

**STURGIS
&
MEADE
COUNTY
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**



Photo Courtesy of Bob Davis

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**Bear Butte Creek Historic Preservation Council
conduct[ed] second dig
... Tim Potts, Black Hills Pioneer**

(Editor’s note—this story was first published on September 8, 2023, in the Black Hills Pioneer, and is reprinted here with permission.)

STURGIS—The second annual archaeological dig led by Dr. Linea Sundstrom is underway at the Bear Butte Creek Historic Preserve that is located between Sturgis and Fort Meade through Sunday. Last year’s archaeological dig at “Soap Suds Row” uncovered evidence of Cavalry laundress life.

Dr. Linea Sundstrom, of Custer, is leading a group of about 20 volunteers that will be looking to uncover evidence of the life of U.S. Cavalry laundresses and their families. Last year’s team found evidence of soap-making along with laundry-related items such as needles, buttons, and shoe eyelet

“We’re returning for our second year of

this suds row project. It’s part of the larger initiative that we hope to develop out here that is going to be called ‘Untold Stories’. We’re trying to tell the stories of the cavalry laundresses that lived on the periphery of Fort Meade. This was technically non-commissioned officer or married officer housing. But to get a house, you pretty much had to be married to a laundress. So the houses are right on the old Bear Butte Creek, which was moved, I believe, twice, once in the 1950s and then after the 1972 flood, they built this berm to protect the VA hospital from flooding,” said Sundstrom. She continued on next page



Dr. Linea Sundstrom, standing, along with Allan Johnson and Terri Holts works on the dig site next to Fort Meade on Wednesday, near Sturgis. (Pioneer photo by Tim Potts)

**ANNOUNCING
HISTORY DAYS 2024
“1874 CUSTER
EXPEDITION:
150 YEARS OF
EXPLORATION,
SETTLEMENT AND
EXPLOITATION”
June 14-15
At the Sturgis
Community Center**

**Edited by
Logan Lamphere**

2023 Dig ... continued

continued talking about this year's dig. This is a part of the story of Fort Meade that we don't really know much about. We have lots of military records about the military operations out here, the officers wives often wrote their



Several tents shaded the volunteers and archaeological dig working on the bank at Bear Butte Creek Historic Preserve that is located between Sturgis and Fort Meade. (Pioneer photo by Tim Potts)

memoirs, but the laundresses didn't have time, they may or may not have been literate. What we're trying to just find out is a little bit about how and what it was like out here for them, doing very hard work. When you're chopping ice at 20 below to get water, I'm sure it was a big challenge for those women.

The dig consists basically of two excavation blocks. The first one was placed because of a depression in the ground, we think it's a house depression and right in between these two units was some logs, they have found maybe six logs and they are mostly parallel. It appears to be a structure, it's a log wall and it may have burned, there's some evidence of that. Besides lots of pieces of deteriorated wood from the logs, we are finding lots of glass bottles that are broken, some cans, a quite a bit of wire, thin, not barbed wire, some dishes, iron stone, dish fragments and porcelain fragments.

Sundstrom talked about some unique finds already this year. We did find a military button this year. You'd think it would be full of military buttons out here, but this was our first one, so that was quite exciting. And one of the reasons it's exciting is because of the factory stamp on the back, we can date it very precisely between 1880 and 1893. That's the Wounded Knee era, and there was a lot of activity here in 1890. So that

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Wanted: History Days Booths

The Sturgis & Meade County Historical Society is seeking live and static booth displays for its annual History Days celebration on June 14-15, 2024, in Sturgis.

The annual History Days celebration will once again be at the Sturgis Community Center for 2024, with this year's tentative theme: "1874 Custer Expedition: 150 Years of Exploration, Settlement and Exploitation."

Tables are available free of charge for non-commercial displays of any local, regional and family history subject, including, for example, community histories, collections and appropriate school student history projects.

Please contact S&MCHS president Mark Rambow at (605) 381-5395, mrambow2@gmail.com; or board member Jim Holland at (605) 484-7063, jbholland74@gmail.com, for more information on a booth display, or to reserve a space.



Jan Lamphere, above left, asks questions of Janice Nequett of the information contained on her poster board about the Nequett family during History Days 2023. Attendees view folders of photos and other historical information below. (Photos by Kris Hubbard)



2023 Dig ... *continued*

one was interesting, just being able to expose more of this log structure and start to see that it is really a log wall. We get excited when we find the base of a piece of kitchenware, or the base of a bottle, because those are usually dateable. And so far, everything we found out here is between about 1880 and about 1910, but now trying to narrow that down is going to be nice for us. Last year, we found a perfume bottle stopper from New York City that was pretty exciting, we had pieces of beer bottle, they were coming from St. Louis. This year, we got one bottle that was brewed in Wisconsin. People are getting stuff here before the railroad came in, everything had to come up the river by steamboat, and then either from Fort Pierre across by mule or ox team or up to Bismarck and then down by mule or ox team so it was quite expensive to get material here.

Logan Lamphere, a Sturgis High School graduate, talked about why he got involved.

