

# NEBRASKA history news

Volume 64 / Number 1 / January/February/March 2011

## We the People

### The Nebraska Viewpoint

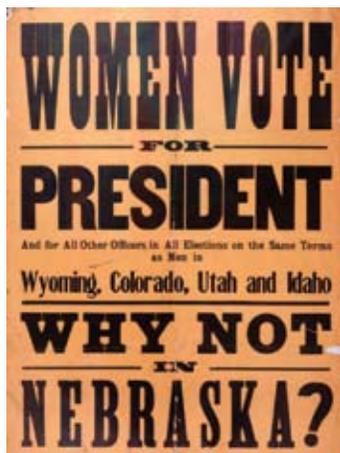
#### Civil Rights and Civil Liberties: Understanding the Past, Looking to the Future

The Miranda Rights is a litany easily recited by any school child (you have the right to remain silent, you have the right to an attorney . . .), yet many adults could not tell you where those rights come from. For the next year those rights and all the others found in that grand document, the United States Constitution, will be at the heart of public presentations, community conversations, a major exhibit, and publications and broadcasts.

The Nebraska State Historical Society will explore Nebraska's role in figuring out who "We" are. This exploration—including public presentations, an exhibition, a publication, and broadcasts—will investigate the circumstances in which constitutional rights have been granted, taken away, restored and abused over the course of our national history, and in particular how that saga played out in Nebraska.

Nebraskans will be asked to engage questions about our past as it affects our present and our future. Does the "We," a collective pronoun that once did not include African Americans, Ameri-

**Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, and Idaho enfranchised women by the end of the nineteenth century. Nebraska women did not win full suffrage until 1920.** NSHS RG2669-14



**The Ku Klux Klan marches on O Street in Lincoln, circa 1924.** NSHS RG2158-3030

can Indians, and women, still exclude classes of people? Does the "We" include new immigrants, Hispanics, gays, Muslims, and others? How important is a free press?

An exhibition opening in January will, of course, offer exhibits about provocative stories and the lessons from Nebraska's past, but it will also feature a recording booth where individuals can tell their own stories and add them to the history books. And along with a series of public lectures we will host two Community Conversations where we will ask the public to voice perspectives on the important issues of civil rights and civil liberties. (See p. 10 for a schedule of events.)

This exhibit and public programming are possible thanks to important support from the Nebraska Humanities Council and the Nebraska Cultural Endowment, together with the Cooper Foundation and the Woods Charitable Fund, Inc. The Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation has served an important role in bringing this support together. ☐



*The Nebraska State Historical Society collects, preserves, and opens to all, the histories we share.*

**Change!**

Change! The battle cry of the last two national elections; a challenge set forth by management consultants; every woman's hope for her over-imbibing man; the basis of history. Yes, change is all of these and more.

My focus here is on change as the basic component of history. Recently, I looked into the reason for the closing of the Keene Canning Company in Freeport, Illinois, in 1953, seven years after my grandfather, John Smith, retired as its general manager. The owners noted that they could no longer contract with farmers to grow the corn and peas that the company processed, because everyone had turned to dairying. Today, in 2010, almost all that dairying is gone as farmers have returned to row crops. The agriculture of Stephenson County, Illinois—traditionally a pursuit regarded as slow to change—moved first one way and then back again in a half century. Change!

Yes, change is constant. At this time of year, we are reminded that pundits offer hard and fast conclusions about situations that some see as certain and long-term. Yet it is the practitioners of history on every level who understand that the natural condition of life is change. Historians look for change in the record of the past, seeking out its indicators, its causes and its effects. It is in change that we see what has motivated and driven our worlds, define those as we may.

The proverbial "good old days" were in fact a time of change. In understanding the past in terms of change and in reminding our communities that change is constant, we provide an essential service. That is our duty as people who practice history. And we must remember that we and our historical institutions also change. Embrace it.

*Michael J. Smith*  
 Michael J. Smith  
 Director/CEO



"The proverbial 'good old days' were in fact a time of change."

