

# NEBRASKA history news

Volume 65 / Number 4 / October/November/December 2012

## The Best-Dressed Doll in the World: Nebraska's Own Terri Lee

She has big brown eyes, chubby cheeks, and lips in a permanent pout and stands a scant sixteen inches tall. And yet she's a Nebraskan through and through—a Terri Lee doll from Lincoln.

Terri Lee is the star of a new major exhibition, *The Best-Dressed Doll in the World: Nebraska's Own Terri Lee*. More than a hundred fashion-plate Terri Lee dolls will strut their stuff beginning December 7 at the Nebraska History Museum, Fifteenth and P streets.

An artist and mannequin maker named Maxine Runci imagined Terri Lee as a mannequin that children could play with, and created a toddler, not a baby. The doll went into production in 1946 and soon became “the best friend of children across America.”

Runci was the creative force behind the doll, but the business energy came from her aunt, Violet Lee Gradwohl of Lincoln. By December 1946, they sold 8,000 Terri Lees. Just six years later they sold more than 100,000.



Gene Autry, the Singing Cowboy, with heads of some Gene Autry dolls manufactured by Terri Lee, Inc., of Lincoln, Nebraska, in about 1950. NSHS RG5812-45

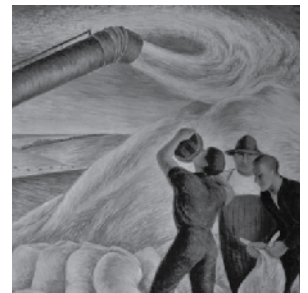


One of the Terri Lee dolls that was recently donated to the NSHS. 13244-8

The first dolls were made of a composite that included ground corn cobs. The company soon changed to plastics. Each face was hand painted in a factory at Twentieth and O streets in Lincoln, and all of the clothing was meticulously sewn by a cadre of women working at home. This individual handwork gave each Terri Lee its own unique personality.

Terri Lee introduced African American and Mexican dolls in 1947, a bold move in an America that was deeply segregated. Decades before celebrity-branded products were common, the company introduced a specialty doll featuring the singing cowboy, Gene Autry. A grand experiment, the Autry doll did not sell well.

Fire devastated the Lincoln factory in 1951. Violet Gradwohl chose to relocate in California,



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

Continued on p. 2



*The challenge is to ensure that museums, markers, and memorials are visible lessons.*

**A Past That Informs the Present**

Recently I was privileged to participate in the dedication of the Hall County Heritage Memorial in Grand Island. Developed by the Hall County Historical Society, the classically styled memorial features four kiosks containing tiles to carry the names of individuals, families, businesses, and organizations that the people of today honor for their contributions to the county’s history.

In speaking at the dedication, I was able to share a few snippets of Hall County’s heritage with the people who attended the ceremony. It is both appropriate and meaningful that the memorial is located adjacent to the historic house built by William Stolley, a pioneering settler in what was to become the city of Grand Island. It was an occasion all about history.

Our history is valuable when it helps us understand the past in a way that informs the present and provides direction for the future. The challenge I delivered to the Hall County Historical Society applies to all organizations that collect, preserve, and share the stories of the past. That challenge is to ensure that their museums, markers, and memorials are visible lessons. Let the history we strive to preserve convey the lesson that our world has been built by people with great abilities, yet all-too-human limitations. Let our history tell the story that despite those shortcomings reflected in violence, greed, and selfishness, we have often overcome our baser natures to support each other and the common good—as when we have welcomed the foreigner to our communities, or when we have overcome differences to solve seemingly unsolvable problems.

Memorials may be static and dead; they may also be inspiring and alive in public discourse that encourages change and accommodation to the needs of contemporary generations. I am confident that given the commitment of the Hall County Historical Society, its memorial in Stolley Park will serve the higher good of the community in the years ahead.

The full text of my remarks at the dedication can be found at [nebraskahistory.org](http://nebraskahistory.org); click on the “What’s New” tab.

