

HISTORICAL Connections

NEWS FROM THE NEBRASKA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY FOUNDATION

Director's Corner

BY LESLIE FATTIG

We are off to a great start for fiscal year 2016-2017! Almost 100 attendees joined us at this year's annual meeting, held on April 30th at the newly renovated Nebraska History Museum. After the luncheon, everyone moved to the Museum's auditorium for the official meeting, the highlight of which was the election of 28 new Trustees! Jim McKee gave a super interesting presentation on the history of Nebraska's capitols. The day ended with many attendees touring the new museum and exhibits.

Jack Campbell, Gerry Dimon, Judy Humiston, Ed Malk, and Tim Thietje have retired from the Board of Directors. We thank them for their service and wish them well. The Board of Directors has elected three new members—Robert McFarland of Grand Island, Ryan Sailer of Lincoln, and Sue Tricker of Lincoln. Welcome and thank you!

Our representation around the state continues to grow. Since I joined the Foundation in February 2013, our Board of Trustees has grown from 120 to 166. Our continued and growing presence statewide is due to your interest and support.

Our gifts have also grown—from \$31,003 in fiscal year 2012-2013 to over \$393,000 in fiscal year 2015-2016. Some of the increase in donations is attributable to the generosity of two people who included our Foundation in their estate planning:

Mrs. Geraldine Brady of Seattle, Washington, formerly of Shelton, Nebraska, left us \$160,500 for the support of a publication program.

Jack Glass of Florida also included the Foundation in his will. Although the estate has not yet been settled, the Foundation has thus far received \$124,500. Representatives for the estate estimate it will settle by September, 2016, at which point we will receive approximately \$30,000 more. The endowment fund is designated for children's educational material and programs.

TRUSTEE ORIENTATION

We had 17 trustees attend our July Trustee orientation sessions. Interesting personal stories were shared and it was evident to me that our trustees



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Our July 21st Facebook post about the Marker Project reached 11,828 people! Watch our page for updates and event announcements!

didn't feel they had to be born here to be considered a "Nebraskan." Much information was shared at these sessions. Here are some operational details which all Trustees and Foundation friends should know.

BUDGET

Treasurer Sue Tricker, Lori Heaton and I worked to develop an annual budget in May. The budget is reviewed by line item with the Executive Committee in advance of the new fiscal year. At the July



Leslie Fattig

Historical Connections

Board of Directors meeting, the budget is reviewed, and recommendations are made. Budget approval is made by a motion of the Board.

ENDOWMENT FUNDS

Our investment committee meets semi-annually with our investment bankers at Wells Fargo. The investment committee reviews investment performance and votes annually on the percentage of our spending policy, which defines the amount of money that can be disbursed from qualifying funds each year, and administrative fees (our largest source of income). Our spending policy is set currently at 3% and the Foundation takes a 2.5% administrative fee.

SALARIES

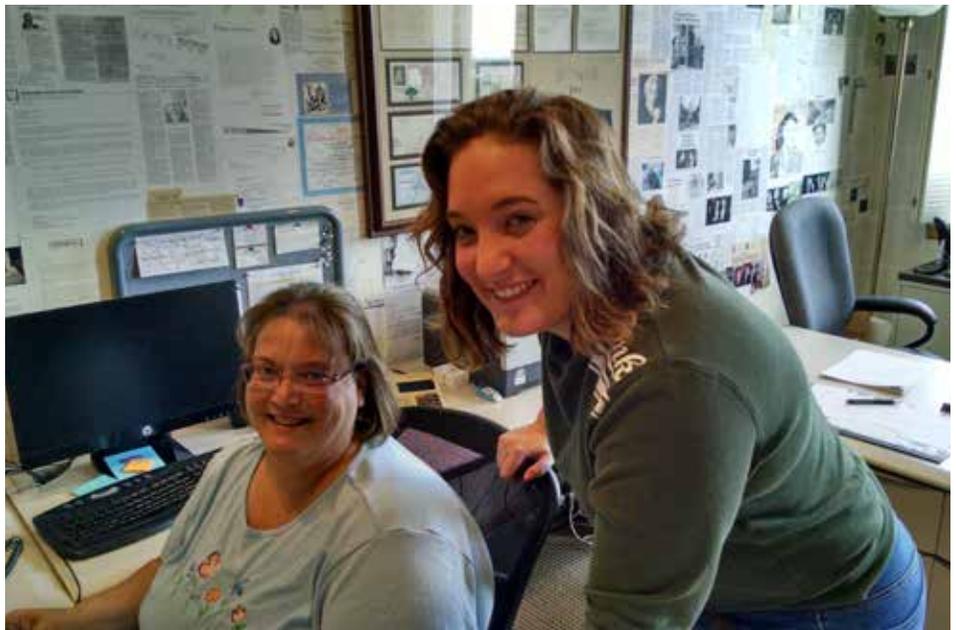
Salaries are funded through both our annual administrative funds' percentage and the Chapin and Oldfather Fund spending-policy funds.

OFFICE EXPENSES

In 1996, Col. Barney Oldfield and Vada Kinman Oldfield donated to the NSHS Foundation two condominiums: Unit 1010 in University Towers in Lincoln—now the offices of the NSHS Foundation; and a condo in Los Angeles where they lived. After Barney's death in 2003, the California condo was sold and the proceeds were used to establish the Kinman-Oldfield Endowment Fund designated for the care of the NSHSF offices. Thus, our Foundation operates with NO rent or mortgage expense! New windows which were purchased and installed in December were paid for by the Kinman-Oldfield Fund. This fund also supports utilities, parking expense, HOA fees and special assessments.

OPERATIONS

Patron support for Foundation events has been greatly appreciated. In the last



Business manager Lori Heaton with new assistant Hannah Kenny.

three years, with your donations, we have been able to hold events in Ansley, Bayard, Broken Bow, Brownville, Lincoln, Lynch, McCook, Nebraska City, Omaha, Pawnee City, Princeton, Sidney and Valentine. The remainder of the event expenses such as invitations, postage and refreshments are included in our annual budget.

A NEW ADDITION

Hannah Kenny, a sophomore at UNL, joined us as a part-time assistant to help with various general office projects. Hannah's arrival has freed up some of Lori's time to help support Tony with development projects and to work on higher level accounting projects with our accountants, HBE Becker Meyer Love LLC.

