

NEBRASKA STATE

HISTORICAL SOCIETY



2005-2006 ANNUAL REPORT

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Floyd Vrtiska, Table Rock

Bev Wilhelm, Unadilla



MOST OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS OF CHILDREN

illustrating the Nebraska State Historical Society's annual report for 2005–2006 are from the Emanuel Wolfe Collection in the NSHS archives. Wolfe was born in New York City in 1858 and settled in Neligh, Nebraska, in 1884. From about 1900 through the 1920s he documented life in that north-central Nebraska town accumulating more than two thousand glass plate negatives now in NSHS collections. His photographs of street scenes, farming, fairs, and the people of a new town in a new state in a young country are rich and compelling, but perhaps none are more sensitive than his portraits of children. Wolfe died in 1933. The top photograph on page 3 is by Fredrick Blaine Humphery. John Anderson photographed the girl on page 8. Both are from the NSHS collections.

We chose these images to make a point: Children, who represent the future for every period and time, soon become the past for succeeding periods and times. In that steady progression of time, as the future becomes the present and then the past, institutions like the Nebraska State Historical Society are the constants—the repositories and interpreters, period to period, time to time, and parent to child. We hope you will look deep into these moments preserved from the past and that in them you will also see yourself, your children, and the future. 📷

nebraskahistory.org

CHANGING THE FUTURE



OF THE PAST

2005-2006 ANNUAL REPORT

GREETINGS, MEMBERS AND FRIENDS:

The Nebraska State Historical Society is charged with collecting and preserving the history of the Cornhusker State and its people as well as using that record of the past to nurture a historically literate public. This mission is central to all that we do here at the Nebraska State Historical Society. Our board of trustees, our staff, our volunteers, our members, and our friends are thoroughly dedicated to achieving the Society's mission. It is truly what the Nebraska State Historical Society is all about.

The Nebraska State Historical Society serves the people of Nebraska. Approximately two thirds of the Society's operating budget comes in the form of appropriations from the state of Nebraska as voted by the Unicameral and approved by the governor. On behalf of the entire Society, we express our appreciation to our governmental leaders for their support of our mission and our work.

We also thank the members of the Nebraska State Historical Society, both those resident in the state and the many members who live elsewhere, the trustees and staff of the Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation, the businesses and foundations whose contributions make our work possible, and the many individual donors whose monetary gifts make a real difference.

The Nebraska State Historical Society is about more than money, of course. We are also about the things of history. Those include land and buildings as, for example, the buildings we manage and interpret at Fort Robinson; two- and three-dimensional objects, many of

which are seen in our exhibitions; essential government records; photographs and archival materials that we hold and open to researchers; oral histories; traditions; family stories; and more. Our publications program encourages research in the history of our state. The Society's Historic Preservation Office promotes the preservation of significant historical resources. Our library is open to researchers of all ages. Through the Gerald R. Ford Conservation Center in Omaha we teach and train key members of historical organizations in the conservation of the objects and records that they possess.

You will find us at work throughout the state of Nebraska. Not only are we available at our Lincoln facilities, but also at our historic sites and museums; in your community through the historical markers and the historic preservation programs; in promoting tax relief advantages for preservation of historical buildings; in our quarterly magazine, *Nebraska History*, and our books. Each year we respond to thousands of questions from people at home and around the world.

It gives us great satisfaction to send this 2005-06 annual report to you, the people we strive to serve every day of every year. Again, thank you for your support.

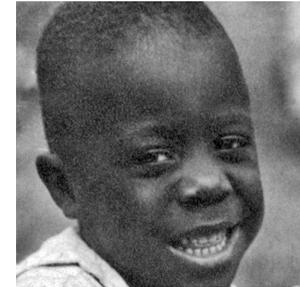
Sincerely,



Patricia Phillips
President



Michael J. Smith
Director/CEO



CHANGING THE FUTURE

FIVE STORIES

Typically, corporate annual reports trumpet profits, explain away losses, and do their best to make figures prove to anxious shareholders that as bright as the past year has been, the next will be even brighter . . .



OF THE PAST



IN THE NOT-FOR-PROFIT WORLD, ANNUAL REPORTS typically rely on figures to show how much has been accomplished—how many free lunches served, how many books checked out, how many concerts sponsored, artists supported, or sick people given medical care.

