

Update on Archives for August, September, and October 2023 Board of Trustees Meeting December 2023

Digitization Project. There are 71,634 images, 1,288 maps, and 14,168.pdfs available in the South Dakota Digital Archives. Digitization and cataloging work included the Henry J. King collection of steamboat photos and the photographs in the P boxes.

Outreach 332 people were reached between August and October through presentations and consultations by the archives staff. The archives staff provided consultations with private individuals about care of collections, the Aurora County Clerk of Courts, the South Dakota Genealogical Society, the Mellette County Equalization Office, Auditor's Office and Register of Deeds, the Crazy Horse monument library, the Lead-Deadwood School district, the South Dakota State Library, the Minnehaha County Human Services Office, the Belle Fourche School, and the Moody County Clerk of Courts.

Other outreach activities include:

- Matthew Reitzel gave a talk for History Talks on August 10th on the Neller Journal and the same presentation at the Rawlins Public Library in Pierre on August 22nd.
- Virginia Hanson gave genealogical presentations to the Rapid City Society for Genealogical Research on August 17th and the SD Daughters of the American Revolution on August 26th.
- Virginia Hanson covered the SD Genealogical Society table at the State Fair that had a table display about the South Dakota State Archives. She also gave two presentations at the State Fair on "Finding Jakob Kinna, a Case file for finding a burial for a Civil War Soldier in South Dakota" and "Online resources for genealogical research."
- KELO- Land ran a story about a film that we have in our archival collection. The Fretheim family traveled to Mount Rushmore in 1939 and took video footage. What was interesting is that they were able to climb the back stairs and stand on the top of Mount Rushmore which is no longer allowed.
- Sara Casper, Matthew Reitzel and Chelle Somsen selected archival items for Dan Moeckly to film as part of a grant the Foundation received to create video footage of museum and archives collections. The film footage will be used for marketing and promotional endeavors.
- Matthew Reitzel gave a virtual presentation to a Mitchell 8th grade class on September 1st.
- Virginia Hanson gave presentations at the Madison Public Library on "What to keep, what to throw," and a presentation at Rawlins Public Library on the "History and Mysteries of Cemeteries."
- Nicole Hosette assisted Katy Schmidt at the Halloween trick or treat table at the Northridge Plaza on October 29th.

- Mathew Reitzel presented at the Potter County Library in Gettysburg on October 26th on the Neller Journal.

Archives Month

Archives Month was celebrated during the month of October. The catch phrase was To: South Dakota From: History. A postcard was sent to the membership with an image of Doane Robinson. The objective was to get the membership to engage in a Flat Doane activity of taking a picture of Doane with a historical building, such as a post office, archives or museum. FlatDoane images were shared or sent to us by 48 different individuals and organizations in 11 states and two countries. Electronic Records day was held on October 10th to educate the public on the importance of taking care of digital records. #AskAnArchivist Day was held on October 11th. Followers were encouraged to ask archivists any question and particularly send questions to the state archives @SDArchives. Matthew Reitzel recorded a presentation about the most recent manuscript accessions, and it premiered on YouTube on October 19th. A History Trivia night was held on October 30th at the St. Charles Lounge at 7:00 p.m. with thirty people in attendance.

Personnel

Chelle Somsen prepared a major budget request for two FTE's so that Sarah Kirchman and Cherri Reed can move from Foundation employees to state employees. The request is before the Department of Education division of finance and management for review. This request is pending, and Chelle is answering questions as they arise. Nicole Hosette was out on medical leave from 8/11 to 9/11. Chelle Somsen conducted employee reviews on October 17th for seven state employees. Kevin DeVries was out of the office on vacation from October 23rd through November 2nd. The remaining staff had to distribute his work: answering phones, answering email, performing research, and distributing the mail which decreased the productivity for processing and cataloging of collections for that time.

Statistics for August 2023-October 2023

The Archives received 30 gifts and transfers totaling 24.15 cubic feet and 242.43 MB. One hundred seventy collections totaling 50.4 cubic feet and 1,117.56 MB were processed. Archives staff handled a total of 857 reference requests by mail, telephone, or email.

AWARDS/HONORS: None

ALERTS: None