officer.¹

Any time after the filing of the petition and pending the final disposition, the court may allow the child to remain in the possession of its custodian, or in its home subject to the visitation of the probation officer; or the child may be ordered into the custody of the probation officer.² If upon hearing the case the court finds the child to be dependent or neglected, the court may commit the child to an association or institution, or allow the child to remain in his home subject to the visitation of the probation officer.³ In a similar fashion the probation officer for adults, an appointee of the circuit court, assists the county court in the administration of justice among adult violators.⁴

In cases of delinquency, if the court finds any child to be delinquent, the court may commit the child to an institution or to the custody of the probation officer. The court may upon its discretion, send juvenile offenders and vagrants to the state reform school rather than to the county jail.⁵

Another probation officer, an appointee of the county court, assists the court in mothers' pension cases. The state and county fund for indigent mothers and their children is administered by the county court, its appointed probation officers, the county board with the assistance of the county clerk, the county treasurer, and the State Department of Public Welfare. The county court, however, is given original jurisdiction in these matters.⁶

A mother whose husband is dead or incapacitated, or who is abandoned by her husband, is entitled to the benefits of the mothers' pension fund when she is in need. Such mother may file an application with the county court for relief. The case of the applicant is then investigated by

1. L. 1899, p. 132,133; L. 1905, p. 153,154; L. 1907, p. 72,73.

2. *Ibid.*, p. 74.

3. L. 1923, p. 180,181.

4. L. 1917, p. 280-82.

5. L. 1907, p. 75.

6. L. 1913, p. 127-30; L. 1915, p. 243-45; L. 1921, p. 162-64; L. 1935, p. 256-59. Legislation enacted in 1941, subsequent to the writing of this essay, abolished mothers' pension awards. However, similar aid is now given to needy children as provided for in an act known as "Aid to Dependent Children" (L. 1941, I, 287). The administration of this act is vested in Department of Public Welfare. See Chapter XX, this Inventory.

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the probation officer under the direction of the court.¹ A report and recommendation of the approval or disapproval of such application is then made by this officer to the court. If the application is approved, the probation officer or other person may file with the clerk of the court a written petition verified by affidavit setting forth the facts giving the court jurisdiction and other facts upon which an order for relief is entered. Upon receipt of the petition, a summons is issued to the mother and the county board for appearance. The usual procedure is for the board to make a written appearance. Upon the hearing in court, the court may make an order upon the county board to pay monthly such money as may be necessary for the care of the mother and her child or children in accordance with the provisions of law.²

To carry out this procedure, the county court appoints the probation officer who serves during the pleasure of the court and is compensated for his services by the county in such amount as determined by the county board. As noted above, this officer is required to investigate all applications for relief and make a written report to the court. In addition to this duty, the probation officer makes quarterly visits and supervises, under the direction of the court, the families to which such assistance has been granted.³

The county board annually levies a tax on all taxable property to provide for the mothers' pension fund. The levy is made not in excess of two fifths of one mill on a dollar in Peoria County.⁴ In addition, the General Assembly, from time to time, makes appropriations to the State Department of Public Welfare, the funds, in turn, being distributed to the several counties to supplement the pension fund. To become entitled to the state appropriations, the county must meet the standards of administration set by the state agency. The county treasurer certifies to the state department an itemized statement, attested by the county clerk, of the money paid out during each quarter in accordance with the legislative provisions for this pension and also certifies annually the total assessed valuation and amount of money raised by tax levy for the mothers' pension fund.⁵

Jurisdiction in the election procedure is vested variously in the county board, the county court, and the court clerk. In the event that any city, village, or incorporated town adopts the City Election Act the county judge appoints a board of three election commissioners to have

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1. L. 1913, p. 127-30; L. 1915, p. 244; L. 1935, p. 25C-59.
 2. L. 1913, p. 127-30; L. 1935, p. 257-59.
 3. L. 1913, p. 129,130; L. 1935, p. 259.
 4. L. 1919, p. 780,781; L. 1927, p. 196,197; L. 1926, First Sp. Sess., p. 3,4; L. 1933, p. 194,195.
 5. L. 1935, p. 259. See explanation new law, n. C, p. 244.

charge of election in that political unit. Only one such board however, is appointed in each county. This board has jurisdiction over elections in all cities, villages, and incorporated towns which may adopt the act.¹ Otherwise, jurisdiction is vested in the county board, county court, and county clerk. The county court has original jurisdiction in election contests for certain county, district, and township offices.²

Aiding in the settlement of questions arising in the course of the election procedure is the county officers electoral board. This body consists of the county judge as chairman, the county clerk, and the state's attorney.³

The several nomination papers for county offices are filed with the county clerk and are considered valid unless objections are made within five days after the last day for filing such papers. Objections to nominations are made to the county officers electoral board for any office of the county, park district, or other division coterminous with or less than the county and other than a city, village, incorporated town, or township.⁴ The objector's petition is filed with the county clerk who presents the same, together with the nomination papers or certificate, before the electoral board.⁵ The petition contains the objector's name and residence, the nature of the objection, the interest of the objector, and the relief sought of the board.⁶ A notice of the hearing is sent to the candidate. Upon hearing the objections, the board renders a final decision by majority vote. In the event the candidate whose nomination is protested is a member of the electoral board, the circuit judge is required to fill his place.⁷

Jurisdiction is vested in the county court to hear and determine all questions relative to taxes on gifts, legacies and inheritance.⁸ The act granting this jurisdiction is generally known as the "Inheritance Tax Law." Originally, the state's attorney was charged with the duty of enforcing the provisions of this law,⁹ however, since 1913 these duties have been performed by the Attorney General.¹⁰ Under that law the county judge and the county clerk are each required every three months to make a statement

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1. L. 1885, p. 147-49; L. 1899, p. 163-65; L. 1917, p. 445,446; L. 1929, p. 339; L. 1933, p. 834; L. 1935-36, Fourth Sp. Sess., p. 35.
 2. L. 1871-72, p. 396.
 3. L. 1891, p. 110,111; L. 1933, p. 552.
 4. L. 1891, p. 110,111; L. 1929, p. 394.
 5. L. 1891, p. 111; L. 1929, p. 394; L. 1933, p. 552.
 6. L. 1929, p. 394,395.
 7. L. 1933, p. 552.
 8. L. 1825, p. 306; L. 1909, p. 318.
 9. L. 1895, p. 306; L. 1909, p. 319.
 10. L. 1913, p. 615,616; L. 1935, p. 1179,1180.

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in writing to the county treasurer of the property from which or the person from whom he has reason to believe a tax under this act is due and unpaid.¹ The county treasurer is required to collect and pay to the State Treasurer all taxes that may be due and payable.²

Under an act of 1933, housing corporations may be organized in Illinois for the express purpose of improving housing conditions.³ Such corporations are subject to the supervision and control of the State Housing Board. This state agency has authority, after investigations and public hearings, to approve the acquisitions of property and construction of housing projects. If the State Housing Board approves a project over the objections of ten percent of the property owners within a mile, but not included in the project, it must then file an application with the clerk of the county court to be submitted to the county judge for the confirmation of the court's approval. Such application is to contain copies of the findings and orders of the board, transcript of testimony, description of the project and public spaces, statement of location, and reasons for approval by the board. The objectors to the project may file objections in the county court to the confirmation of such a project. The county judge then examines the application, objections, and any additional evidence before rendering a decision of "approved" or "not approved" on the application.⁴

Appeals from the judgment and decisions of the county court may be taken to the circuit court.⁵ To the Appellate Court or Supreme Court may be taken and prosecuted appeals and writs of error in proceedings for the sale of lands for taxes and special assessments, in all common law and attachment cases, and in cases of forcible detainer and forcible entry and detainer. Such appeals and writs of error are, when not otherwise provided, taken and prosecuted in the same manner as appeals and writs of error from the circuit court.⁶

The records of the county court are kept by its clerk. In Peoria County the clerk is clerk ex officio of the county court. In addition to the statutory records described below the clerk necessarily maintains others in effecting the court's orders.⁷ For the court the clerk keeps the following records:

1. Books of record of the proceedings and judgment of the court with alphabetical indexes by names of parties.

1. L. 1895, p. 306; L. 1909, p. 319; L. 1913, p. 516.
2. L. 1895, p. 307; L. 1909, p. 319; L. 1913, p. 516.
3. L. 1933, p. 398-415; L. 1933-34, Third Sp. Sess., p. 167-74.
4. Ibid.
5. L. 1933, p. 396.
6. R.S. 1874, p. 339; L. 1877, p. 77; L. 1881, p. 66.
7. The form which such records take is generally determined by court order (L. 1849, p. 65; R.S. 1874, p. 262,263).

Proceedings are recorded at length only in cases designated by law or when the court, at the motion and assumption of expenses by one of the parties, so orders. In practice, the court record has been broken down from an early date into segregated titles of proceedings and judgments.

2. "Plaintiff-Defendant Index to Court Records" and "Defendant-Plaintiff Index to Court Records," intended to be separate records, but frequently combined in a single volume with the two indexes segregated in each volume.
3. A general docket in which all suits are entered in the order they are commenced.
4. A judgment and execution docket containing a column for the entry of satisfaction or other disposition. In practice, an execution docket is frequently set up independently.
5. Additional dockets, designated as the clerk's, judge's and bar docket. In practice, the bar docket has tended to drop out of use.¹
6. A fee book in which costs and fees are to be entered under the proper title of the cause. In practice, separate series of volumes are maintained under these titles of causes.
7. Transcripts of proceedings in appeals from justices' courts, dockets thereof, and transcripts of judgment for liens, etc. from justices' courts.
8. Naturalization records including petitions, proceedings, final certificates, etc. The county courts in Illinois prior to 1906 met the requirement of Federal statutes to exercise naturalization jurisdiction.²
9. Criminal documents used in court hearings and determinations; of particular importance in the large number of cases where complete proceedings are not spread on court record.³
10. Monthly report of the warden of the county jail containing a list of all prisoners in his custody and showing the cause of commitment and names of persons by whom committed.⁴

1. The Civil Practice Act of 1933 grants authority to county courts, subject to rules promulgated by the Supreme Court and not inconsistent with statutory requirements, to make such rules as they may deem expedient, regulating dockets and calendars of said court (L. 1933, p. 786).
2. 2 U.S. Stat. 153; U.S.R.S. 1739-1874, p. 378.
3. R.S. 1845, p. 323, 324, 414, 418, 419; L. 1365, p. 79, 80; L. 1871-72, p. 325; R.S. 1874, p. 262, 263; U.S.R.S. 179-1374, p. 378-80; 34 U.S. Stat. 596-607; 44 U.S. Stat. 709, 710.
4. R.S. 1874, p. 617; L. 1933, p. 678.

Proceedings of Court
(See also entry 76[vi, viii, xv, xviii])

118. (COUNTY COURT CASE FILES), 1855--. 721 f.b. (100-820). Documents in common law and criminal cases, 1855--; chancery cases, 1855-60; adoption cases, 1867--; delinquency cases, 1891--; dependency cases, 1887--; insanity cases, 1866--; feeble-minded cases, 1915--; and mothers' pension cases, 1913--, including: summonses, subpoenas, warrants, information, witness affidavits, depositions, stipulations, replications, appeals, capiases, indictments, demurrers, recognizances, transcripts of evidence, bills for divorce, bills for partition, jury venires, verdicts, investigators' reports, appraisers' reports and affidavits, inventories, and court orders. Also contains Inheritance Tax Papers, 1904--, entry 156. Arr. by date of case. For indexes, see entries 119, 120, and 121. Hdw. and typed on pr. fm. 8 x 6 x 12 - 10 x 4 x 14. 685 f.b., 100-748, 785-820, 1855--, co. clk.'s vlt., 2nd fl.; 36 f.b., 749-784, 1936--, co. clk.'s main off., 2nd fl.
119. INDEX TO DISPOSED OF COURT PAPERS, 1855--. 2 v. (A, B). Index to (County Court Cases Files), entry 118, showing names of plaintiff and defendant, and case and file box numbers. Arr. alph. by names of plaintiff and defendant. 1855-1935, hdw. under pr. hdgs.; 1936--, typed under pr. hdgs. 450 p. 16 x 10 x 2. Co. clk.'s main off., 2nd fl.
120. INDEX TO DISPOSED OF INSANITY CASES, 1866--. 1 v. Index to documents in insane and feeble-minded cases filed in (County Court Case Files), entry 118, showing case number, name of alleged insane or feeble-minded, and file box number. Arr. alph. by name of patient. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 500 p. 16 x 10 x 2. Co. clk.'s main off., 2nd fl.
121. INDEX TO DISPOSED OF DEPENDENT AND DELINQUENT CASES, 1867--. 1 v. Index to documents in closed dependency and delinquency cases filed in (County Court Case Files), entry 118, showing name of dependent or delinquent, term of court, and case and file box numbers. Arr. alph. by name of dependent or delinquent. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 500 p. 16 x 10 x 2. Co. clk.'s main off., 2nd fl.
122. COURT PAPERS (Justice of Peace), 1925--. 21 f.b. Documents in appealed justice of the peace cases, including summonses and executions, showing names of plaintiff, defendant, and attorneys, nature of actions, court orders, and dates of document and filing. Arr. by date of filing. No index. Hdw. 10 x 5 x 12. Co. clk.'s record rm., 2nd fl.
123. COUNTY COURT RECORD COMMON LAW, 1872--. 23 v. (1-23). Record of proceedings in common law cases, including insolvency cases, showing date and number of case, names of plaintiff, defendant, judge, and attorneys, and date and nature of proceedings and court orders. Also contains Judgment by Default, entry 126; Adoption Record, 1872-90, entry 129; Dependent Decree Record, 1872-86, entry 130; and Inheritance Tax Record, 1895-1913, entry 157. Arr. by case no. For index, 1872-1924, see entry 124; 1925--, indexed alph. by name of defendant. Hdw. 600 p. 17 x 11 x 3. Co. clk.'s main off., 2nd fl.

124. INDEX TO COUNTY COURT RECORDS COMMON LAW PLAINTIFF - DEFENDANT, 1872-1924. 2 v. (1, 1).

Index to County Court Record Common Law, entry 123, showing case number, names of plaintiff and defendant, terms in which commenced and disposed, date of judgment, and book and page of entry. Arr. alph. by names of plaintiff and defendant. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 400 p. 18 x 12 x 2. Co. clk.'s main off., 2nd fl.

125. (MINUTE BOOK OF COUNTY COURT), 1906--. 8 v.

Minutes of proceedings in county court, showing names of plaintiff, defendant, judge, clerk, and attorneys, date and nature of action, and court orders. Arr. by date of proceedings. No index. Hdw. 300 p. 20 x 12 x 2 - 15 x 8 x 1 1/2. 7 v., 1906-14, 1922--, co. clk.'s record rm., 2nd fl.; 1 v., 1915-21, old jury rm., 4th fl.

126. JUDGMENT BY DEFAULT, 1858-71. 1 v. (A).

1872-- in County Court Record Common Law, entry 123.

Record of judgments by default, showing term of court, names of plaintiff, defendant, and attorneys, cause for action, amounts of debt, damages, and costs, date and amount of judgment, and nature of satisfaction. Arr. by date of court term. Indexed alph. by name of defendant. Hdw. on pr. fm. 586 p. 18 x 12 x 3. Co. clk.'s main off., 2nd fl.

127. COMMON LAW AND NATURALIZATION RECORD, 1855-61. 2 v. (DD, CL).

Record of proceedings in cases in county court when special legislation gave it equal jurisdiction with circuit court including: naturalization cases, probate cases, chancery cases, divorce cases, insanity cases, special assessment cases, assignment cases, appeals from justice of peace and magistrate courts, mechanics' liens, confessions of judgment, attachments, and garnishments. Arr. by date of case. Indexed alph. by name of plaintiff. Hdw. 600 p. 18 x 12 x 2. Co. clk.'s main off., 2nd fl.

128. CRIMINAL COURT RECORD, 1872--. 5 v. (1, 1-4).

Record of proceedings in criminal cases, showing names of plaintiff, defendant, attorneys, and judge, date, number, and type of case, abstract of proceedings, and court orders. Arr. by date of proceedings. Indexed alph. by name of defendant. 1872-89, hdw.; 1890--, hdw. on pr. fm. 600 p. 20 x 12 x 3. Co. clk.'s main off., 2nd fl.

129. ADOPTION RECORD, 1891--. 4 v. (1-4). 1872-90 in County Court Record Common Law, entry 123.

Record of proceedings in adoption cases, showing names of petitioners, wards, and parents of children, petition and court order for adoption, and dates of proceedings. Arr. by date of proceedings. Indexed alph. by name of petitioner. Hdw. on pr. fm. 250 p. 20 x 12 x 2. Co. clk.'s main off., 2nd fl.

130. DEPENDENT DECREE RECORD, 1887--. 5 v. (A, B, 1-3).

1872-86 in County Court Record Common Law, entry 123.

Record of proceedings in juvenile dependency cases, showing names of juvenile, parents, guardian, and judge, age of juvenile, reason for court order and commitment, and dates of case and court term. Also contains Delinquent Decree Record, 1887-90, entry 131. Arr. by date of case. Indexed alph. by name of juvenile. Hdw. on pr. fm. 500 p. 20 x 12 x 3. Co. clk.'s main off., 2nd fl.

For orders in dependent cases subsequent to 1909, see entry 132.

131. DELINQUENT DECREE RECORD, 1891--. 3 v. (A, 1, 2).

1887-90 in Dependent Decree Record, entry 130.

Record of proceedings in juvenile delinquency cases, showing names of juvenile, parents, guardian, and judge, address and age of juvenile, reason for court order and commitment, term of court, and dates of case and court term. Arr. by date of case. Indexed alph. by name of juvenile. Hdw. on pr. fm. 500 p. 20 x 12 x 3. Co. clk.'s main off., 2nd fl.

For orders in delinquent cases subsequent to 1909, see entry 132.

132. DEPENDENT AND DELINQUENT ORDER RECORD, 1910--. 2 v. (A, B).

Record of orders entered in juvenile cases, showing names of juvenile, probation officer, judge, and guardian, reason for court order, and date of order. Arr. by date of order. Indexed alph. by name of juvenile. Typed. 700 p. 20 x 11 x 4. Co. clk.'s main off., 2nd fl.

For prior records of dependency orders, see entry 130; for prior records of delinquency orders, see entry 131.

133. INVOLUNTARY INSANITY RECORD, 1882--. 7 v. (A, 1-6). Title varies: Insane Records, v. A, 1882-90; Insanity Record, v. 1, 2, 1893-1908; Insanity Record Medical Commission, v. 3, 4, 1909-25.

Record of insanity proceedings, showing names of petitioner, alleged insane, and members of medical commission or jurors, commission's report of jurors' verdict, and order of commitment. Also contains Voluntary Commitment Record, 1882-1908, entry 134. Arr. by date of proceedings. Indexed alph. by name of patient. 1882-1933, hdw. on pr. fm.; 1934--, typed on pr. fm. 600 p. 18 x 12 x 3. Co. clk.'s main off., 2nd fl.

134. VOLUNTARY COMMITMENT RECORD; 1909--. 5 v. (1-5). Title varies: Voluntary Commitment Insane, v. 1, 1909-21; Voluntary Insanity Commitment, v. 2, 1922-29. 1882-1908 in Involuntary Insanity Record, entry 133.

Record of orders of commitment in voluntary insanity cases, showing name of applicant, medical report, proceedings of case, and court order for commitment, and date of order. Arr. by date of order. Indexed alph. by name of patient. Hdw. on pr. fm. 600 p. 18 x 12 x 3. Co. clk.'s main off., 2nd fl.

135. FEEBLE-MINDED RECORD, 1915--. 2 v. (1, 2).

Record of proceedings in feeble-minded cases, showing name and address of patient; name of institution to which committed, dates of hearing and commitment, and court orders. Arr. by date of proceedings. Indexed alph. by name of patient. Hdw. on pr. fm. 400 p. 20 x 12 x 3. Co. clk.'s main off., 2nd fl.

136. RECORD OF ORDERS OF ADMISSION TO STATE COLONY FOR EPILEPTICS,
1918--. 1 v.

Record of petitions and orders of admission to state colony for epileptics, showing date of petition, names of patient, judge, clerk, attorney, and petitioner, court order, and date and place of commitment. Arr. by date of order. Indexed alph. by name of patient. Hdw. on pr. fm. 300 p. 17 x 11 x 2. Co. clk.'s main off., 2nd fl.

137. TAX OBJECTIONS, 1918--. 10 f.b. (790, 803, 814, 818, 857, 859,
963, 964, 989, 990).

Objections to railroad tax assessments, showing names of railroad companies and attorneys, legal description of property in question, assessed value, value as fixed by company, amount paid under protest, amount objected to, and court orders. Arr. by date of objection. For index, see entry 20. Hdw. on pr. fm. 10 x 5 x 14. Co. clk.'s main off., 2nd fl.

138. (DRAINAGE FILES), 1889--. 13 f.b. (473, 921-926, 951-953, 960,
971, 972).

Documents in Pekin, La Marsh, Hallock, Medina, Tuscarora, and Banner drainage district proceedings, including organization papers, commissioners' bonds, assessment rolls, tax levies, plats of districts, commissioners' reports, and financial accounts. Arr. by date of proceedings. For index, see entry 20. 1889-1912, hdw. on pr. fm., and hdw. under pr. hdgs.; 1913--, typed on pr. fm., and typed under pr. hdgs. 10 x 5 x 14. Co. clk.'s main off., 2nd fl.

139. SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS FOR DRAINAGE DISTRICTS, 1906--. 5 v. (1 not
labeled, 1, 1, 2, 2).

Record of special assessments for drainage districts, showing names of drainage districts and property owners, description of property, number of acres, previous and improved values, amount of assessment, reports of commissioners and treasurer, and date of assessment. Arr. alph. by name of drainage district. No index. Hdw. and typed. 500 p. 16 x 12 x 2 1/2. Co. clk.'s main off., 2nd fl.

140. STREET RECORD, 1880--. 23 v. (A-W).

Record of special assessment rolls for street paving, grading, and sewage systems, showing names of owner, judge, clerk, and street, legal description of assessed property, amount and date of assessment, locations of improvements, and date of recording. Arr. by date of recording. For index, see entry 141. 1880-1913, hdw.; 1914--, typed. 600 p. 17 x 11 x 3. Co. clk.'s main off., 2nd fl.

141. INDEX TO PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS, 1880--. 1 v.

Index to Street Record, entry 140, showing case number, names of improvement and street, date of case, and book and page of entry. Arr. alph. by name of street. Typed. 300 p. 18 x 12 x 2. Co. clk.'s main off., 2nd fl.

142. ASSESSMENT ROLL PEORIA SANITARY DISTRICT, 1935--. 1 v.
Schedules for the levy of special assessments for the construction of
sanitary sewers in Peoria Sanitary District, showing name of owner, legal
description of property, amounts of each installment and total assessment,
and date of schedule. Arr. by block and lot nos. No index. Typed. 300 p.
18 x 12 x 3. Co. clk.'s main off., 2nd fl.

Dockets

143. JUDGE'S DOCKET (Common Law), 1872--. 21 v. (1-21).
Docket of common law cases, showing term date, case number, names of attor-
neys, plaintiff, and defendant, nature of case action, orders of previous
terms, and orders of court. Also contains Judge's Docket Criminal, 1872-93,
entry 144; Judge's Docket - Juvenile, 1872-1910, entry 149; and Natural-
ization Docket, 1872-87, 1897-1906, entry 168. Arr. by term date. Indexed
alph. by name of plaintiff. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 320 p. 20 x 12 x 3. Co.
clk.'s record rm., 2nd fl.

144. JUDGE'S DOCKET CRIMINAL, 1894--. 15 v. (3 not labeled, 4-15).
1872-93 in Judge's Docket (Common Law), entry 143.
Docket of criminal cases, showing case number, names of attorneys, plaintiff,
defendant, and judge, nature of action, orders of previous terms, abstract
of proceedings, and court orders. Arr. by term date. Indexed alph. by
name of defendant. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 300 p. 20 x 12 x 3. Co. clk.'s
record rm., 2nd fl.

145. JUDGMENT DOCKET, 1872--. 5 v. (1-5).
1857-71 in (Judgment and) Execution Docket, entry 147.
Judgment docket showing number and kind of case, names of attorneys, plain-
tiff, and defendant, date and amounts of judgment and costs, nature of satis-
faction, and book and page of entry in record and fee books. Arr. by date
of judgment. Indexed alph. by name of plaintiff. Hdw. under pr. hdgs.
300 p. 20 x 12 x 3. Co. clk.'s main off., 2nd fl.

146. EXECUTION DOCKET, 1872--. 4 v. (1-4).
1852-71 in (Judgment and) Execution Docket, entry 147.
Docket of executions issued, showing case number, names of plaintiff and
defendant, dates of judgment, execution, and return, amounts of debt,
damages, and costs, description and location of property, and sheriff's
return. Arr. by case no. Indexed alph. by name of plaintiff. Hdw. under
pr. hdgs. 300 p. 20 x 12 x 3. Co. clk.'s main off., 2nd fl.

147. (Judgment and) EXECUTION DOCKET, 1857-71. 1 v. (A).
Docket of judgments and executions, showing number and nature of case, names
of plaintiff, defendant, and attorneys, date and amount of judgment, amounts
of damages and costs, dates of execution and return, and book and page of
entry of judgment in record and fee books. Judgment Docket, entry 145, and
Execution Docket, entry 146, subsequently kept separately. Arr. by case no.
Indexed alph. by name of plaintiff. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 300 p.
20 x 12 x 3. Co. clk.'s main off., 2nd fl.

(1-2)

148. JUDGE'S DOCKET OF JUDICIAL (Special Assessment Docket), 1872--.
21 v. (1-21).
Judge's docket of special assessment cases, showing date and number of case, names of petitioner and attorneys, nature of improvement, notations of objections and default, confirmation of assessment, and court orders. Arr. by date of case. Indexed alph. by name of improvement. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 150 p. 18 x 12 x 2. V. 1-20, 1872-1935, co. clk.'s record rm., 2nd fl.; v. 21, 1936--, co. clk.'s main off., 2nd fl.
149. JUDGE'S DOCKET - JUVENILE, 1811--. 12 v. (2-13). 1872-1910
in Judge's Docket (Common Law), entry 143.
Docket of juvenile cases and record of commitments, showing case number, name of dependent or delinquent, to whom committed, date and amount of compensation, and date of release. Arr. by date of case. Indexed alph. by name of dependent. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 300 p. 20 x 12 x 2. Co. clk.'s record rm., 2nd fl.
150. JUDGE'S DOCKET (and Record of Feeble-Minded Cases), 1915--. 1 v.
Docket and record of proceedings of feeble-minded cases, showing name of patient, case number, report of commission, date of order, and abstract of proceedings. Arr. by date of case. Indexed alph. by name of patient. Hdw. 144 p. 20 x 12 x 1 1/2. Co. clk.'s main off., 2nd fl.

Justices' Records

151. JUSTICE OF PEACE FILES, 1923-35. 33 f.1.
Documents in justice of peace cases turned over to county court at death or retirement of justice of peace, showing date of case, names of plaintiff, defendant, attorneys, and justice of the peace, nature of charge, proceedings, and court orders. Arr. by date of case. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. 5 x 10 x 12. Old jury rm., 4th fl.
152. JUSTICE DOCKET, 1850-1934. 202 v. Missing; 1800-95.
Justice of peace dockets surrendered to county court at death or retirement of justice of peace, showing date of case, names of plaintiff, defendant, attorneys, and justice, nature of case, and notations of proceedings and court orders; also includes record of chattel mortgages filed before justice of peace. Arr. by date of case. No index. Hdw., and hdw. on pr. fm. 400 p. 18 x 12 x 2. Old jury rm., 4th fl.

Fee Books

153. FEE BOOK AND APPEARANCE DOCKET, 1872--. 12 v. (A-L).
Fees collected in common law cases, showing names of plaintiff and defendant, number and type of case, dates and amount of fees assessed, received, and disbursed, and amounts of clerk's costs. Arr. by date of assessment. Indexed alph. by name of defendant. Hdw. on pr. fm. 600 p. 20 x 12 x 3. Co. clk.'s main off., 2nd fl.

154. CRIMINAL FEE BOOK, 1872--. 6 v. (1-6).

Record of fees and fines assessed and collected in criminal cases, showing names of defendant and payer, case number, amount and purpose of fee, amount of fine, and date of payment. Arr. by date of assessment. Indexed alph. by name of defendant. Hdw. on pr. fm. 600 p. 20 x 12 x 3. V. 1-5, 1872-1934, co. clk.'s record rm., 2nd fl.; v. 6, 1935--, co. clk.'s main off., 2nd fl.

155. INSANITY FEE BOOK, 1894--. 1 v. (G). 1873-93 in Receipts and Expenditures, entry 74.

Record of fees collected in insanity cases, showing name of payer, date and amount of payment, and docket and case numbers. Arr. by date of case. Indexed alph. by name of patient. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 300 p. 20 x 12 x 1½. Co. clk.'s main off., 2nd fl.

Inheritance Tax
(See also entry 328)

156. INHERITANCE TAX PAPERS, 1895-1903. 2 f.b. (977, 978). 1904-- in (County Court Case Files), entry 118.

Inheritance tax papers including: appraisers' oaths and reports, notices of mailing, depositions of witnesses, itemized lists and appraised values of real and personal property, showing names of estate, judge, heirs, appraiser, and witnesses, relationship of heirs, total valuation of estate, amounts of tax assessments and payments, and court orders. Arr. by date of case. For index, see entry 20. Hdw. on pr. fm. 10 x 5 x 14. Co. clk.'s main off., 2nd fl.

157. INHERITANCE TAX RECORD, 1914--. 4 v. (1-4). 1895-1913 in County Court Record Common Law, entry 123.

Record of proceedings in inheritance tax cases, showing names of heirs, deceased, and attorneys, date of death, appointments and oaths of appraisers, beneficiary relationship, description of property, appraised value, statutory exemptions, total value, and amount of tax. Arr. by date of case. Indexed alph. by name of estate. Hdw. and typed on pr. fm. 500 p. 20 x 12 x 3. Co. clk.'s main off., 2nd fl.

Probation

158. RECORD OF DELINQUENCY, 1911--. 4 f.d.

Record of delinquent children cases, showing name, address, age, and sex of child, place of birth, personal and medical history, parents' names, address, and marital status, physician's report of mental and medical examinations, and periodical report of delinquent. Arr. alph. by name of delinquent. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. 12 x 2 x 24. Off. of juvenile probation officer, 4th fl.

159. RECORD OF DELINQUENCY (Detention Home Cases), 1911--. 4 f.d.
Card record of juvenile offenders housed at the county detention home,
showing name, address, age, and sex of child; address, marital status,
and names of father and mother; income, relief history, first, second,
or third offense, and date and place of commitment, and date of discharge.
Arr. alph. by name of defendant. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. 6 x 9 x 18.
Off. of juvenile probation officer, 4th fl.

160. RECORD OF DEPENDENT, 1911--. 3 f.d.
Record of dependent children cases, showing name, address, age, and sex
of child, medical and mental history, parents' names, address, nativity,
and marital status, relief history, investigator's report, action of
probation officer, and final disposition of case. Arr. alph. by name of
dependent. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. 12 x 12 x 24. Off. of juvenile
probation officer, 4th fl.

161. PROBATION AND RECOGNIZANCE RECORD, 1872--. 9 v. (1 not labeled,
2-7, 1, 2). Title varies: Recognizance Record, 1 v. not labeled,
2-7, 1872-1929.
Record of probation orders and recognizance bonds, showing date and number
of case, names of defendant, sureties, and probation officer, nature of
charge, date of appearance, amount of bond, court order granting probation,
period. Arr. by case no. Indexed alph. by name of defendant. Hdw. on pr.
fm. 300 p. 18 x 12 x 2. Co. clk.'s main off., 2nd fl.

Elections

162. MINUTE BOOK OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS, 1915--. 2 v. (1, 2).
Record of proceedings of election commissioners, showing names and oaths
of judges and clerks of election, location of polling places, canvass of
ballot of elections, and date of proceedings. Arr. by date of proceedings.
No index. 1915-27, hdw.; 1928--, typed. 100 p. 12 x 9 x 1. Co. clk.'s
record rm., 2nd fl.

163. REPORT OF ELECTION COMMISSION, 1915--. 2 v. (1, 2).
Record of reports of board of election commissioners, showing date, nature,
and result of election, names of judges and clerks of election and election
commissioners, canvass of votes, dates of report and election, and acknowl-
edgment. Arr. by date of report. No index. Hdw. and typed. 500 p.
18 x 12 x 3. Co. clk.'s main off., 2nd fl.

Naturalization

164. NATURALIZATION DOCUMENTS, 1848-1900. 16 f.b. (457-472).
Naturalization papers including: petitions, declarations, oaths of renuncia-
tion and allegiance, affidavits of witnesses, and certificates of naturali-
zation. Arr. by case no. For index, see entry 20. Hdw. on pr. fm.
10 x 5 x 14. Co. clk.'s main off., 2nd fl.

