



## Sons of Norway Lend a Hand With “Wedding Bowl” Translation

*From left: Carol Christianson, Tom Marple, Margaret Philips, Dave Philips, Mark Holkup, David Hellund, and Brett Landwehr from the Sons of Norway lodge language classes get a closer look at the ale bowl’s inscriptions.*

When it came to deciphering the ornate 19th-century script adorning a Norwegian ale bowl, the agency’s staff got a little help from their friends at the Sons of Norway Sverdrup Lodge in Bismarck.

“Probably one of the hardest parts is reading the letters,” said Assistant Curator of Collections Lori Nohner, who turned to lodge member and former State Historical Society Director Claudia Berg for advice in translating the inscriptions after the bowl was accepted into the museum collection last fall. Berg put her in touch with fellow members Tom Marple and Audrey Solheim. Marple, a retired Bismarck State College instructor, leads beginning and advanced Norwegian language classes at the lodge. Both classes set to work on a translation and subsequently visited the ND Heritage Center in November to see the bowl in person.

Ale bowls, painted in floral rosemaling, featured prominently in celebrations and ceremonies, with inscriptions meant to be interactive and speak to the users. Donor Stanley Kittelson of Dickinson was gifted this bowl by his uncle, Torval Kittelson, whose parents hailed from the Rogaland region of Norway. Known as “The Wedding Bowl” in the Kittelson family, the 1829 bowl may have been used as part of the extensive marriage festivities of the time.

*(cont.)*

## New Research Sheds Light on How Dakota's Skin Mummified



Triebold Paleontology's Alaina Fike works on a 3D model of the Dinomummy's right arm.

The recent discovery of bite marks and scratches on Dakota the Dinomummy's skin is changing established paradigms about what is possible to find in the fossil record.

Published in the journal *PLOS ONE*, the findings have attracted national media attention, including coverage on CNN and in *The New York Times*.

Previously, it was believed that for skin to mummify, the specimen either had to be rapidly buried after death or preserved for at least a time in an extremely dry environment. But the bite marks and scratches revealed during the cleaning process suggest that scavengers, such as the ancient ancestor of the crocodile, may have facilitated mummification. According to this theory, when bite marks punctured Dakota's skin, gasses and liquids released, allowing the dinosaur's soft tissue to desiccate despite the wet surroundings.

"Not only has Dakota taught us that durable soft tissues like skin can be preserved on partially scavenged carcasses," said ND Geological Survey Senior Paleontologist Clint Boyd, who co-authored the journal article, "but these soft tissues can also provide a unique source of information about the other animals that interacted with a carcass after death."

Dakota, a 23-foot-long hadrosaur fossil found on a ranch near Marmarth in the late 1990s, has resided at the ND Heritage Center & State Museum in Bismarck since 2008. Three years ago, it was removed from view to undergo additional research and preparation.

Work continues on the 67-million-year-old fossil. Since fall 2021, its tail, right arm, and left foot have been back on exhibit in the corridor outside of the Adaptation Gallery: Geologic Time at the State Museum. The current exhibit also includes a 3D replica of its skin. A cast of Dakota's arm, created using a 3D printer, has been hand-painted by Alaina Fike of Triebold Paleontology Inc. and will be added to the display later in 2023.

Through the end of May, behind-the-scenes tours of the Paleontology Laboratory highlighting ongoing work on the Dinomummy take place Tuesdays at 1:30 p.m. and 4 p.m. Space is limited to 10 people per tour. To register, go to [DinoMummy.eventbrite.com](https://DinoMummy.eventbrite.com). And check back for summer tour dates!

## Sons of Norway (cont.)

A precise translation was complicated by the multiple linguistic influences at play due to Norway's long subjugation by neighboring powers Denmark and Sweden, said Brett Landwehr, who earned a bachelor's in Norwegian from the University of North Dakota and is helping the classes with the translation. "Sometimes it's not all Norwegian," he explained, adding that a change in even one of the letters can lead to variation in meaning depending on the language or dialect used.

According to Marple and Landwehr, the saying on the inside of the rim goes something like: "Before I stood in a green meadow and heard the birds as they sing, but now cries a toast so beautiful and satisfies that same joy." This phrase is a likely reference to the wooden bowl's origins as a tree.

Interpreting the language on the outside of the rim proved more challenging. Marple and Landwehr said it roughly equates to: "Drink from sunrise to sunrise, and if you don't find death along the way, your bed is your best friend."

While some students said they could pick out a word or two of the inscriptions, for many who visited the ND Heritage Center the size of the 9.5-inch-high, 2-foot-diameter bowl left the greatest impression.

"When they brought that out, I think it was party time," laughed Mark Holkup.

## Constitutional Close-up



Head of Reference Services Sarah Walker, left, and Head of Archival Collections and Information Management Lindsay Meidinger show Gov. Doug Burgum the original draft of the 1889 North Dakota Constitution during Legislative Information Day at the state Capitol in January. This document is among the historical government records housed at the State Archives.

