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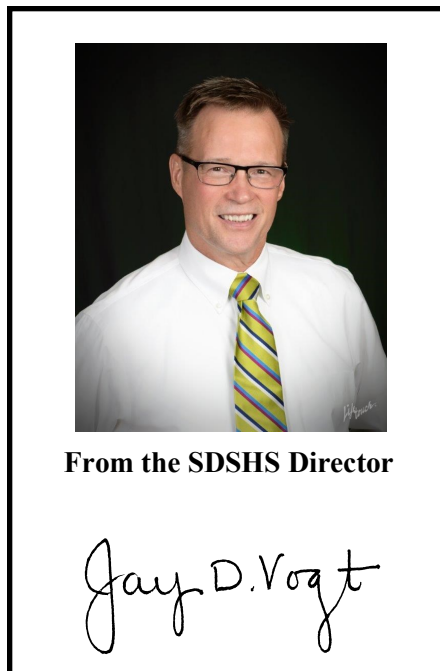
State Historical Society staff busy documenting current pandemic

These are historic times. The coronavirus pandemic is a phenomenal example of why the work we do—collect, preserve, interpret, and promote history—is so important. Although history happens every day, and organizations such as ours—archives, historical societies, museums, etc.—focus on state and local history every day, this is a special time. Please make a concerted effort to document the coronavirus in your community.

Although state government offices remain closed, including the Archaeological Research Center in Rapid City and the Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre, your State Historical Society staff remains attentive to collecting, preserving, interpreting, and promoting the history of the people of South Dakota. Thank you for your membership in and support of your State Historical Society. I am pleased to say that members continue to renew their support, and if you are not a member or if your membership has lapsed, please visit history.sd.gov/Membership or call 605-773-6000 to become a member. Thank you.

Although the archives research room, the museum, and heritage stores are closed, you can stay in touch and receive services through our website history.sd.gov or our several social media platforms. Under “Contact Us” on our website, you can access the staff directory and email addresses.

The office of archaeology is preparing for the field season and packing to move to a new facility this summer in Rapid City. The state archives is responding to email research requests, and it has recently introduced history.sd.gov/archives/covid19 where you can help us document this pandemic.



The historic preservation office continues working on nominations to the National Register of Historic Places and assisting federal agencies with their projects. The museum is preparing for a new temporary exhibition currently planned to open later this year and adding bar codes to the artifacts in the collection. Members should have recently received your spring 2020 “South Dakota History,” and the Press continues working on the next edition of the journal and book projects. The Foundation and the “Her Vote. Her Voice.” campaign remains focused on the centennial celebration of the passage of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and supporting State Historical Society projects. Book sales are slow, so if you are

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Field Reports

Officials with the Grant County Historical Society have concluded that it is their best course of action to close all of their museums in Grant County for the 2020 season, which runs from Memorial Day through Labor Day. The officials will review this decision in late June in the hope that the coronavirus crisis will have abated to the point whereby they can safely re-open by then.

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Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Minnehaha County Historical Society postponed its monthly History Talk in March, and also its Annual Banquet scheduled for April. The Palisades History presentation by Susan Hoskins, director of the Pipestone County Museum, will be rescheduled for the fall. The annual business meeting and banquet with keynote speaker Jim Woster is tentatively planned for June 18. The May History Talk on the history of hot air ballooning in South Dakota and Sioux Falls by Orv Oliver, is as scheduled for May 21 but is obviously subject to change.

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The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in the postponement of the summer season for the South Dakota Railroad Museum in Hill City, as is the case of most museums across the state and nation. Please consider making a donation to your local museum to support them in this time of lost revenue, be it by renewing your membership or some other means.

Her Vote. Her Voice. looking for partners

“This year marks a century since women received the right to vote in South Dakota,” said Governor Kristi Noem. “As we recognize this significant mile marker, it’s important to highlight the path suffragists had to walk in order to secure this right for women in our country. When we understand our history, we become more grateful for the rights we have and the liberties we enjoy.”

