



Plains Talk

STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF NORTH DAKOTA • SUMMER 2017
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The Sweet History of Chocolate

"Chocolate is a divine, celestial drink, the sweat of the stars, the vital seed, divine nectar, the drink of the gods, panacea and universal medicine."

—Geronimo Piperni, quoted by Antonio Lavedán, surgeon in the Spanish army, 1796

The scientific name of the cacao tree, *Theobroma*, means "food of the gods." For thousands of years humans have been fascinated with the delicious phenomenon we call "chocolate." Journey through history to get the complete story behind the tasty treat we crave in *Chocolate*, a traveling exhibit on display in the Governors Gallery at the ND Heritage Center & State Museum from May 27 to Sept. 6.

Travel through ancient rainforests, experience Central America's Maya civilization, and visit the Aztecs of 16th-century Mexico, where cacao seeds were used as currency. Discover chocolate's introduction into the upper class of European society and its transformation into a

mass-produced world commodity. *Chocolate* will engage your senses and reveal facets of this sumptuous sweet through the lenses of science, history, and popular culture.

The Museum Store and James River Café at the ND Heritage Center will feature specialty chocolate drinks and treats available only during this exhibit. Exhibit tickets are \$7 for adults, \$3 for children ages 6-16, and free for children 5 and under; SHSND Foundation members receive a 15 percent discount. Learn more at statemuseum.nd.gov.

Chocolate and its national tour were developed by The Field Museum, Chicago. This project was supported, in part, by the National Science Foundation.

HISTORY FOR *everyone.*

New Exhibits

In addition to *Chocolate: The Exhibition* at the State Museum, check out these new exhibits as you make your summer travel plans:



Women Behind the Plow ***ND Heritage Center & State Museum***

This traveling exhibit compiled by the Tri-County Tourism Alliance features photographs and interviews with German-Russian women raised in homesteading families in Emmons, Logan, and McIntosh counties. Through July 30.



Spirit Trails and Sky Beings ***ND Heritage Center & State Museum***

Produced by the ND Council on the Arts, this exhibit features eight rare birch bark scrolls made by *Miskomin*, or Richard LaFromboise, an Ojibwe traditionalist from the Turtle Mountain Indian Reservation. Through Jan. 31.



Hard Work and a Good Deal: The Civilian Conservation Corps and Works Projects Administration in North Dakota ***Chateau de Mores State Historic Site***

The Civilian Conservation Corps was created in 1933 as one of many federal programs designed to alleviate the effects of the Great Depression. A total of 31,764 North Dakota enrollees participated. In this exhibit, peruse objects and photographs from CCC-era North Dakota. Through 2019.



Reopening of the Pioneer Daughters Museum ***Fort Totten State Historic Site***

Following a major renovation of the hospital/cafeteria at Fort Totten, the Pioneer Daughters Museum housed in this historic building reopens May 20. Through Sept. 5 annually.

Also look for upcoming World War I exhibits beginning in August at the ND Heritage Center & State Museum, in commemoration of the Great War's centennial. Learn more at statemuseum.nd.gov.

Students Shine at National History Day

The National History Day in North Dakota state competition was held at the ND Heritage Center & State Museum on April 7. Two projects in each category will advance to compete with student projects from across the country at National History Day, hosted by the University of Maryland each June. During the school year, students research, design, and create websites, documentary videos, exhibits, performances, or historical research papers that meet specific criteria and are aligned to the year's theme. In 2017 the theme is "Taking a Stand in History." Learn more at nhd.org.



Students and teachers from Elgin-New Leipzig Public School participated in National History Day in ND on April 7. Front row: Samantha Ellison, Payleigh Dent, Christy Finck, Austyn Rafteseth, Katie Rosene, Allison Friesz, Halle Rivinius, and Tracy Hsu. Back row: Avery Roth, Coral Alt, Camryn Alt, Steven Bryant, Laura Muggli, and Susan Reinhillier.

Stutsman County Courthouse Opens as State Historic Site



The historic 1883 Stutsman County Courthouse in Jamestown, which has undergone major restoration efforts, will open to the public on May 27. The building is the oldest surviving courthouse in North Dakota and housed meetings preparing for statehood during the days of Dakota Territory. The seasonal site will be open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday until Labor Day. Steve Reidburn, who recently retired as site supervisor of Fort Buford, will serve as site supervisor. A grand opening event will be held Saturday, July 8 beginning at 10 a.m. Plan your visit at history.nd.gov/historicsites.

