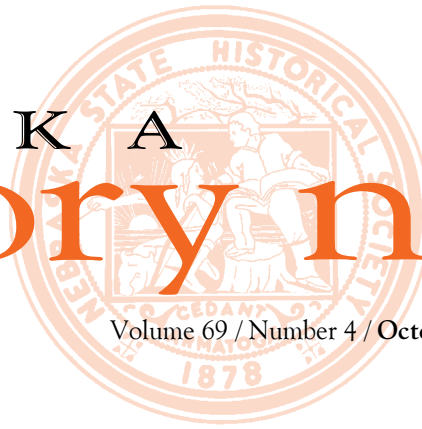


# NEBRASKA history news

Volume 69 / Number 4 / October/November/December 2016



## *The Strange and Wonderful Masks of Doane Powell*

“In itself a mask is an ornament,” said Nebraska artist Doane Powell. “The photograph of a mask makes an interesting picture; but a mask worn, with movement, by the proper person, becomes a living art.”

Made primarily in the 1940s and 1950s, Powell’s strange and wonderful masks were used in theater productions, circus performances, movies and television, advertising campaigns, magazine illustrations,

store window displays, and at social functions. Starting October 10, they will be displayed in a new Nebraska History Museum exhibit, *The Strange and Wonderful Masks of Doane Powell*, one of four new exhibits opening at the museum this fall.

A University of Nebraska alumnus, Powell spent twelve years as a cartoonist for the *Omaha Bee*. He eventually changed his artistic focus from political cartoons to masks. His skills for caricature were still evident in his new

*Continued on p. 4*



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



Doane Powell and a “surprised man” mask which is part of a new exhibit opening October 10 at the Nebraska History Museum.

NSHS RG5857-123, 2014.115.50

## IN MEMORIAM JIM POTTER 1945-2016

The NSHS lost an esteemed colleague and dear friend with the unexpected death of Senior Research Historian Jim Potter on August 6. Jim began work at the NSHS in 1967, and over the years served variously as state archivist, editor of *Nebraska History*, and finally as senior research historian. Along the way he wrote and edited several books and dozens of scholarly articles. His depth of knowledge was legendary, and it was always shared with generosity and good humor. He is deeply missed.

Many people have commented on Jim's great knowledge of Nebraska's history, but just focusing on the many things he knew misses a more important point.

"I don't have all the answers," he said one day, "but I at least have a pretty good idea of where to look."

He knew our collections like no one else, but there was more to it than that. In his work as a historian, he was guided by a blend of curiosity and skepticism. He didn't have all the answers—no historian does—but during his long career he became highly skilled at asking the right questions. He not only knew how to find information, but also how to evaluate it for accuracy, completeness, and perspective. This is what separates historians from history buffs, and it's why Jim's books and articles represent a body of work of enduring value.



Jim Potter (seated) working at the NSHS in 1968, and more recently on his motorcycle (above right).



This issue of *Nebraska History News* includes one of the articles that Jim wrote within the past year (see "The Perfect Steer," below.) John Carter had intended to write the article, but didn't live to complete it. Using Carter's notes and research, Potter carried on the work of a departed friend and colleague.

In a broader sense, the NSHS as a whole now finds itself carrying on the work of several colleagues who have died or retired in the past few years. In this task we benefit not only from the good work they did, but also from the example they set for us—an example not only for history professionals, but for anyone interested in developing a more complete and accurate understanding of the past. 📖

### The Perfect Steer By James E. Potter

When ZK Laurel (aka "Jasper"), a 1,120-pound Hereford, ambled out of the show ring at the 47th Annual Denver National Western Stock Show on January 19, 1953, he had just been crowned open-class Grand Champion fat steer. It was a triumph for Sandhills rancher Joe Theisen, who bred Jasper on his ZK Ranch near Long Pine, and the young men from Boys Town, Nebraska, who fattened and showed him. Jasper had bested the Angus and Shorthorn Grand Champions, achieving an all-time high in points along with praise as "a perfect steer" from Judge A. E. Darlow of Oklahoma A&M University.

As the 1953 Denver show closed, Jasper was auctioned for a then-record price of \$3.40 per pound, bid-in by Floyd Lackaff, president of the

Sandhills Cattle Association and a director of the Hotel Bassett and Range Café in Bassett, Nebraska. The steer was destined to go out in a blaze of glory by gracing the menu at a café whose customers not only knew top-quality beef, but how to produce it.

