

Teaching Teachers at NSHS Workshop



Historian Jim Potter fires a flintlock into a block of ballistic gel.

training workshop provided by the Nebraska State Historical Society and funded by a federal Teaching American History grant. Twenty-two teachers from around the state gathered in Lincoln for hands-on experiences centered on historic firearms as well as lectures and discussions during the two-day event.



Archeologist Doug Scott describes historic firearms to teachers at the Nebraska History Museum.

Using objects from NSHS collections, archeologist Doug Scott discussed the evolution of firearm technology at the Nebraska History Museum. The next day he and NSHS historian Jim Potter fired an array of nineteenth-century firearms (mostly replicas). They not only demonstrated how each weapon worked, but discussed the analysis of the shell casings and bullets found at archeological sites.

It looked like a crime scene investigation. Professionals analyzed bullets and shell casings, and test-fired guns into ballistic gel. But these were no ordinary forensic experts. These were. . . school teachers! Educators from Educational Service Unit #2 gathered at the Lincoln Izaak Walton League this past March as part of a “Mastering American History” teacher-

Using historical objects to learn about technological change and archeological investigation is just one of the fascinating ways NSHS helps teachers expand their knowledge and enliven their history classrooms. Wayne State historian Don Hickey and Fremont-based ESU 2 coordinator Diane Wolf, grant project directors, will gather their teacher-students for a second workshop at Ponca State Park in June. Stay tuned to learn more about what NSHS staff are cooking up for round 2! 🍳



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

FROM THE DIRECTOR

History Creators

As The History Channel notes, “History is being made every day.” And so it is, 24/7/365! Events of global, continental, national, regional, local, and personal importance happen every day and indeed they have from the beginning of time. History is made when these events are recorded through the creation of written, verbal, or visual records. More to the point, of course, is that history is also “made” when people use the historical method of fact-finding, verification, and interpretation to create the vehicles through which history makes sense of the events of the past.



“The human story is too large, too diverse, and too important for society to lose any of these history makers.”

Interestingly, humans have created institutions and organizations that parallel the scope of the events of history from the global to the personal. We might identify those by considering the British Museum or the history departments of our major universities as global in scope. The Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C., addresses the North and South American continents, while the Museum of American History is a national treasure. Regionally, we might cite the Cowboy Hall of Fame in Tulsa and of course, our own Nebraska History Museum and its state museum cousins across America, which collect, preserve, and interpret regional history.

If the list stopped there, I would be very concerned that the local stories would be missing. In addition, the personal stories, developed and shared in genealogical societies, could be overlooked.

I would suggest that all of these institutions, as well as those built on “special collections” such as Chicago’s Newberry Library, are of equal importance. Like the mother of a large family who recognizes that each of her offspring is a unique person with important contributions to the household, we can look on each of these historical institutions as playing a key role in making history. Every day, they develop new insights, new stories, and new interpretations for audiences that range from fourth grade classes to college and graduate students, and to the general public.

The human story is too large, too diverse, and too important for society to lose any of these history makers. As Director/CEO of the Nebraska State Historical Society, I am personally committed to supporting all of these history creators for they are all needed if we are to know and benefit from the past. I invite you to join me in this effort through memberships, patronage and financial support. Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Michael J. Smith".

Michael J. Smith
Director/CEO



Panelists at the April 18 Community Conversation were State Sen. Charlie Janssen, Rev. David Lux, Leticia Rodriguez, and Benjamin Kantack. Immigration was the evening’s topic.

Listening to the Community: NSHS “Conversations” Explore Controversial Topics

On March 15 and April 18 the Nebraska State Historical Society tried a new idea. We convened two “community conversations” as part of our ongoing “We the People: The Nebraska Viewpoint” project. Unlike other programming where an authority speaks and an audience listens, these events engaged community members in wrestling with difficult issues we face.

The March 15 conversation centered on cases when free speech feels wrong. The recently decided Supreme Court case *Phelps v. Snyder* confirmed that the speech of members of Westboro Baptist Church, who picket funerals of American soldiers, is protected by the First Amendment. The protestors’ signs proclaim God hates the United States for its tolerance of homosexuals and the death of soldiers is part of divine wrath.

Moderated by NSHS staff member John Carter, the conversation at the Nebraska History Museum was both intense and respectful. Representatives of the American Civil Liberties Union, the Anti-Defamation League, the Patriot Guard Riders (a civic organization that shields the mourners from protestors at veterans’ funerals), and a minister from a church picketed by Westboro learned the facts behind the headlines and struggled with appropriate responses to hateful speech.

