



Historic Kittson Cabin Rededicated Following Preservation Work

From left: Phil Longtin, Rebecca Davis, Melanie Thornberg, and Jim Martini, Walhalla Area Chamber of Commerce; Pembina State Museum Outreach Coordinator Brian Hardy; Historic Sites Manager Rob Hanna; former State Historical Board President Steve C. Martens; Pembina State Museum Site Supervisor Jeff Blanchard; and Jim Benjaminson, Zelda Hartje, and Patricia Hart Cayley of the Pembina County Historic Preservation Commission celebrate the cabin's rededication. Assisting with the ribbon are Mary, Clare, and Ruth Kobiela.

After undergoing reconstruction work earlier in the year, one of the state's oldest surviving buildings was officially unveiled in August at the Walhalla State Historic Site in northeastern North Dakota.

Built circa 1852, the Kittson cabin was disassembled last fall, with each log carefully removed, numbered, and stored. Logs were either salvaged from the original construction or replaced in-kind, and the cabin was reassembled this past spring. New interpretive signs were also added to the site.

The Aug. 19 rededication featured a tour of the cabin and grounds, lawn games, and refreshments as well as talks by architectural historian and former president of the State Historical Board Steve C. Martens and lead carpenter Blake Kobiela.

A rare existing example of Métis Red River Frame construction, in which the horizontal logs forming the walls slot into upright corner posts, the cabin was built by fur trader Norman Kittson as a warehouse to supply ox carts traveling to St. Paul and likely Winnipeg. By 1899, the cabin was being used as a stable for the Bellevue Hotel. In 1905, the Red River Valley Old Settlers' Association moved the cabin from downtown Walhalla to its current location at the state historic site.

Military Museum Project Moves Ahead



Members of the Joint Military Museum Advisory Committee tour the National Museum of the United States Army in Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

Plans to add a military wing to the ND Heritage Center & State Museum in Bismarck continue to advance. The agency and the North Dakota National Guard have signed a memorandum of agreement to create the addition, which Fargo-based Zerr Berg Architects will design. In June, the newly formed Joint Military Museum Advisory Committee, consisting of representatives

from the Office of the Governor, State Historical Society, ND National Guard, and Office of Management and Budget, toured military-related museums in Georgia and the Washington, D.C. area to conduct research for the project. Fundraising efforts are underway. A \$20 million line of credit from the Bank of North Dakota has also been approved by the 2023 state Legislature.

New Interpretive Signage at State Historic Sites Offers Inclusive Perspective



Updated interpretive signage produced and edited by agency staff was recently installed at seven of North Dakota's state historic sites. The new signs reflect evolving history and views. In addition to new history and interpretation, language deemed inappropriate or insensitive was removed. "This project is a work in progress," said Kim Jondahl, director of the Audience Engagement & Museum Department. "We will continue to update the history stories at sites to enhance visitor experiences into the future." The new signs can be found at Fort Dilts, Killdeer Mountain Battlefield, Fort Clark, St. Claude, Lake Jessie, Walhalla, and Whitestone Hill state historic sites.

From left: Archaeology and Historic Preservation Department maintenance workers Ty Hartl, Sage Rishling, and Jeff Schatz and Maintenance and Construction Supervisor Paul Grahl get ready to install new interpretive signage at the Whitestone Hill State Historic Site in July.

There's a Story There at the State Museum

For more than a century, the State Historical Society has collected fine art reflecting the people and landscapes of the northern Plains region. *There's a Story There: Art in the State Collections* brings together for the first time 19 of these artworks spanning the 1830s to 2011 by acclaimed artists such as John James Audubon, George Catlin, Karl Bodmer, and John Singer Sargent. Subjects include notable figures including Bismarck pioneer Linda W. Slaughter, entrepreneur William George Fargo, and Mandan chief Mató-Tópe (Four Bears) as well as landscapes, forts, and wildlife. Many of these works, on view through February 2024 at the ND Heritage Center & State Museum, have also undergone conservation, revealing fresh details and new vibrancy.

William de la Montagne Cary's 1866 painting, "Indian War Party," depicting a group of Plains Ojibwes at rest, is among the artworks featured in a new exhibition of North Dakota-related fine art. SHSND 2896



Agency Assists in San Haven Sanatorium Redevelopment

Officials from the Environmental Protection Agency, State Historical Society, and Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians toured the grounds of the former sanatorium at San Haven during an on-site visit in May. The vacant main hospital building, seen here, will be demolished as part of an EPA-funded clean-up and redevelopment project. Archaeology & Historic Preservation Department staff are working with stakeholders to help ensure the project is carried out in an architecturally and historically sensitive manner.