165. NATURALIZATION RECORD (Declaration of Intentions), 1858-1906.
3 v. (1, AA, BB).

Record of declarations of intention, showing names of alien and native country, oath to renounce allegiance to any foreign power, date and place of arrival in the United States, and acknowledgment. Arr. by date of declaration. Indexed alph. by name of alien. Hdw. on pr. fm. 300 p. 18 x 12 x 3. Co. clk.'s record rm., 2nd fl.

166. NATURALIZATION RECORD (Final), 1858-1906. 9 v. (A-I).

Record of final certificates of naturalization, showing term date, names of petitioner and judge, court order admitting petitioner to citizenship, final oath of allegiance, date of certificate, and acknowledgment. Arr. by date of certificate. Indexed alph. by name of petitioner. Hdw. on pr. fm. 300 p. 18 x 12 x 3. Co. clk.'s record rm., 2nd fl.

167. NATURALIZATION RECORD (Minor), 1858-1906. 3 v. (CC, DD, FF).

Record of minors' certificates of naturalization, showing names of petitioner and judge, court order admitting petitioner to citizenship, final oath of allegiance, dates of court term, declaration of intention, and certificate, and acknowledgment. Arr. by date of court term. Indexed alph. by name of petitioner. Hdw. on pr. fm. 300 p. 18 x 12 x 3. Co. clk.'s record rm., 2nd fl.

168. NATURALIZATION DOCKET, 1888-96. 1 v. 1858-71 in Probate Judge's Docket, entry 209; 1872-87, 1897-1906 in Judge's Docket (Common Law), entry 143.

Docket of naturalization cases, showing date and number of case, names of petitioner and witnesses, abstract of proceedings, and court orders. Arr. by date of case. No index. Hdw. 160 p. 18 x 10 x 2. Co. clk.'s main off., 2nd fl.

V. PROBATE COURT

Jurisdiction in probate matters in Peoria County was vested in a separate probate court from the organization of the county in 1825 until 1849. From 1825 to 1837 the court was held by a probate judge who was appointed by the General Assembly and held office during good behavior.¹ In 1837 it was provided that the probate court be held in each county by a probate justice of the peace who was elected by the county electorate for a two-year term, with a four-year term effective in 1839.² The term was reduced in 1847 to two years.³ The jurisdiction of the probate court was transferred to the newly created county court in 1849.⁴ This situation remained unchanged in all counties throughout the second constitutional period. In 1870 the State of Illinois adopted a new constitution which authorized the General Assembly to provide for the establishment of a separate probate court in counties having a population of more than 50,000.⁵ The enabling legislation, enacted seven years later, set the population requirement at 100,000;⁶ in 1881 the figure was reduced to 70,000.⁷ Present legislation makes the establishment of a separate probate court mandatory in counties having 85,000 or more inhabitants, and optional in those counties with a population of between 70,000 and 85,000.⁸ Peoria County attained the lower population requirement in 1890, and a separate probate court was then established.

The probate judge is required by constitutional provision and subsequent legislation to be elected at the same time and in the same manner as the county judge. His term of office is four years.⁹ Originally his salary was fixed by the county board;¹⁰ however, in 1925, it was provided that in counties having less than 500,000 inhabitants the salary of the probate judge should be \$5,000 a year, payable in monthly installments from the county treasury.¹¹ When a vacancy occurs in the office of the probate judge and the unexpired term is less than one year, the Governor fills the vacancy by appointment, otherwise, a new election is held.¹²

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1. L. 1821, p. 119; L. 1823, p. 132; L. 1825, p. 87.
 2. L. 1836-37, p. 176.
 3. L. 1845, p. 28. Effective in 1847.
 4. Const. 1848, Art. V, sec. 16,18; L. 1849, p. 65.
 5. Const. 1870, Art. VI, sec. 20.
 6. L. 1877, p. 79.
 7. L. 1881, p. 72.
 8. L. 1933, p. 458.
 9. Const. 1870, Art. VI, sec. 20; L. 1877, p. 80.
 10. Ibid., p. 83.
 11. L. 1925, p. 336.
 12. L. 1877, p. 84.

Probate Court

As enunciated by the present constitution and subsequent legislation the jurisdiction of the court extends to all probate matters, the settlement of estates of deceased persons, the appointment of guardians and conservators and settlements of their accounts, all matters relating to apprentices, and cases of sales of real estate of deceased persons for payment of debts.¹

Originally, the court was required to hold monthly sessions;² however, since 1933 there have been no stated terms, the court being always open for the transaction of probate and other business, except that the court may adjourn from time to time at its discretion.³ The court is given power to impanel a jury for the trial of issues or matters of fact in any matter pending before it and has power to compel the attendance of jurors and witnesses.⁴ County and probate judges may interchange with each other, hold court for each other and perform each other's duties in their own or any other county when necessary or convenient.⁵ The probate judge is prohibited from acting as attorney or solicitor for any administrator, executor, heirs, or other person (unless an officer of the court) interested in the estate of any deceased person, or to aid, advise, or assist in the preparation of any petition, report, or other document which is to be filed or recorded in the court in which he is judge.⁶ When the probate judge is an interested party in any estate to be probated in his court, the county judge shall have jurisdiction in the matter unless he shall also be interested, in which case the matter is taken to the circuit court of the county for probate. If, however, the probate judge is interested only as a creditor, no change may be made except in relation to his claim.⁷

Appeals may be taken from the final orders, judgments, and decrees of the probate court to the circuit court of the county except in proceedings in applications of executors, administrators, guardians, and conservators for the sale of real estate. The appellant must give bond and security in such amount and upon such condition as the court shall require.⁸

Aiding the court in its jurisdiction over the administration of intestate estates and the guardianship of minors, are the public administrator and the public guardian. Each officer is appointed quadrennially by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. The public ad-

1. Const. 1870, Art. VI, sec. 20; L. 1877, p. 80.

2. Ibid.,

3. L. 1933, p. 459.

4. L. 1877, p. 80; L. 1933, p. 460.

5. L. 1903, p. 153.

6. L. 1917, p. 327, 328.

7. L. 1877, p. 81; L. 1933, p. 460.

8. L. 1877, p. 81.

administrator and public guardian are required to enter into bonds set and approved by the court in sums not less than \$5,000.¹ Their duties are performed under the direction and orders of the court. The records that result from their prescribed duties appear among the records of the court with those of other administrators, executors, and guardians.

When there is no relative, or person nominated by him, who will administer an intestate estate, the court commits the administration to the public administrator upon application of any person interested in the estate.² If a widow, next of kin, or creditor of the deceased appears within six months after the administration is granted to the public administrator, the court then revokes its grant of administration to the public administrator and orders letters of administration granted to such person interested in the estate. If, after all debts and charges against the estate which have been presented within two years after the administration of the estate was committed to such public administrator are fully paid, any balance of the intestate estate remains, the administrator causes a notice to be published requiring persons still having claims against the estate to present them to the probate court within six months. If no claims are presented, the balance is paid into the county treasury, upon the expiration of the six-month period, the county remaining answerable to any future claims.³

As already noted, the court has authority to appoint guardians of minor heirs of deceased persons.⁴ In cases where the minor is under fourteen years of age the court appoints his guardian. When the minor is over fourteen he may nominate his own guardian, subject to the approval of the court.⁵ Under the direction of the court, the guardian is responsible for the custody, nurture, and tuition of his ward and the care and management of his estate. The court may assign the guardianship of the estate to one guardian and the custody, nurture, and tuition of the ward to another.⁶ Within sixty days after his appointment, the guardian returns to the court a complete inventory of the real and personal estate of the ward in the form prescribed by law.⁷ At the end of the first year of his appointment, and every three years thereafter, he makes a settlement of his accounts. When his trust is completed or upon the death of the ward,

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1. L. 1825, p. 70-72; R.L. 1829, p. 208; R.L. 1833, p. 627,628; R.S. 1845, p. 548; L. 1871-72, p. 89; L. 1881, p. 3; L. 1889, p. 165.
 2. R.L. 1833, p. 628; R.S. 1845, p. 548; L. 1871-72, p. 89.
 3. R.S. 1845, p. 549; L. 1871-72, p. 89,90.
 4. L. 1831, p. 100; L. 1835, p. 36; R.S. 1845, p. 265,266; L. 1873-74, p. 107; L. 1919, p. 583; L. 1931, p. 618; L. 1937, p. 660.
 5. Ibid.
 6. L. 1871-72, p. 469; L. 1877, p. 114.
 7. L. 1919, p. 582; L. 1933, p. 644.

Probate Court

the guardian makes final settlement and delivers over to persons entitled to them, the property and papers in his hands as guardian.¹ Upon failure of a guardian appointed by the court to act within three months in this capacity, the court commits the guardianship of the minor to the public guardian.² The latter's records appear with those of other guardians. Jurisdiction in the matter of appointing conservators for the estates of lunatics, idiots, spendthrifts, and drunkards is vested in the probate court in all counties maintaining a separate probate court.³

In any county having a population of more than 70,000 and less than 200,000, the judge of the probate court may appoint a shorthand reporter to take full stenographic notes of the evidence in making proofs of heirships, in the probating of wills, and in all other cases coming before the court when so directed by the judge. Such reporter holds his position at the pleasure of the judge, but his term of service may not extend beyond that of the appointing judge.⁴ Another ministerial officer of the court is the sheriff who is required to attend, in person or by deputy, all sessions of the court, to preserve order, and execute all legal commands and process.⁵

The early probate judge, 1821 to 1837, and the probate justice of the peace, 1837 to 1849, each performed the ministerial function of the probate clerk.⁶ When probate jurisdiction was transferred to the county court at its creation in 1849, the clerk of that court served as probate clerk ex officio.⁷ This situation continued in Peoria County until 1890 when a separate probate court was established. Since that year, by statutory provision,⁸ the court has had its own clerk, an elected officer whose term of office, like that of the probate judge, is four years. He is required to give bond with two or more sureties, to be approved by the probate judge, in the sum of not less than \$5,000.⁹ The compensation of the clerk of the probate court is fixed by the county board within the limits set by the constitution. In counties the size of Peoria, with a population of 153,374, the compensation of the probate clerk

1. L. 1871-72, p. 471; L. 1919, p. 583; L. 1929, p. 506.

2. L. 1889, p. 165.

3. L. 1919, p. 593.

4. Ibid., p. 417.

5. L. 1877, p. 81.

6. L. 1821, p. 119,120; R.L. 1829, p. 215; L. 1831, p. 192; L. 1837, p. 177,178; R.S. 1845, p. 427,428.

7. Const. 1848, Art. V, sec. 16,18; L. 1849, p. 65-65; R.S. 1874, p. 339,340.

8. L. 1877, p. 82.

9. Ibid.

is not to exceed \$4,000 a year.¹ The clerk is required to attend all sessions of court, issue all process, preserve all the files and papers of the court, make, keep, and preserve complete records of all the proceedings and determinations of the court, and perform all other duties pertaining to his office, as required by law or rules and orders of his court. He is required to enter of record all judgments, decrees, and orders of the court. In the performance of these duties he may, when necessary, appoint deputies for whose acts he is responsible.² In all matters concerning the probate of estates of deceased persons, the granting of letters testamentary or of administration, letters of guardianship, the manner of keeping court records, the form of docket entries, journals, fee books, memorandums, and process, and the recording of papers and documents, the clerk is required to be governed by and follow all laws concerning similar matters in the county court of the state.³

The major records of the probate court kept by the clerk are the following:

1. Journal of all judicial proceedings and determinations of the judge.
2. A judgment docket with a direct and indirect index: former, by name of claimant against estate; latter, by estate. In practice, the requirement of two indexes often leads to two dockets.
3. Books for recordation of bonds and letters of administrators, executors, guardians, and conservators; appraisement and sale bills; widows' relinquishment and selection of property; wills and their probate; annual and final reports of administrators, executors, guardians, and conservators. Generally, each category of these probate business matters is recorded separately, but the segregation is not always carefully maintained.
4. Separate dockets of unsettled estates and claims against estates, and a ledger of the accounts of executors, administrators, and guardians. Note that the dockets of probate business matters are separated from dockets of court proceedings, just as are the books of recordation of the two categories; the intention of the law to make this distinction is further shown in its granting the clerk, during vacation of the court, power to receive petitions, accept bonds, grant letters testamentary, etc.

1. Const. 1870, Art. X, sec. 10.

2. L. 1877, p. 82.

3. Ibid., p. 83.

- 5. Files of original documents not subject to recordation; indexes to such; records of office transactions in pursuance of the court's orders to the clerk, necessary in the latter's settlement with that body.¹

Proceedings of Court
(See also entry 76[xiii])

169. ESTATE AND CONSERVATOR INDEX, 1825--. 2 v. Index to (Administrator and Executor Files), entry 170, and Conservatorship (Files), entry 171, showing names of estate and administrative officer, and case or file box numbers. Arr. alph. by name of estate. Typed under pr. hdgs. 400 p. 15 x 15 x 3. Pro. clk.'s main off., 1st fl.

170. (ADMINISTRATOR AND EXECUTOR FILES), 1825--. 1030 f.b. Documents in administrator and executor cases, including: wills, oaths, bonds, letters, petitions, reports, inventories, appraisements of real and personal property, and claims against the estates. Also contains Conservatorship (Files), 1825-53, entry 171; Guardianship (Files), 1825-38, entry 172; and Wills, 1825-1917, entry 182. Arr. by case no. For index, see entry 169. Hdw., and hdw. on pr. fm. 10 x 5 x 15. 645 f.b., 1825-1922, pro. clk.'s center rm., 1st fl.; 385 f.b., 1923--., pro. clk.'s main off., 1st fl.

171. CONSERVATORSHIP (Files), 1854--. 78 f.b. 1825-53 in (Administrator and Executor Files), entry 170. Documents in conservatorship cases, including petitions, bonds, letters, orders of appointment, inventories and appraisements, claims against estate, final reports, and discharges of conservator. Arr. by case no. For index, see entry 169. Hdw. and hdw. on pr. fm. 10 x 5 x 15. 36 f.b., 1854-1913, pro. clk.'s center rm., 1st fl.; 42 f.b., 1914--., pro. clk.'s main off., 1st fl.

172. GUARDIANSHIP (Files), 1839--. 187 f.b. 1825-38 in (Administrator and Executor Files), entry 170. Documents in guardianship cases, including petitions, oaths, bonds, letters, claims against estate, reports, inventories, appraisements, and proofs of age. Arr. by case no. 1839-63, no index; for sep. index, 1864--., see entry 173. Hdw. on pr. fm. 10 x 5 x 15. Pro. clk. main off., 1st fl.

1. L. 1821, p. 119,120; R.L. 1829, p. 215,231; L. 1857, p. 177,178; R.S. 1845, p. 427,428; L. 1851, p. 193; L. 1859, p. 92-94; R.S. 1874, p. 260-65; L. 1877, p. 83; L. 1933, p. 293.

173. GUARDIAN'S ESTATE INDEX, 1861--. 1 v.
Index to Guardianship (Files), entry 172, showing names of ward and guardian, and case number. Arr. alph. by name of ward. Typed under pr. hdgs. 330 p. 15 x 15 x 2. Pro. clk.'s main off., 1st fl.
174. PROBATE RECORDS, 1825--. 102 v. (4 not labeled, 3-100).
Record of proceedings in probate court, including insolvent estates, 1825-90, showing date of proceedings, names of estate, heirs, administrator, executor, guardian or conservator, bondsmen, and claimants, and lists and valuation of real and personal property, notations of fees charged against estates, and orders and decrees of court. First volume not labeled, 1825-47, is a transcription of the original Probate Record, entry 175. Arr. by date of proceedings. Indexed alph. by name of estate. Hdw. and hdw. on pr. fm. 600 p. 18 x 10 x 3. Pro. clk.'s main off., 1st fl.
175. PROBATE RECORD, 1825-47. 2 v.
Record of proceedings in probate court, showing copies of wills, bonds, and letters; petitions for letters of administration and to probate wills; names of deceased, estate, administrator, executor, guardian or conservator, and petitioners; dates of death, petitions, and appointments; itemized lists of assets and liabilities, claims against estates; and court orders. These volumes have been transcribed into the first volume of the Probate Records, entry 174. Arr. by date of proceedings. Indexed alph. by name of estate. Hdw. 200 p. 12 x 7 x 1. Pro. clk.'s main off., 1st fl.
176. APPEAL BOND RECORD, 1821--. 1 v. (1).
Copies of bonds filed for appeal from probate to circuit courts, showing names of estate, petitioner, attorneys, and sureties, amount and terms of bond, and date of filing. Arr. by date of filing. Indexed alph. by name of estate. Hdw. on pr. fm. 600 p. 17 x 11 x 3. Pro. clk.'s main off., 1st fl.
177. MISCELLANEOUS RECORDS, 1891--. 25 v. (2-26).
Record of probate documents too lengthy to fit standard forms including: reports of administrators, executors, guardians, and conservators, petitions to sell real estate to pay debts, appraisement and sale bills, and documents in insolvent estate cases. Arr. by date of filing. Indexed alph. by name of estate. Hdw. and typed. 600 p. 20 x 13 x 3. Pro. clk.'s main off., 1st fl.
178. DEDIMUS POTESTATEM, 1915--. 1 v. (1).
Record of depositions of foreign heirs and witnesses in probate cases, showing names of deceased, heir or witness, commissioner, and judge, testimony of heir or witnesses, acknowledgment, and dates of death, deposition, and filing. Arr. by date of filing. Indexed alph. by name of estate. Hdw. on pr. fm. 300 p. 20 x 12 x 3. Pro. clk.'s main off., 1st fl.

179. FINAL REPORT RECORD (Petitions for Discharge), 1916--.
3 v. (A-C).

Copies of petitions to probate court for discharge of administrative officer, showing names of estate and administrative officer, statement of final settlement of accounts, orders of court for discharge, and dates of petition and discharge. Also contains Discharge in Probate Record, 1916-21, entry 180. Arr. by date of petition. Indexed alph. by name of estate. 1916-35, hdw. on pr. fm.; 1936--, typed on pr. fm. 600 p. 13 x 12 x 3. Pro. clk.'s main off., 1st fl.

180. DISCHARGE IN PROBATE RECORD, 1922--. 3 v. (A-C). 1916-21 in
Final Report Record (Petitions for Discharge), entry 179.

Copies of final discharges of administrators and executors, showing names of estate and administrative officer, dates of final report and petition for discharge, statement of all dealings and transactions, acknowledgment, and date of discharge. Arr. by date of discharge. Indexed alph. by name of estate. Hdw. on pr. fm. 550 p. 20 x 12 x 3. Pro. clk.'s main off., 1st fl.

181. ORDER BOOK, 1840-49. 1 v.

Record of court orders regarding claims against estates, including claims against insolvent estates, showing names of estate and claimant, date, nature, and amount of claim, and orders of court. Arr. by date of filing. Indexed alph. by name of estate. Hdw. 475 p. 16 x 10 x 3. Pro. clk.'s main off., 1st fl.

Probate Business

Wills, Bonds, and
Letters (See also
entries 174, 175)

182. WILLS, 1918--. 1 f.b. 1825-1917 in (Administrator and Executor
Files), entry 170.

Wills of probated estates, showing names of deceased and heirs, amount bequeathed each heir, and dates of will and filing. Arr. by date of filing. No index. Hdw. and typed. 10 x 5 x 15. Pro. clk.'s main off., 1st fl.

183. WILL RECORD, 1850--. 38 v. (1 not labeled, 2, 1-36).

Copies of wills filed for probate, showing names of estate, heirs, witnesses, and clerk, provisions of will, consent to probate by heirs, witnesses' statement of proof of will, and dates of will and filing. Also contains Foreign Will Record, 1850-53, entry 184, and Will Order Record, 1850-1903, entry 185. Arr. by date of filing. Indexed alph. by name of estate. 1850-85, hdw.; 1886--, hdw. and typed on pr. fm. 400 p. 17 x 11 x 3. Pro. clk.'s main off., 1st fl.

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Probate Court - Probate
Business

184. FOREIGN WILL RECORD, 1854--. 2 v. (A, B). 1850-53 in Will Record, entry 183.
Record of foreign wills filed for probate in Peoria County, including proof of notice by publication, showing names of deceased heirs and witnesses, provisions of will, and dates of death, probate of will, and filing. Arr. by date of filing. Indexed alph. by name of deceased. 1854-1924, hdw.; 1925--, typed. 450 p. 17 x 11 x 3. Pro. clk.'s main off., 1st fl.
185. WILL ORDER RECORD, 1904--. 16 v. (1-3, 1904-22; A-N, 1916--). 1850-1903 in Will Record, entry 183.
Orders admitting wills to probate, showing names of estate, heirs, judge, administrator or executor, order for probate, and dates of orders and filing. Indexed alph. by name of estate. 1904-35, hdw. under pr. hdgs.; 1936--, typed. 600 p. 17 x 11 x 3. Pro. clk.'s main off., 1st fl.
186. EXECUTORS' RECORDS, 1858--. 23 v. (B-X).
Copies of executors' petitions, oaths, bonds, and letters testamentary, showing names of estate, executor, and sureties, amount and terms of bond, and dates of petition, oath, bond, letters, and filing. Arr. by date of filing. Indexed alph. by name of estate. Hdw. on pr. fm. 300 p. 18 x 10 x 3. Pro. clk.'s main off., 1st fl.
187. ADMINISTRATORS' RECORD, 1856--. 31 v. (1 not labeled A-Z, AA-AD).
Copies of administrators' petitions, oaths, bonds, and letters, showing names of estate, administrator, and sureties, date, amount, and terms of bond, dates of petitions, oaths, letters, and filing, and signatures of administrator and clerk. Arr. by date of filing. Indexed alph. by name of estate. 1856-1935, hdw. on pr. fm.; 1936--, typed. 600 p. 17 x 11 x 3. Pro. clk.'s main off., 1st fl.
188. GUARDIANS' RECORDS, 1858--. 14 v. (A-N).
Copies of guardians' bonds and letters, showing names of estate, guardian, ward, and sureties, date, amount and terms of bond, and dates of letter and filing. Also contains Orders Appointing Guardians, 1858-99, 1907-15, entry 189; Orders and Answers of Court Appointing Guardian Ad Litem, 1858-1915, entry 190; Guardians' Petitions, 1858-99, 1907--, entry 191. Arr. by date of filing. Indexed alph. by name of estate. Hdw. on pr. fm. 400 p. 20 x 12 x 3. Pro. clk.'s main off., 1st fl.
189. ORDERS APPOINTING GUARDIANS, 1916--. 3 v. (1-3). 1859-99, 1907-15 in Guardians' Records, entry 188; 1900-1906 in Guardians' Petitions, entry 191.
Record of orders appointing guardians and petitions to probate will, showing names of estate, judge, guardian, and ward, value of estate, orders of appointment, and dates of petition, order, and filing. Arr. by date of filing. Indexed alph. by name of guardian. Hdw. 620 p. 20 x 12 x 3. Pro. clk.'s main off., 1st fl.

190. ORDERS AND ANSWERS OF COURT APPOINTING GUARDIAN AD LITEM, 1916--. 3 v. (1, 2, 1916--; 1 not labeled, 1922--). 1858-1915 in Guardians' Records, entry 188.

Copies of petitions to probate wills, bonds, and letters of appointment of guardians ad litem, showing names of estate, guardian, ward, and bondsmen, date, amount, and terms of bond, and dates of petition and of filing. Arr. by date of filing. Indexed alph. by name of estate. Hdw. and typed. 600 p. 17 x 11 x 3. Pro. clk.'s main off., 1st fl.

191. GUARDIANS' PETITIONS, 1900-1906. 1 v. 1858-99, 1907-- in Guardians' Records, entry 188.

Copies of petitions for guardianship, showing names of estate, guardian, ward, petitioner, judge, and clerk, value of estate, and date of petition. Also contains Orders Appointing Guardians, entry 189. Arr. by date of petition. Indexed alph. by name of estate. Hdw. 350 p. 17 x 11 x 3. Pro. clk.'s main off., 1st fl.

192. CONSERVATORS' RECORD, 1875--. 4 v. (A-D).

Copies of conservators' petitions, oaths, bonds, and letters, showing names of estate, conservator, ward, judge, and sureties, amount and obligations of bond, and dates of petition, oath, bond, letters, and filing. Arr. by date of filing. Indexed alph. by name of estate. Hdw. on pr. fm. 600 p. 17 x 11 x 3. Pro. clk.'s main off., 1st fl.

193. MISCELLANEOUS BONDS, 1891--. 3 v. (1-3).

Copies of administrators' bonds de bonis non, showing names of estates, administrative officer, and sureties, amount, date, and terms of bond, and date of filing. Also contains Bond of Administrators with Will Annexed, 1891-1915, entry 194. Arr. by date of filing. Indexed alph. by name of estate. Hdw. on pr. fm. 600 p. 20 x 12 x 3. Pro. clk.'s main off., 1st fl.

194. BOND OF ADMINISTRATORS WITH WILL ANNEXED, 1916--. 1 v. (1). 1891-1915 in Miscellaneous Bonds, entry 193.

Copies of administrators' bonds and letters of administration with will annexed, showing names of estate, administrator, heirs, and sureties, amount and obligations of bond, terms of will, and date of filing. Arr. by date of filing. Indexed alph. by name of estate. Hdw. on pr. fm. 500 p. 17 x 11 x 3. Pro. clk.'s main off., 1st fl.

Inventories and
Appraisements (See also
entries 174, 175)

195. INVENTORY RECORDS, 1834--. 38 v. (3 not labeled, 1834-49; 4 not labeled, A-Z, AA-AE, 1834--).

Record of administrators' and executors' inventories, including copartner-ship inventories, 1834-68, 1893--, showing names of estate and administrative officer, description and valuation of property, amounts of annuities and royalties, acknowledgment, and date of filing. Three volumes, 1834-49,

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Probate Court - Probate
Business

have been transcribed into the current series. Also contains Guardians' Inventory Record, 1834-72, entry 196, and Appraisement Record, 1834-49, entry 198. Arr. by date of filing. Indexed alph. by name of estate. 1834-57, hdw.; 1858-1922, hdw. on pr. fm.; 1923--, hdw. and typed on pr. fm. 200 - 300 p. 12 x 7 x 1 - 17 x 11 x 3. 3 v. not labeled, 1834-49, pro. clk.'s main off., 1st fl.; 4 v. not labeled, v. A-Z, AA-AE, 1834--, pro. clk.'s center rm., 1st fl.

196. GUARDIANS' INVENTORY RECORD, 1873--. 6 v. (1-6).
1834-72 in Inventory Records, entry 195.

Record of guardians' inventories, showing names of estate, guardian, and ward, description and valuation of real and chattel property, amounts of annuities and credits, and date of filing. Also contains Conservators' Inventory Record, 1873-1904, entry 197. Arr. by date of filing. Indexed alph. by name of estate. Hdw. on pr. fm. 500 p. 20 x 12 x 3. Pro. clk.'s center rm., 1st fl.

197. CONSERVATORS' INVENTORY RECORD, 1905--. 2 v. (1, 2).
1873-1904 in Guardians' Inventory Record, entry 196.

Record of conservators' inventories, showing names of estate, conservator, and clerk, description and valuation of real estate, and chattels, amounts of annuities and credits, acknowledgment, and date of filing. Arr. by date of filing. Indexed alph. by name of estate. 1905-36, hdw. on pr. fm.; 1936--, typed on pr. fm. 575 p. 17 x 11 x 3. Pro. clk.'s center rm., 1st fl.

198. APPRAISEMENT RECORD, 1850--. 21 v. (A, B, B, B-S). Title varies: v. A, B, 1850-57, Appraisement and Sales Bill Records.
1834-49 in Inventory Records, entry 195.

Record of appraisement proceedings in probate cases, including copartnership appraisements, 1850-68, 1893--, showing names of estate, judge, clerk, appraiser, widow, and minor children, court order appointing appraiser, dates of oath, acknowledgment and filing, appraisement bill with itemized list of real and personal property, total value, and amount allowed widow and minor children. Also contains Real Estate Record, 1850-65, entry 201, and Sale Record (Personal Property), 1850-57, entry 204. Arr. by date of filing. 1850-57, no index; 1858--, indexed alph. by name of estate. 1850-62, hdw.; 1863--, hdw. on pr. fm. 250 - 600 p., 17 x 11 x 3. Pro. clk.'s main off., 1st fl.

199. COPARTNERSHIP INVENTORY AND APPRAISEMENT RECORD, 1869-92.
3 v. (A-C).

Record of inventories and appraisements of copartnership estates, showing names of estate, firm, administrator or executor, and appraiser, description and value of property, appraised value, statement and value of notes and accounts, names of heirs, and dates of inventory and appraisement. Arr. by date of appraisement. Indexed alph. by name of estate. Hdw. 600 p. 17 x 11 x 3. Pro. clk.'s main off., 1st fl.

For prior and subsequent records of copartnership estate inventories see entry 195, for prior and subsequent records of copartnership estate appraisements, see entry 198.

Widows' Relinquishment
and Selection (See also
entries 174, 175)

200. WIDOWS' RELINQUISHMENT AND SELECTION RECORD, 1874--. 8 v. (A-H). Record of widows' relinquishments and selections, showing names of estate, widow, judge, and clerk, list and value of items selected by widow, list and valuation of all property of estate, and date of selection. Arr. by date of selection. Indexed alph. by name of estate. Hdw. on pr. fm. 300 p. 20 x 12 x 3. Pro. clk.'s main off., 1st fl.

Reports of Sale (See also
entries 174, 175)

201. REAL ESTATE RECORD, 1866--. 18 v. (1, 2, B-Q). Title varies: v. 1, 2, B, 1866-84, Petitions and Decrees for Sale of Real Estate; v. C-F, 1885-1907, Real Estate Sale Record. 1850-65 in Appraisement Record, entry 198.

Record of real estate sales, showing names of estate, administrator, executor, and judge, petitions and orders to sell real estate to pay debts, legal description of property, sale bills, nature and amount of debt, name of claimant, and date of filing. Arr. by date of filing. Indexed alph. by name of estate. Hdw., typed, and hdw. and typed on pr. fm. 550 p. 17 x 11 x 3. Pro. clk.'s main off., 1st fl.

202. PUBLIC SALE RECORD, 1884--. 2 v. (1, 2).
1858-83 in Sale Record (Personal Property), entry 204.

Record of reports of public sales of personal property, showing names of estate, administrator or executor, and purchaser, list and appraised value of property, date and amount of sale, appraisement bill, balance due estate, and date of report. Arr. by date of report. Indexed alph. by name of estate. Hdw. on pr. fm. 600 p. 17 x 11 x 3. Pro. clk.'s center rm., 1st fl.

203. PRIVATE SALE RECORD, 1884--. 5 v. (1-5).
1858-83 in Sale Record (Personal Property), entry 204.

Report record of private sale of personal property, showing date, names of estate and purchaser, list of articles sold, appraised value, petition for and amount of sale, appraisement bill, balance due estate, and date of report. Arr. by date of report. Indexed alph. by name of estate. Hdw. on pr. fm. 600 p. 17 x 11 x 3. Pro. clk.'s center rm., 1st fl.

204. SALE RECORD (Personal Property), 1858-83. 2 v. (A, B).
1850-57 in Appraisement Record, entry 198.

Record of personal property sold at public and private sales, showing date of sale, names of estate and purchaser, list and appraised value of articles to be sold, petition for sale, amounts of sale and appraisement bill and balance due estate. Subsequently kept as Public Sale Record, entry 202, and Private Sale Record, entry 203. Arr. by date of sale. Indexed alph. by name of estate. Hdw. on pr. fm. 600 p. 17 x 11 x 3. Pro. clk.'s center rm., 1st fl.

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Probate Court - Probate
Business

Reports, Current and
Final Accounts (See also
entries 174, 175)

205. REPORTS OF ADMINISTRATORS AND EXECUTORS, 1882--. 30 v. (1-29, 31).
1836-81 in Ledger, entry 208.

Copies of administrators' and executors' current accounts, intermediate reports, and final reports, showing names of estate, administrative or executor, heirs, and attorneys, case number, date and amounts received from creditors, date, amount, and description of claim paid, lists of undisposed assets and claims, acknowledgment, and dates of report, approval, and filing. Arr. by date of filing. Indexed alph. by name of estate. Hdw. on pr. fm. 500 p. 18 x 12 x 3. Pro. clk.'s main off., 1st fl.

206. GUARDIANS' REPORT RECORD, 1885--. 15 v. (1-15).
1836-84 in Ledger, entry 208.

Copies of guardians' current accounts, intermediate reports, and final reports, showing names of estate, ward, guardian, and attorneys, case number, dates and amounts of receipts from creditors, date, amount and description of paid claims, lists of undisposed assets and claims, acknowledgment, and dates of report, approval, and filing. Arr. by date of filing. Indexed alph. by name of estate. Hdw. on pr. fm. 400 p. 17 x 11 x 3. Pro. clk.'s main off., 1st fl.

