

## State Historical Society moves to Department of Education

Although the South Dakota State Historical Society is not physically moving, it has a new home in the Department of Education. In January, Gov. Dennis Daugaard issued Executive Order 2015-01, which in part transferred the society from the Department of Tourism to the Department of Education. The Executive Order also updates the laws governing the Society, eliminating references to long-gone offices and reaffirming the structure of the State Historical Society and its responsibilities in state government. For our members and constituents, the change will probably not even be noticeable. Our mission, staff and functions will not change. Bureaucratically, the internal operations of the Society will adjust to conform to the operating procedures of our new department. Although state government operates under the same personnel and fiscal checks and balances, each department has its own internal processes. Further, we will be getting to know new co-workers within the department. It is an exciting time.

It has been a sensational year for the State Historical Society as we collect, preserve, interpret and promote the history of the people of South Dakota. Over the past year, the Great Sioux Horse Effigy, the symbol of the Society, has been touring the world as part of “The Plains Indians: Artists of Earth and Sky” exhibition. My wife Elizabeth and I have seen the exhibit at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art in Kansas City and The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. It is thrilling to view our artifact

### From the SDSHS Director



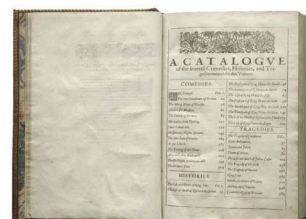
Jay D. Vogt

as part of an exclusive collection of the 140 top Great Plains Indian art pieces in the world. The Great Sioux Horse Effigy will return to South Dakota in October, and we are planning a celebration in conjunction with Native American Day weekend to mark its coming home. Please watch for details.

Another great success has been the publishing of Laura Ingalls Wilder’s “Pioneer Girl: The Annotated Autobiography,” edited by Pamela Smith Hill. Wow ... best-seller lists, national news coverage, and renewed interest in Laura Ingalls Wilder. This has been a phenomenal triumph for our “Little Press on the Prairie,” with an unexpected demand.

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### Field Reports



#### National Music Museum hosting Shakespeare book

Recently named as South Dakota’s host site for the “First Folio! The Book That Gave Us Shakespeare” national tour, the University of South Dakota and the National Music Museum in Vermillion now officially announce that the First Folio exhibition will be open to the public March 7-April 3, 2016.

“We’re so excited to announce that the city of Vermillion, the state of South Dakota, and the whole Siouxland region can now plan to experience first-hand the wonder and rarity of the First Folio,” said Darlene Farabee, local Folio project-director and chair of USD’s Department of English. “From Shakespeare fans to students studying the Bard’s plays for the first time, this exhibit is a rare opportunity for people to experience one of the most influential books in history.”

The First Folio will be on display in the National Music Museum (on the USD campus). While there, it will be opened to the most quoted line from Shakespeare’s *Hamlet*, “to be or not to be.”

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## More Field Reports

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The annual Butte County Historical Society Historical Tour is June 5-6. Ninety-two people, mostly from the Belle Fourche, Newell and Spearfish areas, will load two buses and head southeast to the Platte area and then Fort Randall. They also plan to visit a Hutterite colony. This is only the second time in 46 years of the tour that organizers had to close registration early because both buses were full.

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One of the oldest homes in Highmore was tore down in March, with the land being purchased by the Church of Christ in Highmore. The Gerhart-Quirk-Hawkinson Home, built in 1889, had stood on the corner

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The public has been excited about reading Wilder's story in her own words and recognizing how her personal story is a part of the "Little House Books." Books are available at most book stores, including directly from the Press or the Heritage Stores at the Cultural Heritage Center and the State Capitol.

Lastly, our annual history conference is May 29-30 at the Ramkota RiverCentre in Pierre. Our theme is "Prairie to Pines: People and Their Environment in South Dakota." Our interactions with plants, animals, soil, water and air have helped shape South Dakota history. David Wolff, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts at Black Hills State University, will moderate the two-day program, which includes speakers on our environmental history and the choice of three excursions. David Grettler from Northern State University will introduce the conference as the keynote speaker. For more information and to register, visit [his-tory.sd.gov](http://history.sd.gov) and click on the "Prairie to Pines" box. For a discounted registration, do so by May 8.

