

# Historical Mysteries: In Search of the Buried Past



South Dakota State Historical Society

2025 Annual History Conference &  
Governor's Awards for History

May 7-9, 2025  
Deadwood, South Dakota

## CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

### Locations

Days of '76 Museum  
18 Seventy Six Drive, Deadwood, SD

Homestake Adams Research & Cultural Center (HARCC)  
150 Sherman Street, Deadwood, SD

Saloon No. 10  
657 Main Street, Deadwood, SD

### **WEDNESDAY, MAY 7**

- 1:00 - 3:00 PM      **Stories Behind the Stones: Mount Moriah Cemetery Tour**  
Mike Runge, City of Deadwood Archivist  
*Trolley Transportation Leaves from HARCC (Meet @ 12:30 PM)*
- 1:30 - 4:30 PM      **Board of Trustees Meeting at Days of '76 Museum**
- 3:30 - 5:00 PM      **Conference Registration at Days of '76 Museum**  
*Includes free afternoon museum admission!*

### **THURSDAY, MAY 8**

- 7:30 - 8:30 AM      **Registration at HARCC**
- 8:00 - 8:20 AM      **Welcome from Dr. Ben Jones & Conference Logistics**
- 8:30 - 9:30 AM      **Session 1 Suds, Duds, and Mud: The Mysteries of Laundress Life at Fort Meade**  
Dr. Linea Sundstrom
- 9:30 - 9:45 AM      **Refreshment Break**
- 9:45 - 10:45 AM      **Session 2 South Dakota's 'Grand Old Man': The Secret Life and Adventures of Abolitionist and Suffragist General Beadle**  
Dr. Justin Blessinger, Dakota State University

- 10:45 - 11:45 AM      **Session 3 Murder, Mayhem, and the Ku Klux Klan in South Dakota**  
    Arley Fadness, SD Humanities Council Speakers Bureau
- 11:45AM - 1:00 PM      **Conference Luncheon**
- 1:00 - 2:00 PM      **Session 4 Remembering the Children: Rapid City Indian Boarding School Documentary and Discussion Panel**  
    Amy Sazue, Remembering the Children  
    Dr. Eric Zimmer, Consultant Historian
- 2:00 - 2:15 PM      **Refreshment Break**
- 2:15 - 3:15 PM      **Session 5 Beyond Translation: The Museum’s Advisory Panel on Oceti Sakowin Language**  
    Daniel Moeckly, SDSHS Museum Curator of Exhibits  
    Violet Catches, Language Advisor  
    Dr. Art Zimiga, Language Advisor
- 3:15 - 4:15 PM      **Session 6 From Owned to Landowners: Black Homesteaders (*along with their photobombing horses and one very happy dog*) in Photographs**  
    Dr. Jacob Friefeld, Director of the Center for Lincoln Studies,  
    University of Illinois Springfield
- 5:00 - 7:00 PM      **SDSHS Foundation Networking Social at Saloon #10**

**FRIDAY, MAY 9**

- 7:30 - 8:30 AM      **Registration at HARCC**
- 8:00 - 9:00 AM      **Welcome & Session 7 Mammoths in the Bog - Bone Flakes Abound: A 13,000 Year Old Mystery**  
    Dr. L. Adrien Hannus, Augustana University (retired)
- 9:00 - 9:15 AM      **Refreshment Break**
- 9:15 - 10:15 AM      **Session 8 Research Rabbit Trails: The Story of an Escaped Con, Pitchfork Fight, and Love Poem**  
    Christina Blessinger, Lake County Museum
- 10:15 - 11:30 AM      **Session 9 Unlocking the Mysteries of the Archives**  
    Mike Runge, City of Deadwood Archivist  
    Zane Martin, Curator for the Indian Arts and Craft Board, Sioux Indian Museum; NPS Museum Specialist for Mount Rushmore, Jewel Cave, and Devils Tower  
    Matthew Reitzel, SDSHS-State Archives Manuscript Archivist

11:30 AM - 1:30 PM **Awards Luncheon and Keynote Speaker Dr. Patricia Limerick**

Title TBA

1:45 - 2:45 PM **Session 10 A Gathering of the Rich and Shameless: The Strange Death of Agnes Polreis and the Sensational South Dakota Murder Trials of Emma Kaufmann**

Wayne Fanebust, SD Humanities Council Speakers Bureau

3:00 - 4:00 PM **Treasures in the Basement: City of Deadwood Archives Tour**

&

Mike Runge, City of Deadwood Archivist

4:00 - 5:00 PM

Announcement Draft, K. Lamie 02/27/2025; *Subject to Revisions*