Imagine yourself as an artist exploring the western American frontier. You've never seen anything like it. What would you choose to show? And if you were hearing amazing tales about the West in an era before cameras, movies or smartphones, what would you seek out for yourself?

Explore these questions and more in a new temporary exhibit, *Imprinting the West: Manifest Destiny, Real and Imagined*, November 10 through January 7, 2018, at the Nebraska History Museum in Lincoln.

Prints and engravings by Frederic Remington, John J. Audubon, and Albert Bierstadt show how some of America’s most influential artists saw the West, and how they shaped public perceptions of the region and its people. These forty-eight hand colored engravings and lithographs include works by George Catlin and Frederic Remington, who documented native peoples and westward migration. Other artists sold fanciful engravings to popular periodicals such as *Harper’s Weekly*, or to the mass market.

Whether real or imagined, these images show the birth of the West as an idea in American popular culture. The temporary exhibition is provided by ExhibitsUSA, a division of the Mid-American Arts Alliance.

*Karl Bodmer, Missouri Indian, Oto Indian, Chief of the Puncus, n.d., hand-colored engraving, 21 x 25, private collection. Photo: E.G. Schempf. Bodmer traveled up the Missouri River in 1833-34; the Ponca and Otoe-Missouria tribes have Nebraska ties.*

*Imprinting the West Brings Celebrated Art to NHM*

*The Nebraska State Historical Society collects, preserves, and opens to all, the histories we share.*
You are holding the next-to-last print edition of *Nebraska History News*. We’re switching to monthly email delivery of the newsletter—same lively history content, but delivered more frequently! The new format is designed to work well on screens from phones to desktop monitors.

Go to history.nebraska.gov/publications to sign up to receive *Nebraska History News*. The email edition is available starting now, and even includes extra content we don’t have space for in the print edition!

Signing up is easy, and we won’t give your email address with anyone else. You can click to unsubscribe at any time.

What if you have more than one person in your household? Each individual can receive *NH News* to his or her own email address. In fact, anyone can receive the newsletter at no charge. (Tell your friends! Forward it to anyone who might be interested.) We’re making *Nebraska History News* easy to receive and easy to share more Nebraska history with more people! 🌐
Honoring History Makers at the NSHS Annual Meeting

Join us in Omaha on Thursday, October 12, 5:30 to 8:00 p.m., to recognize individuals who’ve made history by helping to preserve it.

This year’s NSHS 2017 Annual Meeting and Gala Awards Ceremony will be held at KANEKO, 1111 Jones St. in the Old Market, Omaha. Doors open at 5:30, with a hearty cocktail buffet, the awards presentation at 6:30 p.m., and dessert buffet and annual business meeting at 7:30. The cost is $75 per person; register at history.nebraska.gov/gala

This year’s awards and honorees:

NSHS will present the first-ever Placemaker-History Maker Award to former Omaha Planning Director Martin “Marty” Shukert to recognize his critical leadership role in Omaha’s evolution into one of the nation’s most vibrant and livable cities through preservation, renewal, redevelopment, and growth. Shukert’s efforts in the 1980s to create public-private partnerships advanced downtown development by envisioning it as a district to which people could live and enjoy themselves as well as work.

The Nebraska Preservation Award is the state’s premiere recognition for the preservation of historic places. This year’s recipients are Mark and Vera Mercer of Omaha and the Willa Cather Foundation.

After an explosion and fire reduced M’s Pub to a shell, the Mercers rebuilt their historic building, maintaining the architectural integrity of their corner in the heart of the Old Market. The Willa Cather Foundation rehabilitated of the Moon Block in Red Cloud (see p. 11), utilizing the Federal Investment Tax Credit Program and the Nebraska Historic Tax Credits. The project culminated in the dedication of the National Willa Cather Center earlier this year.

The Addison E. Sheldon Memorial Award honors an individual or organization for outstanding contributions to the preservation and interpretation of Nebraska history. This year the award is shared by Eugene Cromwell of Genoa and Paul D. Orman of Maywood. Cromwell has volunteered hundreds of hours in the restoration and maintenance of the Genoa Indian School, donated money and historical objects, and served as a volunteer docent. Orman has had a long-standing mission to preserve and protect historic homesteads and buildings.

The Robert W. Furnas Memorial Award recognizes outstanding contributions or assistance to the NSHS. This year’s award recognizes the City of Lincoln/5City TV and NSHS volunteer John Strope for their work on our popular “Brown Bag” lecture series. For twenty years, 5CityTV, Lincoln’s public access channel, has provided staff and equipment for taping the lecture for broadcast and YouTube. Strope serves as the Brown Bag coordinator, scheduling speakers and working with public access stations across the state to expand the program’s audience.

