

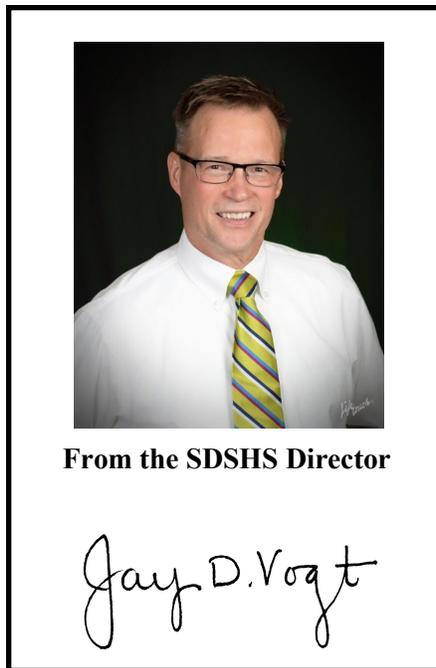
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Think about attending history conferences close to home

I recently addressed the West River History Conference in Rapid City, October 11-13, 2018. The theme for this year's meeting was "A River Runs Through It," and I spoke on the Lewis and Clark Expedition as it traveled through South Dakota on the Missouri River. It is one of my favorite history topics. Except for the South Dakota State Historical Society annual history conference, my attendance at other history conferences is hit or miss. These are the conference I should attend every time since I have no administrative responsibilities. I may not be there, but the Society is always represented.

This year was the 26th meeting of the West River History Conference. This conference was started by the Keystone Historical Society under the leadership of Herbert W. Blakely and Bev Pechan. In 2003 the conference moved to Rapid City and incorporated as its own nonprofit organization to collect and preserve the history of South Dakota and the Northern Great Plains. The West River History Conference is usually held in mid-October. Shabby Lee and her team do a wonderful job.

Herbert Blakely also helped found the Dakota History Conference along with Ernest Teagarden in 1969 at Dakota State University. In 1989 with the change in mission at Dakota State University, the conference moved to the Center of Western Studies at Augustana University and changed its name to the Dakota Conference. I still think of it as the Dakota History Conference, which remains its primary emphasis. Former Society Board of Trustee and Director of the



Center for Western Studies Harry Thompson has successfully grown the conference and continues the tradition of involving professional historians and amateur scholars. This conference is held every April.

The other major history conference in the state is the South Dakota State Historical Society History Conference. Next year the theme is "New Insights into Old Stories," April 26-27, 2019, at the Ramkota River Centre in Pierre. An outgrowth of the Society's "annual meeting," the history conference centers on a theme and is organized by one of the Society's five offices (archaeology, archives, historic preservation, museum, and research and publishing). Recent themes/topics have included "Infinite

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Field Reports

Diana Welsh is the new collections manager for The Indian Museum of North America at Crazy Horse Memorial. Most recently, Welsh worked at The Dahl Arts Center in Rapid City. Prior to that she worked as exhibitions registrar and assistant collections manager at George Washington's Mount Vernon in Virginia.

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Rebecca Rodriguez is the new collections archivist at the Tri-State Museum and Visitor Center in Belle Fourche. Rodriguez comes to Tri-State from the Spearfish Public Library, where she was education and outreach librarian. Rodriguez joins the current staff of Director Kristi Thielen, Assistant Director Jean Maher, Store Manager and Volunteer Coordinator Lou Florenz, summer staffers Maggie Tupper and Luann Youngberg, and a host of volunteers.

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The Center for Western Studies at Augustana University in Sioux Falls has issued a call for papers and sessions for the 51st annual Dakota Conference on the Northern Plains, April 26-27, 2019, in Sioux Falls. The conference theme is "Health Care and Health Policy: Commemorating the Influenza Pandemic of 1918-1919." The deadline for paper, session or panel proposals is Feb. 15, 2019. For more information email dakotaconference@augie.edu or call 605-274-4007.

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Variety: Past, Present, Future” (2018), “Laura Ingalls Wilder: A 150-Year Legacy” (2017), “Everyone Eats” (2016), and “Prairie to Pines” (2015). After a governance and structure changed in the 1980s, the purpose of the annual meeting changed, and the society move to a professional conference format. Please join us as we showcase innovative historical research projects from throughout the state.

