

**STURGIS
&
MEADE
COUNTY
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**



Photo Courtesy of Bob Davis

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Join us for a:

SCOOP OF HISTORY

**Sunday, April 23
2:00 p.m.
Sturgis Armory
Main Street
Sturgis, SD**



**Come and hear some of
the history of this
significant community
building and bring your
own stories to share too.**

Tours provided!

NOTE:

**3rd Annual History Day
scheduled for June 23 & 24,
2017.**

**Watch for detailed infor-
mation in our next newsletter!**

President's Report ... Mark Rambow

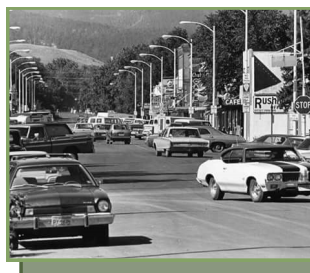
“Home” can mean very different things to different people, but one thing is clear: We all need a home! To many of us, it is the very reason we are involved in the Sturgis and Meade County Historical Society. Whether we are near or far, this community—this region—is our home. We don’t need to live in the vicinity to appreciate the history, culture, stories and traditions.

The Historical Society is in the business of preserving those memories, so others can appreciate another era; relive their childhood; understand a time before their own. We document the well-known and unknown history of the past!

This month’s “Record” tells the story of one local family’s attempt to preserve their home through a long-sought listing on the Historic Preservation list. They are one of several

families in the region who have taken the steps to preserve their home in this fashion.

The Historical Society itself has been searching for a home since we formed a couple of years ago. We may have finally found some temporary space to begin housing our collection of your memories. While it isn’t a large space, it allows us to begin collecting, cataloguing and storing the items, photos, documents, and memories needed to tell our story. While we continue to look for a space large enough to hold our meetings, store a large collection, and, eventually, display our



history, we can now get a start with the items we have.

Your assistance in growing this collection is appreciated. Please donate your photos, documents, keepsakes, or research papers. If you can’t donate the original, a digital copy is a good start! From this, we can piece together our story and make it available for all to enjoy. If you don’t know whether an item is something we can use, contact us to find out! Who knows, maybe we can give it a good home!

* * *

I can be contacted at:

mark@sturgishistory.org

or the organization at:

info@sturgishistory.org.

* * *

Thank you for your member-
ships and support!

Do you have items of historical interest to the Sturgis/Meade County community?

We are looking for booths for History Day. Booths can cover a wide range of local histories: family history, organizational history, community history, business history, historical pictures and artifacts, etc. The most popular booths tend to have pictures and/or items of local history that people can relate to and enjoy. Booths will be set up on Friday afternoon, June 23, and be open during the Mixer that evening and again from 8:30-1:00 on Saturday, June 24. If interested, or for more information, contact Leona Schroeder at 605-939-9979 or at leonags@aol.com.

Sturgis Water Works Historical Site . . . *David Super & Katherine Martel*

Sturgis Water Works Receives National Register Designation ...



The story of how Sturgis came to have a safe, clean and abundant supply of water gained a new chapter this winter with the nomination of its 10-acre Sturgis Water Works Company Supply Works Site to the National Register of Historic Places.

Technically a collection of resources now called a “district” on the National Register, the designation lists six buildings and two objects of special historical significance. The buildings,

the ruins of a small sawmill, and remnants of old wagons are part of the forested land south of Sturgis that makes up the larger Sturgis Water Works. For nearly a century this private business, developed and owned by the Davenport family, supplied the community with its drinking water.

Joseph Davenport and his wife Sara came to the Black Hills in 1884 with a plan to become involved in the Lawrence County Bank. During the late 1800s when Meade County became a separate entity from Lawrence County, the Davenports shifted their focus to the establishment of a water works for Sturgis and by 1892 received voter approval for a franchise to operate the water company. This arrangement lasted until shortly after the death of Davenport’s youngest son, Jarvis, in

1978. The City of Sturgis purchased the water works from the Davenport family and continues to operate a municipal water company.

Katherine Ward Martel, granddaughter of Jarvis Davenport, describes the original purpose of the buildings now on the Historic Register: “Both Davenport men were responsible for the delivery and purity of drinking water to the municipality of Sturgis. In order to assure this source of water arrived to the city in its purest form, engineer’s were hired to site the dams, configure the pipeline, and protect the source from human activity.”

“The men would ride their horses, mules, or whatever they had, to get to the site. Building supplies, tools, and food, were all hauled to the site on wagons until the mid 1900’s. These

cabins and buildings were built before the construction of the dams so the men had provisions on site: a barn for livestock, a cookhouse for meals, an ice house for refrigeration, etc. Imagine now driving to work, parking your car, going into your office building. These men were doing the same thing!”

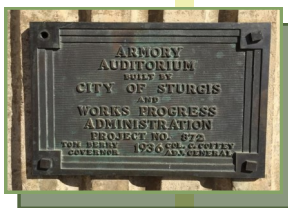
The Davenports, Joseph who died in 1937, and his youngest son Jarvis, were prominent businessmen, civic promoters and active in politics on the local, state and national level. The acreage and collection of buildings now on the National Register remain as testimony to their attention to detail and stewardship of one of the city’s vital resources. As Martel concludes, “The man (her great-grandfather, Joseph,) was small in stature, but had vision far beyond his size.”

