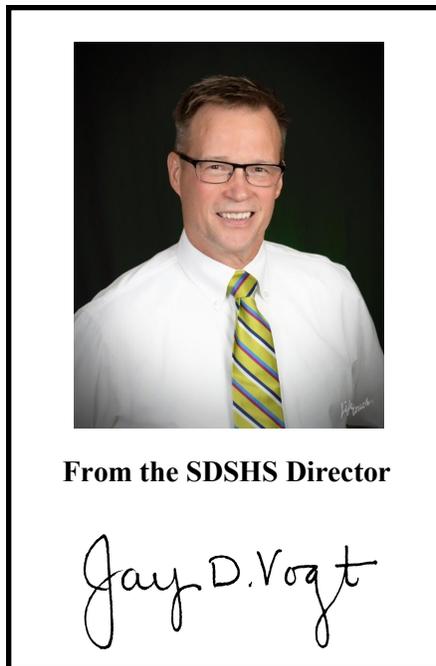


State Historical Society noting women's suffrage movement

The South Dakota State Historical Society is celebrating the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage. Before 1920, most women could not vote. Although the progressive era and the women's suffrage movement were not necessarily related, women achieved the right to vote during this significant period in South Dakota history. We have three important centennial anniversaries taking place over the next three years. In 1918, the voters of South Dakota amended the State Constitution granting equal suffrage rights to women in state elections. This was at least the sixth attempt since 1890 to do so. In 1919, Congress sent the 19th amendment to the states for ratification and the South Dakota legislature met in Special Session to ratify it, and in 1920, three-fourth of all the states officially ratified the amendment securing women the right to vote throughout the nation. To commemorate these important anniversaries, the South Dakota Historical Society Press is publishing three new books on women's suffrage—1. "Born Criminal: Matilda Joslyn Gage, Rebel Suffragist," 2. "The Voice of Liberty" (a children's book), and 3. a suffrage anthology (not titled yet) with the assistance of Molly Rozum of the University of South Dakota and Laurie Lahlum of Mankato State University.

"Born Criminal" is the story about South Dakota's own national suffrage leader, Matilda Joslyn Gage. She was the mother-in-law of L. Frank Baum, author of "The Wizard of Oz," and while Baum and his wife Julia



lived in South Dakota from 1888 to 1891, much of that time, Gage lived with them in Aberdeen. Overall, women's suffrage and temperance are two issues that often go together in history. Gage was one of the national suffrage leaders along with Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton; however, she was much more interested in general social reform than temperance. Despite being an officer in the National Woman's Suffrage Association, her views were considered too radical for the association, and she ended up founding the Woman's National Liberal Union and served as its president until her death. "Born Criminal" will be released at the South Dakota Book Festival, September 20-24, in

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Field Reports

The Gregory County Historical Society is working on obtaining information on the country schools that existed in Gregory County. Questionnaires have been circulated and they are seeking any information, pictures or memories. This will then be compiled and published in a book to be made available to the public. Contact Bev or Rich Rubel at rbsrubel@gwtc.net or 605-835-9393.

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Newly-elected 2018-19 officers of the Clay County Historical Society, headquartered at the Austin-Whittemore House in Vermillion, include: President - Dan Christopherson; Vice-President - Gloria Hensley; Past President - Maxine Johnson; Secretary - Erin Burrow; Membership Secretary - Ruth Bylander; Treasurer - Joni Freidel; Directors—Marvin Walz, Judy Sullivan, Lisa Johnson, Art Rusch, Barbara Campbell and Kevin Jacobson; Lifetime Director - Ann Severson; Clay Co. Historic Preservation Rep - Jim Stone; Executive Director - Wess Pravecek

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The National Music Museum in Vermillion is planning a 16,000-square feet, \$9.5 million expansion. The addition includes new exhibit space, a gallery dedicated to temporary exhibits, a new performance hall, a classroom, a conservation

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Vogt

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Deadwood. Gage also helped organize a protest during the dedication of the Statue of Liberty in 1886, which is the topic of the children's book, "The Voice of Liberty," set for release in 2019, followed by the suffrage anthology in 2020.

Other South Dakota women involved in the women's suffrage and temperance movements include Alice Pickler of Faulkton and Mary (Mamie) Pyle of Huron. Pickler's husband, John, was nicknamed "Old Petticoats" because he championed his wife's causes in the Dakota Legislature and later in Congress. The Pickler papers are owned by the State Historical Society, and the records are located in the State Archives at the Cultural Heritage Center. The Pickler Mansion Museum (known for its distinctive pink color) is located at 900 8th Avenue South in Faulkton (telephone 605-598-4285). Pyle was left a widow with four children when her husband, the state's fourth attorney general, died in office. Her youngest child, Gladys, was inspired to become involved in politics. Gladys Pyle went on to achieve many political firsts for women, including being the first woman elected to the State Legislature and as a Constitutional Officer, Secretary of State. The Pyle House Museum is located at 376 Idaho Ave in Huron (telephone 605-352-2528).

The South Dakota State Historical Society collects, preserves, interprets and promotes the history of the people of South Dakota. Through these books, we help tell the stories of the women's suffrage movement. I encourage you to visit the Pickler Mansion and the Pyle House. I wish that your local historical society and museum highlight suffrage items in your collection, host programs, and commemorate this important movement in history. Jdv

More Field Reports

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lab, a photography lab and new offices. Officials said the expansion will allow the museum to display more of its 15,000-piece collection and enable

staff to do more work in preservation and conservation. Officials hope the expansion can be completed by late 2020. The expansion will also feature a new ADA accessible entrance to the museum, located in the 1910 Carnegie Library building on the campus of the University of South Dakota.



Nolin Monument Committee Board President Ross Lamphere, right, accepts the Organizational Governors Award for History from South Dakota Secretary of Education Donald Kirkegaard.

Sturgis group wins Governor's Award

The Charles Nolin Monument Restoration/Revitalization Committee of Sturgis was the winner of the 2018 Organizational Governor's Award for History. The award was presented by the South Dakota State Historical Society on April 28 during the society's annual history conference in Rapid City.

The Nolin Monument Committee is a group of volunteers who worked to solicit funds, research materials, acquire grants and in-kind labor, and hire and supervise construction companies in order to preserve a monument in Sturgis. The restoration project came about when Regional Health Sturgis Hospital started an expansion project near the Nolin Monument site, which memorialized the horseback mail carrier Charles "Red" Nolin, who died under mysterious circum-

stances in 1876. Officials realized that the monument was sinking and in need of repair. The monument, which has stood in south Sturgis since 1932, was taken down stone by stone and rebuilt. The site was also updated to include a concrete pad, landscaping and electricity so the monument could be lit at night. The Meade County Historical Society will host a rededication ceremony for the monument on June 15 in Sturgis as part of a 140th anniversary celebration for the city and Fort Meade.

Other organizations nominated for the award included the Elkhorn Ridge Development Company of Spearfish, the Pierre-Fort Pierre Historic Preservation Commission and Prairie View Press of Brookings.