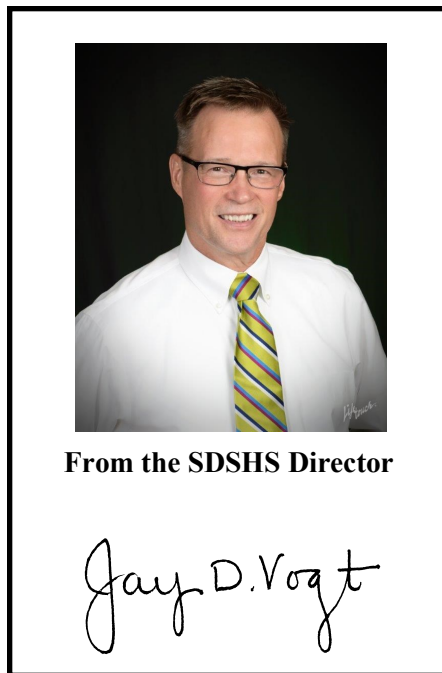


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## Archive collection is more than just the stuff in the backroom

One of my pet peeves is when someone references the artifacts in collection storage as “the archives.” I am clear when I give behind-the-scenes tours, that the State Historical Society has both a museum (artifact) collection and an archival collection. In the South Dakota Cultural Heritage Center, we are fortunate to have separate collection storage areas for the museum and the archive. Both collections are managed differently. I simplistically describe the difference as the museum collection is organized by type of object, such as all the political materials being placed together, and the archive collection is organized by the donor of the collection, such as the “Vogt collection.” That provides me the opportunity to introduce what an archivist does when we receive a collection. Because the gift may contain a wide-variety of materials, the archivists organize the records, describe them, create an index, and creates “finding aids.”

What we typically call an archives (with a S) is actually an archive (without the S). The word can be used as a noun or a verb. As a noun, an archive is a repository containing mainly primary source materials, such as correspondence, documents, maps, photographs, oral history recordings, etc. and secondary source materials, such as books, films, manuscripts, newspapers, recordings, reports, etc. An archive is basically the documents and records in paper, microfilm, electronic, and other formats, and films and recordings, and it also references the place the materials are stored—the archive. As a verb, to archive is the process of placing or storing material



in the repository.

The South Dakota State Historical Society operates with five offices—archaeology, archive, historic preservation, museum, and research and publishing. The office of archive is the State Archives, the official repository of government records, primarily state government records, but if local political subdivisions choose not to maintain their official records, they become part of the State Archives. In addition, the State Historical Society’s archive collection contains non-governmental records, personal papers, and records. These materials can include business records, diaries, letters, photographs, scrapbooks, etc.

See “Vogt,” Page 2

## Field Reports

The Brown County Historical Society held its annual meeting on Feb. 23 at the Dacotah Prairie Museum in Aberdeen. Brad Tennant presented a program on his book “On This Day In South Dakota History,” which covered events not only significant to state history but also national and world history. Officers for 2019 are President Sherri Rawstern, Vice President/Secretary Cara Romeo, and Treasurer Brad Tennant. Other board members are Evelyn Blum, Rose Kraft, Jean Rahja, and Marie Schumacher.

###

The Dalesburg Scandinavian Association in Vermillion is in the midst of celebrating the 150th anniversary of many things. The summer of 2018 marked the 150th anniversary of the first Swedish homesteaders to come to Clay County, Dakota Territory. The coming years will see 150th anniversaries of many of the homestead claims in the area. On Friday, June 21, the association will celebrate the 150th anniversary that the Swedish holiday of Midsummer has been celebrated in the Dalesburg Community.

Current officers of the association include: President and Membership Coordinator Ron Johnson, Treasurer Connie Richards, ASI Liason Lorraine Carlson, Officer-at-Large Brendyn Richards, Ex-Officio Officer Pastor Martens and Website Designers Jeff and Barb Erickson.

See “More,” Page 2

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# Vogt

Continued from Page 1

They tell us about the lives of South Dakotans. I consider these resources some of the “fun stuff” we receive, and we are grateful to the citizens who donate them to us.

