

HISTORICAL Connections

NEWS FROM THE NEBRASKA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY FOUNDATION

Director's Corner

BY LESLIE FATTIG

This has been a superb year for the Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation, largely due to our wonderful Trustees!

We were able to host numerous events throughout the state and throughout the year: a legislative reception in Lincoln in January; a "Meet and Greet" that included three historic tours in Nebraska City in April; a reception honoring the Oldfather family in Kearney in May; the first ever NSHS/NSHSF booth at the Cattlemen's Ball in Lynch in early June; a "Meet and Greet" featuring tours and a special guest speaker in Sidney on a July evening; and a "Volunteer Dig" at the Engineer Cantonment north of Omaha one October weekend. These events helped spread the word about how the Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation supports the invaluable work done by the Nebraska State Historical Society in preserving and protecting our State's great history. Foundation Trustees too numerous to mention were involved in the planning, logistics, and execution of each and every one of these events!

Trustees have also started helping with "e-tasks" for the first time this year:

maintaining our Foundation web site, saving us the funds formerly spent on a web publishing firm; and regularly updating our Facebook page to attract new supporters and keep the old ones informed.

Trustee John Strope even volunteered to manage the Brown Bag presentations for the Society, and is doing a great job! As a result of his work, in addition to Lincoln's Channel 5, the Brown Bag Lectures are now televised on cable stations in Omaha, Bellevue, Beatrice, Hastings, Grand Island, and North Platte.

Still other Trustees helped with administrative tasks—the spring appeal mailing, the fall appeal mailing, and the holiday card mailing.

And because Foundation Trustees have sponsored so many events, we have been able to make numerous new contacts throughout the State, leading to our welcoming 27 new Trustees at the Annual Meeting held in Kearney in May! A committee of Trustees, led by the board's Executive Vice President Trixie Schmidt, hired a seasoned Development Director—Tony Dworak—in December. To learn more about Tony, see page 3.

Leslie Fattig

Warren Buffett once said: "Someone is sitting in the shade today because someone planted a tree a long time ago."

We at the Nebraska State Historical Society and Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation are counting on each of you to "plant a tree" in 2016 by donating as generously as you can so that future Nebraskans can "sit in the shade" of a well-preserved and interpreted State of Nebraska history!

Thank you for all you do for the Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation! Happy New Year! 🇺🇸



Nebraska's Storytellers Need Help

BY MICHAEL NELSON

From the Missouri River to Mitchell Pass, more than 500 historical markers commemorate local events, places and people—the shared saga of our state. Many of these markers are in bad shape. Weather and vandals have taken a toll. At last count, 94 markers in 64 counties needed attention. Some markers require just a touchup; others demand significant work, and quickly.

The Foundation is preparing to launch a campaign to meet this need, and to get the job done before Nebraska celebrates its 150th anniversary of statehood in 2017.

Unlike some past fundraising efforts, this drive will be statewide. We believe that the farmers, ranchers and townspeople are willing to pitch in, especially in counties where the markers need repair.

The State Historical Society is responsible for the markers, and recognizes the seriousness and scope of the problem. Last year the Society asked the legislature for \$50,000 for repairs, but the request was denied. The legislature's decision was disappointing in light of grassroots sentiment.

In many places the plaques are a point of civic pride. They do double duty: documenting the histories of communities and, when woven together, telling the story of Nebraska as a whole.

At Foundation-sponsored gatherings across the state, local residents have mentioned the nearby historical markers and their condition. They know that their story is Nebraska's story.

This was made especially clear this summer, when a dozen representatives from the Foundation and the Society traveled to Boyd County to join the throng at the Cattlemen's Ball, the state's largest charitable gathering.

The Foundation made about a thousand personal contacts, almost all of them from rural areas. Few had prior exposure to the Society and virtually none to the Foundation.

They talked about their interest in history, especially that of their home communities. They also shared their concern about preserving Nebraska's cultural heritage in this time of national change.

Frequently they mentioned the markers, and were happy to hear how your Foundation helps pay for limited maintenance through one of its smaller donor funds. Thousands of Nebraskans stand ready to help—if only they knew how. A broad-based campaign is the invitation they need. ☞

Michael Nelson, president of the Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation, is retired after 40 years as a journalist. He served 34 years at the Kansas City Star, and concluded his career as the editor of the Lincoln Journal Star.

Michael Nelson



How the Marker Campaign Would Work

As envisioned, the historic marker drive will be led by area steering committees and unfold from county seats and larger regional towns to the state as a whole.

These volunteers will share the story with clubs and organizations, work with local media and provide and distribute donation envelopes for prospective givers. The goal is manageable: \$50,000, an average of \$540 per county.

Besides sprucing up the markers, another benefit will accrue to your Foundation: We will identify hundreds of previously unknown friends of Nebraska history, building the Foundation's ranks of support.

