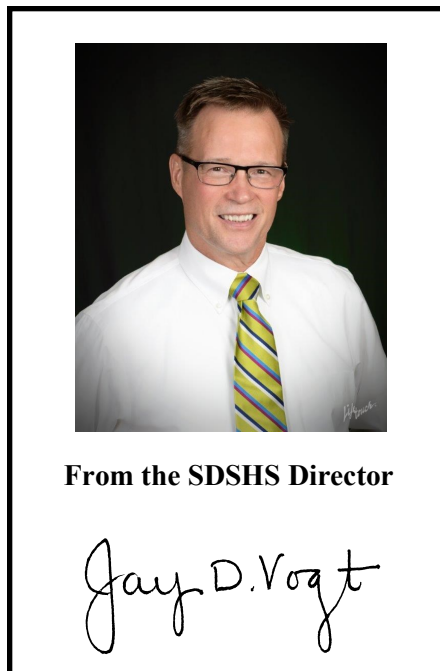


## The many different ways of interpreting South Dakota history

**T**he mission of the South Dakota State Historical Society is to collect, preserve, interpret and promote the history of the people of South Dakota. We collect history in a variety of ways. Typically, people donate objects, personal papers, diaries or journals, letters, manuscripts, maps, photographs or records. (If we had funds, we could buy important pieces that come up for sale.) We also survey, document and record archaeological or historic sites, buildings and structures as a way to collect information on them.

**B**ecause we need to care for these materials, we are restrained about what we add to our collection. Most importantly, we take into account how the items are related to South Dakota history, but we also consider if we have the appropriate storage space, among other significant issues. Control of the environment is vital in the long-term care of materials in our collection. Our collection storage at the Cultural Heritage Center is approaching capacity.

**T**he American Heritage Dictionary, Second College Edition (1985) defines “interpret” as “1. To explain to oneself the meaning of; elucidate. 2. To expound the significance of. 3. To represent or render the meaning of, esp. through artistic performance.” So in the interpretation of history, we are presenting evidence of and discussing the significance of events or persons. In so doing, we are not necessarily just



re-telling a story but also providing analysis of those events or persons and putting the information into context.

**I**nterpreting history involves publishing books, making classroom presentations and proposing lesson plans, hosting conferences, formulating context documents, offering exhibitions, engaging families, presenting public programs and preparing websites, among other activities. Every year the State Historical Society holds a history conference; next year the meeting is April 27-28, 2018, in Rapid City on “Infinite Variety: Past, Present, Future.” We offer education kits on 14 different topics with activities

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## Field Reports

The Newell Museum in Newell has expanded their fossil, rock and earth science displays into an adjacent room. Also, the large collection of historical maps have been moved into an adjoining room. This helps museum staff improve traffic flow and makes research more convenient.

Current board members of the Newell Museum include — Chairman: David Morell; Vice Chairman: Douglas Parrow; Treasurer: Annitta Stolnack; Secretary: Sharyle Scott; Historian: Lynette Culver; and Curator: Linda Velder.

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Current board members of the Civilian Conservation Corps Museum of South Dakota in Hill City include — President: Otto Bochman; Vice-President: Peggy Sanders, Secretary: Joan Sutton, Treasurer: Elaine Hendrickson; and Board Members: Kim Benning, Jay Hendrickson, Dave Maudlin, Kerry Connor and Marilyn Oakes.

###

The Brown County Historical Society announced its annual Historical Research and Writing Awards for Northern State University and Presentation College students. First place went to Collin Fransen (NSU) for his paper titled “American Imperialism: How Pearl Harbor Became the Primary Naval Base in the Pacific.” Ashlyn

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## Arlington Museum wins Governor's Award for History

The winner of this year's Organizational Governor's Award for History is the Arlington Community Museum. The award was presented April 29 during the annual history conference of the South Dakota State Historical Society in Sioux Falls.

The Governor's Awards for History are presented annually. They recognize individuals, organizations and teachers whose hard work demonstrates outstanding dedication and commitment in the collection, preservation, interpretation and advancement of South Dakota history.

Through diligent work, Arlington-area people have ensured that their local history has been preserved. The building, built in 1907-08, was originally called the Arlington Masonic Temple, and is one of the most recent South Dakota listings on the National Register of Historic Places. The museum actively encourages area school children to participate in its special events. Museum volunteers recently collaborated with the Arlington School to put a sports section together.

The Arlington Community Museum is also working with museums in Lake Preston, Carthage, Oldham-



**Martin Murphy, center, accepted the Organizational Award from David Wolff, left, vice-president of the State Historical Society board of trustees, and Jay D. Vogt, director of the State Historical Society.**

Ramona, Volga, Willow Lake and De Smet to promote preserving area history.

The Individual winner was Keith Crew of Philip; he and his family restored an original sod dugout home called "Prairie Homestead" that is located on their ranch near the Badlands. The History Teacher of the Year was Marlene Eimers of Redfield Elementary School in Redfield. Jon Lauck of Sioux Falls won the Schell Award for best article in the previous year's volume of "South Dakota History," the society's quarterly journal.

would interest you for public programming. The State Historical Society is currently conducting a voluntary survey on what we should be offering for presentations, largely programs at the Cultural Heritage Center but they could also be presented across the state or added to our roster of presentations. We want your input. Please visit [history.sd.gov](http://history.sd.gov) and click on "public programming survey." The survey is open until June 9, 2017. The more people who participate in the survey, the better idea we will get of the types of programs and the topics that appeal to the most people. We want to know what you think. Please visit our website and take the survey. Thank you. jdv

## More Field Reports Continued from Page 1

O'Keefe (PC) received second place for her paper on the "Crazy Horse Memorial," and Jacob Sigurdson (NSU) received third place for his paper on "What is on the Menu: The Secret Expansion of the War in Vietnam Through the Bombings in Cambodia." Each of the students received a certificate and a cash prize for their winning papers.

###

The Historic Homestake Opera House in Lead is steadily progressing toward a new interior look that's also old. The theater's ornate appearance of the early 20th century is being replicated. The theater's south wall, the one to the audience's right, was recently restored, thanks to an anonymous donation of \$10,000 in honor of late South Dakota legislator Jim Dunn and his wife Betty, along with Deadwood Historic Preservation funding. HHOH officials hope the opposite wall can be completed by the end of August, marking the 103rd anniversary of the building. To make a contribution to the project, call (605) 584-2067 or visit [homestakeoperahouse.org](http://homestakeoperahouse.org)

###

The 148th annual Midsommar at Dalesburg is Friday, June 23, at Dalesburg Lutheran Church, located 12 miles north of Vermillion. For more information visit [www.dalesburg.org](http://www.dalesburg.org).

###

Sympathies go out to the family and staff of Dr. Andre P. Larson, the founding director of the National Music Museum in Vermillion, who passed away on March 24 at the age of 74. After becoming the first director of The Shrine to Music Museum (now known as the National Music Museum) in 1973, Larson took the museum's collections to world-class distinction. The museum now has 15,000 items in its holdings and 1,200 on public display.

## Vogt

Continued from Page 1

matched to kindergarten through sixth-grade South Dakota curriculum standards. We have over 50 books in print with a biographical series, titles for children and young adults, studies of American Indian culture and history, memoirs and accounts on a variety of historical topics. "The South Dakota Experience," our primary exhibition in the Cultural Heritage Center, tells the history of the state, and it is supported by temporary exhibitions focusing on specific areas of our past. We also have a traveling exhibition program.

**H**owever, I want you to tell us what