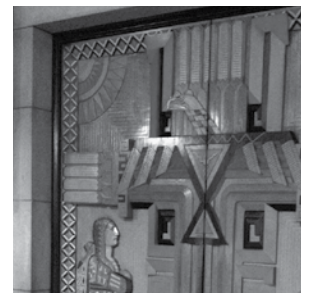
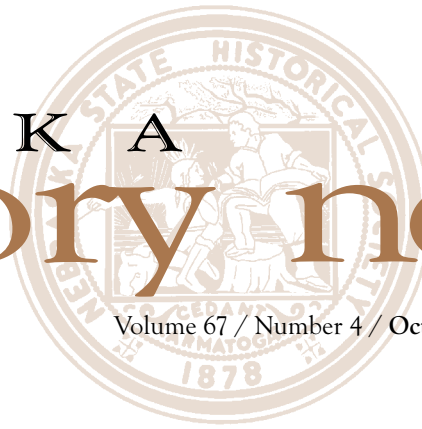


NEBRASKA history news

Volume 67 / Number 4 / October/November/December 2014



The Nebraska History Museum on the Move

Museum programming continues at various locations during the Nebraska History Museum closure for renovation. Here's where to go for Museum on the Move offerings:

NSHS Headquarters, 1500 R Street, Lincoln Hour at the Museum

All ages invited to hear a book read and do activities from 10 to 11 a.m. Dates and featured books:

- October 14, *Eight Hands Round: A Patchwork Alphabet*, by Ann Whitford Paul
- December 23, *One Splendid Tree*, by Marilyn Helmer
- December 30, *A Boy Becomes a Man at Wounded Knee*, by Ted Wood

Free Family Fun Days

For children and families from 2 to 4 p.m.:

- November 15, Civil War Remembrance Day, celebrated with the help of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
- December 13, pioneer Christmas decorations for attendees to make and take home

Contact museum educator Judy Keetle at 402-471-4757 for an updated list of Museum on

the Move educational tours and programs, or see the NSHS's Facebook page, linked from nebraskahistory.org

Landmark Store at the State Capitol, 1445 K Street, Lincoln (Room 1417, ground floor)

Shop in person or online for unique, Nebraska-related gifts and publications this holiday season. 402-471-2062 or www.nebraskahistory.org

5 City-TV studio, City/County Building, 555 South Tenth Street, Lincoln

Brown Bag Lecture Series

12 noon, third Thursday of each month:

- October 16, "Women Homesteaders," by Gail Blankenau
- November 20, "Enclosed Army Forts on the Northern Plains, 1819-1872," by Thomas R. Buecker
- December 18, "Archeology Q & A," by NSHS archeology staff

Rebroadcast on 5 City-TV and posting on YouTube courtesy NSHS Foundation.

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

Continued on p. 2



In the changes at the Nebraska History Museum there is great opportunity.

Change!

Many have said it is one of the very few constants in life. I agree with that, and it is my experience that change is as pervasive for organizations as it is for individuals. It certainly is a major force for the Nebraska State Historical Society today.

By the time you receive this edition of *Nebraska History News*, the doors of our Nebraska History Museum in Lincoln will be locked and our team of staff and volunteers will be busily dismantling the exhibits which you have known over the past twenty-five years. Staff has moved from the museum to other Lincoln locations and we have prepared the second floor of our NSHS Headquarters building at 1500 R Street for family education programs that began on Saturday, September 13.

In the hustle and bustle at the Nebraska History Museum there is great opportunity, which is the handmaiden of change. The renovation is an \$8 million dollar project, using a combination of general funds appropriated by the Unicameral in 2013 and funds from the Taskforce for Building Renewal. The project will give Nebraskans and out-of-state visitors a wonderfully-renewed building that meets all codes and provides well-functioning spaces for exhibits, programming, and gatherings for people of all ages.

The project's second phase will be worked out over the next five or six years. It will result in new long-term exhibits (museums are rightly hesitant to say "permanent") that offer the best we can provide in exhibition-based experiences of the stories of Nebraska and its people. We live in a great state with a wonderful, 12,000-year history. When all is done, the Nebraska History Museum will be the premiere place to explore that history and learn how Nebraskans have met challenges, dealt with opportunities, and handled change over the years, just as the NSHS is addressing this latest change in meeting its mission.