CENTENNIAL MALL TILE PROJECT

More good news! The Centennial Mall Legacy Tile Project is almost completely funded! We have raised over \$12,000 in donations. And recently, the Executive Committee decided that two unrestricted gift annuities which were

left to us by NSHS member Beulah Bedke and NSHSF Trustee Charles Godwin, both from Lincoln, should be used toward this project. The total from these two annuities was \$10,784. Thus, we have received almost \$23,000 towards our \$25,000 goal. Mrs. Bedke's and Mr. Godwin's foresight to include unrestricted gifts in their estate have made a huge impact.

Mary Ritter Beard, American historian and archivist, once said: "The results of philanthropy are always beyond calculation." The work done by the NSHS Foundation in years past resulted in the recent financial bequests of Geraldine Brady, Jack Glass, Colonel Barney and Vada Kinman Oldfield, and unrestricted gifts from Beulah Bedke, Charles Godwin, Marilyn Paul, and Mr. and Mrs. S.N. "Bud" Wolbach. Similarly, the work done today by the NSHS Foundation's Board of Directors, Trustees, supporters, and staff is not on behalf of just the present—the relationships we're building now will reap benefits for years to come. ☞

Our Second Year at the Cattlemen's Ball!

We made twice as many personal contacts as last year largely due to the fact that it was a sell-out crowd and the great weather! Our booth featured information about the Beef State, Nebraska rural life, and the recently launched Nebraska Marker Project. Many were interested in our programs, a couple of NSHS memberships were sold and we even received a few marker donations. My thanks to John and Gloria Strobe and Jeff and Sue Barnes for their help at the Ball.

Also, many thanks to our secret weapon Kylie Kinley, NSHS Assistant Editor, for managing the newest addition to the NSHSF road show: the "photo booth". Ball participants were intrigued with the idea of taking vintage photos and having them emailed to their personal accounts. Kylie took over 100 sets of pictures of people using our "costumes" to dress up as pioneers, cowboys, and saloon girls.

The Cattlemen's Ball is a widely recognized fundraising event organized by the American Cancer Society. It attracts thousands of Nebraskans annually. It was held at Trevor and Torri Lienemann's Lienetics Ranch near Princeton, between Lincoln and Beatrice.

It was a great day to make new friends, and spread the word about the great work of the NSHS and NSHSF! 🍷



Booth patrons used props to dress up as pioneers, cowboys, and saloon girls. Kylie Kinley, Assistant Editor, NSHS Publications shares photos with Cattlemen's Ball attendees.



Jill Kinley and her daughter, Kylie Kinley having fun in the photo booth.

Whatever It Is—DNA, Perhaps, or Magic Dust?

BY MICHAEL NELSON

There is something that ties Nebraskans to this place, its story and its people. Poets and sociologists have studied how time and experience forge that invisible and lifelong bond, what Lincoln called the “mystic chords of memory.” For the average Jane or Joe, what explains these important connections? Consider the story of Eric Rosenlof:

“For the most part, I was raised in Kearney, graduating high school in 1974. I went to Annapolis from there, graduating in 1978, and I suppose that is the biggest reason for my physical displacement from my home state—but I’ve really never stopped thinking I was from Nebraska.”

His story is one of a half-dozen shared with your Foundation in recent months. But before he resumes telling it, let me explain the background. Earlier this year we asked a handful of contributors from other states how they were still tied to Nebraska. You’ll find some of their stories below. All had contributed to the Centennial Mall tile fundraiser. The tile costs \$25,000 and will be placed on the 50-year-old mall leading to Nebraska’s capitol in honor of the coming 150th anniversary of statehood. The plaque salutes the State Historical Society and this Foundation.

Out-of-state contributors are an important part of the Foundation mix. Generally their gifts come as bequests, gracious gestures of gratitude from Nebraskans who died in warmer places or maybe near family elsewhere.

So it was interesting and a bit surprising to see checks for the Tile project roll in from places like Ohio,

New York and Massachusetts. And, in Mr. Rosenlof’s case, Maryland.

“My parents,” he wrote, “gave us a great appreciation for history.” History books and the Nebraska State Historical Society magazine were always around the house, and he grew up reading them.

“Truth is, I left Nebraska without reading enough Cather and Sandoz, but I had read your issues (of the Society’s history magazine).”

From his earliest Navy days Mr. Rosenlof “always found ways—some humble, some prideful—to let those around me know where I’m from.”

So it was too with Andrew MacAdoidh Jergens. Mr. Jergens writes that after more than 50 years in Ohio, he still sees himself as a Nebraskan. And like Mr. Rosenlof, he finds a way to telegraph that message to others:

“I wear a Nebraska state pin on my ball cap, along with my father’s Navy Chief collar badge, a Scottish thistle and a Norse longboat, all of which I see as defining where I have come from.” He concludes, “I am a Nebraskan. But I don’t live there and pay no taxes there. Supporting the NSHS is a small way to give something back.”

One contributor took the opportunity to explain his family’s Nebraska connection and in doing so provides a lesson in literary history. William Skocpol of Cambridge, Mass., wrote that his grandmother made sure that her family story was archived at the NSHS, including a visit from Willa Cather in 1916 to the Sadilek family in Wilber.

That visit, he writes, “resulted in the central character of her forthcoming

novel being named Antonia, after the eldest Sadilek daughter.” He then adds parenthetically, “My first memories of Aunt Tony were as the grand dame of a big house on the hill in Clarkson, now a B&B. After working for Roscoe Pound, dean of Law at the University of Nebraska... she married Emil Folda of the Folda family empire of small Nebraska banks.”

Mr. Skocpol’s family includes a noted woman physician, Dr. Olga Stastny, who served in Europe after World War I, eventually becoming an advisor to the president of the newly formed Czechoslovakia—a remarkable role for a woman of that time.

“I have from time to time been able to come to the NSHS archives and benefit from the donations and contributed collections given by others. I support the Foundation so that others may continue to do so.”

Experience, heritage, family inspire our donors here and across the country. Perhaps it is as the poet Edgar Lee Masters wrote, “*The earth keeps some vibration going/ There in your heart, and that is you...*”

Or maybe it’s all magic dust.

