

March and April Archives Monthly Report

These are the items I worked on during the months of March and April 2021.

RESEARCH REQUESTS

I received and answered twenty-two (22) research requests in March and eight (8) in April. These requests took the form of emails, city employee and department head requests, and researchers.

COLLECTIONS MANAGEMENT

- **Donations 2021.04 and 2021.05:** In April, Gerard Keating donated the Deadwood Dick's surrogate transparency set, a cast iron column and two wood crates that originated from Deadwood Dicks Antique Shop. Kevin Kuchenbecker then arranged the installation of this transparency set in the basement of the Days of 76 Museum. In May, Troy Jassman and I installed the exhibit. Also in April, Allen Yost of Deadwood donated a *1931 Burlington Lines Code of Safety Rules* booklet found in his house at 96 Charles Street.
- **Collection 2020.10 Deadwood Dicks Antiques:** In March and April, I continued to process the items from 51-55 Sherman Street, former Deadwood Dicks antique shop. This is a work in progress and I will periodically update you on the status of this collection.
- **Collection 2021.01 Dakota Research Services Archaeological Library:** In March I finished cataloging Society of Historical Archaeology (SHA) periodicals (1988 to 2013) and South Dakota History periodicals (1970 to 2009) donated by Jeff Beuchler. As time permitted, I had Cindy copy several articles on 19th century American food consumption. This data will be used in developing a new exhibit in the basement titled "*What's for Dinner in the Mining Camps*".
- **2002 & 2003 Deadwood Chinatown Archaeological Collection:** In March and April, Barb Fosheim and I continued on assigning box number and shelf locations for the 2002 and 2003 Chinatown artifacts. This information was then entered into an Excel spreadsheet. To date, Ms. Fosheim has entered 26,868 records into this spreadsheet. Upon completion, city staff will be able to pinpoint and retrieve any object within the Deadwood Chinatown collection.
- **Collection 2009.06 – Deadwood Dick Dime Novels:** In April I cataloged the City's collection of Deadwood Dick dime novels into PastPerfect and uploaded the digital images onto the City Archives online search engine at: <https://cityofdeadwood.pastperfectonline.com/>
- **Collection 2008.05 and 2020.04 Sharp Bits Periodicals:** In April I consolidated the City's collection of Homestake Mining Company "*Sharp Bits*" periodicals and updated the records in PastPerfect. The complete Sharp Bits periodical library consists of 21 volumes of monthly publications spanning the years 1950 to 1970. The City Archives partial collection was donated by Don Toms of Lead, SD (2008) and the late Judy Farris (2020).

- **2021 Lawrence County Tax Records:** In April independent contractor Don Toms completed transcribing tax ledgers 22 through 25 (1898-1899). As of May 1, 2021 there are 88,348 records in this Microsoft Access database. These items will be uploaded to the City Archives online search engine in July of 2021 (<http://archives.cityofdeadwood.com/>).

PROJECTS

- **City Archaeological Conservation and Project Files:** In April, I started reorganizing the City's archaeological conservation and project files located in the three letter size filing cabinets in the archaeology lab. This was in unison with Barb Fosheim's work on the Chinatown collection. This is a work in progress and I will periodically update you on the status of this collection.
- **New Walking Tour Interpretive Signs:** In March and April, I began working on four (4) outdoor 24 x 36" interpretive panels for the downtown walking tour. The panels are titled *"Reshaping the Badlands; Wall & Main Street; South Deadwood Mining Camp; and Whitewood Creek: Short History"*. These signs will coincide with the new downtown walking tour slated for June 2021.
- **Outdoor Interpretive Sign spreadsheet:** In addition to the new signs, I was asked to develop an excel spreadsheet of all pre-existing outdoor interpretive signs within the city limits. To date there are 90 outdoor signs in this spreadsheet. I will begin GPSing and assessing the sign's condition in July.

Deadwood Notables Brochure: In March and April, I worked on developing a new informational brochure titled, *"Deadwood's Notables"*. This new brochure will replace the Wild Bill, Calamity Jane, Seth Bullock, Roosevelt Tower, and Mt. Moriah brochures. As part of this project, I added biographical sketches of John Perrett and Rev. Henry Smith. This new brochure is scheduled for printing in June/July.

Building Records Database project: In April, Kevin and I met with records researcher Julie Stone about developing a building records database. This data would be incorporated into the rewriting of Boots on Bricks. As part of this project, I developed an Access and Excel spreadsheet in April.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

- **Site Visit:** On April 12, 2021 I met with graphic artist and longtime resident Danny Miller at the City Hall. Over the past 30 years, Miller has designed many logos for businesses including the Days of 76 committee.

If you have questions or would like to see what I have been working on, feel free to call or email me at your convenience.

Mike Runge, City Archivist