

OAHE CHAPEL NEWS

Fall 2019

Newsletter of the Oahe Chapel Preservation Society

Pierre, SD

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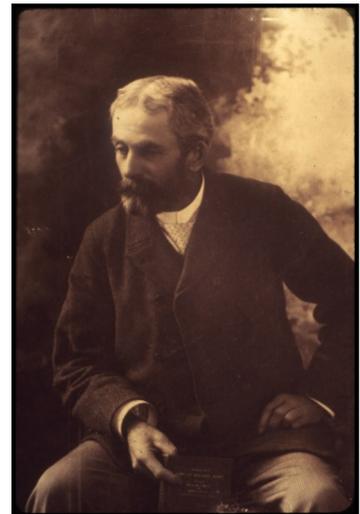
The Oahe Chapel Preservation Society was founded in 1984 to preserve and maintain the historic Oahe Chapel near Pierre, South Dakota. Funding for maintenance is provided through annual memberships in the Oahe Chapel Preservation Society, rental fees, donations, and fundraisers.

HISTORIC PHOTO EDITION

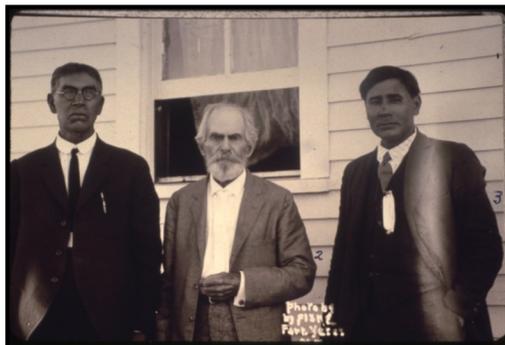
We recently found several historic photographs of the Oahe Chapel, the Oahe Mission, and the Riggs family at the South Dakota State Archives. We think they're so cool, we want to share them with you! Please enjoy this pictorial history of the Oahe Chapel, courtesy of the South Dakota State Archives.



Undated photo of the Riggs residence, left, and Oahe Chapel, right. The chapel was constructed in 1877 and the stone house in 1902.



Undated photo of Thomas L. Riggs, founder of the Oahe Mission



Circa 1938 photo of Rev. Riggs and two other missionaries at the Oahe Chapel.

1874 photo of Nina Riggs and Theodore Riggs, first wife and son of Thomas Riggs.



1925 photo of the chapel interior. The children (L-R) are Thomas L. Riggs, Ruth M. Riggs, & Donald T. Riggs, children of Robert I. & Florence M. Riggs, and grandchildren of Thomas & Louisa Riggs.



Above: This undated photo shows the Oahe Chapel, right, and the original log structure, left, which was destroyed by fire in 1898.

Right: After the log home was destroyed, Riggs built this stone house for his family. It was completed in 1902.



Above: The Oahe Mission also had a boarding school for a number of years.



Above: This undated aerial view shows the Oahe Mission before the construction of the Oahe Dam.

Since 1877, the Oahe Chapel has been a distinctive piece of central South Dakota's history, and it is still used today for weddings, baptisms, and other special events.

For everyone who has helped maintain the chapel for future generations, whether through donations, volunteer services, or just enjoying an event at the chapel,

we appreciate you!



Left to right: A Sunday service in the Oahe Chapel; a wedding ceremony; and a baptism.