



Annual Report

2014-2015



Nebraska State Historical Society
FOUNDATION

Connecting people with Nebraska history since 1942



Letter from your Foundation President



MICHAEL NELSON

The passing of a year is a time of reflection, assessment and celebration.

So as the Foundation again gathers for our annual meeting, I am happy to report this has been a year of growth, engagement and experimentation. The future is challenging, but also promising, because solid groundwork has been laid.

Our Strength is Our People

Leslie Fattig has served more than three years as Executive Director, and her tenure continues to be characterized by energy, enthusiasm and outreach.

The business manager, Lori Heaton, is now a year into the job. She has been a quick learner. In addition to her regular duties, Lori is working with our accountants and auditors to make the Foundation's financial reports more transparent and easy to understand.

New to the staff is Tony Dworak. Tony joined the team in December as Development Director, a position that had been vacant four years. As "D.D." he will help create and enhance relationships with prospective donors, a key step in helping the Foundation meet its fundraising goals in 2017 and beyond.

Elsewhere in this report you will read of the Foundation's successes, and those are a testament to the drive and ability of this team.

Our Trustees

The Board of Trustees membership grew 13 percent in the last year, from 133 members in calendar year 2014 to 150 in 2015. The increase is the result of Trustee engagement—basically, Trustees are suggesting and recruiting new candidates, and we thank you for doing so.

We are grateful as well for your willingness to donate: In calendar year 2014, half of all Trustees donated to the Foundation. In 2015 it was almost three out of four.

This is our opportunity to express our deep appreciation to those who are now leaving the Board of Trustees.

FACING PAGE: COMING TOGETHER IN THE CAUSE OF HISTORY (CLOCKWISE FROM TOP)

FROM FOREGROUND, **JANET WOOLSONCROFT**, **ALLISON PETERSEN**, AND **GLORIA STROPE** PREPARE A MAILING ♦ AT THE CATTLEMEN'S BALL IN LYNCH (FROM LEFT) **DEB ARENZ** OF THE SOCIETY AND FOUNDATION TRUSTEE **DEE ADAMS** WERE AMONG VOLUNTEERS WHO SPOKE WITH MORE THAN 500 ATTENDEES. ♦ CELEBRATING STATEHOOD DAY AT THE FOUNDATION RECEPTION WERE (FROM LEFT) **MICHELLE FURBY**, **KYLIE KINLEY** AND **LANA HATCHER** ♦ **TOM MOONEY** LED A TOUR ON BEHALF OF THE SOCIETY ♦ AT A FOUNDATION RECEPTION IN SIDNEY, **DR. CHUCK REHER**, MUSEUM DIRECTOR EMERITUS, UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING, SPOKE ABOUT HIGH PLAINS ARCHEOLOGY

ON THE COVER: DIGGING INTO NEBRASKA'S PAST, FOUNDATION TRUSTEES AND GUESTS TOOK PART IN A DIG LAST SEPTEMBER AT THE ENGINEER CANTONMENT SITE NORTH OF OMAHA. THE SITE WAS LOCATED IN 2003 USING THE HISTORIC ILLUSTRATION OF THE SURROUNDING BLUFFS AS A GUIDE.

Retiring as Trustees are Marian Andersen of Omaha, Jessica Peale-Douglas of Omaha, Keith Heuermann of Phillips, Nelle Jamison of Lincoln and Michael Tate of Omaha.

They have demonstrated support of history in individual ways: through advice they offered, donations they made and time they volunteered. We thank them for their varied contributions.

Also in transition are several members of the Board of Directors.

Leaving that board are directors Jack Campbell, Gerry Dimon, Ed Malk, and Tim Thietje, all of Lincoln, and Rod Walker of Omaha.

Engaged and far-sighted, this group of Trustees has been exemplary. All have chosen to stay on as Trustees after serving as Directors. Their continued service is appreciated.

