

About the Author



David A. Wolff

David A. Wolff came to history through the back door. He started his professional life as a pharmacist, but after thirteen frustrating years he left the pharmacy to try history. He had always been interested in history and decided to combine his hobby and his career. He received his undergraduate and master's degrees from the University of Wyoming and his Ph.D. Degree from Arizona State University. Black Hills State University hired Wolff in 1998 to be the school's Black Hills, South Dakota, and Western history specialist. The fit at BHSU is a good one for him, as his family came from the Black Hills and he has spent many summers investigating Black Hills ghost towns and abandoned mines.

Wolff's research focuses on natural resource exploitation, especially with regard to gold and coal, and on Black Hills history in general. He has published articles in a variety of journals, and, in 2003, his first book, *Industrializing the Rockies: Growth, Competition, and Turmoil in the Coalfields of Colorado and Wyoming, 1868-1914*. After publishing his biography of Seth Bullock, Wolff turned his scholarly attention to the subject of violence in the Black Hills.

Wolff is also active in a variety of organizations that reflect his interests. He is vice president of the South Dakota State Historical Society board of trustees, chairman of the board for the Adams Museum and Home in Deadwood, and president-elect for the Mining History Association.

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