On January 29 the *Rock County Leader* announced that Jasper would be exhibited at the Hotel Bassett the coming weekend so anyone "may see what a perfect fat steer looks like." Some 2,500 people took advantage of the opportunity to see Jasper and to guess his dressing percentage. The person with the closest guess would win a free dinner at the Range Café featuring a steak from Jasper's loin. Boys Town Director Msgr. Nicholas Wegner and the Hotel Bassett investors gave interviews broadcast over WNAX in Yankton,



**John Carter (on ZK Laurel), Joe Thiesen, and Michael Panetta, in front of Bassett Lodge, 1952**  
NSHS RG3311-125

South Dakota. Meanwhile, in his pen behind the hotel, Jasper was the star in scores of photographs including the one with this article featuring Boys Town 4-H club member Mike Panetta, breeder Joe Theisen, and a precocious John Carter, Theisen's grandson, astride Jasper's broad back. It was this photograph that inspired John's idea to write this article that first appeared in *The Nebraska Cattleman*, but his July 2015 death left that job to his NSHS colleagues.

The "rest of the story" involves the young men of Boys Town and Msgr. Nicholas H. Wegner, who took over as Boys Town director in September 1948 after the death of founder Father Edward J. Flanagan. Wegner had been born on a farm near Humphrey, Nebraska, and he "brought with him to his duties as the Boys Town director the farm boy's love of the land and an appreciation of fine cattle."

One of Wegner's first initiatives was to add Vocational Agriculture to the Boys Town curriculum. By 1952 the program enrolled thirty-three boys, more than half from cities with populations exceeding one hundred thousand. One of the latter was Michael A. Panetta of Philadelphia, who joined 4-H when he arrived at Boys Town in 1949. Despite coming from a big city, "which could hardly be considered a 'cow town,'" Panetta was "one of the top-notch beef enthusiasts at Boys Town," according to the September 1952 *Boys Town Times*. After graduating in May 1953, he enlisted for a tour in the U.S. Marine Corps and later returned to Philadelphia. According to Panetta's daughter Angela, his time

at Boys Town "truly changed the trajectory of his life." He returned often for reunions, including one in 2003, fifty years after the young Mike Panetta and Jasper were photographed at the Hotel Bassett. Panetta died in 2008 at Exton, Pennsylvania, a suburb near Philadelphia.

In addition to the honors earned at Denver in 1953, the Boys Town livestock program's success during these years was stunning. In 1949 Boys Town showed the Grand Champion carload of fat Shorthorn steers at

the American Royal in Kansas City, along with the Reserve Grand Champion carload of Shorthorns at the Denver show. The next year Boys Town lads showed a carload of Herefords to the Grand Championship at the Grand National Livestock Show held at the Cow Palace in San Francisco, a title that Boys Town Herefords would earn again in 1952.

After his time in the spotlight, Jasper fulfilled his destiny on February 3, 1953, not far from where he was born. The March 1953 issue of *The Nebraska Cattleman* reported his demise. Weighing-in at 1,075 pounds on the hoof, 754.5 pounds of Jasper remained when his edible parts rolled off to the cooler, having dressed out at 70.18 percent. Carleton Pettyjohn, Jr. of Long Pine won the Range Café's free steak dinner with his guess that the percentage would be 70.125.

After the "sad afternoon" at the slaughterhouse, those who had seen and photographed Jasper rued his passing. The steer had "seemed to sense that he was on display and should look his best. Whenever a photographer would come near, he would straighten up squarely on all four short legs and pose just like a model. Surely neither Lana Turner nor Marilyn Monroe had anything on Jasper," said the 1953 *Cattleman* article in a perfect 1950s comparison. While Jasper was gone, his legacy would linger briefly on the Range Café menu and much longer in the memory of our friend John Carter, who once enjoyed his plush perch atop "the perfect steer." 🍴

Continued from p. 1

Doane Powell's former apprentice Kari Hunt (far right) holding a mask from her collection in 1955. From left, the four other people are wearing masks of: Winston Churchill, Joan Crawford, Lucille Ball, and Clark Gable. NSHS RG5857-3



The Joan Crawford mask today. NSHS 2014.115.42

medium. His most popular masks were those of recognizable figures.

In his 1948 book, *Masks and How to Make Them*, Powell explained how he used “laminated paper” to create his masks. He joined three layers of unbleached wood pulp kraft paper with an adhesive, molding them over a facial sculpture of modeling clay on a rigid base. This method destroyed the underlying sculpture so each mask was one-of-a-kind.

