

**STURGIS
&
MEADE
COUNTY
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**

Newsletter, May 2018, Vol. 3, Issue 2



Photo Courtesy of Bob Davis

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CALL FOR PHOTO AND PARADE ENTRIES

Public participation is requested for the History Day and 140th Birthday Celebration scheduled for Friday, June 15 and Saturday, June 16.

Please contact Leona Schroeder (leonags@aol.com) or (605-939-9979) to take part in either or both.

Photo Exhibits

We are requesting local people put together a collection of photos of their family, class, organization, business, etc., from the area during the 20th century and set them up in the auditorium between 1:00-3:00 p.m. on Friday, June 15, for display during the Nolin dedication reception that evening and on Saturday, June 16, in the morning. All are invited to attend the reception following the Nolin Monument dedication.

Birthday Parade Entries

We are planning a parade through downtown Sturgis beginning at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 16th. The overall theme is "Happy 140th Birthday, Sturgis" and the categories are "Sturgis Past," "Sturgis Present," and "Sturgis Future," so there is a lot of room for all types of entries—floats, old vehicles, school groups, youth groups, senior citizen groups, patriotic organizations, businesses, etc. Please consider joining us with an entry and don't forget to come down on Saturday, June 16th and join in the fun!

Our Society

MEMBERSHIPS

- 50 individual
- 30 family
- 1 lifetime member

SPONSORSHIPS

- 2 paid sponsors
- 14 in-kind sponsors

Your interest and monetary contributions help us move forward in preserving the history of Sturgis & Meade County.

If you are not already a member, please consider joining us!

You will find a membership form on page 6 of this newsletter.

*Leona Schroeder
Membership Chairman*



NOLIN MONUMENT

In 1932, early day Sturgis residents built the Nolin Monument to honor Charles Nolin, a contract mail carrier who was killed near the location on August 19, 1876.

With the support of Regional Hospital, Sturgis volunteers rebuilt the Nolin Monument on its original site. A dedication ceremony for the interpretive site was held on June 15, 2018.

STURGIS, SOUTH DAKOTA



The Nolin Monument

commemorative post card is now

available at the Sturgis Chamber of Commerce, the Fort Meade Museum, Sturgis Photo and Gifts, and Black Hills Rally and Gold in Sturgis, and at the Western Heritage Museum in Spearfish. They will also be available at the dedication ceremony on June 15th, at which time they will be picked up by Pony Mail Carrier and delivered to the Sturgis Post Office where they will receive a special cancellation that has been produced just for this occasion. Funds generated from the sale will be used for future upkeep on the Nolin Monument.

The pictures on this post card are the Monument as it was in 1932 taken from a post card produced at that time along with today's Monument. It is our hope that this card, along with the cancellation, will become an important keepsake.



Nolin Monument Revitalization Committee Award . . . *Kris Hubbard*

Congratulations to the Nolin Monument Revitalization Committee for being named this year's recipient of the Governor's Award for History for an Organization. The committee was honored because of its efforts to preserve history, specifically the Nolin Monument. This award, from the South Dakota State Historical Society, was presented during the Society's annual history conference held recently in Rapid City.

Accepting the award was Ross Lamphere, chairman of the Nolin Monument Revitalization Committee. After explaining the history of the Nolin Monument, Lamphere talked about how time and weather had taken its toll on the 1932 stone monument, located in front of Sturgis Regional Hospital on Junction Avenue. "When Regional Health began planning to expand and relocate its clinic next to the hospital, the opportunity presented itself to revitalize the Nolin Monument," Lamphere explained. "Once the committee was formed, our biggest challenge was then to bring meaning and significance to this monument and event. We wanted to tell the story of our history in a way that engages people of all ages and backgrounds," he said.

The committee decided to completely dismantle the monument and rebuild it on the same site, using the same rocks - more than 10 tons of it! They also wanted to landscape the area and add five educational kiosks that would tell the story of that time in history. "We thought it was important to explain why the Nolin Monument is relevant to this area and what was going on in 1876," said Lamphere.

Those five displays cover the topics of the Fort Laramie Treaties and the establishment of reservations; how those treaties and the promises made were broken; the story of Charles Nolin; the establishment of the City of Sturgis in 1878; and the establishment of Fort Meade in 1878.

A Deadwood Historic Preservation Commission matching grant of \$25,000 got the committee on its way of meeting its goal of raising \$60,000 for the project. "Many local citizens, organizations and businesses also donated to this very worthwhile cause," said Lamphere. "Additionally, we received some big in-kind donations from Regional Health Systems, Ainsworth Benning Construction, Sturgis Photo & Gifts and Rockingtree Landscape. This really was a community effort. We are so appreciative of and thankful for everyone's help."

In addition to Lamphere, members of Nolin Monument Revitalization Committee include Terry Hermann, Clint Jolley, Dean Kinney, Janice Lundgren, Bill McKee, Mark Schulte and Lee Stroschine.



