

## Research and Publishing Program Report, March 2024

### SDHS PRESS

Research and Publishing staff spent the winter months readying manuscripts for publication, welcoming a new team member, bidding farewell to and working to replace another team member, and nominating our publications for prizes. We are extremely proud to have won multiple awards for 2023 SDHS Press books and journal articles. *Football for Fun* won the American Writing Award in the sports category; *Bighorn Visions* won the Wrangler Award from the National Cowboy Hall of Fame; *Sacajawea* received a Spur Award from the Western Writers of America for best biography; *Unrepentant Dakota Woman* was a finalist in that same category; and the fur trade dogs article from the Spring 2023 issue of our *South Dakota History* journal won the Spur Award for best short non-fiction work.

Taylor Blumer joined us in January as marketing director and associate editor. Taylor's position is administered under the SDHS Foundation. He replaces Jennifer McIntyre, who left our staff in May 2022 for a new challenge at the SD Discovery Center. Taylor has already made an enormous difference in our book and journal marketing efforts.

Taylor's first day was accounting assistant Sarah Dozier's last day. After just over three years with our staff, Sarah accepted a position with a federal agency. We took this opportunity to reclassify the position as Inventory Manager (much closer to the actual duties involved) and conducted a successful job search. Melinda Frank will be joining us in early June, after the school year ends and her teachers' union contract is up. In the meantime, associate editor Craig Walters has done an admirable job of managing orders, though he will happily return to editing when the time comes.

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, Museum, and Archives staff and SDHS Press authors. Video recordings of the talks are available on SDHS Foundation's YouTube channel. The 2024 History Talks schedule includes authors of a mix of older and newer SDHS Press books. January's History Talks featured the creative team behind our 2024 children's picture book, "Georgia Jipp: Blizzard Pilot." In February, noted historian Gary Clayton Anderson provided a wide-ranging summary of his writing career, with a focus on his SDHS Press biography of Gabriel Renville. March's event features Angelica Shirley Carpenter, author of the SDHS Press biography of Matilda Joslyn Gage and of our children's picture book, *Voice of Liberty*. These two books were part of SDHS Press's celebration of the centennial of women's suffrage in 2020. On April 9, Paul Higbee will give a presentation on Doolittle Raider Don Smith, based on Higbee's SDHS Press book, *First Strike*.

SDHS Press has released its first 2024 book, *Dick Termes: Black Hills Artist and Visionary* by Craig Volk, timed to coincide with an exhibit of Termespheres at the SD Art Museum. Additional books for late Spring 2024 release include a Black Hills Gold Rush tour guide by David Wolff; a collection of "Rose Lane Says" columns; a book on the

Ghost Dance and Sitting Bull's last days; and a celebration of a decade of Eliza Blue's "Accidental Rancher" columns, titled "Little Pasture on the Prairie." In August, SDHS Press will release the children's picture book "Georgia Jipp: Blizzard Pilot" and a reprint of O.E. Rolvaag's *Giants in the Earth*, with a new introduction and annotations by historian Allan Carlson. This reprint is in conjunction with the SD Symphony Orchestra's production of the "Giants in the Earth" opera in April 2025. SDHS Press is grateful to the Mary Chilton DAR chapter for its generous support of our *Giants* reprint project.

### SOUTH DAKOTA HISTORY

The Winter 2023 issue of *South Dakota History* was mailed out to Historical Society members in late December. It features articles related to Laura Ingalls Wilder's family and her Little House books, including pieces by Wilder scholars William T. Anderson and Cindy Wilson, and an article on Wilder's youngest sister, Grace Ingalls Dow. The issue has generated much excitement among Wilder fans. The Spring 2024 issue will be mailed out to members in late March. It includes articles on the Great Sioux Rendezvous, the Mitchell Prehistoric Indian Village, and a historical musing piece by Jon Lauck on American Indian history in the Midwest in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries.

### HISTORY NOTES

The Winter issue of the *History Notes* newsletter, which is the Historical Society's Annual Report, was mailed out to members in late February.