I’ll leave the “why” to the sociologists. 📖



Michael Nelson is president of the Foundation.



Public Relations Society of America Nebraska Selects the Nebraska Marker Project as 2016 Community Service Partner

Earlier this year, the Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation's (NSHSF) Nebraska Marker Project was selected by the Public Relations Society Association (PRSA) Nebraska Chapter to be their 2016 Community Service Partner. The NSHSF will receive a year's worth of donated professional public relations and communication assistance.

The core of the Nebraska Marker Project focuses on raising \$80,000 for the preservation and restoration of more than 100 of Nebraska's historical markers that are in need of repair or replacement. There are currently more than 500 Nebraska State Historical Society markers in the state.

NSHSF was one of 53 non-profit applicants for the partnership. The organization was chosen for a variety of reasons including being a statewide non-profit organization, the amount of financial need as well as organizational goals and priorities for the upcoming year.

"Nebraska's historical markers are memos to the future," said Leslie Fattig, NSHSF Executive Director. "The NSHSF is looking forward to the assistance of the PRSA Nebraska during this project. Spreading awareness about the restoration of these historical pieces throughout the state is so important, and I think this collaboration can make that kind of impact."

PRSA Nebraska has assembled a team of more than 20 marketing professionals and volunteers to help with writing news releases and outreach letters, developing a media support

strategy, creating social media video posts as well as other project awareness building activities.

"Every member of the committee is excited to give something back to the state," said Randa Zalman, PRSA Nebraska Community Service Chair. "So many of us have a love of history, this is the perfect project for us."

The Nebraska Marker Project was officially launched June 1, and, according to Randa, has received more than \$1 million in public relations value including media mentions in the Lincoln Journal Star, Washington Times, and other traditional and digital news outlets.

Interested parties can donate via mail, phone or website. All proceeds will be donated towards the restoration of damaged markers. ☞

nshsf.org/the-nebraska-marker-project



Have you heard or seen us recently?

News of the marker campaign has been carried by:

KWBE, Beatrice and Fairbury *radio interview*

Columbus Telegram, Columbus
The Daily Journal, Franklin, IN

Classic Rock 1015, Grand Island *radio interview*

The Daily Reporter, Greenfield, IN

Keith County News, Ogallala

KRVN, Lexington *radio interview*

Pure Nebraska 10/11, Lincoln *television interview with Jim Potter*

Lincoln Journal Star, Lincoln

Burt Co. Plain Dealer, Tekamah

WJAG, Norfolk *radio interview*

North Platte Telegraph, North Platte

Sioux City Journal, Sioux City, IA

Washington Times, Washington, D.C.

Recently Reopened Nebraska History Museum

BY SHARON KENNEDY, NSHS CURATOR OF EDUCATION

The recently reopened Nebraska History Museum is offering a whole array of cool new public programs to go along with its cool new look. Fun, educational and inviting for young and old alike, these events are designed to activate our exhibits, promote Nebraska history learning and reach underserved audiences.

The NSHSF is an important partner in part of this important work. It sponsored a three-day Young Writers Workshop that brought Middle School students to the museum to learn and create. Thirteen aspiring writers interacted with four guest authors and gathered inspiration from works in the indigenous photography exhibit, *Our People, Our Land, Our Images*. They wrapped up their week with a reading for friends and family, and a celebratory reception NSHSF made possible

OTHER NEW OPTIONS:

A Native American film series, enhanced with post-film discussions and free popcorn was launched in late July.

Half-pint Historians, designed to introduce pre-schoolers to the museum. Programs are led by our experienced museum educators and include stories from picture books, pretend games, creative explorations of craft materials, and a guided tour. Parents or caregivers need to be present and grandparents are also welcome to come!

Noon Bites, a short talk on a cool object. First up: the scrapbook Willa Cather kept as a youngster. Ann Billesbach, Associate Director for Education and Interpretation, will explore the object, now on view in Nebraska

Unwrapped. Each month the museum will feature a different guest speaker.

Fourth Friday Noon History Book Club: Cather's endearing *My Antonia* is the topic for this drop-in group that will feature a different author each month.

Atomic Age After Hours, where young professionals can enjoy cocktails, mocktails and mid-century appetizers, groove to jazz saxophonist Sarah Cosano, win a prize for best retro garb, watch "duck and cover" cold war clips, play '50s board games or take mini tours of *American Dreams in the Cold War*: Photos by Barbara and Ralph Fox.

Biking and walking tours of Mid-century architecture. View the Fox Photo exhibit and then pedal to the historic Eastridge neighborhood or stroll by foot in downtown Lincoln.

Free 2 p.m. daily tours guide visitors through a fascinating variety of "cool old stuff."



A Play-Doh exercise to practice description in 3-D.

And an old favorite, **Hour at the Museum**, continues Tuesdays at 10 with weekly stories, mini-tours and activities for all ages.

For more information about these museum programs, contact Curator of Education, Sharon Kennedy at 402-471-4445 or sharon.kennedy@nebraska.gov. For more information about how you can help support history learning and family fun, contact Leslie Fattig at 402-435-3535. 🍌



Renee Sans Souci (Omaha) presented in the Our People, Our Land, Our Images gallery

New Trustee Spotlight

BY VALARIE GEISERT

I was born and raised in northwestern Nebraska on a farm northwest of Gordon where four generations of my family have run a cattle, corn and wheat operation. My love of the prairie began on that farm which is nestled on a ridge between the Nebraska Sandhills and the Black Hills of South Dakota. Much of the farm and ranch land of the area features rich meadow hay, prairie grasslands, wheat fields with pine trees dotting the scenery. There are certain spots in the area where all you can see and hear is prairie.

My husband Nate and I met at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. My degree is in Elementary Education and his is in Agricultural Marketing and Economics. Following graduation, we were married and moved to the Geisert family farm in Keith County, southeast of Ogallala, where we raise irrigated and dryland corn and wheat, soybeans, and take in cattle to winter on the stalks. Our son Jakeb and our daughters Jordan and Jensen make the fifth generation to live on the Geisert homestead.