Dee Adams of Merna will lead the effort. Dee is now a Foundation trustee and formerly served as president of the Nebraska State Historical Society Board of Trustees.

If you are interested in helping to lead this effort, please contact Leslie Fattig, Executive Director of the Foundation, at 402-435-3535, 128 No. 13th Street, Suite 1010, Lincoln, NE 68508. ☞

Welcome New Development Director Tony Dworak

Tony Dworak has an extensive background in the development profession, starting at the Nebraska Division of Travel and Tourism, where in 1996, he authored a 20-year industry development plan that helped attract over \$2 million in private and public funding for identified tourism projects across the State of Nebraska.

After leaving state government in 1999, Dworak led the fundraising efforts of the University of Nebraska College of Law, the Columbus (Nebraska) Community Hospital Foundation, and the Silverton (Oregon) Hospital Network. From 2011 to 2015, Dworak served as the major gift officer for Nebraska Wesleyan University.

Tony and Tam Dworak have three

children at home in Lincoln, where Tam teaches at Pius X High School. The Dworaks enjoy family time of all kinds, especially the outdoor recreational and historic offerings of Brownville, Nebraska.

Dworak traces his interest in Nebraska history and tourism back to the influence of his father, Don Dworak, who served as a Nebraska state senator from Columbus from 1974 to 1982. Senator Dworak helped lead several initiatives aimed at improving recreational and educational opportunities for all Nebraskans, including the Nebraska Habitat Stamp Act of 1976, and the legislation to purchase and renovate the current Nebraska State Museum building in 1979 and 1980. 🇺🇸



New Development Director, Tony Dworak

Local View: Preserving History is Fun, Easy, Smart

BY PETER BLEED *Originally published in Lincoln Journal Star, September 4, 2015. Reprinted with permission from the author.*

The past few months have been tough for the Nebraska State Historical Society and, I fear, for Nebraska history. In March, we lost Tom Buecker while he was shoveling snow at the Kennard House. In July, we said goodbye to John Carter. Both these fellows left us too early and well before we had learned all they had to teach. Tom oversaw the history of Fort Robinson for 25 years. He preserved its treasures and presented information about Nebraska military history and much more. John started out tending the Society's photo collection, but soon moved on to interpreting images and other records of our early days.

Both Tom and John were true experts who left us strings of wonderful publications, but they were much more than mere authors. With deep knowledge, willing curiosity, and very winning personal style, they were witty and charming and great fun to be with. Tom and John will be missed across the State, but missing them is not enough. If appreciation of our history is going to remain vibrant, we all must do our best to support our Historical Society and maintain curiosity about life in Nebraska.

Finding the next generation of Historical Society workers may be a challenge. We will never find people who know all that Tom and John did about Nebraska history, but it will be a while before we need another study of Solomon Butcher's photos. We can't expect too many more troves of early Fort Rob treasures. But that's all right, because there is more than enough richness in Nebraska's human past to engage a new generation of scholars. They may use Tom and John as models, but they will explore new topics. To recruit and retain this new generation, Nebraska needs to make sure that Historical Society salaries are fair and competitive. We also have to encourage the new generation to enjoy history.

Nebraska has a rich human past. We're tooling up to celebrate the Sesquicentennial of our statehood, and that will be a big deal. But people have been figuring out how to be at home in Nebraska for far longer than 150 years. We have lots of museums and monuments that present aspects of our past. Exploring those facilities and using them to recognize the contributions of the individuals and communities who shaped

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Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow

BY ROD WALKER

What is the Foundation and what does it do?

What is the only thing in Nebraska we have more of everyday? The answer is our history. Tomorrow, today's future will be the present, and today will become a part of history. The Nebraska State Historical Society was founded in 1878. Its mission: To collect, preserve, and open to all the histories we share.

The Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation was founded in 1942. The Foundation's mission is to support the preservation, interpretation, and appreciation of Nebraska history. Its statement of purpose is as follows: The Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation is a not-for-profit corporation organized for the purpose of soliciting and administering funds and other property from individuals, corporations, and foundations for the purpose of promoting and preserving the history of Nebraska primarily by supporting the mission of the Nebraska State Historical Society.

It is a 501(c)3 and is organized under the laws of the State of Nebraska. In accepting funds or other property the Foundation becomes a fiduciary which imposes a legal obligation to invest and manage the funds and property in a manner in which a person of prudence, discretion and experience would invest and manage their own assets in order to grow the Foundation asset base while meeting current needs.

The Foundation has a well-documented Investment policy and its funds are professionally managed by Wells Fargo Institutional Trust Services.

How can you help the Foundation in the future?

We appreciate and urge you to continue your annual support. It is very important!