Cultural Heritage Grant Spotlight: Improving Access at Dickinson's Prairie Outpost Park

Thanks to a \$5,910 Cultural Heritage Grant from the State Historical Society, the Dickinson Museum Center's Prairie Outpost Park *stabbur* (Norwegian for storehouse) exhibit recently reopened in a repaired and updated space. New lighting, display units, and carpeting were among the improvements made to the building's downstairs area, which allowed the upstairs exhibit to be moved to the lower, more accessible first floor.

Supported by the North Dakota Legislature, Cultural Heritage grants provide funding to nonprofit organizations as well as to city, county, and tribal organizations. Eligible projects include capital improvements, exhibits, special projects or events, education activities, and collections.

Built in 1993, the *stabbur* at Dickinson's Prairie Outpost Park represents a tribute to the Scandinavian immigrants who settled in North Dakota. A Cultural Heritage Grant helped fund a redesigned exhibit space. Courtesy Dickinson Museum Center



Art and the Garden

Summer at North Dakota's state historic sites means getting outside and communing with the land. And what better way to do that than with a paintbrush or trowel in hand? From plein-air art to gardens featuring historically accurate plants, here are a few examples of the aesthetic and edible bounty you'll find right on our doorsteps.



Arikara sunflowers in the First Farmers garden at the Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center in Washburn offer a colorful hello to visitors. The garden, which represents a microcosm of Indigenous crops, is one of three planted by staff at the site.



Corn, pumpkins, cabbage, potatoes, and summer squash are among the bumper crops found in Fort Totten State Historic Site's victory garden. Each spring, agricultural students at Cankdeska Cikana Community College till the garden. This year members of the local 4-H chapter were also on hand to help staff with the planting. Produce from the garden is donated to the Hope Center food pantry in Devils Lake.



A member of the Williston Area Visual Artists captures a lush river scene during a "Plein Air on the Prairie" session in July at the Missouri-Yellowstone Confluence Interpretive Center. Photo by Daphne Clark



Late July onions in the Gemüsegarten (vegetable garden) at the Welk Homestead State Historic Site near Strasburg. Bilingual plant markers in the garden reflect the Welks' German-Russian heritage.



A young boy paints a birdhouse at the Former Governors' Mansion State Historic Site during an event for families in August.



Jenny Yearous, curator of collections management, paints a forest scene during the "Watercolor En Plein Air" workshop at the Fort Mandan State Historic Site in August. Attendees learned how to blend colors, shade, and render features like grass, clouds, and leaves.

Former Governors' Mansion Parlor Walls Restored to Original Look

Over the years, more than 80 wallpapers have been used to cover the walls of the 1884 Former Governor's Mansion in Bismarck. So determining which was the original was bound to be a challenge.

Site Supervisor Johnathan Campbell estimated he spent some 150 hours in early 2023 "flicking away tiny pieces of paper" with a brush until the mystery of the parlor wallpaper was solved. "It was actually five separate papers that were all up at same time," he said. Once these were located, Campbell took "close photos" and sent them off to Wolff House Wallpapers of Mount Vernon, Ohio, which redrew them in Photoshop and made negatives. These were transferred to silkscreens and printed.

Now that the parlor walls have been restored to their former glory and new lace curtains are in place, plans are underway for updated and expanded interpretation and period-appropriate wall hangings. Ultimately, Campbell would like to redo the entire mansion with accurate wallpaper designs from different eras in its history, allowing visitors to move through time as they ascend each floor of the two-and-a-half-story Victorian.



Corner of the Former Governors' Mansion parlor showing reproductions of the five different 1884 wallpapers. A framed section preserves an example of the original paper.

Native Stories of the Land Take Center Stage in New Exhibition

In April, the State Historical Society marked the debut of *On the Edge of the Wind: Native Storytellers & the Land* with an appreciation dinner and preview for participating tribal knowledge keepers. The following day, the agency hosted a legislative breakfast and special viewing for state lawmakers as well as an activity day for more than 200 North Dakota elementary school students. While at the ND Heritage Center & State Museum, the schoolchildren had the opportunity to view the new exhibition and experience four hands-on learning stations focused on sacred plants, tipi construction, nature-inspired art and music, and North Dakota landmarks.

Produced by the North Dakota Council on the Arts in association with the State Historical Society, *On the Edge of the Wind* explores the connections between cultural practices, regional landscapes, and tribal oral narratives. This exhibition, which runs through April 2025 in the Governors Gallery, is based on interviews with Native storytellers and includes largescale photographs, artifacts, and video recordings of elders recounting traditional stories.

Right top: Administrative Assistant Kiri Stone invites schoolchildren to use their ears to identify different sounds in the song "Sky Woman's Creation" as part of an exhibit-related learning activity.

