



Hoofprints

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Happy Birthday, South Dakota — celebrating history day after day

The 125th anniversary of the state does not cause the same level of excitement as the centennial anniversary. I remember 25 years ago the anticipation of the commemorating South Dakota's history with books, exhibits, fireworks, parades and events. As history organizations, we "do history" every day, and an anniversary event gives us an opportunity to have a party. Nevertheless, we celebrate our local and state history regularly -- in that artifact donated by a member of the community or someone who moved away and wanted it returned home; in the piece of research which lay undiscovered until someone was poring over a newspaper article; or in the wonderment of a visitor to the museum saying, "Wow, I didn't know that!" or in the delight of school children in learning more about the American Indians and pioneers who called South Dakota home.

In nearly every talk I give, I say that: "History is the account of things said and done in the past. All of us have a history -- an account of where we come from and how we got to be who we are." Our efforts to collect, preserve, interpret and promote the history of our area, community, county and state are valuable because knowing about our past helps us to use good judgment and make worthy choices. On a political level, isn't that what a democracy is all about -- the people, you and me, making well informed, if not, good decisions? The wider understanding of our history leads to wisdom. And what is wisdom other than the ability to think and act

From the SDSHS Director



Jay D. Vogt

using practicality, knowledge and intuition? That is what the understanding of history provides all of us.

Thank you for your dedication and hard work in celebrating our history daily. Our organizations are the sources of information needed during these commemorations. If your organization needs assistance, the staff of the South Dakota State Historical Society is prepared to help answer your questions or provide advice. Our archivists, curators and historic preservation specialists are willing to visit your site. Our website, www.history.sd.gov, has lots of resources, everything from on-line photographs to information for genealogists,

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Field Reports



Mary Kopco has left her position as director of the Deadwood History Inc. to pursue other career interests in Fort Collins, Colo. Kopco has been the driving force behind preserving Deadwood's history for 19 years. DHI is the umbrella organization for four quality facilities around Deadwood, including the Adams Museum, Days of '76 Museum, Historic Adams House, and Homestake Adams Research and Cultural Center.

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The South Dakota National Guard Museum in Pierre was recently remodeled and is now a more spacious, "modern-feeling" museum. Among other improvements, the ceiling of the museum's north gallery was raised, new lighting was installed and new display cases were brought in. The improvements make it easier to process and preserve the artifacts of the museum, which opened in 1982.

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The latest exhibit at the Codington County Heritage Museum in Watertown features the record

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More Field Reports

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collection of Chuck Olson, former owner of the Disc Shop in Watertown. The exhibit, which runs through December, includes phonographs, record players and, of course, lots of records. The program for the fall meeting of the Codington County Historical Society was "125th Anniversary of What?" Local historian Prudy Calvin spoke about what Watertown was like in 1889, what the city did to try to become the capital, and South Dakota's first governor, Arthur Mellette's part in it all.

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The National Music Museum at the University of South Dakota in Vermillion has become the first South Dakota institution to have artifacts featured online at Google's Cultural Institute. The online collection allows people to browse high-resolution photos of art and step virtually into galleries around the world. More than 80 pieces from the Vermillion museum are featured on the Google site, located at google.com/culturalinstitute.

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The Dakota Discovery Museum in Mitchell recently had its doll collection undergo a comprehensive assessment by Nicole Grabow, objects con-

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researchers and teachers to suitcase education kits and traveling exhibitions to information on historical markers and listing properties in the National Register of Historic Places. In addition, please let us know if your organization wants to have a field trip to the South Dakota Cultural Heritage Center. We would be willing to customize your visit to meet your organization's interests and needs.

Happy Birthday, South Dakota!
Let's keep celebrating day after day!
jdv

servator from the Midwest Art Conservation Center in Minneapolis. The museum's collection consists of over 300 doll-related items, including 76 dolls. The assessment will help the museum determine exhibit recommendations and provide an exhaustive database for all of its doll-related items, in addition to a comprehensive review of each piece in the collection. The assessment was funded by the Mitchell Area Charitable Foundation and the Mary Chilton DAR Foundation in Sioux Falls.

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The annual meeting and luncheon of the Dalesburg Scandinavian Association is Nov. 11 in Vermillion. The 37th annual "Celebration of the St. Lucia Tradition in Dalesburg" is Dec. 13 at Dalesburg Lutheran Church north of Vermillion.

Other holiday events in the Vermillion area include: the Clay County Historical Society's 2014 Tour of Homes on Dec. 5 and the society's Sweets and Treats Goodies bake sale on Dec. 13, the annual Lutefisk & Meatball Dinner at St. Paul Lutheran Church in rural Elk Point on Dec. 6, a Christmas Festival at the W. H. Over Museum in Vermillion on Dec. 7 and the St. Mark's St. Lucia Festival on Dec. 11-13.

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The Museum of the American Bison in Rapid City has moved its collection to the Crazy Horse Memorial near Custer. Bison museum officials said the museum did not attract the visitors they had hoped for in downtown Rapid City, and they hoped that having their collection at Crazy Horse will bring in even more people to that attraction. Crazy Horse officials said they were excited to include the buffalo collection at their visitor center.

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The Center for Western Studies at Augustana College in Sioux Falls has issued a call for proposals for the 47th annual Dakota Conference being held April 24-25, 2015. The theme of next year's conference is "Where the West Begins? Geography, Identity, and Promise."

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The November program of the Minnehaha County Historical Society is "The Year from Dakota Territory to South Dakota," being presented on Nov. 20 at the Old Courthouse Museum in Sioux Falls. In the program, humanities scholars Joyce Jefferson of Rapid City, Belinda Joe of Fort Thompson and Lil Witt of Gordon, Neb., share research taken from local newspaper stories leading up to South Dakota statehood 125 years ago.

The newest exhibit at the Old Courthouse Museum also opens on Nov. 20. "Historic Purse-onality" is a display of some of the finer purses in the museum's collection and examines how the purse is one accessory that evolved from a simple bag into an elaborate alter ego for some carriers.

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Rick Mills, director of the South Dakota Railroad Museum in Hill City, presented programs at Hill City and Custer on Nov. 1 during the celebration of South Dakota's 125th Anniversary describing the economic, political and cultural impacts the railroad has had on our state's history. During the programs Mills shared some of his favorite railroad images from throughout the Black Hills and across the state.

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The annual Holiday Open House of the South Dakota State Historical Society is Friday, Nov. 28, at the Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre. The event, from 12-4:30 p.m., features holiday entertainment and treats, living-history demonstrations, special buys at the Heritage Store and photos with Santa Claus. The new "Play Ball!" exhibit is a big hit. And it's all free! Bring a canned good for the Pierre Food Pantry to help others in the holiday season.

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If you'd like to tell other history groups and museums what's happening with you, send your information to "Hoofprints." Group members of the SD State Historical Society have priority to the space, but you don't have to be a member to submit information.