



Photo Courtesy of Bob Davis

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The Search for Information Continues: The Schools of Meade County *... Betty Jo Huff and Logan Lamphere*

Sturgis & Meade County History Days is set for June 12 and 13, 2026, with the theme of "Schools of Meade County."

The February 28 Scoop of History focused on the Meade Schools Research Initiative, and was held at the Sturgis Public Library.

Historical Society President Mark Rambow opened the meeting with a slide show that shared the goals of gathering information.

He shared that Meade County is the largest county in South Dakota, and at one time had 98 school districts. At least one school

was within each district, and at times there were often several schools per district.

The committee continues to search for people who attended any Meade County schools, including the rural schools and the town schools, such as Sturgis, Faith, Whitewood, Piedmont and Black Hawk. (Although Whitewood is in Lawrence County, it has been part of the Meade School District for many years.)

The committee has already heard many wonderful stories and received some photos. Historical Society Board member Yesenia Lyons has taken her continued on next page

**HISTORY DAYS
2026**
"SCHOOLS OF MEADE COUNTY"
June 12-13, 2026
Sturgis
Community Center

**Edited by
Logan Lamphere**



History Days: The Schools of Meade County (cont'd)



talents to mapping the locations of all the old schools. We are super excited about having her do this.

At the recent meeting, we were also able to conduct some interviews and scanned photos and documents.

Board members updated the display case at the Meade County Erskine Administrative (formerly the Erskine School Building, which at one time housed grades K-12). Items loaned by Board members and other donated items were installed.

Meade County Treasurer Robin Shrake reported that many people were able to enjoy the last installation from Ernie Miller's bottle collection.

If you have a connection to a former or current Meade County school, we'd love to have you participate in History Days 2026!

Educators, administrators, coaches, parents and former students are invited to share their memories, research, photographs, and poster presentations. We will have space for booths and presenters. We also hope to conduct a few tours, especially of old one-room school houses.

Meade County is and has been the home of more one-room

school houses than most school districts in the United States. Some have been preserved, some are in disrepair, some have been repurposed and are living new lives, and some are long gone.

School districts have come and gone, often being consolidated as living patterns shifted away from country living towards town living.

There are currently four major school districts that cover parts of Meade County, including Meade 46-1 (Sturgis), Meade 46-2 (Faith), the New Underwood School District and the Douglas School District covering Box Elder and Ellsworth Airforce Base.

The Meade County unincorporated town of Black Hawk is part of the Rapid City School District, while Meade 46-1 takes in Boulder Canyon and Whitewood, both of which are in Lawrence County.

Open enrollment has blurred district boundaries. Private school such as St. Martin's Academy thrived but later moved away.

Sturgis went from having a single school building to having as many as eight schools. Buildings

continued on next page

History Days: Schools (cont'd)

have been named for prominent educators and South Dakota notables, and graduates have gone on to many successful careers.

Rural schools open and close as family sizes ebb and flow, while technology has changed how classrooms operate.

What stories do you have to tell? Were you part of Western Dakota Vo-Tech when it was based in Meade County? Did you attend a one-room school house? Maybe you were part of the last classes to graduate from Piedmont or White-wood High Schools?

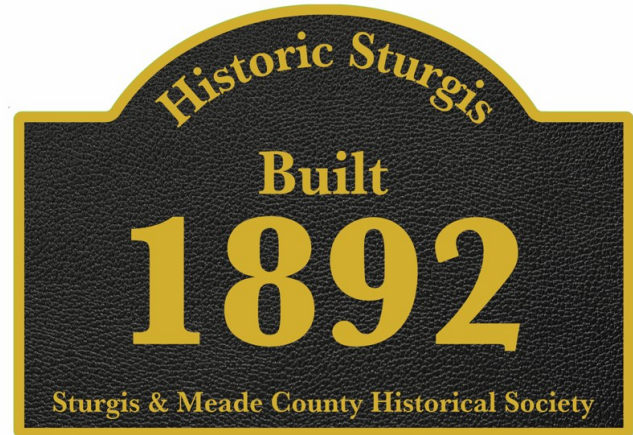
Were you part of a state-championship sports team? Or maybe you have fond memories of helpful teachers, or classroom science experiments gone awry!