Right bottom: Agency Director Bill Peterson chats with Mandan/Hidatsa storyteller and flutist Keith Bear and State Historical Society Foundation board members Paul Olson and Robert Horne at a breakfast for state legislators to celebrate the opening of On the Edge of the Wind.



Ojibway elder Debbie Gourneau listens at one of the story stations during a special preview evening for participating Native knowledge keepers. Gourneau was among those featured in the exhibition.

State Historic Sites Host Teacher Workshops

Nearly 70 teachers participated in workshops led or facilitated by the agency's education team over the summer. In July, teachers attended "E Pluribus Unum: Immigration History and the Impact of German-Russian Immigrants to North Dakota," which included visits to the Welk Homestead State Historic Site, German-Russian communities, and the State Archives. Then in August, teachers converged in Medora at the Chateau de Morès State Historic site for "Barons, Bulls, Boom, and Bust," where they learned about the late 1800s cattle boom, toured the site, and paid a visit to the North Dakota Cowboy Hall of Fame. While in Medora, they also learned about resources the agency offers educators, such as field trips and Ask-An-Expert online historical programs. Additionally, team members participated in a third workshop at the ND Heritage Center, led by the North Dakota Geographic Alliance in August, that focused on Native American history.



Chateau de Morès State Historic Site Assistant Supervisor Ed Sahlstrom shows teachers the ruins of the Marquis de Morès' former slaughterhouse and discusses the French aristocrat's planned cattle empire.

National History Day in North Dakota Contestants Compete on East Coast

Nineteen North Dakota students competed in the National History Day contest at the University of Maryland, College Park, in June after taking part in the state contest produced by our education team. Students presented their work on the theme "Frontiers in History: People, Places, Ideas" and had opportunities to meet the more than 2,600 other competitors. They also visited the U.S. Capitol and met with members of North Dakota's congressional delegation. The National History Day in North Dakota contest, open to all students grades 6-12, is hosted each spring by the State Historical Society of North Dakota. Top entries from that competition are eligible for the national contest.



New to the Collections



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Barry in Buffalo

In September 1964, when Republican presidential candidate Barry Goldwater arrived in the Peace Garden State for Buffalo's Plowville National Plowing Contest and Soil Conservation Field Days, Mike LaLonde, then a junior in college, was on hand to capture the moment. LaLonde, a Bismarck photographer and filmmaker, recently donated his 1960s- and 1970s-era home movie collection to the State Archives. In addition to the Goldwater footage, the collection features everything from motorcycle races and goose hunting to the 1965 Valley City State University football homecoming game.

The Geography of War

Harold Homer Davis, a bugler serving in the 1st Infantry of the ND National Guard during the Spanish-American War, annotated this map of the districts of the Philippines in 1898. Here, Davis noted the location of the various companies' lodging, troop positions, hospitals, and military events. "It shows what was important to an American soldier at that time," said Manuscript Archivist Emily Kubischta. Davis, who was hospitalized for sunstroke and dysentery, died on a transport ship the following year a month before his eighteenth birthday and is buried in Dickinson. Part of the papers of his father, Dr. Homer Augustus Davis, this map along with his diary and other effects was donated to the State Archives by Jeanne Leffingwell, the great-great-granddaughter of Davis' father.



Mike LaLonde Film Collection, SHSND MSS 11580



The Pembina State Museum men's room after its colorful transformation.

Iconic Trade Blanket Design Inspires Restroom Makeover

When it came time to update the Pembina State Museum restrooms, one thing was clear: The boring beige walls in place since the museum opened in 1996 had to go. In turn, the walls acquired a vibrant new design inspired by the green, red, yellow, and indigo stripes found on the Hudson's Bay Company point blanket. (These iconic blankets were often traded for beaver pelts from the Indigenous communities during the height of the 19th-century North American fur trade.) As part of the recently completed revamp, the bathrooms also received new stalls and lighting.

Meanwhile, the museum's conference room, which is available to rent, is in the process of a makeover. An 84-inch flatscreen TV and new tables and chairs have been added.

Model of Rare Bear Skeleton on Exhibit at State Museum

A 3D-printed skeleton model of one of the world's smallest bear predecessors has joined the *T. rex* and *Triceratops* on display at the ND Heritage Center & State Museum.

The rare *Eoarctos vorax* fossil was discovered in the Little Badlands area south of Dickinson by Robert Emry, now of the Smithsonian Institution, in the 1980s. A cousin of the modern bear, the animal, whose name translates to "dawn bear the voracious eater," lived roughly 32 million years ago.

With more than 80 percent of the *Eoarctos* skeleton recovered, ND Geological Survey paleontologists, who subsequently collected similar specimens in the area and teamed up with Emry and others on research published this year in the *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology*, were able to recreate a complete example using a 3D printer.

