



FASSBENDER PHOTOGRAPHIC COLLECTION

The communities of Spearfish, Lead, and Deadwood purchased the Fassbender Photographic Collection in 2010. In addition to your funding commitment, each community appointed representatives to a board of directors to oversee organization and conservation efforts. Lawrence County joined in the conservation effort in 2016 with additional funding support.

The City of Deadwood's continued financial support for the Fassbender Photographic Collection helps preserve a historic resource of immense cultural value to our region and the greater American West. It contains a vast range of Black Hills and South Dakota images and hundreds of photographic artifacts and archival materials.

Joseph Fassbender was a prolific photographer, recording many of the most important events in the Black Hills during the 20th century. His photographs appeared in Life Magazine, Time, Ford Magazine, and the Saturday Evening Post. Fassbender's collection also contains historic photos shot by other Black Hills area photographers, including some of the first to arrive in Dakota Territory.

For 2027, we respectfully request \$22,000. from the City of Deadwood

As one of the founding municipal owners of the Fassbender Photographic Collection, the City of Deadwood plays a crucial role in the care, preservation and promotion of this irreplaceable cultural asset.

Richard Carlson is the Fassbender Digital Specialist. His work focuses on three core areas. **1) Public access**—through events, exhibits and a newsletter. You'll find the latest newsletter edition included in this packet. **2) Digital conservation**—continuing the long-term digitization and preservation of fragile materials **3) Volunteer management**—building and guiding a team of volunteers to accelerate conservation efforts.

We embrace opportunities for education and exposure at South Dakota history conferences and our own events in the three communities. Our outreach efforts have been met enthusiastically—dozens of families have discovered ancestral photographs, creating meaningful connections across generations. In addition, we fulfill requests for stunning historical images that are used both commercially and privately. Collection photographs can be found in many locations.

For example, if you have not yet visited the Fassbender exhibit which opened at the Days of '76 Museum, we recommend you pay a visit soon. We would also encourage you to share information about the collection, and the role Deadwood has played in making it possible, in your own community and organization newsletters.

All of these efforts have been enhanced by the stewardship agreement with Deadwood History, Inc.(DHI) that commenced on January 1, 2022. The agreement formalized a more streamlined management of shared staff resources, exhibit opportunities at DHI properties, financial record-keeping, public outreach and education opportunities.

The Fassbender Collection is not simply stored in our care — it is owned by your city. Your support safeguards your investment and ensures that this photographic legacy of the Black Hills—the stories, faces, and events of our region—remain available to the public now and for generations to come.

Thank you for your continuing support. Should you have any questions or wish to discuss our 2026 goals in more detail, please contact me directly or reach out to our partners at Deadwood History, Inc.

Vicki Dar

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