

**STURGIS
&
MEADE
COUNTY
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**

Newsletter, February 2019, Vol. 4, Issue 1



Photo Courtesy of Bob Davis

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**5th Annual History Day... *Leona Schroeder*
*Celebrating the 130th Anniversary of Meade County***

On Friday, June 14 and Saturday, June 15, the Sturgis & Meade County Historical Society will host the 5th Annual History Day. This year, the theme is: Celebrating the 130th Anniversary of Meade County.

Friday evening, June 14th, there will be a gathering at the Sturgis Auditorium with snacks, cash bar, entertainment and booths representing Meade County communities. Saturday, June 15th, the booths will again be open in the Auditorium with a speaker or two and a 10:00 a.m. parade on Main Street in Sturgis.

Please plan to join us and help celebrate 130 years of life in Meade County!

Our Society

MEMBERSHIPS

- 55 individual
- 30 family
- 1 lifetime member
- 1 founding member

SPONSORSHIPS

- 2 paid
- 14 in-kind

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

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

Membership form on page 5

*Leona Schroeder
 Membership Chairman*

ENTER A BOOTH AND/OR A PARADE ENTRY

The theme for the 5th Annual History Day is 'Celebrating the 130th Anniversary of Meade County.' We want to set up display tables in the Sturgis Auditorium to honor and show off our many communities in Meade County. We are inviting each 4H Club, organization and individual in every community in Meade County to put up some kind of display highlighting the history and current features of the various areas. It can be as simple or elaborate as you prefer (i.e. some old photos beside current photos of your area) etc. For more information on booths and to reserve your spot, please contact: Janice Lundgren, 19587 4-Mile Road, Sturgis, SD 57785-6328, phone: 605-347-3233, e-mail: lundgren1@wildblue.net

Also, we will be hosting a parade honoring 130 Years of Meade County at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 15, on Main Street in Sturgis. We would love to have entries, as elaborate or simple as you would like, representing each of the communities in the county or whatever you think would help us tell the story of our own Meade County. If your local 4H Club or other individual/group would like to have an entry in the parade, or if you know of anyone else who would like to enter a car-pickup-truck-float or whatever with your area's name, we would love to have you! For more information on the parade, and to reserve your spot, please contact: Leona Howe Schroeder, 3305 Canyon View View Ct., Sturgis, SD 7785, phone: 605-939-9979, e-mail: leonags@aol.com

PLEASE NOTE: Don't forget ... all memberships are due on June 15, 2019.

Individual: \$25	Family: \$35
Student: \$15	Business: \$250



'RECAP' of 4th Annual Taste of Sturgis ... *Kris Hubbard*

**2nd PLACE
WEIMER'S DINER & DONUTS**



Jan Weimer (left) offers sweet selections.

**1st PLACE
ELK CREEK STEAKHOUSE**



Right front to back: Chef Daniel Hirsch, Jacob O'Neil & Dan Balisco (hidden) serve prime rib & Reuben chowder soup.

**3rd PLACE
WANDA'S KITCHEN**



Serving up barbecue pork burritos are (from back right): Keith Coalmer, Wanda Coalmer & Kathy Adams.



ARBY'S employees Sierra Lippert & David Steward served turkey & ham sandwiches & cookies.

More than 300 people attended the Fourth Annual Taste of Sturgis – a fundraiser for the Sturgis and Meade County Historical Society – held Jan. 11 at Sturgis City Auditorium.

The People's Choice Award, as determined by those in attendance, went to Elk Creek Steakhouse, first; Weimer's Diner and Donuts, second; and Wanda's Kitchen, third.

Also serving bites of food were Arby's, Grocery Mart, Jambonz Grill and Pub, La Risa Mexican Cuisine, Loud American Roadhouse, Papa John's, Sidehack Saloon and The Knuckle Saloon. The Oasis provided a cash bar.

Historical Society President Mark Rambow thanked those who supported the annual fundraiser. "We thank all the community members who attended the Taste," he said. "We also are very, very grateful to the businesses that participated without whom this event couldn't be held." Rambow said the proceeds from the fundraiser will be used to carry out the Society's mission of preserving, protecting and promoting Sturgis and Meade County History. "Money raised will help us purchase computer equipment and software needed in our acquisition and preservation of donated items," he said.

In addition to the businesses listed above, Historical Society sponsors include Boulder Canyon Station Convention Center, City of Sturgis, Da Bus, Davenport Family Real Estate, First Interstate Bank, First National Bank, KBHB Radio, Sturgis Photo and Gifts, and The HomeSlice Group.

