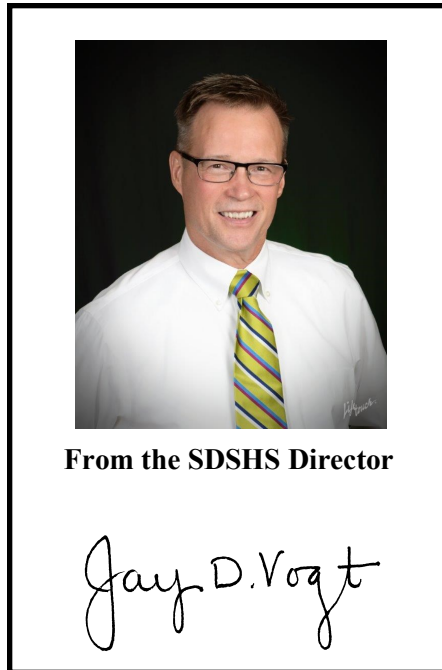


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Historical Society Director Vogt retiring on Dec. 8

I am retiring as Director of the South Dakota State Historical Society and the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) on Tuesday, Dec. 8, 2020. Tuesday is a weird day for a last day of work, but it is the end of a pay period in state government. I cannot believe I am retiring. I turned in my letter to Governor Kristi Noem, Society President Brad Tennant, and Secretary of Education Ben Jones on Tuesday, Oct. 6, so they would have time to plan for my successor. My wife, Elizabeth, an English teacher at T. F. Riggs High School in Pierre, will be joining me at the end of the school year.

The State Historical Society has change much in its 119-year history. Today we collect, preserve, interpret, and promote the history of the State of South Dakota and her people through archaeology, archives, historic preservation, the museum, and research and publishing. Originally the legislature created the State Historical Society to administer the Department of History. At one time, the department conducted the state census, maintained vital statistics, and housed a state library, in addition to collecting and publishing material for the study of history, acquiring documents and manuscripts, and sustaining a museum. The Department of History was abolished in 1973 as part of the massive executive reorganization, and the State Historical Society continued its work. Another reorganization in 1985 structured the Society as we largely recognize it today. Nevertheless, the State Historical Society has been about the business of South Dakota history.



Today the Society has a budget of over \$6,000,000. \$2,310,439 is general funds (state tax dollars), and the Society is authorized to spend up to \$1,250,935 in federal funds and \$2,468,275 in other funds, if available. Other funds are the revenue from our archaeological contracts, tourism tax collections (the Society receives 16.7% of one-half cent), membership dues, and fees for services, such as copies, research, etc. The Society has 44 full-time equivalent state employees, and up to a dozen non-state employees paid through special accounts in the South Dakota Historical Society Foundation, contracts, and temporary employment services.

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Field Reports

With the holiday season soon upon us, the Hyde County Historical and Genealogical Society based in Highmore has on ongoing project of collecting Christmas memories from its members. Several collected in 2019 were reprinted in the local newspaper, the Highmore Herald. Society officials are hoping to gather enough memories to prepare a booklet to share with the membership.

Current society officers are: President — Janice Cermak-Sandmeier; Vice-President — Teresa Williams; Secretary — Deanne Smith; Treasurer — Sandra Cermak; Correspondence Secretary — Skyla Ratzlaff; and Directors — Dolores Stoley, Skyla Ratzlaff and Lilliam Tucker.

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The second part of the Codington County Historical Society's three-part book series about the history of Watertown is now available. Book Two focuses on Maple Street, where hotels, restaurants and entertainment dominated the boardwalks. The book is full of information and pictures and sells for \$19.99 plus tax. In Book One, author Jane Miner shared the history of buildings on Broadway Street, including her family's history with O.P. Skaggs' grocery store. Books can be purchased on the society's Website at www.CCHSMuseum.org.

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More Field Reports

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Presentation and session proposals for the April 23-24, 2021, Dakota Conference at Augustana University in Sioux Falls are due by Feb. 12, 2021. The topic of next year's conference, sponsored by the Center for Western Studies (CWS), is "Farming, Ranching, and Sustainability." Use the online submission form at augie.edu/dakotaconference or email dakotaconference@augie.edu. Papers on last year's theme of "The Roaring Twenties

... Again? (1920-2020)" are also welcome. Note: The conference format will likely be pared down from previous years in order to adhere to health protocols. The conference may also be delayed until May or June because of COVID-19.