Please reach out to Mark Rambow mrambow2@gmail.com or BettyJo Huff huff1227@gmail.com if you would like to participate in History Days 2026.



Historic House Plaques

Is your home over 100 years old? If so, you qualify to buy a Historic Sturgis “Year-Built” plaque! Sturgis Photo & Gifts has agreed to be the ordering and pick-up location.



The benefits of the plaques include the following:

- ◇ To raise awareness of historic structures in Sturgis
- ◇ To pique the interest of residents and visitors regarding the history of Sturgis
- ◇ To enhance civic pride

Using Meade County records, the Sturgis & Meade County Historical Society has identified over 350 houses and commercial buildings that were built between 1884 (the oldest recorded) through 1926 (100 years ago). A list of these buildings and their owners is available to assist in determining which properties qualify for the plaques.

Each year, about a dozen more buildings will turn 100 years old, becoming eligible for the plaque.

The Society has selected a uniform plaque style which is manufactured at Rosenbaum's Signs of Rapid City.

The plaques can be ordered at Sturgis Photo & Gifts for \$75. Orders are placed in batches of 12 a few times per year.

After receiving a plaque, residents may install it next to their front door at eye level, so that it is visible from the street. If there is a front porch, and porch pillar can also be a good spot for plaque installation. No pre-drilling is necessary—just screw it in.

Stop in to Sturgis Photo & Gifts to see a sample plaque and make your order, and help celebrate Historic Sturgis!

Union Center to Hold Centennial, June 27

The Union Center Centennial Committee is proud to announce the Union Center, South Dakota Centennial Celebration to be held on June 27, 2026. This once-in-a-lifetime event marks 100 years of history, community spirit, and the hardworking families who have shaped our community.

We are planning a full day of activities to bring together residents, alumni, neighbors, and visitors of all ages. The celebration will include:

- ◇ A community parade
- ◇ Ice cream social
- ◇ Historical presentation
- ◇ Recognition of local ranches
- ◇ Community business recognition
- ◇ Kids' games and inflatables
- ◇ Car show
- ◇ Food provided
- ◇ Evening dance featuring live music

This milestone celebration is an opportunity to honor our heritage while creating lasting memories for future generations. To make this event a success, we are seeking sponsorships and community donations.

Your financial support will help offset event expenses such as entertainment, equipment, printing, children's activities, and hospitality. In appreciation of larger donation amounts, sponsors will receive special recognition, including:

- ◇ Business logos displayed on official Centennial shirts
- ◇ Logo placement in parade programs
- ◇ Space for business banners displayed prominently throughout the event

This is a wonderful opportunity to showcase your business while supporting a historic community celebration. All donations received by March 1 will be listed on the official shirts.



Saturday, June 27, 2026 at 1 PM - 10 PM
Union Center Centennial
 Public · Event by Delayna Richter and 3 others

Donations big or small are meaningful and may be mailed to:

Union Center Centennial Committee
 c/o Juanita Delbridge
 PO Box 70
 Union Center, South Dakota 57787

For additional information or to discuss sponsorship opportunities, please contact a Centennial Board Member:

- ◇ Juanita Delbridge
- ◇ Bailey Enright
- ◇ Brooke Schuelke

We would be honored to partner with you (however big or small) in making the Union Center Centennial a meaningful and memorable event. Thank you for your consideration and for supporting the Union Center community.

