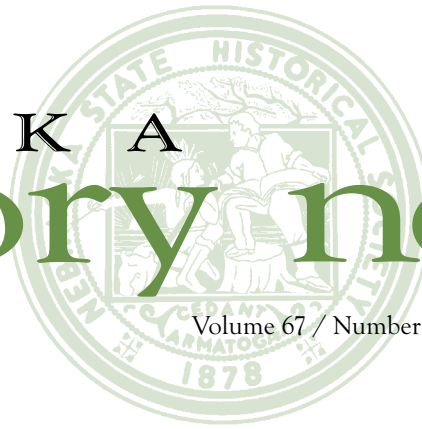


NEBRASKA history news

Volume 67 / Number 3 / July/August/September 2014




Nebraska History Museum to Close for Renovation

This is a good news/bad news kind of story. The bad news is that the Nebraska History Museum in downtown Lincoln will close to the public on September 1, 2014, and will remain closed at least through the 2014-15 school year. The good news is that during that time the museum will undergo an \$8 million renovation.

If you haven't seen the *Nebraska Cowboys: Lives, Legends, and Legacies*, now is the time. It closes August 3, ahead of the permanent exhibits. Starting in September all the exhibits will be dismantled and collections safely stored. However, the museum's educational programming will continue during the renovation—see the "Museum-on-the-Move" article on p. 3.

What will the museum look like when the work is done? The most obvious difference will be the new front entrance, following the fire marshal's recommendation to move the entrance from the corner to the center of the museum's east side.

But most of the improvements won't be so visible. The 1967 building fails to meet current codes for fire safety and handicap accessibility. It lacks a vapor barrier to help regulate humidity (critical for artifact storage). And it suffers from failing electrical systems, leaky plumbing (which has already damaged valuable collections), and elevators that are frequently out of service because replacement parts are no longer available. The state legislature appropriated funding to address these and other issues. A renovation is far less expensive than replacing the building (at an estimated cost of more than \$25 million).

This fall, we'll be busy relocating staff and making everything ready for the contractors to begin work. But even while the museum is closed, our work will continue. Follow us on Facebook for the latest news on NSHS programs and activities as we launch our temporary "Museum-on-the-Move." 



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



Architectural rendition of the Nebraska History Museum's new front entrance.



Johnson's story is the essential American story of a rise from humble beginnings to a place of influence.

The Example of Alvin Saunders Johnson

As is widely reported these days, early childhood learning is highly influential. Historians can support that, often finding individuals whose lives bear witness to the importance of what they were taught at their parents' knees, and the values of the places where they were born and raised.

The Nebraska Hall of Fame Commission is honoring such an individual this year, Alvin Saunders Johnson. Dr. Johnson excelled on the national stage as an economist, adult educator, editor, writer, reformer, and humanitarian. In New York City he was a cofounder and long-time leader of the New School for Social Research. He worked with educators, elected officials, scholars of many nationalities, practitioners of the law, philanthropists, and many others. Johnson was a leader of people who wielded power and influence. He championed the oppressed and the marginalized, those who sought to meet their educational goals, and those deprived of basic rights.

Johnson's first steps to the man he became were taken on the farm near Homer in Dakota County, Nebraska, where he was born. His Danish immigrant parents created the home where young Alvin learned to read and write, to understand justice and the importance of the roles of women and men in society as well as the value of the hard physical work that farm life requires. These early experiences led him to the University of Nebraska during what came to be called its "golden age." There he earned a degree in the classics before pursuing graduate study in economics at Columbia University. Although his subsequent career took him elsewhere, his heart and his loyalty lay always in the state of his birth.

The Alvin Saunders Johnson story is the essential American story of a rise from humble beginnings to a place of influence. Every Nebraskan should be proud of his story. Moreover, all of us should commit ourselves to ensuring that the lessons of Johnson's story will be present for Nebraska's children of today and tomorrow. This can happen if we provide strong homes, excellent preschool and in-school education, and the opportunity to work and to grow. Alvin Saunders Johnson should be an example of Nebraska values to us all. May we live up to the standards he set.

Michael J. Smith
Director/CEO

Join Us July 19 at Chimney Rock

About half a million people are thought to have passed Chimney Rock from the 1840s through the 1860s on the Oregon, California, and Mormon Trails. And in the last twenty years, more than half a million people have enjoyed exhibits, videos, and interactive features at the Rock's Ethel S. and Christopher J. Abbott Visitor Center near Bayard.