"It lets us interpret things like how did they walk? What was their feeding strategy? Questions we couldn't really answer before," said ND Geological Survey Senior Paleontologist Clint Boyd. He added that the species, which belongs to a category of carnivores known as Arctoidea, emerged "close to where dogs and bears split from each other on the evolutionary tree."

With claws similar to a cat's and resembling a racoon, the 30-inch long *Eoarctos* could easily climb trees but moved slowly on the ground. The extinct animal could crush hard materials such as snail shells in its mouth, though evidence of broken teeth and jaw bones suggests it wasn't always quite up to the task, said Boyd. "It probably died either from the severe jaw infections or from starvation, as the infections would prevent it from eating."



Artist Mark Hallett's rendering of the diminutive dawn bear is on display alongside a 3D-printed skeleton model of the fossil in the Adaptation Gallery: Geologic Time.

Looking for Loved Ones

A team of archaeologists from the State Historical Society conducted a remote sensing survey at Logan Center Cemetery in July aimed at locating the unmarked graves of missing people. The work in Grand Forks County allowed staff to test new ground-penetrating radar equipment and drones in advance of similar fieldwork planned for Fort Totten State Historic Site near Devils Lake. There, the agency is supporting the Turtle Mountain

Band of Chippewa and the Spirit Lake Nation in their search for the potential remains of students who died while attending the former Fort Totten Indian Industrial School. Representatives from the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa were on hand during the cemetery survey to learn about the new equipment. Agency staff will analyze the data with a report expected later this fall.



Research Archaeologist Margie Patton uses a ground-penetrating radar to look for unmarked gravesites at Logan Center Cemetery.

Dunlevy Elected State Historical Board President

Matt Dunlevy was elected to a two-year term as president of the State Historical Board during its July meeting at Fort Totten State Historic Site.



Matt Dunlevy

Dunlevy, a technology entrepreneur from Grand Forks, takes the reins from Steve C. Martens, professor emeritus of architecture at North Dakota State University. The board also welcomed two new members: Richard Stenberg, an associate professor of history and political science

at Williston State College, and Alan Svanes, a farmer from Kintyre.

Capturing a Moment in Time



Members of the public pitched in to help bury a time capsule on the grounds of Camp Hancock State Historic Site during a May Founder's Day event marking the end of Bismarck's sesquicentennial year. The time capsule was filled with items collected during the 150th celebrations and will be opened on May 14, 2072, during the city's bicentennial. Prior to the event, State Historical Society archaeologists excavated the hole where the time capsule was placed to ensure no significant archaeological artifacts would be disturbed.

FOUNDATION NOTES



Foundation Dollars Support Agency Mission in Diverse Ways

Did you know? Foundation fundraising dollars are used to help the State Historical Society fulfill its mission to identify, preserve, interpret, and promote North Dakota's heritage. Thanks to the generous contributions of donors and our members, Foundation support boosts vital initiatives, empowers educational programs, and preserves our history for generations to come. Here are a few recent examples of Foundation dollars at work.



Improving Educational Access and Engagement at Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center. The Foundation facilitated a \$15,000 sponsorship from Great River Energy, Apex Clean Energy, and Rainbow Energy to provide free admission for school field trips to the Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center. This sponsorship also includes a summer farmers market at the site open to the surrounding Washburn community.

Longfellow Elementary School students from Minot get a close-up look at history.

Military Museum Fact-Finding Trip. The Foundation funded transportation expenses for three members of the State Historical Society's leadership team who serve on the Joint Military Museum Advisory Committee (JMMAC) to visit military museums in Georgia and the Washington, D.C., area in June. The team met with museum professionals and researched museum design, technology, and fundraising possibilities to help the agency move forward in partnership with the ND National Guard on a planned military museum wing at the State Museum.

Happy JMMAC members headed home after a successful and informative trip back East.



Larks Night Out. On June 19, the Foundation hosted a State Historical Society staff night at a Bismarck Larks game at the Municipal Ballpark. This team-building event brought together members of the agency for an evening of entertainment and baseball. The Larks put up a valiant effort, but despite their best efforts, they lost to the Mankato Moondogs 13-17.

State Historical Society staff pose with team mascots, Merifeather Lewis and Clark the Lark. Courtesy Bismarck Larks

Professional Development for Staff. As part of its commitment to fostering professional growth and knowledge-sharing, the Foundation covers transportation and conference fees for agency staff to attend a variety of professional development events throughout the year. In July, the Foundation sent a member of the State Archives to the National Association of Government Archives and Records Administrators Annual Conference in Cincinnati, Ohio.

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