South Dakota Secretary of Education Don Kirkegaard presents the Governor's Award for History for an Organization to the Nolin Monument Revitalization Committee. Accepting on behalf of the organization is Ross Lamphere, its chairman. The award is one of six presented this year by the South Dakota State Historical Society, which is a division of the Department of Education. *(Photo courtesy of the South Dakota State Historical Society.)*

HISTORY OF THE NOLIN MONUMENT

1876 was a tumultuous year on the Northern Plains called Dakota Territory. One of the many stories of that time was about a young man named Charles (Red) Nolin, a pony mail carrier. Nolin was delivering mail to Deadwood City when he met members of the Schofield Freighting Outfit, who were camped along Alkali Creek, only a few miles south of present-day Sturgis and near the current Black Hills National Cemetery. Nolin was invited to spend the night but declined because he had promised his mother it would be his last run, and, being accustomed to traveling at night and alone, he continued toward Deadwood City. Unfortunately, the next day the members of the freight company found Nolin's body and buried it where they found it. In 1889 the body was moved to Bear Butte Cemetery in Sturgis. The monument, located at the site of Nolin's demise, was originally constructed in 1932 by local residents and members of the Black Hills Society of Pioneers.





Description of Events for 4th Annual History Day and 140th Birthday Celebration, June 15-16, 2018

Kris Hubbard



The Sturgis & Meade County Historical Society is hosting its 4th Annual History Day on Friday and Saturday, June 15-16. This event will be combined with the dedication of the revitalized Nolin Monument and a celebration of the 140th birthday of Sturgis and Ft. Meade.

The dedication of the Nolin Monument will take place at 3 p.m. Friday, June 15, at the monument which is located in front of Sturgis Regional Hospital on Junction Avenue. (In case of inclement weather, the dedication will be held at Sturgis City Auditorium.) The original monument was built in 1932 by local residents to honor Charles Nolin, a contract mail carrier killed in 1876 near that location. Due to its deteriorating condition, the monument was rebuilt this past year.

In addition to a formal program, the Nolin Monument dedication will include an appearance by a pony mail carrier who will collect postcards, printed to commemorate the occasion, and carry them to the Sturgis Post Office where they will receive a cancellation designed especially for this event. These postcards are \$1 each and can be purchased at the Fort Meade Museum, Sturgis Area Chamber of Commerce, Sturgis Photo and Gifts, and Black Hills Rally and Gold in Sturgis and at the Western Heritage Museum in Spearfish.

Immediately following this dedication will be a reception and community mixer, from approximately 4-6:30 p.m., at Sturgis City Auditorium on Main Street.

At 7 p.m., Sgt. Puregood's Traveling Medicine Show will hit the stage in the vacant lot on the corner of Main and Junction next to the Sturgis City Auditorium. Those attending the show will be transported back to the 1880s when the traveling medicine show brought entertainment to small town America while peddling a variety of 'Snake Oil' products. Music and comedy abound as Sgt. Puregood (Randy Bender) and Soapsuds Sal (Alexis Iverson) expound on the virtues of Puregood's Perfected Panacea!

Saturday's events begin at 9 a.m. at the City Auditorium. Photo exhibits, celebrating familiar names and faces of Sturgis and Fort Meade, will be available for viewing until noon. A bus tour of historic Sturgis homes and area burial sites will be held from 10-11 a.m. The tour will leave from the Auditorium. Also scheduled for 10-11 a.m. at the Auditorium will be a demonstration and talk, "Light and Iron: Tin-Type Photography in the West" by David Rambow.

A parade in celebration of the 140th birthday of Sturgis and Ft. Meade will be held at 11 a.m. The parade will begin from the Sturgis Veterans Club and then go west on Main to Third Street, south on Third Street to Sherman Street, east on Sherman to Middle Street, and then north on Middle Street back to the Veterans Club where the parade will disband.

All events for Saturday afternoon will be held at Fort Meade. The softball field is the location for the 1 p.m. dedication of the Fort Meade walking/bike trail.

Also beginning at 1 p.m. and running throughout the rest of the afternoon at Barry Stadium is the Fort Meade Play Day consisting of pony rides, an archery range, pioneer games, Native American dancers, children's rodeo and an old-time photo booth. Those attending will also have an opportunity to shoot Cavalry and Old West weapons (using blank ammunition).

The Play Day includes a presentation on the history of Fort Meade by Randy Bender portraying Col. Caleb Carlton, who, in 1892 as commander of Fort Meade, issued an order requiring that "The Star-Spangled Banner" be played each evening at the retreat ceremony, when the flag is lowered. In case of inclement weather, the Play Day will be canceled.

At 5 p.m., a Dutch oven dinner will be held at Barry Stadium. Tickets for this event are \$20 each and can be purchased at the Fort Meade Museum, Sturgis Area Chamber of Commerce and County Drug in Sturgis. Tickets will NOT be sold at the event.

A free concert of music and poetry by Jan and Collin Wood will be held at 6 p.m. followed by the closing ceremony and flag retreat at 7 p.m. In case of inclement weather, the dinner and concert will be held at the Sturgis Community Center.