Illegal immigration was the focus of a conversation held in partnership with the College of Journalism and Mass Communications at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln April 18. NSHS Director/CEO Mike Smith began the discussion with a historical overview of immigration in Nebraska. Dean Gary Kebbel moderated a panel discussion with State Sen. Charlie Janssen of Fremont, UNL student Benjamin Kantack, the Rev. David Lux of Lincoln's St. Paul United Methodist Church, and Leticia Rodriguez of Madison, a recruiter for the Nebraska Department of Education's Migrant Education Program.

Remarks by each panelist and discussion with audience members in the Anderson Hall auditorium were broadcast live on Lincoln cable channels 5 and 21, radio station KRNU-FM, and streamed live on the web. Twitter updates were offered every two to three minutes by @Neb_Immigration.

The NSHS will continue to serve as a safe place to have difficult conversations. Watch for future topics and dates. Support for the free public events came in part from the Nebraska Humanities Council, the Cooper Foundation, and the Woods Charitable Fund, Inc. 📍

NSHS Employees of the Year

In May the NSHS honored its employee and manager of the year for 2011. Laura Mooney from Museum Collections was named Employee of the Year. Other nominees were Jessie Nunn from Historic Preservation, Kris Riggs from the Museum Store, and Lana Hatcher and Joan Clare from Administration.

David Bristow from Research and Publications was named Manager of the Year. Other nominees were Ann Billesbach from the Museum, Kris Riggs from the Museum Store, and Trisha Nelson from Archeology.

This spring also saw the retirements of two longtime employees: Pat Churray from Library/Archives, and Steve Scoggan from Fort Robinson. 📍

Why Are You a Member? Why Should Someone You Know Be?

Recently we asked some of our members why they joined the NSHS. We're sharing some of their responses below. And we're encouraging *you* to consider why you are a member. We'd love to hear from you at lane.hatcher@nebraska.gov or by mail. But we'd also urge you to share your story about why you are a member with someone you know. Give your friends the chance to connect with Nebraska's fascinating past. Encourage them to contact us at the above email address or call 1-800-833-6747.

Here's what other members have to say:

"It is an excellent resource in doing research for my classes on Great Plains literature as well as for my books on Nebraska writers," writes Susanne George Bloomfield, Professor of English at the University of Nebraska at Kearney. "I encourage my students to use the resources as well. Having so much information available online is a time-saver for those of us in outstate Nebraska. I also read the *Nebraska History* magazine from cover to cover as soon as it arrives."

Mary Blair, a library media specialist at Oak Valley Elementary in Omaha, is writing a series of children's novels about Omaha and Nebraska history. "That was the main reason I joined the Historical Society. I do love the publications and look forward to taking time to explore the museums and other offerings. I am so grateful that we have an organization that helps keep our history and historical items accessible."

Roy Hahn of Scottsbluff writes "I have been and remain intrigued by Nebraska history ever since one of my grade school teachers organized a tour of the Society's collections which were at one time located in the lower reaches of the State Capitol" (the NSHS's home prior to 1953). "More currently, the Society is so populated with quality people who work for it, that I just know our Nebraska history is being well preserved for future generations which will have the same advantage that I had— doesn't this really say it all—which means I want to do my part to sustain the effort." 📍



A few of the Nebraska newspapers available online through *Chronicling America*.

Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers

Thousands of pages from newspapers across the country are now as close as your computer. It sounds revolutionary, and it is.

Chronicling America is an effort to digitize American newspapers and make them available to the public. The project is part of the National Digital Newspaper Program, sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Library of Congress. The online database is at <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov>

Nebraska is one of twenty-two states (plus the District of Columbia) involved so far. Starting in 2007, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln libraries, UNL College of Journalism and Mass Communication, and the Nebraska State Historical Society partnered on a two-year, \$271,000 “We the People” grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Nebraska papers now available: *Alliance Herald*, 1902-1910; *Capital City Courier* (Lincoln), 1887-1893; *Cherry County Independent*

(Valentine), 1892-1896; *Columbus Journal*, 1878-1911; *The Commoner* (Lincoln), 1901-1922; *The Conservative* (Nebraska City), 1898-1902; *Custer County Republican*, 1899-1910; *Falls City Tribune*, 1904-1908; *McCook Tribune*, 1883-1912; *Norfolk Weekly News* (and *News-Journal*), 1899-1909; *Omaha Daily Bee*, 1872-1900; *Red Cloud Chief*, 1873-1922; *Saturday* (and *Sunday*) *Morning Courier* (Lincoln), 1893-1894; *Valentine Democrat* (and *Western News-Democrat*), 1896-1912. (More are being added all the time.)

