

NEBRASKA history news

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Willa Cather: A Matter of Appearances



Dozens of photos picture Willa Cather wearing teal blue wool jacket decorated with folkloric embroidery. Is the one pictured here the original?

Willa Cather has long been famous for her mastery of words, but a new exhibit opening at the Nebraska History Museum in Lincoln will showcase her mastery of fashion. At an early age she began to carefully manage her appearance for the public, using clothing as a symbol and statement.

Willa Cather: A Matter of Appearances (October 9, 2010, through August 31, 2011) includes clothing, toys, dolls and jewelry that belonged to both Cather and her friends and family.

Tina Koepp, who did most of the research and exhibit script writing for the project, first saw the Cather clothing collection as a graduate student at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She had always thought of Cather as “matronly,” but changed her mind after seeing Cather’s clothing.

“It was like opening the secret life of Willa Cather,” Koepp said. “She dressed extravagantly when she wanted to. And she wore very practical clothes, too.”

Koepp said the exhibit should appeal to both serious and casual Cather scholars as well as those interested in fashion. The exhibit is coinciding with the 2010 Textile Society of America Symposium that Lincoln is hosting October 6-9, so textile scholars from around the country will also have a chance to view the articles.

Clothing appeals to people on a very personal level. “It’s an old-fashioned idea that clothing retains the spirit and the memory of the person who owned it,” Koepp said.

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

Continued on Page 2

Home and History

HOME is a word with deep connections for Nebraskans. Essential to our contentment is the concept of home as a place where we belong and which is ours in important ways, a place of memory of the past, confidence in the present, and hope for the future. Our histories are, at their hearts, stories of our homes—the family’s 1870 homestead, the house where grandma was born, the old Kabatsky place, the “town we called home for six years,” the community homecoming, arriving home from the war. Our stories are forever tied to place.

That connection demonstrates the relationship that history has not only with the past, but also with the present and the future. We bring reminders of our pasts into our homes—pictures on the mantel, a family set of silver flatware, or the flag that honored Bill when his body was returned from Vietnam. Our communities do the same with historic markers, statuary on the courthouse lawn, the preserved home of a leading family. History becomes part of the present and thus informs and guides us, sometimes in ways we see, but often in ways that we don’t perceive at the time.

Several years ago, a colleague who had been a Russian émigré came into our offices almost floating on air. He was returning from the ceremony in which he was naturalized as a citizen of the United States. Now, as he said, he had a home, a place to which he belonged. As he accepted our hearty congratulations, his history was changing, moving into the future, a new home.

Now we enter the fall of the year when high schools and colleges celebrate homecoming with games, parades, student royalty, and parties to which school officials invite alums with the hope that their historical memories, now burnished through the passage of time, will loosen their pocketbooks to benefit the next generations. At such a season, let us reflect on how essential history is to everything that we know as HOME.

From our home for history at 1500 R Street in Lincoln, Nebraska, to yours.



Michael J. Smith
Director/CEO



"Our stories are forever tied to place."

Cather exhibit article, continued from page 1



Willa Cather’s steamer trunk (1900) bears evidence of a well-traveled life. When not used for traveling, it provided storage for out-of-season clothing. Willa Cather Foundation, Southwick Family Collection.

