

State historians encouraged to attend AASLH in Saint Paul

We do not often have the opportunity to attend a national history conference “near” us. I recall encouraging local historic preservationists to attend a National Alliance of Preservation Commissions meeting in Denver about 20 years ago. Although the Mountain-Plains Museum Association meets throughout our region (Montana and North Dakota south to New Mexico and Texas), the last meeting in South Dakota was in 2010 at Rapid City. There may be a few other examples of “close by” national meetings, but not many.

However, later this year we have an opportunity to attend a valuable meeting of a national organization, the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) annual meeting Sept. 17-20 in Saint Paul, Minn.

The AASLH is your “home for history.” It is the national organization dedicated to supporting state and local history efforts—archives, museums, historical societies, etc. It is not about museums in general, but focuses exclusively on history-related operations. The AASLH produces History News magazine, offers on-line professional development courses and provides technical leaflets, promotes the Standards and Excellence Program for History Organizations and Visitors Count! programs and coordinates several affinity “communities,” such as educators and interpreters, historic houses, and small museum groups, et al. The AASLH works solely in the history field and is dedicated to *state*

From the SDSHS Director



Jay D. Vogt

and local history. This is the work we do — state and local history.

A great AASLH experience is their annual meeting. This year the theme is “Greater Than the Sum of Our Parts,” and the conference promises informative educational sessions, entertaining events and tours, and professional development and networking opportunities. Minnesota’s own Garrison Keillor is the Thursday keynote speaker. In addition, the Association of Tribal Libraries, Archives, and Museums and Preserve Minnesota will be meeting in conjunction with the AASLH annual meeting.

I currently serve on the AASLH Council which governs the organization,

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Field Reports



Twenty-five communities or groups, as of June 16, have accepted Gov. Dennis Daugaard’s invitation (See March/April “Hoofprints”) and established committees to help celebrate South Dakota’s 125th anniversary of statehood. Those “Celebration Communities” include Baltic, Belle Fourche, Bowdle, Dallas, De Smet, Ethan, Frederick, Freeman, Geddes, Harrisburg, Howard, Humboldt, Ipswich, Java, Lake Norden, Lawrence County, Peever, Pickstown, St. Onge, Stickney, Tabor, Valley Springs, Volga, Watertown and Waubay. Several other communities have events planned. If you are interested in forming a community, please go to 125.sd.gov and click on “Celebration Communities.”

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The Dakota Discovery Museum in Mitchell is “Celebrating Badger Clark!” on Wednesday, July 16. Timothy Nolting of Bushnell, Neb., will present “Badger Clark: South Dakota’s Poet Laureate” as the man himself from 2-3 p.m. The Badger Sett Band will perform the poetry of Badger Clark set to music from 3-4 p.m. After the band, there will be a showing

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State History Day competition held at SDSU

Over the past 33 years the South Dakota State Agricultural Heritage Museum, South Dakota Humanities Council, South Dakota State University, the University of South Dakota and other sponsors have supported National History Day (NHD) in South Dakota. The NHD curriculum framework provides exciting project-based learning for students in grades 6 -12. Students learn how to do research and critical analysis by using the skills and methods used by professional historians. This year's theme was "Rights & Responsibilities in History."

Throughout this past school year, students worked on projects following the NHD rules and annual theme. At

the State Contest, held in April at SDSU in Brookings, 246 presented their research as either a traditional research paper, an exhibit, a documentary, a website or an original performance. The winners represented South Dakota at the National Contest held in College Park, MD, June 15-19.

Lauren Olson, Rutland School District, was selected as the South Dakota NHD 2014 Teacher of the Year. She teaches World History, Civics, Geography, US History and Government, and Current Events in grades 9-12 at Rutland High School.

Organizers wish to thank the South Dakota State Historical Society for sponsoring the National History Day

junior division "South Dakota History: Local or State Emphasis" special award. Courtney Benda from Britton-Hecla School won with her documentary titled "Saying No to War: The Rights of Conscientious Objectors."

"Leadership & Legacy in History" is the 2015 NHD theme. Students, teachers or parents wanting further information about National History Day should contact the South Dakota National History Day Coordinator at sdstate.nhd@sdstate.edu or call the SD State Agricultural Heritage Museum at 605-688-6226.

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of "Mountain Thunder: A Ballad of Badger Clark," a dramatic portrayal of Badger Clark, based on the play written by former Mitchell resident Kenn Pierson.

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The National Music Museum on the University of South Dakota campus in Vermillion has been recognized by TripAdvisor with a 2014 Certificate of Excellence. The award goes to destinations and attractions that consistently have earned outstanding feedback from TripAdvisor travelers. The museum's special exhibit this summer

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and I am pleased that this year's conference is so close to home. I regularly attend the AASLH annual meeting, and I find it a great way to learn from others, share ideas and re-charge. I encourage you to attend the AASLH conference, Sept. 17-20, next door in Saint Paul. To learn more about the meeting and to register, visit about.aaslh.org/conference. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me, and I will be happy to answer them for you. I hope to see you in Saint Paul.
jdv

is "Celebrating the Saxes," which showcases musical instruments designed by Adolphe Sax, his father and brother.

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The historic Cramer-Kenyon Home in Yankton is once again enjoying a summer full of varied activities, with particular focus this year on the 125th anniversary of the statehood of South Dakota.

Memorial Day saw the launching of the Wednesday through Sunday tours of the home, which extend until the Labor Day holiday. Visitors see not only the interior of the 3-story (plus basement) Eastlake Stick Style Home, built in the 1870s, but also visit the carriage house, gazebo and the famous Dorothy Jencks Gardens. On June 19, the home joined with the Yankton County Historical Society, Yankton College, the Yankton Library and Yankton Area Arts to feature a "Night at the Yankton Museums" event, involving people and places reflecting the drive toward statehood.

A new community offering this year was inaugurated during June when a Garden Stroll with beverages was held on each Tuesday evening through July 8, just before the Summer Band Series held in the amphitheater at Riverside Park. Members of the board of directors were often evident in costume as visitors enjoyed the gardens in which flowers and plants appropriate to the

era of the home were in full bloom.

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The Minnehaha County Historical Society has a free program the third Thursday of each month at the Old Courthouse Museum in Sioux Falls. June's program was "Fenn's, That Good Ice Cream," by Daren Anderson, where attendees were encouraged to share their favorite Fenn's ice cream flavor or candy bar.

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Five state history organizations were recently awarded grants through the South Dakota State Historical Records Advisory Board.

The organizations that received funding this year and the amounts of their grants include: the Black Hills Mining Museum in Lead, \$680; the Fall River County Historical Society in Hot Springs, \$680; the Fassbender Photographic Collection in Deadwood, \$680; the George B. German Music Archives in Sioux Falls, \$850; and the Riverview and Virgil United Methodist Churches in Huron, \$110.

For more information see <http://history.sd.gov/Archives/SHRAB/shrabactivity.aspx> or call the South Dakota State Historical Society-Archives at (605) 773-3804.