



# Plains Talk

STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF NORTH DAKOTA • FALL 2019  
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## New Online Exhibit Reaches for the Stars

Double Ditch Indian Village  
State Historic Site by  
Johnathan Campbell

Are you curious about constellations, meteorites, or living on Mars? *North Dakota Night Sky*, a new online exhibit produced by North Dakota Studies, showcases the state's night sky in new ways. Accessed at [ndstudies.gov/nightsky](http://ndstudies.gov/nightsky), it includes an immersive 360° video and activities for any clear night.

Exhibit sections highlight history and innovation, examining how North Dakota's contributions to engineering, technology, and exploration relate to Mars. The immersive video, *360° Guide to the North Dakota Night Sky*, works on phones, computers, or virtual reality headsets to bring North Dakota's night view to users' fingertips.

"Space is a concept that allows you to think big," said New Media Specialist Jessica Rockeman, who wrote and designed the exhibit. "North Dakota Night Sky is a site designed to be fun, and to allow all North Dakotans to reach for the stars."

To expand the online experience, you can view a Dakota winter count, as well as the New Leipzig and Richardton Meteorites, at the North Dakota Heritage Center & State Museum. Educators can order the Night Sky ND Studies Trunk with additional materials and hands-on activities at [ndstudies.gov/nightsky](http://ndstudies.gov/nightsky).

HISTORY FOR *everyone.*



## Moon Landing 50th Anniversary

In July the North Dakota Heritage Center & State Museum featured an exhibit commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing. The United States government presented plaques with fragments of moon rocks to the people of every state and many nations in 1973. The moon rocks and two North Dakota mini-flags that travelled to the moon on separate Apollo missions, acquired by the State Historical Society in 1982, received many visitors in July and August.

To mark the moon landing anniversary, the Smithsonian Institution digitized Neil Armstrong's spacesuit, allowing us to create a virtual visit to our exhibit through augmented reality.

## Native American Hall of Honor

The Native American Hall of Honor, founded in 2016 by the ND Indian Affairs Commission in partnership with the State Historical Society and its Foundation, recognizes traditional and contemporary achievements by Native Americans who have gone above and beyond in representing their tribe and culture. The 2019 inductees are:

**Arts and Culture:** Keith Bear, Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara (MHA) Nation; Wallace "Butch" Thunder Hawk Jr., Standing Rock Sioux Tribe

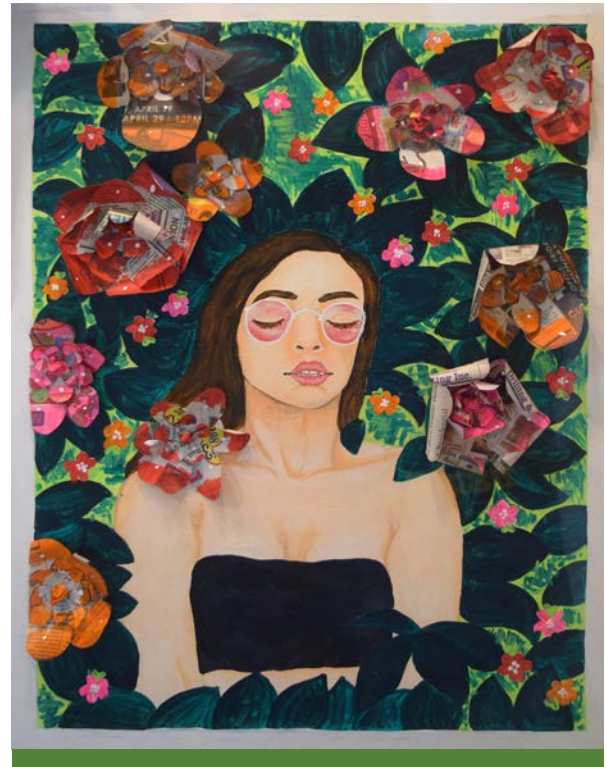
**Athletics:** 1970–71 Turtle Mountain Community High School Wrestling Team, Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa

**Leadership:** Martin T. Cross Sr., MHA Nation; Charles W. Murphy, Standing Rock Sioux Tribe

**Legendary:** Chief Little Shell III, Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa

**Veterans:** Sgt. John W. Smith, MHA Nation; Seven Vietnam War Veterans, Standing Rock Sioux Tribe

The public induction ceremony will be Sept. 5 at 6 p.m. at the ND Heritage Center. Each inductee is featured in an annual exhibit at the State Museum. Learn more at [bit.ly/nahoh](http://bit.ly/nahoh).