207. CONSERVATORS' REPORT RECORD, 1894--. 7 v. (1-7). 1836-93 in
Ledger, entry 208.

Copies of conservators' current accounts, intermediate reports, and final reports, showing names of estate, incompetent, conservator, and attorneys, case number, date and amounts received from creditors, date, amount, and description of claims paid, lists of undisposed assets and claims, acknowledgment, and dates of report, approval, and filing. Arr. by date of filing. Indexed alph. by name of estate. 1894-1934, hdw. on pr. fm.; 1935--, typed on pr. fm. 600 p. 17 x 11 x 3. Pro. clk.'s main off., 1st fl.

208. LEDGER, 1836-93. 5 v. (1 not labeled, B, A-C). Title varies:
Administrators' Accounts, 1 v. not labeled, v. B, 1836-65.

Copies of administrators', executors', guardians', and conservators' current accounts, intermediate reports and final reports, showing names of estate, administrative officer, heirs, and attorneys, case number, date and amounts received from creditors, date, amount, and description of paid claims, lists of undisposed assets and claims, acknowledgment, and dates of report, approval and filing. Also contains Reports of Administrators and Executors, 1836-81, entry 205; Guardians' Report Record, 1836-84, entry 206; and Conservators' Report Record, 1836-94, entry 207. Arr. by date of filing. Indexed alph. by name of estate. Hdw. on pr. fm. 300 - 500 p. 17 x 12 x 2 1/2 - 20 x 12 x 3. Pro. clk.'s main off., 1st fl.

Dockets

209. PROBATE JUDGE'S DOCKET, 1850--. 47 v. Title varies: Record Book Docket, 1 v., 1850-64.

Judge's docket of probate cases, including insolvent estate cases, showing names of estate, administrative officer and attorneys, date and number of case, and abstract of proceedings. Also contains Naturalization Docket, 1858-71, entry 168. Arr. by date of case. Indexed alph. by name of estate. Hdw. on pr. fm. 350 p. 20 x 12 x 3. Pro. clk.'s center rm., 1st fl.

210. ESTATE DOCKETS, 1851--. 14 v. (A-N).

Docket of administrators' and executors' cases, showing names of estate, administrative officer, sureties, widow, and heirs, date and amount of bond, and dates and notations of proceedings. Also contains Conservatorship Estate Docket, 1851-66, entry 211, and Guardians' Estate Docket, 1851-71, entry 212. Arr. by date of filing. Indexed alph. by name of estate. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 600 p. 17 x 11 x 3. Pro. clk.'s main off., 1st fl.

211. CONSERVATORSHIP ESTATE DOCKET, 1867--. 1 v. (1). 1851-66 in Estate Dockets, entry 210.

Conservators' dockets of estates in probate, showing names of estate, conservator, sureties, and ward, amount of bond, dates of letter, bond, and filing, and abstract of proceedings. Arr. by date of case. Indexed alph. by name of estate. Hdw. on pr. fm. 600 p. 17 x 11 x 3. Pro. clk.'s main off., 1st fl.

212. GUARDIANS' ESTATE DOCKET, 1872--. 4 v. (1-4). 1851-71 in Estate Dockets, entry 210.

Guardians' docket of estates in probate, showing names of estate, guardian, and sureties, dates of letter, bond and filing of case, name and age of ward, and abstract of proceedings. Arr. by date of filing. Indexed alph. by name of estate. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 450 p. 20 x 12 x 3. Pro. clk.'s main off., 1st fl.

213. PROBATE CLAIM AND JUDGMENT DOCKET, 1859--. 17 v. (A-C, 1-13, 1 not labeled).

Docket of claims and judgments in administratirship and executorship cases, showing names of claimant and estate, date, nature, and amount of claim, and date, nature, and amount of judgment. Also contains Probate Claim and Judgment Docket, Guardianship and Conservatorship, 1859-1920, entry 214. Arr. by date of claim. Indexed alph. by name of estate. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 550 p. 17 x 11 x 3. Pro. clk.'s main off., 1st fl.

214. PROBATE CLAIM AND JUDGMENT DOCKET, GUARDIANSHIP AND CONSERVATORSHIP, 1921--. 1 v. (A). 1859-1920 in Probate Claim and Judgment Docket, entry 213.

Docket of claims and judgments in guardianship and conservatorship cases, showing names of claimant and estate, date, nature and amount of claim, and date and amount of judgment. Arr. by date of claim. Indexed alph. by name of estate. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 600 p. 17 x 11 x 3. Pro. clk.'s main off., 1st fl.

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Probate Court - Fee Books;
Receipts and Expenditures

Fee Books

215. PROBATE FEE BOOKS, 1865--. 26 v. (A-Z).

Record of fees in administrators' and executors' cases, showing names of estate and administrative officer, amounts and purposes of costs and fees, and dates of case and payment. Also contains Guardians' Fee Book, 1865-87, entry 216, and Fees Received, 1865-90, entry 218. Arr. by date of case. Indexed alph. by name of estate. Hdw. on pr. fm. 550 p. 17 x 11 x 3. Pro. clk.'s main off., 1st fl.

216. GUARDIANS' FEE BOOK, 1888--. 3 v. (C-E). 1865-87 in Probate Fee Books, entry 215.

Record of fees in guardianship cases, showing names of estate, ward, and guardian, date and number of cases, items of receipt and expenditure, recapitulation, and balance due estate. Also contains Conservators' Fee Book, 1888-93, entry 217. Arr. by date of case. Indexed alph. by name of ward. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 600 p. 17 x 11 x 3. Pro. clk.'s main off., 1st fl.

217. CONSERVATORS' FEE BOOK, 1894--. 2 v. (1, 2). 1888-93 in Guardians' Fee Book, entry 216.

Record of fees in conservatorship cases, showing date and number of case, names of estate and conservators, date, purpose, and amount of fee, recapitulation, and balance due estate. Arr. by date of case. Indexed alph. by name of estate. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 575 p. 17 x 11 x 3. Pro. clk.'s main off., 1st fl.

Receipts and Expenditures

218. FEES RECEIVED, 1891--. 5 v. (1-5). 1865-90 in Probate Fee Books, entry 215.

Journal of fees received by probate clerk, showing names of payer and estate, amounts of court costs and witnesses' and clerks' fees, and date of receipt. Arr. by date of receipt. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 300 p. 17 x 11 x 2. Pro. clk.'s main off., 1st fl.

VI. CIRCUIT COURT

The circuit court has original jurisdiction of all causes in law and equity and acts as a court of appeals in probate matters and causes cognizable by the county court and justices of the peace.¹ In addition, it is one of the courts capable of exercising naturalization jurisdiction according to Federal statutes.²

From 1825 to 1827 the circuit court in Peoria County was held by a circuit court judge who was appointed by the General Assembly and who held office during good behavior.³ In the latter year an act repealed this provision and provided that circuit courts be held by Supreme Court justices.⁴ In 1829 a new circuit was created and a circuit court judge was appointed to act therein. This new circuit was composed of five counties one of which was Peoria.⁵ The circuit court in Peoria County continued to be held by a circuit judge until 1841 when additional associate justices of the Supreme Court were appointed by joint ballot of the General Assembly, which justices, together with the other justices of the Supreme Court, held the circuit courts.⁶ Then in 1849 another change was made in accordance with the second constitution which provided for the election of circuit judges by the judicial district electorate.⁷ The Constitution of 1870 altered the circuit districts and established population requirements for counties that may comprise a circuit.⁸ From 1849 to the present the circuit judges have been elected officers of the judicial district electorate. The tenth circuit is made up of five counties one of which is Peoria.⁹

Three circuit judges who serve for six-year terms are elected for the district. Before entering upon the duties of his office, each circuit judge is required to subscribe to an oath which he files with the Secretary of State.¹⁰ In 1835 the salary of the circuit judge was \$750

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1. Const. 1870, Art. VI, sec. 12; L. 1871-72, p. 109; R.S. 1874, p. 344; L. 1895, p. 189; L. 1933, p. 688; L. 1935, p. 1.
 2. U.S. Stat. 155; U.S.R.S. 1789-1874, p. 378-80; 34 U.S. Stat. 596; 37 U.S. Stat. 737; 44 U.S. Stat. 709. Circuit courts still retain naturalization jurisdiction but do not exercise it where U.S. District Courts are convenient.
 3. L. 1824, p. 41.
 4. R.L. 1827, p. 118.
 5. R.L. 1829, p. 48.
 6. L. 1841, p. 173; R.S. 1845, p. 143.
 7. Const. 1848, Art. V, sec. 7, 15.
 8. Art. VI, sec. 13.
 9. L. 1933, p. 436.
 10. Const. 1870, Art. VI, sec. 12; L. 1933, p. 436.

per annum.¹ The Constitution of 1870 fixed the salary at \$3,000 until otherwise provided by law.² The compensation of the judges has undergone many modifications over a period of time, the tendency being toward increases rather than decreases. Some of the recent changes have been: for judges elected from 1919 to 1925, \$6,400;³ for the period from 1925 to 1933, \$8,000;⁴ after the first Monday in June, 1933 it was \$7,200;⁵ until 1939 when it was again increased to \$8,000.⁶ The salaries are paid from the state treasury.

The hearings of several of the election contests are held before this court. Jurisdiction is granted to the court to hear and determine contests of the election of judges of the Supreme Court, judges of the circuit court, and members of the State Board of Equalization; but no judge of the circuit court is allowed to sit upon the hearing of any case in which he is a party.⁷ The circuit court also hears and determines the election contests of some of the local and county offices. These include contests of judge of the county court, mayors of cities, president of the county board, presidents of villages, election in reference to removal of county seats and in reference to any other subject which may be submitted to the vote of the people of the county. The circuit court has concurrent jurisdiction with the county court in cases of contested elections under the latter's jurisdiction.⁸

Included under the jurisdiction of the circuit court are also appeals from the Illinois Commerce Commission's rules, regulations, orders, or decisions. Such appeals may be taken to the circuit court serving Peoria County when the subject matter of the hearing is situated in the county. The appeal may be heard for the purpose of having the reasonableness or lawfulness of the rule, regulation, order, or decision inquired into and determined.⁹

To expedite the handling of litigation, a branch circuit court may be held at the same time that the main or regular circuit court for Peoria County is in session. A branch court is held by any circuit judge of this circuit or by a judge of any other circuit called in for the purpose of hearing and deciding motions and settling the issues in any or all causes pending in the circuit court, and for the purpose of hearing

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1. L. 1835, p. 167.
 2. Art. VI, sec. 16.
 3. L. 1919, p. 553,554.
 4. L. 1925, p. 400; L. 1931, p. 148.
 5. L. 1933, p. 621.
 6. L. 1937, p. 189,606. Effective in 1939.
 7. L. 1899, p. 152.
 8. L. 1871-72, p. 396; L. 1895, p. 170.
 9. L. 1921, p. 742,743.

Circuit Court

chancery causes and cases at law which are pending in such court for that term. The presiding judge of the main circuit court assigns to the branch court as many of the law and chancery cases as the presiding judge of the branch court will possibly have time to hear.¹

Also, to aid in the speedy administration of justice, the judges, or the majority of them, may by an order entered of record in the office of the clerk of the circuit court, dispense with either or both the grand and petit juries for any term or part of term of the circuit court, and may designate what term or portion thereof shall be devoted to criminal business, and what term or portion thereof to civil business.²

Each of the three judges of the circuit court is authorized to appoint one official shorthand reporter. This appointee is required to be skilled in verbatim reporting and is not allowed to hold more than one such official appointment. The appointment is in writing and is required to be filed in the office of the auditor of public accounts. The reporter holds office until his appointment is revoked by the appointing judge or until the termination of the judge's term. When the official reporter is absent or disabled, the presiding judge may appoint any other competent reporter to act during such absence or disability. The substitute is paid for his services by the official reporter. The reporter causes full stenographic notes of the evidence in all trials before the court to be taken down and transcript of the same to be correctly made if desired by either party to the suit, their attorneys, or the judge of the court. Each of the reporters receives and is paid out of the state treasury an annual salary of \$3,240. The salaries are paid out monthly on the warrant of the auditor of public accounts.³

The probation officer for adult probationers is an appointee of the circuit court.⁴ His services extend throughout the county. Courts exercising criminal or quasi-criminal jurisdiction are given power to release on probation, adult or juvenile offenders found guilty of committing certain specified offenses.⁵ In the performance of his prescribed duties, the probation officer principally serves the county and circuit courts. He is required to give bond as determined by the circuit court in a sum not exceeding \$5,000 and is subject to the rules of removal by the appointing court.⁶ Peoria County has three probation officers under the law of 1915, providing for one such officer for each 50,000, or fraction thereof, of population.⁷

1. L. 1873-74, p. 82,83; L. 1905, p. 146.

2. L. 1835, p. 167,168; L. 1936, p. 441,442.

3. L. 1933, p. 463,464.

4. L. 1911, p. 280.

5. Ibid., p. 277.

6. Ibid., p. 280,281; L. 1915, p. 380,381.

7. L. 1915, p. 380. School census to be basis for determining population.

The probation officer is compensated at a rate determined by the county board. In the performance of his duties, he is required to investigate the cases of defendants requesting probation; notify the court of previous conviction or probation; make reports to the respective courts; keep a set of records as described below; take charge of, and watch over, all persons placed on probation in his county, and all probationers moving from another county into his county. He is also required to notify probation officers in other counties of any probationers under his supervision who may move into those counties.¹

The reports made by the probation officer to the courts are kept by the clerk in the respective cases. The courts' probation records include orders granting or refusing release on probation, probationers' bonds, the reports of probation officers noted above, and discharge of probationers.

The probation officer is required to keep complete accurate records of investigated persons, the action of the court, and the subsequent history of probationers. These are not public records but are open to inspection by any judge or any probation officer pursuant to a court order.²

Unlike the judges of the circuit court who are elected by the judicial district electorate, the clerk of this court is elected by the county electorate.³ This official performs the ministerial duties of the circuit court of Peoria County and files and preserves its records as well as those of the branch circuit courts.⁴ He is commissioned by the Governor and before entering upon the duties of his office, gives bond with sureties which are approved by any two of the judges of the court. His bond is given in the sum of not less than \$5,000 as agreed upon by the judges. The oath to which he subscribes is filed with the Secretary of State.⁵ The compensation of the clerk of the circuit court is fixed by the county board within the limits set by the constitution. In counties the size of Peoria, with a population of 153,374, the compensation of the circuit clerk is not to exceed \$4,000 a year.⁶ If a vacancy occurs in this office and the unexpired term does not exceed one year, the court is required to fill such vacancy by appointment of a clerk pro tempore. The appointee is then required to qualify for office in the same manner as the regularly elected clerk of the circuit court. When the appointment is made, the court notifies the Governor of the filled vacancy. The Governor in turn, as soon as practicable, issues a writ of election for the circuit court clerk.⁷

1. L. 1911, p. 281,282; L. 1915, p. 381,382.

2. L. 1911, p. 277-84; L. 1915, p. 378-84.

3. Const. 1848, Art. V, sec. 7,21,29; Const. 1870, Art. X, sec. 8.

4. L. 1905, p. 147.

5. R.S. 1874, p. 260.

6. Const. 1870, Art. X, sec. 10.

7. L. 1873-74, p. 95.

Circuit Court

The clerk of the circuit court was first appointed by the circuit judge in Peoria County.¹ He kept a record of all the oaths that he administered and certified a copy annually to the Secretary of State.² The clerk preserved a complete record on all proceedings and determinations of the court of which he was clerk.³ At each term of the circuit court, the clerk inquired into the condition and the treatment of prisoners and was required to see that all prisoners were humanely treated.⁴ This authority was in later years, and is at present, delegated to the circuit court.⁵ One of the early requisites of this office was for the clerk of the circuit court to reside near the county seat in order that he could attend to his duties daily. In the event that it was not possible for him to be in daily attendance, the presiding judge was to fill such vacancy.⁶ The Constitution of 1848 made the clerk of the circuit court an elective officer of the county with a four-year term.⁷ This arrangement has continued until the present.⁸

The clerk is able to perform the several duties of his office with the aid of his staff which consists of assistants and deputy clerks who are appointed by him in a number determined by rule of the circuit court.⁹ This order is entered as of record and the compensation of such assistants and deputies is set by the county board.¹⁰

Among the records kept by the clerk for the circuit court are the following:¹¹

1. Books of record of the proceedings and judgments of the court with alphabetical indexes by parties. Proceedings are recorded at length only in cases designated by law, or when the court at the motion and assumption of expense by one of the parties, so orders. In practice, from an early date the court record has been broken down into segregated types of proceedings and judgments.

1. Const. 1818, Art. IV, sec. 6; R.L. 1833, p. 152; R.S. 1845, p. 146.
2. L. 1819, p. 349.
3. R.L. 1829, p. 44; R.L. 1833, p. 152; R.S. 1845, p. 147.
4. R.L. 1827, p. 248.
5. R.S. 1874, p. 616; L. 1923, p. 424.
6. R.L. 1929, p. 35.
7. Art. V, sec. 29.
8. Const. 1870, Art. X, sec. 9.
9. L. 1831, p. 49; Const. 1870, Art. X, sec. 9.
10. Ibid.
11. The Civil Practice Act of 1933 grants authority to the circuit courts, subject to rules promulgated by the Supreme Court and not inconsistent with statutory requirements, to make such rules as they may deem expedient, regulating dockets and calendars of said courts (L. 1933, p. 786).

2. "Plaintiff-Defendant Index to Court Record" and "Defendant-Plaintiff Index to Court Records," intended to be separate records, but frequently combined in a single volume with the two indexes segregated in each volume.
3. A general docket in which all suits are entered in the order they are commenced.
4. A judgment and execution docket containing a column for the entry of satisfaction or other disposition. In practice, an execution docket is frequently set up independently.
5. Additional dockets, designated as the clerk's, judge's and bar docket. In practice, the bar docket has tended to drop out of use.
6. A fee book in which costs and fees are to be entered under the proper title of the case. In practice, separate series of volumes are maintained under such titles of causes.
7. Transcripts of proceedings in appeals from justices', city, and foreign courts, dockets thereof, and transcripts of judgments for liens, etc., from the former. Separate well-bound books are required to be kept for each city court. These books are to contain an alphabetical docket of all judgment decrees rendered in the city court. They also provide for entry of date relating to the filing of the transcript with the corresponding number of the transcript.¹
8. Naturalization proceedings from petitions to final certificates; Federal statutes allow the circuit court to exercise jurisdiction.²
9. Reports to the court from its designated masters in chancery, the state's attorney, and the coroner's inquest juries.
10. Jury venires, summonses, certificates, etc.
11. Original documents used in court hearings and determinations. These documents are of particular importance because in a large number of cases the complete proceedings are not spread on court record.
12. Monthly reports of the warden of the county jail, containing a list of all prisoners in his custody, showing causes of commitment and names of persons by whom committed.³

1. R.L. 1827, p. 217; L. 1865, p. 79,80; R.S. 1874, p. 262-65; L. 1895, p. 217; L. 1901, p. 139.

2. 2 U.S. Stat. 153-55; U.S.R.S. 1789-1874, p. 378-80; 34 U.S. Stat. 596-607,709,710; 45 U.S. Stat. 1514,1515.

3. R.S. 1845, p. 323-26,414,418,419,518; L. 1873, p. 64,65; R.S. 1874, p. 262,263,283,339,616,630; L. 1935, p. 678,707,708.

General Indexes

219. INDEX TO DISPOSED OF COURT PAPERS, 1825--. 4 v. (A-D).
Index to (Circuit Court Case Files), entry 221; Recognizance and Surety Bonds, entry 256; and Fee Bills, entry 266, showing names of plaintiff and defendant, nature of action, term date, and case and file box numbers. Arr. alph. by names of plaintiff and defendant. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 530 p. 18 x 12 x 3. Cir. clk.'s main off., 2nd fl.

220. INDEX TO CIRCUIT COURT RECORDS PLAINTIFF - DEFENDANT, 1851--.
28 v. (1-14 plaintiff; 1-14 defendant).
Index to Common Law(Record), entry 223; Chancery Records, entry 226; and Criminal Record, entry 228, showing names of plaintiff and defendant, case number, nature of action, court terms commenced and disposed, and book and page of entry. Arr. alph. by name of plaintiff and defendant. Hdw. on pr. fm. 600 p. 18 x 12 x 3. Cir. clk.'s main off., 2nd fl.

Proceedings of Court

221. (CIRCUIT COURT CASE FILES), 1825--. 2421 f.b. (1-401, 401-2420).
Documents in common law, criminal, and chancery cases, including writs, replevins, summonses, pleas, petitions, appeals, injunctions, ejectments, subpoenas, instructions to jury, indictments, attachments, assumpsits, demurrers, warrants, actions to collect on bonds, condemnations, affidavits, jury lists, and court orders. Also contains Master in Chancery (Bills of Foreclosure), 1825-1920, entry 225; Divorce (Files), 1825-1923, entry 232; Grand Jury Reports, 1825-1912, entry 251; Grand and Petit Jury Venires, 1825-1912, entry 254; Recognizance and Surety Bonds, 1825-91, 1929--, entry 256; and Fee Bills, 1825-74, 1884--, entry 266. Arr. by case no. For index, see entry 219. 1825-1903, hdw. and hdw. on pr. fm.; 1904--, hdw. and typed on pr. fm. 10 x 5 x 15. Cir. clk.'s rear rm., 2nd fl.

222. COMMON LAW, CHANCERY AND CRIMINAL (Exhibits), 1860-1928. 6 f.d.
Court exhibits used in the prosecution of common law, chancery, and criminal cases. Court exhibits inaccessible. Arr. unknown. No index. Writing unknown. 6 x 24 x 48. Cir. clk.'s rear rm., 2nd fl.

223. COMMON LAW (Record), 1825--. 62 v. (A-I, K-Z, AA-AZ, BA-BK).
Title varies: Records, v. A, B, 1825-36.
Record of proceedings in common law cases, including default and confession cases, showing term date, names of plaintiff, defendant, attorneys, and witnesses, nature of action, proceedings, and orders of court. Also contains Chancery Records, 1825-38, entry 226; Criminal Record, 1825-46, entry 228; Transcript Record, 1825-46, entry 234; and Naturalization Record Final, 1837-60, entry 262. Arr. by date of proceedings. 1825-50, indexed alph. by name of plaintiff; for sep. index, 1851--, see entry 220. 1825-1913, hdw.; 1914--, typed. 400 - 560 p. 18 x 10 x 2 - 18 x 12 x 3. Cir. clk.'s main off., 2nd fl.

224. CLERK'S MINUTE BOOK, 1851--. 94 v.
Minutes of proceedings of circuit court, showing names of plaintiff, defendant, and attorneys, case number, verdict of jury, order of court, and date of proceedings. Arr. by date of proceedings. No index. Hdw. 150 - 250 p. 12 x 8 x 1 - 14 x 8 x 2. 83 v., 1851-1933, strn., bsmt.; 11 v., 1933--., cir. clk.'s main off., 2nd fl.
225. MASTER IN CHANCERY (Bills of Foreclosure), 1921--. 12 f.b.
1825-1920 in (Circuit Court Case Files), entry 231.
Bills of foreclosure in cases referred to master in chancery, showing date and nature of case, names of plaintiff, defendant, master, and attorneys, amounts of original note and mortgage, balance due, and report of master. Arr. alph. by name of plaintiff. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. 15 x 5 x 20. Cir. clk.'s rear rm., 2nd fl.
226. CHANCERY RECORDS, 1839--. 121 v. (A-Z, AA-EZ, BA-BZ, CA-CZ, DA-DQ). 1825-39 in Common Law (Record), entry 223.
Record of proceedings in chancery cases, showing case number, names of plaintiff, defendant, attorneys, and witnesses, certificate of evidence, decrees, and orders of court, and date of proceedings. Arr. by date of proceedings. 1839-50, indexed alph. by name of plaintiff; for sep. index, 1851--., see entry 220. 1839-1913, hdw.; 1914--., typed. 640 p. 18 x 12 x 3. Cir. clk.'s main off., 2nd fl.
227. COMPLETE (Chancery) RECORD, 1839-73. 2 v. (A, B).
Record of proceedings in chancery cases, showing case number, names of plaintiff, defendant, and attorneys, and dates and nature of proceedings and court orders. Arr. by date of proceedings. Indexed alph. by name of plaintiff. Hdw. 400 p. 18 x 12 x 3. Cir. clk.'s main off., 2nd fl.
228. CRIMINAL RECORD, 1847--. 31 v. (A-Z, AA-AE). 1825-46 in Common Law Record), entry 223.
Record of proceedings in criminal cases, showing term date, case number, name of plaintiff, defendant, and state's attorney, nature of action, and court orders. Also contains Recognizance Record, 1847-70, entry 257. Arr. by date of proceedings. 1847-50, indexed alph. by name of defendant; for sep. index, 1851--., see entry 220. 1847-1914, hdw.; 1915--., typed. 580 p. 18 x 12 x 3. Cir. clk.'s main off., 2nd fl.
229. INDICTMENT RECORD, 1825--. 41 v.
Register of grand jury indictments, showing names of defendant, attorneys, and members of grand jury, date of commission and nature of offence, amount of bail, and date of court term. Arr. by date of court term. No index. 1825-70, hdw.; 1871-1914, hdw. under pr. hdgs.; 1915--., typed under pr. hdgs. 300 - 650 p. 16 x 10 x 2 - 18 x 12 x 3. Cir. clk.'s rear rm., 2nd fl.

230. (MECHANICS' LIENS), 1888--. 17 f.b.

Mechanics' liens showing names of plaintiff and defendant, lien number, date, purpose, and amount of lien, location and description of property attached, and date of filing. 1888-1920, arr. by date of filing; 1921--, arr. by lien no. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. 10 x 5 x 15 - 11 x 5 x 28. 7 f.b., 1888-1908, 1931--, cir. clk.'s main off., 2nd fl.; 10 f.b., 1909-30, cir. clk.'s rear rm., 2nd fl.

231. RECORD OF TAXABLE LAND, 1839-49. 1 v.

Lists of delinquent taxable real estate, showing name of owner, legal description of property, valuation, years and amounts of delinquency, costs, name of patentee, court order for sale, and date of case. Arr. by date of case. No index. Hdw. 500 p. 18 x 12 x 3. Cir. clk.'s rear rm., 2nd fl.

232. DIVORCE (Files), 1924--. 5 f.b. 1825-1923 in (Circuit Court Case Files), entry 221.

Documents in divorce cases including: petitions, bills for divorce, summonses, crossbills, defendants' answers, affidavits of foreign witnesses, modifications of decree and alimony, fee bills, and court orders. Arr. by date of award. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. 10 x 5 x 15. Cir. clk.'s rear rm., 2nd fl.

233. JUDGMENT BY CONFESSION, 1859--. 4 v. (A-D). 1827-58 in Judgment Docket, entry 236.

Record of judgments by confession, showing names of plaintiff, defendant, and attorneys, amount of judgment, book and page of entry in judgment docket, and date of filing. Arr. by date of filing. Indexed alph. by name of plaintiff. 1859-1907, hdw. on pr. fm.; 1908--, typed on pr. fm. 500 p. 18 x 12 x 3. V. A-C, 1859-1954, cir. clk.'s rear rm., 2nd fl.; v. D, 1935--, cir. clk.'s main off., 2nd fl.

Transcripts

234. TRANSCRIPT RECORD, 1847--. 9 v. (2 not labeled, C, 1 not labeled, F-J). 1825-46 in Common Law (Record), entry 223.

Record of transcripts from justice courts, showing names of plaintiff, defendant, and attorneys, dates of summons and hearing, and transcript of evidence. Arr. by date of hearing. Indexed alph. by name of plaintiff. 1847-76, hdw.; 1877-1937, hdw. on pr. fm.; 1938--, typed on pr. fm. 500 p. 18 x 12 x 2. Cir. clk.'s rear rm., 2nd fl.

235. TRANSCRIPTS FROM FOREIGN COUNTIES, 1886--. 1 v. (E).

Transcripts of judgments from foreign courts, showing names of plaintiff and defendant, legal description of property, proceedings, orders of court, and date of filing. Arr. by date of filing. Indexed alph. by name of defendant. 1886-1923, hdw.; 1924--, typed. 600 p. 18 x 12 x 3. Cir. clk.'s main off., 2nd fl.

Dockets

236. JUDGMENT DOCKET, 1827--. 43 v. (A-Z, 1-17).
Docket of judgments, showing case number, names of plaintiff, defendant, and attorneys, kind of action, date and amount of judgment, amount of costs, book and page of entry in record, and sheriff's return. Also contains Judgment by Confession, 1827-58, entry 233, and Execution Docket, 1827-38, entry 237. Arr. by date of judgment. Indexed alph. by name of plaintiff. Hdw. 600 p. 18 x 12 x 3. Cir. clk.'s rear rm., 2nd fl.
237. EXECUTION DOCKET, 1839--. 12 v. (1 not labeled, B-I, K-M).
1827-38 in Judgment Docket, entry 236.
Docket of executions, showing case number, names of plaintiff and defendant, amounts of debt, damages, and costs, book and page of entry in judgment docket and fee book, and dates of execution and return. Arr. by date of execution. Indexed alph. by name of plaintiff. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 400 p. 18 x 12 x 3. Cir. clk.'s rear rm., 2nd fl.
238. DOCKET OF LIENS, 1887--. 6 v. (1-6).
Docket of liens against real estate, showing names of claimant and defendant, legal description of property, nature, amount number, and date of lien, and notation of satisfaction. Arr. by lien no. Indexed alph. by name of defendant. 1887-1919, hdw. on pr. fm.; 1920--, typed on pr. fm. 300 p. 16 x 10 x 2 $\frac{1}{2}$. Cir. clk.'s rear rm., 2nd fl.
239. TRANSFER JUDGES' DOCKET COMMON LAW, 1914--. 9 v. (1, 1-7, 9).
1838-1913 in Judges' Docket, entry 243.
Judges' transfer docket of common law cases, showing term date, case number, kind of action, names of plaintiff, defendant, and attorneys and abstract of proceedings. Arr. alph. by name of plaintiff. No index. Hdw. and typed under pr. hdgs. 700 p. 20 x 12 x 6. Cir. clk.'s main off., 2nd fl.
240. TRANSFER JUDGES' DOCKET CHANCERY, 1914--. 12 v. (1-3, 5-7, 9-13, 15). 1838-1913 in Judges' Docket, entry 243.
Judges' transfer docket of chancery cases, showing case number, term date, names of plaintiff, defendant, and attorneys, kind of action, and abstract of proceedings. Also contains Special Judges' Docket - Dissolution of Corporations, 1914-19, entry 241. Arr. alph. by name of plaintiff. No index. Hdw. and typed under pr. hdgs. 700 p. 20 x 12 x 6. Cir. clk.'s main off., 2nd fl.
241. SPECIAL JUDGES' DOCKET - DISSOLUTION OF CORPORATIONS, 1920--.
2 v. Last entry 1928. 1911-13 in Judges' Docket, entry 243; 1914-19 in Transfer Judges' Docket Chancery, entry 240.
Docket of nonprofit corporation dissolution cases, showing case number, names of corporation, trustees or officers, and attorneys, court orders, and date of filing. Arr. by case no. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 200 p. 18 x 12 x 2. Cir. clk.'s rear rm., 2nd fl.

242. TRANSFER JUDGES' DOCKET CRIMINAL, 1914--. 7 v. (1-7).
1838-1913 in Judges' Docket, entry 243.

Judges' transfer docket of criminal cases, showing case number, term date, names of plaintiff, defendant, and attorneys, kind of action, and abstract of proceedings. Arr. alph. by name of plaintiff. No index. Hdw. and typed under pr. hdgs. 700 p. 20 x 12 x 6. Cir. clk.'s main off., 2nd fl.

243. JUDGES' DOCKET, 1838-1913. 120 v.

Docket of common law, criminal, and chancery cases, showing date, case number, names of plaintiff, defendant, and attorneys, nature of action, and abstract of proceedings. Transfer Judges' Docket Common Law, entry 239; Transfer Judges' Docket Chancery, entry 240, including Special Judges' Docket - Dissolution of Corporations, 1911-13, entry 241; Transfer Judges' Docket Criminal, entry 242, subsequently kept separately. Arr. by date of case. No index. 1838-52, hdw.; 1853-1913, hdw. under pr. hdgs. 500 p. 18 x 12 x 2 1/2. Cir. clk.'s rear rm., 2nd fl.

244. CLERK'S DOCKET, 1920--. 17 v. (2 not labeled, 2, 3, 2 not labeled, 5-10, 5 not labeled).

Clerk's docket of chancery, criminal, and common law cases, showing date and number of case, names of plaintiff, defendant, attorneys, and witnesses, and notation of proceedings. Arr. by date of case. Indexed alph. by name of plaintiff. Hdw. 200 p. 15 x 10 x 1. Cir. clk.'s rear rm., 2nd fl.

245. BAR DOCKET, 1921--. 14 v.

Docket of criminal, chancery, and common law cases, showing names of plaintiff, defendant, and attorneys, case number, and date of hearing. Arr. by date of hearing. Indexed alph. by names of plaintiff and defendant. Hdw. 200 p. 12 x 10 x 1. Cir. clk.'s rear rm., 2nd fl.

