

Agency To Assist in Search for Unmarked Graves at Fort Totten

Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Chairman Jamie Azure examines Indian school census reports at the State Archives during a visit of tribal council members and their families to the ND Heritage Center in June. Courtesy Wylee Azure

For decades, the fate of some students who died while attending the Fort Totten Indian Industrial School has remained a mystery. Now two tribes, the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa and the Spirit Lake Nation, plan to search for their remains near the site of the former boarding school.

The State Historical Society, which is assisting the tribes in this effort, has purchased equipment that will allow archaeologists to gather data from areas close to Fort Totten State Historic Site, where the school was once located, using non-intrusive technology. This includes a new drone and two thermal infrared cameras for capturing aerial images of both topographical features and sub-surface heat signals, as well as a magnetic gradiometer, a tool used to identify features below ground. Additionally, the State Historical Society of North Dakota Foundation paid for a ground-penetrating radar capable of sensing differences in soil composition indicative of potential gravesites.

Chairman Jamie Azure of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa said the “partnership will allow the State Historical Society to share their resources and equipment with the five tribes

(cont.)

Archaeology & Historic Preservation Department Welcomes New Director

Andrew Clark, Ph.D., recently became director of the Archaeology & Historic Preservation Department.

Clark, who previously served as the State Historical Society's chief archaeologist, brings 20 years of experience in archaeology and cultural resource management, including stints with the South Dakota State Historical Society, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and private consulting companies.



Andrew Clark

Raised in South Dakota and North Dakota, Clark has spent most of his career in the northern Plains but has also conducted archaeological investigations in more than a dozen states and Mexico, where he worked at Mayapan, a post-classic Mayan city in the Yucatán. He holds a bachelor's from the University of South Dakota, a master's from the University of Memphis, and a doctorate from the State University of New York at Albany.

Clark replaces longtime department director Fern Swenson, who died in April after a short illness. Agency staff, family, and friends gathered to celebrate her life and 35 years of service on Oct. 1 at Double Ditch Indian Village State Historic Site near Bismarck. Two trees have been planted there in her memory.

State Archives Records 1997 Flood Stories for Oral History Project

As part of the oral history project "Flicker Tales of North Dakota," State Archives staff interviewed members of the public about their memories of the 1997 flood, which wreaked widespread devastation throughout the Red River Valley region.

During 20-to-60-minute recorded sessions in June, 22 people who responded to an open call for participants shared their stories. The oral histories were conducted with individuals from all walks of life at the time, including a member of the North Dakota National Guard, a regional extension service worker, and a college president whose university served as an evacuation center.

To access the oral histories, visit the Orin G. Libby Memorial Reading Room at the State Archives or contact archives@nd.gov.



Nearly the entire population of Grand Forks was evacuated during the 1997 flood. SHSND SA 32228-00002-00012

Graves (cont.)

of North Dakota, with the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa leading the charge in reclaiming our identity. This is the first of many steps we are taking with the state of North Dakota in building a rapport of integrity and one that is equally beneficial for both parties involved."

Individuals from the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa, Spirit Lake Nation, and the State Historical Society will be trained on how to use the technology. Work is slated to begin at the site in the spring.

The boarding school, which was located at Fort Totten after the U.S. military outpost was decommissioned in 1890, served Native students from 1891 until 1935 when the fort briefly transitioned to a tuberculosis preventorium. In 1940, the fort returned to use as a day and boarding school until the school closed in 1959. The following year the site was transferred to the State Historical Society.

New to the Collections

A lifetime of research and writing by the late tribal historian Marilyn Old Dog Cross Hudson is now open to the public at the State Archives. The Marilyn Cross Hudson Collection, donated by her son, Charles Kent Hudson Jr., features manuscripts, articles, historical records, photographs, and other materials she created or collected. Major subjects include tribal and oral histories of the Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nation, Elbowoods, the construction of the Garrison Dam and its impact on the people of the Fort Berthold Reservation, Native American veterans and ranching, and the Cross family.