The Nebraska State Historical Society wants you to know what we've done, too. We want you to be confident that we are moving forward, that the past year was bright, that the next year will be brighter, and that we have opened the doors of this state's history to every Nebraskan and every visitor.

But sometimes it seems that all the numbers—the thousands of visitors to museums and sites, the thousands of researchers served by the library, archives, and reference room—don't tell the real story of the NSHS's work. Sometimes the numbers seem to say only that we all got up, came to work, and did our jobs.

So this year we are telling a few of the many NSHS stories that aren't summed up by numbers alone, that reflect agency-wide effort, and that help to explain how the Nebraska State Historical Society is working to change the future of the past—how these collections of photographs, artifacts, objects, and manuscripts, and the knowledge and skill of the people who preserve and interpret them, can change the lives of Nebraskans today, and inform the future we all bequeath to our children and grandchildren down through the generations.

Please read these five stories as representative of our work, as suggestive of the talents of our staff, and as testaments to the commitment and conviction the Nebraska State Historical Society brings to its work. And if you'd still like to see a few figures now and then, you won't be disappointed—you'll find nuggets of "quantifiable" information sprinkled liberally throughout these pages as well. ☒

CHARTING A COURSE

NSHS staff scanned

6,470
HISTORIC IMAGES
& DOCUMENTS

in the Digital Imaging Lab.

NEW LEADERSHIP INEVITABLY BRINGS CHANGE, and the Nebraska State Historical Society's efforts to create a new future for the past moved forward with the appointment of Michael J. Smith as director/chief executive officer. Most recently the president/CEO of the American Textile History Museum in Lowell, Massachusetts, Smith has previously served as executive director of the Tennessee Historical Commission, the Putnam Museum of History and Natural Science in Davenport, Iowa, and the Buffalo, New York, Museum of Science.

"In accepting the appointment as director/chief executive officer of the Nebraska State Historical Society, I am delighted, honored, and humbled," Smith said. "I look forward to working with people from all walks of life and all parts of the Cornhusker State in the important task of preserving and celebrating the stories of Nebraska. The Society's mission, 'to collect, preserve, and open to all, the histories we share,' is an invitation and a challenge. Working to accomplish that mission will be a privilege."

Beginning his tenure midway through the fiscal year, Smith set quickly to work, meeting government officials, business leaders, the staff and volunteers of local historical organizations, philanthropists, educators, and NSHS members in every part of the state. He polled people about the historic places, events, and personages they viewed as most significant in Nebraska's past. And he discussed the issues Nebraskans perceived as the greatest influence on the future of history efforts in the state.

Smith shared his findings with the NSHS board and staff, identifying these factors in the near-term environment:

- Limitations on state of Nebraska appropriations will continue.
- Accountability for the effectiveness of services offered by the NSHS will be among the watchwords of the next decade.
- The NSHS stands to be increasingly affected by our aging society.

Given these realities, Smith offered three primary areas of focus for NSHS initiatives:

- Bringing younger people in touch with the excitement and the value of history in their lives.



THE THIRTY-THOUSAND-DOLLAR QUARTER

- Encouraging and enabling Nebraska communities of all sizes to preserve and incorporate their histories as a vital part of their futures.
- Taking the lead in the preservation of the historical record.

Strategic lines of action for changing the future of the past include:

- Raising the profile of the NSHS among all Nebraskans, from elected officials to business leaders, the philanthropic community, educators, and ultimately to each of the 1.7 million people who live in the state.
- Building the NSHS's capacity to serve in the present and succeed in the future.
- Building the combination of state, federal, and private dollars to get the job done.
- Concentrating on building and leading a statewide advocacy and education effort to garner the intellectual, emotional, and economic resources to ensure success of the NSHS vision and mission.

An Illinois native with master's degrees in management and American history from Aquinas College and the University of Minnesota, Smith has been president of the American Association for State and Local History and director of the Michigan Historical Museum. The Nebraska State Historical Society Board of Trustees made the appointment after a national search. Smith and his wife, Mary Ann, live in a south Lincoln historic neighborhood. ☒

ON JUNE 6, 2005, WITH CHIMNEY ROCK, the storied Overland Trail landmark, towering in the background, Nebraska Governor Dave Heineman formally announced his selection of the image to be used on the Nebraska quarter, due for release the following April. His choice was, of course, Chimney Rock, a national and state historic site owned, interpreted, and preserved by the Nebraska State Historical Society.

