Trevor Jones Appointed as NSHS Director/CEO

The Nebraska State Historical Society Board of Trustees has appointed Trevor M. Jones of Frankfort, Kentucky, as director/CEO of the NSHS. Jones brings almost two decades of experience in historical organizations and museums in Iowa, Illinois, North Carolina, and Wisconsin to the position. He currently serves as Director of Historical Resources at the Kentucky Historical Society (KHS) in Frankfort. Under his leadership, KHS made its collections digitally available to a wide audience, created innovative exhibitions, and increased use of the Society’s programs throughout the state.

Jones holds a bachelor’s degree in history and German from Grinnell College and a master’s degree in history and a museum studies certification from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. He is a graduate of the Seminar for Historical Administration and is a certified Project Management Professional. He is active in the American Association for State and Local History, serving as Leadership Nominating Committee chair, and the American Alliance of Museums, where he has served on the board of the Leadership and Management Professional Network and as a Museum Assessment Program reviewer.

Jones has also taught museum studies courses, led digitization projects, published in refereed journals, and developed award-winning exhibitions. He has worked to create diversified funding sources at KHS and believes strongly that historical institutions have the capacity to improve skills that contribute to a stronger citizenry. “I am excited to join an institution with creative staff, renowned collections, and a distinguished history,” Jones said. “I look forward to creating more opportunities for Nebraskans to explore and appreciate their past, learn more about themselves, and enhance their decision making through the use of their history.”

Jones will replace Michael J. Smith, who is retiring June 30 after ten years as director/CEO. Starting date for the new director will be in July.
See indigenous peoples through the eyes of indigenous photographers in the temporary exhibit, *Our People, Our Land, Our Images*, at the Nebraska History Museum in Lincoln through August 11. The works include newly discovered, nineteenth-century trailblazers, well-established contemporary practitioners, and emerging photographers from North and South America, the Middle East, and New Zealand.

The fifty-one works in the exhibition tell their stories through differing photographic approaches, but all explore their creators’ connections to their land, community, and traditions. Artists’ statements convey a variety of indigenous voices and concerns. The twenty-six artists in the exhibition include Cherokee Jennie Ross Cobb, the earliest known female Native American photographer.

The exhibition offers an open-ended opportunity to think about how the camera in the hands of indigenous peoples becomes a tool with the power to confront and analyze stereotypes, politics, and histories. *Our People, Our Land, Our Images* is made available through the Mid-America Arts Alliance Exhibits USA program.

Shan Goshorn (Cherokee, b. 1957), *Pawnee Woman in Field*, from the series *Earth Renewal/Earth Return*, c. 2002, hand-tinted, double-exposed, black-and-white photograph, 24 x 30 inches, courtesy the artist. © Shan Goshorn
Just Released: *Last Days of Red Cloud Agency*: Rare Photos from a Troubled Time

In the final year of his life, longtime NSHS curator Thomas R. Buecker investigated and wrote about a newly-uncovered collection of photographs which illustrate a major turning point in the history of Nebraska and the Great Plains. The NSHS recently published the resulting book, *Last Days of Red Cloud Agency: Peter T. Buckley's Photograph Collection, 1876-1877*.

The years 1876-77 were a period of traumatic change for the Native peoples of the northern Plains. The Great Sioux War marked the end of their traditional lifestyle and the beginning of their restriction to reservations. *Last Days of Red Cloud Agency* presents a collection of photographs of the Oglala Lakota and Arapaho Indians at northwestern Nebraska’s Red Cloud Agency, of the agency itself, and other sites and landmarks in the vicinity.

The collection was assembled by Peter T. Buckley, who worked at Camp (later Fort) Robinson, Nebraska, during those crucial years. Some of these views are already familiar to historians, but many others are published here for the first time. Together they tell a story of a land and culture in transition.

