

**COTT SYSTEMS AND LINN COUNTY IOWA
PARTNER TO SAVE HISTORIC COUNTY RECORDS DURING FLOODING**

*Electronic Backup and Web Hosting System Protects Critical County Records
and Keeps Them Accessible to the Public*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Columbus, Ohio; August 4, 2008—Cott Systems, a leader in technology solutions for land records management, and the Linn County Iowa Recorder's office are partnering to keep county land records safe and accessible to the residents of the area. Joan McCalmant, County Recorder of Linn County, was prepared for the June floods in the Cedar Rapids area while the floods left county buildings and some land records under water, McCalmant had just implemented an electronic offsite backup system and web hosting solution for all records within the last year—ensuring the safety of Linn County's historic records. Access to land records (deeds) is especially important during a time of natural disaster because homeowners need a copy of their deed to file for assistance from FEMA.

When McCalmant learned they were being evacuated from the county building, she and her staff had a few hours to prepare. The county team carried out over 3,000 historic books containing county birth and marriage records books from their vault and moved equipment and other records to tabletops.

"I've been working in this office since 1986, and this was the most difficult thing I've ever dealt with. I had no servers and no access to my recorded images initially. We only had our handwritten records and many of them were soaked with water," explained McCalmant.

McCalmant acted quickly to secure temporary office space in a mall about a week and a half after the flooding. The county's records technology partner, Cott Systems was ready to help McCalmant get up and running in her temporary office as soon as possible. Rich Stern, Systems Technician of Cott Systems, copied Linn County's information from the Cott server and rebuilt a new server for the county in approximately 70 hours. Stern then loaded up his car and drove to Cedar Rapids from Ohio with the new server, extra printers and workstations to be used as 'loaners' at no charge to the county.

"Surprisingly, I was one of the first county offices to be back up and running after the flood. We had our disaster recovery plan in place for less than a year and it was a good insurance policy," explained McCalmant.

The recorder's office indexing system was up and running in about a week and a half, but the online access to recorded documents which allowed people to look up their own deeds and print a copy if needed for FEMA application never went down and was accessible throughout the flooding.

Cott's E-backup System ensures that mission critical data and records are securely stored electronically in a secure offsite location. Because Linn County was also utilizing Cott's Web Hosting, they were able to maintain an internet presence while their offices were under water.

“We were very lucky to have Cott’s E-backup system and Web Hosting and we’ll be working in the temporary location for at least a year, but at least we have our records. Our water damaged books are being freeze-dried for optimal restoration. “We were grateful to get our system up and running quickly, because it allowed people to move forward with their lives,” noted McCalmant.

About Cott Systems.

Cott Systems, an innovator in public records management for over 120 years, is the leader today in technology solutions and services for recording, imaging, and searching land records across 22 states. Through an industry leading research and development process, which includes significant customer involvement, Cott is driving new technologies and services for local governments by employing up-to-the-minute information and workflow automation, data management and migration, professional services, hosting and disaster planning services. Headquartered in Columbus, Ohio, Cott specializes in understanding and responding to local government information needs across the country by building a partnership with their customers and the public they serve.

More information can be found on Cott Systems by visiting: www.cottsystems.com.

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