The announcement generated a flurry of activity in Nebraska State Historical Society offices. Chimney Rock State Historic Site is one of the NSHS's most heavily visited, and the agency as a whole had to prepare for the increased attention the nationally distributed quarter would bring and make plans for launch activities.

For every state quarter launch a non-governmental non-profit organization is chosen to develop, distribute, and sell commemorative quarter sets. In January the NSHS approached the Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation board of directors about applying to be Nebraska's coordinating organization, and in February the Foundation was officially appointed by the governor.

With only two months' lead-time the NSHS and the NSHS Foundation had to design and order the printed materials, including a die-cut box insert, envelopes, and certificates of authenticity, as well as coordinate assembly of the commemorative sets, while meeting exacting specifications from the U.S. Mint. The coins were struck at the Denver and Philadelphia Mints in March, and the bags containing thirty thousand loose quarters arrived in Lincoln on March 31. Awards Unlimited, the Lincoln firm contracted to print and die cut the coin box inserts and assemble the sets, immediately put its "25¢ SWAT Team"

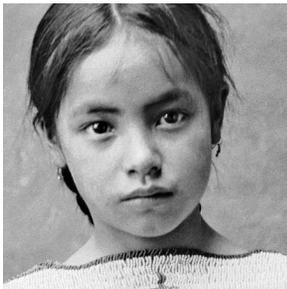


The Nebraska State Historical Society collects, preserves, and opens to all, the histories we share.

Specialists from the NSHS's
Gerald R. Ford Conservation Center
completed 200 treatment projects
involving

500 OBJECTS

including historic documents,
artifacts, toys,
mummies, and works of art.



to work, assisted by NSHS volunteers who inserted the assembled sets into special envelopes and boxed them for delivery to the launch sites in Lincoln, Kearney, and Gering.

Adding to the swirl of activity in the days surrounding the April 7 release day was a reception at the Museum of Nebraska History introducing both the quarter and the new NSHS director, Michael Smith.

Thousands attended the launch ceremonies, and the entire supply of fifteen thousand commemorative sets, priced at five dollars each, sold out within a few days. The proceeds, some thirty thousand dollars, will provide welcome support for NSHS educational programming.

Nebraska first lady and launch committee chairwoman Sally Ganem emphasized the educational potential of the quarter, and the Nebraska State Historical Society developed a special issue of the *Nebraska Trailblazer*, a Nebraska history newspaper distributed to elementary students, to coincide with the launch. Featuring the new Nebraska quarter, this special issue provides upper-elementary-age students with information about Chimney Rock and its selection, the history and significance of other design competition finalists, and symbols Nebraskans have chosen for themselves in the past. Funding for the issue was provided by donations from the Nebraska Press Association and the Cline-Williams law firm. So, two weeks after packaging and shipping thousands of quarter sets, the staff readied another huge shipment, more than seventy-five thousand *Trailblazers* that went to every fourth, fifth, and sixth grade class in Nebraska.

Launching a commemorative coin is hardly routine business for the NSHS. But with its Chimney Rock image the Nebraska state quarter provided the chance for the

NSHS to put a little history in the pocket of every Nebraskan and to generate a considerable sum of money that will support educational programs. Not bad for a two-bit operation! 🍲



THE INCENTIVE TO PRESERVE

IMAGINE YOU OWN A HOUSE IN BROWNVILLE, Nebraska, an early port on the Missouri River, and one of the earliest and largest settlements in the Nebraska Territory. The town is a tourist destination now, in part because of its many well-preserved historic houses.

The house you own was built in Brownville's early years and is in the town's historic district, but it needs work. In truth, it needs full-scale restoration. But here's the rub: In its present condition its tax valuation is only about three thousand dollars. After restoration that figure will certainly double, triple, or even quadruple, and until the house begins producing some income, it will be difficult to keep up with the taxes. What are you going to do?