When Powell died in 1951 at age 69, his apprentice Kari Hunt inherited many of his masks and continued to promote their use, most notably on the television show *Masquerade Party* (1952-1960). Hunt's daughter, Karen Schnitzspahn, donated these masks and related archival materials to the NSHS in 2013. The NSHS's Gerald R. Ford Conservation Center in Omaha repaired damage and deterioration to the masks, restoring and stabilizing them for future generations.

This is an exhibit you'll want to see twice. One set of 26 masks will be displayed October 10 through March 26; a second set of 30 masks will be displayed March 30 through July 9, 2017. ☒

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## Other NHM Exhibits Opening This Fall

*Architexture: Contemporary Quilts from Studio Art Quilt Associates*  
(Oct. 5 – Nov. 30).  
See p. 7.

*The Museum Formerly Known as the Elks Club*  
(Oct. 19 – TBA).  
See p. 5.

*Sign of the Times: The Great American Political Poster 1844 – 2012*  
(Dec. 15 – Jan. 19, 2017).  
See p. 5.

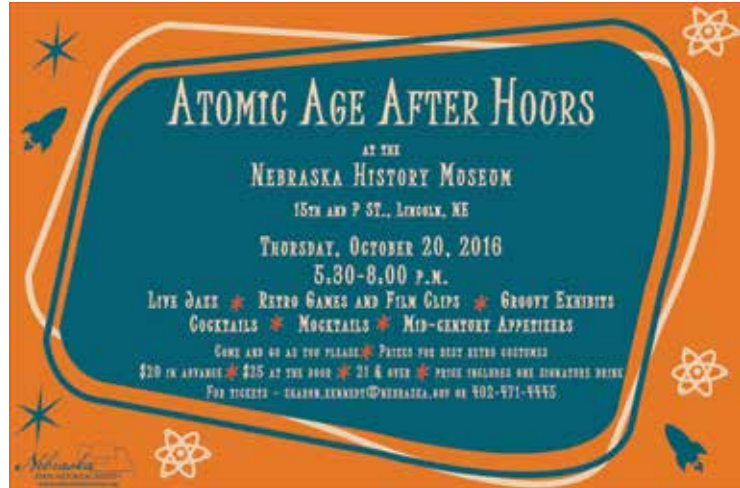
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## Political Poster Exhibit Opens December 15 at NHM

Eye-popping political graphics have been part of the American scene for more than 150 years; *Sign of the Times: The Great American Political Poster 1844 – 2012* examines the great American political poster not only as history, but also as art. Cast a ballot for your favorite at the Nebraska History Museum, December 15-January 19, 2017. 🗳️



Unidentified artist, Republican Party candidate William L. McKinley, c. 1896-1900; lithograph on paper, 17 x 11 3/16 inches; Courtesy of Library of Congress



## Enjoy Atomic Age After Hours, Plus New Exhibit

Mad for the mid-century? Join us at the Nebraska History Museum October 20 for *Atomic Age After Hours*. Enjoy cocktails or mocktails and mid-century appetizers while grooving to jazz saxophonist Sarah Cosano. Compete for the best retro garb and win a prize. Watch “duck and cover” cold war clips and 1950s etiquette films, play 1950s board games or take a mini tour of the exhibit *American Dreams in the Cold War: Photos by Barbara and Ralph Fox*. Tickets are \$20 (includes 1 drink) in advance or \$25 at the door. Must be 21 years or older. Contact [sharon.kennedy@nebraska.gov](mailto:sharon.kennedy@nebraska.gov) or 402-471-4445 to purchase tickets in advance.

And in the spirit of things, a new exhibit shows that the NHM doesn't just contain history; the building itself has a history of its own. Opening October 19, *The Museum Formerly Known as the Elks Club* looks at the building's groovy 1960s origins as the Lincoln Elks Club. 🗳️

## NSHS Annual Report is Online

NSHS has accomplished major goals in the 2015-16 year! Read all about it in the NSHS Annual Report, an electronic-only document available at [nebraskahistory.org](http://nebraskahistory.org) (just type “annual report” into the search box or click on the “Publications” tab on the home page). If web access is an issue, call Lana Hatcher at 402-471-3272 to request a printed copy. 🗳️



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

Join us at the Embassy Suites in downtown Lincoln on Friday, October 14, 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:

Hearst Properties, Inc., of New York City will be presented the **Nebraska Preservation Award** in honor of their restoration of the Burlington Station in Omaha.

John Carter and James E. Potter, will posthumously receive the **Addison E. Sheldon Memorial Award** in recognition of their distinguished service in the preservation of the history of Nebraska.

Rhonda Seacrest and the late James Seacrest will be honored with the **Robert W. Furnas Memorial Award** for outstanding assistance to the NSHS in the form of long-term service.