We invite you to follow our project on Facebook and Twitter as we expand our outreach and communications through social networking. That, too, is a vital part of how we are changing, always striving to meet the needs of our fellow Nebraskans.

Meanwhile, thanks for your interest and encouragement.

Michael J. Smith
Director / CEO

Continued from p. 1

For more information call 402-471-4764 or email tom.buecker@nebraska.gov.

We're planning Museum on the Move programming for 2015 and beyond. A national touring exhibit, *Homefront and Battlefield: Quilts and Context in the Civil War*, is scheduled for February 3 through June 27, 2015, at the Great Plains Art Museum, 1155 Q Street, Lincoln. NHM docents will conduct the tours of this exhibit, shown at only four venues across the country. 402-471-0321, tina.koepp@nebraska.gov.

The \$8 million renovation will be completed in 2016. ☒

**NSHS Annual Report:
Online September 30**

The 2013-2014 NSHS Annual Report will be an electronic-only document available at nebraskahistory.org starting September 30. Go to 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. ☒

Digging Into History

For three days during a summer educational program, "Digging into History," Amy Koch of the Archeology Division taught about one dozen grade school students about archeology, bone identification, site excavation and artifact cataloging, Plains cultural history, and rock art in Nebraska. The classes were sponsored by the Hemingford Youth Center (Cat Shack) and organized by Millicent Butler. ☒



NSHS: More History, More Ways

Your daily dose of Nebraska history is now as close as your favorite electronic device. Follow us on Facebook where we're sharing historical stories, photographs, and documents with our more than 2,300 followers (a number that grows daily!). We also post about upcoming events and current news of interest to our history-minded audience. Share your images, comments and historical questions; follow the Facebook link from nebraskahistory.org

Or try the condensed version on Twitter (@NebraskaHistory). We'll pique your interest with 140 characters and link you to more content via your phone.

Of course the NSHS website, nebraskahistory.org, is a treasure-trove of historical documents, images, and information related to Nebraska's heritage. Our data shows that visitors from all over the world visit our website and dig through the rich repository.

Check out Nebraska history online! And help to connect more people with the "histories we share." If you currently follow our Facebook page or our Twitter account, recommend us to your friends. If you are on either platform, give NSHS a try. And take a look at the "Nebraska Historical Society" channel on YouTube for lectures, historic moving images, and music. More history and more ways to connect to it! 📷



Were you one of more than 5,000 people who saw this mysterious archeological find on the NSHS Facebook page?

Honoring History Makers at the NSHS Annual Meeting and Luncheon

Join us at the Downtown Holiday Inn in Lincoln on Friday, October 17, 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., to recognize individuals who've made history by helping to preserve it. This year's honorees:

David Levy of Omaha will be presented the **Nebraska Preservation Award** in honor of his work creating the state tax credit, LB191, to support historic preservation rehabilitation projects.

Nancy Gillis of Walthill will receive the **Addison E. Sheldon Memorial Award** in recognition of her distinguished service to the history of Nebraska, in particular to the stories of Native Americans and the writings of John G. Neihardt.

Rebecca J. Anderson of Danville, Pennsylvania, will receive the **James L. Sellers Memorial Award** for the best article published in *Nebraska History* during the previous year. Her article, "'Grandma Gabel, she brought Ralph': Midwifery and the Lincoln, Nebraska, Department of Health in the Early Twentieth Century," appeared in the Winter 2013 issue.

Barry Jurgensen, who teaches at Arlington High School and who epitomizes the best Nebraska

educators have to offer in engaging, inspiring, and guiding their students, will receive the **James C. Olson Memorial Award**.

John Swigart, **Dr. LuAnn Wandsnider**, and **Dr. Christopher Dore** will receive the **A. T. Hill Award** in recognition of their development of the Nebraska Cultural Resources Geographic Information System.

State Senators **Jerry Johnson** of Wahoo (LD-23) and **Jeremy Nordquist** of Omaha (LD-7) will receive the **Champion of Nebraska History Award**, given on the initiative and at the discretion of the NSHS Board of Trustees to an individual who has provided a conspicuous service, particularly in the public arena, that supports the mission of the NSHS.