**NSHS Rededicates Headquarters Building**

"Our Nebraska history is part of our living heritage as Americans," said NSHS Superintendent James Olson during the dedication of the Society's new headquarters building on September 27, 1953. Olson's daughter, Sarah, read the words during the renovated building's rededication ceremony on September 18, 2010. Governor Dave Heineman was on hand, officially declaring it Nebraska State Historical Society Day. Former Congressman Doug Bereuter delivered the keynote address. 🇺🇸



Doug Bereuter, Sarah Olson, Governor Dave Heineman, NSHS Trustee Board President Cheryl Clark, NSHS Chief Financial Officer Michelle Furby, NSHS Director/CEO Mike Smith.



Former Congressman Doug Bereuter delivers the keynote address. Bereuter's congressional papers are housed in the NSHS Archives.



The NSHS building under construction in 1953. NSHS RG14-8-1



One of the NSHS William Jennings Bryan images that appeared in *God in America*. NSHS RG3198-47-15

**NSHS, Bryan in PBS's *God in America***

The NSHS provided images of William Jennings Bryan for *God in America*, broadcast on PBS last fall. The six-episode documentary was a co-production of *American Experience* and *Frontline*. Like *The National Parks* by Ken Burns, *God in America* is an example of how the NSHS and its collections are a resource for broadcasts and publications that reach nationwide audiences.

"The contest between evolution and Christianity is a duel to the death," William Jennings Bryan proclaimed at the 1925 Scopes trial. For Bryan, according to a biographical sketch at [www.pbs.org/godinamerica](http://www.pbs.org/godinamerica), "the greatest threat to America's spiritual and material future, he believed, was Darwinism and its offshoot, Social Darwinism. In Germany, he believed, the 'might



is right' theories of Darwin coupled with the philosophy of Nietzsche to create a malignant offspring, German barbarism. In America, Social Darwinism allowed rich and powerful capitalists to justify trampling on the poor and the weak. . . . His duty to the downtrodden and his innate sense of justice propelled Bryan on his crusade to save public schools from teaching Darwinian theory."

As for our own publications, evolutionary biologist Stephen Jay Gould explored in greater detail the relationship between Bryan's religious beliefs and his sense of social justice in "William Jennings Bryan's Last Campaign," an essay that was reprinted in the Fall/Winter 1996 issue of *Nebraska History*. This double issue devoted to Bryan is still available through the NSHS Landmark Stores. 🇺🇸

**NSHS Welcomes New Trustees**

Two new members have joined the Nebraska State Historical Society Board of Trustees. Our governing board includes twelve members elected by NSHS members, and three appointed by the governor. Three-year terms began January 1.

**Cloyd Clark, McCook.** Clark is a retired county judge who is a member of the High Plains Historical Society and a trustee of the NSHS Foundation. He helped found the Buffalo Commons Storytelling Festival and serves as its co-chair. He is also a founder and vice president of The Norris Institute, serves on the vestry of St. Alban's Episcopal Church, and belongs to the American Legion and the McCook Rotary Club, where he has served as president and district governor.

**Taylor Keen, Omaha.** Keen is a lecturer at Creighton University's College of Business. He is a Dartmouth graduate with an MBA/MPA from Harvard, and serves on the boards of the Nebraska Humanities Council and Nebraska Appleseed. An Omaha Indian and tribal citizen, he is a member of the Omaha Native American Church, the Umahon Hethuska Warrior Society, and the Kiowa Tai Paih Gourd Dance Society. 🇺🇸



Manufactured in Havelock, Nebraska, the NSHS's 1918 Patriot truck was part of our agricultural exhibit at the State Fair. NSHS exhibit staff created the pumpkin, inspired by our collection of "exaggeration" post-cards, such as this 1908 card from Plattsmouth. NSHS RG2053-21



### From the State Fair

To inaugurate the Nebraska State Fair's new location in Grand Island, the NSHS created an agricultural history exhibit for the 4-H building. Using words and photos, the exhibit sketched in the major themes of farming and ranching in Nebraska. The eye-catching Patriot truck and its oversized cargo helped draw fairgoers to the exhibit, which is now displayed at the Nebraska History Museum in Lincoln.

