

## **2024 City Archives & Archaeology End of Year Report**

2024 was yet another productive year for the City of Deadwood Archives/Archaeology, a sub department of the Deadwood Historic Preservation office. The following report highlights various activities, accomplishments and projects performed throughout the 2024 year.

### **RESEARCH REQUESTS**

As of December 31, 2024, the City Archives received and answered an estimated ninety-seven (97) research requests. These requests took the form of emails, city employee and department head requests, and researcher requests. Typically, response to these types of inquiries take between a half hour to half day or more to answer depending on topic, availability of staff and whether items need to be digitized.

### **VOLUNTEERS & HOURS**

In 2024 the City Archives received the help of three volunteers (Beverly Posey, Trevor Santochi and Charles “Doug” Eagleson) and one light duty city employee (Andrew Nelson). The volunteers combined chalked up 174.75 hours throughout the year and the light duty city employee amassed 243 hours throughout the year. These hours combined aided in the cataloging, scanning and organization of city owned collections.

### **STUDENT INTERNSHIP PROGRAM**

The student internship program provides high school and undergraduate students with an opportunity to work beside trained professionals in the fields of archives, archaeology, and collections management. The City Archives utilized the help of two student interns: Samantha Hamann (summer) and Holden Owens (fall/winter 2025).

### **SOCIAL MEDIA / MEDIA & CITYWIDE NEWSLETTERS**

The City Archives continued to have a social media presence through postings on Facebook and articles that periodically appeared in the local newspapers. On Deadwood: Historic Preservation page, (<https://www.facebook.com/deadwoodhistoricpreservation/>), archival staff posted fifty-three times focusing on a wide range of objects, collections and exhibits. Several articles appeared in the *Black Hills Pioneer* newspaper covering the Black Hills Trust & Savings Bank collection (1998.01) and John McClintock acquisition (2024.17). A total of 24 articles and photographs from the archives appeared in the 2024 citywide newsletters.

### **PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS**

In 2024, the City Archivist delivered four different presentations to the following groups and organizations: February 15, 2024 Preservation Thursday on the history of the Deadwood Chinese; March 18, 2024 Lead Kiwanis on City Archives; April 5, 2024 South Dakota Historical Society annual conference on City Archives digitization projects; and October 29, 2024 Historic Preservation Realtor Workshop on conducting historic research on a property and archaeology guidelines.

### **EXHIBIT DESIGN**

City Archives continued to develop the exhibits in the basement of Deadwood City Hall as per of the Deadwood Historic Preservation Experience Tours. In January Rakow Construction built and installed a large wood cabinet. As time permitted, archival staff developed an exhibit that showcases transportation objects found in the archaeological collections. In April, archival staff installed an exhibit interpreting the destruction of the Gem Theater in 1899 and the 2005 rediscovery of the Gem Theater.

As time permitted, staff continued to add and update various portions of the exhibit space in the city hall basement.

In 2024, the City Archives was approached by staff at Deadwood History, Inc. to develop an exhibit at the Adams Memorial Museum. This new exhibit would replace the “Americana” exhibit on the main level. Beginning in September, one of my volunteers and I began developing this new exhibit showcasing the efforts of Historic Preservation on the Deadwood community. Our goal is to have the exhibit completed and installed by May of 2025.

### **CITY HALL TOURS OF ARCHIVES & ARCHAEOLOGY**

As part of the Historic Preservation Experience Tours, archival staff led twenty-five (25) tours of the exhibition area in the basement of City Hall. These tours included a couple from Sarthe, France, American Chinese Culture Association, Deadwood History, Inc. summer camp, L/D Elementary School, and South Dakota Leadership. These tours promote public education in Deadwood and serve as an outreach program to visitors.

### **DONATIONS / ACQUISITIONS**

The City of Deadwood Archives received twenty new donations/acquisitions in 2024. As part of archives protocol, a donation form is generated upon receiving the items and/or collection. This form is then mailed to the donor in a self-addressed envelope. Upon receiving the signed form, the items within the donation are then cataloged into PastPerfect Collections Management software. The following provides a brief description of the donation and contents:

- **2024.01 Black Hills Mining Museum** - (4) line drawing postcards of various Black Hills attractions; (1) photographic postcard of Deadwood, circa 1951.
- **2024.02 - City of Deadwood** - (1) 5.0 x 7.0" memorial card for Oscar M. Ruth, Deadwood, South Dakota, World War I memorial card.
- **2024.03 - Steven Knight** - (2) 4.0 x 6.0" photographic postcards of Deadwood, Centennial City - overview of Deadwood downtown core district taken from McGovern Hill and National Historic City - overview of Deadwood Gulch and First Ward area - rodeo grounds and gateway sign
- **2024.04 Lawrence County Emergency Management** – (2) Deadwood Police jackets, circa 1950s.
- **2024.05 Linda Geyer** - (3) sets of 8.5 x 11.0" black and white prints of Terry, DT; Central City flood; Teepees in Centennial Valley and (2) 4 x 5" black and white negatives of Teepees in Centennial Valley
- **2024.06 Bob Spomer** - (135) 35mm Kodachrome Slides from the Cleo Wells Family, 1950-1960s. Images capture: Days of 76; Days of 76 parade along Sherman Street; 1965 Whitewood Flood; Terry Peak Ski Resort; and Custer Beauty Pageant
- **2024.07 Gayle Schuster** - Letters, envelopes and receipts from Deadwood, Spearfish, and Central City, Dakota Territory.
- **2024.08 Patrick Eastman / J&P Towing** - (1) motorman hat from the Deadwood Trolley system, 1990 - 2000.
- **2024.09 Fall River / Oglala Lakota County Emergency Management / Frank Maynard** - Deadwood Police Department shoulder patch; (2) 1950s era Deadwood Police Jacket; digital copy of 1960s era Deadwood Police Department photograph – See 2024.04.
- **2024.10 Oyster Bay Fairmont Hotel Corporation / Ron Russo** – (1) Wood door with peep hole from the Fairmont Hotel, 628 Main Street and other assorted ephemera from Hotel.
- **2024.11 Susan McClure** - (1) 16 x 23" double sided newspaper. Article titled, "Calamity Jane Proved Herself a Tender Mother of Men"