Likewise we remember with gratitude the Trustees who died since the last meeting:

Harley Bergmeyer, a widely known banker, died September 26. He was 74. Mr. Bergmeyer led banks in Wilbur and Lincoln and was on the boards of other banks in Kearney and Albion. Apart from his role as a Trustee, he served as a director of the Nebraska Community Foundation and of the Wisconsin Synod of the Lutheran Church. His immediate survivors include his wife, Marcia.

Don Swanson was 93 when he died January 27. Mr. Swanson was trained as an accountant, eventually retiring in 1987 as secretary-treasurer of Lincoln Telephone & Telegraph Company. As a Trustee he donated funds that continue to provide free printout services to Society members. Besides being a Trustee of the NSHSF, he was a 60-year member of the Masons and was honored with the Masonic Achievement Award. His wife, Mary Lee, preceded him in death in 1990.

Rick Wallace was serving as a Director of the NSHSF when he died January 4. He was 60. Mr. Wallace was eulogized as a champion for small business, civil rights and history. He had founded a paving company and later used what he learned to guide other entrepreneurs. He also served on several community boards, notably as president of the Lincoln chapter of the NAACP.



Our Bequests and Endowments

This Foundation honors the past to serve the future.

Knowing this, friends of Nebraska and its history have entrusted us with bequests and endowments. The Foundation sees the management of these funds as a

DAVID OLDFATHER AND HIS MOTHER, **DIANE**, WERE RECOGNIZED LAST YEAR AT THE ANNUAL MEETING. THE FOUNDATION HAS NAMED ITS ACHIEVEMENT AWARD IN HONOR OF THE OLDFATHER FAMILY, WHICH HAS LONG SUPPORTED THE SOCIETY AND THIS FOUNDATION.

high calling and we strive to meet the wishes of the donors.

In the last year we learned the details of a previously announced bequest, and news of another:

The estate of Geraldine A. Brady and her late husband, Lynn R. Brady, has now been dispersed. Their gift was announced in last year's annual report. A total of \$160,500 has been passed to the Foundation. The Brady bequest is intended for a publication program. The Bradys grew up in Shelton, Nebraska, and married in 1957. They moved to Seattle, where he earned a PhD at the University of Washington and built an international reputation as an authority in the use of natural products in medicine. Dr. Brady was 58 when he died in 1992. Mrs. Brady had been a regular donor to this Foundation since the 1980s. She died in 2015 at age 82.

A gift to support children's educational material and programs has been bequeathed by Jack and Patricia Glass of Margate, Florida. Mrs. Glass died in 2002; Mr. Glass in 2015. They were occasional donors to the Foundation, and he was a Life Member of the State Historical Society. The fund is in memory of Louis and Sarah Glass, the family of Willis M. and Idalyn Gwyer Yates and Frank L. Capps.

The size of the Glass bequest is as yet unknown, as is much of the backstory of the Glasses' lives, including occupations, education and survivors. Their Nebraska connections appear to be through the Gwyer and Yates families, who settled in the Omaha area in the 1850s and were among the early bankers there. We hope to learn more, and will share it when we do.

Our Statewide Presence

As someone once said, "State is our middle name." The Foundation has pledged to live up to it.

The tone was set by last year's annual meeting in Kearney, the first to be held outside Omaha or Lincoln in more than 10 years. Since then, Foundation volunteers and staff have teamed up with Historical Society staff to host events from the Niobrara to the Platte Valley.

Notable was our presence in June at the Cattlemen's Ball outside the village of Lynch in far north Nebraska. More than 500 contacts were made as we shared the story of your Foundation and the Society. My guess is that a chunk of those were South Dakotans... This year's event will be in Lancaster County and plans are now being firmed up for the Foundation's presence there.

In Sidney we strengthened relations with history buffs in July, and a Foundation-sponsored archeological dig in September brought together about 30 Trustees and history buffs at the Engineer Cantonment site just north of Omaha on the Missouri River.

Foundation staff also began taking the pulse of longtime supporters across the state. Small groups and individual contacts were made with current and former Trustees in Omaha, Big Springs, Scottsbluff, Curtis and McCook.

