

NEBRASKA history news

Volume 66 / Number 3 / July/August/September 2013

Cowboy Exhibit Opens September 23; Opening Reception Thursday, October 10

Saddle up for *Nebraska Cowboys: Lives, Legends, and Legacies*, opening September 23 at the Nebraska History Museum, Centennial Mall at P Street, Lincoln. And save the date for “the roundup,” a special opening reception for members and friends of Nebraska history the evening of October 10.

Cowboys are the stuff of myth, legend, pulp fiction, Hollywood, and history! This American icon is widely recognized around the world. Beneath the romantic cowboy image were daily lives filled with hard work. This relative handful of mostly anonymous laborers on horseback trailed the longhorns north from Texas and worked the open ranges of the Great Plains during the last half of the nineteenth century. Little is known about most of them because the period in which they flourished was so brief. The era of open-range ranching came and

went in the American West in the space of a single lifetime.

Nebraska had its share of “old time” cowboys, some white, some black, and some Hispanic. They drove cattle to Nebraska railheads and Indian agencies, careered over the grasslands during spring roundups, occasionally shot up towns such as Ogallala or each other, and discovered that the Sandhills was a cattle paradise. Most were young, single, and footloose. A few went on to become law officers, politicians, businessmen, and ranch owners. Some found early graves in small-town Boot Hills or on the trackless prairie. Others simply faded into history’s mists.

By the early twentieth century, as privately owned ranches replaced the open range, Nebraska cowboys had become ranch hands,



Herd Bull's Stand by Harry W. Brunk, oil on canvas, 1974-75. NSHS 7294-3579

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



Place matters.

History, Yes.

We humans have a predilection for seeing certain things outside our own orbits as not only better than what we have, but transferrable. Whether it is business, education, health care, social services, resource use, or something else, some tout what they discover as better for Nebraska and argue that it should be transferred here.

But it's really not that simple, is it? Even though we can and should learn from others, we really cannot transfer just anything to Nebraska. And why is that? Well, place matters. Let's use the Asian economic powerhouse of Singapore as an example. That nation and Nebraska are different in many, many ways. So are the people who live there and here. Could we really be another Singapore?

How do we begin to understand what might or might not work here? That is where history comes in. The history of Nebraska people and places seems accessible when experienced at a tribal powwow, an old-time threshing event, or in the hands-on Investigation Station at the Nebraska History Museum, but our history goes much deeper than music and dance, the costumes of yesteryear, or operating an antique piece of equipment.

When we study history we soon realize that the stories of human societies are rooted in particular places composed of air, land, water, plants, and animals. Because of this particularity, Nebraska is, in large and small ways, unlike any other place.

So the "fixers" of our time, whether from government, academia, business, the social sector, or seated in the downtown coffee shop or the Tuesday church circle, would do well to learn Nebraska's history for what it teaches about change and resistance to change. We also need to do all we can to ensure that our children get well grounded in Nebraska's heritage. As we consider importing ideas we must remember that our history offers both limits and possibilities in surprising ways.

Michael J. Smith
Director/CEO

Continued from p. 1

as likely to build fences, tend windmills, and put up hay as they were to rope calves and turn back stampedes. But these Nebraska cowboys continue to play an important role in our state's beef producing economy.

Nebraska Cowboys: Lives, Legends, and Legacies will tell multiple stories: the Vaquero origins of American cowboys; brands and branding; cowboy gear and food; cowboy guns; and Nebraska saddle makers. You will learn about cowboys who have been unintentionally immortalized in penitentiary mug shots or by wooden markers that once stood over their lonely graves; see a rare plastic saddle manufactured in the 1940s by a company based in Lusk, Wyoming, and Scottsbluff; and be awed by an elaborate prize saddle won by PRCA rodeo champion Scott "Ote" Berry of Gordon. You will meet Nebraskans who were Wild West Show performers with "Buffalo Bill" (Phelps County's George Johnson), film and television stars (Edmund "Hoot" Gibson and Ward Bond), trick ropers (Joan Wells), and radio personalities ("Texas Mary" Mihalavich Marsich). And the exhibit will feature some twenty-first-century cowboys' tools of the trade. Many of the items in the exhibit have been borrowed from museums across the state, providing an opportunity to see some of Nebraska's best cowboy artifacts together in one place. Watch for more information about the special opening event, and lectures, performances, and more. *Nebraska Cowboys* will be on display through January 5, 2015. ☒



