

OAHE CHAPEL NEWS

Fall 2014

Newsletter of the Oahe Chapel Preservation Society

Pierre, SD

Remembering Betty Riggs Gutch

Betty Riggs Gutch of Sioux Falls, a good friend of the South Dakota State Historical Society, the Oahe Chapel Preservation Society, and the field of history in general, died on August 21, 2014. A descendent of the Oahe Mission Riggs family, Betty was instrumental in the preservation of the Oahe Chapel. She was a founding member of the Oahe Chapel Preservation Society and also served on the Board of Directors for a number of years.

Betty was born on December 20, 1919, the daughter of Robert I. Riggs and Florence Moseley Riggs. She grew up at the Riggs Ranch northwest of Pierre and attended country school through seventh grade. She then transferred to the Pierre School System, where she graduated in 1937 from Pierre High School. She received her Bachelor of Science in Business Degree from the University of Iowa in 1942.

Betty married Charley F. Gutch on June 15, 1943, at the family home in Pierre. Together they celebrated

their fiftieth anniversary in 1993 and sixty-fifth in 2008. They lived in Pierre, SD; Lincoln, NE; Denver, CO; Salt Lake City, UT; Tucson, AZ; and Sioux Falls, SD as Charley continued his career in academic medicine at the various medical schools in these cities.

In later years, Betty became interested in the history of the Congregational Church (now called the United Church of Christ). She was on the Advisory Board of the Good Samaritan Center. She has been Chairperson of the Historical Committee of the SD Conference of the UCC, President of the Oahe Chapel Preservation Society in Pierre, and a member of the SD State Historical Society and has served on the Board of Directors of the Center for Western Studies at Augustana College.

We appreciate Betty's many years of service to the Society, and gratefully remember her commitment to the preservation of the Oahe Chapel. We send our deepest condolences to her family and friends.

First Annual Pie Social a Sweet Success!



On Sunday, July 20, the Oahe Chapel Preservation Society hosted its First Annual Pie Social. Not only did volunteers serve up free pie and ice cream, but the Blood Washed Band also provided an afternoon concert and kids of all ages were invited to play a variety of games.

The afternoon was both a free event for the community and also a fundraiser for the chapel. In spite of the 100-degree heat, approximately 80 people came out to enjoy a slice of pie, a scoop of ice cream, live music, games, and tours of the chapel. Freewill donations raised \$743 to aid in our mission to preserve and maintain the historic chapel for future generations. Many thanks go out to Rev. Susan Carr and Dan and Jennifer Brosz for organizing this entertaining afternoon!

The pie social was such a success that the Board has decided to make it a yearly event. If you weren't able to attend this year, make sure to come next year and bring your family and friends. Supporting our historic chapel doesn't get much sweeter!

RENT THE CHAPEL

Call now to reserve the Oahe Chapel for your wedding, church service, family reunion, or other special event! The Chapel is available for rent year round at the cost of \$50. Members of the Oahe Chapel Preservation Society are eligible to rent the facility for a reduced rate of \$35. Events for 2015 are being booked now. To learn more, contact the South Dakota State Historical Society at (605) 773-3458.

OAHE CHAPEL PRESERVATION SOCIETY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jim Glover, President	Kate Nelson, Vice President
Jennifer Brosz, Secretary	Cindy Snow, Treasurer
Dan Brosz	Jennifer Hanna
Bruce Johnson	Vacant
Rev. Susan Carr, Ministerial Representative	Phil Sheffield, Army Corps of Engineers

Check us out on Facebook and the Web

Facebook: Search for Oahe Chapel Preservation Society

Web: <http://history.sd.gov///preservation/OaheChapel/OaheChapel.aspx>

BY THE NUMBERS

In 2014, the Oahe Chapel...

...was rented for 8 weddings.

...hosted 14 ecumenical Sunday services.

In 2014, the Oahe Chapel Preservation Society...

...had 33 members.

...raised \$743 at our First Annual Pie Social.

The Oahe Chapel holds a unique place in local history. Restored to its 1914 appearance, the Chapel is still used for church services, intimate weddings, and special events. Your financial contribution is needed to assist the Oahe Chapel Preservation Society in maintaining this historic landmark for future generations. Show your support by returning the form below with your check.

Oahe Chapel Preservation Society Membership Form

Membership investment is for one year. Members will receive the annual Oahe Chapel News to keep up-to-date with current projects at the Oahe Chapel. Members are also eligible to rent the chapel at a reduced rate of \$35. Donations are tax deductible where allowed by law.

Please detach this form and mail with check payable to:

Oahe Chapel Preservation Society PO Box 7201 Pierre, SD 57501

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS (optional): _____

New Member Renewal

Sustaining Membership \$500.00 Family Membership \$40.00

Patron Membership \$100.00 Individual Membership \$25.00

Donation of \$ _____

