



# Plains Talk

STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF NORTH DAKOTA • SPRING 2015

## New Society Director Leads Society through Legislative Session

New State Historical Society Director Claudia Berg has been leading the agency through the 2015 legislative session. The Minot native is familiar with the process, having worked for the Society for more than thirty years. Berg was named director by the State Historical Board in November 2014 when Merl Paaverud retired. Berg graduated from Minot High School, then obtained a bachelor of arts degree in fine art and a master of fine arts in printmaking from the University of North Dakota. She became the first graphic designer for the Society in 1981 and was named the first exhibits curator two years later. It was the beginning of several promotions to come. In 1999 she became Museum and Education Division director, overseeing education, visitor services, collections, exhibits, and the publications program.

In 2007 Berg accepted the newly created expansion coordinator position. In that position, she oversaw all planning for the second phase of the North Dakota Heritage Center expansion, which added 97,000 additional square feet to the building. Berg has extensive knowledge of the details of the building. "As the liaison between constituencies, staff, architects, the Foundation staff, boards, and contractors, there were daily tasks from big picture visioning to identifying placement of electrical outlets," Berg said.



SHSND Director Claudia Berg testifies during a Senate subcommittee hearing in February.



One-year-old Orin Vetter looks with awe at the State Museum's mastodon.

## Heritage Center Sees Record Number of Visitors

The ND Heritage Center & State Museum has seen a record number of visitors since the museum's expansion project partially opened to the public in April 2014. More than 170,000 people have toured the museum from April 2014 to February 2015. The facility averaged about 100,000 visitors annually before the expansion.

The expansion features four new museum galleries, Corridor of History exhibits, a new outdoor Pembina River Plaza, a hallway featuring art managed by the North Dakota Council on the Arts, the Native American Hall of Honors, the James River Café, an expanded Museum Store, and more. See images from the grand opening celebration on page 10.

# Oldest North Dakota-Built Automobile Now on Display at State Museum

Samuel Holland (1859-1937) was a Norwegian immigrant to Park River. A skilled blacksmith and machinist, he built at least six automobiles between 1898 and 1908. His Holland Special, a single-cylinder runabout, is a new addition to the Corridor of History at the ND Heritage Center & State Museum. It is the oldest-known surviving North Dakota-built automobile.

The Holland Special has a six horse-power engine, cushion tires, and bar-spring suspension. Unlike many early manufacturers of automobiles who usually purchased engines, Holland built this car's engine and most of the body. It sold for \$700, a price beyond the range of many families. He continued to build cars until 1908, and then began selling cars manufactured by larger companies.

For more information about "horseless carriages" in early North Dakota, please see a recent article by Barbara Handy-Marchello, Ph.D., in the winter 2015 issue of *North Dakota Studies* at [ndstudies.gov](http://ndstudies.gov).



The Holland Special, one of the earliest automobiles built in North Dakota, is on exhibit at the State Museum in Bismarck.

## Boyd Named New Director of Paleontology Department

Clint Boyd, Ph.D., was recently named the new head of the North Dakota Geological Survey's Paleontology Department, located at the ND Heritage Center. He replaces John Hoganson, who retired in summer 2014.

Originally from Elkhorn, Wisconsin, Boyd completed majors in geology & geophysics and zoology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. "At the time that I graduated I was supervising the fossil preparation lab at the university and leading the museum's summer field paleontology program," he said.



Boyd earned his doctorate in geoscience, with an emphasis on vertebrate paleontology, from the University of Texas at Austin.

He completed a post-doctoral fellowship at the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology in Rapid City before joining the North Dakota Geologic Survey team.

Boyd said North Dakota provided a perfect transition. "I like the geography, and there are so many fossils in this state. You don't have to travel very far to do the work that you love to do."

## Finsaas Receives Staff Award for Excellence

Kerry Finsaas, assistant site supervisor at the Fort Buford State Historic Site and the Missouri-Yellowstone Confluence Interpretive Center (MYCIC), was recently recognized with the annual SHSND Staff Award for Excellence. Her nomination form stated, "Whether giving tours of the fort or chatting with guests, Kerry approaches every aspect of her job with a smile on her face and is an absolute joy to work with."



