

NEWS from the Hazen Public Library

Subject: Book Discussion Rides with Custer in 1873

Release: Immediate

The Heritage Book Series continues at the Hazen Public Library at 2:00pm Sunday, April 10. Dr. Frank Varney will lead a discussion of *Jay Cooke's Gamble: The Northern Pacific Railroad, the Sioux, and the Panic of 1873*, a work that takes the reader on a ride with George A. Custer in 1873.

This is the second in a series of book discussions hosted by the library, with a third 2:00pm Sunday session scheduled on April 24. Books for discussion, along with other informational materials, are available for checkout at the Hazen Public Library.

Details about the discussion series are given at the project website, here - <http://heritagerenewal.org/nphf/bookclub.htm>

Dr. Varney, an associate professor of history at Dickinson State University and a favorite instructor among DSU students, is a specialist in the Civil War era. His own book, *General Grant and the Rewriting of History*, has received lavish academic reviews and impressive public recognition. In 2013 Varney was named DSU's Distinguished Professor of the Year.

The Lubetkin book under discussion on Sunday April 10 tells a complex and fascinating tale of how high finance, the construction of the Northern Pacific Railway, and the career of Custer intersected on the northern plains. Custer's assignment to protect railroad surveyors in Dakota and Montana territories in 1873 brought him squarely into confrontation with the Hunkpapa Lakota and Sitting Bull—his nemesis three years later at Little Bighorn.

The public is cordially invited to join in the discussion on April 10. It is made possible by a grant from the Northern Plains Heritage Foundation, as a contribution to educational programming in the Northern Plains National Heritage Area. Organization for the discussion series has been provided by the Center for Heritage Renewal, North Dakota State University.

For book and program information, contact: Val Albrecht, Hazen Public Library, 701-748-2977, hazenlibrary@cdln.info

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