



Photo Courtesy of Bob Davis

### Inside this issue:

History Day Set for June 15, Sturgis Community Center	1-2
Bear Butte Creek Historic Preserve Hosts USD Field School	1-5
History Day 2024 Booths	3
Fort Meade Museum Hosting Jeff Barnes September 8	5
History at High Noon: Walker Family History	6
James D. Sadler	7
Bob Lee Photos	8
President's Message	9
Calendar of Events	9
Membership Form	10

### HISTORY DAY 2024

**"1874 CUSTER  
EXPEDITION:  
150 YEARS OF  
EXPLORATION,  
SETTLEMENT AND  
EXPLOITATION"**

*June 15, Sturgis  
Community Center*

## History Day Set for June 15, Sturgis Community Center

The eighth annual History Day, sponsored by the Sturgis & Meade County Historical Society, will be held Saturday, June 15, at the Sturgis Community Center. "1874 Custer Expedition: 150 Years of Exploration, Settlement and Exploitation" is the theme of the event this year.

Booths displaying a variety of historical artifacts, pictures and other information and memorabilia will be open on Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. A donation lunch will  
continued on next page

## Bear Butte Creek Historic Preserve Hosts USD Field School ... *Logan Lamphere*

**T**welve students from the University of South Dakota's anthropology department attended an archaeology field school May 13-22, 2024, at the Bear Butte Creek Historic Preserve between Sturgis and Fort Meade. This was the third annual ar-

chaeological dig conducted in the "Soap Suds Row" area, just north of Fort Meade.

Created in 2020, the continued on next page



Dr. Tony Krus from the University of South Dakota preps students before heading out to the field for the annual archaeological dig. (Photo by Logan Lamphere)

**Edited by  
Logan Lamphere**



## 2024 Field School (cont'd)

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.



USD students lay out one meter square units, digging down ten centimeters at a time using trowels and brushes  
(Photo by Logan Lamphere)



Natalie Wagner of Chatham, IL, helps Dr. Krus mark GPS coordinates  
(Photo by Logan Lamphere)

The dig was led this year by Aaron Mayer, Senior Archaeologist with Augustana University, and Dr. Tony Krus of the University of South Dakota, both returning for the second time. The twelve students joined several

continued on next page

## History Day (cont'd)

also be served.

About a dozen booths with local historical information and items will be on display (see next page for list).

The Meade County Time Capsule will also be on display, along with items from the Old Fort Meade Museum.

The Society will again be presenting their Friend of History Award(s).

Two programs, both held at the Sturgis Community Center Theater, will be offered. Donovan Sprague will present "The Native American Perspective on the Effects of Settlement of the Black Hills" at noon.

Photographer Paul Horsted will present "The 1874 Custer Expedition's Path Through and Near What Would Become Sturgis and Meade County" at 2:00 p.m.



Mark Rambow gives a presentation on genealogy during a past History Days (Photo by Logan Lamphere)

For those who want to learn more about the Sturgis and Meade County Historical Society, a booth with information about the Society and membership will be available.

There are five levels of membership in the Sturgis & Meade County Historical Society, as follows: individual membership, \$25 per year; family membership, \$35 per year; student membership, \$15 per year; life membership, one-time payment of \$5,000; and business sponsorship, \$250 per year.

History Day is possible, due in part, to the support from the City of Sturgis, HomeSlice Group, KBHB Radio and the Meade County Commission.



## 2024 Field School (cont'd)



**Jay Erickson (Edina, Minnesota), Eva Rindelaub (Redfield), and Angel Vazquez (Flandreau) help screen the diggings for artifacts (Photo by Logan Lamphere)**

professional volunteers including Allan Johnson, Michael Fosha, Jana Morehouse from Vantage Point Solutions, Paul Oberheim from the Bureau of Land Management, and Alec Anton and Fidel Martinez-Greer, both from the S.D. Archaeological Research Center. (Your author, Logan Lamphere, was also able to help again this season.)