Our ag heritage, interests and skills are common threads after 26 years of marriage that provide inspiration and a platform for our family as well as my business venture, Prairie Preservations, Where Legacy Comes to Life...Faith, Family, Farm, Flowers, Fotos.

We have recently finished construction on a three-story structure at the farm we call The Prairie Haus. Our son was an architect student when he designed the building and now he is an architect in Lincoln. He and my husband built the building from the ground up with the help of us gals and other friends. Reclaimed barn wood and the iron wagon wheel



The Prairie Haus behind Valarie and Nate Geisert with their oldest tractor on the farm, a 1919 Waterloo Boy, the first tractor manufactured by the John Deere Company, and their most recent, a 8310 RT John Deere tractor.

The NSHSF added 28 new trustees this year. We asked one of those, Valarie Geisert, to tell us about her life in Ogallala. For more about some of the new trustees see pages 8 to 11.

rim light fixtures built by the guys are examples of how we have showcased the legacy of the farm within the structure.

My husband enjoys collecting and restoring antique tractors and farm equipment, and I love flowers, antiques, photography, entertaining and teaching. Our girls are artists and photographers, so this space will feature the handiwork of our entire family.

With the official launch of the venture coinciding with Nebraska's 150th Birthday in 2017, visitors to The Prairie Haus will see museum quality history displays of our generational family farms, browse the Prairie Market and enjoy the lovely event space upstairs. To preserve the story of our family history, are also partnered as an agrarian ambassador with The American Doorstop Project, Preserving Stories

That Shaped American Agriculture. We look forward to being featured in their upcoming Nebraska agriculture history book which will debut in the Spring of 2017.

My favorite historical place in Nebraska is right here at home! Not only are we working to preserve the legacy of the farm, we are hoping to educate others on their connection to their food sources from the farm. Ogallala is known as The End of the Texas Trail and the Geisert family was homesteading this area along with our neighbors during that same period.

We collectively have a rich story to tell of how this area just east of the Rocky Mountains was once deemed The Great American Desert and is now an area of productive farm and ranch operations, utilizing irrigation from the Ogallala Aquifer, one of the world's largest underground water sources. The Mansion on the Hill, Boothill, Ash Hollow, and the famous Front Street show combine to tell visitors the western history of this area. Lake McConaughy provides endless opportunities to fish, boat and enjoy water sports of all kinds. This really is a place Where Legacy Comes to Life. ☺

More About Our New Trustees

Kristine Gerber

grew up in Fairbury in a 1900s Four Square home complete with quarter-sawn oak floors and mahogany pocket doors. High School date nights consisted of driving around the “square”—Fairbury’s downtown, filled with brick streets and historic buildings surrounding the Jefferson County courthouse square.



Kristine is a journalist by training who fell into event planning and book publishing. After stints at the American Heart Association, the Omaha World-Herald, and her own company for 10 years, she has landed what she considers the perfect job—running Omaha’s historic preservation group, Restoration Exchange Omaha.

Her hobbies include traveling, uncovering historic photographs and getting inside old buildings.

Besides the NSHSF, she’s also actively engaged with the Durham Museum and the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Kristine is married to Jared Gerber, an architect who grew up in Williamsburg, Virginia, and helped develop her passion for historic buildings. Their oldest son, Creighton, graduated from Augustana University in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, with degrees in Anthropology and German. He currently has an archeology internship at the Midwest Headquarters of the National Park Service and will head to the University of Northern Arizona this fall to get a graduate degree in Anthropology. Younger son Drew is a

junior at Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota, majoring in Biology with plans to attend medical school.

Kristine’s favorite historic spot in Nebraska is the state capitol building. She says she is in awe every time she enters it, and appreciates it even more after working with BVH Architects to do a book on the 14-year effort to preserve this architectural treasure. She is very thankful for our state’s commitment to restoring this important symbol.

She is excited to help market and promote the work NSHS does for this state—to uncover and tell the stories of Nebraska’s history and share why it needs to be preserved.

Priscilla Grew was

born in Glens Falls, New York. She was recruited in 1993 to become Vice Chancellor for Research at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.



Both Priscilla and her husband are geologists. During her career, she worked as a university professor, a state government official in California, and in academic administration in both Minnesota and Nebraska.

Priscilla is a member of Rotary Club #14 in Lincoln, and a Trustee of the Nebraska Chapter of the Nature Conservancy. From 2003 to 2015, she served as Director of the University of Nebraska State Museum of Natural History.

Her great-grandfather was Governor Charles Croswell of Michigan (term 1877-1881). She’s an active supporter of his historic theater, the 1866 Croswell Opera House in Adrian, which is the oldest continuously operating theater in Michigan and the third oldest in the United States.

Her favorite historical spot in Nebraska is Fort Robinson State Park.

As a Trustee of the NSHS Foundation, she hopes to continue to promote cooperative activities between the NSHS and the State Museum’s Morrill Hall in Lincoln along with its two branch museums—Trailside Museum of Natural History at Fort Robinson and Ashfall Fossil Beds State Historical Park.

Judy Guenzel was

born in Lincoln, and has lived most of her life within two miles of where she lives now.



She was a kindergarten through 2nd grade teacher for 26 years with Lincoln Public Schools, then worked as Reading Rainbow’s Educational Consultant for four years. In 2002, she started her own business, Learning Connections, for which she creates literacy kits for schools and families.

Judy’s favorite hobbies are traveling, camping, and crafting. She’s also actively involved with the Salvation Army.

Judy has been married to her husband, Steve, for 41 years. They have three sons, three daughters-in-law, and consider themselves “so blessed” to be

expecting their tenth grandchild.

Her favorite spot in Nebraska is Chimney Rock; she is awed by both its size and its beauty.

Judy envisions that her main involvement with the NSHSF will be helping with special events.

Don McClure moved to Omaha with his family in 1975 when he was appointed the Executive Vice President of the American Cancer



Society, Nebraska Division, Inc. His forty-year career with the ACS—the largest volunteer health organization in the world—included serving as a division chief executive officer. Twenty years were spent in Nebraska and fifteen years in Ohio. When he retired, his wife and he returned to Nebraska where they built a home outside of Lincoln in Walton.