Imagine another scenario: You and a group of partners own a building in downtown Omaha valued at over nine million dollars. It's on the National Register of Historic Places, but like the Brownville house, it is in poor condition. You and your partners believe renovation would be a good long-term investment, and you have in mind the exacting restoration that will meet preservation standards and bring the building back to its former glory. In fact you are willing to invest as much as twenty-five million dollars in the project. But what will its valuation be when the project is finished? Will you be able to afford the property taxes, especially in the early years when the building hasn't yet begun to pay its own costs?

These two examples, both based on actual cases, illustrate a problem in Nebraska's tax code that had been a disincentive to owners of historic properties who were contemplating renovation—a problem finally solved in 2004–05 by a citizen action committee, a group of sympathetic state senators, and the voters of the state of

Nebraska. Inspiration, incentive, organizational skills, know-how, technical knowledge, and leadership came from the Nebraska State Historical Society.

The solution, the culmination of several years' work, is the Valuation Incentive Program (VIP), a property tax incentive that gives owners of historic buildings a temporary "hold" on property tax valuation increases when they substantially rehabilitate a property. To qualify for the program properties must meet certain criteria, and the renovations must meet preservation standards and must equal at least 25 percent of the total value of the property. When the work is complete, valuation remains at the pre-rehabilitation level for eight years, then gradually increases to actual value over the next four years.



*The Museum of
Nebraska History
exhibit*

**Weird Nebraska:
Strange Stories and
Amazing Facts**
*featured oddities
ranging from healing
machines to UFOs,
to a "petrified" man.*

*The NSHS's State Historic
Preservation Office processed
eleven applications for
federal historic preservation
tax incentives worth*

\$104,000,000



When this effort to establish an incentive program for historic preservation began, similar programs were in place in thirty-seven states, and it was clear that VIP was feasible. However, it could not simply be enacted legislatively—before legislation could even be introduced, the state constitution would have to be amended to permit it. After an intensive information campaign led by the citizen action committee Friends of Amendment One, and informed by the NSHS State Historic Preservation Office, voters approved the amendment in November

2004. In the 2005 session of the state legislature Senator Don Pederson of North Platte introduced LB 66, a bill implementing the VIP program. It passed, was signed by Governor on May 31, 2005 and went into effect January 1, 2006. Since then information about the VIP program has been requested by hundreds of property owners, and applications for participation have arrived in the State Historic Preservation Office in a steady stream.

The Nebraska State Historical Society and its State Historic Preservation Office labor to preserve the state's historic heritage in many ways and through many programs, but the successful establishment of the Valuation incentive program is one of the year,s big stories. It grew out of a well orchestrated but genuinely grassroots public awareness campaign that led to the successful passage of Amendment One. With the blessing of the amended state constitution, enabling legislation could be introduced. Acting in large measure on information provided NSHS and the citizen action committee, state senators saw fit to make historic preservation a consideration in the state,s tax code. The effects will be seen, in the form of renovated historic structures, for years to come. 📷



E DUCATION IS OUR COLLECTIVE INVESTMENT in the future, but once in a while there is an early return. One of the most visible payoffs for the Nebraska State Historical Society's continuing investment in education was a first-place award in the National History Day competition in College Park, Maryland, this year.

The award went to three high school students from the Lincoln Public Schools' Science Focus Program, Richard Carlson, Mitch Paine, and Evan Wilson who produced a video documentary entitled "Theodore Roosevelt: Conserving America's Future." After winning their division in Nebraska's National History Day competition, they bested nearly 150 teams from across the nation, the best America has to offer, in the national group documentary category.

Winning is praiseworthy, but equally significant are the hundreds of students across the state who conduct research, develop projects, and enter regional and state competitions with the strong support of the Nebraska State Historical Society. Many members of the NSHS staff are directly involved with History Day by helping students with research and interpretation, by providing judges for the competitions around the state, and by offering professional critiques of projects for students advancing to the national competition. Working with funds provided by the Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation, NSHS also provides \$100 travel stipends to students who go to the national competition.

The NSHS is also committed to education in less obvious but equally important ways. Students do best when they have excellent teachers to guide them, and for the past ten years the NSHS, along with partner institutions

Nebraska Wesleyan University and the Lincoln Public Schools, has helped to expand the skills of professional educators by sponsoring the Nebraska Institute, a summer teacher-training program.