Our Social Media

Another form of outreach showed great possibilities this year: our online presence.

The Foundation website has been up for a while, as has our Facebook page. Both are interactively

connected to the Society's pages, and they take each others' feeds.

But only now are they starting to pay off:

- A donor connection added this year through Amazon.com will send to the Foundation one-half of one percent of the price of applicable purchases made there. Amazon is widely used, especially among young adults, and so promises future benefits.
- Our Facebook presence is more lively, with reports and feeds from other history-related sites. Donations are being raised there too, and with some success.

So far, much internet support has come from our Silicon Valley Trustees, Mary Ann May Pumphrey, and Micah Laaker.

If the Foundation is to realize fully today's social networking possibilities, it will require more staff time and planning. That is an issue to come. But to fail to act would be damaging to the Foundation's long-term interest. Or, as a wise newspaper publisher once said of the Internet, "I don't get it at all, but I know it will matter."

THE FOUNDATION ON THE NET

Here are the sites where the NSHSF can be found online:

- *Foundation website:*

www.nshsf.org

- *Links to specific projects:*

nshsf.org/the-brown-bag-recordings-project/
nshsf.org/the-centennial-mall-legacy-tile-project/
nshsf.org/projects-and-events/scholarships/
nshsf.org/the-world-war-ii-book-project/

- *Foundation on Facebook:*

www.facebook.com/NebraskaStateHistoricalSocietyFoundation/

- *Amazon donation program:*

smile.amazon.com/ch/47-6000332

Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to the Foundation when you shop on AmazonSmile.

- *Links to Society sites*

website:

www.nebraskahistory.org

Society on Facebook:

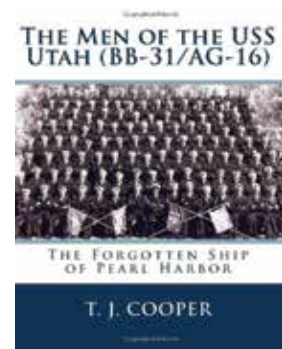
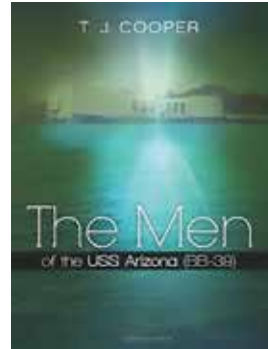
www.facebook.com/Nebraska-State-Historical-Society-118583393548/

Our Current Projects

In regular newsletters and mailings Trustees and other supporters have been told of special fundraising projects. Three have been notable:

- A drive to raise \$25,000 for a plaque to be placed with others on Lincoln's revamped Centennial Mall in 2017 in commemoration of the 150th anniversary of Nebraska statehood. This perpetual tile, recognizing both the Society and Foundation, will carry a QR code that can be read with a smartphone. The code will direct the phone to a webpage with more information. The response has been good, but as of this writing (about six weeks into the campaign) we are still shy of the goal.

- For more than 20 years the Foundation has honored the memory of the dead of Pearl Harbor and veterans of World War II through scholarships funded by bequests. This year the Foundation went a step further, raising money to place WWII history books in school libraries. The books, "The Men of the Arizona" and "The Men of the Utah," tell the personal stories of the Nebraskans and fellow service



VOLUMES OF THESE WWII HISTORY BOOKS WILL BE PLACED IN SCHOOL LIBRARIES ACROSS NEBRASKA THROUGH FOUNDATION SUPPORT



TRUSTEES JACK AND SALLY CAMPBELL

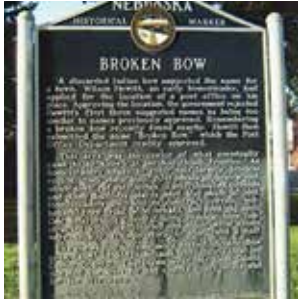
The seed of the Marker Project was planted by the public. At the Cattlemen's Ball last June we spoke with hundreds of Nebraskans about the Society and the Foundation's support of it. Markers were brought up repeatedly in one-on-one conversation, always as points of local pride but also because of their shabby appearance.

