



National Archives at Kansas City Newsletter

September 2020

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Upcoming Events

Unless noted, all events are held at the National Archives 400 W. Pershing Road Kansas City, MO 64108

- SEPTEMBER 23 - 3:00 P.M. VIRTUALLY VIA LIVE-STREAM: CONSTITUTION DAY PROGRAM WITH PARK UNIVERSITY

NOTE: All in-person public events at National Archives facilities nationwide are cancelled until further notice. This includes in-person public programs, tours, school group visits, public meetings, external conferences, and facility rentals.

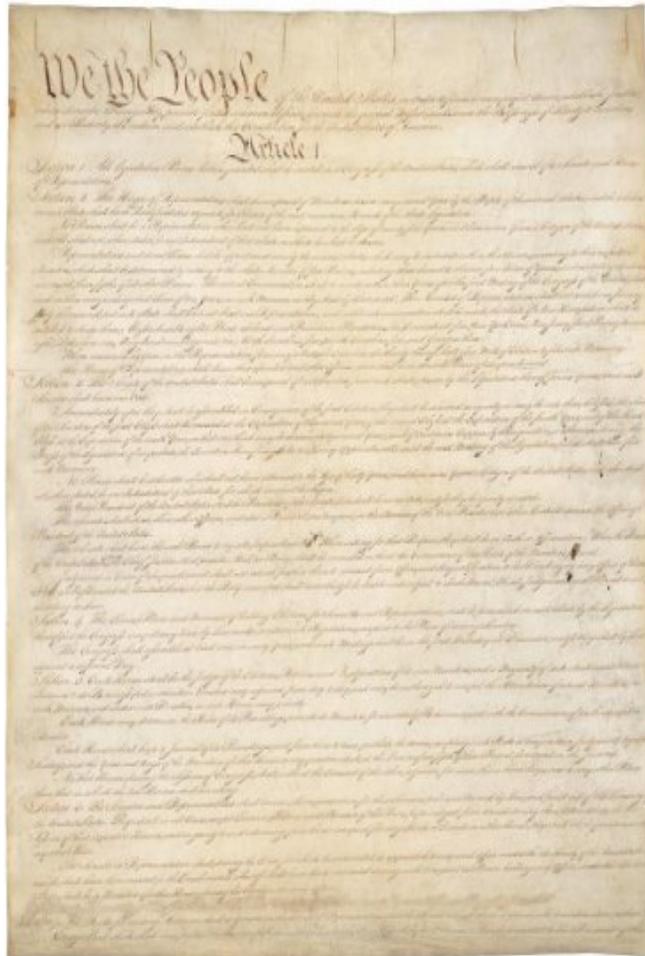
Virtual Constitution Day Program with Park University

On **Wednesday, September 23, at 3:00 p.m.** the National Archives at Kansas City, in partnership with Park University, will offer a free virtual program titled ***The 2020 U.S. General Election: Public Policy Implications in January 2021***. This **free event** will be live-streamed at park.edu/constitutionday.

Park University faculty members Matt Harris, Ph.D., and Jack Adam MacLennan, Ph.D., both assistant professors of political science, will discuss the importance of the upcoming U.S. presidential election in November for both domestic and international politics. Introductory remarks about the Constitution will be provided by the National Archives staff.

Constitution Day, or Citizenship Day as it is also called, is celebrated annually on September 17 as it recognizes the adoption of the U.S. Constitution and those who have become U.S. citizens.

Right: Page one of the Constitution of the United States. Record Group 11, General Records of the United States Government, 1778-2006. National Archives Identifier 1667751.



National Archives Facility Information Regarding COVID-19

(updated as of August 31, 2020)

The National Archives is committed to the health and safety of our visitors and staff. We are continuing to monitor the situation regarding COVID-19. National Archives staff will continue to serve the public remotely by responding to emailed requests for records and [History Hub](#) inquiries.

