My name is Grace Collum, and I'm from New Ulm, Minnesota. I am a 2012 graduate of Augustana with a B.A. in History. I was first drawn to the world of archives by Dr. Harry Thompson's interim class, "Unlocking the Archives." The class opened my eyes to the world of archival studies, and at that point I knew this was my future career. I am currently a student in Southern New Hampshire University's Public History program.

I am a hands-on learner and have sought out opportunities to expand and grow my understanding of archives and how they are used to better understand history. As an undergraduate, I interned with the Brown County Historical Museum in preparation for New Ulm's 150th Anniversary of the Dakota War of 1862. In the summer of 2013, I completed my second internship at Fort Ridgley State Park and have recently moved back to Sioux Falls and started graduate school online.

After graduate school, I plan to move to the East coast and secure a job in the archival field. Since starting at Southern New Hampshire University, I have been seeking opportunities to apply my newly acquired knowledge in the field. I leapt at the opportunity to volunteer with the Center for Western Studies' new digitization initiative.

Meet Our Summer Intern!

My name is Jenna Glassburner, I am from Gretna, Nebraska, and am majoring in both Classics and Anthropology. This fall marks the start of my sophomore year at Augustana, where I also participate in choir and the Civitas honors program.

This summer I started work at the Center for Western Studies as an intern in the archives assisting with the new digitization effort. I was drawn to this opportunity because of my interest in history and my desire to have a museum-based career in the future. My job involves collecting descriptive information about items selected for inclusion in the new Northern Plains Peoples & Places digital archive. Thus far, I've read old diary entries from the Vietnam War, personal correspondence from previous editors of the Argus Leader, documentation for a regiment fighting in the Civil War, and firsthand accounts detailing Nikita Khrushchev's visit to Iowa, just to name a few.

My favorite part about working in the archives is that I can constantly dive into someone else's head, learning minutiae of their daily lives and the struggles, joys, and motivations that shaped them. Then I suddenly switch collections, dig into a new person's past and begin again. It can be easy to forget the human aspect of history, but the important work archives do preserves that humanity for years to come. I have enjoyed every minute at the CWS so far, and I can't wait to continue my work in the fall.

Editor's Note: CWS is pleased to acknowledge that funding for a portion of our internship program is made possible through the Dr. Richard Solberg Endowment, established by Dr. Gordon and Trudy Iseminger, and the Doris Eggers Huseboe Fund, established by Dr. Arthur R. Huseboe at the Sioux Falls Area Community Foundation.
Dakota Territory was a rough-and-tumble country in the 1870s. Pioneer settlement had largely bypassed this land, home of the Plains Indians. But with the end of the Civil War, thousands of adventurers made their way up the Missouri River and out onto the plains. Rumors of gold in the Black Hills, even before Custer’s 1874 expedition, enticed many a fortune seeker to Dakota Territory, where lawlessness ruled the day.

Tackett’s Station, where some customers paid with their lives, the free-for-all that was Deadwood, and the nefarious river towns of Yankton and Pierre were rife with outlaws. To the Dakota frontier in 1873, President Grant sent Peter C. Shannon as the new Chief Justice of the Dakota Territory Supreme Court. A Pennsylvanian, Shannon brought the rule of law, trying murderers, horse thieves, vigilantes, men of fortune, women of the night, and a passel of blacklegs!

Among Shannon’s most notorious cases were those of Jack McCall, who swung for the assassination of Wild Bill Hickok, the Snake Creek lynching, the murder of Civil War hero Gen. Edwin McCook by "arch-villain of the West" Peter Wintermute, the triple lynching at Hangman’s Hill in Rapid City, the Independence Day murder at Crow Creek, the doctor-turned-highwayman John Parsons, the Indian Ring run by Dr. Livingston, and gambler George Knowlton’s shooting of Black Hills-bound miner David Rauck.

Shannon was “the complete judge—fair, fearless, dignified, and in control,” writes author Wayne Fanebust. Perhaps too good a judge. For he fell victim to political machinations at the highest levels. Making no pretense to objectivity, newspapers served powerful political factions, attacking judges and politicians alike, and Fanebust makes use of these rich resources to capture the sensationalism that pervaded life in Dakota Territory.

His unaccountable involvement in the disreputable affair known as the Edmunds Commission of 1882, which sought to steal even more land from the Sioux, resulted in his own punishment; for in 2015 the citizens of Shannon County, South Dakota, voted to rename their county Oglala Lakota.