Brian Sarnacki of Omaha will receive the **James L. Sellers Memorial Award** for the best article

published in *Nebraska History* during the previous year. His article, "In the biting stage: The 1955 Nebraska State Penitentiary Riots and Violent Prison Activism," appeared in the Spring 2015 issue.

Omaha Central High School teacher Scott Wilson, who epitomizes the best Nebraska educators have to offer in engaging, inspiring, and guiding their students, will receive the **James C. Olson Memorial Award**.

Curt Peacock of Lincoln will receive the **Asa T. Hill Award** in recognition of his ongoing efforts to develop conservation easements for lands in Nebraska containing important archeological resources. Such easements have been developed in Sarpy, Boone, Saunders, and Dawes counties.

Doors open at Embassy Suites, 1040 P Street, Lincoln, at 11:30 a.m., with the luncheon at noon, annual members' meeting at 12:45 p.m., and the awards presentation at 1:00 p.m. The cost of the luncheon is \$30 per person; register and pre-pay by September 30 by calling 402-471-3272, or email Lana Hatcher at [lane.hatcher@nebraska.gov](mailto:lane.hatcher@nebraska.gov).

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## New Album Showcases Nebraska History and Culture Through Song

By Kylie Kinley

What do Bruce Springsteen, Justin Bieber, the Zac Brown Band, and Peru State English professor Dr. Dan Holtz have in common?

They've all sung songs about Nebraska.

But Holtz has outdone his fellow musicians on this list. He and the band Flatwater Highway recently released not just one song about the Cornhusker state, but an entire album. All Original, All Nebraska includes twelve songs that praise the state in a project that is part Holtz's brain child and part invitation for Nebraskans to learn more about their state for the 150th birthday celebration.

Holtz, who lives in Nebraska City, is a long-time folk music enthusiast and Humanities Nebraska artist. He's been writing songs about Nebraska since 2000 and released his first CD of folk songs in 2002.

Holtz decided to record a CD of original songs about Nebraska to help recognize Nebraska's 150th birthday in 2017.

"The idea was that I wanted to be able to tell more stories about Nebraska," Holtz said. "I have college students who tell me they've never read a

book. This is intended for people who don't like to read. But everybody likes music."

The twelve tracks cover a wide variety of historical and current Nebraska topics and showcase several music styles.

"It has folk sounds, waltz rhythms, rock flavors, and country rock," Holtz said. "I wanted to get songs that were different."

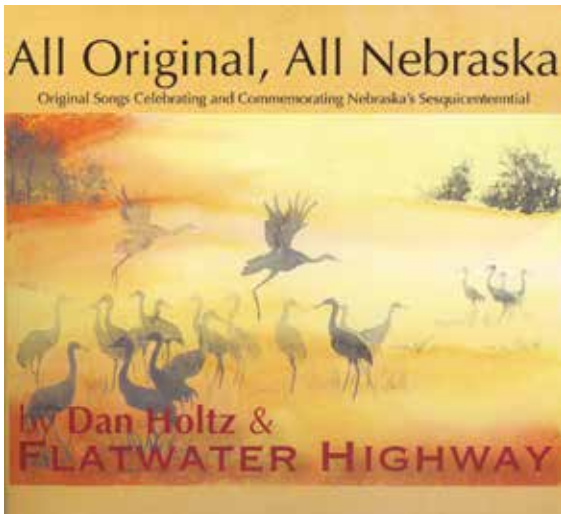
Tracks like "Blue Water, Little Thunder," tell Native American history, "The Rider's Refrain" and "The Gentleman's Outlaw" cover cowboy and outlaw stories, and "Back to the Sandhills" and "Sail Away" celebrate the state's diverse landscape.

Holtz said that using song to teach Nebraska history is an important part of the project.

"It's a different way to look at history," he said. "It's a different way into some stories you might not know about. You can learn them in a pretty quick way."

The album includes short explanations of the songs on an insert that comes with the case, and Holtz introduces each track with background information. Holtz wants listeners to use the songs as springboards into history exploration.

"Even if it's a story that's sad, maybe it's intriguing, and they'll want to explore Nebraska history," Holtz said. "If people say, 'I had never heard



of Susan La Flesche Picotte' or they say, 'I didn't know Nebraska had a pioneer aviatrix!'—then we met the goal."

Holtz described his creative process as he wrote the songs as sporadic, but it closely tied to his teaching experiences and his childhood growing up in Ord, Nebraska.

