Discover New History at an Old Fort This Summer

Come to Fort Robinson, near Crawford, this summer for a new look at some significant places from our past. Two important buildings will be open to the public by Memorial Day weekend, thanks to new Plexiglas barriers that allow unsupervised access to the buildings. Both the reconstructed Cheyenne Outbreak barracks (officially known as the 1874 Cavalry Barracks) and the 1887 adobe officers’ quarters are set up to look like they did in the late nineteenth century. But in recent years the fort hasn’t had enough staff to keep the buildings open.

Set in the beautiful Pine Ridge country of the Nebraska Panhandle, Fort Robinson began in 1874 as a temporary cantonment during the turmoil of the frontier Indian Wars. In 1878, a band of Cheyenne Indians seeking to return to their homelands from where they had been relocated in Oklahoma were captured and brought to what was now the fort, where they were in custody for months. They refused to return south, and in response the post commander cut off food, water, and fuel to force their compliance.

On January 9, 1879, the Cheyenne escaped from the barracks in which they were imprisoned and fled northwest towards Wyoming. Soldiers from the fort pursued them; in the following weeks of the chase, sixty-six Cheyenne and eleven soldiers were killed, making the Cheyenne Outbreak the most violent event involving Fort Robinson.

The fort has served many purposes over the years. It was known as Camp Robinson until 1878 when it was designated a fort to reflect its increasingly permanent nature. Its position near the railroad allowed for rapid growth, and by the 1880s it had become the most important military post in the area.

Although nearly empty during World War I, in 1919 the fort was repurposed to be a quartermaster remount depot. Thousands of horses were examined and trained there to be issued to cavalry and artillery units. By World War II, with the use of horses declining, the fort focused on supply mules instead: nearly 10,000 were trained by the end of the war. During this time, the fort was also home to a prisoner of war camp and K9 training center.

After the fort closed in 1948, it was used as a beef research station for many years, and was eventually given to the State of Nebraska for public use. Many of the buildings remained intact, and others—such as the Cheyenne Outbreak barracks—have been reconstructed on site following archeological investigations. Of the original buildings, the veterinary hospital, blacksmith shop, and harness shop contain nearly all original furnishings that were left in the buildings when the fort was retired from military service. If all goes well, there are tentative plans to add Plexiglas over the next few years to these buildings as well.

Nebraska’s Pine Ridge country is a great travel destination; learn more about Fort Robinson by clicking the “Visit Places” tab at nebraskahistory.org.
A Bit of Self-Editing

My wife, Mary Ann Smith, died thirty months ago after sixty-four years of living and thirty-nine years of marriage. Oh, and I should say at least fifty years of saving an incredible range of things. Mary Ann trained as a medical professional, but she was a born accumulator of, well, you name it: interesting commercial packaging, generations of family photos, match books, old kitchen tools, swizzle sticks from libations enjoyed from Los Angeles to Oslo! Did I mention baby clothes, grade school drawings—hers and our daughter’s—membership cards from far too many organizations, research notes, and professional papers. You name it and she kept it. I have spent these last months as family historian, deaccessioner, paper processor, and an expert feeder of the family shredding machine.

A few thoughts for all of us who do accumulate lots of stuff (and yes, I also do that). First, have mercy on your family members and get at the sorting while you can muster the energy. Unless you are saving your life for your own Boswell to write, pitch the cards from long forgotten girlfriends, the mementoes of college vacations on the beach, the copies of the wedding photos of that high school friend whose name you cannot quite remember. Save, however, whatever it is that will keep your memory alive in the hearts of your children. Save that special letter from mother actually praising the new boyfriend who became your spouse or the straight-A report card. You know what those things are. Consider as well whether you own anything significant to your community’s history. Perhaps such an item could help your city or county historical museum interpret the past to its future citizens.

So, I plead, get up there in the attic and get at it. Keep your story not by saving everything, but rather by taking away the temptation for your survivors to put a dumpster in the driveway and simply toss wholesale. A bit of self-editing never hurts and others will be grateful. I write from experience.