These newspapers were selected based on significant research value and representation of a range of geographic areas. Native American and foreign language papers are expected additions.

Chronicling America’s growing database offers more than three million newspaper pages published between 1860 and 1922, and information about American newspapers published from 1690 to present. Digitization has two important advantages over microfilm: you can read it on your own computer, and do full-text searches to locate your search terms among a specified range of pages.

Chronicling America will benefit the public in many different ways. It is an excellent source for historians, writers, and genealogists. History books provide an overview and interpretation of the past; newspapers—like the rest of the archival materials that the NSHS provides—allow you to become the historian. 📖

Steffan Baker Joins Trustee Board

Steffan Baker of Ord is the newest member of the NSHS Board of Trustees, representing the Third Congressional District. Baker was runner-up in his district in the most recent NSHS election, and fills the Third District seat vacated by Jim Whittaker of North Platte, who resigned from the board earlier this year. Baker owns Prairie Flower Leather Company, which specializes in replicas of historical military items (especially World War I). He is president of the Valley County Historical Society and serves on the board of Friends of Fort Hartsuff and on the Valley County Veterans Memorial Wall committee. 📖

Nebraska's Anti-Evolution Trial—Before Scopes

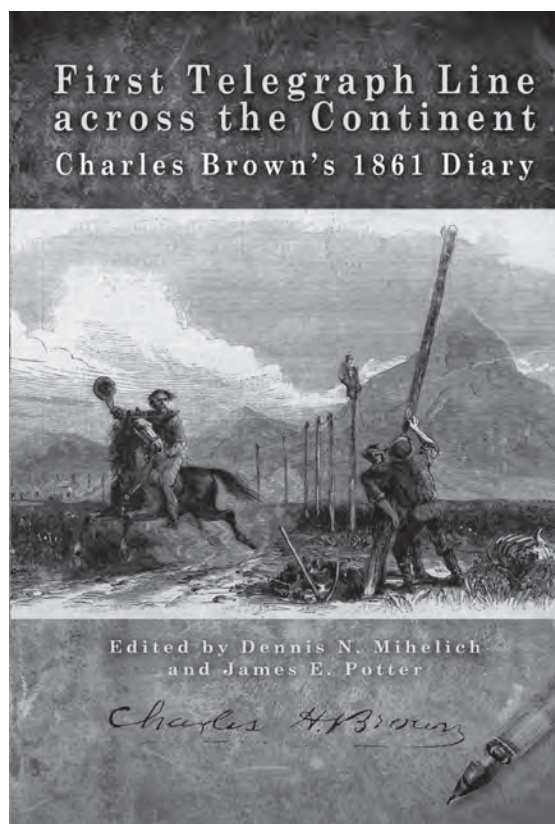
In 1925 a high school biology teacher named John Scopes was arrested for violating a Tennessee law that prohibited the teaching of evolution. Nebraska's William Jennings Bryan represented the prosecution, while well-known defense attorney Clarence Darrow represented Scopes. The trial became a national sensation.

But a year earlier, Nebraska had its own anti-evolution trial, in which a man sued after being fired from a teaching position because he was accused of professing a belief in evolution. This, and not Scopes, is likely the first evolution trial in U.S. history. Why did the Scopes trial gain international attention, while the Nebraska trial faded from view?

To find out, the NSHS has awarded a research grant to Adam Shapiro, a post-doctoral fellow in the Department of Medical History and Bioethics at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Shapiro's research proposal was selected by the grant selection committee in May. The NSHS annually awards \$1,000 research grants to support the work of scholars conducting research on some aspect of Nebraska history or archeology. The grants are awarded to support research into primary sources and interpretive writing related to the history of Nebraska and the Great Plains. 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. 📖

New Reference Room Hours in September

Starting Tuesday, September 6, the Reference Room at the NSHS headquarters in Lincoln will be open the following hours: Tuesday-Friday: 10:00-4:00; Saturday: 8:00-5:00. In other words, it will open an hour later on weekdays, but won't close over the noon hour. Saturday hours remain the same. 📖



First Telegraph Line across the Continent—New Book from NSHS

In August, Nebraska State Historical Society Books will publish *First Telegraph Line across the Continent: Charles Brown's 1861 Diary*, edited by Dennis N. Mihelich and James E. Potter. The softcover book of approximately 130 pages will retail for \$14.95 (\$13.46 for NSHS members), plus tax and shipping.

