

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 11, 2015

CONTACT: Jeff Mammenga, Media Coordinator, (605) 773-6000,
Jeff.Mammenga@state.sd.us

State Historical Records Advisory Board announces grant funding awards, site visits

PIERRE, S.D. -- Five state history organizations were recently awarded grants through the South Dakota State Historical Records Advisory Board (SD SHRAB).

The organizations that received funding this year and the amounts of their grants are as follows:

- Black Hills Mining Museum in Lead, \$946
- Fassbender Photographic Collection in Deadwood, \$1000
- Mitchell Area Historical Society, \$1000
- 1881 Courthouse Museum in Custer, \$500
- Brule County Historical Society in Kimball, \$554

The SD SHRAB received a \$5,590 grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, and \$4,000 of that funding was set aside for re-grant funding.

“The organizations will be using the funding to purchase archival quality boxes and enclosures and to transfer film and audio collections to digital format to aid in the accessibility of the collections,” said Chelle Somsen, state archivist with the South Dakota State Historical Society at the Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre and chair of the board.

The remaining grant funding SD SHRAB received from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission will allow staff members from the State Historical Society- Archives to visit organizations this summer in order to provide advice concerning their archival collections. These site visits were awarded to the Lyman County Museum in Presho, the Timber Lake and Area Historical Society in Timber Lake, the Heritage Hall Archives in Freeman and the Miner County Historical Society in Howard. The site visits will include \$100 worth of archival supplies.

The SD SHRAB advocates for the preservation of historical records, educates the public and records caretakers about the importance of the historical record, and leads the historical community in preserving and providing access to the state’s documentary heritage.

Local repositories, archival organizations, historical societies and tribal and local governments were urged to apply for the re-grant funds and site visits in order to encourage and support identification and preservation of historical records and training for the staff that care for those records.

For more information, see <http://history.sd.gov/Archives/SHRAB/shrabactivity.aspx> or call the South Dakota State Historical Society-Archives at (605) 773-3804.

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The South Dakota State Historical Society is a division of the Department of Education. The State Historical Society, an Affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution, is headquartered at the South Dakota Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre. The center houses the society's world-class museum, the archives, and the historic preservation, publishing and administrative/development offices. Call (605) 773-3458 or visit www.history.sd.gov for more information. The society also has an archaeology office in Rapid City; call (605) 394-1936 for more information.