**MUSEUM OF THE SOUTH DAKOTA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

SDSHS Board of Trustees Report

September 12, 2025

David Grabitske, Assistant Director and Museum Director

**Education**

Staff on their way to a requested evening meeting at the Lake Norden Historical Society paid visits to the Rural Life Museum (Howard), Lake County Historical Society (Madison), Brookings County Historical Society (Volga), Arlington Community Museum, Coddington County Historical Society (Watertown), Willow Lake Historical Society, Clear Lake Historical Society, and Spink County Historical Society (Redfield). Visits were arranged by availability of staff.

**Exhibition**

Staff palletized and sent salvaged museum property to auction that will benefit the Foundation for the purpose of funding the new gallery.

Staff has reviewed the construction documents from ISG. There will be one more review to ensure everything asked for is accounted.

Plans have been firming up for the 250 exhibit that opens in July 2026, titled “Grit and Glory: America’s 250th.”

**Collections**

All of the photos that have been made of the collection are now uploaded in Collector Systems. Remaining objects to be photographed have been identified. Further data clean up is needed to ensure locations are correct before launching the database to the public.

Staff went to Kadoka to view a private collection; and, then provide advice as the family considers what is best for their father’s collection.

The following is a list of recent actions by the Collections Management Committee and offered collections were evaluated using the board-authorized collection rubric.

1. Is the object authentic?

2. Is the object relevant to the museum’s mission?

3. Can the museum acquire clear title?

4. Does the object have good provenance?

5. Would the object be redundant?

6. What is the condition of the object?

* Crystal Harris, horse hide lap robe blanket, used in Delmont, 1890s.  
   **Action**: Accept for the Permanent Collection.
* Lori Loberg, glass bottle from the South Dakota Sanitorium for Tuberculosis, used in Hot Springs, date unknown.  
  **Action:**  Accept for Permanent Collection.
* Timberlake Museum, token for Durfee and Peck store (face value $1.00), used on the Missouri River near Timberlake, date unknown.

**Action**: Reject for Permanent Collection as the Society has over 600 similar tokens.

* Shelby Philips, handmade dish towel set (1960s-1970s) and two handmade plush toy puppies (1950s-1960s) created by Angeline Barnes (an ancestor of the donor), made in Alpina.

**Action**: Accept only the plush toy puppies for the Permanent Collection.

* Gail Hardy, Grand Army of the Republic attendance pin, given to veterans in Watertown, 1910.

**Action**: Accept on condition of a second redundancy check for Permanent Collection.

* Merlyn DeBoer, mail wagon, used in South Dakota, 1917.

**Action**: Recommend the South Dakota Agricultural Museum as a better steward. Reject for Permanent Collection.

* Paul Miller, Democratic Party issued vest to delegates (his) with political buttons, from Pierre, 2004.

**Action**: Accept for Permanent Collection.

* Carter Sanderson, Team South Dakota hockey jersey, Pierre, 2021

**Action**: Accept for Permanent Collection. Sanderson is the first South Dakotan drafted in the National Hockey League.

* Iva Southerland, collection (punchwork cushion, broaches, lace tablecloth, lace baby yoke, lace tape, two necklaces), Hays, 1890s-1930s

**Action**: Accept the buttons, baby yoke, and lace tape for the Education Collection, but reject the remainder.

* Mark Bierwagen, Gilbert G. Bierwagen WWII dress uniform (coat, pants, hat, shirt, necktie, ribbons), 1941-1945

**Action**: Accept for Permanent Collection on condition of eventual deaccession of other incomplete coats with no provenance This uniform adds to those of his father (Walter Bierwagen) and brother (Norman Bierwagen) already in the collection.

* Milo Dwight, signature quilt, Oerlicks, 1930.

**Action**: Reject for the Permanent Collection as there are 111 quilted items, 3 of which are signature quilts.

* Janeen Trevillyan, collection (Owanka Garage Sign, Kingsbury Grocery promotional thermometer, and Superior Creamery sign), Vale, 1920s-1930s

**Action**: Accept the Owanka sign for Permanent Collection, reject the remainder.

* Hogan Family, Marvis Hogan Collection (personal brand boots, promotional bucket, cow weaning flap, throw pillow, sample of aluminum cookware), Kadoka, 1930s-1980s.

**Action**: Accept for all but aluminum cookware Permanent Collection.

* Alisa Bousa, vintage dress, Pierre, 1910s.

**Action**: Reject for Permanent Collection as a former prop of Pierre Players with no discernable provenance.

* Shelby Phillips, homespun Raggedy Ann Doll, Alpina.

**Action**: Accept for Permanent Collection.

Submitted by

David M. Grabitske, DBA, MPNA

Assistant Director and Museum Director