*Michael J. Smith*  
Director/CEO

*Continued from p. 1*

and for a number of years Terri Lee was no longer a Nebraska girl. The California plant closed in 1958 following a suspicious fire. Terri Lee dolls have been produced off and on during the years since.

Barbie, introduced in 1959, created another sea change in the world of dolls. Terri Lee was a toddler, not a baby; Barbie was a young adult, not a child. Since then, most dolls have become action figures with movable limbs, refocusing the mind of the child at play.

Terri Lee dolls, the best friends of millions of children, have also become the best friends of collectors. Friends, collectors, '50s fashionistas and anyone interested in the second half of the twentieth century will be charmed by a visit with *The Best-Dressed Doll in the World*.

A major new donation of nearly three hundred dolls and related items, the centerpiece of the exhibit, will be announced at the December 7 opening.

Look, too, for a comprehensive examination of Terri Lee in an upcoming issue of *Nebraska History*. This simple child’s plaything tells a surprisingly large and complex story. 📖

**Other NSHS Book News**

***Standing Firmly by the Flag: Nebraska Territory and the Civil War, 1861-1867***,

by James E. Potter, NSHS senior research historian. What did Nebraska have to do with the Civil War? A lot more than you think—and the war did much to shape Nebraska statehood. This 448-page, \$29.95 book is coming in January 2013 from University of Nebraska Press. We’ll say more about it in our next issue.



More praise for ***Scenery, Curiosities, and Stupendous Rocks: William Quesenbury’s Overland Sketches 1850-1851***, by David Royce Murphy, NSHS senior research architect. The New Mexico Book Association recently awarded the book Best of Show in the Southwest Book Design & Production Awards. And in a recent review, *Choice*, published by the Association of College and Research Libraries, calls the book “handsomely published, lavishly illustrated, and meticulously descriptive . . . [a] well-written and well-documented work.”

To order these or other NSHS books, contact the NSHS Landmark Stores, 402-471-3447. 📖

## Nebraska's Post Office Murals Explores New Deal Legacy

Public art is among the most enduring visual legacies of the New Deal that offered hope during the Great Depression. *Nebraska's Post Office Murals: Born of the Depression, Fostered by the New Deal* is a new book from the NSHS due out November 1. Richly illustrated with photographs and never-before-published artists' sketches and working drawings, the book reveals the personalities, conflicts, and spirit of the times from which the art emerged. Color foldouts of each painting tell the story of the U.S. Treasury Department's post office mural program in Nebraska.

Author Robert Puschendorf, NSHS associate director and the deputy state historic preservation officer, spent years researching the book. With James E. Potter he is the co-editor of the Nebraska Book Award-winning *Spans in Time: A History of Nebraska Bridges*, and has published numerous historical articles.


*Nebraska's Post Office Murals: Born of the Depression, Fostered by the New Deal*, by L. Robert

Puschendorf. Hardcover (10" x 8"), 120 pages, illustrated, index, bibliography, \$29.95 / NSHS Members \$26.95 (plus tax & shipping).

To order visit [nebraskahistory.org/murals](http://nebraskahistory.org/murals) or call 402-471-3447.

### What readers say:

"Across Nebraska, small town post offices still house gems of regional art. This book brings these murals to a larger audience. This is a fascinating and enlightening exploration of beauty in the midst of hard times." —*Bill Ganzel, author of Dust Bowl Descent*

"Robert Puschendorf digs deeply into the layers of this nation's first government art patronage program, exploring its origins and its evolution during the Great Depression. Through the political and bureaucratic morass, he diligently uncovers within the state's Depression-era post offices, a rich Nebraska legacy of regional art murals." —*Sharon Kennedy, Curator of Cultural and Civic Engagement, Sheldon Museum of Art* 

