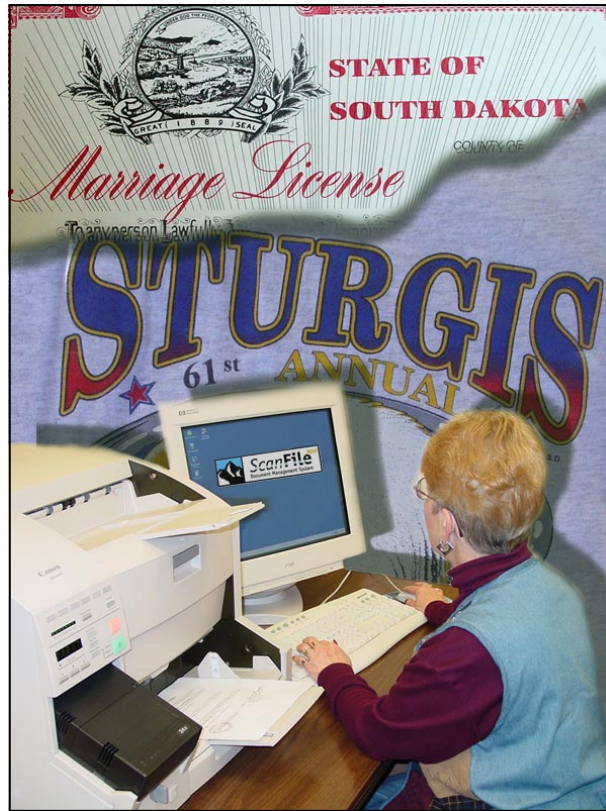




## Meade County Register of Deeds Sturgis Marriage Licenses Go For the Cycle



**“We issued 198 marriage licenses during the week of the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally...Our document imaging and storage systems is wonderful.”**

*Angela “Angie” Ross, Register of Deeds  
Meade County, South Dakota*

[See back to find out more]

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*Active Data Systems (ADS) is a Sioux Falls, SD based corporation that provides document imaging solutions for government and businesses in a six state area. ADS has been delivering and supporting document imaging consultation, products and services since 1982.*

**Find out more at [www.activedatasystems.com](http://www.activedatasystems.com)**

If you go to the Official web site of the Sturgis Motorcycle rally and click on "Weddings" you will see the following message.

**You must go to the Sturgis Court House at the Register of Deeds Office, 1425 Sherman St. Both must be present, 1 form of ID is required from each applicant. \$40.00 cash only or Travelers Checks are accepted. There is no waiting period and same day marriages are OK. The licenses are good for 20 days. You must locate your own Justice of the Peace or Clergyman.**

Every August, Sturgis, a quiet little South Dakota town of 5,000 people welcomes hundreds of thousands of motorcycle enthusiasts to one of the world's oldest and largest motorcycle rally. It comes as no surprise that more than a few couples find this an opportune time to tie the knot. Says Angela "Angie" Ross the Meade County Register of Deeds, "In 2000, the Rally's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we sold 198 licenses during the week. During the first day all five of our people never left the front counter."

Like all register of deeds, Meade County records its county's vital records (i.e. deeds, births, deaths, burials and marriages). "We keep track the same way we always have," says Ross, "we still hand write the original information into our record books." However, the way the county stores and retrieves records has changed significantly over the years. For the past decade documents have been microfilmed and more recently digitally scanned.

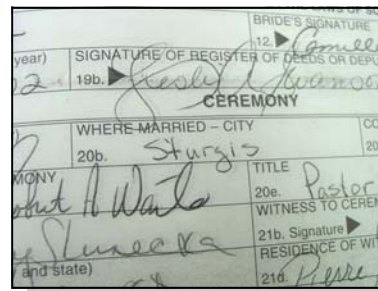


**Angela "Angie" Ross  
Meade County  
Register of Deeds**

Active Data Systems designed a digital document imaging/filming and storage system for Meade County that consists of ScanFile's 2002 fast, secure and user friendly document management software and a Canon 5060F Scanner/Filmer that scans and films front and back of each page with one pass. State regulations still require microfilm be used as "legal eye" readable backup.



The new system has significantly reduced the time it takes to record information. Ross says they ran a test where they scanned 1,214 pages in 35 minutes. She pointed out that with their old system it would have taken 8 hours to do the same. "That's a long time to stand on your feet when we were feeding pages through one page at a time. With the ScanFile/Canon system our people can load a



stack of documents and walk away and do other things."

Though the speed is great for staff, Ross remembers one rally participant who would have appreciated a little slower service. "Last year a

couple came in on Monday to get a marriage license. On Thursday he called and asked if we had filed that license, yet. We said we already had, why? 'She threw a rock through the windshield of my pickup and I don't want to be married to her anymore,' he lamented." With ScanFile documents are scanned into the system and are available immediately. "If you bring something in today we'll record it and have a copy back to you tomorrow," said Ross. Unfortunately, it was too fast for the upset newlywed with a cracked windshield.

"We can now look up records quickly and easily," said Ross. She emphasized, "Information is literally at our fingertips—it's wonderful!"

The Rally has created situations that have required service "above-the-call-of-duty" for the Meade County's Register of Deeds. One couple from England, whose motorcycle had broken down, asked if someone would call them a taxi to go to Rapid City to get their rings. Ross informed them they didn't

have a taxi service in Sturgis. Sensing their anxiousness, with the wedding scheduled for the next day, Ross offered to make the round-trip to Rapid City, but not before she took them to her house for a home-cooked chili supper.



That's the same kind of service Ross says she has become accustomed to getting from ADS. According to Ross, "You can pick up the phone and call Active Data Systems and they will be here within a day or give you the answer over the telephone. The support has been fabulous."

Planning for obsolescence is critical, says Mark McClung, President of ADS, "With any new technology that ADS gets into we ask our suppliers how our customers will get out when the technology obsolesces. Says Ross, "I always feel that our best interest is most important to Active Data Systems."

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