Count yourself among those numbers by attending the twentieth birthday party for the visitor center at Chimney Rock National Historic Site, 1.5 miles south of Highway 92 on Chimney Rock Road. A day's worth of events will be open to the public free of charge Saturday, July 19, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Horse and wagon rides, first-person historical presentations, Oregon Trail talks, crafts to make and take, music, and more will be offered by the NSHS with additional support from Humanities NEBRASKA and the Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation. For more information visit nebraskahistory.org/sites/rock, or call 1-800-833-6747 or 308-586-2581. 📍



The Ethel S. and Christopher J. Abbott Visitor Center, from a video by David Boff of OutsideOurBubble.com. See nebraskahistory.org/sites/rock

New Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit Begins in 2015

A new state law has created a rehabilitation tax credit for historic buildings, which will be administered by the NSHS. Introduced by Sen. Jeremy Nordquist of Omaha, the “Nebraska Job Creation and Mainstreet Revitalization Act” (LB 191) establishes a 20 percent tax credit for certain historic rehabilitation projects.

“Historic preservation reaches all of Nebraska’s communities,” said Gov. Dave Heineman. “This bill helps in the important step of preserving our unique historic areas in our great state. As Nebraskans, we identify with the unique characteristics of our communities. Historic locations are a part of a community’s sense of place.”

Shepherded by Omaha attorney David Levy, the bill’s passage took three years. Sen. Jerry Johnson of Wahoo presented the bill as his priority this session. It passed the legislature 45-0 and was signed by Gov. Dave Heineman on April 17. “We named our bill the Nebraska Job Creation and Mainstreet Revitalization Act because it will do just that,” Nordquist said. “With this incentive we will see investment on main streets all across our state and hopefully create a good starting point to bring them back to their full life and full potential. The bill was designed to bring in private capital and leverage those investments in redeveloping the heart of our communities.”

“One of the needs is to provide more and better incentives for people who want to rehabilitate their historic buildings,” said Michael Smith, director and state historic preservation officer for the NSHS. The new law does this by authorizing \$15 million in credits per year. While it can be combined with a federal historic tax credit, Nebraska’s state credit was



designed to benefit not just large projects, but also locally significant historic buildings with smaller budgets that might not qualify for the federal credit.

“We feel that historic preservation has a very good record of creating jobs and housing units in larger cities, and we’re active in main street revitalization by working in smaller, rural communities,” said Bob Puschendorf, associate director and deputy state historic preservation officer with the NSHS.

Nordquist said he is confident that the incentive will generate both jobs and significant revenue for Nebraska. “In this process, we will create construction jobs and those buildings will contribute to local businesses, contributing to the local and state tax base,” he said.

The NSHS will begin accepting tax credit applications on January 2, 2015. More information will be forthcoming. 📄

First row, left to right: Sara Kay (AIA Nebraska), David Levy, Gov. Dave Heineman (at podium), Sen. Tanya Cook, Erv Portis (City of Plattsmouth). Second row, left to right: Sen. Burke Harr, Sen. Brad Ashford, Sen. Jeremy Nordquist, Sen. Jerry Johnson, Sen. Bill Kintner, Sen. Heath Mello (face partly covered), Sen. Paul Schumacher. At far right are Bob Puschendorf, associate director/deputy state historic preservation officer, and Michael Smith, director and state historic preservation officer, NSHS.

Museum-on-the-Move for Nebraska Educators

Although the Nebraska History Museum will close on September 1 for renovation and will remain closed for the 2014-15 school year, we will continue to offer educational programs to connect students with Nebraska history.

Our “Museum-on-the-Move” options include docent-led presentations and educational experiences at the Nebraska State Historical Society Headquarters building, 1500 R Street, Lincoln (two blocks north of the NHM). Tours will be conducted Tuesday through Friday, 9:00 to 3:00, for groups with a maximum of sixty people (students plus adults).

A national touring exhibit, *Homefront and Battlefield: Quilts and Context in the Civil War*, is scheduled

for February 1 through June 30, 2015, at the Great Plains Art Museum, 12th & O Streets (three blocks from the NHM). NHM docents will conduct the tours of this exhibit, shown at only four venues across the country.

Contact museum educator Judy Keetle at 402-471-4757 or judy.keetle@nebraska.gov for a list of Museum-on-the-Move programs. Teachers are encouraged to schedule visits for these programs and for the touring exhibit well in advance. We look forward to having you visit us on-the-move and then later in 2015 in the renovated Nebraska History Museum. 📄

Who Are the Home Guardians? Sleuthing a Mislabeled Photo

Who is the “Home Guardian Office Force”? All we knew about this recently acquired photo was the caption on the front and the writing on the back indicating that it shows a newspaper office in the town of Sidney (Nebraska or Montana) about 1909. The resulting investigation reminded me what a great tool the web is, but also that the final answers to historical questions are not always found online.

