

**STURGIS
&
MEADE
COUNTY
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**



Photo Courtesy of Bob Davis

Inside this issue:

3rd Annual History Day Information	2
History Day Schedule	3
Upcoming 'Scoop of History' Information	4
'The Fate of the Mail Carrier'	5
Our Sponsors	6
Membership Form	6

President's Report ... Mark Rambow

When Opportunity Knocks

The town of Sturgis, as with many towns, was built on opportunity. When Fort Meade was officially established, in August 1878, Sturgis City was immediately laid out to take advantage of opportunities from the soldiers, the fort and the government. Whether it was soldier pay, or contracts for hay, grain, horses or construction, the community prospered.

As the Historical Society continues to grow, we are always looking for opportunity as well. We recently had a small space donated by a local business to allow the Society a place to store our meager collection of items, photos and stories. We

can now begin to catalogue, document and preserve the things we need to tell our story; and what a story it is!

We also have the opportunity to tell our story, once again, at the upcoming "History Day." We will have a variety of booths, speakers, tours and storytelling. Look for more about History Day inside this newsletter!

We will also continue the "Scoop of History" series, by expanding it this fall. We have previously had programs in the spring and fall, but will, starting in September, begin holding them quarterly. There were too many great ideas and topics coming forward not to take advantage of the opportunity!

Lastly, we want to take the opportunity to work with you, our membership, and the larger community, to preserve and tell our story. We now have the space to store and catalogue things, but need your cooperation, participation and contributions! You have the information, photos and items that we need, so please reach out and share! When opportunity knocks, you must answer the door!

I can be contacted at:
mark@sturgishistory.org
Or the organization at:
info@sturgishistory.org

Thank you for your memberships and support!

**3rd Annual
History Day
Scheduled for
June 23 & 24,
2017
See Schedule on
Page 3**

* * *

**Booth Space Still
Available!
Contact Leona
Schroeder at
605-939-9979
or
leonags@aol.com**

NOTICE



We have two unique 'Scoop of History' events planned for this fall.. On September 16, the Historical Society will provide a bus tour to Faith, SD, to visit their historic Ice House and Stensland Museum, along with other items of interest.

On December 3, the 1960s informal 'drag racing' events on Sturgis Airport Road will be featured with input from participants and law enforcement personnel.

Mark your calendars ... you won't want to miss out on either of these fun and informative events!

(Additional Details On Page 4)

Third Annual History Day ... Kris Hubbard

The third annual History Day, sponsored by the Sturgis & Meade County Historical Society, will be held Friday and Saturday, June 23 and 24, as a way for area residents to celebrate the past and to learn about the significance of that history. The event is headquartered at the Sturgis Community Center.

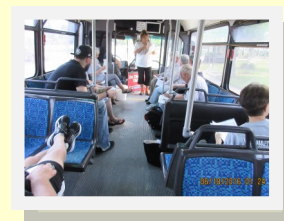
Friday's activities include a mixer from 5:30-7 p.m. in the gym. The mixer, with cash bar and hors d'oeuvres, is free to members of the Historical Society and \$5 for nonmembers.



Booths displaying a variety of historical artifacts, pictures and other information and memorabilia depicting local history will be open during the mixer and also on Saturday from 8:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. in the gym. The focus of those booths includes Fort Meade Museum, Marcus and Faith communities, Nolin Monument, St. Martin's Academy, Erskine Building time clock, JJ Davenport collection, Fassbender collection, Stoneville community, JU Dickson Sawmill, local boxing program and Sturgis Hospital. Collections of old newspapers, O'Haras Handbook of the Black Hills, Sturgis Brown High School yearbooks and Bear Butte Breezes will also be on display.

Saturday's events begin at 8 a.m. in the gym with the annual meeting of the Sturgis & Meade County Historical Society which will include election of new board members and a recap of the past year's events. **This meeting is open to the public.**

Bus tours of historic Sturgis homes and the Fort Meade area will be available twice on Saturday, at 9:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. The drive-by tour of the following Sturgis homes - 1343 Pine Street, 1205 Davenport Street, 1324 Junction Avenue, 1409 Junction Avenue and 1440 Junction Avenue - will include narration by the owners of the residences. The Fort Meade tour also includes commentary.