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 September 30 by calling 402-471-3272, or email Lana Hatcher at lane.hatcher@nebraska.gov. 📷

Nebraska's Newest Historic Districts

The Minne Lusa Neighborhood in North Omaha, Auburn's Downtown and Courthouse Square, and Lincoln's Haymarket were honored with Historic District status on the National Register of Historic Places this year. Encompassing residential, commercial, and industrial properties—more than 650 individual properties in all—the districts have been recognized for their historical significance and architectural integrity by the National Park Service. The honor is the result of a collaborative effort between property owners, city officials, professional consultants, and the Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office.

The three districts encompass the great variety of Nebraska's historic resources. The Minne Lusa Historic District, located in North Omaha near Florence, showcases suburbia's adaptation to the rise of the automobile. Platted in the 1910s when streetcars were king on Omaha's roads, this neighborhood of craftsman and traditional revival bungalows and four-square houses shows how middle-class neighborhoods accommodated increasing automobile ownership. Listed in March, the neighborhood includes more than 500 historic homes and the historic street grid with its central curvilinear avenue.

Auburn's Commercial Historic District recognizes the community's unique origin as a union of two independent railroad towns, Sheridan and Calvert. In 1882 the two communities joined to form Auburn in order to secure the relocation of the Nemaha County seat to their community. A courthouse square was platted halfway between the two towns, and a diagonal brick street was opened between the square and the downtown of Sheridan. The plan worked. In

Omaha's Minne Lusa Neighborhood




Auburn's Historic District



Lincoln's Haymarket District

1885, the county seat was relocated from Brownville. Listed this July, the historic district encompasses the courthouse square, the northern business district, and the diagonal avenue connecting the two.

Lincoln's Haymarket, long one of the National Park Service's few certified local districts, was formally added to the National Register this July. Now an entertainment center, the district was once a bustling industrial and commercial area, where warehouses, factories, shops, and hotels competed for space adjacent to the Burlington Railroad Station. With numerous brick buildings, some up to six stories in height, the Haymarket is an excellent surviving example of the once-common districts in Nebraska's railroad centers.

In addition to the three districts, three individual properties have been listed and four others are pending listing by the National Park Service. For more information on the National Register of Historic Places, please contact the Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office, 402-471-4787, nshs.hp@nebraska.gov. And to stay up to date on new listings, state historic preservation board meetings, and other historic preservation news, subscribe to the free Historic Preservation Newsletter by emailing ruben.acosta@nebraska.gov. 

Coming in *Nebraska History*

U.S. Navy Ensign John “Dugie” Doyle’s chances of surviving World War II seemed bleak on November 25, 1944, as he struggled to hold his burning dive bomber on target over the South China Sea. While attacking a Japanese heavy cruiser, antiaircraft fire damaged his plane but Doyle still managed to release his bomb and score a hit on the ship. Decades later, Doyle told fellow Lincoln resident Sam Van Pelt the story of his water landing and survival on a Japanese-held Philippine island. This remarkable interview will be published for the first time in the Winter 2014 issue of *Nebraska History*.

The same issue includes Brian Croft’s analysis of one of the puzzles of early Nebraska cartography: How is it that four nonexistent western Nebraska counties could appear on maps in 1866 and remain on virtually all territorial and state maps for nearly a decade? The story of how this happened reveals the evolving process of county formation during Nebraska’s transition to statehood, and also shows how publishers of maps gathered information about the development of remote areas. The magazine will feature a special map fold-out.

Katherine Bjork rounds out the issue by showing how three Nebraskans—John J. Pershing, Charles E. Magoon, and George D. Meiklejohn—did much to shape U.S. colonial policy in the wake of the Spanish-American War. Bjork argues that their views were shaped by their western frontier background,



A U.S. Navy “Helldiver” dive bomber above an aircraft carrier, January 1945. National Archives

“which strongly conditioned their understanding of the relations between land and political power.”