# NEBRASKA'S POST OFFICE MURALS

BORN OF THE DEPRESSION, FOSTERED BY THE NEW DEAL | By L. ROBERT PUSCHENDORF



## ***Quilting on the Frontier: Celebrating 150 Years of the Homestead Act opens November 5***

Quilts made and used by homesteaders tell stories of Nebraska's early years in a new exhibit at the Nebraska History Museum. Many settlers came to take advantage of the Homestead Act of 1862 that provided up to 160 acres of public land to any head of household that paid a small fee, lived on the land for five years, farmed, and built a home. Some brought quilts with them. Some quilts were keepsakes made by loved ones back home. Others served as bedding during the trip and provided padding for fragile items. Once settled, homesteaders continued to make quilts to provide warmth for their families and add color and decoration to their homes.

Elizabeth Fultz, her husband Daniel, and their children moved to a homestead near Wilsonville, Nebraska. Sons George and John, and daughter Mary, also took homesteads. The exhibit includes quilts made by Elizabeth and her daughter-in-law Lydia, who made this Ocean Waves quilt (see detail above).

The tulip appliqué quilt made about 1847 by Susanna Stambaugh Eby was brought to Nebraska by covered wagon in 1886 by her granddaughter, Elizabeth Miller Sageser. Elizabeth moved with her husband, Albert, his father, and brothers' families who took adjoining sod house homesteads near Chambers, Nebraska. Pieces of fabric were cut in the shapes of tulips, leaves, and vases and placed on the



**Detail of Lydia Fultz's Ocean Waves quilt. NSHS 13151-1 b**

background fabric. The edges of the fabric were turned under and sewn into place in what is called a needle turn appliqué technique (see detail below).

A nine-patch doll quilt, and a few toys from the period including corncob dolls made by famed quilter Grace Snyder, will also be displayed.

The exhibit was curated by Donna Langford, an intern from the University of Nebraska's Department of Textiles, Merchandising, and Fashion Design. It runs through April 15, 2013, at the Nebraska History Museum, Fifteenth and P streets, Lincoln. 402-471-4782 ☎

**Detail of Susanna Stambaugh Eby's 1847 tulip appliqué quilt. NSHS 10646-2 c**



## Honoring History Makers at the NSHS Annual Meeting and Luncheon

Join us on Friday, October 26, 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., to recognize people who've made history by helping to preserve it. The following people will be honored at the NSHS Annual Meeting and Luncheon at the Downtown Holiday Inn in Lincoln:

**Suzy Giannoble** and **Bonnie Quinn**, both of Lincoln, will receive the **Robert W. Furnas Memorial Award** for outstanding contributions or assistance to the Nebraska State Historical Society.

**Gayle Carlson**, recently retired from the NSHS, whose lifelong work in the field of Great Plains archeology will be recognized with the **Asa T. Hill Memorial Award**.

**Dennis N. Mihelich**, Omaha, will receive the **Addison E. Sheldon Memorial Award** in recognition of his outstanding and long-term contributions to the preservation and interpretation of Nebraska history.

**David D. Kruger**, Laramie, Wyoming, will be given the James L. Sellers Memorial Award for the best article published in *Nebraska History* during the previous year. His article, "Main Street Empire: J. C. Penney in Nebraska," appeared in the Summer 2011 issue.

**Restore Omaha**, a volunteer group of architects, architectural historians, conservators, preservation and restoration professionals and enthusiasts in the Omaha community, will be presented the **Nebraska Preservation Award** in honor of educating property owners about how to restore, revive and preserve their historic place or business.

Doors open at the Holiday Inn Downtown, 141 North Ninth Street, Lincoln, at 11:30 a.m., with the luncheon at noon, annual business meeting at 12:45 p.m., and the awards presentation at 1:00 p.m.

The cost of the luncheon is \$25 per person; register and pre-pay by October 10 by calling 402-471-3272, or email Lana Hatcher at [lane.hatcher@nebraska.gov](mailto:lane.hatcher@nebraska.gov).



