

Guide
to
Historical Repositories
in
South Dakota



South Dakota State Historical Records Advisory Board

Revised Edition

2002

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Compiled by Kristen Anderson and Elizabeth B. Scott

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Cover photo: The new Sicangu Heritage Center on the Antelope Lake Campus, Sinte Gleska University, Mission, South Dakota.

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Introduction

The State Historical Records Advisory Board, or SHRAB, is part of a nationwide effort to connect federal, state, and local repositories in order to preserve the nation's documentary heritage. The National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), part of the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), encourages each state and territory to have a historical records advisory board to lead and coordinate records preservation activities in its area. It has encouraged each board to create a strategic plan and update it regularly, and administers grant funds for that purpose.

In 2000-2001 the South Dakota SHRAB received a \$20,462 grant from NHPRC to hold a series of public meetings, to prepare a strategic plan for historical records in South Dakota, and to create a statewide guide to repositories and records in the state. The South Dakota Heritage Fund, a not-for-profit corporation, administered the grant funds, and staff support was provided by the State Archives program of the South Dakota State Historical Society and South Dakota State University.

The South Dakota SHRAB was created in 1997 under statutory authority of the Board of Trustees of the South Dakota State Historical Society. The State Archivist serves as chairman of the SHRAB, and the board includes at least six other members, half of which must be professional archivists. Board members during the grant period included:

Marvene Riis, Acting Chairman
South Dakota State Archives

Richard L. Popp
Highmore, South Dakota

Marcella Cash
Sinte Gleska University

Elizabeth Scott
South Dakota State University

Amy Cooper
University of South Dakota

Dr. Harry F. Thompson
Augustana College

Robert F. Karolevitz
Mission Hill, South Dakota

Tom D. Tobin
Winner, South Dakota

During the 2000-2001 grant period, the South Dakota SHRAB held four public meetings to gather as much public input as possible on issues and concerns related to historical records in the state. With assistance from Special Collections staff at the Hilton M. Briggs Library of South Dakota State University, the board sent a survey questionnaire to over 300 archives, libraries, museums, historical and genealogical societies, and other possible repositories, to find out more about local needs and to gather data for a statewide guide.

160 surveys were returned to SDSU. Kristen Anderson, an NHPRC intern based at the Hilton M. Briggs Library at SDSU, entered responses into a database. She compiled and analyzed the data for the SDSHRAB to use in determining issues and priorities for the statewide strategic plan. Survey data was used to create the entries for the *Guide to Historical Repositories in South Dakota*. All known repositories were contacted, but some chose not to respond.

The first edition of the *Guide to Historical Repositories in South Dakota*, printed in 2001, includes entries from 126 institutions that have primary source material. The entries in the guide are simple compilations from the survey. Punctuation and syntax were corrected in some cases, but answers are those of the respondents. Many of the repositories are very small, and their collections are not fully inventoried. Subject index entries are based primarily on information provided by respondents, and vary in detail from one institution to another. Users are urged to contact the repositories directly for more specific information concerning their collections or hours, especially before making a research trip.

The purpose of this guide is to provide information about public and private repositories that collect historical records from other sources. With a few exceptions, it does not include government offices that primarily maintain their own records, even though many school, county, state, and federal agencies have records that are historical in nature, and many provide public access to those records. Likewise it does not include newspaper offices, businesses, fraternal organizations and clubs, churches, and other sources of important historical records.

The *Guide* is an ongoing project of the South Dakota SHRAB. Thanks are due to the many individuals, many of them volunteers, who helped gather the information presented here. Please help by making sure that the *Guide* is as complete and up-to-date as possible. The last page contains a form that can be photocopied to add, update, or correct entries. Please send updates to the address listed on the form.

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Due to a larger than expected number of requests for the *Guide*, and with the help of some unexpended funds from the original NHPRC grant, a second edition was prepared and printed in 2002. All institutions listed in the *Guide* were contacted in June 2002, and 50 of the 126 original entries were updated. Seven additional entries were added including repositories in Deadwood, Freeman, Platte, and Tea. Subject indexes were also revised and expanded.