



## Playful Learning Inspires Young Historians

by Ann Crews Melton,  
assistant editor,  
Communications  
& Education Division

Above: Cub Scouts Andrew Brubakken, left, and Seth Campbell experiment with pottery making at "Museum Lab" on Feb. 20.

As a stay-at-home mom with two small children, Stephanie Schick was eager to find free children's programs around Bismarck-Mandan. She soon realized there weren't many options.

"There wasn't anywhere to go for free besides the library," said Schick, who previously worked as an educator at the National Mississippi River Museum &

Aquarium in Dubuque, Iowa. "I thought it was a missed opportunity."

Schick, now a gallery guide at the North Dakota Heritage Center & State Museum, approached Curator of Education Erik Holland about developing interactive programs for toddlers and preschoolers. "Little Kids, Big World" launched Jan. 25, and the community response has been overwhelming.



L to R: Gallery guide Stephanie Schick, State Historical Society Curator of Education Erik Holland, and North Dakota Archaeological Association President Doug Wurtz erect a tipi as part of a “Little Kids, Big World” demonstration in February.

Learn more about upcoming educational programs at [history.nd.gov](http://history.nd.gov).

Held Monday mornings, the program has averaged 70 participants (kids plus adults) each week, with a record-setting 220 participants over two sessions on President’s Day.

Each session features a hands-on activity inspired by different exhibits within the State Museum, such as “Dinosaur Discovery,” “Sacred Bison,” and “Homesteader House.” Schick said she wants the program to incorporate learning, but more importantly, for kids and adults to interact and have fun.

School-age children can also experience hands-on learning through “Museum Lab,” a free Saturday program that

connects science, technology, art, and history through experimentation. Programmed by Outreach Coordinator Danielle Stuckle, “Museum Lab” has featured rock art, weaving, and pottery making, with more sessions scheduled for April and May.

“One of my goals is to teach museum activities that kids can replicate at home with their friends and family,” Stuckle said. “By continuing to experiment, they might discover new ways to approach the same subject.”

Holland said he is delighted with the success of both “Museum Lab” and the “Little Kids” program, which concludes

March 21, and he is looking at future opportunities to engage young children.

“These youth will continue to be our audience as they age, and we want them to learn this is a place they can visit and become engaged,” Holland said. “We want to model, for kids of any age, why history is relevant to the modern world.”

## The Treehouse Opens

Hollis Nappen of Bismarck donated \$400,000 to the North Dakota Heritage Center & State Museum expansion in memory of his wife, Theodora Nappen, who loved children. This gift was used to build the Treehouse exhibit for young children, which opened to the public Dec. 26. Hollis did not live to see the Treehouse completed, but his brother-in-law Bill Schott of Bismarck-Mandan and his extended family gathered prior to the opening to pay tribute to Hollis and Theodora. In less than three months, the Treehouse has become one of the most visited spaces in the expanded ND Heritage Center.





## Volunteer Valentines

The State Historical Society honored its volunteers at a Valentine's Social on Feb. 12, where a photo booth made for a popular addition. Don and Diane Rose, above, volunteer at the information desk on Wednesday afternoons. Volunteers provide the front line of service for our visitors, making them feel welcome and helping them find their way in the Heritage Center. If you are interested in becoming a Meet and Greet volunteer, please contact Beth Campbell at 701.328.2674 or [bcampbell@nd.gov](mailto:bcampbell@nd.gov).

## Fort Totten Welcomes Nelson



Congratulations to Kyle Nelson, Fort Totten State Historic Site supervisor, who began his new role Feb. 1. Nelson previously served

as assistant site supervisor at the Oscar-Zero Missile Alert Facility during summer 2015. He holds a bachelor's degree in anthropology from North Dakota State University and joins the State Historical Society following an extensive career with the US Army, the National Guard, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency. To learn more about Fort Totten and other historic sites, visit [history.nd.gov/historicsites](http://history.nd.gov/historicsites).



## Friends of the Welk Homestead

The newest historic site friends group, Friends of the Welk Homestead, became official on Valentine's Day, Feb. 14, 2016, in Strasburg, ND. The group's goal is to support the State Historical Society in the preservation and interpretation of the Welk Homestead. This site adds to the diversity of the agency's historic site network by interpreting early agriculture, German-Russian culture and architecture, and the Welk family (including Lawrence Welk) by illustrating daily life and the successes of a pioneer family.