## Preserving Your Home Movies—Tips for Home Movie Day

Now in its eleventh year, Home Movie Day (October 20) is an annual worldwide commemoration of amateur filmmaking. In celebration we'd like to say a little about the history of home movies, and offer some advice on preserving your own films.

The home movie phenomenon began in 1923 when the Eastman Kodak Company introduced a simple camera that used a film created especially for safe and easy use by non-professionals. Movie-making thus became affordable and accessible to the general public. A series of innovations over the next fifty years contributed to the popularity of amateur filmmaking, including the introductions of the smaller 8mm film format in 1932 and Super-8 in 1965, the availability of color film starting in the mid-1930s, and the 1973 release by Kodak of a film camera that allowed sound to be recorded directly on the film itself.

To best preserve your own home movies:

- Store films in a cool, dry and dark place, away from household chemicals or exhaust that may give off harmful fumes. Fluctuations in temperature and relative humidity are especially damaging to films.
- Store films in vented cans or boxes. Tightly sealed enclosures may speed up the deterioration of films. Good air circulation will help vent any of the gasses the films might give off.

- Replace rusty cans and reels.
- Be careful using your film in a projector. Old film might have shrunk, and sometimes won't go through a projector without damage. Be sure to inspect film first, add leader and repair broken splices and sprocket holes.
- Consider having home movies transferred to DVD for viewing. Many labs provide this service. But once transferred, don't get rid of the original films; properly stored, they will likely outlive DVDs.
- Home movies on videotape are especially vulnerable due to format changes. Consider transferring them to a newer format, like DVD.
- These websites will teach you more about caring for home movies: Film Forever ([www.filmforever.org](http://www.filmforever.org)), Little Film ([www.littlefilm.org](http://www.littlefilm.org)), The Film Preservation Guide ([www.filmpreservation.org/dvds-and-books/the-film-preservation-guide](http://www.filmpreservation.org/dvds-and-books/the-film-preservation-guide)), and Video Aids to Film Preservation ([www.folkstreams.net/vafp](http://www.folkstreams.net/vafp)).
- Your home movies might hold content of interest to historical societies and other historical agencies. Consider offering your films to an archive.

If you have any questions about home movies or other films, contact Paul Eisloeffel, the NSHS's Curator of Audiovisual Collections, at 402-471-7837 or [paul.eisloeffel@nebraska.gov](mailto:paul.eisloeffel@nebraska.gov).



## Remember the Past This Holiday Season

**A** Victorian Christmas will come alive during a free holiday open house at the Thomas P. Kennard House, 1627 H Street in Lincoln, on December 9 from 1 to 5 p.m. In December the house is decorated for a Victorian Christmas complete with a Christmas tree, toys and gifts, historic photographs, and Christmas cards from the 1870s. For additional information on the open house and tours at the Kennard House, open by appointment, call 402-471-4754.

Seasonal music by the ensemble Troubadour will highlight the holidays at the John G. Neihardt State Historic Site in Bancroft as part of the series Sunday Afternoon at the Museum, December 9, at 2 p.m. For more information on the concert and other public programs at the Neihardt Center, call 888-777-4667 or see [www.neihardtcenter.org](http://www.neihardtcenter.org)

*Historic Nebraska Christmas Photos* will be displayed at the Nebraska History Museum at Fifteenth and P streets in Lincoln from November 19, 2012, to January 7, 2013. The exhibit will feature images from the NSHS collections that illustrate some of the ways Nebraskans have celebrated the holidays through the years.