Lantern slide for *Ridin' Wild* (1922). Born Edmund (not Edward as shown here) Gibson in Tekamah, Nebraska, "Hoot" Gibson (1892-1962) was one of the most popular Western movie stars of the 1920s. NSHS 11398-16

Fourth Graders Spot Discrepancies in Historical Marker, Books

Every word of textbooks and historical markers must be accurate, because “they couldn’t print it if it wasn’t true,” right? Thomas Pargett’s fourth graders know better. In February, Pargett, a teacher at Randolph Elementary in Lincoln, told his students about a discrepancy between two historical markers. The class then investigated numerous books and articles and found that they differed on certain facts. Then the class wrote to the NSHS for an explanation.

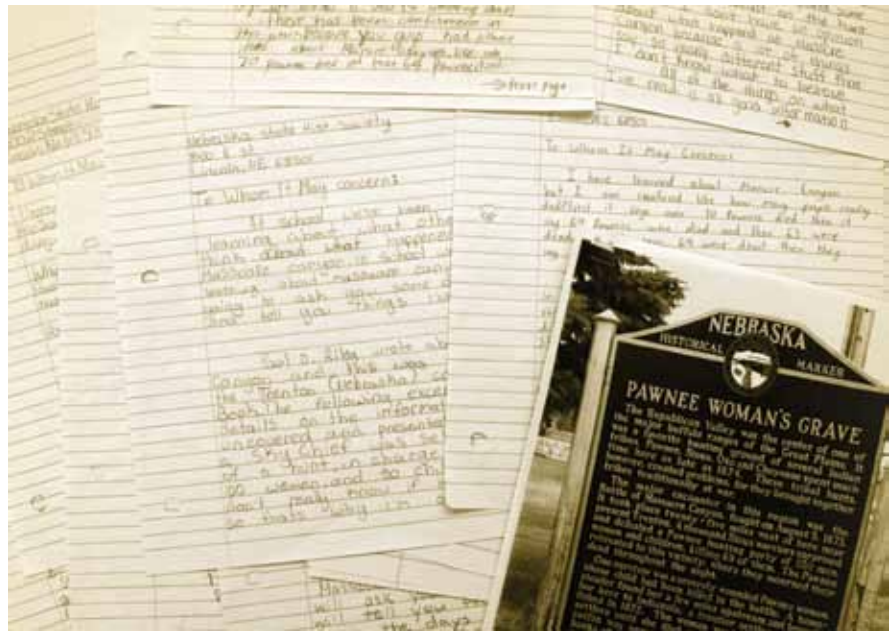
And that made our day—because history isn’t simply about memorizing facts. It’s about asking questions: What really happened, and why? How do we know that what’s in print is the real story? If two sources differ, how do you figure out which one is right? (We wish more grownups would ask these questions.)

The event in question is the Battle of Massacre Canyon. In 1873, a group of Lakotas (Sioux) attacked a hunting party of Pawnees near present-day Trenton, Nebraska. The lopsided fight was a disaster for the Pawnees. Two historical markers (both placed by the NSHS) commemorate the tragedy, one near Trenton along Highway 34, and one in the Indianola City Park, marking the grave of a Pawnee woman who died nearby of her injuries. The markers differ on the number of Pawnees who were present (the Trenton marker says 700; the Indianola marker says 350), and the markers and various sources disagree on the number of Pawnees killed and whether or not the cavalry arrived to break up the fight.

We could have just given the students the answers: that while it’s difficult to know exactly what happened in a running battle, the most reliable details appear to be 350 Pawnees present and 69 killed. Cavalry were in the vicinity but probably weren’t a factor in the massacre’s conclusion.

But that wouldn’t answer the most important question: How do we know?

Our complete reply to the students is now posted at blog.nebraskahistory.org, but here’s a summary. Historians talk about primary and secondary sources. A primary source comes from somebody who was present at the event: things like army reports, letters, or other eyewitness accounts, photos, or artifacts. Secondary sources (such as textbooks and historical markers) are written later by people who weren’t there. They are helpful because they bring together information so you don’t have to go find all the



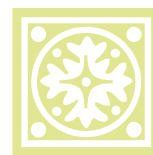
old letters and reports and diaries yourself. But when secondary sources disagree and you want to know who’s right, the thing to do is to look at the primary sources. That’s how historians settle arguments.