For more photos from the event, go to <https://sturgismeadehistoricalsociety.shutterfly.com>



PAPA JOHN'S: Destiny Cornett (right) serves pizza. (Manager Holly Johnston is not pictured.)



GROCERY MART : Dailey's bacon & Sheboygan sausage were served by Annika Meyer & Cameron Enright (left back to front).



SIDEHACK SALOON: Serving chili & tortilla soup are Mona Olson & Randy Essman (left front to back).



JAMBONZ: Gumbo was served by Krissie Traversie (right).



THE OASIS: A cash bar was provided by the Oasis. Bartenders Mikal Calatrello & Michelle (right) served.



KNUCKLE: Mick McAuley (right) serves a chicken dish.



LARISA: Owner Lisa Cress & Eric Swanson (left back to front) serve mini tacos.



LOUD AMERICAN: Kyle Hencke (left) serves Swedish meatballs.

Spring Scoop of History ... *Mary Wood Fossen*

‘SAINT THOMAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH TO HOST SPRING SCOOP’

Saint Thomas Episcopal Church will host the Spring Scoop of History on Sunday, March 24, from 4-5 p.m. and invite you (the public) to join us in a tour of the building and discussion of the changes that have occurred over the past 132 years of it's history. The original church building at 1222 Junction Avenue dates to 1887 and is one of the oldest churches in Sturgis. It has been added to over the years, yet remains much of its' original appeal and beauty. The parishioners' of Saint Thomas are excited about the prospect of sharing our church history with you!



You are invited to join us for cookies and coffee following the presentation.

**** Stay for the annual meeting as shown below ****

5th Annual Meeting

Sturgis & Meade County Historical Society

The 5th Annual Meeting will be held at 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 24, at St. Thomas Episcopal Church, 1222 Junction Avenue, Sturgis. The meeting will follow the Scoop of History held at that location beginning at 4:00 p.m.

Join us for a review of events during the past year, election of board members, and plans for the future!

Becoming Meade County ... ‘Persistence Pays’

Mark Rambow

It was a nasty fight and took 11 years, but in 1889, Meade County was officially formed. As we celebrate its 130th Anniversary, let us look at a brief history of the county.

When counties first formed in the Black Hills, what is now the lower half of Meade County was part of Lawrence County, with the county seat at Deadwood. This was still the case when Fort Meade and Sturgis were established in the late summer of 1878.

From the very start, Sturgis ambitiously began to press for the division of the county. In February 1879, Deadwood newspapers reported the Sturgis had sent a representative to the state capital at Yankton to lobby for the division of the county, and a bill was introduced to do just that, forming “Howard County.” The bill was supported by a petition of over 500 residents of the lower Hills and agricultural areas, including Spearfish and Crook City. Deadwood was quick to react, using their money and political power to stop the effort. Deadwood was the center of the power and mineral wealth flowing out of the Black Hills, and they used both to stop this effort for many years.

The split, between the mining districts in the area of Deadwood, and the agricultural areas of the lower hills and prairie, reflected both differing priorities and very serious charges against the leaders of Lawrence County. Over the years, many charges of corruption, misappropriation of funds, unfair tax policies, rigged juries, misuse of the “county scrip” system, and a host of other things, were argued for the division of the county. Deadwood on the other hand, decried the efforts at division, playing the role of the benevolent overseer, claiming that the communities were being deceived by the greedy and power hungry developers of Sturgis, vindictively pursuing this division for no other reason than to hurt Deadwood.

Continued on page 4

Subsequent efforts through 1883 were also defeated. The 1883 bill, forming "Hale County," no longer contained the communities of Spearfish and Crook City, in hopes of garnering more support, but the results were the same. While it was thought that bribery and deceit were used to accomplish the goal, Deadwood's largest advantage was the existence of their newspapers, which had a strong hand in public opinion. In July of 1883, the first issue of *The Sturgis Record* rolled off the press. It gave proposed areas of division a voice of their own, and began a war of words with the Deadwood papers over the matter.

The area incorporated into the new county continued to change to overcome opposition. A boundary on a straight North-South line, in line with the current west boundary of Meade County, changed to leave the mining communities in the Galena area in Lawrence County. The line jogged to the east and down again, leading the Deadwood papers to nickname Sturgis "Jog-In-The-Timber." *The Record* retaliated by beginning to refer to Deadwood as "Courthouse Gulch" and "Up The Creek."



The 1885 bill to form "Meade County" was quickly opposed, then replaced with a new bill to form "Monroe County" with the mentioned boundary changes. As before, despite expected passage, the votes disappeared at the last minute and the bill was rejected.