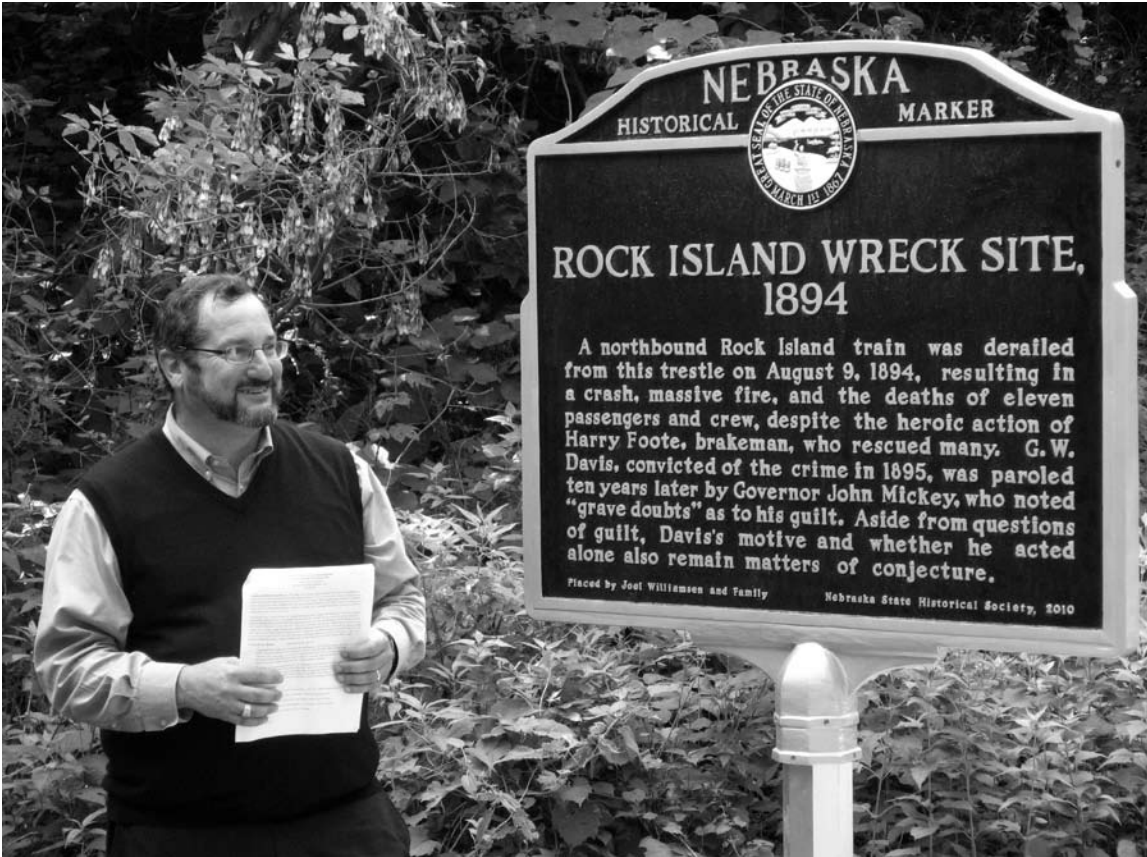
Women in particular seem connected to their clothing, Koeppe said.

“Clothing and textiles have always been a way women expressed themselves. Annie Pavelka didn’t get to write a book about her life, but she made quilts and doilies and used that form of self-expression and making art of textiles.”

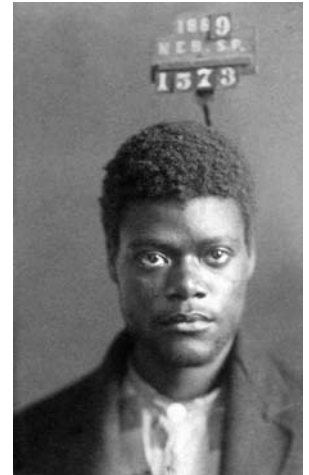
Koeppe added that using clothes as an art medium is mostly “universal” and the exhibit demonstrates how Willa Cather and the people in her life used that medium. The exhibit has clothing that appears in both iconic and little known photos of Cather, clothes that inspired many of her characters’ wardrobes and some that have never been immortalized with film or ink.

One well-known clothing piece, a teal blue wool jacket decorated with folkloric embroidery, has a bit of controversy surrounding it. While dozens of photographs picture Cather wearing the jacket, Koeppe and other researchers doubt this jacket is the original. Koeppe encourages the public to visit the exhibit and draw their own conclusions.

“People can come and play history detective themselves,” Koeppe said. 📷



Dr. Joel Williamsen beside the new historical marker, dedicated August 9, 2010, in Lincoln's Wilderness Park.