Speakers are scheduled throughout the day, with all talks taking place in the Meade Room. Historical Society President Mark Rambow will talk about "Life and Death in Old Scooptown" at 9:30 a.m. and again at 2:30 p.m. Former and current employees of KBHB radio station will talk at 11 a.m. about the "History of KBHB." Wayne Gilbert of Belle Fourche is scheduled for 1 p.m. and will discuss the topic "Vigilantes." He will tell stories about various incidents in and around the Black Hills when citizens stepped forward to administer their own forms of justice.

Lunch, in the gym, will be available for purchase from 11:30-1 p.m., courtesy of the Sturgis Regional Hospital Auxiliary.

The presentation of the **Martin C. Beug Friend of History Award** will take place at 12:45 p.m. in the gym. The award is presented annually in honor of the contributions made by the late Martin C. Beug, who started the Historical Society. Recipients must demonstrate preservation, protection or promotion of Sturgis or Meade County history.



This year's award winner is the Sturgis Area Arts Council History at High Noon Committee – Dode Lee, Bonnie Lange, Rosalee Johnson and Diana Hayes. The History at High Noon Committee has been in existence since 2010 when the committee changed its focus from art to history. In nominating the committee for the award, Historical Society board member Leona Schroeder said, "The History at High Noon Committee has sponsored monthly presentations of historical interest to the residents of Sturgis and Meade County. Some of the topics that have been discussed include area families, individuals, buildings, businesses and organizations. The presentations have consistently been educational, informative and interesting, and have certainly helped to preserve, protect and promote Sturgis and Meade County history."

History Day activities will conclude Saturday with a hot dog cookout and ice cream social at 5 p.m. at the Fort Meade Museum. This will be followed by a hymn sing, also at the Museum.

Third annual History Day

*Sponsored by
Sturgis & Meade County Historical Society*

Location: Sturgis Community Center

Friday, June 23

5:30-7 p.m. – Mixer with cash bar and hors d'oeuvres, gym
(Free to Historical Society members; \$5 for nonmembers)
5:30-7 p.m. – Booths open, gym

Saturday, June 24

8 a.m. – Annual meeting of the Sturgis & Meade County Historical Society, gym (open to the public)
8:30 a.m. – Booths open, gym
9:30 a.m. – Bus tour of historic Sturgis Homes
9:30 a.m. – Bus tour of Fort Meade
9:30 a.m. – “Life and Death in Old Scooptown” by Mark Rambow, Meade Room
11 a.m. – “History of KBHB,” Meade Room
11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. – Lunch by Sturgis Regional Hospital Auxiliary, gym
12:45 p.m. – Presentation of Martin C. Beug History Award, gym
1 p.m. – Booths closed
1 p.m. – “Vigilantes” by Wayne Gilbert, Meade Room
2:30 p.m. – Bus tour of historic Sturgis Homes
2:30 p.m. – Bus tour of Fort Meade
2:30 p.m. – “Life and Death in Old Scooptown” by Mark Rambow, Meade Room
5 p.m. – Hot dog cookout and ice cream social, Fort Meade Museum
6 p.m. – Hymn sing, Fort Meade Museum

Thank you to the following sponsors for making this event possible:

Black Hills Title Company
Boulder Canyon Station
Convention Center
City of Sturgis
Compass Point
DA BUS

Davenport Family
Real Estate
Elk Creek Steak House
Grocery Mart
Homeslice
Jambonz Grill & Pub

Loud American
Roadhouse
Sidehack Saloon
Sturgis Photo & Gifts
The Knuckle Saloon
Weimer's Diner
& Donuts

September Scoop of History ... Annelle Afdahl

The Faith area is looking forward to sharing area history with the Sturgis & Meade County Historical Society when the bus tour goes to Faith on September 16, 2017. The Faith Information Center, Milwaukee Beer (Ice) House, and the Stensland House Museum will be open for the group to visit. John Lopez also has two sculptures nearby.

Earl Stensland gave the house to the Faith Historical Society for the purpose of preserving local history. It contains not only home furnishings, but many items of historical interest.

The Information Center is the "Welcome" center for the town of Faith. Displays include local early day history and professional railroad history, T-rex bones, many "Sue" pictures, and a teenage T-rex skull replica.



"Bucky", the teenage T-rex, was found 13 miles NW of Faith by Bucky Derflinger and "Sue" was found 13 miles NE of Faith. Orville Graslief's fossil collection is here, as well as an authentic soda fountain. The American flag which flew over the Larson's camp while they were excavating "Sue" is also located here.