They continued to uncover evidence of the life of U.S. Cavalry

continued on next page



**Professional volunteers enhanced the field school by lending their experience. Here they prepare to photograph a possible privy or refuse pit (Photo by Logan Lamphere)**

## History Day 2024 Booths

The Sturgis & Meade County Historical Society is still accepting live and static booth displays for its annual History Day festival on June 15, 2024, at the Sturgis Community Center, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

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



**Attendees from 2023 view folders of photos and other historical information. (Photo by Kris Hubbard)**

Some of the booths for 2024 will be:

- Time Capsule items – Mark Rambow
- Maps of the 1874 Black Hills Expedition – Logan Lamphere
- Early Women and their Influence After the Gold Rush – Vi Stoltz
- Sturgis & Meade County Historical Society scrap-books -- Joan Bachmeier
- History Below The Pines group, Spearfish – Dave Super
- “Where I’m From” collaboration between Sturgis Brown High School Academy students and Aspen Grove Assisted Living residents – Jim Holland
- Bear Butte Creek Historic Preserve’s 2024 archaeological dig — Ross Lamphere, Logan Lamphere
- West River History Conference
- Lead Homestake Mine and Lab exhibits
- Fort Meade Museum – Lee Stroschine

Contact S&MCHS board member Jim Holland at 605-484-7063, [jbholland74@gmail.com](mailto:jbholland74@gmail.com), to reserve a space.



## 2024 Field School (cont'd)

laundresses and their families.

Last year's team led by Dr. Linea Sundstrom found remnants of a log cabin that may have been the home of Army laundress Rose Courtney, who died in a house fire on November 29, 1907, according to the Sturgis Weekly Record.

The University of South Dakota archaeological field school crew also conducted an archaeological survey of the terrace Soap Suds Row sits on. The survey will help point to locations for future digs.

"I'd like to become a museum curator or professor," said Natalie Wagner from Chatham, Illinois, an Anthropology major at USD.

"I'm looking forward to getting first-hand experience that will help with the future," said Angel Vazquez of Flandreau, a double-major in Anthropology and Sustainability. "I'm continued on next page



Intact laundry wringer from late 19th Century (Photo from [cherish.com](https://cherish.com))

Artifacts found include pieces of what appears to be a laundry wringer (left) and one of about six U.S. Army buttons (right) (Photo by Logan Lamphere)



The students also visited the Ft. Meade Museum, toured the Deadwood Archaeology Lab and Adams Museum, and climbed Bear Butte during this field school. (Photo by Tony Krus)



## 2024 Field School (cont'd)

especially interested in pre-historic cultural anthropology.”

One of the questions the group still hopes to answer is whether any intact pre-contact (pre-fort) deposits remain of Native American activity, both recent and ancient.



McKenzie Merchant (Rapid City) and Emma Byrne (Martin) use shovels to remove last season's infill (Photo by Logan Lamphere)

Further processing, cleaning, and documentation was once again held at the Lamphere Ranch Campground nearby. All artifacts found in 2022 and 2023 were retained for curation at the South Dakota Archaeological Research Center in Rapid City.



Students cleaned and documented artifacts at the laboratory they set up at Lamphere Ranch Campground (Photo by Logan Lamphere)

## Fort Meade Museum Hosting Jeff Barnes September 8

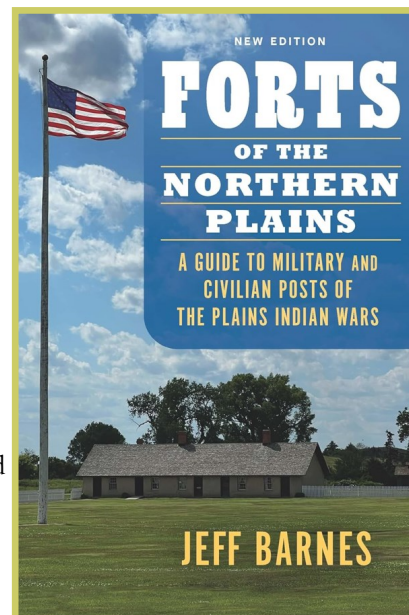
The Old Fort Meade Museum will be hosting author Jeff Barnes on Sunday, September 8, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. at the Meade County Senior Center, 919 Harley-Davidson Way, Sturgis.

