

# Historical Connections

NEWS FROM THE NEBRASKA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY FOUNDATION



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## Collaboration in Action: Foundation and Society Hold First Quarterly Meeting



Leslie Fattig, NSHSF Executive Director, shares the newly donated watercolor prints with Society department heads during the first quarterly meeting at the Foundation office.

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The Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation and the Nebraska State Historical Society recently held their first quarterly collaborative meeting at the Foundation's office. The gathering provided an opportunity for both teams to share updates on upcoming projects and coordinate efforts for the months ahead.

A highlight of the discussion included preparations for the next Cottonwood Society event on May 18 at the Nebraska History Museum, where Rob Bozell will present on Archaeology in Nebraska. Cottonwood members will also enjoy a private luncheon and book signing with Rob. Members are encouraged to mark their calendars and watch for more details coming soon.

During the meeting, Leslie Fattig, Executive Director of the Foundation, unveiled a stunning collection of watercolor prints depicting historic Nebraska buildings, generously donated by Gary Bowen, a retired architect from Omaha. Two of the prints will be featured in the silent auction at

the Great Road Trip Fundraiser on August 21 at the Woolworth Building in Omaha's Old Market, while the remaining ten will be included in the Cottonwood Society's Blue Agate Level and above membership package.



## A Night of Poetry at the Neihardt Center



On Sunday, March 8, NSHSF's Sandra Reddish attended the Nebraska Poetry Project event at the historic John G. Neihardt Center, a gathering that beautifully brought together the past and present of Nebraska's literary tradition.

The evening featured State Poet Jewel Rodgers and past State Poet Matt Mason as guest speakers. Though poet Zedeka Poindexter was unable to join due to travel delays, the program carried on thanks to invited poets who answered the open call to share their work. Four talented voices stepped forward: Heidi Hermanson, Daniel Bridges, Sandra Renner, and Mary Peterson.

This event was made possible in part through NSHSF's [ROAM Nebraska Grant](#) program.



## NSHSF Supports Gage County Historical Society and Museum's Community Archive Project

Thanks to the generosity of donors like you, the Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation awarded the Gage County Historical Society and Museum a \$1,575 grant during the Spring 2025

grant cycle.

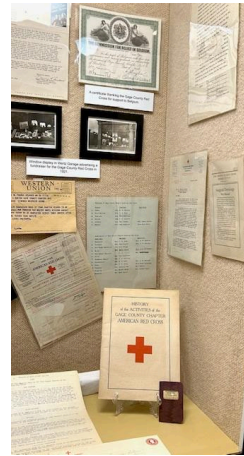
On March 11, Cassandra Dean of the [Gage County Historical Society Museum](#) welcomed Leslie Fattig, Executive Director of the Foundation, and Teresa Breazile, Development and Community Engagement Coordinator, to see the progress of the museum's Community Archives Project. The initiative began three years ago and is on track to be completed by the end of March.

Grant funding supported the purchase of high-quality archival storage boxes, an essential step in preserving fragile historical documents and artifacts. As the museum team organized and cataloged their collection, they also uncovered materials that have led to new exhibits, including one highlighting the history of the American Red Cross in Gage County.

When completed, the project will have established systems for digitizing collections for public access and create a dedicated space within the museum focused on preserving community artifacts. Projects like this demonstrate how donor support helps local museums across our state strengthen community engagement while preserving Nebraska's history for future generations.



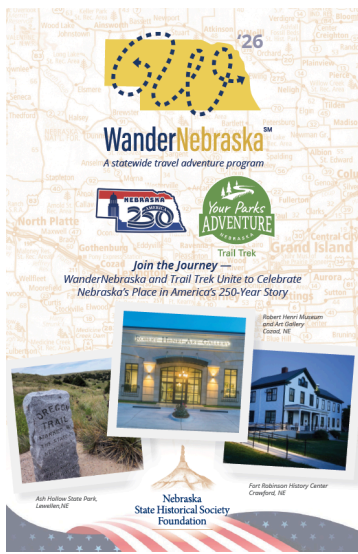
Leslie Fattig presents Cassandra Dean with a \$1,575 Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation grant supporting the Gage County Museum's Community Archives Project.