“My father Ross Lamphere and Mike Elliott, both of Sturgis, helped start this about three or four years ago, and I’ve always had a strong interest in local history. I studied in high school under Chuck Rambo, both World History, U.S. history and Black Hills history, and then my family’s long been involved. My grandmother helped start the Fort Meade Museum and I worked



Items found this year at the archaeological dig near Fort Meade. (Pioneer photos by Tim Potts)



out there for summers during high school and college. So, I’ve had a long interest and that is why I got involved,” said Lamphere.

Lamphere said the Butte Creek Historic Preservation Council has a 90-year lease with the

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2023 Dig ... *continued*

school district, so development will likely not happen on this parcel. One of the reasons that was done was because there are such a wide variety of historic and prehistoric sites throughout that area. The archeologists have been working on soapsuds row where the laundress housing was at the north of the creek and the old firing range. There's an area that was essentially a dump along Bear Butte Creek where the fort was dumping things. In the 1800s, Native Americans have camped along the creek in that area. It is estimated that thousands of years ago, the locally famous petroglyph rock in the Fort Meade Museum came from the nearby BLM grounds up there. So, we're also looking at this area from for its natural and ecological value. The native plants, the animals, we used to have a lot of beaver dams

have established relationships with the University of South Dakota, Augustana, Black Hills State University, and Montana State University," said Lamphere. "We originally intended to involve more high school and middle school kids, but it has gravitated to the collegiate level and even some post grad students, but we do want to eventually want to bring that back to at least the high school and get some of those students involved."

All artifacts found in 2022 were retained for curation at the South Dakota Archaeological Research Center in Rapid City. Items discovered in 2022 included nails, pins, small clasps, buttons, glass bottles, ceramics, bricks and knapped stone and glass.



Several volunteers dig near Bear Butte Creek while Dr. Linea Sundstrom observes on Wednesday near Sturgis. (Pioneer photo by Tim Potts)

along Fairview creek right in there. We're hoping that they can come back maybe someday. We've even had local bird watchers come through and do bird counts.

Created in 2020, the 180-acre preserve helps preserve, protect, and utilize key historical elements to the north of Fort Meade for education and tourism. The area includes the old fort firing range, Soaps Suds Row, Native American history and the natural flora and fauna along Bear Butte Creek.

Lamphere said they plan to continue the dig every year.

"We are hoping to do an annual dig each summer whether that's in May or June or later on like in September now. We

The Bear Butte Creek Historic Preservation Council was established as a South Dakota nonprofit corporation in 2020, received its 501(c)3 status in June 2020. Their purpose is to preserve, protect, and promote the history of the Bear Butte Creek Historic Preserve. Funding has been generously provided by the Albert & Laverne Elliott Foundation, the Deadwood Historic Preservation Office, and the Black Hills Area Community Foundation.

It is governed by a diverse board of directors including stakeholder members from the following organizations: Bureau of Land Management, Meade School District, city of Sturgis, Black Hills Trails, South Dakota State Historical

Society, South Dakota Archaeological Society, Dr. Linea Sundstrom, Bear Butte State Park, Sturgis & Meade County Historical Society, Ft. Meade Museum, Black Hills State University, Ft. Meade VA Medical Center, South Dakota National Guard and interested individuals.

"We are definitely open to anyone and everyone, both the professional archeologists and members of academia, local universities, down to just someone with a pass passing interest in local history. We just had our annual meeting here this week, and we inspected a lot of the preliminary finds from this season's dig but I would say the first place to go would be to our website, which bbchp.org," said Lamphere.

Display Cases, Bottles Donated



The estate of Ernie Miller, who was a long-time resident and local historian of Sturgis, has made a significant donation to the Sturgis & Meade County Historical Society. The donation includes this beautiful display case (foreground) and many artifacts collected by Ernie Miller over many years. It is the Historical Society's desire to make displays of these and other artifacts available for public view in various public buildings in the near future. Pictured are Mark Rambow, Lynelle (Miller) Chapman, Danny Chapman and grandbaby, and Ross Lamphere (Photo courtesy of Ross Lamphere)



Max Fjelstad of Prairie Emporium has donated bottles collected by Ernie Miller to the Sturgis & Meade County Historical Society (Photo courtesy of Ross Lamphere)

