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### **State Historical Society features “I Found it in the Archives” contest**

PIERRE, S.D. -- The South Dakota State Historical Society is joining the Society of American Archivists in launching the “I Found it in the Archives” contest.

The contest asks people who have used the collections of the State Historical society-Archives at the Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre to share their stories.

“Researchers find exciting pieces of information in the archives every day. This contest is an opportunity for those researchers to share their experiences and possibly win a prize,” said Chelle Somsen, State Archivist. “Stories about finding a missing piece of information about an ancestor, or an author finding the perfect photo for their publication, are examples of stories that need to be told in this contest.”

Researchers can tell their story of discovery in an essay or video recording and submit it to the State Archives. The competition runs through Jan. 31, 2012. A winner will be selected from the applications and will receive a one-year membership to the South Dakota State Historical Society, a coupon for one free hour of research services and an 8x10 reprint from a pre-selected selection of photographs from the archives collection. In addition, the winner will be entered into the national competition sponsored by the Society of American Archivists.

For more information on the contest, please visit <http://history.sd.gov/Archives/archivescontest.aspx>, call the State Archives at (605)773-3804 or email at [archref@state.sd.us](mailto:archref@state.sd.us) The archives is open Monday through Friday and the first Saturday of each month from 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. CST.

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*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](http://www.history.sd.gov) for more information. The society also has an archaeology office in Rapid City; call (605) 394-1936 for more information.*