Historian and author Paul Hedren called Buecker “a master story-teller whose unique focus was the Pine Ridge Country and Fort Robinson. The diverse array of images associated with this particular narrative are themselves a treasure. Piecing the story of collectors and this striking group of photographs, many of them unpublished, was Tom’s forte. *Last Days of Red Cloud Agency* is both a unique contribution to Nebraska history and a fitting final tribute to a sorely missed historian and friend.”

The photograph collection is owned by Larry Ness of Yankton, South Dakota, who generously allowed the NSHS to scan and publish the photos. Publication costs were provided by the Ronald K. and Judith M. Stolz Parks Publishing Fund established at the Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation.

Buy your copy of the 268-page hardcover book for $26.95 ($29.95 for non-members) through the NSHS Landmark Stores, nebraskahistory.org, 402-471-2062.

Uncovering New History with NSHS Research Grants

New research is the lifeblood of our publications and exhibits. 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 are: Nathan Tye, “Thicker Than Grasshoppers: Hobo Life in Nebraska, 1890-1930”; Jeff Wells, “Paul Vandervoort and the Dissolution of the People’s Party”; Bryan Winston, “From Sugar to Iron: Mexican Immigrants in Scottsbluff and Omaha during the Twentieth Century.” 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.
For nearly four-and-a-half years, volunteers at the North Platte Canteen served every troop train that passed through town.

NSHS RG1331-52

April 1 of this year marked the seventieth anniversary of the closing of the North Platte Canteen. The canteen served over six million World War II service men and women traveling on the Union Pacific railroad between December 25, 1941, and April 1, 1946. While it was created to boost morale among service men and women, the canteen also had significant lasting effects on the volunteers. Rosalie Lippincott of Lincoln is proof of how a small act of service reverberates through a lifetime.

“I’ve thought so many times how I did this little act as a teenager and young woman and then I put it out of my mind and didn’t think about it,” Lippincott said. “And here in my sunset years, that act has brought me so much joy and pleasure. It gave me back some enthusiasm for life.”

Then Rosalie Frazell, she was one of the 55,000 volunteers from 125 different towns who helped serve food and drink and hand out cigarettes, popcorn balls, and magazines to canteen visitors.

“You just felt so good because everything was free, where at other canteens you had to pay,” Lippincott said. “Enlisted and officers together—nobody paid a cent.”

Lippincott served at the canteen between six and eight times. She visited for the first time in 1942 when she was a sophomore growing up on a farm near Shelton.

“The call was put out, and they wanted women volunteers to go,” Lippincott said. “My older sister went, so, boy, I thought—me, too! My parents understood what was going on and were certainly willing to let me help.”

While many communities pooled gas rations so volunteers could drive to the canteen, Shelton volunteers could take the train.

“But there was a catch,” Lippincott said. “The train left Shelton at 3:30 a.m.”

The first time, Lippincott and her friend nearly missed it even though she stayed overnight in Shelton instead of traveling the seven miles from her family’s farm to town in the morning.

“We overslept,” Lippincott said. “We jumped up and jumped into our clothes, but the train was twenty minutes late so time was in our favor. That little train didn’t chug along very fast.”

The girls arrived in North Platte around 7:00 a.m. and were put immediately to work.

“I arranged magazines and made them attractive for pick up,” Lippincott said. “It was all free, all donated by families. They weren’t absolutely current, but they were something to read.”

Reading materials included Life, Look, Saturday Evening Post, Reader’s Digest, and sports, movie, and automobile magazines.

When that was finished, Lippincott started peeling hard-boiled eggs. In a letter she wrote to her future husband, Dick Lippincott, who was serving in Germany, she recorded that from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., volunteers filled twenty bushel baskets with egg salad sandwiches. Around twenty to twenty-five women were working constantly to keep the tables stocked with sandwiches, cookies, coffee, milk, and birthday cakes. Most remarkably for a nation under war rationing, all of the ingredients were donated.

“People gave up their sugar rations to bake something to give to the canteen,” Lippincott said.

Soldiers only had about ten to twenty minutes to enjoy North Platte’s generosity.

“They ran in and ate and then the train whistled and away they’d have to go,” Lippincott said.