Planned giving is another way you can help to insure that Nebraska history is preserved. Planned giving can provide you advantageous ways to provide future financial support. Many of the options provide significant tax advantages. The following are some examples:

Charitable Bequest – A provision in your will that creates your legacy

Charitable IRA Rollover – Allows tax-free distributions for those 70½ and over

Gift of Retirement Plans – Avoids potential double taxation

Gifts of Life Insurance – Easy, convenient and flexible


Charitable Gift Annuity – Provides lifetime income

Gifts of Securities – The donation of appreciated stock can offer you the current value of the stock as a tax deduction while avoiding capital gains taxes

Charitable Remainder Trust – Increases income and bypasses capital gains taxes

Donation of a stock from a personal IRA – Avoids income taxes on distribution

Consult with your attorney, tax professional and investment advisor concerning these and other options.

Please let us know if you have any questions and if we can be of assistance. We would be happy to visit with you by phone, email, letter and perhaps a personal visit at your request. Please contact: Rodney Walker, Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation, Board Member and Chair, Investment Committee by telephone; 402-393-7706, or email; RodneyPWalker@cox.net. 

Rod Walker is the current NSHSF Investment Committee Chair and joined the Foundation in 2006. Rod retired from Mutual of Omaha as Senior Vice President of Investment Management. He and his wife Vicki live in Omaha.



Rod Walker

Welcome New EVP Trixie Schmidt

Trixie Schmidt was elected Executive Vice President of the Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation's Board of Directors at the May Annual Meeting.

Trixie is a fourth-generation Nebraskan. Her great-grandfather, William Stark, came to this country in 1862 as a four-year-old, eventually homesteading in Buffalo County near Ravenna. Trixie fondly remembers playing in the "Short Creek Ranch" house as a child, when her grandparents owned it. Her grandmother, Minnie, recalled that William was extensively engaged in the raising of cattle and hogs, and was regarded as one of the foremost businessmen in this part of the state.

Trixie has almost 40 years of serving on a wide variety of local and state boards, including Youth Service Systems, Parks & Recreation Hyde Observatory, the UNL Parent's Association, Lincoln Children's Museum, Friends of Morrill Hall, the Foundation for Lincoln Public Schools, Lincoln Children's Zoo, Spring Creek Prairie, Nebraska Cultural Endowment, Humanities Nebraska Foundation, and Audubon Nebraska. Trixie has worked in the education field for those same 40 years, including stints as an elementary teacher for the Lincoln Public Schools (LPS), a UNL Howard Hughes Medical Institute Grant Administrator, Director of Public Engagement for the Foundation for LPS, and Owner of Aspen Child Development Center & Montessori School. She has worked with young toddlers through college-age students and loved every level of interaction!

Trixie and her husband, Dave, were high school sweethearts. She has two kids, Dana Schmidt and Karli Smith, along with son-in-law Zack Smith and granddaughter Teagan. 🍕



Executive Vice President Trixie Schmidt.



The Stark Sisters, daughters of William and Fredericka Stark (from left, standing) Annie, Nellie, Lucy, and Grandma Minnie, (seated) Edna and Lillie.

Stamp, Stuff, Seal....and Pizza!



We are so thankful to have ready and willing volunteers to help with our two largest mailings of the year! Many thanks to all who have participated—past, present and future! We couldn't do it without you!

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the way we live today can be the basis of lots of activities. Simply stopping to read historical markers turns out to be a good way to break up a road trip. “Are we there yet?” “No, but look at this.” And a museum visit can be a real cheap date.


Developing historical interest can start at home and be family fun. Have you ever wondered why that house down the street looks older than all the others? And why are the 2x4s on one side of the garage different from the rest? How come some of these screw drivers have wooden handles? When the cousins are visiting you can take them to at least two museums, and then ask them which one they liked best. When you’re visiting your uncle, get him to sing that song that grandpa sang when grandma wasn’t around. And on a quiet evening it is always possible to order a pizza—or Runzas or tacos—and look through family photographs. Be sure to write names on the back of some photos so that people will remember who’s who.

In fact, most families have lots of little treasures that are worth exploring. Get grandma to show the kids her recipe files, or even her jewelry box. Beyond being fun and cheap, activities like these

encourage curiosity and observational skills. And they dispose us to appreciate the diversity and richness of our community. Hopefully, they will also produce the next generation of brilliant Nebraska historians.

History is good for communities. Historical tourism can be a real economic benefit, but even without famous sites or great events, communities that wear their history well show the world their character and pride. Historical buildings should not be squandered through thoughtless destruction or the demands of the new design tastes dictated from other regions. If we care about our past, we have to make sure that local governments, neighborhood organizations, and individuals pay attention to our historical resources.

Dr. Peter Bleed, University of Nebraska – Lincoln, Emeritus Professor of Anthropology, served as NSHS President and now serves as an NSHSF Trustee with his wife Ann. They reside in Lincoln.