George Washington Davis, the "the dastardly perpetrator of the murder and massacre," according to the *Nebraska State Journal*. Though convicted, doubts remain about his guilt. NSHS RG2418-1573

The Rock Island Wreck of 1894

A deadly 1894 train derailment is now commemorated by a historical marker in Lincoln's Wilderness Park. The marker was recently donated by Dr. Joel Williamsen and his family. Williamsen discovered the story while researching his 2009 novel, *Barrelhouse Boys*, a work of historical fiction which takes place largely in Lincoln's Haymarket area. A man named G. W. Davis was convicted of causing the derailment, but was paroled ten years later by Governor John Mickey. Doubts remain about Davis's guilt. The marker is located near the Jamaica North Trail near Densmore Park. ☒



A crowd views the train wreckage. NSHS RG2430-45



The Farrell Block project in Hastings, before and after.



The Cleburn-McIntosh building in Sidney, before and after.



Incentives for Historic Preservation

Before tackling that renovation project this summer, owners of historic properties should find out if they are eligible for federal and state historic preservation incentives. The programs do not necessarily require the entire property to be renovated, so property owners with medium to smaller sized projects should still apply.

To be eligible for either of the historic preservation incentives, a property has to be listed in the National Register of Historic Places. For the state program, a property can instead be designated as a local landmark by a municipality with a preservation ordinance. To merit a National Register or local landmark designation, a build-

ing usually must be at least fifty years old and have significance because of its architecture or its connection to history. Finally, a property must retain enough historic integrity to express visually its importance to the past.

For income-producing property, the federal program provides a federal tax credit of 20 percent of a project's qualified rehabilitation expenditures. The state program, also called the Valuation Incentive Program, provides a "freeze" on increased assessed valuations for a period of eight years plus four years of partial increases. VIP has been very popular with homeowners looking to improve their historic property without being penalized with higher property taxes directly resulting from the improvements.

Grant Landreth of the NSHS Historic Preservation Division guides property owners through the application process, gives technical guidance and then ensures that the property is completed according to the specifications listed in the application. Changes to the application during the project are also possible through an amendment process.

"Basically, we just want them to preserve the historic material," Landreth said. Property owners do not have to reconstruct missing historic portions of the property, nor do they have to be accurate down to the original colors used. "If they do reconstruction it is sort of an added sugar-on-top bonus," Landreth said. Each historic property's unique materials, finishes, features, and spaces will need to be retained to the greatest extent possible while still allowing for the new use and changes. "The point is, these buildings are being saved and reused."

Property owners in cities such as Omaha, Lincoln, Hastings, and Sidney are taking advantage of the program. The Farrell Block project on Second Street in Hastings renovated the interior of the building and restored the exterior to look as much as possible as it did in 1880. A project in Sidney removed the faux "Old West town" siding to reveal the original masonry. One of the important, but sometimes overlooked, effects of these renovation projects is that they encourage other property owners to do the same. These incentives are great economic development tools. 🏡



The Neligh Mill Jamboree

The musicians had gathered: The Gospel Music Workshop of America; Nebraska Chapter and Mariachi Zapata from Omaha; Young Generation, members of the Omaha Tribe from Macy; and the Kenaston Family from Lyons and Springview. But it looked like rain in Neligh, Nebraska, on the Fourth of July. Fortunately the weather held and by 5:00 p.m. the skies were filled with song, not rain.

About two hundred people brought their folding chairs and blankets for the three-hour outdoor concert and heard some of Nebraska's finest traditional music. Among the oldest of these traditions come to us from American Indians. Young Generation, a traditional powwow group under the leadership of Louie Sheridan, Sr., brought not only the music but the dancers in their regalia. They even invited members of the audience to join in and dance.

For over two decades Mariachi Zapata has shared this Mexican tradition with all Nebraskans. Mariachi is music for celebrations, and was right at home in Neligh celebrating America's birthday. Likewise the Gospel Music Workshop, recent recipients of a Governor's Arts Award, shared the joyous sounds of African American gospel music that had the audience clapping and singing along.

The concert closed with one of Nebraska's premiere country western bands, the Kenaston Family. The Kenastons filled the stage with four generations of performers, including the family patriarch, Bob Kenaston, who now in his eighties is still a master of the fiddle.

This celebration had major support from the National Endowment for the Arts, and important local support from the Richard Kalvelage Gift Trust, Smeal Fire Apparatus, Neligh Chamber of Commerce, Pinnacle Bank, Blackburn Flag Manufacturing, Antelope Memorial Hospital, Green Line Equipment, Joe and Janet Knight. 🍷

Mariachi Zapata performed at the Neligh Mill Jamboree on July 4.