Sincerely,

Union Center Centennial Committee
 Union Center, South Dakota

HELP WANTED: HISTORY OF MEADE SCHOOLS RESEARCH PROJECT

The Sturgis & Meade County Historical Society is collecting the history of Meade County Schools, both in Sturgis and the historic rural districts.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

WHAT:

- We want memories, photographs, stories, and histories of the schools
- Researchers to assist project
- Booths for 2026 History Days

WHO:

- Former teachers and students
- Anyone with info on rural districts
- Anyone who has stories or artifacts

WHEN:

- Immediate help needed
- Presenting initial results at History Days, June 12-13, 2026



DO YOU HAVE:

- Research Skills
- Artifacts/Photographs
- Ancestor Memories
- Student Records
- Old School Buildings
- A Story To Tell!

CONTACT US:

Project Chair - Betty Jo

Phone: (605) 490-5511

Email: huff1227@gmail.com



First round of Outside of Deadwood Grants awarded to 9 projects statewide ... Sara Morgan, Black Hills Pioneer

(Editor's note: reprinted from the February 21, 2026 edition of the Black Hills Pioneer. The Deadwood historic preservation grants have funded several projects in Sturgis and Meade County, including the on-going archaeological digs at Soap Suds Row at Fort Meade (last entry in article). It is interesting to see what other projects across the state are being funded.)

DEADWOOD — Deadwood City Commissioners approved the first round of Outside of Deadwood grants, distributing \$50,000 to 9 historical preservation projects across the state.

Kevin Kuchenbecker, director of planning and zoning and historic preservation, said the department received 15 applications this cycle for projects totaling \$2.7 million. The projects are requesting \$192,097 in total grant funds.

The Outside of Deadwood Grants are awarded twice a year, with amounts totaling \$50,000 each round.

“We set aside \$100,000 each year for our operating budget from the gaming revenues to support preservation projects across the state that relate to Deadwood,” said Kuchenbecker. “Round 1 was \$50,000, and what the (Outside of Deadwood) committee has recommended to the Preservation Commission was approved and recommended to (city commissioners), which are the 9 applicants.”

Projects awarded include 5 churches, a digitization project, a community hall, a museum, and the archeological work happening at Ft. Meade in Sturgis.

Aldersgate Church of Aberdeen

A total of \$5,000 was awarded to the Aldersgate Church of Aberdeen. According to the grant packet, the church is working to restore an original center balcony, returning it to its original horseshoe-shaped design.



Several unopened cans were found in the dig area that students and archaeologists are uncovering at the Bear Butte Creek Historic Preserve. The project was a recipient in the first round of Outside of Deadwood Grants. Pioneer file photo

According to the packet, “Restoring the balcony will reestablish the original spatial design and improve sightlines and functionality while honoring the building’s historic intent. The project will also include the reinstallation of stained-glass windows in their original locations, allowing historically significant features to once again contribute to the sanctuary’s visual and architectural character. In addition, portions of the ceiling will be opened and restored to reveal the original curved architectural form, which was previously concealed.

Other work included in the church’s restoration include reconfiguring the altar to reflect the historic layout, restoring the “ladies’ parlor,” and improving safety and fire mitigation systems.

Brule County Historic Society, Holy Trinity Church roof repair

The Brule County Historic Society was awarded \$7,500 to repair the roof of the Holy Trinity Church.

According to the packet, the church was built in 1893 and was made an historic listing in 1989.

continued on next page

Deadwood Grants (cont'd)

The church basement houses a museum documenting early pioneer's way of life, including how they traveled and settled across the state.

Canton Lutheran Church, restoration of stained-glass windows

The Canton Lutheran Church was awarded \$7,500 for the continued preservation of stained-glass windows in the church. The project is now in its second phase, protecting west-facing windows.

According to the packet, "the online restoration work is the largest part of phase 2 of a project called Restoring Radiance, which aims to restore these historic and artistic treasures. The windows, crafted in the early 20th century, are integral to the church's gothic revival architecture and hold significant cultural and historical value for the congregation and the wider community."