During the fair, the NSHS awarded a Certificate of Achievement and one-year membership to Whitney Koehn of Elmwood, for her scrapbook *Heritage in the Kitchen: Making Kolaches from Louise Sevcik Borzych's Recipe*. The scrapbook illustrated and documented Whitney's Czech culinary heritage from her family in the Farwell/St. Paul communities. She prepared her scrapbook for the "Explore Your Heritage" 4-H project. NSHS Library Curator Cindy S. Drake has been a judge for the project for more than fifteen years.

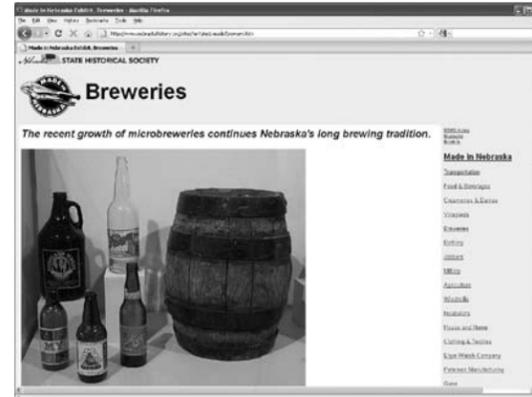
### NSHS Board of Trustees Seeks Candidates

Do you want to help shape the future of the Nebraska State Historical Society? Assist in setting policies? Help guide strategic planning and offer overall support to the director, staff, members, and volunteers? These are the principal duties of the NSHS Board of Trustees.

The board consists of fifteen members, and meets quarterly at a variety of locations across the state. NSHS members elect four members from each of the state's three congressional districts to staggered three-year terms. The governor appoints another three members. Terms expiring in 2010 include seats in all three districts.

The board-appointed nominating committee will put forward a slate of nominations, but anyone may become a candidate by petition with the signatures of twenty-five current members, or seek a governor appointment.

Application materials and contact information will be posted at [nebraskahistory.org/admin/board](http://nebraskahistory.org/admin/board) starting January 17. In order to be considered for the nominating committee's slate of candidates, please submit your application by June 1. Petition candidates may submit applications up to 5 p.m., August 15, 2010.



### Virtual Exhibits are Just a Click Away!

Visitors at the Nebraska History Museum are surrounded with events, photos, objects, and stories from the past. But what happens to old exhibits after they're replaced by new ones? You can find more than two dozen of them at [nebraskahistory.org/exhibits](http://nebraskahistory.org/exhibits), where they live on as virtual exhibits, from crazy quilts to the Orphan Train, providing photos and stories from the very beginning of Nebraska. Our newest online exhibit is *The Boy Scouts of America, 1910-2010*.

One of the more popular exhibits is titled *Weird Nebraska*, featuring strange stories (such as tales of ghosts and UFOs) and real-life oddities such as Lincoln's grave-robbing scandal of the 1890s or a collection of early twentieth century electrical healing machines in a section titled "Shocking Medical Breakthroughs."

Viewers can even help solve a mystery. A collection of more than 2,000 glass plate negatives were donated to the NSHS from the Palisade, Nebraska, area. Several boxes of the photos were identified as being taken by the Bostock Studio—but no record of this studio has been found, and the NSHS is relying on southwestern Nebraskans to help identify people and places in the photos.

Other exhibits include, *Chimney Rock: Landmark on the Overland Trail*, a large collection of early images of the famous formation; *Nebraska Toy Stories*, a display of toys from the 1860s to the 1960s; and *One Hundred Years of 4-H in Nebraska*.

So whether you're in need of a dose of familiar Nebraska history, or want to learn about something new, virtual exhibits allow you to enjoy some of our museum collections without leaving home.