Karen Keehr, curator of visual and audio collections.

“Picture Perfect” Caring for Your Family Photos

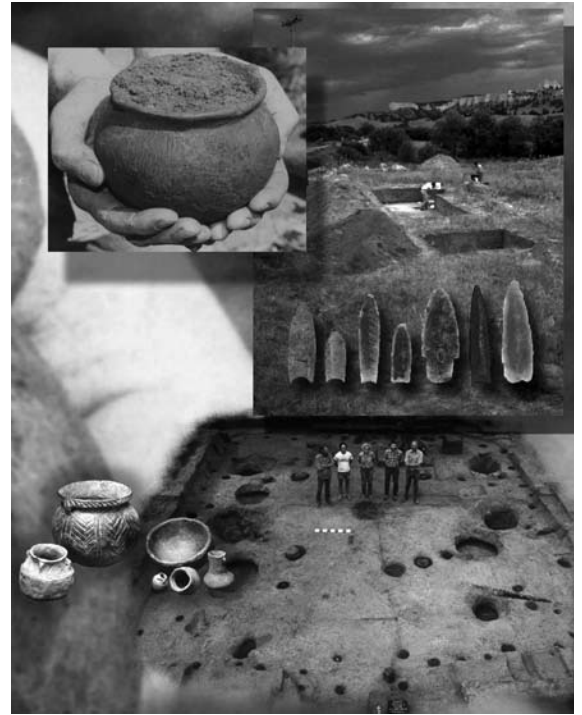
In celebration of Archives Week, the Nebraska History Museum is hosting a free program titled “Picture Perfect: How to Care for and Identify Your Family Photographs” on Saturday, October 2. The program runs from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. You can bring up to three photographs for evaluation.

In the morning session, Karen Keehr, curator of visual and audio collections, will discuss heirloom photograph types and preserving, organizing, and digitizing. In the afternoon session, Kay Cynova, director of interpretation at Stuhr Museum of the Prairie Pioneer, will discuss how to identify and date photographs through historical fashion.

Seating is limited, so you must pre-register by phone (402-471-4785) or by email (andrea.faling@nebraska.gov). ☒

Fifty Years of Highway Archeology

Building roads builds our understanding of the past, thanks to the team effort of the Nebraska Department of Roads and the Nebraska State Historical Society. For fifty years the agencies have collaborated to recover historic and archeological information from sites affected by highway construction. Nebraska was a pioneer in this effort; today every state in the country has followed suit.



Excavation scenes from a Nebraska Highway Archeology Program poster.

The Nebraska Highway Archeology Program has made critical scientific advances in every aspect of Nebraska’s rich heritage. Hundreds of sites have been discovered and dozens of large-scale excavations conducted. Native American villages and hunting camps thousands of years old and more recent historic bridges and buildings have helped shed light on our past.

Early coordination between transportation engineers and archeologists helps identify historic sites in the path of highway improvements and attempts to plan and design around them. Once discovered, sites are evaluated for their condition and significance. Only very well-preserved properties with important research potential are slated for intensive investigations or preservation. Such sites are eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places or may already be on the roster.

Long after excavations are complete and highways are built, the work continues. Sifting through thousands of recovered artifacts, identifying them, writing reports, and preserving data and collections for the future may take months or years. So does building highways. But for fifty years the NDOR and NSHS partnership has created both routes to the future and pathways to the past. Both are important resources for Nebraskans to come. ☒

Coming in *Nebraska History*

A special double issue of *Nebraska History* will be devoted to African American history. The Fall/Winter 2010 issue will include articles about segregated schools in Omaha and Nebraska City in the late nineteenth century; abolitionist Frederick Douglass's adopted sister, Ruth Cox Adams, who lived in Nebraska and whose influence on Douglass was previously unexplored by historians; Omaha's infamous Court House Riot and lynching of Will Brown in 1919; previously unpublished photos by Lincoln photographer John Johnson; *Omaha Star* founder and publisher Mildred Brown and her activism in the 1940s and '50s; and other articles.

