



ABOUT

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## Walk to the Rock Dedication



On Friday, July 28th and Saturday, July 29th, the Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation hosted dedications for Walk to the Rock.

The private dedication on July 28th, for those who donated \$1000 or more to the Walk to the Rock project, had over 100 people in attendance. Among those who attended were Senator Steve Erdman and his wife Kathy, Senator John Stinner, and his wife Rita and Platte Valley Bank President Hod Kosman. Senator Erdman spoke about the positive economic impact of the construction of the walking trails, which are another component of the recreation and education menu of western Nebraska.

The public dedication on July 29th saw a crowd of over 50 excited supporters. Among them was Kelly Durnal of Gering. Kelly is the grandson of Frank Durnal who donated the land on which Chimney Rock sits. Frank owned Chimney Rock and the land surrounding it and eventually sold the land to the State of Nebraska for the sum of one dollar. He owned one of the biggest ranches in the Bayard area.

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Letter from Trustee Rae Brown Heinemann about Walk to the Rock:

As a retired 4th grade teacher of 43 years, I can not think of a more meaningful or worthwhile endeavor than what you accomplished last weekend with **Walk to the Rock**. So many pioneers documented their experiences of seeing, approaching, and passing this unique landmark. Chimney Rock meant different things to different people, yet they all knew exactly what other pioneers were referring to when they referenced Chimney Rock.

The foresight of the Howard Family melded with your special abilities and position made this trail system possible. Neither of you could have done it without the other.

In a day when technology seems to dominate all new horizons, all attempted ventures, and current undertakings, it is refreshing and valuable to think to the past where our forefathers forged a path for us with their grit and sweat and fortitude.

It was wonderful to see and ride on the trails that now get visitors up close and personal to the landmark of the Plains... Chimney Rock.

Thank you for all you did to make it happen! Your labor of love will affect countless future visitors! Congratulations!

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Thank you to everyone who came to the dedications and supported the project. Although the trail is completed, we are still looking for donations to reach our fundraising goal. Donations to this historic and beautiful project can be made through the button below.

[Donate to Walk to the Rock](#)

## Welcome our New Employees



**Sandra Reddish**  
Western Nebraska Coordinator

Sandra Reddish is from a small farm outside of Lincoln. After eight years serving in the Marine Corps and Marine Corps Reserve, she worked for Boeing Commercial Airplane Group in Wichita, Kansas. While in Kansas, she completed her Master's degree in Public History at Wichita State University. She has worked for over 20 years in the public history field in various capacities of oral historian, collections management, archives, exhibits, historian, public engagement/speaker, and Executive Director. Her historical interests are varied from rural development; communities, military, sports, cultural, social, medieval, westward expansion, North Platte Valley, and whatever else piques her curiosity. Although she is a product of eastern Nebraska, she

thoroughly enjoys living out in the western part of the state, roaming around in the prairie landscapes, and fly fishing.

Makenna Eisenzimmer is a Junior at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and previously attended Northeast Community College in Norfolk, Nebraska. She is majoring in Animal Science with an Agribusiness and Agronomy minors. She currently serves on the NEBRASKALand Foundation Board as a youth member and assists with the annual art contest for the State Capital. She was raised on a family farm in Big Springs, Nebraska where she has enjoyed working during the summers. Makenna was active in 4-H serving as a Nebraska delegate to National 4-H Congress, showing livestock, and other static projects. She also participated in FFA with several SAE projects including starting her own show pig business, competing on the Nebraska State Vet Science team at National FFA and earning her American Degree.



**Makenna Eisenzimmer**  
Youth Advisory Board Intern

## Featured WanderNebraska and SGP Site



Check presentation at Nebraska Prairie Museum in Holdrege



The Phelps County Historical Society was organized in 1966. Our first displays appeared in the halls of the courthouse, then later, in the vacated Salvation Army building located just north of the current Holdrege City Hall. On April 22, 1975, ground was broken a half-mile north of the Country Club on Highway 183 for a 154' x 120' steel structure, now known as the Nebraska Prairie Museum (NPM). The mission of the NPM continues to be a historical, interactive, resource for the community, through the collection of artifact, archival documents and memorabilia that explain the lifestyles of those who preceded us.

The Nebraska Prairie Museum received \$1,250 through the Statewide Grants Program for graphic panels, laminated description cards, and a graphic designer. We can't wait to see how they look!

Visit their WanderNebraska Page

Learn More about Statewide Grants Program

### Events:

**Aug. 4:** Lexington Public Library Street Dance, 6-9pm

**Aug. 5:** Root Beer Float Day, Durham Museum, 10am-4pm

**Aug. 5, 6:** A Brief History of the Five Tribes of Nebraska: Omaha, Ponca, Pawnee, Santee, and Winnebago, Fort Atkinson State Historical Park, 1-2pm

**Aug. 6:** Fontenelle's Post: Stories of People and Events, Fontenelle Forest, 1-2:30pm

**Aug. 6:** "To Live and Die on the Plains", Howells Catholic Social Hall, 6-7pm

**Aug. 12:** Nebraska's Winding Road to Statehood: In the Footsteps of a Female Settler, Indianola Community Building, 1:30-2:30pm

**Aug. 17:** "A Bad Man in a Better Place: Jesse James in Nebraska", Geneva Public Library, 7-8pm

**Aug. 20:** Taroky Tutorial, Czech and Slovak Museum, 1pm

Have any events you'd like us to share? Email Leslie Fattig at [lfattig@nshsf.org](mailto:lfattig@nshsf.org)

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### Contact us:

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### Connect with us!



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