## National History Day Resources Added to Agency Website



The lives and achievements of nationally renowned journalists Eric Sevareid and Era Bell Thompson are among topics explored in the State Archives' new subject guides. SHSND SA 00018-00063, 00262-00009

More than 70 subject guides have been created for students competing in the National History Day in North Dakota contest. Geared to middle and high school students, these guides include primary and secondary sources, useful search terms, publications, and journal articles held at the State Archives. Partially funded by a grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, the guides can be accessed at [history.nd.gov/archives/rsubjectguides.html](https://history.nd.gov/archives/rsubjectguides.html).

This year's theme is "Frontiers in History: People, Places, Ideas." Registration for the state contest, which takes place at the ND Heritage Center in Bismarck on April 28, is open through April 14. Winning projects will be awarded up to \$2,000 for travel to the national competition. To register, visit [nd.nhd.org](https://nd.nhd.org).



## Museum Artworks Undergo Conservation

As part of ongoing preservation efforts, a quartet of artworks from the Audience Engagement & Museum Department collections has undergone work at the Midwest Art Conservation Center in Minneapolis. These include Charles François Jalabert’s 1874 portrait of Medora von Hoffman, future wife of the Marquis de Morès and mistress of the Chateau de Morès hunting lodge; the circa late 1860s oil painting “Indian War Party” by William D. Cary; J.W. Wallace’s 1894 portrait of U.S. Sen. Henry C. Hansbrough of North Dakota; and a 1980 carving of the “Fort Berthold Singers” by Ivan Young Bear. The artworks are expected back at the ND Heritage Center in Bismarck by early-to-mid 2023 and will be part of the upcoming exhibit, *There’s a Story There: Artworks From the State Museum Collection*, opening July 27 in the James E. Sperry Gallery.

*Conservation work on the Medora von Hoffman portrait included the removal and replacement of discolored varnish, repairing a canvas tear, and reinforcing the canvas stretcher. The painting received a new frame from Master Framers, which also carried out work on the Hansbrough frame.*  
SHSND 1972.1630

## Capitol Photos on View at Governor’s Residence



After fire destroyed the original state Capitol in 1930 (left), an art deco style tower and wing was constructed to replace it. The North Dakota Capitol is one of only four high-rise state Capitols in the nation. SHSND SA A3519-00001, 00012-00091

To celebrate the convening of the 68th Legislative Assembly in January, the agency recently launched *Capitol Experience*, a selection of historical photographs from the State Archives. The dozen images on display at the governor’s residence in Bismarck follow the evolution of the state Capitol, from its construction as a territorial Capitol built in the Richardsonian Romanesque style in the 1880s to its current 1933 iteration as an art deco tower known as the “Skyscraper on the Prairie.” The exhibit, on view through May, is open to residence guests only.

## Turtle Lake Barn Listed in National Register



The Schlafmann Barn

The Schlafmann Barn near Turtle Lake was recently listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The National Register is the federal government’s list of properties it considers worthy of preservation and recognition. North Dakota nominations are coordinated by the State Historical Society.

Built in 1910 by Erland Lindquist for dairy cattle, the Schlafmann Barn is a typical barn with the unusual addition of an enclosed loading shaft. After William and Helen Schlafmann bought the farm in 1955, the barn underwent renovations to better suit beef cattle and is still used for calving. Along with the barn, the context document “Common Farm and Ranch Barns in North Dakota” was also accepted by the National Register program.



Minnesota photographer Susan Tadewald captured this image of an oil pump in the Williston Basin while accompanying Continental Resources’ founder and chairman Harold Hamm during a visit to the region in 2011. Her photographs will be part of the new display.

## Core Samples Going on Exhibit at the State Museum

Thanks to Continental Resources’ donation of two cases of core samples, an upgrade to the Industry & Energy section in the State Museum’s Inspiration Gallery: Yesterday and Today is coming soon. The samples, which allow geologists to determine the presence, quality, and depth of materials to be extracted, were mostly sourced from the Bakken Formation underlying parts of North Dakota, Montana, and Canada.

In addition to the core samples, the new display, which will be installed in March 2023, also includes interpretive content exploring the petroleum industry’s use of core samples, largescale photographs showing drilling and pump sites in the Williston Basin, and core samples for visitors to touch.

## Agency Receives NPS Grant to Amend Fort Totten National Register Listing

The State Historical Society is grateful to the National Park Service (NPS) for a \$50,770 Underrepresented Community Grant that will allow us to update Fort Totten State Historic Site’s National Register of Historic Places nomination form. Working with Tribal Historic Preservation Offices, the agency will broaden the documentation’s focus to include a better understanding of the full historical significance of the Fort Totten site, which was listed in the National Register in 1971, specifically its long-time role as an Indian boarding school.