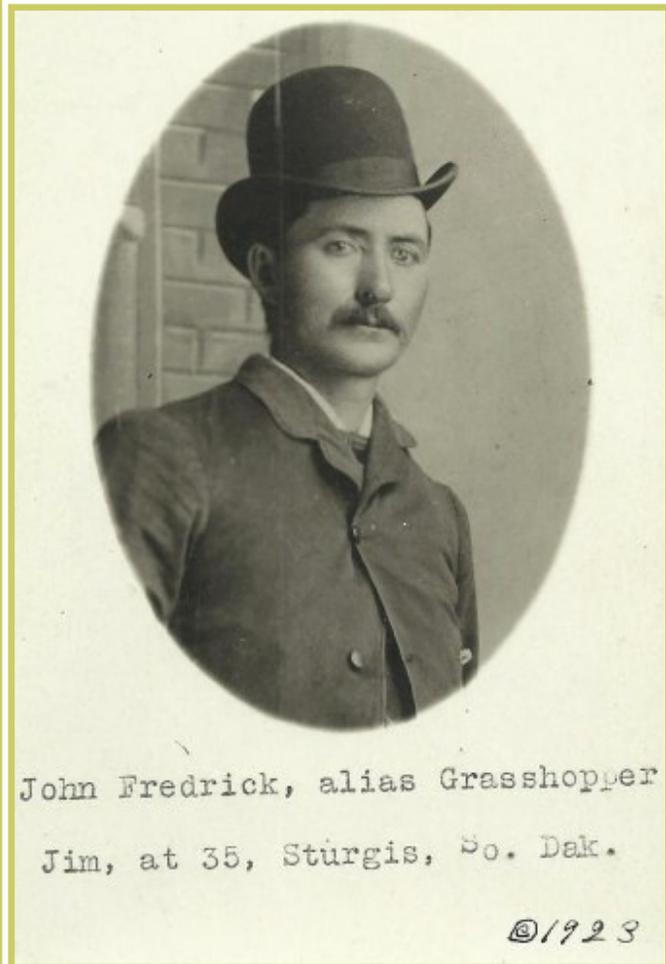
Renee Baldwin Kluck has donated/loaned the use of this beautiful display case for use by the Sturgis & Meade County Historical Society. It came from the estate of long-time Sturgis resident and local historian Herb Baldwin. Pictured are Ross Lamphere, Renee Baldwin Kluck and Mark Rambow (Photo courtesy of Ross Lamphere)



John Fredrick (Grasshopper Jim) ... *Joan Bachmeier*

Editor's note: much of the personal information in this article came from Grasshopper Jim's granddaughter Minnie "Punky" Barden, who was a neighbor to Joan Bachmeier. Punky's brother Gene took Bachmeier to where Grasshopper Jim's property had been near Bear Butte. Punky gave Bachmeier a copy of the court records of the Supreme Court of South Dakota Fredrick v. Christensen, another source. Bachmeier also drew information from the 1910 Census.

John Fredrick, better known as Grasshopper Jim, reportedly came to the Black Hills in 1873 at the age of 19. He was born in 1854 and spent his boyhood and got his education in Clinton, Iowa.



(Photo of a postcard from Worthpoint.com)

Grasshopper Jim was one of the first men to claim land in the [Sturgis] area. He squatted on the site of the original Scooptown, west of Bear Butte, and later homesteaded the tract when the Black Hills was opened for legal settlement.

On the ranch there was a partly natural sandstone fortification and was a fine defense against the Indians. In July 1877 at about noon, two mule trains camped for dinner a short distance from Jim's fort. As one of the trains was a fine mule train and very welcome loot for the Indians, they undertook to capture it by killing the men and running off the mules, but the Indians chose the same vantage point where Jim's fort was concealed for the point of attack.

While they were engaged in shooting up the trains, Jim and Pat Murray, Jim's partner, who were almost under the Indians' feet, shot up the unsuspecting Indians and rescued the two trains and 19 men in 20 minutes. On the same day that Grasshopper Jim and Murray upset the Indians' plans, the Wagners were attacked north of Bear Butte and killed. The Wagners family included two men named Wagner and the wife of one of them, all of whom were very likely killed by the same Indians. Grasshopper Jim was unable to get anyone to go with him to pick up the bodies of the Wagners as he thought the animals would soon destroy the bodies. He rode out by himself and brought the bodies back. The next year Fredricks added to the fortification.

Grasshopper Jim's name originated when he supposedly took refuge in a cave and lived mostly on grasshoppers. His wife said he never ate grasshoppers, but John thought it was a good story so never said it wasn't true.

Scooptown came into being when troops were sent to Bear Butte in the summer of 1878 to help establish a permanent post in the vicinity for the protection of the settlers from Indian attacks. Fredrick obtained liquor in Deadwood for sale to the soldiers and also provided the crude facilities required for their other off duty activities, including gambling and womanizing. Scooptown went out of existence when the permanent post was established south of the Bear Butte camp, and the City of Sturgis came into being west of there in the fall of 1878. However, the Bismarck – Deadwood Trail passed through Grasshopper Jim's place and the enterprising pioneer profited from the stage and freight traffic.

He married Clara Belle Jarvis of Blunt [SD] in 1885. While they were living on their homestead there were several springs on the land and Mrs. Fredrick stored milk from their cows there keeping it cool. She sold both cheese and milk to those at Fort Meade and Sturgis. Grasshopper Jim also developed a series of dams on his

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Grasshopper Jim (cont'd)

place and stocked them with fish which he sold at Fort Meade and Sturgis. He sold fish, frog, and fowl.

