



BYWAY 136

Nebraska's Heritage Highway

Reblaze
the Trail



NEMAHA • JOHNSON • GAGE • JEFFERSON • THAYER • NUCKOLLS
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ON THE COVER



Take a journey back in time at Homestead Days,
held every year in Beatrice.
Photo courtesy Greenspan, Nebraska DED

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WELCOME TO BYWAY 136 HERITAGE HIGHWAY “TRAVELING THE TRAILS”

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GREETINGS, BYWAY TRAVELERS!

It is with great pleasure that we “officially” welcome you to our historic Heritage Highway that was designated a Nebraska Scenic Byway in 1999 by Gov. Mike Johanns.

Highway 136 has a rich history as it was one of the trails used by the Indians, pioneers and settlers who migrated through Nebraska in the 1800s. In the early part of the 20th century it was a state highway and was known as the “Goldenrod Highway.” With the designation as a byway, it now extends from Brownville in Nemaha County westward 238 miles to Edison in Furnas County. The Oregon Trails’ entrance to Nebraska is located in southern Gage County on the Nebraska-Kansas border. Oregon Trail wagon ruts are still visible at Rock Creek Station near Fairbury where Wild Bill Hickok began his gunfighting career. The Pony Express riders used some of the same routes as the Oregon Trail. There are many other trails not as well-known in the counties along the Byway.

The “Heritage Highway” name was selected by a group of tourism promoters in 1994 to represent the route from Brownville to Red Cloud and then north to Hastings. This organization produced the first “Heritage Highway” brochure featuring many of the historic attractions in each county along the route.

When the new Nebraska Byway program was announced in 1998, the Highway 136 nominating group decided to keep the name: Heritage Highway. The route was limited to Highway 136 but extended from Red Cloud on to Edison, Neb. This route (going from east to west as the earliest trails did) includes the 10 counties of Nemaha, Johnson, Gage, Jefferson, Thayer, Nuckolls, Webster, Franklin, Harlan and Furnas. This magazine will follow that same pattern.

The Byway program encourages extending the route 20 miles on either side of Highway 136; therefore we have four Corridor Counties, namely Richardson, Pawnee, Otoe and Saline.

Within this 238-mile journey are several historic sites, many water-related hot spots, several natural prairie areas, state recreation areas, orchards and wineries.

Two nationally well-known sites are the Homestead National Monument at Beatrice and the Willa Cather State Historic site at Red Cloud. Two sections of Highway 136 are named for famous



Coryell Park

Photo courtesy Judy Coe

and not-so-famous gentlemen. The Colonel Barney Oldfield Memorial Highway extends from the east Nemaha/Johnson County line west to the junction of Highways 136 and 50 at the eastern edge of Tecumseh and the Robert Taylor Memorial Highway extends from Filley to Beatrice on Highway 136. Also, the small village of historic Brownville has done an excellent job of promoting itself with events and activities during the year.

Our Corridor Counties have the Czech Festival at Wilbur; Nebraska City is the home of J. Sterling Morton, the founder of Arbor Day; and the Pawnee County Museum Complex features several buildings and has bus tours during the year.

A few of the best kept secrets along the Byway route are: In Nemaha County, it is Coryell Park located south of Brock. Visit the Post Office in Johnson County and learn about the site of the First Rural Mail Delivery in Nebraska at Tecumseh. In Gage County visit Veteran’s Memorial Park in Beatrice. The McDowell’s Rose Creek Mausoleum in Jefferson County is “Magic Etched in Stone.” Thayer County is the site of the Sixth Principal Meridian which is where all land in Kansas and Nebraska and part of Colorado, Wyoming and South Dakota was surveyed and subdivided from that point. We encourage you to visit them.

Whether you have the time to spend a day or several days, you will find many historic and fun-filled activities and attractions to visit along the Byway.

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OREGON TRAIL

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INTRODUCTION

The Oregon Trail was much more than a pathway to the state of Oregon; it was the only practical passage to the entire Western United States. The Trail was the only feasible way for settlers to get across the mountains.

The journey west on the Oregon Trail was extremely difficult by today's standards. One in 10 died along the way. Most also walked the entire 2,000 miles barefoot. The biggest challenges along the Trail for the pioneers were cholera, poor sanitation, and accidental gunshots.

The first emigrants to go to Oregon in a covered wagon were Marcus and Narcissa Whitman who made the trip in 1836. But the majority of western migration didn't start until 1843, when a thousand pioneers made the journey. Over the next 25 years more than a half million people went west on the Trail. Some went the entire way to Oregon's Willamette Valley in search of farmland—many more split off for California in search of gold. In 1869, the transcontinental railroad was completed and ended the glory years of the Oregon Trail.

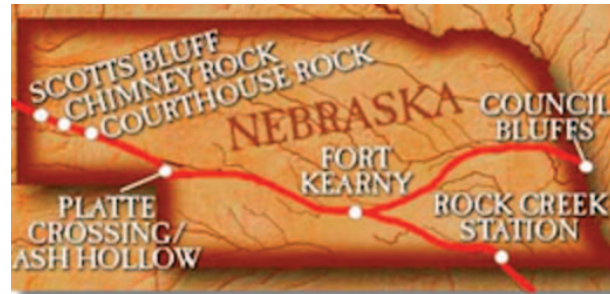
Actual wagon ruts from the Oregon Trail still exist today in many parts of the American West; and many groups are working hard to preserve this national historic treasure. Ruts are still visible in parts of Thayer County.

PREPARATIONS

The Missouri River heads due west from St. Louis; so many emigrants loaded their wagons onto steamships for the upstream journey. That was easy, but it didn't last too long. Because of a cruel turn to the north on the river many pioneers unloaded their wagons at any one of the several small towns along the Missouri River which they called "jumping off" places. Independence was the first place, which became by far the most popular point of departure in the Trail's early years. Further upstream were Westport, St. Joseph, Omaha and Council Bluffs.

By mid-April, the prairie outside Independence was packed with emigrant campers. These entire masses of people were waiting for the grass to grow. Leaving too early meant the grass wouldn't be long enough for the animals to graze along the way.

Many supplies were needed for the long haul. A family of four would need over a thousand pounds of food to sustain them on the 2,000-mile journey to Oregon. The only practical way to haul that much



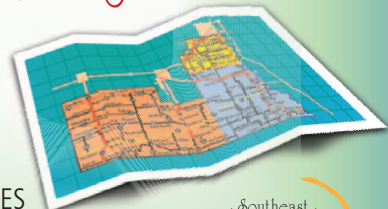
food was a wagon. Emigrant Lansford Hastings says, "In procuring supplies for this journey, the emigrant should provide himself with, at least, 200 pounds of flour, 150 pounds of bacon; 10 pounds of coffee; 20 pounds of sugar; and 10 pounds of salt."

Huge conestoga wagons were never used because they were just too bulky. Instead they used small farm wagons. The wagon boxes measured only 4 feet by 10 feet. Most loaded them to the brim with food, farm implements and furniture—often over a ton of cargo. A typical wagon in the 1840s could carry a load weighing from 1,600 to 2,000 pounds depending on what type of animal was pulling the wagon. ➡

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NEBRASKA
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By late April and early May the grass was long enough—and the journey began. Everyone wanted to get started at the same time—and the huge result was a traffic jam. Outside of Independence, only a few miles, nearly all emigrants realized they had overloaded their wagons. The only choice they had was to throw things out.

HARDSHIPS

River crossings were a constant stress to the pioneers. Hundreds drowned trying to cross the Kansas, North Platte, and Columbia Rivers. Emigrant John B. Hill states, “The ferryman allowed too many passengers to get in the boat, and the water came within 2 inches of the gunwale. He ordered every man to stand steady as the boat dipped; I thought the boat would be swamped instantly and drowned the last one of us.”

Because many over-packed their wagons, few could ride inside. Most walked—making the entire 2,000 mile journey on foot.

Thunderstorms took their toll. A half-dozen emigrants were killed by lightning strikes; many others were injured by hail. Pounding rains were also difficult because there was no shelter on the open plains and the wagons eventually leaked.

Many emigrants worried about the Native Americans. They expected attacks from the Cheyenne and the Pawnee. The attacks did not happen. Instead there were many instances of Native American kindness—helping pull out stuck wagons; rescuing drowning emigrants; even rounding up lost cattle.

The biggest struggle was the mysterious and deadly disease—cholera for which there was no cure. In some instances a person would go from healthy to dead in just a few hours. At times they received a proper burial, but many times they would be abandoned on the side of the trail. They would die alone. Animals would also dig up the dead and scatter the trail with human bones and body parts. Cholera killed more emigrants than anything else.



Willa Cather Memorial Prairie



Spirit of Brownville

Photo courtesy M. Forsberg, Nebraska DED.

OREGON TRAIL IN NEBRASKA

The beginnings of the Oregon Trail in Nebraska were made in 1813 by the little band of traders from Astoria in the Oregon Territory. The party, headed by Robert Stuart was returning to St. Louis. They made their way down the Platte Valley. They left no track deep enough to be followed, but they did make known the way.

In 1830, Milton Sublette with 10 wagons left St. Louis and arrived at the Wind River Mountains. His wagon wheels were first to cross Nebraska on a branch of the Oregon Trail. Travelers from the southern regions of the country entered Nebraska near present-day Alexandria and followed the Big Sandy Valley where water, wood, and grass were available. After crossing the Big Sandy near Belvidere, the trail proceeded in a southwesterly direction to the banks of the Little Blue. After the establishment of Thompson's Station, a few miles south of Belvidere, the trail followed the Eighteen-Mile Ridge across Thayer County.

The pioneers traveled in groups called trains, but often individual families would go out on their own. They could average about 16 miles per day. It took nearly one month for a wagon train to cross Nebraska and four months to make the 2,000-mile trip to either California or Oregon. Nearly 400,000 people traveled this network of rutted trails from the Missouri River to the Willamette River. The Oregon Trail was never a clearly defined trail. ♦♦

Photo courtesy R. Nebel, Nebraska DED.

There were many reasons why these pioneers did what they did. Economic depression in 1837 and 1841 frustrated farmers and businessmen. The offer of free land in Oregon and the possibility of finding gold in California was a great incentive. Many simply wanted a chance to establish a new life.

Many of Nebraska's highways today, including Interstate 80, are on or near routes used over 150 years ago by explorers, fur traders, covered wagon pioneers, and many others whose courage and labor laid the foundations for the American West.

WHAT IS NEEDED FOR A TRIP WEST?

- A strong wagon, fit for the journey
- Draft animals, preferably oxen
- Foodstuffs: flour, bacon, beans, coffee, sugar, lard, vinegar, salt, pepper, yeast, hardtack, and saleratus (baking soda)
- Clothing (2 sets per person)
- Bedding and tent
- Tools, leather, nails
- Candles, matches
- Pots, pans, cups, plates, utensils, buckets
- Butter churn
- Rope, axe, whetstone
- Plow, hand tools
- Milk cow, chickens
- Shotgun, rifle, ammunition
- Axle grease
- Family heirlooms and keepsakes
- Other essential items (if they can fit in the wagon or on your back)



Oregon Trail Marker Identification

Photo courtesy Thayer County.