Michael J. Smith
Director/CEO

How High’s the Water? Lecture Series to Focus on the Mighty Missouri

It’s been flowing for millennia and still has tremendous impact on our lives today: the Missouri River. Join experts in river management, history, archeology, and more along the banks of the river to learn more about “Ol’ Muddy” at Ponca State Park Thursday, April 26, through Saturday, April 28, for the Fourth Biennial Missouri River Educational Lecture Series. This year’s theme is A Historical Overview of the Missouri River’s Fluid Relationship with Land, Water & People.

Gerald Mestl, Missouri River Program Manager for the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, will deliver the keynote address, “Flood Pulse–Lifeblood of the Missouri River,” at the Thursday evening dinner. Other presentations at the conference on Friday and Saturday will discuss nineteenth and early twentieth century efforts to clear the river for navigation; the excavation of archeological sites threatened by post-World War II plans to dam portions of the river; the 2011 flood; and modern flood control’s effect on Native Americans. Conference attendees can also enjoy a guided hayrack tour of Ponca State Park, boat tours of the Missouri, and a visit to Gavins Point Dam in Yankton, South Dakota.

The lecture series is sponsored by the Nebraska State Historical Society, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, National Park Service, Nebraska Humanities Council, the Missouri River Institute of the University of South Dakota, and the Better Ponca Foundation. For more information on presentations, registration fees, and lodging at Ponca State Park during the conference, see the insert included with this issue of Nebraska History News.
Welcome Paper Conservator
Valeria Orlandini

Paper conservator Valeria Orlandini is the new Head of Paper Conservation at the NSHS Gerald R. Ford Conservation Center in Omaha. She relocated from the Washington, D.C., area in February to join the Ford Center team. Trained with a M.S. at the University of Delaware/Henry du Pont Winterthur Art Conservation Program, Ms. Orlandini has cared for remarkable collections at the Library of Congress, the National Park Service/U.S. Department of the Interior, the Smithsonian Institution in the United States and abroad at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, UK, the National Gallery of Canada, in Ottawa, Canada, the University of Sao Paulo, in Sao Paulo, Brazil, and in her native Argentina at the Catholic University of Argentina in Buenos Aires among others. Her broad experience and skills in conservation and preservation of cultural heritage ranges from paper-based materials, and photographs, to paintings and textiles and her areas of research and specializations are iron gall ink corrosion, emergency preparedness, and fundraising.

The laboratory specializes in the treatment of a broad range of paper-based objects such as drawings, watercolors, pastels, prints, maps, posters, photographs, historic wallpaper, rare books, scrapbooks, documents, and historic manuscripts, as well as related materials such as parchment, ivory, and others. The paper conservation lab also offers on site consultation services, educational programs, internships, and develops disaster plans and emergency conservation services to libraries, archives, museums, galleries, and private collections both belonging to public and private cultural institutions. The lab has the ability to treat oversize materials and to accommodate large groups of materials. It has digital imaging capabilities and offers housing and framing services.

Individuals and organizations interested in knowing more about how to preserve paper materials and how Valeria might help are encouraged to contact her at 402-595-1142 or email valeria.orlandini@nebraska.gov.

Quilting for a Cause: Nebraska’s Fundraising Quilts Opens April 19

Quilters have a long history of supporting the organizations and causes they believe in. A new exhibit opening at the Nebraska History Museum will explore the use of quilts in fundraising. Quilts displayed were made to raise funds for everything from the Civil War and veterans’ groups, to the Populist Party, churches, schools, and youth organizations.

Nebraska’s quilters still have a strong tradition of fundraising. The Lincoln Quilters Guild and Special Olympics athletes made a quilt in the exhibit, which raised funds for the Special Olympics USA National Games in Lincoln in 2010.

Although most of the quilts are from the Nebraska State Historical Society collections, loaned quilts are from the Stuhr Museum of the Prairie Pioneer, Grand Island, the Washington County Historical Society, Fort Calhoun, and the International Quilt Study Center, Lincoln.

Visitors will not only see the generosity of the quilters, but also the support that the greater communities had for these fundraising projects. The Ladies Aid Society in tiny Monowi, Nebraska, for example, raised ten cents each for 238 names on their 1928 fundraising quilt. At the time the population of Monowi itself was just over half that. During World War I, rural Lancaster County mail carrier Dick Vanderhook purchased a Red Cross quilt for $75, which was about one month’s wages (see p. 12).

