



Prairie Post Office Exhibit Delivers

U.S. Post Office in Fingal,
by Wayne Gudmundson.
SHSND SA 10809-03556

Even in the digital age, we tend to mark major life events through the mail. Wedding invitations, baby announcements, and birthday, holiday, and condolence cards arrive via the U.S. Postal Service. Rural residents depend on the Postal Service to deliver online purchases, medications, and farm supplies. Post offices remain essential gathering places in small towns.

A new exhibit in the James E. Sperry Gallery at the ND Heritage Center & State Museum explores the central role post offices play on main streets across North Dakota. The exhibit, developed by State Historical Society staff, is based on the book *The Prairie Post Office: Enlarging the Common Life in Rural North Dakota* by K. Amy Phillips and Steven R. Bolduc, published by North Dakota State University Press in 2017. The book includes interviews with postal employees and small-town residents and contemporary photography by Wayne Gudmundson. The exhibit expands upon this content to incorporate archival letters, historic images, and objects from the State Museum collections including a mail delivery wagon and postal uniform.

The Prairie Post Office exhibit is free and open to the public through 2021. Plan your visit at statemuseum.nd.gov.

Nano Exhibit Makes Big Impact



Nano is an interactive exhibit on the lower level of the ND Heritage Center & State Museum that engages family audiences in nanoscale science, engineering, and technology. Its hands-on activities present the basics of nanoscience, introduce real-world applications, and explore the societal and ethical implications of this new technology.

Nanoscale science, engineering, and technology (or “nano,” for short) is a relatively new, interdisciplinary field of research. The great potential of nano comes from its tiny size. Nano research and development happens at the scale of atoms and molecules. Some things have different properties at the nanoscale, which allows scientists and engineers to create new materials and devices.

Nano was created by the Nanoscale Informal Science Education Network (NISE Network) with support from the National Science Foundation and is on loan from Gateway to Science. View the exhibit through Dec. 31, 2020.

State Museum visitor Zoey VanOosbree constructs a giant carbon nanotube with help from friends.

Improved Dinomummy Exhibit Coming Spring 2020



Paleontologist Jeff Person and Chief Preparator Bryan Turnbow remove the Dakota specimen from the State Museum in preparation for a new, improved exhibit opening in spring 2020.

The Dakota hadrosaur exhibit at the ND Heritage Center & State Museum is under construction. The State Historical Society and the North Dakota Geological Survey are partners in building a new exhibit for Dakota. As one of only a handful of mummified dinosaurs in the world, we’re giving Dakota a place to shine.

We’re excited to share new scientific discoveries with you in spring 2020. Visit statemuseum.nd.gov for more information and updates.

Teachers Learn Native Histories



Curator of Education Erik Holland, center in purple, speaks with NEH Summer Institute teachers about lifeways of the Mandan people at Mih-tutta-hang-kush village.

Curator of Education Erik Holland participated in a 17-day summer institute, “Discovering Native Histories along the Lewis and Clark Trail,” introducing 25 teachers from across the country to alternate perspectives related to the Lewis and Clark story. Sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities, the tour along the Corps of Discovery trail included a stop at Mih-tutta-hang-kush village, occupied by Mandans and later Arikaras, at Fort Clark State Historic Site.

Cultural Heritage Critical to Main Street



State Historical Society staff presented at Gov. Doug Burgum's 2019 Main Street Summit, held Oct. 29-31 at the Bismarck Event Center. State Historical Society Director Claudia Berg, Curator of Education Erik Holland, and Architectural Historian Lorna Meidinger convened a well-attended session on "Respect for the Past and Inspiration for the Future: Heritage and Education" on Wednesday. Holland also announced recipients of 2019's local history awards and introduced keynote speaker Kim Huston, from the Nelson County Economic Development Agency in Kentucky, at the general session on Thursday.

Curator of Education Erik Holland announces the 2019 local history award recipients at the Main Street Summit on Oct. 31.

Local History Awardees Honored



State Historical Society Director Claudia Berg, right, presents the Excellence in Local History Award to Rosalie Etherington in Jamestown.

The State Historical Society recently named the 2019 local history award winners in three categories:

The **North Dakota Person of History Award** recognizes deceased individuals who had a prominent role in the history of North Dakota. Lydia Sage-Chase spent her life imparting the importance of retaining one's cultural heritage, specifically her Mandan traditions and values.

The **Excellence in Local History Award** recognizes individuals or groups who have dedicated their time, talent, and efforts to local and regional history. This year there are two recipients: Rosalie Etherington developed and maintains the North Dakota State Hospital Museum in Jamestown; the Grand Forks County Historical Society performs ongoing work to preserve and promote the region's history.

The **Heritage Profile Honor Award** identifies individuals who have made a lasting or significant contribution in preserving, interpreting, researching, publishing, or promoting the history of North Dakota. Edwin Benson, the last fluent Mandan speaker, dedicated much of his life to Mandan language preservation by teaching children basic elements and working with linguists to document more complex use.

For more information about the Local History Award program, contact Ashleigh Miller at 701.328.2667 or visit history.nd.gov.