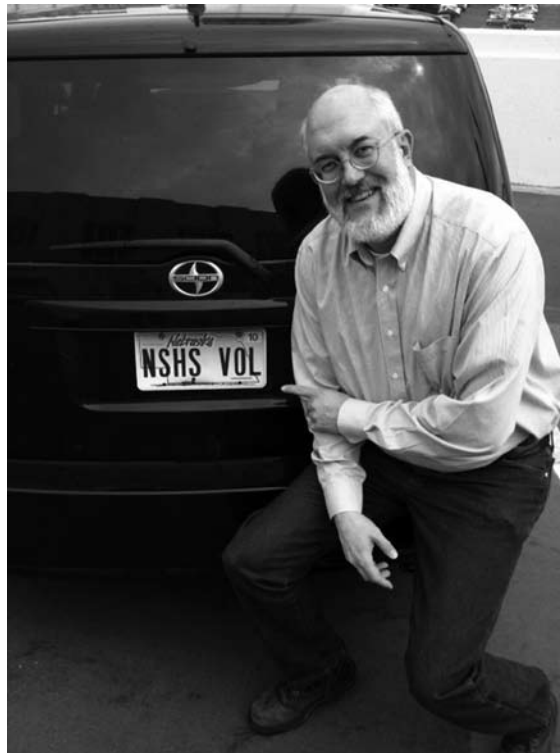
Look for the issue in your mailbox the week of November 8. ☒

Holiday Discount at the Landmark Stores

Shop at the NSHS Landmark Stores this holiday season. Visit us on **Thursday and Friday, December 2 and 3**, to receive a 20 percent discount. The Landmark Stores carry a great variety of books, gifts, and educational merchandise that kids will really enjoy.

For that hard-to-buy-for person, consider a gift of membership to the Nebraska State Historical Society. The gift includes our *Nebraska History* quarterly and *Nebraska History News*, shows your support of Nebraska history, and offers a number of other benefits.

Landmark Stores are located in the Nebraska History Museum (15th and P streets, Lincoln), the Nebraska State Capitol (ground floor, south hall), Chimney Rock (Bayard), Fort Robinson (Crawford), the George Norris House (McCook), and Neligh Mill (Neligh). Visit nebraskahistory.org or call 1-800-833-6747 or 402-471-3447. Store hours vary. ☒



Steve Hunt of Bellevue is an NSHS volunteer, but if you've seen him driving around town you already knew that. Hunt volunteers with the Library/Archives division. Volunteers help out in all of our divisions, serving as museum docents, assisting with research projects, and many other activities. (See p. 11 to learn how volunteer Vince Goeres's work resulted in a new book.) Last year, students, retirees, and working adults contributed more than 5,000 hours of service. Contact Deb McWilliams (471-4955, deb.mcwilliams@nebraska.gov) to learn about volunteer opportunities.

Help Us Teach Kids

Remember studying Nebraska history as a fourth-grader? Learn more about Nebraska's amazing past and share your knowledge with others by becoming a volunteer docent at the NSHS's Nebraska History Museum.

Starting in early October, museum staff will lead six training sessions for docents, who give guided tours to the 11,000-plus students who visit the museum each year. Good docents are willing to learn and communicate stories of Nebraska history using historical objects and biographies, and show ingenuity in working with groups of all ages and interests. Benefits include flexible scheduling, behind the scenes experiences, working with kids, and a chance to learn in-depth history.

This is an opportunity to satisfy your curiosity and to teach our kids more about Nebraska's rich history. To learn more, contact Deb McWilliams, volunteer coordinator, at deb.mcwilliams@nebraska.gov or 402-471-4955. ☒



Nebraska Museums Association Annual Meeting

Museum and historical society staff and volunteers from around the state will gather Tuesday, October 12, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Nebraska History Museum and other downtown Lincoln venues for the Nebraska Museums Association Annual Meeting. Best practices for collections care, successful fundraising, intellectual property law, and use of social media will be featured, plus breakout interest groups for curators, administrators, and art museums. The meeting is being held in conjunction with the Governor's Nebraska Travel Conference, October 13-14, at the Cornhusker-Marriott in Lincoln.

