

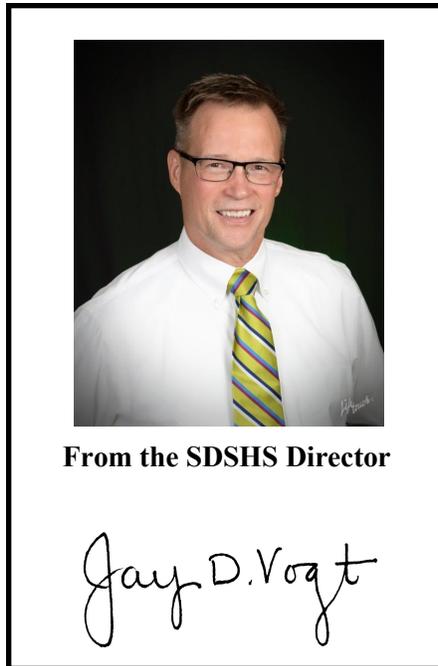
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Study of pre-contact period is possible with archaeology

Archaeology is the study of past human life and culture. When you think of archaeology, you may reflect on the “Indiana Jones” movies or maybe dinosaurs come to mind. However, archaeology is a science that has nothing to do with dinosaurs. Archaeology is about people, human existence. People may have interacted with mammoths and such, for example, but archaeologists strive to understand how the people who came before us lived. The “Indiana Jones” movies are about archaeology, but the field may not be quite as exciting or glamorous as the movies portray it.

Your South Dakota State Historical Society operates in five offices, and one of those offices is archaeology. Long-term State Archaeologist Jim Haug retired in June, and this fall, Renee Boen of Rapid City was appointed as the new State Archaeologist. Ms. Boen is a former senior archaeologist with the State Historical Society and recently had been working for the Bureau of Land Management. The office of archaeology is our largest office, and it is located in downtown Rapid City. The office maintains the records on archaeological sites and reports, holds the state archaeological collection and various federal collections, manages the unexpected discovery of human burials, and conducts evaluations, surveys, and excavations for state and federal agencies.

Although we know people have been here on the Upper Great Plains for thousands of years, the time before the arrival of non-Indians (old stock Americans and European settlers) is termed pre-historic or pre-contact. These pre-historic people, largely con-



sidered ancestors of the current American Indians, are the people we have learned about through archaeology. Anthropologists divide pre-contact into five periods: Paleo-Indian (8,000 years before present), Plains Archaic (8,000-1,500 YBP), Plains Woodland (1,500-900 YBP), Plains Village/Late Pre-historic (900-250 YBP), and Proto-historic/Historic (250-100 YBP). [Years Before Present (YBP) commenced on January 1, 1950.] Anthropologists believe that Paleo-Indians were the “first Dakotans” who walked the earth 8,000 years ago. What little we know of these people comes from archaeology. What happened to these earliest people has faded from existence. However, archaeology enables us to learn more about our past, and not just our ancient past. For

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Field Reports

The South Dakota Railroad Museum in Hill City had an interesting idea for a holiday fundraiser on Dec. 15. Staff wished patrons a “Meow-woy Christmas.” People and their pets were invited to join Santa Claus at the museum for an afternoon of furry fun. Photos of the pets with Santa were available for \$10 each, or three for \$25, and were printed while people waited. Proceeds from the photos benefited the museum’s ongoing educational programs and operations.

The SD Railroad Museum had several accomplishments in 2018. In addition to hosting thousands of adult and student visitors, the museum helped host a national railroad history conference, launched a South Dakota children’s art initiative, participated in rail-oriented events across the state, and assisted in the publishing of another groundbreaking book on railroad history.

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The Mount Rushmore Society has its first permanent home, having moved into a refurbished historic building it purchased at 830 Main St. in downtown Rapid City the end of November. The building dates back to the 1920s and 1930s and was originally an addition to the Rapid City Motor Company.

The Mount Rushmore Society is an official fundraising partner for the National Park Service. Through memberships, donations and sales of retail items, the society provides money for projects and services at Mount Rushmore National Memorial, including seasonal rangers,

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Applications now available for 2019 Deadwood Fund grants

The South Dakota State Historical Society announces that the applications for the first round of the 2019 Deadwood Fund grant program are due on Feb. 1, 2019, for work beginning no earlier than May 1, 2019.

Grant forms are available online at history.sd.gov/preservation/fundingopportunities.aspx.

