



Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation

GRATITUDE REPORT

*Your Generosity Leaves a Lasting Legacy:
Thank You For Your Ongoing Support.*



With your support, we continue to champion Nebraska's past while inspiring future generations to explore, learn, and appreciate the legacy we all share. Thank you for making history come alive through your unwavering dedication—your impact is felt across every corner of Nebraska.

Left to right: Teresa Breazile, Development and Community Engagement Coordinator, Michelle Sullivan, Business Manager, Sue Quambusch, Director of Special Projects, Leslie Parrish Fattig, Executive Director, and Sandra Reddish, Western Nebraska Coordinator.

Thank You to our Board

We give special thanks to the Board Members who have served the Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation from 2020 to 2025.

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Give online today!

Your gift helps support our mission to foster learning, education, and community engagement across Nebraska. Scan the QR Code to donate now!





Gratitude, a timeless virtue, is woven deeply into Nebraska's rich history—carried forward by the tireless efforts of local historical organizations and educational institutions. Through the dedicated programs of the Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation, hope has taken root in communities across our state, nurturing a shared passion for the past and a commitment to preserving it.

As we reflect on the generosity of our philanthropic donors, we are humbled by the heartfelt appreciation

shared by those who have benefited from your support. Their gratitude resonates across generations, much like the stories they work so tirelessly to preserve. From small-town museums restoring forgotten artifacts, to school programs that bring history vividly to life for children, your contributions have created a profound and far-reaching ripple effect.

In this Gratitude Report, we invite you to witness the joy, hope, and thankfulness inspired by your generosity. Each story is a testament to the power of

giving—its ability to uplift communities, educate young minds, and ensure Nebraska's legacy endures.

As you turn each page, know that you are not only preserving the past—you are shaping the future. We hope you gain insight into the Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation's operations and feel the depth of our appreciation. Your support has kindled a lasting flame, one that burns brightly in the hearts of Nebraskans and lights the way for generations to come. Thank you for being an essential part of our journey.



Leslie Parrish Fattig
Executive Director



Michelle Sullivan
Business Manager



Teresa Breazile
Development and Community
Engagement Coordinator



Sue Quambusch
Director, Special Projects



Sandra Reddish
Visitor Engagement and Programming
Coordinator, Western Nebraska



Chaitra Pirisingula
Intern, WanderNebraska.com/
Special Projects

Celebrating Generosity: Supporting Nebraska's Preservation Efforts and Honoring One of Nebraska's Leading Philanthropists and Business Leaders

Donald F. Dillon, a native Nebraskan and graduate of the University of Nebraska, spent ten years in the banking industry before founding Information Technology, Inc. ("ITI"). The company's software and services were a success within the financial industry, capturing nearly 40% of the market share by 1995. At this time, the company was sold to one of the largest providers of global banking services, Fiserv, Inc. Mr. Dillon then became its Vice Chairman and a member of its Executive Committee. In July of 2000 Mr. Dillon became Chairman of the Board of Directors for Fiserv. He stepped away from the Executive Committee of the firm in 2004 but remained Board Chair until he retired in May 2014. Mr. Dillon remains active in several businesses and investments.

The D F Dillon Foundation has had a profound impact on the Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation (NSHSF) and its initiatives. Mr. Dillon and the D F Foundation have played a pivotal role in supporting numerous projects that

have had a lasting impact on Nebraska's history and community.

Below is a recap of some of the key projects that the D F Dillon Foundation has supported:

In 2019, the D F Dillon Foundation enabled the NSHSF to pay off the loan for the purchase of 360 acres at the foot of Chimney Rock, ensuring the preservation of this iconic and historic site for generations to come.

In 2020, the D F Dillon Foundation provided the lead gift for the Statewide Grants Program, helping fund important seedling grants to museums, libraries, and historical societies throughout Nebraska. These grants fund educational and community preservation projects. Through these efforts, the D F Dillon Foundation continues to make a meaningful and lasting impact on communities statewide.

In 2022, the D F Dillon Foundation supported the development of the Dr. Susan LaFlesche Picotte Center, with the NSHSF serving as a fundraising partner during the construction



Donald F. Dillon

phase. This important project honors Dr. Picotte's legacy and contributes to the preservation of Nebraska's Indigenous history.

In 2023, the D F Dillon Foundation contributed generously to the construction of Walk to the Rock, a 2.2-mile walking trail at Chimney Rock. The construction of the trails was done with great respect for the wildlife and landscape of the surrounding grasslands. These trails are wheelchair and walker accessible and have welcomed over 15,000 visitors from 36 countries, providing an inclusive, enriching, and healthy experience for all.

In 2024, the D F Dillon Foundation provided support for the Pershing Mural campaign, contributing to Nebraska's cultural and historical preservation. In the summer of 2024, the Pershing Mural Historic Preservation effort celebrated the groundbreaking ceremony and the reinstallation of the mural within Historic Wyuka Park. Work will soon begin on a retaining wall that will serve as a backdrop to a larger wall, which will be raised vertically to display the majestic 140' x 38' mosaic, made up of



Thomas Dillon's sod schoolhouse, photographed before 1910. Thomas is the tallest boy in the back row.



D F Dillon Bridge at Walk to the Rock trails near Bayard, NE.

763,000 square-inch ceramic tiles. This monumental project is expected to be completed in 2025, further enriching Nebraska's cultural landscape.

