

Research and Publishing Program Report, June 2023

SDHS PRESS

Craig Walters joined our team in late May when the school year ended. After teaching 8th grade creative writing in Pierre for a number of years, he is happy to be surrounded by adults. We have also hired a freelance part-time social media consultant, Taylor Blumer, who is a graduate student in the publishing program at North Dakota State University. Slater, Sarah, and I are grateful to have their help. It's been a long four months with just the three of us on staff.

SDHS Press staff have attended several education-centered conferences recently, including the South Dakota Christian Homeschoolers Conference and the South Dakota Department of Education Civics and History Summit, where Dedra Birzer gave a presentation on using primary sources in elementary grades. Many of our books lend themselves well to classroom adoption. In late June, staff will attend the Western Writers of America conference, where we will receive the Spur Award for *American Ace: Joe Foss, Fighter Pilot. A Place for Harvest: The Story of Kenny Higashi* was a Spur Award finalist. Dedra Birzer will participate in a panel on publishing and a panel on writing about South Dakota. Also, the South Dakota Center for the Book has selected *A Place for Harvest* to represent our state on the "Great Reads from Great Places" list at the Library of Congress National Book Festival, August 12 in Washington D.C.

Our three Spring 2023 books have arrived from the printer and have been released. *Bighorn Visions: The Photography of Jessamine Spear Johnson* is a beautiful book of rare early twentieth century photos taken by a Wyoming rancher of her Crow and Cheyenne neighbors, ranching activities, and Bighorn Mountains landscapes. *Pioneer Girl: The Path into Fiction* is the third volume of the Pioneer Girl Project. It traces the journey of Laura Ingalls Wilder and Rose Wilder Lane from the matter-of-fact autobiographical "Pioneer Girl" manuscript to the publication of the fictionalized juvenile novel, *Little House in the Big Woods*. *Sacajawea: Mystery, Myth, and Legend* is the eighth volume in the South Dakota Biography Series. Author Candy Moulton reads between the lines of Corps of Discovery journals and letters to fill in details of the famous Shoshone woman's life. Marketing efforts for these three books are well underway, including a book release event on June 22 at the High Plains Western Heritage Center in Spearfish.

SDHS Press and SDHS Foundation staff continue to plan and host monthly "History Talks," a virtual author speaker series. Our goal with "History Talks" is to feature programs of the SDSHS, including SHPO and Archives staff and SDHS Press authors. These programs are held on the second Thursday of the month at 7 pm central on Zoom. Attendance has varied in recent months from 14 to 61.

Our three Fall 2023 books are either at the printer or in the final stages of design. These include *Bob Marshall: Defender of the Wilderness*, an illustrated children's book; *Football for Fun: The Story of Coach Stewart "Fergie" Ferguson*; and *Unrepentant Dakota Woman: Angelique Renville and the Search for Indigenous Identity, 1845-1876*.

SOUTH DAKOTA HISTORY

The Summer 2023 issue of *South Dakota History* will be mailed out to Historical Society members on July 6. It features articles on the response of German language newspapers to anti-German sentiment during the first World War; Swedish immigrant and Latter-Day Saint missionary Ivar Sandborg; a history of the anthem of the plains, "Little Old Sod Shanty on the

Claim;” and Joseph Bottum’s speech from the April 2023 SDSHS History Conference Governor’s Award Luncheon, titled “The Place of History.”

HISTORY NOTES

The Summer issue of the History Notes newsletters is currently being compiled. It will be mailed out to members in early August.