



# History

## NOTES

## SOUTH DAKOTA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY: ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2017

Your South Dakota State Historical Society has gone through many changes since its creation in 1901. In the inaugural volume of the *South Dakota Historical Collections* series, Secretary Doane Robinson reported the society spent \$1,128.68 annually—half of which was for his salary. Today, we have a budget of \$5.7 million and 36 employees. Robinson also reported that the society needed “rooms” in the old wooden state capitol, a much different situation from the Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre and Archaeological Research Center in Rapid City from which we operate today.

Our mission to collect, preserve, interpret and promote the history of South Dakota has not changed. In that first annual report, Robinson stated, “It seems scarcely necessary to argue the value of the work of a historical society. . . . Liberal appropriations are made annually by the legislation for instruction in our state institutions, in ancient and foreign history, and it seems as paradox that the history of our own commonwealth should be neglected, or so scantily provided for, that research is crippled or carried forward at private expense.”

Robinson’s comments are echoed today by your State Historical Society and other local history-related groups that seek to promote the value of our history to ourselves, our communities and our future. Through the offices of archaeology, archives, historic preservation, museum, and research and publishing, the society seeks to reach out to all South Dakotans to share our state history and demonstrate that our understanding of it is essential.

Leadership throughout the state also helps the society service its mission. Gov. Dennis Daugaard re-appointed President Brad Tennant and Tom D. Tobin, the longest-serving member, to the board of trustees. Society

members re-elected Vice President David A. Wolff of Spearfish and Richard D. Harnois of Leola to another three-year term. Other trustees include John D. Fowler, Jefferey A. Hazard, Robert E. Kolbe, Laurie Langland, Jon K. Lauck, Peggy Sanders, Rolene R. Schliesman and Francis Whitebird.

During the 2017 history conference in Sioux Falls, the society presented its annual Governor’s Awards for History. Those honored include Keith L. Crew of Philip with the Individual Award, Marlene Eimers of Redfield with the Teacher of the Year Award, the Arlington Community Museum with the Organizational Award and Jon K. Lauck of Sioux Falls with the Herbert S. Schell Award for best article in *South Dakota History*. This year’s conference also marked the 150th birthday of Laura Ingalls Wilder. The meeting was organized by the Research and Publishing Program and centered on their book, *Pioneer Girl Perspectives: Exploring Laura Ingalls Wilder*, a follow-up to the critically acclaimed *Pioneer Girl: An Annotated Biography*.

The work of the society is supported by membership fees and other earned revenue, in addition to private funding provided through the South Dakota Historical Society Foundation. As a nonprofit organization, the foundation holds non-state funds and assists with fundraising for special projects and events. Key changes in foundation personnel include the retirement of President Michael Lewis and the appointment of Catherine Forsch, the organization’s development director, as president. Melody Schopp, the longest-serving secretary of the Department of Education, retired in December, and Gov. Daugaard appointed Don Kirkegaard as her replacement. The society is a division within the department.

### South Dakota State Historical Society Administrative Staff

Jay D. Vogt, *Director*  
Jeff Mammenga  
Caroline Uecker

### South Dakota State Historical Society Board of Trustees

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### Department of Education

Don Kirkegaard,  
*Secretary*

### Administrative Office:

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## Archaeological Research Center Staff

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*History Notes* is published three times yearly by the South Dakota State Historical Society. *History Notes* is available upon demand on audio tape and large print. Other forms will be considered upon request.

Printed on recycled paper.

There were 2,500 copies of *History Notes* printed at a cost of 49 cents per copy.

## ARCHAEOLOGY

The staff of the Archaeological Research Center had a busy field season in 2017. They conducted about 70 surveys for various state agencies and private contractors doing construction work in the state, with reports on most of these projects completed.

New projects for the year included monitoring and reporting on construction on Highway 18 east of Pine Ridge for the South Dakota Department of Transportation. This work also involved tribal monitors through a cooperative effort with the Oglala Sioux Tribe. A separate monitoring project took place in Deadwood, where staff was also involved in a retaining wall construction project inside the old boundaries of Ingleside Cemetery.

In the fall, several of our archaeologists undertook additional survey work and completed a cultural resource management plan for the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks at Lake Herman State Park. Staff also carried out a National Register of Historic Places evaluation at one of the sites.

