



To: South Dakota State Historical Society Board of Trustees
South Dakota Historical Society Foundation Board

From: Catherine Forsch, CEO
South Dakota Historical Society Foundation
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Subject: Foundation Board Updates

Date: May 13, 2026

Chief Spotted Tail Headdress Conservation Project

We are pleased to report on the successful completion of the conservation and storage project for the 171-year-old eagle feather headdress of Lakota leader Chief Spotted Tail. Grant funding from the Mary Chilton DAR Foundation supported the professional cleaning, stabilization, and long-term preservation of this nationally significant artifact.

Lt. Gov. Carole Hillard Collection

Carole Hillard was South Dakota's first female lieutenant governor and served under Governor Bill Janklow from 1995 to 2003. She later worked as an international consultant for the U.S. Department of State and other organizations, promoting democracy building projects in developing nations. The Deadwood Historic Preservation Commission's Outside of Deadwood grant helped partially fund the digitization of Carole Hillard's letters, awards and certificates, photographs, speeches, newspaper clippings, and other documents representing her life in politics and public service. Images are available at [South Dakota Digital Archives](#).

Campaign Kick-off & State Museum Ribbon Cutting – July 1

Please join us as we celebrate the opening of the museum's first three newly completed exhibits, an exciting milestone made possible by the generosity of early campaign donations. Member Sneak Peek at 3 PM followed by the program and ribbon cutting at 4 PM. Donors will receive a special invite for extended tour hours and an evening social.

June 1-3 SD History Conference & Governor's Awards for History supported by the Foundation

- Go online to register www.sdhsf.org/events. Full registration includes Trivia on Monday evening; all conference presentations on Tuesday and Wednesday; refreshment breaks; Tuesday lunch and evening Networking Social; a museum tour; Wednesday Governor's History Awards Luncheon and keynote address.
- Please join me in thanking our latest conference sponsors: Americans for Prosperity, Northridge Plaza, State Bar of South Dakota, and Agnes Whitlock Land Trust. We continue to seek financial support for sessions (\$1,500), Please contact Catherine Forsch if you know of someone that may be interested in supporting South Dakota history.

- We hope you can join the Foundation and State Historical Society staff for the **History Unwinded Networking Social – Tuesday, June 2 from 5PM – 7PM**. Enjoy an evening sipping and snacking, connecting with friends, and sharing stories...followed by a peek of our new exhibits led by our very own Francis Whitebird, David Grabitske, and Dan Moeckly. A ticket to this event is included with your full registration. Remember to purchase a ticket for your guest at www.sdhsf.org/events. Go to the History Conference registration and look for “Single Ticket - Tuesday Evening Social.”

Spring fundraising campaign - If you find yourself in the fortunate position of being able to make a charitable gift this spring, please consider a gift to help preserve South Dakota’s history. www.sdhsf.org/donate

Please consider a gift to help support these important projects:

- “150 years of Commemorating the Battle of the Little Bighorn” by Sandy Barnard
- “Kylie and the Very Old Cat” by Linda Marshall (children’s picture book, true story about Badlands fossil find by an 8-year-old girl)
- “Dust, Drought, and Creativity: North Dakota Folk Art in the 1930s” by Susan Wefald.
- “General William Beadle” (graphic style biography) - written by Justin Blessinger, illustrated by Hector Curriel
- “Following the Footsteps of Laura Ingalls Wilder” by Nancy Tystad Koupal (final volume of Pioneer Girl Project)
- “Buffalo Bill” by Bob Madison (South Dakota Biography Series)
- “Halháta and Ptéňčaka – Magpie and Bison” (Lakota language version board book)
- David Wolff’s Black Hills History Tours (volume 4 & volume 5)

Adopt a collection in the State Archives

Please help us to identify prospects to adopt a digital collection in the State Archives. By adopting a collection, you will preserve South Dakota’s stories told through local photographs and documents. For more information go to www.sdhsf.org/donate/special_projects/saving-sd-digital-collections.html or call Chelle Somsen/Catherine Forsch.

Gifts for birthdays, weddings, anniversaries, etc.

Don’t forget to purchase your South Dakota gifts from the Heritage stores run by the Foundation. As a State Historical Society member, you receive a 10% discount on store purchases. Call Juli if you need assistance placing your order. 605-773-6001 www.sdhsf.org/store/shopnow.html

Upcoming Events

History Talks 7pm CT / 6pm MT

Register at www.sdhsf.org/events

- June 9** – 150 years since the Battle of the Little Big Horn
- July 14** – George Washington: Citizen, Soldier, Statesman
- Aug. 11** – South Dakota Historic Preservation