



Hoofprints

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It's important to answer the question 'Why study history?'

As the South Dakota State Historical Society transitions from the Department of Tourism to its new home in the Department of Education, I find myself reflecting more on "Why study history?" The State Historical Society and probably your organization collect, preserve, interpret, and promote the history of the people of South Dakota or locality. We recognize our work as important, but why? For many of us, we simply find history enjoyable. The Department of Education is concerned with K-12 instruction, but our reach also includes lifelong learning. Our organizations typically "teach" history through classroom education kits, exhibitions, programs, publications, research and tours. People of all ages who visit our institutions experience history. What is the value of history?

The South Dakota State Historical Society board of trustees recently endorsed "The Value of History" statement prepared by the History Relevance Campaign. The discussion of the value of history started at a meeting of the state historical administrators, and our need to make a stronger case to our governors and legislators, as well as Congressional members on why the work we do is important. Consequently, why study history? What is the value of history? A working group of history professionals came together in 2013 and held meetings, sessions and open forums at national and regional meetings to formulate seven principles.

The statement identifies seven

From the SDSHS Director



Jay D. Vogt

ways that history is essential. To ourselves, history nurtures personal IDENTITY in an inter-cultural world (who are "we?"), and history teaches CRITICAL SKILLS and independent thinking (what have we learned from the past?). To our communities, history lays the groundwork for strong, resilient communities forging VITAL PLACES TO LIVE AND WORK (sense of place) and history is a catalyst for ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (\$275 million invested annually in South Dakota). To our future, history helps people craft better solutions through an ENGAGED CITIZENRY, history inspires and provides role models for local and global LEADERSHIP, and history, saved and preserved, is our LEGACY, the foundation

See "Vogt," Page 2

Field Reports

The Brown County Historical Society in Aberdeen announced its annual Historical Research and Writing Awards for Northern State University and Presentation College students. First place went to Nicole Christiansen (NSU-pictured) for her paper titled "Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty: How the Boys in Blue Built the Dakota Soldiers' Home." Kate Johnson (PC) received second place for her paper on "Diseases and Illnesses in the American West," and Menno Schukking (NSU) received third place for "Native American Struggles with Landownership and the Pick-Sloan Plan." Each of the students received a certificate and a cash prize for their winning papers.



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The Children's Museum of South Dakota in Brookings reached a milestone in early June by welcoming its 500,000th guest. Visitors from all 50 states and countries around the world have been to the museum since it opened in September 2010. The Olseth-Sterling Family of Lennox became the 500,000th guest. For earning the distinction, they received a private party with behind-the-scenes access for up to 20 people, plus a "reciprocal family membership" valid at about 200 U.S. museums.

See "More," Page 2

More Field Reports

Continued from Page



(Photo courtesy National Music Museum, Vermillion)

One of the world's greatest musical instruments, the 16th-century Amati "king" cello, has temporarily left its home at The National Music Museum in Vermillion for a special summer-long exhibition at The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, running through Sept. 8.

Vogt

Continued from Page 1

for future generations (people are the focus of history). To learn more about the History Relevancy Campaign, visit www.historyrelevance.com/.

In addition, the board of trustees also passed a resolution urging the South Dakota Department of Education Social Studies Standards Working Group to promote the study of South Dakota history in high school (in addition to the fourth grade) and to promote the study of the colonial and revolutionary period of American history and the framing of the United States Constitution in high school. The Department of Education periodically reviews learning standards, and this year the department is focusing on social studies.

World history, American history, South Dakota history and local history are the study of the past, especially as it relates to people. Our institutions collect, preserve, interpret and promote history. We tell the stories of the past, and through those stories we explore and learn, we build dynamic communities, and we stimulate further inquiry and personal growth. Thank you for your interest and activity in South Dakota history. Keep up the good work! jdv

The Siouxland Heritage Museums hosted "Pedaling the Past," a bike tour of Sioux Falls historic locations, on June 6. The ride was a 5-to 8-mile loop starting and ending at the Old Courthouse Museum. Stops were made at Falls Park, Riverdale Park, downtown and other locations to talk about Sioux Falls history and landmarks.

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The Dalesburg Scandinavian Association hosted the 146th annual Midsommar at Dalesburg on June 19 near Vermillion. The day's events included musical entertainment, children's activities, the raising of the Midsommar Pole and a Scandinavian Smorgasbord.

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The Edgemont Area Historical Society operates the Trails, Trains and Pioneers Museum in Edgemont. Current officers include: Chairperson — Mary Hollenbeck; Vice-Chairperson — Darrel Dutoit; Treasurer — Judy Porter; Secretary — Anne Cassens; and Museum Manager — Sue Hendricks.

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SD SHRAB awards grants

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

The organizations that received funding this year and the amounts of their grants include: the Black Hills Mining Museum in Lead, \$946; the Fassbender Photographic Collection in Deadwood, \$1000; the Mitchell Area Historical Society, \$1000; the 1881 Courthouse Museum in Custer, \$500 and the Brule County Historical Society in Kimball, \$554.

In addition, site visits were awarded to the Lyman County Museum in Presho, the Timber Lake and Area Historical Society in Timber Lake, the Heritage Hall Archives in Freeman and the Miner County Historical Society in Howard. The grant funding will allow staff members from the State Historical Society- Archives to visit these organizations this summer in order to provide advice concerning their archival collections.



Arlo Levisen, center, accepts the Organizational Governor's Award for History for the Grant County Historical Society from Jay D. Vogt, left, director of the South Dakota State Historical Society; and David Wolff, vice-president of the SDSHS board of trustees.



Vogt and Wolff present an Organizational Governor's Award for History to Joseph Muller of the Mammoth Site of Hot Springs, SD, Inc.

Two organizations win Governor's Awards

The Grant County Historical Society in Milbank and The Mammoth Site of Hot Springs, SD, Inc. both received Organizational Governor's Awards for History from the South Dakota State Historical Society on May 30 during the society's annual history conference in Pierre.

Other award recipients included: Harold Schuler of Tucson, Ariz. and formerly of Pierre, the Robinson Award for Lifetime Achievement; Fraser Harrison of England, Schell Award for best article in *South Dakota History*; Jean Kessloff of Rapid City, Individual Award; and Jennifer Phillips of Lincoln Elementary School in Aberdeen, History Teacher of the Year.

Next year's history conference is April 29-30, also in Pierre.