Look for the issue in your mailbox the second week of November. ☞

State Tax Credits for Historic Buildings Available in 2015

Do you own a historic building? You might be able to take advantage of new state rehabilitation tax credit. Information is now available at the NSHS website. The Nebraska Job Creation and Mainstreet Revitalization Act provides a 20 percent state income tax credit (up to a limit of \$1 million for a single project) for eligible expenditures made for rehabilitating qualified historic buildings. The law authorizes a total of \$15 million in credits for each calendar year from 2015 to 2018. The NSHS administers the program.

Tax credits for calendar year 2015 will be distributed based on applications received by the

NSHS no earlier than January 2, 2015. More information and application forms are at nebraskahistory.org (enter “Nebraska Rehabilitation Tax Credit” in the search window, or click “What’s New”).

The Legislature enacted the law in 2014. Introduced by Senator Jeremy Nordquist of Omaha as LB191, the bill was made a priority by Senator Jerry Johnson of Wahoo. David Levy of Omaha spearheaded the advocacy effort, and Governor Heineman signed the bill on April 17. ☞

Unmarked Graves and Road Construction: How the NSHS Protects Rural Cemeteries

BY CINDY S. DRAKE, LIBRARIAN, AND NOLAN JOHNSON, HIGHWAY ARCHEOLOGIST

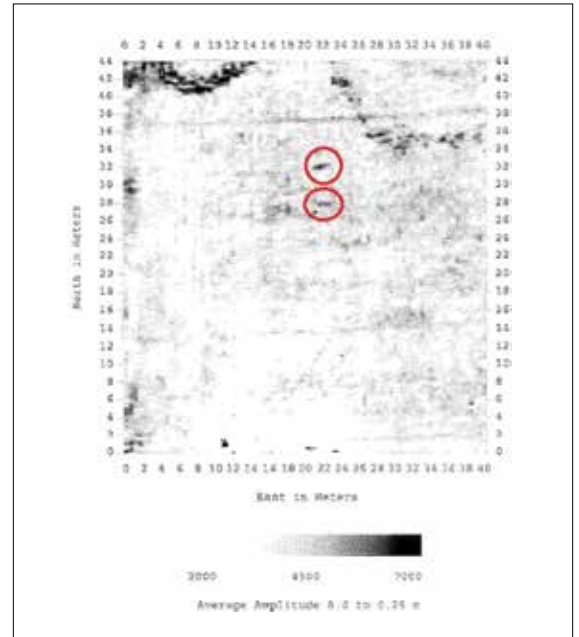
What happens when highway construction threatens part of an abandoned rural cemetery? Recent work by the Nebraska Highway Archeology Program (NHAP) shows how the NSHS cooperates with other state and local agencies to protect cultural sites.

Located north of Alvo in Cass County, Belmont Cemetery lies adjacent to State Highway 63. The highway's upcoming reconstruction may affect an apparently empty portion of the cemetery. But the Belmont Cemetery Association was found to be defunct and no one knew if the area had unmarked graves.

The Nebraska Department of Roads (NDOR) contracts with NHAP to resolve issues like this before construction begins. NHAP hired private consultants Bob and Kay Nickel to conduct a ground-penetrating radar survey on the portion of the cemetery without grave markers. On the cemetery's original plot map, part of this area was labeled "Potters Field," where impoverished people or unclaimed bodies could be laid to rest. The survey revealed two rectangular anomalies that required further testing (Figure 1), which NHAP performed this past spring.

Archeologists excavated hand-dug tests at both locations, plus a control test, to see if the anomalies represented grave shafts. They did not. The soil in all three tests was hard and compacted, and the soil profiles matched closely. If the two anomalies had been graves, the soil would have been looser and jumbled compared to the control test. (And upon examination, one anomaly was clearly the result of a tree fall.) Although the tests did not confirm any graves within the construction zone, staff from

Belmont Cemetery, Cass County, Nebraska



Anomalies revealed by the ground-penetrating radar survey at Belmont Cemetery.

NHAP will be on hand to monitor construction. The NDOR will likely need to purchase a portion of the cemetery.

Belmont Cemetery also highlights an ongoing problem with small, abandoned cemeteries. Who is responsible for the care of these properties? Highway Archeologist Nolan Johnson visited several offices in the Cass County Courthouse, contacted the Cass County Historical Society, and talked to local individuals, but could not determine the owner.