A Free Family Workshop, in which attendees will work on Christmas crafts, will be held at the Museum on December 2 from 2 to 4 p.m. No pre-registration is required. Call 402-471-4754 for updated information or see the NSHS Facebook page, linked from [www.nebraskahistory.org](http://www.nebraskahistory.org)

Visit the NSHS Landmark Stores in person or shop online for unique, Nebraska-related gifts and publications this holiday season. See [www.nebraskahistory.org](http://www.nebraskahistory.org) for ordering information and current hours for stores at the Nebraska History Museum (Fifteenth and P streets, Lincoln), the Nebraska State Capitol (ground floor, south hall), the Fort Robinson Museum (Crawford), and the Chimney Rock Visitor Center (near Bayard). ☒

**A Nebraska History Museum family workshop on German Christmas customs.**



## NSHS Annual Report: Online September 30

**T**he 2011-2012 NSHS Annual Report will be an electronic-only document available at [nebraskahistory.org](http://nebraskahistory.org) starting September 30. Go to [nebraskahistory.org/admin/report](http://nebraskahistory.org/admin/report), or just click on the “Publications” tab on our website’s home page.

If web access is an issue, call Lana Hatcher at 402-471-3272 to request that a printed copy be mailed to you. ☒

## We’re Teaching Teachers

**N**SHS has spent the summer in the classroom for the last fifteen years. This summer three teacher institutes brought Nebraska’s stories directly to those who will shape the minds of the next generation.

Teachers from across the state immersed themselves in the place and stories of Fort Robinson in June. The workshop focused on the Civil War era, with NSHS historian Jim Potter lecturing about Nebraska and the Civil War. Other presenters included staff member John Carter, board member and UNL geography professor David Wishart, and NSHS volunteer Randy Kane. The workshop was supported by a federal Teaching American History grant administered by Educational Service Unit 2, headquartered in Fremont.

The Nebraska Institute is a longstanding partnership between the NSHS and Nebraska Wesleyan University. Sponsored by another Teaching American History grant administered by Omaha Public Schools, this institute included tours of North and South Omaha, including a visit to the Love’s Center for Jazz and the Arts in June. We worked closely with the Durham Museum, whose professional staff engineered excellent hands-on experiences for the teachers.

Nebraska and Civil Rights and Civil Liberties informed another Omaha institute in partnership with Nebraska Wesleyan and Omaha Public Schools. The stellar array of guest lecturers included: Judge Laurie Camp Smith; former state senator Ernie Chambers; Alan Potash, director of the regional Anti-Defamation League; Judi gaiashkibos, executive director of the Nebraska Commission on Indian Affairs; former NSHS board member and president Dr. Charles Trimble; and Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation trustee Rick Wallace.

These institutes have been proven to change the way Nebraska students learn about their state and its place in the greater story of America. They continue to be a priority for the NSHS. ☒



# Treasures from Nebraska Museums

Artifacts from Elkhorn Valley Museum and Research Center in Norfolk, illustrating part of the history of Norfolk and the Elkhorn Valley, are on display at the Nebraska History Museum in Lincoln from October through December. Learn more with a followup visit to EVM. Its Johnny Carson Gallery tells the story of the entertainer's television career using objects selected by Carson himself for exhibit in his home town. Its Square Turn Tractor is a rare type of tractor manufactured in Norfolk in the early 1900s. The Research Center contains archives, photos, and books pertaining to the region and is available to researchers. Children ages 2-11 and their families can enjoy the Children's Discovery Zone, a hands-on activity area. Adjacent to historic Verges Park, the museum also houses the Willetta Lueshen Bird Library, which has ample windows for bird viewing in the park.

The museum is located at 515 Queen City Boulevard in Norfolk, and is open Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission is \$6 for adults, \$5 for seniors (60+), \$4 for students (12-18), \$3 for kids (5-11) and free for children under 5. 402-371-3886, [www.elkhornvalleymuseum.org](http://www.elkhornvalleymuseum.org).



Stuffed "Tony the Tiger" doll. Norfolk native Thurl Ravenscroft was the voice of Tony the Tiger in Frosted Flakes television commercials, and sang "You're a Mean One, Mr. Grinch" in the television special *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*.



Exhibits at the Elkhorn Valley Museum and Research Center.



Early Hallmark cards. The Hall brothers started the Norfolk Post Card Company in Norfolk in 1905; the company later moved to Kansas City and became Hallmark Cards.