Wayne Fanebust has practiced law in California and served as corporate counsel in South Dakota. He is the author of several books, including Cavaliers of the Dakota Frontier, Major General Alexander M. McCook, USA: A Civil War Biography, and Tales of Dakota Territory. Dr. Tom Kilian was one of the founders of the Center for Western Studies.
Religion and Spirituality Topic of 2017 Dakota Conference
Renewing Faith: The 500th Anniversary of The Reformation

The 49th annual Dakota Conference on the Northern Plains, April 21-22, 2017, will examine the variety of religious expression in the Northern Plains region, both historical and contemporary, on the occasion of the 500th anniversary of The Reformation. Taking as its theme “Religion and Spirituality in the Northern Plains,” the conference will consider the historical and cultural impact of faith and how The Reformation anniversary might be an opportunity to renew, perhaps reform, spiritual expression.

The Dakota Conference is one of two Center for Western Studies’ public affairs programs, along with the Boe Forum on Public Affairs. Whereas the Boe Forum examines national and international issues of interest to residents of the Northern Plains, the Dakota Conference considers issues specific to the Northern Plains, usually in their historical and cultural contexts. Both are endowed programs of the Center for Western Studies under the administration of the CWS Board of Directors.

Religious practices evolve over time, but Plains Indians have had to struggle to maintain their spiritual traditions since early contact. Yet today the vision quest, pipe ceremony, sweat lodge, and peyotism continue to be practiced by Native Americans. The conference seeks to know in what ways religious practice among Plains Indians has changed and is changing.

Great Plains historian Douglas Hurt, a featured speaker at the 2016 conference, observes that religious preferences in the Plains were formed as much by ethnicity as by theology. In The Big Empty, he writes, “Theologically, the Great Plains men and women lived in an Old Testament world where reality was often harsh and unforgiving, but they prayed with hope and expectation to a New Testament God.”

Euroamerican settlement of the Northern Plains brought such mainline religions as Protestantism, Catholicism, and Judaism. The Mormon Pioneer Trail passed directly through Nebraska, and Mormonism is practiced throughout the Plains. German-American communal people known as Hutterites maintain several colonies in the region. Varying degrees of spiritual emphasis, such as fundamentalism, evangelicalism, utopianism, pietism, and dispensationalism, have further molded the cultural life of the Plains.

In his new book The End of White Christian America, Robert P. Jones points out that America is no longer a majority white Christian nation. Using polling data gathered by the Public Religion Research Institute over the past forty years, Jones reveals that the number and influence of white Protestant Christians have steadily declined across both mainline and evangelical branches, while the number of religiously unaffiliated Americans has increased. These trends are visible in the Plains, as is the growth in such non-Christian religions as Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism. What are the implications of these changes for the Northern Plains? Recently, the topic of “religious freedom” has assumed prominence in public discourse, and papers addressing this in its regional context are welcome.

Submission requirements: Send a one-page paper or panel proposal with title, brief summary, and biographical sketch, along with full contact information, to dakotaconference@augie.edu or, by mail, to “Dakota Conference,” The Center for Western Studies, Augustana University, 2001 S Summit Ave, Sioux Falls, SD 57197. Proposals are due on or before February 10, 2017. Additional information may be found at http://www.augie.edu/dakota-conference.
New Exhibit: Campaigning 100 Years Ago

During this time of “Make America Great Again!” hats and “I’m with Her” signs, it only seems fitting for a history museum and public affairs center to take a look back at political campaign memorabilia of yesteryear.

And who better to help us than Pastor Dave Johnson of Sioux Falls? Since 1990, Johnson has been scouring antique shops, auctions, and eBay seeking treasures from old campaigns to build his own private collection. Making deals with other collectors, he has acquired an impressive assortment of ribbons, buttons, brochures, and photographs related to a wide range of campaigns, from the battles to determine the capital of South Dakota starting in the late 1880s to the elections of President Bill Clinton in the 1990s.

But his favorite item is a ribbon from Theodore Roosevelt’s 1905 inauguration. As part of the festivities, Roosevelt’s long-time friend Seth Bullock arranged for a group of several dozen cowboys from South Dakota and the surrounding states to ride in the inaugural parade in Washington, D.C. Newspaper articles from the time show they caused quite a stir. The double ribbon in Johnson’s collection commemorates the event with the names of the cowboys. This is just one of many anecdotes revealing Teddy Roosevelt’s special relationship with the west, and with South Dakota.