"I teach Nebraska literature. I teach Cather, Neihardt, Sandoz, and Aldrich. Sandoz and Neihardt get into Native American stories, and I wanted to include those as well," Holtz said. "I probably knew about the Battle of Blue Water, well the Massacre of Blue Water, because of Sandoz. It just struck me as a story I'd like to write a song about."

Members of Flatwater Highway assembled from across the state to provide their vocal and musical

talents. The way they came together to make a band for this specific project is typical to Nebraska—everybody knows everybody else.

Fellow Ord native (and former NSHS trustee) Steffan Baker plays guitar and mandolin and provides backing vocals on the album. Baker introduced Holtz to the musicians who soon became the rest of the band: his cousin Julie Baker-Anderson of Omaha, a singer; Cindy Huebert of Henderson (fiddle); Cindy's husband Martin (bass guitar) and son Eli (electric guitar); and drummer Ralph Brown of Grand Island, an artist who drew the picture on the album cover.

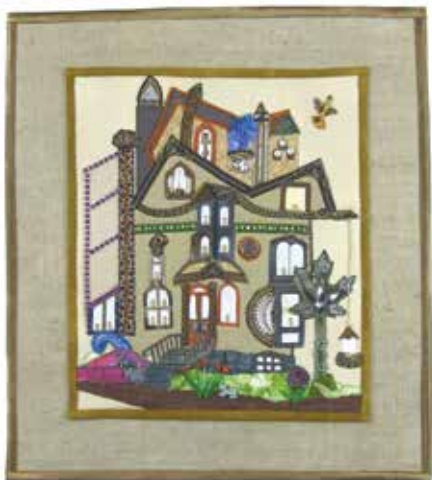
The name of the band was a result of the way they came together.

"We wanted to use the name Flatwater, but we needed something after it or something before it," Holtz said. "As I was driving up to Wisner, I thought about how Nebraska was and still is a highway, first for Native people, then with railroads running across, then highways. The name recognizes all the miles we put into driving to practice."

The musicians volunteered their time, and Holtz self-funded the production costs. He hopes that the album will make connections with a variety of Nebraskans through its music.

"It's for more of an adult audience, but kids might enjoy some of the songs," Holtz said. "People interested in Nebraska history, or people excited for Nebraska's 150th birthday will enjoy the music."

All Original, All Nebraska is available at NSHS Landmark Stores (402-471-3447) and other outlets. It sells for \$15 or two for \$25 plus tax and shipping. Holtz is donating \$1 to the NSHS for each CD sold. ☞



"*Wonkey House*" by Elaine Jones, Omaha, Nebraska, one of the quilts featured in ***Architexture: Contemporary Quilts from Studio Art Quilt Associates***, on display at the Nebraska History Museum October 5-November 30. Discover how contemporary Nebraska (and Iowa) quilters explore structure and texture as found in nature and human work in this special exhibit. ☞

## Treasures from the NSHS Collections: A New Look at Nineteenth-Century Lincoln

By Kylie Kinley



Photo curator Dell Darling scans a photo in the digital imaging lab.

**H**ave you ever seen a couple of 1883 fire engines take up an entire downtown Lincoln street as they battle for high-pressure, watery glory in a firefighter's tournament?

Thanks to a new acquisition by the NSHS, now you can.

The Society recently acquired seven stereographs that offer never-before-seen street views of Lincoln in the 1870s and 1880s. The stereographs came from a dealer in Omaha after an online auction that ended May 30.

Stereographs are two almost identical photographs placed side by side on one piece of cardboard. They are designed to be viewed with a device called a stereoscope. The lenses of the stereoscope allow the viewer to view the two photographs of the same scene as a single three-dimensional image.

Karen Keehr, NSHS photo curator, said that these photos are an important addition to the NSHS collection because many images from this time period—especially street scenes—are rare.

"The street scenes are more valuable because they tell us about the growth and development of Lincoln," Keehr said. "Now we have photos from the 1870s, 1880s, 1890s, and the early 1900s, and we can see how Lincoln grew and changed."

The stereographs depict street scenes that include the State Fireman's Tournament, traffic in front of the Burlington & Missouri Railroad Depot, the smoking ruins of Leighton and Brown's Drug Store, and O Street traffic in its infancy.

Ephraim George Clements, a prolific Lincoln photographer in the late nineteenth and early

twentieth centuries, photographed all seven of the new stereographs.

"We know of a lot of photographs by him, but we have not seen these before," Keehr said.