- **2024.12 William Glover, Jr.** - (4) Independent Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF) fraternal ribbons from Lead, South Dakota.
- **2024.13 Mike Madler** - (1) 39 x 45" map titled, "Black Hills National Forest South Dakota and Wyoming Sixth Principal Meridian and Black Hills Meridian"
- **2024.14 Donovan Renner** (1) 8.0 x 10.0" color photographic print of the construction of the Grizzly Gulch Dam, located up Grizzly Gulch and Yellow Creek. Circa 1970s.
- **2024.15 Ken Allen** (1) 1930 Adams Memorial Museum program, signed by W.E. Adams addressed to Harry Allen; (1) envelope with deeds for Rhodenhaus Lots 1 and (3) abstract of title for Lot "A" in Block 21.
- **2024.16 Dr. Roger Knutson (acquisition)** - (2) interior photographs of the Deadwood Auditorium; (3) panoramic views of Days of 76 grandstand and Art Russ Madison picnic; (1) US Post Office ledger - Deadwood, D.T.; and 1905 certification for Theodore Roosevelt's inaugural ride.
- **2024.17 Main Street Antiques & Décor (acquisition)** - (1) 13.0 x 8.0 x 2.0" ledger labeled "1890" from Deadwood, SD resident John S. McClintock and associated paperwork
- **2024.18 Trevor Santochi** - (1) paperback book titled, North American Indian Artifacts by Lars Horthem
- **2024.19 Eric Jacobsen** - (3) Deadwood High School yearbooks, 8mm motion picture from the Houlette family
- **2024.20 City of Deadwood** - Recordation photographs of the Homestake Slime Plant Press Building, interior and exteriors taken between October 3, 2002 to February 25, 2008. Donor unknown

#### ARCHIVAL LOANS

In 2024, the City Archives under the approval of the Deadwood Historic Preservation Commission, entered into nine loans with the following individuals and agencies: **2024.01 Deadwood History, Inc.** for fifteen objects from City Archives; **2024.02 Movette Film Transfer** for 8mm film transfer; **2024.03 Touch of Glass** for the repair of two stained glass windows; **2024.04 South Dakota Archaeological Research Center** for artifacts from FEMA Task #2 Corral Street Monitor; **2024.05 Sowers Dry Cleaning** for cleaning and pressing of Deadwood 1950s era police jacket; **2024.06 Robert Bozell** for nine boxes of faunal materials from 2019 FourPoints Archaeological Collection; **2024.07 DocuTek Scanning, Inc.** for the digitization of ledgers from 1998.01 Black Hills Trust & Savings Bank collection; **2024.08 Mary Dunn-Larson** for "Miners Night Out" poster; and **2024.09 Lead/Deadwood Elementary School District** for lockable display case and contents of Deadwood High School.

#### COLLECTIONS MANAGEMENT / PROJECTS

The list below provides a brief description of several of the larger and more involved projects archival staff and volunteers worked on during the 2024 year.

- **Outdoor Interpretive Signs.** Five new outdoor interpretive signs were developed and installed in 2024. Archival staff also reviewed the signs during the summer and ordered and replaced twelve signs that were failing.
- **1998.01 Black Hills Trust & Savings Bank** –In March, archival staff began organizing, compiling, cataloging and digitizing portions of the Black Hills Trust & Savings Bank archival collection. In June, the City Archives / Deadwood Historic Preservation Commission was awarded a \$4000.00 grant through the Daughters of the American Revolution for the partial digitization of records from this assemblage.
- **Deadwood Veterans Cemetery Project** – Archival staff worked with members of VFW Post 5969 to research and locate veteran graves within Mount Moriah, St. Ambrose and Oak Ridge

cemeteries. On Memorial Day weekend, Archival staff partnered with the Spearfish, SD Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron of Civil Air Patrol to mark the graves of the veterans.

- **2005.05 Gem Theater Archaeological Assemblage** – Archival staff and volunteers inventoried and sorted 11,000 objects unearthed from the 2005 Mineral Palace / Gem Theater Steakhouse expansion. An exhibit showcasing these items was developed and installed in the basement of the Deadwood City Hall.
- **Pedestrian Trail System & Archaeological Monitoring** – Archival staff aided and assisted archaeologists from the South Dakota Archaeological Research Center on surveying and researching portions of the pedestrian trails. This also included researching how to pleat an archaeological site.
- **2025 Deadwood Neighborhood Block Club Calendar** – In August, the Neighborhood Block Club met and began discussions for the 2025 community wide calendar. Photographs and captions for the images were generated by the City Archives. The 2025 calendar was based on a 1892 promotional publication created by the Deadwood Board of Trade.
- **Deadwood Elementary School 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration** - In September archival staff began helping the Deadwood Elementary School plan for its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. As part of the project, archival staff scanned and printed large format photographs that were hung throughout the building. City Archives also loaned a display case containing donated objects from the City Archives and created a small exhibit during the school open house in November.
- **2025.01 Deadwood Granite & Marble Works Collection** – In December the City Archives began inventorying the contents of the Deadwood Granite & Marble Works building, located at 142 Sherman Street.

On behalf of the City Archives and Archaeology, I would like to thank you for your help and support this past year and look forward to working with all of you again.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Runge  
City Archivist / Collections Manager  
City of Deadwood