Hudson's collection includes this photo of Fort Berthold tribal councilmen participating in a 1963 National Congress of American Indians parade in Bismarck. SHSND SA 11517-01400



When we sent this 19th-century painting of Bismarck founding mother Linda Slaughter for conservation a few years back, we had no idea we'd soon be in possession of a bit of the artwork's real-life history. Two water opals from the necklace worn by Slaughter in the portrait were recently donated to the State Historical Society by Virginia Eastman Dullum, a great-granddaughter of Slaughter. Dullum was gifted the opals in the 1960s by her mother, Hazel Eastman, who had identical necklaces made for Dullum and her sister. While the fate of the other stones is a mystery, we're thrilled to have reunited the painting with this small but fascinating piece of history.

SHSND 2920, 2022.28.1



Ghosts of North Dakota Collection, SHSND MSS 11541

Thanks to an agreement with its creators, Troy Larson and Terry Hinnenkamp, a copy of the popular blog Ghosts of North Dakota, as well as its photographs, will be preserved at the State Archives. Ghosts of North Dakota, which operated from 2003 to 2022, documented abandoned places across the state. The blog remains online, and its photographs are being released into the public domain on the blog's Facebook page.



SHSND 2022.40.1, 2022.37.4

In an effort to acquire culturally relevant artifacts in real time, curatorial staff has been in the field collecting items from political rallies at the state Capitol. Recent acquisitions include T-shirts from an anti-COVID-19 vaccination mandate protest organized by We the People ND in November 2021 (left) and from an abortion rights rally held in response to the Supreme Court's decision to overturn Roe v. Wade in June.

State Historic Sites Spotlight

There's always something fresh to see or experience at North Dakota's outstanding state historic sites. Learn about rural electrification, take in the beauty of brilliantly restored stained-glass windows, get up close and personal with a talking Theodore Roosevelt, or let the kiddies burn off some steam on new playground equipment. What are you waiting for?

Pembina State Museum: *Power of the People: North Dakota Rural Electrification*, an exhibit about the process of bringing electricity to rural communities in the 1930s, 1940s, and 1950s, is now open. Sponsored by Touchstone Energy Cooperatives of North Dakota, *Power of the People* details the experiences of people who lived through this technological revolution and includes artifacts reflecting rural life before and after the arrival of electricity. Through April 2024.

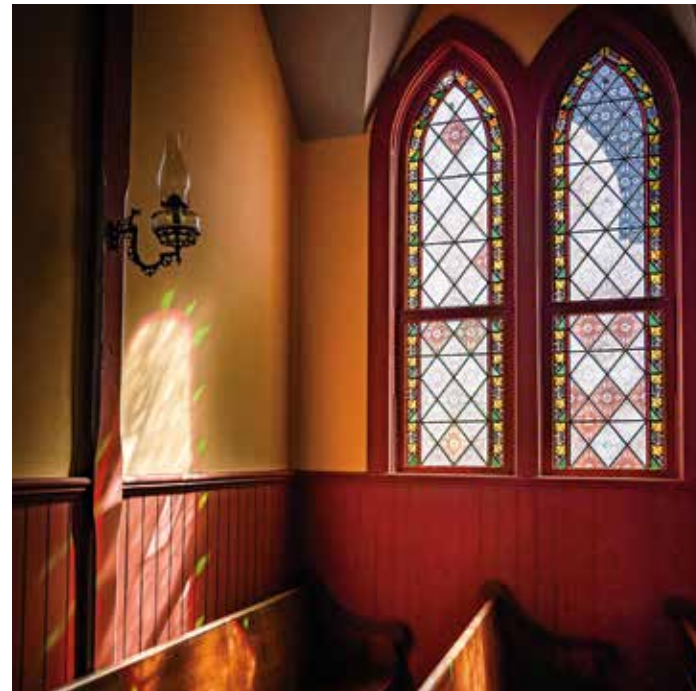
Electricity brought a whole new world of gadgets to life.



