

VIDEO SCRIPT

TITLE: History And Legend

PREPARED FOR: SD Pathways Series

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Script: 8

V I S U A L

A U D I O

VISUAL:

AUDIO:

1. OPEN MONTAGE

NATURAL SOUND UP AND UNDER.

2. (:20) Kids at Cultural Center with guide.

MUSIC UP.

MUSIC UNDER.

NARRATOR:

3. Cowboys herding Longhorn cattle across the Cheyenne River.

South Dakota history is full of wonderful stories.

4. Grave Markers at Wounded Knee.

Horrible events.

5. Pow Wow

Colorful cultures.

6. Threshers

Hard work.

7. Lakota warriors riding by.

Great courage.

8. State capitol Senate Chambers

Important decisions.

9. Photos: Joe Foss, Gladys Pyle

Remarkable people.

10. Dissolve to Potato Creek Johnny and Poker Alice.

And yet, when people talk of South Dakota history, they often mention quirky people who didn't contribute much to the state...

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11. Cut to sign at Devil's Gulch.

or events so odd that it's hard to imagine how they could have anything to do with us.

12. Photo: Calamity Jane.

It's tempting to say, let's forget these strange folks...

13. Photo: Red Cloud

and instead look only at history we know to be important to South Dakota's development.

14. Live action train moving past camera.

15. A collage begins building: photos of Poker Alice, Jesse James, Wild Bill Hickok, Calamity Jane, Potato Creek Johnny, Deadwood Dick.

But there's a problem with that. These people and their stories refuse to go away. They're unforgettable...and that probably says more about us than it does about them.

16. The collage continues and then is complete.

They're part of South Dakota. They're legends, characters and stories handed down through time, hard or impossible to prove true, or untrue.

17. Fade to black.

MUSICAL SEGUE.

18. A kid flopped lazily on a bed, turning pages of a book.

After a hard day, lots of us like to stop thinking about our worries, and escape into the pages of a book...

19. Kids silhouetted in front of a TV.

or into the lives of characters on TV.

20. Dissolve from TV's glow to a long-ago prairie campfire.

SOUND OF CAMPFIRE SNAPPING, AND A VOICE TELLING A STORY IN LAKOTA.

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V I S U A L	A U D I O
	NARRATOR:
21. Faces of American Indian people, illuminated by the campfire, enthralled by a story.	People have always allowed themselves to be carried away by stories. Imagine living long ago and instead of settling before a TV, gathering around a campfire—and listening to a storyteller.
22. Animated elder telling the enthralling story.	Some stories told that way were so important to listeners that they were repeated over and over, long before people knew writing.
23. Enemy Swim Lake.	This lake near Waubay owes its name to one of those stories.
24. Cut to shoreline at sunset.	Long ago, according to legends, some Dakota-speaking people were camped along this shore.
25. Cut to four or five warriors silhouetted against sunset.	A rival band of people decided to attack the camp in a surprising way...
26. Shots of these warriors wading in near darkness.	by wading through the water, by attacking from a direction no one expected.
27. Warriors continued	But it's hard for warriors to sneak quietly through water.
	(SFX UNDER: SPLASHING)
28. A splashing commotion in the dark water.	The Dakota people heard their splashing, struck first, and the attackers instead of attacking had to swim for their lives.

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29. Cut to scenic shots of the lake.

To this day the water is known as Enemy Swim Lake. Whether the events here happened exactly as remembered will never be known. Yet it's easy to understand how the story was loved by its first listeners...

30. Dissolve to a campfire listener grinning.

who could celebrate their people's escape from attack...

31. Cut to another campfire listener looking serious.

admire their own warrior's alertness...

32. Cut to another campfire listener laughing.

and laugh at their enemies' frantic swimming.

33. Dissolve to another campfire, with a burly lumberjack telling a story. Cut to a couple shots of Paul Bunyan drawings.

There were also wild funny tales told around campfires, stories everyone knew were made-up. The adventures of Paul Bunyan, the giant lumberjack who in stories strode across South Dakota to create the Black Hills, are those kinds of tales. But just as often story-tellers told their audiences about real people, who started sounding like giants in their own ways.