The transcontinental telegraph was a remarkable technological feat that had major consequences for the West and the nation as a whole. Yet relatively little has been written about it. Recently discovered in the Smithsonian Institution collections, this previously unpublished diary is the only known extensive source written about the day-to-day construction of one segment of the overland telegraph system.

Brown's lively narrative is filled with period detail about individuals, road ranches, attitudes toward Indians, public promotion of the spirit of Manifest Destiny, difficulties facing construction crews, the nature of frontier law enforcement, and even the issues of secession and Civil War.

We'll announce when books are available via our Facebook page. In the meantime you can reserve a copy by calling the Landmark Store at (402) 471-3447. 📖

The Dan Desdunes Band of Omaha in 1923. Douglas County Historical Society



Coming in *Nebraska History*

Omaha's Dan Desdunes lived a remarkable life as a bandleader, educator, and civil rights activist. In his native New Orleans in 1892, he volunteered to enter a whites-only railway car so that he could be arrested and challenge segregation in court. He was acquitted, but his friend Homer Plessy's case went all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court. Desdunes later moved north, where as a successful bandleader he was known as the "father of negro musicians of Omaha." He also volunteered as a bandmaster and music teacher at Father Flanagan's Boys Home, and trained the boys for the fundraising musical tours that helped keep the home solvent. Jesse Otto examines Desdunes's life and career in the forthcoming Fall 2011 issue of *Nebraska History*.

In other articles, David R. Christensen describes how a wartime labor shortage led Box Butte County potato farmers to employ Lakota (Sioux) Indians as harvesters, beginning a tradition that lasted from 1917 through the 1950s. And Patricia C. Gaster tells the story behind a famous Solomon Butcher photo in "*The Nebraska Statesman: The People Behind the Picture*."

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

Save Gas and See the Sites

Historic sites, that is. If the price of gas leads you to plan your summer vacation closer to home, consider visiting NSHS historic sites across the state. NSHS members enjoy free admission and discounts on purchases at stores. To learn more go to www.nebraskahistory.org and click "Visit Places." 📖

Last Chance to See Cather Exhibit

Willa Cather: A Matter of Appearances, at the Nebraska History Museum in Lincoln, will be closing August 31, 2011. If you haven't seen it yet, now's the time to visit. The exhibit includes clothing, toys, dolls, and jewelry that belonged to both Cather and her friends and family. At an early age Cather began to carefully manage her appearance for the public, using clothing as a symbol and statement. The exhibit is a must-see for fans of Cather's writing—and fashion fans as well. 📖

Are You One of the Thousand?

As of April 2011, more than a thousand people are following the NSHS on Facebook. We've been telling you about the NSHS blog, which features new articles, photos, and interesting objects several times a week. By "liking" our Facebook page, you'll be notified via your Facebook feed whenever we have a new blog post—then all you have to do is click the link. You can post comments, ask questions, and send favorite posts to your friends. Find the link to our Facebook page at www.nebraskahistory.org. 📖



Births

Hospital Abbreviations: Bryan, B; Lincoln General, LG; Providence, P; St. Elizabeth, SE.

MONDAY

Stubbenbick, Ronald (Sandra Schultz) 7311 Burlington, girl, LG.

TUESDAY

Caughron, Rodney (Janice Knapp) 3630 St. Mary's, boy, LG.

DeDries, Richard (Donna Axholm) 5311 Aylesworth, boy,

Studing, Richard (Jacqueline Lacey) 2744 N 40, girl, LG.

Stumpff, Thomas (Nancy Saladen) 4021 Lindsay Circle, boy, LG.

Swank, Stephen (Judy Clough) 3335 Portia, girl, LG.

Lincoln Evening Journal, July 31, 1974, with Hilary Swank's birth announcement.

Hilary Swank Is Indeed a Nebraskan

Nebraska can lay claim to being the birthplace of many Academy Award winners: Henry Fonda, Marlon Brando, Darryl Zanuck, and Harold Lloyd, among others. Coupled with those who didn't win Oscars—Robert Taylor, Dorothy McGuire, James Coburn, Hoot Gibson—Nebraska has a veritable “Who's Who” of Hollywood greats.

On the contemporary scene, director Alexander Payne and actress Hilary Swank continue to represent the Cornhusker State as top-flight movie-making talent. Thus far in her career, Swank is among the eleven who have won two Best Actress Oscars. Since she is still young (she turns thirty-seven this year) she has the chance to match Katharine Hepburn's seemingly out-of-reach record of four Academy Awards.