According to an article in the *Daily Deadwood Times*, "Grasshopper Jim, better known as John Fredricks arrived in the city yesterday with a tack wagon containing eighty pounds of, perhaps the finest carp that was ever offered for sale here, they ranging in size from two to eight pounds. Although Fredricks asked 35 cents per pound for his fish he had no trouble in disposing of his load, in fact he could have sold a thousand pounds at the same price.

He started into the business of raising fish for the market and after many reverses he succeeded in establishing himself in a business that would be to him a big source of revenue. Fredricks started to raise carp in 1876 with twenty carp sent to him from Washington. They were put into several small artificial ponds, but these died in a short time. Then 135 spawns from Mississippi were tried but they also died in a short time. From Riley Miller of Rapid City, he purchased three spawns which lived and increased into the present almost countless numbers possessed by Fredricks. As the fish increased Fredricks built additional ponds until he now has eight covering an extent of sixteen acres. Two or three times a month he will bring in a load of fish for market."

He had a reputation as a "hard character" though, and would not tolerate trespassers on his land. Neighbors warned their children to go around his property when travelling to town to avoid getting a seat full of buckshot.

Eugene Secrest and his wife had a son in 1908, Freddie Secrest. Eugene's wife died in 1909 and Eugene was having quite a time raising a baby who was only a year old, so his wife's brother Howard Baker and wife Marie took care of the boy along with their infant daughter. Eugene, who was an unskilled laborer, and Howard worked together sometimes and Eugene lived in a small rented cabin on Nine Mile Creek alone while the Bakers cared for his son Freddie.

In the winter of 1910, beginning in January and until about the first of March, Eugene Secrest and Howard Baker, working together, were baling hay for John Fredrick and hauling it to Fort Meade. Mrs. Baker, with her baby daughter and Eugene's son Freddie, was doing the cooking for the balers. The Bakers and Secrests were, during the bailing and hauling operations, living in a cabin on the Fredrick place, about 40 or 50 feet from the main house which was occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Fredrick. The two women, Mrs. Baker and

Mrs. Fredrick, visited back and forth several times each day, and in the evenings after work all of these people were together in the Frederick home.

Mrs. Fredrick developed a strong attachment for Freddie, and much of the time kept him at her home and cared for him there. On these evenings when the Bakers and Secrests, together with the children, were in the Fredrick home, Mrs. Fredrick expressed to the others, including her husband, her wish to adopt the child. She told the Bakers and Eugene Secrest, that she desired and needed the child, but also what an advantage it would be to Freddie if his father would allow them to adopt him. She mentioned several times while the Bakers, Secrests, and her husband were there that they wanted to adopt him as her own child and give him everything when they were gone. She said she wanted him, to raise him and give him everything and when she died to give him everything she had, and she could take better care of him and give him more than his biological father could. She would also see that he was educated and when they were through with the property he would get it all and everything else they had.

She would raise him as her own if she could only adopt him. Eugene Secrest said that was the only way he would let them adopt him. John Fredrick was around 50 years of age and Clara was about 35. They had been married for several years and it seemed as though they were never going to have children of their own. Both Secrest and the Bakers seemingly approved of Mrs. Fredrick as a person and prospective mother for Freddie, but disapproved of John Fredrick as an adoptive father for the child and it seems that they had good reason for distrusting him as an adoptive father for the child. This fact is more than supported by the undisputed evidence as to the treatment he subsequently gave the boy in the years that followed. The Fredricks adopted Freddie Secrest in 1910.

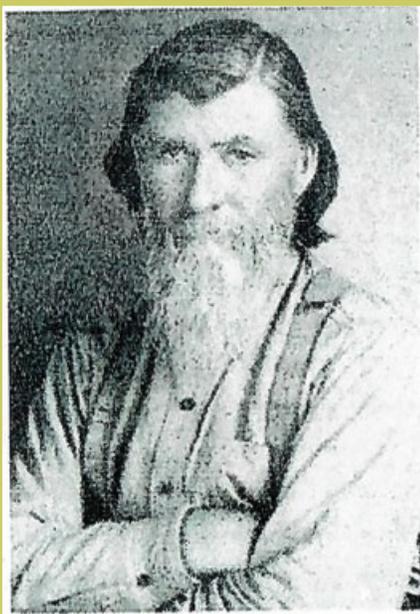
Freddie's dad left the area thinking his son was in good hands. Eugene sent his son Freddie packages occasionally. But John Fredrick would not let Freddie have the clothes his dad sent; he was not allowed to wear any of them. Freddie had a hard time as a child. Although his adopted mother was good to him the same couldn't be said about his adopted father. He was not allowed to go to school whenever Grasshopper Jim needed his help.

John Fredrick bought the property

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Grasshopper Jim (cont'd)

on Lazelle Street on November 9, 1915. The next year (1916) when Freddie was six years, Grasshopper Jim



Grasshopper Jim at age 70

rented out the farm and moved the family to Sturgis to his house. He went into the salvage business and operated the dump grounds.

Of German descent, Fredrick could speak German well, but old timers who remembered him best report he wasn't much of a conversationalist with most people

in any language. Few who knew him remembered him kindly. Whenever Fredrick needed Freddie's help, he kept him out of school.