### Research Grants for 2011

Every year, the NSHS Foundation awards one or more \$1,000 grants to researchers working in areas of Nebraska history. The idea is to encourage the use of our library and archives, and to generate material that may be suitable for publication in *Nebraska History* magazine. Send your proposal to David Bristow, Editor, at the return address on this newsletter (or by email to [david.bristow@nebraska.gov](mailto:david.bristow@nebraska.gov)) by April 1, 2011. We'll announce the winner(s) in May. Grant recipients will then have until April 1, 2012, to complete their manuscripts. See [nebraskahistory.org/publish/grants](http://nebraskahistory.org/publish/grants) for details.

### Brown Bag Lectures Available on YouTube

Our Brown Bag History Forum series has proved popular with Lincoln audiences, who attend the noontime lectures at the Nebraska History Museum, or watch them on Lincoln-area cable channel 5, but until recently the rest of the state has missed out. Thanks to YouTube, program videos are as close as your nearest Internet connection.

Since we first announced the YouTube videos a year ago, we've considerably expanded our offerings: "Memory Quilts" by Shirley Chaffin and Sheila Green; "A History of Nebraska's Creature Feature Hosts" by Dale Bacon, NSHS Assistant Curator, Digital Imaging; "What Remains" by Nolan Johnson; "Take Care of Your Family's Heirloom Photographs" by Karen Keehr, NSHS Curator of Audio and Visual Collections; "Conservation of Grant Wood's Corn Room" by Kenneth Bé, NSHS Ford Conservation Center; "Make-Work Projects of the New Deal in Nebraska" by Jill Dolberg, NSHS Historic Preservation Office; "Forts of Nebraska" by Jeff Barnes; "From the Colonel to Carson: The People Who Put Norfolk on the Map" by Sheryl Schmeckpeper; "The Quilts of Grace McCance Snyder" by Janet Price.

To find our videos on YouTube.com, go to channel "Nebraska Historical Society" (no "State" in the title), or just follow the link from [nebraskahistory.org](http://nebraskahistory.org).



The South Tower during its recent restoration work. Photo by Brent Crampton.

### Omaha's Modern (But Historic!) Twin Towers

When does the modern become historic? For Omaha's Twin Towers at Thirtieth and Farnam, the answer is less than fifty years. Built between 1960 and 1967, the complex was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2010.

After World War II, many urban residents began viewing their downtown areas as places to work, but not live. Young families wanted single family dwellings with yards and garages. People began to drive to places for entertainment and shopping rather than living in a neighborhood that provided all their needs. Standing just west of downtown, the Twin Towers—with commercial space on lower floors and residential space on upper floors—embraced the idea of working downtown and residing in a modern mixed-use environment with a park-like setting and ample parking.

Architect James W. Nicas began by stripping a 1919 commercial building to its structural bones and renovating it with a design that was entirely new to Omaha. Today this is known as the South Tower. Like its twin, which was completed in 1966-67, the building's Modern style is reflected in its transite curtain walls, panels, and its use of glass and geometric planes. Simple sleek lines, emphasis on vertical and horizontal features,



The South Tower today. Photo by Brent Crampton.

adopting expressed structure, functionalist planning, and rejection of historic precedent are all features of the Modern style. The Twin Towers represent Omaha's only example of this style as applied to a building constructed for both commercial and residential purposes.

The complex retains a high degree of historic integrity. The South Tower is fully occupied; the North Tower is currently vacant, but plans are being made for its re-use. Recently, the South Tower condo association has been doing paint removal work that represents "an amazing transformation," according to Grant Landreth of the NSHS's Historic Preservation Division.

"This is work that our office never dreamed they would do because of the amount of painted surfaces and the costs involved, and because mid-century resources—especially those properties firmly entrenched in the 1960s—do not have the same general acceptance and appreciation as pre-World War II resources," Landreth said.