Victorian Festival at Superior

Photo courtesy Neibel, Nebraska DED

POSSIBLE EXPENSES OF MOVE

12 sacks of flour \$36; 40 pounds of candles \$10; 400 pounds of bacon \$40
 1 gross matches \$1; 100 pounds of coffee \$30; 1 coffee mill \$0.75; yeast powder \$5
 2 coffee pots \$1.50; 50 pounds salt \$1; 8 tin cups & plates \$1; 3 pounds pepper \$0.50
 2 frying pans \$2.50; 2 bushels beans \$3; 4 butcher knives \$2; 15 gallons vinegar \$4
 6 knives, forks, spoons \$2; 50 pounds lard \$5; 2 kettles \$1.25; 200 pounds sugar \$25
 2 bread pans \$1; 4 bushels dried apples \$6; tent \$15; 1 bushel dried peaches \$2;
 10 gallon water tub \$1.25; 50 pounds rice \$5
 2 water buckets \$0.50; 75 feet rope \$2.50; 1 small tin pail \$1; 2 axes \$2.50; whetstone \$0.10
 Hand tools \$2.50; 10 pounds nails \$0.75; covered wagon \$100; 3 oxen \$225

Total cost of trip to Oregon = \$536.60

OREGON/CALIFORNIA TRAIL TIMELINE

- 1831-** First Crossing of Rocky Mtns. in covered wagon
- 1838-** Army Corp. of Topographical Engineers begin mapping route
- 1841-** First bona fide wagon train
- 1842-** John C. Fremont comes through area mapping and exploring
- 1844-** 1,750 travelers over the route
- 1845-** 3,000 travelers over the route
- 1850-** 6,034 people traveling the Oregon Trail passed through Fort Laramie on June 17, 1850--the biggest single day in the history of the Oregon Trail
- 1852-** Ezra Meeker traveled trail west
- 1906-** Ezra Meeker traveled trail east—promoting the preservation of the Oregon Trail



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REPUBLICAN RIVER

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Republican River

Photo courtesy M. Forsberg, Nebraska DED.

The Republican River meanders through five of Heritage Highway's counties, including Furnas, Harlan, Franklin, Webster, and Nuckolls. The river is famous for hunting and fishing, and sportsmen from all over the country come to the area to fulfill their dream of "The Big One."

In addition to hunting and fishing, the Republican River and surrounding creeks and streams provide many opportunities for fun and relaxation. Canoeing, tubing, tanking, and swimming on the river are some of the activities visitors enjoy. Tubing down the Republican River has become a popular form of recreation for people of all ages. It requires only rubber tubes and requires no special skills. Canoe stops are available for rest. Tubers are required to wear life jackets for protection. Take a leisurely drive and explore the county roads and old bridges that run close

to and across the Republican River and the villages nearby: Superior, Guide Rock, Red Cloud, Inavale, Riverton, Bloomington, Naponee, Franklin, and Alma.

The annual Republican River Tank Float is held on the second Saturday in July and provides a fun experience for people of all ages. Participants relax on a hot July afternoon by floating down the river and enjoying the festivities. For more information about the event, contact the Red Cloud Area Chamber of Commerce at (402) 746-3238.

The Republican River Canoe Trail runs from the spillway in Harlan County to near Red Cloud, Nebraska. For information about parking, camping and restroom facilities along the trail, visit www.outdoor-nebraska.ne.gov/boating/guides/canoetrails/rep-map.asp

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NEMAHA COUNTY

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Nemaha County is the eastern-most county along the Heritage Highway, and is where we begin our journey westward along Byway 136. About 8,000 residents call Nemaha County, and its seven communities, home. The county seat, and largest community, is Auburn, and the county itself is rich with history and natural beauty. And, it's that natural beauty that has attracted visitors to the area for years. For more information visit, www.enjoynemahacounty.org.

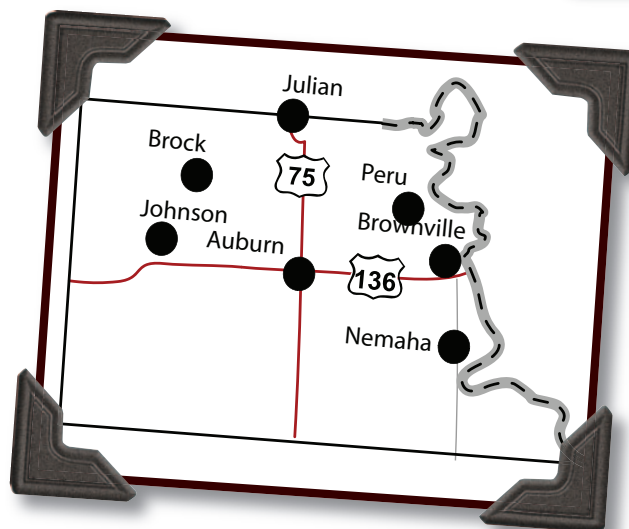
AUBURN

The community of Auburn is centered in the heart of Nemaha County, and is the hub for industry, shopping, and tourism in the area. It is home to Nemaha County Hospital, an award-winning facility located on the west edge of town. As the county seat, Auburn offers an abundance of opportunities to conduct business, entertain, or just relax.

For the history buff, the Nemaha Valley Museum at 1423 19th Street displays the history of the area in three buildings near the historic Nemaha County Courthouse.

For those looking for a great deal, or that one-of-a-kind gift, unique shopping opportunities are available throughout town. Both the courthouse district and downtown area hosts a number of gift and antique shopping experiences. Visitors will also find plenty of dining options while in Auburn. Everything from national fast-food chains, to local cuisine and fine dining can be enjoyed.

A very special part of Auburn is its city parks, which are abundant with family entertainment. A waterslide, fishing, walking and running trails, playground equipment, and an outdoor stage are just some of the attractions to visit with your family. Legion Memorial Park is located 1/2 block North of Highway 136 and has the honor of being a National Historic Park site in the State of Nebraska, one of six in the State. The park still maintains the structures built of native Nemaha County Rock from the 1930s and 1940s era. Featured are the unique bridges constructed for the horse and buggy era crossing of the drainage creek through the middle of the park, the bandshell still in almost weekly use for special events and the Avenue of Flags for deceased veterans that will make an outstanding background for the



dedication for the newly constructed Nemaha County Veterans Memorial that is planned for the Memorial Weekend of 2011.

Three hotels and two RV parks make great pit stops for the weary traveler. For a complete list of attractions, events, restaurants, and places to stay, call the Auburn Chamber of Commerce at (402) 274-3531 or visit their Web site at www.auburnneb.com.

BROWNVILLE

Don't let Brownville's population of less than 200 people fool you. The town offers a big opportunity for memorable experiences. Nestled in a valley along the Missouri River, Brownville offers rich artistic experiences, historic museums, unique shopping, picturesque walking and biking trails, unforgettable events, and so much more.

When the Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854 opened the territory up for settlement, Tennessee native Richard Brown packed up his family and headed west. What started as a small settlement of scattered cabins quickly became a vital port town for riverboats on the Missouri River. In 1970, Brownville's significance was recognized with enrollment on the National Register of Historic Places.

Today, Brownville remains a vibrant, artistically rich community of about 150 citizens. Its fascinating history is documented throughout its many historical attractions. ➡





Historical Attractions in Brownville

BROWNVILLE DEPOT AND RAILROAD HISTORY MUSEUM
U.S. Highway 136 and Water Street
(402) 825-6001

Preserved 1875 railroad depot and caboose document the history of the railroad in the region.

BROWNVILLE BRIDGE
Just east of downtown

Completed in 1939, this bridge spans the Missouri River and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

CAPTAIN BAILEY HOUSE MUSEUM
4th and Main Streets
(402) 825-6001

Take a tour through Brownville's rich history. Open mid-May to mid-October and by appointment, Friday-Sunday, 1-5 p.m.

DR. SPURGIN'S DENTAL OFFICE
222 Main Street

View many historical dental tools in this old-time dentist's office. Open April-October, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. for self-guided tours.

SPIRIT OF BROWNVILLE
72898 A Avenue, Brownville
(402) 825-6641
www.spiritofbrownville.com

LEWIS AND CLARK CAMPSITE
South of town

On July 15, 1804, the Lewis and Clark expedition camped here during the exploration of the Missouri River. View the State Historical Marker in the Brownville State Recreation Area.

MERIWETHER LEWIS DREDGE AND MISSOURI RIVER HISTORY MUSEUM
(402) 825-3341 or (402) 825-4131
Just south of Brownville Bridge, Brownville
www.meriwetherlewisfoundation.org

Step into the past on this restored sidewheeler dredge. Usually open Memorial Day-Labor Day, daily, 1-5 p.m. ♦♦



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of Historic Brownville. Open Mon-Sat, Closed Sunday

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NEMAHA VALLEY LODGE #4 2nd and Main Streets

Founded in 1858, the Masons have been using this building as a meeting hall since 1894. The state's oldest blue lodge and still an active fraternity, Brownville's Masons are the only ones in the state who still schedule meetings based on the full moon.

WALNUT GROVE CEMETERY North of downtown on 7th Street (402) 825-4651

Established in 1864, this historic 5-acre cemetery is the final resting place to many of Brownville's early pioneers, including Gov. Robert W. Furnas.

WHEEL MUSEUM 219 Main Street (402) 825-6001

Located in what was once the town's Ford dealership, the Wheel Museum displays vintage wagons, buggies, a Civil War cannon, and commercial fishing equipment. Open daily April–October, 9 a.m.–5 p.m. for self-guided tours.

Historical Houses

For a more familiar look into Brownville's history, these restored homes are fascinating stops.

BROWN/CARSON PERIOD HOUSE 3rd and Main Streets, Brownville (402) 825-6001

www.Brownville-ne.com

Included on the National Register of Historic Places, this home was built by Brownville's founder, Richard Brown, and later became home to John L. Carson, one of Nebraska's first bankers. The home is now run by the Brownville Historical Society. Open mid-May to mid-October and by appointment, Friday–Sunday, 1–5 p.m.

FURNAS HOUSE 230 South 6th Street, Brownville Call (402) 274-4146 for hours.

Built in 1868, this was home to early Nebraska Gov. Robert W. Furnas.

Private Homes

Many of Brownville's oldest homes, including the elegant Muir House, have been restored by private citizens. These homes can be seen on driving or walking tours of the village or on a scheduled tour of homes. ♦♦

MARY'S EMPORIUM

While visiting Brownville, stop in at Mary's Emporium. You'll fall in love with Mary's eclectic treasure chest of vintage jewelry, handbags, hats and antiques.



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Recreation

Because of Brownville and Nemaha County's status as a premier stop for natural attractions, it just makes sense that the town can offer ample opportunity for outdoor recreation. Enjoy the river, the hills, the trails, the picnic areas—experience for yourself.

HUNTING AND FISHING

Have your rifles and reels ready! There are plenty of hunting and fishing opportunities in the Brownville area.

ASPINWALL BEND WMA

1/2 Mile South of Nemaha

Located on the Missouri and Little Nemaha Rivers, this is an outstanding spot to catch channel catfish and carp. You can also hunt for deer, dove, pheasant, quail, turkey, waterfowl, and more.

BROWNVILLE STATE RECREATION AREA

65296 720 Road, Brownville

(402) 833-2575

www.outdoornebraska.ne.gov

Just east of town, you can catch buffalo, carp, channel and flathead catfish, and shovelnose sturgeon. Boat ramp.

INDIAN CAVE STATE PARK

65296 720 Road, Shubert

(402) 883-2575

www.outdoornebraska.ne.gov

Stop at this magnificent recreation spot south of Brownville for buffalo, carp, and channel and flathead catfish fishing. Please call the park superintendent at (402) 883-2575 about regulations and permits.

PERU BOTTOMS WMA

Peru, 1/2 North, 1/4 east and 1/4 north of Peru

Hunt more than 850 acres for deer, dove, pheasant, waterfowl, quail, and rabbit.

Hiking and Biking

If a long walk or bike ride sounds like just the right way to wind down after a long week, Brownville is the perfect place to start. The scenic trails here let you go as far as you want while immersing yourself in natural marvels at every turn.

STEAMBOAT TRACE HIKE/BIKE TRAIL

62161 Highway 136, Nebraska City

(402) 335-3325

www.nemahanrd.com/trail



Trail

Photo courtesy of Peru State College

Hop on this historic trail at the Brownville Trailhead. From here, you can head north nearly 22 miles to Nebraska City. Along the way, you'll trace the trail of Lewis and Clark as you wind along the Missouri River and enjoy every gorgeous inch of this crushed limestone trail. Be sure to stop and see the intricate carvings along the limestone bluffs just south of Peru.

WHISKEY RUN CREEK NATURE TRAIL Brownville, from Steamboat Trace Trail to Whiskey Run Creek Winery

This shorter trail winds from the Steamboat Trace Trailhead through the Arboretum to the picturesque Whiskey Run Creek Vineyard & Winery at the west end of Main Street.