Art Duff, their neighbor, gave Freddie gloves, but the next day Freddie didn't have any gloves. So Art again gave him another pair and had Freddie give them back at the end of the day so he could let him have them the next day.

A few years after moving into town, young Fred left to find his biological father. He went to Kansas where he was born and worked at any job he could. While there, he learned that his father lived in New Mexico. On his way New Mexico, he took a logging job in Colorado where he had an accident. He wound up in the hospital. Minnie was working there and the two met as she was taking care of him. They were married in Colorado and had a son who died at childbirth. Then their first daughter, Florence, was born. They went to New Mexico where they met Fred's father Eugene and his second wife. Fred's dad was glad to see him. A daughter, Effie and a son, Gene, were born to Fred and Minnie there. Then they went to Idaho where their youngest child, a girl named Minnie nicknamed "Punky" was

born. While in Idaho, they received a message from Clara, Grasshopper Jim's wife, that he was sick and needed help. Grasshopper Jim died January 20, 1933, in the Black Hills of influenza.

On his death the *Sturgis Weekly Record* called Fredrick "an original thinker with a philosophy all his own. He was a great reader and lover of nature. He was greatly interested in geological research, and owned a large collection of various mineral specimens."

In addition, the weekly paper reported that Fredrick had papers in his possession that "proved conclusively that his ancestry was of the nobility of Bavaria."

The *Sioux City Journal* some years earlier, on February 28, 1927, described the old timer as "a picturesque plainsman and scout of the days when the West was untamed and uncontaminated by movie houses, oil stations, tourists' sardine cans, beauty parlors and rest rooms."

The *Journal* went on to relate an incident where Grasshopper Jim requested a monument to Sitting Bull. Sitting Bull, according to the *Sioux City* paper, was 'the Indian chief in command of the redmen who massacred General George Custer and his men.'

Grasshopper Jim contended that it was natural that Sitting Bull and his braves should have sought to drive the whites off the plains.

In the interview he said, "the death of Joe Gossage, editor of the *Rapid City Journal*, reminded me of a promise which Pat Murray and I made to Chief Yellow Robe, and Indian preacher of the white man's gospel. Yellow Robe asked why Sitting Bull couldn't have a monument the same as honored white men."

"Sitting Bull made the last great courageous stand for the rights of Indians and won a hot battle with one of the best Indian Fighters of all time, Custer. Pat and I promised Yellow Robe that we would do what we could to have a monument of the same kind dedicated to Sitting Bull."

"My proposal is that Bear Butte, which I own, [Jim did not own Bear Butte but he seems to have thought he did] become a memorial. It is of historic importance by reason of the use the Indians put it to very often—sending of signals near Bear Butte to the council grounds which Sitting Bull and his braves often used."

The butte later became a state park but not a monument to Sitting Bull, not because of the efforts of Grasshopper Jim. Neither Sitting Bull or Grasshopper

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Grasshopper Jim (cont'd)

Jim had much use for people. They preferred to be left alone in a land each of them considered their own. They were skilled in methods of coping with the frontier environment, but grossly out of place in a civilized society. They were products of a harsh land and they both became harsh men. For their respective races, they were also among the last of a hardy breed of men doomed for extinction.

Fred and his family came back to Sturgis in 1947. His adopted mother Clara died in 1949 and her funeral was at the Anderson Funeral home on Lazelle Street behind Anderson Hardware. She is buried in Bear Butte Cemetery as was John Fredrick.

When Fred and family came to Sturgis, they lived for a short while in the house with Clara. A small house on the property was being prepared for them and as soon as it was ready they moved there. After Clara's death there was a court case as the will could not be found and Fred said he was to get the property. Clara's brother Babe Jarvis

claimed the property was his as Clara wanted him to have it and he was living in another house on the property. That house was to the east on the lots on Lazelle Street. At the court case, Marie and Howard Baker, who took care of Fred while a small child before he was adopted, both testified that the Fredricks had said many times that Fred Secret was to have all their property when they were done with it (when they died). He was their adopted son and only heir. Mrs. Lois Bovee, aunt of Eugene Secret, testified that at her home on Spring Creek with John and Clara Fredrick present there was talk about the adoption of Freddie in which both Mr. and Mrs. Fredrick said they would adopt the boy, give him a good education, and when they died all their property would revert to this boy. At the end of the court case Fred Secret was given all John Fredrick's property including the homestead west of Bear Butte and the house and lots on Lazelle Street. Fred sold the large house on Lazelle and moved into the smaller house where the Jarvis family had been living. He went on to raise his family in that smaller house.

Comanche—A Link to Frontier History at Kansas Museum ... *Jim Holland*

In November, my wife and I had the opportunity to visit the Kansas University Natural History Museum in Lawrence, where a taxidermy mount of one of the most famous horses in U.S. military history is on display.

Comanche, a bay gelding, was ridden into battle by 7th Cavalry Capt. Myles Keogh, who gave the horse his name after an 1868 battle with Comanche warriors in Kansas.

The horse had taken an arrow to the hindquarters during the fight, but had continued to carry Keogh.

