

## Highlights from a busy year for State Historical Society

The State of South Dakota commemorated its 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2014, and the South Dakota State Historical Society was heavily involved in many activities:

- We participated in the work of the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Statehood Commission.
- The State's main events started with the First Lady's Ball on Friday, Oct. 31, and on the eve of the actual anniversary on Nov. 2, we assisted with the First Lady Inaugural Gown Exhibition and the Trail of Governors statues unveiling ceremony.
- The highlight of the commemoration was the performance of the South Dakota Symphony in the Capitol Rotunda and the dedication of the restored Capitol stained glass.
- That entire weekend, the museum at the Cultural Heritage Center was open free of charge, and we hosted two genealogical workshops.

The SDSHS has had a tremendous year:

- Following the roof collapse at our Archaeological Research Center last fall, the archaeology office moved to new quarters in downtown Rapid City.
- The Archives staff exceeded their goals by processing more than 1,700 cubic feet of government records and add-

### From the SDSHS Director



Jay D. Vogt

ing over 8,000 images to the South Dakota Digital Archives. As a result of our success, we were awarded another grant to continue cleaning up our backlog of government records.

- The State Historic Preservation Office nominated the concrete tipis at the interstate highway rest stops to the National Register of Historic Places and continued its efforts to save the Battle Mountain Sanitarium National Historic Landmark in Hot Springs. We were also awarded a special grant to conduct an architectural survey next year in conjunction with

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## Field Reports

The 10<sup>th</sup> annual Fall River History Conference will be held Saturday, January 17, 2015, from 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. MST, at the Mueller Civic Center in Hot Springs. A variety of topics relating to Fall River County will be presented by eight individuals. Presenters put a lot of work and research into their presentations to make the day interesting and enjoyable. A noon meal will be served and the museum volunteers will be providing the mid-morning and afternoon snacks.

Presenters Include: 1. Bernice Landers – Ranching in South Dakota Since the 1890s; 2. Diana Bader- World Famous Evans Plunge; 3. Russell Wyatt - Changes in the Method of Harvest in the Past 80 Years; 4. Rick Kaan – Stagecoach Trails from Sydney to the Black Hills; 5. Pauline Staben – The Forgotten Town of Lithia; 6. Dawn Johnson – The Evans Hotel; 7. Dave Batchelor – My Father the Stone Mason; and 8. Harold Wyatt – Telecommunications in Fall River.

The conference fee, including lunch, is \$30 if paid before the event and \$40 at the door. Contact Traycee or Teri for more info: terri.3@live.com or dinkel@gwtc.net.

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The Minnehaha County Historical Society has a free program every third Thursday of the month. The December Third Thursday

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the Oglala Sioux Tribe on the Pine Ridge Sioux Reservation.

- Museum staff opened three new temporary exhibitions in the Cultural Heritage Center: "Transformation and Continuity in Lakota Culture: The Collages of Arthur Amiotte, 1988-2014;" "South Dakota Environments: A Window to Past Times" and "Play Ball! The National Pastime in South Dakota."
- In addition to the critically acclaimed "Pioneer Girl: The Annotated Autobiography" of Laura Ingalls Wilder edited by Pamela Smith Hill, the SDHS Press published five other books.
- The South Dakota Historical Society Foundation has been working on a strategic plan, vision and mission to better support the work of the State Historical Society. One of their goals is to raise an additional \$400,000 annually above current commitments and needs. Their success and fund-raising efforts are very important for the society's activities and events.

The Sioux Horse Effigy continues its international tour. As part of the exhibition, "The Plains Indians Artists of Earth and Sky," the effigy has been receiving popular attention. The exhibition is currently on display at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art in Kansas City until Jan. 18, 2015. The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City will host the exhibition March 2 through May 17, 2015, before the artifact returns to Pierre. The Met plans to use the horse in their marketing plans.

Your South Dakota State Historical Society has had a busy year, as I know many of your local museums and historical societies have, also. We appreciate the work that you do at the local level, and if we can be of any service to you, please let us know.

Happy Holidays! jdv

## More Field Reports

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Program was "125 Years of Sing-Along Songs" in recognition of South Dakota's 125th anniversary and led by Pastor Richard Foster. The Jan. 15 program, at the Old Courthouse Museum, is "Sioux Falls Stockyards" by Jim Woster and Mike Cooper. Woster worked 43 years at the yards and Cooper will discuss plans for the Stockyards Plaza and Heritage Center. Current officers of the MCHS include: President — Jim A. Carlson, First Vice-President — Jennifer Dumke, Second Vice-President — Sandy Dean, Secretary — Celia Benson, Treasurer — Gaylord Helmbrecht, President Emeritus — Bob Kolbe, Historian — Bev Pyn and Board Members — Wayne Fanebust and Bill Hoskins.

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Crazy Horse Memorial near Custer is offering free weekend admission in December in exchange for a donation of three cans of food per person for the Care and Share Food Drive. Crews have installed special lighting on the mountain and installed thousands of displays inside and outside the complex below. Starting Dec. 19, music by Manheim Steamroller was combined with choreographed lighting on the mountain sculpture.

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The Historic Homestake Opera House in Lead, on Dec. 13, held a fund-raising auction of more than 70 historic Western items from the original Latchstring Inn restaurant in Savoy, SD, in Spearfish Canyon. Auction items included historic Latchstring Inn memorabilia, signage, furniture, tools, oil lamps, wooden bowls and boxes, china, glassware, teapots, dishes, bottles, ironworks, brass, scales, books, a sewing machine table, manual vacuum, spinning wheel and an organ. That same afternoon the HHOH hosted free professional photos with Santa Claus. While waiting for Santa, kids enjoyed a free movie, holiday treats and candy.

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The Hermosa Arts and History Association hosted the annual Hermosa Winter Carnival and Christmas Celebration on Dec. 7. A soups and dessert lunch was

held, as well as a bake and crafts sale, and Santa was on hand for the children. Children's activities included a Wheel of Fortune, race cars, duck pond games and cookie decorating.

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The annual West River History Conference was held Oct. 16-18 in Rapid City. Best-Paper Award winners included:

PATTI STORM STUDENT AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE:

Gretchen Collier, Minot ND: "Making it Home: Hearing the Voices of Female Homesteaders"

ADULT CATEGORY:

3rd Place: Jeff Broome - "The Fletcher Family Indian Captivity Story: An incident in the Plains Indian War"

2nd Place: Virginia Hanson - "Finding Jakob Kinna, Civil War Veteran"

1st Place: Paul Higbee and Tom Matthews - "The Matthews Family's Trail from Texas to the Black Hills"

PERSONAL FAMILY MEMORIES & EXPERIENCES:

Honorable Mention: Kari Geiger - "My Friends Went to Haight-Ashbury But I Went to Deadwood"

Winner: Jean Kary - "Abourezk Store"

DIRECTORS' AWARD:

Whitewood Sixth Grade Class - "History of the Whitewood School"

Other award winners were:

Herb Blakely — Arley Faness (2013) and Chuck Rambow (2014)  
Helping Hand — Bobbi Sago  
Zoom Zoom — Mary Livingston

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About 865 people attended the annual Holiday Open House of the South Dakota State Historical Society on Nov. 28 at the Cultural Heritage Center. Visitors enjoyed free admission to the museum, featuring the new "Play Ball!" exhibit. There was also entertainment throughout the afternoon, snacks, living-history demonstrations and pictures with Santa Claus.

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**If you would like your group's happenings or officers in "Hoofprints," send it to the postal address or email at the top of Page 1.**