The objective of the Nebraska Institute is to inject Nebraska stories into all areas of the humanities and social sciences curriculum, and the Institute helps teachers learn how to use the stuff of history effectively in their classrooms: to teach with historic documents, historic objects, visits to historic places, and the wisdom of community elders.

*The NSHS's online catalog
now includes about*

**40,000
TITLES**



*Engineer Cantonment,
the 1819–20 winter camp
of Maj. Stephen J. Long’s
scientific expedition to the
Rocky Mountains, was the
focus of an episode of*

HISTORY DETECTIVES

on PBS television.



Among the most important lessons the Nebraska State Historical Society wants to help students learn are these: That the past is an ambiguous place, not a series of fixed, immutable truths enumerated in a history textbook; that the outcomes of the past were not inevitable, and at moment after moment in the chronology, alternative decisions and mere chance could have led to almost innumerable variations and alternative outcomes; that the places they now live—their own towns, counties, and the entire state—are important, and their people are significant and a part of the continuing history of Nebraska and the nation.

As in other years, in 2005–06 thousands of students and their teachers traveled to the Nebraska State Historical Society’s Museum of Nebraska History in Lincoln and to other NSHS sites and facilities throughout the state. They did not come simply as tourists, but as budding scholars and researchers, and their objective was conducting research in archives, exhibits, and historic sites. Thousands of other students and teachers conducted research from their schools and homes via the Internet, using the resources of the NSHS website, www.nebraskahistory.org, and those at www.NebraskaStudies.org, a site jointly maintained by the NSHS, Nebraska Educational Telecommunications, and the Nebraska Department of Education.

Education is one of the ways the Nebraska State Historical Society invests in the future of our past. And for the



record, the teacher who shepherded Richard Carlson, Mitch Paine, and Evan Wilson to their National History Day victory was James Barstow, a graduate of the first Nebraska Institute conducted by the NSHS. Barstow was further honored while at the National History Day Competition by being named the 2006 Outstanding History Educator by the History Channel. Sometimes there is an early return on your investment. ☒

UNTIL 2005, ONE OF THE MOST VALUABLE and extensive records of the Indian Wars and the fur trade in the American West—in appearance little more than an unassuming collection of cheap, fragile, school tablets—lay carefully stored, but largely inaccessible, in the archives of the Nebraska State Historical Society. The contents of the tablets, recorded in pencil by Eli S. Ricker of Chadron, Nebraska, were a unique treasure-trove of invaluable information: 134 first-person interviews with Indian and white participants in many of the West’s most dramatic and historically significant events.

Attorney, judge, and newspaperman, Ricker understood that European settlement of the American continent had terrible consequences for the native peoples “then living in tranquility upon their own soil,” in Ricker’s words, and that the participants, both Indian and white, in the violent and often tragic events of the so-called opening of the West were aging and dying. Driven to document their stories, by the early 1900s he had begun gathering information for a series of books that he envisioned as four volumes of five to six hundred pages each.

Ricker was one of only a handful of historians in the early 1900s who interviewed Indian as well as white eyewitnesses to the events of the late nineteenth century, and he considered Indian accounts at least as reliable as those of white informants. He traveled the Pine Ridge Reservation collecting the stories of participants in events such as the Wounded Knee Massacre, the Little Bighorn battle, the Grattan incident, and other conflicts. He continued work on the book through the first decade of the twentieth century, interviewing dozens of Indians, scouts, and military participants.

The raw material of a huge unfinished project, the

“Ricker Tablets” came to the Historical Society after their author’s death in 1926, where they have been an important source of information to scholars for eighty years. But poorly organized by Ricker, lacking reliable annotation, and often laced with nearly illegible passages and shorthand symbols, they have been frustratingly difficult to use for research.

Opening this history to all who needed it for their work or wanted it for their pleasure was a long unfulfilled mission of the NSHS. Several years ago Richard E. Jensen, then senior research anthropologist, set out to transcribe, organize, and annotate Ricker’s work.

The publication in 2005 of Jensen’s authoritative two-volume edition of the tablets under the title *Voices of the American West* (Vol. I, *The Indian Interviews of Eli S. Ricker, 1903–1919*; Vol. II, *The Settler and Soldier Interviews of Eli S. Ricker*) was the culmination of Jensen’s years of dedicated work and a notable achievement both for Jensen and for the NSHS. Edited, annotated, and with an introduction about Ricker’s life and work, the two volumes, totaling nearly a thousand pages, published by the University of Nebraska Press, have been described by one reviewer as “an essential research tool of Western history.”