The objectives of the project include preserving the historic integrity by maintaining the original design, colors, and craftsmanship of the windows, enhancing structural stability, improving aesthetic appeal, improving weather resistance and energy efficiency without altering the appearance, ensuring safety and long-term durability, and honoring the historic and spiritual legacy represented by the windows.

Gregory County, map and ledger digitization

Gregory County was awarded \$2,500 to digitize recently obtained commission and highway department ledgers dating from 1900 to 1940.

According to the packet, Gregory County is named after John Shaw Gregory, a member of the first legislature. Shaw lived in Central City and is buried in Mount Moriah Cemetery.

Immaculate Conception Church, restoration of stained-glass windows

The Immaculate Conception Church in Rapid City was awarded \$7,500 for the repair and cleaning of stained-glass windows.

According to the packet, representatives of the church believe the windows have been neglected for nearly 120 years. The church's goal is to refresh the windows with a gentle wash solution now that the church is nearing the end of a \$2 million restoration project.

The catholic church has deep ties continued on next page

History at High Noon: First Sturgis City Council ... *Richard Moeller*

Our next History at High Noon will be on March 20, when Lee Stroschine presents a program on the "First Sturgis City Council." He will tell about the men who formed Sturgis's first city council in 1888.



History at High Noon will conclude its season on April 17 with a program titled "Soap Opera narratives did not get invented in Hollywood." Yes, we had our own, right here in the Northern Hills. David Super will tell the story of Deadwood veterinarian Dr. Charles Leslie, his marriages to two women from Sturgis, and more.

Scheduling has started for the 2026/2027 season. Gene McPherson tentatively will present a program on the McPherson family in September.

In honor of Veterans Day, Tim Velder will present a program on the USS Wyoming in November. This program was inspired by a program Jim Holland presented on the [USS South Dakota](#) several years ago.

We are looking at expanding our programming to include people who might want to talk about their travels.

History at High Noon has always been an evolving program. At its beginning it was an art discussion group called the "Art for Lunch Bunch." If this is something you might be interested in, let us know.

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, 605-939-3789), Ross Lamphere (rosslamphere@gmail.com, 605-490-3110), or Diana Hayes (605-347-3007). To learn more, visit sturgisarts.org or youtube.com/@sturgispubliclibrary.

Deadwood Grants (cont'd)

to Deadwood's gold seeking history, including Father Pierre Jean De Smet's first service in 1848. De Smet instructed Natives to hide their gold from miners, who he said would be overcome by greed and could pose great threats to the Natives.

Keystone Area Historical Society Museum

The Keystone Area Historical Society Museum was awarded \$5,000 for the painting and restoration of the outside of the 21,000-square-foot building.

The building served as a school building for the community until its closure in 1989.

According to the packet, preservation plans began for the building in 2011. Repairs to the exterior of the building include paint and restoring gingerbread and wainscoting.

Restoration plans for the building include two replacements of roofing, repainting the museum using a qualified contractor, and applying for federal grants to install an alarm system.

St. Wenceslaus Church and rectory

The St. Wenceslaus Church in Tabor was awarded \$7,500 for the preservation of the church's parish house.

According to the packet, the 2-story house has a single story, screened in porch on the northern side of the building with weathered Doric columns. The columns need replaced and the porch needs painted.

The packet continues, "Although it is not a permanent address to any one priest, it is used as an occasional retreat or resting place for our priests. It is also an educational center where catechism classes are held in the building every Wednesday night."

Beseda Hall interior ceiling painting

Also in Tabor, the Beseda Hall was awarded \$2,500 to repaint the interior ceiling and side walls of the main hall structure with a minor patch work of holes.



The Canton Lutheran Church, in Canton, was awarded \$7,500 from the Outside of Deadwood Grant Program to continue restoration work of the churches stained-glass windows. The church was 1 of 9 recipients in the first round of awards this year. Courtesy photo

According to the packet, the geometric pattern painted on the ceiling and walls has been damaged by water over the years, leaving parts of the ceiling stained.

