

## Dakota Images

Frances (“Peg”) Lamont left a lasting legacy as a state legislator, an advocate for the elderly, and a leader in historic preservation efforts in South Dakota.

The daughter of Frederick B. and Frances Kenney Stiles, Frances Bailey Stiles was born in Rapid City on 10 June 1914. Her nickname reportedly came from the popular tune “Peg O’ My Heart.” In 1916, the family moved to Watertown, where Peg Stiles graduated with honors from Watertown High School in 1930, going on to study at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She completed a bachelor’s degree in journalism in 1935 and earned a master’s degree in political science the following year. She married William M. Lamont in 1937. The couple made their home in Aberdeen and raised four children.

Lamont made her mark in community service as a Cub Scout den mother, a Girl Scout leader, and president of the local Parent-Teacher Association. She also worked on aging-related issues as a delegate to four White House Conferences on Aging between 1961 and 2005. Lamont served on the South Dakota Advisory Council on Aging when Governor Nils A. Boe created that body in 1968 and helped to establish senior citizen centers in over twenty communities across the state. President Ronald Reagan appointed her to the Federal Council on Aging in 1982.

Lamont also became a national leader in historic preservation work. In 1963, she chaired the pilot committee that founded the Dacotah Prairie Museum in Aberdeen and later served as chair of the museum’s board of trustees. She helped to found the Brown County Historical Society and served as its president from 1972 to 1976. Lamont joined the National Trust for Historic Preservation and served on its board of trustees from 1978 to 1987.

After her husband died in 1973, Lamont successfully ran for the South Dakota Senate the following year. During her fourteen years in the legislature, Senator Lamont championed services for the elderly as well as historic preservation projects. A life member of the South Dakota State Historical Society, she cosponsored legislation in 1984 to authorize the construction of the Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre. She remained on the boards of several historic preservation organizations until 2003. Peg Lamont died on 2 July 2008 and is buried in Aberdeen.



**Frances ("Peg") Lamont**

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*On the covers:* Nels P. Christensen recorded the Missouri River scene in 1903, as Louis DeWitt parked his wagon (back) at the former site of Fort George in central South Dakota. In this issue, W. Raymond Wood delves into the history of the fur-trading post, which the Union Fur Company abandoned in 1845. John R. Henris details the introduction of trout (inset) to the Black Hills at the turn of the last century in his article on the development of the region's fishery.

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