

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 9, 2017

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

Former State Historical Society publication Wi-Iyohi available on South Dakota Digital Archives

PIERRE, S.D. – Issues of a former publication of the South Dakota State Historical Society titled “The Wi-Iyohi” (Wee-ee-yo-hee) were recently added online to the South Dakota Digital Archives.

“The Wi-Iyohi” was a monthly bulletin published by the State Historical Society from April 1947 to November 1970. The first issue ran only four pages long. In its last year, “The Wi-Iyohi” grew to an average of 16 pages each month.

You can access the collection by going to the State Archives website at history.sd.gov/archives and finding the link to “Wi-Iyohi” under “In the News” or by making a search engine query for South Dakota Digital Archives.

As stated in the first issue of “The Wi-Iyohi,” it was believed, “a monthly bulletin will serve a most useful purpose as a vehicle wherein those professionally or otherwise interested in South Dakota History may know what is going on in this department and have a ready means of conveying their impressions to others with like interests.”

“Wi-Iyohi,” meaning “each moon,” was submitted as the name for the publication in 1947 by Louisa Riggs, the wife of Dr. Theodore Riggs (grandson of the famous missionary Stephen Riggs) and H.S. Morris of Sisseton, a cousin of Theodore Riggs.

The first editor, Will Robinson, former secretary of the State Historical Society, supplied many articles on the history of the state, many of which were the result of questions submitted by members, amateur and professional historians, and students. “The Wi-Iyohi” was a tool for the dissemination of little known facts about South Dakota and its pioneers.

Within each bulletin are maps, photos and general histories of South Dakota. Historical information in “The Wi-Iyohi” is still referenced today. The bulletins also provide institutional information for the State Historical Society.

In total, there are 281 issues of the bulletin available online. The scanning project comprised just over 2,600 individual scans and roughly 2,400 megabytes of data.

Conner Ulmen, a 2017 senior at Pierre Riggs High School, scanned the issues as part of the Project Skills program, a statewide, paid work experience program for high school students with disabilities in South Dakota. The program is a cooperative arrangement between the state vocational rehabilitation agencies and local school districts.

Volume 24, Number 5 from November 1970 was the last issue of "The Wi-iyohi." In its place the State Historical Society began publishing a quarterly journal titled "South Dakota History."

In the last issue, Dayton Canaday, former director of the State Historical Society, noted that, "The "Wi-iyohi" has been an extremely useful tool for the organization and it is hoped that the back files of the publication will find and serve a useful place on the shelves of the libraries across the state."

The South Dakota Digital Archives, an online resource launched in January 2012 by the South Dakota State Historical Society-Archives, provides researchers digital access to unique historical records. There are over 70,000 items in the digital archives, including photographs, manuscripts, land survey records and finding aids to government collections.

-30-

About the South Dakota State Historical Society

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.