While we are closed, we invite the public to explore our online resources by visiting www.archives.gov and viewing our [online exhibits](#) and [educational resources](#) and participating in our [Citizen Archivist Missions](#).

Finally, all in-person public programs and events are suspended through December 31, 2020. We will continue to update the public as agency guidance becomes available. Follow the National Archives at Kansas City on [Facebook](#) or on Twitter [@KCArchives](#).

Hidden Treasures from the Stacks

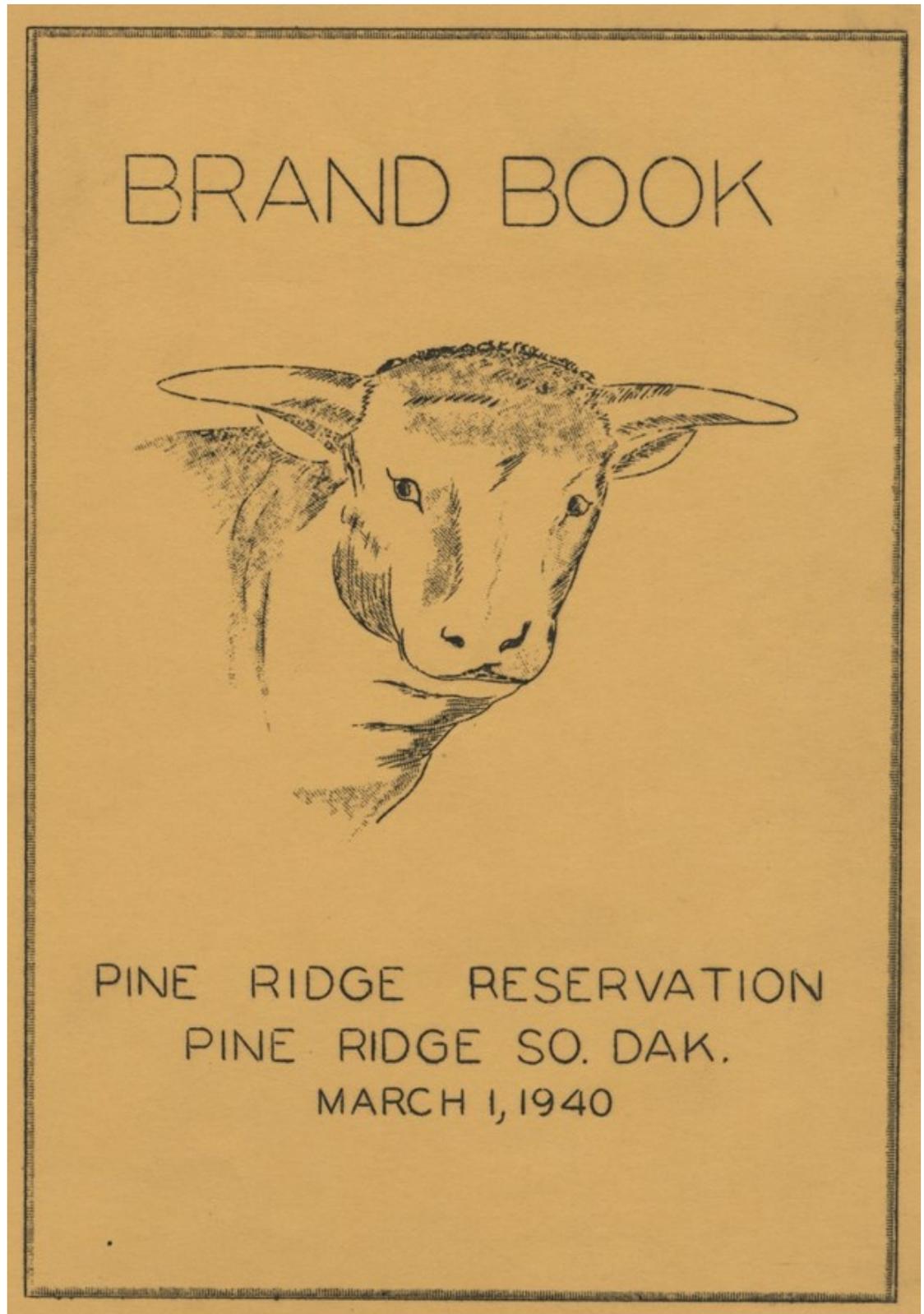
Cattle Brands and Their Meaning

The National Archives at Kansas City has Native American records for the tribes from the states of Kansas, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota in Record Group 75, Records of the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Specifically, in the Pine Ridge Agency in the Main Decimal Files 1900 to 1965, National Archives Identifier 285586, there is an early book about cattle branding.

One might ask what is branding? Branding is the process of burning a mark into stock animals with thick hides, such as cattle, so as to identify ownership. Brands are made from a metal bar with an end that is shaped into letters or symbols. The metal bar with the letters is heated up over a fire till red hot and then the livestock is branded somewhere on the body as determined by the owner. The unique brand meant that cattle owned by multiple ranches could then graze freely together on the open range. Cowboys could then separate the cattle at “roundup” time for driving to market.

As cattle brands became numerous, it became necessary to record them in books that the ranchers and cowboys could carry in their pockets for easy identification. Ranchers and cowboys could determine who owned a head of cattle or if the head was possibly stolen.

The Brand Book published on March 1, 1940, was the first attempt to document in one book all of the cattle brands on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation for 1940. The Indian Office Order No. 511 of December 26, 1939 set rules and laws for branding cattle on the Reservations.



Above: Cover of a Brand Book from the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. Record Group 75, Records of the Bureau of Indian Affairs 1793-1999, Pine Ridge Agency, Main Decimal Files 1900-1965. National Archives Identifier 285586.

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INTRODUCTION