Our Historical Society Museum is undergoing a major renovation. When it reopens next year, it will be a handsome modern facility that will draw visitors from around the world. Creating modern exhibits and coping with new storage and archive facilities will be ongoing challenges. We have to be sure to let our Senators and state officials know that we appreciate their support and that we care about our Historical Society! And, don’t forget to build the Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation into your charitable budget. More information about that is available online at www.nshsf.org/giving. 



Peter Bleed



Connie Olson of McCook visits with Rob Bozell (NSHS Archaeology)

Board of Trustees Orientation

Separate orientation sessions were held for Board of Trustees members on August 17th, 19th and 21st. Seventeen members attended presentations by several Society staff: Rob Bozell, Archaeologist; Lynne Ireland, Deputy Director; Deb McWilliams, Visitors Services and Membership; David Bristow, Nebraska History Editor; Deb Arenz, Associate Director for Collections; Bob Puschendorf, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer; and Mike Smith, Director/CEO. These orientations—begun in early 2014—have been very helpful for new Foundation Trustees in particular, although any Trustee is welcome to attend. The next series is planned for summer 2016.

Trustee Spotlight—Vivian and Spencer Davis



Vivian Lewis Davis; "Miss Black Nebraska" 1970.

Vivian Lewis Davis graduated from Technical High School and Duchesne College. She was named "Miss Debutante of the Year" (1966) by The Omaha Links, Incorporated; was chosen the first "Miss Black Nebraska" (1970); and represented Nebraska in the "Miss Black America" Pageant, sponsored by Motown Productions. She co-hosted "Black on Black" on KMTV and appeared in "The Trial of Henry Flipper," a film produced by the Nebraska ETV Network.

After moving to California, she received a Certificate in Drama at Kilpatrick-Cambridge Theater Arts School in Burbank, then appeared in plays and several movies including "Shampoo" and "Cleopatra Jones" and worked on the staff of "The Dating Game" and "The Newlywed Game." She is a former member of the Screen Actors Guild and the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists.

After returning to Omaha, she worked for Commercial Federal Bank and the Bellevue Public Schools, from which she retired in 2012.

She has served as a volunteer at the Omaha Community Playhouse Act II, the Durham Museum On-Track Guild, Opera Omaha Guild, and Omaha Symphony Guild, and as a historical re-enactor in the Humanities Nebraska Speakers Bureau. She is a member of the Nebraska State Historical Society, Cass County Historical Society, The Omaha Corral of the Westerners and the Sarpy County Museum. Vivian is featured in *Visions of Freedom on the Great Plains: An Illustrated History of African Americans in Nebraska*. She has appeared in *NEBRASKAland*, *Jet*, and *TV Guide*.

She is married to Spencer Davis and lives in Bellevue, Nebraska. 🏳️‍🌈

Spencer Davis is currently professor of History at Peru State College, where he has taught since 1983. He holds a B.A. from Brown University, M.A. from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, and Ph.D. from the University of Toronto. He is a member of Phi Beta Kappa and belongs to professional organizations including the Abraham Lincoln Association, the Organization of American Historians, and the Midwest Political Science Association. He is a member of the Humanities Nebraska Speakers Bureau, for which he has presented programs on African-American History and Abraham Lincoln.

He is a member of the Nebraska State Historical Society Board of Trustees, the National Museum of African American History and Culture,

Cass County Historical Society, Sarpy County Museum, The Omaha Corral of the Westerners, and the Civil War Roundtable of Lincoln. In addition, he serves as a Durham Museum consultant and speaker.

He has contributed entries for *Encyclopedia U.S.A.* and *Encyclopedia of Slavery*, reviews in *Nebraska History* and articles to *Proceedings of Dakota Conference on Early British Literature* and *Proceedings of the European Studies Conference*. He has published articles on James Weldon Johnson and Ma Rainey.

He has delivered papers or served as commentator at many scholarly conferences, including Missouri Valley History Conference, National Association of African American Studies Conference, Mid-America History Conference,



Midwest Political Science Association Convention, Organization of American Historians Regional Conference, Kansas History Teachers Conference and Phi Alpha Theta Regional Conference.

He is married to Vivian Lewis Davis and lives in Bellevue, Nebraska. 🏳️‍🌈

NSHSF Highlights from 2015



Over 50 people joined us for the open house and volunteer dig at the Engineer Cantonment in October. NSHS Archeologist Rob Bozell and Dr. Peter Bleed gave talks throughout both days on the background and rediscovery of this important site in the exploration of the American West.



At the Sidney Meet and Greet, Dr. Chuck Reher, Professor and Museum Director Emeritus, University of Wyoming, presented a fascinating talk on the High Plains Archaeology Project.