ND Studies Highlights Suffrage and Citizenship



Suffragists campaign for women's right to vote at the Bottineau County fair in summer 1914. *SHSND 10204*

North Dakota Studies has added new and updated citizenship and suffrage (right to vote) resources to ndstudies.gov. Citizenship is the sixth and final fourth-grade unit to be made available as online curriculum and can be accessed at ndstudies.gov/gr4/citizenship. In addition to discussing the fundamental concepts of national, state, tribal, and local governments, the Citizenship unit also focuses on voting, elections, parliamentary procedure, and the rights and responsibilities of young citizens. ND Studies online curriculum, developed by the State Historical Society, is free and accessible to students, educators, and lifelong learners.

To mark the 100th anniversary of the 19th Constitutional Amendment, which gave most U.S. women the right to vote, ND Studies also has added resources on woman suffrage in North Dakota at bit.ly/womanvote. Written by Barbara Handy-Marchello, Ph.D., the Woman Suffrage Centennial Curricula examines the events, legal action, and arguments of the suffrage movement from 1880 to 1920. These lesson plans are sponsored by the ND Woman Suffrage Centennial Committee, a partner of the State Historical Society that also hosted a Sensational Sunday program, "Celebrating 100 Years of Votes for Women," at the ND Heritage Center & State Museum on Dec. 1.

Two Properties Listed in National Register



Fort Buford Stage Road



Wabek Consolidated School

A school and an archaeological site have been listed in the National Register of Historic Places, the federal government's list of properties it considers worthy of preservation and recognition:

The **Fort Buford Stage Road** near Washburn demonstrates historic significance of the military frontier in Dakota Territory, the evolution of transportation methods in the area, and the effect the military frontier had on the migration of Euro-American settlers to what is now North Dakota.

The **Wabek Consolidated School** near Plaza was formed in 1917 with the physical combining of two former one-room schoolhouses. This new consolidated school offered education for more grade levels with two teachers. This school served local students until its closing in 1960.

For more information about the National Register program, contact Architectural Historian Lorna Meidinger at 701.328.2089 or visit history.nd.gov.

Double Toil and Trouble



State Historic Site Interpreter Capucine "Cappy" Dauphinais is ready for ghoulish visitors at the Former Governors' Mansion.



Thanks to donor Deb Davis, State Historical Society staff resurrected what we believe to be an original Dakota Territory judge to preside over the historic 1883 courtroom in Stutsman County.

History can be scary, but two state historic sites make the best of a spooky situation by hosting Halloween open houses for kids and community members. The Former Governors' Mansion in Bismarck and Stutsman County Courthouse in Jamestown opened their doors for kids and kids at heart to trick-or-treat, and several visitors bravely ventured into the courthouse's (temporarily) haunted basement. Boo!

Remembrance and Education at Whitestone Hill



D. Joyce Kitson, a prominent Lakota and Hidatsa quillworker and tanner, holds a piece of rawhide while demonstrating how to rub prepared bison brain material into it to make brain-tanned leather. This historic technology produces leather that is soft and flexible like fabric, yet resistant to repeated wetting and drying—perfect for clothing and tipis on the northern plains.



Krista Lundgren from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service holds a wild sunflower while discussing foods, medicines, and other uses for prairie plants developed by Native people on the northern plains.

Whitestone Hill Education Day was held Sept. 11 at the Edgeley Armory. School children and visitors learned about the lives and cultures of the people of Whitestone from Dakota and Lakota knowledge keepers, State Historical Society staff, and other presenters. Participants attended sessions on prairie plants, Native American hand games, archery, tipis, bison ecology, and site history, and saw a performance by Lakota hoop dancer Kevin Locke. Whitestone Hill State Historic Site is a place of remembrance for the 150 to 300 people, mostly Dakotas and Lakotas, who were killed here in September 1863. Education Day is held annually.

No Thrones? Try the Game of Bones



Angela Johnson, new media specialist supervisor, tests her Bunnock skills in front of the French Gratitude Train outside the ND Heritage Center & State Museum.



Jessica Rockeman, new media specialist, demonstrates her Game of Bones prowess as assistant collections curator Lori Nohner and assistant registrar Elise Dukart cheer her on.

Agency staff tested out a German-Russian game called Bunnock, or the Game of Bones, traditionally played with horse knuckle bones. The game will be added to the many German-Russian experiences offered at Welk Homestead State Historic Site. Staff played using the rulebook developed at the World Bunnock Championship in Macklin, Saskatchewan, but hope that anyone who remembers the rules as played in North Dakota will tell us about them! Contact Historic Sites Regional Manager Rob Hanna, rjhanna@nd.gov, for more information.

Story behind the Shemorry Collection By Ann Jenks, division director, State Archives

Vern Neff of Williston, who had a long association with the State Historical Society, passed away recently. He was a member of the State Historical Board from 1965 to 1984 and was board president during the planning of the original ND Heritage Center.