Barnes is the author of a number of historical travel guides of the Great Plains. Barnes' presentation will be on forts of South Dakota.

He will also be doing a book signing of his new book, an updated version of *Forts of the Northern Plains*, which will be released this summer.

A major update to the first edition from 2008, this new guide features more than 150 military and civilian sites, directions and GPS coordinates, with full color photography and aerial shots of select sites.

Everyone is welcome to come listen to Barnes. There is no cost to attend, but donations will be gladly accepted for the museum.



## New S&MCHS Logo



The Sturgis & Meade County Historical Society has developed a logo. Many thanks to Pasque & Prairie Co. for working with us to develop this logo.

## Tune in to our YouTube Channel for Videos on History

Our YouTube Channel ([youtube.com/@sturgishistory](https://youtube.com/@sturgishistory)) continues to add new videos—now totaling 37—thanks to Richard Moeller. Here are some of the recent offerings:

- ◇ [In Nazi Hands: The POW Experience of Sturgis' 109th Engineers](#) by Mark Rambow (April 13, 2024)
- ◇ ["Immigration and Naturalization Research"](#) by Mark Rambow (April 6, 2024)
- ◇ ["Beyond Vital Records: Finding Your Ancestor's Story"](#) by Mark Rambow (November 18, 2023)
- ◇ [How to Dress Your Soldier](#) by Lee Stroschine (September 23, 2023)
- ◇ ["Break Down Your Brick Walls!"](#) by Mark Rambow (September 16, 2023)
- ◇ ["DNA Testing and Your Family History"](#) by Mark Rambow (June 10, 2023)
- ◇ ["Preserving Photos and Documents"](#) by Mark Rambow (March 25, 2023)
- ◇ [Westward: High Plains Railroading—Changing the Northern Plains](#) by Rick Mills, History Days (June 17, 2023)
- ◇ [From Foot-paths to the Interstate](#) by David Super, History Days (June 17, 2023)
- ◇ ["Heirlooms: Creative Life Writing"](#) by Dr. Molly Barari (May 6, 2023)

## Check us out Online!

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



**Website:** [SturgisHistory.org](https://SturgisHistory.org)



**YouTube Channel:** [youtube.com/@sturgishistory](https://youtube.com/@sturgishistory)



**Facebook Community:**

[facebook.com/sturgishistory.org](https://facebook.com/sturgishistory.org)



Another helpful Facebook group is

**History of Sturgis & Meade County, SD:**

[facebook.com/groups/sturgishistorypage](https://facebook.com/groups/sturgishistorypage)



**Instagram:** [instagram.com/sturgishistory](https://instagram.com/sturgishistory)

**#sturgishistory**

## History at High Noon: Walker Family ... *Richard Moeller*

On October 18, we will be starting our 2024-2025 season with Janeen Walker and Beth Walker will do a Walker Family History. We are working on our next season so let us know if there's a program that you'd like to do.



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.

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

To learn more, visit [sturgisarts.org](https://sturgisarts.org) or [youtube.com/@sturgispubliclibrary](https://youtube.com/@sturgispubliclibrary).



## James D. Sadler ... *Lee Stroschine*

James D. Sadler was a Civil War veteran that served and retired at Fort Meade who had an interest in things other than his military duties.

James was born in Ontario, Canada, on August 18, 1843. He served in the 11th U.S. Infantry from 1864 to 1866, reaching the rank of Orderly or First Sergeant. During the war years when James was in the 11th Infantry, he was involved in battles around Richmond, Virginia, including the Second Battle of Petersburg.

In 1866, James was on duty at Libby Prison in Richmond, Virginia. Later, in 1867, James requested to be appointed as a hospital steward with the U.S. Army.

He states in his application that he had served three years as a hospital steward in the British Army. He was appointed hospital steward in 1867 and his first duty was again in Richmond, Virginia.