In many cases the Nebraska Statewide Cemetery Registry would have the answer. Back in 2005 a state statute mandated that the NSHS create the registry to record all Nebraska cemeteries, documenting their owners and caretakers as a public record. But the registry's files contained little information on Belmont. NSHS librarian Cindy Drake, who as coordinator oversaw the registry's creation, began to investigate the matter.

The saying "it's a small world" holds especially true in Nebraska. Drake found that one of the last members of the now-defunct cemetery association had been a man named William Blum, father of Drake's friend Helen Knop. From Knop, Drake learned that the remaining Belmont Cemetery Association records had been given to the Cass County Historical Society. Between these records and NSHS files, Drake pieced together the story.

Moving in with My Sister (Store) . . . Plus Holiday Gift Ideas

During the renovation of the Nebraska History Museum, you can find the NHM Landmark Store merchandise and staff at our sister store at the State Capitol (Room 1417, ground floor). Think of it as another reason to visit Nebraska's beautiful state capitol. Capitol store hours are Monday-Friday, 9:30-4:30, and Saturday, 1:00-4:00. And in western Nebraska, while the Fort Robinson Museum is closed for the season, the Landmark Store at Chimney Rock is open year-round.

The holidays creep up on us quickly, so shop early and check out the Landmark Stores for some fun ideas. These great indoor/outdoor pillows, for example, are cozy and educational. One features Nebraska's state bird, the meadowlark. The other is a colorful representation of the fifty states.



We have a great selection of books that include award winners, plus a wide array of kids' items. Call us at 402-471-2062 or 1-800-833-6747 and place an order today! nebraskahistory.org/oversite/store

William F. Lillie's Help for Picking Corn by Hand

BY PATRICIA C. GASTER, ASSISTANT EDITOR, PUBLICATIONS

Picking corn was once an unpleasant task, done by hand, for Nebraska farmers after a fall frost when the corn was ripe and dry enough. Even in territorial days, devices were on the market to lighten the labor and reduce the discomfort of cracked and bleeding hands.

Probably the first device in general use in Nebraska was the husking peg. This originally was a small, round piece of hardwood, about six inches in length, and sharpened at one end. It was held in the hollow of the right hand and a loop of buckskin or soft leather was attached to the peg and passed over the middle finger to hold it in place. The sharpened end of the peg was thrust through the husks at the tip end of the ear, enabling the operator to husk the ear quickly and easily.



Lillie corn husker. NSHS 1581-1

The next great development, at least in Nebraska, was the invention in the early 1890s of the corn husker by William F. Lillie (1852-1921) of Rockford in Gage County. Lillie originally developed the device to help his father-in-law, who had lost his right thumb, to husk corn. It worked so well that the inventor decided to apply for a patent and put it on the market.

Worn on the right hand, the point was used to penetrate the husk top, making it easier to remove the complete husk. A leather pad protected the palm of the user's hand. *The Prairie Farmer* said on October 24, 1896: "The Lillie Corn husker has been in successful use for the past three years and wherever it has been introduced, it has effectually supplanted every other kind of corn husker where husking is done by hand."

Buffalo County historian Samuel Bassett noted that Lillie perfected his device "after much thought, labor and expense. A poor man, he attempted to manufacture them and create a market under great difficulties. He succeeded in every way except financially. A grateful posterity will see that he is given the credit he deserves." James C. Olson, superintendent of the Nebraska State Historical Society, noted in 1947 that the Lillie corn husker was still being used in Nebraska as late as the 1920s.

Also in the 1920s the mechanical corn harvester began to come into general use. It was this machine that transformed the whole process of picking corn, making Lillie's device obsolete.



W. F. Lillie demonstrating the use of his corn husker. NSHS RG2411-3234



Doors to the East Chamber (the Warner Legislative Chamber) of the Nebraska State Capitol. Designed by architectural sculptor Lee Lawrie and carved by Keats Lorenz, the hand-carved doors weigh 750 pounds each and required six months of labor to complete.