And so that’s what we did, looking at eyewitness testimony and at the results of a Pawnee census taken shortly after the battle. And we talked about how the marker at Indianola was placed fourteen years later than the one in Trenton, and was written by a different historian who apparently had more complete sources than his predecessors.

Mostly we wanted to show students a bit of history’s detective work—which is not only a lot of fun, but is also a great way to acquire the skills of an informed citizen.

Pargett’s class project isn’t just a happy accident. He is an alumnus of the Nebraska Institute, a summer program for teachers co-sponsored by the NSHS and Nebraska Wesleyan University. Nebraska Institute teaches teachers how to use active learning and primary source materials to make history come alive for students. These teachers are transforming how Nebraska students learn about the past and build skills for the future. 🌻

A few of the letters and supporting materials sent to the NSHS by Mr. Pargett’s fourth graders.



The Painting that Inspired Willa Cather

In *My Ántonia* Nebraska's lauded author, Willa Cather, spins a story within a story. She recasts a Russian folktale of a horde of wolves, in the dead of winter, chasing down a wedding party in horse-drawn sledges. Ultimately the bride and groom are sacrificed to the snarling beasts. She writes, "The wolves were bad that winter, and everyone knew it, yet when they heard the first wolf-cry, the drivers were not much alarmed. . . . A black drove came up over the hill behind the wedding party. The wolves ran like streaks of shadow; they looked no bigger than dogs, but there were hundreds of them."

This scene would fit well in a Stephen King novel.

Cather's 1918 novel draws largely on her own childhood in Nebraska, and the Russian folktale has a curious connection to this early life. In 1887 artist Paul Powis (not to be confused with a living American artist of the same name) rendered the story on a large canvas that later hung proudly in the school in Cather's home town of Red Cloud. A young and impressionable Cather would have regularly passed the work.

As time passed the painting was relegated to a storage area in the school. There either time or a human agent assaulted the canvas, gashing it severely with horizontal cuts.

This marvelous painting is now part of the Nebraska State Historical Society's Willa Cather Pioneer Memorial Collection. It has long been displayed in the Garber Bank at the Willa Cather State Historic Site, cuts and all.

The damage to the canvas is visually distracting and also detracts from its use as an illustration of an early influence on a Pulitzer Prize-winning American author. The work is now under the care of Kenneth Bé, head of paintings conservation at the NSHS's Gerald R. Ford Conservation Center in Omaha.


Was the damage the work of a slasher?

Bé isn't so sure. It could be knife work, he said, but "sometimes a canvas will just unzip." Whatever the cause, the damage presents the conservator with a challenge.

"I thought that if I replaced the previous lining repair I could simply draw the damaged pieces back together, but after a lot of work, I discovered that the separated pieces were not going to come together. Over time the gaps in the torn canvas had become permanent as the canvas has adjusted to its torn state. By trying to pull the torn edges together, the paint layers were subjected to undue stress."

Bé had to begin again. He removed the new lining and tried a different material. His plan is to bring the damaged (and now misaligned) pieces together as closely as possible, and then skillfully in-paint the remaining wound to make it nigh invisible.

That slow work is currently underway. The painting's surface has yet to be thoroughly cleaned and there is other damage to be retouched carefully. Once done, the object will once again be not only a fine work of art, but also a worthy piece of evidence for the exploration of one of America's most important writers.

We will revisit Bé when his efforts are complete. Visit nebraskahistory.org/conserv for more information about the services available at the Ford Center. 

Paul Powis's 1887 painting of a Russian folktale.





A grading crew works on the Lincoln Highway near Central City, Nebraska, in 1915, the same year the Grand Island Seedling Mile was built to promote concrete pavement. NSHS RG2241-1-70

National Register Lists Grand Island Seedling Mile

The Grand Island Seedling Mile has been listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Built in 1915, it represents Nebraska's contribution to the Lincoln Highway, the nation's first coast-to-coast automobile route.

