

July/August 2015
Volume 19, Issue 6

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

You're invited to a regional Lewis & Clark meeting in RC

Meriwether Lewis and William Clark and their Corps of Discovery passed through the future South Dakota in 1804 and 1806. They did so at the direction of President Thomas Jefferson. Even before he purchased the Louisiana Territory from France, President Jefferson was looking westward and anticipating exploring those lands. The Lewis and Clark Expedition was one of the most dramatic and significant episodes in the history of the United States, because this military, diplomatic and scientific mission carried the destiny of our young nation westward and set the course of history for the United States.

The importance of the Lewis and Clark Expedition to South Dakota specifically is largely indirect. Although Lewis and Clark documented plants and animals previously unknown to science, much was already known about the area. Nevertheless, the journey dramatized the acquisition of the land by the United States and served to encourage greater traffic from Americans, even before the completion of the expedition.

The South Dakota portion of the Lewis and Clark Expedition was highlighted by such diverse episodes as a visit to Spirit Mound near present-day Vermillion; meetings with the various American Indian bands; the worrisome 12 days during which 17-year-old George Shannon was lost from the group; the great curiosity of the Indians when they saw their first black man, Clark's slave, York; and of course, the great encounter with the Teton at the confluence of the Mis-

From the SDSHS Director



Jay D. Vogt

souri River and Bad River in present day Fort Pierre. On exhibit at the Cultural Heritage Center is a re-strike of a Jefferson Peace Medal and a rarer small original Jefferson Peace Medal believed to be gifted by Lewis and Clark to an American Indian leader. Also on display in the lobby is a "Termesphere," a three-dimensional painting on a sphere, entitled "Against the Current," created by Dick Termes of Spearfish, which provides a pictorial chronology of the expedition heading westward.

The Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation is holding a regional meeting in Rapid City on Oct. 16-18 at the Ramkota Inn. The theme is "Road Trip to Mount Rushmore: Our Visit With a

See "Vogt," Page 2

Field Reports

Roderick R. Brown is the new manager of the Dakota Discovery Museum in Mitchell. Brown earned a master's degree in history in 2005 from the University of South Dakota. Brown has already made several changes, including displaying several additional works of Oscar Howe and returning Harvey Dunn's "Dakota Woman." The museum's current featured exhibit has a war theme and is entitled "Fall In!"

####

Current officers of the Springfield College Archives/Museum in Springfield are: Dr. Thomas Stone, Chair; Jon Westling, Vice Chair; Alice Petrik, Treasurer; and Ray Willard, Secretary. The museum and archive collection occupies 2,400 square feet of space and is open by appointment. A reunion of the college (Southern/University of South Dakota at Springfield) alumni, faculty, staff and friends of the college will be held the evening of Sept. 18 and all day Sept. 19 in Springfield at the museum and City Hall. For more information contact Alice Petrik at (605) 369-2626 or email ezechtrik@gmail.com.

####

The South Dakota State Railroad Museum in Hill City has a photography event planned for Saturday, Oct. 3, that should improve participants' photography and teach them more about trains.

See "More," Page 2

More Field Reports

Continued from Page

"Photo Express" will include a mini photo workshop and breakfast, followed by a ride on the 1880 Train. After lunch participants will hear from the following speakers: Chad Coppess with South Dakota Tourism, Chris

Vogt

Continued from Page 1

Stone Faced Thomas Jefferson." The program features Tom Pitz of Charlottesville, VA, as President Thomas Jefferson. He will meet with the group as if it were October 17, 1815, in Swann's Tavern, Virginia. His performance will be held in the shadow of Mount Rushmore in Carvers Café at the national memorial. People attending will be transported back in time. Other speakers are scheduled for Friday night and Saturday. You do not need to be a member to attend. Registration costs \$125 before Oct. 1 and includes all speakers, a buffalo or turkey dinner Friday night, Saturday morning breakfast buffet, travel to Mount Rushmore, lunch at Mount Rushmore, and Saturday night closing dinner. You can register online at lewisandclark.org/events or send your registration to Yvonne Haefner, 708 4th Ave. W., Mobridge, SD 57601. The Ramkota Inn is offering a special room daily rate of \$81.99 with two beds. Call the hotel directly to make your reservations and receive the special rate (605) 343-8550.