246. APPEARANCE DOCKET, 1844-1908. 13 v. (6 not labeled, A-G).

Title varies: Docket, 1 v. not labeled, 1851-54; Civil Docket, 1 v. not labeled, 1867-70. 1909-- in Fee Book and Appearance Docket, entry 248.

Appearance docket showing names of plaintiff, defendant, and attorneys, date, number, and nature of case, and date set for appearance of defendant. Arr. by date of case. No index. Hdw. 640 p. 18 x 12 x 3. Cir. clk.'s rear rm., 2nd fl.

Fee Books

247. CRIMINAL FEE BOOK, 1889--. 4 v. (1 not labeled, 2-4).
1838-88 in Fee Book, entry 250.

Record of fees charged and collected in criminal cases, showing names of plaintiff and defendant, date, amounts and kind of fees charged and collected, total amount of fees, and signature of clerk. Arr. by case no. Indexed alph. by name of defendant. Hdw. on pr. fm. 400 p. 18 x 12 x 2. 1 v. not labeled, v. 2, 3, 1889-1929, cir. clk.'s rear rm., 2nd fl.; v. 4, 1930--, cir. clk.'s main off., 2nd fl.

248. FEE BOOK AND APPEARANCE DOCKET, 1909--. 33 v. (17-49).

Record of fees charged and collected in common law and chancery cases, and appearance docket, showing date, number, and nature of case, date set for appearance of defendant, names of plaintiff, defendant, and attorneys, dates, amount, and kinds of fees charged and collected, and name of payer; includes amounts of witness fees, also contains Special Appearance Docket and Fee Book - Dissolution of Corporation, 1911-19, entry 249. Appearance Docket, entry 248, and Fee Book, entry 250, formerly kept separately. Arr. by date of case. Indexed alph. by name of plaintiff. Hdw. on pr. fm. 550 p. 18 x 12 x 2. V. 17-35, 1909-27, cir. clk.'s rear rm., 2nd fl.; v. 35-49, 1928--, cir. clk.'s main off., 2nd fl.

249. SPECIAL APPEARANCE DOCKET AND FEE BOOK - DISSOLUTION OF CORPORATION, 1920--. 2 v. (A, B). 1911-19 in Fee Book and Appearance Docket, entry 248.

Appearance docket and fee book of nonprofit corporation dissolution cases, showing term date, case number, names of corporation and attorneys, amount of clerk's and sheriff's fees, date of incorporation, and order for dissolution. Arr. by case no. Indexed alph. by name of defendant. Hdw. on pr. fm. 700 p. 18 x 12 x 3. Cir. clk.'s rear rm., 2nd fl.

250. FEE BOOK, 1838-1908. 41 v. (B-I, 1 not labeled, K-Z, 1-16).
1909-- in Fee Book and Appearance Docket, entry 248.

Record of fees charged and collected in common law and chancery cases, including witness fees, showing date and number of case, names of plaintiff, defendant, and attorneys, dates, amounts, and kinds of fees charged and collected, and name of payer. Also contains Criminal Fee Book, 1838-38, entry 247. Arr. by date of case. Indexed alph. by name of plaintiff. Hdw. on pr. fm. 550 p. 18 x 12 x 2. Cir. clk.'s rear rm.; 2nd fl.

Reports to Court

251. GRAND JURY REPORTS, 1913--. 1 f.b. 1825-1912 in (Circuit Court Case Files), entry 221.

Reports of grand jury to circuit court, showing number and type of case examined, names of plaintiff and defendant, date and result of examination, and date and nature of report. Arr. by date of report. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. 10 x 5 x 15. Cir. clk.'s main off., 2nd fl.

252. ADULT PROBATION OFFICER'S REPORTS, 1913--. 1 f.b.

Reports of adult probation officer to circuit court of moneys collected in restitution, showing dates and amounts collected, total amount collected, name of payer, and date of report. Arr. by date of report. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. 10 x 5 x 15. Cir. clk.'s main off., 2nd fl.

253. STATE'S ATTORNEY'S REPORTS, 1973--. 1 v.

Record of state's attorney's reports to the circuit court, showing name of defendant, term of court, nature of charge, amounts of fines and fees collected, and date of report. Arr. by date of report. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. 638 p. 18 x 12 x 3. Cir. clk.'s rear rm., 2nd fl.

Jury Records

254. GRAND AND PETIT JURY VENIRES, 1913--. 2 f.b. 1825-1912 in (Circuit Court Case Files), entry 221. Grand and petit jury venires showing dates of summons and service, name and address of juror, and names of sheriff and clerk. Arr. by date of summons. No index. Typed. 10 x 5 x 15. Cir. clk.'s rear rm., 2nd fl.

255. JURORS' CERTIFICATES, 1892--. 50 v. Stubs of jury certificates, showing name of juror, days of service, mileage, and date, number, and amount of certificate. Arr. by certificate no. No index. Hdw. on pr, fm. 100 p. 14 x 12 x 1. Cir. clk.'s rear rm., 2nd fl.

Bonds

256. RECOGNIZANCE AND SURETY BONDS, 1892-1928. 14 f.b. 1825-91, 1929-- in (Circuit Court Case Files), entry 221. Recognizance and surety bonds posted for court appearances, showing names of plaintiff, defendant, and officer accepting bond, date, amount, terms, and conditions of bond, and signatures of bondsmen. Arr. by date of bond. For index, see entry 219. Hdw. and typed on pr. fm. 10 x 5 x 15. Cir. clk.'s rear rm., 2nd fl.

257. RECOGNIZANCE RECORD, 1871--. 6 v. (A-F). 1847-70 in Criminal Record, entry 228. Record of recognizance bonds, showing case number, names of plaintiff, defendant, and sureties, amount of bond, date and place of appearance, court order, and signatures of bondsmen and clerk. Arr. by date of bond. Indexed alph. by name of defendant. 1871-1930, hdw. on pr. fm.; 1931-- , hdw. and typed on pr. fm. 500 p. 17 x 11 x 3. Cir. clk.'s rear rm., 2nd fl.

Probation and Parole
(See also entry 252)

258. PROBATIONER REPORTS, 1911--. 16 f.b. Probationers' monthly reports to probation officer, showing name of probationer, date of report, by whom employed, number of dependents, amount earned since last report, and signature of probationer; also includes applications to circuit court for probation. Arr. by date of report. Indexed alph. by name of probationer. Hdw. on pr. fm. 11 x 5 x 20. Adult probation off., 3rd fl.

259. RECEIPT BOOKS, 1911--. 50 v. Duplicates of receipts issued for payments of court costs and restitutions, showing name of payer, date, purpose, and amount of payment, and signature of probation officer. Arr. by date of issue. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. 300 p. 10 x 10 x 1. Adult probation off., 3rd fl.

260. APPLICATION FOR DISCHARGE UNDER PAROLE LAW #1, CIRCUIT COURT,
1837-99. 1 v.

Copies of recommendations for final discharge of paroled prisoners serving indeterminate sentences, showing name of prisoner, date of commitment and parole, prison and parole record, reason for recommendation, court order for final discharge, signatures of prison board members and judge, and date of order. Arr. by date of order. Indexed alph. by name of parolee. Hdw. on pr. fm. 300 p. 20 x 12 x 3. Cir. clk.'s rear rm., 2nd fl.

Naturalization

261. NATURALIZATION PAPERS, 1840-96. 1 carton.

Documents in naturalization cases, including declarations of intention and petitions for final certificates of adults and minors, affidavits of witnesses, and final oaths of naturalization. Arr. by date of filing. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. 20 x 24 x 36. Strm., bsmt.

262. NATURALIZATION RECORD FINAL, 1861-1908. 4 v. (A, B, D, 1).
1837-60 in Common Law (Record), entry 223.

Copies of final naturalization certificates, showing dates of court term and certificate, name and birthplace of petitioner, oaths of renunciation of allegiance to foreign power and allegiance to the United States, court order granting citizenship, and names of witnesses and clerk. Also contains Naturalization Record of Declaration of Intentions, 1861-73, entry 263, and Naturalization Record, Minors Final, 1861-68, entry 264. Arr. by date of certificate. Indexed alph. by name of petitioner. Hdw. on pr. fm. 200 - 300 p. 12 x 8 x 2 - 18 x 12 x 3. Cir. clk.'s rear rm., 2nd fl.

263. NATURALIZATION RECORD OF DECLARATION OF INTENTIONS, 1874-1908.

2 v. (A, 1). 1861-73 in Naturalization Record Final, entry 262.

Copies of declarations of intentions, showing dates of court term and declaration, name of applicant, oath of renunciation of allegiance to foreign power, names and oaths of witnesses, attestation of clerk, and signature of alien. Arr. by date of declaration. Indexed alph. by name of alien. Hdw. on pr. fm. 450 p. 18 x 12 x 2½. Cir. clk.'s rear rm., 2nd fl.

264. NATURALIZATION RECORD, MINORS FINAL, 1869-1908. 2 v. (A, B).

1861-68 in Naturalization Record Final, entry 262.

Record of minors' final certificates of naturalization, showing dates of court term and certificate, name of applicant and witnesses, birthplace, oaths of renunciation and allegiance, court order granting citizenship, and signatures of judge and clerk. Arr. by date of certificate. Indexed alph. by name of applicant. Hdw. on pr. fm. 300 p. 16 x 10 x 2. Cir. clk.'s main off., 2nd fl.

Office Transactions

Fees, Receipts and Expenditures

265. REGISTER OF FEES RECEIVED, 1872--. 7 v.

Ledger of receipts and disbursements, showing date, amount, and nature of receipts or disbursement, name of payer or recipient, total amounts of receipts and disbursements, and balance available; also includes copy of circuit clerk's semiannual report to county board, and register of witness fees and jury warrants. Arr. by date of transaction. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 475 p. 18 x 12 x 2. 6 v., 1872-1933, cir. clk.'s rear rm., 2nd fl.; 1 v., 1934--, cir. clk.'s main off., 2nd fl.

266. FEE BILLS, 1875-83. 1 f.b. 1825-74, 1884-- in (Circuit Court Case Files), entry 221.

Bills for court fees, showing names of plaintiff and defendant, amounts of judgment, costs, and fees, and dates of filing and return. Arr. by date of filing. For index, see entry 219. Hdw. 10 x 5 x 15. Cir. clk.'s rear rm., 2nd fl.

Alimony

267. ALIMONY RECORD, 1909--. 6 v. (A-F).

Record of alimony payments, showing case number, names of plaintiff and defendant, date and amount of payment, and signature of recipient. Arr. by date of payment. Indexed alph. by name of recipient. Hdw. on pr. fm. 300 - 400 p. 12 x 6 x 1 - 15 x 9 x 2. V. A-D, 1909-33, cir. clk.'s rear rm., 2nd fl.; v. E, F, 1934--, cir. clk.'s main off., 2nd fl.

VII. SHERIFF

The sheriff by constitutional provision has been an elected officer in Peoria County from the organization of the county in 1825, to the present.¹ The term of his office, originally set at two years,² is now four years.³ In 1880 it was provided, by constitutional amendment, that no person elected to the office of sheriff should be eligible for re-election to that office until four years after the expiration of his term of office.⁴ His bond in this county is required in the sum of \$10,000 and must be approved by the county judge.⁵ Memoranda of this bond are entered at large upon the records of the county court, and the bond is filed in the office of the county clerk.⁶ The compensation of the sheriff is fixed by the county board within the limits set by the constitution. In counties the size of Peoria, with a population of 153,374, the compensation of the sheriff is not to exceed \$4,000 a year.⁷ One or more deputies are appointed by the sheriff in accordance with the number allowed by rule of the circuit court. Compensation of the deputies is determined by the county board.⁸ The sheriff is warden of the county jail and has custody and regulation of the same and of all prisoners.⁹ To assist him in this administration, he appoints a superintendent of the county jail for whose conduct he is responsible, and whom he may remove at pleasure.¹⁰

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1. Const. 1818, Art. III, sec. 11; Const. 1848, Art. VII, sec. 7; Const. 1870, Art. X, sec. 8; second amendment November 22, 1880, to the Const. 1870, Art. X, sec. 8; also L. 1819, p. 109,110; R.S. 1874, p. 989.
 2. Const. 1818, Art. III, sec. 11; Const. 1848, Art. VII, sec. 7.
 3. Const. 1870, Art. X, sec. 8.
 4. Ibid., sec. 8, as amended November 1880.
 5. R.S. 1874, p. 989. Cf. R.L. 1827, p. 371. Prior to the organization of the county court, the sheriff's bond and securities were approved by the circuit court.
 6. R.S. 1845, p. 514; R.S. 1874, p. 989.
 7. Const. 1870, Art. X, sec. 10.
 8. R.L. 1827, p. 373; R.S. 1845, p. 515; L. 1869, p. 399; Const. 1870, Art. X, sec. 9.
 9. L. 1819, p. 111,112; R.L. 1827, p. 247-50; L. 1831, p. 103,104,106; R. L. 1833, p. 574,575; L. 1845, p. 8,10,19; R.S. 1845, p. 133,134, 515-17; R.S. 1874, p. 616,989-91; L. 1901, p. 137,138; L. 1923, p. 423-26. The citations also include references to duties not included in the general outline noted above.
 10. L. 1923, p. 423.

Sheriff

Essentially, without change for over one hundred years, the principal duties of the sheriff are the following:

1. To act as conservator of the peace, with power to arrest offenders on view.¹
2. To attend, in person or by deputy, all courts of record (city, county, probate, circuit, and appellate courts) in his county, and to obey the orders and directions of the courts.²
3. To serve, execute, and return all writs, warrants, process, orders, and decrees legally directed to him.³
4. To sell real or personal property by virtue of execution or other process.⁴
5. To send fingerprints of criminals to the State Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation.⁵

In the course of the sheriff's many detailed duties included in these broad provisions, the following records may be kept but do not appear in Peoria County:

1. Receipts of deliveries of prisoners in changes of venue.⁶
2. Copies of reports to the county court and circuit court.⁷
3. Reports of pawnbrokers on loans and articles pawned.⁸
4. Data of identification of criminals and stolen property.⁹

The following records may be kept and do appear:

1. Register of prisoners.¹⁰
2. "Book of Accounts," including records of fees and disbursements.¹¹
3. Docket of executions.
4. Process docket.

1. R.L. 1827, p. 372; R.S. 1845, p. 515; R.S. 1874, p. 990.
2. Ibid.
3. Ibid.
4. R.L. 1827, p. 334; L. 1838-39, p. 14-18,20; R.S. 1845, p. 302,306, 307; L. 1871-72, p. 505-7; R.S. 1874, p. 622,623,627-29.
5. L. 1931, p. 465.
6. R.S. 1874, p. 1096.
7. Ibid., p. 617; L. 1923, p. 424; L. 1933, p. 678.
8. L. 1909, p. 301.
9. L. 1931, p. 465.
10. R.S. 1874, p. 617; L. 1923, p. 424.
11. L. 1871-72, p. 450,451; L. 1873-74, p. 104,105.

Process

268. STATE WARRANTS, 1922--. 4 f.b.

State warrants not served showing names of plaintiff, defendant, and court, nature of charge, date of warrant, and remarks. Arr. alph. by name of defendant. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. 12 x 5 x 15. Sh.'s off., 2nd fl.

269. STATE WARRANTS SERVED, 1923--. 1 f.b.

State warrants served showing names of plaintiff and defendant, general number, date of warrant, place and date of appearance, nature of charge, and date of service. Arr. alph. by name of defendant. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. 10 x 5 x 15. Sh.'s off., 2nd fl.

270. CIRCUIT COURT CAPIAS AND ATTACHMENTS NOT SERVED, 1925--. 1 f.b.

Writs of capias and attachments issued by circuit court remaining unserved, showing names of plaintiff, defendant, sheriff, and clerk, nature of complaint, date received by sheriff, and reason for nonexecution. Arr. alph. by name of defendant. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. 10 x 5 x 15. Sh.'s off., 2nd fl.

271. EXECUTION DOCKET, 1888--. 15 v. (J, K, O-Z, AA).

Missing: 1895-1902.

Docket of executions, showing case number, dates of judgment and return, amounts of debt, damages, and costs, and manner of satisfaction. Arr. by date of execution. Indexed alph. by name of plaintiff. Hdw. on pr. fm. 250 p. 18 x 12 x 2. V. J, K, 1888-94, O-Q, 1903-17, U-W, 1927-31, sh.'s vlt., 2nd fl.; v. R-T, 1918-26, old jury rm., 4th fl.; v. X-Z, AA, 1932--, sh.'s off., 2nd fl.

272. PROCESS DOCKET, 1892--. 20 v. (J, 1 not labeled, M, S-Z, AA-II). Missing: 1900-1910.

Docket of processes served by sheriff, showing names of plaintiff, defendant, attorney, sheriff, and court, kind of writ, date of receipt, service, and return of writ, and amounts of fees and court costs. Also contains Sheriff's Foreign Writs, 1892-1916, entry 275. Arr. by date of process. Indexed alph. by name of plaintiff. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 300 p. 16 x 10 x 2. V. J, 1 not labeled, M, 1892-99, X, 1920-22, AA, 1925-26, DD, 1929-30, FF, GG, 1933-35, sh.'s vlt., 2nd fl.; v. S-7, 1911-19, Y, Z, 1923-24, old jury rm., 4th fl.; v. BB, CC, 1927-28, EE, 1931-32, HH, II, 1936--, sh.'s off., 2nd fl.

273. CRIMINAL DOCKET, 1910--. 12 v. (3 not labeled, 1-9).

Title varies: Capias Docket, 3 v. not labeled, 1910-21.

Docket of writs issued in criminal cases, showing names of plaintiff and defendant, kind and number of writ, dates of issue, receipt, service, and return, and amount of fees. Also contains Record of Commitments to State and County Institutions, 1923--, entry 279. Arr. by date of receipts. Indexed alph. by name of defendant. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 250 p. 18 x 11 x 1 $\frac{1}{2}$. 3 v. not labeled, v. 1, 2, 1910-26, sh.'s vlt., 2nd fl.; v. 3-9, 1927--, sh.'s off., 2nd fl.

274. SUBPOENA DOCKET, 1910--. 3 v. (1-3).

Docket of subpoenas served, showing names of plaintiff, defendant, bailiff, attorney, and court, date and nature of case, dates of subpoena, service, and return, and amount of fees. Arr. by date of subpoena. Indexed alph. by names of plaintiff and defendant. Hdw. on pr. fm. 200 p. 24 x 10 x 2. V. 1, 1910-22, sh.'s vlt., 2nd fl.; v. 2, 3, 1923--, sh.'s off., 2nd fl.

275. SHERIFF'S FOREIGN WRITS, 1917--. 4 v. (C-F). 1892-1916 in Process Docket, entry 272.

Copies of writs from foreign counties, showing names of court, county, plaintiff, defendant, attorneys, and sheriff, number and kind of writ, dates of issue, receipt, service, and return, and amount of fees. Arr. by date of receipt. Indexed alph. by name of plaintiff. Hdw. on pr. fm. 250 p. 18 x 12 x 2. V. C, 1917-23, E, 1930-37, sh.'s vlt., 2nd fl.; v. D, 1924-29, F, 1938--, sh.'s off., 2nd fl.

276. WARRANT DOCKET, 1918--. 3 v. (2-4).

Docket of warrants served, showing names of plaintiff, defendant, and officer serving warrant, nature of charge, dates of warrant and execution, and amount and date of payment of service fees. Arr. alph. by name of defendant. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. 200 p. 14 x 9 x 1 $\frac{1}{2}$. V. 2, 1918-26, sh.'s vlt., 2nd fl.; v. 3, 4, 1927--, sh.'s off., 2nd fl.

Criminal Records

277. CARD INDEX (Record) OF DEFENDANTS ARRESTED, 1925--. 1 f.b.

Card record of defendants arrested by sheriff, showing names of complainant, defendant, and justice of peace, nature of charge, and date of warrant. Arr. alph. by name of defendant. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. 4 x 5 x 15. Sh.'s off., 2nd fl.

278. RECORD OF CRIMINALS, 1931--. 2 f.b.

Lists of prisoners sent to penitentiaries and reformatories, showing names of institution and prisoner, nature of charge, and date of commitment. Arr. alph. by name of prisoner. No index. Hdw. 10 x 5 x 15. Sh.'s off., 2nd fl.

279. RECORD OF COMMITMENTS TO STATE AND COUNTY INSTITUTIONS, 1910-22. 2 v. 1923-- in Criminal Docket, entry 273.

Register of persons committed to state and county institutions for criminal offenses, showing names of court, defendant, and institution, nature of crime, date of mittimus, amount of delivery expenses, and date of commitment. Arr. by date of mittimus. Indexed alph. by name of defendant. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 250 p. 16 x 11 x 2 $\frac{1}{2}$. Sh.'s vlt., 2nd fl.

Jail Records

280. FEDERAL AND COUNTY JAIL RECORD (Register), 1906--. 7 v.

Title varies: County Jail Record, 3 v., 1906-26.

Register of prisoners, showing register number, name, sex, age, and personal and statistical data of prisoner, nature of charge, and name of court, and dates of commitment and discharge. Arr. by register no. Index alph. by name of prisoner. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 300 p. 19 x 17 x 3. Off. of co. jail, 1st fl.

Accident Records

281. REPORTS OF AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENTS, 1923--. 2 f.b.

Reports to sheriff of automobile accidents, showing case number, name, address, and phone number of car owner, date and location of accident, license, engine, and serial numbers and make and description of car, names and addresses of injured persons, name of doctor or officer making report, and date of report. Arr. by date of report. For index, see entry 282. Hdw. on pr. fm. 4 x 5 x 15. Sh.'s off., 2nd fl.

282. INDEX TO AUTO ACCIDENTS, 1923--. 1 f.b.

Index to Reports of Automobile Accidents, entry 281, showing names of car owner and injured, date and place of accident, description and license number of car, and court case number. Arr. alph. by name of car owner. Hdw. on pr. fm. 4 x 5 x 15. Sh.'s off., 2nd fl.

Deputy Sheriff Records (See also entry 93[iiii])

283. BONDS OF SPECIAL DEPUTIES, 1935--. 2 f.b.

Bonds of special deputy sheriffs, showing names of deputy and sureties, date, amount, and condition of bond, and date of expiration. Arr. alph. by name of deputy. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. 10 x 5 x 15. Sh.'s off., 2nd fl.

284. (DEPUTY SHERIFFS' COMMISSIONS), 1935--. 1 f.b.

Card record of special deputy sheriffs' commissions, showing name and address of deputy, and date of commission. Arr. alph. by name of deputy. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. 5 x 4 x 15. Sh.'s off., 2nd fl.

Stolen Property Records

285. RECORD OF ROBBERY, 1930--. 2 f.b.

Reports of robberies, showing name of complainant, date and place of theft, description and value of lost property, name of person arrested, and date and place of arrest. Arr. alph. by name of complainant. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. 12 x 4 x 12. Sh.'s off., 2nd fl.

Sheriff - Bonds; Jury Records;
Debtors' Schedules; Receipts
and Expenditures

286. RECORD OF STOLEN CARS, 1931--. 2 f.b.

Reports of stolen automobiles and trucks, showing name and address of owner, description and value of vehicle, license number, and date and place of theft. Arr. alph. by name of car owner. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. 12 x 4 x 12. Sh.'s off., 2nd fl.

Bonds

287. BONDS TO SHERIFF IN CRIMINAL CASES, 1924--. 1 f.b.

Recognizance bonds showing names of defendant and bondsmen, date and place of appearance, nature of charge, date, amount and conditions of bond, and date of filing. Arr. alph. by name of defendant. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. 10 x 5 x 15. Sh.'s off., 2nd fl.

Jury Records

288. JURY VENIRES, 1930--. 1 f.b.

Copies of jury venires from all courts, showing names of court, clerk, sheriff, and jurors, dates of service and appearance, and amount of jury fees. Arr. by date of service. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. 10 x 5 x 15. Sh.'s off., 2nd fl.

Debtors' Schedules

289. DEBTOR'S SCHEDULE, 1922--. 4 f.b.

Lists of personal property schedules by debtors, showing names of plaintiff, defendant, and court, oath and certificate of appraiser, number of persons in defendant's family, list of articles to be retained by debtor, and signatures of defendant and sheriff. Arr. alph. by name of defendant. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. 12 x 5 x 15. Sh.'s off., 2nd fl.

Receipts and Expenditures

290. RECORD OF EARNINGS AND RECEIPTS, 1884--. 13 v. (2-4, 6, 9 not labeled). Missing: 1892-1910. Title varies: Receipts and Expenditures, v. 2-4, 6, 1884-1911.

Register of receipts and expenditures, showing names of payer and recipient, date, amount, nature, and purpose of receipt or expenditure, and recapitulation. Also contains Cash Book, 1884-1918, 1931--, entry 294. Arr. by date of transaction. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 500 p. 18 x 16 x 2 $\frac{1}{2}$. V. 2-4, 6, 7 not labeled, 1884-1934, sh.'s vlt., 2nd fl.; 2 v. not labeled, 1935--, sh.'s off., 2nd fl.

291. LEDGER, 1911--. 9 v.

Account ledger of receipts and expenditures, showing name of account, itemized list of receipts and disbursements, balance available, and date of transaction. Also contains Record of Fees Advanced, 1911-26, entry 293. Arr. by name of account. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. 300 - 700 p. 16 x 10 x 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ - 16 x 10 x 3. 7 v., 1911-31, sh.'s vlt., 2nd fl.; 2 v., 1932--, sh.'s off., 2nd fl.

292. JOURNAL, 1921--. 5 v. Missing: 1930-31.

Journal of daily proceedings of sheriff's office, showing date of proceedings, amounts of receipts and disbursements, and names of prisoners received and discharged, and of attorneys appearing in office. Arr. by date of proceedings. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 500 p. 14 x 8 x 1. 4 v., 1921-34, sh.'s vlt., 2nd fl.; 1 v., 1935--, sh.'s off., 2nd fl.

293. RECORD OF FEES ADVANCED, 1927--. 2 v. 1911-26 in Ledger, entry 291.

Register of fees advanced by sheriff in court cases, showing name of recipient, book and page of entry of case in court docket, date, amount, and purpose of fee, and check number. Arr. by date of entry. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 150 p. 12 x 8 x 1. Sh.'s vlt., 2nd fl.

294. CASH BOOK, 1919-30. 3 v. Missing: 1922-26. 1884-1918, 1931-- in Record of Earnings and Receipts, entry 290.

Journal of daily cash receipts and disbursements, showing date, amount, and purpose of receipt or expenditure, name of payer or recipient, and recapitulation. Arr. by date of transaction. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 100 p. 14 x 8 x $\frac{1}{2}$. Sh.'s vlt., 2nd fl.

VIII. CORONER

The coroner's office in Peoria County has continued in existence from the organization of the county in 1825 to the present.¹ The coroner is elected by the county electorate for a four-year term.² After certification of his election by the county clerk, filing of his bond, and taking oath of office, he receives his commission from the Governor.³ The coroner's bond in this county is required in the sum of \$5,000 and must be approved by the county judge.⁴ The compensation of the coroner is fixed by the county board within the limits set by the constitution. In counties the size of Peoria, with a population of 153,374, the compensation of the coroner is not to exceed \$4,000 a year.⁵ The inquest duties of this official have changed little over a period of more than a century. The coroner acts as a conservator of the peace with powers equal to those of sheriff in this respect and serves as a ministerial officer of the courts in the absence or disqualification of the sheriff; he also performs all the duties of the latter when the office is vacant.⁶

The most important function of the coroner is to hold inquests over the bodies of persons supposed to have come to their death by violence, casualty, or other undue means. When notification of such death is received, the coroner proceeds to the body, takes charge of it, and summons a jury composed of six men from the vicinity in which the body was found. The jury is instructed to assemble at a stated time and place, to view the body and to inquire into the cause and manner of the death. If the inquest is continued and a vacancy should occur on the jury, the coroner is allowed to fill such vacancy.

To the custody of the clerk of the circuit court are returned the verdict of the jury, and such recognizances as may be given the coroner by witnesses whose testimony implicates any person as the unlawful slayer of the deceased.⁸ In his office, the coroner files and preserves the

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1. Const. 1818, Art. III, sec. 11; L. 1849, Second Sess., p. 7; Const. 1870, Art. X, sec. 8.
 2. The office is constitutional and elective (Const. 1818, Art. III, sec. 11; Const. 1870, Art. X, sec. 8). The term, formerly two years, is now four years (second amendment, November 23, 1880, to Const. 1870, Art. X, sec. 8).
 3. R.S. 1845, p. 514; R.S. 1874, p. 281.
 4. Ibid.
 5. Const. 1870, Art. X, sec. 10.
 6. L. 1819, p. 111,160; L. 1821, p. 20-23; L. 1825, p. 63,64; R.L. 1827, p. 246-50,372-75; R.S. 1845, p. 515,517; R.S. 1874, p. 281,282.
 7. L. 1821, p. 22-24; R.S. 1845, p. 517,518; R.S. 1874, p. 282-84; L. 1879, p. 82; L. 1907, p. 213; L. 1919, p. 403,404; L. 1931, p. 388,389.
 8. L. 1821, p. 24,25; R.S. 1845, p. 518; R.S. 1874, p. 283.

record of such testimony.¹ The coroner also keeps one record which he originates, the "inquest record." This record recapitulates all the data involved in the entire inquest procedure and includes an inventory and accounting of the personal property and money of the deceased.

Deputy coroners appointed by this official assist him in the performance of the duties of his office. The number of deputies is set by rule of the circuit court, and the compensation is determined by the county board of supervisors. The bond or securities of these assistants are taken by the coroner and the oath to which each subscribes is filed in the county clerk's office.²

295. RECORD OF INQUESTS, 1855--. 1 box; 165 f.b.
Coroner's inquest papers showing date of inquest, names of deceased, coroner, jurors, and witnesses, date, place, and cause of death, sex, age, residence, and occupation of deceased, and manner of disposal of body; includes jury verdicts and inventory and disposition of personal property. Also contains Investigations, 1855-1903, entry 296. Arr. by date of inquest. No index. 1855-74, hdw.; 1875-1920, hdw. on pr. fm.; 1921--, typed. Box 18 x 12 x 24; f.b. 12 x 5 x 15. 1 box, 1855-74, strm., bsmt.; 77 f.b., 1875-1920, cor.'s vlt., 1st fl.; 88 f.b., 1921--, cor.'s off., 1st fl.

296. INVESTIGATIONS, 1904--. 30 f.b. 1855-1903 in Record of Inquests, entry 295.
Reports of investigations made of deaths where no inquest was held, showing name of deceased, date, place, and cause of death, and date and findings of investigation. Arr. by date of investigation. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. 12 x 5 x 15. 13 f.b., 1904-21, cor.'s vlt., 1st fl.; 17 f.b., cor.'s off., 1st fl.

297. CORONER RECORD, 1884--. 12 v. (B-M).
Record of coroner's inquests, showing names of deceased, coroner, jurors, and witnesses, date and place of inquest, cause of death, jurors' verdict, and inventory and disposition of personal effects. Arr. by date of inquest. Indexed alph. by name of deceased. Hdw. on pr. fm. 300 p. 20 x 12 x 2. V. B-D, 1884-1911, cor.'s vlt., 1st fl.; v. E-M, 1912--, cor.'s off., 1st fl.

298. JOURNAL, 1904--. 4 v.
Journal of coroner's witness and jury fees, showing names and addresses of jurors and witnesses, amount of fee, and date of payment. Arr. by date of payment. No index. Hdw. 500 p. 16 x 12 x 2. Cor.'s off., 1st fl.

1. L. 1869, p. 104,105; R.S. 1874, p. 283; L. 1907, p. 213,214; L. 1919, p.293,294.
2. Const. 1870, Art. X, sec. 9; L. 1881, p. 63.

IX. STATE'S ATTORNEY

The functions of the office of state's attorney in Peoria County were performed by a circuit attorney from the organization of the county in 1825 to 1827 when he was replaced by an officer "styled and called state's attorney."¹ In Peoria County this officer commenced and prosecuted in courts of record all actions in which the people of the state or county were concerned.² The state's attorney was appointed by the Governor until 1835, when he became an official appointed by the General Assembly.³ This latter provision remained effective until 1848, when the state's attorney became an elective officer of the circuit district electorate.⁴ At this time his services also were expanded to include the newly created county court. Finally, the present constitution made the office elective in and for each county.⁵ Bond in the sum of \$5,000 has been required since 1872.⁶ From the creation of this office in the state until the present, the state's attorney has continued to receive his commission from the Governor for the tenure of his office.⁷ In 1827 his appointment was set at a four-year term;⁸ in 1835 his term was reduced to two years.⁹ Then, by provision of Constitution of 1848,¹⁰ the state's attorney's office became elective by the district electorate for a four-year term, the first term, however, being only for three years and ending in 1852. In Peoria County the state's attorney receives an annual salary of \$8,000, with an additional \$400 paid by the state. Statutory fee rates are allowed him for convictions on specified offenses and crimes before justices of the peace, police magistrates, county and circuit courts. Also, rates are established for preliminary examinations of defendants, for attendance at trials, and for appeals. These several fees and rates make up a county fund from which is paid his salary.¹¹

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1. L. 1819, p. 204; L. 1825, p. 178,179; R.L. 1827, p. 79,80.
 2. Ibid.; L. 1835, p. 44; R.S. 1845, p. 76; R.S. 1874, p. 173,174.
 3. L. 1835, p. 44.
 4. Const. 1848, Art. V, sec. 21.
 5. Const. 1870, Art. VI, sec. 22; R.S. 1874, p. 172.
 6. L. 1871-72, p. 189.
 7. R.L. 1835, p. 98; L. 1835, p. 44; Const. 1848, Art. V, sec. 23; Const. 1870, Art. VI, sec. 22; R.S. 1874, p. 172.
 8. R.L. 1827, p. 79,80.
 9. L. 1835, p. 44.
 10. Art. V, sec. 21; effective in 1849.
 11. L. 1871-72, p. 422; L. 1873-74, p. 104,105; L. 1909, p. 231-33; L. 1929, p. 474-76; L. 1937, p. 607.