A new exhibit on the history of the American Red Cross in Gage County was uncovered while organizing the museum's collection during the Community Archives Project.



**Start Your 2026 WanderNebraska Adventure — Booklets Available for Preorder Online!**



Get ready to plan your next historical adventure! The 2026 WanderNebraska booklet order form is now online! This year's booklet features more than 250 fascinating museums, landmarks, and parks across the state.

To help keep this beloved program sustainable, we're asking for a \$5 donation per booklet (limit of 3 per request) to help offset postage and printing costs. Your support enables the Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation to continue offering this free statewide program that connects travelers with Nebraska's stories and heritage. Booklets will begin mailing in mid-April, just in time to start planning your spring and summer travels. Booklets are available while supplies last. Travelers can still pick up a free booklet at any registered WanderNebraska site starting May 1.

**There's even more to explore this year!** As part of America's 250th anniversary, we're partnering with Nebraska Game and Parks' Trail Trek Program to feature 50 "Trail Trek & WanderNebraska Special Sites." As you register your stops in WanderNebraska 2026, please note that these special sites use a separate registration and prize system. You'll find full details on page 2 of your booklet. Plus, several one-day tours are planned throughout the summer to bring history to life:

- May 23: Walk to the Rock, Chimney Rock National Historic Site
- June 6: Rock Creek Station State Historical Park
- June 13: Alkali Station
- July 11: Lewis and Clark Trail Center
- August 8: Buffalo Bill Ranch State Historical Park
- September 12: Engineer Cantonment

Mark your calendars and get ready for a summer filled with history, adventure, and hometown pride.

**Wait - and there's even more!** Starting April 1, travelers can download the **free** WanderNebraska mobile app from Google Play or the Apple App Store. The app makes it easy to find sites, track visits, and register for prizes, all from your phone. [Order your booklet online today](#) and get ready to make new memories exploring Nebraska's past throughout the 2026 season.

**PREORDER NOW**



**Learn More about Engineer Cantonment's History and Support The Engineer Cantonment Campaign**



In the early 2000s, archaeologists rediscovered and excavated the remains of Engineer Cantonment, unearthing artifacts that shed new light on early 19th-century exploration and the emerging field of American science. We take a deeper dive into Engineer Cantonment's history and legacy in our new blog post, "The Legacy of Engineer Cantonment." [Click here to read the post and learn more.](#)

Engineer Cantonment is a site of genuine national significance, and for the first time, it will soon be accessible to the public. Our fundraising campaign to make site improvements is ongoing. Thanks to the generosity of Nancy and Mike McCarthy, we are nearly halfway to our goal of raising \$18,000 to add a vehicle turnout, interpretive panels, and an official Nebraska State Historical Society historical marker at the site. Donors giving \$1,000 or more will be permanently recognized on those panels.

If you haven't had a chance to give, there's still time to be part of this project. Visit [nshsf.org/projects/engineer-cantonment](https://nshsf.org/projects/engineer-cantonment) to learn more and make your gift today.

[READ THE LATEST BLOG POST](#)

[SUPPORT THE CAMPAIGN](#)



## WanderNebraska: The Great Road Trip

We are excited to announce the date for our 2026 **WANDERNEBRASKA: THE GREAT ROADTRIP!** Mark your calendars for August 21st so you don't miss the fun.

### Thank you to our Sponsors!

John K. and Lynne D. Boyer Family Foundation  
Tallgrass  
Amerimax  
Gail DeBuse Potter  
Union Bank & Trust

For more information on sponsorship, [click here.](#)

**Get Your Tickets Now - Click Here for More Information**

A graphic with a dark blue background and a red and yellow border. The text "Tickets Available Now!" is written in a large, bold, yellow font with a red outline. Below this, there is a logo for "WANDERNEBRASKA THE GREAT ROAD TRIP" featuring a stylized bird and a road. To the right, the date "08/21" is written in a large, bold, yellow font with a red outline. Below the date, the text "The Woolworth Building 1120 Howard St. Omaha, NE" is written in a smaller, white font.



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