As one of the most prominent of the founding fathers, author of the Declaration of Independence, and the third president, it was during President Jefferson's administration that the young United States purchased the Louisiana Territory from France, the land on which Mount Rushmore stands. He sent Lewis and Clark to explore the territory, and it seems appropriate that the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation hold a regional meeting "off the trail" with Thomas Jefferson overlooking the event from the top of Mount Rushmore. I hope you attend this meeting on President Thomas Jefferson and the Corps of Discovery. jdv

Laskowski with C. Vision Productions and Erica Harvey with Tripod Tours. The cost for the day is \$99. Please register by Sept. 12. For more information call (605) 574-9000.

The Railroad Museum sold raffle tickets and held its annual Hobo Nights fundraiser in August. The grand prize winner was Gerald Baldwin.

#####

The Fall River County Pioneer Museum is hosting a combination Pioneer Fall Festival and Ag expo on Oct. 10 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. The event will be held at the Pioneer Museum (on the hill) in Hot Springs. There will be craft booths, live music, children's activities, animals, food, and the museum will be open for touring. The music will start at 9:30. Lunch will be available. The Museum is a jewel and worth a couple of hours of browsing by itself for only a \$1 entry fee for the day. Add that to all the other activities and it will be a fun family outing!

#####

The Minnehaha County Historical Society has free programs the third Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Old Courthouse Museum in Sioux Falls. The Sept. 17 program is Rick Lingberg talking about "Old Guys & Their Airplanes." Special guests will be WWII pilots Claude Hone and Harold Thune. On Oct. 15, Dave Wagner with the South Dakota High School Basketball Hall of Fame will be talking about the history of high school basketball in and around Sioux Falls.

#####

The 23rd annual West River History Conference will be held Oct. 1-3 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Rapid City. This year's theme is "Let the Games Begin: Sports and Recreation in South Dakota." Thursday's featured speaker is Robert Hanna, the interpretive coordinator at the Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center and Fort Mandan in Washburn, N.D. The speaker at the Friday Awards Luncheon is Humanities Scholar Jean Patrick of Aberdeen, discussing "The Girl who Struck out Babe Ruth," the true story of how 17-year-old Jackie Mitchell struck out not only Babe Ruth, but also Lou Gehrig. Saturday's

Westerner breakfast speaker will be Dave Kemp, a sports historian from Sioux Falls, talking about "South Dakota Sports." The conference early registration deadline is Sept. 28. For more information email wrhistoryconf@gmail.com or visit wrhcsd.wordpress.com.

#####

Arley Fadness of Custer has four different programs he presents that are listed with the South Dakota Humanities Council speakers bureau. If interested in one of Fadness' programs, contact him at (605) 673-5044 or email arpamfad@gwtc.net. The programs include:

1- "South Dakota Bombed by Japanese Balloons" — describing the little-known bombing of South Dakota by Japanese FUGO balloons with incendiary bombs during World War II. Nine thousand balloons were launched from the Japanese mainland in late 1944 and in 1945. These balloon-borne bombs targeted all of North America. Nine landings have been discovered on South Dakota soil.

2- "Aeronauts, Balloons and the Stratobowl" — This power point presentation tells the stories about seven significant historic and scientific balloons that flew out of the Stratobowl, located south of Rapid City, since 1934.

3- "Huron-born World War I Balloonist Hero" — The slide program and talk portrays Huron-born World War I balloon aeronaut, Lt. Harlou P. Neibling. He received the Distinguished Service Cross medal for his valour in France for shooting down a German Fokker D-VII airplane with his Colt .45 while parachuting from his attacked and burning observation balloon.

4- "Doc Sorbel - Webster's Bandit Buster" — This talk exposes the "secret" Webster citizen, Doc Sorbel, hid all his life. Asle Oscar Sorbel was the 17-year-old lad who when living in Madelia, Minn., was responsible for the capture of the Younger Brothers of the infamous Jesse James Outlaw Gang in 1876. He quickly and judiciously disappeared. After several years he reappeared in Webster and lived and served as the area "Horse Doctor," all the while carrying that "secret" until a year before he died in 1930.