The birthday cakes were part of a tradition at the canteen to make sure soldiers with birthdays left North Platte with their own cake.

“You’d call, ‘Any birthdays today?’” Lippincott said. “It brought big smiles when you could bring a birthday cake to somebody.”

After the food was served, massive clean-up commenced.

“We served coffee in china cups and that meant dishes to wash,” Lippincott said. “Being a peon and a teenager, that was my next job—to wash and dry dishes.”

Dishwashing did not dim Lippincott’s enthusiasm for working at the canteen.

“I was a teenager and these were men in uniform. Your heart
went bumpity-bump-bump,” Lippincott said. “But you had to behave yourself, and we always did. My dad would have skinned me if he thought I was being a floozy.”

Lippincott graduated from high school at age fifteen in 1944 and then taught school, so she didn’t have as much time to go to North Platte. After the war ended, she was reunited with her soldier sweetheart, Dick Lippincott.

“It was love at first sight,” Lippincott said. “A mutual friend had a Sunday dinner, and she set us up. He had a farm deferment, but he didn’t feel right about it and went to the draft board. After two years in the service, he came back in August 1946, and we married on his birthday, November 27, 1946.”

The Lippincotts, who were married sixty-two years before Dick passed away in 2009, farmed near Central City and raised three sons and a daughter. All their sons served in the military, and their daughter is a registered nurse.

For a while, Lippincott’s time at the canteen faded from memory.

“My kids never heard me talk about the canteen,” Lippincott said. “I was so busy raising four kids and being a farmer’s wife that talking about the canteen never happened. Sometime in the ’90s, when we got a computer, I wanted something to do on it, so I wrote out what I remembered about the canteen. I told my two youngest sons and they said to me, ‘You’ve never said anything about it.’ I said, ‘Well, I’m telling you about it now so you know.’”

Lippincott has done numerous speaking engagements throughout the state to share the amazing feat of generosity that happened at the North Platte Canteen. Beyond sandwiches, birthday cake, and something to read, the canteen gave support to soldiers far from home, bound for dangerous destinations.

“It’s surprising how many people say—’I didn’t know that!’” Lippincott said. “It’s a story that needs to be talked about.”

For more stories, images, and video of the North Platte Canteen visit nebraskastudies.org and click on the 1925-1949 timeline button.

NSHS to Co-Host Plains Anthropological Society Meeting

The NSHS is co-hosting the 74th Annual Plains Anthropological Society Meeting in Lincoln, October 12-15, 2016, with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and the National Park Service (Midwest Archeological Center). The meeting will feature tours of archeological sites, receptions, a banquet, and papers and posters on a wide variety of archeological and anthropological research topics from Texas to Canada. Special sessions will celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the National Park Service and the 50th Anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act. plainsanthropologicalsociety.org/meeting.

Looking south from 24th and Ohio toward the Lake Street intersection.

Historic District Named in North Omaha

Newly listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the intersection of North 24th and Lake Streets has a long, complex history in North Omaha, dating to the late nineteenth century and the establishment of streetcar lines. Originally residential, the area slowly commercialized as business owners capitalized on the intersection of two streetcar lines and the increasing numbers of immigrants that settled in the area.

After the devastating 1913 Omaha tornado, the district rebounded as a center of commerce. It became a center of jazz music and of African American civic and cultural life, hosting music halls, businesses, and professionals that catered to Omaha’s growing black population.

Created by discriminatory housing policies and both customary and legal segregation, the neighborhood faced severe challenges in the mid-twentieth century. Riots in 1966, 1968, and 1969, declining economic prosperity, the loss of businesses due to freeway construction, and the end of streetcar service all took their toll. The neighborhood currently is undergoing a resurgence driven by public and private investment, restoring its vitality and importance in Omaha’s civic and cultural life.
Treasures from the Nebraska History Museum

You may have wondered about the images on the new colorful artwork on the Nebraska History Museum. Each panel of Inside Outside shows an object from the collection. Some are easy to identify, but others are unusual. One is a musical instrument consisting of a leather bag and brass embellished horns. This Czech bagpipe, known as a dudy, belonged to the Brt family of Saline County. It was donated to the museum in 1953 by Edward Brt, who was passionate about preserving his family’s Czech heritage and documenting the musical history of Czechs in Saline County.

