

Research and Publishing Program Report, September 2023

SDHS PRESS

In late June, SDHS Press Director Dedra Birzer attended the Western Writers of America conference, where she participated in a panel on publishing and a panel on writing about South Dakota. Dedra got to cheer for SDHS Press author/illustrator Hector Curriel as he received the Spur Award for *American Ace: Joe Foss, Fighter Pilot* at the WWA Spur Awards banquet. The children's book *A Place for Harvest: The Story of Kenny Higashi* was a Spur Award finalist. Also, the South Dakota Center for the Book selected *A Place for Harvest* to represent our state as the "Great Reads from Great Places" finalist at the Library of Congress National Book Festival, held August 12 in Washington D.C.

Our three Fall 2023 books have arrived from the printer and will be released in September prior to the South Dakota Festival of Books. *Bob Marshall: Defender of the Wilderness* is a delightfully illustrated children's biography about the largely unknown naturalist responsible for the 1963 Wilderness Act. Completely on his own, Marshall saved 5 million acres of American wilderness. *Football for Fun: The Story of Coach Stewart "Fergie" Ferguson* is a rollicking tale of the Mitchell native's career. Before becoming a much beloved football coach at Deadwood High, Fergie and his Arkansas A&M football team became national celebrities with their antics-oriented football style (think Harlem Globetrotters but with more antics than skill). *Unrepentant Dakota Woman: Angelique Renville and the Struggle for Indigenous Identity, 1845-1876* examines Renville's life through her extant writings. A ward of missionaries Stephen and Mary Riggs, Angelique Renville attended a female seminary in Ohio in the early 1860s, where she kept a journal and wrote numerous letters, providing historians with a rare treasure trove of writings by a Dakota woman. The U.S.-Dakota War altered the trajectory of Renville's life as she dealt with the consequences of the violence. Renville's transcribed documents are included in the book. Marketing efforts for these three books are well underway.

Authors of all six 2023 SDHS Press books will be speaking and signing copies of their books at the Festival of Books in Deadwood, Sept. 22-24. Press staff will be there, too. Staff will also attend the South Dakota Library Association Conference, the Northern Great Plains History Conference, the West River History Conference, and the Plains Archeology Conference.

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. Videos of the talks are available on SDHS Foundation's YouTube channel. The July presentation by Candy Moulton on her new SDHS Press book, *Sacajawea* and the August presentation by archivist Matthew Reitzel on the 1933 hitchhiking Neller family were fascinating and well attended.

SOUTH DAKOTA HISTORY

The Summer 2023 issue of *South Dakota History* was mailed out to Historical Society members in early July. 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." The Fall 2023 issue will focus on the 50th

anniversary of the Wounded Knee occupation by AIM in 1973 and includes articles by Kelly O'Dea, Sam Herley, and Ben Jones, along with a photo essay with an introduction and captions by Akim Reinhardt.

HISTORY NOTES

The Summer issue of the History Notes newsletters was mailed out to members in early August. The Fall issue will be mailed out in late November.