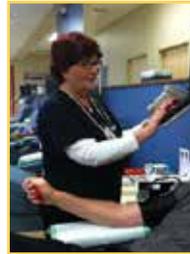
His favorite pastimes include spending time with his wife, children and grandchildren, playing the guitar and listening to music, following Nebraska football, arguing about politics, and working on their farm.

Don is involved with Lincoln Rotary, Lincoln Legatus, the Lancaster County Election Commission, and St. Joseph Church.

Don and his wife, Donna, have six adult children and 14 grandchildren.

His favorite historic Nebraska spot “may be Chimney Rock because of how it served as a beacon of hope for those building our country leading the westward movement.”

Donna McClure was born in the District of Columbia and lived in several midwestern states, but the one she calls home is Nebraska. Nebraska is where she and her



husband, Don, raised their children, most of whom were born in the state. Donna is an R.N. currently employed at the Nebraska Community Blood Bank.

Her favorite pastime is Don, their six children, and their families. She also chairs the health ministry at their church and is a member of Lincoln Legatus. She knits, gardens, and enjoys the arts. The McClures are a Suzuki family—all six of their children play musical instruments and two sing professionally.

Donna is most comfortable being put to work rather than just attending dinners. She says she likes eating but would rather work for her dinner!

When asked to choose a favorite Nebraska site, Donna found the choice difficult. The last one she visited was Ashfall in northeastern Nebraska. She says she has seen the Terra Cotta Warriors in China but that Ashfall was no less incredible.

Donna looks forward to meeting fellow Trustees, learning more about the Cornhusker State, visiting historical sites, and being put to work on behalf of the NSHS Foundation!

Although not a Nebraska native, **Cynthia Milligan's** family moved to Nebraska from Michigan when she was just 8 years old



when her father became Chancellor (now called President) of the University of Nebraska. She has lived in Nebraska since then except for moving away for undergraduate and graduate school and seven years of practicing law in Washington, DC. She and her husband decided to move back to Nebraska when their children were young to give them the opportunity to be raised in the Good Life of Nebraska.

Cynthia started her career as a practicing attorney specializing in taxes and corporate and banking law, first in Washington, DC, and then in Lincoln. She served a term as Director of the Nebraska Department of Banking and Finance, then was the founder and CEO of a consulting firm for banks throughout the Midwest. In 1997, she became Dean of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln College of Business Administration. She retired from the University a few years ago but continues to serve on several corporate and community boards.

She loves to read and travel but her major focus is on their five children, their spouses, and fifteen grandchildren. Three of those children, their spouses, and eleven grandchildren live in Nebraska.

Other non-profits in which Cynthia is actively engaged are Teammates, Nebraska Humanities, W.K. Kellogg Foundation and Colonial Williamsburg.

Her favorite historical spot in Nebraska is the Oregon Trail site near Fairbury. She is interested in the stories of the pioneers who traveled through there and the ones who stayed and also in the history of the Native American tribes who lived in Jefferson County.

Cynthia believes that she and her husband can best help the Foundation by continuing to promote Nebraska as a

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place to visit through their national and international interactions. "We are Nebraskans by choice and greatly appreciate the Nebraska Good Life!"

Robert Milligan was born and raised on a farm in Dodge County, between Hooper and Scribner. Except for 10 years on the east coast for military service, graduate school, and early career, he has always lived in Nebraska. His parents and grandparents were also born and raised in Dodge County. His great-grandfather, J.O. Milligan, came to Nebraska following his Union Army service in the Civil War.

Robert began his career in the family farming operation before graduating from UNL and founding a transportation company. Following law school, he enjoyed a career with the federal government in Washington, DC. After leaving government, he was the founder of MI Industries, a food-processing company that also engaged in the production of all-natural, holistic and organic nutritional pet products under several retail brand names, including Nature's Variety—with production in Nebraska and in several locations in the US, Europe, Asia and South America.

Robert's favorite hobbies include spending time with his large family, traveling, hiking, reading and gardening. He is also involved with a host of non-profits: the U. S. Chamber of Commerce; Boy Scouts; Prison Fellowship and Prison Fellowship International; Alpha Ministries; and CBMC International. He also serves as a University of Nebraska Trustee.

Robert and Cynthia are blessed with three daughters and two sons, and their spouses, and 15 grandchildren (ages 2 to 10 years).

His favorite Nebraska spot is the Sandhills of western Nebraska and Fort Robinson.

Robert thinks his biggest contribution to the work of the NSHSF will be made by telling friends and colleagues about Nebraska and its many points of interest.

Chuck Schroeder is a native of Palisade, Nebraska—Hitchcock and Hayes counties—where he spent the first 30 years of his life. That was followed by 13 years in Lincoln, then 7 in Colorado and 12 in Oklahoma before returning to Nebraska in 2013. He and his wife, Kathi, now live southeast of Eagle, where they have a small Quarter Horse operation.



His career has been multifaceted, including stints in: ranching/cattle feeding/crop production; politics (Nebraska Director of Agriculture); development (NU Foundation); the beef industry (National Cattlemen's Beef Association); art/humanities (National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum); and higher ed/rural community development (Rural Futures Institute at NU).

Chuck's favorite hobbies revolve around art and American Quarter Horses, horsemanship, and team roping. He is also involved with several non-profits including: Rotary, the Kregel Windmill Museum, the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum, the US Global Leadership Coalition, the Heartland Center for Leadership Development, and the Center for Rural Entrepreneurship.

Chuck has been married to Kathi, a native of Wauneta, since 1972. She is a

retired Special Education teacher, and an active gardener/landscaper, grandmother and "barn mom." Their daughter, Lindsay Hastings, is a faculty member at UNL and executive director of the Nebraska Human Resources Institute. Her husband, Matt Hastings, is the Administrator of Research Strategy and Support at the Nebraska Department of Education. They are the parents of two little girls.

Scotts Bluff National Monument is Chuck's favorite historical spot in the State. He loves the scenery in that region of Nebraska. But even more important, he says the significance of those fantastic landmarks to both Native Americans and emigrants heading into the great unknown of the American West inspires his imagination every time he sees them. They are part of one of America's greatest stories, according to Chuck.