Bartholomew Brt brought the dudy from Bohemia to Nebraska in 1874. The very musical family included sons Vaclav and Frank, who served in a musical division of the military in Bohemia before immigrating to Nebraska. The Brts settled near Crete, where they farmed and provided musical entertainment for many Saline County occasions. They reportedly once received a live cow as payment. Frank and his sons played at many Saline County dances in the early twentieth century. He also played with the very popular Frank Nedela band that was active for more than fifty years. Frank’s son Edward trained with Frank Nedela, and was a member of the Nedela Kid Band, a band for local boys. Edward also played with his father in Nedela’s adult band, and studied cornet at the Kansas State Teachers College in Emporia.

Edward Brt’s interest in preserving the musical history of Saline County led him to contribute historical information to various publications. He donated several other musical instruments, sheet music, and family materials to the NSHS.

Bartholomew Brt’s dudy is now on display as part of the Nebraska History Museum’s Nebraska Unwrapped exhibit.

Two other objects featured in Inside Outside are also on display: a Middle Woodlands ceramic pot and a cornhusking hook. Nebraska Unwrapped includes a wide array of other treasures from the NSHS’s collections, including moving images, photographs, maps, archeological collections, government records, scrapbooks, diaries, and a wide variety of objects from the museum’s collection.
Can you find the dudy? Impress your friends next time you visit the Nebraska History Museum by identifying the Czech bagpipe and telling its back story. See p. 9 for news of a dudy performance.

NSHS Makes “Nebraska 150 Books” List

A new list of 150 books is said to “represent the best literature produced from Nebraska during the past 150 years.” We’re proud to say that the sesquicentennial-inspired list includes numerous books published by the NSHS or authored by current or former NSHS staff. Recent titles include: Solomon D. Butcher: Photographing the American Dream, by John Carter; Standing Firmly by the Flag: Nebraska Territory and the Civil War, 1861-1867, by James E. Potter; and Nebraska’s Post Office Murals: Born of the Depression, Fostered by the New Deal, by L. Robert Puschendorf. And no such list would be complete without books by classic Nebraska authors such as Willa Cather, John Neihardt, and former Nebraska History associate editor Mari Sandoz.

The NE150 Committee will promote the books through the sesquicentennial year. When you’re seeking Nebraska books, look here for ideas: nebraska150books.org. Or join the “Nebraska 150 Books” Club described on p. 8.

Sandhills Archeological Survey

The vast Sandhills region is one of Nebraska’s least understood, especially regarding archeology and prehistoric peoples. A three-year project seeks to discover more. The NSHS’s Historic Preservation and Archeology Divisions and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Department of Anthropology will collaborate to send teams of archeology students and professionals to explore more than 20,000 acres of stream and river valleys, lakeshores, and upland dune fields. They anticipate identifying hundreds of new archeological sites, including those left by early hunters and gatherers over 10,000 years ago, Native American hunting camps and small villages, and even early cattle ranches.

Mechanical cores, or trenches, will help search for deeply buried sites under dune fields. UNL faculty are exploring using low-level drones in the search for archeological sites. More promising sites will become the focus of exploratory excavations. The project will inform research on climate change and human adaptation, bison hunting strategies, early Euroamerican settlement and ranching patterns, stone tool and ceramic technology, and land use patterns. Watch for findings in a future issue.
Celebrate Nebraska Archeology Month in September

Fifty years ago the National Historic Preservation Act was signed into law, establishing a program for the preservation of historic properties throughout the nation. Much of the archeological work completed in Nebraska over the last half-century has been influenced by this act, which provided the legal framework and incentives to preserve archeological sites. This September, Nebraska Archeology Month 2016 focuses on the legacy of this act.