On Saturday, September 24, at 10 a.m., Dave Johnson will present “Teddy Comes to South Dakota” at the Center for Western Studies. The talk, discussing Roosevelt’s visits and connections to South Dakota from the 1883-1910 period, is free and open to the public. It will be accompanied by a new exhibit of Theodore Roosevelt-related buttons, ribbons, and photographs from Johnson’s private collection which will be on display at the Center for Western Studies through the November election.
In an effort to explore all the facets of the Northern Plains, the Center for Western Studies strives to bring artists to our galleries who offer exciting new ways of expressing themselves. On July 25 the CWS galleries opened a collaborative artistic event, which brings together the intricate beauty of Nancy Losacker's mosaic artwork with the inspired poetry of Norma Wilson. This one-of-a-kind show illustrates how different artists interpret the land and wildlife of the Northern Plains. A reception and artists’ talk was held on August 24, with a formal program scheduled for September 17.

The exhibit *Rivers, Wings & Sky: A Collaborative Exhibit of Nancy Losacker’s Mosaics and Norma Wilson’s Poems* came about when Nancy and Norma met in 2008 on a bank of the Missouri River to begin their first pairing, a work for the P3 Exhibit sponsored by the Washington Pavilion’s Visual Arts Center. Now the two artists believe that their visual art and poetry speak more powerfully when experienced together than it does separately. As an ode to nature and the planet, which they believe need to be protected, this artistic collaboration led to a Media Grant from the South Dakota Humanities Council. The artists also published an exhibit catalogue, available through the CWS Gift Shop.

Nancy and Norma will present their program, “Rivers, Wings & Sky: The Art of Collaboration” on Saturday, September 17, 2016, at 10 a.m. This CWS Saturdays event is free and open to the public.

Save the dates: 37th Annual Artists of the Plains Art Show & Sale, February 17-19, 2017 (Hilton Garden Inn Downtown).

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Graduate Student Spends Summer at CWS

While in “Unlocking the Archives,” I was assigned to transcribe a letter written by Stephen Riggs. The Riggs family had a significant impact on the Dakotas through their missionary work. When I volunteered at the Center for Western Studies, I was able to continue my interest in the Riggs’ family by working on collections from his son, Alfred Riggs, his wife, Margaret Louisa Irvine Riggs, and her father, Captain Javan B. Irvine.

Preparing individuals to help with the Center for Western Studies’ digitization initiative typically takes numerous hours of hands on training before one is allowed to tackle the entire process alone. I presented CWS with an advanced knowledge of the Riggs family, which afforded us the opportunity to utilize both Riggs family papers and my knowledge in a unique way.

My training with Digital Technician Wyeth Lynch was focused initially only on item selection and metadata gathering (the first and often most crucial steps in the process). The most difficult part of the internship was item selection. Here, my knowledge was essential to not only select appropriate representative items but also to gather the best keywords and descriptions for each item. I helped in the creation of the digital versions of Alfred L. Riggs Papers and the Margaret Louisa Irvine Riggs Papers now available online through the np3 site (np3.augie.edu).
CWS staff seek to maximize the Center’s outreach, already present online and through social media, by attending and presenting at professional conferences. In April Digital Technician Wyeth Lynch represented CWS at the State Historical Society’s History Conference in Pierre, where CWS purchased a booth to sell books, and in August he attended the Upper Midwest Digital Collections Conference in Iowa (see story in this issue). In June Executive Director Harry Thompson attended a conference in rural New York about environmentalist John Burroughs, whose books Krause collected, and the state of environmental writing today (CWS has a book on conservation coming out soon). He presented the conference organizer with a copy of Krause’s collection of essays Birding on the Northern Plains and invited attendees to visit CWS. In September Harry will represent CWS at the Western Literature Association Conference in Montana. In October Education Assistant Kristi Thomas will travel to Oklahoma to attend the Mountain Plains Museum Conference, and Harry will travel to St. Paul to speak on the topic of public outreach in Western studies centers at the Western History Association Conference.

The Episcopal Diocese of South Dakota has deep historic ties in South Dakota, and one of these connections is through Camp Remington. The camp began with Bishop Burelson and Bishop Remington’s search during 1922 for a summer vacation location for clergy and lay people in the Black Hills. The following summer Camp Remington on Iron Creek was opened. The site was expanded and operated by the Episcopal Diocese for decades, and now the Camp Remington Association presides over many of the annual duties. The donation of materials by the Camp Remington Association in 2012 formed this specific collection, but additional documents regarding the site can be found in other Episcopal Diocese papers. The documents available through the Northern Plains Peoples & Places digital archive (np3) show the changes, challenges, and routine workings of the camp. Changing usage, clients, and funds are recurring themes, as is the evolution of the government’s involvement in long standing private leases such as Camp Remington’s.