Clements was born in New York and moved to Nebraska in 1869 after fighting in the Civil War and working as a schoolteacher and photographer. He filed a homestead claim near Elmwood in Cass County and then started a photography gallery in Lincoln on the southwest corner of 10th and O Streets. He divided his time between Elmwood and Lincoln until 1872, when he moved permanently to Lincoln. He was a prolific photographer of Lincoln places and people for his own photo gallery, and he was the official Nebraska legislative photographer.

The new stereographs' conditions range from good to excellent. Unlike many artifacts of their age, none of them have any water or mold damage. The earliest print is from around 1872 and the latest is from around 1883.

Keehr said she's confident that the NSHS can keep them in excellent condition.

"The renovation of the headquarters building that was completed in 2011 made us more secure about taking care of these important artifacts," Keehr said.

The stereographs are currently stored in polyethylene archival plastic and housed in climate-controlled storage. They are now on the historical society's photograph and artifact collections website, [nebraskahistory.pastperfectonline.com](http://nebraskahistory.pastperfectonline.com), and high resolution digital copies can be made at the NSHS headquarters' Reference Room at 1500 R St. in Lincoln.

"I'm excited about new stuff. I'm always excited to see stuff we haven't seen before, especially people interacting with their environment," Keehr said. "I love movement and people in my photos, and these photos have both." 📷

"Trial of engines during the Fireman's Tournament." Looking NW over Ninth Street from the Post Office building. The Kelly, Burr, Muirs building and the Opell Hotel are visible in the background, 1883 (left). NSHS RG2158-3037



The smoking ruins of Brown's and Lalen's Drug Store, Lincoln, NE, circa 1880 (right). NSHS RG2158-3040





## National Register Adds Three Historic Districts

The National Park Service has added three Nebraska downtown historic districts to the National Register of Historic Places. Civic leaders in Beatrice, Crete, and Schuyler requested the listings to support revitalization of their downtowns. The communities have already begun work on marketing efforts, public education, and other programming that will help building owners to rehabilitate their buildings. The State Historic Preservation Office, a division of the NSHS, sponsored the nominations.

The significance of the **Beatrice Downtown Historic District** derives from its development between 1880 and 1920, and just as importantly, from the deliberate and city-driven modernization of its downtown between 1950 and 1966.

The **Crete Downtown Historic District** recognizes Crete's commercial importance to Saline County, and is notable for its direct association with Czech and German immigrants, who drove Crete's commercial growth and constructed many of its existing commercial buildings. The district is also



significant for its association with the modernization movement of the 1950s and 1960s.

Schuyler was founded along the Union Pacific railroad line and was also once an important stop along the historic Lincoln Highway. The **Schuyler Downtown Historic District** recognizes the impact of transportation on community development and includes many buildings associated with automobile-centered businesses. It also recognizes Schuyler's role as a nineteenth century commercial center. ☒

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*Nebraska History News* is published quarterly for members of the Nebraska State Historical Society, 1500 R Street, P.O. Box 82554, Lincoln, Nebraska, 68501-2554. Telephone: (402) 471-3270, email: [nshs.publish@nebraska.gov](mailto:nshs.publish@nebraska.gov). Annual membership in the society is \$40; subscription-only membership is \$32. [www.nebraskahistory.org](http://www.nebraskahistory.org) Opinions expressed by writers do not necessarily reflect the views of the NSHS.

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## “Brown Bag” History Lectures in Kearney

A good idea is spreading. You probably know that the Nebraska History Museum in Lincoln hosts noon lectures on the third Thursday of each month. And if you can't make it, programs are now available on public access cable in Omaha, Bellevue, Hastings, North Platte, Grand Island, Papillion, South Sioux City, and Beatrice—and more than 140 talks are posted on our YouTube channel.

The NSHS's latest outreach comes with our partners at the University of Nebraska-Kearney History Department, which is launching a Brown Bag series in Kearney. The first program will be

Wednesday, October 12, from noon to 1:00 pm at the Kearney Public Library (tentative location). Dr. Jeff Wells, assistant professor of history, will speak on “Paul Vandervoort and Gilded Age Nebraska.” Vandervoort was a leader in the Populist Party, a third-party political movement that rose to prominence at a time when many voters felt that neither the Republicans nor the Democrats represented their interests. But was Vandervoort a true Populist or a political opportunist?