The duties of the state's attorney are the following:

1. To commence and prosecute all actions, suits, indictments, and prosecutions, civil or criminal, in any court of record in his county in which the people of the state or county may be concerned.
2. To prosecute all forfeited bonds and recognizances and all actions and proceedings for the recovery of debts, revenues, moneys, fines, penalties, and forfeitures accruing to the state or his county, or to any school district in his county; also to prosecute all suits in his county against railroads or transportation companies, which may be prosecuted in the name of the people of the State of Illinois.
3. To commence and prosecute all actions and proceedings brought by any county officer in his official capacity.
4. To defend all actions and proceedings brought against his county or against any county or state officer, in his official capacity, in his county.
5. To attend the examination of all persons brought before any judge on habeas corpus when the prosecution is in his county.
6. To attend before justices of the peace and prosecute charges of felony or misdemeanor for which the offender is required to be recognized and to appear before a court of record when it is within his power to do so.
7. To give his opinion without fee or reward, to any county officer or justice of the peace in his county upon any question of law relating to any criminal or other matter in which the people of the state or county may be concerned.
8. To assist the Attorney General whenever it may be necessary, and in cases of appeal or writ of error from his county to the Supreme Court, to which it is the duty of the Attorney General to attend, he shall a reasonable time before the trial of such appeal or writ of error, furnish the Attorney General with a brief, showing the nature of the case and the questions involved.
9. To pay all moneys received by him in trust, without delay, to the officer who by law is entitled to its custody.
10. To perform such other and further duties as may from time to time be enjoined upon him by law.

11. To appear in all proceedings by collectors of taxes against delinquent taxpayers for judgment to sell real estate, and to see that all the necessary preliminary steps have been legally taken to make the judgment legal and binding.¹
12. To enforce the collection of all fines, forfeitures, and penalties imposed or incurred in the courts of record in his county; and to report to the circuit court on the collection of these moneys.²

All the records of the state's attorney are kept in his main office on the second floor. For reports of state's attorney to the circuit court, see entry 253.

299. INDICTMENTS - BONDS, 1932--. 16 f.d.

Grand jury indictments and bonds in criminal cases, showing names of state's attorney, jurors, defendant, and sureties, nature and date of indictment, amount and terms of bond, and date of court appearance. Arr. alph. by name of defendant. No index. Hdw. and typed on pr. fm. 12 x 18 x 24.

300. GRAND JURY RECORDS, 1930--. 5 v.

Copies of grand jury reports of indictments to circuit court, showing names of plaintiff, defendant, judge, jurors, and witnesses, findings of jury, nature of charge, amount of bond, and date of indictment. Arr. by date of indictment. Indexed alph. by name of defendant. Hdw. 625 p. 20 x 12 x 3.

301. PRELIMINARY HEARING RECORD, 1933--. 2 v.

Transcripts of proceedings of preliminary hearings in police courts, showing date and nature of crime, names of plaintiff, defendant, judge, and witnesses, amount of bond, order of court, and date of court hearing. Arr. by date of hearing. Indexed alph. by name of defendant. Hdw. 600 p. 18 x 12 x 3.

1. R.S. 1845, p. 76; R.S. 1874, p. 172-74.

2. L. 1909, p. 406; L. 1911-12, p. 89; L. 1929, p. 475.

X. SUPERVISOR OF ASSESSMENTS

The county supervisor of assessments, with the aid of the township assessors in Peoria County, is responsible for the assessment of property upon which the township, district, county, state, and other taxes are levied. Principally, these officers annually revise the assessment of property, correct the same upon complaint, and quadrennially assess real and personal property.¹ Many statutory provisions have regulated this function in Peoria County. Early laws fixed the value of the several categories of real and personal property, leaving to the assessing officer only limited discretion.²

Property assessments in Peoria County were first made by the county assessor, an appointee of the county commissioners' court.³ In 1827 the General Assembly reestablished the office of county treasurer, and the assessment function was resumed by that officer.⁴ The treasurer continued to act in this capacity until 1839 when the legislature provided for the appointment by the county commissioners' court of district assessors.⁵ The duty of property assessment reverted to the county treasurer again in 1844⁶ and continued to be rested in that office until 1850 when township organization was instituted in this county⁷ and assessments were made by township assessors one elected annually in each township.⁸

Between 1849 and 1898, the assessing officers in Peoria County received their assessment lists from, and reported assessments to, the county clerk.⁹ In the latter year, the legislature provided that the

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1. L. 1871-72, p. 20-22; L. 1879, p. 243; L. 1881, p. 134; L. 1891, p. 187; L. 1898, p. 37,40,44; L. 1903, p. 295,296; L. 1923, p. 491,492, 504,505; L. 1927, p. 713,714; L. 1928, First Sp. Sess., p. 106; L. 1931-32, First Sp. Sess., p. 66.
 2. L. 1819, p. 313-19; L. 1825, p. 173; L. 1893, p. 4-6; L. 1840, p. 4; L. 1845, p. 6.
 3. L. 1825, p. 173.
 4. R.L. 1827, p. 330.
 5. L. 1839, p. 4.
 6. L. 1843, p. 231,237. Effective in 1844.
 7. Peoria County adopted township organization, 1849, but the change did not become effective until 1850.
 8. L. 1849, p. 194,205-3; L. 1851, p. 38,54-57; L. 1853, p. 14,15; L. 1855, p. 35,37; L. 1871-72, p. 20-24.
 9. L. 1849, p. 121,128; L. 1849, Second Sess., p. 38; L. 1853, p. 14,17, 47,49,50; L. 1871-72, p. 19,20,22,23.

county treasurer should be supervisor of assessments, ex officio.¹ From that date until the present, the township assessors have worked under the direction of, and reported the assessment of property to, the county treasurer, acting in this ex officio capacity. Every assessor is bonded in the sum of \$500. Bond for the supervisor of assessments is \$2,000 or such larger sum as the county board may determine.² The compensation of the supervisor of assessments is fixed by the county board.³

For other taxation records, see entries 21-44, 76[xvii], 137-142, 148, 231, 304-316.

302. RAILROAD TAX SCHEDULES, 1873--. 20 f.b. (439-456, 815, 816). Railroad tax schedules showing date of schedule, name of company, amount of trackage, and itemized list and value of real and personal property in each township. Arr. by date of schedule. For index, see entry 20. Hdw. on pr. fm. 10 x 5 x 14. Co. clk.'s main off., 2nd fl.

303.- PERSONAL TAX SCHEDULES, 1934--. 113 f.b. Schedules of personal property as compiled by assessor, showing name and address of owner, description of property, amounts of assessed valuation and total tax, tax spread, and date of schedule. Arr. alph. by name of owner. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. 12 x 5 x 15. Treas.'s off., 1st fl.

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1. L. 1898, p. 36,37. Peoria County, according to the sixteenth census of 1940, was entitled to an elected Board of Assessors. Provision was not made to hold an election in 1940, but the proposition can be submitted at the county election in 1942.
 2. L. 1898, p. 38,39; L. 1923, p. 493,494; L. 1927, p. 743,744.
 3. L. 1939, p. 892.

XI. BOARD OF REVIEW

The authority to assess, equalize, and review or revise the assessment of property, an important aspect of the revenue procedure, is exercised by the board of review.¹ Early legislation provided for appeals from assessments to the county commissioners' court. The court was empowered to review and revise assessments on real and personal property.² In 1849 the county court succeeded the county commissioners' court in Peoria County and appeals were made to that body.³ When township organization was instituted in 1850⁴ this jurisdiction was given to the township assessors,⁵ however, in 1851, it was transferred to a board composed of the township supervisor, clerk, and assessor.⁶ The board of supervisors in their annual meeting examined the assessment rolls in the several towns to ascertain whether the valuations in one town bore just relation to the valuations in all other towns in the county, and were empowered to increase or diminish the aggregate valuation of real estate in any town accordingly. They could make whatever alterations they deemed necessary in the description of the lands of nonresidents, and were required to assess the value of any lands omitted by the assessor.⁷ In 1872 the duties of the board of supervisors with regard to assessments were the following:

1. To assess omitted property.
2. To review assessments upon complaint.
3. To hear and determine the application of any person assessed on property claimed to be exempt from taxation.
4. To ascertain whether the valuation in one town or district bore just relation to the valuation in all towns or districts in the county and adjust the assessments.⁸

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1. L. 1898, p. 46-49; L. 1915, p. 566-70; L. 1919, p. 727; L. 1923, p. 496-502; L. 1930, First Sp. Sess., p. 85-90; L. 1931-32, First Sp. Sess., p. 71, 75-78; L. 1935, p. 1163-66.
 2. L. 1839, p. 7; L. 1843, p. 237; L. 1845, p. 8; R.S. 1845, p. 441.
 3. L. 1849, p. 65.
 4. Peoria County adopted township organization in 1849, but the change did not become effective until 1850.
 5. L. 1849, p. 206.
 6. L. 1851, p. 56; L. 1871-72, p. 21, 22, 24, 25.
 7. L. 1851, p. 57, 58; L. 1871-72, p. 24, 25.
 8. Ibid.

Board of Review

In 1898 this authority was transferred to the newly created board of review, composed of the chairman of the county board who became chairman ex officio of the board of review, the county clerk, and one citizen appointed by the county judge.¹ Since 1923 the board has consisted of the chairman of the county board as chairman ex officio of the board of review and two citizens appointed by the county judge. The members of the board select their own clerk. The two citizen members are appointed alternately for a two-year term.² The compensation of the members of the board of review and its clerk is fixed by the county board.³

Today, the board of review in Peoria County is required to assess taxable property omitted from the regular assessment, to review and correct assessments on property claimed to be incorrectly assessed, to increase or reduce the entire assessment if, in their opinion, it has not been made upon the proper basis, and to hear and determine the application of any person assessed on property claimed to be exempt from taxation, which application if successful must be approved by the tax commission to be final. If such application is not approved the owner may have the question of exemption determined by judgment or decree of court, and the board of review may correct any error or mistake (other than an error of judgment as to valuation), with the approval of the assessing authority, any time before judgment of the court.⁴

For documents of board of review proceedings, see entry 76[ii]. For other taxation records, see entries 21-44, 76[xvii], 137-142, 148, 231, 302, 303, 306-316.

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1. L. 1898, p. 46.
 2. L. 1923, p. 496,497; L. 1931-32, First Sp. Sess., p. 71,72.
Peoria County according to the sixteenth census of 1940, was entitled to an elected Board of Review. Provision was not made to hold an election in 1940, but the proposition can be submitted at the election in 1942.
 3. L. 1939, p. 899.
 4. L. 1898, p. 46-49; L. 1915, p. 566-70; L. 1919, p. 727; L. 1923, p. 496-502; L. 1930 First Sp. Sess., p. 85-90; L. 1931-32, First Sp. Sess., p. 70,71,75-78; L. 1935, p. 1163-66.

304. RECORD BOARD OF REVIEW, 1899--. 9 v. (1-9).

Minutes of meetings of board of review, showing names of members, name and address of complainant, complaint number, legal description of property, nature of complaint, valuation of property, board rulings, and date of proceedings. Arr. by date of proceedings. Indexed alph. by name of complainant. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 500 p. 18 x 12 x 3. Co. clk.'s record rm., 2nd fl.

305. DAILY COMPLAINT RECORD BOARD OF REVIEW (Complaint Docket), 1899--. 17 v. (1-13, 4 not labeled).

Complaint docket of board of review, showing complaint number, name and address of property owner or agent, legal description of property, dates of filing and hearing, and rulings of board. Arr. by complaint no. 1899-1930, no index; 1931--, indexed alph. by name of complainant. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 300 - 400 p. 20 x 12 x 2 - 20 x 12 x 3. Co. clk.'s record rm., 2nd fl.

XII. COLLECTOR

Tax collections in Peoria County were first made by the sheriff, acting as county collector, ex officio.¹ With the exception of five years 1839 to 1844, when there existed a separate office of county collector filled by appointment by the county commissioners' court,² the sheriff continued to act in this capacity until 1850; in that year township organization was instituted in this county,³ and tax collections became the joint responsibility of the townships and the county, with the county treasurer acting as county collector, ex officio.⁴

Under this plan, town collectors, one elected in each township,⁵ made collections of resident property taxes;⁶ nonresident and delinquent taxes were collected by the county treasurer.⁷ By the terms of an act of 1855 the town collectors were required to return their tax lists or books to the county collector who delivered them to the county clerk.⁸ This provision was changed in 1872 by an act of the General Assembly which provided that the county collector should make an annual sworn statement to the county clerk, showing the total amount of each kind of tax collected, the amount received from each town collector, and the amount collected by himself.⁹

In 1917 the legislature provided for the abolishment of the office of town collector in counties with fewer than 100,000 inhabitants, the county collector to be town collector, ex officio, in such counties.¹⁰ This did not alter the collection procedure in Peoria County as its population was over 100,000.¹¹

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1. L. 1819, p. 316; L. 1821, p. 100; L. 1823, p. 80; R.L. 1827, p. 370, 374.
 2. L. 1838-39, p. 7.
 3. L. 1843, p. 234. Peoria County adopted township organization in 1849, but the change did not become effective until 1850.
 4. L. 1849, p. 194, 208-12; L. 1851, p. 38, 59-64; L. 1853, p. 67.
 5. L. 1849, p. 194; L. 1851, p. 38.
 6. L. 1849, p. 59.
 7. Ibid., p. 53.
 8. L. 1855, p. 37.
 9. L. 1871-72, p. 56, 57; L. 1873-74, p. 56; L. 1930, Sp. Sess., p. 66, 67; L. 1931, p. 756; L. 1931-32, First Sp. Sess., p. 112; L. 1933, p. 873, 921; L. 1933-34, Third Sp. Sess., p. 220; L. 1935, p. 1156, 1213; L. 1935-36, Fourth Sp. Sess., p. 69, 70.
 10. L. 1917, p. 793.
 11. The population of Peoria County was 100,255 in 1910; 111,710 in 1920; and 141,344 in 1930 (Population Bulletin, p. 9). Population in 1940 was 153,374 (Sixteenth Census, 1940, Illinois Final Population, Series P-2, No. 47, Press Release).

The county collector is bonded in an amount determined upon by the county board in addition to that bond required of him as county treasurer.¹ Under statutory provisions, he collects taxes for the state, county, and other governmental agencies, and pays to the proper authorities the amount in his hands payable to them.² He also settles annually with the county board.³ He prepares an annual list of delinquent property and files it with the county clerk,⁴ advertises his intention of applying for judgment for sale of delinquent lands and lots,⁵ and is required to attend, in person or by deputy, all tax sales resulting from this action.⁶ The county clerk, in person or by deputy, is also required to attend all tax sales.⁷ At such sales, the clerk and collector note and make entry of all tax sales and forfeitures to the state.⁸

The county collector is required to keep his records as collector of taxes separate from his records as county treasurer.⁹ The records of the collector's office include duplicates of receipts issued to taxpayers, state auditor's and county clerk's certifications of the collector's settlements with them, duplicates of the collector's reports, delinquent property records, and tax sale and forfeiture records.

The compensation of the county collector is fixed by law. In counties the size of Polk, the collector receives:

1. Two percent commission on money collected and paid over to the proper officer.
2. One percent commission on money collected from incorporated cities, villages and municipalities in counties under township organization.
3. One percent commission on money paid to him by township collectors.
4. A fee of three cents per tract for making lists of delinquent real estate for the county clerk and a like fee for making lists for the printer.

1. L. 1871-72, p. 36; L. 1931, p. 748; L. 1931-32, First Sp. Sess., p. 85, 86; L. 1933-34, Third Sp. Sess., p. 225, 226.
2. L. 1871-72, p. 56-59; L. 1933, p. 922; L. 1935, p. 1156, 1213; L. 1935-36, Fourth Sp. Sess., p. 68, 69.
3. L. 1871-72, p. 55; L. 1935, p. 1155, 1156.
4. L. 1898, p. 51; L. 1931, p. 759.
5. L. 1871-72, p. 44; L. 1937, p. 1010.
6. L. 1871-72, p. 48; L. 1930, First Sp. Sess., p. 64.
7. L. 1871-72, p. 48.
8. Ibid., L. 1933, p. 886.
9. L. 1917, p. 664, 665; L. 1930, First Sp. Sess., p. 60-62; L. 1935, p. 1149-58.

- 5. A fee for selling lands and town lots amounting to ten cents for each tract and three cents collected in costs as a charge against each lot.¹

For other taxation records, see entries 21-44, 76[xvii], 137-142, 148, 231, 302-305.

Collection, Settlement

306. TAX COLLECTORS' SUMMARIES, 1930--. 1 f.b.

Summaries of tax collections, showing names of deputy collector, amounts of taxes collected and uncollected, date and amount of payment to treasurer, treasurer's acknowledgment, and date of summary. Arr. by date of summary. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. 12 x 5 x 15. Treas.'s vlt., 1st fl.

307. REPORT OF TOWNSHIP COLLECTOR, 1926--. 1 bdl. (1926-34);
1 v. (1935--).

Reports of township collectors on collection of taxes, showing names of township and collector, amount of taxes charged, collected, and delinquent, amounts of collectors' commissions, balance due, and date of report. Arr. alph. by name of twp. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. Bdl. 2 x 24 x 20; v. 40 p. 18 x 24 x 1. Treas.'s vlt., 1st fl.

308. COUNTY COLLECTOR'S SETTLEMENT OF ACCOUNTS, 1926--. 2 v. (8, 9).

Collector's record of settlements with township collectors, showing names of township and collector, amounts to be accounted for, and date and amount of receipts. Arr. by name of twp. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. 700 p. 20 x 12 x 4. Treas.'s vlt., 1st fl.

309. COLLECTOR'S AND TREASURER'S ACCOUNTS, 1872--. 4 v. (2 not labeled, 2, 3). Title varies: Treasurer's Account County Funds, 1 v. not labeled, 1918.

Treasurer's accounts with collector, showing date of settlement, names of township, collector, and account, dates and amounts credited and disbursed, and balance available in each account, and amounts of delinquency and collector's commission. Arr. by date of settlement. No index. Hdw. 250 p. 18 x 12 x 2. 1 v. not labeled, 1872-1917, co. clk.'s main off., 2nd fl.; 1 v. not labeled, 1918, old jury room, 4th fl.; v. 2, 3, 1919--, treas.'s off., 1st fl.

310. COLLECTOR'S ACCOUNTS, 1855-73. 1 v.

Collector's accounts with treasurer, showing date, itemized list of taxes, balance, total amount due, names of township and collector, and remarks. Arr. alph. by name of twp. Indexed alph. by name of collector. Hdw. 200 p. 15 x 10 x 2. Home of Ernest East, 1112 Prospect Road, Peoria.

1. L. 1871-72, p. 437; L. 1877, p. 105.

Delinquent Lists

311. DELINQUENT TAX LIST, 1932--. 6 bdl. (1932-35); 1 f.b. (1932--). Newspaper lists of delinquent taxes, showing legal description of property, names of owners, total amount of delinquency, and date and name of publication. Arr. by date of publication. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. Bdl. 1 x 12 x 17; f.b. 10 x 5 x 15. Treas.'s vlt., 1st fl.

312. (DELINQUENT SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS), 1906--. 2 v. Lists of real estate on which special assessments are delinquent, showing date of assessment, name of property owner, legal description of property, purpose and amount of tax, amount and date of payment, and amount of delinquency. Arr. by date of assessment. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 200 p. 18 x 16 x 1. Treas.'s vlt., 1st fl.

313. FORFEITED TAX CERTIFICATES, 1936--. 25 bdl. (1936-38); 1 f.b. (1939--). Certificates of tax forfeitures, showing certificate number, name of owner, legal description of property, amounts of tax, costs, and penalties, and dates of forfeiture and filing. Arr. by certificate no. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. Bdl. 10 x 8 x 4; f.b. 12 x 5 x 15. Treas.'s vlt., 1st fl.

314. FORFEITED TAX PAID IN TOWNSHIPS OF PECRIA COUNTY, 1926--. 1 v. Lists of forfeiture tax payments, showing treasurer's receipt number, legal description of property, number of years of forfeiture, tax spread, and total amount of payment. Arr. by twp. no. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 100 p. 20 x 16 x 1. Treas.'s vlt., 1st fl.

315. (ABATEMENT LIST OF REAL ESTATE), 1924--. 14 bdl. Lists of real estate on which taxes have been abated, showing date of abatement, name of property owner, legal description of property, assessed and equalized values, tax spread, amounts of tax, costs, and penalties, total tax due, and reference to collector's book. Arr. by twp. no. No Index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 9 x 9 x 18. 1 bdl., 1924-26, old jury rm., 4th fl.; 12 bdl., 1927-36, treas.'s vlt., 1st fl.; 1 bdl., 1937--, treas.'s off., 1st fl.

316. PERSONAL PROPERTY ABATEMENT LIST, 1930--. 3 v. Abatement lists of personal property, showing date of abatement, name of property owner, assessed and equalized values of property, tax spread, amounts of tax, costs, and penalties, and total tax due. Arr. alph. by name of owner. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. 400 p. 16 x 24 x 3. Treas.'s vlt., 1st fl.

XIII. TREASURER

In 1825, the year Peoria County was organized,¹ the office of county treasurer, created by the first General Assembly,² was abolished. The sheriff became county treasurer, ex officio, and remained such for two years.³ From 1827 when the office was re-established to 1837, the county treasurer was appointed annually by the county commissioners' court.⁴ In the latter year the treasurer became and has continued to be an elective official.⁵ He is commissioned by the Governor for a four-year term.⁶ In 1845 the term was reduced to two years.⁷ The office was made constitutional in 1870 without change of term.⁸ Then in 1880 by constitutional amendment the term was lengthened to four years and it was further provided that no treasurer be eligible for re-election until four years after expiration of his term of office.⁹ The penal sum of the treasurer's bond is determined by the county board,¹⁰ and his securities are subject to approval. The treasurer is allowed for compensation in counties the size of Peoria one percent for receiving and one percent for paying out all moneys, county orders, and jury certificates received and paid out by him.¹¹ Upon request of the treasurer, the board designates the bank in which the public funds are to be deposited.

In the performance of his duties, the treasurer receives the revenue of the county, has custody of its funds, and disburses them in accordance with orders of the county board or specific authorization by law. He is required to keep books of accounts of all funds received and disbursed by him, to maintain a register of county orders countersigned and paid, to report annually to the county board on the financial transaction of his office, and to settle his accounts with the board semiannually.¹² The last two

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1. L. 1825, p. 85.
 2. L. 1819, p. 315.
 3. L. 1825, p. 173.
 4. R.L. 1827, p. 329; R.L. 1833, p. 515,516.
 5. L. 1837, p. 49.
 6. Ibid.
 7. L. 1845, p. 28; L. 1851, p. 144.
 8. Const. 1870, Art. X, sec. 8.
 9. Ibid., as amended November 1880.
 10. R.L. 1827, p. 329; R.S. 1874, p. 323. The bond is required to be filed in the office of the county clerk.
 11. L. 1933, p. 618; L. 1935-36, Second Sp. Sess. p. 72.
 12. L. 1837, p. 194,195; L. 1843, p. 151; R.S. 1845, p. 137-39; L. 1861, p. 239,240; R.S. 1874, p. 323,324.

requirements give rise to a number of segregated records of accounts beyond strict statutory requirements. In addition, reports are made to the treasurer by other county, district, public, and semipublic authorities in the process of transacting business with him, and finally a large number of records arise from the requirement for collectors of taxes to settle their accounts with the treasurer.¹

The treasurer acts as treasurer, ex officio, of the special drainage district.²

Receipts and Disbursements

Ledgers and Cash Books

317. LEDGER, 1922--. 4 v.

Ledger of accounts of county funds, showing name of account, and dates, amounts, and purpose of receipts and disbursements, and balance available in each account. Arr. by date of transaction. Indexed alph. by name of account. Hdw. on pr. fm. 300 p. 14 x 9 x 1 $\frac{1}{2}$. Treas.'s off., 1st fl.

318. COUNTY TREASURER'S JOURNAL, 1922--. 4 v.

Journal of daily cash transactions, showing name of account, dates and amounts debited and credited, and book and page of posting in account ledger. Arr. by date of transaction. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 200 p. 16 x 12 x 2. Treas.'s off., 1st fl.

319. TREASURER'S DAILY CASH BOOK, 1931--. 7 v.

County treasurer's daily account of receipts and expenditures, showing date and amount of receipt or disbursement, name of payer or recipient, and daily cash balance. Arr. by date of transaction. No index. Hdw. 325 p. 15 x 10 x 2. Treas.'s vlt., 1st fl.

320. COUNTY TREASURER'S BANK ACCOUNT, 1935--. 1 v.

Treasurer's records of banking of county funds, showing order number, names of bank and account, and amounts of total daily deposits and withdrawals. Arr. by date of transaction. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. 150 p. 12 x 24 x 1. Treas.'s vlt., 1st fl.

1. R.L. 1827, p. 330-33; L. 1839, p. 8-10; L. 1845, p. 11; L. 1895, p. 304; L. 1913, p. 516; L. 1933, p. 898.
2. L. 1885, p. 78,104.

Treasurer - Special
Accounts

321. COUNTY CLERK ORDERS, 1938--. 1 f.b.

Orders of county clerk to the county treasurer to receive funds from the state treasurer for old age assistance, motor fuel tax allotment, mothers' and blind pensions, and excess fees from county officials, showing names of county clerk and official from whom money is received, date, amount, and purpose of funds, and date of order. Arr. by date of order. No index. Hdw. and typed on pr. fm. 12 x 5 x 15. Treas.'s vlt., 1st fl.

Registers

322. REGISTER OF COUNTY BONDS, 1857--. 2 v.

Register of bonds issued by county, showing number, purpose, and amount of bond, rate of interest, and dates of issue and maturity. Arr. by date of issue. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. 100 p. 16 x 10 x 1. Treas.'s vlt., 1st fl.

323. REGISTER OF COUNTY ORDERS AND CERTIFICATES, 1913--. 12 v.

Register of county orders and jury certificates, showing number, date, purpose, and amount of order, and name of recipient. Also contains Record (Register) of Mothers' Pension Fund, 1913-32, 1935--, entry 326. Arr. by order no. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 400 - 600 p. 16 x 36 x 3 - 16 x 36 x 4. 10 v., 1913-31, old jury rm., 4th fl.; 2 v., 1932--, treas.'s vlt., 1st fl.

Special Accounts

Highway

324. STATE GAS TAX ACCOUNT, 1933--. 1 f.b.

Claims for wages against motor fuel tax fund, showing name of claimant, date, number, and amount of claim, and date of payment. Arr. by claim no. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. 12 x 5 x 15. Treas.'s vlt., 1st fl.

325. COUNTY HIGHWAY WARRANT REGISTER, 1924--. 2 v. Title varies: County Highway Fund, 1 v., 1924-31.

Register of paid highway fund warrants, showing claim and warrant numbers, amount, purpose, and date of warrant, and name of recipient. Arr. by warrant no. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 300 p. 16 x 14 x 2³/₄. Treas.'s vlt., 1st fl.

Pension

326. RECORD (Register) OF MOTHERS' PENSION FUND, 1933-34. 1 v. 1913-32, 1935-- in Register of County Orders and Certificates, entry 323.

Register of mothers' pension fund vouchers, showing date, number, and amount of voucher, name of mother, and number of children. Arr. by date of voucher. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 200 p. 14 x 12 x 1. Treas.'s vlt., 1st fl.

(327-331)

Treasurer - Special
Accounts

Dog License (See
also entry 66)

327. SHEEP CLAIMS PAID, 1927--. 2 f.b.
Affidavits for sheep claims, showing names of claimant, township supervisor, appraiser, and treasurer, number of sheep killed, amounts of appraisal, claim, and payment, and date of filing. Arr. by date of filing. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. 12 x 5 x 15. Treas.'s vlt., 1st fl.

Inheritance Tax (See
also entries 156, 157)

328. INHERITANCE TAX RECEIPTS, 1892--. 12 f.b.
Copies of inheritance tax receipts, showing names of estate, administrator or executor, and beneficiaries, amounts of tax and appraised value of estate, date of death, order approving appraiser's report, and signature of county clerk. Arr. alph. by name of estate. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. 10 x 5 x 15. Treas.'s vlt., 1st fl.

Probate

329. RECORD OF TRUST FUNDS, 1883--. 1 v.
Account book of trust funds held by county treasurer for heirs of estates, showing names of estate, administrator, beneficiary, dates, and amount of receipts and disbursements, balance available, and date of receipt by treasurer. Arr. by date of receipts. No index. Hdw. 150 p. 15 x 10 x 1. Treas.'s vlt., 1st fl.

Local Improvements

330. (CONDEMNATION PAPERS), 1930--. 2 f.b.
Copies of court proceedings in condemnation suits, including court order to treasurer to pay damages, showing date of order, name of owner, legal description of property, reason for condemnation, amount of damages, and signatures of judge and clerk. Arr. by date of order. No index. Hdw. and typed on pr. fm. 12 x 5 x 15. Treas.'s vlt., 1st fl.

331. (RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS FOR OPENING OF JEFFERSON STREET AND EXTENSION OF HENRY STREET), 1921--. 1 v.
Receipts for payments indemnifying owners of property taken by City of Peoria for opening Jefferson Street and extending Henry Street, showing legal description of property, date and amount of payment, and signature of owner. Arr. by date of receipt. No index. Hdw. 250 p. 14 x 9 x 1. Treas.'s vlt., 1st fl.

Receipts, Cancelled Checks

332. RECEIPTS FROM STATE TREASURER, 1934--. 1 f.b.

Receipts from state treasurer for money paid to state by the county treasurer, showing date, amount, and purpose of payment, and signature of state treasurer. Arr. by date of payment. No index. Hdw. and typed on pr. fm. 12 x 5 x 15. Treas.'s vlt., 1st fl.

333. RECEIPTS FROM COUNTY CLERK, 1935--. 1.f.b.

Receipts for moneys paid by county treasurer to county clerk, showing amount, date, and purpose of payment, and signature of county clerk. Arr. by date of payment. No index. Hdw. and typed on pr. fm. 12 x 5 x 15. Treas.'s vlt., 1st fl.

334. TAX MONEY ADVANCED TO TREASURER, 1936--. 1 f.b.

Duplicate receipts for tax moneys advanced to treasurer by township collectors, showing date and amount of payment, and names of township and collector. Arr. by date of payment. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. 12 x 5 x 15. Treas.'s vlt., 1st fl.

335. (CANCELLED CHECKS), 1934--. 7 f.b.

Cancelled checks showing date, names of treasurer, bank, and payee, date, number, and amount of check, and date of cancellation. Arr. by check no. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. 12 x 5 x 15. Treas.'s vlt., 1st fl.

XIV. AUDITOR

In 1911 the General Assembly enacted legislation requiring all counties under township organization with a population of more than 75,000 and less than 300,000 to elect a county auditor in November 1912, and every four years thereafter.¹ Peoria County had already attained the population minimum by that year and the office was accordingly established. As provided in the act, compensation is in such sum as the county board may set.² Since 1925 by an amendment to the original law, the county auditor has been required to furnish such bond as is deemed sufficient by the county board, which bond is filed with the county clerk.³

The auditor is charged with the following duties:

1. To audit all claims against the county, recommending to the county board their payment or rejection.
2. To collect statistical information with respect to the cost of maintenance of such institutions as the county farm, jail, workhouse, and courthouse.
3. To approve, before issuance, all orders of county officials for supplies.
4. To make a quarterly audit of all county offices.⁴

He is also required to keep a record of all contracts entered into by the county board and all authorized county offices, to report quarterly to the board all fees and emoluments due the county from its various officers, and to keep necessary records of his other acts in pursuance of the duties of his office.⁵

336. REPORT OF THE AUDITOR, 1913--. 25 v.

Transcripts of reports of annual audits of county treasurer's office, showing date of report, amounts of commissions, costs, and penalties received, salaries of county treasurer and clerks, miscellaneous expense, and balance due county. Arr. by date of report. No index. Printed. 60 p. 9 x 6 x $\frac{1}{2}$. 21 v., 1913-33, aud.'s rear rm., 2nd fl.; 4 v., 1934--, aud.'s main off., 2nd fl.

