



Plains Talk

Volume 39, Number 2 - Summer 2008

From Dinosaurs to the 21st Century

New North Dakota History Book Features Snapshots in Time

An exciting new book detailing North Dakota's history is now available. *North Dakota History: Readings about the Northern Plains State* is a collection of articles and images from more than a century of publications by the state's history agency, the State Historical Society of North Dakota (SHSND).

Its primary goal is to meet a long-time need for a North Dakota history textbook for high school students.

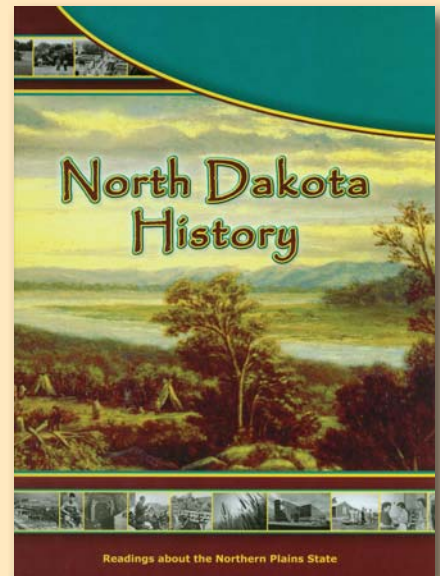
"As we developed the book, however, it became clear that it would also appeal to a much wider audience," said Kathy Davison, SHSND Editor and chair of the textbook committee.

"In some ways, the book reminds me of a wonderful family photo album. Each article is a snapshot in time of North Dakota, and just by leafing through it you have a sense of how our state has changed over the generations. Reading the articles is like hearing the family stories behind each image."

Printed in full color, the anthology includes more than 340 photographs, maps, and other images to help bring the past into perspective.

Developed in partnership with the North Dakota Center for Distance Education, topics range from dinosaurs to automobiles, ranching and farming to politics and cultural challenges, and

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North Dakota History is a 434-page, hard-bound textbook with many sidebar features, as well as hundreds of highlighted key terms that help make the reading more interesting and appealing. Funding was provided by the 2007 Legislative Assembly.

Photograph by Brian Austin, SHSND



Programs, Music Featured

Homesteading Day September 20

A day of family activities highlighting the Homestead Act and its impact on North Dakota will take place Saturday, September 20 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the North Dakota Heritage Center in Bismarck.

All events are free and open to the public.

Activities will begin with Dr. Jerry Tweton at 10 a.m. discussing the Homestead Act and homesteading days. Tweton is a professor emeritus of history at the University of North Dakota and senior consultant to the North Dakota Humanities Council. He also portrayed William Jayne, the first governor of Dakota Territory appointed by Abraham Lincoln, in the Everett Albers Chautauqua program that appeared in Bismarck, Fargo and Jamestown in late July and early August.

Other programs, demonstrations, and musical entertainment during the day include hands-on activities reflecting how homesteaders went about

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The Homestead Act, now on exhibit at the North Dakota Heritage Center, was unveiled in ceremonies May 16. Here (l to r), Johannah and Suzannah Miller view the 1862 document signed by President Lincoln. They and their parents, Gary and Barbara Jo Miller of Mandan, performed period music as part of the day's events. Also featured was the U.S. Postal Service from Bismarck, which offered a commemorative pictorial cancellation in honor of the exhibit launch.

New North Dakota History Book

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American Indians, immigrants and industry to missile silos and future outlooks for the 39th state.

Included are several first-person accounts of life in North Dakota. These include the recollections of Poor Wolf, a Hidatsa warrior born circa 1820, describing life along the Missouri River when the only white Americans were a few fur traders, and the memories of a woman who as a little girl lived at Fort Buford in the 1860s. More recent accounts include that of former Governor Arthur Link, who grew up on a homestead in the early 1900s and is still involved in the state's activities at age 94. All the articles are intended to help students and other readers imagine and understand the daily lives of those who lived in North Dakota before them.

Each of the seven chronological units is introduced by Barbara Handy-Marchello, associate history professor emerita of the University of North Dakota (UND), who includes questions to guide readers as well as websites to visit for more information. A teacher resource guide is also available. Handy-Marchello is also working with SHSND staff to compile on-line content related to the textbook, including additional articles, photographs, artifacts, documents, and manuscripts.

The project began in October 2007 when State Historical Society staff were contacted by North Dakota Studies Coordinator Neil Howe of the North Dakota Center for Distance Education, and it quickly became a collaborative effort. The Center is a non-profit distance education high school headquartered in Fargo that has provided educational opportunities for students worldwide for more than 70 years.

Besides Howe and Davison, the textbook committee included SHSND Assistant Editor Bonnie Johnson, Photo Archivist Sharon Silengo, Curator of Collections Research Mark Halvorson, Head of Reference Services Jim Davis, and Curator of Education Marilyn Snyder. Committee members read dozens of articles going back to the earliest SHSND journal in 1906, and narrowed the list to the final 31 in the book.

The book is not meant to be a complete history of the state, but instead to pique interest in a variety of historical topics. Each article was chosen not only on the basis of quality research and historical interpretation, but also to cover a broad sampling of the history, prehistory, and geography of North Dakota. Some articles have been slightly abbreviated or modified to suit the needs and capacities of a high school readership.

North Dakota History costs \$45, plus tax, and is available at the North Dakota Heritage Center Museum Store or by contacting Museum Stores Manager Rhonda Brown at (701) 328-2822, email rhbrown@nd.gov, or order online at www.nd.gov/hist/MuseumStore.

The book, and its teacher resource guide, is also available through the North Dakota Center for Distance Education at (701) 231-6030 or by ordering online at www.NDstudies.org/order.

SHSND's Oldest Artifacts on Display

Part of a cache of Clovis artifacts is on exhibit in the *Recent Acquisitions* case at the North Dakota Heritage Center, the first time such ancient human-made items have been on public display in North Dakota. Evidence of perhaps the earliest human occupation of the region, the approximately 13,000-year-old artifacts were found on Don Abernethy's ranch in Golden Valley County in western North Dakota.

Mostly unfinished bifaces, which are tools worked on both sides, the stones on exhibit were in the process of being made into spear points, as well as cutting, drilling, and scraping tools. A knife is the only finished original artifact from the cache on display, but a cast of a finished Clovis point is included for comparison.

The nomadic Clovis people ranged in small groups over much of North America south of the glaciers, which still covered most of Canada 13,000 years ago. They hunted woolly mammoths, mastodons, ancient bison, and other animals.

Their culture is named after flint spearheads found in the 1930s at a site in Clovis, New Mexico. The Clovis people have long been considered to be the earliest human settlement in North America, with sites identified throughout North and Central America.

Archaeologists theorize that these early travelers were in a seasonal movement pattern from south to north, on their way to the Knife River flint quarries, when they buried the artifacts in small cache pits, about the size of soccer balls, with 10 to 12 objects in each pit. These artifacts represent one of the most northerly-known Clovis caches and are the first Clovis objects to be donated to the state's history agency.

Dr. Bruce Huckell of the University of New Mexico is analyzing the collection, which was donated to the State Historical Society by Don and Rella Abernethy, as well as Bob and Ruth Jagd and Ted and Beverly Trinka of Minot.



These are among the Clovis artifacts now on exhibit at the North Dakota Heritage Center. Some 13,000 years old, they are the oldest human-made objects in the collections of the State Historical Society of North Dakota.

Photograph by Stacie Petersen, SHSND Collections Intern

Homestead Act Theme

North Dakota History Conference November 7-8

Lincoln Legacy: The Homestead Act, the 20th annual Governor's Conference on North Dakota History, will be held November 7-8 at the North Dakota Heritage Center in Bismarck. The conference, part of North Dakota's observance of the bicentennial of Abraham Lincoln's birth, will highlight the impact of the Homestead Act on the state and region. The actual Homestead Act document with Lincoln's signature, on loan from the National Archives, will also be on display during the conference.

This is the second in a two-part theme for the annual history conference. The Fall 2007 conference theme, *Lincoln Legacy: The Railroad*, examined the impact of the railroad on North Dakota and the region.

Conference workshops will include a full-day presentation Friday, November 7 by the Midwest Art Conservation Center in Minneapolis on "After the Disaster: Saving and Salvaging Collection Materials and Artifacts." Other Friday programs include James Muhn, Senior Associate, Morgan, Angel & Associates and former land law historian with the Bureau of Land Management, speaking on "The Homestead Acts: Their History, Administration by the Land Department, and How to Research Related Records"; "North Dakota Digital Initiatives" presented by SHSND State Archivist Ann Jenks, State Archivist Emeritus Gerald Newborg, Head of Technical Services Rachel White, Shemorry Project Ar-

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Riding a chariot behind heralds proclaiming their qualifications, the sisters Dakota embrace as they prepare to pass beneath the triumphal arch of the Union to meet their sister states, while Uncle Sam and Columbia (whose statue stands atop the U.S. Capitol dome) fondly welcome them. This advertisement was created for the Commissioner of Immigration of Dakota Territory, to encourage settlers to come and take up the land available as of 1889 under the terms of the homestead, preemption, and timber culture laws.

