

There are many ways in which we recognize people who have made our state and our world a better place. We honor some Nebraskans by naming counties or towns after them.

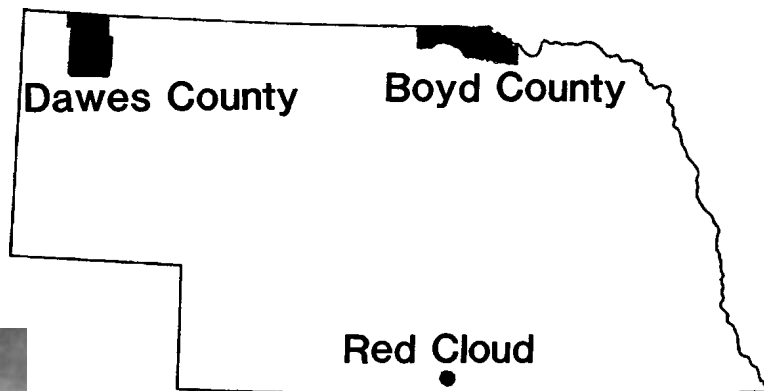


James W. Dawes
1845 - 1918

Dawes County is named after James W. Dawes, the fifth governor of Nebraska. Boyd County is named for James E. Boyd, the seventh governor of Nebraska.



James E. Boyd
1834 - 1906



Red Cloud
1822 - 1909

The town of Red Cloud was named for CHIEF RED CLOUD of the Oglala Sioux. He was a great leader of his people in their fight against the white soldiers. He became a peacemaker between his people and the United States government.

Was your town or county named for a famous Nebraskan? Does your town have any streets or buildings named for Nebraskans?



We honor some Nebraskans by naming them to the Nebraska Hall of Fame. The Hall of Fame is in the state capitol building in Lincoln. Busts (statues of a person's head and shoulders) of each person honored are placed in the main hallway of the capitol's second floor for visitors to see.

The first two Nebraskans named to the Hall of Fame were Willa Cather and George Norris.



Willa Cather
1873 - 1947

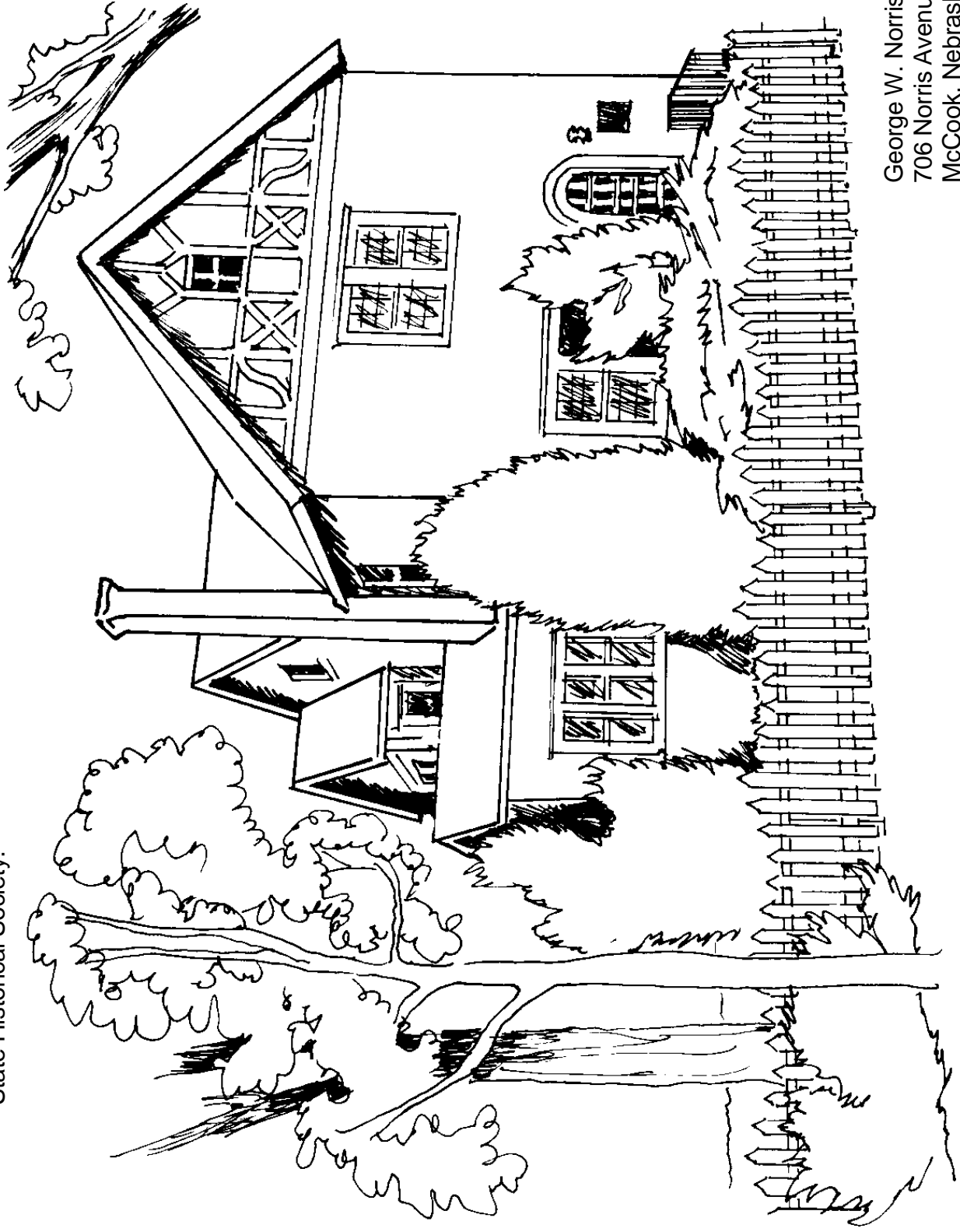
WILLA CATHER was Nebraska's best known novelist. She grew up in Nebraska. Many of her stories and novels are about her hometown of Red Cloud and the people that she knew while she was living there. She was the author of twelve published novels, a book of poetry, and many short stories and essays. She is best known for her novels *My Antonia*, *O Pioneers!* and *Death Comes for the Archbishop*. In 1921 she received the Pulitzer Prize.