When the Lincoln Highway was established in 1913, it wasn't envisioned as a dirt road like most in the nation, but was to be paved with concrete. The push for better roads came from the increasing popularity of cars. Between 1904 and 1910, the number of car-owning Americans increased nearly ten-fold, from 55,000 to 500,000. The Lincoln Highway Association led the national effort to build the highway, under guidance by three men deep in the auto industry: Frank Seiberling of Goodyear Tires, Henry Joy of Packard Motors, and Carl Fisher of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

Without funds to pave all the way from New York to San Francisco, Seiberling, Joy, and Fisher proposed to build the highway from "seedling" sections of concrete. They hoped their passion for pavement would trickle down to the local level once the public saw how much better it was to drive on concrete. Fred W. Ashton, the Hall County consul to the Lincoln Highway Association, led the effort to build the section of improved road in Grand Island.

The Lincoln Highway wasn't completed until 1928 when Boy Scout troops installed concrete markers to officially dedicate the highway to President Lincoln. By 1931 most of the Lincoln Highway in Nebraska had become part of U.S. Highway 30.

The remaining 315-foot section of the Seedling Mile stands as a "good, honest piece of road...that will be as durable as it can be made," as Henry Ostermann, field secretary and consul for the Lincoln Highway Association, observed when he first saw it in 1915. 🏠

500th Historical Marker Dedication to Celebrate Lincoln Highway Centennial

Join us as we celebrate the centennial of the Lincoln Highway and the dedication of Nebraska's 500th highway historical marker along a segment of the historic highway between Omaha and Elkhorn. The ceremony will be held at 1:00 p.m., Saturday, June 29, 2013, between 180th and 192nd streets on the Old Lincoln Highway, east of Elkhorn.

Speakers at the event will be Drake Hokanson, a Lincoln Highway historian, and State Senator Beau McCoy, who will recognize Eagle Scout James Kopsa for his work to repaint the highway's mile markers. Owners of 1913 cars are invited to participate.



The Lincoln Highway was formally dedicated October 31, 1913.

To register your vehicle for special recognition, contact Jackie Sojico before May 31 at 402-471-4417 or jacqueline.sojico@nebraska.gov. 🏠

Also New to the National Register

The Nottingham Apartments • 3304 Burt Street, Omaha

This Tudor Revival style example is one of many apartments constructed during Omaha's dramatic population boom in the 1920s.

Omaha Park and Boulevard System • Omaha

Designed by H.W.S. Cleveland in the late 1800s and completed in 1918, this is one of the earliest Midwestern examples of a citywide system offering public green space.

The Ottawa Block • 2401 Farnam Street, Omaha

These Prairie School style buildings, designed by local architects John and Alan McDonald, stand as a legacy to the influence and success of Phelan & Shirley Company, an Omaha railroad contracting business.

Bethpage Mission • 1044 23rd Road, Axtell vicinity

Rev. Kjell Gustav William Dahl, pastor of the Bethpage Lutheran Church, founded the 40-acre campus in 1913 to care for disabled individuals in the state.

Citizens State Bank • 204 Pine Street, Creston

Built in 1920 in the Beaux Arts style with a terra cotta exterior, the building symbolized the bank's success. Its failure in 1931 also highlights the volatile nature of the banking industry throughout the early part of the century.



Standing on the very spot where Crazy Horse was fatally stabbed in 1877, keynote speaker Thomas Powers describes the Lakota leader's final day. Powers, a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, is the author of *The Killing of Crazy Horse*.

Sellout Crowd Enjoys Fort Robinson History Conference

More than 150 frontier military history buffs packed the Post Playhouse during the Ninth Fort Robinson History Conference April 25-27. The semi-annual event has been co-sponsored by the NSHS and the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission. Attendees took a bus tour to Wounded Knee, South Dakota, site of the infamous 1890 massacre, where historian Jerome Greene explained what happened and why. Back at the fort, historians presented papers on a variety of topics related to this year's "After the Indian Wars" theme. Keynote speaker Thomas Powers described the events surrounding the killing of Crazy Horse, and historian



Attendees of the Ninth Fort Robinson History Conference, standing outside the Post Playhouse.

John D. "Jack" McDermott was honored for his research and writing on the Indian wars. 📖

Nebraska and the 1948 Abraham Lincoln Friendship Train

In the aftermath of World War II Europe was a shambles. Allies and enemies alike had their agricultural systems devastated and their road and rail infrastructure reduced to rubble. In Japan and on the island battlegrounds of the Pacific things were no better. A large part of the postwar world faced calamitous famine.