Indeed, Mr. Dillon and the D F Dillon Foundation's ongoing support has been crucial in making these projects a reality. Their generosity has not only helped preserve Nebraska's rich history but also provided valuable resources and opportunities for education, accessibility, and cultural enrichment. Their commitment continues to make a lasting difference in the community and the state as a whole, ensuring that future generations can enjoy and learn from these important historical and cultural landmarks.

For these reasons and many more, we celebrate Mr. Dillon and the D F Dillon Foundation. We extend our heartfelt thanks for their unwavering support, which has played a key role in the success of so many impactful projects across Nebraska. Their generosity has made a lasting difference, and we are truly grateful for everything they have helped us accomplish.



Wedding photo of Thomas and Catherine Dillon, Mr. Dillon's parents.

Dillon Honored for Chimney Rock Trails

In July 2023, Donald F. Dillon was honored at the dedication of the Chimney Rock walking trails, a significant milestone in the preservation of this historic landmark. His generous contributions helped bring the 2.2 miles of accessible walking trails to life. The event celebrated not only the completion of the trails but also Mr. Dillon's enduring commitment to preserving Nebraska's rich heritage and providing opportunities for all to connect with its history.

"Chimney Rock has always held great significance for me. Being born and raised in Alliance, Nebraska and having my grandparents arriving in Nebraska in the late 1800's, and in particular having two of my grandparents arriving from Europe, one from Germany and one from Ireland, we always had a deep respect for the pioneering spirit of those who immigrated to this state and nothing represents that spirit more to me than Chimney Rock, which has stood as a kind of lighthouse for all of those who traveled west to find a new home."

When Don was a young man, he worked for a time on the railroad in Alliance, which was a thriving railroad hub at the time. Here, we share his memory of that experience, a time that shaped his understanding of hard work, community, and the importance of preserving the stories that define Nebraska's history.

"One summer I worked for Railroad Express, and my shift was late in the evening and involved putting outgoing shipments on the train and moving shipments from one train to a different train for routing purposes. One of the interesting items we had to shift from one train to another was a shipment of gold from South Dakota to the mint in Denver. We did have a single revolver that we strapped on whenever we moved this kind of freight. I was told there was one robbery attempt way back in the 40's. You never knew what you were going to have to handle. Sometimes it was a wild animal being shipped to a zoo or a load of grenades. I never gave it much thought. I just moved the stuff and wanted to get home and go to bed. I was never a very successful night worker."

- Donald F. Dillon, July 2023



This is the type of cart that Donald used while working for Railroad Express as a young man.

Marvin H. Stumpf III: “It’s better to give than to receive and if it doesn’t hurt a little bit, maybe you didn’t give enough.”

NSHSF Director and Trustee Marvin Stumpf’s philanthropic endeavors have significantly enriched Nebraska’s agricultural and historical landscapes, reflecting his deep commitment to the state’s heritage and community well-being.

Marvin’s generous donation in 2013 had a significant impact on agricultural research at the University of Nebraska. By establishing the Henry J. Stumpf International Wheat Farm and the Pearl C. Pogue Peterson Stumpf Educational Center, along with the creation of the Stumpf, Peterson, Pogue Family Research and Development Fund, he provided substantial resources to advance wheat breeding and cropping systems research. This contribution, comprising a \$1 million cash gift and 640 acres of land in Perkins County valued at more than \$2 million, has fostered innovation in Nebraska’s agricultural sector. The donation, a combination of both cash and land, also honors his family’s legacy in the field, ensuring continued growth and development in agricultural science.

Marvin has often shared how vital it is to provide advancement opportunities in farming for future generations. He takes great joy in witnessing the next generation of agricultural farmers and ranchers—through youth organizations like 4-H, FFA, and university students who engage with the enriched facilities made possible by his support. His commitment to creating pathways for young people to succeed in farming reflects his deep belief in nurturing talent and ensuring a bright future for agriculture.

Marvin’s approach to philanthropy is driven by a desire to honor his family and make a lasting, positive impact on the community, stating, “Advancing agricultural efforts in Nebraska is so important for the next generations, I decided to donate the funds needed for the Wheat Center and selfishly,

since I have no children, preservation of the Stumpf family name is important to me. I decided that I wanted to honor my family with the largest gift I could give. Many thought that I was foolish to give away a section of land but that’s what I wanted to do.”

In 2024, Marvin extended his support to Nebraska’s historical parks by donating \$30,000 through the Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation (NSHSF). This funding facilitated improvements across eight Nebraska Game and Parks State Historical Parks, enhancing educational and recreational experiences for visitors.

Guided by the adage “it’s better to give than to receive and I wanted to do my small part to help,” Marvin believes that giving not only aids the less fortunate but also enriches the giver’s life. He encourages others to contribute, emphasizing that every donation strengthens the collective mission to preserve and protect Nebraska’s history and agricultural legacy.

How does being philanthropic make him feel? “Better,” he said with a smile.

“When someone presents the merits of a project, like supporting our friends at Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation and Nebraska Game and Parks, and it’s going to do this much good, there’s no downside, and if the project is going to be here for a long time and if it has a purpose, something to further humanity and people will appreciate, it’s pretty easy to make a decision to give. You know, some of these projects may change people’s lives.

“If it furthers the progress of the community and the state, it’s a good thing. If we can add something the next generation can utilize and become better people through education and learn something—well, that is as good as it gets.”