The exhibit opens April 19 at the Nebraska History Museum, Fifteenth and P Streets, Lincoln. 402-471-4782
Walking the Meridian Bridge

With its completion in 1924, the Meridian Bridge became an asset to two states. Spanning the Missouri River between Yankton, South Dakota, and Cedar County, Nebraska, the permanent structure was a welcome change from the sometimes unreliable ferries and seasonal pontoon bridges that it replaced. The double-decker bridge was built for two-way traffic on its upper level and trains below, and a vertical lift section could raise twenty-seven feet to allow river traffic to pass underneath. The railroad never came, however, leaving the lower deck to carry one-way traffic in later years. And the vertical lift span was mostly unused throughout the years of the bridge’s operations.

The Missouri crossing was one of the major obstacles facing backers of the original “Meridian Highway” starting in 1911 when they began making an all-weather road from Canada to Mexico. Local efforts were critical to completion of the bridge. As a part of U.S. Highway 81 the Meridian Bridge was of interest to travelers and was an important economic factor for commercial traffic over the years. In 1993 it was added to the National Register of Historic Places, due to its significance both structurally and historically. However, the aging bridge was no longer sufficient to support modern highway traffic, and in 2008 a replacement was built nearby.

Several plans for the old bridge were presented. Because of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, projects involving federal funds must try to protect historic places if it is feasible to do so. The Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office (a division of the NSHS) was part of this process. In the end, federal funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act paid for structural work and conversion to a pedestrian bridge. Transportation Enhancement funding from the Nebraska Department of Roads and Federal Highway Administration also made the conversion viable. The NDOR was the lead agency in the process.

After a $4.1 million conversion, the bridge opened to pedestrians in November 2011. Since then the city of Yankton has been busy linking trails from its city park along the river across to a nature area on the other side. Because of the mild winter, the bridge was open for public use nearly six months ahead of schedule, and the public reaction has surpassed expectations. Local residents use the bridge day and night, appreciating the beautiful views it gives of the river and its wildlife, and of the nearby city. More improvements may be added to the area next year.

For examples of other projects that adaptively reuse historic structures, visit nebraskahistory.org/histpres/tax/index.htm
NSHS Seeks Award Nominees

Who is making a difference in Nebraska history? We’re seeking nominations for our annual awards, which recognize outstanding achievement in preserving, interpreting, and educating people about the history of the state. Award plaques will be presented at the NSHS annual meeting on October 26 in Lincoln. Winners are selected by the NSHS awards committee.

See nebraskahistory.org/admin/awards/nominations.htm for criteria and the nomination form. The nomination deadline is April 6 at 5 p.m. If you have questions, contact Martha Kimball (martha.kimball@nebraska.gov, 402-471-4746, or 800-833-6747). Here are the awards for which we are seeking nominations:

The Addison E. Sheldon Memorial Award recognizes “outstanding contributions to preservation and interpretation in the field of Nebraska history.” Individuals or organizations may qualify for the award for long-term contributions to history or for an important one-time accomplishment. Former Society employees as well as current and retired board members are eligible.

The Robert W. Furnas Memorial Award recognizes outstanding contributions or assistance to the Nebraska State Historical Society in the form of either long-term service or a significant one-time contribution by an individual or organization.

The James C. Olson Memorial Award goes to a Nebraska K-12 teacher for outstanding success in engaging, inspiring, and guiding students to discover, enjoy, and learn from the fascinating and important histories of Nebraska’s people. The award is limited to K-12 teachers who encourage and support their students in endeavors such as History Day, who use documents, oral history, or place in classroom projects, or who employ other imaginative or innovative methods to make Nebraska history come alive for their students.

New Tribal Historic Preservation Offices Certified

The Omaha Tribe and the Winnebago Tribe now have certified Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (THPOs). Because Indian nations are their own sovereign governments, they have both the right and the responsibility to identify and preserve historic places on their traditional lands. Working with the Nebraska State Historical Society and the Nebraska Commission on Indian Affairs, the Omaha and Winnebago have collaborated with the other Nebraska-based tribes on a multi-year project to identify needs and issues in preserving their cultures. By qualifying as Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (THPOs), the Omaha and Winnebago join the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska and the Santee Sioux Tribe in receiving authority from the National Park Service to conduct certain federal historic preservation programs.

