

May is Preservation & Archeology Month

The Clay County Historic Preservation Commission is planning now for May. What would you like to see or learn let us know. In the Commission's January planning session it was stated that workshops by local craftsman on historic preservation seems to be requested. The Following topics are possible workshops: Brick and masonry repair and preservation; Windows and wood preservation; How and what you can do to get your building listed on the National Register of Historic Sites.

The Commission has also been working on identifying the county cemetaries and documenting their sites and condition. One member , Nancy Carlsen, has taken on this project with a passion. The Commission is developing a plan to submit to for funding to develop the materials into a from for the public

to appreciate the wonderful maps , visuals and documenta- tion Nancy is providing.

Be watching for a preview display of the Cemeteries of Clay County. Time and place to be announced.

2007 Plains Anthropological Conference

The 2007 Plains Anthropological Conference will be held in Rapid City, SD on October 11-13 at the Rushmore Plaza Holiday Inn. It is hosted by the SD Historical Society Archaeological Research Center and the U.S. Bureau of Land Management. For more information, contact Mike Fosha, or Jim Haug, (ph. 605-394-1936). The conference web site is under development and will be available in the near future.

Preparation, printing, and distribution of the Clay County Historic Preservation Commission's newsletter have been partially financed with Federal funds from the National Park Service Department of the Interior through the South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office. Under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990, the U.S. Department of the Interior prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex or handicap in its federally assisted programs. Any person who believes he or she has been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility operated by a recipient of federal assistance should write: Director, Equal Opportunity Program, U.S. Department of Interior, National Park Service, P.O. Box 367127, Washington, D.C. 20003-7127.



Clay County Historic Preservation Commission

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Clay County Historic Preservation Commission
Courthouse Suite 102, 211 W. Main, Vermillion SD 57069

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Clay County Properties Receive National Registry for Historic Sites Status

The Bluff View Cemetery Chapel

The Bluff View Cemetery, overlooking the flood plain of the Missouri River, was established in 1882. The Bluff View Chapel, constructed near the cemetery's entrance in 1901, is a mixture of Neoclassical and Gothic Revival architecture that was common in churches of that period. Among its many uses during its history, the chapel served as a repository for bodies that could not be buried in the winter because the ground was frozen.



The Chapel is 20 feet long and 18 feet wide with a gabled height of 16 feet. A wrought-iron sign with white lettering graces the stepped-parapet gable on the east facade, while six hexagonal columns provide support for a front porch covering the main entrance. The gabled north elevation has a large widow with gothic brick hood and glass windows that were recently replaced, and the western elevation has a stepped-parapet gable with an exterior basement entrance.

In 2005, Evelyn Peterson started donating funds to restore the Chapel in memory of her late husband Willard Peterson, who died on March 24, 2005. The Vermillion Cemetery Association currently owns the Chapel, which was placed on the National Register for Historic Places on May 31, 2006. Placards commemorate both the donations made to restore the chapel and its recent status on the National Register.

100 East Main Street

The National Park Service has approved the property at 100 East Main as a contributing property within the Vermillion Historic Downtown District. The changes made on the facade by Karen Muenster changed the building from non-contributing to contributing property within the down town historic district. Main Street improvements continue.



Wanted: Historic Photos

Vermillion will celebrate its 150th birthday in 2009. The Vermillion Sesquicentennial Committee is collecting photographs of local places and events for possibly inclusion in a commemorative history book scheduled for publication in the summer of 2008. If you have photographs that you'd like to share with the community, please contact Tom Thaden at 624-3286 or Cleo Erickson at 624-8266.

Please don't delay! Although the bulk of the photo selection has been completed, there may still be a place for yours! Due to publication deadlines, final choices must be made by the end of February. Your original photographs will be returned to you at the conclusion of the book preparation phase of the project. Thanks for your help in making this document something to cherish for years to come.

CCHPC 2006-2007 Projects

Recently the CCHPC was awarded funds by the State Historic Preservation Office for ongoing program commitments including the CCHPC newsletter and webpage, and for two supplemental publication projects. The CCHPC is looking to these projects as part of the Vermillion Sesquicentennial celebration and feels strongly that the addition of the publications will provide an historic record for years to come.