NSHS Curator of Photographs Karen Keehr and I began by checking NSHS newspaper and periodical records plus local history materials, but we found nothing for the *Home Guardian* in Sidney, Nebraska. Checking the web, I also found no Montana connection to the *Home Guardian*. Using the online library database WorldCat (worldcat.org), I found a Boston publication called the *Home Guardian*, published by the New England Female Moral Reform Society. It was published mainly during the years 1868-92, but the styles in the photo looked more like 1909, a date confirmed by the wall calendar.

I was attracted to the sign on the wall. Using a magnifying glass and a strong light I could make out “Scallin Bros. Jewelers & Opticians.” Through the web

I located S. H. Scallin, optician, in the 1909 business directory for Mitchell, South Dakota. Then I used the transcribed directory’s “find” feature to search for “Guardian,” and found “Order of Home Guardians” with L. D. Milne as supreme secretary. Now I knew that the photo was taken in Mitchell and that it must have some connection with a fraternal organization.

With this new information, my next web search took me to the 1904 and 1907 *South Dakota Annual Report of the Commissioner of Insurance*. The Order of Home Guardians, it turns out, was a fraternal life insurance company. Another search led to a listing of “Name and Status Changes of Fraternal Benefit Societies,” where it was noted that the Order of Home Guardians, Mitchell, South Dakota, merged with the Loyal Americans of the Republic in 1909. A newspaper search at chroniclingamerica.loc.gov led to a November 26, 1909, article in the *Dakota Farmers Leader* (Canton, South Dakota) describing the merger and resulting move to Springfield, Illinois. Thus, the back of the photo contains the correct year, but the location and type of business are incorrect.

The final website I checked was that of the South Dakota Historical Society. Although the website did

Though difficult to read, the photo is labeled “Home Guardian Office Force.”



not lead to more information, I suspect that their collection is like that of the NSHS; the staff may have internal indexes that could lead to more information about the company. Our Library/Archives Reference staff often hears comments from researchers who assume that the information doesn't exist if they can't find it on the web. Our staff answers thousands of questions a year that often require us to use in-house materials that are not available online.

Because this turned out not to be a Nebraska photo, I'm not planning any further research, but don't let web research be the end of *your* story. If you don't find your Nebraska topic in our website index, contact us directly and ask about it specifically. Include what you have located (and where you found the information!) and we will check our guides, catalogs, inventories, etc., to advise you if we have rel-



A detail provides two clues: the name of a local jeweler and optician, and a 1909 wall calendar showing either March or November, based on the configuration of visible dates.

evant sources. We aren't able to undertake in-depth research, but we'll try to direct you to NSHS sources where you might find the rest of the story. 📖

—Cindy S. Drake, Library Curator

Artistry in Butter

In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, butter art was often featured at state and national fairs. The United States Centennial Exhibition, held in Philadelphia in 1876, included a butter sculpture, the bust of a woman, entitled *Dreaming Iolanthe*, which was widely admired and imitated. In the 1890s leaders of the rapidly expanding dairy industry found butter art a new way to advertise their products. A small number of artists began to specialize in sculpting butter, sometimes using lard, a less expensive alternative.

Among them was J. E. Wallace, born in 1882, who began his career in the early 1910s as a sculptor and taxidermist. He lived in Lincoln and Hastings while providing butter statuary for fairs in this state as well as many others, including Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Illinois, New York, Ohio, Tennessee, Texas, and Wisconsin. Butter cows, cows with milkmaids, or little boys with calves were popular subjects, but he also supplied butter statues of historical figures such as the equestrian *Old Hickory*, depicting Andrew Jackson, for the 1922 Tennessee State Fair.

In 1923 Wallace moved from Lincoln to Hastings, where he donated his labor to make a butter sculpture for the Adams County Fair. This would be the first time, he said, that he had worked for a fair smaller than a state or national one. Several local creameries supplied the butter. A new refrigerated glass case installed at the fairgrounds made possible the display of a life-sized butter sculpture of a Jersey cow.

The *Hastings Daily Tribune* said on July 2, 1923: "The refrigerator for the butter sculptured cow, which

J. E. Wallace will prepare for the fair, is now completed in Agriculture Hall. It will not only contain the butter sculpture, but will have a space for perishable articles entered in the various agricultural exhibits. One side of the refrigerator is of glass and measures 66 x 73 inches. It will require a ton of ice to fill it to capacity." As soon as Wallace finished the six-hundred-pound sculpture for the Adams County Fair, he left for Montreal, where he sculpted another butter cow for an international dairy convention. He later moved to Chicago and spent his last years in Florida, where he died in 1956.