Calvin R. Harlan is the new Tribal Historic Preservation Officer for the Omaha Tribe. Emily DeLeon will serve as THPO for the Winnebago Tribe. Duties under the National Historic Preservation Act they may undertake include nominating properties to the National Register of Historic Places, reviewing federal projects on tribal lands, surveying significant historic, archeological, and cultural properties, and planning for preservation of important sites. Tribes will also qualify for historic preservation grants with the new designation.

For more information about historic preservation activities in the state, contact Bob Puschendorf, State Historic Preservation Office, Nebraska State Historical Society at 402-471-4769 or email bob.puschendorf@nebraska.gov.

Become a Trustee

Would you like to help lead the NSHS as a member of the Board of Trustees? Board application materials are available at nebraskahistory.org/admin/board. Or just go to our home page, type “board” in the search box, and click on the first link that appears. Twelve trustees are elected by NSHS members; three seats are up for election in 2012. To be considered for the nominating committee’s slate of candidates, submit your application by June 28. Petition candidates may submit applications up to 5 p.m., August 27, 2012.
Guy Hooker the Rescuer

Who is Guy Hooker, and who did he rescue?
I found this postcard on the Web, but it came with only the information printed on the front of the card. Through a quick online search I learned that Ashland flooded in July 1908. The NSHS library contained a 1957 Ashland history that included the same photo but no additional information. Next, I located Hooker on the online Social Security Death Index and found that his last residence was in Weeping Water and that he died in May 1973. Believing there might be an interesting story behind the postcard, I recommended that the NSHS acquire it.

The Ashland and Lincoln newspapers (on file in the NSHS Reference Room) include a lengthy account of the “worst flood in local history” that occurred on Tuesday, July 7, 1908. The rain began Sunday night, and “by midnight Monday, Salt Creek was out of its banks.” Seventeen-year-old Guy was living in Ashland with his parents, Jesse and Mary Hooker, along with a sister. When their home became surrounded by water, Jesse put Mary and Guy in the trees and swam downstream with his daughter on his back, returning with a boat. Another newspaper account says that Jesse’s boat capsized and that only because he was an expert swimmer was he able to cling to a tree with his daughter until they were rescued. The family’s “home was swept entirely away and the wreck lies in the city park many rods below.”

Once he and his family were safe, it appears that Guy took a boat and started rescuing other families. According to the Ashland Gazette, he rescued at least three families identified in the report. The flood’s only reported fatality was a local businessman named William P. Snell, who had been an Ashland resident since 1865. Guy and several other men were listed as heroes of the flood, with recommendations that Guy should receive the Carnegie medal:

People who witnessed the marvelous endurance and bravery of Guy Hooker were thrilled by his daring and in a few moments a large purse amounting to $60 was subscribed by the citizens. His merits will be presented to commissioners of the Carnegie fund and without a doubt his name will be enrolled among those of the Nation’s heroes.

However, I could not find a reference to show that Guy ever received this medal.

The Ashland flood wasn’t Guy Hooker’s first attempt at a water rescue. One month earlier, according to the Nebraska State Journal, he and his father had unsuccessfully attempted to rescue a Dr. C. C. Wheeler when his boat capsized. And Guy may have continued to help with water rescues afterward. In 1929 the Lincoln Evening News reported that he was asked to search the Platte River for the body of drowning victim G. W. Burdick of Bethany. The account mentioned his rescues of twenty years earlier.

Guy and his family were still listed as Ashland residents in the 1910 census. He was drafted in World War I and was living in Omaha by the 1920 census. In 1923 he married Maude Mae McGuire Kennedy, an Ashland widow. In 1930 they were living in Ashland with the child from her first marriage, Wesley Kennedy. Maude died in 1931; her obituary states that she was buried in the Ashland Cemetery.

Thus far, I have not been able to find other information about Guy Hooker’s life, except for conflicting information regarding his death: a May 4, 1973 death certificate from Fillmore County Hospital in Geneva, indicating burial at Geneva Cemetery, and information that he’d been institutionalized in Saunders County. But I found no obituary in the newspapers of Geneva, Ashland, Wahoo, or Weeping Water (Cass County). I’ve contacted numerous individuals and organizations in these communities, but besides vague recollections no one has been able to provide further information. And if records from the hospital or welfare do exist, they are probably restricted. Perhaps descendants of his siblings and other records that become available (such as later census records) will provide the rest of the story of the life of “Guy Hooker the Rescuer.”