Archaeologists also completed the mortuary survey of Brule, Buffalo, Charles Mix, Lyman and Mellette counties in 2017. This project, sponsored by the State Historic Preservation Office, consisted of site visits to 68 known or suspected burial sites on private and state land. Of these sites, 49 were recorded as archaeological sites, including 16 newly identified burial or possible burial sites. The remaining 19 locales are currently designated as unconfirmed site leads.

The repository of the Archaeological Research Center consists of state-owned archaeological collections, as well as collec-

tions held on behalf of various federal agencies. Our staff worked on curation contracts for several organizations, including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). The BIA work included a major overhaul of storage and records for the Stoesser Site (39HU10), located where the Pierre Indian Learning Center now stands. We currently manage nearly 9,000 archaeological collections, including more than 110,000 catalog records and nearly 135,000 photographs, slides and other media. About 2,500 items in the collections are state-owned; the rest are managed under contract for various federal agencies.

The center also maintains records of archaeological sites in the state. In 2017, staff added more than 350 sites to our records and updated more than 450 others. We received nearly 400 archaeological reports from researchers around the state for placement in the research library and carried out over 300 record searches for various agencies. Currently, there are more than 24,000 sites on record and nearly 14,000 reports in the library.

We were active on a number of outreach projects throughout the year. Staff returned to an archaeological survey of state-owned land in Harding County, assisted by Linea Sundstrom and numerous volunteers. The team investigated about 2,500 acres and found or revisited over 140 sites. Staff also worked with a team of volunteers near Roy Lake in northeastern South Dakota and collaborated with archaeologists and students at a Late Prehistoric bison kill site near Ree Heights.



*Staff and students excavate a bison kill site near Ree Heights.*



## ARCHIVES

The State Archives reached 2,003 people in 2017 through site visits, tours, presentations and consultations. Staff gave 43 presentations across the state on topics related to preservation, online resources and genealogical research.

Archives Month, held annually in October, is a national event designed to increase awareness of the services and collections available to researchers. Staff observed Archives Month by hosting three special events in October: History Trivia Night at the St. Charles Lounge in Pierre, a virtual tour of the Scotty Philip Cemetery near Ft. Pierre and a presentation on historical murders in South Dakota.

Other outreach activities included the creation of a display case in the Cultural Heritage Center lobby with photographs and books on the 1917 state legislature; a display

digitized items is now available to the public. The South Dakota Digital Archives website has experienced a growing number of visitors, and photographs are especially popular.

The second round of National Endowment for the Humanities grant funding was received for digitizing an additional one hundred rolls of newspapers on microfilm. Newspapers included are the *Deutscher Herald* of Sioux Falls, the *Lemmon Herald*, the German and English editions of the *Eureka Post*, the *De Smet Leader*, the *Madison Daily Leader* and the *Oglala Light* of Pine Ridge. All will be added to the Chronicling America website before the end of the grant in August 2018.

The archives received 258 new donations this year, totaling 328.15 cubic feet and 4.5 terabytes of records. The library added 124 new books to the collection, and 230 cubic

## State Archives Staff

Chelle Somsen,  
State Archivist  
Sara Casper  
Virginia Hanson  
Sarah Kirchman  
Cherri Reed  
Matthew Reitzel  
Kimberly Smith  
Ken Stewart  
Laura Waack



Matthew Reitzel shares images during the “Murder at the Archives” program.

case in the State Archives Research Room containing a unique image of a tornado dating to 1884; book exhibits on the military, weather and Christmas in South Dakota; and an exhibit in the Education Room of the Cultural Heritage Center featuring photographs of Scotty Philip and his buffalo herd from the South Dakota Digital Archives. History Trivia Nights were also held in April and June, in which participants formed teams and answered questions about South Dakota and United States history for a prize.

In August, we celebrated the tenth anniversary of the South Dakota Digital Archives with the addition of 6,449 images, 17 manuscript collections, the *Wi-Iyohi* bulletin and 2,196 land survey records. A total of 76,462

feet of manuscript and government records were processed and made accessible.

The microfilm unit previously located on the campus of the Mike Durfee Prison in Springfield moved to Pierre this year. The Special Projects Program is now located at the South Dakota Women’s Prison and will continue the same services utilizing inmate labor, with plans to offer more digital services in the future.