He remained in Virginia until 1870 when he was assigned to Dakota Territory. James served most of the rest of his career in Dakota Territory except for two years in New York.

Some of the posts in Dakota Territory that he was stationed at were Ft. Randall, Ft. Seward, Ft. Yates and Ft. Meade. He was transferred from Ft. Yates to Ft. Meade in November 1888, and retired there in November 1892 after serving almost thirty years in the Army, 25 as a hospital steward.

A hospital steward was the pharmacist for the doctor, took care of minor medical issues, and—at a post that had a hospital like Fort Meade—was the hospital administrator. In 1883, James applied for and was granted U.S. citizenship.

During the years after he retired, James ran for and served in different elected offices in Sturgis and Meade County including coroner and justice of the peace. James married Ida Melton in 1866. They had no children and lived in Sturgis until James died on May 5, 1913.



**James D. Sadler (Photo courtesy Lee Stroschine)**

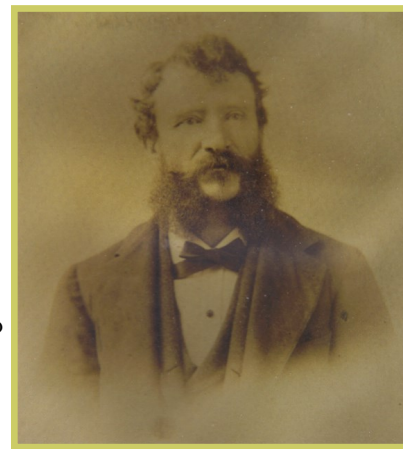
A *Sturgis Weekly Record* article in 1892 reports that “Hospital Steward J. D. Sadler of Fort Meade has, without exception, the finest collection of Indian relics and curios in the United States.”

The article also states, “There hangs the stone pipe of Sitting Bull (not the imitation pipe that decorates every dime museum in the country, but the pipe that the chief himself smoked and gave to Sadler with his own hands.)”

James Sadler is mentioned in a 2010 Cowan’s auction of American Indian & Western Art, regarding a Sioux Catlinite Pipe with Sitting Bull Provenance

The auction website states, “Included is a typed affidavit dated December 8, 1933, which states: I hereby certify that this pipe is the genuine Sitting Bull peace pipe. And was obtained by Hospital Steward James D. Sadler, U.S.A., who served for 30 years in the United States Army from July 14th, 1864 until November 29th, 1892. When he retired from actual service, and at his death on May 5th, 1913 he left the said pipe to me. - Signed Charles E. Nickles in Tama-Cooper, South Dakota.”

The 1910 census records show that James Sadler and Charles Nickles were neighbors living in Sturgis Ward 1, Meade, South Dakota. James’s obituary mentions a niece, Mrs. Nickles, with whom Mrs. Sadler would be making her home.



**James D. Sadler (Photo courtesy Lee Stroschine)**



**Peace pipe (Photo courtesy Lee Stroschine)**

## 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 [presidentsturgishhistory@gmail.com](mailto:presidentsturgishhistory@gmail.com).



#2019.1.011 - Unidentified group

#2019.1.058 - Fort Meade Horse Show 1969



#2019.1.346 -  
unidentified  
60th wedding  
anniversary



## Message from the President's Desk

### ...Mark Rambow

Summer seems to have come faster than usual this year. It was a busy Spring for history lovers in Sturgis and Meade County, with more to come.

Of course, our annual History Day is June 15, with our theme recognizing the 150th year of the Custer Gold Discovery Expedition in the Black Hills.

In addition to a variety of interesting booths, speakers Donovan Sprague and Paul Horsted will enlighten us on different aspects of the expedition. We will also be displaying the items from the 1894 Time Capsule and the preparations the Society is making to re-enter the capsule later this summer.

Speaking of the time capsule, the Society is still allowing groups, churches, businesses and individuals to submit histories, stories and photos for inclusion in the new time capsule. We will be announcing a date for the ceremony soon!

The Genealogy Work Group has been meeting monthly, with a strong group of dedicated family historians. We will

be taking a summer break during July and August, and resume meeting on the first Saturday of each month on September 7.