George Norris
1861 - 1944

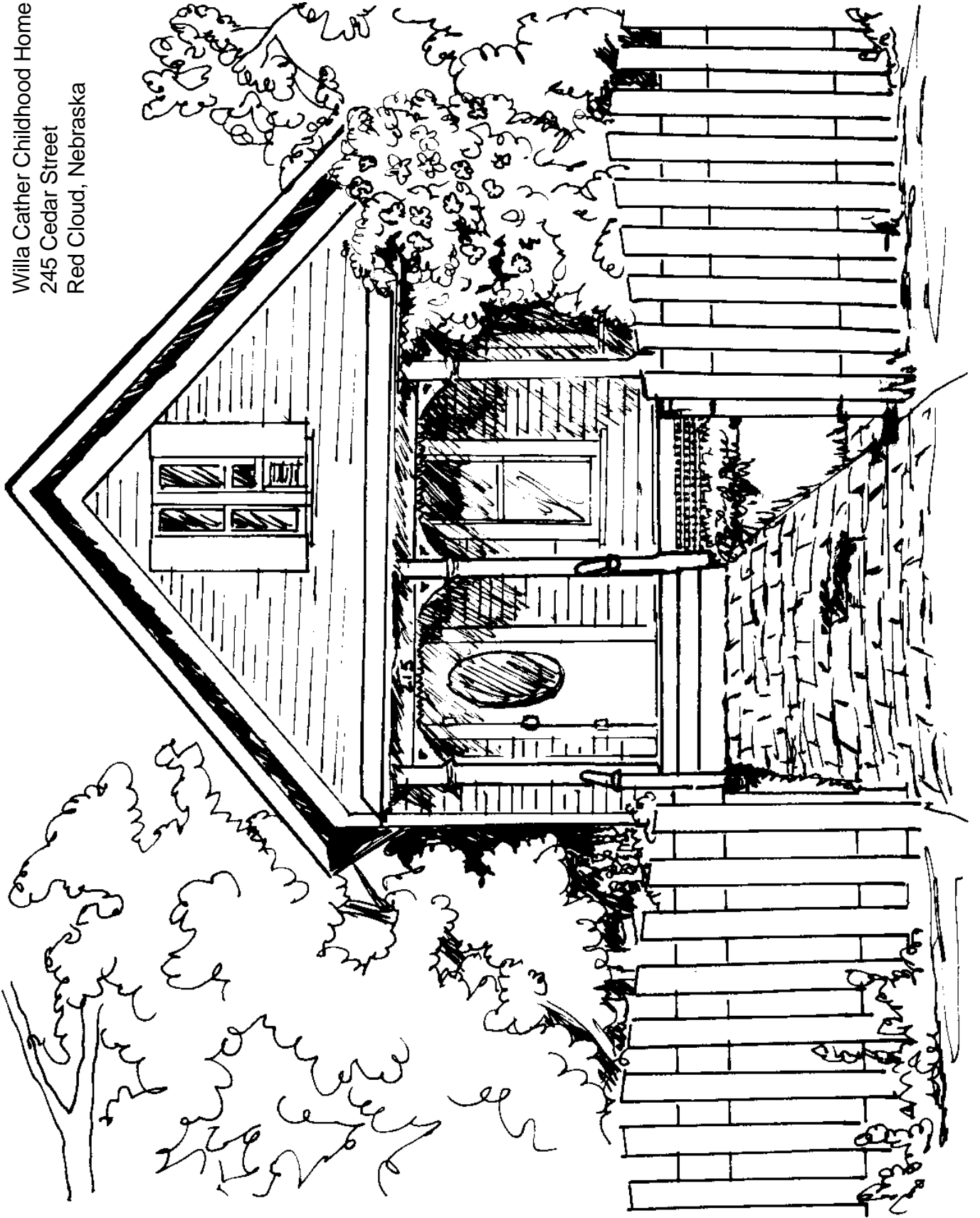
GEORGE NORRIS was one of America's greatest statesmen. He moved to Nebraska after graduating from college. Norris was a county attorney and a district judge before being elected to the United States House of Representatives. He served ten years as a congressman and was elected to the United States Senate in 1912. He is best known for his development of the Tennessee Valley Authority and the Rural Electrification Act, which eventually brought electricity to rural areas across the United States. He is also considered the father of the Unicameral, Nebraska's unique one-house legislature.

