

# Historical Connections

NEWS FROM THE NEBRASKA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY FOUNDATION



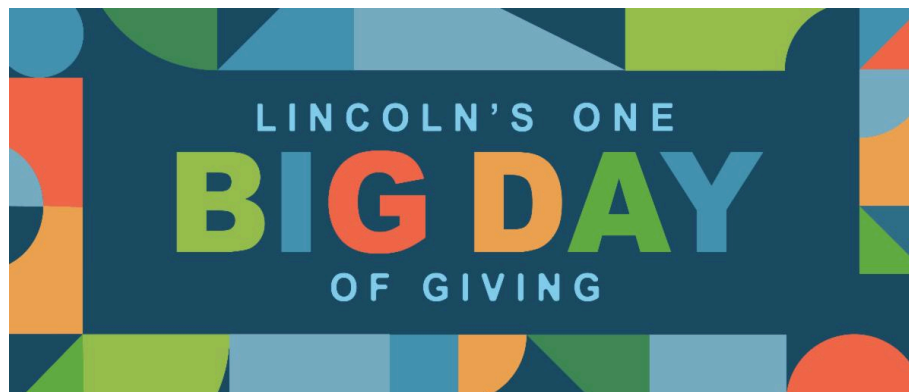
ABOUT

PROJECTS

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**Give to Lincoln is TODAY!**



It's the final day to support the Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation and our mission during this year's Give to Lincoln Day event.

Please join us in our work to expand history education and strengthen community organizations in Lincoln.

In 2025, donor support made it possible to reach more than 12,500 learners through field trips, classroom visits, and virtual programs. These gifts also fund free admission days, summer workshops, and speaker series for all ages at the Nebraska History Museum. Over the past four years, donor contributions have extended even further, providing nearly \$10,000 in support to Lincoln museums, libraries, and historical sites through RoamNebraska grants.

This year, we aim to raise \$7,000 in support of this ongoing work. Every gift you make today removes a barrier and keeps Nebraska's stories accessible to all. Thank you for your support!



## This Year's Scholarship Winners Honor Nebraska's Heroes

Every year, the Nebraskans of World War II Scholarship Fund and the Pearl Harbor Remembrance Award honor and memorialize brave Nebraska soldiers who paid the ultimate sacrifice to defend our country during World War II.

Nebraska high school students from these soldiers' hometowns are eligible to apply to receive one of these two awards. This year, the outstanding Nebraska students receiving these awards include:

### **Nebraskans of WWII Scholarship Winners**

Justin Cornelius: Plus X High School  
Ruby Russell, Broken Bow High School  
Danica Schoone, Minden High School  
Sophia Sparwasser, Marian High School

### **Pearl Harbor Remembrance Award Winners**

Maggie Peterson, Broken Bow High School  
Breckyn Wick, Ravenna High School

Visit our scholarship page to read more about the soldiers' stories, and to learn how you can support these scholarship funds to help more Nebraska students pursue higher education.

LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR SCHOLARSHIPS



## Support Alkali Station During Keith County Big Give



From June 1 - June 15, please join the Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation during Keith County Big Give and help protect Alkali Station, one of the most intact remaining stretches of the Overland Trail. Your gift supports the ongoing care of this remarkable piece of Nebraska's history.

Located near present-day Ogallala and established in 1860, Alkali Station was an important stop for people traveling west. It later served as a Pony Express station and a military post during the Civil War. Today, it still reflects those layers of history in a way few places can.

What makes this site so special is how much is still there. The land has never been plowed or developed. You can still see wagon ruts worn into the ground, along with the outlines of sod buildings, walls, and corrals. It's a place where history isn't just remembered—it's visible.

The Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving and sharing Nebraska's history. The Foundation cares for this site so it remains part of the landscape and part of our shared story. Your support helps make that possible. Thank you for being part of preserving Alkali Station.

**SUPPORT ALKALI STATION DURING KEITH COUNTY BIG GIVE**

**Mark Your Calendars:**

**JUNE 13 - TOUR OF ALKALI STATION - WanderNebraska/Trail Trek Tour:** The next WanderNebraska & Trail Trek tour will be held at Alkali Station, a site rich in Nebraska history. A special presentation and guided tour will be conducted by retired State Archaeologist Rob Bozell.

Participants are encouraged to wear boots and bring 4-wheel-drive vehicles or trucks if possible. The tour will include the military fort site, the wagon wheel ruts, and several other interesting locations on the property. The tour will begin at 9:00 a.m. on June 13. Look for the signs when you exit at Roscoe. Take **Exit 133** (approximately 5 miles east of Ogallala). Please RSVP Leslie Fattig at [LFattig@nshsf.org](mailto:LFattig@nshsf.org)



**New Benches Improve Visitor Experience at Chimney Rock**



The Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation (NSHSF) continues to enhance the visitor experience at Chimney Rock's Walk to the Rock (WTTR) trail system with the installation of new benches along the route.

