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State Historical Society adds Farmers' Alliance member index online

PIERRE, S.D. – The South Dakota State Historical Society-Archives recently added an online searchable index listing over 17,600 names of dues-paying members of the South Dakota Farmers' Alliance from 1890-1894.

Volunteers created the database, using information found in two volumes, with 1,000 pages of data, from the South Dakota Farmers' Alliance collection held by the State Historical Society in the State Archives at the Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre.

"We are always thankful for the help volunteers provide to the archives," said Chelle Somsen, State Archivist. "It took almost two years and a large number of volunteer hours to create this database. The website will serve a dual role as a tool for genealogists and for specialists researching the range and influence of the Farmer's Alliance in South Dakota."

The Farmers' Alliance was an organized agrarian economic movement amongst U.S. farmers formed during the last quarter of the 19th century.

Information found in the index includes: Last Name, First Name, Post Office Address, County, Organization Name and Number, and the years dues were paid.

To see the index, visit the South Dakota State Historical Society-Archives website at www.history.sd.gov/archives and link to "For Genealogists" and then "SD Farmer's Alliance." Other available searchable databases are also listed.

To donate items relating to the history of South Dakota please, contact Matthew Reitzel, manuscript archivist, at (605) 773-3615 or Dan Brosz, curator of collections, at (605) 773-6013.

The South Dakota State Archives is open Monday through Friday and the first Saturday of each month from 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. CDT. Contact the archives by phone at (605) 773-3804 or email archref@state.sd.us.

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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 for more information. The society also has an archaeology office in Rapid City; call (605) 394-1936 for more information.