Nominations Sought for History Awards

The state's history agency is seeking nominations for three categories of awards to recognize outstanding achievement in the field of history. The deadline for nominations to be sent to the State Historical Society of North Dakota is Friday, September 26. Nominations will then be reviewed by a SHSND committee.

Presentation of the awards will be made during the awards banquet at the 20th Annual Governor's Conference on North Dakota History at the North Dakota Heritage Center in Bismarck Friday, November 7.

These are the three categories in which nominations are being sought:

- **Excellence in Local History Award** – Recognizes and honors those individuals who dedicate their time, talent, and efforts to local and state history. The award is specifically reserved for those individuals associated with county and lo-

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Visitors Remembering Family Homestead Stories

As part of the *Lincoln's Legacy in North Dakota* exhibit at the North Dakota Heritage Center on the state capitol grounds, visitors are encouraged to record their family's homesteading stories in a notebook near the exhibit area.

These stories will become part of the State Archives collection after the exhibit closes at the end of January 2010.

Many visitors are recording their stories, underscoring the very personal nature of this historic document and its impact on generations of families.

Some excerpts:

Kathy Davison, Bismarck, North Dakota

In 1897, my grandmother came north by wagon train from Nebraska to Cavalier County. Grandmother Elizabeth was about eight years old ... her parents had emigrated from Russia to Nebraska, so this was their second homesteading move. Grandmother said that as the family moved north from Nebraska to North Dakota, their wagon almost overturned in a river. Her father had been driving another wagon and stood watching, crying "mein kinder! mein kinder!" ("my children, my children!")

Jeannette Radig, Bismarck, North Dakota

I now own the original homestead near Mooreton, North Dakota that was my grandparents. They came in 1886 from Oslo, Norway. The papers are signed by President Grover Cleveland ... many family stories include prairie fires, blizzards and sad deaths.

Kris Johnson Walsh, Drakes Branch, Virginia

My ancestor, August Abrahamson, brought his sister, Matilda, her husband, and five children from Sweden. They lived for two years in a sod house and there were two babies born there. They barely survived the brutal winter with only rabbit and some milk to eat and drink. By the third year, the house was finally completed. The original homestead is still being farmed by the fifth generation.

Lee Thomas Andersen, Tumwater, Washington

My ancestor, Edward R. Lueck, and his family moved from Prussia (Germany) in 1870, first to Zumbrota, Minnesota, and finally settled in a homestead in North Dakota.

Edward's wife was a homemaker who raised four children (two boys, two girls) and made sure they were educated. Edward owned and managed his own store. He could speak seven languages and read and write in both German and English. On their homestead they raised a few crops, dairy cattle, and chickens. In later years, Edward and his wife owned and operated a gas station in Medora, North Dakota.

Sharon Silengo, Bismarck, North Dakota

My ancestor Hieman Bissell, from Ontario, Canada, homesteaded along the river in Lisbon, North Dakota, and raised durum wheat. His son died of juvenile diabetes, and his daughter ran away with a Catholic and then died after her third child's birth. To prevent his son-in-law from inheriting the property, he gave it to Lisbon to use as a golf course/park. It is now known as Lisbon-Bissell golf course in his honor.

Lynn Russell, Williston, North Dakota

There were seven relatives that homesteaded together in Williams County in 1909.

Julie Love, Bismarck, North Dakota

My ancestors immigrated from Sweden, first to Minneapolis, and then along the Missouri River west of Washburn, North Dakota in 1887 to homestead. They built a sod house into the hill next to the river. They had one room with one small window and a door. My great-great-grandfather was a carpenter and farmer. They had a wolf for a pet and deer beside the house all the time. One day, Sitting Bull and some other warriors stopped at their house. They traded beads and other things for Swedish food. They made many other visits later, as they traveled up and down the river.

Fowler C. Humphrey, Pocatello, Idaho

My great-grandfather, John Fowler Humphrey, came from Scotland to the area 10 miles west/northwest of Lisbon, North Dakota with his brother, Alex Gordon Humphrey, in 1882. They established residence (and ownership) on land recently 'released' for homesteading due to the closing of Fort Ransom military post. They were good farmers!

Betty Neuhardt, Bismarck, North Dakota

Frank and Emma Koponen were my grandparents. He came to the U.S. from Finland about 1883 and worked for the railroad about two years before filing for his homestead about 12 miles south of Mandan, after which he sent for Emma and son Artie, who came about 1886. He was one of the original settlers in Morton County. They lived in a sod house and later built a nicer home. They raised nine children. I have the original homestead papers, along with his naturalization papers.

Michelle Lamm, Fessenden, North Dakota

Grandfather John Kuster came over from the Ukraine in 1907 and worked on the Northern Pacific Railroad for a few years while he took out his homestead on the north side of the Dunn/Stark County line. In 1909 he sent for his wife and children. He received his certificate in March 1915, and died of tuberculosis six weeks later. The land was taken by the bank in about 1920 after Grandma couldn't meet the mortgage. The land today is in the same family who purchased it after the foreclosure.

Betty Olsen Wheeler, Minot, North Dakota

My ancestor, Charles O. Olsen, from Christiania (later Oslo), Norway, emigrated to the United States by way of Australia. His father was in the shipbuilding industry but was left penniless after a business failure. Charlie spent some time in Australia, then to California and Colorado to work in the gold fields. He homesteaded in Grand Forks County and called his farm "Cottonwood Farm." He bought the trees from Oscar A. Will's nursery.

Clarence Bauman, Bismarck, North Dakota

My ancestor, Fredeich Bauman, immigrated from the Black Sea (Odessa) area in Russia in April 1893 to Java, South Dakota ... my father was six months old when they arrived in America via Bremen, Germany to New York, then by railway to Yankton, South Dakota and then by a team of horses to their destination.

Share Your Family's Homesteading Stories

Do you have an ancestor or relative who homesteaded in North Dakota?
We'd like to collect their stories!

Your name _____ Date _____

Your address (optional) _____

Your ancestor's name _____

Where they came from _____

Where they homesteaded _____

Their story: _____

The notebook contains this sheet for visitors to record their stories.

Fargo Theatre October 16

Historian James McPherson to Present Lincoln Program

Pulitzer Prize-winning Civil War historian Dr. James McPherson will present a free public keynote address at the historic Fargo Theatre on Thursday, October 16 at 7 p.m. Born in Valley City, North Dakota, McPherson won the Pulitzer Prize in 1989 for his epic work, *Battle Cry of Freedom: The Civil War Era*. His talk, sponsored by *Read North Dakota*, is part of a 2008 focus on non-fiction books.

The theme of McPherson's address will be *Tried by War: Abraham Lincoln as Commander in Chief*, which is the title of his new book to be published in the fall.

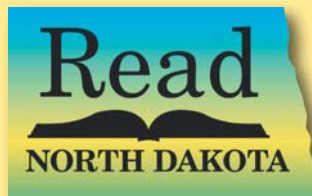
McPherson's appearance is part of North Dakota's continuing commemoration of the bicentennial of Abraham Lincoln's birth on February 12, 2009.

Prairie Public Broadcasting will air McPherson's program on its radio network on Wednesday, October 22 at 3 and 7 p.m. It will also be broadcast on Prairie Public's television network on Thursday, October 23 at 8 p.m. The program will be able to be viewed after these dates on a videostream, as well as in audio format, on Prairie Public's

website at www.prairiepublic.org.

McPherson, 71, is the George Henry Davis '86 Professor of History Emeritus at Princeton University in New Jersey. In addition to his best-selling *Battle Cry of Freedom: The Civil War Era*, he has written and edited many other books about the Civil War, Lincoln, and abolition, as well as essays and reviews for national publications. He earned his Ph.D. from Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland in 1963, and bachelor of art's degree from Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minnesota in 1958.

Read North Dakota is a consortium of members, including the State Historical Society of North Dakota, North Dakota Humanities Council, North Dakota Council on the Arts, Prairie Public Broadcasting, and the North Dakota Library Association. The group encourages readers, writers, and educators to enjoy good literature by identifying relevant book titles and authors on a website, in printed materials, and through public events and discussion groups. Visit www.readnd.org to learn more.