34. Wide shots of the country near Lemmon, and of a buckskin-costumed actor portraying Glass setting traps in river.

Take Hugh Glass. The lonely plains along the Grand River in northwestern South Dakota look much as they did in 1823, when Glass was part of a fur-trapping group traveling the river.

35. Grizzly Bear roaring

A grizzly bear attacked Glass. Glass's companions looked at his terrible injuries and either believed he was dead, or would be soon. They took his gun and other belongings, and left him.

36. Glass dead on ground

37. Low angle shot of companions gazing down at Glass. And taking his weapons etc.

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38. Glass dragging himself over the prairie.

But Glass survived, crawling 190 miles across these rugged lands. He ate berries and other plant life...

39. Glass POV crawling into underbrush.

and hid under branches and leaves so wolves and other wild animals wouldn't find him.

40. Drawings of Fort Kiowa overlooking the Missouri.

He finally dragged himself into Fort Kiowa on the Missouri River.

41. Editions of Neihardt's poem, and Manfred's "Lord Grizzly."

Glass's story has been told in a best-selling book, a poem, and in movies. But before that...

42. Another campfire, in front of a covered wagon.

his adventure was one of the most popular campfire tales in the West, as gold-seekers made their way to California, and as settlers followed the Oregon Trail, in the 1840s and 1850s.

43. Historic photos of early prospectors and covered wagons.

It's easy to understand why. Those listeners found themselves in lonely lands, too, full of dangers. If Hugh Glass could survive, they told themselves, so would they.

44. Paul Bunyan art.

Paul Bunyan was made up.

45. Hugh Glass on the prairie.

Hugh Glass was real, although storytellers probably added to his tale to make it more entertaining.

46. Cut to actor portraying Ezra Kind, at Lookout Mountain, scratching a message in a slab of stone.

And then there are other well-known South Dakota characters whose stories fall somewhere between Paul Bunyan and Hugh Glass. Maybe these people lived...

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47. Ezra Kind vanishes.

and maybe they didn't.

48. WS Gettysburg, SD countryside,.

49. Image of Prayer Rock.

For example, did a real-life giant once roam the countryside around Gettysburg? Early South Dakotans talked excitedly about the Prayer Rock, which appeared to show giant, human footprints and a handprint.

50. Prayer Rock CU.

Or was the Prayer Rock a hoax, an elaborate story with evidence, made up by someone who wanted to get folks stirred up.

51. Louis Thoen finding the rock.

The possibility of a hoax was also raised in Spearfish, where another rock was found by Louis Thoen, a stone-cutter.

52. Thoen Stone (at Adams Museum)

Scratched into the slab, which came to be named the Thoen Stone, were these words:

ACTOR'S VOICE OVER

53. Ezra Kind etching stone.

"Came to these hills in 1833, seven of us..."
(voice trails under)

NARRATOR:

54. Ezra Kind etching stone, continued.

The stone lists seven gold prospectors who supposedly came to the area 40 years before the Black Hills goldrush of the 1870s.

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55. Kind continues to carve stone.

ACTOR'S VOICE OVER

56. WS Crow Peak

"all dead but me, Ezra Kind, killed by Indians beyond the high hill..." (continues under)

NARRATOR:

57. Aerial view from west of Crow Peak, over it and over Spearfish.

Is the Thoen Stone a record of seven adventurers who, unlike Hugh Glass, didn't survive? Or is it a hoax? Black Hills historians have wondered for more than a hundred years.

58. Dissolve to Devil's Gulch.

There's a place northeast of Sioux Falls...

59. Signs pointing to Gulch.

near the little town of Garretson...

60. Establishing shot of the chasm with people on the foot bridge spanning it.

where you can judge for yourself whether a legend is true or hoax.

61. Historic photo of Jesse James.

The man in question is Jesse James...

62. Photos, and newspaper drawings, of Jesse James and his exploits.

a bank robber, train robber, and killer who was one of the most famous American criminals ever. But criminal or not, he's a beloved legend to many, celebrated in book and song.

63. Jesse James continued

MUSIC

(Ballad of Jesse James)

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64. More Jesse James photos, or an old-time ballad-singer with guitar playing this song. (Gordy Pratt?)

Jesse James was a lad
That killed many a man
He robbed the Danville train...