Pearl C. and Marvin Henry Stumpf



Jeannie (Marvin's sister) and Marvin standing in front of their family's stucco sod house.

Marvin's Donations Benefiting Nebraska's Game and Parks Historical Sites

Marvin's generous donation has played a pivotal role in enhancing Nebraska's Game and Parks State Historical Park Sites, fostering significant improvements to exhibits, visitor engagement, and preservation efforts. Below is a summary of the key projects made possible through the donation, which will enhance the cultural and historical experience for visitors:

- **Ash Hollow State Historical Park – \$5,600** will be used for an exhibit which will utilize artifacts from the Pete Peters Collection. This new exhibit will highlight the value of Nebraska's influence on regional and national history, lifestyle and cultural identity.
- **Bowring Ranch State Historical Park – \$4,000.** This exhibit will showcase key artifacts and memorabilia that underscore Mr. Bowring's civic contributions and accomplishments.
- **Buffalo Bill Ranch State Historical Park – \$4,400** will contribute to a new exhibit about Sitting Bull's legacy and how his life represents the Plains Indian culture and history.
- **Fort Atkinson State Historical Park – \$2,500** will allow for the development of a protected space for visitors, especially children, as they participate

in activities such as an archaeology dig, bird identification, Junior Historian challenges, and a fort building station.

- **Fort Hartsuff State Historical Park – \$4,500** will provide for an exhibit which will serve the dual purposes of exhibiting artifacts focusing on Frontier military medicine of the late 19th century for educational purposes while at the same time protecting them from loss or damage in an unsupervised, environmentally unconditioned setting.
- **Fort Kearny State Historical Park – \$3,000** will provide for the development of a three-sided display in the visitor center called *Food and Ancestry of the Pawnee* which will complement three existing displays on Native American culture and history.
- **Indian Cave State Park – \$1,500** will produce two wayside exhibits to interpret the story, people, and history of the town of St. Deroin. These will be mounted at the site of the town along the Missouri River where buildings such as a schoolhouse and general store have been reconstructed.
- **Rock Creek Station State Historical Park – \$4,500** will fund the exhibit *Remnants of the Past: Tools of Native Americans*.



Henry J. and Darlene Stumpf (Parents)



Pete Peters and Marvin hold the Alkali Station flagpole, part of the Pete Peters collection.

The NSHSF would like to take a moment to express our heartfelt appreciation for Marvin's unwavering support over the years. His commitment to the NSHSF and his generous contributions have made a lasting impact, and we are deeply grateful for everything he has done.

Marvin's membership in the 150 Fund is a testament to his dedication and passion for advancing our mission. His involvement goes far beyond just financial support—it's his continued engagement and belief in our cause that inspires us all.

As a valued member of our community, Marvin's contributions have played a pivotal role in enabling us to achieve our goals. We are proud to count him as a partner in our journey, and we look forward to the continued positive influence he will have in the years to come.

Thank you, Marvin, for your remarkable generosity, dedication, and leadership.

Give online today!

Your gift helps support our mission to foster learning, education, and community engagement across Nebraska. Experience the joy of giving! Scan the QR Code to donate now!



A Tribute Born of Generosity: Molly and Jack Complete the ‘We Stayed’ Installation

Molly and Jack, two bronze plow horses, now stand alongside a homesteading family at the Great Platte River Road Archway Monument in Kearney, completing the seven-piece *We Stayed* installation—a powerful tribute to the resilience of Nebraska’s early settlers. Commissioned by philanthropist Rhonda Seacrest through the Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation (NSHSF) and crafted by Nebraska artist and NSHSF Trustee Dr. David L. Biehl, DVM, this collection immortalizes the families who chose to build lives on the plains during the 1880s.

Inspired by the lack of recognition for those who stayed to shape Nebraska’s

future, Seacrest envisioned a monument that honors their sacrifice. “These sculptures honor the people who stayed and made us who we are today,” she said. The sculptures, now displayed in an outdoor setting at The Great Platte River Road Archway in Kearney, tell the story of Anton, Anna, Joseph, Elizabeth and Ester and their challenges of making a new life on the Plains.

The *We Stayed* project, now a cornerstone of Nebraska’s historical narrative, draws visitors to The Archway to reflect on the grit and determination of early homesteaders. The NSHSF extends its deepest appreciation to Rhonda Seacrest and



Molly and Jack, the final piece of the ‘We Stayed’ sculpture, honor the pioneers who built Nebraska’s legacy.

the late Jim Seacrest for their unwavering commitment to preserving Nebraska’s history.

Honoring a Legacy, Building a Future: The Dr. Susan La Flesche Picotte Center

The Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation (NSHSF) is deeply grateful for the generosity of our donors, whose contributions have helped support the restoration of the Dr. Susan La Flesche Picotte Memorial Hospital. This historic site, built by Dr. Picotte—the first Native American woman to earn a medical degree—is being transformed into a vibrant community hub. The project combines Dr. Picotte’s legacy with modern services, including a medical clinic, youth programs, and cultural preservation initiatives, creating a valuable resource for everyone, especially Native American families.

The restoration of the Picotte Center reflects NSHSF’s mission to

secure funding for projects that protect Nebraska’s heritage and ensure its accessibility for future generations. We extend our sincere appreciation to the organizations providing grants and to our donors. The revitalized building now serves as a holistic community resource, offering spaces for healthcare, education, and cultural activities—embodying the spirit of collective stewardship that defines both Dr. Picotte’s work and NSHSF’s vision.