The Welk Homestead became a state historic site on July 1, 2015. The site is located in the heart of German-Russian country and is an anchor site for the Tri-County Tourism Alliance, an organization embracing the German-Russian experience in Logan, Emmons, and McIntosh counties.

Photographed at the meeting were the officers for the Friends of the Welk Homestead: its first president, John Ibarra, a Strasburg City Council member, and secretary Tracy Mitteleider, superintendent of the Strasburg School. Michael Miller, director of NDSU Libraries' Germans from Russia Heritage Collection, will serve as historian on the executive board. Serving on the advisory committee are Thomas Isern, NDSU distinguished professor of history; Carmen Rath-Wald, extension agent, Logan County, Napoleon; Acacia Jonas Stuckle, extension agent, Emmons County, Linton; and State Senator Robert Erbele of Lehr. Others in attendance were Allan Burke, publisher emeritus of the Emmons County Record; Judy Gabriel, owner of the Little German House in Strasburg; Gerard Schwab, a Welk family member; and State Historical Society staff Diane Rogness, Fern Swenson, and Claudia Berg.



The newly established Friends of the Welk Homestead met in Strasburg on Feb. 14.

# New Properties Listed in National Register

by Lorna Meidinger, architectural historian,  
Archaeology & Historic Preservation Division



Two North Dakota properties—a cemetery and a residential historic district—have been added to the National Register of Historic Places. The National Register, now celebrating its 50th anniversary as part of the National Historic Preservation Act, is the federal government’s list of properties it considers worthy of preservation and recognition. Entry into the National Register gives a property prestige, provides protection through federally assisted projects, and provides eligibility for certain preservation financial incentives.

The Ashley Jewish Homesteaders Cemetery near Ashley is the only remaining site associated with the

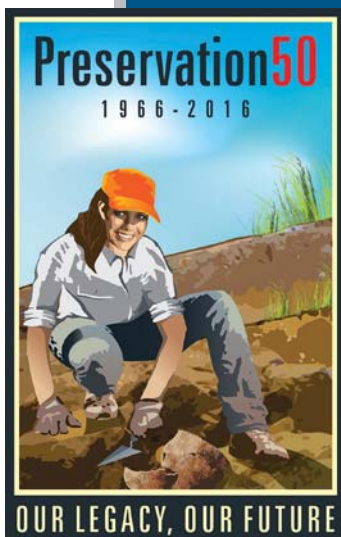
McIntosh County Jewish farming community, the largest Jewish agricultural settlement in North Dakota. The cemetery is located on land that was originally patented to Russian Jewish immigrant Sarah Schlasinger (née Bendersky) in 1906, and the burials date from 1913–32.

The M. E. Beebe Historic District in Fargo consists of six houses owned, designed, or remodeled by Milton E. Beebe. Beebe started his architectural practice in Buffalo, New York, but moved to Fargo in 1898. The district is significant for its architecture as well as for its association with Beebe, as he lived and worked from buildings in the district.



Top: Ashley Jewish Homesteaders Cemetery by Rebecca E. Bender  
Bottom: M. E. Beebe Historic District by Ronald H.L.M. Ramsay

## Historic Preservation Act Marks Half a Century



This year marks half a century since President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) into law, and the State Historical Society has planned a number of activities in celebration.

A new temporary exhibit, “Commemorating 50 Years of the National Historic Preservation Act in North Dakota,” will open at the North Dakota Heritage Center & State Museum in May and remain on view through October 2016. The exhibit will feature several projects and partnerships supported by the NHPA, all of which provide economic and social benefits and highlight the state’s heritage.

In addition, tours and presentations on historic preservation will be organized for the weekend of June 17–19 in locations across the state. And mark your calendars for the next Governor’s History Conference, Oct. 22, 2016, at the ND Heritage Center in Bismarck, which will celebrate 50 years of historic preservation in North Dakota. Watch for more details at [history.nd.gov](http://history.nd.gov).