Since Chuck spent a significant chapter of his life in the business of preserving and interpreting the history and heritage of the American West, sharing those powerful stories through art, material culture, literature, cinema, etc. with audiences around the world, he hopes he can help connect people and their resources to the important mission of the NSHS Foundation.

Sue Tricker was born and raised in Omaha; Ed was born and raised in Minnesota, then came to Nebraska to attend college.



Ed Tricker is a senior partner with Woods & Aitken law firm. Sue is retired from the Lincoln Public School Foundation.

Both Ed and Sue enjoy playing golf and traveling. They are also both trustees for the Lincoln Public Schools Foundation and the Lincoln Community Foundation. They have both been actively involved in the Lincoln City Library Foundation—Ed as Trustee and President, and Sue as Vice President of Membership for the Friends of the Library.

The Trickers have a daughter, Jenny, who is an estate-planning attorney with Schwartzkopf, Schroff & Tricker; Jenny is married to John Linscott, who is with Greenleaf Properties. They live in Lincoln. Son Scott is married to Jennifer; they reside in Omaha with their two daughters. Scott works for Olsson & Associates and Jennifer is a partner with Baird Holm.

The Trickers' favorite historic spot is Chimney Rock, "because it is so majestic and emblematic of our state."

The Trickers feel that they can best support the efforts of the Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation by "giving back" through financial support and volunteering where necessary. ☞

50-Year Anniversary Celebration/Deshler Meet and Greet

Please plan now to join the Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation in Deshler on Saturday, June 10th, 2017, for a celebration of the 50th anniversary of a historic win for Nebraska. It was on June 8th, 1967, that Deshler eighth-grade Jennifer Reinke won the National Spelling Bee in Washington, DC.

No winner of the Midwest Spelling Bee has since duplicated Ms. Reinke's feat, making her Nebraska's reigning spelling queen for the past half-century!

Foundation Trustee Mary Ann May-Pumphrey is writing an article on Ms. Reinke's win, for a future issue of "Nebraska History". Both Jennifer and Mary Ann will be on hand for the celebration, as will members of Jennifer's family and some of her co-workers from Reinke Manufacturing, the family business.

Tours of local historic sites will precede the celebration, which will be held at the brand new Jennifer Reinke Public Library in Deshler. Jennifer is not only a spelling champ—she's also a philanthropist! ☞



Jennifer Reinke, number 15, with her family at the National Spelling Bee in 1967.

Join Our "Oldfield Brigade" Planned Giving Club!

BY TONY DWORAK, DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

Remembering the NSHS Foundation as part of your estate plan is a great way to support a great cause. In honor of the vision and generosity of the Oldfields, we are establishing the Oldfield Brigade planned giving club here at the Foundation. This will serve as a way for us to both thank all of our donors who are remembering the Foundation in the charitable giving portion of their estate plans, and to encourage others to

consider doing the same.

As our numbers grow, we plan on making "membership" in the Brigade even more notable and fun through special forms of thanks, recognition, and celebration. If a planned charitable gift might make sense for you, we hope you'll consider joining the Oldfield Brigade to support Nebraska history for generations to come.

The Foundation has been blessed over the years with many generous

estate gifts. As a long-time fundraiser, I can tell you that the only downside of receiving an estate gift is that you often did not have the opportunity to thank and celebrate the donors while they were alive. The Oldfield Brigade will allow us to do just that!

To join the Oldfield Brigade, or to share your questions, comments, or ideas regarding our mission, please contact Tony Dworak at 402-435-3535 ☞

Annual Meeting 2016

Our seventy-four year old foundation celebrated our annual meeting in the newly renovated Nebraska History Museum in Lincoln. Twenty-eight new trustees and three new directors; Robert McFarland of Grand Island, Ryan Sailer and Sue Tricker of Lincoln were elected at the April 30 meetings.

OUR NEW TRUSTEES ARE:

Robin Bates, Lincoln
Rod Bates, Lincoln
Denvia Capozio, Omaha
Clarey Castner, Lincoln
Anna Castner Wightman, Omaha
Donald N. Dworak, Columbus
Judy Dworak, Columbus
Marva Ellwanger, Sidney
Valarie Geisert, Ogallala
Kristine Gerber, Omaha
Priscilla C. Grew, Lincoln
Judy Guenzel, Lincoln
Shona Heim, Champion
Donald McClure, Walton
Donna McClure, Walton
Robert McFarland, Grand Island
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Ryan Sailer, Lincoln
Sheryl Schmeckpeper, Norfolk
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Harlan Seyfer, Plattsmouth
Linda Smith, Lincoln
Ed Tricker, Lincoln
Sue Tricker, Lincoln
John A. Walters, Lincoln
Walter E. Zink II, Lincoln



New trustee Shona Heim of Champion



New trustees Rod and Robin Bates of Lincoln



Trustees Dan and Alice Holtz of Nebraska City and Pam Snow of Ashland



Trustees Senator LeRoy Loudon of Elsworth and Trustee Bob Davis of Omaha



President Michael (O.J.) Nelson welcomes the trustees to the 74th annual meeting.



Trustee Dee Adams of Merna, Sheryl Schmeckpeper of Norfolk and Pricilla Grew of Lincoln enjoy lunch with Mike Smith, now retired Director and CEO of the Society

Update on 2015 Scholarship Winner Julio Gutierrez

We contacted Julio's family recently to see what he has been up to since winning a Nebraskans of World War II Scholarship in 2015.

Julio's grandparents, Don and Donna McClure, recently became trustees of the Foundation. This is believed to be the first time a scholarship winner's family has joined the NSHSF.

The scholarship program was established in January 1999 with a gift from Helen Clough in remembrance of her brother Edward J. Clough. It memorializes Nebraskans of WWII via scholarships awarded to high school graduates from the home communities of the Nebraskans who died and remain entombed on the USS Arizona. This year scholarships were awarded to three graduates.

As a University of Wisconsin Chancellor's Scholar, Julio is receiving both tuition and books for four years. However, as he is paying for his education himself, Julio very much appreciated his Nebraskans of World War II Scholarship which he used toward housing and food for his freshman year.