## Will Lincoln Lose the Capital?

Lincoln was chosen Nebraska's seat of government in 1867, surviving handily a convoluted attempt in 1911 to designate some other city as the state capital. The capital removal scheme was part of a struggle between pro- and anti-liquor forces that was only intensified by the 1890 defeat of constitutional prohibition in Nebraska.

In 1910 temperance forces, especially the Nebraska Anti-Saloon League, launched a statewide campaign to elect state legislators favorable to county option, which would forbid the licensing of saloons in a county where the majority of the voters favored prohibition. While statewide prohibition was the ultimate goal, county option was believed to be a necessary step toward that objective.

The activity of Republican leaders in Lancaster County in favor of county option, plus the fact that the city of Lincoln had voted to abolish saloons in May 1909, antagonized the state's pro-liquor forces, who used the capital removal issue to punish Lincoln and to try to defeat county option in the Twenty-fourth Nebraska Legislature, convened January 3, 1911. HR 246, providing for removal of the state capital from Lincoln to another unspecified location, was introduced on January 26. The bill provided for a first election to determine whether removal from Lincoln should occur, and then for a second election among the aspirants (excluding Lincoln) to decide which fortunate city would become the new capital. Kearney, Grand Island, and several other Nebraska towns which hoped to secure the prize actively promoted the removal bill.

Samuel Clay Bassett, who represented Buffalo County in the Nebraska House in 1911, was engulfed

in the struggle over capital removal. He was deluged with letters from Kearney boosters and a petition with more than one thousand Buffalo County signatures urging him to support the bill. However, Bassett, who had pledged to his constituents the year before that he would support county option, voted against HR 246. He believed that capital removal in 1911 was "instigated and encouraged by the liquor interests" so that "if by any possible means the capital relocation bill could be passed in the house, the people of Lincoln would be offered the choice of defeat of county option or relocation of the state capital." HR 246 was defeated in the House by a vote of 58 to 38.

After the defeat of HR 246, a similar bill, HR 382, was introduced but died in committee after the addition of an amendment providing that any city or village might compete for the capital at an election to remove it under regulations specified by the bill. This change defeated the intention of the removalists, who hoped to carry a proposition to remove the capital, and then hold a contest among the aspirants, with Lincoln excluded. HR 382 was abandoned at this stage, thus ending legislative efforts for capital removal.

The related issue of statewide county option was defeated in the Nebraska Senate 17 to 16. In the House, the bill won 50 to 48, but failed to pass for lack of a majority of 51. The voters of Lincoln later in the spring of 1911 voted the city wet again by a small majority. Finally, in 1916 Nebraska voters approved a statewide prohibition amendment, which went into effect in 1917. The Eighteenth Amendment establishing national prohibition was ratified in January 1919.

—Patricia C. Gaster, Assistant Editor

The second Nebraska State Capitol, in use in 1911. When the third and present capitol was built, the second was left in place and the new one, completed in 1932, was begun around it. NSHS RG2158-12-8





## Nebraskans Win at National History Day

Every spring, NSHS staff members volunteer as judges at History Day, a competition in which middle school and high school students create exhibits, websites, papers, dramatic presentations, and documentary videos. Top students at regional competitions go to the state competition at Nebraska Wesleyan, and state winners and runners-up go to nationals.

This year fifty-seven middle and high school students from Nebraska competed at the National History Day Contest held June 10-14 at the University of Maryland, College Park. Of the approximately 2,800 students nationally who qualified for the competition, Nebraskans came home with first place honors, a scholarship, a trip to the National World War II Museum in New Orleans, and outstanding affiliate awards.

The first place winners are Justin Myers and Will Scheopner of Discovery Home School Group in Omaha, who won the Junior Division Group Documentary

category for their project “The Revolutionary Reaper.” Their teachers are Brent Myers and Jason Scheopner. Other award winners and finalists came from Omaha’s Marian High School, Ainsworth Community Schools, St. Isidore Elementary School in Columbus, and Crawford Junior/Senior High School.