## State Historic Preservation Office Staff

Jay D. Vogt,  
*State Historic Preservation Officer*  
Ted Spencer, *Director*  
Liz Almlie  
Jenna Carlson-Dietmeier  
Chris B. Nelson  
Kate Nelson  
Paige Olson  
Cindy Snow  
Katelyn Weber

## HISTORIC PRESERVATION

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) had another busy and exciting year in 2017. One important success story was the joint effort with the Pierre/Fort Pierre Historic Preservation Commission to implement needed site improvements to the Fort Pierre Chouteau site, a National Historic Landmark. An innovative combination of private donations, state funds and grant money funded this \$41,000 project. A new tower, pathway and interpretive panels will enhance the visitor experience and encourage more site traffic. The SHPO also administers maintenance and repair of the Verendrye site in Fort Pierre and the Oahe Chapel located at Oahe Dam near Pierre. Although no state funds are allotted for the upkeep of these sites, our staff continues to keep them clean and well maintained using volunteer hours and labor.

The SHPO continues to work diligently on its core mission areas of nominating important sites to the National Register of Historic Places, implementing financial-incentive programs for preservation, and conducting thorough federal and state evaluations and compliance project reviews. We also travel extensively throughout the state to provide educational presentations, technical site visits and outreach to tribal cultural resource/preservation offices.

In 2017, the Deadwood Fund Grant Program marked its twentieth year of benefiting communities across the state. The SHPO awarded ten grants for preservation projects

for a total of \$123,869. With planned matching funds of \$360,498, the anticipated total public-private investment is \$484,367. The State Property Tax Moratorium financial-incentive program certified fifteen projects in seven counties for the eight-year property tax moratorium for restoration and rehabilitation of historic buildings. Investments in these projects totaled approximately \$6.27 million this year. This program continues to provide property owners with a solid investment in preserving historic residential and commercial buildings within their local communities.

The SHPO recently completed several other projects, including the last of our Mound/Mortuary Surveys, which evaluated five counties for pre-historic mound features. Two new historic district map updates were also completed, one for the West Boulevard neighborhood in Rapid City and the other for the Hot Springs district. Finally, the National Park Service added eight South Dakota properties to the National Register of Historic Places in 2017.

We also welcomed two new staff members to our preservation team this year: Jenna Carlson-Dietmeier as review and compliance specialist and Katelyn Weber as North Region historic preservation specialist. For more information about historic preservation programs, resources, and activities, visit [history.sd.gov/preservation](http://history.sd.gov/preservation) or call (605) 773-3458.



*The State Historic Preservation Office worked with the National Park Service to add the Masonic Temple in Arlington to the National Register of Historic Places in 2017.*

## MUSEUM

The Museum of the South Dakota State Historical Society had a banner year in 2017 through increasing student visitation and creating new ways to connect with our family audience. The staff also built exhibits, reorganized office and work spaces and successfully navigated the transition of employees.

With help from the South Dakota Historical Society Foundation, the museum welcomed outreach coordinator Aidan Brady in January. He immediately went to work with staff on several projects, including the

worked closely with several loans, including the horse effigies from the National Museum of the American Indian and the State Historical Society of North Dakota featured in a special exhibit.

We were especially proud of the success our education kits and traveling exhibit programs enjoyed in 2017. The museum hosted exhibits in 20 locations for 12,400 visitors across the state, and our education kits went to 129 venues serving 9,590 students.

We continued to work closely with the

## Museum of the South Dakota State Historical Society Staff

Jay Smith, *Director*  
Aidan Brady  
Peter Kleinpass  
Ronette Rumpca  
Katy Schmidt



Visitors of all ages enjoy the interactive Spirit of the '70s exhibit at the Cultural Heritage Center.

creation of two programs. Family Fun Saturdays offer a free craft activity for all ages, and the History Explorers Backpacks program provides youth with hands-on projects that they can work on with the help of adults. Nearly 150 families have accessed the backpacks since their inception in late July. Both programs also invite visitors to enjoy the museum exhibits.