The Scholarship Committee meets every fall. Here trustees (from left) Robbie Lonewolf, Rae Brown, Chair Syd Kruse, Gloria Strope, Jan Lipovsky and Lori Heaton (background) consider the criteria for 2016 Scholarship essays.



In June, the Foundation and Society enjoyed their first visit to the Cattlemen's Ball, held this year in Lynch. Our team made 1,300 personal contacts at the General Store booth. (Left) Mark Harris, author of *Rodeo Nebraska*, Michael Nelson, Deb Arenz (NSHS Collections) and Dee Adams.



In April, Dr. Gary Moulton provided an extremely entertaining presentation on the Lewis and Clark Journals at the Nebraska City Meet and Greet.



After the October NSHS trustees quarterly meeting, tours of the work-in-progress renovation at the Nebraska History Museum were offered. Amazing progress has been made!



Sidney Meet and Greet—The Fort Sidney Museum in Sidney loaned Savilla Fox's Pomegranate Quilt, circa 1866, to the "Going West! Quilts and Community" exhibition at the Smithsonian American Art Museum. Our visit to Sidney featured tours of the Fort Sidney Commander's Home and the Cheyenne County Historical Association.

Annual Meeting

Kearney was the site of our 2015 annual meeting. Tours of the Archway and historic downtown, a presentation by Paul Siebert entitled “Echos of an Era,” and a Skype visit with Jon Bokenkamp at the World Theatre were highlights of the weekend. The Board of Directors met at the historic Frank House located on the University of Nebraska at Kearney Campus. On Saturday evening, trustees and friends gathered for a reception at the Museum of Nebraska Art honoring the Oldfather family’s many lifetime philanthropic efforts and contributions toward preserving the history of Nebraska.



The Board of Directors met at the Historic Frank House on the UNK Campus. Beautiful Tiffany stained glass adorns the hallway.



Charlie Wright reminisces about his early days working for Charlie Oldfather.



Senator (and new trustee) Joel Johnson and President Michael Nelson present a panoramic photo of old Kearney to David and Diane Oldfather.



Treasurer Tim Thietje explains the Foundation’s financial holdings and how much of that is restricted in its use.



Senator (and new trustee) Jim Cudaback entertained on the piano during the Oldfather reception at the Museum of Nebraska Art.



Guest Speakers Jack and Sally Campbell share stories about their long friendship with the Oldfather family.



Investment Committee Chair Rod Walker presents the quarterly report.

Some of Our New Trustees

John Atkins is a Senior Trust Officer at Union Bank & Trust Company, operating out of its Omaha office. Prior to 2007, he was an Employee Benefit Officer and Manager, and then a Personal Trust Officer with the former Norwest Bank Nebraska and Wells Fargo Bank. Before becoming a Trust Officer, he was an Estate and Gift Tax Attorney for the IRS.



John received his BA in Economics and Business Administration from Hastings College, and his JD from Creighton University School of Law.

John's hobbies include walking, golf, and reading—both fiction and non-fiction.

His past volunteer work includes being President of Goodwill Industries and actively involved in the Chamber of Commerce's Legislative Affairs Committee, Big Brothers, and Rotary.

John plans to share his knowledge in business and finance whenever the NSHSF has need, and to attend as many NSHSF events as possible. He believes that a historical society is so important to preserve our singular heritage and western culture for future generations.



Ann Bleed is an engineer retired from serving as the Director of the Department of Natural Resources for the State of Nebraska.

She serves on several boards including those for the Lincoln Electric System, the Lower Platte South Natural Resources District, the Nebraska

Chapter of the Nature Conservancy, the Groundwater Foundation, and the East Campus Community Organization.

Ann and her husband, Peter Bleed, live in Lincoln. They have two sons and four grandchildren. She enjoys hiking, bicycling, reading, and water-color painting in addition to her volunteer work.

Her specific interest in Nebraska history is in the area of the history of water and natural resources governance.

Dr. Richard E. Callaway

started his dental practice in Fremont, Nebraska, in 1978; he is still practicing there.



He belongs to Friendship Force, Westerner's Club, and Photography Club in addition to professional dentistry organizations.

His hobbies include traveling—both overseas and domestic. He makes volunteer medical trips to help Vietnamese orphans and plans to do more of these going forward.

Dr. Callaway is enjoying being part of the Nebraska State Historical Society and Foundation. Since his involvement, he has been traveling Nebraska extensively, learning much about the diversity and history of the state. He's looking forward to extending that knowledge even further!

Ralph Eatinger worked as a rancher most of his life. Now retired, he keeps busy at other things, including serving on the



Board of Directors of the Sandhills Area Foundation and as a member of the Thedford Area Community Foundation. While he lives in Cherry County, his address is in Thomas County, which has motivated him to join both counties' historical societies. He's also a member of United Church of Christ in Thedford.

