



*1881 Courthouse Museum
411 Mt. Rushmore Road
Custer, SD 57730
Ph: 605-673-2443*

Sowder becomes Trustee Chair

Ralph Sowder has assumed the position of Chairperson of the Museum Trustee Committee, the governing body of this institution.

Mr. Sowder brings years of organization involvement, administrative management, and community relations experience to the position. Additionally, his years of military service, coupled with business proficiency, will serve this institution well.

Ralph's commitment to assisting veterans, his service to local historical societies, his church and civic organization contacts, show strength in leadership. This along with his practice of civic pride and service, will be a great benefit to the 1881 Courthouse Museum.

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THE DOCKET

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McCahon is New Treasurer

Cynthia McCahon was elected Treasurer of the Custer County Historical Society and the 1881 Courthouse Museum.

Ms. McCahon first became a volunteer in the Museum's Preservation and Collections Department. Her experiences in working with local historical societies, museums, and libraries through the years provide excellent background.

Cynthia holds a BS degree in Industrial Management, an MS degree in Industrial Engineering, and a PhD in Engineering and Statistics.

Prior to moving to Custer in 2013, Ms. McCahon was Associate Professor and Assistant Dean of the College of Business at Kansas State University.

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HISTORICAL SOCIETY PROGRAMS FOR 2016

First Saturday of the following months:

January through June and October
through November

Location: Pine Room (adjacent to the
County Library)

Time: Approximately 2:35pm, after the
CCHS Membership Meeting (2:00pm)
and coffee/light refreshments (2:20pm)

Admission: FREE

February 6: *A Black Hills Diary* Mr. Reid Riner, President of the Minnilusa Historical Group from Rapid City, will discuss the historical facts included in the diary of a Rapid City clerk, Walter Gooding. Private contractors during the 1870's and 1880's supplied South Dakota reservations. Despite Rocky Mountain spotted fever and the lack of good water, Fort Meade was constructed, creating a boom-time for Sturgis and its many government contractors. Gooding knew all the main characters from the Black Hills at the time including Chief Sitting Bull and "Lonesome" Charley Reynolds, who was General G. A. Custer's chief scout.

March 5: *James Clyman and the Mountain Men* Ms. Linda Hasselstrom, author, rancher and environmentalist from Hermosa, will discuss the life of the prominent mountain man. She will also bring her extensive collection of artifact reproductions to compliment her talk. Children of all ages are invited to attend this historical adventure.

April 2: *The Search for Black Gold* Mr. David Schnute, retired park ranger from Hot Springs, will talk about the oil boom/bust west of Hot Springs, which involved his grandfather. He states, "I knew a fair amount of money had been sunk into this enterprise. No one ever talked about it. I decided to investigate the newspaper stories in the beginning and then...in the end."

Schnute's investigative strategy is remarkable.

May 7: *The Riot at the Custer Courthouse* Mr. Bernie Christensen of Pierre will share his research on the riot at the Custer County Courthouse in 1973. The American Indian Movement (AIM) wanted some changes made after a murder occurred at Buffalo Gap. While the riot was occurring, Hobart Gates, the State's Attorney at the time had to jump out of a window to escape the angry crowd.

June 4: *On the Hunt for World War II Artifacts* Ms. June Stender Johnston of Custer will tell about her aerial search over the Pacific Ocean.

October 4: *Thunder Over Dakota* Lt. Col. George A. Larson, USAF (retired), will review the 75-year-old history of Ellsworth AFB.

November 5: *Tragedy at Gettysburg* Mr. Dusty Dustman, retired mathematics teacher and Civil War history hobbyist, will present "facts and fiction" about the Battle of Gettysburg, waged over 150 years ago. He covers "Who won, who lost and why? Why is Lincoln blamed for Southern secession? History is not exactly as what we have been told."

+ See you there +

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Answers to patriotic quiz

- Song #1 Missing words: **wild – blue – sun**
Name of song: **U.S. Air Force Song**
- Song #2 Missing words: **mountains – prairies – oceans**
Name of song: **God Bless America**
- Song #3 Missing words: **spacious – grain – majesties**
Name of song: **America, The Beautiful**

See more patriotic quiz questions in the next issue of
The Docket. - Editor

EXHIBITS COMMITTEE EVALUATION



Exhibits Committee Assessed Museum

Chuck Cochran, Chairperson of the Museum's Exhibits Committee, was joined by a group of volunteers who conducted a floor-to-floor survey of existing displays throughout the facility.