SPIRIT OF BROWNVILLE

(402) 825-6641

www.spiritofbrownville.com

Cruise the Missouri River in high style on the Spirit of Brownville. This old-fashioned riverboat is the perfect venue for weddings, parties, or business functions. Just call (402) 825-6441 to arrange your private cruise. Or come to Brownville on Independence Day or Memorial Day weekend and enjoy a public cruise at 3 p.m.

Town Parks

Brownville offers plenty of ways to enjoy the outdoors through its wonderful parks.

BROWNVILLE STATE RECREATION AREA

Brownville, southeast of downtown

(402) 883-2757

Located just east of town, this 22-acre area along the river is home to the Meriwether Lewis Dredge and Missouri River History Museum. Here, you'll find a boat ramp, camping facilities, picnic shelters, water fountains, and modern restrooms.

BOETTNER PARK

2nd and Main Streets, Brownville

Situated at 2nd and Main Streets. Come enjoy a picnic and view the Memorial Marker where Co. C 1st Reg. of Nebraska enlisted for the Civil War in 1861.

CAPITOL SQUARE PARK

Bluff overlooking Brownville

Perched on the bluff overlooking Brownville, this site was originally reserved for a capitol building by the town's founders. Today, the park offers picnic shelters, grills, playground equipment, and an unbeatable view.

INDIAN CAVE STATE PARK

65296 720 Road, Shubert

(402) 883-2575

www.outdoornebraska.org

Comprised of nearly 3,500 acres, this magnificent state area is named for its massive sandstone cave. The walls of the cave are etched with ancient petroglyphs that date back thousands of years. As the area's premier recreation destination, Indian Cave State Park offers visitors fishing, hunting, wildlife viewing, horseback riding, and 20 miles of hiking trails. The park is located 10 miles south of Brownville on Nebraska Highway 67 and 5 miles east on S-64E.

PERU

The town of Peru is located approximately 11 miles northeast of Auburn, and is home to just under 600 residents as well as Peru State College. The college, which first held classes as a state-run institution in 1867, is known to be the first and oldest school in the state of Nebraska. The college went through many name changes until becoming Peru State College in 1963. It currently occupies over 20 buildings spread across a 104-acre campus in Peru, and is known as the "campus of a thousand oaks."



Downtown Peru

Photo courtesy of Peru State College.

Arts Opportunities in Brownville

BROWNVILLE CONCERT SERIES

Eleven world-class musical performances from classical, jazz to cabaret are presented in the Brownville Concert Hall on N. 2nd & Atlantic Streets. For complete concert details, call **(402) 825-3331** or visit their Web site: **www.BrownvilleConcertSeries.com**

GOVERNOR FURNAS ARBORTUM

& WHISKEY RUN CREEK NATURE TRAIL

5th & Main Streets

(402) 825-6637

www.brownville-ne.com

The Furnas Arboretum, an affiliate site of the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum, provides educational activities, eco-tourism, birding, symposiums, garden tours and memorial plantings and dedication opportunities. The Furnas Arboretum entrance is located on **Main at 5th Street**.

GOVERNOR ROBERT W. FURNAS

HISTORIC HOME

230 South 6th Street, Brownville

Call (402) 274-4146 for hours.

Open to the public for special and holiday displays, this 1868 Italianate and Gothic Revival home reflects the typical expressions of the era in addition to serving as an illustrative documentation of historical activities and events related to Historic Brownville.

SCHOOLHOUSE ART GALLERY

AND NATURE CENTER

427 Main Street

1-877-404-4711

Special exhibitions focus on visual artists of the region and are dovetailed with lectures, workshops and artist receptions.

BROWNVILLE VILLAGE THEATRE

222 Water Street, Brownville

(402) 825-4121

www.brownvillevillagetheatre.org

We are the oldest repertory theatre in Nebraska, and we're excited as we prepare for our 45th season of repertory theatre.

There is something truly magical about live theatre for performers and audiences alike.

Other communities in Nemaha County include Brock, Johnson, Julian, and Nemaha.

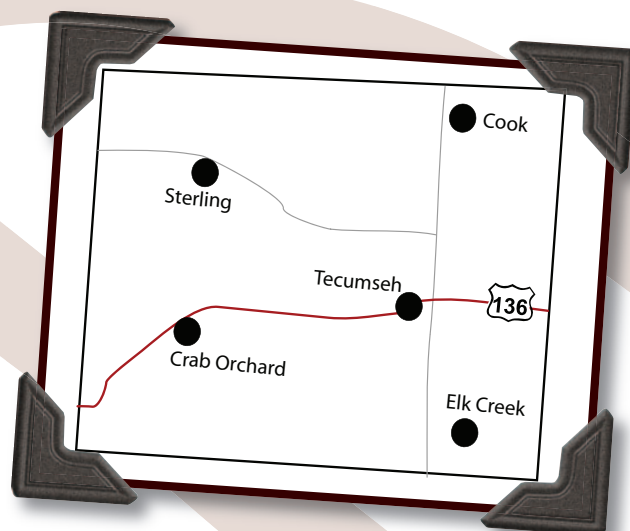


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JOHNSON COUNTY

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In the early days, there were **Seven Trails** that traversed through Johnson County. Tecumseh, as an early settlement in 1869, was a crossroads for many of the trails. The most used trail was the Nebraska City Short Cut Trail which was used as a short cut from Nebraska City to the Oregon Trail. Next in importance was the Brownville-Fort Kearny Trail which came into being about 1850 and was used by those pioneer settlers and freighters moving west through the county. Stage coaches also used the trail. Other trails were **Nebraska City-Beatrice Trail, Salt Creek Trail, Pawnee City-Lincoln Trail, Settlement Trail and Tecumseh-St. Joseph Trail.** More information and a map is available by e-mailing jc10928@windstream.net.



Johnson County Towns/Villages

TECUMSEH

As part of the Nebraska Territory, Forney County was comprised of both Johnson and Nemaha counties. In 1855, it was divided and the western part became Johnson County. The county was named after Col. Richard M. Johnson who was a prominent army officer in the War of 1812 and vice president of the United States from 1837 to 1841. The legend is that Johnson surrounded and killed the famous Shawnee Indian, Tecumseh, in 1813 during the Battle of the Thames in Canada. Therefore, Tecumseh, being almost centrally located, became the county seat town which is surrounded by Johnson County.

Tecumseh is the birthplace of Col. Barney Oldfield who was a public relations officer for Dwight Eisenhower; press agent to Ronald Reagan, Errol Flynn and Ann Sheridan; mentor to George Foreman; a publicist and Hollywood columnist. His career took him to 81 countries and on every continent. In 1997, 7 miles of U.S. Highway 136 from Tecumseh east to the Johnson County line was designated as the Col. Barney Oldfield Memorial Highway. "The Life and Times of Vada and Col. Barney Oldfield" is an exhibit about his life. In 2000, he gave the seniors of the three Johnson County schools a check for \$1,000 each and a promise of \$1,000 to the 2000 kindergartners when they graduate from high school.

The downtown area of Tecumseh was first to declare a historic district in 1958 and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

STERLING

Sterling is the birthplace of renowned author, Hal Borland, and the Martin Luther Home. The annual Deer Creek Sodbusters Antique Machinery Show is held on the second Sunday in August and is the only antique tractor and machinery show in Nebraska to be officially designated as a "Local Legacy" by the U.S. Library of Congress.

COOK

Cook was first known as "The Artesian City" because of the numerous artesian wells in the area. ➡



Flags and covered bridge (right) at Cook, Nebraska.

Photo courtesy Karen Thomas.



Johnson County Courthouse

Photo courtesy Judy Coe.

One of the wells is located in Windmill Park just west of town. The park also features the only Covered Bridge in Johnson County.

ELK CREEK

Elk Creek is a small village of only 115 population but is very active in community improvements and projects.

CRAB ORCHARD

Crab Orchard was named for the wild crab apple trees which were located just north of the Crab Orchard cemetery. The first school in the county was located there but many of its historical landmarks have disappeared.

Johnson County Attractions

KEIM STONE ARCH BRIDGE

Rural Johnson County - 1 mile north of Tecumseh

The Keim Stone Arch Bridge was built in 1916 by the Keim Cement Company. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is a rare, well-preserved example of early 20th century stone arch bridge construction. It also is the only surviving stone bridge built by this prominent local bridge builder.



Deer Creek Sodbusters Show small engines on display.

Photo courtesy Judy Coe.

CIVIL WAR SOLDIER MEMORIAL STATUE Courthouse Square, Tecumseh (402) 335-6300

A Civil War Soldier Memorial Statue was erected "in memory of all soldiers and sailors of Johnson County" by the Heckathorn Post No. 47, Nebraska GAR in 1903. A replica of a World War I cannon was erected in memory of the USS Maine which was destroyed in the Havana Harbor on February 15, 1898. The cannon is a replica because the original cannon was called up in World War II to be used as scrap metal. The plaque placed on the memorial was originally cast from the metal of the USS Maine. Both of these memorials are located on the Courthouse square. A bandshell was erected on the southeast corner of the square after World War II in memory of those from Johnson County who gave the ultimate sacrifice. Tecumseh, in the early days, was also home to a Carnegie Library and an Opera House

TECUMSEH POST OFFICE

484 Broadway, Tecumseh

(402) 335-5900

Johnson County can also claim the site of the "First Rural Mail Delivery in Nebraska" in November of 1896. There is a sign at the Tecumseh Post Office marking this event.



Tecumseh Post Office

Photo courtesy Judy Coe.

Your Adventure Begins... On The Steamboat Trace Trail

21 Miles of Hiking/Biking Trail
through the scenic Missouri River
Bluffs of Southeast Nebraska

Look for Trailheads at

- Brownville
- Peru: North end of 5th St.
- Nebraska City: South on Hwy. 75 east to OPPD Power Station

402-335-3325


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GAGE COUNTY

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WELCOME TO GAGE COUNTY, NEBRASKA

Gage County is home to 14 towns and villages. Each town or village has their own unique history to tell.

Beatrice is the largest city and county seat of Gage County. Attractions to see within the community include the Gage County Historical Society, Beatrice Public Library and the Gage County Courthouse.

Heritage Highway 136 (U.S. Highway 136), one of Nebraska's scenic byways, passes through Gage County and Beatrice. Following the Byway westward you will find the Gage County Historical Museum. The museum is located at the corner of Second and Court Streets and houses historical displays of Gage County from the turn of the century to present day. The museum is nestled near the junction of Indian Creek and the Big Blue River. The river runs through Beatrice and Gage County and was instrumental to the settlement of the area.

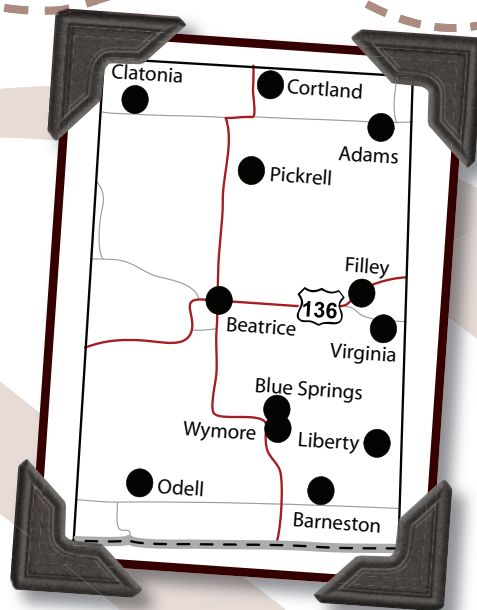
Continuing west on the Byway, and north onto State Highway 4, the trail leads to Homestead National Monument of America and the Homestead Heritage Center. The Homestead National Monument of America tells the story of the Homestead Act of 1862. The Heritage Center is a state-of-the-art, award-winning facility, with spectacular views. The unique roof line resembles a single-bottom plow moving through sod. The center is interactive and shows early life on the prairie.

Near downtown Beatrice is Ratigan-Schottler, located one block south of Heritage Highway 136 on Second Street. It is the leading supplier of solid oak pews, chairs and chancel furniture. Also nearby is Beatrice Bakery Company, Home of Grandma's Fruit and Nut holiday cake and other baked desserts. This company has been located at 201 S. 5th since 1924.