But some have questioned whether Swank is really a Nebraskan, so we checked our sources. A *Lincoln Journal* birth notice shows that a daughter was born to Stephen and Judy (Clough) Swank on July 31, 1974, at what was then Lincoln General Hospital (today's Bryan LGH West).

City directories from the 1970s are also helpful in placing the Swanks in Lincoln. The address

given for them in the northwestern part of the city, was the first of their two Lincoln addresses. At the time of Hilary's birth, they were occupying apartment 2E at 3335 Portia. Stephen M. Swank was a student from 1974 to 1976, while Judy worked as a secretary for the National Bank of Commerce. By 1977 the family resided at 1110 Butler Avenue. Perhaps their financial situation had improved, since Stephen was listed as a recruiter for the State Air National Guard.

According to Swank's official biography, the family moved to Bellingham, Washington, when she was six. The family had likely left Lincoln by 1978, when no further city directory entries are listed. So while she didn't grow up in a trailer park in Lincoln, as she infamously told the director casting her breakthrough role in *Boys Don't Cry* (playing fellow Nebraskan Brandon Teena), Hilary Swank was indeed born in Lincoln. The trailer park existence took place a little later, when the family relocated to Washington. ☞

Save the Date: Great Plains Symposium Scheduled for 2012

An interdisciplinary symposium, “1862-2012: The Making of the Great Plains,” will be sponsored by the Center for Great Plains Studies, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, in collaboration with Homestead National Monument of America, National Park Service. The event will take place March 28-30, 2012, on the University of Nebraska-Lincoln campus and will include an evening at Homestead National Monument near Beatrice. Featured speakers include Sarah Carter, Myron Gutmann, Martin Jischke, William G. Thomas III, David Von Drehle, Elliott West, Richard White, Daniel Wildcat, David Wishart, and Donald Worster. A call for papers has been issued with a deadline of November 1, 2011.

For more information, contact the center at (402) 472-3082 or visit the website: www.unl.edu/plains. Registration will open in December. Symposium co-chairs are Richard Edwards, Professor of Economics and Center for Great Plains Studies, UNL, and Mark Engler, Superintendent, Homestead National Monument. ☞

Husker Heritage Heroes Working to Preserve Collections Statewide

A woman who is housing the 24,000 volumes of her town's library in her garage. Two volunteer historians creating a Polish Heritage Society. The new curator in one of Nebraska's first-settled counties. These "Husker Heritage Heroes" and some seventy others gathered in meetings across the state in April to review a draft statewide collections preservation plan. Those assembled in Chadron, Kearney, Norfolk, and Omaha shared the challenges they face and offered suggestions for how better to acquire and use resources to preserve Nebraska's heritage collections.

Their commentary is part of a new report. See nebraskahistory.org/connect for Assuring the Future of Nebraska's Cultural Heritage Organization Collections: A Statewide Plan. A survey of the needs of 156 Nebraska museums, libraries, and archives are also available on the Connecting to Collections page.

Additional workshops at the meetings began to address a clear objective of the plan: to provide more training for staff and volunteers in museums, libraries, and archives. Thanks to Martha Blegen of 42-line, Chadron; Karen Keehr, Curator of Audio and Visual Collections and Deb Long, Head of Objects Conservation, NSHS; and Tom Claeson of Lyrasis for workshops on digital imaging and document preservation; photographic collections care; creating a collections conservation roadmap; and disaster preparedness planning.

More face-to-face training will be part of future grant proposals. In the interim, don't forget savingtreasures.org, the website NSHS and NET created to provide ready access to practical collections care information you can use to preserve objects of importance to you, your family, and your community.

The meetings and planning process were funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services. NSHS partners include the Nebraska Library Association, Nebraska Museum Association, Nebraska Arts Council and Nebraska Humanities Council. 📖



The 4th U.S. Artillery Regimental Brass Band of Denver entertained at the Fort Robinson History Conference.

The Civil War Comes to Fort Robinson

A sellout crowd of 160 attendees at the Eighth Fort Robinson History Conference held April 28-30 were reminded that the American West was not unaffected by the civil war that tore the nation apart 150 years ago. In fact, the Nebraska State Historical Society and the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, conference co-sponsors, chose the theme "The Civil War in the American West" to recognize the war's sesquicentennial. Several papers focused on specific Civil War events in the West, such as the 1865 Battles of Mud Springs and Rush Creek in Nebraska's Panhandle fought by Union army volunteers and Indians, or the role of the Pawnee Scouts, Native auxiliaries who served alongside U.S. soldiers on the Plains in 1864-65. Other presentations offered a broader context for how the war and particularly Abraham Lincoln's presidency affected the West, both during the war years themselves and for decades to come.