The James L. Sellers Memorial Award honors the best article in Nebraska History as determined by the history faculty of a Nebraska college or university. This year, judges from Peru State College selected “‘The Greatest Gathering of Indians Ever Assembled’: The 1875 Black Hills Council at Red Cloud Agency, Nebraska,” by the late James E. Potter, from the Spring 2016 issue. The judges wrote that the “article adds new insights into a controversial chapter in U.S. history.”

M’s Pub at 11th and Howard in Omaha’s Old Market: left, after it was gutted by fire on January 16, 2016; right, being rebuilt in August 2017. Photos by Ryan Reed, NSHS
Treasures from the NSHS Collections
Women of the Great War: WWI Posters

World War I was fought not only with weapons but with pictures and words. After the United States declared war on Germany in April 1917, the federal government began using advertising and propaganda on an unprecedented scale, employing advertising professionals to sell the war the way they sold automobiles and phonograph records.

Posters were an effective way to communicate directly with the public. Colorful and cheap to produce, they blanketed the country with wartime messages. Street photos of the period often show various war posters tacked to fences and buildings, in cities and small towns alike. Bold in design, posters conveyed their message at a glance, aiming for a strong emotional response. They were the Facebook memes of their day.

NSHS Superintendent Addison Sheldon (1861-1943) collected dozens of posters in the States and in Europe during the war. The few shown here portray women in ways that offer insights into the place of women in the context of wartime goals and cultural norms.

Today it’s hard to appreciate how 1910s sensibilities would have been shocked by regimented women in trousers, carrying sledgehammers and monkey wrenches. This blurring of gender roles was portrayed as a temporary patriotic duty—as it would be again in World War II.

NSHS 4541-6a

(Left) In a far milder gender-bending scene, a cheerful gardener carries her hoe like a rifle while leading her little army of vegetables. She, too, is a warrior, but a non-threatening one. NSHS 4733-11

(Right) Women were also portrayed in more traditional roles. Here, woman is the gentle wife to be defended by the man. NSHS 4541-13.a
(Left) Here she is the aging mother still caring for her sons. NSHS 4541-75

(Right) Here she is the anonymous rape victim of “the Hun.” German atrocities in Belgium—both real and exaggerated—during the war’s opening campaign provided endless fodder for Allied propaganda. NSHS 4733-33

(Left) In her clingy dress, the model blends two archetypes: the laurel-bearing woman from classical art and the modern “Christy Girl” from magazine ads. Here she is eye-catching bait for a list of foreign names. More than twelve million immigrants had entered the U.S. since the turn of the twentieth century. Could such an ethnically diverse nation unify for war? NSHS RG4541-12a

(Right) And finally, woman is the symbolic (though saintly) warrior. NSHS 4753-80
Is the NSHS Even Older Than We Thought?

BY DAVID L. BRISTOW, EDITOR

Recenlty a sharp-eyed researcher discovered something about the Nebraska State Historical Society that escaped everyone here for nearly 150 years. It reveals Nebraska pioneers’ consciousness of their role in history.

Local historian Dale Nobbman was doing research in the archives of the Lancaster County Register of Deeds when he discovered a handwritten “Articles of Incorporation” for the Nebraska State Historical Society. It was filed for record on November 2, 1869.

This was puzzling. That’s nine years earlier than the NSHS’s accepted founding in 1878, the year that is proudly emblazoned on our official seal. Is the NSHS older than we thought? Have we spent nearly a century-and-a-half telling everyone in the state about their history without knowing our own?

No one here had heard of this document, and it is not mentioned in any NSHS history. But the members named in the document included prominent men such as Charles Gere (publisher of the *Nebraska State Journal*, forerunner of today’s *Lincoln Journal Star*) and Stephen B. Pound (a judge best remembered today for his famous children, legal scholar Roscoe Pound and folklorist and linguist Louise Pound). This was a serious group of local leaders.

But the NSHS of 1869 wasn’t the first attempt to form a Nebraska-wide historical organization. The short-lived “Nebraska Historical Society” was founded in 1858, just four years after the territory was opened to settlement. This early group sent letters to newspapers asking for artifacts and information about natural history, Indians, and early white settlements. The NHS eventually died for lack of support, and their hundred-volume library was lost.