—Cindy S. Drake, Library Curator
What is a State Archivist?

We asked Gayla Koerting of our staff to explain what the State Archivist does and some of the challenges she faces in preserving the records of Nebraska:

In June 2011 I assumed the title State Archivist while continuing to perform my duties as Curator of Government Records for the NSHS. These roles go hand in hand, since the responsibilities of the State Archivist are to advise, clarify, and assist governmental agencies (local, county, or state) with questions regarding public records.

The NSHS also faces a number of challenges. The greatest one for any state archives is getting the necessary resources to properly store and make accessible their holdings in either paper or electronic formats. With increasing budget constraints, it is truly a balancing act to maintain access and a high level of service.

The second biggest challenge over the past two decades has been that of digital preservation. The main concern is the potential inability to access and use information over time—e.g., documents, images, audio-visual recordings, and websites. This concern involves four issues: differing views about what entails a “record” in the digital environment; the fragility of physical media holding the records (remember floppy disks); the rapid obsolescence of hardware and software needed to read the records; and the application of accessioning these records given the new types of electronic formats that are always evolving.

Efforts are underway to address these issues at the national level, led by the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), Society of American Archivists (SAA), and Council of State Archivists (CoSA). “Digital archivists” represent the newest members of our profession, specializing in making decisions on implementation strategies and solutions for managing “born electronic” records.

Nebraska Book Festival March 31

Join the Nebraska Center for the Book for the 2012 Nebraska Book Festival, Saturday, March 31, in downtown Lincoln at the Nebraska History Museum (15th and P) and nuWibe Juice and Java (126 North 14th Street). The event is free and open to the public, and will focus on Nebraska authors who published new works in 2011. Authors will participate in readings, question-and-answer sessions, and book signings. Novelist Ron Hansen will be the keynote speaker. bookfestival.nebraska.gov

Summer Classes for Kids

The NSHS will host classes for students from June through early August on a variety of topics, including the Civil War; aviation; Victorian table manners; puppets; Native American arts, crafts, and games; pioneer arts, crafts, and games; doodle art; cartooning; and illustration art. Classes are designed for kids in grades K-8. Students in grades 9-12 with an interest in history are encouraged to apply to be class assistants. Registration is required.

Watch for details at nebraskahistory.org (click on “For Kids”) and on our Facebook page.
Treasures from Nebraska’s Museums

From April to June, the Nebraska History Museum in Lincoln is featuring items from the Plainsman Museum in Aurora. Dedicated in 1976, the museum collects and interprets Hamilton County history from 1860 to 1950. The main rotunda features acclaimed murals and mosaics of historical events. Exhibits include period rooms and a main street where visitors are encouraged to enter the shops, an original log cabin, and an authentic sod house. Other collections include dolls, Civil War items, and wildlife collections; museum grounds include an agricultural building, one-room schoolhouse, the historic Bates home, a blacksmith shop, and a railroad caboose.

The museum is located at 210 Sixteenth Street, and is open April 1–October 31, Tuesday–Saturday, 9 a.m. –5 p.m., and November 1–March 31, Tuesday–Saturday, 9 a.m. –5 p.m. Admission is $6 for adults, $4 for senior citizens (age 62+), $2 for students (age 5-16), and free for kids under 5. 402-694-6531, plainsmanmuseum.org.

What looks like a misshapen rolling pin is actually a spettekaka form, used to bake a traditional Swedish conical cake. This form was used 1900-1930 by Anna Olson, grandmother of present-day Aurora resident LaVerle Olson Bish. (See blog.nebraskahistory.org for the Olson family spettekaka recipe.)

Aurora resident Fay Perry built this scale model steam engine and threshing machine, which are displayed in the Plainsman Museum’s agricultural building. Fay was known around Aurora as the “Pumpkin Man” because he raised a bounty of pumpkins every year and displayed them on his farm north of town. In addition to the steam engine and threshing machine, he built many other scale models of buildings that are featured at the museum.