The NSHSF is proud to have played a part in raising funds for this project, which honors Dr. Picotte’s groundbreaking contributions and continues her mission of healing and community service. We look forward to

seeing the positive impact it will have on the Walthill community and beyond.

Thanks to donor support, the NSHSF helped fund the digitization of Susette LaFlesche Tibbles’ historic autograph album—a collection of signatures gathered during her groundbreaking tours with Chief Standing Bear after his landmark 1879 civil rights trial. Generously shared by Carolyn Johnson, Dr. Susan LaFlesche Picotte’s descendant, the album will become an interactive touchscreen display at the restored Picotte Center.



Original Memorial Hospital in 1913



Full restoration of this historic site is scheduled for completion in June 2025.

Your Generosity in Action: The Pershing Mural Project

Thanks to you, our generous donors, the monumental Pershing Mural—a 140-foot by 38-foot mosaic composed of 763,000 ceramic tiles originally adorning Lincoln’s Pershing Auditorium—is being preserved as a testament to Nebraska’s cultural heritage. When the auditorium faced demolition, the NSHSF stepped in as a fiscal sponsor to ensure this iconic piece of art would not be lost. Through tireless efforts, the mural was carefully dismantled, cleaned, and prepared for its next chapter.

Today, this historic mural is poised to find its permanent home within Lincoln’s Wyuka Cemetery and Park, a site listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The project reached a major milestone in August 2024, when Nebraska’s First Lady Suzanne Pillen led a groundbreaking ceremony at Wyuka Park, marking the mural’s journey toward permanent installation. The mural will soon grace a specially constructed retaining wall.



As we approach the installation, the final phase of this \$4.1 million project is within reach. The Foundation has processed approximately 1,000 donations, from grants and local organizations to the many individual donors. Your generosity reflects a shared belief in preserving Nebraska history. When completed, the mural will stand not merely as art, but as a testament to the power of the community.

Rendering of Pershing Mural resurrected at the historic Wyuka Park in Lincoln. Inset: Restoration process of the Pershing Mural.

Liz Shea-McCoy, Chair of the Preservation Committee, reflects on the spirit behind this effort: “Together we do big, difficult things in this State for the benefit of friends and family we have yet to meet. That’s who we are. That’s what the Mural says.”

Fiscal Sponsor of the I-80 Sculpture Garden

The Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation is playing a vital role as the fiscal sponsor for the initiative to develop a National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) Nomination for the Nebraska Interstate 80 Bicentennial Sculptures. This effort is significant as it seeks to preserve and protect an important part of Nebraska’s cultural heritage.

The I-80 Sculpture Project, conceived by Norman Geske, Tom Yates, and the Nebraska American Bicentennial Commission in 1973, was dedicated in 1976. This project marked a unique way to celebrate the nation’s Bicentennial by offering Nebraskans and visitors the chance to experience monumental outdoor sculptures along the state’s Interstate 80 highway. The project, often called “Nebraska’s 500 Mile Sculpture Garden,” spans rest areas along I-80

and features sculptures created by eight prominent American artists.

The importance of these sculptures extends beyond their artistic value; they serve as community landmarks, engaging local citizens and visitors alike in cultural and educational activities. These sculptures also represent a unique partnership between local communities, artists, and various organizations, including the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and the Sheldon Art Museum.

However, due to the loss of one sculpture at Sidney and planned changes to the Ogallala rest stop, there is an urgent need to ensure that these cultural treasures are properly protected. The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) and the Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office (NeSHPO) have already recognized the sculptures’ eligibility for listing in the National

Register of Historic Places due to their statewide artistic significance.

As the campaign for this important nomination gathers momentum this spring, the Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation is calling on all those interested in preserving Nebraska’s cultural legacy to join in supporting this initiative.



Memorial to the American Bandshell at the Platte River eastbound near Seward. Sculptor, Richard Field

Made Possible by the NSHSF's Statewide Grants: A Legacy Saved – Japanese Immigrants of the North Platte Valley

The Lied Scottsbluff Public Library hosted an enriching program featuring Vickie Sakurada Schaepler and Diane Sakurada Mercer. Both are dedicated leaders of the Japanese Hall and History Project at the Legacy of the Plains Museum, where they work to preserve the history of Japanese immigrants on the High Plains and in Nebraska.

Vickie and Diane presented their program, "A Legacy Saved: Japanese Immigrants of the North Platte Valley and the Impact of WWII." Their compelling presentation shed light on the lives of Japanese immigrants in the North Platte Valley, Nebraska's role during World War II in aiding individuals out of internment camps, and the

remarkable contributions of Japanese Americans who served with distinction in the United States Armed Forces.