Ralph is part of a local investment club that meets once a month in Valentine. He claims that members "might not make much money but do eat and drink very well!"

History was the class to which Ralph really felt a connection during his school days. Having lived in both Colorado and New Mexico earlier in his life, he believes that history is a connection to an area that is not influenced by day to day life.

Tim Francis has been a member of the Lincoln/Lancaster County Preservation Commission for over 15 years and a longtime member of



the Preservation Association of Lincoln (PAL). Old houses and neighborhoods have fascinated him since childhood; his late parents were respectful of both the past and their families' histories.

Tim has also been involved with a local non-profit housing organization, NeighborWorks Lincoln, whose mission is the strengthening of neighborhoods and conservation of the built environment.

Tim was born in Red Cloud but raised in Lincoln, where he works as a realtor for Woods Bros Realty. His hobbies include antiques, travel, and puttering around at home.



Liz Kuhlman is an Architect and Partner at Sinclair Hille Architects, where she has worked for the past 23 years. Before that, she lived in Roseville, CA, a suburb of Sacramento, where she worked in a small architectural firm that specialized in renovations of, and additions to, old homes from the 20s and 30s.

She has been active with a number of organizations including: the City of Lincoln Historic Preservation Commission; the Food Bank of Lincoln Foundation, where she is a past President of the Board of Directors; the Statewide Advisory Board for the Lied Center for Performing Arts; and the Friends of Lied, where she is a past President of the Board of Directors. For fun, Liz enjoys cooking, playing the piano, and golf.



SharonAnn Green Louden, a native Nebraskan, graduated from Lincoln Northeast High School and just celebrated a 50th

“Rockets” Class Reunion in September. She is a graduate of Nebraska Wesleyan University with a BS in Education and a minor in Psychology. She is the third generation of a Green family business, where she began working during the 9th grade. SharonAnn is an avid mystery reader and genealogist, and a member of six national heraldry/patriotic organizations where she holds local and state offices, focusing on historic preservation.

She has played golf on three continents, teaches her grandchildren

how to make jam and sew, and loves to garden in her spare time; she is also an amateur project quilter.



LeRoy J. Louden, a native Nebraskan, was educated at St. Agnes Academy in Alliance and Milford Technical School. He was a Nebraska State

Senator, 49th District, from 2003-2013, and is also a member of two national heraldry/patriotic organizations. He began ranching when he was 17 years old, building a 16,000-acre cattle ranch in Ellsworth, Nebraska, which he has always called home. His legacy as a State Senator includes legislation guiding the way for the Nebraska State Veterans Cemetery in Alliance, and creating a cash-funded State Tourism Agency and a 60-bed self-funded Native American Nursing home. LeRoy has spent over 40 years as a National Weather Bureau Volunteer in Western Nebraska. He enjoys reading about history, politics, and environmental issues. He and his wife enjoy traveling, spending time with family and friends, and researching their family histories and lineage. They have a blended family of six children and four grandchildren in Nebraska and Colorado. Together, they have worked on three NSHS Historical Markers and organized the preservation of two pioneer cemeteries with local support and grant funding.



Connie Olsen has been interested in Nebraska history since hearing stories about her grandparents' arrival and

settling, and her parents' experiences growing up in Nebraska. She majored in history at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, then taught American history while her husband was in graduate school. Later, she worked for McCook Public Schools as the elementary school librarian for 11 years.

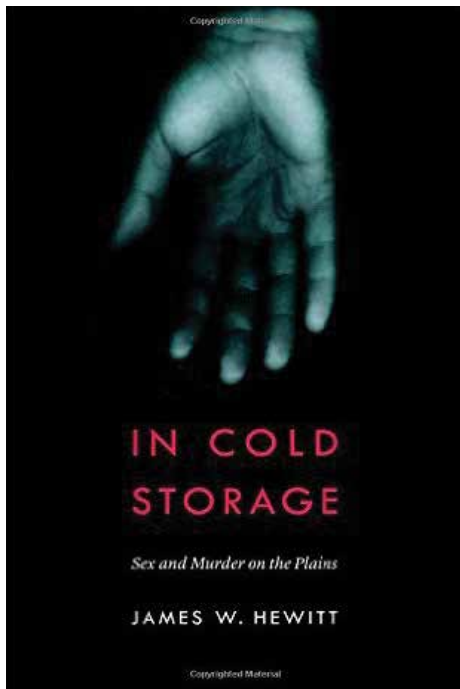
Connie and her husband feel blessed to have 3 children and 5 grandchildren which keep them active. Her husband is mostly retired from his work in the agricultural laboratory he started in 1975 so they now have some time to enjoy traveling and learning more of the history of the U.S. Since both of their sons coach baseball, they watch a lot of baseball games and also go to spring training games in Florida.

