

PRESS RELEASE

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A Passion for Historical Records Preservation

Woodbury County Gains Disaster Preparedness for Historical Records & 24/7 Search for Constituents

Sioux City, Iowa – May 6, 2015 Iowa has experienced 37 presidentially-declared disasters since 1990. In 2008, a flood in Cedar Rapids resulted in damage to Linn County’s Courthouse. With this in mind, Patrick Gill, Woodbury County’s Auditor & Recorder, has been searching for solutions to ensure that all deeds, mortgages and other official land documents would be preserved, regardless of any catastrophes that could occur.

A leader within the Iowa County Association, Patrick has always been an early adopter of technology that will improve his office and deliver superior constituent service. It was only befitting that Patrick turned to technology and, to Cott Systems, for some ideas. His choice was Cott Systems’ Online Index Books, a technology that scanned the older index and record books and rendered those images online...just as they appear in the original index and record books.

Disaster Preparedness for Historical Records

With a history of natural disasters affecting many Iowa counties—Auditor & Recorder Patrick Gill has been searching for ways to protect the county’s historical records, and has found a solution with Cott Systems, who offers a cloud-based historical records management solution along with a Tier IV compliant data center that safely stores digitized records.

Woodbury County’s scanned historical records are now securely stored in a Tier IV compliant data center—the highest level possible—which is the “gold standard” in data centers. Being a hardened facility, featuring twenty (20) inch thick cement-embedded walls, dual roofs (each rated to withstand 120 mph winds), and dual generators (capable of generating its own power for 14 days without resupply), the Auditor & Recorder’s Office is now offering a level of disaster preparedness for its historical records that few other offices offer.

With the Auditor & Recorder’s new cloud-based historical records management solution, regardless of the physical state of the County or of the Auditor & Recorder’s office, historical records are safe and secure, and accessible 24/7.



24/7 Online Access

In the past, historical records were only available for search during normal office hours. So if the office doors were shut, so was access to the record books—but not anymore. The Auditor & Recorder now offers the searching public 24/7 access to securely search, view and/or print historical records online—from anywhere. To keep records secure and searchers safe, the Auditor & Recorder also offers a high degree of online security through financial-grade encryption.

Preserving History—While Reducing Costs

By scanning historical records, the Woodbury Auditor & Recorder not only preserved them as digital versions, but now has the ability to present them online for viewing and printing via Cott Systems' Online Index Books software.

With Cott System's OIB software, the Auditor & Recorder also saved the county time & resources versus the traditional reindexing approach. Before OIB, the Auditor & Recorder's only option of presenting historical records online was through reindexing, a time-consuming and costly data-entry approach that required every piece of information to be manually retyped. However, with Cott's OIB technology, the Woodbury Auditor & Recorder's office is able to more quickly connect scanned records with the logic of existing indexes, while presenting them online for 24x7 viewing.

OIB (Online Index Books) is a revolutionary technology created specifically for counties to securely present historical books and records online, empowering the office with a 24x7 presence. "Cott is about serving our customers and their customers alike. This idea was born from the thoughts of a customer and has been executed by Cott working in partnership with them. We are honored to be a part of Woodbury County's cutting-edge way of thinking and position our customer to enhance the solution offerings they provide their county" explains Bob Manilla, Cott Systems Director of Sales & Marketing.

The Auditor & Recorder's records are available at: www.woodburyiowa.com/departments/recorder

About Cott Systems: Cott Systems, serving 246 land and court customers across 19 states has been an innovator in public records management for over 124 years. Cott empowers local government offices to provide their constituents with 24/7 access and services via eRecording, eFiling, eCommerce, and WebHosting. Cott's products and services deliver to its customers: improved office efficiency; superior constituent service; protection & preservation of official records; and, for eCommerce customers, increased revenues. Headquartered in Columbus, Ohio, Cott also offers traditional data and imaging services to both the public and private sectors that include: redaction, backfile document conversion and storage, indexing, and microfilm. For information on Cott Systems, visit www.cottsystems.com.



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SOURCE:

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