MYCIC was awarded North Dakota Tourism's 2014 "Attraction of the Year," thanks to the dedicated work of Finsaas and additional staff at the site.



## State Museum Visitor Guide Wins First Place Honors

The State Historical Society received first place in the 2014 Publications Design Competition of the Mountain Plains Museum Association's brochures category for the visitor guide created by the Communications & Education Division.

## Stutsman County Courthouse Opened to Public for First Time in 30 Years

The State Historical Society of North Dakota and the 1883 Courthouse Committee opened the doors to the 1883 Stutsman County Courthouse in Jamestown for the first time in decades on September 13, 2014. More than 1,000 people came to tour the courthouse, speak with interpreters, and learn about future rehabilitation plans for the interior. This was the first opportunity in more than 30 years for the public to see inside the building, which is one of the state historic sites operated by the State Historical Society.

“Many people were taking photos, asking questions, and expressing gratitude for saving the courthouse 30-plus years ago,” said Fern Swenson, Archaeology & Historic Preservation Division director. “This was all very exciting, particularly the numerous positive comments and enthusiasm shown by the local community regarding the preservation and eventual opening of the courthouse as an attraction for the state.”

Stutsman County Courthouse is the oldest surviving courthouse in North Dakota and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. During the days of Dakota Territory, meetings were held in the courthouse in preparation for statehood. The building is considered a superb and rare example in the upper midwest of the Gothic-Revival style of architecture, including stamped metal ornamentation that dates to 1905.

Restoration efforts have stabilized the exterior of the courthouse. The State Historical Society is currently installing a new mechanical system. “This is the first of many projects that will eventually lead to the courthouse being open for tours,” said Swenson.



## Double Ditch State Historic Site in Immediate Need of Repair



The east bank of Double Ditch State Historic Site is eroding at an accelerated rate, exposing burials and pulling away the asphalt walking trail.

The State Historical Society has requested \$3.5 million in one-time funding to repair slumping and stop erosion at Double Ditch Indian Village, a state historic site. Located 7.5 miles north of Bismarck, the site was a former Mandan earthlodge village occupied from the late 1400s to 1785.

Since the Missouri River flood of 2011, the east bank has been eroding at an accelerated level. Fern Swenson, Archaeology & Historic Preservation Division director, indicated an area up to 150 feet back from the bank of the Missouri River has been impacted by rotational erosion so far.

“It is essential to act as soon as possible,” said Swenson. “The clay base of the bank has been washed away. Once it starts, it accelerates.”

Numerous Indian burials have been exposed due to severe erosion. The bicycle and walking trail is also being impacted by the erosion. The proposed bank stabilization project would stretch approximately 1,900 feet along the river and would provide an enhanced trail to interpret cultural and natural resources as well as public access to the Missouri River along this stretch.

## You can Comment on Historic Preservation Plan

The North Dakota State Historic Preservation Office and the State Historical Society of North Dakota invite the public to provide input on historic preservation goals and activities for the five-year period beginning January 1, 2016. A survey on the challenges and goals for historic preservation can be accessed at [surveymonkey.com/s/WLYR28C](http://surveymonkey.com/s/WLYR28C). Responses will be collected through July 1, 2015, and will be used to determine the direction of historic preservation priorities and decision-making for the future.

Periodic updates of the state's comprehensive historic preservation plan is a federal requirement for the state's participation in the National Historic Preservation Program, which brings between \$500,000 and \$600,000 into the state each year to underwrite programs such as building restoration, historic property surveys, National Register of Historic Places registrations, certified local government programs, site protection programs, and technical assistance to the public.

The plan provides general guidance to the state's preservation program. The plan's contents are guided by comments gathered through responses to a public survey.

The current plan is available at [history.nd.gov/hp/plancopy.html](http://history.nd.gov/hp/plancopy.html). Questions? Contact Historic Preservation Planner Lisa Steckler, at 701.328.3577 or [lsteckler@nd.gov](mailto:lsteckler@nd.gov).

## James River Café offers Meals and Catering Options



Isabel Oliveira and her husband Edgar manage the new James River Café. They also own Harvest Brazilian Grill in Mandan.

The James River Café opened in October at the ND Heritage Center & State Museum. The café is managed by Edgar and Isabel Oliveira, owners of the Harvest Brazilian Grill in Mandan. Hours are 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on weekdays and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays.