Indian Office Order No. 511.

Indian Office Order No. 511 of December 26, 1939, covers brands and branding of the Indian stock on the various reservations in the State of South Dakota. This order was approved by the Secretary of the Interior's Office December 29, 1939.

Relative to the ID brand the order states that on the Pine Ridge Reservation the following brands shall be used:

For cattle ID on right hip and O on right neck

For horses ID on right shoulder and O on right neck

Above: Introduction page to the Pine Ridge Reservation Branding Book. Record Group 75, Records of the Bureau of Indian Affairs 1793-1999, Pine Ridge Agency, Main Decimal Files 1900-1965. National Archives Identifier 285586.

The Indian Office Order stated for the first time that brands should be placed on certain specific locations for cattle and horses. "For cattle ID on the right hip and O on the right neck. For horses ID on the right shoulder and O on right neck". This allowed for ease to find the brand on the animal. The order went on to state the brand should be made from a single piece of metal and the letters uniform in height to make the brand easy to identify.

Lastly, the order stated, "All Indians running livestock within the reservation boundaries shall be required to brand their trust or restricted livestock in keeping with the forgoing restrictions." This was a requirement that forced the Indians on the reservation to brand their livestock or to lose their livestock if it was not branded. If livestock was not branded, it was impossible to determine who owned the animal, which was becoming an issue on some Indian reservations including the Pine Ridge Reservation. The order helped to deter cattle rustlers from trying to steal unbranded cattle that could be found on some Indian lands prior to this law being passed.

Cattle brands for the purpose of the Brand Book were arranged alphabetically under letters, numerals, and symbols. Flying figures and characters are alphabetically arranged. Cattle brands are read from left side to right side and top down to the bottom letter. If a brand is a letter on its side or upside down it would still be read as the letter as pictured to the right.

(Continued on next page.)

Right: A page from the Pine Ridge Reservation Brand Book that illustrates the various symbols used for branding. Record Group 75, Records of the Bureau of Indian Affairs 1793-1999, Pine Ridge Agency, Main Decimal Files 1900-1965. National Archives Identifier 285586.