Comanche would see battle with Keogh on the fateful date of June 25, 1876 during the Battle of the Little Big Horn in present-day Montana.



Taxidermist Lewis Lindsay Dyche (left), is joined by two assistants working on a mount of the 7th Cavalry horse Comanche at Kansas University, circa 1890s. The horse's hide was preserved in salt brine, then rehydrated, stretched around a wooden and steel framework and stitched together. (Photo: Kansas Natural History University Museum)

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Comanche (cont'd)

Keogh was part of Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer's detachment, killed to the last man during the battle with overwhelming numbers of Sioux and Cheyenne warriors.

In the battle's aftermath, other soldiers found Comanche in a

Sturgis' orders stated.

In June of 1879, Comanche accompanied the 7th to Fort Meade, Dakota Territory, where he continued to live a pampered, ceremonial life.



**Comanche on display at the Kansas University Natural History Museum in Lawrence.
(Photo courtesy Jason Dailey Photography)**

ravine, badly wounded. The horse was returned to Fort Abraham Lincoln in what is now North Dakota, nursed back to health and retired in April of 1878 by order of 7th Cavalry Col. Samuel Davis Sturgis.

“The commanding officer of Company I will see that a special and comfortable stable is fitted up for him, and he will not be ridden by any person whatsoever, under any circumstances, nor will he be put to any kind of work,”

The horse's legend as the only living representative of the battle is exaggerated. Other cavalry horses survived and were taken by the Sioux and Cheyenne as spoils of battle. Other reports indicated a yellow bulldog also survived.

In 1887, Comanche was taken to Fort Riley, Kansas, where he was named "Second Commanding Officer" of the 7th, occasionally leading parades and displaying an apparent liking for beer.

Comanche died of colic on Nov. 7, 1891. With no record of his birthdate, his age was estimated to be 29. He was one of four horses to be given a funeral with military honors.

His remains were taken to the University of Kansas, where noted taxidermist Lewis Lindsay Dyche used the horse's pelvis, leg bones, skull and jaw as part of a steel and wooden armature to build a mount for the preserved hide.

In 2005, museum conservators painstakingly restored the mount, which remains on display under low light and in a humidity-regulated glass case on the museum's fourth floor.

New Board Members Added

The Sturgis & Meade County Historical Society is happy to announce the addition of three new board members: Vi Stoltz, Lee Stroschine, and Logan Lamphere.

Existing board members include Mark Rambow (President), Ross Lamphere (Vice President), Jim Holland (Secretary), Janice Lundgren (Treasurer), Richard Moeller (Membership), Joan Bachmeier (Historian), Linn Hendrickson (Parliamentarian), Kathi Schneider, Janet Lamphere, David Super, Kris Hubbard, and Betty Jo Huff.

Genealogy Work Group Completes First Year *... Mark Rambow*

The Genealogy Work Group is just completing their first year, and look forward to continuing in 2024!

Beginning in January of 2023, the Sturgis & Meade County Historical Society began hosting a Genealogy Work Group, intended to help new family historians get a start and bring new skills to those with more experience. From the start, it has been a great success, and we were joined by the Sturgis Public Library as our cosponsor.

Some of the programs have been "The Basics of Genealogy," "Photo Scanning and Preservation," "Writing your Family Story," "Knowing Your DNA," "Breaking Down Brick Walls," and "Going Beyond Vital Records."

We have also had time dedicated to helping each other through research barriers and sharing our success stories.

The Genealogy Work Group will continue to meet at the Sturgis Public Library the First Saturday of the month, starting at 1:00 p.m.

We meet next on Saturday, January 6, 2024. The public is always welcome, and we enjoy having new members drop by for the fun!

Sturgis Area Arts Council Presents: "Meade County Poor Farm Revisited," and "Family History aka Genealogy - Getting Started" at *History at High Noon* *... Richard Moeller*

History at High Noon is a program on the third Friday of the month (October and November, January through May). We meet at noon in the Community Room of the Sturgis Public Library. It is sponsored by the Sturgis Area Arts Council.



History at High Noon will continue on January 19, 2024, with a program titled "Meade County Poor Farm Revisited." Diana Hayes, who used to own the sandstone house (at 1513 Jackson Street) that was the poor farm, will be doing this program.

On February 16, Mark Rambow will be doing a program on "Family History aka Genealogy - Getting Started." This is an introduction to genealogy and will help you start your family's history.

We are always looking for ideas. If you would like to tell your family history or have something history-based, please contact Richard Moeller at running2win@gmail.com or 605-939-3789, Ross Lamphere rosslamphere@gmail.com or 605-490-3110, or Diana Hayes (605-347-3007).

To learn more, visit sturgisarts.org or youtube.com/@sturgispubliclibrary.

Check us out Online!