Scoop of History Planned for April 23 . . . *David Super*

For eight decades, the downtown Sturgis Auditorium and Armory has served the community as part fortress and part location for all manner of civic and recreational activity.

On Sunday, April 23, starting at 2:00 p.m., retired journalist David Super will lead a Scoop of History public tour of this his-

torical building. His presentation will trace the origins of the structure, how it was dedicated in the fall of 1937, the role of the National Guard in its history, plus highlights from basketball games played there in the late



1940s and early 1950s. During that era, Scoopers were a Black Hills Conference powerhouse and won two State A championships.

People who attend this free program are encouraged to bring their own stories about the Auditorium

to share with the audience.

A “Commance Court Kid” and 1965 graduate of Sturgis High School, Super started his 31-year military career in the Armory as a member of the National Guard’s 109th Engineer Battalion. He also serves on the Sturgis/Meade County Historical Society Board of Directors.

The Charles Nolin Monument Update . . . *Ross Lamphere*



The Nolin Monument Committee has begun their work. The Monument has been carefully removed while saving and cataloging all important rocks that were found. They will be used to reconstruct the Monument a few months from now after site work has been completed. There were no big surprises



resulting from the excavation. No bones of any type were found and no time capsule discovered. The only surprise dealt



with the volume of rock and cement found in the base. This made for a great foundation and may be used as we rebuild.

Fund raising has kicked off with funds coming in from many people and businesses. Your participation will help us reach our goal of \$60,000.

Contributions can be made to:

**Sturgis & Meade County
Historical Society
Nolin Fund
PO Box 221
Sturgis, SD 57785**

Please put Nolin Monument on your donation.

Scooptown Shootout Follow-up . . . *Kris Hubbard*

The second annual Scooptown Shootout, a fundraiser for the Sturgis and Meade County Historical Society, was held February 10 at the Boulder Canyon Station Convention Center. Almost 100 people were present to sample food provided by area restaurants.

From beef tips and prime rib to jalapeno poppers and chocolate covered donuts, attendees had an opportunity to taste a variety of food and then vote for their favorite. The People's Choice Award went to Elk Creek Steakhouse and chef Daniel Hirsch for his prime rib.

Following close behind in the voting were Jambonz Grill and

Pub for grilled beef tips and chicken and sausage gumbo; Loud American Roadhouse for jalapeno poppers; Sidehack Saloon for breaded beef tips; The Knuckle Saloon for beef tips; and Weimer's Diner and Donuts for donuts.

Historical Society president Mark Rambow thanked those who attended the group's fundraiser and the restaurants for participating. "As our only true fundraiser of the year, this Scooptown Shootout is very important to the Historical Society as we continue our work of preserving, protecting and promoting the history of Sturgis and Meade County," he said.

"Without the generous support of the restaurants of the greater Sturgis area, this would not be possible," Rambow continued. "Our community is blessed to have so many quality restaurants. Many people attending the Shootout commented they were going to return to those businesses to try their full menu," he said.

Rambow encouraged the public to help the Historical Society in carrying out its mission by contacting him with items and stories they have which may help in comprehensively documenting the area's history. "We are looking at developing forums and venues to share this proud history," he added.



Chef Daniel Hirsch from Elk Creek Steakhouse wins the People's Choice award for 2017.

(Photo courtesy of Joan Bachmeier)

(Article reprinted with permission of the Meade County Times-Tribune.)

Calendar of Upcoming Events . . . *Leona Schroeder*

**Friday, April 21: HISTORY AT HIGH NOON, Sturgis Library
Woods and Jones Family History...presented by the Jones and Woods daughters**

**Sunday, April 23: SPRING SCOOP OF HISTORY, Sturgis Armory, 2:00 p.m.
David Super, and others, will give a presentation on the history of the Amory.
Tours will also be conducted.**

Friday, June 23 & Saturday, June 24: 3rd ANNUAL HISTORY DAY, Sturgis Community Center:

Friday, 5:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

Mixer with hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar. Booths open for viewing!

Members Free ...Non-members \$5.00

Saturday, 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Annual meeting, booths, tours, lunch, speakers, and ice cream social

Watch for the complete schedule to come!

September: FALL SCOOP OF HISTORY

Group bus trip to Faith to visit their renovated Ice House and Museum

Schedule tentative, watch for updates!

STURGIS & MEADE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P. O. Box 221
Sturgis, SD 57785



Board Officers

Mark Rambow, President, mark@sturgishistory.org
Ross Lamphere, Vice President
Leona Schroeder, Secretary, leonags@aol.com
Mary Fossen, Treasurer

On Line

E-mail: info@sturgishistory.org
Web: sturgishistory.org
Facebook: The History of Sturgis & Meade County, SD



OUR SPONSORS



Davenport Family Real Estate



Sturgis Photo & Gifts



PO Box 909
1855 Ball Park Road
Sturgis, SD 57785



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. We are a 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation, therefore donations and sponsorships are 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