The first project is the compiling and printing of a new **Guide to National Register of Historic Places in Clay County**. As the title implies, this comprehensive booklet will contain descriptions, selected photos, and general maps for all properties and districts in Clay County which are designated in the National Register of Historic Places. Anyone with information, photos, time, or interests may take part in the development of this Guide. A current listing may be found at:

www.nationalregisterofhistoricplaces.com/SD/Clay/state.html

The second project, **History through Stained Glass** will include cooperative efforts of the Vermillion Area Arts Council and members of the Saint Agnes Parish in Vermillion. The CCHPC



will research and collect historical information about the stained glass windows in the Washington

Street Arts Center, originally built as the St Agnes Catholic Church. A photographic recording of the windows along with their history



will be published in a book to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the 202 Washington Street Building. The book will also be an addition to the upcoming Vermillion Sesquicentennial celebration.

Any resident who has information, photographs, interest or time may take part in the development of either of these publications. The CCHPC welcomes the assistance and input.

The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, established a program of matching grants-in-aid to the states for historic preservation projects and programs for the purpose of identification and registration of historic properties, and the preservation of properties included on the National Register of Historic Places. These funds are derived from offshore oil leases and are appropriated by Congress from the Historic Preservation Fund.

One of the programs specified in the National Historic Preservation Act amendments was for the state historic preservation officer (SHPO) to cooperate with local

governments in the development of local historic preservation programs and to assist local governments in becoming certified. A certified local government (CLG) may compete for a share of the annual apportionment distributed by the Secretary of the Interior to each state. This CLG allocation is subject to the same administrative requirements of the Historic Preservation Fund Grant Manual, Fiscal Year 1999 Historic Preservation Fund Grant Conditions, and the guidelines set forth in the allocation guide.

Clay County Historic Preservation Commission

Members

Phyllis Packard, Chair
 Evelyn Schlenker, Vice Chair
 Tom Thaden, Treasurer
 Ron Johnson, Secretary
 Nancy Carlsen
 Dan Christopherson
 Kevin Jacobson
 Warren Kuhler
 Bill Ranney
 Holly Straub

CCHPC meetings are open to the public. The CCHPC meets the Second Monday of every month at 7:00 PM at City Hall upstairs meeting room

The Bridges of Madison County? We have The Bridges of Clay County

Phyllis Packard



When I first came to South Dakota in 1968, I was fascinated by the country bridges north of Vermillion. I spent many hours sitting on a bridge edge and walking the stream paths watching the small streams trickle and flow and enjoying the birds. Some of my enjoyment was from imagining the history of these spots and some was the similarity to my east-coast mountain-stream background. They were the quiet places of Clay County. Some of these bridges have been lost to flooding and age but five remain. One such bridge is Bridge No. 14-090-042, a pony truss bridge 6.0 miles

east and 0.8 miles north of Wakonda that carries a minimum maintenance across the Vermillion River, on 461st Ave. and just north of Riverside St. The bridge was road probably built in 1912, as Clay County Commissioner's records show that the Federal Bridge Company of Des Moines, Iowa, was awarded the contract in November, 1911, for the bid of \$1546. The bridge was placed on the National Register in 2000.

The South Dakota Historic Bridge Inventory describes the bridge as: two timber stringer approaches on each side, and one riveted 5-panel Warren pony truss in the middle (a pony truss is defined by the lack of cross braces across the top of the two trusses). The bridge rests on steel cylinder piers and the deck consists of wood planks. Bordered by wood railings, the approach spans rest on timber pile abutments with plank back walls and wing walls. The truss span has angle section railings. This bridge is in a heavily wooded part of the Vermillion River valley, and the approaches to the bridge are poor in wet weather.

Me, I just call this a wonderful scenic bridge and worth a Saturday drive and a few moments of quiet solitude.

Do you have a favorite Clay County Historic Site or story you would be willing to share? Please let us know. Send to the Newsletter editor at : pwpackard@gmail.com or PW Packard at 22 W. Bloomingdale Vermillion, SD 57069

CCHPC Continues National Historic Register Plaque Program

The Clay County Historic Preservation Commission (CCHPC) is continuing phase two of an historic plaque initiative within Clay County. Heavy bronze 8" x 11" exterior building signs reading "This property has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places by the United States Department of the Interior" are available for historic property owners. The CCHPC will provide the plaque for National Register Historic Properties at a total cost to the property owner of \$51. This is a subsidized cost, as the program is partially funded with a grant from the South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office in Pierre.