ARRANGEMENT OF BRANDS

As far as possible, in this book the brands have been arranged alphabetically under letters, numerals and symbols in the following order: + ^ ◇ ◡ ◣ () - / ♥ □ ▢ ▽

"Flying" figures and characters are alphabetically arranged. All brands are read from left side or top as  would be read A H M,  would be read A C.

If doubtful, read left hand figure first in preference to top.

Brands of connected letters, thus , are listed as M T, and  as C T.

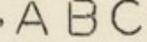
All brands made thus,       are listed as J;  as 6.

All brands made thus     are listed as 7;

    as L.

 is listed as M;  as W.

The numeral "One" is listed under the letter I; the Circles under the letter O; the Open A's,  under the Half Diamond.

Interpret brands made thus,  followed by l, sh, r & h as A on left shoulder, B on left ribs and C on left hip; followed by r, h, r & sh, as A right hip, B right ribs and C right shoulder.

Abbreviations:

c	Cattle	f	Face	l	Left
h	Horses	no	Nose	r	right
s	Sheep	j	Jaw	t	Top (Sheep)
Hg	Hogs	n	Neck	B	Back (Sheep)
		sh	Shoulder	br	Breast (Horses)
		R	Ribs		
		h	Hip		
		hb	Hip Bone		

Mules are included with horses.
All brands back of hip bone are classed as hip brands.
(Note: This material is taken verbatim from the South Dakota Brand Book of 1937)

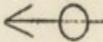
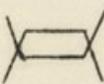
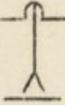
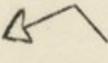
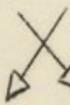
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Below is a page of actual cattle brands. To the right of the brand is the name of the owner. As you look at the different brands, you will notice how creative the owners were in creating their brand. The hat brand was a unique way to remember that this brand belonged to James Hat. The Brand Book has more than 50 pages of brands and ranchers identified for just the Pine Ridge Reservation. The practice of livestock branding still exists today. Today, "branding" is not limited to the

use of a hot iron. It can include ear tagging, tattooing, and even the use of

microchips. More information about Bureau of Indian Affairs records can be found in the [National Archives Catalog](#).

Right: A page from the Pine Ridge Reservation Brand Book that illustrates the various symbols used for branding along with the owner name and address. Record Group 75, Records of the Bureau of Indian Affairs 1793-1999, Pine Ridge Agency, Main Decimal Files 1900-1965. National Archives Identifier 285586.

	Joseph Two Crow U-10623, MR Kyle, So. Dak. l r c & l h h		Herbert Holy Elk 1909, EN Wanblee, So. Dak. r r c & l sh h
	Robert Turning Hawk 1671, MR Kyle, So. Dak. l r c & l sh h		David Flying Hawk 2771, WK Manderson, So. Dak. l h h
	George Bettelyoun 2200, EN Wanblee, So. Dak. r r c		Sophia Bluffing Bear 2313, WK Manderson, So. Dak. l r c & l sh h
	Saul Wounded 6547, Wak. Pine Ridge, So. Dak. l r c		James Eagle Bear 130, WK Manderson, So. Dak. l r c
	Lucy Lays Bear U-9861, Wak. Pine Ridge, So. Dak. l r c & r sh h		Donald Comes From Among 3140, WC Oglala, So. Dak. l h h
	James Mesteth 2630, WK Manderson, So. Dak. r h h		Samuel Little Hoop 4547, PC Allen, So. Dak. l r c & r sh h
	Raymond Sauser 5761, EN Wanblee, So. Dak. l r c & l sh h		Joseph White Face 6847, Por. Porcupine, So. Dak. r r c & r sh h
	Clement Adams 7185, Por. Porcupine, So. Dak. l r c & l h h		Bertha Porcupine 4356, Per. Porcupine, So. Dak. l r c & l h h
	Woodrow Jealous of Him U-10944, Por. Porcupine, So. Dak. r r c & r sh h		Thomas Fast Wolf 1925, PC Allen, So. Dak. l r c & l h h
	Patrick Afraid of Bear 5146a, Wak. Pine Ridge, So. Dak. l r c & r h h		James Hat 2867, WC Oglala, So. Dak. l r c & l h h
	Evelyn Rooks Wilcox 6920, EN Wanblee, So. Dak. l r c		Edward Poirier U-11788, WK Manderson, So. Dak. l sh h