The history of the hall begins in 1869 when the first Bohemian immigrants started to arrive in Bon Homme County. According to the packet, the community has made efforts to preserve its Czech and Bohemian communities through the centuries.

University of South Dakota, Soapsuds Row

The University of South Dakota was awarded \$5,000 to continue the archaeological work at Soapsuds Row, an area near Fort Meade.

According to the packet, 10-15 students are anticipated to enroll in the course, serving the university's primary means for archaeological training. Plans for the field season include expanding excavation units on to a privy and log house identified in the 2022 to 2025 field seasons.

According to the packet, Fort Meade was established in 1878 to protect the gold camps at Deadwood and throughout the Northern Black Hills to protect the gold rush settlements.

Native Heritage in South Dakota ... *Vi Stoltz*

Native Heritage

in
South Dakota

The history of the Native Americans in South Dakota from 11,000 BCE to current.

Researched and Compiled by Vi Stoltz

(Editor's note: reprinted from a DAR publication.)

Ancient History

People have lived in Minnesota for over 12,000 years. There are three theories for routes of migration to North America: on foot across the Bering Land Bridge from Asia via Alaska, by boat from Asia along the northwest coast and by boat from Europe along the northeast coast.

When they first came to North America, much of Canada and the northern part of the now United States was still partially under glacial ice with some lakes from the melting glaciers. The newly uncovered land in southwestern Minnesota moving west toward the southern Dakotas, was rapidly re-vegetated with spruce forest and tundra grassland, providing woodland for browsers like mastodon and grassland species like the woolly mammoths, bison and caribou.

South Dakota's Native History

Paleo-Indians: They were hunter-gatherers who inhabited the region around 10,000 years ago.

The earliest archeologically documented sites were by the Paleo-Indians. The territory of present day South Dakota was occupied by the **Clovis** people who were long thought to be the first inhabitants in the New World in 11,500 BC, and in the western United States about 10,700 BCE. Some archeologists claim there were bones of the mastodon found near the Indian burial sites.

Mound Builders: Between 500 and 800 AD, a group known as the Mound Builders inhabited eastern South Dakota. They were named for the earthen burial mounds they constructed

as burial sites, ceremonial centers, and sometimes as foundations for homes. These structures were often shaped like cones, ridges, or effigies resembling animals.

Arikara: Arikara were likely ancestors of the modern Mandan Indians of North Dakota. They arrived in the central part of the state between 1250 and 1400 AD. They were agricultural people and established settlements.

Sioux (Oceti-Sakowin): The Sioux, or Oceti Sakowin are a confederacy of seven bands including the Dakota, Nakota, and Lakota, and are known as the "Seven Council Fires." They were also known as the "Great Sioux Nation". These seven groups are distinguished by their dialects. They historically lived across a vast territory, including parts of what is now known as Minnesota, the Dakotas, Montana, Nebraska and Canada. They migrated to the area from the woodlands of Minnesota, eventually becoming dominant on the northern Plains. They were often referred to as bands, and they were identified by their specific dialectal and geographical locations.

The Lakota, in particular became known for their nomadic lifestyle centered around hunting buffalo. The Black Hills are considered sacred by the Lakota and are a central part of their story culture.

The area they settled in the 1700s was known by the Europeans as the Upper Louisiana or Louisiana Territory.

Late 16th and 17th Centuries

During the 16th and 17th centuries, the Dakota-Lakota speakers lived in the Upper Louisiana,

continued on next page

Native Heritage in South Dakota (cont'd)

now known as Upper Midwest—Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa and the Dakotas. Conflicts with the Anishinabek, Ojibwa and Cree peoples pushed the Lakota west into the Great Plains

Around 1730, the Cheyenne people introduced the Lakota to horses, which they called sunka-wakan (dog of power/mystery/wonder). After they adopted the horse culture, the Lakota society centered on the buffalo hunt.