Lincoln in Concert

As part of the statewide Lincoln Bicentennial observance, the Greater Grand Forks Symphony Orchestra will perform *Lincoln at Ease*, written exclusively for the bicentennial by Peter Schickele, an internationally renowned composer, musician, author, and satirist who grew up in Fargo.

Lincoln at Ease will be featured during performances Saturday, November 15 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, November 16 at 2 p.m. at the Empire Arts Center in Grand Forks. The work showcases Lincoln's Kentucky heritage, as period songs from Lincoln's life are woven into the composition with rich narrative and solos on harmonica and banjo.

The **Louisville Orchestra** commissioned Schickele to compose the work for the national launch of the Lincoln Bicentennial in Kentucky. The orchestra granted the state of North Dakota performance rights to the work after its

premiere on February 11, 2008.

Funding for North Dakota's performance of *Lincoln at Ease* is provided by the North Dakota Council on the Arts as part of the appropriation it received from the 2007 Legislative Assembly for Lincoln-related arts programming statewide.

Schickele has composed over 100 original works for symphony orchestra, choral groups, chamber ensembles, film, and television, making him among the most prolific of American composers. He has won several Grammy Awards in his well-known role as P.D.Q. Bach, the fictional "youngest and oddest of the twenty-odd children" of 18th Century composer Johann Sebastian Bach.

"It is my hope that *Lincoln at Ease* will convey not just the man's humor, but also his enthusiasm," wrote Schickele. "Contrary to the gaunt, melancholy and reserved-looking image that many of us have of him,

Lincoln was exuberant in his passions. Nowhere was this

truer than his love of music. It has been said that Lincoln had more music in his White House than did any other President before or since. He frequented the opera house as well as the music hall, and he installed an old friend on his staff who was always ready to sing or play for him."

Schickele, 73, was born in Ames, Iowa. He graduated from Fargo Central High School in 1952 and studied composition with Sigvald Thompson, who was conductor of the Fargo-Moorhead Symphony Orchestra from 1937 to 1974.

For more information about the November 15-16 performances, contact the Greater Grand Forks Symphony Orchestra at (701) 777-3359 or visit www.ggfsso.org.



2007-09 Blue Book Earns Top Honors

The 2007-2009 *North Dakota Blue Book* has received national recognition as the sole recipient of the Notable Documents Award from the National Conference of State Legislatures in the category of Citizen's Guide.

"We commend your publication as innovative in providing substantive information on contemporary issues of interest to legislatures," said Lisa Mecklenberg Jackson, who chaired the awards committee for the conference's Legislative Research Librarians section, which sponsors the award.

The 600-page edition of the *North Dakota Blue Book* was published in October 2007 by the North Dakota secretary of state. "The *Blue Book* is unique. It contains information about North Dakota not readily available in any other reference material, which makes it an exceptionally valuable resource," said Secretary of State Al Jaeger, who is also a member of the State Historical Board.

Jaeger praised the 70-plus volunteers who helped compile the *Blue Book*. "Without their dedication, a publication of this caliber would not be possible," he said. Several SHSND staff members contribute to the publication each biennium, and Jim Davis, head of reference services, is a longtime member of the *Blue Book's* standing committee.

The theme of the current *Blue Book* is "Progressive North Dakota in the 21st Century," and the feature chapter covers the new innovations and industries that are complementing the state's traditional industries. It covers agriculture, energy, health care, higher education, transportation, arts and humanities, technology, business, commerce, tourism, and business innovators, listing those in the North Dakota Entrepreneur Hall of Fame.

Other chapters contain profiles of members of the state's executive, legislative, and judicial branches; information about tribal governments; descriptions of the state's symbols and official awards; as well as population, election, agriculture, and education data.

The 2007-2009 *North Dakota Blue Book* costs \$20, plus tax, and is available at the North Dakota Heritage Center Museum Store or by contacting Museum Stores Manager Rhonda Brown at (701) 328-2822, email rhbrown@nd.gov, or order online at www.nd.gov/hist/MuseumStore.



Beginning with the 1995-97 biennium, this represents the seventh consecutive biennium in which a *Blue Book* has been published. Prior to 1995, only 20 editions had been published since statehood in 1889.

Homesteading Day *continued from page 1*

their daily lives doing quilting, sewing, farming, and other chores.

Family Folk – the Gary Miller family from Mandan – will entertain at 11 a.m., performing Civil War and Fort Abraham Lincoln-era music of the 1860s and '70s. Chuck Suchy, a North Dakota folksinger, farmer, songwriter, and storyteller who is often known as the "Voice of the Upper Great Plains," will perform at 2 p.m.

The Homestead Act opened up 10 percent of the United States, or 275 million acres, to settlement. Between 1879 and 1886, more than 100,000 people settled in then-northern Dakota Territory.

Signed by President Lincoln, the document is now on exhibit at the Heritage Center. On loan from the National Archives and Records Administration in Washington,

D.C., it can be seen as part of the *Lincoln's Legacy in North Dakota* exhibit through November 10.

"The Homestead Act is a priceless document that represents personal history to many North Dakotans and other residents of the Plains and elsewhere," said Rick Collin, state liaison to the national Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission and SHSND Communications and Education Director. "This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for many people to see this national treasure, and the State Historical Society is delighted to be able to bring it to the North Dakota Heritage Center as part of our state's Lincoln Bicentennial observance."

For more information about Homesteading Day, contact the SHSND's curator of education, Marilyn Snyder, at (701) 328-2792 or email at msnyder@nd.gov.

North Dakota History Conference

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chivist Emily Ergen, and Director John Bye and Archives Associate John Hallberg, both with the Institute for Regional Studies at North Dakota State University; the SHSND's Review and Compliance Coordinator Susan Quinnell and Preservation North Dakota Executive Director Dale Bentley presenting "How to Build a Homestead with Dakota Earthen Materials"; and SHSND Curator of Collections Research Mark Halvorson and Assistant Curator of Collections Management Melissa Thompson speaking on "Is This a True Homestead Artifact?" Friday evening will feature a country-style dinner with musical selections from *Handcarved Prairie Rose*, a drama by Larry Sprunk, as well as an awards recognition program.

Saturday's programs feature several sessions, including Robert Carlson, president of the North Dakota Farmers Union, discussing "The Social Life of North Dakota Homesteaders"; Barbara Handy-Marchello, UND associate history professor emerita, presenting "Women and the Homestead Act: Standing Equal Before the Law of the Land"; Frank Vyzralek of Bismarck, a historian and former SHSND state archivist, presenting "Dispelling the Homestead Myths"; and Gregory Gagnon, associate professor of Indian Studies at UND, discussing "Disaster Accelerated – Greed Over Principles: An Indian Perspective on the Legacy of Homesteading."

Also planned is a panel discussion on how the ethnicity of homesteaders differed and the impacts of homesteaders on their neighbors. Panelists will include Marilyn Hudson of the Mandan-Hidatsa-Arikara Nation and director of the Three Affiliated Tribes Museum in New Town, North Dakota; Norwegian-American LeRoy Fladseth of Lansing, Michigan, whose paternal grandfather homesteaded near Douglas, North Dakota and whose maternal grandfather, Smith Stimmel, served as a White House bodyguard for President Lincoln; Icelandic-American Rosemarie Myrdal, of Edinburg, who served as North Dakota lieutenant governor from 1992 to 2000; and descendants of North Dakota's Germans from Russia.

Also planned for Saturday is a performance of homestead era music by the Old Five 'N' Dimers of Mandan.

The conference is sponsored by the SHSND, and is funded in part by Lincoln Bicentennial appropriations from the 2007 Legislative Assembly.

For more information, contact the SHSND's curator of education, Marilyn Snyder, at (701) 328-2792 or email at msnyder@nd.gov.

Transitions

Adam Bradshaw resigned effective July 25 as museum preparator to move to Washington, D.C. to accept a position with the Holocaust Museum. He had been museum preparator since August 2007.

Lorna Meidinger began work August 4 as the architectural historian for the Archaeology and Historic Preservation Division. In May 2008 she earned a master of arts degree in historic preservation from Colorado State University in Fort Collins. A native of Bismarck, she interned with the SHSND in the summer of 2007, updating the National Register nomination for Camp Hancock State Historic Site. She received a bachelor of arts degree in public history from North Dakota State University.

Lotte Bailey will retire effective September 30 as the SHSND's deputy state archivist. She began employment at the agency in September 1987 as an archives specialist and became deputy state archivist in May 1990. During the past few years, she has been centrally involved in the development of the \$5.7 million state archives addition to the North Dakota Heritage Center. Bailey's responsibilities have included working closely with government officials and agencies on the transfer of materials to the state archives.