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1. L. 1911, p. 242, 243.
 2. Ibid., p. 242.
 3. L. 1925, p. 263.
 4. L. 1911, p. 242.
 5. Ibid., p. 242, 243.

337. APPROPRIATION AND EXPENSE LEDGER, 1918--. 5 v.

Auditor's ledger of county fund appropriations and expenditures, showing name of fund, dates and amounts of appropriations and expenditures, and balance available. Arr. by date of transaction. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 500 p. 24 x 16 x 3. Aud.'s private off., 2nd fl.

338. PROCEEDINGS OF BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, 1901--. 8 v.

Transcript of proceedings of board of supervisors, showing date, names of members present, reports of various committees, resolutions adopted, and claims allowed and rejected. Arr. by date of proceedings. No index. Printed. 100 p. 10 x 6 x 2. Aud.'s main off., 2nd fl.

339. CORRESPONDENCE, 1932--. 3 f.b.

Auditor's incoming and outgoing correspondence, including correspondence regarding insurance on county property and rejected claims, lists of mailed vouchers and Peoria County patients at state institutions, and receipts for disbursements. Arr. alph. by name of correspondent. No index. Hdw. and typed. 4 x 12 x 12. Aud.'s main off., 2nd fl.

XV. SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

The first county school official in Peoria County was the county school commissioner.¹ The principal duties of this officer, an appointee of the county commissioners' court, centered around the sale of school lands. His reports of these sales were made to the county commissioners' court and recorded by their clerk in a well-bound book kept for that purpose.² The school commissioner also reported to the county commissioners' court on his other transactions in regard to the school fund.³ Beginning with the year 1841, the school commissioner was elected for a two-year term.⁴ In 1845 the county school commissioner became, ex officio, superintendent of schools.⁵ For his duties, ex officio, as superintendent of schools, the commissioner received additional compensation for the days actually engaged in the performance of these duties.⁶ In 1865 the office of county superintendent of schools was established as an independent office, and had delegated to it the authority formerly vested in the county school commissioner.⁷

The superintendent of schools is now elected for a term of four years.⁸ Before entering upon his duties he must take and subscribe to an oath and execute a bond in the penal sum of not less than \$12,000 to be approved by the county board or by the judge and clerk of the county court.⁹ In counties the size of Peoria the superintendent's salary is \$5,000 a year payable monthly out of the state fund. However, the county board may allow additional compensation payable quarterly out of the county treasury.¹⁰ The superintendent's office serves as the central school administrative agency for the county. One or more of the several congressional townships comprise the several school districts. Within these administrative units are elected board of trustees who have executive and financial responsibilities which come under the supervision of the county superintendent.¹¹ The boards of trustees appoint their own treasurers who also act as clerks of the township (or school district) boards.¹²

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1. R.L. 1829, p. 150,151.
 2. *Ibid.*, p. 152,153.
 3. L. 1831, p. 175.
 4. L. 1841, p. 261,262.
 5. L. 1845, p. 54.
 6. L. 1849, p. 178.
 7. L. 1865, p. 112; L. 1871-72, p. 702; L. 1889, p. 312; L. 1909, p. 343.
 8. L. 1871-72, p. 702; L. 1909, p. 343; L. 1915, p. 628; L. 1923, p. 596.
 9. L. 1909, p. 345.
 10. L. 1935, p. 871.
 11. L. 1847, p. 126; L. 1909, p. 350; L. 1929, p. 745.
 12. L. 1927, p. 843; L. 1929, p. 745.

Superintendent of Schools

The superintendent makes quarterly and annual reports to the county board and also reports to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, the State Department of Public Health, the state fire marshal, and the state architect. His duties are the following:

1. To sell township fund lands and issue certificates of purchase.
2. To examine the complete accounts of every township treasurer in his county and report irregularities to the township trustees.
3. To conduct a teachers' institute, hold quarterly examinations for teachers' certificates, and issue such.
4. To hold examinations for normal and university scholarships.
5. To visit the public schools in the county, observe methods of instruction, make recommendations to teachers, and advise school officers; to observe sanitary and safety conditions, and notify trustees and state authorities of unsatisfactory conditions; to inspect plans and specifications, and approve those meeting state regulations.¹

A noteworthy undertaking of the superintendent of schools is the annual teachers' institute. Pioneer legislation of 1869 provided that the school directors were to allow school teachers to attend the teachers' institute in their county without the loss of time and pay.² Twenty years later, the superintendent of schools was required to hold the institute annually.³ A fund was set up for this purpose which has continued to be made up of the fees received from applicants for teachers' certificates and from teachers' registration. Money from the fund is paid out only on the order of the superintendent to defray the expenses of the annual institute. When the fund exceeds the annual cost of the institute, the excess may be paid out for special meetings of teachers.⁴

1. R.S. 1845, p. 498,499; L. 1847, p. 122; L. 1849, p. 156; L. 1853, p. 246, 247; L. 1855, p. 66,67; L. 1861, p. 190,191; L. 1865, p. 119,120; L. 1909, p. 347-50; L. 1915, p. 636-38.

2. L. 1869, p. 394.

3. L. 1889, p. 312.

4. L. 1905, p. 385; L. 1931, p. 876.

Accounts of School Funds
(See also entry 365[i,v,xi])

340. SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS (Accounts of School Funds), 1860--. 1 v. (C). Superintendent's accounts of school and distributive funds, showing name of fund, dates and amounts of receipts from state auditor, interest on school fund loans, justice of peace and police magistrate fines, sale of school lands, school levies, and occupational and gas taxes; also names of township and school, school district number, dates and amounts allocated and disbursed, and amount available. Arr. by date of transaction. No index. Hdw. 200 p. 14 x 9 x 2. Vlt. of supt. of sch., 4th fl.

Sale of School Lands
(See also entry 365[x])

341. RECORD (School Commissioner's Reports of Sales of School Lands), 1834-53. 1 v. Record of school commissioner's report to county board of sales of township school lands, showing copy of petition for sale, notice of sale, and plat of land, appraised value, legal description and acreage of land, name of purchaser, date and amount of sale, and date of report. Arr. by date of report. Indexed by twp. and range nos. Hdw. 300 p. 12 x 8 x 2. Vlt. of supt. of sch., 4th fl.

School Districts
(See also entry 365[iii])

342. RECORD OF SCHOOL DISTRICT CONSOLIDATION, 1845--. 1 v. Transcribed record of proceedings of school district consolidations, showing names of school, superintendent, teachers, and school board members, district number, length of school term, dates of petition and election, and election results. Arr. by district no. No index. Typed. 150 p. 11 x 9 x 2. Main off. of supt. of sch., 4th fl.

343. LEDGER FOR NON-HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICTS, 1914--. 1 v. Ledger of non-high school district tuition fund accounts, showing district number, dates, amounts, and purposes of receipts and disbursements, names of payer and payee, and date and number of disbursing order. Arr. by district no. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 200 p. 8 x 12 x 1. Main off. of supt. of sch., 4th fl.

344. MINUTE BOOKS OF EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AND NON-HIGH SCHOOL MINUTE BOOK, 1926--. 2 v. Record of proceedings of non-high school board and educational committee of board of supervisors, showing names of members of committee, date and place of meeting, roll call, proceedings, and resolutions. Arr. by date of meeting. No index. Hdw. 75 p. 12 x 12 x 1 1/2. Main off. of supt. of sch., 4th fl.

345. CLAIMS FOR STATE AID, 1930--. 9 v.

Record of school district reports of claims for state aid, showing name of county, name and number of school district, valuation of taxable property in school district, amounts and rates of levy for educational and building purposes, enrollments and attendance of pupils, amounts of claim based on attendance and special equalization quota, total claim, amounts budgeted for current school year and expended for previous year, affidavit of school district clerk, notarial acknowledgment, signatures of school superintendent and treasurer, and date of filing. Arr. by sch. district no. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. 150 p. 9 x 15 x 1. Main off. of supt. of sch., 4th fl.

346. COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT BUDGET RECORD, 1925--. 1 v.

Record of claims for state aid filed by school districts, showing date, amount, and number of claim, school district number, assessed value of property in district, amount of tax levied by school board for education and maintenance, tax rate, number of teachers employed and pupils enrolled, daily attendance, amount of state aid due, amounts budgeted to the various funds, list of disbursements from each fund, and balance available. Arr. by date of claim. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 75 p. 19 x 25 x $\frac{1}{2}$. Vlt. of supt. of sch., 4th fl.

Teachers' Records
(See also entry 365[vi])

347. APPLICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATES, 1910--. 105 bdl.

Applications for teachers' certificates and renewals of certificates, showing date and number of application, name, age, and address of applicant, place of birth, educational background, and academic subjects and credits. Arr. by application no. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. 2 x 9 x 12. Main off., of supt. of sch., 4th fl.

348. RECORD (Register) OF TEACHERS' CERTIFICATES, 1883--. 6 v. (1, 4 not labeled, C). Title varies: Institute Fund Record, v. 1, 2 v. not labeled, 1883-1926; Register of Fees Received, 1 v. not labeled, 1927-30; Record of Registration of Teachers' Certificates, 1 v. not labeled, 1931-33.

Register of teachers' certificates, including record of institute funds, showing name, age, and address of teacher, institute registration number, date, number, and class of certificate, amounts and dates of payments of examination, registration, and renewal fees, and amounts deposited with county treasurer to credit of institute fund. Arr. by registration no. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 114 - 500 p. 16 x 12 x 2 - 17 x 12 x 2. Vlt. of supt. of sch., 4th fl.

(319-353)

Superintendent of Schools -
Teachers' Records

349. (TEACHERS' PERMANENT RECORDS), 1914--. 6 v. (A-F, 1914-24);
26 f.d. (A-Z, 1925--).

Teachers' permanent record cards showing name, address, and date of birth, educational background and credits, dates of issue, registrations, and renewals of certificates, prior and present teaching experience and salaries, pension payments in county, and final status of teacher. Also contains Pension Record, 1926--, entry 352. 1914-24, arr. by date of first registration; 1925--, arr. alph. by name of teacher. For index, 1914-24, see entry 350; 1925--, no index. 1914-24, hdw. on pr. fm.; 1925--, typed on pr. fm. V. 200 p. 18 x 10 x 1 1/2, f.d. 16 x 6 x 36. V. A-F, 1914-24, vlt. of supt. of sch., 4th fl.; f.d. A-Z, 1925--, main off. of supt. of sch., 4th fl.

350. INDEX TO TEACHERS' PERMANENT RECORD, 1914-24. 1 v.

Index to (Teachers' Permanent Records), entry 349, showing name and address of teacher, and book and page of entry. Arr. alph. by name of teacher. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 150 p. 14 x 10 x 1. Main off. of supt. of sch., 4th fl.

351. ILLINOIS TEACHERS' PROFESSIONAL AND SERVICE RECORD, 1930--. 1 f.d.

Teachers' professional and service record, showing name, age, and address of teacher, grade and number of teaching certificate, educational and teaching background, present employment, position and salary, current classes, contributions to pension and retirement fund, and date of filing. Arr. alph. by name of teacher. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. 12 x 14 x 28. Main off. of supt. of sch., 4th fl.

352. PENSION RECORD, 1918-25. 1 v.

1926-- in (Teachers' Permanent Records), entry 349.

Record of teachers' payments to pension fund, showing name of teacher, date of registration, school district number, school year, amounts of monthly and yearly salaries, length of school term, and amount of payment to pension fund. Arr. by date of registration. Indexed alph. by name of teacher. Hdw. on pr. fm. 900 p. 9 x 12 x 5. Vlt. of supt. of sch., 4th fl.

353. RECORD OF EXAMINATION OF APPLICANTS FOR TEACHERS' CERTIFICATES,
1887-95, 1903-13. 2 v. 1896-1902, 1914-- in Record of Final
Examination, entry 355.

Record of examination results of applicants for teachers' certificates, showing date and purpose of examination, name, age, and address of applicant, place of birth, educational background, nature of teaching experience, subjects and grade of examination, final result, and date of issue and number of certificate. Arr. by date of examination. Indexed alph. by name of applicant. Hdw. and typed on pr. fm. 100 - 800 p. 14 x 10 x 1 - 16 x 10 x 5. Vlt. of supt. of sch., 4th fl.

Pupil Records

354. REPORT OF SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS AND YEARLY REPORT OF CLASSIFICATION, STANDING, ADVANCEMENT, AND ATTENDANCE, 1914--. 16 bdl., 31 v.

Report of semester examinations, showing date and nature of examination, name and number of school district, number, name, address, and age of pupil, year of study, subjects of examination and grade attained in each, average grade, names of teacher and superintendent, and dates of report and filing; also includes reports of classification, standing, advancement, and attendance of students, showing name of township, school district number, beginning and ending dates of term, number, name, and age of pupil, attendance record, year of study, subjects of study and grade attained in each, number of pupils and textbooks used in each class, promotions, and daily class program. Subsequent to 1934 kept in bound form. Arr. by district no. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. Bdl. 18 x 12 x 1; v. 200 p. 18 x 12 x 1. 16 bdl., 27 v., 1914-34, old jury rm., 4th fl.; 4 v., 1935--, vlt., of supt. of sch., 4th fl.

355. RECORD OF FINAL EXAMINATIONS, 1896--. 2 v.

Record of final examination results of eighth-grade pupils, showing school district number, name, age, and address of pupil, subjects of examination, grade attained, general average in each subject, and dates of examination and filing. Also contains Record of Examination of Applicants for Teachers' Certificates, 1896-1902, 1914--, entry 353. Arr. by date of filing. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. 500 p. 16 x 12 x 2. Main off. of supt. of sch., 4th fl.

Reports

356. TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT, 1839--. 1 f.d. Missing: 1842-58, 1860, 1862, 1865-66, 1869, 1871, 1874-91, 1893-1909.

Trustees' annual reports showing names of township, school, and trustees, value of school property, amount of taxes, lists of receipts and disbursements of the various funds, and balance available. Arr. alph. by name of twp. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 12 x 15 x 30. Main off. of supt. of sch., 4th fl.

357. TOWNSHIP TREASURERS FINANCIAL REPORT AND RECORD OF LOANS FROM SCHOOL FUNDS, 1920--. 1 f.b.

Township school treasurers' financial reports showing name of township, itemized list of receipts, expenditures, and loans, balance available, date of report, and acknowledgment. Arr. by date of filing. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 12 x 5 x 17. Main off. of supt. of sch., 4th fl.

358. (COUNTY NURSE'S ANNUAL REPORT), 1925--. 1 f.b.

County nurse's annual report to superintendent of schools, showing date of report, name of township, number of schools visited, quantity of throat and dental ailments, eye and ear examinations, glasses fitted, toxoid and vaccine inoculations, and home visits, and signature of nurse. Arr. by date of report. No index. Typed. 10 x 5 x 15. Main off. of supt. of sch., 4th fl.

359. TEACHERS' ANNUAL REPORTS TO SUPERINTENDENT, 1925--. 1 f.b.
Teachers' annual reports to superintendent of schools, showing school year, names of school and county, school district number, statistics on elementary and secondary school enrollments and attendance, school buildings, library facilities, students' health and truancy, transportation, and teaching and administrative personnel, signatures of teacher and superintendent, and date of filing. Arr. by date of report. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. 12 x 15 x 15. Main off. of supt. of sch., 4th fl.

360. TEACHERS' ANNUAL AND SEMIANNUAL REPORTS, 1936--. 3 v.
Record of teachers' reports to superintendent of schools, showing school year, names of schools, teacher and superintendent, school district number, name, age, grade, and general average of pupil, and statistics on attendance. Arr. by district no. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. 250 p. 12 x 18 x 2. Vlt. of supt. of sch., 4th fl.

361. SUPERINTENDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT, 1921--. 1 v.
Record of annual reports of county superintendent of schools, showing location and number of school, enrollment by districts, length of term, qualifications, classifications, and annual salaries of teachers, grades taught, valuation of school properties and furnishings, outstanding bonds, and financial statistics, signature of superintendent, and date of report. Arr. by date of report. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. 35 p. 14 x 10 x 1/2. Main off. of supt. of sch., 4th fl.

362. MINUTES OF PEORIA SCHOOL BOARD INSPECTORS, 1936. 1 v.
Report of Peoria school board inspectors submitting data on the development of education in the City of Peoria and history and progress of the Peoria public schools, with names of inspectors, and date and place of meeting. No index. Typed. 50 p. 12 x 9 x 1/2. Main off. of supt. of sch., 4th fl.

School Officers

Lists of School Officers (See also entry 365[vii])

363. SUPERINTENDENT'S LIST OF SCHOOL OFFICERS, 1911--. 1 f.b.
Lists of school officers, showing names of president, secretary, treasurer, and trustees of each district, length of term, and date of expiration. Arr. by date of filing. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. 12 x 5 x 17. Main off. of supt. of sch., 4th fl.

Treasurers' Bonds (See also entries 68, 76, 365[ii])

364. TOWNSHIP TREASURERS' BOND, 1851--. 1 f.b.
Bonds of township treasurers, showing names of treasurer, sureties, and members of approving committee, date and amount of bond, school district number, and date of filing. Arr. by date of filing. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. 12 x 5 x 17. Main off. of supt. of sch., 4th fl.

Miscellaneous

365. (MISCELLANEOUS FILES), 1835--. 24 f.b.

Files of miscellaneous papers in superintendent's office, including:

- i. Accounts of receipts and expenditures of institute, distributive, and teachers' pension funds, 1911--, showing name of fund, date, amount, and purpose of receipt or expenditure, and balance available.
- ii. Bonds of township treasurers, 1856--, showing names of treasurer, sureties, and members of approving committee, school district number, date and amount of bond, and date of filing.
- iii. Claim for non-high school tuition, 1917--, showing school district number, number of non-high school district pupils and days' attendance, rate per pupil, and date and amount of claim.
- iv. Election proceedings, school districts, 1838--, including petitions to change district boundaries, to organize high school districts, and to elect school trustees and board of education members, poll books, and election abstracts and returns.
- v. Lists of receipts and expenditures of school funds, 1920--, showing date, purpose or source, and amount of receipt or expenditure, and balance available.
- vi. Lists of registered and returned teachers' certificates, 1914--, showing date, number, and class of certificate, name and qualifications of teacher, name and number of school district, and quantities of certificates registered and returned.
- vii. Lists (superintendent's) of school officers, 1911--, showing name and number of school district, names of president, secretary, treasurer, and treasurer of each district, length of term, and date of expiration.
- viii. Objections to changes of school district boundaries, 1914--, including copies of petitions for change of boundary lines, and appeals from decision of school trustees.
- ix. Programs for teachers' institutes and reading circles, and entertainment and game catalogues.
- x. Receipts, duplicate, for school land sale payments, 1835, showing date and amount of sale, legal description and acreage of land, amount of payment, and signature of school land commissioner.
- xi. Township treasurers' financial reports and record of loans from school funds, 1841--, showing name and number of township, itemized lists of receipts, expenditures, and loans, balance available, date of report, and signature of treasurer.

Arr. by date of filing. No index. Hdw. and typed on pr. fm. 12 x 5 x 15.
Main off. of supt., of sch., 4th fl.

XVI. SUPERINTENDENT OF HIGHWAYS

From 1825 to 1849 the county commissioners' court exercised jurisdiction over roads and bridges in Peoria County.¹ The court was empowered to locate new roads, to alter or vacate old roads, to divide the county into road districts, and to appoint a supervisor in each district.² The construction and maintenance of roads were effected by means of a labor tax levied on all able-bodied men between the ages of eighteen and fifty. It was the supervisor's duty to summon these men for work when road work was needed.³

From 1849 to 1850 the county court in Peoria County had control and supervision of public roads and bridges. The substitution of this administrative body for the old county commissioners' court effected no material changes in the earlier set up. The system of road districts was retained and the work of superintending road construction and maintenance continued to be vested in district supervisors.⁴

In 1850, when township organization was instituted in Peoria County,⁵ the care and superintendence of roads became the responsibility of the townships. Legislation enabling the adoption of this form of county government had provided for the election in each township of a highway commissioner and as many overseers of highways as there were districts in the county.⁶ The commissioners at their annual meeting determined necessary action for establishing new roads and repairing, altering, or vacating old roads; the overseers of highways were then required to carry out the commissioners' instructions.⁷ This system of road control and maintenance continued until 1913, when the office of superintendent of highways was first established.⁸ The boards of highway commissioners which existed prior to that date have continued to function, but their powers are principally subordinated to those of the superintendent of highways.

The superintendent is appointed by the county board. The board submits a list of three to five candidates to the State Department of Public Works and Buildings, which department examines the candidates to de-

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1. L. 1819, p. 175; R.L. 1827, p. 340.
 2. L. 1819, p. 333; L. 1825, p. 130; R.L. 1827, p. 340, 344.
 3. L. 1819, p. 334; R.L. 1827, p. 341, 342.
 4. L. 1847, p. 111-13; L. 1849, p. 65; L. 1851, p. 179.
 5. Township organization was adopted in 1849, but did not become effective until 1850.
 6. L. 1849, p. 190, 212.
 7. *Ibid.*, p. 212; L. 1851, p. 65.
 8. L. 1913, p. 524.

Superintendent of Highways

termine the person best fitted for the office.¹ The successful candidate holds the office for six years and is remunerated in a sum fixed by the county board payable out of the general or highway funds of the county.

The powers and duties of the superintendent of highways come under the rules and regulations of the Department of Public Works and Buildings. However, the superintendent is subject, upon hearing, to removal by the county board. The superintendent exercises supervision over township, county, and state-aid roads, and bridges, and culverts in his county and is required to perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the chief highway engineer of the state.²

His principal duties are as follows:

1. To prepare plans, specifications, and estimates for all bridges to be built by the county.
2. To supervise the construction and maintenance of county roads and bridges, and state-aid roads.
3. To inspect the highways and bridges in each town or district of his county at least once a year.
4. To advise and direct the highway commissioners in each town or district as to the best methods of repair, maintenance, and improvement of highways and bridges.
5. To approve any purchase in excess of \$200 for materials, machinery, or apparatus to be used in road construction in any town or district.³

He is required to keep the following records:

1. Records of contracts, purchases, and expenditures authorized by himself, the county board, or township commissioners.
2. Maps, plats, blueprints, specifications, etc., arising from his supervision of roads and bridges, or the planning of new construction.
3. Accounts of the funds handled by his office.
4. Reports from other officers or bodies touching upon the affairs of his office; copies of his own reports on the administration of his office; related papers.⁴

1. L. 1921, p. 781; L. 1933, p. 961. From 1913 to 1917 the list was submitted to the State Highway Commission (L. 1913, p. 524). In 1917 this state agency was abolished, and its rights, powers, and duties were vested in the Department of Public Works and Buildings, created in the same year (L. 1917, p. 4,16,24).

2. L. 1921, p. 782; L. 1933, p. 961.

3. L. 1913, p. 523-26.

4. Ibid., p. 525.

(366-371)

Superintendent of highways -
Commissioners' Records; Con-
struction Records; Claims

All the records of this office are kept in the main office of the superintendent of highways on the second floor.

Commissioners' Records

366. TOWNSHIP ROAD RECORD, 1851--. 5 v. (1-5).

Transcribed township road record showing minutes of meetings of highway commissioners, authorization and date of survey, plats of proposed highways and bridges, location and date of proposed improvement, approximate costs, and date of meeting. Arr. by date of meeting. Indexed alph. by name of improvement. Typed. 500 p. 18 x 12 x 3.

Construction and Maintenance Records

367. HIGHWAYS CONSTRUCTION FUNDS, 1921--. 8 f.d.

Superintendent's of highways accounts of highway funds, showing name of fund, itemized amounts of receipts and expenditures for the construction and maintenance of county roads and bridges, and balance available in each fund, and date of transaction. Arr. alph. by name of account. No index. Typed. 12 x 14 x 26.

368. ORIGINAL PAID BILLS, 1921--. 8 f.d.

Bills for contracts completed and supplies furnished for county highways, showing names of account and contractor, nature and cost of material or service, and amount and date of payment. Arr. alph. by name of account. No index. Hdw. and typed on pr. fm. 12 x 14 x 26.

369. ROAD AND BRIDGE CONTRACTS, 1921--. 4 f.d.

Contracts, proposals, specifications, and notices of awards and approvals of contracts, for construction of roads and bridges, showing names of township and contractor, type and location of work, kind, quantity, and cost of material, amounts of contract and contractor's bond, and date of filing. Arr. alph. by name of twp. No index. Hdw. and typed on pr. fm. 12 x 14 x 26.

370. COUNTY CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION LEDGER, 1921--. 2 v.

County contract construction ledger showing name and route number of road, class of work, amount of appropriation and contract price, net cost of contract, names of contractor and bonding company, dates of award and completion of contract, and cost of highway maintenance for each township. Arr. by date of contract. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 500 p. 12 x 17 x 2.

Allotments and Claims

371. HIGHWAY CLAIMS, 1921--. 10 f.d.

Claims against the county highway department, showing date, kind, and amount of claim, name and address of claimant, claim, requisition, and warrant numbers, and date of payment. Arr. by date of payment. No index. Hdw. and typed on pr. fm. 12 x 14 x 26.

372. CLAIM REGISTER, 1921--. 7 v.

Register of claims filed on highway funds, showing name of fund, date, number, and amount of claim, name and address of claimant, nature and purpose of article or service, requisition or purchase order number, distribution of claims among various accounts, and date and number of warrant issued in payment of claim. Arr. by date of claim. No index. Typed under pr. hdgs. 500 p. 12 x 17 x 1.

Surveys

373. SURVEY RECORD, 1921. 12 f.d.

Surveys of roads, bridges, and culverts, showing names of township, road, bridge or culvert, starting and completion dates of work, costs of labor, grading, and material, and total cost. Arr. alph. by name of twp. No index. Hdw. and typed. 12 x 14 x 26.

Correspondence

374. CORRESPONDENCE, 1921--. 4 f.d.

Correspondence to and from the superintendent of highways regarding construction contracts, materials, machinery, and other matters of the county highway office. Arr. alph. by name of correspondent. No index. Hdw. and typed. 12 x 14 x 26.

XVII. SURVEYOR

The office of surveyor was first established in Illinois in 1821; the incumbent was an appointee of the General Assembly.¹ During the recess of the legislature, nominations were made by the county commissioners' court to the Governor.² From 1835 to 1936, the county surveyor was an elected officer of the county electorate.³ Since September 1936 he has been an appointee of the county board.⁴ His appointment is for a four-year term. He takes and subscribes to an oath which is filed in the county clerk's office. The compensation of the surveyor is \$6 per day, and when testing scales a reasonable sum is allowed for cost of transporting apparatus for making tests.⁵

The surveyor is required by law to make all surveys within the bounds of his county that he may be called upon to make by the county board or interested persons. Such surveys include surveys of lands of persons requesting the same, of additions or subdivisions, and marking of county lines. Few changes have been made in the original statutory requirements for the duties of this office. The surveyor may appoint one or more deputies. Any individual requesting a survey must employ his own chainmen subject to the approval of the surveyor.

The surveyor is required by law to keep a well-bound book in which to record all surveys made by him, giving such information as the names of the persons whose land is surveyed and descriptive data of the survey. This record is required to be kept by the surveyor in the recorder's office. The surveyor also preserves his field notes and retains copies of plats.⁶

For records of the surveyor, see entries 111-113, 373.

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1. L. 1821, p. 62; R.L. 1829, p. 172; R.L. 1833, p. 591.
 2. Ibid.
 3. L. 1835, p. 61,166; R.S. 1845, p. 523; R.S. 1874, p. 456,1050; L. 1903, p. 349.
 4. L. 1933, p. 1104. Effective in 1936.
 5. L. 1871-72, p. 438.
 6. L. 1821, p. 63,64; R.L. 1829, p. 173; R.L. 1833, p. 591-23,599,600; L. 1845, p. 201; R.S. 1845, p. 524; R.S. 1874, p. 1050; L. 1885, p. 248; L. 1915, p. 575; L. 1933, p. 1104.

XVIII. DRAINAGE COMMISSIONERS

For the purpose of protecting public welfare and health the Constitution of 1870, as amended November 29, 1878, gives the General Assembly ample power to provide laws regulating drainage.¹ Drainage districts are quasi-public corporations² and are charged with certain governmental functions in the reclamation of land and improvement of sanitation. The corporate authorities of the drainage districts have power to acquire rights of way,³ borrow money,⁴ issue bonds,⁵ assess damages,⁶ locate, construct, and maintain drains, ditches and levees for agricultural, sanitary, or mining purposes⁷ and levy assessments on the property benefited.⁸

Whenever a majority of the owners of lands within a district proposed to be organized, who are of lawful age and represent one third in area of said lands, or one third of such owners representing a major portion in area of said lands, desire to construct a drain, ditch or levee or other work known as "drainage or levee work," they may file a petition in the county court with such particulars as are required by statute and ask for the organization of a drainage district.⁹ In union districts the petition may be filed with the clerk of the town in which the greater part of the district lies.¹⁰

When the costs of any proposed drain, ditch, levee or other work authorized by the drainage act, will not exceed the sum of \$2,000, the petition may, if the petitioners shall so elect, be filed with a justice of the peace in the county where the land to be affected or the major part of it is situated; and the assessment of damages and benefits shall be conducted before such justice in the same manner, as near as may be, as cases commenced by petition before a county court.¹¹

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1. Art. IV, sec. 31.
 2. Turner vs. Hunt Drainage District (U.S.C.C.A.Ill.), 87 Federal Reporter 167.
 3. L. 1885, p. 83,84.
 4. L. 1879, p. 131,132; L. 1895, p. 76,125; L. 1913, p. 266,267; L. 1929, p. 378; L. 1933, p. 509,510.
 5. L. 1885, p. 76; L. 1895, p. 162; L. 1917, p. 433,434.
 6. L. 1879, p. 126; L. 1909, p. 187; L. 1913, p. 263,264.
 7. L. 1885, p. 79,80.
 8. Ibid., p. 62,84-86; L. 1891, p. 102; L. 1919, p. 446,447; L. 1925, p. 365,366.
 9. L. 1879, p. 120,121; L. 1885, p. 78,93-95,110-15; L. 1907, p. 275,276; L. 1913, p. 261.
 10. L. 1885, p. 93.
 11. Ibid., p. 130.

If the court grants the petition, it enters an order to that effect and appoints three commissioners to examine and survey the proposed lands; when they have completed their work the commissioners make a report to the court with recommendations and copies of surveys, maps, plats, and estimates.¹ Districts are of three kinds: regular, which is composed of property lying in a single town; union, where the lands organized lie in two towns; and special, with three or more towns involved.² It is in the last named type of district in which the commissioner may be elected and the county clerk of the county in which proceedings are instituted is clerk ex officio.³ The commissioners are elected for a three-year term with one new commissioner elected annually; however, to initiate the procedure the first three commissioners elected are required to draw lots marked one, two, and three years to determine length of term.⁴

When the commissioners' report on a proposed district has been made and all interested parties have had an opportunity to be heard, the court completes the organization by modifying or confirming this report.⁵ Appeals, or writ of error are allowed to the Supreme Court,⁶ but an appeal by one or more persons does not operate to defer confirmation in other cases.⁷

In regular and union districts, in counties under township organization, the supervisor of the town in which the district is situated shall be the treasurer of the district. When the district lies in two towns, the supervisor of one of the towns, to be designated by the commissioners, shall be the treasurer.⁸ The county treasurer of the county in which the proceedings for the organization of a special drainage district are commenced and district organized, is the collector and treasurer of such district.⁹

The corporate power¹⁰ of regular districts is vested in three commissioners appointed by the county court;¹¹ and in union districts may be in three commissioners selected by the town clerk from the commissioners of highways of the two towns.¹² Such powers in special drainage districts may

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1. L. 1879, p. 122,155; L. 1885, p. 78,93-95,110-15; L. 1907, p. 277,278; L. 1913, p. 262,263.
 2. L. 1879, p. 155; L. 1885, p. 93,94,113.
 3. Ibid., p. 95; L. 1913, p. 467; L. 1929, p. 390.
 4. L. 1885, p. 54; L. 1929, p. 390.
 5. L. 1879, p. 124,125; L. 1885, p. 94,95.
 6. L. 1909, p. 186,187; L. 1913, p. 262,263; L. 1933, p. 508,509; L. 1935, p. 766,767.
 7. Ibid.
 8. L. 1885, p. 78.
 9. Ibid., p. 104.
 10. Ibid., p. 121.
 11. Ibid., p. 112.
 12. Ibid., p. 93.

be exercised by three elected commissioners of the district.¹ In regular districts the commissioners appoint one of their number to act as secretary.² The town clerk is clerk for the drainage commissioners of all drainage districts lying wholly within his town and of all union drainage districts, the major portion of which lies in his town.³ Sanitary districts,⁴ and river conservancy districts⁵ may also be organized along similar lines. Three kinds of districts, regular, union, and special are maintained in Peoria County.

The following records belong to the drainage commissioners:

1. Records of bonds issued.
2. Assessment books.
3. Petitions of owners of land to stay assessments, orders of commissioners thereon, and other proceedings.
4. State auditor's certificates of interest due on bonds.
5. Tax lists showing pro rata share of levy for bond interest (union and special districts only).
6. Copies of reports to county court on conditions of district and estimated expenditures; and to county treasurer on delinquent lands; maps and plats, surveys and estimates; office transactions.⁶

The first two records are required to be kept in separate books, the next three generally are known as the "Drainage Record," and the remaining records are kept desultorily.

