



THE HERITAGE JOURNAL

Dell Rapids Society for Historic Preservation

Peter Morse — Founding Father of Dell Rapids, 1871

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Spring 2025

Message from the President

Greetings!

Everyone involved with the museum has been extremely busy! We are moving and shaking our way into 2025 and have so much we want to share with you!

We are remodeling our kitchen and will be able to soon rent out for small events. We are also planning on hosting our own events. We are discussing some events just for fun and socializing, and others for historic or cultural education. Keep an eye out on social media for more information!

Work continues on minor reorganization of our structure as a nonprofit. We'll be amending our by-laws and implementing some new policies and procedures for our board to follow based on some professional advice we've received. This will enable us to run more efficiently.

Want to help out as a volunteer? Check out the Secretary's report!

All of this work is to achieve our primary goal: making the museum an important part of the Dell Rapids community! We want to share our wonderful displays and our beautiful old building with as many of you as possible. Our building really is a treasure; it's 103 years old!! Ole Paulson built this structure to last for generations. Think of the hours of labor and the craftsmanship that went into the construction of our Sioux Quartzite buildings in town. We've lost a few, true, but we all know now that we must do everything to preserve what we still have. Paul Johnson, Norwegian stone mason and great-grandfather to myself and Irene Strong, came to Dell Rapids in 1901. We know he worked on the granite high school and retaining wall, but he probably worked on several more. I literally wish the walls could talk!

Before you know it, spring will be in the air and we will be ready to open and give everyone the Grand Tour! We appreciate all the support the community gives us and the museum couldn't stay open without all of you cheering us on!

Rhonda Schildhauer, President
Dell Rapids Society for Historic Preservation

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 143
Dell Rapids, SD 57022

Physical Address:

407 East 4th St.
Dell Rapids, SD 57022

Phone:

605/428-4821

Board Meetings:

Meetings are the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 12 noon at the Dell Rapids City Museum.

Summer Hours (Opens Mid-May):

Tue-Sat: 1pm – 4pm

Sun-Mon: Closed

Or by appointment by calling:

Rhonda @ 605.351.3831 or

Kim @ 307.699.4755

/history nerd/: someone who is very knowledgeable and enthusiastic about history

New Signs Bring Dell Rapids History to Life

With a grant from the Dell Rapids Trailway Fund, a new museum project will bring Dell Rapids' history to life. Photos, postcards, and information in the archives were used to create metal history signs to match some of the stops from the museum's new walking tour brochure. As spring temperatures allow, they will be installed at historical structures along the Sioux River Red Rock Trail and throughout town, letting passersby take a step back in time and imagine Dells' early days. Our thanks go out to Thelma and Kim at Pinecone Hill Creations for printing them and to the city workers for installing them.





FIND US ON FACEBOOK!

We can only fit so many history spotlights in our newsletter so if you want to see more, check out our Facebook page at facebook.com/DellRapidMuseum/

Even If you are not a member of Facebook you can see our posts on local events, museum updates, and Dell Rapids history. One of the favorite features are the comments people leave sharing memories of growing up in Dells—like tales of students sneaking out of the big classroom windows of the old high school (pictured) and sliding down the side rails along the library steps. Be sure to check us out a couple times a week so you don't miss anything!



Membership Dues

Membership dues and gifts help the Dell Rapids Society of Historic Preservation (DRSHP) provide museum events & programs, preserve historic objects and develop and present new exhibits throughout the year.

Dues for individual memberships are \$15.00 per person and \$25.00 per family. Senior Citizens (60+) are \$10.00.

Memberships paid now will be valid until December 31, 2025! Stay connected!

To join or renew membership, mail completed form and payment to: **Dell Rapids Museum – PO Box 143, Dell Rapids SD 57022.**
Membership valid until December 31, 2025.

Date _____

Name/s _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone* _____ Email* _____

☐ New

☐ Renewing

☐ Gift

☐ Senior \$10

☐ Individual \$15

☐ Family \$25

Would you like to volunteer? ☐ YES ☐ NOT PRESENTLY

(Phone and email are not shared with the public)

Greetings from the Museum Office!

I am thrilled to be writing this update to you on our amazing Museum laptop! Thanks to the D.A.R grant we received, we have been able to purchase much needed office equipment, including a laptop, printer, and archival scanner (capable of printing and scanning photos and slides.) All of this will help with the daunting task of digitizing our Museum Collection, and with the more day to day tasks such as keeping up with our Patrons via email, social media and our Newsletters!

The "Office" is also readying for our opening in May by updating our active volunteer list. If you have an interest in receiving an email from the Museum when we are in need of help, let us know! We are looking for people with all different types of interests, skills and talents; from dusting to volunteering during open summer hours. If you are interested, please send us an email at: dellrapidsmuseumO@gmail.com. In your subject line, type VOLUNTEER LIST so it grabs our attention right away! You would receive emails when help is needed and can respond if available or interested in the task at hand.

Brenda Risty, Museum Board Secretary

DELL RAPIDS SOCIETY FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

P.O. Box 143
Dell Rapids, SD 57022

**SMALL BUSINESSES ARE THE
HEARTBEAT OF YOUR
NEIGHBOURHOOD AND THE
SPIRIT OF YOUR TOWN**