NSHS Trustee Petition Candidate Deadline August 15

While the June 16 deadline to seek nomination for the NSHS Board of Trustees has passed, prospective candidates may still submit a petition form before 5 p.m., August 15, 2016, to be placed on the ballot. Three seats are up for election in 2016, one in each congressional district. More information at nebraskahistory.org/admin/board.

New Events at the Nebraska History Museum

The newly re-opened NHM is offering more activities than ever; all are free except where noted.

**Film Series Sundays, 2 p.m. - July 24-Aug. 7**

Enjoy a short film, a bag of popcorn, and a post-film discussion led by a special guest from the community. We begin with films provided by Mid-America Arts Alliance in conjunction with the exhibit *Our People, Our Land, Our Images: International Indigenous Photography*: July 24 *Silent Tears* (1997, 28 min. Narrative) Director/Producer Shirley Cheechoo, Cree; July 31 *How People Got Fire* (2009, 16 min. Animated) Screenplay/Director: Daniel Janke, Animation design: Christopher Auchter, Haida; Aug 7 Experimental Short Films by Shelley Niro, Mohawk.

**History Bites at Noon – First Mondays starting August**

Enjoy meaningful stories that abound in NHM’s new exhibits over your lunch hour. Meet NHM’s staff and special guests at the museum for an engaging 15-minute talk on a chosen object or artifact on view. If time allows, stay longer and enjoy your lunch with the new friends you will make.

**Fourth Friday Noon “Nebraska 150 Books” Club – Fourth Fridays starting September 23, 12-1 p.m.**

Read Willa Cather’s *My Ántonia* and join museum educator and Nebraska Literary Heritage Association board member Judy Keetle for the monthly book club kickoff meeting at NHM. Enjoy special author appearances and related artifact features on view in the museum. Become a member and receive a 10 percent discount on your books in the Landmark Store.

**Existing NHM events continue as well:**

**NHM Public Drop-in Tours – Daily at 2 p.m.**

Meet a docent at the museum for a free introductory tour of NHM’s changing exhibitions.

**Hour at the Museum – Tuesdays at 10 a.m.**

Hear a story about Nebraska or the Great Plains, make a craft or play a game, and then find the related artifacts in NHM’s exhibits.

If you need to stretch your legs after your museum-going, join the NHM, the State Historic Preservation Office, the Great Plains Trails Network, and Ed Zimmer on a *Biking Tour of Mid-Century Modern Homes*, Sunday, September 18, 1-4:30 p.m. Take a mini tour of *American Dreams in the Cold War: Photos by Barbara and Ralph Fox* at NHM and then bicycle to the Eastridge neighborhood with its popular 1950s Ranch-style homes. Cost is $20 per person and includes a snack and drink. The tour is limited to 25 people, ages 18 or older. Contact sharon.kennedy@nebraska.gov or 402-471-4445.
Free Family Fun Days at NHM  All ages will enjoy these drop-in events:

Making Music at the Museum  
**Saturday, July 16, 2-4 p.m.**

Learn about the Czech dudy (bagpipe) and other musical artifacts in NHM's Nebraska Unwrapped exhibit. Hear live tunes from The Southeast Nebraska Bohemian Bagpipe Band and make your own instrument.

Your Quilt Heritage  
**Saturday, August 13, 2-4 p.m.**

Hear a story about quilts and see how a real quilt is made. Find patterns in Nebraska's Enduring Quilt Heritage exhibit and stroll with a docent on Centennial Mall to discover a world of patterns outdoors. Design your own pattern creation.

Archeology Month at NHM!  
**Sunday, September 11, 2-4 p.m.**

Meet an NSHS archeologist and help with a dig. Watch a flint knapping demonstration and see the many excavation treasures on view in Nebraska Unwrapped.