The James River Café features freshly baked pastries and breakfast sandwiches, bagels, a variety of sandwiches and paninis, soups, desserts, and specialty coffees. As a whimsical nod to the dinosaur casts in the State Museum, the Oliveiras also offer freshly baked *T. rex* and *Triceratops* cookies.

"We are excited to operate a new café in Bismarck," said Isabel Oliveira. "This is a great opportunity to partner with the State Historical Society of North Dakota to bring fresh North Dakota cuisine to the community in a beautiful location."

The James River Café, sponsored by the North Dakota Farmers Union, is also available for catering.

## New Gallery Honors Former Director

The Merlan E. Paaverud, Jr. Gallery, located in the State Museum and dedicated by the State Historical Board in November, features temporary small exhibits from the Society's collections. This gallery honors former SHSND Director Merl Paaverud, who retired in November 2014.



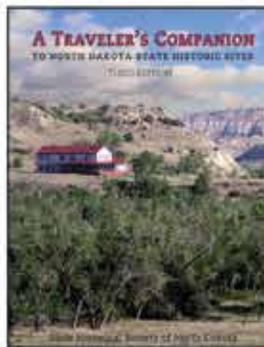
SHSND Former Director Merl Paaverud shown at his retirement party in November 2014. Paaverud served as the Society director from 2001 to 2014.

## Now available at Museum Stores

*A Traveler's Companion to North Dakota State Historic Sites* showcases 68 state, local, and federal historic sites and parks.

Now on our third edition, with new maps, photographs, and updated information about each site, *A Traveler's Companion* is the perfect field guide to the state's rich history.

*A Traveler's Companion* is available at:



- North Dakota Heritage Center
- Ronald Reagan Minuteman Missile Site
- Chateau de Mores Interpretive Center
- Fort Totten State Historic Site
- Pembina State Museum
- Gingras State Historic Site
- Missouri-Yellowstone Confluence Center
- Fort Abercrombie State Historic Site



HISTORY FOR  
*everyone.*

## Nine Additions to National Register of Historic Places

Nine properties were added to the National Register of Historic Places from late 2013 through 2014. The National Register of Historic Places is the federal government's list of properties considered worthy of preservation and recognition. Entry into the National Register of Historic Places gives a property prestige, provides protection from federally-assisted projects, and provides eligibility for certain preservation financial incentives. Lorna Meidinger, architectural historian with SHSND, oversees this program for North Dakota.



Hotel Brown



Wells-Denbrook Office



Double Ditch Indian Village Shelter

- Depression Era Work Relief Construction Features at Double Ditch Indian Villages near Bismarck
- Wells-Denbrook Architects Office Building in Grand Forks
- Freborg Homestead near Underwood
- U.S. Inspection Station in Ambrose
- U.S. Inspection Station in St. John
- Hotel Brown in Flasher
- Edinburg WPA Auditorium
- Vikur Lutheran Church at Mountain
- Whitestone Hill State Historic Site near Kulm

## Coal Lake Wildlife Management Area Donated to State

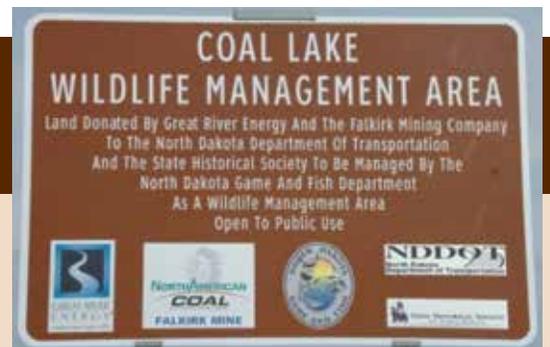
By Amy Bleier, research archaeologist

Coal Lake Wildlife Management Area (WMA) near Underwood, totaling about 730 acres, was donated to the state by The Falkirk Mining Company and Great River Energy and dedicated on September 18, 2014. State partners in managing this area include the North Dakota Department of Transportation, North Dakota Game and Fish Department, and State Historical Society of North Dakota.

The WMA is a result of the reclamation process. The area, excluding Pulver Mounds, has been mined. During mining the site was fenced, avoided, and donated to the state by Falkirk. Today, it remains protected. Visitors may approach the site by vehicle and enter the fenced portion on foot. Sturdy shoes are recommended as the ground may be uneven.