NARRATOR

65. Photo of Northfield MN bank.
Other shots of 1876 Northfield,
and the raid's aftermath.

In September, 1876, Jesse James, his brother Frank, and their gang tried to rob a bank in Northfield, Minnesota. But the people of Northfield shot two of the gang dead, and drove the others away, some with wounds. Years later Frank James recalled:

"Frank James" VOICE OVER:

66. Frank James photo.

"Jesse and me were well beaten, and we laid up in Dakota Territory for several days..."

NARRATOR:

67. Photo: Sioux Falls in the 1870s.
Or "Jesse James" riding horse
across prairie.

The brothers entered Dakota Territory September 17. According to legend, Jesse James was chased north of Sioux Falls on horseback.

68. Hooves of a running horse.

And, the story goes, James would have been captured in Dakota Territory...

69. CU Horse and rider making
simulated jump.

if he hadn't jumped his horse 20 feet, over this chasm, high above Split Rock Creek. While visitors look at the chasm today and wonder whether the legend is true...

70. Tourists standing on the little
footbridge over the chasm.

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71. Dissolve to another Jesse James shot.

a more important question might be, why are we fascinated by characters like Jesse James in the first place?

72. Mary Copco at Adams Museum, Deadwood .

COMMENTS BY Mary Copco OF ADAMS MUSEUM, ABOUT HOW MANY FIGURES CELEBRATED IN THE WEST WERE VIOLENT LONERS, WHO WE THINK OF AS DOING ONE THING IN A PLACE WHERE PEOPLE HAD TO DO MANY THINGS WELL TO SURVIVE. ALSO, HOW DIME NOVELISTS, SHOWMEN LIKE BUFFALO BILL, AND TOWNS LIKE DEADWOOD CASHED IN ON NOTORIOUS CHARACTERS. WHY HAVE AMERICANS BEEN SO CAPTIVATED?

73. Cutaway shots.

74. Adams Museum.

NARRATOR

Mary Copco is Director of the Adams Museum in Deadwood...

75. Contemporary Deadwood.

As much as any town in the nation, Deadwood is famous for...

76. Photos of Poker Alice, Deadwood Dick, Potato Creek Johnny.

legendary characters who lived bizarre lives, drank too much, sometimes broke the law, and didn't really do much for Deadwood's improvement.

77. Photos of Calamity Jane

Visitors especially like hearing about hard-drinking, cussing Calamity Jane...

78. Adams Museum artwork of Hickok with pistols drawn.

and gunslinger Wild Bill Hickok, who was shot down in Deadwood after living there only a few weeks.

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79. Wild Bill's Gravesite at Mount Moriah with tourists.

People visit Calamity Jane and Wild Bill's graves...

80. CU Hickok statue.

admire statues of them...

81. Adults and kids seated in Old Style Saloon Number 10, with the show going on.

and even watch a reenactment of Wild Bill's murder.

82. Shooting of Wild Bill reenactment.

SOVTR Shooting of Wild Bill Sequence.

83. Mary Copco

Mary Copco ADDRESSING HOW THESE CHARACTERS AND OTHERS LIKE THEM ARE FUN ONLY FROM A SAFE HISTORICAL DISTANCE. HOW THEY SOMETIMES OVERSHADOW MORE IMPORTANT HISTORY, BUT HOW ON THE OTHER HAND THEY CAN OPEN THE DOOR FOR PEOPLE TO EXAMINE HISTORY IN MORE SUBSTANTIVE WAYS.

84.

NARRATOR

85. Photos: Early Indian Reservation life.

When exploring South Dakota's past, it's important to try to decide what definitely happened...

86. Thoen Stone's Ezra Kind carving on stone.

what maybe happened...

87. Paul Bunyan.

and what definitely did not happen.

88. Hundred-year-old photo of Sioux Falls, dissolving to...

Considering all those types of stories helps us understand who we were...

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89. contemporary Sioux Falls.

and who we are today.

90. Hugh Glass.

It maybe also tells us who we'd like to be...

91. Jesse James.

what scares us...

92. A despairing Ezra Kind on
Lookout. Ezra Kind fades out
leaving just the hillside. Dissolve
to;

and maybe even what we're scared of being.

93. CLOSE

CLOSING MUSIC.