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Summer Kids’ Classes

Nebraska History Museum is hosting classes for students who have completed grades K-8 (except where noted) on a variety of topics. Classes will be held through August 8. July and August dates and topics are:

- **July 7:** It’s Not Your Grandma’s Quilt
- **July 21:** Nebraska Symbols
- **July 27:** Photography: Behind the Lens (grade 3-8)
- **Aug. 2:** Learning to Play Chess (grade 4-8)
- **Aug. 4:** A Day in the Life of a Pioneer Child
- **Aug. 8:** Planning Your Family Tree (grade 4-8)

All classes will be held in the Gilmore Room, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Cost is $40 per class for the general public, or $35 for NSHS members. Grandparents are encouraged to take the classes with their grandchildren at no extra charge! All registrations (required) are on a first-come, first-served basis. Registration forms can be picked up at the NHM or found at nebraskahistory.org under the “For Kids” button. If you have questions, contact Museum Educator Judy Keetle, judy.keetle@nebraska.gov or 402-471-4757.

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Out of Old Nebraska / Nebraska Timeline History Column Marks Seventy Years

Soon after James C. Olson became superintendent (now director) of the Nebraska State Historical Society in 1946, he began writing a weekly column, Out of Old Nebraska, for distribution to the state’s newspapers. Its purpose was “to explore and map out some of the byways, as well as the main highways, of the history of Nebraska.” The inaugural column appeared September 29, 1946, during National Newspaper Week.

Seventy years later the column Olson initiated in 1946 is still going strong! The name was changed to Nebraska Timeline in 1987, but the column still highlights the richness, the variety, and yes, the quirkiness of human activity over time in this place called Nebraska.

NSHS staff produces four Nebraska Timeline columns each month and distributes them through the Nebraska Press Association. The entire seventy years worth of columns (more than 3,000) are available in the NSHS Reference Room. Or look online for more recent ones, at nebraskahistory.org (search “Nebraska Timeline”). Sample this huge cache of stories about Nebraska’s past and watch for new ones in your local newspaper, or encourage your editor if your paper doesn’t carry it.
Unless otherwise noted, all events are free and open to the public.

Daily ∙ 2 p.m.
Drop-In Tours
Nebraska History Museum (NHM)
131 Centennial Mall North, Lincoln
402-471-4754

Tuesdays ∙ 10-11 a.m.
Hour at the Museum
NHM ∙ 402-471-4754
judy.keeble@nebraska.gov
Different topics every week!

July 16 ∙ 2-4 p.m.
Making Music at the Museum
Free Family Fun Day
NHM ∙ 402-471-4754

July 21 ∙ 12 noon
Jim Potter
The State Flag and the Great Seal: The Historical Ups and Downs of Two Nebraska Icons

Brown Bag Lecture Series
NHM ∙ 402-471-4754

July 24 ∙ 2 p.m.
Silent Tears (1997)
Film Series Sunday
Short film, popcorn, and discussion
NHM ∙ 402-471-4754

July 31 ∙ 2 p.m.
How People Got Fire (2009)
Film Series Sunday
Short film, popcorn, and discussion
NHM ∙ 402-471-4754

August 1 ∙ 12-12:15 p.m.
History Bites at Noon (First Mondays)
NHM ∙ 402-471-4754

August 7 ∙ 2 p.m.
Experimental Short Films by Shelley Niro
Film Series Sunday
Short film, popcorn, and discussion
NHM ∙ 402-471-4754

August 13 ∙ 2-4 p.m.
Your Quilt Heritage
Free Family Fun Day
NHM ∙ 402-471-4754

August 18 ∙ 12 noon
Jeff Searcy
The History and Future of Nebraska’s Centennial Mall
Brown Bag Lecture Series
NHM ∙ 402-471-4754

August 26 - September 5
Food Will Win the War, WWI exhibit
Pinnacle Bank Expo Center
Nebraska State Fair, Grand Island
statefair.org

September 11 ∙ 2-4 p.m.
Archaeology Month at NHM
Free Family Fun Day
NHM ∙ 402-471-4754

