

State Historical Society concludes another tremendous year

The South Dakota State Historical Society has been a whirlwind of activity as we prepare for the holiday season and conclude another tremendous year. We look ahead to 2011 with trepidation and count on your support to advance to state government leaders the importance and value of collecting, preserving, interpreting and promoting the history of the State of South Dakota.

This past year we completed the archaeological excavation report and started considering preliminary plans to enhance the Fort Pierre Chouteau National Historic Landmark. We are working with the state Game, Fish and Parks Department to help them manage their cultural and historic resources. We microfilmed over 1,000,000 images and assisted with over 10,700 research requests. We launched a statewide cultural tourism program in partnership with the City of Brookings, the City of Deadwood and a Preserve America grant. We welcomed over 16,000 people to our museum in the Cultural Heritage Center and sent education kits and traveling exhibitions throughout the state. We marked the 40th anniversary of our award-winning quarterly journal, *South Dakota History*, and we published five new books.

We led the effort to commemorate the centennial anniversary of the State Capitol. We provided programming on the Capitol at our history conference and during the Day of Celebration at the Capitol. We offered a traveling exhibition on the fight for the capital and presented an exhibition on the

From the SDSHS Director



Jay D. Voigt

“People’s House” at the Cultural Heritage Center. We presented programs on the capital fights throughout the state. Our nonprofit partner, the South Dakota Heritage Fund, sponsored an art program in celebration of the Capitol’s anniversary.

The State Historical Society decorated the State Christmas Tree in the Capitol. In the spirit of the Capitol centennial, we used historic photos and the new Capitol art to trim the tree. We crowned it with a Capitol dome and emblazoned on it the number “100,” along with state flags. I hope you have a chance to see it this holiday season.

From all of us at the State Historical Society, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! If you celebrate Hanukkah, Muharram, or Kwanzaa, best wishes for a wonderful holiday season. jdv

Field Reports

Haley Chambers, who most recently worked for the D.C. Booth National Fish Hatchery in Spearfish, is the new curator of the Historic Adams House in Deadwood. Chambers, who has a degree in public history from the University of North Carolina-Greensboro and a dual bachelor’s degree in creative writing and classical studies from Hollins University in Virginia, has previously worked in Kentucky, Iowa, Alaska and North Carolina. Chambers will be responsible for managing the home’s artifacts, which includes cataloging, inventorying and interpreting the collection. She will also oversee routine cleaning and maintenance of the home and all its contents.

The Adams Museum in Deadwood hosted a Holiday Open House on Dec. 11.

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The latest exhibit at the Codington County Heritage Museum in Watertown is, appropriately, “Keeping Warm in Dakota.” The exhibit features the actions Dakotans have taken over the years to live in the extreme weather conditions, including what we wore, what we built to live in, and what we used for heat. The exhibit, which runs through Feb. 11, includes interpretive panels filled with historic images from the

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West River History Conference award winners named

Participants in the 18th annual West River History Conference in September gave a thumbs up to the new conference venue at the Surbeck Center on the campus of the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology in Rapid City.

As always, attendees came from the neighboring states of North Dakota, Wyoming, Nebraska and Minnesota, as well as Kansas and all parts of South Dakota. Presenters at this year's conference hailed from as far away as Arizona, Texas and New York.

Attendance was up over record-breaking 2009, and plans are already underway for next year's conference to be held Sept. 22-24 at the Surbeck Center. Check the conference website at <http://wrhcsd.wordpress.com> often as plans are unveiled for another exciting conference in 2011.

Winners of the 2009 conference papers were announced at the Friday

awards luncheon.

Winner of the best student paper was Emily Wicks of Faith High School, whose paper was entitled "Annie Oakley: Guns, Romance and Hardships." Second place went to Cassie Foster, also of Faith High School, for her paper, "The Myths and Legends of Belle Starr, the 'Bandit Queen'."

First place in the adult category went to Pat Moore of Chestnut Hill, Mass., for her paper, "Answering the Call: Women Missionaries in the West, 1810-1900." Second place went to Jan Cerney of Philip for her paper entitled, "Missionary Corabelle Fellows: Victim of the Yellow Press." Third place was awarded to Donna Fisher of Deadwood for her paper, "Pursuit of Art: Grace French, Pioneer Artist and Teacher." An additional honorable mention went to Barb White of Herrick, for "How Todd Lost His County (and Found it Again Out West)."

In addition to prizes for best papers,

the conference presents awards to deserving promoters and preservers of history in the region. The Herb Blakely Award for outstanding contributions to local and regional history, a sense of American Patriotism, and efforts to further the concepts of good citizenship went to Mary Lewis of Wasta. The Zoom Zoom Award for outstanding support of local history went to Marcia Hill of Rapid City; and the Sandria Friske Helping Hand Award went to Grove Rathbun of Rapid City.

The conference was made possible with support by the South Dakota Humanities Council, an affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities; the Deadwood Historic Preservation Commission; Black Hills Corral of Westerners, International; the Society of Black Hills Pioneers, the Reptile Gardens, Keystone Historical Museum, Big Thunder Gold Mine, the South Dakota State Railroad Museum, Lewis Publishing and Dode Lee.

More Field Reports

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Siouxland Heritage Museums in Sioux Falls.

The Watertown museum hosted a holiday open house on Dec. 10.

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The Journey Museum in Rapid City hosted a book signing on Dec. 5. Allen "Jack" Kleinsasser discussed and signed copies of "Fifth Years of Family Memories."

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David Wolff presented a program for the Spearfish Area Historical Society at the Spearfish Senior Center on Dec. 7. The program's title was "Understanding the Gold Rush from Prospector to Railroads."

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DeLores Henehan of Britton was briefly mentioned in the last *Hoofprints*

upon her "retirement" as president of the Marshall County Historical Society. Kathy Buisker, who succeeded Henehan as president last fall, sent us more information about the history of the society and Henehan's participation.

The society started in 1976 and had 145 charter members. The chief objective of the group was to compile a history of the county. Wilbur Symens was the first president; other officers included Dale Quist, Eleanore Gronseth and Lucille Marcuson. The society's first big accomplishment was publishing a history book of the county that is still often referred to by local historians. Quist became the society's second president, followed by Mark Nelson and Henehan, who served for nearly 20 years.

Henehan was instrumental in acquiring several interesting programs over the years, including some through the South Dakota Humanities Council. She also spearheaded and acted on getting a reader for the local library that is widely used to read past newspapers on microfiche. Also during Henehan's

tenure, the Marshall County Courthouse was placed on the National Register of Historic places, and the 100th anniversary of the courthouse was celebrated. Just recently, a South Dakota-North Dakota half-mile border marker was placed on the courthouse lawn.

Editor's Note: Other local history groups are encouraged to submit information about individuals who have been instrumental members.

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The annual Holiday Open House of the State Historical Society at the Cultural Heritage Center had an unofficial attendance of 573 on Nov. 26. Attendees were treated to free admission, holiday music and treats, living-history demonstrations and pictures with Santa Claus. The center will be open 9 a.m.-6:30 p.m. CST Monday-Saturday and 1-4:30 p.m. Sundays through Dec. 23, and then 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. on Dec. 24. The center is closed Christmas and New Year's Day. Happy Holidays to all *Hoofprints* readers!