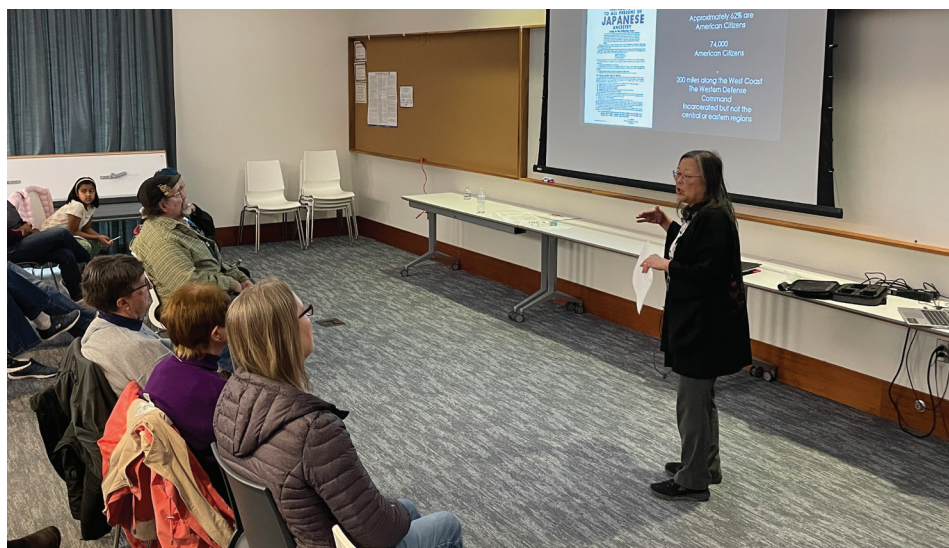
The event drew an audience of 45 attendees, all of whom shared positive feedback about the program's depth and impact. This success underscores the vital role of community programming in fostering understanding and appreciation for Nebraska's rich and diverse history.

"Lied Scottsbluff Public Library is incredibly grateful for the Statewide Grants Program, which has allowed the library to host a speaker series on Nebraska History and Humanities. The high attendance at our events shows that there is a real need for informative and entertaining programs, and thanks

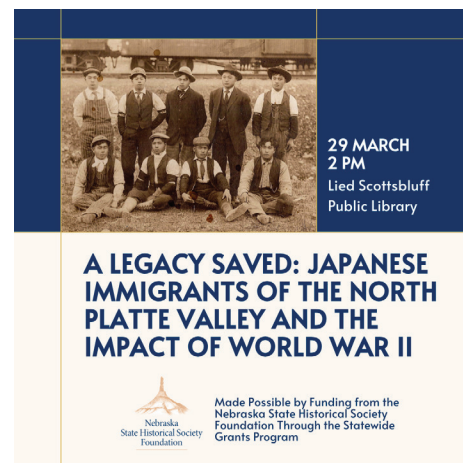
to the Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation, we are able to provide those types of programs to our community," said Ethan Nelson, Library Assistant.

This program was made possible through your generous contributions to the Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation (NSHSF). Your support enables libraries like Lied Scottsbluff Public Library to offer meaningful educational experiences that connect communities with their heritage. Since 2020, we have proudly awarded over \$173,000 to more than 150 museums, historical societies, and libraries throughout Nebraska.

Thank you for being an essential part of this journey!



Diane Sakurada Mercer, Japanese Hall & History Project Chairperson



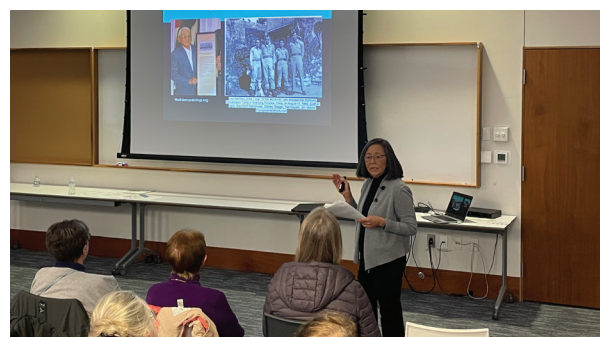
The NSHSF's Statewide Grant Program funds local historical and educational initiatives, such as the guest speaker series at the Lied Scottsbluff Public Library, technology updates, and artifact preservation projects.

Dear NSHSF,

Thank you for your continued dedication to the Statewide Grants Program. I am so excited when I see all the different places and people from all over the state. Someday I will find the right project, but for now I hope this donation helps to keep this program strong!

Best Wishes,

Vickie Sakurada Schaepler



A Trail of Gratitude: Celebrating Your Impact on Walk To The Rock at Chimney Rock

The Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation (NSHSF) extends heartfelt gratitude to our donors, whose visionary support brought the Walk to the Rock (WTTR) project to life. Since opening in July 2023, 15,000+ visitors from 36 countries and all 50 states have traversed its trails in the shadow of Chimney Rock—a landmark etched into pioneer history. Towering 480 feet above the North Platte River Valley, Chimney Rock served as a critical navigational beacon for pioneers on the Oregon, California, and Mormon Trails.

WTTR reflects our enduring mission to preserve Nebraska's heritage. With critical funding from the D F Dillon Foundation, Nebraska Environmental Trust, and private donors, we acquired 360 acres and built hiking trails that balance public access with ecological stewardship. Yet preservation demands ongoing care: geological maintenance, wildlife habitat conservation, and trail upgrades ensure this iconic landmark endures for generations. WTTR exemplifies mission-driven



Over 15,000 travelers visit Walk to the Rock at Chimney Rock annually.

programming at its finest, blending education, preservation, and community vitality. Future plans include installing an audio tour to bring pioneer and Native American stories to life, adding park benches for reflection, and upgrading security systems to ensure visitor safety. Integrated vegetation management will protect native ecosystems and prairie wildlife habitats, while immersive events like Plein Air Painters workshops and expanded Wild West Wednesdays with guest historians will deepen connections to Nebraska's pioneer spirit.