National Register properties are located in the Vermillion Historic District, the Forest Avenue Historic District and the Downtown Vermillion Historic District. There are also several other individually-

listed properties not located in any of the three mentioned districts. Complete information with addresses and photos of all National Register properties within Vermillion can be found in the Clay County Historic Preservation Plan booklet for 2002. Copies are located at the Vermillion Public Library and the Austin-Whittemore House. The information will be updated this year with the publication of the 2007 *Guide to National Register of Historic Places in Clay County*. A listing of the places may currently be found at <http://www.nationalregisterofhistoricplaces.com/SD/Clay/state.html> or may be linked to from the CCHPC website at: www.historicalclaycounty.org

For information please contact Phyllis Packard, CCHPC chair at 624-4762, or Dan Christopherson, Plaque Program chair at 670-2114 or email to danchris@iw.net.

Dalesburg and the Spanish Flu of 1918

Ron Johnson

Today there is much in the news about the threat of Bird Flu and its potential as a worldwide epidemic. Comparisons are made to the Spanish Flu of 1918 which was contracted by about a fifth of the world's population over a two-year period.

In 1918 the Spanish Flu was the Number One killer of South Dakotans and was the cause of death for 1,847 residents. If the number of deaths caused by pneumonia (which may have been caused by the Spanish Flu), is added to the number of deaths from the Spanish Flu, the number of deaths is 2,391 or 36% of the total deaths. Efforts were made by state and local governments to stop the spread of the disease. The University of South Dakota was closed in October of 1918 to reduce the number of students contracting the disease. Even Governor Norbeck was hospitalized with the flu.

There were thirty-one flu deaths in Clay County. Clay County ranked 22nd in the number of deaths compared to other counties in the state. Lawrence County had the highest with Brown County second.

The pastoral acts records of Dalesburg Lutheran Church show the dramatic impact of the Spanish Flu

on the congregation and on the community. Prior to the epidemic in 1917 there were six funeral services recorded (two of which were from Ahlsborg Lutheran Church - its sister congregation near Spink in Union County). After the epidemic, in 1919, only five funerals were held.

In 1918 there was a spike of fifteen funerals! Five of the funerals were at Ahlsborg Lutheran Church. Of the fifteen who died: one was a child of one year, three were teenagers, three were in their 20's, two were in their 30's, one was in his 50's, one was in his 60's and four were in their 70's. Twelve were men and three were women. The cause of death is not given, but 1918 was the year of the worldwide epidemic of Spanish Flu.

Agnes Lyckholm is a survivor of the Spanish Flu of 1918. She and her family were living in Minnesota at the time, and she and her whole family contracted the disease. She remembers a neighbor bringing food and a nurse coming to their home each day with medicine. Her father was the first to recover and he had to take care of the family. Agnes says her mother had a life-long heart problem from the Spanish Flu.

Sources: "1918 Flu Pandemic in South Dakota Remembered" by Matthew T. Reitzel, the records of Dalesburg Lutheran Church, and Agnes Lyckholm

Additional information is available at:
www.sdhistory.org/arc/spanishflu.htm
spanishflu.htm



Winter scenes of Main Street Vermillion early 1900's

CCHPC Website

www.historicclaycounty.org

The Clay County Historic Preservation Commission's website, , has been developed to inform Clay County residents about historic preservation issues in Clay County and South Dakota. The website is being expanded to include information on National Register of Historic Places in Clay County, and now contains links to the Clay County Historic Preservation Plan and Downtown Vermillion Streetscape Plan, a map of the Cemeteries in Clay County, and much other information of possible interest to people living in Clay County. Please check the website periodically to view additional materials.

2006 Recognition Awards

Jerome Anderson & USD Belbas Center

In 1971, the National Trust for Historic Preservation established Preservation Week to celebrate events across the country designed to highlight historical preservation efforts of individuals and communities. Because of the popularity of this endeavor, a week of events was eventually extended to the full month of May. In anticipation of Preservation Month, May 2007, please consider sites, homes, churches, farms, and other structures and sites that have been substantially restored toward their original condition. Nominees should demonstrate efforts that have helped contribute to enhancing the lives of Clay County residents by revitalizing historic places.

Each year the Clay County Commissioners honor the Historical Preservation Commission's selections and presents awards to those individuals and organizations nominated for their preservation efforts. In 2006, Jerome Anderson at 225 High Street and the Dean Belbaas Center / Old Armory renovation on the USD campus were each awarded the recognition.