In 2017, the Leland D. Case Library for Western Historical Studies presented “Forts, Wars and Treaties of the Northern Plains.” This symposium was the first on frontier military history that may become an ongoing series. Other regional meetings that have met in South Dakota include the Mining History Association Conference and the Mountain Plains Museum Association (MPMA). Last year the Mining History Conference met in Deadwood. This conference appeals to historians, miners, geologists and people interested in mining. The MPMA met in Rapid City in 2010 and will be meeting in Sioux Falls in early September 2020. This conference provides educational programs, social networking, and training to museum professionals and advocates at all career levels. People particularly interested in museum issues and topics would find this conference valuable.

People interested in archaeology or anthropology have several options. The South Dakota Archaeological Society holds regular meetings on both sides of the state and an annual conference. Two regional conferences that have been held in South Dakota include the Plains Anthropological Society Conference and the Island in The Plains Archaeology and History Conference.

These history conferences are opportunities to “hang out” with like-minded people. Some history conferences are meetings covering historical topics, an occasion to learn more about our history. Other history conferences are more about how we can do the work we do better. As history-related groups, we collect, preserve, interpret and promote those physical reminders of our past. We enjoy the stories from our history. And taking care of our history is important work. Think about attending a South Dakota history conference. I hope to see you at the State Historical Society History Conference April 26-27 in Pierre. jdv

Two more sites listed on National Register

Two more South Dakota properties were recently added to the National Register of Historic Places, according to the South Dakota State Historical Society.

The listed properties are the Hyde County Memorial Auditorium in Highmore and the Long View Stock Farm in the Gann Valley vicinity of Buffalo County.

The Hyde County Memorial Auditorium was built in 1951. Located on a corner lot northeast of the intersection of 2nd St. SW and Cummings Ave., it is listed in the National Register at a local level for entertainment, recreation and architecture.

The Long View Stock Farm is listed in the National Register as locally significant in the areas of Agricultural History and Architecture. The farm serves as a significant local

example of an early 20th century stock farm in central South Dakota.

The National Register is the official federal list of properties identified as important in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering and culture. The State Historic Preservation Office of the State Historical Society works in conjunction with the National Park Service, which oversees the National Register program, to list the properties.

For more information on the National Register or other historic preservation programs, 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.

More Field Reports

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The annual Holiday Open House of the South Dakota State Historical Society is from 12-4:30 p.m. on Nov. 23 at the Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre. The event includes free museum admission, holiday treats and entertainment, holiday gifts from the Heritage Store and photos with Santa Claus. Attendees are encouraged to bring a canned good for the local food pantry. Call 605-773-6000 for more information.

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The 29th annual Casey Tibbs Foundation Tribute Dinner on Nov. 3, a fund-raiser for the Casey Tibbs Rodeo Center in Fort Pierre, is sold out. The event is an opportunity for friends and families in the ranching and rodeo communities to celebrate and honor the accomplishments of South Dakota cowboys, cowgirls, families and animals. Those honored each year have their photograph and biography added to the Wall of Fame in the center. This year’s honorees include: Rodeo Cowgirl Great — Kristi Lensegrav-Birkeland of Dupree; Rodeo Cowboy Great — Jake Rinchart of Highmore; Past Rodeo Great — Steve Mowry of Presho; Rodeo Promoter — Raymond W. Sutton Sr. of Gettysburg; Ranch Cowboy Family — Glen and Yvonne Hollenbeck of Clearfield; and Rodeo Animal Athlete — Frenchmans Guy,

owned by Bill and Deb Myers of St. Onge.

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The Annual Meeting of the Dalesburg Scandinavian Association is Nov. 13 in Beresford. The association’s holiday event is the 41st Celebration of the St. Lucia Tradition in Dalesburg on Dec. 9 in the Dalesburg Lutheran Church.

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The Annual Meeting of the Grant County Historical Society was held Oct. 25 in Milbank. Following a buffet meal, the program was “History of Milbank’s Hotels and Motels,” presented by Mark Leddy.

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The Friends of the W. H. Over Museum in Vermillion hosted their annual Pumpkin Carving & Welcome Fall Day on Oct. 28 at the museum. After the pumpkin carving, participants enjoyed a soup and pie supper. Pumpkins carved at the event were put on display in the museum.

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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