The NH Back Issue Giveaway

Recently we moved the back issues of Nebraska History to a new storage area and didn’t have space for them all. We simply had too many copies of some issues. Two of our volunteers, Bonnie Quinn and Suzy Giannoble, solved the problem by offering free magazines to organizations across the state. More than 2,800 magazines were given to thirty-two institutions from Kimball to Omaha, including libraries, schools, and museums.

Though the excess magazines are gone, back issues are still sold through our Landmark Stores (402-471-3447), and a complete index and links to nearly three hundred online articles (at last count) are available at nebraskahistory.org—just click the publications tab to reach the Nebraska History page.
Coming in Nebraska History

Omaha city leaders touted the Jobbers Canyon warehouse district as a key to downtown redevelopment. But that was before a major employer decided it wanted the land. The ensuing struggle pitted the leverage of a Fortune 500 company against a vision of economic development through historic preservation. The result was the largest ever demolition of a district listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Daniel D. Spegel's article, “Big, Ugly Red Brick Buildings: The Fight to Save Jobbers Canyon,” will appear in the Summer 2012 issue of Nebraska History, and will be highly illustrated with photos of the entire district.

A second article by Nicholas Batter will look at base construction for America’s first intercontinental ballistic missile, the Atlas, which pushed several rural Nebraska communities to the front lines of the Cold War in the late 1950s. The project brought needed jobs to residents struggling through a sharp economic recession, but it also drew protestors who questioned the wisdom and morality of the nuclear program.

Look for the issue in your mailbox the second week of May.

Two Spring Conferences Scheduled to Honor Nebraska Authors

The John G. Neihardt State Historic Site in Bancroft will host its annual Spring Conference on April 28. This year’s theme is the world during Neihardt’s most productive years, 1900-1950. Speakers and topics will include Thomas Thiessen, on the Spanish American War; former State Senator David Landis, on George Norris and Populism; Sam DeLoria, on John Collier and the Indian Reorganization Act; and Robert Schneiders, on the Missouri River and the Army Corps of Engineers. The speakers will be interspersed with excerpts from Neihardt’s writings on each topic. www.neihardt-center.org

The Cather Foundation will host its annual Willa Cather Spring Conference at the Cather Historic Site in Red Cloud June 1-2. This year’s theme is “Willa Cather, Poet: Making Herself Born,” focusing on Cather the poet, on poetry, and on today’s poets from the Great Plains region with readings and performances, discussions, and a “Passing Show” panel devoted to Cather as a writer who began as a poet and then established herself as a writer of prose both luminous and poetic. A one-day scholarly symposium scheduled for Thursday, May 31, precedes the conference. www.willacather.org

Both historic sites are administered by their respective foundations under contract with NSHS.
UPCOMING EVENTS

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

March 6-June 25, 2012
Celebrating 100 Years of Girl Scouting
Exhibition
Nebraska History Museum (NHM), 15th & P streets, Lincoln
402-471-4754

April 6, 2012 - August 9, 2013
The Illustrator’s Pencil: John Falter from Nebraska to the Saturday Evening Post
Exhibition
NHM • 402-471-4754

April 15 • 2 p.m.
Folksingers Tom May and Bobby Bridger
Sunday Afternoon at the Museum
John G. Neihardt State Historic Site, 306 W. Elm St., Bancroft
888-777-4667, www.neihardtcenter.org

April 19 • 12 noon
Blake Bell, historian, Homestead National Monument of America
“Fighting for the Homestead”
Brown Bag Lecture Series
NHM • 402-471-4754

April 19-October 28, 2012
Quilting for a Cause: Nebraska’s Fundraising Quilts
Exhibition
NHM • 402-471-4754

April 22 • 2-4 p.m.
“Sandhill Cranes”
Free Family Workshop
Crafts and facts on Sandhill cranes; Jeff Kurrus will read his Have You Seen Mary?
NHM • 402-471-4754, judy.keetle@nebraska.gov

April 28 • 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
“The World During Neihardt’s Most Productive Years: 1900-1950”
30th Annual Neihardt Spring Conference
John G. Neihardt State Historic Site (registration required)

