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# Letter from your Foundation President

MICHAEL NELSON

A year has passed since the last annual meeting—a year of hard work, refocusing and preparation for tasks ahead.

Past is prologue, Shakespeare reminds us. So it is appropriate now to note the significant challenges of 2013-14 and how the Foundation under Carol Zink's leadership navigated through those issues.

Carol's diligence throughout her presidential term, as well as the work of her board and executive committee, set a course for progress.

#### The Staff

When the Foundation convened in Omaha last May the executive director, Leslie Fattig, was new to the task. She brought energy, enthusiasm and problem-solving skills that strengthened the Foundation. Improved communications improved relationships with Trustees old and new and the story of the Foundation was shared from Brownville to Chimney Rock.

"The 2015 annual meeting in Kearney marks the first time in more than 10 years that this meeting has convened outside Omaha or Lincoln."

A new business manager, Lori Heaton, was hired early this year, succeeding Barbara L'Heureux. Lori recently moved to Lincoln from Ponca, where she did similar work for the family insurance agency.

The two of them make a good team. The Foundation's prospects are bright for the coming year.

#### The Trustees

This gathering is an appropriate time to salute the Trustees who have given their time, talent and treasure in support of the Foundation.

Retiring as Trustees are Chuck Burmeister of Lincoln, Betty Cook of Beatrice, Kim Dinsdale of Grand Island, Lori Hampton of Lincoln, Andrew Hove of Lincoln, Lowell Johnson of Wayne, and Stan Matzke of Walton.

This is a notable group. Each brought specific talents that moved the Foundation forward. We thank them. (continued on next page)

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: AREA RESIDENTS PITCHED IN TO MAKE THE CHIMNEY ROCK GATHERING A SUCCESS. HERE, AMANDA CHAIT, SOCIETY NEW MEDIA SPECIALIST GETS A LOOK AT A COUPLE OF HORSES • KAY KIMBERLY, FOUNDATION AND SOCIETY TRUSTEE, WITH HER FAMILY VERLA AND TOM PLUMMER STAND NEXT TO THE MEDALLION IN MEMORY OF THEIR MOTHER, ELLEN ORA (WHITNEY) PLUMMER • THE SECURITY STATE BANK, ANSLEY • MICHAEL NELSON, FOUNDATION PRESIDENT, LISTENS AS GEORGE NEUBERT TALKS ABOUT THE FLATWATER FOLK ART MUSEUM IN BROWNVILLE • DEE ADAMS, SOCIETY PRESIDENT AND JANET WOOLSONCROFT, FOUNDATION TRUSTEE ENJOY THE DAYTON RECEPTION IN LINCOLN.



This year we also learned of the deaths of two Trustees:

- Robert Lee "Bob" Foote died March 30, 2014. Besides serving as a NSHSF Trustee, Bob was active in an array of civic groups in his hometown of Hastings.
- Walker Kennedy, Jr., served on the board of several companies in Lincoln. He had become a Foundation Trustee shortly before he died at age 78 on July 10.

The Foundation is thankful for their friendship, service and support.

# Legacies

Since its earliest days the Foundation has managed bequests and endowments. This is a solemn responsibility, and we are honored and grateful when people interested in the preservation and sharing of Nebraska history place their confidence in us.

Since the last meeting we have been notified of two bequests and one planned gift:

"...we are honored and grateful when people interested in the preservation and sharing of Nebraska history place their confidence in us."

- \$74,237 from the S.N. "Bud" and Gloria Wolbach Charitable Remainder Trust. Bud served on the Foundation Board of Directors from 1988 to 2004. The Wolbachs were recognized as one of the leading couples of Grand Island and repeatedly honored for community service. Mrs. Wolbach died June 27, 2014; Bud died in 2006.
- A bequest soon to be determined from the estate of Geraldine A. Brady and her late husband, Lynn R. Brady. The Bradys grew up in Shelton, Nebraska. He married the former Geraldine Walcott in 1957. They moved to Seattle, where he earned his PhD at the University of Washington and built an international reputation as an authority on the use of natural products in medicine. Mrs. Brady had contributed to the Foundation since the 1980s. She died March 25 at age 82. Dr. Brady was 58 when he died in 1992.
- \$100,000 endowment to be known as the Harl A. and Kay Dalstrom Endowment for Research, Scholarship and/or Publication. The fund is part of a revocable trust from Harl A. Dalstrom, professor emeritus of history at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, and Kay Calamé Dalstrom, retired from the University of Nebraska at Omaha's Department of Foreign Languages. The Dalstrom's collaborated with Lawrence H. Larsen and Barbara J. Cottrell on *Upstream Metropolis: An Urban Biography of Omaha and Council Bluffs*. The Dalstroms have written articles on various aspects of the Great Plains. Dr. Dalstrom is the recipient of both the Sellers Award and Sheldon Award and was a dissertation student of the late James C. Olson, considered a leading historian of the American West and Nebraska's place in it.

#### Statewide Outreach

The 2015 annual meeting in Kearney marks the first time in more than 10 years that this meeting has convened outside Omaha or Lincoln.

This is by design.

Last year we pledged to raise the profile of the Foundation statewide.

(continued on next page)

Trustees, Society employees and volunteers hosted receptions, lectures and coffees since at Chimney Rock, Valentine, McCook, Pawnee City, Broken Bow, Ansley, Nebraska City and Brownville. The story of the Foundation and news of the Society were shared with hundreds of people.