The cost is \$35, including lunch, chocolate dessert buffet, and museum tours. Registration information is at www.nebraskamuseums.org, or email bchs.us@hotmail.com. Mail completed registration form and check payable to Nebraska Museums Association to Buffalo County Historical Society, Trails and Rails Museum, PO Box 523, Kearney, NE 68848. ☒

Search NSHS Collections Online

Now you can search NSHS objects and photographs online using our Museum and Photograph Collections Search engine. More than 12,000 records are available; staff add more regularly. We have also redesigned our website so that all searchable databases are together on one page.

Go to www.nebraskahistory.org and follow the link "Search Collections," where you'll find:

Library Search. More than 40,000 books, maps, serials, and newspapers are listed in this online catalog.

Museum and Photograph Collections Search. Selected museum objects and photographs are accessible through the Past Perfect database. This online database is a work in progress and will be updated regularly.



Government Records Finding Aids. A guide to information in public records produced by local, county, and state agencies (paper, oversize bound volumes, and security microfilm formats). These records are housed in an off-site facility, and patrons must make appointments in advance before viewing a specific collection.

Manuscript Finding Aids. A guide to some of the 2,500 collections documenting the history and accomplishments of private individuals, families, businesses, and organizations in Nebraska. Browse the aids alphabetically or use the "Search" box.

Photograph Collections List. Gives proper collection numbers and indicates those available on microfiche.

Archival Collection Database. A guide to basic information on the Society's collections of manuscripts (papers of families and individuals and records of businesses and organizations), photographs, moving images, and sound recordings.

Nebraska History Index Search. Index of the NSHS magazine publications, back to 1885.

Additional Research Databases. Selected city directories, telephone books, cemeteries, plat books, newspapers, prison records, and tract books are indexed online to help with research and genealogy. ☒

Have a Historical Holiday


The NSHS is hosting several historical events this holiday season:

The Thomas P. Kennard House, 1627 H Street in Lincoln, will be open to visitors with no admission charge on December 12 from 1 to 5 p.m. As the oldest house within the original plat of Lincoln, the Kennard House has been designated the Nebraska Statehood Memorial. In December it is decorated for a Victorian Christmas complete with a Christmas tree, examples of toys and gifts, historic photographs, and 1870s Christmas cards. The house is also open by appointment. Call 402-471-4764.

The Nebraska History Museum at Fifteenth and P streets in Lincoln will host the exhibition *Christmas Cards from the Nebraska State Historical Society Collection* from November 24, 2010, to January 2, 2011. More than five hundred cards from the 1880s to the 1950s exhibit a wide range of styles and sentiments.

The Nebraska History Museum will also sponsor holiday activities for children and families. At the December 4 Family Workshop, attendees can learn about Scandinavian Christmas customs and make Christmas ornaments to take home. Hour at the Museum (December 28) will feature the picture book *One Splendid Tree*, set during a World War II holiday season. Those attending can also enjoy coloring sheets and games and view related items in the World War II exhibit.

These events are free and open to the public with no registration required. "New Year Customs of Many Cultures," a morning class for kids at the museum (December 29), requires advance registration, and costs \$10 per child; \$8 for NSHS members.

Call 402-471-4754 for updated information, or see the Society's Facebook page, linked from www.nebraskahistory.org 


NSHS Award Winners Honored at Annual Luncheon

This year's award winners were honored September 17 at the NSHS Annual Meeting and Luncheon in LaVista.

The **James L. Sellers Memorial Award** went to Anne Beiser Allen of Fitchburg, Wisconsin, for her article, "A Scandal in Niobrara: The Controversial Career of Rev. Samuel D. Hinman." Drs. Sara Crook, Dan Holtz, and Spencer Davis from Peru State College selected Allen's article as the best published in *Nebraska History* in 2009. It appeared in the fall issue. The award includes a cash prize of \$1,000.

Jerry and Nancy Carlson of Genoa, Nebraska, were honored with the **A. T. Hill Award**, which recognizes outstanding research projects or interpretation of Great Plains archeological sites, and which includes a \$300 cash prize. The Carlsons have been involved in many projects in Genoa, including the Pawnee Reburial Monument and the U.S. Indian School, as well as archeological projects around the state.

The **Nebraska Preservation Award** went to the Plattsmouth Conservancy for its promotion of the revitalization of its National Register downtown historic district. The group has succeeded in raising awareness, accomplishing projects through partnerships, and fundraising for preservation projects.