America's agriculture was still mobilized for war, and food production was at record levels. Continued strict government controls assured not only a stable domestic food supply, but a surplus that could help ease the suffering of a starving world.

In September 1948 the Christian Rural Overseas Program (CROP) announced plans for a major relief effort. Made up of more than seventy-five church, civic, and charitable organizations, CROP put

together a 150-car train packed with relief supplies. In December they called for donations of carload lots of wheat, corn, oats, beans, flour, hogs, and cattle. The grain and live animals would be taken to Omaha and exchanged for canned meat and processed flour and cereal. That in turn would be shipped to a starving world.

Organizations decided that the train would be dedicated to Abraham Lincoln, begin its travels in Lincoln, Nebraska, on February 12, Lincoln's birthday, and move through Iowa and Lincoln's home state of Illinois collecting donations. Their slogan was, "A car of relief food for every Nebraska county." Soon the organization had substantial commitments from Kansas, Colorado, Wyoming, and Indiana, bringing the total of contributing states to seven.

Carl Sandburg, the noted poet and Lincoln biographer, joined the project as honorary chairman. In an interview with the *Lincoln Journal* published on January 9, 1949, Sandburg said, "This is a good way to honor the memory of a great man: He knew what it was like to be hungry. . . . Let the farmers of the prairies open up their grain bins, their cattle pens and their hearts that the crying of hungry babies may become the laughter of happy children."

This was not the only relief effort, nor the first relief train. A friendship train launched in 1947, one that made a number of stops in Nebraska, collected food for France and Italy. But the Abraham Lincoln Friendship Train was a huge project, a grassroots project born in Nebraska.

Feeding a war-torn world was not only an act of charity. Food became a strategic weapon during the Cold War, one that galvanized former enemies into solid friends. 📖

The Abraham Lincoln Friendship Train in Springfield, Illinois. Lincoln Library, Springfield, Illinois





Treasures from Nebraska Museums

Selectd items from the Weeping Water Valley Museum Complex will be displayed at the Nebraska History Museum from July through October. This collection of historic buildings includes the Memory Lane Museum at 215 W. Eldora, and the Heritage House Museum, a historic medical office, and the Kunkel Building, all located on the southeast corner of Randolph and H Street in the Cass County town of Weeping Water. The buildings house displays on Native American culture, frontier life, a nineteenth century homeopathic doctor's office, and recreations of the community's early businesses.

The Heritage House Museum is open Sundays, 1:00 to 5:00 p.m., May through September, and by appointment. Memory Lane is open "most summer mornings," 10:00 a.m. to 2 p.m., and by appointment. Admission is free, but donations are accepted. weepingwaterhistory.org, 402-267-4925. 📍



Now on display in the Memory Lane Museum, this soda fountain was originally in the Wilkinson Confectionary in Weeping Water.



Dr. L. N. Kunkel (1902-1989), a local physician and archeologist, also created reproductions of antique violins like this one.



What is now the Heritage House Museum was built of native limestone by the Congregational Church as a parsonage in 1867.



Metal splints used by Dr. F. W. Kruse between 1916 and 1933.

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 recipients and topics:

David Christensen (University of Nevada-Las Vegas), "There are Four People Buried Real Deep and Forever': The Struggle for Social Reform in a Western Nebraska Lakota Community, 1950-1975"; Amy Forss (Metropolitan Community College, Omaha), "Doris

Royal, One Can be an Influence: Nebraska Petitioner Amends the Widow's Tax"; and Kevin Kim (Stanford University), "In the Shadow of Herbert Hoover: Kenneth Wherry, Hugh Butler, and Other Leading Nebraskans in the Rise and Fall of Conservative Internationalism, 1892-1965."

Grant recipients will research their projects at the NSHS at some point during the coming year, and submit manuscripts for publication by April 1, 2014. (Last year's grants resulted in two articles that will appear this year in *Nebraska History*, plus an article for *Central Plains Archeology*.) 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. ☒

Nebraska's Miss America: Teresa Scanlan

The March 1 opening of *Nebraska's Miss America: Teresa Scanlan* brought a full house to the Nebraska History Museum in Lincoln. Dignitaries included U.S. Representatives Jeff Fortenberry and Adrian Smith, Commander Jason Wartell of the U.S. Navy submarine *USS Nebraska* (SSBN 739), Nebraska Press Association Executive Director Allen Beermann, State Sen. John Harms, and of course, Scanlan herself. The exhibit will be open through September 3, 2013. ☒

Left to right: State Sen. John Harms, U.S. Rep. Adrian Smith, Teresa Scanlan, Nebraska Press Association Executive Director Allen Beermann, Cmdr. Jason Wartell, U.S. Rep. Jeff Fortenberry, and Mark Scanlan (Teresa's father).