These initiatives promise cultural enrichment and stimulate local economies through tourism, mirroring heritage tourism's \$196 million annual economic impact statewide—a testament to how your generosity fuels both preservation and prosperity.

But our journey continues. Please join us in writing the next chapter. Your gift sustains trails, educates minds, and fuels dreams. Let's ensure WTTR remains not just a destination, but a promise—to Nebraska's past, present, and future.

A Special Thanks

We are grateful to all the donors listed below who contributed to the renovation of the Ethel S. And Christopher J. Abbott Visitor Center, to our purchase of the 360 acres at the foot of Chimney Rock from Patty and Gordon Howard and to the construction of the Walk to the Rock Trails at Chimney Rock.

D F Dillon Foundation
Ethel S. Abbott Charitable Foundation
Acklie Charitable Foundation
The Nebraska Environmental Trust
Robert B. Daugherty Foundation
The Hirschfeld Family Foundation
Sunderland Foundation
Scotts Bluff County Visitors Bureau
Oregon Trail Community Foundation
Quivey Bay State Foundation
Mammel Family Foundation
Platte Valley Companies
Bernard K. & Norma F. Heuermann Foundation
Krieger Family Foundation
Esther and Raleigh Pilster Foundation
Nebraska 150 Foundation
Dean and Maria Jacobsen

Priscilla C. Grew
Marvin Hefti/First State Bank
Arthur and Christine Zygjelbaum
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Edward and Sue Tricker
Lizabeth A. Bavitz
Birgit Young
Daniel Hall
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Paul Reed Construction
Jacquelyn Wedemeyer

NSHSF Scholarship Program: Your Support Empowers Nebraska's Students While Honoring the State's Heroes



Ava Hoffschneider

The Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation is grateful to our donors who have made it possible to offer scholarships to Nebraska students. These scholarships honor and memorialize the brave men and women of Nebraska who have served their country.

Give online today!

Give online today and empower future leaders through our programs! Scan the QR Code to donate now!



April 9, 2025

To those who make the Nebraskans of World War II Scholarship possible,

Hello! My name is Ava Hoffschneider, and I am a sophomore at Wayne State College, studying Secondary English and Speech Education. While I was born and raised in Lincoln, I have special ties to the part of Nebraska that my mother is from. My mother grew up on a farm just outside of Ulysses, Nebraska, and our family has other connections to Dwight, Nebraska. I have been lucky enough to spend a great deal of time in these special towns as I have grown up, and they have become my most favorite places. As a result of my family connections to the area, I have been fortunate to be involved with the Dwight American Legion Post 110 Auxiliary. When it came time to interview a veteran for the Nebraskans of World War II Scholarship, I did not have to go far. I was able to interview a member of the Legion Post and a dear friend of my family for the scholarship. The impact this interview has had on me is difficult to describe with words.

The affect that the Nebraskans of World War II Scholarship has had on my life and my college experience has been nothing short of extraordinary. I have a twin brother who is also in college at this time. Because of this generous award, my twin brother and I are able to attend college at the same time. I must thank the Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation for the educational opportunities that my brother and I have been able to receive in college. Because of your incredible generosity, I have been able to receive a college experience that has given me more knowledge and opportunities than I would have ever imagined. Your belief in students like me and your dedication to our shared history has changed my life and allowed me to attend a college that I have loved beyond belief.

In the future, I hope to teach high school English in small town Nebraska. Attending college in Wayne has given me a new connection to the towns that dot the Nebraskan countryside. I feel a special dedication to these places, and I am excited to serve these communities for the rest of my life. This dream would not have been possible without you and the Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation. Your kindness and generosity will not be easily forgotten. From the bottom of my heart, thank you!

Sincerely,

Ava Hoffschneider

Thank you to our Scholarship Committee volunteers!

Your commitment to evaluating applications and selecting deserving students is vital to our mission of preserving and promoting Nebraska's rich historical heritage.

Rae Brown Heineman, Pender, NE
Therese Campbell, Gretna, NE
Christie Campbell-Grossman, Roca, NE
Syd Kruse, Walthill, NE
Jan Lipovsky, Lincoln, NE

Robbie Lonewolf, Walthill, NE
Barb Meisner, Keystone, NE
Breanna Smith, Omaha, NE
Nancy Waltman, Lincoln, NE

WanderNebraska Programs: Combining History and Adventure, Made Possible by Our Donors



The Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation's WanderNebraska program has become a catalyst for statewide heritage tourism, now connecting visitors to over 210 museums, libraries, and cultural landmarks across Nebraska's seven regions—from the Missouri River to the Panhandle. This initiative drives economic vitality by channeling visitor spending on admissions, lodging, dining, and local goods into communities statewide, amplifying Nebraska's \$4.6 billion annual travel economy while spotlighting some of the most historic spots in Nebraska.

Dear Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation,

I would like to thank you all for creating these WanderNebraska bus tours. My husband and I have been on two trips, one 4-day exploration to visit wineries, breweries, and museums around the state in July. The other in March was a 2-day trip to visit Nebraska historical sites in the Grand Island and Kearney area as well as Red Cloud, which because of a blizzard, didn't happen. Instead, we extended our motel stay in Kearney by playing cards in the lobby and eating.