## Now Open at the Pembina State Museum The Art of Einar Olstad

Inspired by the people, scenery, and ranch life of the Dakota badlands, rancher artist Einar Olstad (1878–1955) captured the essence of the American West in his whimsical portrayals of the Dakota cowboy. In addition to a wide selection of his evocative paintings, objects relating to ranching life in the 1930s will be on display. Open now through the end of 2017.

WPA Workers  
by Einar Olstad



# The Restoration of Stutsman County Courthouse

by Guinn Hinman, historic sites manager—north region, Historic Sites Division

The historic 1883 Stutsman County Courthouse in Jamestown is in the midst of a major rehabilitation as we prepare to open its doors as a state historic site. Acquired by the State Historical Society in 1987, the courthouse is the oldest in North Dakota. The building is noteworthy for its distinct Gothic Revival architectural style and the vast collection of pressed tin that coats the walls and ceilings throughout the building. In the days of Dakota Territory, meetings were held in the courtroom in the movement toward statehood. Legend tells that the parallel chosen to divide North and South Dakota was decided in this very building.



The 1883 Stutsman County Courthouse shortly after completion in 1883 (SHSND SA 1005-0002) and today. The courthouse is unique in that exterior of the building has remained virtually unchanged for more than 130 years.

Recent years have seen many changes and updates throughout the courthouse. The addition of a new mechanical and boiler system in 2014 provided a welcome source of heat for a building that stood empty for over 30 years. After a generous \$350,000 appropriation from the 64th State Legislative Assembly, 2015 saw the rehabilitation of two historic offices as well as a complete electrical overhaul. New restrooms are slated to be completed this spring, and contractors from RDA Inc. of Fargo are

restoring the hallway on the main floor. The 1883 Stutsman County Courthouse Committee continues to raise funds for the restoration; contributions may be sent to the SHSND Foundation.

For more information, visit [facebook.com/1883Courthouse](https://facebook.com/1883Courthouse).

## Courthouse Open House

Want to be among the first to see this progress? Please join us as we open the doors on May 14 from 1 to 5 p.m. Walk the halls of the oldest courthouse in North Dakota and see preservation in action!



The historic clerk of court's office before and after restoration in fall 2015. The two doors in the center were custom made to match the existing historic doors throughout the building. This office will be named the Mary Faith Young Room in memory of the 1883 Stutsman County Courthouse Committee founding member who passed away in November 2015.

## New Woodcarving Exhibit by Guy Paulson

A new temporary exhibit titled “Yggdrasil: The Norwegian-American Carvings of Gaylord ‘Guy’ Paulson” opened Jan. 30 in the Red River Hall of the North Dakota Heritage Center & State Museum. “Yggdrasil” was produced by the State Historical Society of North Dakota in cooperation with the North Dakota Council on the Arts.



Fargo-based artist Guy Paulson carved his Yggdrasil, or Tree of Life, into a fence post from his family’s ranch in western South Dakota. The exhibit also features traditional carvings such as tine boxes, tankards, and a *kubbestol* (Norwegian stump chair).

A *grautspann* is a container traditionally used to hold porridge such as *rømmegrøt*. Guy Paulson carved this *grautspann* from a single piece of linden wood.

“Yggdrasil” will be on exhibit through January 2017. Plan your visit at [history.nd.gov](http://history.nd.gov).

## Green Revolution Temporarily Closed for Updates

### Reopening Soon with More of the ND Story

The “Green Revolution” exhibit is temporarily closed at the North Dakota Heritage Center & State Museum, and it will reopen with additional North Dakota content.

As with any of our exhibits, we welcome and value public feedback in order to best serve the broad interests of all who visit. Based on low attendance and public comments, a decision was made to offer a broader story, including additions specific to our state.

“While the national story provides one perspective, we want to add examples of unique and innovative ways North Dakota is approaching some of this green movement,” said State Historical Society Director Claudia Berg. “A team recently met to assess the exhibit to determine what can be added to the storyline that has more state-specific inventions, ideas, and programs that illustrate historic, present, and future sustainable directions.”

Smithsonian representatives are assisting our staff to help enhance the regional story. As is typical with creating all of our new State Museum exhibits, we also look forward to working with North Dakota experts in areas such as agriculture, education, energy, transportation, conservation, and recycling to ensure accuracy of content. For more information, go to [history.nd.gov/exhibits/greenrevolution.html](http://history.nd.gov/exhibits/greenrevolution.html).