There is deep community connection to these Markers, suggesting that people statewide are willing to help—if we just ask. And by doing so, we will serve a higher goal: identifying first-time donors who in

personnel who died on those ships in the attacks of Dec. 7, 1941. The books will be available this fall to students in the 22 communities that were home to Nebraska's dead.

This project, envisioned by Trustee Jack Campbell, has exceeded its \$1,200 goal. We thank you for your support.

- Expect a formal announcement soon on the Foundation's Marker Project, a campaign to raise money to repair Nebraska's roadside history markers as part of the Nebraska 150 celebration. The state maintains 518 markers and about 100 need serious attention, some immediately.



WEATHERING AFFECTS
HISTORICAL MARKERS

the future will support the Foundation as it honors Nebraska's past.

The goal will be \$80,000. The average cost per repair is about \$700. Damages vary, from bullet holes to heavy weathering. Repairs will range from repainting to recasting. The Society will handle the repairs operation. Donations to the Foundation will pay for the costs.

The Foundation's Marker Project was recently selected as the 2016 campaign for the state chapter of the Public Relations Society of America. This designation brings professional help—free of charge—in orchestrating our outreach, including assistance with message, project branding, promotion and publications. We are grateful for their enthusiastic support.

These undertakings and others could not be done if it were not for the two dozen or so volunteers who over the last year pitched in to make these projects tick. From researching, to organizing, to the stuffing and stamping of envelopes, the tasks taken on by these women and men extend the reach of your Foundation. To all those volunteers, our sincere thanks.

Our Capital Campaign

No project is bigger or more important than the multimillion-dollar undertaking that we have dubbed the Capital Campaign. In fact, the Capital Campaign will be the largest and longest project of its type in the 74-year life of the Foundation.

This effort, projected to span four years, will:

- enlarge the Chimney Rock visitor center,
- plan, design, fabricate and install new exhibits at the recently reopened Nebraska History Museum,
- build a 21st-century Learning Center at the Museum to provide hands-on, interactive experiences for thousands of school-age visitors, families and people of all ages who will benefit from experimental learning, and
- create an endowment to support the Learning Center as it grows and changes.

As noted elsewhere previously, the Legislature has taken the first step: The \$8 million allotted in 2013 to renovate the History Museum, a task that is now complete. That money came with an understanding that private funds would be raised to finish the job.

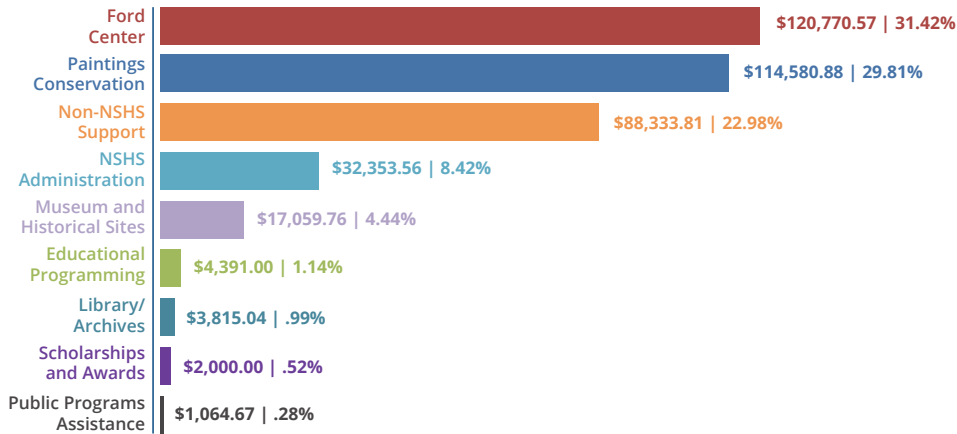
This year a feasibility study was conducted by an outside contractor. That research has shaped the Foundation's fundraising strategies. Tony and Leslie have outlined specific tactics of the campaign and are now meeting with opinion leaders and prospective donors.