Previous awards have gone to Karen Muenster for her many efforts to restore downtown buildings, and to the Vermillion Area Arts Council for restoration of the Old St. Agnes Church building. Keep your eyes open and be ready to nominate individuals and organizations in Clay County in spring 2007.

Future awards and recognition will be given to each property list on the state or national Historic Preservation lists during the year.



Photos: Clay County Commission awards certificates to: Jerome Anderson (top) and USD.

Early Norwegian Settlements in South Dakota

The Norwegian immigration to South Dakota (or more correctly Dakota Territory as it was then known) began in Clay County in 1859 and continued so; Yankton and Union 1860-61, Minnehaha '66, Lincoln '68, Brookings '69, etc.

Clay County, South Dakota

The first Norwegian settlers - the first white men who settled in South Dakota (at that time a Territory which, so to say, was governed by the wild Indians) were Sjur Halvorsen Myran† from Hallingdal, Lars A. Torblaa† from Ulvik, Hardanger, Ole Olsen Gjeitli† from Voss and Elling Olsen Engum from Sogn. They settled in the area of Vermillion, Clay Co., S.D. in 1859. They came from Koshkonong, Dane Co., Wis., and crossed the Missouri at St. James, Nebr. It is said that Lars Torblaa was the first to set off across the river - in a wagon box. It is said further that he had a calf with him in the wagon box (This about the calf will have to stand for it self. All the rest is at least true.)

But there were others who came to South Dakota at the same time as the aforementioned men, however they crossed the Missouri River 10 miles further east. They were Bottolf Larsen Jordalen†, Ole Bottolfsen†, Erick Olsen Selland†, Anders Olsen Selland†, Erik Johnson Lunde and Mikkil Rokne, all from Voss, as well as Aslak Iversen† from Ulvik, Hardanger and Nils Ellingsen from Sogn. The following persons came also about the same time or a little later, some of them, Simon Børjer, Christen Jordalen, Anders Ulvhund, Erik Nilsen Stalheim, Ole Lunde, Ingebrigt Siverson†, Joe Førde†, Herman Pedersen† and Knudt Ulvaaen, all or at least the most of the latter from Voss, Elling Sande†, Kolbein Olsen† and Sivert Olsen from Sogn, Steggen, Hans, Sivert, Helge and Halvor Myran as well as Tolleiv Leikvold, Ole Ellefsen and Andrew Hesla, all from Hallingdal and Thorbjørn Thompson, Thomas Thompson and Amund Hansen from Hardanger.

And while we speak of South Dakota's first Norwegian settlement, the following information is of interest:

Ole Olse (Gjeitli), Jr. writes that he was the first white child born in the State - a fact that is confirmed by the South Dakota Historical Society. He was born the 2nd March 1860. Once, he and his parents had to flee from their home to Council Bluffs, almost 200 miles, to avoid attack by the hostile Indians. (Cont. p.4)

Join us for the
State Historical Society Annual
Meeting 2007

**Romancing the West:
Women's Lives on the
Great Plains**



13-14 APRIL 2007

Ramkota RiverCentre
Pierre, South Dakota

Hosted by the staff of Research
and Publishing

South Dakota State Historical Society 2007 Annual Meeting

Friday April 13, 2007

Ramkota Conference Center, Pierre, SD

Preliminary Program Schedule

8:00am-7:00pm Meeting Registration
8:30-10:00am Opening remarks- Jay D. Vogt,
Director, South Dakota
State Historical Society
Keynote address by Paula Nelson
10:00-10:30am Break
10:30-noon American Indian Women by
Virginia Driving Hawk Sneve
Lunch
12:15-1:30pm Immigrant Women panel
1:30-3:30pm discussion Part I- Lori Lahlum and Janet Townsley
3:30-4:00pm Break
4:00-5:30pm Women in Politics by
Stephanie Herseth (tentative)
5:45-6:45pm Reception at the Cultural
Heritage Center
7:00-9:00pm Presentation of *Frontier House*
by Peavy and Smith,
Ramkota Conference Center

Saturday April 14, 2007

Ramkota Conference Center

8:30-10:00am Calamity Jane, the Woman
by Jim McLaird
10:00-10:30am Break
10:30-noon Immigrant Women panel
discussion Part II- Rose Fosha and Betty Van Epps Taylor
12:15-1:30pm Awards luncheon
1:30-3:30 Movie *The One and Only
Genuine Original Family Band*
with discussion by Maxwell Van Nuyes
3:30-4:00 Break
4:00-5:30 The Typesetter and Printer:
Gossage courtship letters by Paula M. Nelson
Closing remarks

Think About Attending

Norwegians continued from page three:

O. C. Larsen writes that his father went by foot from Dubuque, Iowa to Vermillion, S. D. The distance one can calculate with help of the map 'Norge i Amerika'. One finds Dubuque on the eastern border of Iowa, therefore he walked through the large State of Iowa and a bit into South Dakota.