## Want more event updates?

Sign up for our e-newsletter to receive updates on programs, news, and events at [history.nd.gov/enews](http://history.nd.gov/enews).

For more event details, visit [history.nd.gov/events](http://history.nd.gov/events).



## Native American Hall of Honor Seeks Nominations

The nomination process is now open for the North Dakota Native American Hall of Honor located in the ND Heritage Center & State Museum in Bismarck. The Native American Hall of Honor is a new annual program recognizing Native Americans who have gone above and beyond in representing their tribe and culture. The program is a partnership of the North Dakota Indian Affairs Commission, the State Historical Society of North Dakota, and the State Historical Society Foundation.

The program recognizes traditional and contemporary achievements in four categories: Arts and Culture, Athletics, Leadership, and Veterans. Nominees can be living or in memoriam. An induction ceremony will be held each fall as part of the Tribal Summit and United Tribes International Powwow, and inductees will be featured in an annual exhibit in the Mouse River Hall.

Applications are due May 2, 2016. Visit [nd.gov/indianaffairs](http://nd.gov/indianaffairs) or call 701.328.2428 for more information.



KFYR farm director Al Gustin on Jan. 2, 1978

## KFYR News Archived

The State Archives recently acquired a large collection of news video from KFYR-TV in Bismarck. Read more about the collection at [history.nd.gov/plainstalk](http://history.nd.gov/plainstalk).



## Many Ways to Give to the Foundation

We are grateful for our members and for our North Dakota Heritage Center expansion donors. As we build relationships, we have the opportunity to share with people the many ways they can support the work of the Foundation.

**Membership:** \$35 to \$45 to \$100 or more provides a subscription to *Plains Talk* newsletter and *North Dakota History: Journal of the Northern Plains*, plus free admission to state historic sites, a 15 percent discount at all seven Museum Stores, and participation in the Time Travelers program, with discounted access to attractions around the US.

**Annual Giving Campaigns:** Three to four times a year we offer our members, donors, and friends the opportunity to give an *additional* gift to the Foundation's work. This is the perfect way to show your gratitude for what has been done and invest in projects moving forward.

**Memorial Gifts:** Hundreds of our members and friends honor their loved ones with memorial gifts. Gifts from \$20,000 to \$20 have been received and offer the donor a special opportunity to provide a memorial gift with a purpose—preserving and growing our historic resources.

**Donor Recognition Events and Special Receptions:** As you become more active and increase your giving levels, you will be invited to attend special dinners and receptions with other generous donors. A very pleasant way to participate in supporting the Foundation's work.

**Leave Your Legacy and Make History:** Planned gifts to the Foundation and its endowment may be eligible for tax incentives, including federal deductions and the North Dakota Charitable Giving 40 percent state income tax credit. Gifts may include outright gifts of cash, stock, or highly appreciated assets and required minimum distributions from an IRA. Additionally, charitable trusts or annuities generate an income for you now and leave a legacy for generations to come. Contact our development team to visit about these giving opportunities.



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#### FOUNDATION RECOGNITION & THANK YOU EVENT AND DINNER

May 6, 2016 • Ramkota Hotel • Bismarck

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**July 6-31 First Folio exhibit, James E. Sperry Gallery**  
**July 9 Children's Renaissance Faire, 2 to 6 p.m.**  
 Prairie Amphitheater.  
 Costumed activities, games,  
 demonstrations, and performances  
 by Capitol Shakespeare.

**July 16 The History of Shakespeare  
 in North Dakota, 3 p.m.**  
 presentation by humanities scholar  
 Clay Jenkinson.

**July 20-24 Much Ado about Nothing, 7 p.m.**  
 performance by Capitol Shakespeare,  
 nightly at the Prairie Amphitheater.

**Free Movies**  
 Showings at 10 a.m.; 3 p.m.;  
 7 p.m. film features a panel discussion

**July 12 Romeo and Juliet (Zeffirelli)**  
**July 19 Macbeth**  
**July 26 A Midsummer Night's Dream**

**Find a full event schedule at  
[history.nd.gov/shakespeare](http://history.nd.gov/shakespeare)**

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