

February 29, 2024

An Invitation to the Deadwood Historic Preservation Commission to Sponsor:

A 150th Anniversary Commemoration of the Custer Expedition
and the Start of the Black Hills Gold Rush.

In 1874, the Custer Expedition explored the Black Hills and discovered gold along French Creek, igniting the Black Hills Gold Rush. Recognizing the importance of these events and the changes they brought, the Custer County Historical Society and the Case Library for Western Historical Studies are sponsoring a "150th Anniversary Commemoration." The activities will take place on Sunday, July 21, 2024 and will include presentations, demonstrations, and self-guided tours.

A tentative program includes Paul Horsted speaking on the Custer Expedition, David Wolff speaking about the Gold Rush, and a person of Lakota ancestry speaking on behalf of the Native perspective. The presentations are planned for the Custer High School auditorium. Attendees will also tour the Expedition's permanent camp site and the Gordon Stockade to enjoy re-enactors, 7th Cavalry-style musicians, a historic photography demonstration, and a gold panning display. A handout will be available that will include a self-guided tour of several sites, including the locations of Custer's tent and of Illingworth photograph sites.

The event will be open to the public at no charge. In order to help cover the expenses, which will be many and include everything from travel expenses for the re-enactors to portable toilet rentals, the organizers are seeking sponsors.

Sponsorship levels include:

Benefactor: \$2500

Patron: \$1000

Supporter: \$100

Donor: \$50

Beyond the listed sponsorship levels, any amount will be appreciated, including donations from attendees.

Sponsors will be recognized in promotional literature, on signage, during the presentations, and on event handouts.

Thank you for your consideration.

Please direct any questions to:

David Wolff, davidwolff@spe.midco.net

Paul Horsted, paul@paulhorsted.com