The heyday of butter sculpting was about 1890 to 1930, but such sculptures are still a popular attraction at agricultural fairs, on banquet tables, and as decorative butter patties. 📖

—Patricia C. Gaster, Assistant Editor, Publications



These statues, entitled *Friends*, by J. E. Wallace, were composed of lard. NSHS RG2158-15-1

Treasures from the Nebraska History Museum

The Cartoons of Herbert Johnson

John Falter, featured in a 2012-13 Nebraska History Museum exhibit, isn't the only Nebraska artist with ties to *The Saturday Evening Post*. Sutton native Herbert Johnson was a nationally renowned political cartoonist with the *Post*. Johnson donated 250 of his original drawings to the NSHS in 1944.

Born in 1878, Johnson attended the Western Normal College and the University of Nebraska in Lincoln and began his professional career as the assistant cartoonist at the *Denver Republican* in 1896. After Denver, he found employment at the *Kansas City Journal*, as a freelance cartoonist in New York, and at the *Philadelphia North American*, before landing with *The Saturday Evening Post*. Johnson served as the *Post's* art editor and cartoonist from 1912 to 1915 and continued as a cartoonist until his retirement in 1941.

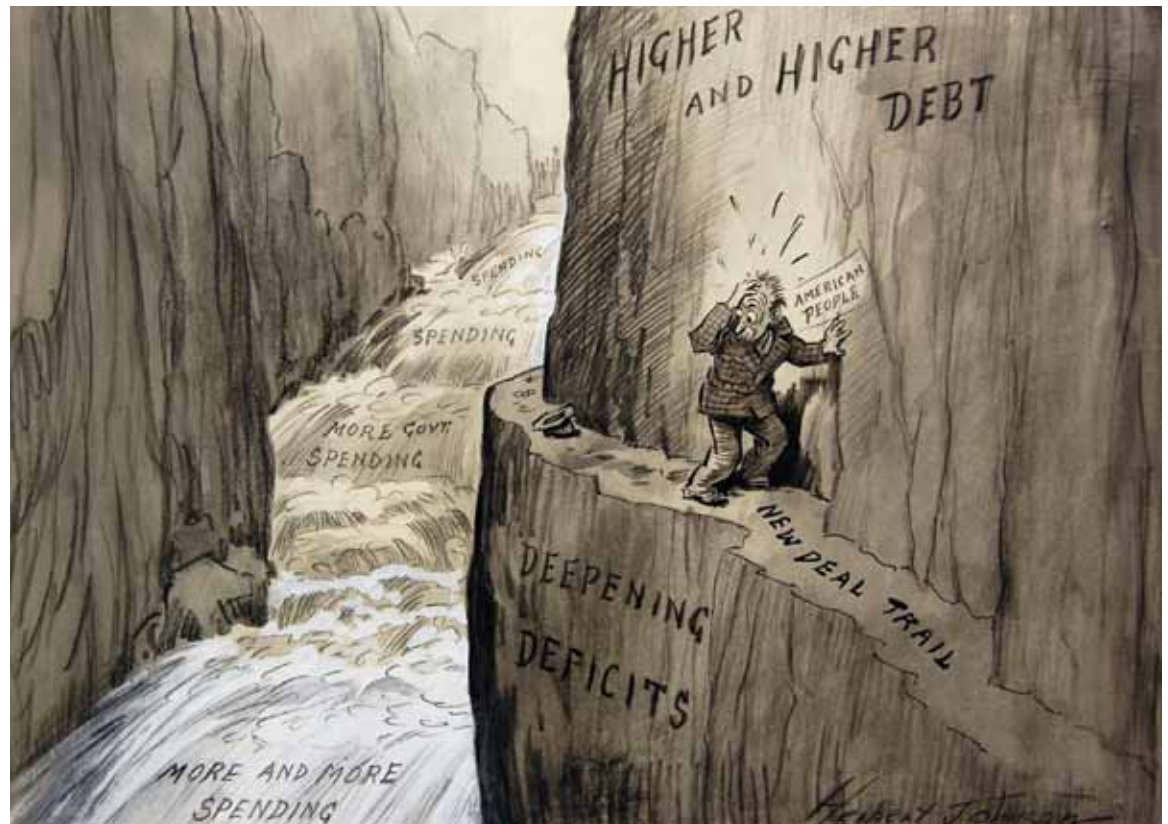
Most of the pieces in the NSHS collection were produced for the *Post*. In one of Johnson's letters to NSHS staff regarding the donation, he described his process of developing cartoons for the publication:

"I try to think of all the things that should be said. The best of these I sketch rapidly on a sheet of scratch



Though there was no presidential term limit in 1940, President Franklin Roosevelt's run for a third term was unprecedented. NSHS 12523-178

paper, with no consideration of drawing or composition, merely trying to convey the idea . . ." Johnson would then submit the sketch to the *Post's* art editor. For a cartoon to be considered, it needed to meet several criteria: "(a) Will the idea 'stand up,' that is will it be good in the thirty days between delivery of drawing and publication; (b) is it an idea that the editor will wish to present, does it meet editorial policy



"Time to Turn Back" NSHS 12523-142

at the moment; (c) is it clever, funny, dramatic.”