Nominations

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cal historical efforts and who are deemed to have made a significant contribution in preserving, interpreting, promoting, researching, or otherwise extending knowledge and understanding of the history of their locality, county or region within North Dakota. Individuals to be considered include those persons living or deceased who have demonstrated evidence of long-term dedication and personal commitment in pursuit of these goals.

- **Heritage Profile Honor Award** – Recognizes those individuals who have made a lasting or significant contribution in preserving, interpreting, promoting, researching, or otherwise extending the knowledge and understanding of the history of North Dakota. Individuals to be considered include those living or deceased who have demonstrated evidence of long-term dedication and personal commitment in pursuit of these goals.

- **North Dakota Person of History Award** – Recognizes those individuals who have had a prominent role in the history of North Dakota. It posthumously honors those who have made a lasting or significant contribution to the growth, development, and progress of the state, or the social well-being of its citizens; who have achieved acclaim or prominence in their chosen fields of endeavor and/or have had a profound effect upon the history of the state or the lives of its people. To be eligible, a nominee for this honor must have been deceased at least 10 years.

For more information and a copy of the nomination form or forms, contact SHSND awards chairman Scott Schaffnit, State Historical Society of North Dakota, 612 East Boulevard Avenue, Bismarck, ND 58505-0830, call (701) 328-2794 or email sschaffnit@nd.gov. Nomination forms are also available by visiting the SHSND website at www.nd.gov/hist and clicking on "Nomination Forms for Awards" at the bottom of the website's home page.



Telling the Story of North Dakota to the World

The 2007 Legislative Assembly provided \$1.5 million for expanded architectural designs for the proposed expansion of the exhibits and collections spaces of the North Dakota Heritage Center. This expansion will give the citizens of North Dakota and its visitors a “world class” destination. You can be one of the first to see the design concepts. A series of luncheons are planned in eight locations across the state in October. If you want to attend, call the SHSND Foundation office to reserve your place at the table for this unveiling. (See schedule below.)

Expanded Design Concepts Requested by Legislature

This second phase of planning requested by the 2007 Legislature will further detail exhibit and collection spaces. These plans will be given to the governor and legislators, providing them the information and images they need to make commitments for building this legacy project for the people of North Dakota. In 2005 the State Legislature authorized a \$50,000 planning grant which provided the first broad-stroke designs for the expansion.

A “Smithsonian of the Plains” and “Hub of History” for Our State

The current Heritage Center is often compared to the Smithsonian Museum in Washington, D.C. as visitors attempt to describe the quality of the museum’s exhibits. That same quality will dominate the new design concepts; in addition, a “hub of history” with high-tech interactive displays will showcase all of North Dakota to visitors, drawing them all across the state for further travel adventures.

New Heritage Center – Compelling and Engaging

The exciting and must-see expansion includes: an architecturally engaging building that will draw in visitors; a compelling front foyer that will be a visual icon for the state’s largest accredited museum; **Governors’ Gallery** – a new temporary gallery for high-profile traveling exhibits and collections; **Geological Time Gallery** – the great Ice Age, sabre-tooth tigers, and dinosaurs; **First People’s Gallery** – an 11,000-year story of developing culture; **Innovation Gallery** – state history, including the last 70 years, industry innovations, and expanding technologies; children’s galleries and learning labs; high-tech interactive exhibits; café and outdoor patio, sculpture gardens, special events spaces, great hall; 3-D theater and living-wall murals featuring sites and attractions from across the state; access for the physically challenged, and ample parking for cars, RVs, and buses. **It is an extraordinary building – well able to tell the story of North Dakota to the world.**

Exciting, Must-See Designs for Proposed North Dakota Heritage Center *Unveiled in October Luncheons Statewide – Join Us!*

- Fargo, Monday, October 13
- Grand Forks, Tuesday, October 14
- Devils Lake, Wednesday, October 15
- Jamestown, Monday, October 20
- Bismarck, Tuesday, October 21
- Dickinson, Tuesday, October 28
- Williston, Wednesday, October 29
- Minot, Thursday, October 30

Foundation members and friends welcome.

Call (701) 222-1966 or email –
statehistoricalfoundation@btinet.net

to reserve a place at the table. Locations to be announced. Visit the SHSND Foundation’s website for more information – www.statehistoricalfoundation.com



Virginia A. Nelsen,
SHSND Foundation
Executive Director



Bill Schott, leader
of the SHSND
Foundation’s
Trustee membership
development



Marlo Sveen,
SHSND Foundation
Director of Development

Check it out! *The SHSND Foundation’s Expansion Campaign Website*
www.statehistoricalfoundation.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August

August 10

Annual Lawn Party, 12:30 to 4:30 p.m., Former Governors' Mansion State Historic Site in Bismarck. The theme is "Celebrating the Children of the Mansion," featuring children's games, including croquet, lawn bowling, and a hula-hoop contest. Sponsored by the SHSND and Society for the Preservation of the Former Governors' Mansion. (701) 328-9528.

August 15

Storytime with the Library, 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., North Dakota Heritage Center, Bismarck. (701) 328-2792.

August 16-17

26th Annual Fort Buford Sixth Infantry Frontier Military Encampment, Fort Buford State Historic Site. Visit Fort Buford as the Sixth Infantry reenactors bring the fort back to life with special events all weekend long. (701) 572-9034.

August 16-17

History Alive! performances featuring the charming hostess of the Chateau, *Madame de Mores*, at 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m., and 3:30 p.m. (MT). Chateau de Mores State Historic Site, Medora. (701) 623-4355.

August 21

Celebrate Madame de Mores' 152nd birthday! Coffee and cake served in the interpretive center, 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. (MT) Chateau de Mores State Historic Site, Medora. (701) 623-4355.

August 23

Five-year anniversary of Missouri-Yellowstone Confluence Interpretive Center. Enjoy a free *Concert at the Confluence* to mark this event. Free admission and refreshments. (701) 572-9034.

August 23-24

History Alive! performances featuring the charming hostess of the Chateau, *Madame de Mores*, at 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m., and 3:30 p.m. (MT). Chateau de Mores State Historic Site, Medora. (701) 623-4355.

August 30-31

History Alive! performances featuring buffalo hunter *Yellowstone Vic Smith*, at 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m., and 3:30 p.m. (MT). Chateau de Mores State Historic Site, Medora. (701) 623-4355.

September

September 4-7

SHSND exhibit booth at United Tribes Technical College Annual International Powwow in Bismarck. (701) 328-2794.

September 5

9th Annual Education Field Day, Whitestone Hill Battlefield State Historic Site, near Kulm. Area students visit to learn more about the site. Free tours of battlefield and museum, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sponsored by the SHSND and the Whitestone Hill Battlefield Historical Society. (701) 328-3508.

September 7

The Larsen Brothers and the Ol' Five and Dimers in concert at Whitestone Hill State Historic Site. (701) 647-2763 or 349-4329.

September 13

Recollections of Marquise Medora in conjunction with the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation's 150th TR birthday celebration and the 125th anniversary of the founding of Medora and Roosevelt's arrival in the Badlands. Chateau de Mores Interpretive Center, Medora. (701) 623-4355.

September 14

Seasonal Concert and Flag Retreat, 3 p.m. Enjoy the final weekend of Fort Buford's visiting season with a free concert followed by a formal military retreat ceremony lowering the flag. (701) 572-9034.

September 15

16th Annual Living History Field Day, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free public admission, \$2/student materials fee. Student registration required. Sponsored with the Fort Totten State Historic Site Foundation, Fort Totten State Historic Site. (701) 766-4441.

September 15

Last day North Dakota State Historic Sites open for the season.

September 16

North Dakota State Historic Sites closed for the season. Pembina State Museum begins winter hours through May 15, Mondays through Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sundays, 1 to 5 p.m. Central Time. **Missouri-Yellowstone Confluence Interpretive Center** begins winter hours through May 15, Wednesdays through Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sundays, 1 to 5 p.m. Central Time. **Chateau de Mores Interpretive Center** begins winter hours through May 15, Wednesdays through Sundays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mountain Time.

September 20

Homesteading Day, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., North Dakota Heritage Center, featuring family activities, programs, demonstrations, and musical entertainment highlighting the Homestead Act and its impact on North Dakota. Signed in 1862 by President Lincoln, the Homestead Act is on exhibit at the North Dakota Heritage Center through November 10. (701) 328-2792. See story on page 1.

September 20

Annual Certified Local Government (CLG) workshop, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Training in the features and procedures of the CLG program, The Ranch Steakhouse, Devils Lake. (701) 328-2672.

September 27

Natural World of the Confluence, 12 noon. Learn to bird and begin your lifelist. Collect and identify plants, grasses, and trees. Learn to geocache and much more. Missouri-Yellowstone Confluence Interpretive Center. (701) 572-9034.