You can visit the homes of George Norris and Willa Cather. The Norris House in McCook and the Willa Cather Childhood Home in Red Cloud are historic sites operated by the Nebraska State Historical Society.



George W. Norris House
706 Norris Avenue
McCook, Nebraska

Willa Cather Childhood Home
245 Cedar Street
Red Cloud, Nebraska



Standing Bear 1829 - 1908

STANDING BEAR was a chief of the Ponca Indians. His tribe was moved to Indian Territory in Oklahoma in 1877, but he wanted to return to his homeland in Nebraska. The United States Army arrested him for returning to Nebraska, and he took his case to court. The judge ruled that "an Indian is a person within the meaning of the law." This judgment meant that Standing Bear and all Indians had rights under the Constitution, just as did non-Indians.



J. Sterling Morton 1832 - 1902

J. STERLING MORTON was a newspaper editor, a legislator, an acting governor of Nebraska Territory, and the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture from 1893 to 1897. But he is best known for founding Arbor Day in 1872. He spent much of his life promoting conservation practices and encouraging people to plant trees. His home in Nebraska City is called Arbor Lodge.



William "Buffalo Bill" Cody 1846 - 1917

WILLIAM "BUFFALO BILL" CODY was one of the most famous Nebraskans of his time. He was an army scout, and he served as a guide for the wealthy and famous on buffalo hunts. In 1883 he organized the first of his famous Wild West Shows, which entertained people all over the United States and Europe. In 1886 he built a home in North Platte and called it Scout's Rest.



William Jennings Bryan **1860 - 1925**

WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN was one of Nebraska's most influential politicians and a famous speaker. He moved to Lincoln from Illinois in 1887 to set up a law practice. In 1890 he was elected the first Democratic congressman from Nebraska. He was United States Secretary of State for President Woodrow Wilson and an editor of the *Omaha World-Herald*. Bryan was a three-time Democratic candidate for President of the United States. He was known as the "Great Commoner" because of his concern for the working man and woman. Bryan's home in Lincoln is called "Fairview." It is operated by Bryan/LGH Medical Center, and you can visit it when it is open to the public.

Susan LaFlesche Picotte **1865 - 1915**

SUSAN LAFLESCHE PICOTTE was the first Native American woman to earn a medical degree. She was born on the Omaha reservation in northeastern Nebraska in 1865. Picotte received her medical education and training in Philadelphia. She returned to the Omaha reservation to provide medical services to people on the reservation as well as people from neighboring communities. She also worked hard to improve the public health laws of the state.



Grace Abbott **1873 - 1939**

GRACE ABBOTT was a social reformer who worked hard to protect children's rights. She was born in Grand Island and taught school there. In 1907 she went to Chicago to continue her education and to work with immigrants. She became a leader in the fight to protect the rights of children. She was especially concerned about children who were forced to work long hours in factories for very little pay. Grace Abbott became the head of the Children's Bureau of the United States Department of Labor.