In 2022, Fort Totten was one of 21 projects in 16 states and the District of Columbia to receive funding from the NPS’ Underrepresented Community Grants that support the identification, planning, and development of nominations or amendments to the National Register of Historic Places for diverse communities. According to NPS Director Chuck Sams, the awards aim “to better tell the varied histories and stories of all Americans, so that they may one day no longer be called underrepresented.”



Fort Totten State Historic Site



## Inspiring Future Entrepreneurs

Exhibitions Manager David Newell discusses the work of Indigenous fashion designers with North Dakota students during a Marketplace for Kids education day at the ND Heritage Center in December.

## Fashion & Function Closes



Chief Preparator Bryan Turnbow and New Media Specialist Andrew Kerr remove the crown from the display featuring 2018 Miss America Cara Mund's evening gowns, sash, and Wonder Woman costume.

After a very successful nearly two-year run, Audience Engagement & Museum staff deinstalled *Fashion & Function: North Dakota Style* in January to make way for our upcoming exhibition, *On the Edge of the Wind: Native Storytellers & the Land*.

Produced by the North Dakota Council on the Arts in association with the State Historical Society, *On the Edge of the Wind* explores the connections between cultural practices, regional landscapes, and tribal oral narratives. This exhibition, based on interviews with Native storytellers and knowledge keepers, opens April 27 in the State Museum's Governors Gallery.



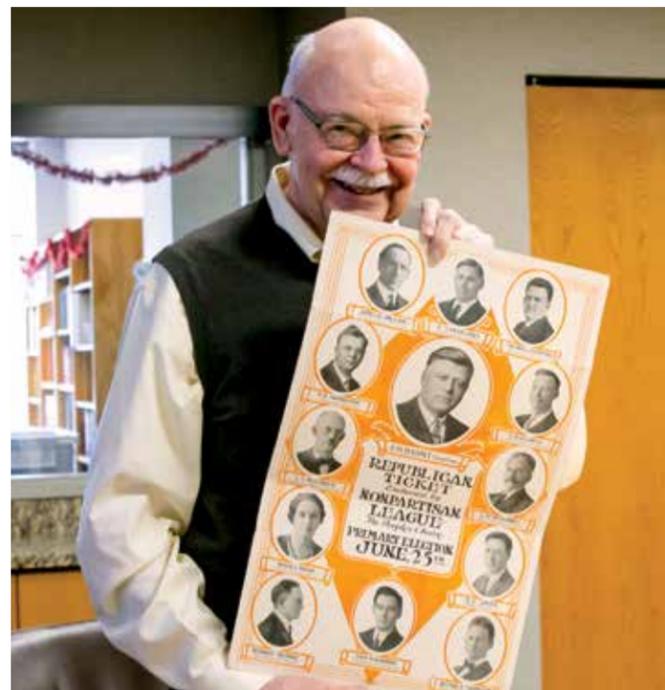
Assistant Registrar Elise Dukart pushes a cart of dresses worn by North Dakota's first ladies.

## Thank You to Al Jaeger

We are deeply grateful to former North Dakota Secretary of State Al Jaeger, who retired at the end of 2022, for 30 years of dedicated service on the State Historical Board. His wisdom and guidance over the past three decades have been much appreciated. Jaeger is replaced on the board by his successor as secretary of state, Michael Howe.

After Jaeger's final board meeting in December, he helped us open a recent donation from Patricia Byrne. Patricia is the granddaughter of Robert Byrne, North Dakota's secretary of state from 1925 to 1934. She recently gifted several of her grandfather's effects to the state collections, including his engraved leather portfolio, desk nameplate, letter opener, and portrait.

Jaeger is pictured with a campaign poster, also donated by Patricia, for the 1930 Nonpartisan League-endorsed Republican ticket. Byrne, who appears in the poster's bottom left corner, rescued the original state Constitution from destruction when the North Dakota Capitol burned down later that year.



## Retirement Strategies for Giving to the Foundation



To learn more about how you can support the Foundation, drop by and say hello—we'd love to meet you! Our offices are in the ND Heritage Center & State Museum on the Capitol grounds in Bismarck.

If you are looking for ways to ensure our state's historical legacy, here are three retirement account giving options that can benefit both you and the State Historical Society of North Dakota Foundation.

### IRA Charitable Rollover

If you are 70 1/2 or older, gifts up to \$100,000 can be contributed from your IRA to the Foundation without having to pay income taxes on the money. If you are age 72, this gift can also satisfy all or part of your required minimum distribution.

### Beneficiary Gift

Naming the Foundation as a partial or full gift beneficiary of your retirement account is a simple and flexible way to support the work of the State Historical Society of North Dakota. After your passing, specified funds will transfer tax-free to the Foundation.

### Testament Unitrust, aka "Give It Twice" Trust

This method allows you to transfer your IRA tax-free at death to a charitable remainder unitrust. The trust would first pay income to loved ones designated as beneficiaries before distributing the remaining funds to the Foundation.

*This information is provided as an educational service to our donors and is not intended as legal or tax advice. Please consult an attorney or tax advisor.*

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*Plesiosaur at the State Museum, Bismarck*



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