The Lakota/Dakota/Nakota did hunt buffalo prior to the introduction of the horse. They would try to sneak up on a herd and attempt to drive them to a cliff for the famous “buffalo jump.” The buffalo were much easier to kill when injured. They did try to chase them and spear one, but the success rate was very low.

Adoption of the Horse

The introduction of the horse was a major catalyst. It enabled the Lakota Dakota people to grow from a sedentary farming and hunting tribe to a nomadic, bison-hunting lifestyle on the Great Plains. This transformed their culture to nomadic and warrior culture allowing them to become a dominant force.

Territorial Expansion

With their new equestrian skills, the Lakota expanded into the plains of present-day North and South Dakota, Nebraska, Wyoming, and Montana, sometimes evicting other tribes like the Cheyenne and Crow from these areas.

European Fur Traders

The Europeans had a big influence on the Native Americans. The European fur traders increased contact, and trade. The British became a significant factor in the food supply for the fur as the Dakota became heavily involved in the fur trade.

Columbus and the Spanish

The Spanish introduced the horse to the Natives in the Southeastern area. It soon spread.

The French Involvement

The Brothers Louis and Francois Verendryes were believed to be the first Europeans to set foot in South Dakota in 1742. They were on a mission to explore the Great Plains. They claimed the territory.

Conflicting Interests

Increased European presence and settlements led to a decline in traditional food sources and mounting tension with both settlers and other tribes.

European Diseases

European diseases, such as smallpox and malaria, began to take a heavy toll on the Native populations. Since they had never been exposed to these diseases, they had no immunity.

Early U.S. Involvement

By the early 1800s the first treaties with the U.S. government were made. The United States government began negotiating treaties, initially to acquire land and control the growing population.

Treaty of 1851

The Dakota were forced to sign treaties ceding most of their land in Minnesota, despite diminished resources and increased hostility.

The Fort Laramie Treaty, 1868

The treaty created the Great Sioux Reservation, which reached from the Missouri River to the Wyoming-Dakota border.

Gold in the Black Hills

After General Custer and his army discovered gold in the Black Hills, the United States army could not keep the gold seekers from going into the reservation.

The Government Tried to Purchase the Black Hills

The next step was to try to convince the Native Americans to sell the Black Hills. When that failed, the government ordered all Indians living outside the reservations to return to them by January 31, 1876, or be sent back by force.

Two groups, Crazy Horse and Sitting Bull refused. On June 25, 1876, Custer and his entire command were killed at the Battle of the Little Big Horn in southeastern Montana.

The Ghost Dance ceremony brought renewed hope to the people of the Sioux Nation. Dancers believed the buffalo would return, the white people would go away and ancestors who had died would come back to life, but to no avail.

(Editor's note: the next installment of Native Heritage in South Dakota will appear in the next newsletter.)

Tune in to our YouTube Channel for Videos on History

Our YouTube Channel (youtube.com/@sturgishistory) continues to add new videos—now over 40—thanks to Richard Moeller. Here are some of the recent offerings:

- ◇ [Using Ancestry.com, Part 2](#) by Mark Rambow, Genealogy Workgroup (February 1, 2025)
- ◇ [Using Ancestry.com](#) by Mark Rambow, Genealogy Workgroup (January 4, 2025)
- ◇ [Let's Get Organized: Examples](#) by Mark Rambow - Genealogy Work Group (November 2, 2024)
- ◇ [145 Years of the Catholic Church in Sturgis](#) by Joan Bachmeier (September 22, 2024)
- ◇ [Lakota-Cheyenne Views of Major Battles vs the US: 1865-1877](#) by Donovan Sprague (June 15, 2024)
- ◇ [2024 Martin C. Beug Friend of History Award - History Day](#) by Ross Lamphere (June 15, 2024)
- ◇ [Custer in the Hills](#) by William "Bill" Swanson (June 15, 2024)
- ◇ [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)

GENEALOGY WORKGROUP



What Does That Say!?