In March, our new curator of exhibits, Peter Kleinpass, arrived and lent his expertise to *The Spirit of the '70s* exhibition featuring lava lamps, fondue pots and a disco dance floor alongside the history of the decade's political and social events. Staff also installed two short-term exhibits, *From the Collection: Quilts* and *A Life's Work: Paul Goble Illustrations of American Indian Stories*.

Former intern Katy Schmidt began work as curator of collections in September. She

Smithsonian Institution in 2017. Director Emeritus Brent Glass and curator Frank Blazich with the National Museum of American History gave presentations in Pierre on the importance of historic sites and an individual soldier's experience in the Vietnam War. The museum also invited Smithsonian recording artists Bob and Sheila Everhart to Pierre for a concert at the Capitol Lake Visitor Center in July.

The museum continues to benefit from the generosity of philanthropist Mansour Karim, who set up the Karim Family Cultural Heritage Center Museum Fund through the South Dakota Community Foundation to provide donor-designated financial support.



## Research and Publishing Staff

Nancy Tystad Koupal,  
Director  
Amy Kucera  
Jennifer McIntyre  
Jeanne Kilen Ode  
Judy Uecker  
Andy Walz

## RESEARCH AND PUBLISHING

The Research and Publishing Program produced five titles in 2017, hosted the State Historical Society's annual history conference and looked ahead to new projects for 2018 and beyond.

In January, the South Dakota Historical Society Press released *Paul Goble, Storyteller* by Gregory Bryan. This lavishly illustrated work is based on interviews with Goble, an internationally known author and illustrator whose works feature American Indian themes.

*Pioneer Girl Perspectives: Exploring Laura Ingalls Wilder* edited by Research and Publishing director Nancy Tystad Koupal debuted in April at the 2017 State Historical Society History Conference in Sioux Falls. Noted scholars contributed essays to the volume and participated in the conference, which Research and Publishing staff organized.

In September, *Fort Tecumseh and Fort Pierre Chouteau: Journal and Letter Books, 1830-1850* came off the press. Editors Michael M. Casler and W. Raymond Wood transcribed and annotated the rare fur-trade documents, which were published in their entirety for the first time.

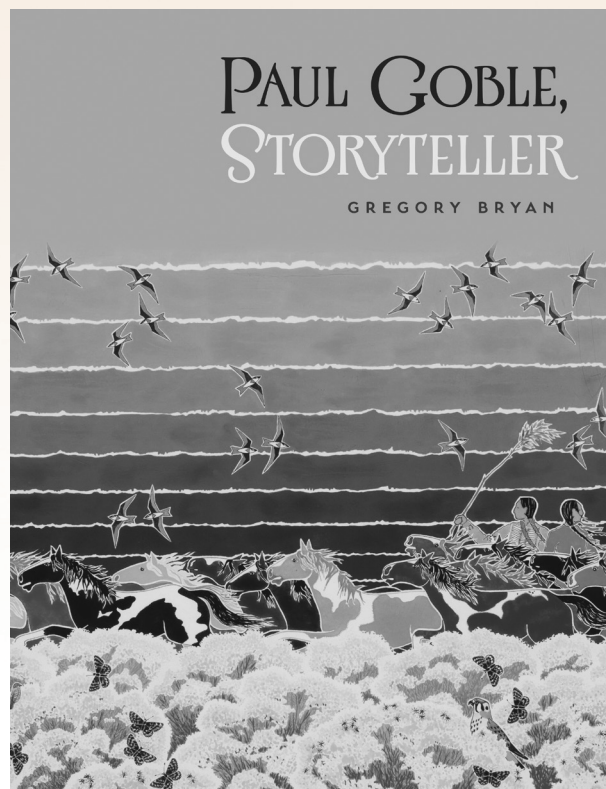
*Muskrat and Skunk, Sinkpe na Maka: A Lakota Drum Story* came off the press in October. Written and illustrated by Donald F. Montileaux with a Lakota translation by Agnes Gay, this book for children retells the traditional Lakota story of the origins of the drum.

*Glorious Fourth of July and Other Stories from the Plains* became available to readers in December. Featuring charming "memory paintings" by Catherine Rademacher Gibson and stories recounted by her daughter Mary Gibson Sprague, the book showcases the life of one plains family in the early 1900s.

