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Discover Nebraska's History in Six Local Museums



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Nebraska
Committee for
the Humanities

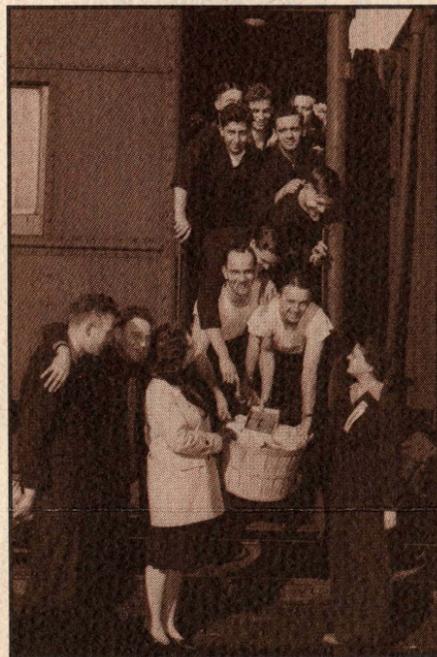
The interpretive exhibits on "Continuity and Change on the Great Plains" that are described in this brochure were developed through a grant given by the Nebraska Committee for the Humanities, a state program of the National Endowment for the Humanities.



Nebraska: A Land Shaped by People— A People Shaped by Land

The history of every country begins in the heart of a man or a woman.
—Willa Cather, O, Pioneers.

