

**47th ANNUAL
HOMESTEADER DAY
HARVEST FESTIVAL 2025**

**Sunday, September 7th
1:00 - 4:00 p.m.
Beaver Creek Nature Area**



Featuring :
Pioneer Farming, Civil War Re-enactors,
Dutch Oven Cooking, Candle Dipping, Pioneer Games,
and Much, Much More!
Food and Refreshments Available On Site

From I-90 at Brandon, Exit 406,
go 1 mile south, 2 miles east,
2 miles south, and 1 mile west to
Beaver Creek Nature Area. For
more info call (605) 594-3824.


Free Admission



Siouxland Heritage Museums
200 West Sixth Street
Sioux Falls, SD 57104


Russ Swanson Presents:

Fort Dakota's Military & Stage Roads



Russ Swanson will discuss the military roads that connect Sioux City and Fort Dakota in what is downtown Sioux Falls today. These early roads followed the Big Sioux River and were used by the military, freighters, settlers, and the mail from as early as 1844 to the 1880s.

2 p.m.
Sunday, September 28th
Free Admission
Old Courthouse Museum
200 West 6th Street
Downtown- Sioux Falls, SD
www.sioxlandmuseums.com



PLACE
STAMP
HERE



VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER

September 2025

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Volunteer Report

August 2025 Museum Stats

37 Volunteers

403.75 Volunteer Hours Given

6,408 August Visitation

44,445 Annual Visitation to Date

Volunteer Committee

Melissa Godber 605-367-4210

mgodber@minnehahacounty.gov

Interim Volunteer Coordinator

Jessie Nesseim 605-978-7004

jnesseim@minnehahacounty.gov

Interim Volunteer Coordinator

Kevin Gansz

Education Representative

Adam Nyhaug

Collections Representative

Ben Devlin

Exhibits Representative

At the top of this page...

Buffalo Hunt, Under the White Wolf Skin ~ 1926.1.774

Below: *Buffalo Hunt, Chase ~ 1926.1.769*

Did you know George Catlin is considered the first person to articulate the idea of a national park? Born in Pennsylvania, Catlin was a young lawyer before he started a career in painting. In 1832, Catlin began his journey deep into Indian territory, where he went on to visit 50 tribes and make more than 500 paintings. It was while he was in Dakota Territory that he became concerned with the effects of westward expansion, not only on Native American life, but also on the Western landscape. Thus, he made this plea — “by some great protecting policy of the government preserved ... in a magnificent park ... a nation’s park, containing man and beast, in all wildness and freshness of their nature’s beauty!” Catlin’s paintings are on display now until mid-October at the Old Courthouse Museum.



Education

On Saturday, August 23rd, the museum had a booth at the Levitt for their “All My Relatives” festival which ran from 10am-5pm. This event was a celebration of Native American music, art and culture and consisted of a vendor fair, fashion showcase, visual artist showcase, performances and an interactive children’s area. We set up a table with our hands-on buffalo pack and displayed the many parts of the bison and how the Lakota people used them in their traditional life. We also had flyers promoting the new exhibit at the Old Courthouse Museum titled, “An Indigenous America.” Our participation was a last minute ask from the Levitt when one of their other activities was forced to cancel. We couldn’t have participated that day without the help of our volunteers. Deanna Darr, Jenae Ruesink-Cross, Emily Hopfauf and Carrie Dunn stepped up at the last minute to help us out and manned the booth. It was a great day to be outside, and a great day to showcase the museum at this important event.

Exhibits Department

Thank you to all the volunteers to helped with the production of *An Indigenous America*. Whether it was helping take down the old exhibit, preparing artifacts to move to the Old Courthouse Museum, or attending the exhibit opening reception, we are always grateful for your support!

So what is the Exhibits Department working on now? Eli has been busy painting and replacing the plexiglass in 14 storm windows at the Pettigrew Home and Museum. We’ve also started going through the materials for our next exhibit! Next year marks the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. The Siouxland Heritage Museums will join the rest of the country in celebration with our next exhibit. We will look at the different traditions the United States, South Dakota, and Sioux Falls celebrates America. This exhibit will replace the gallery with the museum’s George Catlin prints and is set to open on November 13.

Collections Department

Over the course of the last few months the museums have been fortunate to have three students from Augustana University working on scanning and cataloging over 1,500 35mm slides, and 30 8mm films. The slides and films come from the family of Alfred White, Sr., who came to Sioux Falls in 1945. White continued to document the African American community in Sioux Falls for the next 50 years. The museums have partnered with Augustana University and the South Dakota African American History Museum to work on this project. The project has received an African American Civil Rights History Grant, through the National Park Service, and are seeking to identify and document existing structures that were significant to African American history in Sioux Falls and nominate these to the National Register of Historic Places.

If you would like to look through any of these images, please visit siouxlandmuseums.catalogaccess.com/home and search for the “Alfred White, Sr. Collection.”



2024.48.256; Carolyn White at Sioux Falls City Hall, 1952



2023.51.208, Vikings Day Parade, 1967

Siouxland Heritage Museums Mission Statement

The Siouxland Heritage Museums is dedicated to enhancing the experience of learning in our community, its families and visitors through collections, preservation, and interpretation of history.

Museum Board

- Jeff Barth
- Jerry Beckler
- Chris Brockevelt
- Roger Buechler
- Cole Heisey
- Arthur Kriens
- John Nordlie
- Greg Olsen
- Diane Olson
- Jennifer Sigette
- Curt Soehl

SHM Alliance Board of Directors

- Marcy Bird
- Richard Burns
- Deanna Darr
- Jakob Etrheim
- Bill Hoskins
- Lori Marty
- Shelli Masek
- Greg Olsen
- Diane Olson
- Karen Shea
- Roger Terveen
- John Turner

September 2025

SUN	M	TUE	WE	THU	FRI	S
	1 Closed for Labor Day	2	3	4 Museum Board Meeting 11:30am @OCM	5	6 Sidewalk Arts Festival 9am-5pm @downtown - <i>Haunted SF</i> and <i>Woodlawn by Lantern</i> tickets on sale for Volunteers and Alliance Members @OCM
7 Homesteader Day Harvest Festival 1-4pm @Beaver Creek	8	9	10	11 Bobbin Lacemakers 12-5pm @OCM - SHM Alliance Board Meeting 5:30pm @OCM	12	13 <i>Haunted SF</i> and <i>Woodlawn by Lantern</i> tickets on sale for General Public @OCM
14 Fiber Fun 1-4pm @OCM	15	16 Rosemaling demo 1-4pm @OCM	17	18 Behind the Scenes Tour 2pm @MRC	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 Russ Swanson Presents: Fort Dakota’s Military & Stage Roads, 2pm @OCM	29	30				

New in the Museum Store

The museum store has been hopping this summer! Thanks to our store volunteers, museum guests are able to spend time perusing the store’s unique merchandise. Have you stopped by the store recently? Remember, all volunteers receive a 15 percent discount on store purchases. Recently, a number of new books were added to store shelves, including *A Chase to the Death: The Detailed Pursuit of the James-Younger Gang Following the Northfield Raid* by Russ Swanson; *Cascades of the Big Sioux River: A Natural & Cultural History* by Peter Carrels; *Determined. A South Dakota Family’s Story* by Signe Sather-Blair; and *Katy of Rose Valley* (Book 2 of the *Roses of the Valley* Series) by Joan & Lisa Mueller.