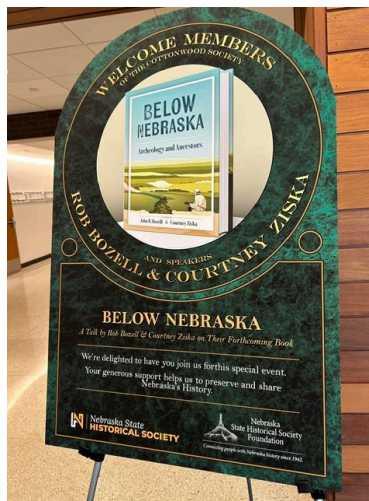
Funded by a generous grant from the Scotts Bluff County Visitor Bureau and installed by Paul Reed Construction of Gering, these benches offer visitors comfortable places to rest and take in the iconic landscape, making the trail more accessible and enjoyable.

This addition is part of a series of improvements completed over the past nine months, including the launch of the Walk to the Rock mobile app, new interpretive signage, a security gate, and expanded lighting and camera systems. Together, these updates reflect a strong commitment to preserving Chimney Rock while providing a safe and engaging experience.

NSHSF is grateful to the Scotts Bluff County Visitor Bureau and the Oregon Trail Foundation for their support in bringing these meaningful enhancements to one of Nebraska's most treasured historic sites.



## Digging Into Nebraska's Past with the Cottonwood Society



The Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation recently welcomed Cottonwood Society members, Foundation and Society members to an exclusive preview of an exciting new work in Nebraska history. Archaeologists Rob Bozell and Courtney Ziska joined members for a first look at their upcoming book, "Below Nebraska," a sweeping account of the many peoples who have called this land home and the archaeological methods that bring their stories to light.

We are grateful to every Cottonwood Society member who joined us for this special occasion. Your support and presence make events like this possible, and your commitment to preserving Nebraska's history is what allows us to connect members with the people and work at the heart of that mission.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT THE COTTONWOOD SOCIETY](#)



# Don't Miss the WanderNebraska Adventures Golf & History Tour!

Registration deadline is JUNE 4, 2026



Our four-day Golf and History adventure, held July 7-10, will take travelers from north to south in central Nebraska, experiencing amazing golf, history, food and drinks along the way!

## What You'll Experience:

- Local restaurants, breweries, and wineries daily
- Historical societies, museums, and galleries throughout
- Golf options on three of four days
- Non-golf museum and gallery alternatives each day
- Iconic Nebraska landmarks included
- Four days across central and north-central Nebraska, returning to Lincoln

[LEARN MORE AND REGISTER](#)



## Mark Your Calendars for These Exciting Upcoming Events!

**JUNE 5&6 - CATTLEMENS BALL** - The Foundation will be at the History Tent at the Cattlemen's Ball in Cozad.

**JUNE 6 - ROCK CREEK GUIDED HIKE - WanderNebraska/Trail Trek Tour:** Follow the route of pioneers as they made their way west. The trail is approximately one mile long on firm terrain. The hike will start at 1 p.m. Central Time at Rock Creek Station State Historical Park. This activity is free, but a valid state park vehicle permit is required for park entry.

**JUNE 13 - TOUR OF ALKALI STATION - WanderNebraska/Trail Trek Tour:** The next WN/TT tour will be held at Alkali Station, a site rich in Nebraska history. A special presentation and guided tour will be conducted by retired State Archaeologist Rob Bozell. Participants are encouraged to wear boots and bring 4-wheel-drive vehicles or trucks if possible. The tour will include the military fort site, the wagon wheel ruts, and several

other interesting locations on the property. The tour will begin at 9:00 a.m. on June 13. Look for the signs when you exit at Paxton.

**JULY 7-10 - GOLF AND HISTORY TOUR - WanderNebraska Adventure Tour:** Our four-day adventure will take you from north to south in central Nebraska, experiencing amazing golf, history, food and drinks along the way! [Click here to learn more.](#)

**JULY 11 - LEWIS AND CLARK VISITOR CENTER - WanderNebraska/Trail Trek Tour:** Join the museum's Executive Director, Doug Friedli, at 9:00 a.m. for a one mile guided hike along the Tree Trail and walk in the footsteps of Lewis and Clark. The trail has a chipped wood surface and is stroller friendly. Living history reenactors will be on site at 10 a.m. and Joe Starita, author of *I Am a Man*, will give a special presentation at 11 a.m.

**AUGUST 8 - BUFFALO BILL RANCH - WanderNebraska/Trail Trek Tour:** Join Nebraska historian and author Jeff Barnes for an insightful tour of Buffalo Bill Cody's home property. A Buffalo Bill impersonator will be on hand and Barnes will sign purchased copies of his book. The tour begins at 10:00 a.m. and will be approximately half a mile on level ground. This event is free and open to the public, but a valid state park vehicle permit is required for park entry.

**SEPTEMBER 12 - ENGINEER CANTONMENT - WanderNebraska/Trail Trek Tour:** Nebraska State Archaeologist, Rob Bozell, will share the history of the Engineer Cantonment site as well as archaeological insights. Participants will walk to the site from the county road. This program begins at 9:00 a.m. and will last approximately one hour. Length of walk is approximately one-quarter mile. Engineer Cantonment is located .2 miles south of the intersection of County Road P51 and Bluebird Lane, Omaha. There is limited parking at the site and all others will need to safely park along side the road. Watch for yard signs with more information.



## Get Your Tickets for 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  
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For more information on sponsorship, [click here.](#)

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Here for More Information**

**Tickets Available Now!**

**WANDERNEBRASKA**  
THE GREAT  
**ROAD TRIP**

**08/21**  
The Woolworth Building  
1120 Howard St.  
Omaha, NE



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