October

October 1-4

SHSND exhibit booth at Norsk Høstfest, Minot. (701) 328-2794.

October 9-11

Theodore Roosevelt: The Conservationist in the Arena, The 3rd Annual Theodore Roosevelt Symposium at Dickinson State University, Dickinson, North Dakota. For more, visit www.theodorerooseveltcenter.com or call (701) 483-2166.

October 9-11

As part of the Third Annual Theodore Roosevelt Symposium, the Chateau de Mores State Historic Site in Medora will be open with interpreters on hand, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (MT). (701) 623-4355.

October 10

State Historical Board meeting, 8:30 a.m., **SHSND Foundation Board meeting**, 1:30 p.m., North Dakota Heritage Center.

October 13

Luncheon to See Designs for Proposed Expansion of the North Dakota Heritage Center, Fargo. To make a reservation, call the SHSND Foundation at (701) 222-1966 or email statehistoricalfoundation@btinet.net.

October 14

Luncheon to See Designs for Proposed Expansion of the North Dakota Heritage Center, Grand Forks. To make a reservation, call the SHSND Foundation at (701) 222-1966 or email statehistoricalfoundation@btinet.net.

October 15

Luncheon to See Designs for Proposed Expansion of the North Dakota Heritage Center, Devils Lake. To make a reservation, call the SHSND Foundation at (701) 222-1966 or email statehistoricalfoundation@btinet.net.

October 16

An Evening with James McPherson, Pulitzer Prize-winning Civil War historian, "Tried by War: Abraham Lincoln as Commander in Chief," 7 p.m., Historic Fargo Theatre. Sponsored by *Read North Dakota*. For more, visit www.readnd.org or call (701) 255-3360. See story on page 6.

October 20

Luncheon to See Designs for Proposed Expansion of the North Dakota Heritage Center, Jamestown. To make a reservation, call the SHSND Foundation at (701) 222-1966 or email statehistoricalfoundation@btinet.net.

October 21

Luncheon to See Designs for Proposed Expansion of the North Dakota Heritage Center, Bismarck. To make a reservation, call the SHSND Foundation at (701) 222-1966 or email statehistoricalfoundation@btinet.net.

October 25

Halloween Fun, children's activities and games from 2 to 4 p.m. Pembina State Museum. (701) 825-6840.

October 25

Cemetery Walk, 7 p.m. Visit with some "ghostly" former residents of Fort Buford during an evening walk through the old fort cemetery, followed by refreshments. Appropriate for children. Fort Buford State Historic Site and Missouri-Yellowstone Confluence Interpretive Center. (701) 572-9034.

October 28

Luncheon to See Designs for Proposed Expansion of the North Dakota Heritage Center, Dickinson. To make a reservation, call the SHSND Foundation at (701) 222-1966 or email statehistoricalfoundation@btinet.net.

October 29

Luncheon to See Designs for Proposed Expansion of the North Dakota Heritage Center, Williston. To make a reservation, call

the SHSND Foundation at (701) 222-1966 or email statehistoricalfoundation@btinet.net.

October 30

Luncheon to See Designs for Proposed Expansion of the North Dakota Heritage Center, Minot. To make a reservation, call the SHSND Foundation at (701) 222-1966 or email statehistoricalfoundation@btinet.net.

October 31

History Haunt!, 4 to 6:30 p.m., \$1 admission fee. Spooky fun for all ages! North Dakota Heritage Center, Bismarck. (701) 328-2792.

November

November 7

Open House, Chateau de Mores Interpretive Center. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (MT). In conjunction with the Medora Wildlife Feed sponsored by the Medora Chamber of Commerce. (701) 623-4355.

November 7

State Historical Society of North Dakota Foundation annual meeting, 12:30 p.m. North Dakota Heritage Center. (701) 222-1966.

November 7-8

20th Annual Governor's Conference on North Dakota History. *Lincoln Legacy: The Homestead Act*, North Dakota Heritage Center. (701) 328-2792. See story on page 3.

November 9

Veterans Day Celebration, 2 p.m. Free concert and other events will highlight this special day to honor veterans. Missouri-Yellowstone Confluence Interpretive Center. (701) 572-9034.

November 11

Veterans Day. State offices closed in observance of Veterans Day. Pembina State Museum, North Dakota Heritage Center, Missouri-Yellowstone Confluence Interpretive Center, and Chateau de Mores State Historic Site Interpretive Center open.

November 15

Power of the Night Sky, 7:30 p.m. The event will begin with a lecture on the historic use of the stars and will include an overview of astronomy for the beginner. Lectures will be followed by constellation identification and stargazing, Missouri-Yellowstone Confluence Interpretive Center. (701) 572-9034.

November 23, November 30

Holiday Open House, 1 to 5 p.m., Former Governors' Mansion State Historic Site,

Bismarck. Free admission. Sponsored by the Society for the Preservation of the Former Governors' Mansion and the SHSND. (701) 328-9528.

November 27

Thanksgiving. State offices closed. North Dakota Heritage Center, Pembina State Museum, Missouri-Yellowstone Confluence Interpretive Center, and Chateau de Mores State Historic Site Interpretive Center closed.

December

December 1-31

Showcase of Trees. State Capitol Building and North Dakota Heritage Center. (701) 328-2792.

December 5 - 6

Medora's Old Fashioned Cowboy Christmas, Chateau de Mores State Historic Site, Medora. (701) 623-4355.

December 7

Christmas at the Confluence, Help decorate the Christmas tree at the Confluence Center by making your own ornaments. Refreshments in the tradition of a frontier Christmas. Fort Buford State Historic Site and Missouri-Yellowstone Confluence Interpretive Center. (701) 572-9034.

December 14

Holiday Open House, 2 to 4 p.m. Free tower admission, refreshments. Pembina State Museum. (701) 825-6840.

December 25

Christmas Day. State offices closed. North Dakota Heritage Center, Pembina State Museum, and Missouri-Yellowstone Confluence Interpretive Center, and Chateau de Mores State Historic Site Interpretive Center closed.

SHSND Exhibits

For information about the SHSND's many exhibits, contact Curator of Exhibits Genia Hesser at (701) 328-2102. For a complete listing and availability of the popular Traveling Interpretive Exhibits Service (TIES) program, contact Outreach Programs Coordinator Scott Schaffnit at (701) 328-2794. Additional information is available at the Society's website at www.nd.gov/hist/mus/exhb.htm and click on "Exhibits."

North Dakota Heritage Center, Bismarck

Dakota: A Mummified Dinosaur

Museum Entrance

Opened June 14, 2008

One of the rarest types of dinosaur fossils was found near Mar-
marth, North Dakota in 1999 – a mummified duck-billed dino-
saur. For a limited period of time, portions of this “dinomummy”
are on exhibit, revealing 65-million-year-old secrets about how
dinosaurs looked and behaved.

Lincoln’s Legacy in North Dakota

Auditorium Gallery

Through January 31, 2010

Abraham Lincoln’s connections to North Dakota – then north-
ern Dakota Territory – are many, including appointing the Ter-
ritory’s first two governors; signing the Homestead Act in 1862;
signing the Morrill Land Grant College Act of 1862, which led to
the establishment of what is now North Dakota State University;
and issuing the charter for the Northern Pacific Railroad in 1864.
This exhibit examines Lincoln’s legacy in the 39th state as North
Dakota and the nation prepare to commemorate the bicentennial
birthday of its 16th President on February 12, 2009.

Homestead Act Signed by President Lincoln

Auditorium Gallery

Through November 10, 2008

Part of the *Lincoln’s Legacy in North Dakota* exhibit, the original
Homestead Act signed by President Lincoln is displayed, on loan
from the National Archives. Tens of thousands of people settled
in northern Dakota Territory because of the free land provided by
the Homestead Act. This document has not been on public dis-
play since 1979, and is only at the North Dakota Heritage Center
for this exclusive six-month exhibit.

The Atomic Age Arrives:

The Cold War in North Dakota

James E. Sperry Gallery

Through November 15, 2009

The Cold War lasted for nearly 50 years, and North Dakota’s
landscape is marked with its legacy. This exhibit explores how the
atomic age escalated and its civil and military impacts on North
Dakotans. Artifacts featured include a replica fallout shelter, mis-
sile silo model, and U.S. Air Force uniforms.

Recent Acquisitions

Museum Entrance

No Closing Date

A mini-exhibit featuring a selection of recently donated objects
to the SHSND’s collections. As an annual project done by the
agency’s interns, *Recent Acquisitions* is changed each summer. See
page 2 for a story on the current exhibit.