Pulver Mounds State Historic Site within WMA is a burial site on a bluff above Coal Lake. In North Dakota, this type of site dates to as early as the Plains Woodland period (ca. 100 BC-AD 600). Development of on-site interpretation is in the planning stage.

Managed by the Game and Fish Department, the WMA is open to the public for fishing, hunting, trapping, kayaking, canoeing, and hiking. A gravel parking lot allows visitors easy access.



Coal Lake Wildlife Management Area sign with partner logos.



Research Archaeologist Amy Bleier shares information about North Dakota archaeology with local fourth graders at the dedication on September 18, 2014.

## Designer of Self-Propelled Loader visits Heritage Center

Ninety-three-year-old Cyril Keller visited the North Dakota Heritage Center & State Museum in December 2014. Cyril and his brother, the late Louis Keller, were the designers of the self-propelled loader for poultry farmers. In 1959, the Melroe Manufacturing Company bought the rights to build the loader. The Melroe M200, on exhibit in the Inspiration Gallery: Yesterday and Today, was the second Melroe model. The loader was renamed “Bobcat” in 1962.



## HUMAN RIGHTS TALK 2015 *Challenges & Solutions*

Join us for an inspiring conversation with keynote **Shannon Galpin** —global humanitarian, activist, author, speaker, and founder of Mountain2Mountain.

**Saturday, APRIL 18**

9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

ND Heritage Center

Bismarck, ND

\$20, includes lunch

Register: [history.nd.gov/talk2015](http://history.nd.gov/talk2015)

*Sponsored by*  
State Historical Society of North Dakota  
United Tribes Technical College  
North Dakota Humanities Council



**SPEAKERS** Former US Attorney  
**Tim Purdon**  
ND Indian Affairs Commissioner  
**Scott Davis**  
US Senator  
**Heidi Heitkamp**



## Get Involved

**You can be a vital part of helping us share North Dakota's rich and unique history.**

Join us in building new exhibits, funding exciting work, sharing our progress, and learning about the many ways you can be part of our work.

### Benefits of Membership to the Foundation

- Free admission to all State Historic Sites • 15 percent discount on museum store purchases
- Publications - North Dakota History and Plains Talk newsletter
- Membership in Time Travelers, free and discount admission to many museums nationwide. ([www.timetravelers.mohistory.org/institutions](http://www.timetravelers.mohistory.org/institutions))

**Become a member at [www.statehistoricalfoundation.com](http://www.statehistoricalfoundation.com) or call 701.222.1966.**

_____		_____		
Name		Address		
_____		_____		
Spouse		City	State	Zip
_____		_____		
Phone/Cell		Email		

#### Membership Levels

- Individual (\$35/yr)
- Family (\$45/yr)
- Sustaining (\$100/yr)
- Patron (\$250/yr)
- Corporate (\$500/yr)
- Founder (\$1,000 gift)
- Director (\$5,000 gift)
- Benefactor (\$10,000 gift)
- Trustee (\$2,002 gift)\***

#### Method of Payment

- Check (Payable to SHSND Foundation)
- Visa    MasterCard    Discover

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_ 3-digit # \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

(As appears on card)

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Questions?

Call: (701) 222-1966

Email: [statehistoricalfoundation@btinet.net](mailto:statehistoricalfoundation@btinet.net)

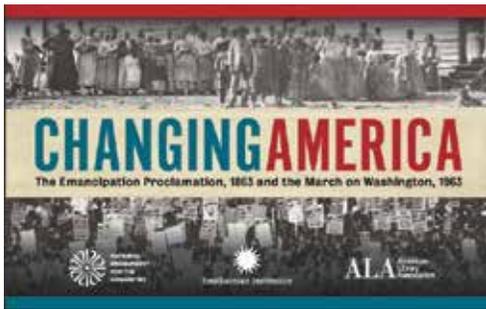
#### Address

**State Historical Society of  
North Dakota Foundation  
PO Box 1976  
Bismarck, ND 58502-1976**

- Canadian memberships pay an additional \$7 and all other foreign memberships an additional \$15 shipping and handling fee.

