

FOR RELEASE: Aug. 1, 2012

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State Historical Society-Archives awarded \$57,120 grant

PIERRE, S.D. -- The South Dakota State Historical Society-Archives recently was awarded a \$57,120 Documenting Democracy grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, a division of the National Archives and Records Administration.

"The grant will assist the archives in processing and accessioning government records in order to make those records more accessible to researchers," said Chelle Somsen, state archivist. "This two-year grant will pay for a temporary archivist to help process and accession more than 1,700 cubic feet of government records. The staff will prepare finding aids for the collections, which will be uploaded to the South Dakota Digital Archives and WorldCat, facilitating the search process for our users."

The Documenting Democracy grant promotes the preservation and use of the nation's valuable archival resources.

The South Dakota State Archives, located in the Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre, acquires, processes, accessions, catalogs and makes available manuscript collections, South Dakota state, county, and town government records, photographs, maps, and other archival materials which have permanent historical and research value. Archives hours are 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. CDT Monday-Friday and the first Saturday of the month.

For information see <http://history.sd.gov/archives> or call (605) 773-3804.

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