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**MILLIONS OF RECORDED DOCUMENTS DATING BACK
TO 1829 NOW ONLINE**

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Carlinville - Searching Macoupin's recorded documents has just gotten a whole lot easier. While in the past, a search for a recorded document would have required a trip to the Recorder's office and a laborious search through the over a thousand books holding those documents, County Clerk and Recorder Pete Duncan recently launched an online index book portal which will allow anyone to access millions of recorded documents 24/7 from their home.

The Online Index Book Portal was a year long project that now allows all of the index books and document books from the County's founding in 1829 to 2000 to be searched online. Combined with the existing online access to the Recorder's office from 2001 to the present, all recorded documents are now available to be searched, viewed and printed from one's own computer.

"Every day there are numerous requests for anything from a copy of a deed to a genealogical search of who once owned a piece of property that has been in a family for decades," Duncan said. "The Recorder's office has now found a way to provide better and more efficient service to customers and searchers by allowing them to search without traveling to the office and waiting for staff to help. It's just another way we've found to provide better, smarter government to the people of Macoupin."

Duncan also discussed that this project continues his office's efforts to preserve the County's historical documents from the wear and tear of continued use while allowing. "The books used back in 1829 to record documents weren't designed thinking that nearly 200 years later they'd be opened and laid flat on a copier machine. By utilizing digital access to these records, we're helping to make sure generations will have our original records on file."

The online index book portal can be viewed at the following link: http://macoupincountyil.gov/county_clerk_remote.htm. There will also be an open house where anyone interested can attend and see a demonstration of how the portal works and what benefits it can provide. The open house will be held on Thursday, May 19th from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. in the County Board room on the second floor of the jail complex.

Anyone with questions should feel free to contact the Macoupin County Clerk's office at (217) 854-3214 ext 707 or email pete.duncan@macoupincountyil.gov

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