The surrounding villages and towns have unique historical attractions. Odell has the Old West Trails Center, Wymore is home to the Great Plains Welsh Centre, Filley has the Filley Stone Barn and Barneston has the Otoe Indian Mission School.

Did we forget to mention three golf courses, baseball and softball diamonds, a live theater, stock car racing, rifle club, archery club, family aquatic center, YMCA, skate park, Rolla-Rena, microbrewery and a 5-mile concrete bike/walking trail?

**For more information, visit us at
www.visitbeatrice.com • 1-800-755-7745**



GAGE COUNTY FIRSTS

- Oregon Trail first enters Nebraska in Gage County.
- First Christian Scientist Church west of the Missouri River
- First electric car manufactured west of New York City
- *Nebraska Teacher* first published in Beatrice.
- Nebraska Press Association started in Beatrice.
- A doctor from Beatrice helped to design first X-ray machine in Nebraska.
- Gage County was the first to have rural electrification in Nebraska.
- Beatrice was the first to have direct-dial telephones in Nebraska.

Attractions

Entrance to the monument, museums, exhibits, programs, and all events are free of charge. You can explore the Homestead Heritage Center, the monument's new award-winning museum and visitor center. Interactive exhibits, a new film, a log home built nearby in 1867 and a bookstore are all found at the Heritage Center. West-facing windows offer a sweeping view of 100 acres of restored tallgrass prairie.

Over 2.5 miles of walking trails wind through prairie and woodland. The Homestead Education Center features a bookstore, large farm implement exhibit, picnic facilities and traveling exhibitions. The one-room Freeman School, constructed in 1872 and still on its original location, stands as a reminder of the importance of public education on the frontier. ➡

Ask about visiting the Freeman School with a park ranger.

Individuals, families and large groups are welcome.

Activities are available for children and adults. The monument is open every day except Thanksgiving Day, December 25, and January 1. Special events take place throughout the year. Call (402) 223-3514 or visit www.nps.gov/home for more information.

HOMESTEAD NATIONAL MONUMENT OF AMERICA

8523 W. State Highway 4, Beatrice
(402) 223-3514

www.nps.gov/home

"FREE LAND!" was the cry!

One of America's National Park Service sites is located 4 miles west of Beatrice in Gage County. Homestead National Monument of America commemorates the many impacts of the Homestead Act of 1862. Signed into law by President Abraham Lincoln on May 20, 1862, the Homestead Act offered 160 acres of free land to any qualified individual willing to live on, farm, and improve it for five years.

Single women and widows, most immigrants, and African Americans all qualified to be homesteaders. The Act became effective on January 1, 1863, and remained active until 1986. During those 123 years, over two million individuals and families claimed land under the Homestead Act and settled



Homestead National Monument

Photos courtesy: Gage County Tourism.

approximately 270 million acres of land.

Today, there may be as many as 93 million homesteader descendants throughout the world. The Act increased America's agricultural production and expanded the Industrial Revolution. It brought immigrants from dozens of nations to America in search of land and homes. American Indians were further displaced from many of their traditional lands, and many western ecosystems were forever altered.

Homestead National Monument of America is a unit of the National Park System located 4 miles west of Beatrice. The monument interprets the impacts of the Homestead Act of 1862 on the United States and the world. Visit the award-winning Homestead Heritage Center to see ➡



BACK ALLEY

EATERY

BBQ Ribs, Brisket, Chicken, Steaks, Homemade Soups, Pies, and the freshest Salads in town!

**Hometown Family
Owned & Operated**

OPEN Tuesday – Friday
11 am - 2 pm & 5 pm - 9 pm
and on Saturday 5 pm - 9 pm

Dine In • Carry Out • Delivery

513 Court Street
Downtown Beatrice

402-223-5011

www.backalleyeatery.com



It's not a celebration without one of our Dessert Liqueur Cakes

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800-228-4030

Located just one block south of U.S. Hwy. 136 in downtown Beatrice
201 S. 5th Street – Beatrice, NE 68310

interpretive exhibits, an 1867 log cabin, and a 23-minute film. Over 100 acres of restored tallgrass prairie can be explored on 2.5 miles of walking trails. The Homestead Education Center features farm implement exhibits and the Freeman School is a reminder of the importance of public education on the frontier. Individuals, families and large groups are welcome. Activities are available for children and adults. Special events take place throughout the year.

The monument is open every day except Thanksgiving Day, December 25 and January 1. Hours of operation are 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on weekdays and 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Memorial Day and Labor Day weekend hours are 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Call (402) 223-3514 or visit www.nps.gov/home for more information.

GAGE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
101 N. 2nd Street, Beatrice
(402) 228-1679

www.gagecountymuseum.org
gagecountymuseum@beatricene.com

Gage County Museum Hours

Open Year-Round

Tues. - Fri. 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. & 1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

Sun. - 1:30 - 5:00 p.m.

Open Saturdays, Memorial Day - Labor Day

Closed Mondays and all major holidays

Handicap accessible

Gage County Historical Society Museum is located where Beatrice was founded in 1857. The Society's

collection offers an insight into the People, Railroads, Industries, Medical, and Agricultural history of Gage County. The Society has an extensive photograph collection. Some of the exhibits include Dempster windmills, the oldest manufacturer in the nation; Beatrice Foods; actors: Robert Taylor and Harold Lloyd. Each town within the county is represented.

The north wing houses the medical history of Gage County and the Layman Memorial Room is for rotating exhibits. The entire collection is housed in a 1906 Burlington Passenger Station. This Neo-Classical Revival-style building was chosen especially for Beatrice to reflect the growth and affluence of the city. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Society has a willing staff available to guide genealogists in finding those lost Gage County relatives. The Society's collection includes obituaries, county history books, cemetery and marriage records, photographs, numerous newspaper articles and a whole host of other possible options to guide the researchers in their quest.


FILLEY STONE BARN
13282 East Scott Road, Filley
(402) 228-1679

www.gagecountymuseum.org

Filley Stone Barn, was built in 1874. This National Register site is the largest limestone bank barn in Nebraska. A fortuitous event initiated the building of this three-story native limestone barn. Drought conditions and the grasshopper invasion caused many farmers to leave the land and return back East. Knowing the success of the county depended on the farmers staying, Elijah Filley hired the men to stay and help build his barn. The barn stands today as a tribute to those early farmers. Living history demonstrations are held at the barn in October. Special group tours available. The barn may be viewed from the outside at any time.

GREAT PLAINS WELSH HERITAGE CENTER
307 S. 7th Street, Wymore
(402) 645-3186, (402) 645-3282,
(402) 645-3231
www.welshheritage.org

The Great Plains Welsh Centre tells the story of early Welsh settlers on the prairies of North America, and of their Welsh-American descendants, through interactive displays, artifacts and oral histories. The Centre contains exhibit areas, a library and archive, an auditorium with a digital theatre for showing Welsh films, a gift shop, a serving kitchen for preparing Welsh teas, and a genealogic data base of Welsh American families. An 80-foot-long mural depicting the emigration experience, painted by famous muralist David Loenstein, occupies the north wall of the building. Below it is a memory garden whose gently



27639 S. 80th Rd. • Beatrice, NE 68310

- Salt glazed stoneware pottery
- Always special, useful and beautifully handmade

Daily Hours Throughout the Year:
10-5 Monday-Saturday
Phone: 402-228-0138

Directions: From the intersection of Highways 77 & 136, 7 miles east of Beatrice to 80th Rd., ¾ mile south.



Photo Courtesy Great Plains Welsh Heritage Centre

Great Plains Welsh Heritage Centre

curving stone path contains over 200 dedicated pavers. It offers an inviting place to sit and enjoy the many Welsh daffodils that bloom each spring. The building and garden are handicap accessible.

The Centre hosts many events, including the biennial Welsh Heritage Festival, presentations by Welsh scholars of the "Welsh Diaspor" of the 19th century, and celebrations of Welsh figures such as St. Dwynwen, patron of lovers, St. David, Patron Saint of Wales, and Owain Glyndwr, who very nearly threw off the yoke of English domination of Wales in the 1400s. A Community Coffee is held annually on the Friday morning before Christmas. The Centre is regularly open on Sunday afternoons in the summer months, or by appointment. Group tours welcomed.

OLD WEST TRAILS CENTER

301 Main Street, Odell

(402) 766-3700

www.visitodell.com

Located near the former **Oregon Trail** and Overland Stage Line, the Old West Trails Center is a well-preserved example of the architecture of 1885. Built of locally quarried limestone of that period, the building has undergone recent renovation with funds received from the Nebraska Department of Roads and contributions from individuals, organizations and businesses.

Visitors of the museum may enjoy over 100 feet of interior murals celebrating local transportation history, as well as access oral, written and visual history. Open one of the "hands on" learning boxes and touch a real buffalo hide.

Special programs are presented once a month on Sundays. The Center is open every Sunday afternoon from 1-3 p.m. in April through December. On the Saturday after Thanksgiving, in conjunction with the annual Odell Craft Fair, "Songs of the Season" is presented.

Special tours are welcome. To arrange a tour, call: (402) 766-4275 or (402) 766-3780 ➡

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Beatrice, NE 68310
402-228-7000

www.hiexpress.com/beatricene



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to order your visitor packet

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Adams • Barneston • Beatrice • Blue Springs • Clatonia • Cortland
Filley • Liberty • Odell • Pickrell • Virginia • Wymore

GAGE COUNTY

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VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK
1050 S. 6th, Beatrice
(402) 223-4041 Ask for Verdella
www.beatricevmp.com

Veterans Memorial Park was dedicated on May 31, 2005. The mission of this project, adopted by the Beatrice Rotary Club in recognition of Rotary's 100th Anniversary, was to build a permanent memorial park to honor the military men and women of the United States who served or are currently serving our country.

The Memorial Plaza was created using five points of a star, with a flag pole and flag on each point, recognizing the branches of service – Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard. The center of the Plaza provides the stage for the United States flag. Planting beds, surrounding the plaza, and the tree arboretum add to the serenity and beauty of the park.

The "Walls of Honor" honor all men and women who have served our country. Over 1,500 veteran inscriptions have been placed on the Walls of Honor and inscriptions continue to come in on an on-going basis.

The History Walk, consisting of pictorial plaques, was installed during the Spring of 2009. The plaques contain photos and historical text depicting how our community and area veterans "Answered the Call" since 1875 to the present. This piece of the park serves as our commitment to educate visitors of the local history and its commitment to the freedom efforts of our country.

Hunting, Fishing, Camping & Parks

ARBOR STATE PARK
Wymore
(402) 645-3377

Located in Wymore. Offers six camping spots with electrical hookups.



Veterans Memorial Park

Photos courtesy Gage County Tourism.

ARROWHEAD WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA
Diller
www.ngpc.state.ne.us/hunting/hunting.asp

3 miles east of Diller. Hunting of deer, dove, pheasant, quail, rabbit and waterfowl. 320 acres (152 acres of crop, 57 of pasture, 44 of timber, and 67 of water).

BEAR CREEK WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA
805 Dorsey Street, Beatrice
(402) 228-3402
www.lbbnrd.org

4 miles north and 2.5 miles east of Beatrice. Hunting and fishing opportunities.

BIG INDIAN LAKE/RECREATION AREA
15 mi. S. of Beatrice on U.S. Highway 77 & NE Highway 112, 3 mi. E. on NE Highway 8
1/2 mi. N., Beatrice
(402) 228-3402
www.lbbnrd.org

6 miles east of Odell on Highway 8. Fishing, hunting, boating, swimming, tent camping, picnicking, hiking, biking, and cross country skiing are allowed.

CHAUTAUQUA PARK
9th & Grable, Beatrice
(402) 228-5248
www.beatrice.ne.gov/departments/city/properties/parks

20 camping units with electrical & sewer hookups, water hydrants and grills.

CLATONIA 3A LAKE
805 Dorsey, Clatonia
(402) 228-3402
www.lbbnrd.org

1 mile north of Clatonia. 46-acre lake. Fish for channel catfish and bullhead.

CUB CREEK HUNTING
Located at 24256 SW 142 Road west of Beatrice
(402) 228-0660
www.cubcreekhunting.com

Hunt pheasant and whitetail deer on more than 800 acres of prime hunting ground. Guided and non-guided hunts.