The conference concluded with a concert of Civil War music by the 4th U.S. Artillery Regimental Brass Band of Denver. Its members pursue the study of nineteenth-century military music as a hobby, and present concerts using original or reproduction instruments correct to the period. All in all, the latest in the series of Fort Robinson History Conferences was an entertaining and educational way to kick-off a four-year retrospective on the Civil War and its legacy for Nebraska and U.S. history. 📖

www.nebraskahistory.org

Cool Summer Classes for Kids

The Nebraska State Historical Society is hosting classes for students this summer on a variety of topics.

Grades K-8: "Native American Arts, Crafts, and Games," Laurel Crusinberry, teacher. Learn and make Plains tribes' arts, crafts, and games. July 8 class will be repeated August 5, 9:30-12:00. \$10.00/\$8.00 for NSHS members

Grades 4-8: "Why Do We Have a Constitution?" Lorelee Novak, teacher. Find out when and how the Constitution was written and examine the structure of American government. July 11, 12, and 13, 9:30-12:00. \$30.00/\$24.00 for NSHS members

Grades K-3: "Beauty and the Beast," Phyllis Fischer, Donna Hinkley and Mary Lienemann, teachers. Make puppets and perform a short version of the play that Willa Cather and her friends did in 1888. July 14 and 15, 9:30-12:00. Performances for parents on July 15. \$20.00/\$16.00 for NSHS members

Grades 4-12: "Writing in the Style of Willa Cather," Alex Currie, teacher. Examine and imitate the writing style of Willa Cather. July 21 and 22, 9:30-12:00. \$20.00/\$16.00 for NSHS members.

Grades 9-12: "Civil Rights, Civil Liberties, and the Constitution," Alex Currie, teacher. Discover why the Constitution is as relevant now as it was in 1787. July 27, 28, and 29, 1:30-4:00. \$30.00/\$24.00 for NSHS members

Grades K-12: "Etiquette for a Proper Victorian Lady," Penny Stovall, teacher. Learn about the Victorian Era and the rules and dress ladies were to follow. August 9, 1:30-4:00. \$10.00/\$8.00 for NSHS members.

All classes will tour the related exhibit in the Nebraska History Museum. They will be filled on a first come, first served basis. Registrations and class fees must be received at least two weeks before the start of each class. Questions? Contact Judy Keetle at 402-471-4757, judy.keetle@nebraska.gov.



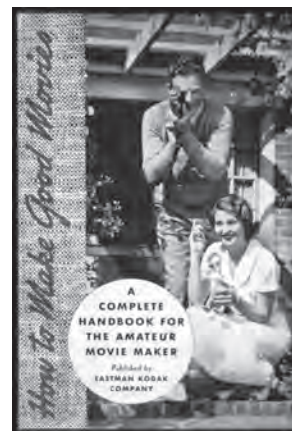
Home Movie Day: A Celebration of a Unique Art Form

Save the date! Saturday, October 15, 2011

Do you have home movies showing choice community and family events in Nebraska that you'd like others to see? You may get the chance to share them at Home Movie Day this October. Home Movie Day is a celebration of amateur-made films and filmmaking held annually at many venues worldwide, now in its tenth year. This fall the NSHS will present Nebraska's first foray into the celebration of this special craft as our annual Archives Week event.

This all-day experience will feature an illustrated talk on home movies, including their history, why home movies are special and how to identify and care for your films. In the afternoon comes a screening of home movies, including special picks from the NSHS's own collections and select footage from your own caches of home movie reels!

If you're interested in contributing your movies for possible inclusion in the Home Movie Day screening contact Paul Eisloeffel at (402) 471-7837 or paul.eisloeffel@nebraska.gov. The deadline for contributions is September 1, 2011.



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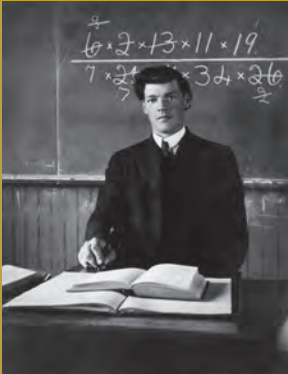
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UPCOMING EVENTS

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



John Nelson's photograph from 1907-17 depicts a teacher with a mathematics problem on the chalkboard behind him. NSHS RG3542-95-5

July 4 • 5:30 p.m.