Camp Hancock State Historic Site: Twenty-seven stained glass windows from the Church of the Bread of Life at Camp Hancock State Historic Site in Bismarck were reinstalled this summer after a major restoration project. Most of these windows had been in storage and not seen publicly for more than half a century. Carried out by Gaytee-Palmer Stained Glass of Minneapolis, the project received funding and support from the Bismarck Historical Society and the Northern Plains Heritage Foundation.

The completion of the \$106,000 restoration, which also included new storm windows, was celebrated at an event in September featuring educational talks, a choral performance, and a blessing by the Rev. Hal Weidman of St. George's Episcopal Memorial Church. St. George's occupied the Bread of Life building from 1881 until 1949. To make an appointment to view the windows, contact jcampbell@nd.gov.

Experience the Bread of Life Church's vivid stained-glass windows.



Chateau de Morès State Historic Site: Did you know that a young Theodore Roosevelt kept mice as pets? Or that he and his brother observed Abraham Lincoln's funeral procession making its way through the streets of New York? For a limited time, the Chateau Interpretive Center in Medora is hosting *Be Curious*, a prototype exhibit for the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library exploring the 26th president's childhood. Featuring a storytelling and interactive digital experience, the prototype will inform a larger exhibit at the planned presidential library, slated to open in 2026.

This hologram of Theodore Roosevelt as a boy is part of a prototype exhibit at the Chateau. Courtesy JE Dunn Construction and the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library Foundation



Writing Rock State Historic Site: Writing Rock State Historic Site near Grenora received a new playground set thanks to grants from the John & Elaine Andrist Fund and the Outdoor Heritage Fund, as well as funding from the Divide County Park Board, the State Historical Society, and the Divide County Road Department. The playground's reopening was celebrated at an event in June, which included historical games, root beer floats, and comments by State Historical Society Director Bill Peterson and former Divide County Commissioner Doug Graupe.

Children enjoy the new Writing Rock playground equipment during the grand opening event in June.



History Comes Alive at the State Museum



Ready to be "surprised" by history? For the past two years, Gallery Guide Tom Chase has been delivering 10-minute pop-up history programs related to the exhibits at the State Museum. Topics range from mastodons to the French Gratitude Train to the Nickel Trophy, with talks taking place Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.



Ever wanted to touch a dinosaur fossil or hold an oil drill in your hand? Be sure to catch Education Specialist Laura Forde with her new mobile cart throughout the week in the State Museum galleries. Each cart contains artifacts related to a different theme in North Dakota history, offering visitors the chance for a hands-on experience. Cart subjects include the use of bison in Native American culture, energy production, archaeology, and the many ways people have lived off the land over time. Look for more themes to be added in the coming months.

Historical Photo Exhibit Opens at William Guy Federal Building

A selection of historical North Dakota photographs from the State Archives was recently installed in the fourth-floor hallway of the William Guy Federal Building in downtown Bismarck. The exhibit is open to the public during business hours.

The 24 images, which feature harvest views from around the state as well as winter activities like sledding and making snow angels, were previously on display at the North Dakota Governor's Residence.

"Nordic Ski Jumping, Devils Lake," 1936. SHSND SA 00056-00004



Inductees Join Native American Hall of Honor

Four individuals and a group of Vietnam War veterans were among those inducted into the Native American Hall of Honor during a ceremony at the ND Heritage Center & State Museum on Sept. 8.

The 2022 inductees honored for achievements in the Leadership, Sports, and Military award categories were educator Gerald Monette, Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa; the late social rights activist and administrator Juanita Jean Hephrey (White Flower), Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara (MHA) Nation; longtime United Tribes Technical College athletic director and basketball coach Kevin Finley, Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nation; MHA Nation Chairman Mark N. Fox, Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nation; and a group of deceased Vietnam veterans from the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa: Christopher Wilmer Davis, David Allen Larson, Dennis James Manson, Ralph Charles McCowan, and Eric Daryl Nadeau.