The important value to me of these organized trips is taking a deep dive in what before I have 'driven past' my whole life, not understanding the significance to our state. Dr. Crook's expertise is Nebraska history. She shares her knowledge as we go and organizes local guides at every stop. All the meals, entry fees, motels, and drink expenses are included in the initial payment.

Another amazing value is the camaraderie of the travelers. Friendly, curious people naturally gravitate to these kinds of experiences. The trip atmosphere is easy-going...we all go from place-to-place waiting for the next interesting stop, enjoying everything we see and learn.

The Foundation supporters are so generous in giving grants to museums around the state and flexible in working with Dr. Crook to organize these experiences for us. Thank you all who organized and supported these experiences.

John and Marie Trayer
Lincoln, NE



Pictured left to right: Peter Osborne, Executive Director, Marlene Geiger, President, Dr. Sara Crook, NSHSF, Teresa Breazile, NSHSF, Ally Goad, 2024 Robert Henri Museum Intern (Hastings College), and Chuck Birgen, Vice President/Treasurer.



Lexington, NE



Robert Henri
Museum and Art Gallery

The Robert Henri
Museum and
Art Gallery

Museum Address:
218 East 8th Street
Cozad, Nebraska 69130

Gallery Address:
207 East 9th Street
Cozad, Nebraska 69130

Mailing Address:
PO Box 355
Cozad, Nebraska 69130

Phone:
308-784-4154

Email:
rhenri@cozadtel.net

Web Page:
roberthenrimuseum.org

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Leslie Fattig
Executive Director
Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation
Century House
1201 Lincoln Mall, Suite 100
Lincoln, NE 68508

Dear Leslie,

On behalf of our Board of Directors, membership and supporters we are grateful to the Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation's support of our museum and art gallery. We have received several grants that have funded our efforts to support our mission and have also been listed on the Wander Nebraska program.

One of your grants to our organization allowed us to sponsor the first ever national symposium on Robert Henri to be held in Nebraska. Henri was considered to be one of America's greatest artists and teachers. More than one hundred participants came from all over the country to participate in the program. Also, two of your grants helped us to purchase shelving, an important step in assisting us in creating our archive of resources related to Henri and his family and preserving this valuable collection.

We have also participated in the Wander Nebraska program which we think is a wonderful effort to promote the state's historic sites, museums and libraries. We have been a participant in the Nebraska Passport program and had thousands of visitors because of it. However, that program is limited as you know to seventy sites each year. Wander Nebraska does not have such limitations and so is a very valuable resource for getting visitors not only to our site but many all across the state. Its that we are very grateful.

Finally, we have had several opportunities to interact with your staff and have always enjoyed getting together and talking shop as we say. We have been appreciative of their assistance in getting us through the granting process and sharing our successes with them.

Best wishes,

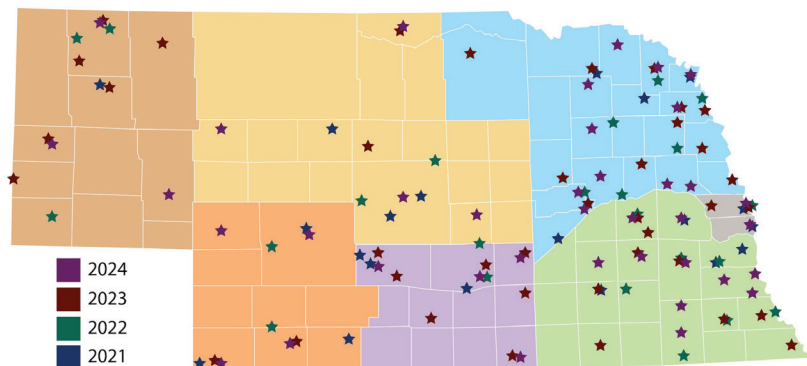
Peter Osborne

Peter Osborne
Executive Director

IMPACT POINTS

From Spring 2021 through Fall 2024, the NSHSF Statewide Grants program has made a significant impact across Nebraska.

Statewide Grant Locations



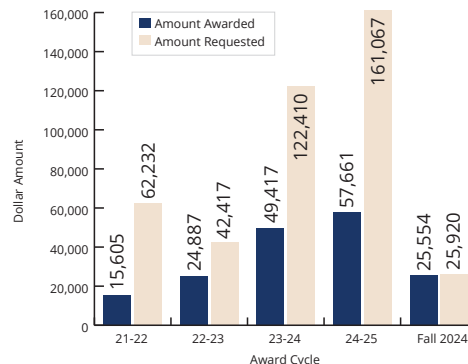
SGP Testimonial:

Please accept our immense thanks for being selected as a grant recipient. We look forward to accomplishing tasks over this next year.

– Deb McWilliams, Otoe County Museum of Memories

Number of SGP Dollars Awarded Compared to Dollars Requested

The data indicates that the requested amount is significantly higher than the awarded amount in each cycle, demonstrating the high demand and need for funding among the local historical and educational organizations within the state of Nebraska.



WanderNebraskaSM

Increased Registered Sites

2024
3rd Year of Program



197 SITES

2025
4th Year of Program



214 SITES

Testimonials:

“The museums we visited were wonderful! They had great displays with lots of terrific Nebraska history—so much to learn!”

“My grandson and I had a ball visiting these sites this past summer over 8 weeks. We had so much fun. We plan to visit more sites next year!”