Winners of the **Robert W. Furnas, James C. Olson**, and **Addison E. Sheldon** awards were also honored at the luncheon. These winners were announced in the previous issue of *NH News*. 

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

Kylie Kinley
contributor

Ebbeka Design
design & production

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www.nebraskahistory.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

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



This small girl, outside in the snow, is wearing skis and holding ski poles.
NSHS RG3542-154-1.

October 2 • 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Karen Keehr, NSHS Library/Archives Division
Kay Cynova, Stuhr Museum of the Prairie Pioneer
“Picture Perfect: How to Care for and Identify Your Family Photographs” (see p. 6)

(reservations required)

Nebraska History Museum, 15th & P streets, Lincoln
402-471-4785
andrea.faling@nebraska.gov

October 9, 2010 - August 31, 2011

Willa Cather: A Matter of Appearances Exhibition

Nebraska History Museum
402-471-4754

October 12 • 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Nebraska Museums Association Annual Meeting

Nebraska History Museum & downtown Lincoln
(reservations required)
www.nebraskamuseums.org

October 17 • 2 p.m.

Ron Hull, NET senior advisor

Showing and discussion of Dick Cavett interview

Sunday at the Museum
John G. Neihardt State Historic Site, Bancroft
888-777-4667
neihardt@gpcom.net

October 21 • 12 noon

Quilters Shirley Chaffin and Sheila Green

“Memory Quilts”

Brown Bag Lecture Series

Nebraska History Museum

October 26 • 10-11 a.m.

The Legend of the Indian Paintbrush by Tomie dePaola

Picture book reading with related activities for all ages

Hour at the Museum

Nebraska History Museum
402-471-4754
judy.keetle@nebraska.gov

November 6

“A Celebration of Nebraska Books”

2010 One Book One Nebraska, awards presentations, and more

Nebraska History Museum
402-471-3434
maryjo.ryan@nebraska.gov

November 7 • 5-9 p.m.

Eleventh Annual Neihardt Laureate’s Feast

John G. Neihardt Foundation dinner

Metro Community College, Fort Omaha Campus
(reservations required)
888-777-4667

November 18 • 12 noon

Ron Hull, NET senior advisor

“Fifty Years of History from the Archives of NET”

Brown Bag Lecture Series

Nebraska History Museum

November 21 • 2 p.m.

Presentation by Delphine Redshirt, Lakota author

Sunday at the Museum
John G. Neihardt State Historic Site

November 24, 2010 - January 2, 2011

Christmas Cards from the Nebraska State

Historical Society Collection

Holiday Display

Nebraska History Museum

December 4

“Scandinavian Christmas Customs”

Family Workshop

Nebraska History Museum
402-471-4754
judy.keetle@nebraska.gov

December 12 • 2 p.m.

Paul Hedren, “Sacred Sites of the Great Sioux Wars”

Sunday at the Museum
John G. Neihardt State Historic Site

December 12 • 1 - 5 p.m.

Free Open House

Thomas P. Kennard House
1627 H St., Lincoln
402-471-4764

December 16 • 12 noon

Gayla Koerting, NSHS Library/Archives Division

“Background and Dedication of the Abraham Lincoln Statue”

Brown Bag Lecture Series

Nebraska History Museum

December 28 • 10-11 a.m.

One Splendid Tree by Marilyn Helmer

Hour at the Museum

Nebraska History Museum
402-471-4754
judy.keetle@nebraska.gov

December 29 • 9:30 a.m.-12 noon

“New Year Customs of Many Cultures”

Class for Kids

Nebraska History Museum
(registration required)
402-471-4754
judy.keetle@nebraska.gov

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



OMAHA MUNICIPAL AIRPORT (EPPLEY AIRFIELD)