Old Mill Days and Fourth of July Celebration
Neligh, 402-887-4303, nshs.mill@nebraska.gov

July 5, 12, 19, 26 • 10 - 11 a.m.

**Picture book readings with related activities for all ages
Hour at the Museum**
Nebraska History Museum (NHM),
15th & P streets, Lincoln, judy.keetle@nebraska.gov

July 8 • 9:30 a.m. - 12 noon

**"Native American Arts, Crafts, and Games" (Grades K-8)
Summer Classes for Kids**
NHM, (registration required), judy.keetle@nebraska.gov

July 9 • 1:30 - 2:30 p.m.

**Are We There Yet? by April Whitten
Book Signing**
Landmark Store, NHM, 402-471-3447

July 11, 12 & 13 • 9:30 a.m. - 12 noon

**"Why Do We Have a Constitution?" (Grades 4-8)
Summer Classes for Kids**
NHM (registration required), judy.keetle@nebraska.gov

July 14 & 15 • 9:30 a.m. - 12 noon

**"Beauty and the Beast" (Grades K-3)
Summer Classes for Kids**
NHM (registration required), judy.keetle@nebraska.gov

July 21 • 12 noon

Jim Potter, NSHS Research & Publications Division
**"Nebraska and the Civil War: Why the Story Matters"
Brown Bag Lecture Series**
NHM

July 21 & 22 • 9:30 a.m. - 12 noon

**"Writing in the Style of Willa Cather" (Grades 4-12)
Summer Classes for Kids**
NHM (registration required), judy.keetle@nebraska.gov

July 27, 28 & 29 • 1:30 - 4 p.m.

**"Civil Rights, Civil Liberties, and the Constitution"
(Grades 9-12)
Summer Classes for Kids**
NHM (registration required), judy.keetle@nebraska.gov

August 2 - 7

**Remembering Robert Taylor:
100th Birthday Film Festival**
Beatrice, Gage County Museum, 402-228-1679

August 2, 9 • 10 - 11 a.m.

**Picture book readings with related activities for all ages
Hour at the Museum**
NHM, judy.keetle@nebraska.gov

August 5 • 9:30 a.m. - 12 noon

**"Native American Arts, Crafts, and Games" (Grades K-8)
Summer Classes for Kids**
NHM (registration required), judy.keetle@nebraska.gov

August 6 • 6 - 9 p.m.

**Food, fun, music to benefit Neihardt State Historic Site
Neihardt Beer Fest**
Main Street, Bancroft

August 7 • 1 - 4 p.m.

**Program with Dr. Richard Jensen
46th Annual Neihardt Day**
John G. Neihardt State Historic Site, 306 W. Elm Street,
Bancroft, 888-777-4667, www.neihardtcenter.org

August 9 • 1:30 - 4 p.m.

**"Etiquette for a Proper Victorian Lady" (Grades K-12)
Summer Classes for Kids**
NHM (registration required), judy.keetle@nebraska.gov

August 18 • 12 noon

Ron Hull, NET senior advisor
**"Fifty Years of History from the Archives of NET"
Brown Bag Lecture Series**
NHM

August 20 • 1:30 - 2:30 p.m.

**Game Day, by Mary Jane Nielson and Jonathan Roth
Book Signing**
Landmark Store, NHM, 402-471-3447

August 31

**Willa Cather: A Matter of Appearances
Exhibition Closing**
NHM

September 10

**Bread 'N Jam Festival
Baking contests, music, car show and more**
Neligh Mill State Historic Site, Neligh, 402-887-4303
nshs.mill@nebraska.gov

September 11 • 2 p.m.

**Lisa Sandlin, author
Sunday Afternoon at the Museum**
John G. Neihardt State Historic Site

September 15 • 12 noon

Bruce Thorson, UNL School of Journalism
**"Nebraska in the Great Recession"
Brown Bag Lecture Series**
NHM

September 25 • 1:30 - 2:30 p.m.

**Sharpie: The Life Story of Evelyn Sharp-Nebraska's
Aviatix, by Diane R. Armour Bartels
Book Signing**
Landmark Store, NHM, 402-471-3447

Save the Dates:

October 14

NSHS Annual Meeting and Awards Luncheon
Holiday Inn, 141 No. 9th, Lincoln (registration required),
402-471-3272, lana.hatcher@nebraska.gov

October 15

**"Home Movie Day"
National Archives Week Event**
NHM, 402-471-7837, paul.eisloeffel@nebraska.gov

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



Nebraska State Historical Society FOUNDATION

NSHS Foundation News

This December marks the seventieth anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor. Seventy years is beyond most Americans' memories, but two scholarships are ensuring that young Nebraskans remember the sacrifices of the men and women who gave their lives for freedom. The \$1,000 Nebraskans of World War II Scholarship and the \$100 Pearl Harbor Remembrance Award were awarded to six and eighteen students, respectively.

