

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** July 28, 2011

**CONTACT:** Jeff Mammenga, Media Coordinator, (605) 773-6000,  
Jeff.Mammenga@state.sd.us

### **Cultural Heritage Center exhibits Civil War records**

PIERRE, S.D. -- The South Dakota State Historical Society-Archives is marking this year's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the start of the Civil War with an exhibit of Civil War archival records at the Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre.

Dakota Territory was also created in 1861, and the area was dotted with military forts and posts throughout the duration of the war, which lasted four years. Some of the soldiers' letters tell of service during that time period and the impact of the war on the territory and the forts.

"Although South Dakota doesn't immediately come to mind when thinking of the Civil War, a number of civil war-related items with ties to South Dakota are preserved at the South Dakota State Archives," noted Chelle Somsen, state archivist.

The State Archives display includes a photo of the dedication of the Civil War monument in Pierre in 1920; a slave bill of sale dated 1834; and a Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War Roster, 1949-1950. Also included are a Grand Army of the Republic certificate for the John B. Wyman post in Wessington, dated 1889; loan bond certificates from the Confederate States for \$100 in 1864; and Sons of Veterans, South Dakota Division ritual and ceremonials rules book and roster of veterans of Pierre, 1912.

In 1863, John Garrison wrote a letter from Kentucky to his wife Elizabeth describing military engagements, a slave sale and his duties at a military hospital. This letter is included in the exhibit, along with a transcript. Garrison was the great-grandfather of well-known South Dakotan Lyndall Berry.

Another letter in the exhibit is that from Lewis Edward Bloodgood, who served with the Union forces and describes his service and hospitalization after he was wounded in Mobile, Ala.

The Civil War exhibit is in the center's lobby and is on display until the end of the year. There is no admission fee to see the exhibit, but there is a small fee to see the museum gallery.

An online index to the 1885 Civil War Veteran's Census for Dakota Territory is available at <http://history.sd.gov/Archives/Data/civilwar/default.aspx> and lists the soldier's name, company, regiment, enrolled age, state that they enrolled in, service, rank, date that they arrived in Dakota Territory, and whether or not they were wounded or pensioned. A listing of other Civil War-related resources available at the South Dakota State Archives is on the website at <http://history.sd.gov/Archives/Data/military/civilwar.aspx>.

Archives hours are 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. CDT Monday-Friday and the first Saturday of each month. Museum hours are 9 a.m.-6:30 p.m. Monday-Saturday and 1-4:30 p.m. on Sundays.

*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.*