Julio is majoring in International Business and Finance, with a minor in German. His college activities include the Finance Investment Society, College Republicans, St. Paul Catholic Student Center, and Intramural soccer. Julio also has part-time employment at the University of Wisconsin Survey Center, where he conducts health and human services



Julio Gutierrez at Pedra do Telegrafa (in Barra de Tijuca) in Rio de Janeiro. And don't worry, there is land immediately below him.

surveys over the phone in both Spanish and English.

Julio was one of 15 students at UW selected to participate in the Global Gateway Program, a one-month study abroad program open to freshman and sophomores which incorporates about 3 hours of class time each day along with planned excursions. All study-abroad expenses for the month are covered. This year, Julio and the group went to Rio de Janeiro from May 15th through June 15th. His classes were on Brazilian culture (taught by a UW professor who was leading the trip) and "Brazil and Global Governance" (which was taught by a professor from Rio.)

Many thanks to our Scholarship Committee for their very important work.

Syd Kruse, Walthill, Chair
Rae Brown, Wayne
Therese Campbell, Gretna
Nancy Davis, Omaha
Dianne Kennedy, Lincoln
Kay Kimberly, Big Springs
Jan Lipovsky, Lincoln
Robbie Lonewolf, Walthill
Ed Malk, Lincoln
Diane Oldfather, Lincoln
Gloria Strobe, Lincoln

World War II Book Project

The goal of the World War II Book Project was to provide copies of two books—"The Men of the USS Arizona" and "The Men of the USS Utah"—to every high school in 18 Nebraska towns and cities. These towns and cities were once home to Nebraska sailors who have been entombed aboard the USS Arizona in Pearl Harbor since December 7, 1941.

Students attending high schools in the 18 towns and cities are eligible for a related project of the Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation—The Nebraskans of World War II Scholarship Fund. This fund provides up to five \$1,500 scholarships during the spring of each year.

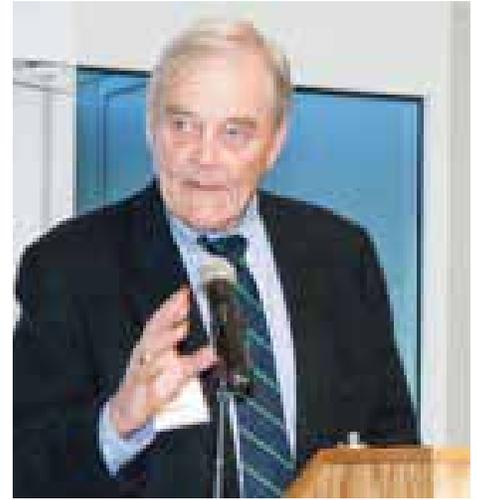
The Foundation hopes that the presence of these books in the school libraries of students eligible for The Nebraskans of World War II Scholarship will serve as both a motivation for students to learn more about the contribution of Nebraskans toward the war effort and as a research aid in the preparation of the essay required by the scholarship application.

The author of these two books—T. J. Cooper—generously provided the Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation with a 50% discount to assist with this project, so that each two-book set cost only \$20 instead of the \$40 retail price. Funds for the books and their packaging and shipping were sought from those who appreciate the profound sacrifice made by those long ago Nebraska sailors.

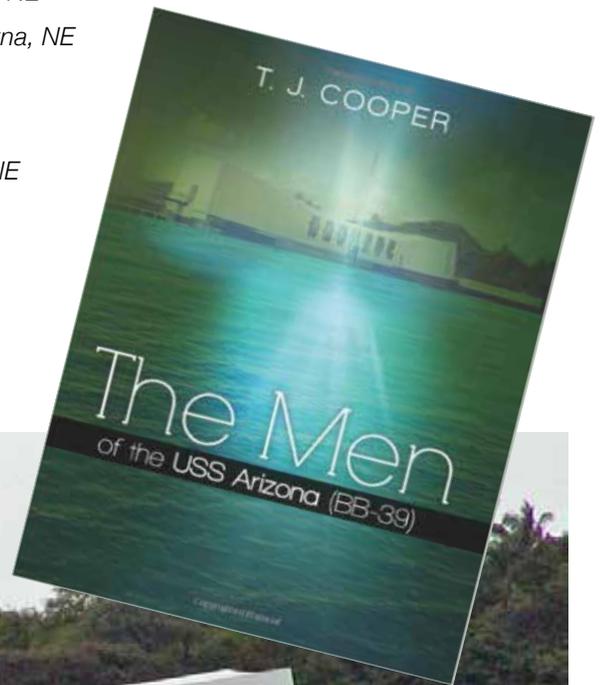
The World War II Book Project reached its goal on March 22, 2016. 🏆

Donors included:

Dee Adams - Merna, NE
Jack and Sally Campbell - Lincoln, NE
Mike and Therese Campbell - Gretna, NE
Betsy Deiterman - Grapevine, TX
Carli Israelson - Dorchester, NE
Kirk and Trula Jamison - Lincoln, NE
Kay Kimberly - Big Springs, NE
Janice Lipovsky - Lincoln, NE
Veterans of Foreign Wars - Nebraska - Lincoln, NE



Thanks to Jack Campbell, who first came up with the idea for the World War II Book Project!



Hey, it's Nebraska History!

BY TONY DWORAK, DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

When friends ask me how I like my new job as director of development at the Foundation, the answer always comes easy: "Hey, it's Nebraska history!" That's about all that needs to be said, because something we all seem to share as Nebraskans is our unique love of this state and its history. And being a Nebraskan seems to stay with you no matter how far away from home you might be hanging your hat. I have always loved that about us.

One such example of this "Once a Nebraskan, always a Nebraskan" phenomenon was two of our Foundation's greatest benefactors, Colonel Barney and Vada Oldfield. I had the pleasure of meeting Colonel Oldfield during a fundraising trip to Los Angeles in the late 1990's, when I was working for the University of Nebraska Foundation.

Tecumseh native Barney Oldfield (1910-2003) was a publicist and press agent for Hollywood stars such as Errol Flynn, Ronald Reagan, and Elizabeth Taylor. A graduate of the University of Nebraska, Colonel Oldfield served in

World War II as a press aide to Supreme Allied Commander General Dwight D. Eisenhower.