A change in tactics came in 1887. No bill was introduced to form a new county from Lawrence County. A bill was introduced, however, that generally allowed any portion of a county in the territory, based on a petition of 500 individuals in the proposed segregated portion, to demand a special election for division, with only those affected by the division to vote. There were other stipulations requiring that the county be of a certain size and population, which ultimately applied to very few counties. The bill proved popular, passing both the Territorial House and Senate unanimously. However, Governor Church, a strong proponent of Deadwood, vetoed the bill, accusing it of being explicitly designed to divide Lawrence County. The legislature, in turn, overrode his veto, making the bill a law.

Sturgis wasted no time in circulating a petition and calling an election, and, while the vote was delayed several times by county officials in Deadwood through legal challenges and paperwork, it was finally held on Sep. 12, 1887. The final vote was 690 in favor of division, and 29 opposed. Meade County was finally voted into existence! Or was it?

Deadwood had one last trick to play. When the new county of Meade sent their selection for commissioners to the capital for certification, Governor Church placed it in his pocket and refused to take any action. Despite protests and lamentations from the Sturgis Record, there was nothing that could be done.

This situation remained the same until March of 1889, when, as part of the preparation for their efforts to divide Dakota Territory into two separate states, the legislature passed a bill dividing the eastern portion of Lawrence County into Meade County. (Governor Church happened to be replaced by Governor Mellette on March 6th.) This time it stuck, and Meade County was born!

Meade County was enlarged in 1899, when two smaller counties, Delano and Scobey, were added to the northern portion of Meade County, giving it the present size and shape that we know today.

As we celebrate the 130th anniversary of Meade County, it is proper to recognize the dedication and determined effort it took to get us there. Whether it was persistence or stubbornness, the county seems to have been destined to be, despite the decade of effort it took to realize it.

INTERESTED IN SERVING AS A BOARD MEMBER?

There are several openings on the Sturgis & Meade County Historical Society 15-member board of directors, whose duty is to bring together people interested in preserving, protecting and promoting the history of Sturgis, Meade County and the surrounding region. Meetings are held at 6:30 p.m. on the third Tuesday of every month except in August when there is no meeting. Terms are three years in length. For more information, call board secretary Kris Hubbard at 605-347-4359, or email kris_hubbard@msn.com

Calendar of Upcoming Events ... *Leona Schroeder*

Friday, March 15, Noon—HISTORY AT HIGH NOON, Community Center
'Sheriffs of Meade County'...David Super

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

Sunday, March 24, 4:00 p.m.—SPRING SCOOP OF HISTORY, Episcopal Church, 1222 Junction Sturgis
'History of the Saint Thomas Church'...Saint Thomas Parishioners

Sunday, March 24, 5:00 p.m.—ANNUAL MEETING, Episcopal Church, 1222 Junction Sturgis
Following Scoop of History

Friday, April 12, Noon—HISTORY AT HIGH NOON, Community Center
'Kiwanis and the Food Pantry'...Theresa Looby and Dewayne Hayes

Tuesday, April 16, 6:30 p.m.—MONTHLY BOARD MEETING, Chamber Office

Tuesday, May 21, 6:30 p.m.—MONTHLY BOARD MEETING, Chamber Office

Friday-Saturday, June 14-15—5TH ANNUAL HISTORY DAY
CELEBRATING THE 130TH ANNIVERSARY OF MEADE COUNTY

See call for tables and parade entries on Page 1 &
watch for further information on times/places/etc.

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©3 nonprofit organization. Therefore, sponsorships and donations are tax-deductible; membership dues are not tax deductible. New membership year starts June 15.

Registration Information

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

Membership Level Desired

_____ Individual: \$12.50 thru June 15 _____ Family: \$17.50 thru June 15 _____ Student: \$7.50 thru June 15

_____ Business Sponsorship: \$125.00 thru June 15 _____ 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

Kris Hubbard, Secretary

Janice Lundgren, Treasurer

On Line

Website: www.sturgishistory.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/sturgishistory.org

OUR SPONSORS

Arby's

The City of Sturgis

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KBHB Radio

The Knuckle Saloon

La Risa Mexican

Cuisine

Loud American

Roadhouse

The Oasis Bar

Papa John's

Sidehack Saloon

Sturgis Photo & Gifts

Wanda's Kitchen

Weimer's Diner &

Donuts

Sturgis & Meade County Historical Society

P. O. Box 221

Sturgis, SD 57785

*'Man is diminished if he lives without
knowledge of his past.'* IBID