Editorial work began on *Early Churches in South Dakota: A Lasting Legacy* by Robert Sebesta, a photographic survey of surviving church structures built prior to 1930, and Gary Clayton Anderson's *Gabriel Renville: From the Dakota War to the Creation of the Sisseton-Wahpeton Reservation, 1825-1892*, the first biography of the influential leader. Editorial work was completed for the young-adult biography *Born Criminal: Matilda*

*Joslyn Gage, Rebel Suffragist* by Angelica Shirley Carpenter. All three books will be published in 2018. Development continued for two additional titles focusing on woman suffrage, and research began for the third Pioneer Girl Project publication, *Pioneer Girl: The Revised Texts*.

*South Dakota History*, the society's quarterly journal, completed its 47th year of pub-



lication. Among this year's highlights were articles on women in health care and full issues on the 1972 Rapid City flood and sod houses in northwestern South Dakota. The program also published three issues of the *History Notes* newsletter and maintained the Pioneer Girl Project website, [pioneer-girl-project.org](http://pioneer-girl-project.org).

After a lengthy review process, the South Dakota Historical Society Press was accepted as an affiliate member of the Association of American University Presses in 2017. The association is an internationally recognized organization of publishers committed to the highest caliber of research-based scholarship.

Follow the progress of current and forthcoming projects on Facebook and Twitter. For a current catalog, visit the South Dakota Historical Society Press website, [sdhspress.com](http://sdhspress.com).

# STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY DONORS, 2017

The South Dakota State Historical Society is pleased to receive donations of books, manuscripts, photographs, artifacts and services. The society thanks the following individuals and organizations for contributing to the preservation of South Dakota's heritage through their generous gifts to the archives and museum collections.

Jim Ackerman	Nancy Foust	Mary Nere	Ken Stewart
Karen Allen	Lynette Fredericksen	Louise and Steven Nesvold	Susan Stoneback
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# STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY VOLUNTEERS, 2017

Volunteers help to preserve and interpret South Dakota's history as they greet, guide, research and perform other vital tasks for the South Dakota State Historical Society. The society thanks the following individuals for sharing their time and talents at the Cultural Heritage Center, Archaeological Research Center and various archaeological sites.

Augustana University  
students and faculty

Karen Authier

Carol Axtman

Jack Baker

Jennifer Baker

Mike Baker

Patrick Baker

Rich Berg

Anna Bondy

Megan Bordewyk

Kris Bradley

Lois Byrum

Mike Chamberlain

Doyle Crume

Gary Cutler

Darrel Dehne

Andy Deis

Jan Deis

Betsey DeLoache

Margaret Ellefson

Bill Englehart

Trudy Evenstadt

Michelle Flaherty

Rose Fosha

Don Gaarder

Bob Gill

Laurie Gill

Jim Glover

Mary Jo Gourneau

Connie Grittner

Lori Hall

Terry Hall

Jenn Hanna

Laura Hayden-Moreland

Jackie Hilding

Priscilla Hofer

Lila Houck

Sarah Iverson

Carol Jennings

Allan Johnson

Bruce Johnson

Ken Larsen

Cathi Lester

Joann Lonbaken

Gail Lyngstad

Amy McGinn

Megan Maier

Kirby Mammenga

Kyle Mammenga

Eliza Mayer

Mark Mayer

Betty Meintsma

Joanne Merkel

Gloria Merriam

Beverly Mickelson

Jay Mickelson

Marlys Nelleremoe

Molly Nolte

John Olson

Lyle Parks

Doris Powell

Jackie Radway

Judy Rapp

Earl Reinhart

Matt Remmick

Art Rezac

Ardys Roseland

Jeanne Schweigert

Chuck Sharp

Clara Shelbourn

Jeff Shelton

Barb Sogaard

Pat Tarrant

Bob Travis

University of South Dakota

students and faculty

Gloria Welk

Terry Yun



*Museum volunteer Bob Travis shows visitors how to pan for gold during the Holiday Open House at the Cultural Heritage Center.*



## South Dakota Historical Society Foundation

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Greg Risse  
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### Administrative Staff

Michael Lewis,  
*President*  
Lisa Bondy  
Holly Crosby  
Dorinda Daniel  
Catherine Forsch

## FOUNDATION

The board, staff and volunteers of the South Dakota Historical Society Foundation, the partner organization of the State Historical Society, thank you for your membership and philanthropic support in 2017. Together, we ensure that the power of history continues to help all of us learn from the past and chart a bright future.