Fall Online Learning for Educators and Students

Join us online for interactive learning programs! In partnership with the Presidential Primary Sources Project, we are offering programs for students in grades K-12 and for educators looking for professional development. To sign up for any of the sessions below, visit the [Distance Learning Sign Up Page](#).

- Tuesday, September 8: *Understanding the Great Depression at 2:00 p.m. EDT*

People often think Herbert Hoover caused the Great Depression and FDR solved the Great Depression. Join us as we take a deep dive into understanding the Great Depression and the steps that Hoover and Roosevelt took to solve one of the United States' largest crises. (Aimed at grades 7-12)

- Thursday, September 10: *Laura Ingalls Wilder at the Hoover Library at 2:00 p.m. EDT*

The personal papers of Laura Ingalls Wilder and her daughter, Rose Wilder Lane, are preserved at the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library-Museum. Wilder's *Little House* books have charmed generations of readers with their vivid depictions of frontier life in the 1870s and 1880s. Join us as we discuss the facts and the fiction revealed in the letters, diaries and manuscripts of Laura Ingalls Wilder and Rose Wilder Lane. (Aimed at grades 3-8).

- September 14, 16, or 18: "George to George": *Examples of the Constitution from George Washington to George Bush at 11:00 a.m. EDT*

Constitution examples of George Washington and George Bush (Aimed at grades 4-12).

- Tuesday, September 15: *Camp David & Beyond: The Middle East Peace Process from Carter to Clinton at 2:00 p.m. EDT*
Exploring the Middle East Peace Process from Carter to Clinton (Aimed at grades 9-12)

- Thursday, September 17: *Constitution Day, The Charters of Freedom: Building a More Perfect Union at 2:00 p.m. EDT*
During this program, students will learn about the history behind, and discover the purpose of, the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights. (Aimed at grades 3-6)

- Thursday, September 24: *Growing Up an Eisenhower at 2:00 p.m. EDT*

Step back in time and learn about "Little Ike," as Dwight D. Eisenhower was known during his boyhood. This program will use artifacts that paint a picture of Little Ike's rural Kansas life from 1890 - 1910. (Aimed at grades K-5.)

- Tuesday, September 29: *Understanding Tribal Sovereignty, Native Lands, and the Importance of Repatriation with Tina Osceola, Seminole Tribal Judge at 2:00 p.m. EDT*

Do you know what Tribal sovereignty is? Have you wondered how Indian reservations were established? Do you know how the government interacts with Native American Tribes? What is repatriation? Join us for an educational discussion about issues facing Native American Tribes across the country with Tina Osceola, Tribal Judge for the Seminole Tribe of Florida. (Aimed at grades 7-12)



NATIONAL
ARCHIVES

KANSAS CITY

GENERAL INFORMATION: The National Archives is open Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Closed on weekends and Federal holidays. Hours are subject to change due to special programs and weather.

The National Archives is located at 400 West Pershing Road, Kansas City, Missouri, 64108, and is home to historical records dating from the 1820s to the 1990s created or received by Federal agencies in Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota.

For more information, call 816-268-8000, email kansascity.educate@nara.gov or visit www.archives.gov/kansas-city. Tweet us @KCArchives. Follow us on Instagram at: [kansascity.archives](https://www.instagram.com/kansascity.archives). Find us on Facebook www.facebook.com/nationalarchiveskansascity.