**4th Annual History Day and
140th Birthday Celebration of Sturgis and Fort Meade
Friday and Saturday, June 15-16, 2018**

Presented by Sturgis & Meade County Historical Society
and Fort Meade Museum

Friday, June 15

3 p.m. – Dedication of the revitalized Nolin Monument, in front of Sturgis Regional Hospital, Junction Avenue* (Commemorative postcards of the monument are available for \$1 at Sturgis Area Chamber of Commerce, Fort Meade Museum, Sturgis Photo and Gifts, and Black Hills Rally and Gold in Sturgis and at the Western Heritage Museum in Spearfish.)

4-6:30 p.m. – Community mixer and reception for the Nolin Monument dedication, Sturgis City Auditorium, Main Street

4-6:30 p.m. – Photo exhibits celebrating familiar names and faces of Sturgis and Fort Meade, Sturgis City Auditorium

7 p.m.– Sgt. Puregood’s Traveling Medicine Show, vacant lot on the corner of Main and Junction (next to the Sturgis City Auditorium)

Saturday, June 16

9 a.m.-Noon – Photo exhibits celebrating familiar names and faces of Sturgis and Fort Meade, City Auditorium

10-11 a.m. – Bus tour of historic Sturgis homes and area burial sites; departs from City Auditorium

10-11 a.m. – “Light and Iron: Tin-Type Photography in the West” demonstration and talk by David Rambow, City Auditorium

11 a.m. – Parade down Main Street in celebration of 140th birthday of Sturgis and Fort Meade.

Noon-1 p.m. – Lunch at local restaurants

1 p.m. – Dedication of the Fort Meade walking/bike trail will take place at the softball field, Fort Meade

1 p.m.-5 p.m. – Fort Meade Play Day, Barry Stadium, Fort Meade** (Activities include pony rides, pioneer games, Native American dancers, children’s rodeo and old-time photo booth, among other events. Also scheduled is a presentation of the history of Fort Meade by Randy Bender as Col. Caleb Carlton, commander at Fort Meade in 1892.)

5 p.m. – Dutch oven dinner, Barry Stadium, Fort Meade** (Tickets are \$20 and are available at the Fort Meade Museum, Sturgis Area Chamber of Commerce and County Drug. Tickets will NOT be sold at the event.)

6 p.m. – Concert by Jan and Collin Wood, Barry Stadium, Fort Meade**

7 p.m. – Closing ceremony and flag retreat, Barry Stadium, Fort Meade

*In case of inclement weather, the dedication will be held at Sturgis City Auditorium.

**In case of inclement weather, the Fort Meade Play Day will be canceled; the dinner and concert will be held at the Sturgis Community Center.

Calendar of Upcoming Events ... *Leona Schroeder*

Tuesday, May 15, 6:30 p.m.: MONTHLY BOARD MEETING, Chamber Office

Friday, May 18, Noon: HISTORY AT HIGH NOON, "Old Time Gas Stations," Guy Edwards, Library

Tuesday, June 5, 5:30 p.m.: 140th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION COMMITTEE MEETING, Chamber Office

Friday, June 15 and Saturday, June 16: HISTORY DAY/140th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION
(See schedule on page 4)

Tuesday, June 19, 6:30 p.m.: MONTHLY BOARD MEETING, Chamber Office

Saturday, August 18, (time to be determined): FALL SCOOP OF HISTORY,
"Farming/Ranching on the Alkali Bench,"
at the Black Hills Threshing Bee

Spring Scoop Recap: First Presbyterian Church ... *Kris Hubbard*



Janice Lundgren, a member of the church and treasurer of the Sturgis & Meade County Historical Society, presented the program about the church, which will celebrate its 132nd anniversary in October.

The stained-glass windows at the Sturgis First Presbyterian Church were the focus of the Spring Scoop of History sponsored last month by the Sturgis and Meade County Historical Society. Also discussed at the gathering was the 132-year history of the church located on Junction Avenue.

The program began with a Power-Point presentation in the sanctuary, followed by a self-guided tour of the church's 15 windows.

Refreshments were served in the church basement following the program.



Gene McPherson also talked about his memories of growing up in the church.



Church member Mimi Shewey talked about her early memories of the church and of Rev. Carroll Erskine and his wife.



Bruce Hubbard and Jan Lamphere look at one of the stained-glass windows in the church.

STURGIS & MEADE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P. O. Box 221, Sturgis, SD 57785



Board Officers

Mark Rambow, President, mark@sturgishistory.org
 Ross Lamphere, Vice President
 Kris Hubbard, Secretary
 Janice Lundgren, Treasurer

On Line

E-mail: info@sturgishistory.org
 Website: www.sturgishistory.org
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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 501(c)(3) 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/year _____ Family: \$35.00/year _____ Student: \$15.00/year
 _____ Business Sponsorship: \$250.00/year _____ 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