### Serve as a History's Trustee!

If you love North Dakota and want to be a significant participant in the efforts to expand the history resources of our state, please consider being a Trustee with a \$2002 gift\*. \*Pledged over 4 years-\$500 per year.



## Changing America Exhibit Opens in May

The national *Changing America* exhibit opens at the North Dakota Heritage Center & State Museum on May 1! One hundred years separate the Emancipation Proclamation and the March on Washington, yet they are linked together in a larger story of liberty and the American experience. *Changing America* was created as a traveling exhibit to commemorate these two pivotal achievements on their 150th and 50th anniversaries.



## Created Equal: America's Civil Rights Struggle

Four films that are part of *Created Equal: America's Civil Rights Struggle*, will be shown in April at the ND Heritage Center & State Museum. Produced by the National Endowment for the Humanities and The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, the films illustrate the impact of the civil rights movement and encourage public conversations about the changing meaning of freedom and equality in America. Learn more at [neh.gov/created-equal](http://neh.gov/created-equal).

Sunday, April 12 at 2 p.m.  
*Slavery By Another Name*

Sunday, April 19 at 2 p.m.  
*The Loving Story*

Sunday, April 26 at 2 p.m.  
*Freedom Riders*

May 17, 24, & 31  
*The Abolitionists*

## April

**April 1-May 22**

**Ronald Reagan Minuteman Missile State Historic Site begins new visiting hours,** Thursdays-Saturdays and Mondays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Sundays, 1 to 5 p.m. CT. For more about the site, visit [history.nd.gov](http://history.nd.gov) or call 701.797.3691.

**April 5**

**Easter Sunday.** North Dakota Heritage Center, Pembina State Museum, Missouri-Yellowstone Confluence Interpretive Center, Ronald Reagan Minuteman Missile State Historic Site, and Chateau de Mores State Historic Site Interpretive Center closed.

**April 5**

**Easter Egg Hunt,** 11 a.m. (MT) at the Chateau de Mores State Historic Site, Medora, 701.623.4355.

**April 9**

**Fort Buford History Book Club,** 7:30 p.m. Join history buffs in a discussion of the month's selected book. Free refreshments. Missouri-Yellowstone Confluence Interpretive Center. Please call in advance, 701.572.9034.

**April 10-11**

**Former Governors' Mansion State Historic Site open,** 1 to 5 p.m. Free admission. Located in Bismarck at the corner of Fourth Street and Avenue B, 701.328.9528.

**April 10**

**North Dakota Genealogical Society meeting,** 1-3 p.m. State Archives, North Dakota Heritage Center. For more, contact SHSND Reference Specialist Greg Wysk at 701.328.2541 or [gwysk@nd.gov](mailto:gwysk@nd.gov).

**April 10**

**State Historical Board meeting,** 9 a.m., North Dakota Heritage Center.

**April 10**

**National History Day in North Dakota competition.** The theme is *Rights and Responsibilities in History*. For more, call SHSND Curator of Education Erik Holland at 701.328.2792, [eholland@nd.gov](mailto:eholland@nd.gov) or visit [nd.nhd.org](http://nd.nhd.org).

**April 11**

**State Archives open** 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**April 11**

**Family History Workshop,** 12 - 4:30 p.m. North Dakota Heritage Center. For more, contact SHSND Reference Specialist Greg Wysk at 701.328.2541 or [gwysk@nd.gov](mailto:gwysk@nd.gov).

**April 12**

**Sensational Sundays,** Free film, 2 p.m., *Slavery By Another Name*, North Dakota Heritage Center. For more, contact Erik Holland, 328.2792.

**April 17-18**

**Confluence Quilters,** 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Join the *Confluence Quilters* for their monthly meeting. All experience levels invited and instruction provided. Missouri-Yellowstone Confluence Interpretive Center, 701.572.9034.

**April 19**

**Sensational Sundays,** Free film, 2 p.m., *The Loving Story*, North Dakota Heritage Center. For more, contact Erik Holland, 328.2792.

**April 19**

**Concert at the Confluence,** 3 p.m. Enjoy a *Concert at the Confluence* featuring Sisters Four. Free refreshments. Missouri-Yellowstone Confluence Interpretive Center, 701.572.9034.