Though the results may seldom be of such import, research into and interpretation of our shared histories as reflected in artifacts, manuscripts, publications, photographs, moving images, and the other material the NSHS collects and preserves is an essential part of its mission. Although *Voices of the American West* is perhaps the year’s big story in that regard, it is only one chapter in the continued unfolding of the state’s history and the NSHS’s commitment to bringing those histories to all Nebraskans. 📖

The Museum of Nebraska History in Lincoln and the seven State Historic Sites across the state welcomed more than

77,000
VISITORS



N S H S A W A R D S



*The NSHS's Gerald R. Ford Conservation Center assisted in or prepared applications for **Save America's Treasures** grants totaling more than **\$3,000,000***

THE NEBRASKA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY annually recognizes individuals or organizations for their contributions to the preservation and interpretation of Nebraska history. The 2005 awards were presented October 14 at the Society's annual meeting in Lincoln.

The **Robert W. Furnas Award** for significant contributions to the Nebraska State Historical Society went to the Quivey-Bay State Foundation of Scottsbluff. The foundation's donation of more than \$20,000 helped support the reconstruction of the 1874 Cavalry Barracks (the Cheyenne Outbreak Barracks) at Fort Robinson and the furnishing of the structure with appropriate artifacts and historically accurate reproductions.

The **James L. Sellers Memorial Award** goes to the author of the best article in the previous year's volume of *Nebraska History*. Gregory Bond, a doctoral candidate at the University of Wisconsin, received the 2005 award for his article "Too Much Dirty Work": Race, Manliness, and Baseball in Gilded-Age Nebraska." The article appeared in the Winter 2004 baseball-themed issue of the magazine. Judges from the history department at Nebraska Wesleyan University selected the winning article, and the Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation provided a cash prize and plaque to the author.

The **Nebraska Preservation Award** for outstanding accomplishments in the field of historic preservation went to State Senator Don Pederson of North Platte and George Haecker of Omaha for their leadership in the

legislative passage and subsequent approval by voters of Amendment One. This amendment to the state constitution provides that owners of historic buildings can receive tax incentives for restoration work on their properties. The program encourages preservation of Nebraska's historic buildings through a temporary moratorium on tax valuation increases once buildings have been rehabilitated.

The **Addison E. Sheldon Memorial Award** for significant contributions to the preservation of Nebraska history was presented to the Douglas County Historical Society to recognize its project of transcribing, editing, and publishing the letters of English emigrant Joseph Barker. The Barker letters, edited by Dr. Del Weber, Barry Combs, Don Snoddy, and Bob Marks, are an unparalleled source describing the early years of Omaha history and development during the 1860s and 1870s.

The **NSHS State Fair Award** recognizes an outstanding history project at the Nebraska State Fair. Kellie DeJong of Pierce received a Certificate of Achievement and a complimentary membership from the Society acknowledging her scrapbook, *Murder in Cold Blood: The Story of the Breyer Murders, 1902, Pierce County, Nebraska*, which was prepared for the *Explore Your Heritage 4-H* Project. ☒

NSHS FISCAL YEAR 2006 OPERATIONS

(Based on preliminary year-end information. Excludes fiscal year accruals.)

REVENUES

State Appropriations	65.27%	\$3,980,158
Earned Income	19.77%	\$1,205,565
Federal Grants & Contracts	13.30%	\$810,759
NSHS Foundation Support	*0.55%	\$33,695
Donations, Grants & Special Events	1.11%	\$67,905
Total Revenues		** \$6,098,082

EXPENDITURES

Administrative Services	22.63%	\$1,372,465
Museum/Historic Sites	20.81%	\$1,261,587
Library/Archives	13.73%	\$832,330
Archeology	14.50%	\$879,117
Historic Preservation	13.47%	\$816,511
Conservation	8.71%	\$528,061
Research & Publications	6.16%	\$373,772
Total Expenditures		** \$6,063,843

** In addition to the figure above the Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation provided direct support in the amount of \$168,515.*