Join the Sturgis & Meade County Historical Society conversation online in these places:

 **Website:** SturgisHistory.org

 **YouTube Channel:**
youtube.com/@sturgishistory

 **Facebook Community:**
facebook.com/sturgishistory.org

 Another helpful Facebook group is
History of Sturgis & Meade County, SD:
facebook.com/groups/sturgishistorypage

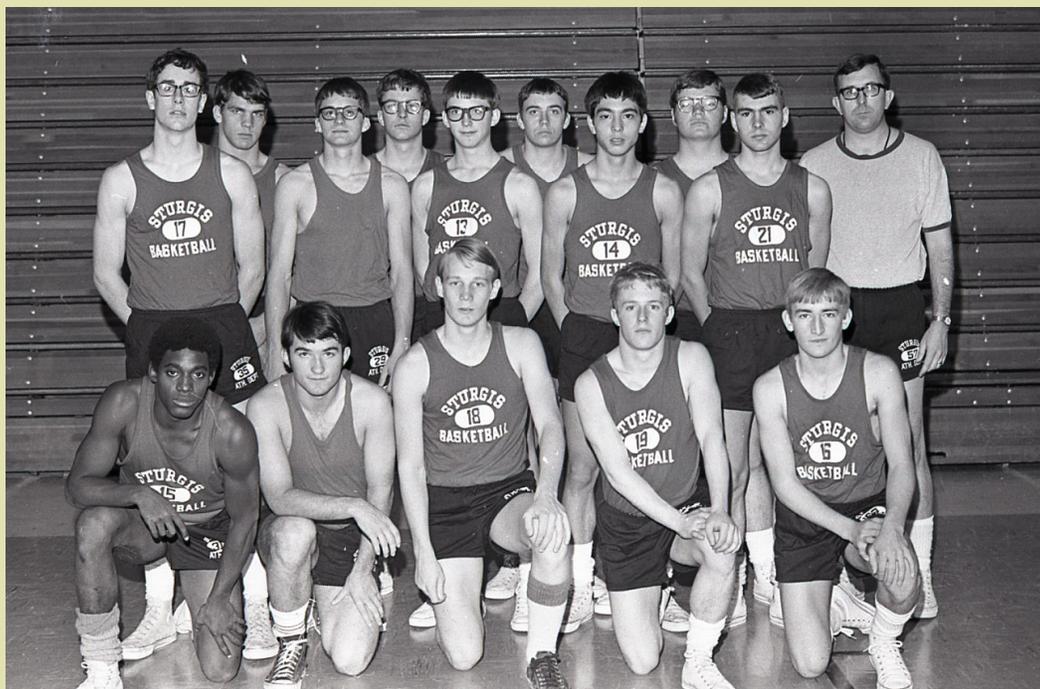
 **Instagram:** instagram.com/sturgishistory
#sturgishistory

Help us Identify Bob Lee Photos

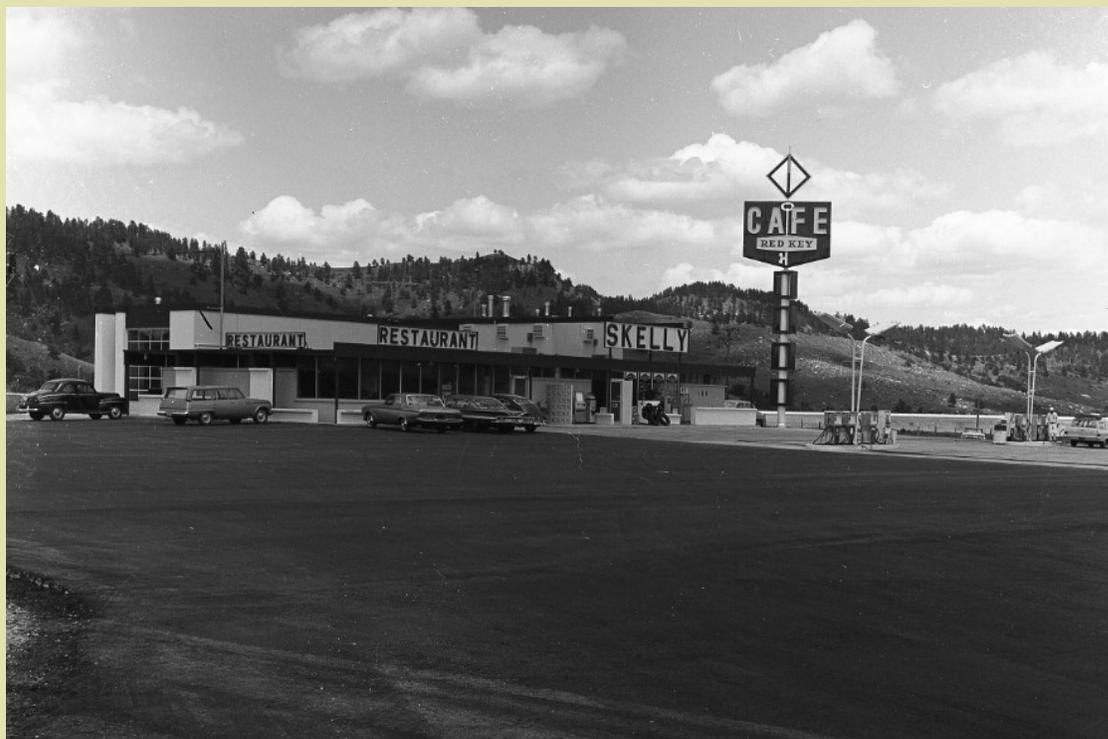
The Bob Lee Photo Collection, thousands of photo negatives taken by the late Bob Lee during his many years with the local paper, was generously donated by his wife, Dodi Lee. The photos range, primarily, from the late 1950s through the mid 1970s.

