

OFFICE OF  
PLANNING, ZONING AND  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
108 Sherman Street  
Telephone (605) 578-2082  
Fax (605) 722-0786



**Mike Runge**  
Archivist  
Telephone (605) 578-2082  
michael@cityofdeadwood.com

## MEMORANDUM

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**Date:** June 29, 2023  
**To:** Historic Preservation / Deadwood City Commission  
**From:** Mike Runge, City Archivist  
**Re:** **Formal Acknowledgement of the William R. Whiteside, Martha “Calamity Jane” Canary Archival Collection Donation (2023.12)**

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On June 27, 2023, the City Archives was contacted by family members of the late William R. Whiteside (1932 – 2022), genealogist and researcher of western legend Martha “Calamity Jane” Canary. Over three months, staff from the City Archives and the (Whiteside) Strong family discussed the options available to the family. Some of these discussions are outlined in the attached emails to this memorandum.

On October 3, 2023 Andrew Strong, son-in-law of William R. Whiteside, drove from Illinois to Deadwood and delivered 18 boxes of reference books, ephemera, and research notes pertaining to Calamity Jane. On the day of the delivery, a donation form was completed and filed with the City Archives. As of October 4, 2023, the staff begun inventorying the 10 boxes of reference books.

### **Background on the Assemblage**

Attached to this memorandum is a biography on William R. Whiteside created by the Strong Family. This document summarizes Whiteside’s life and passion for researching the life of Calamity Jane. Page 04 of this document contains a list of Whiteside’s published works and research acknowledgements during his life.

### **Historical Significance**

The William R. Whiteside archival collection can be classified as a high-profile collection due to its connection with western legend, Martha “Calamity Jane” Canary. In a scholarly context, once the collection becomes available, researchers from all over will come to Deadwood to review and study this assemblage along with the Hickok Papers (Collection 2006.06) and the Seth Bullock Papers (Collection 2019.16). In a tourist-based context, this collection will help to interpret one of Deadwood's most infamous legends buried in historic Mount Moriah Cemetery.

### **Recommendation**

Accept the William R. Whiteside archival collection into the Historic Preservation / City Archives repository.