Discover How
North Platte
and 124 Other
Communities
Responded to
World War II



Union Pacific Railroad Collection

North Platte

Discover How
Agriculture has
Changed over
the Years in
Dawson County

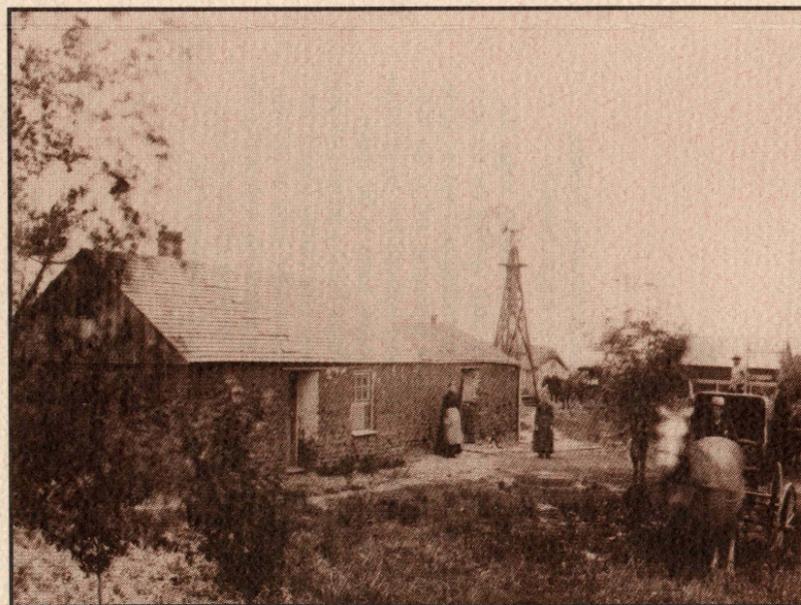


Nebraska State Historical Society, Solomon D. Butcher Collection

Lexington

Discover the
Swedish-American
Story in
Phelps County

Holdrege



Phelps County Historical Society

Interstate 80—The Platte River Road

Red Cloud

Discover What it
was Like to
Live in Webster
County During
the Dirty Thirties



The Laird Wolfe Collection



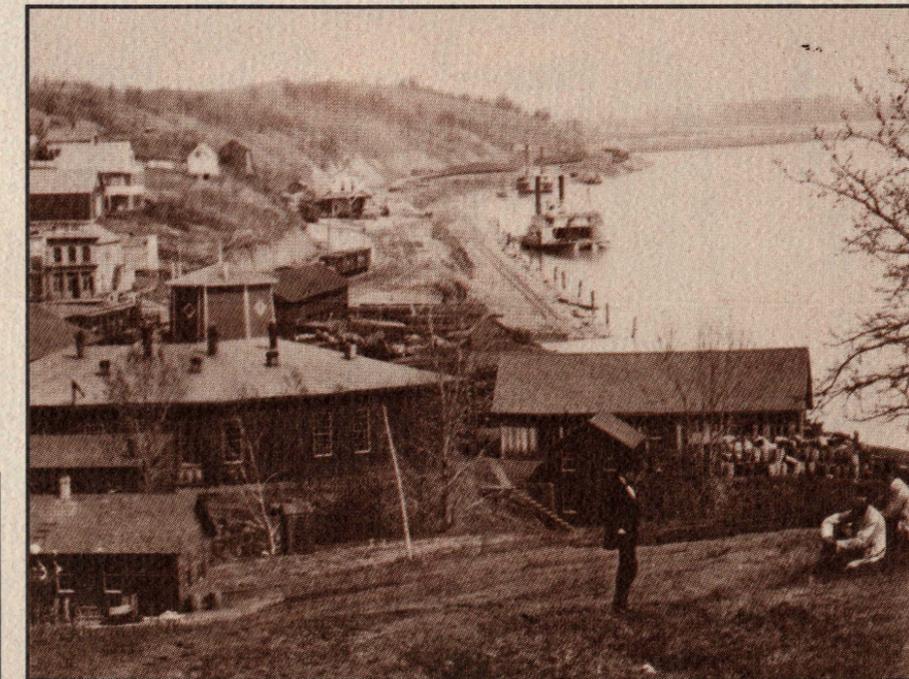
Saunders County Historical Society

Discover What
Saunders County
Women Did
Seven Days
a Week

Wahoo

Plattsmouth

Discover
Nebraska with
the State's
Oldest Settlers



Nebraska State Historical Society

The journey out from Illinois with stolid old oxen and the smell of the burning maple boughs in one's nostrils . . . the first lonely nights of camping in Nebraska with the silence of the stars and the sky and the shivering of the prairie grass. —Bess Streeter Aldrich, A Lantern in Her Hand.

Great Plains Change and Growth

Early Settlers

Cass County Historical Society
646 Main Street
Plattsmouth, NE 68048
402-296-4770

Hours: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, Monday, Tuesday,
Thursday, Friday. 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday

Plattsmouth, Cass County's first community, began the settlement process as early as 1848, serving the the west-bound Mormons. The first fur trading post was set up in 1853 to provide for the Otoe Indians as well as the Mormons. By 1869 the Burlington Railroad had joined steamboats, flatboat ferries, and wagon trains as the major means of transportation. Besides being a jumping-off place for wagon trains heading west, Cass County offered rich soil for those who stayed. This exhibit looks at the influence of transportation on the community and profiles the early settlers, their religious life, their interest in education, their building of towns and community life.

Seven Days a Week

Saunders County Historical Society
Box 255
Wahoo, NE 68006
402-443-3090

Hours: 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 to 5 p.m. Tuesday
through Saturday. 2 to 5 p.m. Sunday

How did women do their work in 1880? How had that work changed by 1930? This exhibit traces the work of women in over half a century, showing housecleaning, laundry work, child rearing, and sewing, as well as work for wages. The work of women illustrates the contributions they made to the family, raising and preserving fruit, raising and butchering meat. Egg money, for example, helped purchase the necessities which the household did not have or enabled the household to purchase goods and services the family could not produce.

Webster County During the Great Depression: Drought, Flood, and Hard Times

Kearney State College and
The Land and Its People Foundation
425 North Franklin
Red Cloud, NE 68970
402-746-2854

Hours: 1 to 4:30 p.m. Memorial Day to Labor Day and by
appointment

During the 1930s the people of Webster County lived through drought and dust storms, grasshoppers, the great Republican River flood of 1935, and economic hard times. Many farmers compare those times to today. This exhibit looks at life in Webster County during those difficult times and gives the viewer a sense of what life was like and how people coped with the difficulties they faced on a day-to-day basis. "I washed [and] dried white clothes but oh, the dust that came up at noon—oh, gee—oh, gosh." February 21, 1933 diary entry, Mrs. B.F. Copley, Red Cloud.

Six Flags Over Phelps County

Phelps County Historical Society
P.O. Box 215
Holdrege, NE 68949
308-995-5015

Hours: May through October 2 to 5 p.m. daily. November
through April 2 to 5 p.m. Friday through Sunday

Phelps County was organized in 1873 and developed quickly with the expansion of the railroad. This exhibit looks at the inhabitants of Phelps County beginning with the Pawnee Indian people. The county's immigrants included a large Swedish population and by 1900 one out of every five Phelps County residents was Swedish-born, the highest county percentage of Swedish-born residents in Nebraska. Early towns, no longer existing, such as Williamsburg, Sacramento, and Phelps Center, highlight the growth of the county.

Corn is King—Alfalfa is Queen

Dawson County Historical Society
805 North Taft
Lexington, NE 68850
308-324-5340

Hours: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.
1 to 4 p.m. Saturday

Dawson County today and yesterday is known for its alfalfa and corn production. This exhibit traces the historical production of these two crops along with small grains. Showing the changing technology of farm equipment, the exhibit also looks at the effects of irrigation which was first used in the Platte Valley during the 1890s. Dawson County's history is primarily based on agriculture, and today alfalfa remains Queen, just as it was in the late 1890s.

The North Platte Canteen

Lincoln County Historical Society
2403 N. Buffalo
North Platte, NE 69101
308-534-5640

Hours: 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Memorial Day through Labor
Day and by appointment

From December 1941 to April 1946, the North Platte community and 124 other communities served 3,000 to 5,000 soldiers daily, meeting every troop train that stopped in North Platte. This extraordinary community effort was all volunteer. Four thousand sandwiches were prepared daily; a typical shopping list included 160 to 175 loaves of bread, 100 pounds of meat, 15 pounds of cheese, 45 pounds of coffee, 40 quarts of cream, 500 half-pint bottles of milk, and 25 dozen rolls. The exhibit traces the development of the Canteen, giving tribute to the many that served over six million soldiers.