Educator Gerald Monette, honored in the Leadership category, was gifted a star quilt during the ceremony.



Honoree and MHA Nation Chairman Mark Fox with his son, Eli.

A partnership of the North Dakota Indian Affairs Commission, the State Historical Society, and the State Historical Society Foundation, the program recognizes Native Americans who have gone above and beyond in representing their tribes and cultures. An accompanying exhibit is on view in the Native American Hall of Honor at the State Museum.

Cultural Heritage Grants Awarded



The Mayville Public Library, the B'nai Israel Synagogue in Grand Forks, and Bowman's Pioneer Trails Regional Museum were among the 20 organizations awarded a total of \$450,000 for the 2021-2023 biennium in Cultural Heritage Grants by the State Historical Society. Supported by the North Dakota Legislature, Cultural Heritage Grants provide funding to nonprofit organizations as well as to city, county, and tribal governments. Eligible projects include capital improvements, exhibits, special projects or events, education activities, and collections.

The Traill County Historical Society received a \$35,450 grant for a roof-replacement project at the Gilded Age-era Plummer House in Hillsboro. Photo by LeAnn Beck

Highland Acres Historic District Listed in National Register

The Highland Acres neighborhood in central Bismarck has been added to the National Register of Historic Places as a historic district. The National Register is the federal government's list of properties it considers worthy of preservation and recognition. North Dakota nominations are coordinated by the Historical Society.

Built to meet the housing needs of returning World War II veterans and their young families, the Highland Acres development was primarily constructed between 1948 and the early 1970s and features mid-century and contemporary architectural styles. Notable characteristics include trapezoidal shaped lots to accommodate hilly topography, long curvilinear streets, and spacious front yards. Churches as well as a park and school are incorporated into the neighborhood.

The process to nominate the district, which includes 350 properties, was a collaborative effort of local residents, the Bismarck Historic Preservation Commission, as well as the State Historical Society, and involved a yearlong survey project.



Highland Acres Elementary School was constructed in 1958.

S.D. Nelson's Artwork at the State Museum

The work of award-winning writer and illustrator S.D. Nelson takes center stage in a new exhibit on view through October 2023 at the ND Heritage Center & State Museum in Bismarck.

All Is Grass and Clouds, Forever: The Art of S.D. Nelson includes vignettes from the production of several of his children's books along with a selection of traditional objects Nelson fashioned and embellished.



A registered member of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, Nelson has produced 12 children's books and collaborated on an additional seven books focused on the cultural heritage of Native American communities. In 2021, Nelson donated 135 artworks, documentation, and significant objects related to his publications to the State Historical Society. Many of these can be seen in the exhibit, including artwork from "Gift Horse: A Lakota Story," "Sitting Bull: Lakota Warrior and Defender of His People," and "Buffalo Bird Girl: A Hidatsa Story."

This proof print from S.D. Nelson's book, "Gift Horse: A Lakota Story," is among the items on exhibit. SHSND 2021.41.122

Rush Hour Rock 'N' Roll



Fargo hip-hop band Hiahli, left, and the Americonscious campfire folk group MoonCats, of Beulah, were among the North Dakota bands that performed at the ND Heritage Center's Rock 'N' Roll Rush Hour series in July. The weekly concerts, which featured family activities and extended hours in the galleries, were free and open to the public.



Our wonderful volunteers take in the finished quilt.