For other drainage records, see entries 76[viii], 138, 139, 142.

375. PEKIN AND LA MARSH DRAINAGE DISTRICTS (Record), 1889--.
2 v. (1, 2).

Record of proceedings of Pekin and La Marsh drainage districts commissioners, including minutes of meetings, plats of districts, assessment rolls, commissioners' bonds, financial accounts, and court proceedings. No index. 1889-1920, hdw.; 1921--, typed. 300 p. 18 x 12 x 2. Co. clk.'s main off., 2nd fl.

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1. L. 1879, p. 156; L. 1885, p. 95.
 2. Ibid., p. 113.
 3. L. 1915, p. 390.
 4. L. 1907, p. 289; L. 1933, p. 515.
 5. L. 1925, p. 346.
 6. L. 1879, p. 120-34; L. 1885, p. 78-104.

376. TUSCARORA, BANNER, HALLOCK, AND MEDINA DRAINAGE DISTRICTS (Record),
1906--. 2 v. (1, 2).

Record of proceedings of commissioners of Tuscarora, Banner, Hallock, and Medina drainage districts, including minutes of meetings, plats of districts, work plans, assessment rolls, commissioners' bonds, financial accounts, and court proceedings. Arr. by date of proceedings. Indexed alph. by title of subject. 1906-19, hdw.; 1920--, typed. 300 p. 18 x 10 x 2. Co. clk.'s main off., 2nd fl.

XIX. VETERINARIAN

The office of county veterinarian was created by statute in 1925 for counties willing to appropriate funds for the maintenance and employment of a veterinarian. As a prerequisite the county must enter into a cooperative agreement with the Federal and State Departments of Agriculture for the control and eradication of bovine tuberculosis. The veterinarian, under the direction of the latter body, conducts tuberculin tests, keeps records thereof and reports to the state department.¹ Although this office was created by statute in 1925, Peoria County had a county veterinarian in 1923.²

Specific provision was not made under the original act for the method of selection. In 1929, however, it was provided that the veterinarian was to be appointed by the county board of supervisors upon approval of the State Department of Agriculture.³ The salary of the veterinarian is fixed by the county board.⁴

377. TUBERCULIN TEST HERD RECORD (Retest Record), 1923--. 10 f.b. Record of dairy herd tuberculin tests, showing name and address of herd owner, size, grade, and breed of herd, date, method, and results of first test, date and results of retest, and date of report. Arr. alph. by name of herd owner. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. 6 x 8 x 18. Off. of co. vet., 2nd fl., Peoria County Farm Bureau Building.

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1. L. 1925, p. 2-9.
 2. Supervisors' Records, v. 10, p. 237, see entry 2.
 3. L. 1929, p. 7-12.
 4. Ibid., p. 8.

XX. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE

Matters relating to public assistance and welfare in the county are handled by the department of public welfare, which was established in 1937 as successor to the county commission of public welfare.¹ This department consists of the superintendent of public welfare and a staff selected by him in accordance with, and subject to, the approval of the State Department of Public Welfare.

The county board submits to the state department a list of five residents as candidates for the office of superintendent. An eligible list of these candidates is prepared by the state department by competitive examination and certified to the county board. The board in turn makes an order appointing one of the eligibles as superintendent of public welfare.² The salary of the superintendent of the department of public welfare is fixed by each General Assembly.³ Vacancies are filled by appointment by the county board upon examination and certification of a list of five persons, submitted by the board, to the state agency.⁴

The superintendent is charged with all the executive and administrative duties and responsibilities of the department of public welfare. He is subject to rules and regulation of, and removal by, the state agency.⁵

This officer has power and it is his duty to:

1. Have charge and develop plans for the administration of old age assistance.
2. Have charge of and develop plans for the administration of "An Act to provide aid to dependent children, to make appropriations therefore and to repeal an Act herein named," enacted by the Sixty-Second General Assembly.⁶
3. Investigate and study problems of assistance, correction, and general welfare within his county.
4. Cooperate with the State Department of Public Welfare in the operation of welfare plans and policies in his county.

1. L. 1935-36, First Sp. Sess., p. 70-73; L. 1937, p. 451.

2. Ibid., p. 451, 452.

3. Ibid., p. 149; L. 1939, p. 200.

4. L. 1937, p. 452.

5. Ibid.

6. L. 1941, I, 495, approved June 30, 1941.

Department of Public Welfare

5. Maintain such records and file such reports with the State Department of Public Welfare as that department may require.
6. Serve as agent and executive officer of the State Department of Public Welfare in the administration of all forms of public assistance administered by that department.¹

All the records of the county department are subject to the inspection and supervision of the agents of this central authority.

Federal legislation was enacted in 1935 to provide for the general welfare by establishing a system of Federal old age benefits. In order to participate in the benefits of this act,² the several states were required to submit plans for old age assistance. Illinois passed legislation complying with this act the same year.³ Today, the Federal Government pays to Illinois, one half of the sum expended on old age assistance.

The department of public welfare administers old age assistance and is subject to the rules and regulations of the state department.⁴ Upon receipt of an application the department makes an investigation of the case. In the course of the investigation the department is allowed to hold hearings and compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of papers and books.⁵

Old age assistance records and accounts are kept as prescribed by the state department. All applications and records in these matters are considered public records.⁶

The county department of public welfare and the State Department of Public Welfare is charged with the administration of the act relating to dependent children.⁷

Any needy child who is under the age of sixteen or under the age of eighteen if in regular attendance at school who has been deprived of parental support or care by reason of the death, continued absence

1. L. 1935-36, First Sp. Sess., p. 72; L. 1937, p. 452; L. 1941, I, 495.
2. 49 U.S. Stat. 620.
3. L. 1935, p. 260.
4. Ibid., p. 259,260; L. 1935-36, First Sp. Sess., p. 54,55; L. 1937, p. 265.
5. L. 1935-36, First Sp. Sess., p. 57-59; L. 1937, p. 267,268.
6. Ibid., p. 258,269.
7. L. 1941, I, 287,288.

from home, or physical or mental incapacity of the parent, and who is living with his parent or relative, shall be considered as a dependent child. Application for dependent aid for such child may be made by the parent or relative with whom the child resides. The application is filed with the county department of public welfare. The county department shall make an investigation and examination of the circumstances of such child in accordance with the rules and regulations of the state department which shall include a visit to the home of the child and a written report thereof.¹

The county department shall report its decision at once to the state department. If aid is denied or the grant is inadequate an appeal may be taken to the state department; which shall review the case and give the applicant the opportunity for a fair hearing in the county wherein he resides. The state department may modify or disallow any assistance previously granted. The aid granted with respect to any dependent child shall be determined in accordance with the rules and regulations of the state department, with due regard to the requirements and conditions existing in his case, and to the income and resources available to him. All aid shall be paid monthly by warrant from the State Treasury on voucher by the state department, to the relative with whom the child is living.²

Funds for the payment of awards and cost of administration are jointly contributed by the State and Federal governments. Taxes levied under former laws,³ and paid into the Mother's Pension Fund prior to the effective date of this act shall, after all debts have been satisfied, be paid to the state and credited to the respective counties and used under the provisions of this act.⁴

In 1941 the merit system was instituted in the county department. All employees including the county superintendent are now selected according to this system. This act also created an advisory board consisting of the county judge as chairman, and two persons appointed by the county board. It is the duty of the advisory board to advise the county and State Department of Public Welfare and to recommend to such departments the appointments of eligible applicants for positions in the county department from the appropriate registers.⁵

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1. L. 1941, I, 233.
 2. Ibid., p. 289,290; payable after October 1, 1941.
 3. The levying and collection of taxes ceases as of July 1, 1942.
 4. L. 1941, I, 290.
 5. Ibid., p. 493,494.

All the old age assistance records are kept in the old age assistance office, on the first floor of the Pere Marquette Garage Building, 115 North Madison Street, Peoria.

378. CASE RECORDS, 1936--. 32 f.d.

Case records of old age assistance clients, showing date of case, name, address, and age of pensioner, amounts of pension and living expenses, financial and physical condition, amount of insurance carried, and list of property owned. Arr. alph. by name of pensioner. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. 11 x 14 x 28.

379. INVESTIGATORS' CASE LOAD AND STATISTICAL RECORD, 1936--. 4 f.d.

Investigators' card records of investigations, showing name, address, age, sex, place of birth, and marital status of applicant, record of aid from other sources, and approval or rejection of application. Arr. alph. by name of applicant. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. 5 x 6 x 24.

380. INDEX TO CASE RECORDS, 1936--. 4 f.d.

Card record of old age assistance cases, showing name, address, and case number of pensioner. Arr. alph. by name of pensioner. Hdw. on pr. fm. 5 x 6 x 24.

XXI. COUNTY HOME

One phase of public assistance is administered by the county home. All county poorhouses, poor farms, and institutions for the support and care of indigents in Illinois are known as county homes.¹ County poorhouses and farms have existed in this state under statutory provisions for nearly a century. The legislation creating these county establishments for the indigent has changed little since the original enactments. The county boards of the various counties may establish a county home, and are granted the following powers:

1. To acquire by purchase, grant, gift, or devise, a suitable tract or tracts upon which to erect and maintain a county poorhouse and other necessary buildings, and for the establishment and maintenance of a farm for the employment of the poor.
2. To receive gifts and bequests to aid in the erection and maintenance of the poorhouse, or in the care of the indigents.
3. To make rules and regulations for the same.
4. To appoint a keeper of the poorhouse and all necessary agents and servants for the management and control of the poorhouse and farm, and to prescribe their compensation and duties.
5. To appoint a county physician and prescribe his compensation and duties.
6. To appoint an agent to have the general supervision and charge of all matters in relation to the care and support of the poor, and to prescribe his compensation and duties.
7. To make the necessary appropriations for the erection and maintenance of the county home.²

Records of the county home are prepared and kept by the keeper (superintendent) of the home. He is required to keep an account showing the name of each person admitted to the county poorhouse, the time of his admission and discharge, the place of his birth, and the cause of his dependency. He is also required, at the same time each year, to file with the county clerk of his county a copy of this record together with a statement

1. L. 1919, p. 699; L. 1935, p. 1058.
2. L. 1839, p. 139; R.S. 1845, p. 404,405; L. 1861, p. 180; R.S. 1874, p. 757; L. 1917, p. 638,639; L. 1919, p. 698,699; L. 1935, p. 1057, 1058.

showing the average number of persons kept in the poorhouse each month during the year.¹ The compensation of the superintendent is fixed by the county board.²

All the records of the county home are kept in the office on the second floor of the Peoria County Home, R.R. #1, Peoria. For superintendent's reports to the county board, see entry 17.

381. RECORD OF INMATES (Active), 1918--. 1 f.d.

Card record of inmates, showing name, sex, age, color, occupation, birthplace, parentage, residence, education, and health habits of inmates, date of admission, cause of pauperism, and name of person authorizing admission. Arr. alph. by name of inmate. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. 5 x 6 x 12.

382. RECORD OF INMATES, 1918--. 4 bdl. (1918-29); 1 f.d. (1930--).

Card record of discharged or deceased inmates, showing name, sex, age, color, occupation, birthplace, parentage, residence, education, and health habits of inmate, admission and cause of pauperism, and dates of death or discharge. 1918-29, no obvious arr.; 1930--, arr. alph. by name of inmate. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. Bdl., 6 x 4 x 2; f.d., 5 x 6 x 12.

383. ALMSHOUSE REGISTER, 1848--. 3 v. Title varies: Paupers' Record, 1 v., 1848-72.

Register of inmates, showing name and address of inmate, personal and occupational statistics, authority for admission, supposed cause of pauperism, and dates of admission and discharge. Also contains Register of Patients, 1848-1903, entry 388. Arr. by date of admission. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 200 p. 16 x 14 x 2.

384. DAILY RECORD, 1931--. 8 v.

Register of attendance of county home inmates, showing names of inmate and township, number of days present and absent, and date of discharge. Arr. alph. by name of twp. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 300 p. 16 x 24 x 1.

385. TOWNSHIP IN ACCOUNT WITH PEORIA COUNTY HOME, 1931--. 1 v.

Ledger of county home's accounts with townships, showing name of township, name and number of inmate, length of residence at county home, rate per day, total amount due, and date of payment. Arr. alph. by name of twp. No index. Hdw. 200 p. 10 x 8 x 1.

1. R.S. 1874, p. 758.

2. L. 1917, p. 639; L. 1919, p. 698; L. 1935, p. 1056.

XXII. COUNTY HOSPITAL

Legislation for the relief of the poor was enacted by the first General Assembly,¹ however, not until 1829 was special provision made for care of sick persons.² This act made it the duty of the overseers of the poor to give such assistance as was necessary, to any nonresident or any other person not coming within the definition of a pauper who should fall sick or die in any county and was without money or property to pay for his board, nursing and medical aid.

Increased interest was shown in the care of the poor by further legislation³ carefully amended in following years⁴ and finally codified.⁵ This new act was again amended six times⁶ before any specific mention was made of a county hospital. However, in 1889, it had been made "lawful for any county or any city of this State to contribute such sums of money towards the support of any non-sectarian public hospital for the sick or infirm, located within its limits, as the county board of the county, or city council of the city, shall deem discreet and proper."⁷

In 1911 the powers of the county were extended to allow for the maintenance of a county hospital.⁸ The act empowered each county to provide for a building and to maintain a hospital to care for such sick persons as may, by law, be charges on the county. Later the authority was given to include any necessary branch hospital.⁹ Before this specific authority was granted there already existed county hospitals in some counties, but their legal status depended upon a liberal construction, by the courts, of the then existing poor laws.¹⁰ The compensation of the superintendent of the hospital is fixed by the county board.¹¹

In Peoria County, on April 22, 1897, a resolution was adopted by the county board to erect a county hospital and on December 18, the building was reported as complete.¹²

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1. L. 1819, p. 127.
 2. R.L. 1829, p. 113.
 3. R.L. 1833, p. 480.
 4. L. 1835, p. 66,67; L. 1838-9, p. 138-40.
 5. R.S. 1874, p. 751-54.
 6. L. 1875, p. 90; L. 1877, p. 143; L. 1889, p. 217; L. 1905, p. 343; L. 1909, p. 300.
 7. L. 1889, p. 167; L. 1913, p. 135.
 8. L. 1911, p. 246.
 9. L. 1923, p. 305.
 10. People ex rel. Witte v. Franklin, 352 Ill. 528.
 11. L. 1911, p. 246.
 12. Supervisors' Record, v. H, p. 519,369, see entry 2.

All the records of the hospital are kept in the office on the first floor of the Peoria County Hospital, R.R. #1, Peoria. For superintendent's reports to the county board, see entry 17.

386. RECORD OF PATIENTS, 1904--. 2 f.d.

Card record of patients admitted to county hospital, showing names of patient and admitting clerk, dates of admission, and discharge, previous hospitalization, personal and occupational statistics, diagnosis, and signature of physician. Arr. alph. by name of patient. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. 6 x 8 x 18.

387. RECORD OF PATIENTS (Deceased), 1904--. 1 f.d.

Card record of patients admitted to county hospital and now deceased, showing names of patients and admitting clerk, dates of admission and death, previous hospitalization, personal and occupational statistics, diagnosis, and signature of physician. Arr. alph. by name of patient. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. 6 x 8 x 18.

388. REGISTER OF PATIENTS, 1904--. 3 v. 1848-1903 in Almshouse Register, entry 383.

Register of patients in county hospital, showing dates of admittance and death or discharge, names of patient and township, and diagnosis. Arr. alph. by name of patient. No index. Hdw. 300 p. 16 x 12 x 1.

(Next entry 339, p. 346)

XXIII. COUNTY NURSE

The county board is empowered and authorized to employ nurses and to make appropriations for the compensation and necessary expenses of such nurses for such public health nursing duties as it deems necessary.¹ All nurses to be employed must be registered under the "Illinois Nursing Act" and must be certified by the Department of Registration and Education as qualified to perform the duties of public health nurses.²

The Department of Registration and Education conducts examinations to determine the fitness and qualifications of applicants for certificates, and establishes rules and regulations pertaining to educational requirements and standards of training. The Department has power to conduct hearings on proceedings, to revoke or refuse licenses, certificates or authorities of persons applying for registration or registered under this act.³ The review of any order of revocation by the Department may be taken to the circuit court and appeals from the circuit court may be taken to the Supreme Court.⁴

The Department of Registration and Education keeps a list of all nurses certified for employment as public health nurses for use by the county boards.⁵ The county nurse receives upon request the aid and advice of the Department of Public Health in regard to nursing and problems he or she may encounter and makes a written report, with the consent of the county board, to the Department of Public Health.⁶ In Peoria County the county nurse visits the schools as well as the children in their homes. On October 1, 1919⁷ a county nurse was appointed by the county board, although specific legislation creating this office was not enacted until 1931. Today, the Tuberculosis Sanitarium District Board appoints the county nurse which appointment is recognized by the auditor and county board.

For report of county nurse to superintendent of schools, see entry 358.

1. L. 1931, p. 732.

2. Ibid., L. 1937, p. 398.

3. Ibid., p. 999, 1000.

4. Ibid., p. 1001.

5. L. 1931, p. 732.

6. Ibid., p. 933.

7. Supervisors' Record, v. 9U, p. 171, see entry 2.

XXIV. TUBERCULOSIS SANITARIUM DISTRICT

The area within a county that excludes the corporate limits of a city or village which previously has built and maintained its own tuberculosis sanitarium,¹ may incorporate as a tuberculosis sanitarium district.² Any one hundred voters can petition the county judge, of the county wherein such a district is desired to be established, to cause the question of whether or not the district shall be organized as a tuberculosis sanitarium district to be submitted to the legal voters of the proposed district. The county judge, when the voters have indicated their desire for a sanitarium district, appoints three directors, one to serve a one-year term, one a two-year term, and one a three-year term. When any member of the board of directors ceases to be a legal voter in the district his office becomes vacant, and a successor is appointed for the remainder of the term.³ The affairs of such district are managed by the board of three directors. At least one of the members of the board is to be a licensed physician, and all are to be chosen with reference to their special fitness for such office.⁴ The appointments are to be made not less than sixty days or more than ninety days after such district has been organized. The directors immediately after appointment meet, organize, and elect one of their number as president and one as secretary.⁵ The county electorate of Peoria County voted on the adoption of the act of 1937 on April 12, 1938. The board of directors was appointed June 21, 1938.⁶ Prior to this latter date, the county board appropriated funds to the Peoria County Tuberculosis Association for the care of tubercular patients. The first appropriation was on December 12, 1919⁷ and the last report of an appropriation was in December 1937.⁸

The board of directors is the corporate authority of the tuberculosis sanitarium district⁹ and has power to pass and enforce all necessary ordinances, rules and regulations for the management of the property and conduct of the business of such district. The directors have power to raise money by general taxation for any purpose enumerated in the act and power to borrow money upon the faith and credit of such district and to issue bonds therefor,¹⁰ providing that the district is not indebted in the

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1. L. 1908, p. 43-46.
 2. L. 1937, p. 470.
 3. Ibid., p. 472.
 4. Ibid.
 5. Ibid.
 6. Report of the Peoria County Tuberculosis Sanitarium District, in County Clerk's Miscellaneous Files (June Session 1939), see entry 76.
 7. Supervisors' Record, v. 9, p. 174, see entry 2.
 8. Ibid., v. 14, p. 443.
 9. L. 1937, p. 472.
 10. Ibid., p. 475.

aggregate exceeding one percent of the assessed value of the taxable property in the district. All general taxes levied by the board are levied at the same time and in the same manner as taxes are levied for city or village purposes, provided that such taxes do not exceed the rate of one and one-half mills on each dollar of assessed value of the property of the district as ascertained by the last equalized assessment for state and county purposes. All money collected under the act is paid to the treasurer of such district.¹

The board has power to acquire lands and grounds, by gift, grant, devise, purchase, lease or condemnation, within the limits of such district and can occupy, lease, or erect an appropriate building or buildings for the use of the sanitarium and its auxiliary institutions and activities.² No building may be constructed however, until the detailed plans have been approved by the Department of Public Health.³

Every sanitarium so established is free for the benefit of all tubercular patients of the district. Such inhabitants are entitled to occupancy, nursing, care, medicine, and attendance, subject to the rules and regulations adopted by the board of directors. A person who violates these rules and regulations may be excluded from the use of the sanitarium. No person may be compelled to enter the sanitarium or any of its branches, dispensaries or other auxiliary institutions unless his consent in writing has first been obtained. In the case of a minor, or a person under a disability, the written consent must be secured from his parent or parents, guardian, or conservator.⁴ In the same manner, provision is made for home treatment under proper rules and regulations. The board may also extend the privileges and use of the sanitarium to tubercular residents of Illinois who live outside the district, upon such terms and conditions as the directors prescribe.⁵ Physicians, nurses, attendants, and all sick persons therein, and all persons approaching or coming within the limits or grounds, and all furniture and other articles used or brought there, are subject to such rules and regulations as the board of directors may prescribe.⁶ The board of directors serves without pay and the salaries of the other officers and employees are fixed by ordinance.⁷

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1. L. 1937, p. 475.
 2. Ibid., p. 472.
 3. Ibid.
 4. Ibid., p. 473.
 5. Ibid.
 6. Ibid., p. 474.
 7. Ibid., p. 472.

Tuberculosis Sanitarium:
District

Boards of directors in districts without public tuberculosis sanitarium facilities may use funds secured under the provisions of the act in providing sanitarium care of tuberculosis patients in private or public sanitariums or hospitals in the state.¹ Peoria County, since it does not own a sanitarium, sends its patients to Peoria Municipal Tuberculosis Sanitarium, Peoria, Illinois; Oak Knoll Sanitarium, Mocking, Illinois in Cass County; Ottawa Sanitarium, Ottawa, Illinois in LaSalle County; and St. John's Sanitarium, Springfield, Illinois in Sangamon County.²

The board of directors can receive devises or bequests of any moneys, personal property or real estate, from persons desiring to make donations and holds and controls such property upon acceptance as special trustees. The directors pay over to the treasurer of such district all moneys thus received and as often as once each month, take receipt of such treasurer therefor; and at each regular meeting of the county board report the names of all persons from whom donations have been received, plus the amounts and dates and nature of the property.³

1. L. 1937, p. 473.
2. Supervisors' Record (August 20, 1930), v. 9, see entry 2.
3. L. 1937, p. 473.

XXV. JUVENILE DETENTION HOME

The fact that juvenile delinquents constitute a class of criminals entitled to special consideration under the law has been recognized in Illinois from the early days of statehood. According to the revised criminal code of 1827, "infants" under ten years were not to be found guilty of any crime or misdemeanor, and no person under the age of fourteen could be held responsible for a criminal act unless he knew the difference between right and wrong.¹ Later, in 1833, the General Assembly abolished penitentiary sentences for offenders under eighteen except in cases of robbery, burglary, or arson. For all other crimes punishable by imprisonment, juvenile delinquents were to be confined in the county jail for a period not exceeding eighteen months.²

In 1867 the General Assembly provided for the establishment and maintenance of an institution "for the discipline, education, employment and reformation of juvenile offenders and vagrants between the ages of eight and eighteen years. . . ." ³ Under this act, courts of competent jurisdiction could exercise their discretion in sentencing juvenile offenders either to the county jail, in accordance with the existing law, or to the State Reform School, as the institution was called at that time. The act repealed those sections of the revised statutes of 1845 which permitted the courts to impose penitentiary sentences upon persons under eighteen convicted of burglary, arson, or robbery.⁴ In 1893 the General Assembly established the State Home for Juvenile Female Offenders.⁵ Prior to that year, the General Assembly had provided that delinquent girls under sixteen years of age could be sent to the reform school in Chicago if the guardians of that school were willing to receive them,⁶ and, two years later, that the

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1. R.L. 1827, p. 134.
 2. R.L. 1833, p. 209.
 3. L. 1867, p. 38. The act was amended in 1873 to apply only to boys between the ages of ten and sixteen years (L. 1873, p. 147); in 1891 the upper age limit was extended to twenty-one years (L. 1891, p. 54); and in 1915 the institution was set aside for youths between the ages of sixteen and twenty-six years (L. 1915, p. 560). By that time, the Illinois State Home for Delinquent Boys had been established for boys between the ages of ten and sixteen years (L. 1901, p. 68,69). It has subsequently been called the St. Charles School for Boys (L. 1905-6, p. 87).
 4. *Ibid.*, p. 42-44.
 5. L. 1893, p. 24. The name was changed in 1901 to the State Training School for Girls (L. 1901, p. 62).
 6. L. 1867, p. 42.

Juvenile Detention Home

trustees of the State Reform School might create a special department in the school for girls if such action seemed advisable.¹ The act of 1893 stated that whenever a girl between the ages of ten and sixteen² was convicted of any offense which, if committed by an adult, would be punishable by confinement in a house of correction or county jail, she might be committed to the state home or to the house of correction, or county jail at the discretion of the court.³

An act of 1899 vested original jurisdiction over dependent, neglected, and delinquent children in the county and circuit courts.⁴ The act prescribed regulations for the treatment, control, maintenance, adoption, and guardianship of such children;⁵ provided for the establishment, in counties having more than 500,000 inhabitants, of a branch of the regular circuit court to try juvenile cases in a separate court room;⁶ and authorized the appointment of juvenile probation officers to assist the courts in dealing with children coming under the provisions of the act.⁷

County detention homes for the temporary care and custody of dependent, delinquent, or truant children are of comparatively recent origin. Legislation authorizing the establishment of such homes was first enacted in 1907.⁸ The act provided that upon petition to the county judge by twenty-five percent of the legal voters voting at the preceding general election, the question of levying a tax for the establishment and maintenance of a juvenile detention home should be submitted to the county electorate at the next regular general election. If a majority of the voters favored adoption, the county board was authorized to levy such a tax.⁹ The county electorate of Polk County voted on November 5, 1912 for the levying of a tax to establish a detention home.¹⁰

The act states that the home shall be arranged, furnished, and conducted in a manner approximating conditions in a family home. During the period of their detention, the children are taught those subjects contained in the regular school curriculum for the first eight grades.¹¹

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1. L. 1869, p. 328.
 2. In 1901 the upper age limit was increased to eighteen (L. 1901, p. 62).
 3. L. 1893, p. 27.
 4. L. 1899, p. 132.
 5. Ibid., p. 131-37.
 6. Ibid., p. 132.
 7. Ibid., p. 133.
 8. L. 1907, p. 59-62.
 9. Ibid., p. 61, 62.
 10. Supervisors' Records, v. 6, p. 412, see entry 2.
 11. L. 1907, p. 60.

Management of the home is vested in a matron, or superintendent and matron, appointed by the county judge, to serve during his pleasure. Additional help may be employed if he deems it necessary. All appointments, however, are subject to the approval of the county board, and the amount of salary paid to each employee is also set by this body. The superintendent or matron is required to receive and detain temporarily all children committed to the home by the court until further order of the court and to keep a complete record of every child so detained. The superintendent also keeps a record of all expenditures made by the county for the care and maintenance of the home and makes an annual report to the county board of all expenses necessary to maintain the institution together with a list of the number of children detained there each month. A copy of this report is filed with the county clerk.¹

For county record of detention home cases, see entry 159.

All the records of the superintendent of the juvenile detention home are kept in first floor office of the building, 501 E. Gift Street, Peoria.

389. RECORD OF INMATES, 1911--. 10 f.d.

Card record of inmates in detention home, showing name, address, age, and sex of inmate, name of admitting clerk, and dates of admittance and discharge. Arr. alph. by name of inmate. No index. Hdw. on pr. fm. 4 x 5 x 14.

390. RECORD OF INMATES RECEIVED AND DISCHARGED, 1911--. 5 v.

Record of monthly report of superintendent of detention home to board of supervisors, showing date of report, names and number of children entered and discharged, and itemized lists of expenditures for food, clothing, and supplies. Arr. by date of report. No index. Hdw. under pr. hdgs. 250 p. 14 x 8 x 2.

1. L. 1907, p. 60, 61.

XXVI. VETERANS RELIEF COMMISSION

Relief of indigent and suffering soldiers, sailors, and marines in this state has been handled through veterans' posts as well as by the overseer of the poor. An act of 1895 charged the latter with providing the necessary money for assistance to indigent veterans or their families, the money to be drawn upon by the commander and quartermaster of a post of the Grand Army of the Republic.¹ This act was repealed in 1907 by an act which was essentially the same.² New veterans' units were included in this and subsequent acts as they came into existence.³

An amendment of 1909⁴ provided that in counties of 250,000 or more inhabitants there should be organized a "Commanders Association" to be composed of the active commanders of the different posts, and to exercise the powers of the posts in granting relief. They were to have general oversight of the distribution of all supplies appropriated by the county for the benefit of indigent veterans of the civil and other wars, and to formulate such rules and regulations among themselves and with the county authorities as would enable them to carry out the law. A superintendent and secretary, elected by the association, were to exercise the executive powers of the association, and to maintain an office in the county building, to be provided, furnished, and equipped by the county. The superintendent was to hear and investigate claims for relief and report to the county authorities, his decision being final. Provision was also made for the appropriation by the county of additional sums for compensation of the superintendent and secretary.

The veterans relief commission was first provided for in 1933 by an amendment which allowed its organization in all counties of 75,000 or more inhabitants or where two or more veterans' posts existed.⁵ The commission was to be composed of the retiring commanders of the different veterans' posts, who were to be members for a period not to exceed one year. Provisions for a superintendent, his election, powers and duties, and salary were similar to those for superintendent of the Commanders Association in the 1909 act.

The latest amendment to the 1907 act provides that the commission shall be composed of one delegate and one alternate from each of the different veterans' posts, camps, and chapters, to be selected annually.⁶

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1. L. 1895, p. 83.
 2. L. 1907, p. 79.
 3. Ibid.; L. 1923, p. 175; L. 1927, p. 204; L. 1933, p. 211; L. 1935, p. 266.
 4. L. 1909, p. 124.
 5. L. 1933, p. 211.
 6. L. 1935, p. 266.

In addition to provisions similar to those in the 1933 act, the 1935 law states that the veterans commission and the chairman of the county board shall have general direction of the distribution of money and supplies appropriated by the county for the benefit of indigent veterans and their families, and that warrants for the payment of money for such purpose shall be issued only upon the presentation of an itemized statement or claim, approved by the superintendent of the commission and the chairman of the county board. A further addition in the latest amendment is the provision that if any overseer of the poor or any county board shall fail or refuse to provide relief as recommended by the relief committee of any veterans' post then the commander and quartermaster of the post, or the superintendent of the veterans relief commission may apply to the circuit court for mandamus requiring him or it to pay relief.

The compensation of the superintendent and secretary of the veterans relief commission is fixed by the county board within limits set by statute. It shall not exceed \$1,200 a year for the superintendent and \$900 a year for the secretary.¹

391. VETERANS RELIEF COMMISSIONER'S FILE, 1924--. 3 f.d.
Documents of commissioner's proceedings, including copies of applications for compensation, dependency, hospitalization, insurance, burial allowance, guardianship, loans on insurance, bonus, and bonds, duplicate discharges of veterans, and correspondence to and from the commissioner. Arr. alph. by name of veteran. No index. Typed on pr. fm., typed, and hdw. 12 x 12 x 24. Commissioner's off., 1st fl., 404 North Monroe Street, Peoria.

1. L. 1927, p. 208, 209.

XXVII. MINE INSPECTOR

Legislation in regard to health and safety in the mining industry originally made the county surveyor inspector of mines ex officio.¹ As such inspector he was to be assisted by a practical miner, to act under oath, and to receive a salary fixed by the county board and paid out of the county treasury. His duties were to see that safety measures were observed in the mines and to collect facts relative to coal mining and mining land. The inspector reported to the Governor annually on the condition of mines in regard to safety and ventilation and the result of examination of causes of accidents.

In 1877 the legislature authorized the county board, in each county in which mining is carried on, to appoint an inspector of mines.² This county inspector, who had to give evidence of practical mining experience, was required to take an oath of office, and to furnish a bond to the county board in an amount fixed by the latter body. The amount of the bond was fixed in 1879 at not less than \$1,000 nor more than \$3,000.³ Where a competent inspector was not appointed, or where the inspector did not properly perform his duties, then the circuit judge, at the request of ten citizens of the county, and upon proper proof of incompetency, was empowered to remove the inspector and appoint a properly qualified person to act during the unexpired term.⁴

The State Mining Board was created in 1899, and the state divided into seven inspection districts, with a state inspector of mines in each.⁵ The county also was fitted into this new organization with the requirement that the county board appoint a county inspector of mines upon the written request of the state inspector for the district in which the particular county was located.⁶ The intention of the legislature to maintain centralization of mine inspection was indicated by this statute which made the county inspector an assistant to the state inspector. In accordance with this act, a county mine inspector was appointed in Peoria County on September 16, 1899.⁷ The compensation of the mine inspector is fixed by the county board at not less than \$5 per day and is paid out of the county treasury.⁸

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1. L. 1871-72, p. 572.
 2. L. 1877, p. 141, 142.
 3. L. 1879, p. 208.
 4. Ibid., p. 209.
 5. L. 1899, p. 306, 308.
 6. Ibid., p. 314, 315.
 7. Supervisors' Record, v. 4, p. 464, see entry 2.
 8. L. 1939, p. 727.