Terms Found In Non-English Records

Understanding key terms can be difficult when wading through documents in a foreign language.

We will help you navigate this problem.

Saturday, Apr. 11, 2026, 1 pm - Sturgis Public Library

For more information: (605) 347-2624, Istroschine@sturgisgov.com



Sturgis Public Library
Wisdom Begins in Wonder

The Genealogy Workgroup is a program of the Sturgis & Meade County Historical Society and the Sturgis Public Library, meeting the first Saturday of every month.

The Public is Always Welcome!



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, 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 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

Message from the President's Desk

...*Mark Rambow*

While we are moving in many different directions this Spring, much of our focus is on a very important topic. Our new Meade Schools Research Initiative is proving to be a labor of love!

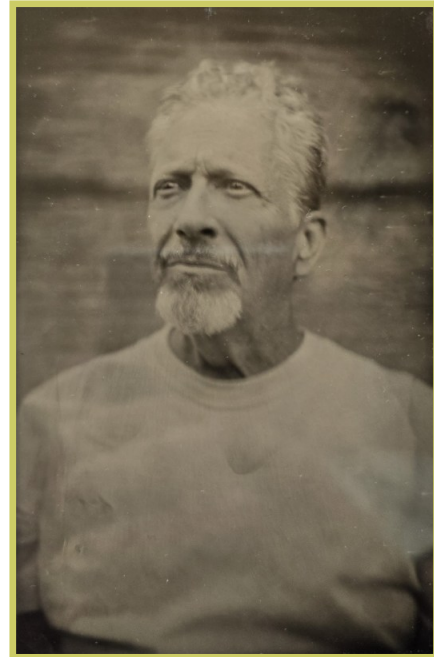
With a variety of knowledgeable people stepping forward, we are beginning to collect the history of many of the schools and school districts that made up the town and rural schools of our county over the past 140 years.

However, there is still so much to do, and so much help is needed!

We estimate that there were over 200 individual schools throughout Meade County, and identifying, mapping, documenting, and preserving the history of all of them is a team effort!

If you have any information or family stories regarding your local school, please reach out. Every detail is helpful!

Mark Rambow



Calendar of Upcoming Events

Tuesday, March 17, 6:30 p.m. — MONTHLY BOARD MEETING,
Zoom/Sturgis Area Chamber of Commerce

Friday, March 20, 12:00 p.m. — HISTORY AT HIGH NOON, "First Sturgis City Council"
presented by Lee Stroschine, Sturgis Public Library

Saturday, April 11, 1:00 p.m. — GENEALOGY WORK GROUP, Sturgis Public Library

Friday, April 17, 12:00 p.m. — HISTORY AT HIGH NOON, "Soap Opera narratives did not get invented in Hollywood" by David Super, Sturgis Public Library

Tuesday, April 21, 6:30 p.m. — MONTHLY BOARD MEETING,
Zoom/Sturgis Area Chamber of Commerce

Saturday, May 2, 1:00 p.m. — GENEALOGY WORK GROUP, Sturgis Public Library

Tuesday, May 19, 6:30 p.m. — MONTHLY BOARD MEETING,
Zoom/Sturgis Area Chamber of Commerce

Friday and Saturday, June 12-13 — HISTORY DAYS 2026, Sturgis Community Center

Saturday, June 27, 1:00—10:00 p.m. — UNION CENTER CENTENNIAL, Union Center

STURGIS & MEADE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P. O. Box 221, Sturgis, SD 57785



Board Officers

Mark Rambow, President,
presidentsturgishistory@gmail.com

Ross Lamphere, Vice President

Jim Holland, Secretary

Janice Lundgren, Treasurer

Joan Bachmeier, Historian

On Line

Website:
www.sturgishistory.org

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www.facebook.com/sturgishistory.org

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Meade County Commission

Oasis Bar & Fireside Lounge

Sturgis Photo & Gifts

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