DIAMOND LAKE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA
3 miles west of Odell on Highway 8
www.ngpc.state.ne.us/hunting/hunting.asp
 378.79 acres of pasture and 26 acres in water. ➡

Hunting for deer, dove, pheasant, quail, rabbit, squirrel, and waterfowl.

**DONALD WHITNEY MEMORIAL
WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA**

3.5 miles west of Odell on Highway 8

www.ngpc.state.ne.us/hunting/hunting.asp

Hunting allowed. 50 acres with 36 in pasture and 14 in water.

DOG PARK

South 6th & Cole Streets Beatrice

(402) 228-5248

www.beatrice.ne.gov/departments/city/properties/parks

Fenced dog run areas.

INDIAN CREEK LODGE

48678 SW 45th Road, Odell

(402) 766-3726

Located on farm near Odell. Living quarters, game hanging & cleaning area.

**IRON HORSE TRAIL WILDLIFE
MANAGEMENT AREA**

Beatrice

www.ngpc.state.ne.us/hunting/hunting.asp

East of Beatrice near Highway 4. Hunting dove, pheasant, quail, squirrel, and rabbit on 14 acres of pasture.

OAK AVEN ACRES RV PARK

23490 SW 75th Road, Beatrice

(402) 228-0125

14 camping units, all-weather location, with drive-thru parking. Electrical and sewer hookups; water hydrants.

RIVERSIDE PARK

Sumner & Pleasant, Beatrice

(402) 228-5248

www.beatrice.ne.gov/departments/city/properties/parks

10 camping units with electrical hookups only. Water, restrooms, showers available. Boat ramp and river fishing.

ROCKFORD LAKE/

STATE RECREATION AREA

57426 710 Road, Beatrice

(402) 729-5777

www.ngpc.state.ne.us/parks/guides/

7 miles east of Beatrice on Highway 136 and 2 miles south. 150-acre lake. Primitive camping. Boating, fishing, picnicking and swimming beach. Power boating allowed. State Park Permits required.

WOLF-WILDCAT LAKE

(402) 228-3402

7 miles south of Virginia. Hunting, fishing, hiking, and cross-country skiing are permitted. Restrooms & parking.

Adams • Barneston • Beatrice • Blue Springs • Clatonia • Cortland
Filley • Liberty • Odell • Pickrell • Virginia • Wymore

Court Street, East from 5th, Beatrice, Nebr.

MAIN STREET *Beatrice*

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Annual Events:

Taste of Spring	April
Mother's Day Tour	May
Ribfest	June
Sidewalk Sales	July
Magic of Main Street	October
Night of the Great Pumpkin	October
Nebraska Governors	
Pheasant Hunt	November

Please check out our Web site at www.mainstreetbeatrice.org
for more details and other seasonal promotions and activities.

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JEFFERSON COUNTY

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COUNTY IS RICH IN HISTORIC LORE

Located in the "Little Blue Valley," friendly Jefferson County is rich in historic lore, the route of the **Oregon Trail** having passed across the county, and in some places the ruts left by the wagons of the "49'ers" can still be seen. Historic spots along the trail include the famous Rock Creek Station where "Wild Bill" Hickok killed David McCanles; the grave of George Winslow, the only grave along the entire trail marked with a stone; the burial place of many Mormons who died while camped along the trail (the Big Sandy crossing on the trail was the scene of many deaths). Jefferson County was the scene of possibly the largest battle ever fought between Indians. Ten thousand Sioux and Cheyennes battling 10,000 eastern Indians in 1832, was near where the Big Sandy Creek joins the Little Blue River. One of the last large battles between the Pawnee and Sioux was fought in this county in 1862.

JEFFERSON COUNTY COURTHOUSE

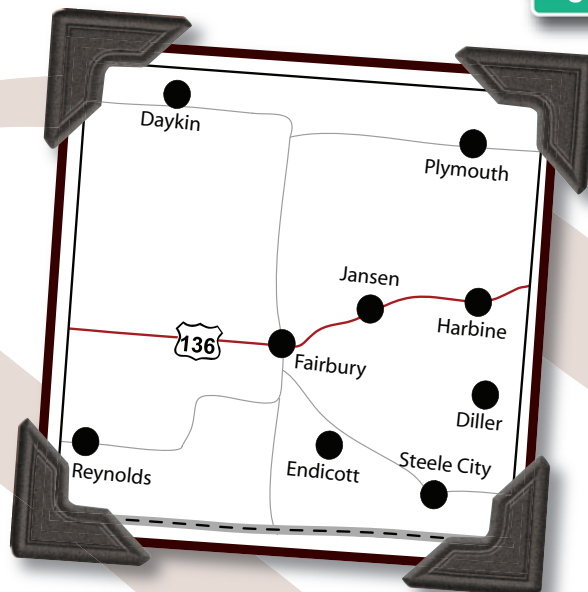
The Jefferson County Courthouse is located in the middle of downtown Fairbury. Surrounding it are the original brick streets and quaint downtown with detailed building facades. It was built in 1891 of hand-cut limestone and features ceramic-fronted fireplaces in some offices and unique antique furniture in the courtroom. Leading up to the clock tower stand three statues of justice. Completing the courthouse is a valuable antique with the clock, "Little Ben" as it is sometimes called.

WELCOME TO JEFFERSON COUNTY

Whether you are looking for a great antique find, exploring the area's history or settling in for a quiet weekend of camping, look to Jefferson County to satisfy all of your getaway adventures. Enjoy our many state and county recreation parks and campgrounds. Jefferson County offers boating, fishing, golfing, disc golf, hiking, searching for artifacts, hunting during quail, pheasant, turkey and deer season, or just relaxing.

LOOKING FOR EXCITEMENT?

- April-September: catch the mini sprint, truck and ¾ midget racing at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds
- 1st Weekend in May: Disc Golf Weekend



- In June: Kids Adventure Race, American Cancer Society's Relay For Life, Run, Row, Rock & Roll Adventure Race (this is a national qualifier race), Plymouth Fireman's Chicken BBQ & Dance
- In July: some good old-fashioned fun at local festival's like the Diller Picnic, Jefferson Co. Fair, Shiner's 4th of July Flea Market
- 1st Weekend in October: Endicott's Lords Acre Festival
- 1st Saturday in November: the Frost Frolic Holiday Market
- In December: Christmas at the Depot (Rock Island Railroad Museum) and Old-Fashioned Christmas with a Festival of Trees.

WANT TO RELIVE HISTORY?

- In June: attend the Rock Creek Trail Days (Rock Creek Station), the Pony Express Re-ride, Rock Island Rail Days (Rock Island Railroad Museum)
- In July: Living History Weekend (Steele City)
- In September: Steele City Flea Market/Antique Farm Machinery Show ➡



Mural.

Photo courtesy the Fairbury Journal-News.

Or visit McDowell's Mausoleum and the Fairbury City Museum. Enjoy a walk on the Little Blue River Trail that crosses the old Rock Island Bridge and past the old dam to Flathead Wildlife Area or search the sand bars along the river and creeks for historical treasures.

For event dates, contact the Fairbury Chamber and Visitor Center (402) 729-3000 or www.visitoregontrail.org

LOCAL TOWNS TELL MANY TALES (PAST...PRESENT...FUTURE)

A cluster of nine small, rural communities provide the nucleus for the best in small-town living. For 7,874 current residents and thousands before them, Jefferson County is home...a place to raise a family, make friends, work, live and play. Learn what so many others have discovered: Jefferson County is not only a great place to visit, but a place to call home. The communities of Daykin, Diller, Endicott, Fairbury, Gladstone, Harbine, Jansen, Plymouth and Reynolds hold many treasures. They all have something for everyone, with historic buildings with detailed facades dating from the turn of the century, and rugged terrain reaching out to tell a tale of lore.

Is your stomach growling? Need to wet your whistle or just wanting to kick back? Make sure to stop and enjoy the atmosphere of our home-



Photo courtesy Fairbury Journal-News.

Living history at the Rock Creek Trail Days

grown restaurants, watering holes and grills with their knowledgeable, colorful and crazy characters. Choose a classic drive-thru and enjoy your meal inside or make it a picnic at one of our many parks. Our restaurants offer hometown favorites whether it be American, Asian or Mexican. Even the sports enthusiast can have a great time, where can you find mounds of made from scratch crunchy onion rings, battered chicken that grandma would be proud to serve, "Ginormous" burgers, locally breaded mountain oysters (you've got to try them), "Elephant Ear" steak, awesome sandwiches, enchiladas with an attitude, must-have prime rib, locally made hotdogs and wings... naked or sauced... are just a few things to try at our watering holes and grills.

Yes, it's going to be hard deciding what to eat. ➡

Daykin • Diller • Endicott • Fairbury • Harbine • Jansen
Plymouth • Reynolds • Steele City

Jefferson County, NE

Discover our Attractions
Explore The Oregon Trail

Rock Creek Station



McDowell's Rose Creek

Mausoleum

Jefferson County

Crystal Springs

Courthouse

Experience our Small-Town Charm

For more information, contact Jefferson County Visitors Center at jvcv@diodecom.net
Fairbury Chamber of Commerce at fairburychamber@diodecom.net
www.visitoregontrail.org 402-729-3000 www.fairburychamber.org



WHAT TO SEE IN JEFFERSON COUNTY

- Endicott Clay Products-Beehive Brick Kilns (located southwest of Endicott)
- Jefferson County Courthouse (located in Fairbury)
- Fairbury City Museum (located in Fairbury)
- McDowell's Rose Creek Mausoleum (located southwest of Fairbury)
- Anna C. Diller Opera House (located in Diller)
- Diller Bank (located in Diller)
- Rock Island Depot Railroad Museum (located in Fairbury)
- Rock Creek Station State Historical Park (located east of Fairbury)
- W.C. Smith House & Lime Kiln (located north of Fairbury)
- Steele City Historical District (located in Steele City)
- Uncle Billy Smith's Cabin (located in Endicott)
- George Winslow's Grave (located northwest of Fairbury)
- Campbell Bros. Circus mural (located in Fairbury)
- Little Blue River Trail (located in Fairbury)
- Frontier Fun Park (located in Fairbury)
- Tri-County Oregon Trail Monument (located east of Steele City area)
- Pottery and Art Gallery (located in Fairbury)
- Four-Corner Survey Marker (located southwest of Fairbury)
- District 10 School Museum (located northwest of Fairbury)
- Steele City Canyons (located west of Steele City area)
- Wildlife Management Areas: offering hiking, hunting, fishing and primitive camping
- Rock Glen (located east of Fairbury near Rock Creek Station State Historical Park)
- Flathead (located south of Fairbury)

- Rose Creek (located southwest of Fairbury)
- Alexandria (located northwest of Fairbury near Alexandria State Recreation Area)

RECREATIONAL CAMPGROUNDS

- Crystal Springs Park (located southwest of Fairbury) offering hiking, fishing and camping with RV hookups, showers and restrooms, picnic shelters and a shaded playground
- Alexandria State Recreation Area (located northwest of Fairbury) offering hiking, fishing and camping with RV hookups, modern and primitive restrooms, dump station, picnic shelters, playground
- Buckley Creek Recreational Area (located southwest of Fairbury) offering hiking, fishing, boating (5 mph limit), golfing, camping with RV hookups, restrooms and picnic shelters
- Cub Creek (located northeast of Fairbury) offering hiking, fishing, boating, hunting, camping, shelter, playground and restrooms
- Leisure Lake (located southeast of Plymouth) offering hiking, fishing, hunting and primitive camping

**For more information contact:
FAIRBURY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE &
VISITOR CENTER**

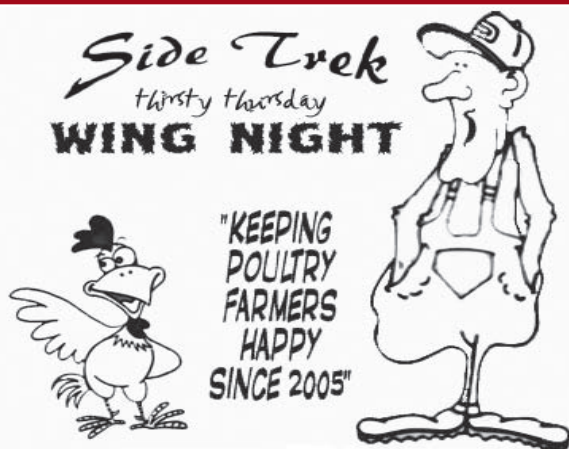
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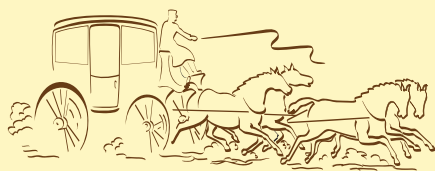
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JEFFERSON COUNTY


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THAYER COUNTY

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ALEXANDRIA

3 miles east and 1 mile south of town, Alexandria State Recreation Area offers good fishing year-round in its two recently reconstructed lakes, which total 47 acres of water (electric trolling motors only). The 1,212-acre area is shaded by mature trees and offers hiking, wildlife viewing, picnic shelters and camping. Twenty-five sites have 30-amp electrical hookups, and modern rest rooms and concessions are on site. (402) 729-5777.