Kiwanis “Coin” Has Surprising Link to State Capitol

The Lincoln Center Kiwanis Club recently donated this large wooden coin to the Nebraska History Museum. It measures 2 ¾ inches thick by 40 inches in diameter. It was carved in 1923 by a man who left his mark on many public buildings in Nebraska.

The coin was designed by Fred Groth, a charter member of the club. To execute the design, Groth selected Keats Lorenz (1889-1966), a prominent local craftsman known for his wood carving. The Nebraska History Museum has other Lorenz items in its collection, including his tools.

Lorenz’s most-viewed carving is probably the doors of the East Chamber at the state capitol, pictured here. His carvings are also visible throughout the Nebraska Governor’s Residence, such as the Georgian architectural details in the state dining room, or an oak replica of the state seal for the library. In addition, he worked on at



The Kiwanis coin as it was carted into the Nebraska History Museum at the time of its donation.

least one other building now listed on the National Register of Historic Places, including decorative work at University Towers (formerly the Stuart Building) at Thirteenth and P Streets in Lincoln. 📍

National Award for NSHS Book, *A Brave Soldier*

Another NSHS-published book has won a national award. *A Brave Soldier & Honest Gentleman: Lt. James E. H. Foster in the West, 1873-1881*, by Thomas R. Buecker, has been selected as a 2014 Award of Merit winner by the Leadership in History awards committee of the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH). Tom Buecker and David Bristow, both of the NSHS staff, accepted the award at the AASLH’s Leadership in History Awards Banquet in St. Paul, Minnesota, on September 19. The AASLH Leadership in History Awards is the nation’s most

prestigious competition for recognition of achievement in state and local history.

A Brave Soldier was published in 2013 by the Nebraska State Historical Society with the financial support of the Ronald K. and Judith M. Stolz Parks Publishing Fund established at the Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation. The book was published in cooperation with the Museum of Nebraska Art in Kearney, which owns J. E. H. Foster’s illustrated journal as part of its collections. Contact the Landmark Store (see article on page 7) to get your copy. nebraskahistory.org/books 📍

Celebration at Chimney Rock

What could be better than a wagon ride to celebrate Chimney Rock? On July 19, the NSHS Foundation sponsored a celebration of the twentieth anniversary of the Ethel S. and Christopher J. Abbott Visitor Center at Chimney Rock National Historic Site near Bayard. About half a million people have stopped at the center since its opening in 1994—about the same number of emigrants who passed the rock from the 1840s through the 1860s on the Oregon, California, and Mormon Trails. 📍



Treasures from the Nebraska History Museum

Two of the Nebraska History Museum's treasures are currently on loan for an exhibition coordinated by Musée du quai Branly in Paris, France. *The Plains Indians: Artists of Earth and Sky* is curated by Gaylord Torrence, the Fred and Virginia Merrill Senior Curator of American Indian Art at the Nelson-Atkins Museum in Kansas City.

The NSHS loaned two objects for the exhibition: an Omaha effigy beaver bowl and a Winnebago peyote rattle. The exhibition brings together 140 Plains Indian works from private and public collections in Europe and North America. Other objects include a 2,000-year-old human effigy stone pipe, eighteenth-century painted robes, and contemporary beaded designer shoes. The exhibit is traveling to three venues: Musée du quai Branly (April 7 to July 20, 2014), the Nelson-Atkins Museum in Kansas City (September 19, 2014–January 11, 2015), and the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York (March 2 to May 17, 2015).

The objects will return to the Nebraska History Museum upon the conclusion of the exhibition. 📍



Above: This peyote rattle was carved by Albert Hensley and used in Winnebago, Nebraska.

Below: Another side of the gourd is inscribed with the phrases "Let there be light" and "Go Teach all Nations." Other details, not visible here, illustrate a forked road that leads to either "Life" or "Death and Hell."



Christian elements are part of the Native American Church. An image of Christ is inscribed on the gourd, bearing the words, "Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me," from Psalm 23.



Above: The beaver bowl from the NSHS collection is thought to be one of the oldest examples of Plains woodcarving held in a museum collection. It dates from the late eighteenth or early nineteenth century.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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



Studio portrait of a small girl wearing a winter coat, boots, and headpiece. NSHS RG2158-15-2

SAVE THE DATE:

February 3-June 27, 2015

Homefront and Battlefield: Quilts and Context in the Civil War

Exhibition

Great Plains Art Museum
1155 Q St., Lincoln
402-471-0321
fina.koepppe@nebraska.gov

October 12 • 2 p.m.