*** The variance between revenues and expenditures is a function of federal advances and the difference between state and federal fiscal years.*

Respectfully submitted,



Tony A. Schmitz

Deputy Director/Chief Operations Officer



ADMINISTRATION

Shawn Bachman, maintenance technician
 Annie Bolender, custodian
 Jerry Cain, security guard
 Joan Clare, human resource services coordinator
 Katherine Garland, custodian
 Pam Garland, security chief
 Roman Griser, security guard
 Elizabeth Guido, custodian
 Lana Hatcher, secretary
 Ed Heiden, maintenance supervisor
 Lynne Ireland, chief education and research officer
 Teresa Jacobs, information services manager
 Patty Langer, accountant
 Colleen Maser, maintenance technician
 Deb McWilliams, executive assistant/volunteer services coordinator
 Troy Park, custodian
 Kris Riggs, museum store manager
 Jim Salber, custodian
 Tony Schmitz, deputy director/chief operations officer
 Michael J. Smith, director/chief executive officer/state historic preservation officer
 Kelsey Soukup, security guard
 Linda Wagaman, accounting clerk
 Dick Yost, staff assistant



ARCHEOLOGY

Kelli Bacon, archeological technician
 René Botts, curator of anthropology
 Rob Bozell, associate director
 Gayle Carlson, curator of anthropology
 Melissa Dirr, architectural historian
 Michelle Furby, administrative assistant
 Amy Koch, curator of anthropology
 John Ludwickson, curator of anthropology
 Pauline Mohatt, archeological technician
 Andrew Moore, archeological technician
 Tyrel Moss, archeological technician
 Trisha Nelson, curator of anthropology
 Tony Schommer, archeological technician
 Karen Steinhauer, archeological technician
 John Swigart, curator of anthropology

CONSERVATION

(Gerald R. Ford Conservation Center, Omaha)
 Deborah Long, objects conservator
 Lisa Metzger Grotrian, administrative assistant
 Nina Owczarek, conservation post-graduate intern
 Julie Reilly, associate director/chief conservator
 Vonnda Shaw, conservation technician
 Dr. Sheila Siegler, paper conservator

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Bill Callahan, historian
 Jill Dolberg, Nebraska historic building survey coordinator
 Teresa Fatemi, staff assistant
 John Hitt, program assistant
 Jennifer Little, staff assistant
 Carissa Martin, staff assistant
 Greg Miller, preservation historian
 L. Robert Puschendorf, associate director/deputy state historic preservation officer
 Terry Steinacher, preservation archeologist
 Stacy Stupka-Burda, National Register coordinator/architectural historian

LIBRARY / ARCHIVES

Karlyn Anderson, registrar
 Dale Bacon, assistant curator, imaging services
 Salvador Barrigan, curator, public records
 Pat Churray, assistant curator, public records
 Dell Darling, imaging services technician
 Cindy Drake, curator, library collections
 Paul Eisloeffel, curator, visual and audio collections
 Andrea Faling, associate director/ state archivist
 Linda Hein, assistant curator, reference services
 Mary Jo Miller, assistant curator, reference services
 Tom Mooney, curator, manuscripts
 Matt Piersol, assistant curator, reference services
 Marlene Roesler, assistant curator, library collections
 Mary Woltemath, technical services, microfilming

MUSEUM/HISTORIC SITES

Deb Arenz, senior museum curator
 Ann Billesbach, associate director
 Tom Buecker, curator and tourism facilities operator, Fort Robinson Museum, Crawford
 Bryce Darling, carpenter
 Alice Filbert, artist
 Del Johnson, custodian, Chimney Rock National Historic Site
 Signe Kniss, tourism guide, Chimney Rock National Historic Site
 John Lindahl, education associate/curator, Thomas P. Kennard House State Historic Site, Lincoln
 Charley McWilliams, facilities maintenance supervisor
 Laura Mooney, museum registrar
 Don Ofe, tourism facilities operator, Neligh Mill State Historic Site, Neligh
 Annette Parde, museum educator
 Curt Peacock, artist/website coordinator
 Loren Pospisil, tourism facilities operator, Chimney Rock National Historic Site, Bayard
 Steve Ryan, designer
 Steve Scoggan, facilities maintenance specialist, Fort Robinson Museum
 Duane Tappe, tourism facilities operator, Senator George W. Norris State Historic Site, McCook