In subsequent letters Johnson said that the bulk of the ideas for the cartoons and captions were his own. He described himself as a Republican of the Teddy Roosevelt School. His strong opinions on President Franklin D. Roosevelt, New Deal policies, government spending and waste, and American intervention in World War II are clearly evident in his cartoons, and considering Johnson’s long tenure, were obviously appreciated by *Post* editors.

In his letters and published works, Johnson downplayed his artistic talents, stating that if he had gone to art school he “would have become a painter of perhaps quite mediocre landscapes or something.” He asked his “amiable” readers to “not be too conscious of technical shortcomings” and to “judge the cartoonist’s picture solely as the vehicle of his idea.” Although humble, Johnson’s skill as a draftsman and caricaturist, his knowledge of politics and current affairs, and his ability to convey complex ideas through his art enabled him to become one of the premier cartoonists of his day.

To view more Herbert Johnson original cartoons in the NSHS collection, visit our online database at nebraskahistory.pastperfect-online.com and keyword search “Herbert Johnson.”

— Deb Arenz, Associate Director, Collections



Until the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, *The Saturday Evening Post* opposed U.S. entry into World War II and favored an isolationist foreign policy. NSHS 12523-162

Watch Our New Civil Rights Video on YouTube

During the Nebraska History Museum’s “*We the People*”: *The Nebraska Viewpoint* exhibit, visitors were invited to tell their own stories in a video booth. The best of these recordings have been edited into a five-minute video called *We the People: Nebraska Stories of Civil Rights*. The video is the work of Joy Carey, a UNL broadcast news major and NSHS editorial assistant in the Publications Division. You can watch this video (and many others by the NSHS) by clicking the YouTube icon at nebraskahistory.org.

What do these stories have in common? A man tells of coming to America after the Rwandan genocide; a woman remembers being required to use her husband’s name to sign up for a credit card; a woman talks about a bus driver being killed in a 1960s race riot; a young immigrant from Iraq tells of discrimination after 9/11 and of his pride in being an American citizen. In each case, ideas such as civil rights, equal protection, and liberty become deeply personal—tied to vivid memories of what happens when these



“I am American,” says a young man who came to Nebraska from Iraq. “Matter of fact, America was the first country to grant me citizenship.” His is one of the stories told in a recent NSHS video.

civic values are absent. We hope you enjoy this video and share a link with your friends and colleagues.

The NSHS is adding a staff position to focus on new media; in the coming months we plan to increase our presence on social media, making our content available to the public in new ways.

New Meets Old at Nebraska Historic Sites this Summer

Hit the trail to history this travel season with a visit to one of the NSHS's fascinating state historic sites! New exhibits at Fort Robinson and Neligh Mill State Historical Site will focus on the trails, rails, and roads that formed a crucial network for these important places. These new exhibits were funded with support from the Nebraska Department of Roads and the Federal Highway Administration.

The Fort Rob exhibits are in the historic wheelwright shop, which will open again to the public for the first time in years. The Neligh exhibit will be mounted outdoors to expand interpretation of the historic travel routes adjacent to the site. And the visitor center at Chimney Rock, constructed with fundraising help from the NSHS Foundation, will celebrate its twentieth birthday with a big day of presentations, talks, crafts, music, and more on July 19.

These two NSHS sites have been selected for participation in the Nebraska Tourism Commission's Nebraska Passport program. So a visit to Fort Robinson or to Neligh Mill gets you closer to becoming eligible for a variety of prizes. See www.nebraskapassport.com for more information.

And once again this year NSHS sites are participating in the national Blue Star Museum program that offers free admission to all military personnel and their families.

All NSHS state historic sites are open to the public; admission is free for NSHS members and their immediate families. You can purchase an NSHS membership onsite or online at nebraskahistory.org/Membership.shtml. See nebraskahistory.org/sites for locations and hours. 📍



Roll on in ...

and enjoy new transportation exhibits!