Alexandria is filled with history; the Big Sandy River located south of town had a resort itself with cabins, boating, swimming, a swinging bridge and a big water slide. The **Oregon Trail** ruts are still visible southeast of town, the skunk farm, limestone was available for many buildings and of course, the old country school located southeast of town. Alexandria is the "A" on the alphabetized Street. Joseph & Denver City Railroad, now the Union Pacific line, between Fairbury and Hastings.

BELVIDERE

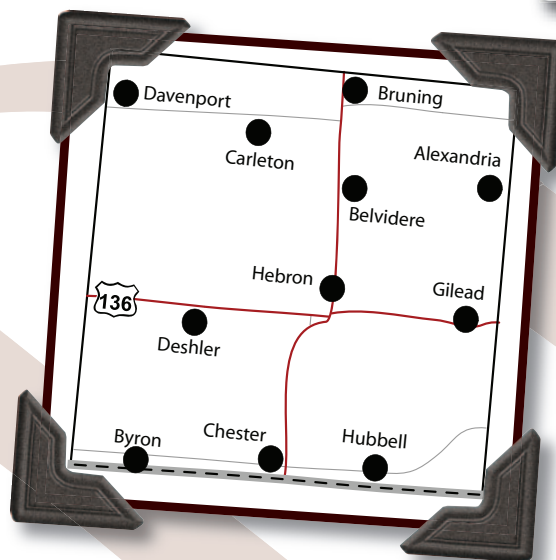
The Thayer County Museum is a three-building complex with artifacts from pioneer times and exhibits from the 11 communities located in the county. A new barn has been constructed to house the antique machinery and farming tools. Belvidere is the "B" on the alphabetized St. Joseph & Denver City Railroad, now the Union Pacific line, between Fairbury and Hastings. The museum is open, Sundays and Wednesdays, 2-4 p.m., or by appointment. Free. (402) 768-6845 or (402) 768-7313. Toad's Bar & Lounge (402) 768-9987 is famous for quality priced dinners and lunches. The event, Toad Jam, is held yearly in August.

BRUNING

The Bruning Opera House was constructed in 1907. The building has served the community for 100 years. The town uses the building as a community hall and library. Other uses have been a movie theater, dance hall, community plays and school activities from basketball to graduation.

The Old Tavern Antique store downtown has many items for sale, stop in and maybe you will find something that is from your past.

A Valentino's Pizza (402) 353-2040 fast food restaurant and Betty's Place Home Style Cooking Restaurant (402) 353-2725 are favorites in the area.



BYRON

Byron once had a local farmer in 1902 string 12-gauge wire from fence post to fence post, connecting it to a box containing two batteries, then hooking it to his homemade transmitter and receiver, he was able to talk with his neighbors. The first telephone company in Byron.

Downtown Byron features Tillie's Bar & Grill, (402) 236-8716 open seven days a week, good home-cooked meals and lots of good old-time fun.

CARLETON

Carleton is an old railroad community. They are the "C" on the alphabetized St. Joseph & Denver City Railroad, now the Union Pacific line, between Fairbury and Hastings. Milo Days are celebrated the second Saturday of September with pancakes made from milo flour. Carleton is known as "The Milo Capital of Nebraska."

T J's Bar & Grill (402) 356-4411 is open daily for noon and evening meals.

CHESTER

Chester home of the "Little Boy Blue" monument. This community found a boy's body, dressed only in blue pajamas, on the highway, a cold, snowy night, that had been abandoned by his father. The community named the boy "Matthew, gift of God," gave him a funeral and his final resting ground.

Foote's Café (402) 324-5674 has served many home-cooked meals throughout the years. Stop by and enjoy down home cooking. ➡➡

DAVENPORT

Davenport's unusual claim to fame is that the first Gideon Bible to be placed in a hotel was in the town of Davenport. That Bible is now in the Gideon headquarters in Chicago. Davenport is the "D" on the alphabetized St. Joseph & Denver City Railroad, now the Union Pacific line, between Fairbury and Hastings.

Base Hit Bar & Restaurant (402) 364-2319 is open daily for noon and evening meals.

DESHLER

Deshler home of the world's largest Broom Factory in the '50s-'60s. Since then Deshler is known for Reinke Pivot Irrigation, you can watch the original pivot, 1968, still working on the Northwest corner of the Deshler west entrance.

The east entrance to Deshler greets you with Centennial Park Arboretum complete with a gazebo with numerous trees and plants. There are 15 species of memorial trees and 32 varieties of shrubs and native grasses. As you travel down Main Street, you see another park called The Friendship Garden. We invite you to sit on the limestone benches, watch for the many birds in the creek area and have your picture taken with our dragon sculpture.

The Rattlesnake Disc Golf Course is quite challenging with nine holes spread out over a 3/4 mile course. The course starts at the Friendship Garden, follows the creek, has holes at the fairgrounds, ball field, City Park and then back to the Friendship Gardens.

As you travel back up town, you may hear the Old Bank clock chiming every 15 minutes letting you know the time. The old original clock, controlled by a wind-up clock that needed to be wound up once a week, is located in the bank building. The chimes have been replaced and now Deshler is back to knowing just what time it is 24 hours a day. No one remembers when the chimes quit playing but everyone is delighted the chimes are playing again.

Deshler Daze is celebrated the third weekend in June, with a BBQ chicken supper on Friday, breakfast, games and food in the park, Cardboard Duct Tape Boat races at the swimming pool, Alumni Banquet on Saturday, and church services on Sunday.

As you leave Deshler traveling west on Highway 136, look toward the west past the pond on the south side of Highway 136, see the variety of animals that are in pasture. As you continue to go west, you will see Sky Hawk Field, where the remote control airplanes can be seen flying loop-to-loops and other interesting patterns. Next, you will see the old one-room schoolhouse that was moved to this location. Stop and peek into the windows to reminisce the olden days.

The Deshler City Park has the swimming pool, ball fields, picnic areas, disc golf course, camping, play equipment and horseshoe pits.

Free camping is available in the City Park with electrical hook-ups and water.

Grandpa's Crossing Restaurant
(402) 365-7244 serving daily meals, both C & M
Supply (402) 365-7200 and the Deshler Bar
(402) 365-7667 has sandwiches and pizza.

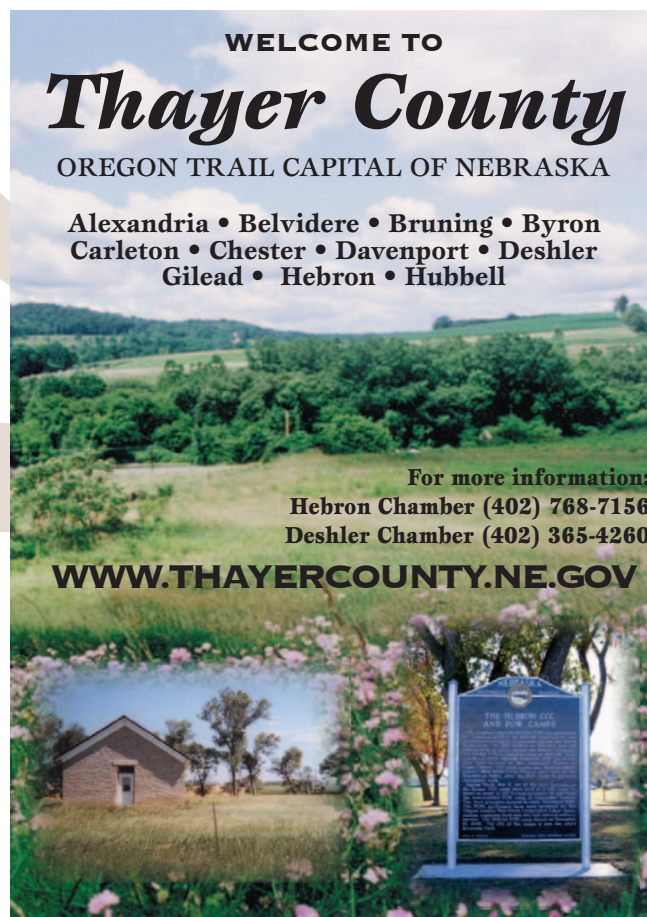
GILEAD

"There is a balm in Gilead," Jeremiah 8:22. This town's name derives from Mount Gilead, Palestine. It is thought by many that the town was named "Gilead" because it is approximately the same distance from another town name Hebron that is also located in the Holy Land.

A limestone school named the Coordsen School, has been dedicated as a new landmark, northeast of Gilead.

The "Pioneers Inn Restaurant & Bar"
(402) 768-7409 is located in a building built in 1887, made of limestone and brick. The building has survived through three fires in Gilead. The building was first used for the railroad workers; they ate downstairs and slept upstairs. Jesse James the outlaw has been known to eat many a good meal at this location. His sister lived 2 miles north of town ♦♦

Alexandria • Belvidere • Bruning • Byron • Carleton • Chester
Davenport • Deshler • Gilead • Hebron • Hubbell



WELCOME TO
Thayer County
OREGON TRAIL CAPITAL OF NEBRASKA

Alexandria • Belvidere • Bruning • Byron
Carleton • Chester • Davenport • Deshler
Gilead • Hebron • Hubbell

For more information:
Hebron Chamber (402) 768-7156
Deshler Chamber (402) 365-4260

WWW.THAYERCOUNTY.NE.GOV

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THAYER COUNTY



on the River Road. Stop by and enjoy good food, atmosphere, and listen to the locals tell their stories.

The Fangmeier Farms Pumpkin Patch is located near Gilead. Open late September – October 31. Family fun, pumpkins, corn maze, hay bale maze and games. (402) 768-2120.

HEBRON

Hebron has the World's Largest Porch Swing, located at the City Park at 5th and Jefferson. Local volunteers built a swing with a seat 32 feet long. Because Hebron does not also have the world's largest front porch, the swing is in Roosevelt Park downtown. In true Nebraska fashion, a section of center pivot forms the swing's top girder. This top girder is actually a subcomponent of the Reinke Corner Gator, a corner watering system, manufactured in Deshler.

The swing is said to be long enough for 24 children or 18 adults. Some say 25 adults, but one web commentator remarked, "as far as I'm concerned, any more than 10 and the quaint opportunities for romance are out of the question." (402) 768-7156.

The Thayer County Courthouse is located in Hebron. The Courthouse was constructed of Indiana limestone in the Romanesque and Gothic style in 1903. There are floor to ceiling safes located in each major office with a different artistic work painted on each safe door. Ask about the four carved faces found on the outside of the building and hear the story of the mystery related to the carvings.

The Hebron Post Office Mural was painted by Miss Eldora Lorenzini in 1939. The work was commissioned as part of the New Deal's Public Works of Art Project and the WPA Federal Art Project which employed thousands of artists during the Great Depression. Twelve murals for 12 newly constructed post offices in Nebraska were commissioned, which Hebron was one. The work has a double signature of the artist. After it was hung the signature was nearly obscured by the molding of the frame of the office door. The artists then signed the mural in the lower left hand corner where it may be seen by the viewer.