Pembina State Museum, Pembina

Looking Back: Pembina’s Flood Battles

Through Spring 2009

Pembina’s location at the confluence of the Red and Pembina
Rivers was of strategic importance to early fur traders, but it has
had its disadvantages as well. More than 11 years after the great
flood of 1997, this exhibit examines the struggles the city’s resi-
dents have faced with flooding, including battles won and lost.

Emigrants from the Empires: North Dakota’s Germans

Through February 28, 2010

This exhibit investigates what it meant to be German in North
Dakota before and after both world wars. Artifacts, photographs,
and documents tell the story of who they are, how and why they
emigrated, and how their culture and traditions still thrive in
North Dakota.

Chateau de Mores State Historic Site, Medora

Rails, Ranching and Riches:

The Marquis de Mores in Dakota

No Closing Date

This exhibit at the site’s new interpretive center tells the story
of the Marquis de Mores (1858-96), a French nobleman and entre-
preneur who, from 1883 to 1886, ran a cutting-edge meatpacking
plant and other businesses in the town he named after his wife,
Medora. His family’s 26-room summer home includes thousands of
original artifacts. Featured is a smaller-scale refrigerator car, along
with the *Deadwood*, an original stagecoach from the Marquis’s
Deadwood and Medora Stage and Forwarding Company.

Land in Her Own Name

Through July 19, 2009

North Dakota State University sociologist Elaine Lindgren spent
five years studying 292 women who homesteaded in North Dakota.
This exhibit is based on her research. The voices of these extraor-
dinary women are combined here in a strong, clear story about the
land and its people. They are identified by the names they used
when filing claims.

The Art of Einar Olstad

Through October 17, 2010

Inspired by the people, scenery, and ranch life of the Dakota
Badlands, rancher artist Einar Olstad (1878-1955) captured the es-
sence of the American West in his whimsical and often humorous
portrayals of the Dakota cowboy. In addition to a wide selection
of his evocative paintings, objects relating to ranching life in the
1930s are on display.

Fort Abercrombie State Historic Site near Fargo

Beyond the Boundaries:

The History of Fort Abercrombie

No Closing Date

As the “Gateway to the Dakotas,” Fort Abercrombie guarded
vital transportation routes and served as an important supply point
for military campaigns into the Dakota Territory of the 1860s. This
exhibit at the site’s new interpretive center features this history,
including the fort’s role in the Dakota Conflict of 1862.

Fort Totten State Historic Site near Devils Lake

Artistic License

Through September 15, 2008

Hunting and fishing activities in North Dakota are captured in these wildlife paintings created by North Dakota artists. The paintings were used to illustrate the stamps that are required on state hunting and fishing licenses. A project of the North Dakota Game and Fish Department, the painting competitions for these stamp illustrations were conducted from 1982 to 1991.

Missouri-Yellowstone Confluence Interpretive Center, Fort Buford State Historic Site near Williston

North Dakota Remembers World War II

Through April 18, 2010

Presenting stories of North Dakotans from all branches of the armed forces and their experiences worldwide, this exhibit at the Confluence Center features a selection of the more than 1,200 interviews collected through the North Dakota Veterans History Project coordinated by the State Historical Society of North Dakota. The exhibit also features World War II-era uniforms, medals, photographs, and other artifacts related to personal experiences in the war.

Former Governors' Mansion State Historic Site, Bismarck

From Buckets of Oats to Quarts of Oil

No Closing Date

Located in the site's Carriage House, this exhibit illustrates the transition from horse and buggy to the automobile.

Camp Hancock State Historic Site, Bismarck

The Four Seasons at Camp Hancock

No Closing Date

This exhibit looks at the history of the site through the seasons. The oldest building in Bismarck, this is the only structure remaining from the U.S. Army infantry post stationed here from 1872 to 1877. After it was decommissioned, it served as the U.S. Weather Bureau Station for the region from 1894 to 1940.

Upcoming Conferences

The **Missouri River History Conference** will be held September 4-7 at Ponca State Park in Ponca, Nebraska. The theme is "Steamers, Sandbars, and Snags: Reflections of the Steamboat Era on the Missouri." For more, call (402) 755-2284 or email jeff.fields@ngpc.ne.gov.

The **American Association for State and Local History (AASLH)** will hold its annual meeting September 9-12 in Rochester, New York. For more, call the AASLH office at (615) 320-3203 or visit www.aaslh.org.

The **43rd Annual Northern Great Plains History Conference (NGPHC)** will be held September 24-27 at the Victoria Inn in Brandon, Manitoba. Sponsored by the Department of History at Brandon University. For more, visit www.brandonu.ca/history/NGPHC.htm. The Society for Military History will also sponsor sessions at the NGPHC.

The **John F. Kennedy: History, Memory, Legacy Conference** will be held September 25-27 at the University of North Dakota (UND), Grand Forks, marking the 45th anniversary of President Kennedy's visit to UND in September 1963. For more, visit www.und.nodak.edu/instruct/jfkconference or email jfkconference@und.nodak.edu.

The **3rd Annual Theodore Roosevelt Symposium** will be held October 9-11 at Dickinson State University (DSU) in Dickinson, North Dakota. The theme is "Theodore Roosevelt: The Conservationist in the Arena." For more, call DSU at (701) 483-2166 or visit www.theodorerooseveltcenter.com.

The **Mountain-Plains Museum Association (MPMA)** will hold its 54th annual conference October 21-25 in Kansas City, Missouri. The theme is "Meeting in the Middle." For more, call the MPMA at (303) 979-9358 or visit www.mpma.net.

The **National Trust for Historic Preservation (NTHP)** will hold its annual National Preservation Conference October 21-25 in Tulsa, Oklahoma. The theme is "Preservation in Progress." For more, call the NTHP at 1 (800) 944-6847, email conference@nthp.org or visit www.nthpconference.org.

The **48th Annual Western History Association (WHA) Conference** will be held October 22-25 in Salt Lake City, Utah. For more information, call the WHA at (314) 516-7282, visit www.westernhistoryassociation.org or email wha@umsl.edu.

The **52nd Annual Missouri Valley History Conference** will be held March 5-7, 2009 in Omaha, Nebraska. For more information, contact Maria Arbelaez, Department of History, University of Nebraska-Omaha, Omaha, NE 68182-0213, or email marbelaez@mail.unomaha.edu.

Traveling Exhibits

Missouri River

Lake Sakakawea State Park
through September 30

Land in Her Own Name

Chateau de Mores State Historic Site
through July 19, 2009

Two New Centers Open for Visitors at Chateau, Fort Abercrombie

The new Chateau interpretive center sits nestled amidst the grandeur of the North Dakota Badlands in this April 2008 photograph. The 26-room Chateau where the Marquis de Mores and his family lived in the 1880s is behind it.

New interpretive centers featuring exhibits and other attractions opened this spring at two of the SHSND's most popular sites, anchored in the southeastern and southwestern corners of North Dakota.

A day of festivities May 18 launched the opening of the center at Fort Abercrombie State Historic Site near Fargo and Wahpeton. The fort began operations in 1858; the last soldiers were withdrawn in 1877. It was besieged by the Dakota (Sioux) during the Dakota Conflict of 1862. As the crossroads of several major transportation routes, it guarded fur trade oxcart trails, stagecoach routes,

and steamboat traffic on the Red River.

The Fort Abercrombie interpretive center is open May 16 through September 15, Thursdays through Mondays, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Central Time.

The Chateau de Mores State Historic Site celebrated the grand opening of its new center April 25-27 with special programs and events. The facility is part of the 128-acre site that interprets the story of the Marquis de Mores, the French nobleman and entrepreneur who in the 1880s ran a cutting-edge meatpacking plant in the town he

founded and named after his wife.

The Chateau de Mores center is open daily from 8:30 a.m. to 6:15 p.m. Mountain Time through September 15; from September 16 through May 15 it will be open Wednesdays through Sundays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mountain Time.

Funding for the new centers is mostly from state sources, with other contributors that include federal Transportation Enhancement Funds from the North Dakota Department of Transportation for both sites, and a federal *Save America's Treasures* grant for Fort Abercrombie.

Photograph by Diane Rogness, SHSND

Photograph by James Olermann



Ribbon cutting ceremonies for the new \$2 million interpretive center at the Chateau de Mores State Historic Site in Medora were held April 26. Among those attending were (l to r) SHSND Foundation Executive Director Virginia Nelsen, Representative Frank Wald (R-Dickinson), Lt. Governor Jack Dalrymple, State Historical Board President Albert I. Berger, and Medora Mayor Doug Walker.

Photograph by Diane Rogness, SHSND



The museum store at the new Chateau interpretive center offers quality merchandise that customers can't find everywhere else, such as jewelry, books, clothing, toys, souvenirs, and many North Dakota-made products.

