

13885 Meadowbrook Drive  
Broomfield, CO 80020  
October 31, 2022

City of Deadwood Commissioners  
108 Sherman Street  
Deadwood, SD 57732

Dear City of Deadwood Commissioners,

I am writing to sincerely thank you, your city archivist, Michael Runge, and the historic preservation office of Deadwood for the remarkable job you have done and are doing to research, describe and preserve the knowledge, records, people, items, edifices and places of Deadwood's past, and bring them forward to the present as vital elements in the vibrant, economically flourishing and aesthetically pleasing place that Deadwood is today.

My husband and I have just returned from a visit to Deadwood, the primary purpose of which was to explore and research his family's late 1800's connection to the areas he knew his great grandfather, Louis Volin, lived and died.

It certainly was exciting to pull into town and see Volin Street right there immediately on the right. Beyond that, on a Friday mid-afternoon without a specific advance appointment, Mr Runge met with Tim and me and was able to pull within minutes an astonishing amount of information about Tim's great grandfather and other Volin family members, most of which were new to us. There were newspaper articles, pages in the History of Deadwood book/s, deeds, census, tax records and photos, all collated and readily accessed by Mr Runge. He showed and marked for us on a map where Tim's great grandfather's ranch was in Nevada Gulch. He knew and told us a lot about that area and the Louis Volin property specifically, eg that it was a good route West and that Louis Volin had a "toll road" thru it.

Michael showed us how we could access much of the specific information on line, but at 84 and 80 years of age, this is not exactly our forte. Our lasting impression will be memories of what we saw and heard from our visit with Michael and the delight in knowing, and passing along to our children and grandchildren, that there IS so much information available and what the sites are so that they can access it.

Of course the next day we went out to Lead and beyond to Nevada Gulch and had a great time imagining Tim's forefathers living out there, and in other places further south in Crooks where Michael said some of the other 44 Volin's he pulled up lived. That will be another trip!

What a wonderful hour this was with Mr Runge. And what a showcase it was for his intimate knowledge of Deadwood and the dedication and accomplishments and DIFFERENCE he has made as City Archivist for you over the course of 20+ years. Mountains of "stuff" isn't just stacked or piled away in dusty places somewhere that might as well be nowhere. He has

obviously poured thru many mountains of 'stuff" and entered the "stuff" in organized, systemized places and ways that it can be readily accessed and useful to historians and to people and families like ours who wonder and ask questions about their roots and connections to people and places like Deadwood.

We were away for two weeks.

When we got home I asked Tim what was his favorite part of the trip. He said the time he spent with Mr. Runge.

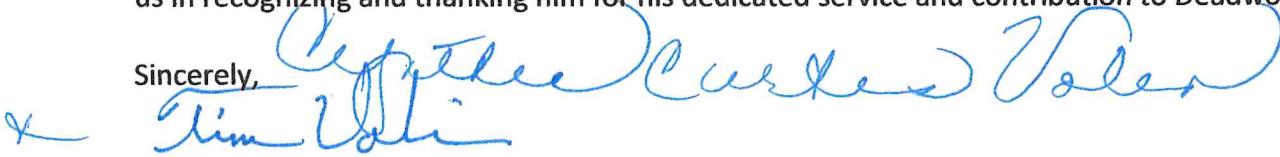
I think Michael enjoyed it, too!

Later I noticed that 2 of my favorite brochures plucked from the fine visitor center in your beautifully restored train station, Deadwood's Notables and Deadwood Seth Bullock, were created by the City of Deadwood Archives.

Thank you, City of Deadwood Commissioners, for having the desire and the prescience to create, and then to maintain and preserve for decades, the position of City Archivist /Collections Manager for Deadwood and for being able to attract and keep someone of Mr Runge's caliber. It's a task that requires such resourcefulness, thoroughness, attention to detail, patience, perseverance and commitment. For the record, it's clear Mr Runge has all that and more, like being kind and congenial with people, too!

I hope receiving this small honorarium for him may also provide an opportunity for you to join us in recognizing and thanking him for his dedicated service and contribution to Deadwood.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signatures in blue ink. The top signature is 'Cynthia Curtis Volin' and the bottom signature is 'Tim Volin'. There is a small blue mark to the left of the bottom signature.

Cynthia Curtis Volin and Timothy E Volin