Please help us out! We would love to have any information or memories of these sample photos.

Send comments to Mark Rambow at mark@sturgishistory.org.



#449 - Basketball team would be mid-70s, about 1975 or so.



Message from the President's Desk—Thank You Donors

...*Mark Rambow*

With 2024 upon us, we are excited to be pressing ahead with a variety of programs and activities!

Our special thanks to Dan and Lynelle (Miller) Chapman for their donations to the Historical Society! They recently donated a display case and collection of old bottles from the collection of Lynelle's late father, Ernie Miller.

We also thank Renee Baldwin for loaning the society a display case previously owned by her father, Herb Baldwin.

With the recent donation of display cases, we are hoping to find a couple of businesses willing to allow us space for rotating displays. This will get some of the amazing items we have collected in front of the community.

We are also deep into the planning for History Days 2024, and various "Scoop of History" and Genealogy Work Group programs.

We also hope to have a home for our collection soon. While it won't be large enough for public displays, it will allow us space to store, curate, and plan for the items we have in our collection.

Looking forward to seeing you all in 2024!

Sincerely,

Mark



Calendar of Upcoming Events

Saturday, January 6, 1:00 p.m. — GENEALOGY WORK GROUP, Sturgis Public Library

Tuesday, January 16, 6:30 p.m. — MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
Zoom/TBD (Chamber closed for renovation)

Friday, January 19 — HISTORY AT HIGH NOON

“Meade County Poor Farm Revisited,” Sturgis Public Library, sponsored by SAAC.

Diana Hayes who used to own the sandstone house (1513 Jackson St.) that was the poor farm will be speaking.

Friday, February 16 — HISTORY AT HIGH NOON

“Family History aka Genealogy - Getting Started,” Sturgis Public Library, sponsored by SAAC. Mark Rambow will present an introduction to genealogy and will help you start your family's history.

Tuesday, February 20, 6:30 p.m. — MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
Zoom/TBD (Chamber closed for renovation)

Tuesday, March 19, 6:30 p.m. — MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
Zoom/TBD (Chamber closed for renovation)

We Rely on You for Your Membership Dues

Remember, membership is due annually according to the month in which you joined. Options for paying your dues include:

- a) fill out the membership form below and drop it off at the membership table in the City Auditorium during History Days. We will accept your check or credit card;
- b) fill out the membership form below and mail it with your check to the address listed on the form; or
- c) go online to the Sturgis & Meade County Historical Society website at SturgisHistory.org, and click on *Membership and Donations*—> *Membership*, fill out the membership form (renewing members must also fill out a new form), and make your payment through PayPal using your credit card.



If you have any questions, please contact Membership Chair Richard Moeller at running2win@gmail.com or (605) 939-3789.

We appreciate all your support and contributions to the Sturgis & Meade County Historical Society, and we hope you are enjoying your membership!

STURGIS & MEADE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

Our goal is to preserve, protect and promote the history of Sturgis and Meade County. We cannot do this alone ... this is done through memberships, sponsorships and donations. The Sturgis & Meade County Historical Society is a 501c3 nonprofit organization. Therefore, sponsorships and donations are tax-deductible; membership dues are not tax deductible.

Registration Information

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

Membership Level Desired

Individual: \$25.00
 Family: \$35.00
 Student: \$15.00
 Business Sponsorship: \$250.00
 Life Membership: \$5,000.00

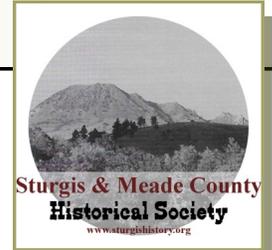
Please send this form, accompanied by a check for your membership, to:

Sturgis & Meade County Historical Society
P.O. Box 221
Sturgis, SD 57785

You may also register, pay dues, and donate online with a credit card or PayPal at: www.SturgisHistory.org

STURGIS & MEADE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P. O. Box 221, Sturgis, SD 57785



Board Officers

Mark Rambow, President,
mark@sturgishistory.org

Ross Lamphere, Vice President

Jim Holland, Secretary

Janice Lundgren, Treasurer

Joan Bachmeier, Historian

On Line

Website:
www.sturgishistory.org

YouTube:
youtube.com/@sturgishistory

Instagram:
instagram.com/sturgishistory

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www.facebook.com/sturgishistory.org

OUR SPONSORS

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THANK YOU!

Sturgis & Meade County Historical Society

P. O. Box 221

Sturgis, SD 57785

"History is who we are and why we are the way we are."

—David McCullough