## Earth Day Recycled Art

Since 2008, Bismarck Public Schools, the State Historical Society, and other state agency partners have organized an educational Earth Day event for sixth graders, followed by a community-wide environmental fair with activities, booths, a scavenger hunt, and a Recycled Art Contest. Art submissions must use at least 75 percent trash or convey the message "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle!" Selected winners are exhibited in the North Dakota Heritage Center & State Museum, including this year's first-place project in the high school category, *Hopeless Flowers* by Krysta Arntz.



## Water Festival

State Historical Society staff Kiri Stone and Jessica Rockeman assisted with the annual Bismarck Public Schools Water Festival on May 14, teaching 320 third-grade students about water in North Dakota. Students learned about rain gauges, rivers, floods, and how elevation and rainfall affect life in North Dakota towns.

New Media Specialist Jessica Rockeman uses a map to describe the flow of the Red River north to Canada.

## Horse-Inspired Art Programs

“Canvas and Cocktails: Painting Horses,” a horse-themed adult painting program taught by master artist Kim Eslinger, was held May 23 and June 20 at the ND Heritage Center & State Museum. Both events included a cash bar and music by Kris Kitko. The program featured a tour of the temporary exhibit *The Horse in North Dakota*, on view at the State Museum through fall 2020, and was supported in part by a grant from the North Dakota Council on the Arts. Learn more about *The Horse* exhibit and upcoming programs at [statemuseum.nd.gov](http://statemuseum.nd.gov).



Participants in “Canvas and Cocktails: Painting Horses” show off their completed work and the creative process.

## Woman Suffrage Marks 100 Years

*Woman Suffrage in North Dakota*, an exhibit case commemorating the woman suffrage (right to vote) movement, is on exhibit at the ND Heritage Center & State Museum until summer 2020. Designed by Audience Engagement & Museum intern Elise Dukart, the case highlights 20th-century objects from the movement toward women’s equality. The upcoming year marks the 100th anniversary of national woman suffrage, when the 19th Amendment to the US Constitution was enacted. Native American women received voting rights with citizenship in 1924.



Intern Elise Dukart designed the woman suffrage case now on exhibit at the ND Heritage Center & State Museum.

## Great Intern Tour of 2019

Curator of Collections Management Jenny Yearous treated summer interns, new staff, and temporary hires to a grand tour of central North Dakota historic sites on July 24. The enthusiastic group visited Double Ditch Indian Village State Historic Site, the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center in Washburn, Fort Clark State Historic Site, and Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site. We are thankful for our interns and temporary staff who will be returning to various colleges and locales across the country this fall.



Zachary Bares, Joy Pitts, Grace Derby, Elise Dukart, Kaelyn Olson, and Sylvia Sandstrom encounter a reconstructed earthlodge at Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site.



## Summer at the Sites

In addition to hosting annual special events, our state historic sites recently launched Hands-on History, a project to make North Dakota's past more immersive and multisensory. From demonstrations to dancing and sing-alongs, here are a few examples of summer experiences offered across the state.



1, 2. Welk Homestead hosted a free concert by Matt Hodek and the Dakota Dutchmen on Aug. 3, along with an Accordion Jam Fest and blacksmith demonstration earlier in the day.

3. Alli Beckers shows a friend how to hold a paper airplane at Camp Hancock on June 28.

4. Historic Site Interpreter Kris Kitko leads kids in song at Camp Hancock's "Train Fun for Children" on July 11.

5. Parker Vander Vorst, with sister Lauryn, and Joshua Hanna play a 19th-century game called graces on the Former Governors' Mansion lawn July 5.

6, 7. State Historic Sites Regional Manager Chris Dorfschmidt helps Jenna Groven construct an air rocket at the 10th anniversary celebration of the Ronald Reagan Minuteman Missile State Historic Site July 21. Outside Joseph S. Mwangura shows Courtney how to launch her (non-)nuclear missile.

8. Sebastian and Haven practice hoop trundling at Welk Homestead on Aug. 3.

9, 10. Activities during Aber Days, held Aug. 3-4 at Fort Abercrombie, included tinsmith demonstrations and actors in period clothing. Bob Welch and his son, Jack, made a wagon ride through town.



# New Property Listed in National Register

De Morès Memorial Park in Medora has been listed in the National Register of Historic Places, the federal government’s list of properties it considers worthy of preservation and recognition. Louis and Paul de Vallombrosa (sons of the Marquis de Morès Antoine de Vallombrosa) donated park land to the town of Medora in 1924. The brothers commissioned a statue of their father from Pierre Marie Poisson, which was cast by the F. Barbedienne Foundry and erected in 1926. Ten years later the park became the property of the State Historical Society of North Dakota. Weldon Gratton of the National Park Service created a new park design, and the property was further developed through various Works Progress Administration and Civilian Conservation Corps projects.