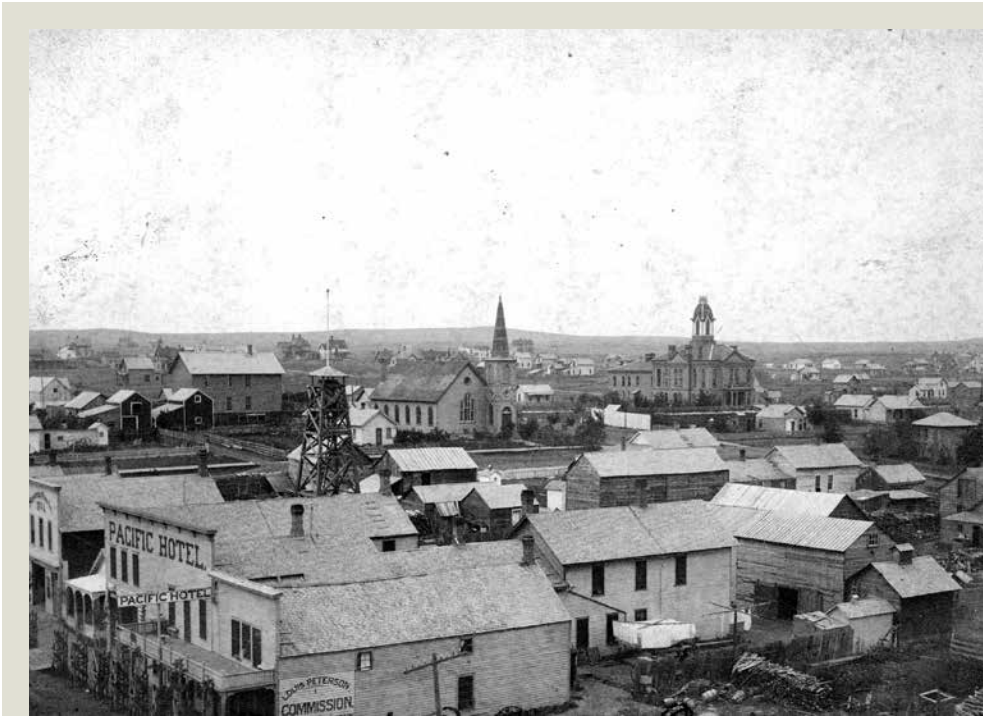
Quilt Honors State Historical Society Volunteers

A quilt honoring the agency's 200 volunteers was unveiled during the 40th anniversary celebration of the Heritage Volunteer Program at the ND Heritage Center & State Museum in May.

Created by volunteers Char Blaskowski, Eryls Fardal, Olive Fricke, and Val Otto, the quilt features strips around each square, where volunteers were invited to sign their names. A few have been left blank in case any still want to add their John Hancock. In the coming months, the quilt will be hung near the State Museum's front desk.

The volunteer program, founded in 1981, turned 40 in 2021. The anniversary event, delayed until this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, was emceed by State Historical Society Director Bill Peterson and included comments by North Dakota Chief Operating Officer Tammy Miller from the governor's office.

Agency Commemorates Capital City's Sesquicentennial



SHSND SA 2019-P-046-00023



The agency launched *150 Years of Bismarck*, an exhibit of photographs and other materials from the State Archives on view in the Orin G. Libby Memorial Reading Room. The images on display illustrate how the city, initially named Edwinton, has changed over time and include historical photos of the state Capitol, the Northern Pacific Railway Bridge, and the Bismarck Civic Center. This cityscape of Bismarck, circa 1885, at left, is part of the exhibit.



Camp Hancock State Historic Site and the Former Governors' Mansion State Historic Site were among six citywide sites that participated in the 150th Anniversary History and Mystery Scavenger Hunts. Successful participants, who searched for virtual beacons on their smart phones that correlated with actual physical locations, received golden tickets that were entered in a drawing held in September. State Archives staff were on hand during both scavenger hunts to interview attendees about their connections to Bismarck. During the scavenger hunt at the mansion in August, the agency in partnership with the Society for the Preservation of the Former Governors' Mansion also hosted an ice cream social with musical entertainment and a color guard, as well as a display of antique vehicles from the El Zagal Dusters club.