In 1867, another group formed the State Historical and Library Association, which even had a plot of land reserved in the newly-renamed village of Lincoln. But it, too, faded away.

We can only guess at the story behind the 1869 Nebraska State Historical Society. It might be significant that the 1867 and 1869 organizations list two completely different sets of men (mostly from Lincoln). Since these men were local leaders prone to bitter political and business rivalries, the organizations themselves may have been rivals. Dale Nobbman sent an article titled “Nebraska State Historical Society,” which appeared in the *Nebraska Advertiser* (Brownville) of June 16, 1870. The NSHS was “asking the people of the State to furnish them with Geological, Archaeological, Agriculture [sic], Mythological, Aboriginal, Mechanical, and Biographical facts,” and gave the names of officers in Nebraska City and Omaha, but not Lincoln.

Thus far we’ve found nothing more. Apparently the original NSHS was defunct by the time today’s NSHS was incorporated in 1878. Our earliest documents make no mention of previous attempts to found a state historical society. Two of our 1878 founders were members of the 1867 Historical and Library Association, but none of the 1869-70 NSHS men were founders of today’s NSHS, though both Pound and Gere later served as officers.

Consider what Nebraska was like in the 1860s: frontier, with a scattering of new farms and ramshackle towns along its eastern border, and a Native population increasingly confined to reservations. Early historical societies expressed some interest in Indian history, but their own half-built communities had only the briefest history.

But these men were conscious of making history in a way that most of us today are not. This was partly self-interested. These were exactly the sort of men who could expect to be celebrated as Founding Fathers by later historians. As it turned out, we now know that history becomes a lot more interesting when it broadens to include more than just politically-connected white men, but we can’t help but admire their foresight. Long before they had the resources to make it happen, they set out to preserve a history that was still in the making.
Articles of Incorporation
of the Nebraska State Historical Society

Filed for Record
November 24, 1869.

I, A. Goodrich, Clerk, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true record of the
proceedings of the meeting of the Nebraska State Historical Society held as
the time and place therein stated, and for the purpose of being incorporated
according to the laws of the State of Nebraska, and that I was the recorder of
the same.

A. Goodrich
Clerk.
Despite his high regard among architects and fans of historic buildings, Thomas Rogers Kimball (1862-1934) isn’t exactly a household name. His recent election to the Nebraska Hall of Fame, and forthcoming induction in 2019, raises the question: Why is this guy such a big deal?

The short answers: Kimball’s mastery of the classically-influenced styles of his day; his wide influence on other architects; and of course his buildings themselves.

Look for this sampling of some of Kimball’s buildings that still remain more-or-less as he designed them. See e-nebraskahistory.org for more photos and information about Kimball’s work.
Saint Cecilia Cathedral (1905-1916), 701 North 40th Street, Omaha. Lynn Meyer

Oscar Roeser House (1908), 721 W. Koenig St., Grand Island. David Murphy, NSHS (1981)

Hall County Courthouse (1904), Grand Island. David Murphy, NSHS
UPCOMING EVENTS

October 2 · 12 noon
Nebraska Survival Evacuation Map
Noon Bites
NHM · 402-471-4782, sharon.kennedy@nebraska.gov

October 6 · 5:30-7:00 p.m.
Leta Powell Drake and George Churley
First Friday
NHM · 402-471-4782, sharon.kennedy@nebraska.gov

October 14
Final day of the exhibit
Nebraska’s Enduring Quilt Heritage: Recent Acquisitions
NHM · 402-471-4782

October 12 · 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
NSHS Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet
KANEKO, 1111 Jones St., Omaha
$75. Register by Sept. 30
lana.hatcher@nebraska.gov, 402-471-3272

October 17 · 10-11 a.m.
Hour at the Museum
The Mystery of Pheasants by Mark Meierhenry & David Volk
NHM · 402-471-4757, judy.keetle@nebraska.gov

October 19 · 12 noon
Nebraskeño: How Latino Generations Continue Building Belonging in “the Good Life” State
Lissette Allaga-Linares and Thomas Sanchez
Brown Bag Lecture Series
NHM · 402-471-4782

October 27 · 12 noon
Fourth Friday Noon History Book Club
Bloody Mary: Gentle Woman, by Frances G. Reinehr
NHM · 402-471-4757, judy.keetle@nebraska.gov

November 5 · 1:00-4:00 p.m.
El Dia de los Muertos
NHM · 402-471-4782, sharon.kennedy@nebraska.gov