Jacob J. Mortvedt writes that his brother froze to death in a snowstorm in 1868 (the first winter he was there). He went to the well for water but could not find his way back to the house, which was only 8 rods away.

D. E. Oursland wrote, "Before I came here, there had been Norwegians here for five years - and fought with the Indians. Some of the settlers had been frightened away from here to Sioux City, but they came back after a time.

Translated by Olaf Kringhaug
Vernon, British Columbia, Canada

Nordmændene i Amerika by Martin Ulvestad, 1907

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Olaf Kringhaug and Margit (Nysetvold) Bakke

Editor: Wade Anderson

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Deadwood Grants Assist In Historic Preservation Funds

The South Dakota State Historical Society's Deadwood Fund program provides two opportunities to apply for funding annually. The first deadline is February 1 and the second is October 1. Projects may not start until after the award is granted. Under this historic preservation program, the grants ranging from \$1,000 to \$25,000 will be awarded for projects that retain, restore, or rehabilitate historic buildings, structures, and archaeological sites in South Dakota for residential, commercial, or public purposes.

The Deadwood Fund program is funded by a portion of the gambling revenue generated in Deadwood, SD. By sharing the Deadwood historic preservation monies, the Deadwood Fund program enables applicants from throughout the state to extend their financial resources to preserve important pieces of South Dakota history.

All projects must meet The Secretary of the Interior's **Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties**. The standards for restoration and rehabilitation are summarized in a packet that may be obtained from the South Dakota State Historic

Society - Preservation Office. These standards are neither technical nor prescriptive; instead they promote responsible preservation practices that help protect our nation's irreplaceable cultural resources.

The staff of the State Historic Preservation Office, a program of the South Dakota State Historical Society, is ready to assist applicants interpret the criteria and complete the application. To be considered, applications must be postmarked no later than February 1 or October 1 annually. Information may be obtained at http://www.sdhhistory.org/HP/hp_deadwfg.htm, or you may contact the State Historic Society office.

Grants will be for projects beginning on or after either May 1 (following the February deadline) or January 1 (following the October deadline).

Eligibility Criteria

1. The property must be listed on or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.
2. The project must meet The Secretary of the Interior's

Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties.

3. The applicant must demonstrate that funds are available to match the grant, and the property will have on-going use at the completion of the project for residential, commercial, or public purposes.

4. The applicant must provide assurances of the ability to maintain the property well into the future.

5. The applicant must sign an eight-year restrictive covenant running with the property, which states that the property shall be maintained in a manner that preserves the property's historic integrity. All work performed on the property within the covenant period must meet The Secretary of the Interior's *Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties*.

6. A sign provided by the South Dakota State Historical Society must be posted at the project site. The sign will state that the project has been funded in part by the State Historical Society through the Deadwood Fund and must remain posted for the duration of the project. All publicity material should include similar recognition.

South Dakota & Clay County Bits

Beginning in the 1890s, several church denominations spread the Gospel to Western settlers in railroad "chapel cars." One Baptist church on rails, the Emmanuel chapel car, is restored and rests at Historic Prairie Village in Madison (pop. 6,540). Worship services still are conducted in the car during two weekends a year.

Rick Johns, craftsman and owner

of the Landlocked Boat Shop in Vermillion (pop. 9,765), builds kayaks the traditional way: without glue or metal fasteners, but with wooden pegs and artificial sinew for lashings.

The Turner County Fair in Parker (pop. 1,031) celebrated its 125th anniversary in August and has the distinction of being the state's oldest county fair. The gathering ex-

isted nine years before statehood in 1889.

Nat Love (1854-1921), a former slave born in Tennessee, won roping and shooting competitions in Deadwood (pop. 1,380) in 1876 and became known as "Deadwood Dick."

Web Wondering