Exhibits and artifacts at the new Fort Abercrombie interpretive center tell the story of this "Gateway to the Dakotas," which performed many duties in its 19 years of operations, including serving as a supply base for military freight, wagon trains headed west to the Montana gold fields, and pioneer settlers moving into Dakota Territory.



Photographs by Chris Johnson, SHSND



Photograph by Diane Rogness, SHSND

Another highlight celebrating the opening of the new Chateau center was a costume ball April 26 marking the 125th anniversary of the founding of the town of Medora, hosted by the Medora Convention and Visitors Bureau and Medora Chamber of Commerce. Alice Coats of Bismarck and Bill Schott of Mandan, the SHSND Foundation's membership development director, were among the celebrants. They are next to the *Deadwood*, an original stagecoach from the Marquis de Mores's Medora Stage and Forwarding Company.

(Below) The new interpretive center at Fort Abercrombie, showing the U.S. and North Dakota state flags flying.



At 8,600 square feet, the new Chateau center is nearly triple the size of the original facility built in 1972.

Photograph by Dolores Linn, SHSND



Photograph by Chris Johnson, SHSND

(Right) Ribbon cutting ceremonies were held May 18 to open the new \$1.3 million interpretive center at Fort Abercrombie State Historic Site. Speaking is Lt. Governor Jack Dalrymple. To his right are Site Supervisor Jim Acker, State Treasurer Kelly Schmidt, also a member of the State Historical Board, and U.S. Senator Kent Conrad (D-ND).



Photograph by Chris Johnson, SHSND

Community Conversations Focusing on Historic Preservation

The State Historical Society of North Dakota's historic preservation division has been holding a series of "Community Conversations" to gather public input for the Statewide Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan. This is a five-year plan used to define and prioritize goals and activities for the federally sponsored Historic Preservation Program. The division serves as the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO).

The SHSND has conducted similar statewide public meetings in the past several years but this is the first time the meetings have focused on historic preservation.

The Historic Preservation Program has been active in North Dakota since 1967. It has brought more than \$10 million into the state, and leveraged a similar amount, to further many activities designed to locate, protect, and interpret significant cultural properties. Projects have included surveys to locate and record historical, archaeological, architectural, and other culturally significant properties in North Dakota. Once recorded, cultural properties, which include buildings, structures, objects, and districts, are evaluated for local, state, and national significance. They may be nominated to the National Register of Historic Places; may be provided limited protection from certain potentially damaging projects funded by federal agencies; and may receive grants for stabilization, rehabilitation, restoration, adaptive use, and interpretation. The program also offers liaison services to Certified Local Governments (CLGs) as well as technical assistance and preservation advice to governmental subdivisions, American Indian communities, and private citizens. These programs are administered in cooperation with the National Park Service.

Meeting results indicate support for programs promoting educational outreach, additional surveys, preservation grants and technical assistance, research into historical themes, and CLG activities. One of the most frequently cited problems is insufficient funding.

Meetings were held in June and July in Bismarck, Devils Lake, Dickinson, Fargo, Grand Forks, Minot and Williston. Those unable to attend but who wish to provide input should contact the Historic Preservation Office (see below). The current edition of the Comprehensive Plan and the Survey Questionnaire can be found on the SHSND's website at www.nd.gov/hist/hp/planCopy.htm. Copies are also available by contacting SHSND Historic Preservation Planner Walter Bailey at (701) 328-3577 or email at wbailey@nd.gov.

Governor Reappoints Larson, Kloubec to Board

Governor John Hoeven has reappointed Diane Larson and Richard Kloubec to the State Historical Board. The Board oversees the operations of the State Historical Society. The three-year appointments were effective July 1.

Larson, a youth worker with the Bismarck police department, is a former state legislator. She has served since July 1, 1999, and previously served on the State Historical Board from March 1993 to July 1997.

Kloubec, of Fargo, is a retired businessman working in real estate, construction, and sheep ranching. A former state legislator, Kloubec served in the North Dakota House of Representatives from 1973 to 1993, a term as Speaker of the House in the 1987 legislative session, and terms as the House Majority Leader in the 1989 and 1991 sessions. He has been a Board member since May 23, 2007, appointed to fill out the remainder of John Von Rueden's term, which ended June 30, 2008. Von Rueden died in April 2007 following a long illness.

The other members of the State Historical Board are Albert I. Berger, president, of Grand Forks; Chester E. Nelson, Jr., of Bismarck, vice president; Gereld Gerntholz of Valley City, secretary; Marvin Kaiser of Williston; Art Todd III of Jamestown; Sara Otte Coleman, State Tourism Director; Kelly Schmidt, State Treasurer; Al Jaeger, Secretary of State; Francis Zeigler, State Transportation Director; and Douglass Prchal, State Parks and Recreation Director.

Karns Endowment Funds Position

Ann Erling was hired to fill this summer's position of reading room assistant in the State Archives at the North Dakota Heritage Center. The position is funded by the Kermit B. Karns and Lottie Wolf Karns Endowment, a fund which supports genealogical research.

She also assists with indexing and other services to expand databases within the State Archives collection.

Erling begins her senior year this fall at North Dakota State University (NDSU), where she is majoring in History and English. She was selected for the 2008-09 Corwin Carlyle Roach Endowment scholarship, awarded through the NDSU History Department. She will spend the fall semester in Milan, Italy, studying the Italian language and history. A Bismarck native, Erling worked as an archival assistant at the Germans from Russia Heritage Collection at the NDSU Library during the 2007-08 school year.



Ann Erling

Photograph by Beth Campbell,
SHSND

Students Gaining Experience as SHSND Interns

Eight college interns are gaining valuable hands-on experience as they work with staff at the state history agency in several specialized areas. The internship program has been benefitting both students and the State Historical Society of North Dakota since November 1982.

The following are this summer's college interns:

Jennifer Knutson is originally from Bowbells, North Dakota. She graduated from Bismarck State College in May 2008 with an associate in applied science degree, and will transfer to Dickinson State University to pursue a bachelor's degree in university studies. Her internship includes working on website development for the Society.

Cathy Carlson, an accounting major at Dickinson State University, is a summer intern in the Society's support services division, performing various accounting activities. This unpaid internship for college credit is in addition to her fulltime employment at the SHSND, where she has been an account technician since 2002. A native of New Rockford, North Dakota, Carlson attended high school in Baker, Montana, and has lived in Bismarck since 1984. She received an associate of arts degree in business administration from Bismarck State College. Carlson has worked in the State Treasurer's Office and served as a bookkeeper and office manager in the construction industry.

Bismarck native **Maria Witham** attended the College of St. Benedict/St. John's University just outside St. Cloud, Minnesota, majoring in studio art. She also completed a one-year program that focused on artifact conservation and museum studies at Memorial University of Newfoundland and has worked as a volunteer at the Midwest Art Conservation Center laboratory in Minneapolis. Witham is working on *Dakota Datebook*, assisting with the research and writing for this daily feature of Prairie Public Broadcasting Radio.

Tyler Kennedy is originally from Stevens Point, Wisconsin. He graduated with a bachelor of arts degree in History/International Studies from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point in 2005, and has completed his first year as a graduate student at the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Library and Information Studies, with an archives and records management emphasis. Prior to this internship, Kennedy worked for the Wisconsin Historical Society. He is the *CONTENTdm* intern for the SHSND,



The SHSND's 2008 interns are (l to r) Jennifer Knutson, Cathy Carlson, Maria Witham, Tyler Kennedy and Alexander Greff. Not pictured: Sara Dreher, Stacie Petersen and Katherine Altizer.

Photograph by Beth Campbell, SHSND

spending the summer adding photographs to the Digital Horizons website cooperative project.

Alexander Greff, a Bismarck native, is conducting tours this summer for the award-winning *Footsteps into Medora's Past* program, a guided tour through historic Medora. He is enrolled as a sophomore at Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota with primary studies in History and German. In addition to the tours, Greff is working with several historical reenactors at the Chateau de Mores State Historic Site, as well as conducting interviews with Medora residents for historical posterity.

A junior at Concordia College in Moorhead, **Sara Dreher** is a native of Long Prairie, Minnesota. At Concordia, she is involved in Phi Alpha Theta—the History Honor Society—and Lambda Delta Sigma, where she has been the alumni relations coordinator for the last two years. She has also studied abroad, including Italy, Austria, Germany, Malta, Greece, and Turkey. Dreher is doing historical interpretation at the Chateau de Mores State Historic Site.