Program on Bruce Hopkins's book *Truth in the Rivers* (essays and poetry)

Sunday at the Museum

John G. Neihardt State Historic Site
306 W. Elm St., Bancroft
402-648-3388 • neihardt@gpcom.net

October 14 • 10-11 a.m.

Hear the book *Eight Hands Round: A Patchwork Alphabet*, written by Ann Whitford Paul

Hour at the Museum on the Move

NSHS Headquarters (HQ)
1500 R St., Lincoln
402-471-4757 • judy.keetle@nebraska.gov

October 16 • 12 noon

Gail Blankenau

"Women Homesteaders"

Brown Bag Lecture Series

5 City-TV studio, City/County Building
555 S. 10th St., Lincoln
402-471-4764 • tom.buecker@nebraska.gov

October 17

NSHS Annual Awards Luncheon

Holiday Inn Downtown
141 N. 9th St., Lincoln
(registration required)
402-471-3272 • lana.hatcher@nebraska.gov

November 8 • 2 p.m.

"Flag Folding and the History Behind It," by Dan Stramel

Veterans Day Program

Senator George Norris State Historic Site
706 Norris Ave., McCook
308-345-8484 • nshs.norris@nebraska.gov

November 15 • 2-4 p.m.

Celebrate Civil War Remembrance Day

Free Family Fun Day

NSHS HQ
1500 R St., Lincoln
402-471-4757 • judy.keetle@nebraska.gov

November 16 • 2 p.m.

Program on Karen Shoemaker's book *The Meaning of Names*

Sunday at the Museum

John G. Neihardt State Historic Site
306 W. Elm St., Bancroft
402-648-3388 • neihardt@gpcom.net

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

November 20 • 12 noon

Thomas R. Buecker

"Enclosed Army Forts on the Northern Plains, 1819 to 1872"

Brown Bag Lecture Series

5 City-TV studio, City/County Building
555 S. 10th St., Lincoln
402-471-4764 • tom.buecker@nebraska.gov

December 6 • 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Crafts for children and adults

Christmas on the Prairie

The Ethel S. and Christopher J. Abbott Visitor Center
Chimney Rock National Historic Site, 1.5 miles south of Highway 92 on Chimney Rock Road, Bayard
308-586-2581 • loren.pospisil@nebraska.gov

December 7 • 1-5 p.m.

Free Holiday Open House

Thomas P. Kennard House, 1627 H St., Lincoln
402-471-4764 • tom.buecker@nebraska.gov

December 13 • 2-4 p.m.

Make and take pioneer Christmas decorations

Free Family Fun Day

NSHS HQ, 1500 R St., Lincoln
402-471-4757 • judy.keetle@nebraska.gov

December 14 • 2 p.m.

Christmas concert, by Burt County Brass Quintet

Sunday at the Museum

John G. Neihardt State Historic Site
306 W. Elm St., Bancroft
402-648-3388 • neihardt@gpcom.net

December 18 • 12 noon

NSHS archeology staff

"Archeology Q & A"

Brown Bag Lecture Series

5 City-TV studio, City/County Building,
555 S. 10th St., Lincoln
402-471-4764 • tom.buecker@nebraska.gov

December 23 • 10-11 a.m.

Hear the book *One Splendid Tree*, written by Marilyn Helmer

Hour at the Museum on the Move

NSHS HQ, 1500 R St., Lincoln
402-471-4757 • judy.keetle@nebraska.gov

December 30 • 10-11 a.m.

Hear the book *A Boy Becomes a Man at Wounded Knee*, written by Ted Wood

Hour at the Museum on the Move

NSHS HQ, 1500 R St., Lincoln
402-471-4757 • judy.keetle@nebraska.gov

Unmarked Graves and Road Construction *Continued from p. 6*

Organized in 1881, the cemetery association existed informally through the 1950s, and Blum served as one of the last caretakers until his retirement in the mid-1970s. After several years of neglect, Patricia Umland of Alvo cleaned up the cemetery and successfully petitioned the county commissioners to pay her to maintain it as per state statute. She, and later local landowner Billy Schulte, mowed the cemetery at least once a year. But after Schulte's death in 2013 the cemetery fell

off the tax rolls; Drake recently reported this to the county commissioners and requested they hire someone to maintain it. They have agreed to do so.