The Pearl Harbor Remembrance Fund was created by Col. Barney Oldfield and his wife, Vada, to honor the twenty-two Nebraska sailors that remain entombed aboard the *USS Arizona*. High achieving seniors attending the high schools from the hometowns of the honored sailors are qualified to apply. Deserving seniors are nominated by a principal or teacher to be eligible for the award. This year's recipients of the awards and their hometowns are: Logan Miller, Broken Bow; Caranda Gerke, North Bend; Tiffany Reimers, Central City; Jessica Finnegan, Cozad; Kaleb Thomas, Potter; Kenton Gewecke, Kearney; Brennan Costello, Gothenburg; Rachel Nozicka, Ravenna; Dane Stahr, Lincoln; Erin Oswald, Madison; Jennifer Sauers, Big Springs; Naomi Goosen, Omaha; Andrea Hoban, Heartwell; Jenna Jutten, Palisade; Elizabeth Bergin, Omaha; Lisa Pohlmeier, Lawrence; Alyssa Bolles, Alda and Andrew Martinez, Omaha.

The Nebraskans of World War II Scholarship is awarded to students who have a high GPA, excellent recommendations, and outstanding writing abilities. This year's essay topic was the "The

Significance of World War II to You and Your Community." Two servicemen, in particular, are honored by their families through these scholarships: Edward J. Clough and Adrian B. DePutron, both of Lincoln. This year's award recipients are Joel Alan Benson of Grand Island and Central City High School, Kaelyse N. Clapper of Minden and Minden High School, Jeffrey Garst of Omaha and Ralston High School, Megan Linn of Broken Bow and Broken Bow High School, Tanner Schwanz of Gothenburg and Gothenburg High School and Daniel P. Wheaton of Cozad and Cozad High School.

Members of the Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation Scholarship Committee, which chose the scholarship recipients, were Syd Kruse, Kay Kimberly, Rae Brown, Carrie Bence, Diane Oldfather, Mike Tate, Gerald Dimon, and Chuck Burmeister. The Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation looks forward to continuing these scholarships for generations to come. Please contact Jodi Knight, NSHSF Development Director, at (402) 435-3535 if you would like to continue the tradition by providing your support.

Meg Klosterman Kester

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Hickam Field, Hawaii, December 7, 1941. From a collection donated to the NSHS by Denver David Gray, a Lincoln man who was an Army Air Force lieutenant at Hickam Field at the time of Pearl Harbor. The photo by PFC P. E. Pelkey appeared on the front page of the *Honolulu Advertiser*. NSHS RG1389-24



From the left Gerry Dimon, Syd Kruse, Jeffrey Garst, Joel Benson, and Chuck Burmeister who were in attendance at the NSHS Foundation Annual Meeting where WWII Scholarship winners were recognized.



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hours

Nebraska History Museum

15 & P Streets, Lincoln
402-471-4754

Monday-Friday, 9-4:30
Sat. & Sun., 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, 9-12, 1-4
(After 9/5: Tue-Fri 10-4)
Saturday 8-5



See Facebook link at
nebraskahistory.org

State Historic Site hours:
www.nebraskahistory.org

NEBRASKA history news



Nebraska State Historical Society

From the Collection. . .

By Lightning!

The telegraph was a technological marvel in its day. When the first telegraph line reached Brownville, Nebraska Territory, in 1860, the local newspaper exultantly proclaimed what could as well be the watchword of the digital age: “By Lightning, Telegraph to Brownville, Time and Space Annihilated.”

Perhaps some of that wonder was felt by Frank Becker, Platte County’s first telegrapher, who used the telegraph key shown here. Or by William Stolley, whose name appears on this 1876 receipt. Stolley was one of a small band of German immigrants who came to the central Platte Valley of the Nebraska Territory in 1857. He filed the first squatter’s claim in Hall County, which the Nebraska Legislature later designated as Stolley State Park in 1927.



A new book from the NSHS tells the story of the building of the transcontinental telegraph. In August we will publish *First Telegraph Line across the Continent: Charles Brown’s 1861 Diary* (see p. 5).