Connie currently sits on the Board of Directors at Community Hospital in McCook, is a member of the hospital's Foundation Board, and helps with hospice fundraisers. For fun, she likes to read and quilt. Church activities are also a big part of her life. She's a member of PEO and a docent for the Sheldon traveling art exhibit for elementary students. She looks forward to involvement with the Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation and appreciates the opportunity it provides to learn more about the history of Nebraska. 🍷

Nebraska State Historical Society
FOUNDATION

If you are interested in becoming a Trustee, or know someone who would like to be one, please contact Leslie Fattig at 402-435-3535.

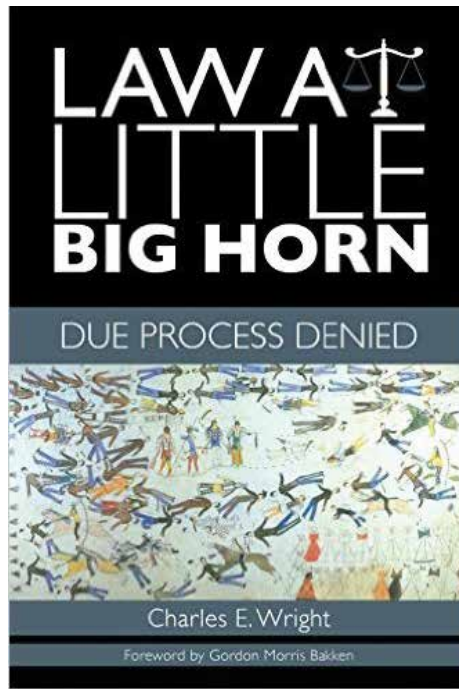
Recent Books by Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation Trustees



In Cold Storage

BY JAMES W. HEWITT

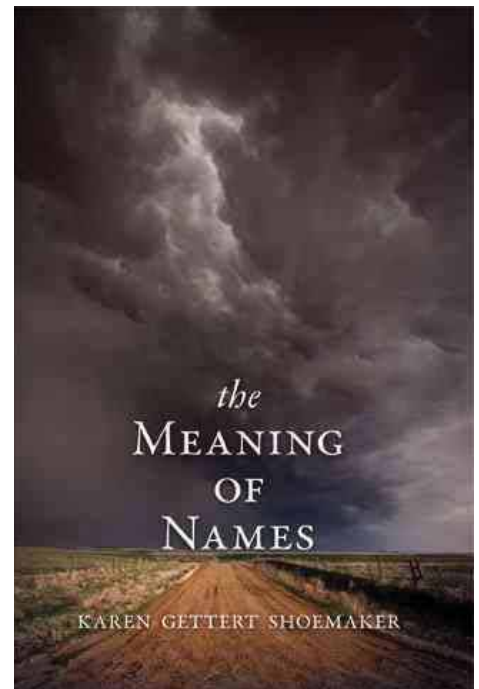
James W. Hewitt's *In Cold Storage* is a non-fiction account of a grisly 1973 murder in McCook, Nebraska. As part of his research, author Hewitt was granted a prison interview by convicted killer Harold Nokes, in which Nokes changed several parts of his 1974 confession. Hewitt steps readers through the evidence in this horrific case, drawing new conclusions about what really happened that September night more than 40 years ago.



Law at Little Big Horn

BY CHARLES E. WRIGHT

Charles E. Wright's *Law at Little Big Horn: Due Process Denied* is an analysis of the legal issues leading up to the Great Sioux War in 1876. Author Wright is a retired lawyer who has long been associated with Indian rights. He has funded scholarships and organized a mentoring program to enable promising Indian students to attend law school.



The Meaning of Names

BY KAREN GETTERT SHOEMAKER

Karen Gettert Shoemaker's *The Meaning of Names* is a novel set in Nebraska against the backdrop of World War I. It tells the story of a German-American woman trying to protect her family from the war, the influenza epidemic, and prejudice. Published in 2014, this book recently was announced as the 2016 selection for the prestigious **One Book One Nebraska** program!

These books are available at the Nebraska History Museum's Landmark Store at the State Capitol or from the Nebraska State Historical Society. Call 1-800-833-6747 to order.

Nebraska History in The Waiting Room

Foundation Trustee Kira Gale recently came up with a bang-up proposal for how each of us can help support the cause of Nebraska history in just FIVE MINUTES of our time!

The waiting room—we've all been there on visits to the doctor, dentist, chiropractor, or optometrist. Many of the magazines laying around are out of date, or they cover topics that may not interest some readers. Wouldn't it be great to find a magazine that told Nebraska stories, such as the Nebraska State Historical Society's quarterly *Nebraska History*? Each

issue is filled with articles and illustrations about people, places, and episodes from Nebraska's fascinating past.

