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Gov. Daugaard proclaims October “Archives Month”

PIERRE, S.D. – Gov. Dennis Daugaard has proclaimed October as “Archives Month” in South Dakota to draw attention to preservation efforts that protect South Dakota’s history.

“History helps us to define our diverse cultural identities and understand our past,” Gov. Daugaard said in the proclamation. “And archival institutions have a responsibility to collect, organize, preserve, and make available, records that document the history of the state of South Dakota and the plains region for the education and appreciation of present and future generations.”

“Archives Month is an opportunity for archival repositories across the state to increase awareness of their collections and the important role that archives play in preserving the state’s history,” said Chelle Somsen, State Archivist for the South Dakota State Historical Society at the Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre.

To help South Dakotans learn more about South Dakota history and the state archives program, the State Historical Society is hosting the following activities in October, all free and open to the public:

Saturday, Oct. 1, 10-11 a.m. CDT; “Beginning Genealogy Workshop,” Cultural Heritage Center -- Virginia Hanson, archivist with the South Dakota State Archives, will teach a course on beginning genealogy. The archives will also be open from 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. so researchers will be able to practice what they've just learned.

Sunday, Oct. 23, 2 p.m. CDT; “Historic Riverside Cemetery Tour,” Riverside Cemetery- 400 S. Roosevelt, Pierre -- Ken Stewart with the State Archives and Chris Nelson with the State Historic Preservation Office will conduct a tour of the original cemetery and annex sections while discussing some of the area’s early residents that are buried there.

Sunday, Oct. 30, 2 p.m. CDT; "Wilbur Foss: SD Old Time Fiddler," First Congregational United Church of Christ, 123 N. Highland Ave., Pierre -- Wilbur Foss, fourth-generation fiddle player, founded the South Dakota Old-time Fiddle Contest in 1973. He and two members of his band will be playing fiddle music that remind us that our heritage and traditions can come in the form of music.

The State Historical Society-Archives manages a collection of photographs, films, maps, books, newspapers, state and county records, as well as personal and organizational records. State Archives staff is available to help assist with research and can be reached at (605) 773-3804 or archref@state.sd.us. For more information, visit www.history.sd.gov/Archives

The South Dakota State Historical Society is a division of the Department of Tourism. The Department of Tourism is comprised of Tourism, the South Dakota Arts Council, and the State Historical Society. The Department is led by Secretary James D. Hagen. The State Historical Society is headquartered at the South Dakota Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre. The center houses the society's world-class museum, the archives, and the historic preservation, publishing and administrative/development offices. Call (605) 773-3458 or visit www.history.sd.gov for more information. The society also has an archaeology office in Rapid City; call (605) 394-1936 for more information.