We will share news about availability of these talks on YouTube and public access TV as it becomes available. ☒

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## Volunteers Needed

**Love history?** Here are ways you can do what you love and share it—and help the NSHS:

- Docents: provide tours to fourth grade students; eight training sessions required (see below)
- Landmark Stores: greet customers and make sales at the Nebraska History Museum and Capitol
- Museum ambassadors: meet and greet the public and provide information as needed
- Box and sling builders: help preserve library materials by making these items

Contact Deb McWilliams at [deb.mcwilliams@nebraska.gov](mailto:deb.mcwilliams@nebraska.gov) or 402-471-4955 for more details. ☒

# UPCOMING EVENTS

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

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## Daily - 2 p.m.

### Drop In Tours

Nebraska History Museum (NHM)  
131 Centennial Mall North, Lincoln • 402-471-4754

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## Tuesdays - 10-11 a.m.

### Hour at the Museum

NHM • 402-471-4754 • judy.keetle@nebraska.gov  
Stories, crafts, games. Different topics every week!

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## October 3 - 12 noon

### Noon History Bites

David Murphy

#### *William Quesenbury's Sketchbook*

NHM • 402-471-4754

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## October 3

### Ask An Archivist Day

Your questions and special content on Facebook  
Follow link from [nebraskahistory.org](http://nebraskahistory.org)

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## October 5 - November 30

### *Architexture: Contemporary Quilts from Studio Art Associates*

Exhibit • NHM • 402-471-4754

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## October 9 - 1:00 - 3:30 p.m.

### *Walking Tour of Mid-Century Modern Architecture in Downtown Lincoln*

\$20 (\$15 for NSHS members)  
NHM • 402-471-4445, sharon.kennedy@nebraska.gov

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## October 10 - July 9, 2017

### *The Strange and Wonderful Masks of Doane Powell*

Exhibit • NHM • 402-471-4754

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## October 14 - 11:30 a.m.

### *NSHS Annual Meeting and Awards Luncheon*

Embassy Suites, 1040 P Street, Lincoln  
402-471-3272, lana.hatcher@nebraska.gov

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## October 16 - 2-4 p.m.

### The Magic of Making Masks

#### Free Family Fun Day

NHM • 402-471-4754

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## October 20 - 12 noon

### Brown Bag Lecture Series

John Hibbing and Clark Archer  
*Elections Past: We Can't Know 2016 without Understanding the Past*  
NHM • 402-471-4754

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## October 20 - 5:30 - 8:00 p.m.

### Atomic Age After Hours

\$20 in advance; \$25 at the door  
NHM • 402-471-4445, sharon.kennedy@nebraska.gov

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## October 28 - 12-1 p.m.

### Fourth Friday Noon History Book Club

NHM • 402-471-4757, judy.keetle@nebraska.gov

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## November 7 - 12 noon

### Noon History Bites

Lanny Nissen

#### *Kawasaki's First U.S. Motorcycle*

NHM • 402-471-4754

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## November 18 - 12-1 p.m.

### Fourth Friday Noon History Book Club

(Third Friday this month due to Thanksgiving)  
NHM • 402-471-4757, judy.keetle@nebraska.gov

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## November 19 - 2-4 p.m.

### Free Family Fun Day

#### Civil War Remembrance Day

NHM • 402-471-4754

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## November 20 - 12 noon

### Brown Bag Lecture Series

Ralph Wall

#### *Time Traveling via Nebraska's Historic Sites*

NHM • 402-471-4754

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## December 11 - 1-5 p.m.

### Holiday Open House

Thomas P. Kennard House  
1627 "H" Street, Lincoln • 402-471-4754

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## December 5 - 12 noon

### Noon History Bites

Tina Koeppe

#### *Terri Lee Doll*

NHM • 402-471-4754

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## December 10 - 2-4 p.m.

### Free Family Fun Day

#### *Braving the Elements: A Weather Adventure*

NHM • 402-471-4754

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## December 15 - January 19, 2017

### *Sign of the Times: The Great American Political Poster 1844 - 2012*

Exhibit • NHM • 402-471-4754

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## December 15 - 12 noon

### Brown Bag Lecture Series

Karen Keehr, Paul Eisloeffel, Laura Mooney, Cindy Drake  
*Celebrating Statehood with Treasures from the Collections*  
NHM • 402-471-4754

*For updated events, see the  
NSHS Facebook page, linked from*

*[www.nebraskahistory.org](http://www.nebraskahistory.org)*

## Docents Needed at the Nebraska History Museum

Docents are a vital part of the Nebraska History Museum team. They spark curiosity and make the link between the objects on exhibit and groups of students and adults, particularly fourth graders studying Nebraska history. Nebraska's amazing past is conveyed to students through hands-on educational experiences, as we continue to develop core exhibits at the museum.

