



Hoofprints

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For more information contact: Jeff Mammenga, South Dakota State Historical Society, 900 Governors Dr., Pierre, SD 57501
Phone — (605) 773-6000; Fax — (605) 773-6041; Email — Jeff.Mammenga@state.sd.us; Website — www.history.sd.gov

Your State Historical Society conducts essential work

Whenever I speak before a group, I usually tick off the five program areas of the South Dakota State Historical Society—archaeology, archives, historic preservation, museum, and research and publishing. The society, created by the State Legislature in 1901, exists to collect, preserve, interpret and promote the history of the state of South Dakota. No other organization is responsible for taking care of all the history of the people of our state. Thank goodness for local historical societies and museums, and archival organizations that also help gather and care for artifacts and records of our history, because the State Historical Society cannot do it alone.

However, what does the State Historical Society do? We need to look at the big picture of our state's history. State law requires a state archaeologist and state archivist, and federal law requires the state to have a state historic preservation officer. Further state and federal laws outline the responsibilities of these officers. Those duties are assigned to the State Historical Society. Consequently, much of the work of the State Historical Society is actually required by law and not something "unessential" and simply good to do.

The archaeological office, also known as the Archaeological Research Center, is located in Rapid City. From here the society's team of archaeologists surveys, records, and sometimes

From the SDSHS Director



Jay D. Vogt

excavates archaeological sites for federal and state agencies. Our work is far more than simply digging up archaeological sites; it involves recording and knowing more about them for their protection. The center is the state's official repository for any artifacts collected from archaeological sites. Probably more importantly, the society maintains records and reports on all identified archaeological sites throughout the state.

The archives is both the official state archives and a repository for non-governmental records donated to the State Historical Society. The archives is located in the Cultural Heritage Center

See "Vogt," Page 2

Field Reports

The Minnulusa Historical Association, headquartered at The Journey Museum in Rapid City, had a very successful "Night for the Museum" event in June, raising more than \$4,000 for museum operations. More than 100 attendees saw the best of what the museum has to offer.

Current board of directors of the MHA include: Director — Reid Riner; President — Casey Peterson; Vice President — Judy Cobb; Secretary — Karen Miller; Treasurer — Eileen Rossow; Past President — Doug Hesnard; Directors — Randy Daughenbaugh, Midge Lakner, Ed McLaughlin, Bill McBride, Vern McMullen, Wini Michael, Stella Hughes, Pat Rose-land, Jan Rathbun and Johnny Sundby; Honorary Directors — Helen Wrede and Helen Daughenbaugh (deceased 2009).

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The 20th annual West River History Conference is Oct. 4-6 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Rapid City. This year's theme is "Romanticism of the West Touching our Roots." Paper topics are not limited to the conference theme. Any topic relating to the history of the region is welcome. Topics must be submitted with a title, brief description and biographical sketch of the presenter by Sept. 1. For more information, call (605) 343-4852 or email wrhc@shebbylectours.com.

See "More," Page 2

More Field Reports

Continued from Page 1

The Encounters On The Prairie Central South Dakota Chapter is hosting the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation Regional Meeting on Sept. 28-30 at the AmericInn in Fort Pierre. The event will be commemorating the 200th anniversary of the reported death of Sacagawea. For more information call (605) 224-0223.

Current EOTP board members include: President — Bill Stevens; Vice

President — Chuck Schroyer; Secretary/Treasurer — Beverly Lewis; Newsletter Editor/Publisher — Rich Avilla; Members — Yvonne Haefner, Karen Kern and Bob Travis.

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If you have information about your group you'd like to share with other *Hoofprints* readers, be it activities or officers, please send it to the contact information at the top of the first page.

Vogt

Continued from Page 1

in Pierre; however, it also has a microfilm unit at the Mike Durfee State Prison in Springfield, where, with the assistance of inmates, we microfilm all the newspapers in the state and records for state agencies, and create on-line indexes and data bases. The archives holds approximately 30 million records and handles around 10,000 reference requests annually.

The historic preservation office is responsible for implementing the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) in South Dakota and applying state preservation laws. Under the NHPA, the society reviews roughly 8,000 federal projects that have the potential to impact cultural and historic properties in the state. One result of our efforts is the rehabilitation of the historic Meridian Bridge at Yankton. Properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places are eligible for rehabilitation and restoration incentives, such as Deadwood Fund matching grants, federal income tax credits, and state property tax moratoriums.

The South Dakota Cultural Heritage Center, headquarters of the State Historical Society, is most often associated with the museum because the museum is the most visible part of our work here. The society's museum galleries include our award-winning principal exhibition, *The South Dakota Experience*, covering our history from pre-contact between American Indians and

Europeans through the end of the 21st century. Our other major exhibit is *Our South Dakota: Big Land/Big Ideas/Big Heart*. It will be receiving an award from the American Association for State and Local History this fall. As with the archives, the museum relies on individuals and organizations to offer donation materials for our collections.

The society's publication office started out producing the *South Dakota Historical Collections* series (1902-1989). In 1971 the society started our award-winning journal, *South Dakota History*, and in 1997 we launched our Press, publishing full-length books. In the Press's first 15 years, the society has published 50 books, which included American Indian topics, biographies, children's stories and histories on a variety of subjects. Because of our insistence on outstanding scholarship and quality production, many of our books have received numerous awards and recognitions. The society's next big project is publishing an annotated edition of Laura Ingalls Wilder's autobiography, *Pioneer Girl*, in 2013.

Your South Dakota State Historical Society collects, preserves, interprets and promotes the history of our state. We count on local history-related groups to help keep our state's history, too, and the society is also available to provide advice and assistance as requested. Keep up the good work, and let your elected officials know about the value and importance of South Dakota history. jdv

Free collections care workshops begin in August

Free hands-on workshops for staff and volunteers at museums, libraries and archives in South Dakota kick off in August. The workshops will focus on how to properly care for a variety of collections, such as textiles, books, art, furniture and photographs.

Workshop dates and locations include:

Aug. 8-10: Gregory County Historical Society, Dallas

Aug. 15-17: Dakota Territorial Museum, Yankton

Aug. 22-24: Fort Sisseton Historic State Park, Lake City

Aug. 29-31: Timber Lake & Area Historical Society and Museum, Timber Lake

Sept. 12-14: Tri-State Museum, Belle Fourche

Sept. 19-21: Keystone Area Historical Society Museum, Keystone

Although the workshops are free, registration is required online at <http://dcceworkshops2012.eventbrite.com/> and closes one week prior to the start of each workshop.

The workshops are hosted by the Dakota Collections Care Initiative (DCCI), a partnership between collections care professionals at museums, libraries and archives in South Dakota and North Dakota to improve collections care and emergency preparedness and response for the small and mid-sized collecting heritage institutions across the two states.

DCCI partners include the South Dakota State Historical Society, Association of South Dakota Museums, North Dakota Library Association, Plains Art Museum in Fargo, South Dakota State Library and the State Historical Society of North Dakota.

Terri Schindel, a conservator affiliated with the Museum Training Network, will lead the workshops. More information about DCCI and the summer workshops is available at <http://history.sd.gov/aboutus/dcci.aspx> or by calling (701) 355-4458. Or contact Chelle Somsen, South Dakota DCCI contact and State Historical Society Archivist, at (605) 773-3804.