## Heritage Volunteers Honored

Our 200 Heritage Volunteers serve roles from greeting visitors at museums and state historic sites to cataloging collections or staffing Museum Stores. On Aug. 13, the State Historical Society honored the following volunteers for their many hours of dedicated service across the state:

<b>Dedication</b> Erlys Fardal	<b>State Historic Sites</b> Karen DaSilva	<b>10 Years of Service</b> Joan Von Rueden
<b>Curatorial</b> Lilian Wilson	<b>First Hundred Hours of Service</b> Beverly Keeseey LaRayne Martel Steve Olson Bobbie Westbee Kathy Wilner	<b>20 Years of Service</b> Verlyn Larson
<b>Hospitality</b> Jeannette Radig		



Verlyn Larson, left, was honored for 20 years of volunteer service by Visitor Services Coordinator Beth Campbell on Aug. 13.

## State Historical Board Welcomes New Members



Larry C. Skogen                      Matt Dunlevy

The North Dakota State Historical Board welcomes two new members appointed by Gov. Doug Burgum. Matt Dunlevy of Grand Forks is president and CEO of SkySkopes, an unmanned aircraft system (UAS) company, and he also serves on the board of the Grand Forks County Historical Society. Larry C. Skogen of Bismarck is the president of Bismarck State College and retired from a previous career in the U.S. Air Force. Skogen holds a Ph.D. in history from Arizona State University, Tempe.

## State Archives Sale Raises Funds

The State Historical Society held a public sale of publications and collectible memorabilia from the State Archives on June 27–28. The first book sale in 12 years, the sale raised almost \$6,800, which will be used to purchase collections and preservation materials. All items sold were duplicates of collection items or pieces that did not fit within the State Archives collecting scope. Hot ticket items included Nonpartisan League paraphernalia, posters, and atlases.



The State Archives book sale, organized by Head of Technical Services Stephanie Baltzer Kom (far left), invited the public to purchase duplicate items from our collections.

# FOUNDATION NOTES



History's  
*Foundation*  
State Historical Society  
of North Dakota Foundation

## 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.

**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.

**TUESDAY, NOV. 5, 2019  
ND HERITAGE CENTER**

**Foundation Annual Meeting**  
10:00 a.m.  
Great Plains Theater

**Foundation Board Meeting**  
10:30 a.m. – Noon  
Foundation Board Room

*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. 701-222-1966

## Foundation Development Staff

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Office Located in the Lower Level of the  
North Dakota Heritage Center on the Capitol Grounds



Marlo Sveen,  
SHSND Foundation  
Executive Director



## Membership Benefits



## Annual Campaign Request for Support



## Memorial Gifts

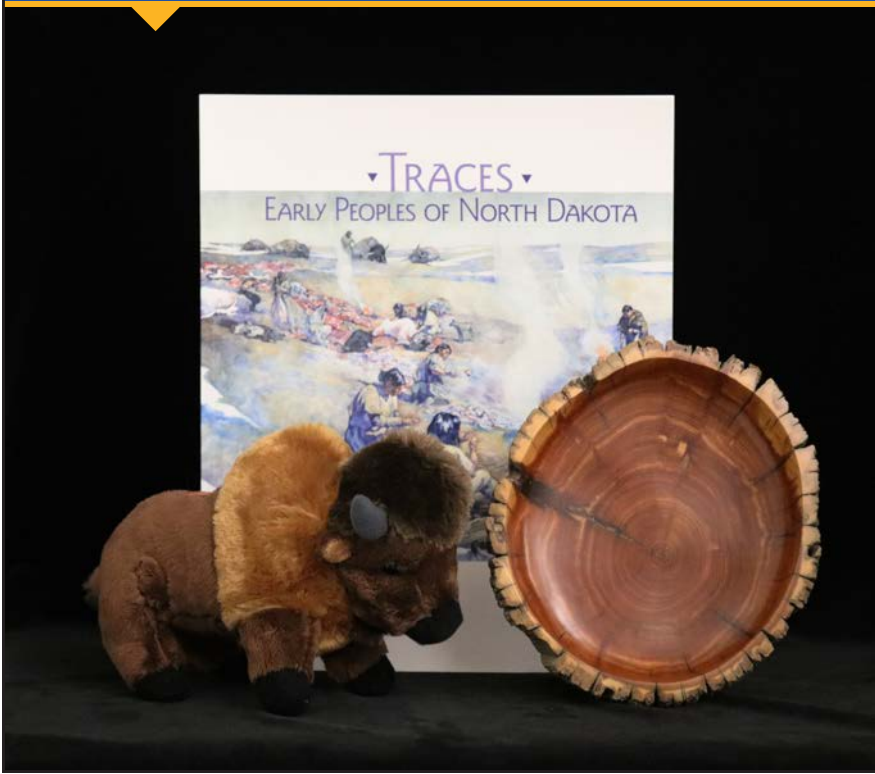


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