NELIGH MILL STATE HISTORIC SITE
NELIGH
10-5 Tuesday - Saturday, 1-5 Sunday

FORT ROBINSON HISTORY CENTER
CRAWFORD
8:30-5 Daily
THROUGH LABOR DAY

1-800-833-6747
www.nebraskahistory.org/sites



Kids Who Visit Museums Have Higher Achievement in Reading, Math, and Science

Most parents and educators think that taking children to museums is a good thing, but does it have a measurable effect on academic achievement? New research by Deanne W. Swan, senior statistician at the Institute of Museum and Library Services, indicates that the answer is yes. Swan's study examines the influence of children's museum visitation in kindergarten on academic achievement in third grade (see blog.imls.gov/?p=4792).

Using data from an existing longitudinal study and correcting for differences in socio-economic status (because low income children are less likely to go to museums than their more affluent peers), Swan found higher achievement among the museum-attending group. The difference was "small but significant." (In the statistical sense, "significant" means that the results are not likely to be due to random variation.)

We at the NSHS believe that museums broaden visitors' perspectives and enrich their lives in ways that aren't necessarily measured by test scores and academic performance. Still, it's encouraging to see measurable benefits for museums' youngest visitors. 📍

September is Celebrate Nebraska Archaeology Month

As you read this, archeologists are out in the field somewhere in Nebraska, uncovering evidence of human occupation ranging from relatively recent times back to Paleo-Indian cultures that lived here millennia ago. Want to learn more? The Nebraska Association of Professional Archeologists (NAPA) is planning statewide events for Celebrate Nebraska Archaeology Month in September. Events will include public lectures, a "Sunday with a Scientist" at Morrill Hall in Lincoln, events at Hudson-Meng Bison Bonebed near Crawford, an Omaha event, and others.

And yes, our sharp-eyed readers, there is a spelling discrepancy. Without getting too deep into the orthography of archeology, NAPA uses the modern "archeology" in the organization's name and the older "archaeology" in the event's name. Apparently they reason that the latter is more familiar to the public. If this inconsistency bugs you as much as it does our editors, here's what to do: search for "Celebrate Nebraska Archaeology Month" on Facebook and ask the archaeologists there to stop digging up archaic vowels. Then "like" the page to receive updates about September events! 📍

View the Conservation of Thomas Moran's *The Pearl of Venice*

Visitors to Joslyn Art Museum in Omaha have a remarkable opportunity this summer to observe the cleaning and conservation treatment of a painting by artist Thomas Moran (1837-1926). The work is being done by Kenneth Bé, paintings conservator at the Gerald R. Ford Conservation Center. Bé is working on the painting in the Joslyn gallery two days a week through September 7.

Although Thomas Moran is most closely associated with his paintings of the American West, Venice became another important subject following trips there in 1886 and 1890. A major center for American artists including James McNeill Whistler and William Merritt Chase, Venice's shimmering light and captivating architecture offered Moran a new kind of romanticism.

The Pearl of Venice, 1899—a gift of Mary McArthur Holland, Betty McArthur Heller, and Mickey McArthur to the Joslyn Art Museum in Omaha—has long been a favorite of visitors. Moran wrote of this painting, "I think it is, perhaps, the finest Venetian picture that I have painted, it is certainly the finest as an expression of the dreamy beauty of Venice." Don't miss this opportunity to watch as the luminous beauty of Moran's masterpiece re-emerges after decades hidden beneath discolored varnish. As this issue of *NHN* goes to press, public conservation is scheduled for Tuesdays 12 to 2 p.m., and Thursdays 4 to 6 p.m., but check joslyn.org before you go.

This project is made possible through a joint partnership between the Joslyn Art Museum and the Nebraska State Historical Society, which operates the Gerald R. Ford Conservation Center. 🌱



Bé performed a cleaning test in the painting's upper right corner. The resulting bright blue patch shows how the original color of the sky is distorted by the deep yellow oxidized varnish.



Uncovering New History with NSHS Research Grants

New research is the lifeblood of our publications and exhibits. Historians look at old events in new ways or explore aspects of our past that no one has thought to examine before. Every year the NSHS awards \$1,000 grants to support the work of scholars researching some aspect of Nebraska history or archeology. This year's recipient is Rebecca Stoil, a PhD candidate in the history department at Johns Hopkins University. Her

project is titled, "Cornhuskers in Congress: Farm Protest, Policy, and Crisis, 1975-1990," and will make extensive use of the NSHS archives, which holds the papers of Governor J. J. Exon, Senator Roman Hruska, and other Nebraska politicians. Grant funding is provided by the Gladys Marie Lux Education Endowment and the Tom and Marilyn Allan Fund, both administered by the Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation. 🌱

UPCOMING EVENTS

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



Two children on a back porch with a hand-cranked ice cream freezer.
NSHS RG2301-2-13

SAVE THE DATE:

October 17

NSHS Annual Awards Luncheon

Holiday Inn Downtown,
141 No. 9th, Lincoln
(registration required)
402-471-3272
lana.hatcher@nebraska.gov

July 1 • 10-11 a.m.

