

Historical Mysteries: In Search of the Buried Past



South Dakota State Historical Society

2025 Annual History Conference &
Governor's Awards for History

May 7-9, 2025
Deadwood, South Dakota

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Locations

Days of '76 Museum
18 Seventy Six Drive, Deadwood, SD

Homestake Adams Research & Cultural Center (HARCC)
150 Sherman Street, Deadwood, SD

Saloon No. 10
657 Main Street, Deadwood, SD

WEDNESDAY, MAY 7

- 1:00 - 3:00 PM **Stories Behind the Stones: Mount Moriah Cemetery Tour**
Mike Runge, City of Deadwood Archivist
Trolley Transportation Leaves from HARCC (Meet @ 12:30 PM)
- 1:30 - 4:30 PM **Board of Trustees Meeting at Days of '76 Museum**
- 3:30 - 5:00 PM **Conference Registration at Days of '76 Museum**
Includes free afternoon museum admission!

THURSDAY, MAY 8

- 7:30 AM – 5:00 PM **Registration at HARCC**
- 8:00 - 8:20 AM **Welcome from Dr. Ben Jones & Conference Logistics**
- 8:30 - 9:30 AM **Session 1 Suds, Duds, and Mud: The Mysteries of Laundress Life at Fort Meade**
Dr. Linea Sundstrom
- 9:30 - 9:45 AM **Refreshment Break**
- 9:45 - 10:45 AM **Session 2 South Dakota's 'Grand Old Man': The Secret Life and Adventures of Abolitionist and Suffragist General Beadle**
Dr. Justin Blessinger, Dakota State University

10:45 - 11:45 AM **Session 3 Murder, Mayhem, and the Ku Klux Klan in South Dakota**

Arley Fadness, SD Humanities Council Speakers Bureau

11:45AM - 1:00 PM **Conference Luncheon**

1:00 - 2:00 PM **Session 4 Remembering the Children: Rapid City Indian Boarding School Documentary and Discussion Panel**

Amy Sazue, Remembering the Children

2:00 - 2:15 PM **Refreshment Break**

2:15 - 3:15 PM **Session 5 Beyond Translation: The Museum's Advisory Panel on Oceti Sakowin Language**

Daniel Moeckly, SDSHS Museum Curator of Exhibits

Violet Catches, Language Advisor

Dr. Art Zimiga, Language Advisor

3:15 - 4:15 PM **Session 6 From Owned to Landowners: Black Homesteaders (*along with their photobombing horses and one very happy dog*) in Photographs**

Dr. Jacob Friefeld, Director of the Center for Lincoln Studies,
University of Illinois Springfield

5:00 - 7:00 PM **Deadwood After Hours: Networking Social at Saloon #10**

Kick off the evening at Saloon #10 with an entertaining South Dakota history lesson, featuring a live reenactment of the infamous shooting of lawman James "Wild Bill" Hickok at 5pm.

Following the performance, the group will head to the Charlie Utter Theatre (inside Saloon #10) for a lively networking social complete with heavy hors d'oeuvres and a curated whiskey tasting experience.

Missed the first show? No worries—catch the reenactment and history talk again at 7pm at Saloon #10.

***Tickets:** \$50 per person. Includes: live entertainment by Saloon #10, hors d'oeuvres, whiskey tasting, and networking opportunities.*

***Hosted by:** South Dakota Historical Society Foundation*

FRIDAY, MAY 9

7:30 AM- 3:00 PM **Registration at HARCC**

8:00 - 9:00 AM **Welcome & Session 7 Mammoths in the Bog - Bone Flakes Abound: A 13,000 Year Old Mystery**

Dr. L. Adrien Hannus, Augustana University (retired)

9:00 - 9:15 AM **Refreshment Break**

- 9:15 - 10:15 AM **Session 8 Research Rabbit Trails: The Story of an Escaped Con, Pitchfork Fight, and Love Poem**
Christina Blessinger, Lake County Museum
- 10:15 - 11:30 AM **Session 9 Unlocking the Mysteries of the Archives**
Mike Runge, City of Deadwood Archivist
Zane Martin, Curator for the Indian Arts and Craft Board, Sioux Indian Museum; NPS Museum Specialist for Mount Rushmore, Jewel Cave, and Devils Tower
Matthew Reitzel, SDSHS-State Archives Manuscript Archivist
- 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM **Awards Luncheon and Keynote Speaker Dr. Patricia Limerick**
Dr. Limerick will present “How South Dakota’s Magnetism Has Kept its Hold on the Author of *The Legacy of Conquest*”
- 1:45 - 2:45 PM **Session 10 A Gathering of the Rich and Shameless: The Strange Death of Agnes Polreis and the Sensational South Dakota Murder Trials of Emma Kaufmann**
Wayne Fanebust, SD Humanities Council Speakers Bureau
- 3:00 - 4:00 PM **Treasures in the Basement: City of Deadwood Archives Tour**
&
Mike Runge, City of Deadwood Archivist
- 4:00 - 5:00 PM