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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Commissioners Recognize Archives Month

Cumberland County, PA – The Cumberland County Commissioners proclaimed October as Archives Month throughout the County during their public meeting today. American Archives Month, established in 2006 by the Society of American Archivists, provides an opportunity to foster a greater awareness of the many archives across the United States that preserve our nation’s diverse history, heritage and information on specialized subjects.

A wide variety of archives can be found in Cumberland County. From historical societies, museums, educational institutions, libraries, religious institutions and businesses, their archives collect, organize, preserve and provide access to information on a wide variety of subjects. These collections comprise unique materials ranging from hand-written documents to electronic data systems. The archives in Cumberland County provide current and future generations the opportunity to study the County’s history, trace ancestry, understand the community’s pride, maintain laws, and study the accomplishments and challenges of past generations.

Cumberland County has its own government archives, which manage the records created by the various county offices and departments dating back to the County’s founding in 1750.

“The County views the preservation of its earliest records as not only a legal responsibility to protect both individual and county rights, but a civic responsibility to its past, present and future citizens documenting the county’s history,” comments Barbara Bartos, County archivist.

Bartos also notes that subjects of interest to a variety of researchers can be found in the records. “The Automobile and Motor Register from 1903-1905, before people registered their cars with the State, is a record that reveals a variety of U.S. car manufacturers which I never heard of, including the Mechanicsburg man who made his own car. Every county should have this register. What a great resource for car enthusiasts!”

To view many of the County’s earliest documents or for more information about the Cumberland County Archives, visit www.ccpa.net/archives, or visit the Cumberland County Historical Society to access microfilm of county government records.

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