Scanlan surrounded by flashing cameras and her young fans.



Part of the exhibit features dresses that Scanlan wore during the Miss America pageant.

NSHS Publications Win National Awards

Nebraska's *Post Office Murals: Born of the Depression, Fostered by the New Deal* has been named a 2013 Award of Merit winner by the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH). Published by the NSHS (see nebraskahistory.org/murals), the book was written by L. Robert Puschendorf, NSHS associate director and deputy state historic preservation officer. James C. and Rhonda Seacrest of Lincoln provided funding for the book.

The AASLH Leadership in History Awards is the nation's most prestigious competition for recognition of achievement in state and local history. The Award of Merit is presented to recognize excellence for projects (including civic engagement, special projects, educational programs, exhibits, publications, restoration projects, etc.), individual achievement, and organizational general excellence.

"Wearing the Hempen Neck-Tie: Lynching in Nebraska, 1858-1919," by James E. Potter, has been named a Spur Award Finalist by the Western Writers of America. The article appeared in the Fall 2012 issue of *Nebraska History*. Since 1953 the WWA Spur Awards have honored the best in Western fiction, nonfiction, song, poetry, and film scripting. Potter is the senior research historian for the NSHS and author of *Standing Firmly by the Flag: Nebraska Territory and the Civil War, 1861-1867* (University of Nebraska Press).

To order your copies, contact the NSHS's Landmark Stores at 402-471-3447. ☎

Last Chance to See Falter

If you haven't seen the Nebraska History Museum exhibit *The Illustrator's Pencil: John Falter from Nebraska to The Saturday Evening Post*, now is the time to plan a trip. The exhibit devoted to the life and work of the Nebraska-born-and-raised illustrator closes August 9. ☎



World War II poster by John Falter. NSHS 4541-358

Receive Nebraska History News by Email

Trying to reduce the amount of paper cluttering up your house? You can receive this publication by email. We'll send it to you as a PDF file, which can be read on any computer, Kindle, or other ebook reader. (PDFs of this and past issues are also available at nebraskahistory.org; click the Publications tab and select "Newsletters.") Contact Lana Hatcher at lane.hatcher@nebraska.gov, 402-471-3447.



A 2010 flood damaged the 1910 bridge at Neligh Mill State Historic Site. Earlier this year the 140-foot-long bridge's south end was lifted by crane (shown here) so its pilings could be replaced. Workers also rebuilt the timber decking and repaired guardrails. The Neligh Mill bridge is a "Pratt truss" bridge, a design that was common in the U.S. between 1844 and the early twentieth century. It is noteworthy as a well-preserved example of this mainstay structural type for wagon bridges in Nebraska.

Like Us on Facebook

"Liking" our Facebook page is the simplest way to keep up on upcoming events, read fascinating tidbits from Nebraska's past, and to share photos and commentary about your visits to Nebraska historic sites. Just search for "Nebraska State Historical Society" in the Facebook search window, or follow the link from nebraskahistory.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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



Lucile and Fred Whaley, each holding an American flag, about 1912.
NSHS RG0907-1-4

SAVE THE DATE

October 10

Opening reception for *Nebraska Cowboys, Lives, Legends, and Legacies*

October 11

NSHS Annual

Awards Luncheon

Holiday Inn Downtown
141 No. 9th, Lincoln
(registration required)
402-471-3272

lana.hatcher@nebraska.gov



June 29 • 1 p.m.

2013 Lincoln Highway Centennial Celebration Historical Marker Dedication Ceremony

Between 180th and 192nd streets, on Old Lincoln Highway, east of Elkhorn • Jackie Sojico
402-471-4417 • jacqueline.sojico@nebraska.gov

July 4

Parade, fireworks, children's activities, with free admission to mill

Old Mill Days and Fourth of July Celebration

Neligh Mill State Historic Site
402-887-4303 • nshs.mill@nebraska.gov

July 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 • 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
402-471-4757 • judy.keetle@nebraska.gov

July 10 and 11 • 9:30-12 noon

"History of Railroads in Nebraska"

Summer Classes for Kids

NHM (registration required)
402-471-4757 • judy.keetle@nebraska.gov

July 14 • 1-4 p.m.