Charles Lindbergh's triumphant cross-country tour after his New York-to-Paris flight helped Omaha begin a major municipal airport. Land had been purchased in 1925 for this purpose; in 1927 the American Legion began a fund drive to raise \$30,000 to build a hangar and improve the field near Carter Lake. The drive proceeded slowly and was still well short of its goal until Lindbergh's visit in late August 1927. With the excitement his visit

created, the goal was reached and the hangar built. A second hangar soon followed, and Boeing built a third in 1930 when it moved its airmail and passenger service from Fort Crook to the Omaha Municipal Airfield (now Eppley Airfield). A modern passenger terminal was built in 1933. The airfield saw much activity in the late twenties and early thirties. It was a stop on the Ford Reliability Tour in 1927. These tours promoted aviation, giving aircraft companies an opportunity to demonstrate their



A Douglas C1 visited Omaha with several other army planes on November 4 and 5 1925.
RG3882.PH000039 SFN 105681

92 OMAHA MUNICIPAL AIRPORT (EPPLEY AIRFIELD)



First night lights operating at the Omaha Municipal Airport in August 1928. A Travel Air is in the hangar and a Ryan Brougham is outside.
RG3882-612

OMAHA MUNICIPAL AIRPORT (EPPLEY AIRFIELD) 93

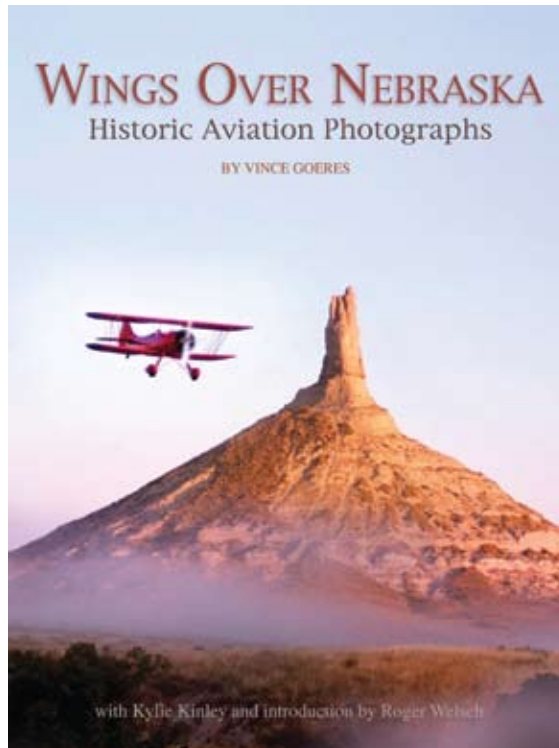
Wings Over Nebraska New Book from the NSHS

Aviation enthusiasts can get a taste of the Nebraska skies without ever leaving their armchairs with *Wings Over Nebraska: Historic Aviation Photos*, forthcoming from Nebraska State Historical Society Publications. Written by NSHS volunteer (and longtime aviation enthusiast) Vince Goeres, with Kylie Kinley and introduction by Roger Welsch, the book showcases more than 200 aviation photos from the NSHS collections.

Wings Over Nebraska includes chapters on Nebraska's early pilots (who were often farm boys with a daredevil streak); Nebraska's only World War I flying ace, Orville Ralston; the nationally known Lincoln Aviation and Flying School (where Charles Lindbergh learned to fly); air shows and stunt flying; Nebraska's World War II air bases; and many other stories of Nebraska's role in the development of aviation. 📖

Wings Over Nebraska: Historic Aviation Photos
176 pp., softcover, 8 1/2" x 11"
\$19.95

On sale starting October 20 at the NSHS
Landmark Stores (1-800-833-6747) and at
airports and bookstores across Nebraska.



Photographer Tom Downey captured the perfect cover image in 2009 when Gary Petersen of Walton, Nebraska, flew his vintage Waco biplane past Chimney Rock.

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
Saturday 8–5

State Historic Site hours:
www.nebraskahistory.org

NEBRASKA history news

Nebraska State Historical Society

From the Collection. . .

Born near Weeping Water, Nebraska, in 1894, Orville Ralston was Nebraska's only flying "ace" in World War I. He was a student at the University of Nebraska Dental College when the United States entered the war. An aggressive pilot eager for dogfights, Ralston was credited with five confirmed victories, though he listed seven and carved seven notches in his airplane's control stick, which now resides at the Nebraska History Museum. Ralston's story is part of Vince Goeres's new book, *Wings Over Nebraska: Historic Aviation Photographs*, published by the NSHS (see p. 11). 