

N S H S

foundation news



January/February/March 2010

“Simple Giving”

Perhaps one of the barriers to charitable giving isn't a lack of desire, but the logistics of giving the gift. As calendars get busier and more business is conducted via debit card or online, it is more time consuming to find the checkbook, write the check, address the envelope, and the price of stamps has gone up again!

For those of you who find yourself in a similar situation, the Foundation has established the *Simple Giving* program, which will allow you to make your gift via electronic funds transfer (EFT). *Simple Giving* gives you the ability to choose the amount and frequency of your automatic gift, and we take care of the details. Additionally, all of your tax-deductible donations will be acknowledged in one complete annual receipt, automatically sent to you each January. Here are some of the other benefits of giving via EFT:

- **Safer:** No check is in the mail; your transfer is secure.
- **More effective:** Your contribution and hundreds of other EFT contributions can be processed in the time it takes a few check contributions to be processed, so your EFT gift helps free up staff time for other projects.
- **Less expensive:** Your EFT contributions cost less in bank fees than contributions by check or credit card, so your giving goes further.



J. W. Thompson (whose cap is pictured on the back page) was a Rural Free Delivery mail carrier in Farnam, Nebraska, in the early twentieth century. He is pictured at one of the stops along his route. The NSHS has acquired Thompson's RFD items to help tell the story of this important postal service program that impacted rural life. You can support the telling of stories like these by supporting the NSHS Foundation.

Ready to get started? You can find the enrollment form online at nshsf.org, print it and mail it, along with a voided check, to:

Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation
128 N 13th St. Ste 1010
Lincoln, NE 68508

Prefer to talk to us? We would be glad to help with your EFT questions: 402-435-3535 or info@nshsf.org ☒

Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation

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[www.nebraskahistory.org/
foundation](http://www.nebraskahistory.org/foundation)

hours

**Nebraska
History Museum**
15 & P Streets, Lincoln
402-471-4754

Tuesday–Friday, 9–4:30
Sat. & Sun., 1–4:30
Closed Monday

Museum Store
402-471-3447

Tuesday–Friday, 10–4:30
Saturday & Sunday, 1–4
Closed Monday

Library/Archives
1500 R Street, Lincoln
402-471-4751

Reference room closed
for construction

State Historic Site hours:
www.nebraskahistory.org

NEBRASKA history news



Nebraska State Historical Society

From the collection. . .

This mail carrier's cap belonged to J. W. Thompson (pictured on p. 11), who was in charge of Route 1 in Farnam, Nebraska, in the earliest days of the Rural Free Delivery (RFD) mail system. These and other RFD items have been recently acquired by the NSHS.

RFD revolutionized the way farm families kept in touch with the rest of the world. It was tried experimentally in West Virginia in 1896, and implemented nationwide on July 1, 1902. Instead of picking up mail in the nearest town (which could be hours or days away), farm families could now order machinery and supplies, and easily send and receive letters and news. RFD forced the government to improve roads, and stimulated economic growth since families could buy and sell by mail and by using the improved roads. ☞