# **Honoring the Oldfathers**

Meeting in Kearney presents the opportunity to honor Diane and the late Charles Oldfather. Although widely known as residents of Lincoln, the Oldfather roots were in the Kearney area and several family businesses and family members are based there.

#### The Year Ahead

Now your Foundation prepares to tackle a significant task, a multi-million dollar campaign that would

- enlarge the Chimney Rock visitor center,
- plan, design, fabricate and install new exhibits at the Nebraska History Museum, and
- "The state has taken the first step. The Unicameral in 2013 alloted \$8 million to renovate the Nebraska History Museum."
- build a 21st Century education center at the Museum, that would provide hands-on, interactive tools for thousands of visiting school pupils, Nebraska families and people of all ages who would benefit from experimental learning
- create and endowment to support these learning initiatives.

The state has taken the first step. The Unicameral in 2013 allotted \$8 million to renovate the Nebraska History Museum.

Thanks to that legislative appropriation, necessary systems will be updated and structural deficiencies corrected. These changes will ensure that the icons of our shared history can be preserved and will remain accessible to the public.

The money was approved with the stipulation that private funds be found to complete the job. A Foundation-financed fundraising feasibility study is in the planning stage. Results should be available by Labor Day.

Let there be no mistake, a campaign of this scope would be by far the largest in the history of either the Society or this Foundation. It cannot be done with nickels and dimes. It will demand top-flight organization, relentless focus and a dash of luck to succeed.

And yet, is this not the moment for which this Foundation was created?

But I'm getting ahead of myself. After all, much is unknown as yet, and difficult questions require research. That is what the study should provide.

Be assured that there is ample reason to be confident as we size up the challenges of the coming year: Our committed Trustees, wise and seasoned Directors, a track record of steady improvement and, most important, capable staff.

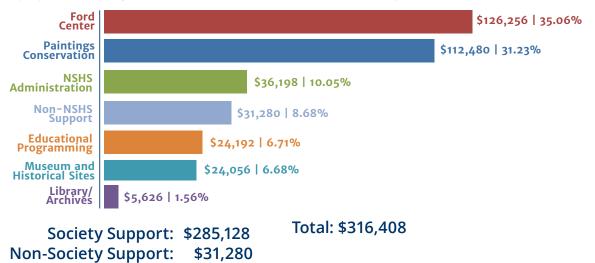
Michael Nelson

Vichael Khlim

President

# Foundation Funds Released 2013-2014

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.



## **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 educational programming at the History Museum, Brown Bag Lecture filming, and the Nebraska Trailblazer.

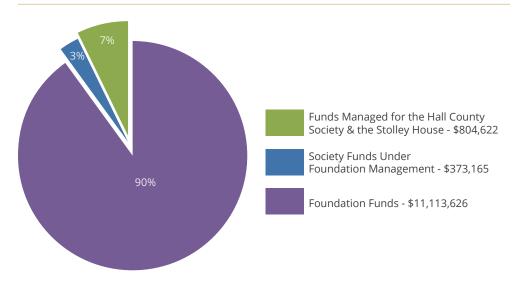
The MUSEUM/HISTORIC SITES DIVISION received funding to advance and promote museums and historic landmarks across the state. Funds were used to support the Cowboy Exhibit, the History Museum art re-housing, research grants, and an Art Education intern.

**NON-NSHS SUPPORT** includes funds dedicated to Foundation property expenses, 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.

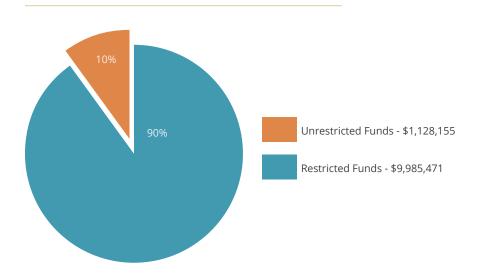
**NSHS ADMINISTRATION** funding makes possible the advancement of Nebraska history that restricted budgets are unable to support. The Foundation was able to support a portion of the NSHS Awards with grants to individuals who have championed Nebraska history in their own way, as well as covering expenses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

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

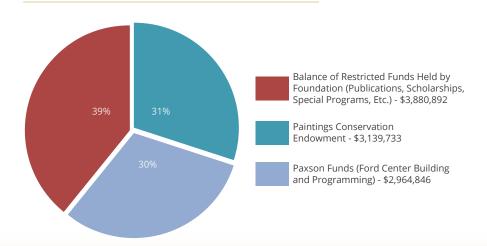
# Total Funds Held by NSHSF as of March 31, 2015



# **Breakout of Foundation Funds** (Restricted vs. Unrestricted)



# **Foundation Restricted Funds**



# Acknowledging Donors July 2013 - June 2014

#### **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.

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#### **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.

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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 are administered as specified by the contributor. Unrestricted gifts are used wherever the need is greatest.

In Honor of Millie May and Mary V. Pumphrey Mary Ann and Ron H. May-Pumphrey

In Honor of the Homer Family—Charles, Sigrid, Mike & Michelle *Corwynn Romberger* 

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PICTURED ON FRONT COVER: THE NIOBRARA RIVER IN VALENTINE ❖ A GLIMPSE OF THE AMAZING FLATWATER FOLK ART MUSEUM ❖ CHIMNEY ROCK AT SUNSET

ON RIGHT: SOCIETY TRUSTEE BRIAN CROFT AND HIS WIFE ERICA AND CHILDREN AT CHIMNEY ROCK

# **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.



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