The Arrowhead Gardens Arboretum is located on Jefferson Avenue between 7th and 8th Street. Eleven different varieties of trees, six different varieties of native grasses, and many plants may be seen in the gardens.

The 4th of July is Hebron's annual celebration. A parade downtown, breakfast, games and activities throughout the day, food, and fireworks at the airport at dusk.

Camping is available down at the old CC Camp in the Southeast part of town, near the Little Blue River. Riverside Park in Hebron is a beautiful wooded park very near the Little Blue River. The Park has hot showers and restroom facilities available. Sewer

dumping is available at a drive-thru area on the South end of the campground. The park in Hebron is often referred to as the CC Camp due to its history. The CC Camp was home of the Civil Conservation Corp during the Great Depression and then hosted German POWs during World War II.

The Hebron Municipal Swimming Pool, located about a block from Riverside Park operates generally from Memorial Day until school starts, depending upon the weather. The pool has diving boards and a nice little super slide that kids enjoy greatly. Shower facilities are available at the pool. Across from the pool, is playground equipment, ball fields and a sand volleyball playing area.

Hebron's restaurants are Subway (402) 768-2303, Mary's Café (402) 768- 4235, Brand X (402) 768-7230, The Lunch Box (402) 768-6036, 81 Express (402) 768-2223 and Hannah B's (402) 768-8743. All the restaurants serve sandwiches with sit down meals at Mary's Café and Brand X.

HUBBELL

The Sixth Principal Meridian Marker southeast of Hubbell, is the point that all land in Nebraska and Kansas, and most land in Colorado and Wyoming and parts of South Dakota was surveyed and subdivided based on one point along the sixth principal meridian. This was all done in 1856.

Hubbell celebrates Hay Days late in August. Come and enjoy The Acreage Steakhouse (402) 324-5088, serving some of the best food around.

Attractions

ALEXANDRIA STATE RECREATION AREA
4 Miles East of Alexandria, Alexandria
(402) 729-5777

rockcreek@ngpc.state.ne.us

Alexandria State Recreation Area is a small recreation area encompassing 55 acres of land with three lakes totaling 46 acres of water. The area is fairly level with mature trees offering shade to campers. The area has primitive camping sites with 25 non-pad sites ➡



Alexandria State Lakes

Photo courtesy TCEDA.

with electrical hookups and 15 non-pad sites without electricity. Campers can enjoy swimming, picnicking, fishing and wildlife viewing. Only electric fishing motor non-powered boats are allowed on the lakes which were rehabilitated in 1996. The lakes are stocked with bluegill, channel cats and largemouth bass. The area has a swimming beach and a concession area called the Snack Shack which offers groceries (food items), hot meals, ice cream, candy and bait. Parking Permit Required. There is an admission fee for the area.

HEBRON COUNTRY CLUB GOLF COURSE **Rural Route 2** **(402) 768-6350**

The eighth hole on the Hebron Country Club Golf Course offers the everyday golfer the most challenge as it has been classed as the toughest hole on the course. The hole is uphill all the way and hosts a small green with an out-of-bounds behind the green. It has been called especially difficult during the summer months when it plays into the wind.

The nine-hole course, which is located at the junction of U.S. Highway 136 and a paved county road (called First Street.) south of the city of Hebron, is an open, mildly rolling course. The fairways consist of a mixture of grasses. The rough is seeded and cut to a very playable height. The bent grass greens are mid-size, with many having significant slope to them. The 35-par 2,927-yard course includes enough bumps and swales on some holes that it is helpful to have played the course before to know where the level spots are. The ninth hole is a pretty finishing hole with a tee shot over a shallow valley to an undulating green.

Tee times are not required for the course. Carts rent for \$15.00.

HEBRON POST OFFICE MURAL **Hebron Post Office, 145 N. 5th Street, Hebron** **(402) 768-6127**

The 12-foot x 4-foot mural, which depicts the scene of a corn train that left Hebron on the Rock Island Railroad on March 31, 1887, was painted by Miss Eldora Lorenzini and hung in late November 1939.

The work was commissioned as part of the New Deal's Public Works of Art Project and the WPA Federal Art Project which employed thousands of artists during the Great Depression. In 1934 the Section of Painting and Sculpture (renamed the Section of Fine Arts in 1938) was organized under the auspices of the Treasury Department to provide murals and sculptures for many federal buildings.

Between 1938 and 1942 the Treasury Department's Section of Fine Arts commissioned 12 murals for 12 newly constructed post offices in Nebraska which included the one in the Hebron post office.

Lorenzini was awarded the commission in 1938 and came from her home in Colorado Springs to visit Hebron, research the history of the community and prepare her preliminary sketches. She was paid \$670 for her work. An unusual facet of the work is the double signature of the artist. Apparently, Lorenzini signed the piece near the bottom. After it was hung the signature was nearly obscured by the molding of the frame of the office door. She then signed it (with large letters) in the lower left hand corner where it may be seen by the viewer.

SIXTH PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN MARKER **Junction of Thayer & Jefferson counties on** **the Kansas-Nebraska border, southeast of** **Hubbell on Nebraska Highway 8.** **(402) 768-7158**

All land in Kansas and Nebraska and most of Colorado and Wyoming and part of South Dakota was surveyed and subdivided from one point--the sixth principal meridian located on the Kansas and Nebraska border on the Thayer-Jefferson County line.

Visitors to the area will find a 7-foot, 10-inch high historical monument located due east of the initial point. The monument is accompanied by a plaque.

Stone in the monument's base consists of Wyoming granite intermixed with black petrified wood from Nebraska. The cap consists of Colorado red granite, and the spire was fashioned of mahogany granite from South Dakota. Each side of the monument's capstone bears the name of one of the five sixth principal meridian states, the date of that state's entry into the Union, and the logo of the state's professional survey society.

The initial point itself, located at the intersection of two roads, was surveyed by Colonel Charles A. Manners and a crew of 12 on June 11, 1856. What remains of Manners' original red sandstone marker is capped by a manhole cover.

The meridian was placed where a balance between the tide of settlement and the presence of Native Americans existed at the time.

All legal land descriptions---all section corners, all ownership and use documents, and all city, farm, and lot boundaries within the sixth principal meridian ➡



Meridian Marker

Photo courtesy TCEDA.



Courthouse

area---originate from surveys made from this initial point.

STATE OF NEBRASKA HISTORICAL MARKERS

Throughout Thayer County

(402) 768-6845, (402) 768-7313, (402) 768-6587, (402) 768-2256 or (402) 768-2147

You can also visit these Nebraska State Historical Markers in Thayer County:

- **California Trail**- In Belvidere on museum grounds.
- Friedensau- U. S. Highway 136 east of Deshler.
- Bruning Air Field/Hot Air Balloon- Nebraska Highway 4 south and east of Bruning.
- **Oregon Trail**- U. S. Highway 81 north of Hebron.
- Oregon & Pony Express Trails- County roads in central Thayer County.
- Thayer County & Veterans Memorial- On Thayer County Courthouse grounds in Hebron on Fourth Street.

THAYER COUNTY COURTHOUSE

North 4th Street

(402) 768-7158

The Thayer County Courthouse was completed in 1903. Constructed of Indiana limestone in the Romanesque and Gothic style. It had a 100-foot tower which was destroyed in a tornado in 1953.

Special attention was given to the inside construction, making it fireproof. There are floor to ceiling safes located in the corner of each major office with a different artistic work painted on each safe door.

There are two mysteries of the four carved faces found on the outside of the building. One mystery is that Gutzom Borglum, sculptor of the four presidents on Mt. Rushmore, S.D., carved them or not. The other mystery is who the faces represent. Some say one was of "Big Mary," who was a widow of a

man accused of murder and lynched, who later operated a house on the west end of Hebron "where a man could quench his thirst;" another was Borglum himself; a third, the courthouse yard keeper and the fourth, a prominent Hebron businessman.

THAYER COUNTY MUSEUM

110 9th Street, Belvidere

(402) 768-4127 or (402) 768-7313

www.thayercountymuseum.com

Open 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. daily, except Saturday and Monday from late May to early October or anytime by appointment by calling (402) 768-7313 or (402) 768-6845 or (402) 768-6587.

Has special displays of artifacts from the World War II-era Bruning Army Air base and early modern day ballooning which started in Thayer County.

The museum holds many other exhibits and artifacts in 15 rooms pertaining to Thayer County history. Included in the vintage rooms are a parlor, dining room, kitchen and bedroom. There is a merchant's hall, a school room, an "our Country" room, plus a library room for research.

The museum complex also includes an Agricultural building with vintage farm machinery, tractors, buggies, Model T autos, fire trucks, a printing press, a blacksmith shop, farm tools, a moveable jail, a barn cupola and other larger items.

A country school house and a Union Pacific Railroad caboose may also be explored on the museum grounds. No admission (free will offering)

WORLD'S LARGEST PORCH SWING

Jefferson Avenue at Roosevelt Park

(402) 768-7158

The World's Largest Porch Swing has an overhead span that is actually a subcomponent of the Reinke CornerGator, a corner watering system manufactured by Reinke Manufacturing Co. in Deshler, Neb.

Originally built in 1985 and moved to its present site in 1991. Estimated capacity 16 adults, 24 children.



World's Largest Porch Swing

Photo courtesy TCEDA

Photo courtesy TCEDA

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Photo courtesy Nuckolls County Visitor's Committee.

Enjoying a rickshaw ride at the Vesty Festival in Superior.

EXPERIENCE THE RURAL LIFESTYLE IN THE CENTER OF THE UNITED STATES.

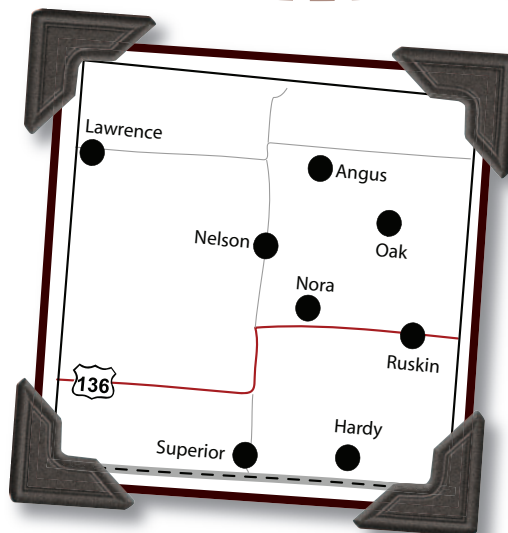
Over the years our citizens have shown resiliency not with “knuckles” but with “Nuckolls” as the county was named in 1859. Though we have royalty under our soil, agriculture reigns above ground with a near equal mix of corn, grain sorghum, soybeans and wheat along with a good measure of cattle, hogs, sheep and horses.

Each July residents celebrate their agricultural heritage at the Nuckolls County Fair and Rodeo held in Nelson. Rodeo action continues on Labor Day weekend, when the State High School Rodeo returns to the fairgrounds. While visiting Nuckolls County, you may get dust on your hiking boots while walking the **Oregon Trail**. From the late 1840s until about 1879 the trail was the equivalent of today’s interstate highways. The Pony Express route followed the trail across northeastern Nuckolls County. To learn more about the trail, visit the town of Oak where the trail passes down Main Street. Local tradition holds that Parson Bob raised Calamity Jane in a cabin along



Photo courtesy Nuckolls County Visitor's Committee.

“Mutton-busting” at the Nuckolls County Fair in Nelson.
(Kids Rodeo is always on Sundays)



the Little Blue River just northwest of Oak. There, she met Wild Bill Hickok after his shootout with the McCandless gang at Rock Creek Station only a few miles to the east in Jefferson County. From Nuckolls County the two Old West characters fled to the Black Hills and into the pages of history.

If you want mud on your boots, explore one of our minimum maintenance roads and keep an eye out for the many kinds of wild animals and fowl that inhabit the area. Deer and wild turkeys are plentiful and the county is located in the central flyway, which offers an abundance of birds during their annual migration.

For those who want to cool off in the water, the area offers lots of opportunity. Canoe the Little Blue and Republican Rivers or soak in the municipal swimming pool in Lawrence, Nelson or Superior (Superior’s recently renovated pool is the seventh largest municipal pool in Nebraska). Or, visit nearby Lovewell Lake and State Park, only 10 minutes away in northern Kansas.