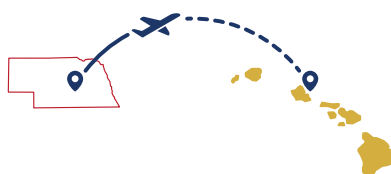
States Represented

The program is able to attract participants not only from within Nebraska but also from various other states, highlighting its broader appeal and reach.

Nebraska
Kansas
West Virginia
Georgia
Iowa
Hawaii

Furthest Prize Delivery Destination:

Honolulu, Hawaii (25 stops)



2024's Top Travelers: Number of Stops Recorded

174 Stops
84 Stops
79 Stops

Top Three WanderNebraska Stops by Region

Heartland Hub

1. Mormon Trail Center at Historic Winter Quarters
2. The Durham Museum
3. Fontenelle Forest

Lewis and Clark Trailhead

1. John G. Neihardt State Historical Park
2. Ashfall Fossil Beds State Park
3. Fort Atkinson State Historical Park

Gateway to the Good Life

1. Arbor Lodge State Park
2. Wildwood Historic Center
3. Missouri River Basin Lewis & Clark Trail

Pioneer Prairie

1. Stuhr Museum
2. The Archway
3. Gothenburg Historical Museum & Pony Express

Prairie Playground

1. Central City Public Library
2. Custer County Museum
3. Broken Bow Public Library

Great Plains Gateway

1. Cody Park Railroad Museum
2. Buffalo Bill Ranch State Historical Park
3. Lincoln County Museum

Wild West Frontier

1. Ethel S. and Christopher J. Abbott Visitor Center at Chimney Rock
2. Ash Hollow State Historical Park
3. Legacy of the Plains

IMPACT POINTS



International Visitors

Countries	2023	2024
Australia	6	13
Austria	6	7
Belgium	5	9
Brazil		2
Bulgaria	2	
Canada	27	27
China	12	
Czech Republic	2	6
Denmark	4	6
England	10	27
Estonia		1
Finland	2	2
France	31	13
Germany	33	62
Honduras	2	
India		4
Ireland		1
Italy	20	33
Japan	11	6
Latvia		2
Mexico	4	1
Netherlands	2	12
New Zealand		1
Norway	1	
Peru	2	
Russia		1
Scotland	2	5
Sicily		2
Slovakia		1
South Africa	6	3
South Korea	1	1
Spain	2	2
Switzerland	1	18
Thailand	2	
Vietnam	1	

Pershing Mural Project Fundraising

With the support of 998 unique donors, the Pershing Mural Preservation Effort has raised \$2,620,565 toward restoring and relocating the mural. An additional \$100,000 has been secured for long-term maintenance.

Total Unique Donors: 998

Total Donations Raised for Restoration and Relocation: \$2,620,565

Additional Funds Raised for Long-Term Maintenance: \$100,000

Our Partnership with the Nebraska State Historical Society

For over 80 years, the Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation (NSHSF) has been a committed partner to the Nebraska State Historical Society (NSHS). The Foundation manages 28 endowment funds, supporting the Society's mission. Currently, the Society is undertaking a transformative project to revitalize the Nebraska history timeline at the NHM. With \$250,000 raised and \$80,000 committed by NSHSF, this initiative promises five immersive galleries, and a modern Education Center, highlighting pivotal eras in Nebraska's history.



Additionally, the NSHSF sponsors the Lunch Box Lectures series, fostering community engagement through historical dialogues. This partnership ensures Nebraska's past remains accessible and relevant for everyone.

NSHSF Free Admission Days Foster Learning, Education, and Engagement

NSHSF proudly sponsors a wide range of educational and community programs at the Nebraska History Museum (NHM) and other NSHS sites, making Nebraska's history accessible to all. In the past year, Free Admission Days welcomed 710 visitors, providing open access to the museum's exhibits and resources. The Foundation also supported a variety of engaging events and presentations, including the Summer Author Series (109 participants), Homeschool Days (68 participants), and a robust lineup of Summer Workshops, which served a total of 1,892 attendees.





Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation

Connecting people with Nebraska history since 1942.

1201 Lincoln Mall, Suite 100
Lincoln, NE 68508
402-435-3535 | nshsf.org

The NSHS Foundation is a non-profit 501(c)(3).
Federal Tax I.D. #47-6000332

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WanderNebraska Adventure Tour stop at Fort McPherson Cemetery near Maxwell, NE.



Leslie, Michelle, and Teresa 'breaking out' of the office to meet history buffs across Nebraska—no 'bars' can hold our enthusiasm! (Front Street Cowboy Museum, Ogallala, NE)

Give online today!

Support our mission-driven programs! Preserve history and make a lasting impact. Scan the QR Code to donate now!



The Benne Memorial Museum receives their Statewide Grant Award of \$1,000.



Leslie Fattig, executive director presents a \$71,085 check to the Dr. Susan La Flesche Picotte Center.



At the 2024 NSHSF annual meeting, NSHSF President Roger Lempke and Executive Director Leslie Fattig present a \$5,000 check to Hall County Historical Society's Vice President Michelle Setlik. This funding helped to complete the David Kaufmann documentary.



The historical marker for Alkali Station, commemorating its significance in Nebraska's history.

The Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation is committed to individual and organizational efforts to build respect, dignity, fairness, equality, and self-esteem. We respect and value diverse life experiences, and are devoted to creating an inclusive and equitable environment for all.