It is too early to assess fully the likely return on this undertaking, but we have ample reason to be optimistic as we face it and as we face the year ahead.

Michael K. Nelson
President

Foundation Funds Released 2014-2015

The Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation supports a range of activities whose aim is to increase knowledge and appreciation for Nebraska's unique heritage which includes, but is not limited to, the projects and programs of the Nebraska State Historical Society.



Society Support: \$296,035.48 Total: \$384,369.29
Non-Society Support: \$88,333.81

Areas of Support:

The Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation has the privilege of supporting Nebraska history in a variety of ways: resources made possible by endowed and invested funds, direct donor gifts, unrestricted funds, and absorbing into our operating budget those items and events that would not otherwise be possible without private support.

The **GERALD R. FORD CONSERVATION CENTER** received funding for full-time conservation assistants, necessary upgrades to the HVAC Systems, and building repairs.

Funds for **PAINTINGS CONSERVATION** provide for full-time staffing, the purchase of lab equipment and supplies for the Paintings Conservation Laboratory.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING includes funds provided for the "Museum On The Move" program, Brown Bag Lecture filming and the Nebraska Trailblazer.

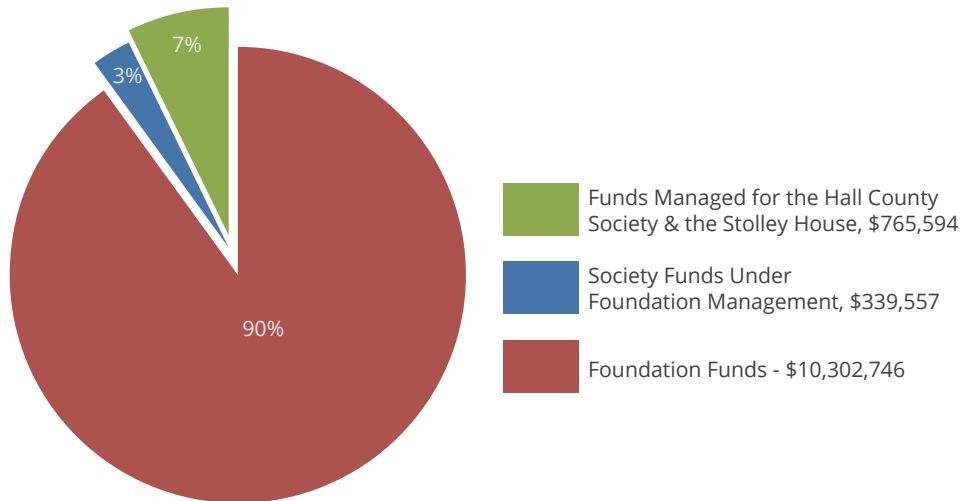
The **MUSEUM/HISTORIC SITES DIVISION** received funding to advance and promote museums and historic landmarks across the state. Funds were used to support the Nebraska History Museum renovation, research grants, and specifications for repairs to the Kennard House.

NON-NSHS SUPPORT includes funds dedicated to the Foundation property expenses, including the historic Furnas House in Brownville, those non-NSHS organizations that have endowments managed by the Foundation as well as a series of scholarships for Nebraska students that are made available each year.