National History Day Nebraska was held in April at Nebraska Wesleyan University, which along with the Nebraska Humanities Council, the Nebraska Cultural Endowment, and the Nebraska State Historical Society sponsor the state contest and support student travel to the national competition. The NSHS is proud to be part of an event that encourages primary-source historical research, and shows students that history isn’t a static body of knowledge, but a process of reasoned discovery . . . and a lot of fun as well. If you would like to support the travel and efforts of these budding historians, contact the NSHS. ☺

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Chimney Rock site supervisor Loren Pospisil has spent years studying the Oregon Trail. One thing he hasn’t done until recently: drive a team of oxen. This spring he participated in an ox-driving class at the Farm & Ranch Museum in Gering.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

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



Christmas lights on  
Kearney County  
Courthouse in Minden.  
NSHS RG2100-3-16

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## October 1-31

### **Fabric Art by Beth Vogel-Baker Exhibition**

John G. Neihardt State Historic Site, Bancroft  
888-777-4667 • [www.neihardtcenter.org](http://www.neihardtcenter.org)

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## October 14 • 2 p.m.

### **Reception for fabric artist Beth Vogel-Baker Sunday Afternoon at the Museum**

John G. Neihardt State Historic Site

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## October 16 • 10-11 a.m.

### **Reading *A Bag in the Wind*, by Ted Kooser Hour at the Museum**

Nebraska History Museum (NHM),  
15th & P Streets, Lincoln  
402-471-4754 • [judy.keetle@nebraska.gov](mailto:judy.keetle@nebraska.gov)

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## October 18 • 12 noon

Lance Todd, Lester F. Larsen Tractor Test  
and Power Museum

### **"The Larsen Tractor Museum"**

**Brown Bag Lecture Series** • NHM

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## October 26

### **NSHS Annual Meeting and Awards Luncheon**

Holiday Inn, 141 No. 9th, Lincoln (registration required)  
402-471-3272 • [iana.hatcher@nebraska.gov](mailto:iana.hatcher@nebraska.gov)

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## October 28 • 2-4 a.m.

### **"Nebraska Wildlife"**

#### **Free Family Workshop**

NHM • 402-471-4754 • [judy.keetle@nebraska.gov](mailto:judy.keetle@nebraska.gov)

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## November 3 • 3:30-6:30

### **A Celebration of Nebraska Books**

Nebraska Book Awards and more • NHM  
402-471-3434 • [maryjo.ryan@nebraska.gov](mailto:maryjo.ryan@nebraska.gov)

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## November 5-April 14, 2013

### ***Quilting on the Frontier: Celebrating 150 Years of the Homestead Act***

#### **Exhibition**

NHM • 402-471-4754

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## November 15 • 12 noon

Bob Puschendorf, NSHS Historic Preservation Division

### **"Nebraska's Post Office Murals: Born of the Depression, Fostered by the New Deal," and book signing**

**Brown Bag Lecture Series** • NHM

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## November 17 • 2-4 p.m.

### **"Civil War Remembrance"**

#### **Free Family Workshop**

NHM • 402-471-4754 • [judy.keetle@nebraska.gov](mailto:judy.keetle@nebraska.gov)

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## November 18 • 2 p.m.

Nancy Gillis, Neihardt Center Director

### **"Impact of the Homestead Act on the Tribes of the Great Plains"**

#### **Sunday Afternoon at the Museum**

John G. Neihardt State Historic Site

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## November 19-January 7, 2013

### **Historic Nebraska Christmas Photos**

**Holiday Display** • NHM • 402-471-4754

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## December 2 • 2-4 p.m.

### **"Christmas Crafts"**

#### **Free Family Workshop**

NHM • 402-471-4754 • [judy.keetle@nebraska.gov](mailto:judy.keetle@nebraska.gov)

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## December 7-September 1, 2013

### ***The Best-Dressed Doll in the World: Nebraska's Own Terri Lee***

**Exhibition** • NHM • 402-471-4754

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## December 9 • 1-5 p.m.