Centennial Open House

Gerald R. Ford Birth Centennial

Gerald R. Ford Conservation Center, Omaha
402-595-1180 • nshs.grfcc@nebraska.gov

July 15 • 11 a.m.

Citizen Naturalization Ceremony

Gerald R. Ford Birth Centennial

Gerald R. Ford Conservation Center, Omaha
402-595-1180 • nshs.grfcc@nebraska.gov

July 18 • 12 noon

Jim Potter, NSHS Senior Research Historian

"A Peculiar Set of Men": Nebraska's Cowboys of the Open Range"

Brown Bag Lecture Series

NHM • 402-471-4782

July 24 • 9:30-12:00 noon

"Doodling: A Form of Artistic Play"

Summer Classes for Kids

NHM (registration required)
402-471-4757 • judy.keetle@nebraska.gov

July 26 • 1:30-4:00 p.m.

"Victorian Flowers and Fans"

Summer Classes for Kids

NHM (registration required)
402-471-4757 • judy.keetle@nebraska.gov

August 4 • 12 noon-4 p.m.

Portrayal of Theodore Roosevelt by Darrel Draper, with lunch available

48th Annual Neihardt Day

John G. Neihardt State Historic Site, Bancroft
888-777-4667 • www.neihardtcenter.org

August 6 • 10-11 a.m.

Picture book readings with related activities for all ages

Hour at the Museum

NHM • 402-471-4782

August 7 and 8 • 9:30-12 noon

"Making Doll Clothes for Fifteen-inch Dolls"

Summer Classes for Kids

NHM (registration required)
402-471-4757 • judy.keetle@nebraska.gov

August 9 • 9:00-4:30 p.m.

"Illustration Art"

Summer Classes for Kids

NHM (registration required)
402-471-4757 • judy.keetle@nebraska.gov

August 15 • 12 noon

Catherine Biba

"The 1913 Omaha Tornado"

Brown Bag Lecture Series

NHM • 402-471-4782

September 7

Car show, baking contests, craft show, music, with free admission to mill

Bread 'N Jam Festival

Neligh Mill State Historic Site

September 15 • 2 p.m.

Exhibit opening and reception for Rodger Gerberding's "At the Raven Café"

Sunday Afternoon at the Museum

John G. Neihardt State Historic Site • Bancroft

September 19 • 12 noon

John Carter, NSHS Senior Research Folklorist

"A New Look at the Old Sod House"

Brown Bag Lecture Series

NHM

September 23-January 5, 2015

Nebraska Cowboys, Lives, Legends, and Legacies

Exhibition

NHM, 402-471-4782

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

The Selected Letters of Willa Cather

Willa Cather famously left a will forbidding the publication of her personal letters. For many years the content of the letters was known only to a handful of scholars, but now that the will has legally expired a portion of them have been published in *The Selected Letters of Willa Cather*, edited by Andrew Jewell and Janis Stout.

The editors selected letters and postcards that cover Cather's life in Red Cloud, her days at the University of Nebraska, her time as a journalist, and her career as a novelist. Her humor and growth as a writer are reflected in her life and passions—people, literature, and the arts. It is a must-read for Cather fans, and available from the NSHS Landmark Stores, \$37.50/\$33.75 members (cloth), plus shipping and applicable taxes. 402-471-3447 ☒

First Come, First Served! Summer Fun for Kids at the Nebraska History Museum

This summer the NSHS is hosting classes for students, grades K-8, on a variety of topics. June classes included sessions on Nebraska in the Civil War, duct tape creations, a puppet play, homesteaders, and Native American basket making.