RESEARCH & PUBLICATIONS

Debra Brownson, publications designer
 John Carter, senior research folklorist
 Donald Cunningham, associate director/editor
 Pat Gaster, assistant editor
 David Murphy, senior research architect
 Jim Potter, associate editor/senior research historian



VOLUNTEERS OF THE NEBRASKA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
 Come to us with various backgrounds. Ranging from students to retirees, their true passion is learning more about Nebraska history. They donate hundreds of hours working with NSHS staff to make the stories of Nebraska's past accessible.



- ** Margaret Allington, Docent, Administration
- Scott Argabright, Library/Archives
- Eric Bachenburg, Kennard house
- Eva Bachman, Library/Archives
- Jessica Bartak, Neligh Mill
- Janet Jeffries Beauvais
- Virginia Bennett, Archeology
- ** Peter Bleed
- ** Ken Bunger
- Kay Buecker, Fort Robinson Museum
- Pat Callies, Museum Store
- Bill Chada
- Jack Chaffin, Museum Docent, Administration
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 would have cost
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402-471-3270 or 1-800-833-6747
Fax: 402-471-3100

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15th & P Streets, Lincoln, NE
402-471-4754

- **Gerald R. Ford Conservation Center**

1326 S. 32nd Street, Omaha, NE
402-595-1180

- **Chimney Rock National Historic Site**

1.5 miles south of Hwy. 92, Bayard, NE
308-586-2581

- **Fort Robinson Museum**

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308-665-2919

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706 Norris Avenue, McCook, NE
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- **Willa Cather State Historic Site**

326 N. Webster Street, Red Cloud, NE
402-746-2653



2005-2006 NSHS FOUNDATION

FRIENDS OF NEBRASKA HISTORY:

This spring, the Foundation was honored to be selected by Governor Heineman as the recipient of the proceeds from the sale of the Nebraska quarter commemorative sets. The Nebraska quarter celebrates the grand landscape and proud history of our state. The key feature of the quarter, Chimney Rock, is one of the Nebraska State Historical Society's historic sites.

The commemorative sets sold out almost immediately. The proceeds established a special history education fund at the Foundation, created to support the important work of telling Nebraska's stories to its citizens, and to students in particular.

This year we celebrated the tenth anniversary of the Gerald R. Ford Conservation Center in Omaha. The Ford Center is a wonderful example of the results that can be achieved with public-private partnerships. All of Nebraska can be proud of this facility.

The Foundation was recently the beneficiary of a gift of nearly four acres north of Omaha containing the remains of Engineer Cantonment, the 1819-20 winter quarters of Maj. Stephen H. Long's scientific party. The site is of great archeological importance, and its discovery is

another example of the Historical Society garnering national attention and prominence.

As incoming president, I have the pleasure to acknowledge our outgoing president, Allison Petersen. Her dedicated service and leadership over the past three years will have a long-term impact on the Foundation's growth and stability. Our most appreciative and sincere thanks to you, Allison.

The Foundation's annual report is a tribute to our many friends who contribute in a variety of ways to help the Historical Society discover and preserve Nebraska's past. Those listed on the following pages know that as important as their contributions are, it is far more important to know these stories. Their gifts make it possible to advance this effort, and we sincerely appreciate this support. On behalf of the Foundation Board of Trustees, I thank you for joining with us to protect and preserve Nebraska's history.

Sincerely,

Steven E. Guenzel, President
Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation



N S H S F O U N D A T I O N



Donors have given 72% of the
\$2,200,000
needed to endow the paintings
conservation laboratory at the
Gerald R. Ford Conservation
Center in Omaha.
Thank you!

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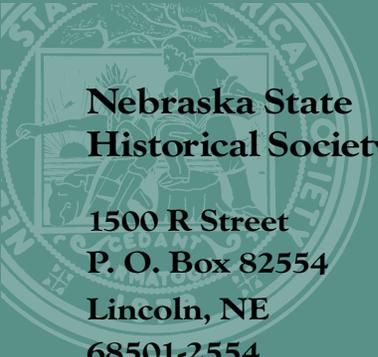
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