April 26-28
“A Historical Overview of the Missouri River’s Fluid Relationship with Land, Water & People”
Fourth Biennial Missouri River Educational Lecture Series
Ponca State Park (registration required)
402-755-2284, jeff.fields@nebraska.gov

May 4-August 4, 2012
Superheroes and Thugs: The Comic Book Art of Bob Hall
Exhibition
NHM • 402-471-4754

May 12 • 2-4 p.m.
“Aprons for Mothers”
Free Family Workshop
Visitors will personalize a 1950s-style apron for Mother
Nebraska History Museum
NHM • 402-471-4754, judy.keetle@nebraska.gov

May 17 • 12 noon
Deb Arenz, NSHS Collections Division
“The Illustrator’s Pencil: John Falter from Nebraska to the Saturday Evening Post”
Brown Bag Lecture Series
NHM • 402-471-4754

May 19 • 1-4 p.m.
Homestead Express
Free Family Workshop
Part of a weekend full of activities at Lincoln museums celebrating the 150th anniversary of the Homestead Act. Play with pioneer toys and games, make a prairie schooner from a shoebox and more!
NHM • 402-471-4754, judy.keetle@nebraska.gov

May 29 • 10-11 a.m.
Picture book readings with related activities for all ages
Hour at the Museum
NHM • 402-471-4754, judy.keetle@nebraska.gov

May 31 - June 2
“Willa Cather, Poet: Making Herself Born”
Hour at the Museum
Red Cloud (registration required)
866-731-7304, www.willacather.org

June 5, 12, 19, 26 • 10-11 a.m.
Picture book readings with related activities for all ages
Hour at the Museum
NHM • 402-471-4754, judy.keetle@nebraska.gov

June 16 • 2-4 p.m.
“Ties for Fathers”
Free Family Workshop
Visitors will personalize a tie for Dad
NHM • 402-471-4754, judy.keetle@nebraska.gov

June 21 • 12 noon
Bob Hall, cartoonist
“Superheroes and Thugs: The Comic Book Art of Bob Hall”
Brown Bag Lecture Series
NHM

Summer Classes for Kids
For dates, times, and places, visit
www.nebraskahistory.org

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

www.nebraskahistory.org
Thank you to Dr. Arthur L. Weaver and Joanne Weaver!

The Weavers have graciously loaned three new pieces for the upcoming exhibition, *The Illustrator’s Pencil: John Falter from Nebraska to the Saturday Evening Post*, which opens at the Nebraska History Museum in Lincoln on April 6, 2012, and runs through August 9, 2013. The following will be on loan and displayed during the exhibition:

For more information about the NSHS Foundation, please contact: **Meg Klosterman Kester**, Executive Director, megk@nshsf.org; **Jodi Knight**, Development Director, jodik@nshsf.org.

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Lovers’ Lane, Falls City, Nebraska appeared on the May 24, 1947, cover of the *Saturday Evening Post* and is one of two Post covers by Falter that specifically feature Falls City.

Date with the Television was the April 2, 1956, cover of the *Saturday Evening Post*. 

Bring Home Pumpkins was the November 1, 1952, cover of the *Saturday Evening Post*. 

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Kinman-Oldfield Suite
128 N 13th, #1010
Lincoln, NE 68508
402-435-3535
www.nshsf.org
One Thousand Dollars for Red Cross Work Can Be Raised by Means of a Memorial Quilt" read a 1917 advertisement. As the United States entered World War I, the Red Cross asked citizens to volunteer time and raise funds to help their efforts. By the end of the war, nearly one third of the U.S. population was serving as a Red Cross volunteer or contributing member.

One way to raise money was by making a signature quilt with Red Cross patterns, and charging a small fee for each name added. Raffling or auctioning the completed quilt raised additional funds.

The women of Martell and Sprague, Nebraska, made this quilt, and 672 people paid fifty cents each to have their names written on it. This center block contains the signatures of President Woodrow Wilson, Gen. John J. Pershing, Theodore Roosevelt, and others. Dick Vanderhook bought it at the fundraising auction for $75. His daughter, Harriet Moller, donated it to the NSHS. See it in the exhibit Quilting for a Cause: Nebraska’s Fundraising Quilts, opening at the Nebraska History Museum on April 19 (see p. 3).