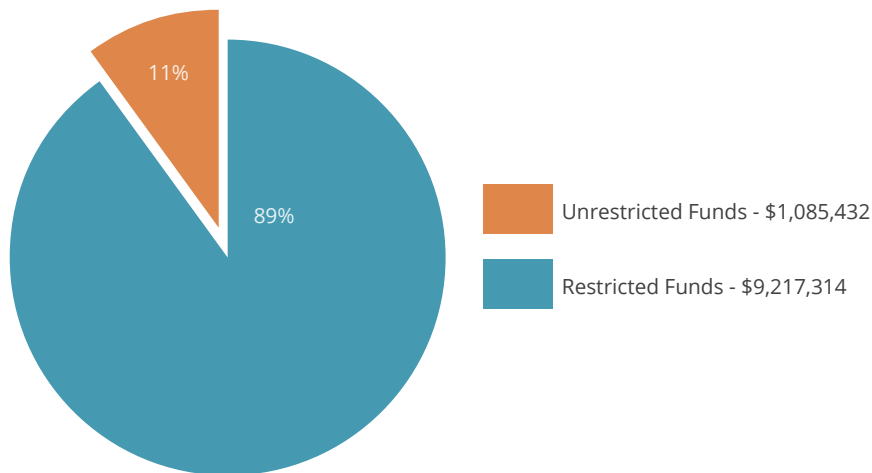
NSHS ADMINISTRATION funding makes possible the advancement of Nebraska history that restricted budgets are unable to support. The Foundation was able to support a portion of the NSHS Awards with grants to individuals who have championed Nebraska history in their own way, as well as covering expenses for history-related conferences and retreats, and contributing to the Society's historical marker program.

THE LIBRARY/ARCHIVES DIVISION received assistance from the Foundation for a variety of projects ranging from rebinding books and periodicals to purchasing items for the Library/Archives collection.

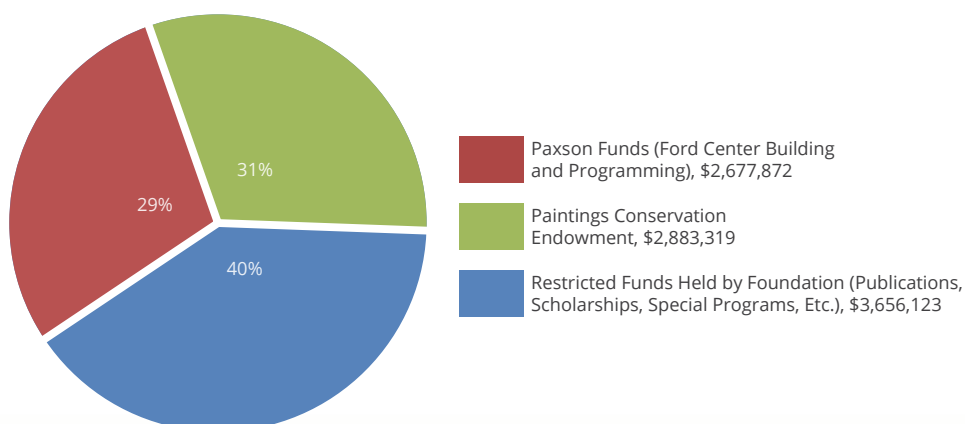
Total Funds Held by NSHSF as of March 31, 2016



Breakout of Foundation Funds (Restricted vs. Unrestricted)



Foundation Restricted Funds



Acknowledging Donors July 2014 - June 2015

Stewards of Nebraska History
Perpetually recognizes individuals and organizations for generous gift leadership totaling \$50,000 or more, including contributions of cash and property made during or after lifetime or a commitment for future support at this level.

Ethel S. Abbott Charitable Foundation
Ahmanson Foundation
Marjorie L. Barstow Estate
Given in memory of Lt. Adrian DePutron
Ruby and Walter Behlen
Grace Carmody
Given in memory of Arthur Carmody
Flavia Champe Estate
Given in memory of John L. Champe
Irving S. and Jeanette Moore Chapin Estate
Helen E. Clough
Thomas Creigh
Given in memory of Dorothy Weyer Creigh
Dillon Foundation
Drew Foundation
(Jack, Helen, Louis and Jean)
First National Bank of Omaha
J. Paul Getty Foundation Trust
The Corinne S. Gilligan Foundation
Annadora Foss Gregory Estate
Hawks Foundation
Martha H. and Gilbert Hitchcock Foundation
Richard D. and Mary Holland
Richard Hunt
Iowa West Foundation
Fay Sherwin Johnson Estate
Peter Kiewit Foundation
Lozier Foundation
Gladys Marie Lux
Given in memory of Mary Hannah Hansen Lux and Clarence Burton Lux
Charles W. and Mary C. Martin
Capitola Mechling
Museum of Nebraska Art
National Endowment for the Humanities
Nebraska Beef Council
Diane♦ H. and Charles E. Oldfather