The program is designed to encourage restoration or rehabilitation of historic properties by individuals, organizations or public agencies, according to Jay D. Vogt, director of the State Historical Society, whose historic preservation office administers the program. "It is one more way we can promote and protect our history and culture," Vogt stated.

Grants will be awarded in amounts ranging from \$1,000 to \$25,000. The grant amount must be matched at least on a dollar-for-dollar basis from nonfederal and non-state sources. Nonprofit organizations will be allowed to use in-kind services for one-half of their match.

In 2017, \$123,869 was awarded between 10 projects, which had matching funds of \$360,498, result-

ing in a total public-private investment of \$484,367.

Funding for the program is from Deadwood gaming revenue earmarked by state law for historic preservation projects throughout the state and distributed by the State Historical Society.

The second round of 2019 applications will be due Oct. 1, 2019, for

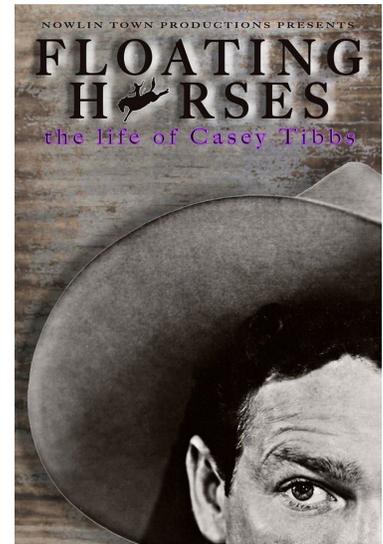
work beginning no earlier than Jan. 1, 2020.

For more information on the South Dakota State Historical Society's Deadwood Fund grant program, contact the State Historic Preservation Office at the Cultural Heritage Center, 900 Governors Drive, Pierre, SD 57501-2217; telephone 605-773-3458.

Casey Tibbs DVD now available

"Floating Horses - The Life of Casey Tibbs" is now available for purchase on Amazon.com. Interested parties may order online at Amazon.com or AmazonSmile.com and type "Floating Horses—The Life of Casey Tibbs" in the search bar. The film costs \$19.99 with free shipping before Christmas.

Casey Tibbs, of Fort Pierre, was a 9-time rodeo World Champion — a record he still holds 60-plus years later! The film highlights the world champ's life including the ups and downs affiliated with catapulting into rodeo fame and Hollywood stardom. The producer, Justin Koehler, originally of Midland, SD, began working on the film in 2015 and finished it in the spring of 2017. The



film debuted at film festivals and showings across the country including Casey's hometown capital of Pierre.

Vogt

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example, it is through archaeology that we were able to better understand the role of the Chinese in Historic Deadwood.

Archaeology is one way the State Historical Society collects, preserves, interprets and promotes the history of South Dakota. Every summer our State Historic Preservation Office, together with the office of archaeology and other agencies, hosts an archaeology camp for elementary school children near Fort Pierre. The office of archaeology also welcomes from time to time visitors to specific archaeological projects throughout the state. Archaeology requires patience that I do not possess. I am so gratified with our team of archaeologists. They do amazing work!

Happy Holidays! jdv

[Footnote: Archaeology is spelled with an "a." The federal government spells archeology without the letter "a" in the middle. Technically both spellings are correct, but I think the way the State Historical Society spelled it is "more correct."]

More Field Reports

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sculpture preservation, the Junior Ranger program, Youth Exploration Area programs and the annual naturalization ceremony.

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Current officers of the Minnehaha County Historical Society in Sioux Falls include: President — Randy Maas; 1st Vice President — Ron Sauby; 2nd Vice President — Garrett Gross; Treasurer — Jerry Kerkhove; Secretary — Jennifer Hoelsing; and Directors — Jim Carlson (Emeritus), Zach DeBoer, Chris Johnson, Ryan Tellberg and Trevor VanConant.

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The winners for superior papers presented at the 2017 West River History Conference were announced at

this year's conference in October: "Personal Family Memories & Experiences" — 2nd Place: Donovan Sprague - French Fur Trade in Lakota Country; 1st Place: Jan Rasmussen - My Mellette Country Road. "Adult Category" — 3rd Place: Amy Munson & Susan Rouleau - The Token Trade: Dakota Territory Post Trade and Their Tokens; 2nd Place: Jan Cerny - Dewey Beard: Advocate, Showman, Tourist Ambassador; Best Paper Award: Kim Smiley - South Dakota's 147th Field Artillery in WWI;"Director's Award" — Jeff Viken: Operation Hot Bed.

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If you would like your museum or organization's officers or events publicized, email them to Jeff.Mammenga@state.sd.us