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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.

“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,” Gov. Daugaard noted in the proclamation.

“This month is the time for us to focus on the important records that protect our rights, provide enduring memories and give recognition to the people and programs that maintain these records,” said State Archivist Chelle (SHEL-ee) Somsen with the South Dakota State Historical Society at the Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre. “There are county, municipal, university and private archives as well as the State Archives, and each of these organizations contain historical records that document the rich history of our state.”

The South Dakota State Archives is sponsoring or participating in several events that highlight historical records in October including:

Thursday, Oct. 1, All Day, #AskAnArchivist Day

AskAnArchivist Day is a national event sponsored by the Society of American Archivists. You can follow the Twitter conversation using #AskAnArchivist and send your questions to @SDArchives.

Saturday, Oct. 3, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. CDT, Archives Open/Tours

The State Archives at the Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre will be open. Behind-the-scenes tours of the archives will be conducted at 10 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 11 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.

Saturday, Oct. 10, All Day, Electronic Records Day

Oct. 10 is designated as Electronic Records Day by the Council of State Archivists. Electronic files are much more fragile than paper records, and their long-term survival requires attention and planning.

Monday, Oct. 19, 7 p.m. CDT, Mount Calvary Cemetery Virtual Tour

At the Cultural Heritage Center, Ken Stewart will conduct a virtual tour of the cemetery using a PowerPoint presentation while discussing some of the area’s early residents who are buried there.

For more information on South Dakota Archives Month, please visit <http://history.sd.gov/archives> and click the Archives Month 2015 link.

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The South Dakota State Historical Society is a division of the Department of Education. The State Historical Society, an Affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution, 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.