Vada and Col. Barney Oldfield
Oregon Trail Community Foundation
Richard S. Palmer Trust
James M. Paxson
Olivia Pound Estate
Jack A. Ringwalt Trust
Amy L. Scott Family Foundation
Ruth Sheldon Estate
Stockman Family Foundation
Constance M. Syford Estate
Swanson Biggs Adams Family Foundation
Alice A. Thorngate Estate
Jan Two Bears Falcon
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Luceil Vogt Trust
Harold Warp
Evelyn B. Weese and Francis Lageschulte
Geneva Wheeler Estate
Nevada Wheeler Estate
Woods Charitable Fund, Inc.
Gloria and S. N. "Bud" Wolbach
Ronald D. Yost Estate

Guardians of Nebraska History
Perpetually recognizes individuals and organizations for generous gift leadership totaling \$10,000 to \$49,999, including contributions of cash and property made during or after lifetime or a commitment for future support at this level.

Alice Abel
Abel Foundation
Halcyon M. Allsman
Marian♦ and Harold W. Andersen
Estate of Helen Nance Anderson
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John B. Davis
R. Joe Dennis Foundation

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Fricke Logging
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Given in memory of Emma Coffin Humberger
HunTel Systems, Inc.
Junior League of Lincoln
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Given in memory of Ellen Ora (Whitney) Plummer
Mildred L. Kotouc
Barbara Kuhn
Lillian F. Lappe Estate
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Kathleen M. Lute
Given in memory of Robert F. Lute II
Mary Ann♦ and Ron H. May-Pumphrey
Julie Morsman Schroeder Foundation
National Society of Colonial Dames of America in Nebraska
David♦ and Roxanne Oldfather
Omaha Community Foundation
Omaha World-Herald Foundation
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Given in memory of Hazel Virginia Hill Parks and Wayne Kemper Parks
Kitty M. Perkins Foundation
Allison♦♦ D. and Gary L. Petersen
Tom and Verla Plummer
James E. and Gail D. Potter
Quivey Bay State Foundation
Alice W. and Ross H. Rasmussen
Beatrice "Mike"♦ and Joe R. Seacrest
James and Rhonda Seacrest

Acknowledging Donors July 2014 - June 2015

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Joe W. and Ruth K. Seacrest Fund
The Steinhart Foundation, Inc.
The Sterns Charitable Foundation, Inc.
Robert H. Storz Foundation
U S West Foundation
John W. and Nancy C. Webster
Given in memory of
William B. Webster
White Grain Company

Gifts of \$2,500-\$9,999

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Donald Dillon♦
Ron and Mary Ann♦ May-Pumphrey
Diane Oldfather♦
Ron♦ and Judy♦ Parks
Gary and Allison♦ Petersen

Gifts of \$1,000-\$2,499

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Wyman Youth Trust

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Daniel♦ and Alice♦ Holtz
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F. W.♦♦ and Beverley Karrer
Ed♦♦ and Joan♦ Malk
William♦ and Ann Marsh
George and Eva Neubert
Don and Marlene♦ Orr
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Frank and Lucille Schultz
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Jan Chism Wright

Gifts of \$100-\$249

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Anne Winner Anderson
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Bernard Berger
Lance Bristol♦^o
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Individuals Honored Through Gifts

We consider it a great privilege to be a part of honoring and remembering your loved ones through the gift process. When a gift is made in someone's honor, the honored individual is notified and the funds administered as specified by the contributor. Unrestricted gifts are used whenever the need is greatest.