"The Interior Borderlands: Regional Identity in the Midwest and Great Plains," published by the CWS, recently won the 30th Midwest Book Award in General History for 2020. The awards program, organized by the Midwest Independent Publishers Association, recognizes quality in independent publish-

ing in the 12-state Midwest region. Edited by founding president of the Midwestern History Association, Dr. Jon K. Lauck, the book explores questions of geographical and cultural significance to the vast center of the country.

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This year's annual "Trees and Trains" exhibit at the South Dakota State Railroad Museum in Hill City begins on Nov. 27. To help people prepare for the event and do some early Christmas shopping, the museum held an event on Oct. 10-11 where people could have free admission and shop for new and used trees, decorations, ornaments, ribbon and hard-to-find lights and pieces.

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The Homestake Opera House in Lead hosted a concert version of the Tony Award-winning musical "Guys and Dolls" on Oct. 23-24. The production featured an all-star Black Hills cast, plus 11 members of the Black Hills Symphony.

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The South Dakota State Historical Society will host the annual Open House at the Cultural Heritage Center the day after Thanksgiving, Nov. 27. This year's event will have different features due to the coronavirus pandemic. It will run from 1-4:30 p.m. but will not have the usual holiday food, entertainment lineup and photos with Santa Claus. There will be free admission to the museum, holiday shopping in the Heritage Store, and limited entertainment featuring local pianist Ron Smith throughout the afternoon. Visitors are encouraged to bring canned food items for donation to the local food pantry as well.

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If you would like your history organization's news or officers published in "Hoofprints," please email it to Jeff.Mammenga@state.sd.us

Vogt

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When I came to work for the State Historical Society in 1987, the Society was still located in the Soldiers' and Sailors' Memorial Building across from the State Capitol, and the administrative offices were in the State Library, now the MacKay Building. The Society's original offices were housed in the old wooden Capitol before moving to the current State Capitol in 1910. (The Society's Archaeological Research Center has recently moved to its new facility in Rapid City.) Today the headquarters for the Society is the South Dakota Cultural Heritage Center. While the Center is starting to show a little wear and tear, the roof was replaced, the front entry made more accessible, and the parking lot updated. The Center was constructed in honor of our state's centennial anniversary, and it made the State Historical Society more visible to the public. The award-winning "The South Dakota Experience" exhibition and temporary exhibitions draw people to the Center. The research room makes government records, photographs, and personal papers and documents available to South Dakotans and other researchers. All offices provide public programming to tell the stories of South Dakota, and we host special events, such as the holiday open house and legislative reception. The award-winning "South Dakota History" journal and books published by the Society continue to greatly enhance interpretation and outreach.

All these accomplishments were possible because of the creative and dedicated staff of the State Historical Society. I have had the privilege of learning from many talented individuals. I have worked

with a dozen office directors, including Jim Haug, Richard Popp, Stephen Rogers, Jason Haug, David Hartley, Helen Louise, Nancy Tystad Koupal, and current directors State Archaeologist Renee Boen, State Archivist Chelle Somsen, Deputy SHPO Theodore Spencer, Museum Director Jay S. Smith, and Research and Publishing Acting Director Jeanne Kilen Ode. The South Dakota Historical Society Foundation is an important partner over the years, currently headed by CEO Catherine Forsch. A remarkable group of able archaeologists, archivists, curators, editors, preservationists, various specialists and support personnel have lightened my load and made the State Historical Society the success it is today. These are truly gifted people.

Joining with them is the support of the local historical societies, history-related groups, museums, members of the Board of Trustees and the Foundation board of directors, and most importantly, our members. Thank you for your contributions to and backing of the history of South Dakota.

Prior to joining the State Historical Society staff, I worked for over eight years with Alice Kundert, first in the State Auditor's Office and then as her deputy in the Office of the Secretary of State. In 1987, I started a remarkable career journey with the State Historical Society. Initially I was the executive assistant to Director J. R. Fishburne. Then I served as executive director of the South Dakota Heritage Fund (now the Foundation) for 15 years, 24 years as State Historic Preservation Officer, four years as deputy director of the Society, and 17 years as its director. I have been most fortunate to have served the people of the State of South Dakota and you, our members. Thank you. jdv