Unreported cases like this one have probably occurred in other counties when cemetery associations have unofficially dissolved, leaving a cemetery with unresolved legal issues. But along Highway 63, road work can proceed and Belmont Cemetery will once again be maintained. 📍

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Celebrate the Holidays with the NSHS

The Ethel S. and Christopher J. Abbott Visitor Center at the Chimney Rock National Historic Site will host "Christmas on the Prairie," on December 6, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., featuring holiday crafts for children and adults. The site is located 1.5 miles south of Highway 92 on Chimney Rock Road, Bayard. 308-586-2581, loren.pospisil@nebraska.gov

A Victorian Christmas will come alive during a free holiday open house at the Thomas P. Kennard House, Nebraska's Statehood Memorial, 1627 H Street in Lincoln, on December 7 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 or to book a tour of the Kennard House, open by appointment, 402-471-4764 or tom.buecker@nebraska.gov

A Christmas concert by the Burt County Brass Quintet will highlight the holidays at the John G. Neihardt State Historic Site, 306 West Elm Street in

Bancroft, as part of its Sunday at the Museum programs. The concert is scheduled for December 14 at 2 p.m. 402-648-3388 or neihardt@gpcom.net

The Museum on the Move will also sponsor activities for children and families during the holiday season. A December 13 Free Family Fun Day is scheduled for 2-4 p.m. at the NSHS Headquarters, 1500 R Street in Lincoln. Attendees can create their own pioneer Christmas ornaments to take home. 402-471-4757 or judy.keetle@nebraska.gov

One Splendid Tree, a book written by Marilyn Helmer, will be read aloud at the Hour at the Museum on the Move program, scheduled for December 23, 10-11 a.m., at the NSHS Headquarters. Helmer's story of an abandoned plant that becomes a poor family's Christmas tree is filled with holiday magic. 402-471-4757 or judy.keetle@nebraska.gov

For updated information on holiday events, see the NSHS's Facebook page, linked from www.nebraskahistory.org 📍



The Kennard House.
NSHS RG2158-12

hours

**Nebraska
History Museum**
15th & P Streets, Lincoln
Closed for renovation.

Landmark Store
State Capitol
Room 1417 (ground floor)
402-471-2062
Monday–Friday, 9:30–4:30

Library/Archives
1500 R Street, Lincoln
402-471-4751
Tuesday–Friday, 10–4
Saturday, 8–5

See Facebook link at
nebraskahistory.org



State Historic Site hours:
www.nebraskahistory.org

NEBRASKA

history news

Nebraska State Historical Society



From the Collection. . .

The Cosmoray Machine

Medical quackery often borrows from popular science. In the 1940s and 1950s, when aviators and scientists were exploring the earth's upper atmosphere, ozone machines were commonly used to treat a variety of ailments, including warts, ingrown toenails, jaundice, high or low blood pressure, and even psychiatric problems.

With seven glass tubes that lit up when the device was plugged in, this Cosmoray Pure Ozone machine used a high voltage discharge to generate "chemically pure ozone." A label, partly visible in the photo, states that the machine was patented in 1940 and "Manufactured for HOME OF COSMORAY, 2603 No. 49th St., Phone 6-2790, Lincoln, Nebraska."

Cosmoray wasn't the only manufacturer of ozone machines; more popular companies included Atomzone, Inc. and Zon-A-Wave, both originally based in Portland, Oregon. The ozone health market faded after ozone in high concentrations was found to be harmful to the respiratory system.

Artifacts can look silly to our modern sensibilities, but we aren't always as sophisticated as we think. Cosmoray is long gone, but today other companies sell ozone machines as air cleaners and for mold and odor removal—even though the Environmental Protection Agency disputes their effectiveness and safety. ☒



NSHS 13259-173