

WHEREAS, much of our state's rich and diverse heritage is contained in the documents and records created by and for its people; and

WHEREAS, state and local governments, religious and medical institutions, colleges and universities, libraries, historical societies, museums, businesses, and families throughout the Palmetto State have established archives as a means of preserving our written history; and

WHEREAS, these archives collectively contain over 300 years of unique materials, ranging from hand-written letters and diaries to typewritten manuscripts, photographs, videotapes, and modern electronic data systems; and

WHEREAS, archivists and manuscript curators in South Carolina are dedicated to responsibly preserving the historical word, maintaining records in the public trust, and making those records available for study and appreciation whether in a local repository or via the Internet; and

WHEREAS, through these archives, future generations of South Carolinians can more accurately study the past, learn from the accomplishments of their predecessors, trace their ancestors, understand their community's pride of place, confirm property rights, and maintain laws while celebrating the history of our state.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark Sanford, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim October 2009 as

ARCHIVES MONTH

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to discover the rich treasures contained in local archival repositories across the Palmetto State.