Lastly, we are always looking for a permanent home. We ask that everyone think about where we could find a building that could house our collection and activities.

We would love to be able to bring more exposure to the depth of history in our larger community!

Mark Rambow,  
President



## Calendar of Upcoming Events

**Tuesday, June 11, 6:30 p.m. — MONTHLY BOARD MEETING**  
Zoom/Sturgis Area Chamber of Commerce

**Saturday, June 15, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. — HISTORY DAY, Sturgis Community Center**

**Tuesday, July 16, 6:30 p.m. — MONTHLY BOARD MEETING**  
Zoom/Sturgis Area Chamber of Commerce

No Board Meeting in August

**Saturday, September 7, 1:00 p.m. — GENEALOGY WORK GROUP, Sturgis Public Library**

**Sunday, September 8, 2:00 p.m. — JEFF BARNES, Meade County Senior Center**  
Presented by the Old Fort Meade Museum

**September TBD, 1:00 p.m. — SCOOP OF HISTORY: History of the Sturgis Catholic Church presented by Joan Bachmeier, Sturgis Public Library**

**October 2-4 — WEST RIVER HISTORY CONFERENCE, Hill City, Crazy Horse Memorial Conference Center**

**Friday, October 18 — HISTORY AT HIGH NOON**

“Walker Family History” Sturgis Public Library, sponsored by SAAC.

This program kicks off the 2024-25 season, presented by Janeen Walker and Beth Walker.

## 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](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.SturgisHistory.org)



## Sturgis & Meade County Historical Society Members

Linda Adams

Francie & Mike Alberts

Joan Bachmeier

Beth & Linn Bauer

Brandon Bennett

Paul & Mary Bisson

David Brinkworth

Larry & Nancy Broel

Joe DesJarlais

Michael & Cathy Elliott

Charlie & Cindy Gray

Cathy Hafner

Linn Hendrickson

Tom & Terry Hermann

Deb & Jim Holland

Kris Hubbard

Betty Jo Huff

Clint & Sandy Jolley

Gordon & Earla Karels

John Kenoyer

Gordon & Marlene Kotab

Dwayne LaFave

Logan Lamphere

Ross & Jan Lamphere

David Landry

Denise Larue

Bob & Judy Luebke

Janice Lundgren

Joseph Massa

Mark & Beth Massa

Kimberly Mattson

Richard Moeller

Les & Alice Nelson

Stacey Nickelson

Robert & Donna Laughlin Otto

Linda Pipal

James Quinn

Mark Rambow

Sydney Reyes

Judith Rockwell

Beverly Rosenboom

Kathi Schneider

Leona Howe Schroeder

Patricia Shaver

Violet Stoltz

Lee Stroschine

David & Carol Super

Bob Tesch

Ann Thompson

Bruce & Darci Weyrich

Mary & Susan Wood

*Thanks for  
your support!*



## STURGIS & MEADE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P. O. Box 221, Sturgis, SD 57785

### Board Officers

Mark Rambow, President,  
[presidentsturgishistory@gmail.com](mailto:presidentsturgishistory@gmail.com)

Ross Lamphere, Vice President

Jim Holland, Secretary

Janice Lundgren, Treasurer

Joan Bachmeier, Historian

### On Line

Website:

[www.sturgishistory.org](http://www.sturgishistory.org)

YouTube:

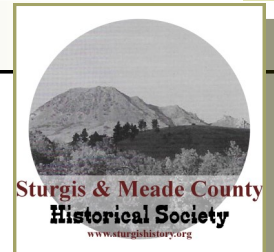
[youtube.com/@sturgishistory](https://youtube.com/@sturgishistory)

Instagram:

[instagram.com/sturgishistory](https://instagram.com/sturgishistory)

Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/sturgishistory.org](https://www.facebook.com/sturgishistory.org)



## OUR SPONSORS

City of Sturgis

Oasis Bar & Fireside Lounge

KBHB Radio

The HomeSlice Group

Meade County Commission

***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