Neff's greatest contribution to the State Archives was advocating for the transfer of William "Bill" Shemorry's lifetime of research, writings, and more than 100,000 photographs documenting the history of the Williston area from territorial days to Shemorry's death in 2004. Shemorry's papers were given to the Williston State College Foundation. With assistance from Neff and Dean "Doc" Strinden, the Foundation entered into an agreement with the State Historical Society to house the collection and funded two project archivists to process, digitize, and make the collection accessible to the people of western North Dakota. The archivists scanned more than 9,000 Shemorry images that can be viewed on digitalhorizonsonline.org.



"Flying Farmers" Roy and Lawrence Hagen, Alamo, ND, Dec. 1946, from the William E. (Bill) Shemorry Photograph Collection. *SHSND SA 10958-0019.017*

Dakota Datebook in Print



In partnership with the State Historical Society and Humanities North Dakota, Prairie Public Radio airs a daily history series called Dakota Datebook. To celebrate 15 years of this statewide project, this August the Digital Press at the University of North Dakota published *Dakota Datebook: North Dakota Stories from Prairie Public*. The book is a collection of highlights from the radio segments, many of which were written by State Historical Society staff. All Dakota Datebook content is archived for free online, or you can find the book at the ND Heritage Center Museum Store or shopprairiepublic.org.

State Archives Head of Reference Services Sarah Walker, Prairie Public Producer Skip Wood, State Historical Society Director Claudia Berg, Prairie Public Director of Radio Bill Thomas, State Archivist Ann Jenks, and retired Head of Reference Services Jim Davis celebrate the Dakota Datebook book launch aboard the Lewis & Clark Riverboat in Bismarck Aug. 24.

Director Search Launched



Claudia Berg

The State Historical Board has launched a search for State Historical Society director. Current Director Claudia Berg announced she will retire June 30, 2020. Berg is the seventh director in the agency's history and the first woman to hold the position.

The State Historical Board has appointed a five-member search committee to oversee the hiring process. Chaired by Bismarck State College President Larry Skogen, the committee includes Board President H. Patrick Weir, Secretary of State Al Jaeger, North Dakota Parks & Recreation Director Melissa Baker, and SkySkopes CEO Matt Dunlevy.

The deadline for applications was Dec. 15. A new director will be determined at a special State Historical Board meeting on March 4, 2020.

FOUNDATION NOTES



History's
Foundation
State Historical Society
of North Dakota Foundation

Many Ways to Give to the Foundation

We are grateful for our members and for our North Dakota Heritage Center 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: 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.

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 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 office to visit about these giving opportunities.

TUESDAY, FEB. 13, 2020
ND HERITAGE CENTER

Foundation Board Meeting

Foundation Board Room

If you are happy with the ND Heritage Center efforts and see the value of the programs and services of the Foundation and State Historical Society, won't you step up and increase your giving activity today?

Call us for details. 701-222-1966

Foundation Development Staff

State Historical Society of North Dakota Foundation
PO Box 1976, Bismarck, North Dakota 58502-1976
Phone: 701-222-1966 Fax: 701-328-3710
Email: foundation@statehistoricalfoundation.org
Web: statehistoricalfoundation.org
Office located in the Lower Level of the
North Dakota Heritage Center on the Capitol Grounds



Marlo Sveen,
SHSND Foundation
Executive Director



Membership Benefits



Annual Campaign Request for Support



Memorial Gifts



STATE
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY
OF NORTH DAKOTA

North Dakota Heritage Center
612 E. Boulevard Ave.
Bismarck, ND 58505-0830

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
FARGO, ND
PERMIT NO. 684

There's *gnome* place like the *Museum Store*
for your *holiday shopping!*



Plains Talk is published quarterly by the State Historical Society of North Dakota, ND Heritage Center, 612 E. Boulevard Ave., Bismarck, ND 58505/701.328.2666/history.nd.gov. Claudia J. Berg, Director; Ann Crews Melton, *Plains Talk* Editor; *Plains Talk* is a benefit to members of the SHSND Foundation.

North Dakota State Historical Board:

H. Patrick Weir, Medora, President; Steve C. Martens, Fargo, Vice President; Daniel Stenberg, Watford City, Secretary; Allan Demaray, New Town; Matt Dunlevy, Grand Forks; Calvin Grinnell, Bismarck; Larry C. Skogen, Bismarck; Sara Otte Coleman, Director, State Tourism Office—Department of Commerce; Kelly Schmidt, State Treasurer; Alvin A. Jaeger, Secretary of State; Melissa Baker, Director, Parks and Recreation Department; Sondra Goebel, Representative, Department of Transportation.

SHSND Foundation Board: Robert M. Horne, Fargo, President; Paul H. Olson, Fargo, Vice President; Jon McMillan, Fordville, Immediate Past President; Barbara S. Lang, Jamestown, Treasurer; Darrell L. Dorgan, Bismarck, Secretary; Armen Hanson, Devils Lake; Dennis Hill, Bismarck; Dennis Johnson, Watford City; Bruce Dolezal, Dickinson; Dalles Schneider, Bismarck.

Sign up for our monthly e-newsletter!
history.nd.gov/enews