In Honor of Charles C. Osborne
Jack and Pamela Osborne

Individuals Memorialized Through Gifts

In Memory of Virginia Kennedy Coffee
Thomas and Claire Brown

In Memory of Bruce Genoways
Hugh and Joyce Genoways

In Memory of Bill and Betty Grant, "Nick" Rambour, "Dode" Langan
Wayne Schild

In Memory of Christopher Keetle
David and Laura Buntain
Lincoln Legal Auxiliary Book Club
Michelle Maxwell
Melissa McCray
Gary and Allison Petersen
Roxanne Smith

In Memory of William M. Wilson
Georgia Wilson

DR. GARY MOULTON (TOP) WAS THE FEATURED SPEAKER AT LAST SPRING'S RECEPTION IN NEBRASKA CITY. HE IS ONE OF THE COUNTRY'S LEADING EXPERTS ON THE LEWIS & CLARK EXPEDITION ♦ (BELOW) **ANN BILLESBACH** OF THE SOCIETY WITH **TONY DWORAK**, THE RECENTLY NAMED DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR FOR THE FOUNDATION.

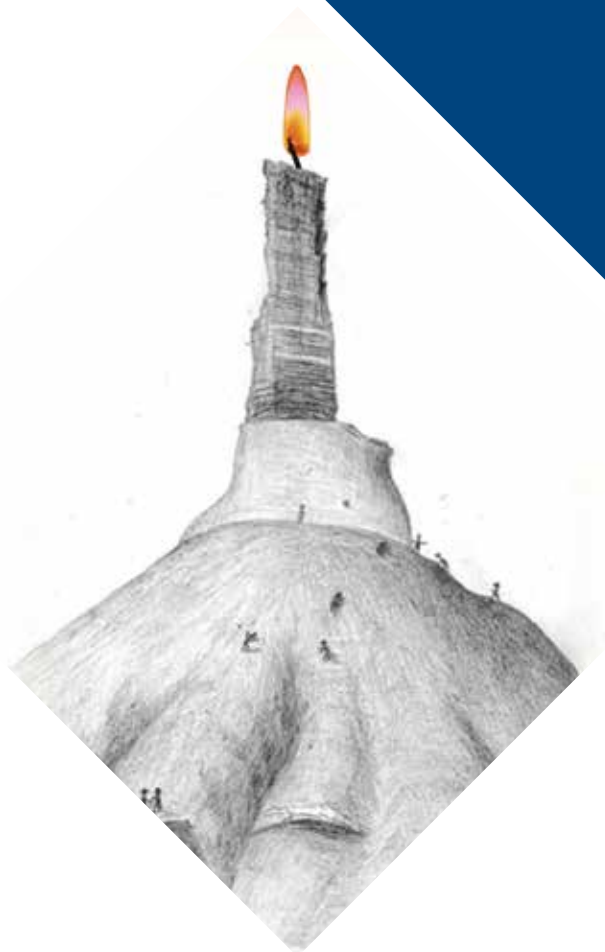


THE FOUNDATION HAS STRIVED TO BROADEN ITS MEMBERSHIP STATEWIDE. FORMER STATE SENATOR **JOEL JOHNSON** OF KEARNEY JOINED THE RANKS OF TRUSTEES LAST YEAR. WITH HIM IS FOUNDATION EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR **LESLIE FATTIG**. ♦ THE FOUNDATION IS CELEBRATING NEBRASKA'S 150TH BIRTHDAY AS A STATE BY RAISING FUNDS TO PLACE A PERPETUAL PLAQUE ON THE CAPITOL CENTENNIAL MALL. THE IMAGE OF CHIMNEY ROCK BELOW WAS ON THE COVER OF THE "BIRTHDAY CARD."



Our Mission

The Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation secures funding for the Nebraska State Historical Society from individuals and organizations, across the state and beyond, who value Nebraska's unique heritage and wish to play a personal role in assuring that Nebraska's history will be accessible to future generations. The Foundation is a 501(C3) not-for-profit corporation.



Kinman-Oldfield Suite #1010
128 N 13th, Lincoln, NE 68508
402-435-3535 • info@nshsf.org
www.nshsf.org