**April 26**

**Sensational Sundays,** Free film, 2 p.m., *Freedom Riders*, North Dakota Heritage Center. For more, contact Erik Holland, 328.2792.

## May

**May 1-31**

**National Historic Preservation Month.**

**May 1**

**Changing America** exhibit opening at the State Museum in the ND Heritage Center through June 10, 2015.

**May 8**

**State Historical Society of ND Foundation Board Meeting,** 10 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Foundation Board Room, ND Heritage Center, Bismarck.

**May 9**

**State Archives open** 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**May 12**

**Project Wet Water Festival,** a water use and conservation program for 5th grade students and home school students. Hosted by the State Historical Society and the ND Water Commission. Preregistration required, 701.766.4441. Fort Totten State Historic Site

**May 14**

**Fort Buford History Book Club,** 7:30 p.m. Join a discussion of the month's selected book. Free refreshments. Missouri-Yellowstone Confluence Interpretive Center. Please call in advance, 701.572.9034.

**May 15**

**Former Governors' Mansion State Historic Site begins summer hours through September 15.** Monday through Friday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday and Sunday Noon to 4 p.m. October - May, second Friday and Saturday of each month 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Other times by appointment. Site grounds open year round.

**May 15-16**

**Confluence Quilters**, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Join the monthly meeting. All experience levels invited and instruction provided. Missouri-Yellowstone Confluence Interpretive Center, 701.572.9034.

**May 23 - September 7**

**Ronald Reagan Minuteman Missile State Historic Site begins summer hours.** Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day, daily 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. April 1 – May 22: Monday and Thursday – Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. (closed Tuesdays and Wednesdays) Sunday 1 to 5 p.m.

**May 17**

**Flag raising ceremony** with the 6th Infantry at Fort Buford State Historic Site, 701.572.9034.

**May 17**

**Concert at the Confluence.** Enjoy a concert at the Missouri-Yellowstone Confluence Interpretive Center, 701.572.9034.

**May 18**

**Free admission** to Oscar Zero, Pembina State Museum, and the State Museum to celebrate International Museum Day.

**May 18**

**Free observation tower admission** in celebration of International Museum Day, Pembina State Museum, 701.825.6840.

**May 23**

**Annual Meeting of the North Dakota Archaeological Association** at the North Dakota Heritage Center. Details at [ndarchaeology.org](http://ndarchaeology.org).

**May 23**

**Finding Your Home's History.** North Dakota Heritage Center. Learn where to go and how to find the history of a property in North Dakota. The presentation will immediately follow recognition of 2014 new listings in the National Register of Historic Places. 701.328.3577.

**May 23**

**Camp Hancock State Historic Site begins summer hours.** Museum and Bread of Life Church open Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day 1 to 5 p.m., Friday-Sunday. Other times by appointment. Site grounds with outdoor interpretive signs open year round.

**Chateau de Mores State Historic Site**

**begins summer hours.** Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. MDT daily. Chimney Park and DeMores Memorial Park open year round.

**Fort Abercrombie begins summer hours,**

Museum: Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Site grounds with outdoor interpretive signs open year-round.

**Fort Buford State Historic Site and Missouri-Yellowstone Confluence Interpretive Center begin summer hours.**

Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. CDT daily. Fort Buford (Field Officers' Quarters, Barracks) Memorial Day Weekend through Labor Day 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. CDT daily. Other times by appointment. Site grounds with outdoor interpretive signs open year-round.

**Fort Totten State Historic Site begins**

**summer hours.** Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Other times by appointment.

**Gingras Trading Post State Historic Site**

**begins summer hours.** Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day, buildings open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Site grounds with outdoor interpretive signs are open year-round.

**Pembina State Museum begins summer**

**hours.** Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day Monday-Saturday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday 1 to 6 p.m.

**May 25**

**Memorial Day Observances at Pembina State Museum**, 10:30 a.m., in conjunction with the Kern-Thompson American Legion Post 77, 701.825.6840.

## June

**June 6**

**FREE KAT PERKINS**

**Concert** – outdoors at the new Prairie Amphitheater of the ND Heritage Center! 4 p.m. Bring a blanket or lawn chair.



**June 7 to August 2 History Program**

each Sunday at 2 p.m. Programming will include history presentations, special music, story telling, and demonstrations. Fort Abercrombie State Historic Site.