The “Her Vote. Her Voice.” campaign kicked off in March and will continue throughout 2020 through a series of speaking events, community engagements, public displays, and museum exhibits.

The campaign is a women’s his-

tory initiative of the South Dakota Historical Society Foundation, the nonprofit fundraising partner of the South Dakota State Historical Society. One of the goals of the Her Vote. Her Voice. campaign is to collaborate with societies, museums, academic institutions, nonprofits, corporations and individuals around South Dakota to celebrate and honor the centennial of the ratification of the 19th Amendment. Through the work of hundreds of HVHV volunteers we will honor the remarkable women who fought for women to have the right to vote with special publications, exhibits, educational events and celebrations throughout 2020.

The success of this initiative would not be possible without key partners. If you are hosting a virtual or in-person event on women’s suffrage or voting rights we would like to help you promote it. Go to hervotehervoice.org for more information or call Catherine Forsch at 605-773-6003.

The Her Vote. Her Voice. delegation was appointed by Governor Noem to celebrate, commemorate and educate the public about the work of early suffragists and women’s contributions to the history of South Dakota.

State Archives collecting items related to COVID-19

The South Dakota State Historical Society in Pierre is seeking assistance in documenting how the current COVID-19 pandemic crisis is affecting people in South Dakota.

South Dakotans are encouraged to submit their electronic writings, photos, artwork, short audio or video clips and other materials to the State Historical Society-Archives. A special digital submission page has been created on the State Historical Society website to make it easier for people to donate their items. Go to history.sd.gov/archives/covid19.aspx.

“It is important to capture the ways we are experiencing this event, whether they be stories of loss and tragedy or stories of resilience, grace, and helpfulness,” noted state archi-

ivist Chelle Somsen. “Future generations will thank you for sharing a part of your lives with them.”

The State Historical Society has collected items documenting South Dakota’s history since statehood in 1889. Everyday activities, life-changing events, triumphs and achievements are all recorded in the oral histories, newspaper articles, films, diaries, photographs, books and artifacts that make up the society’s collections.

“These items bring history to life and help students, scholars, historians and lawmakers understand our past and learn from it,”

said Jay D. Vogt, director of the State Historical Society.

Vogt noted that, despite the fact that the Cultural Heritage Center, including the State Archives, is closed to the public until further notice because of the COVID-19 pandemic, society staff, mostly working at home, continue to collect, preserve, interpret and promote the history of the people of South Dakota.

For more information, contact the State Historical Society-Archives at 605-773-3804 or visit history.sd.gov/archives.

Vogt

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self-isolated at home, I suggest you read one of our books through the South Dakota Historical Society Press.

Currently under Governor Kristi Noem’s Executive Orders, our offices will remain closed through Sunday, May 31, 2020. In the meantime, if you have a fever over 100 degrees, a cough, or new shortness of breath, stay home and contact your healthcare provider. When you need to leave your home, wear a mask and practice social distancing of at least six feet. Please take care of yourself during this unusual time. Thank you. jdv

Governor’s Awards for History announced

The South Dakota State Historical Society has named Reliabank of Watertown and the Fall River County Historical Society of Hot Springs as winners of the 2020 Organizational Governor’s Awards for History.

Reliabank is celebrating 100 years of doing business in 2020. Under the direction of David and Jan Johnson, the bank has been involved in several historic-preservation projects in the Watertown area, including getting the First State Bank of Hazel, now known as Reliabank of Hazel, listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1997.

The Fall River County Historical Society is being recognized for all the work its members do in pre-

serving the history of Fall River County. The society maintains the Pioneer Museum in Hot Springs, originally a school house built of local sandstone in 1893. The society collects and preserves historical objects, stories and photographs of Fall River County and displays them in the museum.

Individual awards went to Michael Runge of Deadwood and Pat Roseland of Rapid City. Robert J. Cordts of Madison is the History Teacher of the Year, and Steven J. Bucklin of Vermillion is the winner of the Schell Award, given annually to the author of the best article from the previous year’s edition of “South Dakota History,” the society’s award-winning quarterly journal.