Staff and volunteers, including Doug Wurtz above, hosted a State Historical Society booth during the kickoff of the city's 150th celebration at the Bismarck Event Center in May. The booth showcased historical objects, such as a brick from the first state Capitol, a crank butter churn, and a Lakota winter count. The two-day event included musical performances, historical documentary films, and a vintage car and tractor show.

Dip & Donate

Giving to the State Historical Society is easier than ever these days. In May, the agency installed DipJars near the entrances of the Missouri River Event Center at the ND Heritage Center, the Chateau de Morès Interpretive Center in Medora, and the 1883 Stutsman County Courthouse State Historic Site in Jamestown.



A DipJar at the Stutsman County Courthouse State Historic Site.

To contribute, visitors simply insert a credit card into the plastic card reader, with each “dip” resulting in a \$5 donation. The technology allows for quick and easy cashless giving and may be expanded to other agency sites.

Lennon Named State Historical Society Foundation Executive Director



Dale Lennon

Dale Lennon is the State Historical Society of North Dakota Foundation’s new executive director. He takes over from Marlo Sveen, who retired at the end of June after 16 years of service to the Foundation. Lennon, who most recently served as athletic director at the University of Mary and was previously the university’s director of public affairs, brings an extensive background in program leadership, public affairs, communications, and

capital fundraising to the position. He has decades of coaching experience, including as head football coach at the University of North Dakota, UMary, and Southern Illinois University.

Saving the Family Farm



Sarah Vogel signs copies of her book, “The Farmer’s Lawyer: The North Dakota Nine and the Fight to Save the Family Farm,” after a presentation at Jamestown’s 1883 Stutsman County Courthouse State Historic Site in August. Vogel, an attorney and former state commissioner of agriculture, discussed her legal battle detailed in the book to stop the federal government from foreclosing on thousands of family farmers during the 1980s farm crisis.

State Historical Board Member Appointed



Lacey Anderson

A warm welcome to Lacey Anderson of Bismarck, who joined the State Historical Board in July. Anderson, founder and CEO of The Birch Group, replaces Larry Skogen, president emeritus of Bismarck State College. Skogen served on the board from 2019-2022.

FOUNDATION NOTES



Greetings From the Foundation,

This May I began my new role as executive director of the State Historical Society of North Dakota Foundation. I’m thrilled to enter the fascinating world of North Dakota history on a professional level, learning firsthand from the curators, paleontologists, archivists, educators, and volunteers who work to bring forward and preserve the most accurate historical records possible.

The North Dakota Heritage Center & State Museum is a world-class museum, telling the story of the region through thousands of artifacts and specimens, high-tech displays, and interactive exhibits. Remarkably, admission to the ND Heritage Center is free for its 200,000-plus visitors each year.

The State Historical Society is much more than the magnificent Heritage Center, however. More than 50 historic sites located throughout North Dakota are also under the direction and care of the agency. Some sites offer impressive interpretive centers, while others have a simple historical marker to tell the important story of that location. It’s been fun for my wife and me to spend weekends driving to various sites around the state exploring these historic gems.

Join us in understanding and telling the story of our great state! Donations to the Foundation support the State Historical Society in its mission to identify, preserve, interpret, and promote the heritage of North Dakota and its people.

Sincerely,

Dale Lennon
Executive Director

P.S. Be sure to drop by the Foundation office and say hello when you’re in the neighborhood.

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The Foundation secured a \$1 million contribution from Devon Energy Corporation for the naming rights to the Innovation Gallery: Early Peoples at the State Museum in Bismarck.



ND Indian Affairs Commission Executive Director Nathan Davis meets with Dale Lennon. The Foundation supports the Indian Affairs Commission and the State Historical Society in producing the annual Native American Hall of Honor.



Meagan Schoenfelder of the Archaeology & Historic Preservation Department demonstrates a ground-penetrating radar and cart purchased by the Foundation for the agency. The new equipment will assist in non-invasive investigations of state historic sites, including site mapping and excavation planning.



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