A Fourth of July on the Plains, by Jean Van Leeuwen
Hour at the Museum
Nebraska History Museum (NHM)
15th & P Streets, Lincoln
402-471-4757 • judy.keetle@nebraska.gov

July 2-4

Parade, fireworks, children's activities, with free admission to mill
Old Mill Days and Fourth of July Celebration
Neligh Mill State Historic Site, Neligh
402-887-4303 • nshs.mill@nebraska.gov

July 8 • 10-11 a.m.

How We Crossed the West: The Adventures of Lewis & Clark, by R. Schanzer
Hour at the Museum
NHM
402-471-4757 • judy.keetle@nebraska.gov

July 15 • 10-11 a.m.

Teddy's Cattle Drive: A Story from History, by Marc Simmons
Hour at the Museum
NHM
402-471-4757 • judy.keetle@nebraska.gov

July 17 • 12 noon

Jim Potter
"Thomas B. Hord of Central City: From the Open Range to the Largest Livestock Feeder in the Country"
Brown Bag Lecture Series
NHM

July 19 • 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Horse and wagon rides, historical presentations, Oregon Trail talks, crafts to make and take, music, refreshments
Twentieth Anniversary Celebration of Ethel S. & Christopher J. Abbott Visitor Center
Chimney Rock National Historic Site, Bayard
1-800-833-6747 or 308-586-2581,
www.nebraskahistory.org/sites/rock

July 22 • 10-11 a.m.

The Quilting Bee, by Gail Gibbons
Hour at the Museum
NHM
402-471-4757 • judy.keetle@nebraska.gov

July 29 • 10-11 a.m.

Dandelions, by Eve Bunting
Hour at the Museum
NHM
402-471-4757 • judy.keetle@nebraska.gov

August 3

Nebraska Cowboys: Lives, Legends, and Legacies Exhibition Closing
NHM

August 3 • 1:30 p.m.

Celebration of Neihardt's life and legacy, with lunch available; bleacher seating or bring lawn chairs
Forty-Ninth Annual Neihardt Day
John G. Neihardt State Historic Site, Bancroft
888-777-4667 • www.neihardtcenter.org

August 5 • 10-11 a.m.

Death of the Iron Horse, by Paul Goble
Hour at the Museum
NHM
402-471-4757 • judy.keetle@nebraska.gov

August 9 • 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Speakers, crafts, tours, Native American tacos, Santee Youth Dance Group and more
Genoa U.S. Indian School Reunion/Celebration
Genoa
402-993-6636, or Facebook

August 21 • 12 noon

Peter Bleed
"Why in the World Does the Nebraska State Historical Society Have a Suit of Armor? Lessons from the John G. Bourke Armor"
Brown Bag Lecture Series
NHM

September 1

Closing for Renovation
NHM

September 13 • 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Car show, baking contests, craft show, children's activities, music, food, with free admission to mill
Bread 'N Jam Festival
Neligh Mill State Historic Site, Neligh

September 18 • 12 noon

Linda Hein
"Nebraska's Orphan Trains"
Brown Bag Lecture Series
For location www.nebraskahistory.org

For updated events, see the Society's Facebook page, linked from www.nebraskahistory.org

Register Now for July and August Classes for Kids

The Nebraska State Historical Society is hosting classes for students in grades K-8 again this summer on a variety of topics. May and June classes included sessions on pastimes and playthings, Nebraska cowboys, Native American cache pits, railroads, map symbols, cattle drives, and farm life in Nebraska. July and August classes are:

“Villasur Hide Painting”

July 9, 9:30-12:00 • grades 1-8, \$10/\$8

See the first evidence we have that Europeans were in Nebraska in the 1700s. Learn about the Villasur expedition and the battle that occurred near present-day Columbus. See the Villasur hide in the First Nebraskans exhibit. Make your own hide painting.

“Nebraskans in World War II”

July 9, 1:30-4:00 • grades 4-8, \$10/\$8

How did the war affect people in Nebraska, on the home front and in military service? See war photographs, posters, uniforms, and medals, with two soldiers' memorabilia featured. Learn how Nebraska was a major player in the war effort.

“Victorian Embroidery”

July 16, 9:30-12:00 • grades K-12, \$10/\$8

Learn simple embroidery stitches that Victorian ladies used to embellish their clothing, tablecloths, and handkerchiefs. Make and take your own embellished napkin. This class will meet at the Kennard House, 1627 H Street, Lincoln.

“Block Party: Quilt Projects”

July 17, 9:30-12:00 • grades K-12, \$10/\$8

Enjoy the fine art of quilting. See quilts in the Building the State exhibit and learn about their stories. Practice your quilting skills. Make a quilt project to take home.