USS *North Dakota* Visit



Left to right: Bill Butcher, Mark Sundlov, Claudia Berg, Lt. Cmdr. Joel Holwitt, and Bob Wefald

On March 14, the executive officer of the USS *North Dakota*, Lt. Cmdr. Joel Holwitt, traveled to North Dakota to report to both chambers of the ND Legislature on the status of the newest Virginia-class submarine. Escorted by veteran naval officers Bill Butcher and Bob Wefald of Bismarck, Holwitt visited the ND Heritage Center and was given a tour of the USS *North Dakota* exhibit by Museum Division Director Mark Sundlov and SHSND Director Claudia Berg.

Treehouse Exhibit Promotes Friendship



In 2016, Jill and Justin Steinle donated a Friendship Bench to the ND Heritage Center's Treehouse exhibit through the Tiny Girl Big Dream project, which is organized locally by Mark Braun at Advantage Appliance. Tiny Girl Big Dream and the Friendship Bench concept were created in 2012 by Acacia Woodley as a way to curb bullying and provide a positive solution to problems facing our youth. Woodley, a Florida native, visited the Treehouse Friendship Bench in December and received a ND Heritage Center & State Museum tour.

The Treehouse children's exhibit is also the recipient of the American Council of Engineering Companies of North Dakota's Small Project Award, which was presented to Mercer Engineering PC and Building Four Fabrications on May 11. Learn more about the Treehouse at statemuseum.nd.gov.

Florida native Acacia Woodley, founder of the Tiny Girl Big Dream project, visited the ND Heritage Center's Treehouse exhibit in December 2016.

Community Friends Raise Funds



The Society for the Preservation of the Former Governors' Mansion (SPFGM) committed to raise \$10,000 toward the construction of a new ADA-accessible walkway into the back entry of the Former Governors' Mansion State Historic Site in Bismarck. The walkway was completed in October 2016 at a cost of \$30,000, and the SPFGM fulfilled its commitment by presenting a check in January 2017.

This spring the Fort Totten State Historic Site Foundation contributed \$100,000 toward hospital/cafeteria repairs, and the 1883 Stutsman County Courthouse Committee raised an additional \$75,000. We are grateful for our community groups that support the preservation of our state historic sites. Learn how to get involved at history.nd.gov/historicsites.

Former First Lady Grace Link, a founding member of the Society for the Preservation of the Former Governors' Mansion, presents a \$10,000 check to State Historical Society Director Claudia Berg. Also pictured are Archaeology & Historic Preservation Division Director Fern Swenson, SPFGM President Bruce Hagen, and SPFGM Fundraising Chair Dick Weber.

Oscar-Zero Makes National News

The Ronald Reagan Minuteman Missile State Historic Site was highlighted on national CBS news in March, in a feature with site supervisor Guinn Hinman offering a tour of the Oscar-Zero Nuclear Alert Facility. Oscar-Zero was also featured in the spring issue of San Francisco-based *Places* journal, along with an interview of Museum Division director and former missileer Mark Sundlov.

Site supervisor Guinn Hinman remains cheerful in the face of nuclear catastrophe at Ronald Reagan Minuteman Missile State Historic Site near Cooperstown, ND.



Dakota Exile Healing Ride Visits Fort Abercrombie

On April 22, participants in the Dakota Exile Healing Ride stopped at Fort Abercrombie State Historic Site in commemoration of the peace treaty between the Dakota and Ojibwe (Chippewa) people signed at Fort Abercrombie in 1870. Organized in collaboration with State Historical Society staff, the day's events included a discussion of the Dakota people's cultural heritage by Wahpeton tribal elder Joe Williams and a presentation on the 1870 treaty by Fort Abercrombie interpretive specialist Paul Nelson. The Dakota Exile Healing Ride began at Sioux Valley, Canada, on April 13 and ended May 4 at Bdote, Minnesota.

Ojibwe folk singer Annie Humphrey performs as part of the Dakota Exile Healing Ride events at Fort Abercrombie on April 22.