Thank you for your interest and activity in South Dakota history. jdv

of 4th Street and Iowa Ave. for 126 years. The home, also known as "The Grand Lady," was owned by Christina Jemina Grant from 1889-1895, Augusta and Augustus "Gus" Gerhart from 1896-1906, Elmer and Minnie Gerhart Quirk from 1906-1954, Lucille Quirk Hawkinson from 1954-1995, the Lindemann Family from 1995-1998, and D.Q. and Beth Roberts from 1998 to the present.

Current officers of the Hyde County Historical & Genealogical Society in Highmore include: President — Skyla L. Ratzlaff; Vice-President — Delores Stoley; Recording Secretary — Alice Buchheim; Treasurer — Maurine Bouzek; and Directors — Sandra Cermak, Marllys Cermak and Deanne Smith.

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Current officers of the Custer County Historical Society include: President — Cynthia McCahon; Vice-President — Bruce Doughty; Treasurer — Kathy Larsen; and Secretary — Rachel Nepper.

The society offers several free programs throughout the year. The June 6 program is "The Polio Epidemic Here" (West River Polio Hospital) by Cindy Messenger after the 2 p.m. CCHS meeting at the Custer County Annex Building.

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The Codington County Heritage Museum in Watertown is featuring two exhibits. "Pushing Our Buttons" showcases the museum's collection of typewriters, adding machines, comptometers and calculators. "Take One They're Free" displays Ken Sheldon's 2014 donation of promotional items given out from businesses in Watertown.

Current officers of the Codington County Historical Society include: President — John Dagal; Vice-President — Nancy Oviatt-Titze; Treasurer — Kris Fey; Secretary — Audrey Zimmerle; and Directors — John Iverson, Harlan Konrad, Joy Nelson, Denise Ottenbacher, Tim Oviatt, Donus Roberts and Roger Whittle.

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Current officers of the Lawrence County Historical Society in Deadwood include: President — Norma Kraemer; Vice-President — Kim Keehn; Secretary — Donna Watson; and Treasurer — Jacke Mitchell.

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The May 21 program of the Minnehaha County Historical Society in Sioux Falls will feature Bill Hoskins, director of the Old Courthouse Museum, discussing "History of our Local Civil War Soldiers." In April, 55 people heard Jeff Mammenga from Pierre and the State Historical Society talk about being an extra in "Dances With Wolves."

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The Timber Lake and Area Museum at Timber Lake unveiled its "Sea of Grass" art exhibit with a grand opening, artists' reception and art show on April 11. Thirty-eight pieces of art, created by 24 different artists and reproduced on 3-by 4-foot canvases, tell the history of the region in this permanent exhibit. The artists whose work has been selected for the Sea of Grass exhibit are: Del Iron Cloud, Dennis Linn and Dale Stradinger of Rapid City; Jim Pollock of Pierre, Darren Maurer of Sioux City, IA, Mick Harrison of Belle Fourche, Jerry Fogg and Steve Randall of Sioux Falls; Brenda No Hawk Kohlman, Peter Kilian and Jacob Bosmoe of Aberdeen; Jay Jones of Trail City, Gordon Schnabel of Stanton, ND, the late Jack Reich of Isabel, the late Eddie Two Bulls of Pine Ridge, Jan Seurer of Hoven, Pamela Stolz, formerly of Eagle Butte, Linda Roesch of Roscoe, Bonnie Brahm of Humboldt, Merriel McMacken Zimmer of Mesa, AZ, Molly Krautkremer of Nisswa, MN, Judy Frank Deems of Cortez, CO, Charity Newman of Meadow, Steve Randall of Sioux Falls, and Heather Kraft of Timber Lake.

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Frawley Ranches, located halfway between Deadwood and Sturgis, is a National Historic site in South Dakota. The development is among the few historic ranches in the United States where original buildings, furnishings, tools and memorabilia dating to the late 19th century have been preserved intact. Visit [www.frawleyranches.com](http://www.frawleyranches.com) for more information.