The group made several suggestions including changes in the so-called Community Room on the third floor. Those changes will result in the development of a "*Frontier Justice*" display on the lower level where the County Jail, the Gun Display, Knife Display, and various other artifacts of the early days in Custer County are displayed.

Several other recommended changes and improvements were made by the Committee, including updates on information placards which accompany displays throughout the Museum.

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Patriotic song quiz:

There are missing words in three famous patriotic songs. See if your memory serves you well:

1. "Off we go into the _____ yonder,
climbing high into the _____".
Name of song _____
2. "From the _____, to the _____, to the
_____, white with foam"
Name of song _____
3. "O beautiful for _____, skies, for amber waves
of _____, for purple mountain _____ above
the fruited plain.
Name of song _____

See answers on previous page.

MUSEUM WEB SITE PRAISED

A recent long-distance telephone conversation from a fellow museum lover began with high praise for the "new look" on the 1881 Courthouse Museum's web site:

www.1881courthousemuseum.org

The call came from the President of the Brown County Historical Museum in Hiawatha, KS, who started the call with a compliment on our museum's web site.

The rather lengthy call resulted in our Director providing information to the caller on the structure of our museum's Trustees and governing body, the recruiting and training of our volunteers, and a job description for our Director.

Last summer, the caller had visited the 1881 Courthouse Museum and repeatedly praised both the museum and the courtesy of our volunteers and stated that they hope to replicate our facility.

The Museum's web site was refurbished by Cynthia McCahon.

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NEW HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESIDENT



Bruce Doughty

The Custer County Historical Society selected Bruce Doughty to serve as the organization's president at the January 2016 meeting.

Doughty grew up in the Black Hills but moved to California with his family when he was twelve, and lived there for the next forty years. Bruce credits his experiences and memories of the Black Hills that inspired his love for history. Mr. Doughty returned to live in Custer eight years ago.

YMCA KIDSTOP VISIT B.H. INSTITUTE



Harold Strong, center, hosts Kidstop visitors

Three dozen K through 5th Grade Kidstop participants spent two fascinating hours at the Black Hills Institute in Hill City during the January Children & Youth Program sponsored by the Museum.

The tour kept the youngsters' attention as they toured that museum's display of dinosaur artifacts and had the hands-on experience of touching bones that are millions of years old.

Harold Strong, the tour guide, answered questions and explained the details of the significance of the displays.

The 2016 Children and Youth Program at the 1881 Courthouse Museum will feature monthly programs designed to enhance the historical knowledge and experiences of young people in Custer County.

The Museum is able to finance expenses involved in the program through the generosity of a grant from the Oswald Family Foundation, which supports programs that expand children's knowledge.

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HAVE FUN ON FACEBOOK

The 1881 Courthouse Museum has a "Facebook" page on the internet.

Facebook is an informative social page which allows the public to see what is happening currently and see photographs of the activities surrounding the Museum and the people who volunteer here.

In addition, viewers of "facebook" often interact with the Museum with their own comments and photographs.

One of the big advantages of having a "facebook" page is that the Museum becomes a subject on *Trip Advisor* where participants share their own experiences after visiting the 1881 Courthouse Museum. You can visit "facebook" by going on line entering www.1881courthousemuseum.com.

Volunteers needed for committees

The number and quality of volunteers at the 1881 Courthouse Museum is commented on often by those who operate other museums and by visitors to this institution.

The Museum Trustees and Director are expanding the membership on various committees serving the organization and are actively seeking the knowledge and experience of people in our community who can contribute in unique ways to the betterment of our facility.

There are seven individual committees:

- Advertising and Publicity
- Bookstore/Gift Shop
- Building & Grounds
- Preservation & Collections
- Exhibits & Displays
- Grants
- Old Time Country Fair

Persons interested in knowing more about serving on any of these committees should contact the Director or any of the Trustees.

Call 605-673-2443 or write: 1881 Courthouse Museum – P.O. Box 826 – Custer, SD 57730.

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NOTICE:

THE 1881 COURTHOUSE MUSEUM

OPENS

"MOTHER'S DAY WEEKEND"

MAY 2016

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The Museum's Preservation Department is opening the new year by welcoming a new Chairperson in Cynthia Ramold. The department is planning new opportunities for volunteers who want

to be part of creating a new research section, assisting in bringing inventory items up to date, and preserving items for future generations.

If you have interest in this field please contact Cynthia Ramold at 605-673-2443.