“Weather in Nebraska”

July 31 & August 1, 1:30-4:00 • grades 6-8, \$20/\$16

Weather affects how people have lived in this place we now call Nebraska. Study various weather phenomena, such as tornados, droughts, floods, blizzards, thunderstorms, and the wind, that Nebraskans deal with.

“A Day in the Life of a Native American Child”

August 7, 9:00-4:30 • grades K-12, \$30/\$24

Experience and explore the life and culture of a Native American for a day. Bring your lunch. Tour the First Nebraskans exhibit. Make paper sack moccasins, play Indian games, try on hide clothing, create a beadwork project, and more. Nancy Gillis will speak on the history of the five tribes in Nebraska.

All July and August classes will meet at the Nebraska History Museum, 15th & P streets, Lincoln, except for “Victorian Embroidery,” on July 16, which meets at the Kennard House, 1627 H Street, Lincoln. All registrations (required) are on a first-come, first-served basis. Registration forms can be picked up at the NHM or found on the NSHS website under the “For Kids” button. Fees are listed general public/NSHS members. Watch for more details at nebraskahistory.org and on our Facebook page. 📷

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

Deb Arenz
Cindy Drake
Bob Puschendorf
contributors

Ebbeka Design
design & production

Nebraska History News is published quarterly for members of the Nebraska State Historical Society, 1500 R Street, P.O. Box 82554, Lincoln, Nebraska, 68501-2554. Telephone: (402) 471-3270, email: nshs.publish@nebraska.gov. Annual membership in the society is \$40; subscription-only membership is \$29. www.nebraskahistory.org Opinions expressed by writers do not necessarily reflect the views of the NSHS.

Coming in Nebraska History

Although 2014 is a mid-term election year, two forthcoming articles about presidential campaigns nevertheless seem timely. In the Fall issue of *Nebraska History*, Gene Kopelson looks at the events leading up to the 1968 Republican primary in Nebraska, and the behind-the-scenes maneuverings by the campaigns of Michigan Governor George Romney (father of Mitt), New York Governor Nelson Rockefeller, and former Vice President Richard Nixon. All set their sights on Nebraska as an important early primary to win.

Patricia C. Gaster describes the Prohibition Party's dream ticket of 1920: three-time Democratic nominee William Jennings Bryan and revivalist Billy Sunday. Although prohibition was by then the law of the land, many prohibitionists feared that the next presidential administration might not enforce the law vigorously, and they tried to persuade Bryan and Sunday to accept the nomination at the party's national convention in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Margaret Powell rounds out the issue with an exploration of race, fashion, and the intriguing couture tradition at Ak-Sar-Ben, which in 1961 turned to one of the most respected designers on the New York fashion scene to design their ball gowns: Ann Lowe was the first African American designer to establish a couture salon on Madison Avenue, and her fairytale-like gowns appeared in magazines, at the Academy Awards, and were worn by Jacqueline Bouvier and her bridal party when she married John F. Kennedy in 1953. Lowe herself has remained virtually unknown, but her association with Ak-Sar-Ben provides “a treasure chest of information about the work of this mysterious fashion personality.”

Look for the issue in your mailbox the second week of August. 📷



Connie O'Neil in her Ann Lowe gown at the 1961 Ak-Sar-Ben Coronation Ball in Omaha. Photo courtesy of Connie O'Neil

hours

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

Monday–Friday, 9–4:30
Saturday & Sunday, 1–4:30

Museum Store
402-471-3447

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

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

Tuesday–Friday, 10–4
Saturday, 8–5

See Facebook link at
nebraskahistory.org

facebook

State Historic Site hours:
www.nebraskahistory.org

NEBRASKA

history news

Nebraska State Historical Society

From the Collection. . . Šebesta Family Trunk

What was once an ordinary trunk now illustrates a history held in common by many Nebraska families. Imagine what it would be like to leave your country behind, taking with you only what would fit inside a wooden box.

Ignac and Marie Šebesta did just that when they immigrated to the United States around 1910. They packed this trunk and carefully painted their name and destination on the lid (though Tobias isn't quite in Fillmore County). Like many

Czech immigrants, the Šebestas came to Nebraska, where they started out as farm laborers in Milligan and Tobias. They were better off than some: many immigrants could not afford a trunk and packed their belongings in cloth bags.

Along with famous objects and possessions of famous Nebraskans, the *Lincoln Journal Star* recently selected this trunk as one of “37 Icons That Helped Make Nebraska What It Is Today.” It was once a common object telling a common story, which in this case is precisely what makes it iconic. 🇺🇸



NSHS 11055-1237