



# SOUTH DAKOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY FOUNDATION

Rapid City Historic Pres. Comm.  
Accts Pay, City Finance Office  
300 6th St  
Rapid City, SD 57701-2724

Dear Sir or Madam,

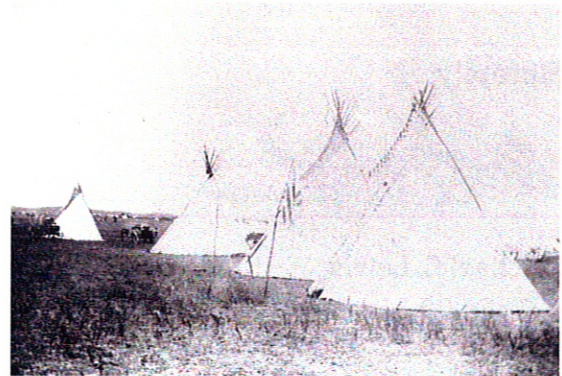
In 1901, the State Historical Society began the South Dakota Historical Collections. In Volume 1, Gov. Charles Herreid commented: "Let the life history of the old settlers be written and preserved as part of the history of the wonderful growth and marvelous development of the region." He quoted Carlyle, "Let the record be made of men and things today lest they pass out of memory tomorrow and are lost. Then perpetuate them, not upon wood or stone, that crumbles to dust, but chronicle in picture and in words that endure forever." After 125 years of statehood, the purpose and direction of the State Historical Society and its nonprofit partner, the South Dakota Historical Society Foundation, has not changed. The work to collect, preserve, research, interpret and promote our state's history ensures South Dakota's history is available for the enjoyment of residents and visitors.



On November 2, 2014, South Dakota officially celebrates its 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a state. Gov. Dennis Daugaard explained, "Our state's 125<sup>th</sup> birthday is a great opportunity for us to celebrate our state, understand our history and heritage, and do something good for future generations." Gov. Daugaard signed a proclamation declaring this anniversary year as the Cultural Heritage Center Year, as it celebrates a 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Many communities have or will recognize the anniversary with events such as the Yankton to Pierre wagon train and the restoration and cleaning of the State Capitol stained glass. The State Historical Society is busy with challenging projects during this anniversary year including:

- A recently opened art exhibit by Lakota artist Arthur Amiotte;
- The Sioux Horse Effigy is part of an international exhibit of Plains Indian Art now in Paris, France, returning later this year to Kansas City;
- A new exhibit ***Play Ball! The National Pastime in South Dakota*** will open in October to showcase this part of our state's history; and
- ***Pioneer Girl***, the autobiography of Laura Ingalls Wilder early this fall.



*This photograph was taken at the Fourth of July at Pine Ridge in 1901, the year the South Dakota State Historical Society was founded. Photo Courtesy of the South Dakota State Historical Society – State Archives.*

**SOUTH DAKOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY FOUNDATION**  
CULTURAL HERITAGE CENTER • 900 GOVERNORS DR • PIERRE • SD • 57501  
605.773.3458  
WWW.SDHSF.ORG



## SOUTH DAKOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY FOUNDATION

More than 66 percent of the work of the Society is funded by grants, donations, memberships, and user fees. As a result, the partnership between the Society and Foundation, and your donor and member support is even more important. Your continued support helps make sure projects and the work of the State Historical Society will be achieved. Doane Robinson, the first secretary of the Historical Society in 1902, commented: "It seems scarcely necessary to argue the value of the work of a historical society from the standpoint of education and good citizen making. It seems a paradox that history of our own commonwealth should be neglected, or so scantily provided for, that research is crippled or carried forward at private expense." Today that need is no different. Donor and private funding are still critical in completing the work of the State Historical Society.



*This photograph is of the Chicago, Milwaukee and Saint Paul train and depot at Mitchell in 1901. Photo Courtesy of the South Dakota State Historical Society - State Archives.*

After 125 years of statehood, we hope you'll consider including the South Dakota Historical Society Foundation in your giving plans by contributing to our Annual Fund. The needs are as great as they have ever been. Charitable contributions are fully deductible within the limits of the law. Your support has been instrumental in the past. Your support for current and future projects will ensure our continued success and provide the benefit of maintaining access to our state's history well into the future. A gift of **\$100, \$250, or \$500** will ensure that the preservation projects of the State Historical Society continue.

We also hope you would consider including the South Dakota Historical Society Foundation in your long-term giving as we have developed a Planned Giving Program. I would welcome an opportunity to discuss our new program as well as our Legacy Circle recognition program. Your support is instrumental to our success, and it is deeply appreciated.

Sincerely,

Michael C. Lewis  
President