Double Ditch Update



During the recent legislative session, the ND Legislature appropriated \$1 million in funding with additional authority for the State Historical Society to borrow \$250,000 from the Bank of North Dakota to help stabilize slumping areas of the Double Ditch Indian Village State Historic Site. To date, 18 burials have been exposed due to slumping at this significant historic site about seven miles north of Bismarck along the Missouri River. The stabilization construction process is expected to begin in June. Learn about Double Ditch at history.nd.gov/historicsites.

K-12 Teacher Summer Institute



The North Dakota Teacher Resource Coalition will hold a summer institute for K-12 teachers June 20-22 at the Anishinabe Cultural Center near Belcourt, ND. This course, sponsored in part by the State Historical Society's North Dakota Studies, explores how current events and cultural and environmental changes impact our sense of place and community. Through a range of disciplines — history, geography, forestry, technology, and art — participants will explore and translate topics into practical teaching and learning activities. The workshop will spend one day at the International Peace Garden.

This professional development opportunity provides two credits through the University of North Dakota, North Dakota State University, or Minot State University. For more information, visit bit.ly/ndtrcsum or contact Erik Holland, State Historical Society curator of education, at eholland@nd.gov.

International Peace Garden

Chocolate

Wine & Dine

Thursday, May 25, 5:30-8:30 p.m.
North Dakota Heritage Center & State Museum

\$45 per person.

Limited tickets available. Must be 21+.

statemuseum.nd.gov/ChocWineDine



Taste your way around the world at 2017's most delectable museum exhibit opening. Chocolate. Wines and beers. Gourmet entrees. Music. *Chocolate* exhibit preview. Fun!



FOUNDATION NOTES



History's
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Many Ways to Give to the Foundation

We are grateful for our members and for our North Dakota Heritage Center expansion donors. As we build relationships, we have the opportunity to share with people the many ways they can support the work of the Foundation.

Membership: \$35 to \$45 to \$100 or more provides a subscription to *Plains Talk* newsletter and *North Dakota History: Journal of the Northern Plains*, plus free admission to state historic sites, a 15 percent discount at all seven Museum Stores, and participation in the Time Travelers program, with discounted access to attractions around the US.

Annual Giving Campaigns: Three to four times a year we offer our members, donors, and friends the opportunity to give an *additional* gift to the Foundation's work. This is the perfect way to show your gratitude for what has been done and invest in projects moving forward.

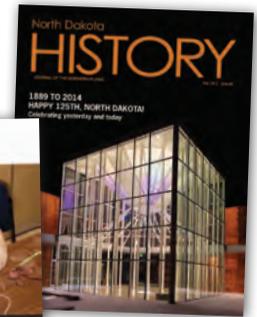
Memorial Gifts: Hundreds of our members and friends honor their loved ones with memorial gifts. Gifts from \$20,000 to \$20 have been received and offer the donor a special opportunity to provide a memorial gift with a purpose—preserving and growing our historic resources.

Donor Recognition Events and Special Receptions: As you become more active and increase your giving levels, you will be invited to attend special dinners and receptions with other generous donors. A very pleasant way to participate in supporting the Foundation's work.

Leave Your Legacy and Make History: Planned gifts to the Foundation and its endowment may be eligible for tax incentives, including federal deductions and the North Dakota Charitable Giving 40 percent state income tax credit. Gifts may include outright gifts of cash, stock, or highly appreciated assets and required minimum distributions from an IRA. Additionally, charitable trusts or annuities generate an income for you now and leave a legacy for generations to come. Contact our development team to visit about these giving opportunities.

If you are happy with the ND Heritage Center expansion efforts and see the value of the programs and services of the Foundation and State Historical Society, won't you step up and increase your giving activity today?

Call us for details.



Membership Benefits

Annual Campaign Request for Support



Memorial Gifts



Donor Recognition Events

Foundation Development Staff



Virginia A. Nelsen,
SHSND Foundation
Executive Director



Mario Sveen,
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CYCLING HISTORY *highways*

Join archaeologists and cyclists on **Saturday, June 17** as we cycle the highway to history from Chief Lookings Village to Double Ditch Indian Village State Historic Site and back. Participate in guided tours and historic presentations at both sites. Fun for all ages and skill levels! Registration begins at 7 a.m. Program begins at 8 a.m. Learn more and pre-register at history.nd.gov/cycling.

Presented by the State Historical Society of North Dakota with support from Bismarck Parks and Recreation District, EPIC Sports, North Dakota Archaeological Association, Bismarck Community Food Co-op, and Mighty Missouri Coffee Co.



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