**June 8 to August 2**

**Junior Soldiers Kids Program** on Mondays from 10 - 11 a.m. Fun games, stories, and activities at Fort Abercrombie State Historic Site.

**June 11**

**Fort Buford History Book Club**, 7:30 p.m. Join other history buffs in an interesting discussion of the month's selected book. Free refreshments. Missouri-Yellowstone Confluence Interpretive Center. Please call in advance, 701.572.9034.

**June 12**

**Bismarck/Mandan Summer Reading Celebration**, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., with activities for children. North Dakota Heritage Center and North Dakota State Library. Contact Erik Holland, 701.328.2792.

**June 13**

**Quilting Class** 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Fort Abercrombie State Historic Site.

**June 13**

**State Archives open Saturday**, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in addition to regular weekly hours of Monday-Friday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**June 19-20**

**Confluence Quilters**, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Join the monthly meeting. All experience levels invited and instruction provided. Missouri-Yellowstone Confluence Interpretive Center, 701.572.9034.

**June 21**

**Concert at the Confluence**, 3 p.m. Enjoy Clearwater Hot Club Jazz. Free refreshments. Missouri-Yellowstone Confluence Interpretive Center, 701.572.9034.

**June 21**

**Sensational Sundays**, Free film, 2 p.m., *Conversations on the Bench*, ND Heritage Center. For more, contact Erik Holland, 328.2792.

**June 27**

**Quilting Class** 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Fort Abercrombie State Historic Site.

# Thousands Celebrated the Grand Opening of the Heritage Center Expansion Project

Close to 5,000 visitors celebrated the grand opening of the ND Heritage Center & State Museum expansion on November 2, 2014, in conjunction with the state's 125th anniversary.

Free entertainment, artist demonstrations, and activities for children and adults were featured throughout the day. Visitors filled the Corridor of History for a ribbon cutting ceremony at noon, featuring North Dakota's governors who championed the expansion project. Governors Allen Olson, George Sinner, Ed Schafer, Senator John Hoeven, and Governor Jack Dalrymple, along with Nancy Guy representing Governor William Guy, and Grace Link

representing Governor Art Link, spoke at the special ceremony. The crowd participated in cutting the ceremonial ribbon that stretched a football field in length.

Thanks to the work of the SHSND staff, the final two new museum galleries opened on that day. The Inspiration Gallery: Yesterday and Today features exhibits from the mid-1800s to today. The Governors Gallery, housing temporary and traveling exhibits, features *Power of the People*, a rural electric cooperatives exhibit sponsored by Touchstone Energy of North Dakota. Four museum galleries and hallway exhibits, as well as a new theater, new outdoor spaces, café, and more, are open for visitors.



Entertainers Jessie Veeder and her father, Gene, closed the event with a beautiful concert.



The governors who championed the North Dakota Heritage Center expansion project gathered to celebrate this important achievement. From left: Nancy Guy, representing Gov. William Guy; former First Lady Grace Link, representing Gov. Arthur Link; Gov. Allen Olson; Gov. George Sinner; Gov. Ed Schafer; US Senator John Hoeven; and Governor Jack Dalrymple.



Thousands of people filled the Corridor of History for the ribbon-cutting ceremony and to catch a glimpse of North Dakota's living governors.

Falling confetti blanketed the governors, first ladies, and additional representatives at the close of the grand opening ceremony.



## Heavyweight Boxing Champion Virgil Hill Plate Donated to State Archives

By *Emily Schultz, State Archives*

Shane Balkowitsch of Bismarck is a modern practitioner of a photographic process dating back to the nineteenth century. At his studio, Nostalgic Glass, he takes portraits and develops them using a wet plate collodion process. For practical and nostalgic reasons, Balkowitsch uses equipment and chemicals similar to early practitioners such as Bismarck photographer Orlando Scott Goff. One of Goff's most famous portraits is of Sitting Bull. Copies of some of Goff's work are housed in the North Dakota State Archives for long term preservation and public access.

In September 2014, Balkowitsch had the honor of photographing Ernie LaPointe, great-grandson of Sitting Bull, outside his Bismarck studio. Recognizing the historical importance of the photo shoot as a modern take on the Goff/Sitting Bull portrait and the need to preserve the one-of-a-kind glass plate for future generations, Balkowitsch and LaPointe donated the plate, "Eternal Field," to the State Historical Society of North Dakota.

