

NEBRASKA  
history news

**"Looking Past Skin"  
Exhibit Opens January 5**



People have been moving throughout Nebraska for thousands of years. Opening January 5 at the Nebraska History Museum in Lincoln, [\*Looking Past Skin: Our Common Threads\*](#) explores the movement of people from the earliest Native cultures to the most recent refugee families. Their rich traditions, unique languages, food and religions are all part of Nebraska's story.

The University of Nebraska's Minority Health Disparities Initiative (MHDI), UNL Extension, and the Nebraska History Museum have partnered on a four-part exhibit to present sociological, agricultural, and historical perspectives on migration and the more recent demographic shifts in urban and rural parts of the state.

A walk through the migration timeline provides a backdrop for additional features on the Karen, Latino, Sudanese, and Yazidi communities. The University's *Wall of Windows* combines historic and contemporary photographs accompanied by stories from new Nebraskans living in Dawson County. *Ask A Doctor* reveals the complexities of speaking a non-native language through a simulated visit to the doctor where a language barrier exists. *History of the Food Plate* explores finding nutritional food in a new country.

Funding for *Looking Past Skin: Our Common Threads* was generously provided by Rural Futures Institute and Humanities Nebraska.

**Top photo:** Sakurada family, near Lyman, Nebraska, ca. 1940. Western Nebraska had a small but growing Japanese immigrant population by World War II. The two older sons at left enlisted in the US Army after Pearl Harbor. *NSHS RG2038-33-3*

**Below left:** Embroidered mittens brought from Sweden in about 1904. The owner's sister, a seamstress to the royal family of Sweden, made them in the Stockholm around 1890. *NSHS 9149-8-(1-20)*

**Below right:** A *Tana* is a traditional harp that the Karen play for enjoyment. It is handmade from wood. *On loan from the Karen Society of Nebraska*



# A Lady Patrolman in Omaha?



The Omaha Police Department didn't have "police officers" in 1970. It had "patrolmen." The department also had a few "policewomen," but they were not considered regular cops and were not allowed in cruisers. Nancy Bradshaw applied for the job of patrolman. She was refused on the grounds of gender.

"Nowhere on the qualification sheet does it say the applicant has to be a male," she told the *Omaha World-Herald*. "By federal law they cannot specify male or female." The *World-Herald* referred to her as a "curvy mother of two," but acknowledged that the law was on her side. "She might make it if she's persistent enough."

She was, and she did. [Keep reading.](#)

## J. Sterling Morton's War on Christmas Trees

As you prepare to take down your tree after the holidays, here's Nebraska Hall-of-Famer J. Sterling Morton with a cup of holiday cheer for you. Morton (1832-1902) is usually remembered as the founder of Arbor Day and the builder of Arbor Lodge in Nebraska City. Most Nebraskans have forgotten that he was also both one of the most distinguished and despised of Nebraska's early politicians. You'd think his opposition to Christmas trees would be controversial, wouldn't you? [Keep reading](#)





## Upcoming events

Don't miss *Looking Past Skin* and other current Nebraska History Museum exhibits. Learn about Japanese culture at a Free Family Fun Day on January 13. [Keep Reading](#)



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