

Your State Historical Society cares for public & private records

The South Dakota Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre is the headquarters of the State Historical Society and serves largely as a storage facility. Outside the museum gallery, the collections storage areas for the archives and the museum take up much of the center. The largest of the collections storage areas is set aside for the archives, the repository of records pertaining to state government and the state's history.

Since its official beginning in 1901, the State Historical Society has collected, preserved, interpreted and promoted the history of the State of South Dakota. A vital part of that work includes documents, manuscripts, maps, photographs, recordings, etc. The State Archives was created and combined with the society's archives resource center in 1975, and the society has been responsible for government records and privately donated archival materials ever since. With approximately 12,000 cubic feet of records, the archives probably holds 30 million documents, including three million in photographs, and more than 7,000 maps.

The South Dakota Digital Archives (visit <http://history.sd.gov/Archives/> and click on SD Digital Archives) provides access on-line to a large selection of photographs and material from our manuscript and government collections. More than 31,000 images are currently available on-line. The photo digitization project is a privately funded effort to digitize the photo-

From the SDSHS Director



Jay D. Vogt

graph collection so a higher number of photographs can be viewed from your computer. However, this project is entirely supported through grants and private contributions through the South Dakota Historical Society Foundation. On-going financial support is essential for this project.

Interestingly, microfilm remains the best method of maintaining stable copies of historical records. The archives operates a microfilm unit at the Mike Durfee State Prison in Springfield to film and develop microfilm. In exchange for a membership in the State Historical Society, newspaper publishers throughout the state provide their newspapers

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Field Reports

Kevin Kuchenbecker of Lead has been appointed to serve a three-year term on the board of directors of Preserve South Dakota. Troy McQuillen of Aberdeen is board president for the statewide historic preservation organization. Other board members include Lori Holmberg of Mitchell, Jacque Fuller of Lead and Mike Bender of Rapid City.

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The Brandon Historical Society was established in 1989 to preserve history in the Brandon area. The society meets the last Thursday of each month from March-November at the Brandon Area Museum. Current officers include: President — Jeremy Risty, Vice-President — Debra Rothenberger, Treasurer — Howard Brown, and Secretary — Virginia Pappenfus. Society activities include having a used book sale the first Saturday of every month at the museum, an annual banquet each October featuring a dinner and guest speaker, and a quarterly newsletter.

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Rapid City's oldest building recently had its roof repaired. The "Pap" Madison Cabin was moved in April from Halley Park to The Journey Museum. The location at The Journey more accurately reflects the cabin's original location at the center of Rapid City. The

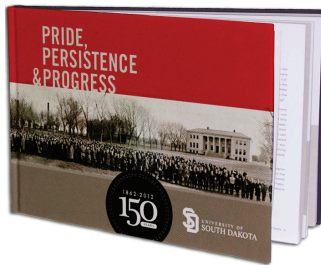
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More Field Reports

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roof repair was paid for with hail insurance, after a hail storm last summer. The museum has applied for two grants to further refurbish the building, as a way to educate people about early life in Rapid City.

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Pride, Persistence and Progress is a new book by Ann Grauvogl out about the 150-year history of the University of South Dakota in Vermillion. The 200-plus page coffee table-style book, from the USD Alumni Association, is filled with interesting historical facts, fun stories, photos and memories, throughout the 150-year history of USD. This pictorial history is sure to be an attractive addition to the collection of everybody associated with USD. To order a copy, for \$40, go to www.usdalumni.com or call 1-800-655-2586.

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for microfilming. The facility at Springfield is not open to the public.

The State Historical Society's archives website (<http://history.sd.gov/Archives/>) is rich with information for genealogists, general researchers, and students and teachers. This material is easily accessible worldwide. However, much more information is available in the research room at the Cultural Heritage Center. The archives is open to the public Monday through Friday and the first Saturday of every month from 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. No appointment is necessary. I hope you take advantage of the research opportunities with the archives. jdv

W. H. Over Museum has full 2013 calendar

The W. H. Over Museum in Vermillion has a variety of fund-raising events planned for 2013:

Valentine-Making Party

Feb. 10, 2:30 p.m.

Old fashioned Valentine party, one-room school style

Invite and make Valentines with SEDAC folks and for each other

Cupcake decorating, games, etc.

Banquet

March 10, 6 p.m.

Location: Sletwold Hall assisted by 4-H members

Will emphasize joining the Friends' organization

Will include: meal, entertainment, auction

ADMISSION: \$25/PERSON

Easter Basket Making Day

Saturday, March 24, 2-3:30 p.m.

Gather in the Discovery Room

Create a simple basket

Candy/egg hunt

Games – probably egg carrying and pin the tail on the rabbit

Treats

Celebrate Rhubarb Day

June 1, 2-3:30 p.m.

Special speaker: hopefully apron collector from Onida

Will include: contests, prizes, games
Refreshments will result from recipe contest

Listed on an international website

FREE WILL DONATION WILL BE

ASKED

Annual Fall Welcome Fall Event (Sunday before Halloween)

Oct. 27

Pumpkin Carving at 2:30 p.m.

We'll try scarecrows and topiary contests again

Supper: soup, pie, ice cream at 5:30 p.m.

Entertainment by Highway 50 Band
Will include door prize and possibly best topiary prize if entries suffice

FREE WILL DONATION WITH SUGGESTION OF \$5 WILL BE ASKED

Veteran's Day Observance

Nov. 11, 10 a.m.

Annual Christmas Festival

Dec. 8, 1-4:30 p.m.

Includes bake sale, food, booths, trees

Door prizes donated by vendors

Membership drive

Donations asked from vendors and for hospitality table

First Weekend in August:

Annual Biker/Traveler Breakfast at the I-29 Rest Area

HHOH celebrates 30 years of Festival of Trees

For many Black Hills families, attending community Christmas tree festivals has become a holiday tradition.

For some, that tradition started in 1982 when the original Black Hills Festival of Trees was held in Lead, as a fundraiser for the Historic Homestake Opera House (HHOH) restoration and for the community. Three decades later, this special event still attracts visitors from near and far.

The 30th Annual Festival of Trees took place Nov. 29-Dec. 1, at the Opera House at 313 W. Main Street in Lead. Admission was a suggested donation of \$5 to the HHOH or food items for the Lord's Cupboard food pantry or pet food items for the Twin City Animal Shelter.

The Festival's founders include current Lead residents Dean Peterson and William Stone, who were honored during the auction night festivities. Mike Reis and Ken Bauman, who was then Lead mayor, also planned the inaugural event.

The 30th Festival of Trees theme was 'A Vintage Christmas,' and tree decorators and wreath creators worked hard to

earn votes from event attendees for the People's Choice Award.

The public was invited to preview more than 30 creatively decorated trees, a dozen wreaths and specialty items that were auctioned off.

The three-day event featured storytellers, musicians, singers and dancers, including The Black Hills Storytellers, Kristi Lake, Paul Vande Velde, Hank Harris, the Lead-Deadwood high school and middle school bands and the school's 2012 All-State Chorus members. Dancers from Lead, Sturgis, Casper, Wyo., and Gillette, Wyo., and party band The Synthetics with guest singers D'Vine Favor also performed.

Proceeds from the event help offset Opera House operational costs, and also go toward the nonprofit organization's 2014 Theater Restoration Fund. Ticket sales, donations and special fundraisers also contribute to this fund. An architectural firm has been chosen to assist with the theater restoration cost estimate, which will take place in 2013.