On February 20, 2015, Balkowitsch hosted former Olympian and Heavyweight Champion Virgil "Quicksilver" Hill and his wife, former Olympian Denean Hill, at his studio for another historic session. Hill, a North Dakota native, was in Bismarck for his last fight on February 28, 2015. With the same eye for historic preservation and access, Balkowitsch and Hill delivered the plate, "One Last Fight," to the State Archives.

Both plates have been housed in permanent storage using archival supplies in a temperature and humidity controlled environment. Scans of both images are available for public access and the images can be viewed at [digitalhorizonsonline.org](http://digitalhorizonsonline.org).



Former Olympians Virgil Hill and Denean Hill came to the ND Heritage Center in February to donate a glass plate titled "One Last Fight" to the State Archives.

## Heritage Center Wins Award for Sustainable in Design

The North Dakota Heritage Center recently received a gold award in the Sustainability in Design category of a 2014 contest sponsored by the North Dakota Ready-Mix & Concrete Products Association. The project received a generous donation of \$500,000 of fly ash from Great River Energy. To use as much of the donated fly ash as possible, high volume fly ash concrete mixes were specified. "Sustainable design was achieved in the North Dakota Heritage Center," said Claudia Berg, SHSND director who oversaw the expansion project. "Successful coordination between all disciplines allowed the architectural vision to be realized and provides a new world-class facility for the state of North Dakota."

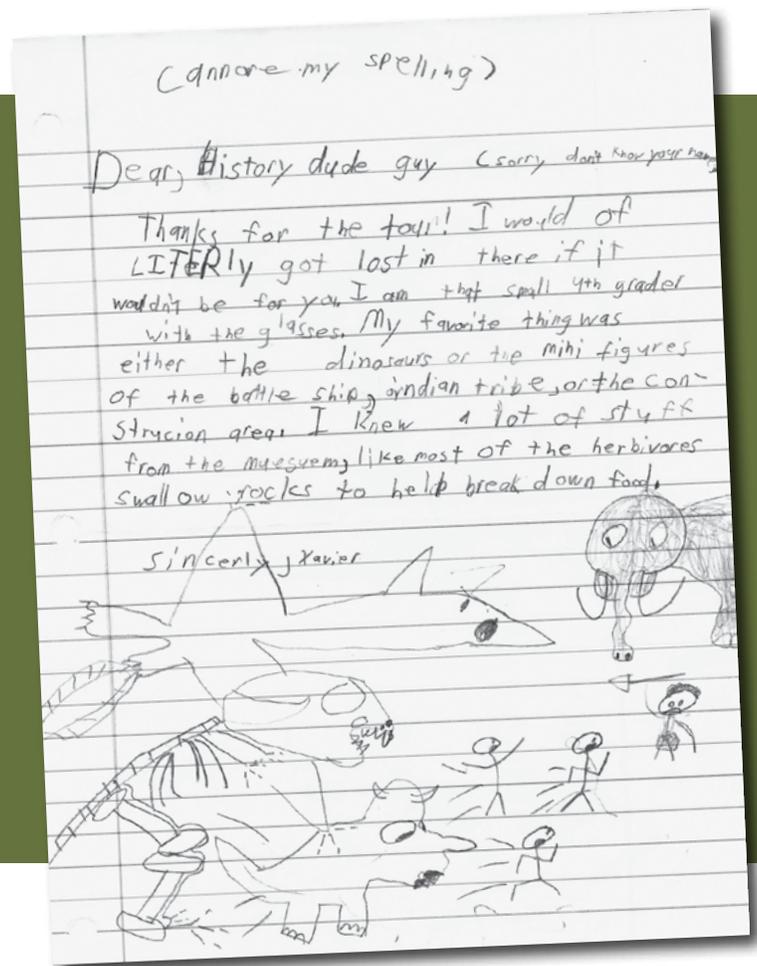


## Our Mission:

To identify,  
preserve,  
interpret,  
and promote  
the heritage of  
North Dakota  
and its people.

HISTORY FOR *everyone.*

Shawn Holen, a docent at the State Museum who has become a popular tour guide with school groups, recently received thank you notes from Zeeland students. This is one of our favorites!



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