Expand your Nebraska history knowledge through eight docent education sessions designed to prepare you for your role as docent. Classes run from 9:00-12:00 a.m., October 6, and 20, November 3,

December 1, and in 2017, January 5 and 19, February 2 and 16. You'll enjoy learning about the past, meeting other new docents, and be prepared to give tours and offer fascinating insights into Nebraska's history in the spring of our sesquicentennial year.

If you are willing to learn and communicate stories of Nebraska history using historical objects and biographies, and are interested in working with groups of all ages and interests, we have a spot for you. Flexible scheduling, behind the scenes experiences, and a chance to learn in-depth history are waiting for you.

Contact Deb McWilliams at [deb.mcwilliams@nebraska.gov](mailto:deb.mcwilliams@nebraska.gov) or 402-471-4955 for more details. ☒

## NSHS Holiday Closings

NSHS sites and facilities will be closed November 24–25, December 24–26, and December 31–January 2.

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## Fourth Friday Noon History Book Club

Inspired by the "Nebraska 150 Books" list, the Nebraska History Museum has launched a monthly book club gathering. Bring your lunch at 12 noon on each Fourth Friday and enjoy special author appearances or related artifact features on view in the museum. The group's first book was *My Ántonia* by Willa Cather. Those participating were to select titles for October, November, and December meetings. You still have time to contact [judy.keetle@nebraska.gov](mailto:judy.keetle@nebraska.gov) or 402-471-4757 and read the October selection before the next meeting October 28. (NSHS members receive a 10 percent discount on your books in the Landmark Store.) Because of the Thanksgiving holiday, the November gathering will be November 18. ☒

## Mid-Century Modern Architecture Walking Tour October 9

Join the Nebraska History Museum staff, UNL Architecture Professor Emeritus Tom Laging, and NSHS staff from the State Historic Preservation Office on a downtown Lincoln walking tour on Sunday, October 9, 1:00-3:30 p.m.

Meet at the NHM for a mini tour of *American Dreams in the Cold War: Photos by Barbara and Ralph Fox*. Then walk through Lincoln's downtown and UNL campus and view buildings designed in the popular mid-century style. Cost is \$20, \$15 for members, and includes a snack and drink. The tour is limited to 25 people. Contact [sharon.kennedy@nebraska.gov](mailto:sharon.kennedy@nebraska.gov) or 402-471-4445 for more information. ☒

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## Sandoz Conference at Chadron, October 13-14

Mari Sandoz's last book, *Battle of the Little Bighorn* (1966) is the focus of the 2016 Pilster Great Plains Lecture and Mari Sandoz Conference, to be held October 13-14 at Chadron State College in Chadron, Nebraska. Dr. Paul Hutton, a noted author and historian respected both for his scholarly and popular work, is this year's Pilster Lecturer.

Sandoz used her unique storytelling skills to explore the mindset and experiences of George Armstrong Custer and his compatriots during the Indian Wars era. Conference sessions address Sandoz's contribution to this well-studied topic, explore the experiences of his family members, examine the worldviews of his Native American adversaries, and assess the legacy of Custer from a multi-ethnic standpoint.

All events take place on the Chadron State College campus. The Conference is open to anyone. Registration is required, except for the Pilster Great Plains Lecture which is free and open to the public. [www.marisandoz.org](http://www.marisandoz.org) ☒

NEBRASKA  
*hours* history news



Nebraska State Historical Society

**NSHS facilities closed:**  
**Nov. 24-25, Dec. 24-26,**  
**Dec. 31-Jan.2.**

**Nebraska History  
Museum &  
Landmark Store**

131 Centennial Mall North,  
Lincoln  
402-471-4754

Monday-Friday, 9-4:30  
Saturday & Sunday, 1-4:30

**Landmark Store,  
Capitol**

402-471-2062  
Monday-Friday, 9:30-4:30

**Library/Archives**

1500 R Street, Lincoln  
402-471-4751

Tuesday-Saturday, 10-4

facebook

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

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

**From the Collection... Doane Powell: Serious Artist**

No one was safe from being caricatured by mask artist Doane Powell (1881-1951), not even Powell himself. Masks can be magical, beautiful, creepy, a way to disguise, or merely a prop. They have been used for a myriad of purposes and made from a variety of materials throughout human history. When Powell turned his artistic talents to the creation of masks he was continuing a long tradition that endures today. Why he chose to make masks is unknown: perhaps he was moved by the craft or saw a niche to be filled that would be profitable. Whatever his reason, his work gives us a notion of the artistic and theatrical energy of his era and a glimpse at the pop and political culture of a pivotal time in American history. 📷



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