The camp is still in operation just off Needles Highway. For more information about the history of the location, consult the book A Little Bit of Heaven: History and Memoirs, Camp Remington, 1922-2012, available in the Krause Library at CWS. Information about the current camp schedule can be found on the Episcopal Diocese of South Dakota’s website (http://bit.ly/CampRemington). Questions about digitization at Center for Western Studies should be sent to Digital Technician Wyeth Lynch (wyeth.lynch@augie.edu).

CWS Authors at South Dakota Festival of Books
September 23-24 (Brookings)
Authors Robert E. Wright and Wayne Fanebust will be at the South Dakota Festival of Books on Saturday, September 24. Wright, whose book Little Business on the Prairie is the first economic history of South Dakota, is scheduled to speak at the Brookings Activity Center, 11:00-11:45 a.m. and will be at various mass signings. Fanebust will sign copies of the Center’s most recent book, Outlaw Dakota, that Saturday at the CWS book booth. Contact Education Assistant Kristi Thomas for further information about CWS at the Festival.
Interactive Exhibit on Winter Counts Comes to CWS

In December of 2012, Kevin Gallo stopped by the Center for Western Studies with an interest in the reproduction of Red Horse Owner’s Winter Count, featured in the Froiland Plains Indian Gallery. A National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) scientist based at the Earth Resources Observation and Science (EROS) Data Center outside Sioux Falls, he was doing research for an exhibit proposal.

Three and half years later, a traveling version of the finished product is hanging in the Fantle Building! Native American Observations of Weather and Climate reveals how today’s scientists are using Plains Indian winter count symbols representing climatic events to better understand the region’s climate history. Equipped with computer screens, the panel features several examples of weather observations recorded in winter count symbols dating back to 1711.

An interactive screen allows users to pose questions about the history of winter counts with video responses provided by Victor Douville of Sinte Gleska University. The exhibit panel was produced jointly by NOAA and the U.S. Geological Survey and funded, in part, by the NOAA Preserve America Initiative.

Over the last several years, CWS has assisted with the project in many ways. Collections Assistant Liz Thrond provided guidance early on to resources about winter counts in the CWS Krause Library. Together with Education Assistant Kristi Thomas, the two discussed content and design with the project’s staff at various points in the process. Additional Augustana University staff got involved, too. Our thanks go out to Charlie Steward, assistant logistics coordinator at Augustana University, for helping us transport the completed unit to campus, and to Dan Sullivan of Augustana’s maintenance staff for helping with installation.

Kevin Gallo will present a lecture related to the exhibit on Tuesday, November 15, at 3:00 p.m., as part of the CWS Afternoons series. He will discuss the research he’s been conducting with colleague Eric Wood at EROS to determine if historical Native American observations might provide supplemental information to the limited climate data observed with meteorological instruments in the mid-1700s to late 1800s. The exhibit will be on display through January 13, 2017.

CWS at the Forefront of Digital Collections

The Upper Midwest Digital Collections Conference (UMDCC) is a unique regional conference bringing together individuals involved in digitization to participate in hands-on workshops to learn from leaders in the field, share best practices, and network. The second UMDCC was held this past August on St. Ambrose University’s campus in Davenport, Iowa, and the Center’s Digital Technician, Wyeth Lynch, was in attendance.

The conference was held in conjunction with the regional CONTENTdm User Group meeting. The Center recently began using this content manager system through our partnership with Wikkelsen Library on the Northern Plains Peoples & Places (np3) digital archive. CONTENTdm provides efficient organization and enhanced online display of digitized items. The first day of the conference was densely packed with information presented in one-hour breakout sessions. Nearly all sessions focused on technology-related topics ranging from archiving the web to regional Digital Public Library of America updates.

While day one was broken into numerous concurrent sections, the second day focused on workshops and tours before noon, and current research on linked data in the afternoon. The tours showcased local Quad City museum and library collections. The workshops allowed attendees not only to gain a detailed understanding of a specific topic but also hands-on experimentation with the new knowledge. The conference illustrates the great progress and promise of digitization and digital preservation.