**R**ecord storage is changing rapidly. Microfilming records used to be the “state of the art,” best way to maintain records when the original copy was not needed. It saved storage space, but it was also a stable medium and an easy format to access. Our special projects program at the Women’s State Prison continues to microfilm our state’s newspapers and records for individual agencies. However, today many records are “digitally-born,” meaning they are created and stored in an electronic format. They may never be printed on paper. An ever-increasing number of documents are coming to the archive in an electronic format. The State Historical Society has an on-going photograph digitization project, taking our photograph collection, digitizing the images, creating the metadata, and making them available on our website. See <https://sddigitalarchives.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/>. This project is supported through fundraising by the South Dakota Historical Society Foundation and is not part of our state budget. The archive is also part of the Chronicling of America project, an effort to digitize newspapers and making them available through the Library of Congress. See <https://history.sd.gov/archives/newspapersonline.aspx>. Unfortunately, electronic records are not as easy to manage as most people believe. The volume of materials is massive. In this age of cyber security, the archive staff needs to protect the integrity of records, insure that the links to the records work, and pay for digital storage space. As a result, not all records will end up in an electronic format. It would be a colossal undertaking to digitize all the paper and microfilm records.

**T**he archive goes back to the beginning of the South Dakota State Historical Society in 1901, and today it implements South Dakota Codified Laws Chapters 1-18B and 1-18C. The archive collects, preserves, interprets, and promotes the “written record” of the people and State of South Dakota. Thank you. jdv

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## Four Deadwood Fund grants awarded

Historic preservation projects in Deadwood, Lead, Sioux Falls and Watertown have received matching grants from the South Dakota State Historical Society.

The grants are awarded through the State Historical Society’s Deadwood Fund grant program. Funding for the program is from Deadwood gaming revenue earmarked by state law for historic preservation projects throughout the state. The program is administered by the society’s State Historic Preservation Office at the Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre.

The following projects were the most recent to receive grants to supplement their work:

— Deadwood (Lawrence County): Pearson Cabin, built around 1876; received \$15,000 to complete cabin restoration

— Lead (Lawrence County): Homestake Opera House, built in 1914; received \$12,500 to complete final design documents for the restoration of the theater

— Sioux Falls (Minnehaha County): Grand Lodge and Library of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, built in 1924; received \$12,500 for comprehensive façade masonry repairs

— Watertown (Codington County): Olive Place, built in 1887; received \$10,000 for roof restoration to replace asphalt shingles with wood shingles

Deadwood Fund grants are awarded twice a year with grant application deadlines of Feb. 1 and Oct. 1. They are reviewed at the spring and winter meetings of the State Historical Society’s board of trustees. For more information on the 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; or website [history.sd.gov/preservation/fundingopportunities.aspx](http://history.sd.gov/preservation/fundingopportunities.aspx).

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## More Field Reports Continued from Page 1

The March “History Talk” of the Minnehaha County Historical Society is Margaret Novak talking on March 21 about 14 abandoned cemeteries in Minnehaha County. The event, at the Old Courthouse Museum in Sioux Falls, begins with a social at 6:30 p.m., followed by the talk at 7.

###

The Spring Musical of the Lead Gold Camp Players will be “Oliver!” at the Historic Homestake Opera House in Lead.

“Oliver! Is an English musical that won the Tony Award for best original musical score in 1963. Based upon the novel *Oliver Twist* by Charles Dickens, the show was adapted for film in 1968 and won six Academy Awards, including best picture.

Performance dates for this production are May 3, 4, 10 and 11 at 7 p.m. and May 5 and 12 at 2 p.m. For more information contact, David Scherer, at 381-8753.

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This year the South Dakota State

Railroad Museum in Hill City has as a fund-raiser selling the museum’s commemorative HO car, remembering the era of stock trains. The detailed HO kit recalls the era of livestock transport and is suitable for operation on your HO layout, or makes a great display item or gift for the serious collector. The kits sell for \$40 for South Dakota residents and \$37 for outside South Dakota. For more information contact Museum Director Rick Mills at 605-574-9000 or [sdsrrm@gmail.com](mailto:sdsrrm@gmail.com).

###

The Verendrye Museum in Fort Pierre is undergoing extensive renovations this year, including a tuck-pointing of the building’s exterior and demolition of some of its less-structurally-sound spaces. A central heating & cooling system is also being installed. The building was originally built in the 1930s as American Legion Hall Post 20. The type of work being performed is normally done every 20 to 30 years, but this is the first time it’s been done. The renovation is a cooperative effort between the city of Fort Pierre and the Verendrye Museum board.