

# SUNDAY AFTERNOON

at

## THE ROCK - 2012

An educational series presented by the Nebraska State Historical Society

**February 19, 2012**

*Better Than Any Clock: Army Bugle Calls*

**Will Hunzeker**

Elizabeth Custer in *Following the Guidon* wrote of Army bugle calls: “[They] told us when to eat, to sleep, to march, and to go to church.” Ranger Will Hunzeker of Fort Laramie National Historic Site will demonstrate this efficient system of communication.

**February 26, 2012**

*The Lighter Side of the Oregon Trail:  
The Ash Hollow Pageant (video)*

Since 1993 the Nebraska Chapter of Volunteers of America, Ash Hollow State Historical Park and local volunteers have produced the Ash Hollow Pageant, a musical based on the history of the Oregon Trail and set on the very ground where pioneers stopped to rest at a spring. This 2006 video captures both the joy of the performers and the beauty of Ash Hollow.

**March 4, 2012**

*Building the Transcontinental Telegraph Line  
from Julesburg to Fort Laramie: Charles  
Brown's 1861 Diary*

**James E. Potter**

When Edward Creighton's transcontinental telegraph line was completed in October 1861, “two oceans were united” by a slender wire across the plains and mountains. Charles Brown's diary, published by the Nebraska State Historical Society, is the only day-to-day account of how the feat was accomplished. NSHS historian James E. Potter will review Brown's lively narrative.



**March 11, 2012**

*Digging Up the Past*

**Craig Lind**

Throughout history and prehistory, people have lived on and traveled the Great Platte River Road. District Engineer Craig Lind will discuss the cooperative effort by the Nebraska Department of Roads, the University of Nebraska State Museum, and the Nebraska State Historical Society to preserve the past of this natural travel corridor.

**March 18, 2012**

*From Silver Mines to Cosmic Consciousness:  
The Western Adventures of Dr. Richard Maurice  
Bucke*

**Loren Pospisil**

Bucke was a pioneering psychiatrist, literary essayist, and Walt Whitman's first biographer. At age sixteen he left Canada for a five-year American odyssey that included a fight with the Shoshones and being caught in a blizzard in the Sierra Nevada mountains. Chimney Rock Site Supervisor Loren Pospisil will recount the adventures of this beautiful dreamer.

**March 25, 2012**

*Scenery, Curiosities, and Stupendous Rocks:  
William Quesenbury's Overland Sketches*

**David Murphy**

In 1851 John Wesley Jones hired artist William Quesenbury to sketch the “scenery, curiosities, and stupendous rocks” they encountered while traveling across the American West. Jones used selected material for his “Pantoscope,” a gigantic, scrolling panoramic painting. The new book, *Scenery, Curiosities, and Stupendous Rocks*, gathers seventy-one of Quesenbury's sketches. Author and NSHS historian David Murphy will explain their importance.

\* Programs may be cancelled due to bad weather. Please call for more information.

\* For more information, call (308) 586-2581 or visit [www.nebraskahistory.org](http://www.nebraskahistory.org)

**Free!!!**

All presentations are free of charge and will start at 1:30p.m. at the Ethel & Christopher J. Abbott Visitor Center at CHIMNEY ROCK NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE, located 1 mile south of Highway 92 on Chimney Rock Road. Limited seating is available.