November 6 · 12 noon
Halligan Doll House
Noon Bites
NHM · 402-471-4782, sharon.kennedy@nebraska.gov

November 16 · 12 noon
The Homestead Act and the Plains Tribes
Nancy Gillis
Brown Bag Lecture Series
NHM · 402-471-4782

November 16 · 6:30-9:00 p.m.
70s Boogie Night After Hours: Live and In Color
Food, Drink, Music, Dance, Trivia, VIP viewing of 70s stuff from our collection
$20 advance, or $25 at the door.
NHM · 402-471-4782, register at history.nebraska.gov

November 17 · 12 noon
Fourth Friday Noon History Book Club
The Christmas of the Phonograph Records, by Mari Sandoz
NHM · 402-471-4757, judy.keetle@nebraska.gov

December 4 · 12 noon
Threshing Machine Salesman’s Sample
Noon Bites
NHM · 402-471-4782, sharon.kennedy@nebraska.gov

December 21 · 12 noon
Meet Selected Members of the Nebraska Hall of Fame
NSHS Staff
Brown Bag Lecture Series
NHM · 402-471-4782

December 26 · 10-11 a.m.
Hour at the Museum
One Splendid Tree by Marilyn Helmer
NHM · 402-471-4757, judy.keetle@nebraska.gov

For updated events, see the NSHS Facebook page, linked from www.nebraskahistory.org

New Hours at Nebraska History Museum
Starting October 1, the Nebraska History Museum will be open Monday-Friday, 10-5:30, and Saturday 1-5:30. The museum will no longer be open Sundays—except for Sunday, November 5, 1-4 p.m., for El Dia de Los Muertos.

Unless otherwise noted, all events are free and open to the public.
Leta Powell Drake TV Interviews on YouTube

Lincoln television personality Leta Powell Drake interviewed hundreds of celebrities for KOLN/KGIN between 1979 and 1988. The NSHS has digitized 262 of these six- to ten-minute “junket” interviews and posted them on our YouTube channel. Powell Drake talks with visiting entertainers such as Carrie Fisher, Mark Hamill, Anthony Hopkins, Mary Tyler Moore, George Burns, Carol Burnett, Steve Martin, Kirk Douglas, and even a young actor named Tom Hanks, who was promoting his first major film role, *Splash* (1984).

NSHS Employee and Manager of the Year

We place a high value on teamwork, and in August honored team members who’ve made outstanding contributions in the past year. This year’s honorees are:

**Employee of the Year:** Jay Shaeffer, IT infrastructure support/analyst. Runner up: Vonnda Shaw, conservation technician.

**Manager of the Year:** Kris Riggs, Landmark Store manager. Runner up: Karen Keehr, curator of photography.

70s Boogie Night After Hours: Live and In Color

Join us November 16 for a far out time at the Nebraska History Museum! From 6:30 to 9:00 p.m., “70s Boogie Night After Hours: Live and In Color” celebrates the 1970s theme of our current exhibit, *Don’t Touch That Dial: Kalamity Kate and the George Churley Puppets*. The event features food, drink, music from the DJs “Getting Hipper Fun Bunch,” dance, trivia, and VIP viewing of cool ’70s stuff from our collection. Cost is $20 advance /$25 at the door. Register online at history.nebraska.gov, or contact Sharon Kennedy, sharon.kennedy@nebraska.gov.

The Moon Block in Red Cloud, before and after its recent restoration. The second photo also includes the Red Cloud Opera House, just left of the Moon Block. The project was honored this year’s Nebraska Preservation Award; see p. 3.

Bottom Photo: Philip Daubman Photography
Fort Robinson's holiday feasts were an occasion for dress uniforms and printed menus. This booklet features a three-page troop roster arranged by rank in addition to the menu—clearly intended as a memento of the occasion.

Virtually abandoned during World War I, Fort Robinson became a quartermaster remount depot in 1919, and provided horses and mules to army units. We can only guess what the officers, soldiers, and guests talked about around the linen-draped tables on Thanksgiving Day 1938. Did they discuss the troubled state of the world? Britain and Germany had recently avoided war with the Munich Agreement. Was Prime Minister Chamberlain right in calling it “peace for our time”? Would Franco or the Republicans triumph in Spain? Would Japan conquer more of China? And would the U.S. armed forces be drawn into any of this, as they had been in 1917?

At the same time, Fort Robinson was about as far from the world’s problems as one could get. Topics such as horses, football, the latest motion picture, or distant homes and relatives may have been more appealing during the fort’s holiday feast.