But perhaps the work on the Twin Towers, along with their National Register listing, indicates that appreciation of Modern architecture is growing. ☺

### "The Civil War in the American West": The Eighth Fort Robinson History Conference

The beginning of the Civil War Sesquicentennial in 2011 provides a perfect opportunity to explore some of the ways the war affected the history of Nebraska and the American West. That's why "The Civil War in the American West" has been chosen as the theme for the Eighth Fort Robinson History Conference to be held April 28-30, 2011, at Fort Robinson State Park. The event is co-sponsored by the NSHS and the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission.

Despite the trans-Missouri region's distance from the great national drama playing out on battlefields in the East and South and in the arena of American politics, it experienced major consequences from the four years of war. Settlement and economic development stagnated. A handful of U.S. Army volunteers clashed with Indians while struggling to keep open vital transportation and communication corridors extending across the Plains to the West Coast. Wartime decisions made by President Abraham Lincoln and the U.S. Congress, such as the Homestead and Pacific Railroad acts, would guide the region's economic and political development for decades to come. The war delayed statehood for Nebraska and other western territories until well after the fighting had ended. Union victory brought the end of slavery, political rights for the freedmen, and new relationships between the states and federal government.

The conference will feature papers by scholars of the military and political history of the Civil War in the American West. New books by several of the presenters will be available for purchase and signing. A bus tour will take conferees to two notable Nebraska Civil War venues: the site of Fort Mitchell, an adobe fortification erected west of Scotts Bluff in 1864, and Mud Springs Station, where elements of the Eleventh Ohio Volunteer Cavalry engaged in battle with Sioux and Cheyenne warriors on February 4-6, 1865.

Scheduled presenters and their topics include: Dr. Douglas D. Scott, "The Battle of Mud Springs,



Above, flag of the First Nebraska Cavalry, NSHS 8611-4. Below, *Nebraska City News*, September 6, 1862.

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Nebraska City, Sept. 6th, 1862.

Nebraska, February 1865"; Dr. Richard W. Etulain, "Abraham Lincoln and the American West"; Dr. Douglas Owsley, "Forensic Investigation of Civil War Casualties"; Dr. Michele Butts, "The Galvanized Yankees"; John D. McDermott, "The 1865 Powder River Expedition"; James E. Potter, "Horses: The Army's Achilles Heel in the Indian War of 1864-65"; Randy Kane, "Union Volunteers on the Upper Missouri"; Dr. Mark Van de Logt, "The Pawnee Scouts."

For more information, contact Lana Hatcher at [lana.hatcher@nebraska.gov](mailto:lana.hatcher@nebraska.gov) or 402-471-3272. ☺



The identity of this young woman is unknown. She posed for William L. Bostock of Palisade, who took numerous photographs in southwestern Nebraska. NSHS RG5339-U

### In Memoriam: Frank J. Potthoff

Former Nebraska State Historical Society Trustee Frank J. Potthoff, 73, died October 5, 2010, in Kearney. A lifelong resident of the Palisade area, he was a former employee of the Southwest Public Power District, from which he retired in 1997 after a forty-year career. He was active in community and state organizations, especially those promoting the economic development of southwestern Nebraska.

Frank and his wife, Betty, were 2008 recipients of the Addison E. Sheldon Memorial Award, given by the Society for significant contributions to the preservation of Nebraska history. The Potthoffs cared for William L. Bostock's glass plate negatives for more than thirty years before donating them to the NSHS in 2001 through the NSHS Foundation. Selected images from the collection, which enhance the historical record of southwestern Nebraska from 1900 to 1930, are on the Society's website at [nebraskahistory.org/exhibits/palisade](http://nebraskahistory.org/exhibits/palisade).



*The Return of Spring* by Adolphe Bouguereau, shown here in the Lininger Gallery in Omaha. In 1890 a young man smashed the canvas with a chair to "protect the virtue of women." NSHS RG2163-03

### Coming in Nebraska History

Founded in 1854, Omaha began its existence as a rough frontier town that dreamed of being a large, cultured city. By the 1870s, art patronage among members of Omaha's business community was expanding rapidly. Jo L. Wetherilt Behrens tells the story of the growth of Omaha visual arts in "Painting the Town: How Merchants Marketed the Visual Arts to Nineteenth-Century Omahans," one of the articles in the forthcoming Spring 2011 issue of *Nebraska History* magazine.