In 2017, private support allowed us to help the society's professionally trained archives staff digitize priceless images of our heritage. In this ongoing project, staff carefully scan, identify and catalog glass-plate negatives and photographic prints. Today, over 60,000 images are now searchable by keyword and freely available in the online digital archive. In the Museum of the South Dakota State Historical Society, generous individuals provided the funds necessary for exhibit updates. Our goal is to engage the imaginations of our visitors through the use of interactive displays and provide fun ways to discover history. Look for those updates in 2018.

This past year saw an increase in members joining at the Heritage Circle leadership levels of \$125 and above for a total of 403 memberships. If you are not yet a Heritage Circle member and have the ability to increase your level of annual giving to \$125 or more, your membership will help

us expand our efforts. You will provide tools for classrooms statewide, traveling exhibits, staff to digitize collections and much more.

In September, the foundation held a western collectibles auction at the Dakota Western Heritage Festival in Fort Pierre. We anticipate that the auction will become an annual event. If you have western collectibles to donate, please send them our way for the 2018 auction.

At year's end, Michael Lewis announced his retirement as president of the foundation, and Development Director Catherine Forsch was selected to fill the position. She brings experience in both for-profit and nonprofit management and development.

Over the course of the next year, we will look to our devoted supporters to help with projects such as updating the lighting and carpeting in the museum, funding the creation of a new exhibit, providing resources to digitize additional images, and aiding in the publication and promotion of three new books on the woman suffrage movement.

We could not do this work without you. Thank you again for supporting the State Historical Society through the South Dakota Historical Foundation. To donate or learn more, visit [sdhsf.org/donate](http://sdhsf.org/donate). The foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization.



*John E. Miller signs a copy of Pioneer Girl Perspectives: Exploring Laura Ingalls Wilder. He was one of ten contributors to the book featured at the meet-the-authors event organized by the foundation and hosted by Koch Hazard Architects.*

# SOUTH DAKOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY FOUNDATION

We would like to thank the following donors for their support of the programs of the South Dakota State Historical Society through their generous contributions to the South Dakota Historical Society Foundation in 2017.

## ***Over \$10,000***

Anonymous  
Ruth Schmidt

## ***\$5,000 - \$9,999***

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David & Mary Hartley

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Jeff & Katie Scherschilgt  
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Mary Lou Wilhelm

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Mitchell & Sarah Aldinger  
American Bank and Trust  
American Legion-Pierre  
Reuben Bareis  
Keith & Glynn Bartels

Gloria Bauske  
Monty Bechtold  
Benedictine Sisters  
Tim & Bonnie Bjork  
Robert & Angie Bomier  
CorTrust Bank  
Richard & Sharon Cutler  
De Smet Farm Mutual Insurance  
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First Premier Bank  
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Allan Hins  
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Dennis & Carolyn Hopfinger  
Lila Houck  
Ingalls Homestead  
Craig Johnson  
Ronald Johnson  
Bill & Ruth Jones  
Ralph & Maxine Jones  
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Tom Lillibridge, long-time member and past president of the South Dakota Historical Society Foundation Board of Directors, died Aug. 26, 2017. Lillibridge, of Burke, SD, was instrumental in leading the efforts to raise \$2.5 million to complete the installation of Phases II and III of the capital campaign for the South Dakota State Historical Society. During his tenure, the foundation board oversaw the installation of all three permanent galleries in the Museum of the South Dakota State Historical Society in the Cultural Heritage Center. Under his leadership, the foundation raised an additional \$2.5 million to fund projects such as traveling exhibits, classroom education kits, upgrading the accessibility of State Archives resources and establishing the South Dakota Historical Society Press. The foundation also established an endowment to continue the legacy of enriching the programs of the State Historical Society. We are grateful to Lillibridge and his wife, Cindy, who have contributed generously to the annual and capital giving programs of the foundation.

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Membership gifts of \$125 or more are recognized in our Heritage Circle leadership donor society. These members enjoy exclusive benefits while ensuring that the history of our state is collected, preserved and shared through exhibits, education programs, special events and publications that bring our history alive. We thank the following individuals and organizations for their Heritage Circle supporting membership in 2017.

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