The Ice House was built by the Milwaukee Railroad for retailing beer and ice. Prohibition destroyed the "beer" plan. The building was designed to hold three cars of beer, 100 ton of ice, and one car of sawdust (placed on top for insulation). For many years, it was used as a storage facility. As with all similar establishments, each owner or renter left more junk. Cleaning of the building was completed last summer. (A surprise find tumbled out of one of the bags of dirt and trash. The picture is on display in the ice house.) It was opened to the public on August 14, 2016, for the first time in nearly 100 years! A large barbed wire display, donated by Norvan and Carol Ness, is on display along with other items which could have been of use in the building at that time.

December Scoop of History ... David Super

Gettin' Rubber In All Four Gears



Informal drag racing on the Sturgis Airport Road will be the theme of the December 3rd 'Scoop of History' program.

Historical Society Board member David Super is working with local race participants, as well as retired law enforcement personnel, to gather information about this facet of 1960s local history. **Program organizers currently are searching for photographs, artifacts and personal stories from that era.**

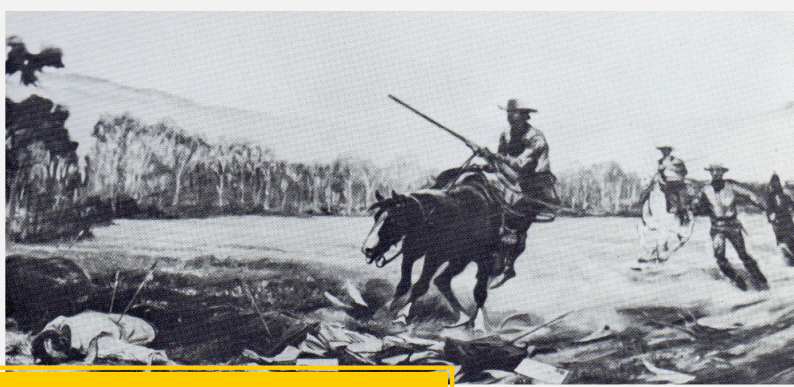
Persons interested in participating are invited to contact Super at david.super@verizon.net or 605-716-5523



Hopefully, the 2:00 p.m. program will be presented in one of the downtown Sturgis motorcycle-themed bars/restaurants.

Please send comments, corrections, or ideas for future newsletter content to Earla Karels at earla.karels@gmail.com

The Fate of the Mail Carrier: *History of Nolin Monument*



MONUMENT DEDICATION

The monument was dedicated on Memorial Day, May 30, 1932 with 4,000 people in attendance from all parts of the Black Hills, including representatives of Indian tribes. Seated at the monument were Jesse Brown (left) and Mrs. Tom (Cornelia O'Brien (right) who were both members of the party that found the body.

On this site, the evening of August 19, 1876, 24-year-old Charles "Red" Nolin, pony mail carrier, was shot and scalped. He was asked by members of the Schofeld Freighting Outfit to stay with them for the night because of the presence of Indians in the area. He declined because he had promised his mother that he would return home once he completed his delivery. His body was found the next day and was buried here where it remained until 1889 when it was moved to Bear Butte Cemetery in Sturgis. Nolin was carrying mail from either Ft. Pierre or Sydney, NE

Monument Builders ...



A group of Sturgis pioneers and Commercial Club formed a committee and enlisted the help of the Society of Black Hills Pioneers and the City of Sturgis to build the monument in early spring, 1932. The monument was restored and revitalized in 2017 by a group sponsored by the Regional Health Hospital Sturgis.

Construction ... The monument, which was designed by Roy Erickson, is a heavy square shaft built of rose and milky quartz and silver ore. A long perpendicular slat with the word "NOLIN" cut deep in it was donated by Consolidated Power and Light Co. and a suitable plate carrying dates and data has been supplied by the Society of Black Hills Pioneers. Rose quartz used on the project was gathered and donated by the Boy Scouts of Custer, the milky quartz being brought here and donated by the Boy Scouts of Nemo. Silver ore from Galena was obtained by Chris Jordan. (*Deadwood Pioneer Times*, Thursday, April 12, 1932)



Nolin Grave ... The body of Charles Nolin was moved to Bear Butte Cemetery in Sturgis in June 1889 by local citizens. A new bronze marker was placed over the original marker by the Sturgis Senior Citizens and Chamber of Commerce Centennial Committee in 1982.

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



GROCERY MART

2216 Junction Ave., Sturgis, SD
 605-423-4606



Davenport Family Real Estate



Weimer's  Since 1949
 Diner & Donuts 1120 Main



Sturgis Photo & Gifts



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.

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