In other articles, Mark Smith and Larry Walklin examine early political talk radio at WJAG in Norfolk, which had its broadcast license challenged in 1947 due to on-air comments by host Art Thomas. Thomas Irvin, meanwhile, takes a new look at the 1934 campaign for (and against) the proposed unicameral legislature.

Look for the issue in your mailbox the second week of February 2011.

### Robert Taylor, Nebraska's Movie Idol

Robert Taylor (1911-1969), who was born in Filley and grew up in Beatrice, was one of a number of Hollywood film personalities from this state. The blue-eyed, black-haired Nebraskan, once called "the man with the perfect face," was cast by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer as a romantic hero in the 1930s. He appeared in eighty motion pictures and television films from 1934 to 1969, and starred in one weekly television series and hosted another.

A major constant in Taylor's life was his loyal love for his Nebraska roots. He made at least nineteen return trips to his former state during his Hollywood years, and was most fond of Beatrice, which he considered his hometown. Taylor's life and career were discussed in E. A. Kral's "Robert Taylor of Beatrice, The Nebraska Roots of a Hollywood Star," published in the Winter 1994 issue of *Nebraska History* magazine. Readers can find it by going to [nebraskahistory.org/magazine](http://nebraskahistory.org/magazine) and clicking "Selected full-text articles."

"Just a Punk Kid from Nebraska," A Robert Taylor Centenary Tribute Film Series," sponsored by the Nebraska State Historical Society, will present six of his most noted films on January 23 and 30 and February 6, 13, 20, and 27, 2011, at the Nebraska History Museum, 1500 R Street, Lincoln.

### "Just a Punk Kid From Nebraska":

#### A Robert Taylor Centenary Tribute Film Series

Free movies at the Nebraska History Museum, 15th & P streets, Lincoln. Showtimes are 1:30 p.m. 402-471-4754.

#### January 23 - *Magnificent Obsession* (1935)

Taylor's breakthrough role as a ne'er-do-well playboy who accidentally blinds a wealthy widow, then becomes a doctor to restore her sight.



This photograph of Robert Taylor was taken in Beatrice by Ralph Roszell about 1936. Courtesy of Gage County Historical Society

#### January 30 - *Camille* (1936)

Perhaps as beautiful as his costar, Greta Garbo, Taylor was lauded for his performance as the youthful swain, Armand.

#### February 6 - *Waterloo Bridge* (1940)

In what was purported to be Taylor's favorite film, he and Vivien Leigh play star-crossed lovers.

#### February 13 - *Johnny Eager* (1941)

A gangster melodrama in which Taylor plays an egotistical hood.

#### February 20 - *Ivanhoe* (1953)

The Taylors, Robert and Elizabeth (no relation), star in the Sir Walter Scott classic tale of knights and their ladies.

#### February 27 - *Party Girl* (1958)

Playing against type, Taylor is a handicapped mouthpiece for the mob.

David Bristow  
John Carter  
Patricia Gaster  
Lynne Ireland  
James Potter  
editorial staff

Kylie Morrison-Sloat  
contributor

Ebbeka Design  
design & production

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# UPCOMING EVENTS

Unless otherwise noted, all events are free and open to the public.