### **Free Open House**

Thomas P. Kennard House, 1627 H St., Lincoln  
402-471-4754

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## December 9 • 2 p.m.

### ***Holiday music with Troubadour***

#### **Sunday Afternoon at the Museum**

John G. Neihardt State Historic Site

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## December 20 • 12 noon

Laura Mooney, NSHS Collections Division

### **"Treasures from the Collections: Terri Lee Dolls"**

**Brown Bag Lecture Series** • NHM

For updated events, see the Society's Facebook page,  
linked from [www.nebraskahistory.org](http://www.nebraskahistory.org)



## In Memoriam: Donald Harlan Hall, 1948-2012

Earlier this year the Nebraska State Historical Society lost Donald Harlan Hall, who worked at the Senator George W. Norris State Historic Site in McCook since 2007. Don had a lung transplant in 2009. After a courageous struggle to prevent rejection of the new lung, he died June 16 in McCook.

Don was a graduate of the University of Nebraska School of Technical Agriculture (now the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture) at Curtis, Kearney State College, and later of the University of Nebraska at Kearney. Following a career as an accountant and a hospital and nursing home administrator in Bassett, Trenton, and Stromsburg, Don retired to McCook in 2007 and worked at of the Norris State Historic Site.

Don was a U.S. Army veteran. He is survived by his wife, Janine, and his two sons, Jason of Lincoln and Justin of Minden. We will all miss his enthusiasm and his dedication to the story of George Norris. ☒

## NSHS Holiday Closings

Just a reminder about the upcoming holiday season at the NSHS: All NSHS facilities will be closed on Veterans Day, November 11; Thanksgiving Day, November 22; and Friday, November 23, also a state holiday; Christmas Day, December 25; and New Year's Day, January 1. See [nebraskahistory.org](http://nebraskahistory.org) for updated closing information. ☒

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## Nebraska History and NH News as Talking Books

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Historic buildings require upkeep. This year NSHS staff did exterior work at the Senator George W. Norris State Historic Site in McCook. The house and all its furnishings were donated to the NSHS by Norris's wife, Ellie, in 1968. Exhibits inside trace the senator's life and career.



# hours

**Nebraska  
History Museum**  
15 & P Streets, Lincoln  
402-471-4754

Monday–Friday, 9–4:30  
Sat. & Sun., 1–4:30

**Museum Store**  
402-471-3447

Monday–Friday, 10–4:30  
Saturday & Sunday, 1–4

**Library/Archives**  
1500 R Street, Lincoln  
402-471-4751

Tuesday–Friday, 10–4  
Saturday 8–5

See Facebook link at  
[nebraskahistory.org](http://nebraskahistory.org)



State Historic Site hours:  
[www.nebraskahistory.org](http://www.nebraskahistory.org)

# NEBRASKA history news



Nebraska State Historical Society

## From the Collection. . .

### *Doing Hard Time: Historic Nebraska Mug Shots*

An unidentified member of the Omaha police force holds Herbert Cockran in a headlock during his mug shot. Cockran, a tailor from Fairmont, Nebraska, was arrested for burglary on November 24, 1899. His photo is part of a new exhibit, *Doing Hard Time: Historic Nebraska Mug Shots*, currently at the Nebraska History Museum through February 13, 2013.

Photography revolutionized crime investigations when police began photographing the faces of known criminals in the mid-nineteenth century. Called “mug shots” (after the British slang word “mug,” meaning “face”) these images replaced drawings and descriptions on wanted posters. Scientists even studied mug shots to see if physical traits could predict criminal behavior.

The Nebraska State Penitentiary began photographing inmates in 1867, and the Omaha police photographed suspects upon arrest. Guilty or innocent, behind every photograph is a human story. Mug shots and their accompanying tales offer insights into how earlier Nebraskans ran afoul of the law, and how some attitudes about crime and punishment may have changed. 📷