Father Edward Flanagan 1886 - 1948

FATHER FLANAGAN was the founder of Boys Town, a home for boys and, more recently, girls who have no home or whose parents cannot care for them. Edward Flanagan was born in Ireland. He came to the United States in 1904 and became a priest. He started Boys Town in Omaha in 1921. Boys Town became an official town with a mayor and town government in 1936, the same year that a movie entitled *Boys Town* was made. Father Flanagan became well known for his saying, *There's no such thing as a bad boy.*



Photo courtesy of Western Heritage Museum



Photo courtesy of National Baseball Hall of Fame

Grover Cleveland Alexander 1887 - 1951

GROVER CLEVELAND ALEXANDER was one of major league baseball's winningest pitchers. He was born near Elba in 1887, and he played ball with a Central City baseball team. During his major league career he pitched for the Philadelphia Phillies, the Chicago Cubs, and the St. Louis Cardinals. In 1938 Alexander was among the first thirteen baseball players named to the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York.

Henry Fonda 1905 - 1982

HENRY FONDA was a famous movie actor who was born in Grand Island. His family moved to Omaha when he was less than a year old, and he later got his start in acting in Omaha. He starred in many motion pictures including *Mr. Roberts* and *On Golden Pond*.

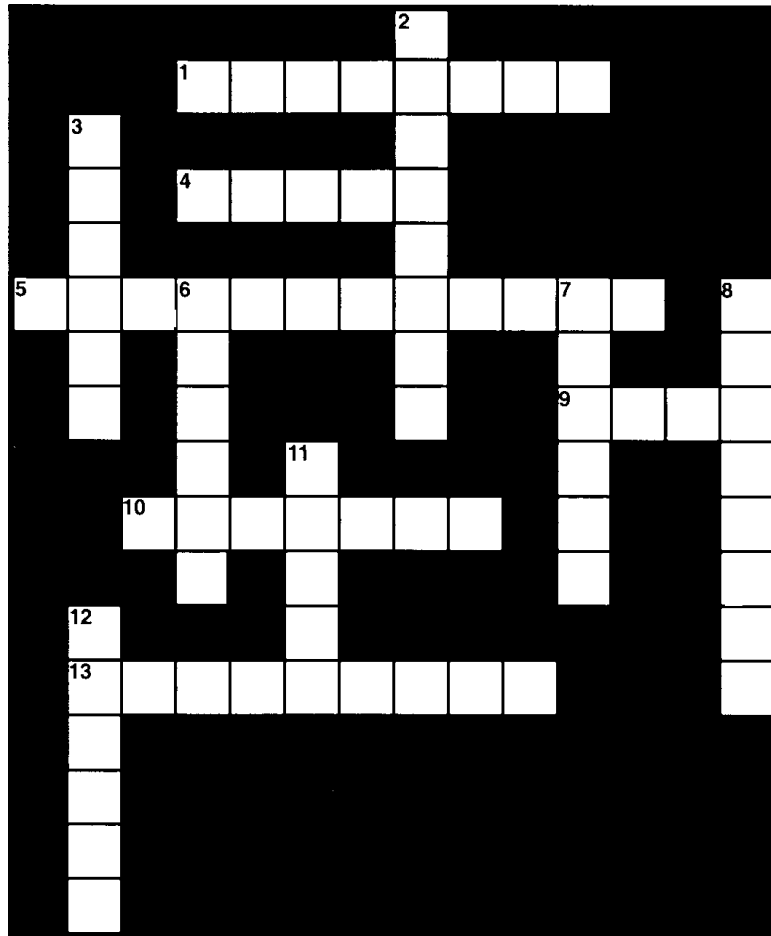


Photo courtesy of Malcom X Memorial Foundation

Malcolm X 1925 - 1965

MALCOLM X was a spokesperson for African-Americans. He was born in Omaha in 1925 and was named Malcolm Little. When he was twenty he was sentenced to prison for burglary. While he was in prison, he educated himself and converted to the religion of Islam. He changed his name to Malcolm X when he got out of prison. He became a leader of African-Americans and spoke out against racial inequality. Malcolm X was assassinated in 1965 in New York City.

NOTABLE NEBRASKANS



Across:

1. Oglala chief
4. The "Great Commoner"
5. Ponca chief
9. Buffalo _____
10. Native American doctor
13. Baseball Hall of Fame member

Down:

2. Boys Town founder
3. Arbor Day founder
6. "Father" of the Unicameral
7. Social reformer
8. Leader of African-Americans
11. Star of *On Golden Pond*
12. Pulitzer Prize winner

NEBRASKA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
1500 R Street, Box 82554, Lincoln, NE 68501
www.nebraskahistory.org

Published by the Nebraska State Historical Society for
Free Distribution to Nebraska Fourth Grade Children

Ongoing support for *Nebraska Trailblazer* is provided by
The Dorothy Weyer Creigh Memorial Endowment,
established with the Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation
through gifts from Thomas Creigh, Jr., in memory of his wife.