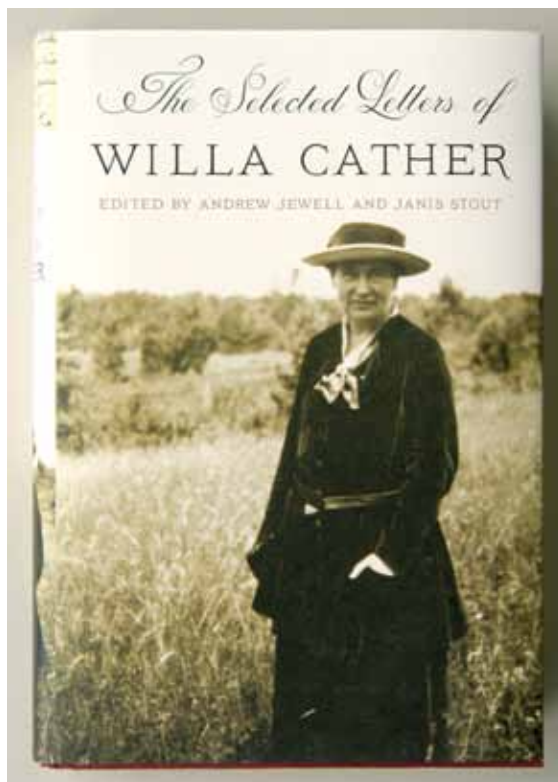
July classes: "Victorian Flowers and Fans" (grades K-8), July 26, 1:30-4:00. Learn the hidden meanings of certain flowers and messages sent using hand fans. Make flowers and a fan. Try on Victorian clothes. Tour the exhibit *Building the State: Nebraska, 1867-1916*.

"History of Railroads in Nebraska" (grades 4-8), July 10 and 11, 9:30-12:00. Learn about early railroads in Nebraska. See railroad artifacts in the *Building the State* exhibit. Union Pacific Railroad Museum staff will assist.

"Doodling: A Form of Artistic Play" (grades K-8), July 24, 9:30-12:00. Let loose artistically. Let your mind wander and draw whatever you think of: geometric shapes, curlicues and swirls, straight lines, dots, etc. Then produce a pleasing finished product. Tour the exhibit *The Illustrator's Pencil: John Falter from Nebraska to The Saturday Evening Post*.

August classes: "Making Doll Clothes for Fifteen-inch Dolls" (grades 3-8), August 7 and 8, 9:30-12:00. Tour the exhibit *The Best-Dressed Doll in the World: Nebraska's Own Terri Lee*. Sew clothing by hand for your fifteen-inch doll.

"Illustration Art" (grades 4-8), August 9, 9:00-4:30. Bring your sack lunch. Create illustrations of



the four seasons. Tour the John Falter exhibit. Design a logo for yourself. Supplies will be provided.

All classes will be held at the Nebraska History Museum, Centennial Mall at P Street, Lincoln. Registrations are on a first-come, first-served basis. For information on fees and registration instructions, 402-471-4757 or www.nebraskahistory.org ☒

Coming in Nebraska History

"Darwin and Genesis fought out a battle in District Judge Broady's court in Lincoln," reported the *Fremont Tribune* on October 22, 1924, "and . . . Genesis lost and Darwin won." Nebraska had its own anti-evolution trial nearly seven months before the famous Scopes trial opened in Tennessee. But how did the Nebraska case remain obscure while the Tennessee case became a national sensation? Adam Shapiro examines the case in "Scopes Wasn't the First: Nebraska's 1924 Anti-Evolution Trial," coming in the Fall 2013 issue of *Nebraska History*.

In the same issue, James E. Potter looks at "A Peculiar Set of Men: Nebraska Cowboys of the Open Range," an article that supplements the forthcoming *Nebraska Cowboys* exhibit. Dennis Mihelich, meanwhile, uncovers a little-known \$100,000 loan made by Omaha's Edward Creighton to Mormon leader Brigham Young. The issue mails the second week of August. ☒

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

Jackie Sojico
contributor

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.

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, 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. . .

Bury Me Not on the Lone Prairie

"IN MEMORY of James Williamson, Killed
by INDIANS, May 5, 1879. Aged 28 YEARS."

In the 1870s conflicts between tribal people and new settlers sometimes erupted into violence. James Williamson was killed near the Snake River, by what were said to be Brule Sioux from Spotted Tail's Rosebud Reservation located to the north. Williamson's original grave marker, shown here, is now in the NSHS collections and will be part of *Nebraska Cowboys: Lives, Legends, and Legacies*, an exhibit that opens at the Nebraska History Museum on September 23.

Williamson worked on D. J. McCann's Niobrara River ranch southwest of Valentine. Fellow cowboy Louis J. F. "Billy the Bear"lager carved the headboard with a knife and hot iron. A marble headstone later replaced this marker. ☞