Why not take one of your recent issues of *Nebraska History* to your next medical appointment, hand it over to the office manager, and ask him or her to purchase a subscription for the office? Point out the postage-paid brochure inside making it easy to add *Nebraska History* to the magazines available in their waiting room. 🇺🇸

Kira Gale



Two New Ways to Support Our Mission!

Shop AmazonSmile

New Trustee Micah Laaker of Mountain View, CA has set up the Foundation as an approved nonprofit on the AmazonSmile web site! Purchases made via AmazonSmile result in Amazon donating 0.5% of the purchase price to the buyer's designated charity.

If you already shop via Amazon, please follow these two steps to ensure that your purchases help out the Foundation:

1. Designate the NSHS Foundation as the charity your purchases support by going to <http://bitly.com/nshsfAmz> in each browser on your computer and phone.
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The Foundation is now able to receive matching corporate funds from donor employees at Ameriprise Financial, Canadian Pacific, New York Life Insurance Company, Google, Roche Pharmaceuticals and many other Fortune 500 companies through Benevity (a corporate philanthropy fundraising service).

If your employer has a corporate matching gift program, please check to see if the Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation is listed as one of the approved non-profits. If not, please either request that it be added to the list or let us

know and we'll take care of getting it added.

And if your company does have a matching gift program, please request a match for all your donations to the NSHSF! 🇺🇸



A Volunteer Opportunity

BY JOHN STROPE

I started out my adult work life as a social studies teacher. One of my absolute most favorite NU classes was Dr. Robert Manley's "History of Nebraska." That was "a bunch" of years ago. In the last decade since we returned home, I have attended the Historical Society's Brown Bag History Lecture Series faithfully on the third Thursday every month.

In the last couple of years, my wife, Gloria, and I have gotten involved as volunteers for the Foundation. A few months ago I saw an opportunity to volunteer at the Society. Through a number of unfortunate personnel circumstances, there appeared to be a use for a volunteer coordinator for the Brown Bag lectures.

I sent Mike Smith, the Society's Executive Director, a note offering my services. About 10 seconds later, I got a response: "Are you serious?" In less than a day, Smith had talked with his staff and they welcomed me with open arms. I know if I start listing staff names, I will omit some. I will offer particular praise to Ann Billesbach, the staff member who had been handling the assignment on a temporary basis.

What does the coordinator of the Brown Bag History Lecture Series do? I identify speakers and topics. (Happily,



Trustees John and Gloria Strobe

NSHS staff had 4-5 programs already lined up.) I am working on 2016 and thinking about 2017 (our beloved state's 150th birthday).

In the days prior to the month's program, I work with the speaker to handle the time frame and get the digital images for showing. When the day comes, I introduce the speaker. Then I run a camera or sit down, and I enjoy the program.

One of the great pleasures of my introduction comes with these words: "I want to thank the Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation for the financial support which allows us to tape and broadcast these programs on public access television and on the Society's YouTube webpage." To find that page, just type "www.youtube.com/user/NebraskaHistorical" into your browser search. Just below the logo and words "Nebraska State Historical Society" you will see the words "Home," "Videos," etc. At the right of that line, click the magnifying glass and type the name of the program or the topic's keywords or the presenter's name in the "Search Channel" box. There are over 130 past Brown Bags on YouTube."

There is even more GREAT news for you supporters of the Society and the Foundation. The Trustees have wanted for some time to share these Brown Bag programs with more Nebraskans beyond Lincoln, and we are pleased to tell you that plans are underway (as of mid-December) to begin broadcasting on government/public access channels in **Omaha, Bellevue, Grand Island, Beatrice, Hastings, and North Platte**. Keep an eye out in your area. Broadcasting may already have begun. If you know of such cable channels in your area, please contact me at strobe@louisville.edu or 402-484-8650.

Finally, each of these programs costs about \$600 to produce and broadcast. Please consider volunteering to sponsor all (or part) of a Brown Bag (or two or three, etc.). Give your volunteer Brown Bag coordinator a belated Christmas present! 🎁

2016 Brown Bag Dates

January 20—"Law at Little Big Horn: Liberty Crushed, Justice Denied" (Custer like you have never heard)

February 18—"Will Brown: A Lynching, A Lost Identity, and Urban Unrest in Omaha, 1919"

March 17—"Stalking the Ghost of Mari Sandoz"

April 21—What does an archivist do?
Who is Frank Shoemaker?

May 19—A Preservation month program

June 16—A history program aimed at grandparents and grandkids, tied in with a kids' class at the Nebraska History Museum

July 21—NSHS historian, Jim Potter, with a history program aimed at grandparents and grandkids, tied in with a kids' class at the Nebraska History Museum

Foundation Gifts *Gifts received from January 1 through December 31, 2015.*

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Kimman-Oldfield Suite
128 N. 13th Street #1010
Lincoln, NE 68508