September 12 (due to 9/5 holiday)
12-12:15 p.m.
History Bites at Noon (First Mondays)
NHM ∙ 402-471-4754

September 15 ∙ 12 noon
Nolan Johnson
The Features of Fort Atkinson
Brown Bag Lecture Series
NHM ∙ 402-471-4754

September 18 ∙ 1-4:30 p.m.
Biking Tour of Mid-Century Modern Homes
Historic Eastridge Neighborhood
$20 per person, see p. 8.
Contact Sharon Kennedy, 402-471-4445,
sharon.kennedy@nebraska.gov

September 23 ∙ 12 noon- 1 p.m.
My Ántonia by Willa Cather
“My Nebraska 150 Books” Club (4th Fridays)
NHM ∙ 402-471-4754

See p. 9 for Kids’ Summer Classes
For updated events, see the NSHS Facebook page, linked from www.nebraskahistory.org

www.nebraskahistory.org
NSHS Hosts Statewide Cemetery Registry

One of the NSHS’s many resources for genealogists is the Nebraska Statewide Cemetery Registry, mandated by the state legislature in 2005 as a central data bank to record the location of cemeteries, burial grounds, mausoleums, and columbaria across the state. If you are associated with, or aware of, any of the above, please verify that it has been registered by contacting cindy.drake@nebraska.gov. The registry is now in its tenth year and all entities that registered years ago should register again so that their information is current.

NSHS CEO Smith Receives Preservation Award

Retiring NSHS Director/CEO Mike Smith received this year’s Helen Boosalis Award from the Preservation Association of Lincoln for outstanding effort in promoting or advocating the value of historic preservation.

“Forty-five years ago I was appointed State Historic Preservation Officer in Tennessee,” Smith said. “Preservation was a new idea to many people, but one that was vigorously promoted by a number of farseeing and forceful voices. The entire field has evolved with new insights and concepts. The development of historic preservation continues as is illustrated by today’s emphasis on socially-responsible preservation.”

A Photo a Day from Chimney Rock 365

One of Nebraska’s most iconic landmarks is getting some daily attention from two photographers and nearly 3,000 of their fans. Friends and photography partners Sharon Henderson of Scottsbluff and Rod Russell of Bayard are photographing every Chimney Rock sunset for a full calendar year. Their project, called “Chimney Rock 365,” has grown from a personal interest to a community history project.

“One of the most surprising things has been the enthusiasm our project has received—and not just locally,” Russell said. “I walk into a bar or a restaurant now and people want to hear about how the project is going, and they tell me their story about Chimney Rock or their parents’ story.”

“We have fans from maybe ten different countries,” Henderson said. “It’s not just Nebraskans who should be able to relate to Chimney Rock but anyone interested in the Oregon Trail or people moving westward to find a better life.”

Henderson and Russell upload new photos to their Facebook page every day, and they’re working on a book proposal to preserve the photos along with more historical context.

“I want to find the same perspectives from historical photographs and hold them up side-by-side and show the erosion and the way it changes over time,” Russell said. “As soon as you take a photograph, it’s part of history.”

To find the project on Facebook, search “CR365.”

Photo courtesy of Sharon Henderson and Rod Russell
Sometimes fascinating archeological discoveries are made not during a dig but through otherwise mundane laboratory analysis. Early 1970s highway construction prompted NSHS to excavate portions of an expansive Pawnee village north of Schuyler that dated to the 1600s. Tens of thousands of bits of animal bone, broken pots and flint tools, and debris were recovered.

During routine cleaning and cataloging, the late former Highway Archeologist Gayle Carlson and NSHS artist Curt Peacock (now an NSHS volunteer) noticed several very thin cut lines on the inside of an otherwise unremarkable small fragment of buffalo skull. At first they thought the marks were from butchering, but closer examination via hand lenses, microscope, and photography revealed many more small lines forming a human figure. Adorned with what appear to be large earspools and head decoration, the figure is unique among Nebraska finds. It may suggest Pawnee connections to southern ceremonial complexes.