Provision was made in 1915 for petition by the State Inspector to the county court upon failure of the county board to appoint a suitable county mine inspector.¹ If necessary, the court will appoint an inspector, and order the county board to appropriate money for his compensation. This provision was recently reenacted.²

For county mine inspector's quarterly reports to the county board, see entry 13.

1. L. 1915, p. 509,510.
2. L. 1939, p. 727,728.

XXV III. FARM BUREAU

Peoria County Farm Bureau was organized in 1912 to promote and foster the social and economic interest of persons engaged in agriculture, and to encourage, promote, and foster cooperative organizations for the mutual benefit of its members. The membership of this bureau is made up of farmers of the county. A farm advisor is employed who cooperates with the University of Illinois College of Agriculture in its program of extension education and farm studies, and works with farm leaders in establishing such organizations as 4-H clubs and Dairy Herd Improvement Associations.

In 1914, Congress inaugurated a program of agricultural extension education by providing for cooperation between the agricultural colleges in the several states and the United States Department of Agriculture.¹ The purpose of the act was to aid in diffusing useful and practical information on subjects relating to agriculture and home economics, and to encourage the application of the same. An appropriation was made to each state to carry out the act, subject to the assent by the state legislature to the provisions of the act, and provided that the state appropriate a sum equal to that given by the Federal Government.² The General Assembly assented to this act by a joint resolution which authorized and empowered the trustees of the University of Illinois to receive the grants of money appropriated under the act, and to organize and conduct agricultural extension work in connection with the College of Agriculture of the University.³

The General Assembly appropriated money in 1917 for the payment of county agricultural advisors.⁴ The money was appropriated to the Department of Agriculture to be distributed equally among the several county agricultural advisors of the state to apply upon their salaries. The vouchers approved by the Department of Agriculture for payment were to be accompanied by the certificate of the agricultural college of the University of Illinois that the requirements of the act relative to the employment of county advisors had been substantially applied. In 1928, to further develop the cooperative extension system in agriculture and home economics, Congress appropriated additional sums of money, eighty percent of which was to be utilized for the payment of salaries of extension agents in counties of the several states.⁵ The state's portion of the farm advisor's salary shall not exceed \$100 per month.⁶

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1. 38 U.S. Stat. 372.
 2. *Ibid.*, p. 373.
 3. L. 1915, Joint Resolutions, p. 732.
 4. L. 1917, p. 85.
 5. 45 U.S. Stat. 711.
 6. L. 1939, p. 154.

XXIX. HOME BUREAU

Peoria County Home Bureau was organized in 1928 to carry on adult education on all home economics subjects. The home economics club may participate in the appropriation for the fund known as the "Agricultural Premium Fund," providing that such club conducts at least one show or exhibition of home economics project work and promptly pays in cash the premiums awarded. A home advisor is employed who cooperates with the University of Illinois College of Agriculture, the State Department of Agriculture, and the United States Department of Agriculture in their program of extension education and home economics studies.¹

In 1915 the General Assembly adopted a joint resolution accepting the provisions and requirements of an Act of Congress,² passed the previous year; which act provided for cooperative extension work between the agricultural colleges in the several states receiving the benefits of appropriations under the Federal statute.³ This resolution granted the trustees of the University of Illinois permission to accept the grants of money, made available under the statute, to aid in providing helpful instruction on subjects relating to home economics and agriculture, and in payment of the salaries of extension agents.⁴

The General Assembly appropriated money in 1917 to the Department of Agriculture for the payment of county agricultural advisors.⁵ In order to further the cooperative extension system between the agricultural and home economics work, this appropriation was to be distributed equally among the several county agricultural advisors. The vouchers were to be accompanied by the certificate of the agricultural college of the University of Illinois, that the requirements of the Federal act had been met. In 1928, Congress appropriated additional sums of money, eighty percent of which was to be utilized for the payment of salaries of extension agents in counties of the several states.⁶ The state's portion of the home advisor's salary shall not exceed \$100 per month.⁷

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1. L. 1929, p. 762; L. 1931, p. 889; L. 1933, p. 1085; L. 1935, p. 1414; L. 1937, p. 1162.
 2. L. 1915, Joint Resolution, p. 732.
 3. 38 U. S. Stat. 372.
 4. L. 1915, Joint Resolution, p. 732.
 5. L. 1917, p. 85.
 6. 45 U. S. Stat. 711.
 7. L. 1939, p. 155.

ROSTER OF COUNTY OFFICERS*

(Date after name of officer refers to date
of commission, unless otherwise stated)

County Commissioners' Court**

(The first county administrative body, from 1825 to 1849,
which consisted of three elected commissioners)

William Holland, Joseph Smith,
Nathan Dillon,
March 8, 1825¹
Nathan Dillon, William Holland,
John Hamlin,
September 5, 1826²

George Sharp, Henry Thomas,
June 4, 1827³
George Sharp, Isaac Egnan,
September 2, 1828⁴
Francis Thomas,
December 1, 1828⁵

* This list was compiled from the following sources:

- A. Secretary of State. Index Department, Election Returns.
Returns from County Clerk to Secretary of State. 1809-47, 78 volumes (1-78), third tier, bay 1; 1848-- , 53 file drawers (2-54), third tier, bay 2, State Archives Building, Springfield.
- B. Secretary of State. Executive Department.
Certificates of Qualifications. 1819-- , 22 file drawers (1-22), fourth tier, bay 5, State Archives Building, Springfield.
- C. (1) Secretary of State. Executive Department Official Records.
List of Commissions Issued to County Officers. 1809-1918, 5 volumes, fourth tier, bay 6, State Archives Building, Springfield.
(2) Secretary of State. Executive Department Official Records.
List of Commissions Issued to County Officers. 1869-- , 4 volumes, room 208, second floor, Secretary of State's Office, Executive Department, State Capitol Building, Springfield.

Where state records are incomplete or missing, data are secured from county records; secondary sources are used only when state and county records are deficient or not available.

** Dates shown after commissioners' names indicate date of election, unless otherwise stated. By a law passed in 1837, the three commissioners elected in 1838 were to draw lots marked one, two, and three years to determine length of term. Thereafter, until 1849, one commissioner was to be regularly elected each year to serve a three-year term. See County Board, p. 199, and separate office chapters for length of terms of officers.

1. Qualified as commissioners at meeting this date (County Commissioners' Court Record, v. A, p. 1, in Supervisors' Record, see entry 2).
2. Produced their several certificates of election and took oaths (ibid., p. 56).
3. Sworn as commissioners (ibid., p. 81).
4. Sworn as commissioners (ibid., p. 109).
5. Sworn as commissioner by virtue of election in preceding August (ibid., p. 114).

County Commissioners' Court (cont.)

George Sharp, John Hamlin, H. Stephen French, September 6, 1830 ¹	Clark D. Powell, August 5, 1839
Resolved Cleveland, April 4, 1831 ²	William Hale, January 10, 1840 ¹¹
John Coyle, December 5, 1831 ³	Nathaniel Chapin, September 7, 1840 ¹²
Aquilla Wren, March 5, 1832 ⁴	Smith Frye, August 2, 1841
Aquilla Wren, John Coyle, Edwin S. Jones, September 3, 1832 ⁵	Thomas P. Smith, August 1, 1842
John Coyle, Crin Hamlin, Andrew Thorp, September 1834 ⁶	Clementious Ewalt, September 1842 ¹³
Aquilla Wren, Samuel T. McKean, September 5, 1836 ⁷	William Dawson, August 7, 1843
William J. Phelps, October 28, 1836 ⁸	Clementious Ewalt, August 5, 1844
Clark D. Powell, Smith Frye, September 3, 1838 ⁹	Thomas P. Smith, August 4, 1845
Moses Harlan, December 3, 1838 ¹⁰	Thomas Mooney, September 7, 1846 ¹⁴

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1. Took oaths as commissioners (County Commissioners' Court Record, v. A, p. 166, in Supervisors' Record, see entry 2).
 2. Took oath as commissioner vice Sharp, deceased (ibid., p. 188).
 3. Produced certificate of election as commissioner vice Hamlin, and took oath (ibid., p. 210).
 4. Produced certificate of election as commissioner and took oath (ibid., p. 216).
 5. Took oaths as commissioners (ibid., v. B, p. 5).
 6. Took oaths as commissioners (ibid., p. 142).
 7. Took oaths as commissioners (ibid., v. C, p. 112).
 8. Took oath as commissioner (ibid., p. 126).
 9. Took oaths as commissioners. Powell drew the one-year and Frye drew the three-year ticket, leaving the two-year ticket for Moses Harlan, the other commissioner, who was not present (ibid., p. 267).
 10. Took oath as commissioner (ibid., p. 279).
 11. Presented certificate of election and took oath as commissioner, vice Harlan, resigned (ibid., v. D, p. 25).
 12. Presented certificate of election and took oath (ibid., p. 81).
 13. Recorded taking seat as commissioner vice Frye, resigned (ibid., p. 310).
 14. Recorded as newly elected commissioner (ibid., v. E, p. 316).

Roster of County Officers

County Commissioners' Court (cont.)

James L. Riggs,
August 2, 1847

Joseph Ladd,
August --, 1848

County Court

(From December 3, 1849, until institution of township organization April 8, 1850, county business was administered by the county judge and two associate justices acting as the county board)

Thomas Bryant, county judge,
November 17, 1849,

Joseph Ladd, John McFarland,
associate justices,
December 3, 1849¹

County Board of Supervisors

The several township supervisors, one elected from each township, together with any additional and assistant supervisors elected upon proportional representation, make up the membership of the county board of supervisors. These supervisors, severally, are township officials and only as a group constitute the county board, therefore, they are not commissioned by the state as county officers and no data concerning them, from which a list could be compiled, are kept by the state. For the same reason, county board records, too, are inadequate for the compilation of a complete and accurate list of supervisors. Due to these and other limitations, only those members mentioned in county board records in connection with the first recorded meeting of the first board of supervisors are included in this roster.

At the election held November 6, 1849, Peoria County adopted township organization by a vote of 2,147 to 19,² and on December 5, 1849, David Sanburn, George Holmes, and Mark W. Aiken were appointed commissioners to divide the county into towns.³

The first annual meeting of the first board of supervisors was held at the courthouse in Peoria beginning April 8, 1850. Supervisors present and the township each represented were as follows:⁴

Supervisors

Townships

Stephen C. Wheeler
John Combs
Samuel Dimon
Josiah Fulton

Hollis
Rosefield
Orange (Kickapoo)
Richwoods

1. County Commissioners' Court Record, v. F, p. 259, in Supervisors' Record, see entry 2.
2. Ibid., p. 268.
3. Ibid.
4. Supervisors' Record, v. A, p. 1,4,6, see entry 2.

County Board of Supervisors (cont.)

Supervisors	Townships
Charles S. Strother	Chillicothe
Jonathon Brassfield	Benton (Freemont) (Radnor)
Benjamin Slane	Akron
Isaac Brown	Limestone
L. E. Cromwell	Princeville
William W. Church	Jubilee
Clark W. Stanton	Millbrook
David R. Gregory	Trivoli
Walter S. Evans	Hallock
John Jacobs	Franklin (Medina)
Justice (Justus) Gibbs	Elmwood
Thomas P. Smith	Logan
William Hale	Peoria
William L. Scott	Timber
Samuel Pulsipher	Brinfield

Samuel Dimon was elected chairman for the ensuing year.

County Judges

Thomas Bryant,	Robert H. Lovett,
November 17, 1849	November 16, 1894
November 15, 1853	November 19, 1898
Wellington Loncks,	Wilbert I. Slemmons,
November 12, 1857	November 18, 1902
Joan C. Falliott,	November 20, 1906
June 12, 1861	Clyde E. Stone,
November 15, 1861	November 18, 1910
John C. Yates,	November 16, 1914
December 4, 1865	Chester F. Barrett,
November 12, 1869	June 11, 1915
November 25, 1873	Robert H. Lovett,
December 1, 1877	November 19, 1918
Lawrence W. James,	Glen J. Cameron,
December 1, 1882	November 25, 1922
December 6, 1886	November 19, 1926
Israel C. Finckney,	Francis C. Vonachen,
April 26, 1890	November 18, 1930
Samuel D. Wend,	November 23, 1934
November 26, 1890	January --, 1941 ¹

1. Illinois Department of Secretary of State, Official List of State and County Officers, January, 1941, p. 39, hereinafter cited as Official List of County Officers, January, 1941.

Roster of County Officers

Judges of Probate, Probate Justices
of the Peace, and Probate Judges

(In 1837 the judge of probate was succeeded by the probate justice
of the peace until 1849 when the county judge became judge, ex
officio, of the probate court to 1890 when a separate office
of probate judge was established)

Norman Hyde, January 18, 1825 ¹	Mark M. Bassett, November 19, 1898
Peter Menard, October 23, 1832	November 22, 1902
Andrew M. Hunt, November 10, 1832	Leander O. Eagleton, November 20, 1906
January 9, 1833	Arthur M. Otman, November 21, 1910
George B. Parker, September 11, 1837	Walter A. Clinch, October 24, 1913
Edward Dickenson, September 29, 1839	November 16, 1914
William H. Feffsenden, September 2, 1843	Glen C. Cameron, November 14, 1918
Thomas Bryant, August 18, 1847	Walter A. Clinch, November 23, 1922
Leslie Puterbaugh, November 26, 1890	Henry J. Ingram, November 18, 1926
November 19, 1894	Charles G. Cisna, November 10, 1930
	November 21, 1931
	November 27, 1934
	January --, 1941 ²

County Clerks

(Clerks of the county commissioners' court, county
court, and county board of supervisors)

Norman Hyde, March 8, 1825 ³	Stephen Stillman, May 1, 1830 ⁵
John Dixon, June 8, 1825 ⁴	Isaac Waters, June 6, 1831 ⁶
	September 4, 1833 ⁷

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1. Died in office 1832 (Col. James M. Rice, History of Peoria County, I, 118).
 2. Official List of County Officers, January, 1941, p. 39.
 3. Appointed (County Commissioners' Court Record, v. A, p. 1, in Supervisors' Record, see entry 2).
 4. Appointed vice Hyde, resigned (ibid., p. 10).
 5. Appointed vice Dixon, resigned (ibid., p. 155).
 6. Appointed vice Stillman, resigned (ibid., p. 192).
 7. Filed bond as clerk (ibid., v. B, p. 85). Removed from office April 29, 1835, on account of age, infirmities, etc. (ibid., p. 217).

County Clerks (cont.)

William Mitchell,	Charles A. Rudel,
April 30, 1835 ¹	November 19, 1894
June 1, 1835 ²	November 19, 1898
August ---, 1837	John A. West,
August 5, 1839	June 21, 1920
August 7, 1843	Lucas Butts,
August 2, 1847	November 30, 1900
Ralph Hamlin,	November 28, 1902
October 15, 1849 ³	Oscar Heinrich,
Charles Kettelle,	November 20, 1906
November 24, 1849	November 22, 1910
November 15, 1853	November 16, 1914
November 12, 1857	Louis J. Gause,
November 15, 1861	November 14, 1918
John D. McClure,	November 22, 1922
November 30, 1865	November 17, 1926
November 12, 1869	Joseph G. Kellerstrass,
November 28, 1873	July 17, 1930
December 1, 1877	Leonard T. Sours,
James E. Pillsbury,	November 25, 1930
December 1, 1882	December 1, 1934 ⁴
December 6, 1886	January ---, 1941 ⁴
James E. Walsh,	
November 26, 1890	

Probate Clerks

(County court clerk served, ex officio, as probate clerk from 1849 to establishment of separate office of probate clerk in 1890)

George M. Gibbons,	John J. Simmons,
November 26, 1890	November 3, 1914 (elected)
Fitch C. Cook,	November 5, 1918
November 22, 1894	November 17, 1922
Charles A. Roberts,	November 13, 1926
November 19, 1898	November 25, 1930
November 22, 1902	John H. DeWein,
November 22, 1906	November 22, 1934
November 19, 1910	Leslie E. Stone,
	January ---, 1941 ⁵

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1. Appointed clerk pro tem, vice Waters removed (County Commissioners' Court Record, v. B, p. 219, in Supervisors' Record, see entry 2).
 2. Appointed clerk (ibid., p. 223).
 3. Appointed vice Mitchell, deceased (ibid., v. E, p. 240).
 4. Official List of County Officers, January, 1941, p. 39.
 5. Ibid.

Roster of County Officers

Recorders

(In 1849 the circuit clerk became recorder,
ex officio, until 1892)

John Dixon, January 19, 1825	John Johnson, November 26, 1892
Norman Hyde, February 1, 1831	December 7, 1896
Peter Menard, October 23, 1832	November 30, 1900
William M. Stewart, November 10, 1832	Harry G. Wasson, December 2, 1904
December 24, 1832	November 25, 1908
Charles Kettelle, August 12, 1835	John J. Gallagher, November 25, 1912
August 17, 1839	August C. Giebe, November 21, 1916
August 15, 1843	November 16, 1920
August 7, 1847	November 20, 1924
	November 21, 1928
	November 28, 1932
	Eugene S. Adams, December 1, 1936
	January --, 1941 ¹

Circuit Court Clerks

(Prior to 1848, circuit clerks were appointed by circuit judges)

Jacob Gale, September 4, 1848 (elected)	James E. Pillsbury, November 26, 1892
November 20, 1852	Thaddeus S. Simpson, December 7, 1896
Enoch P. Sloan, November 14, 1856	November 30, 1900
November 15, 1860	December 2, 1904
Thomas Mooney, Jr., November 19, 1864	Richard A. Kellogg, November 16, 1908
George A. Wilson, November 20, 1868	George F. Thode, November 20, 1912
November 29, 1872	November 20, 1916
John A. West, November 24, 1876	George Sturch, November 16, 1920
James E. Walsh, December 1, 1880	November 19, 1924
November 27, 1884	November 21, 1928
Francis Grant Minor December 3, 1888	November 23, 1932
	William G. Lycns, December 1, 1936
	January --, 1941 ²

1. Official List of County Officers, January, 1941, p. 39.

2. Ibid.

Sheriffs

(Collectors, ex officio, to 1839 and from 1844 to 1850)

Samuel Fulton,	Frank Hitchcock,
March 22, 1825	November 14, 1866
September 1, 1825	Samuel L. Gill,
August 7, 1826	November 20, 1868
Arin Hamlin,	Frank Hitchcock,
September 11, 1828	December 2, 1870
Henry B. Stillman,	November 27, 1872
September 7, 1830	November 25, 1874
John W. Caldwell,	November 24, 1876
September 5, 1832	December 2, 1878
William Compher,	Samuel L. Gill,
August 16, 1834	December 1, 1880
Thomas Bryant,	Cyrus L. Berry,
September 29, 1835	December 1, 1882
November 23, 1836	Warren Noel,
August 11, 1838 (elected)	December 6, 1886
January 14, 1839	Cyrus L. Berry,
Christopher Arr,	November 26, 1890
May 15, 1840	Charles E. Johnston,
August 15, 1840	November 21, 1894
Smith Frye,	John W. Kimsey,
August 6, 1842	November 19, 1898
August 9, 1844	Daniel E. Potter,
William Compher,	November 25, 1902
August 27, 1846	Lewis M. Hines,
September 6, 1848	November 22, 1906
James L. Riggs,	Francis Grant Minor,
November 13, 1850	November 23, 1910
Leonard Cornwell,	Lucas Butts,
November 20, 1852	November 23, 1914
David D. Irons,	Lewis M. Hines,
November 14, 1854	November 18, 1918
Francis W. Smith,	Albert Randall,
November 12, 1856	November 22, 1922
John Bryner,	F. Grant Minor,
November 9, 1858	November 18, 1926
James Stewart,	Frank W. Lichtwiess,
November 15, 1860	November 19, 1930
Charles Feinse,	William H. Myers,
November 5, 1861 (elected)	March 17, 1934
J. J. Murry,	Marcus G. Olson,
November 14, 1862	November 27, 1934
George C. McFadden,	August E. Stonebock,
November 19, 1864	January --, 1941 ¹

Roster of County Officers

Coroners

William E. Philips, March 22, 1825	Thomas H. Autcliff, November 14, 1862
Henry Neely, September 1, 1825	November 19, 1864
August 7, 1826	William B. Goodwin, April 17, 1865
Resolved Cleveland, September 11, 1828	John Ernst, November 17, 1866
August 21, 1830	Philip Eichporn, November 20, 1868
William A. Stewart, September 5, 1832	Willis (William) B. Goodwin, December 2, 1870
Jacob Eamenor, September 3, 1834	November 27, 1872
Ruben B. Hamlin, April 20, 1835	November 25, 1874
John W. Caldwell, August 29, 1836	Michael N. Powell, November 24, 1876
Edward P. Nowland, February 25, 1837	December 2, 1878
Jesse Niles, September 1, 1838	December 1, 1880
August 5, 1839	John Thompson, December 1, 1882
James Mossman, May 5, 1840	James Bennett, December 1, 1884
August 7, 1840	December 3, 1888
Chester Hamlin, August 6, 1842	Henry E. Hoefler, November 26, 1892
Jeremiah Williams, August 9, 1844	Samuel A. Harper, December 7, 1896
August 27, 1846	November 22, 1898
John C. Heyle, August 23, 1848	November 6, 1900 (elected)
Charles Kemble, November 20, 1850	A. Leslie Baker, December 3, 1904
Ephraim Hinman, November 20, 1852	Wm. B. Elliott, November 18, 1908
December 20, 1854	Elmer M. Eckard, November 19, 1912
Milton McCormick, November 12, 1856	William B. Elliott, November 23, 1916
John A. Niglass, November 9, 1858	November 18, 1920
December 28, 1860	November 15, 1924
	December 4, 1928
	December 1, 1932
	Harold F. Diller, November 27, 1936
	January --, 1941 ¹

State's Attorneys

(Appointed by the General Assembly to 1849; elected by circuit district electorate to 1872)

William Kellogg,	November 29, 1872	Robert Scholes,	December 2, 1904
	November 25, 1876		November 27, 1908
Alva Loucks,	November 23, 1880	C. E. McNemar,	November 25, 1912
John M. Wisnaus,	October 12, 1883		November 21, 1916
	November 27, 1884	Ernest J. Galbraith,	November 19, 1920
	December 3, 1888	Henry E. Pratt,	November 20, 1924
Richard J. Covney,	November 26, 1892		November 21, 1928
John Dailey,	December 7, 1896	Edwin V. Champion,	November 28, 1932
William V. Tefft,	November 30, 1900	John E. Dougherty,	November 19, 1936
		Lester F. Carsor,	January --, 1941 ¹

Treasurers

(Assessors, ex officio, 1827 to 1839 and from 1844 to 1850; supervisors of assessments, ex officio, 1898 to date; collectors, ex officio, 1850 to date)

Aaron Hawley,	March 8, 1825 ²	William A. Burkett,	March 4, 1828 ⁴
George Sharp,	April 7, 1827 ³	Norman Hyde,	April 8, 1828 ⁵

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1. Official List of County Officers, January, 1941, p. 39.
 2. Appointed (County Commissioners' Court Record, v. A, p. 1, in Supervisors' Record, see entry 2). According to a law approved January 17, 1825, the office of treasurer was abolished and the sheriff was to act as treasurer ex officio (L. 1825, p. 178). The office was restored in 1827. County board records from 1825 to 1827 do not make clear that Hawley served as treasurer.
 3. "Ordered that the clerk be authorized to receive of George Sharp as treasurer a bond for two thousand dollars" (ibid., p. 79). On March 16, 1827, the record reads: "Be it ordered that if in case the law shall require the appointment of a county treasurer before June term next that George Sharp be an he is appointed to said office. . . ." (ibid., p. 76).
 4. Appointed (ibid., p. 104).
 5. Appointed vice Burkett who failed to qualify (ibid., p. 106).

Roster of County Officers

Treasurers (cont.)

John Hamlin, September	2, 1828 ¹	Rudolph Rouse, September	--, 1837 ¹²
Simon Crozier, December	2, 1828 ²	Ralph Hamlin, May	16, 1838 ¹³
John Hamlin, March	2, 1829 ³	September	17, 1838 ¹⁴
Isaac Waters, March	2, 1830 ⁴	Joseph C. Fuller, September	14, 1839 ¹⁵
April	4, 1831 ⁵	September	28, 1839 ¹⁶
Asahel Hale, March	8, 1832 ⁶	Amos Stevens, June	9, 1841 ¹⁷
March	8, 1833 ⁷	Charles Kettelle, August	2, 1841
March	8, 1834 ⁸	William M. Dodge, August	7, 1843 ¹⁸
March	-, 1835 ⁹		
March	-, 1836 ¹⁰		
March	-, 1837 ¹¹		

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1. Appointed (County Commissioners' Court Record, v. A, p. 123, in Supervisors' Record, see entry 2).
 2. Recorded as "late treasurer" (ibid., p. 117). No record of his appointment.
 3. Appointed (ibid., p. 123).
 4. Appointed (ibid., p. 151).
 5. Appointed (ibid., p. 190).
 6. Appointed for ensuing year (ibid., p. 225).
 7. Reappointed for ensuing year (ibid., v. B, p. 61).
 8. Reappointed (ibid., p. 112).
 9. Reappointed (ibid., p. 201).
 10. Reappointed (ibid., v. C, p. 79).
 11. Reappointed (ibid., p. 161).
 12. Produced certificate of election and filed bond (ibid., p. 199).
 13. Appointed to hold office until next August election vice Rouse, resigned (ibid., p. 249).
 14. Recorded as treasurer (ibid., p. 278).
 15. Presented certificate of election as treasurer; commissioners refused to acknowledge him as treasurer on account of holding office as post-master in Peoria (ibid., v. D, p. 1).
 16. Again presented certificate of election and bond; bond approved; took office as treasurer (ibid., p. 2).
 17. Appointed treasurer pro tem, vice Fuller, removed from county (ibid., p. 181).
 18. Served until election of his successor in 1847.

Treasurers (cont.)

Ralph Hamlin,		Charles Jager,	
September	10, 1847 ¹	March	13, 1890
December	8, 1849 ²	November	26, 1890
John A. McCoy,		Adolph H. Barnewalt,	
November	4, 1851	November	24, 1894
November	8, 1853 (elected)	Jacob F. Knapp,	
Joseph Ladd,		November	19, 1898
November	14, 1855 ³	Fredrick Olander,	
November	12, 1857	November	26, 1902
Isaac Brown,		William P. Gauss,	
November	16, 1859	November	22, 1906
November	5, 1861 (elected)	Lewis M. Hines	
November	25, 1863	November	26, 1910
Allen L. Falmestock,		Louis J. Gauss,	
November	7, 1865	November	16, 1914
Thomas A. Shaver,		A. B. McGill,	
November	5, 1867 (elected)	November	18, 1918
Edwin Silliman,		Charles W. Cushing,	
November	13, 1869	November	23, 1922
Isaac Taylor,		John W. Trager,	
March	1, 1872	November	23, 1926
November	28, 1873	John H. DeWein,	
November	25, 1875	November	25, 1930
December	1, 1877	Chester Irwin Arends,	
December	1, 1879	November	30, 1934
Fred D. Weinett,		Elsie B. Arends,	
December	1, 1882	April	25, 1938
Henry H. Forsyth,		Fred Thoms, Jr.,	
December	6, 1886	December	7, 1936
		Elsie B. Arends,	
		January	--, 1941 ⁴

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1. "Bond of Ralph Hamlin, elected treasurer at August election, filed and approved" (County Commissioners' Court Record, v. F, p. 45, in Supervisors' Record, see entry 2).
 2. "Bond by Ralph Hamlin, recorded as having been elected treasurer November 6, 1849, filed and approved" (ibid., p. 272).
 3. Bond of Joseph Ladd, treasurer-elect, filed and approved (Supervisors' Record, v. A, p. 318, see entry 2).
 4. Official List of County Officers, January, 1941, p. 39.

Roster of County Officers

Auditors

James E. Pillsbury,
November 5, 1912 (elected)
Harry R. Scranton,
November 7, 1916 (elected)
November 2, 1920 "
November 4, 1924 "
November 6, 1928 "
December 1, 1932 "

James D. Carrigan,
November 21, 1936
January --, 1941¹

Superintendents of Schools
(School commissioners to 1865)

Jerial Root,
September 5, 1831²
Andrew M. Hunt,
December --, 1833³
December --, 1835⁴
Charles Kettelle,
June --, 1837⁵
September 2, 1839⁶
August 2, 1841 (elected)
September 7, 1843⁷

Ezra D. Sanger,
August 4, 1845 (elected)
Charles Kettelle,
March 2, 1847⁸
August 2, 1847 (elected)⁹
Charles B. Stebbins,
August --, 1848 (elected)
December 5, 1849¹⁰
Ephraim Hinman,
November 4, 1851 (elected)
November 15, 1853

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1. Official List of County Officers, January, 1941, p. 39.
 2. Appointed "Commissioner or agent for the disposal of school lands in Peoria County" (County Commissioners' Court Record, v. A, p. 204, in Supervisors' Record, see entry 2).
 3. Appointed commissioner for school lands (ibid., v. B, p. 97).
 4. Filed bond as school commissioner (ibid., v. C, p. 50).
 5. Appointed school commissioner vice Hunt, resigned (ibid., p. 185).
 6. Filed renewal bond as school commissioner (ibid., p. 375).
 7. Bond of Charles Kettelle, elected school commissioner at August election, 1843, filed and approved (ibid., v. E, p. 40).
 8. Recorded on this date as having served as school commissioner since March 1846 (ibid., p. 353). Records do not show period served by Sanger.
 9. Resigned June 5, 1848 (ibid., v. F, p. 102).
 10. Bond of Clark B. Stebbins, recorded as having been elected school commissioner November 6, 1849, filed and approved (ibid., p. 266).

Superintendents of Schools (cont.)

David McCulloch, November 12, 1857 ¹ November 15, 1859	Mollie O'Brien, September 12, 1890 November 26, 1890
Charles P. Taggart, November 5, 1861 (elected)	Joseph L. Robertson, November 30, 1894 November 19, 1898
William G. Randall, November 25, 1863	Claude W. Stone, November 18, 1902 November 22, 1906
Nicholas E. Worthington, November 7, 1865 (elected) November 22, 1869	John Arleigh Hayes, November 22, 1910 November 27, 1914 November 27, 1918 October 5, 1923 November 23, 1926 December 1, 1930 March 13, 1935 January --, 1941 ²
Mary W. Whiteside, November 25, 1873	
James E. Pillsbury, December 1, 1877	
Mary W. Emery, December 1, 1882 December 6, 1886	

Surveyors

(Beginning September 1936, surveyor appointed by county board of supervisors)

Norman Hyde, January 18, 1825 ³	Nelson Buck, December --, 1833 ⁵
Charles Balance, September 3, 1832 ⁴ November 24, 1832	Thomas Philips, August 12, 1835

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1. County records show "Wm. McCullough, the School Commissioner . . . presented . . . his report and statement of the school funds . . ." February 13, 1857 (Supervisors' Record, v. A, p. 388, see entry 2). This probably referred to David McCulloch who may have been elected in 1855 or subsequently, but prior to 1857.
 2. Official List of County Officers, January, 1941, p. 39.
 3. Recorded as surveyor March 17, 1832 (County Commissioners' Court Record, v. A, p. 227, in Supervisors' Record, see entry 2), presumably having continued in office since 1825.
 4. Nominated by court to Governor as surveyor vice Hyde deceased (ibid., v. B, p. 10).
 5. State records do not show Buck as surveyor but county records state: "Ordered that Nelson Buck, surveyor, be hereby appointed viciver . . ." (ibid., p. 97).

Roster of County Officers

Surveyors (cont).

Charles McFadden,		Daniel E. Allen,	
August	17, 1839	April	8, 1876
August	15, 1843	December	1, 1879
August	7, 1847	December	1, 1884
December	3, 1849	December	3, 1888
November	10, 1851	November	26, 1892
D. E. Allen,		Leander King,	
November	15, 1853	December	7, 1896
November	13, 1855	Charles H. Dunn,	
Samuel Farmer,		June	30, 1897
November	12, 1857	November	6, 1900(elected)
Richard Russell,		January	23, 1902
November	16, 1859	November	8, 1904(elected)
Daniel E. Allen,		November	3, 1908 "
November	15, 1861	David H. Roberts,	
November	25, 1863	November	5, 1913 "
Luther S. Nash,		Charles H. Dunn,	
December	8, 1865	November	7, 1913 "
Charles Spaulding,		November	2, 1920 "
November	5, 1867 (elected)	November	4, 1924 "
Arthur T. Binkett,		November	6, 1928 "
November	12, 1869	Max E. Webster,	
March	1, 1872	November	8, 1932 "
Robert Will,		Charles H. Dunn,	
November	23, 1875	January	--, 1941

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