Stacie Petersen graduated in 2006 from Iowa State University with a bachelor's degree in history and classical studies, and received her master's degree in museum science from Texas Tech University in Lubbock in August. Petersen was a museum collections intern at the North Dakota Heritage Center from January through June 2008. She is now employed as a registrar at the Roswell Museum and Art Center in Roswell, New Mexico.

Raised in Williston, North Dakota, **Katherine Altizer** begins her third year this fall as a history major at Montana State University in Bozeman. As an intern this summer, she has conducted research to locate buildings sold by the U.S. military when Fort Buford was closed in 1895. Many area citizens traveled to Fort Buford to bid on and buy the fort's buildings after it closed, and the structures were then removed from the fort's grounds. Her work also includes determining who used the buildings and how they were used. She presented her findings at the 26th Annual Fort Buford Sixth Infantry military encampment August 16-17.

Photograph by Jim Davis, SHSND



State Archives Expansion

County records, formerly located in off-site storage, wait to be transferred from pallets to the shelves of the new 30,000-square-foot addition to the state archives at the North Dakota Heritage Center in Bismarck. The \$5.7 million Phase One expansion is one of the investments the Legislative Assembly has made in the state's history agency.

Phase Two planning is underway, using an additional \$1.5 million approved by the Legislature to plan for a 97,000-square-foot-addition and the renovation of existing portions of the Heritage Center.

Shemorry Photograph Collection Now Online

William "Bill" Shemorry was a veteran newspaper man whose pen and camera recorded the events around him for more than 50 years. Shemorry, who died in 2004 at 89, photographed the highlights and happenings of the Williston area of northwestern North Dakota for decades, and his negative files include more than 25,000 negatives. He also acquired "old-time" photographs, prints, and glass plate negatives of the Williston area, which date back to the late 19th Century.

Emily J. Ergen began working on the Shemorry Photograph Collection as a SHSND intern last summer. Now employed by the Williston State College Foundation, Ergen is working in partnership with the SHSND until May 2009. She is adding materials still housed at Williston State College to the Shemorry Collection in the state archives, organizing it, and creating a finding aid so that users can easily locate images and information. This involves formatting images for the website, adding to the existing images that SHSND Head of Technical Services Rachel White has already made available online. The Shemorry Collection belongs to Williston State College, which has an agreement with the SHSND to store the collection in the State Archives at the North Dakota Heritage Center. Images from the collection can be viewed at <http://dp3.lib.ndsu.nodak.edu:2668/index.php>.



Photograph by Gene Baker, SHSND

52.34.4



This self-portrait was taken by Shemorry sometime in the 1960s.

64.16.2



This photograph, taken by Shemorry, is of the Williston men's high school basketball team playing Red River of Grand Forks in 1971.

GPN75A-16-8



This image of the North Dakota State Fair, from either 1932 or 1933, was scanned from a glass plate negative that Shemorry collected, photographer unknown. Part of the challenge of processing the collection involves trying to determine who the photographers of images like this one were.

New Fur Trade Book Provides Unique Insights

A new book providing unique insights into the mid-19th Century fur trade of the Upper Missouri River is now available from the State Historical Society of North Dakota.

Twilight of the Upper Missouri River Fur Trade: The Journals of Henry A. Boller, is edited by renowned Northern Plains scholar W. Raymond Wood, the author or editor of several books about prehistory and early history along the Missouri River.

An eyewitness to the rapidly changing world of the Upper Missouri River, young Boller's journals and letters bring to life the declining days of the fur trade on the Northern Plains. His contemporary accounts of the Mandans, Hidatsas, and Arikaras in the last years before their removal to reservation lands highlight a world undergoing profound change.

Boller (1836-99) arrived in 1858 at Fort Atkinson, a trading post located near Like-A-Fishhook Village in what is now North Dakota. He left the fort, and the fur trade, in the fall of 1861, returning to his home in Philadelphia. Over the next few years, between trips to California and the Montana gold fields, he turned his journal and letters into a book. *Among the Indians: Eight Years in the Far West, 1858-1866*, published in 1867, brought his sympathetic view of the plight of American Indians to a wide audience. The original letters and journals on which the Missouri River section of his book was based were donated by his widow to the State Historical Society of North Dakota. These materials contained details and impressions not included in *Among the Indians*. It is these Boller writings that have now been published in the 276-page *Twilight of the Upper Missouri River Fur Trade*, which also includes many photographs, maps, and other images.

Boller's experiences as a trader at Fort Atkinson are complemented by Wood. Professor emeritus of anthropology at the University of Missouri in Columbia, Wood's rich contributions to the archaeology and history of the Northern Plains extends more than 50 years, and his introduction, footnotes, and editorial comments add depth to Boller's writings.

Before the important archaeological site of Like-A-Fishhook Village was covered by the rising waters of Lake Sakakawea, Wood worked with SHSND archaeologist Alan Woolworth to complete its excavation in 1954. He also examined the then newly-completed fieldwork at nearby Fort Atkinson,

where Boller had been a clerk from 1858 to 1860. Wood's experiences at these sites in 1954 led to a lifelong interest in the people who had lived there.

In 1862 Fort Atkinson was renamed Fort Berthold when the original fur trade post of that name burned down. Like-A-Fishhook Village and this second Fort Berthold were abandoned in the mid-1880s when the people moved to allotted reservation land. It is these people whose stories are so vividly conveyed in this publication.

Development of the book was funded in part by a grant from the North Dakota Humanities Council.

For ordering information see page 20.

Billboard *Bonanza*



Eight billboard signs featuring these designs are located throughout the state, encouraging travelers to visit the state's history museum in Bismarck to learn about attractions statewide. They are located along Highway 83 and Interstates 94 and 29 in North Dakota. Funding was approved by the 2007 Legislative Assembly. The billboards will be up through the 2007-09 biennium and perhaps beyond, depending on future funding.

'Dinomummy' at North Dakota Heritage Center

The new *Dakota: A Mummified Dinosaur* exhibit at the North Dakota Heritage Center shows an arm and tail section of a duck-billed hadrosaur discovered near Marmarth, North Dakota in 1999 by Tyler Lyson. The nearly complete fossil has skin, bones, and tendons preserved in sandstone, making it one of the most scientifically important dinosaurs ever discovered. Here, visitors look at the tail section of the dinosaur, nicknamed "Dakota." The National Geographic Society is a major contributor to its excavation and research, including producing a National Geographic Channel television program called "Dino Autopsy," shown regularly in the Heritage Center theater.



Photographs by Brian Austin, SHSND



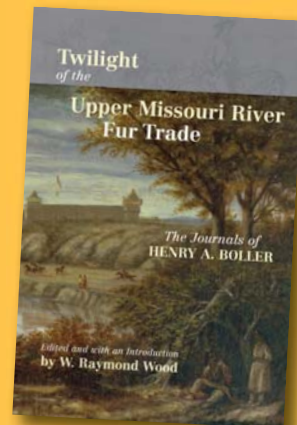
Ribbon cutting participants at the June 14 ceremonies included (l to r) North Dakota Department of Mineral Resources Director Lynn Helms; State Historical Board member Diane Larson; Secretary of State and State Historical Board member Al Jaeger; Barbara Moffett, National Geographic Society Communications Office; Molly Lyson, mother of Tyler Lyson, from Marmarth; Doug Hanks, Marmarth Research Foundation, from Apple Valley, Minnesota; North Dakota Agriculture Commissioner and Industrial Commission Board member Roger Johnson; Dr. Phillip Manning, University of Manchester in England; and State Paleontologist Dr. John Hoganson. The exhibit is a collaborative project between the North Dakota Geological Survey and the State Historical Society of North Dakota.

New Fur Trade Book

Twilight of the Upper Missouri River Fur Trade: The Journals of Henry A. Boller, is a new book from the State Historical Society of North Dakota.

Twilight of the Upper Missouri River Fur Trade is available for \$21.95, plus tax, from the North Dakota Heritage Center Museum Store or by contacting Museum Stores Manager Rhonda Brown at (701) 328-2822, email rhbrown@nd.gov, or order online at www.nd.gov/hist/MuseumStore.

For more, see the story on page 19.



Plains Talk is published quarterly by the State Historical Society of North Dakota (SHSND), North Dakota Heritage Center, 612 East Boulevard Avenue, Bismarck, ND 58505. Telephone (701) 328-2666. Website www.nd.gov/hist. Merlan E. Paaverud, Jr., Director; Richard E. Collin, *Plains Talk* Editor; Deborah K. Hellman, *Plains Talk* Assistant Editor; Kathleen Davison, SHSND Editor; Bonnie T. Johnson, SHSND Assistant Editor. *Plains Talk* is a benefit to members of the SHSND Foundation. Direct correspondence or requests for copies to the editor at the address listed above. This information is available in other formats. Please allow two weeks' lead time.

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