Photographer John Nelson depicted young Hilda Nelson holding a large snowball. NSHS RG3542-20-2

**January 9 - September 30**

**Civil Rights and Civil Liberties:  
The People's Exhibit**

**Exhibition**

Nebraska History Museum, 15th & P streets,  
Lincoln

402-471-4754

**January 16 • 2 - 4 p.m.**

**"Unveiling the New Farm and Ranch Trunks"**

**Free Family Workshop**

Nebraska History Museum

402-471-4754

[judy.keettle@nebraska.gov](mailto:judy.keettle@nebraska.gov)

**January 18 • 5:30 p.m.**

**Senator Ernie Chambers**

**"Change in Nebraska"**

**Civil Rights, Civil Liberties Lecture Series**

Nebraska History Museum

**January 20 • 12 noon**

**Tina Koepp, NSHS Museum Collections**

**"Researching the Cather**

**Clothing Collection"**

**Brown Bag Lecture Series**

Nebraska History Museum

**February 8 • 5:30 p.m.**

**Alan Peterson**

**"Free Press vs. Fair Trial"**

**Civil Rights, Civil Liberties Lecture Series**

Nebraska History Museum

**February 12 • 2 - 4 p.m.**

**"Be My Valentine"**

**Free Family Workshop**

Nebraska History Museum

402-471-4754

[judy.keettle@nebraska.gov](mailto:judy.keettle@nebraska.gov)

**February 17 • 12 noon**

**Lela Shanks**

**"African Americans and the Media"**

**Brown Bag Lecture Series**

Nebraska History Museum

**March 8 • 5:30 p.m.**

**Charles Trimble**

**"American Indians, American Citizens?"**

**Civil Rights, Civil Liberties Lecture Series**

Nebraska History Museum

**March 15 • 5:30 p.m.**

**"You Are the Speaker"**

**Civil Rights, Civil Liberties Community  
Conversation**

Nebraska History Museum

**March 17 • 12 noon**

**Amy Forss**

**"Mildred Brown and the *Omaha Star*"**

**Brown Bag Lecture Series**

Nebraska History Museum

**March 20 • 2 - 4 p.m.**

**Ted Kooser with his book *Bag in the Wind***

**"Reuse, Repurpose, Recycle"**

**Free Family Workshop**

Nebraska History Museum

402-471-4754

[judy.keettle@nebraska.gov](mailto:judy.keettle@nebraska.gov)

*For updated events, see the Society's  
Facebook page, linked from  
[www.nebraskahistory.org](http://www.nebraskahistory.org)*



## A Bird's-eye View of Nebraska City, 1868

The NSHS recently acquired this Nebraska City lithograph created by Albert Ruger (1829-1899), one of the leading panoramic map artists of the post-Civil War era. Born in Prussia, Ruger immigrated to the United States and began sketching army campsites while serving with the Ohio Volunteers during the Civil War. In the late 1860s, he helped found Merchants Lithographing Company.

Ruger's specialty was the city bird's-eye view, made by sketching buildings while walking the streets of a city, and then returning to the studio

to create an imaginary view of the city as seen from a great height. Maps such as these were usually sponsored by chambers of commerce or other civic organizations, which used them to advertise a city's commercial and industrial prowess. Ruger, who worked with assistants, is credited with 254 such city views.

The Library of Congress online exhibit *Panoramic Maps: 1847-1929* includes bird's-eye maps of Kearney, Lincoln, Nebraska City, Norfolk, and Omaha. See [memory.loc.gov/ammem/pmhtml](http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/pmhtml).





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Sat. & Sun., 1–4:30

**Museum Store**  
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Monday–Friday, 10–4:30  
Saturday & Sunday, 1–4

**Library/Archives**  
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Tuesday–Friday, 9-12, 1-4  
Saturday 8-5

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

State Historic Site hours:  
[www.nebraskahistory.org](http://www.nebraskahistory.org)

# N E B R A S K A history news



Nebraska State Historical Society

## From the Collection. . .

Nebraska surprised the nation in 1986 when, for the first time in U.S. history, both major-party nominees in a gubernatorial election were women. Democrat Helen Boosalis, former two-term mayor of Lincoln, faced off against State Treasurer Kay Orr, a Republican. In the general election Orr received 53 percent of the vote to Boosalis's 47 percent, becoming Nebraska's first female governor, and the nation's first female Republican governor. The election came sixty-six years after the Nineteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution guaranteed the right of women to vote. 