Vada Kinman Oldfield (1910-1999) married Barney in 1936 on the campus of the University of Nebraska, where she was a fine arts major. Vada became a member of the Women's Auxiliary Army Corps in 1943, serving in Africa, Sicily, and Italy as a telegraph operator during WWII. In her later years, Vada was active in raising public awareness of Alzheimer's disease, with which she was diagnosed in 1992. She rests alongside Barney at Fort McPherson National Cemetery near Maxwell, Nebraska.

The Oldfields traveled the globe throughout their amazing lives together. And when they did hang up Barney's globe-trotting old red fedora hat in the States, it was usually in their beautiful house in Beverly Hills. But they remained Nebraskans to the core, and among their many wonderful philanthropic acts toward their home state was their bequest of a University Towers (Stuart Building) condo in downtown Lincoln to



Barney and Vada Oldfield

the NSHS Foundation.

To this day, the Kinman-Oldfield Suite serves as our beautiful and highly-functional headquarters. I think about Barney and Vada every morning as I walk through these hallowed doors, and past a glass display case containing Oldfield memorabilia. We are a very short walk from the NSHS Headquarters and the Nebraska History Museum, and we really enjoy visitors. Just give me a call at 402-435-3535 or an email tdworak@nshsf.org. We'd love to have you over.

Thank you again, Barney and Vada. And may you rest in peace. 🍷

Joslyn Castle Reception

Over 70 people attended a July 14th reception to welcome the new NSHS CEO and Nebraska History Museum Director, Trevor Jones. Key to the event were the efforts of Society Trustee, Bryan Zimmer. Thank you, Bryan.

Thanks to all who supported this event: Dee Adams, Alley Poyner Macchietto Architecture, The Architectural Offices, Rod and Debbie Basler, Lance Bristol, Richard Callaway and Cherrie Beam-Callaway, Spencer and Vivian Davis, Dundee Bank, Don and Judy Dworak, Kim and Betsy Elder, Martin and Leslie Fattig, Vincent Goeres, Margaret Hermes, Dan and Alice Holtz, Larry and Constance Jacobsen, Lund-Ross Constructors, Jim McKee and Linda Hillegass, Dennis and Joanne Mihelich, Michael and Christie Nelson, Restoration Omaha (Kristine Gerber), Charles and Vickie Schaepler, Dave and Trixie Schmidt, Chuck and Kathleen Schroeder, Tim and Judy Thietje 🍷



Trevor Jones, New NSHS CEO And Director

Last Days of Red Cloud

BY KYLIE KINLEY, NSHS ASSISTANT EDITOR, PUBLICATIONS

The NSHSF has partnered with the Publications division of the NSHS to offer its three newest books on Amazon.

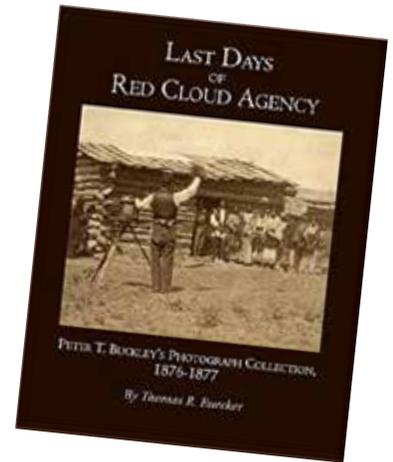
State regulations don't allow the Historical Society to operate its own Amazon account. This partnership venture will provide customers nationwide new access to Society-published history books.

The NSHS is wholesaling books to the NSHSF for sale on Amazon. Publications staff manages the Amazon account in consultation with NSHSF staff. This venture just started at the end of June, and so far sales have been strong, selling about 15 books a week. Currently, "Rodeo Nebraska" by Mark Harris and "Last Days of Red Cloud Agency" by the late Thomas R.

Buecker are available.

The next title will be "From Our Special Correspondent: Dispatches from the 1875 Black Hills Council at Red Cloud Agency, Nebraska" by Jim Potter.

Because of this partnership, the books qualify for free shipping and for Amazon Prime. To purchase one of these books via our NSHS/NSHSF partnership, please point your browser at <https://goo.gl/WVSFcz>—this will land you on our seller's page. ☰



Brown Bag Dates and Programming

The Nebraska State Historical Society's monthly Brown Bag History Forum is a fascinating series on a wide variety of topics related to the State's history. While not everyone can attend Thursday noon presentations in downtown Lincoln, everyone can watch them on our YouTube channel.

Funding for the video recording and editing of these presentations

is provided by the Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation for which the help of supporters is needed.

The cost of each presentation's recording is \$500. All donors will be recognized: on the Foundation's web site, via posts on the Foundation's Facebook page, and via a slide in the recording itself.

If you're a Nebraskan, past or present, or just a lover of Midwestern history, please help us keep this series alive on YouTube for all to enjoy!

Please visit our web page at to contribute! <http://nshsf.org/the-brown-bag-recordings-project/>

- Donate \$ 10.00 Contributor*
- Donate \$ 25.00 Fan*
- Donate \$ 50.00 Supporter*
- Donate \$100.00 Advocate*
- Donate \$250.00 Proponent*
- Donate \$500.00 Sponsor in Full*

And after you've made your donation, treat yourself to watching one of the presentations—they're totally engrossing! ☰



UPCOMING PRESENTATIONS

August 18 - Jeff Searcy

"The History and Future of Nebraska's Centennial Mall"

September 15 - Nolan Johnson

"The Features of Fort Atkinson" (Sept. 15-Oct. 15.)

October 20 - John Hibbing & Clark Archer

"Elections Past: We Can't Know 2016 without Understanding the Past"

November 17 - Ralph Wall

"Time Traveling via Nebraska's Historic Sites"

December 15 - Karen Keehr, Paul Eisloeffel, Laura Mooney, Cindy Drake

"Celebrating Statehood with Treasures from the Collections"

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Gifts received from January 1 through June 30, 2016.

\$50,000 or more

Geraldine Brady Estate
Jack Glass Estate

\$10,000 to \$24,999

Dillon Foundation
Marilyn Paul Estate

\$2,500 to \$9,999

Nebraska Farm Bureau
Services
Ron and Judy Parks

\$1,000 to \$2,499

Donlan Foundation
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HISTORICAL Connections

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 128 N. 13th Street #1010
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