INTERESTED IN HISTORY?

Nuckolls County has it. In addition to the Oregon Trail there are museums in Oak and Superior. The Russ Snyder Museum in Oak celebrates professional baseball, particularly the professional career of Russ Snyder who played for five teams from 1959 to 1970. Russ played with the Baltimore Orioles when they won the World Series in 1966. The Nuckolls County Historical Society operates a complex of eight buildings including the first post office to serve Superior (a log cabin), the oldest church building ➡

Angus • Hardy • Lawrence • Nelson • Nora • Oak • Ruskin • Superior

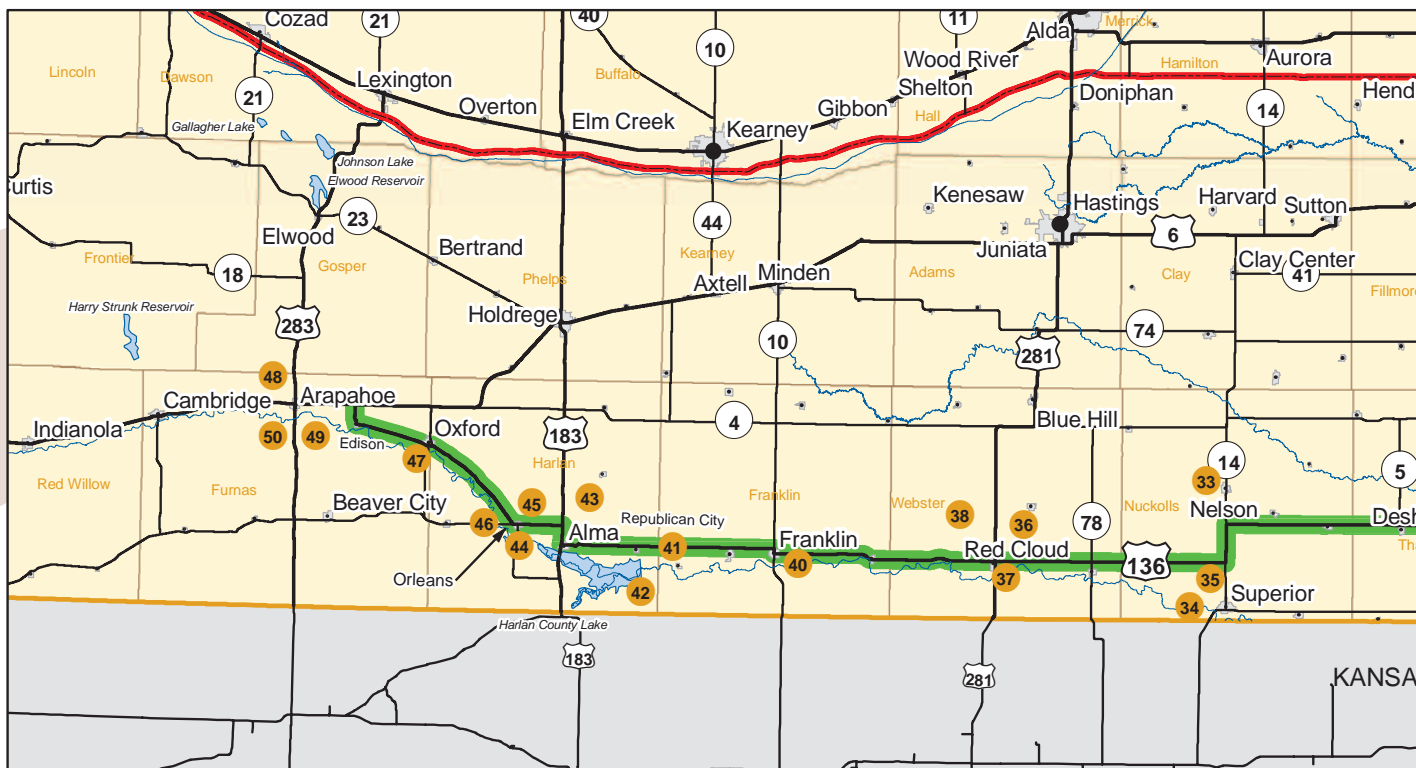


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NUCKOLLS COUNTY

BLAZE THE

32



Map courtesy Chuck Wingert, Nemaha Natural Resources District

BROWNVILLE

1. 1860 Carson House
2. Meriwether Lewis Dredge and Missouri River History Museum
3. River Inn Resort
4. Spirit of Brownville Riverboat
5. Steamboat Trace Trail
6. Whiskey Run Creek Winery

SHUBERT

7. Indian Cave State Park

PERU

8. Campus of a Thousand Oaks Arboretum

AUBURN

9. Nemaha Valley Museum
10. Nemaha County Courthouse and Calvert District

JOHNSON/BROCK

11. Coryell Park

TECUMSEH

12. Colonel Barney Oldfield Exhibit
13. First Rural Mail Delivery Route in Nebraska
14. Johnson County Courthouse and Limestone Jail

PAWNEE CITY

15. Pawnee County Historical Society & Museum
16. Pedal Clinic

BURCHARD

17. Burchard Lake

FILLEY

18. Elijah Filley Stone Barn

WYMORE

19. Great Plains Welsh Heritage Centre

BEATRICE

20. Rockford Lake State Recreation Area
21. Gage County Courthouse
22. Gage County Historical Society and Museum
23. Beatrice Big Blue Water Park
24. Homestead National Monument of America

ODELL

25. Friends of the Old West Trail Center

FAIRBURY

26. Rock Creek Station
27. Fairbury City Museum

28. Fairbury Ro
29. Frontier Fur
30. Jefferson Co
31. New Earth C

HEBRON

32. World's Larg

NELSON

33. Cemetery Wa

SUPERIOR

34. Nuckolls Cou
35. Victorian Ca

RED CLOUD

36. Starke Roun
37. Willa Cather
38. Webster Cou

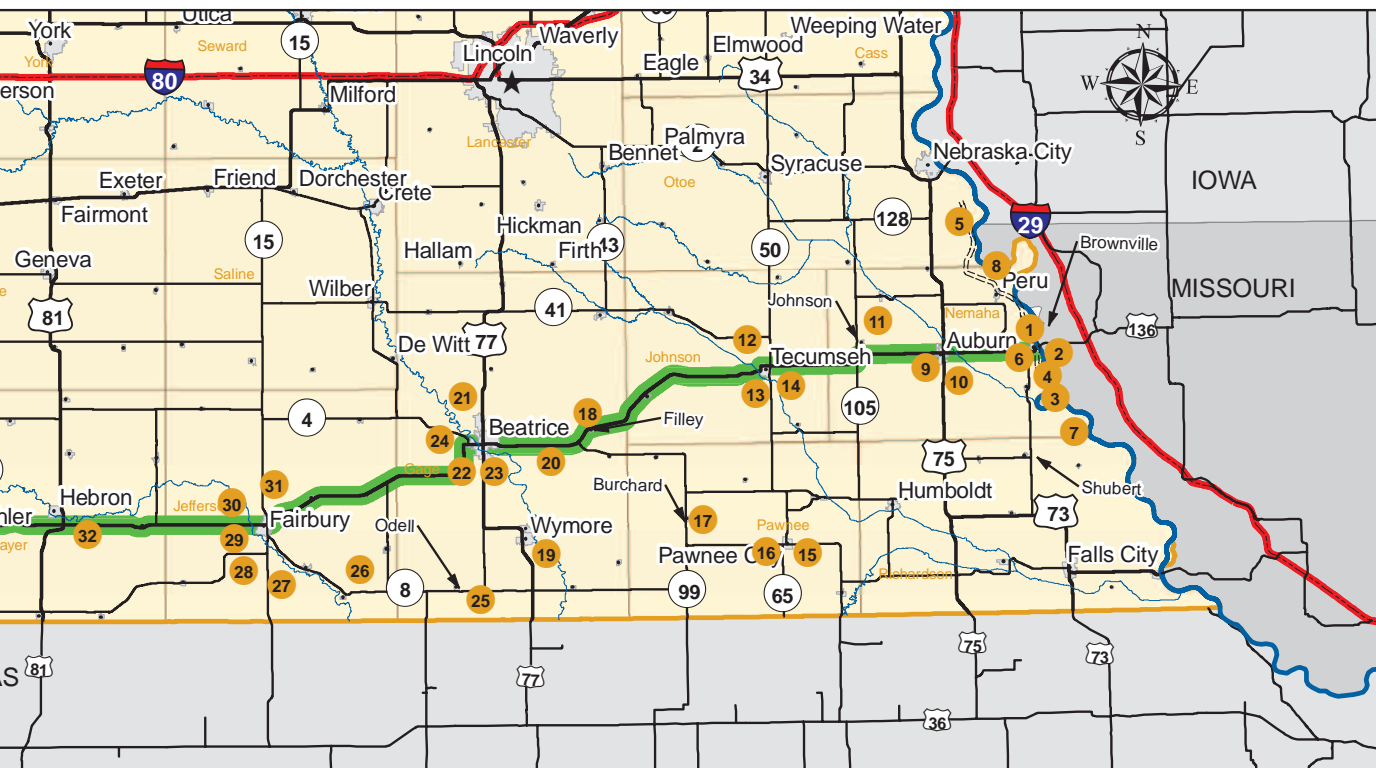
FRANKLIN

40. Franklin Co

REPUBLICAN

41. Lighthouse I
42. Theatre of t

THE TRAIL



Black Island Depot Museum
 Lincoln Park
 County Courthouse
 Clay Pottery and Art Gallery

West Porch Swing

Walkway

County Museum
 Capital of Nebraska

and Barn
 for State Historical Sites
 County Historical Museum

County Historical Museum

CITY
 Museum
 the American West

ALMA

43. Harlan County Lake

ORLEANS

44. Orleans Hotel
 45. St. Mary's Catholic Church
 46. Harlan County Museum

OXFORD

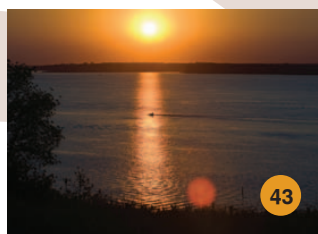
47. Cardinal Country Club

EDISON

48. Ag Valley Grain Elevator

ARAPAHOE

49. Furnas-Gosper Museum
 50. Our Lady of Fatima Shrine





in Nuckolls County and Marquardt Hall, which is filled with a large and unique collection of hand carved model airplanes. While at the museum and at the Superior Public Library check out the story of Evelyn Brodstone, the daughter of Superior's first storeowner. She became the world's highest paid businesswoman and a member of British Nobility. Superior's annual Lady Vesty Festival honors her memory with a host of activities, including dances, a parade, and the annual alumni banquet. In Nelson, the Nuckolls County Court House and Cemetery Walkway are listed in the National Historical Registry. Nelson also has the



Local festivals wouldn't be complete without good food and good company. (Pic taken at BBQ lunch in Superior)

Photo courtesy Nuckolls County Visitor's Committee



Photo courtesy Nuckolls County Visitor's Committee

Explore nature at a leisurely pace while canoeing down the Republican River.

Historic Carved Sandstone Faces located on West Fourth Street on the north side of the old Stansbury Building.

While at the Library, trace your family roots in the Nuckolls County Genealogy section.

IF YOU LIKE COMMUNITY CELEBRATIONS, YOU'RE IN LUCK!

Nuckolls County has several community fun days each year with a wide variety of homespun activities for people of all ages. Nelson hosts a day long July 4th celebration starting with a 1 mile or 3 mile walk/run, and breakfast in the park. Other activities in the park include washer board, horseshoe, sand ➡

- A progressive community that offers a complete package of resources and incentives
- Safe and welcoming hometown atmosphere with reliable Midwest work ethics
- Located in the center of U.S. transportation routes, in the agricultural heartland of south-central Nebraska
- Scheduled for completion in 2011 is an all new 6 million dollar elementary school and a new Country Club located at the golf course

- Just completed an 8 million dollar expansion to our hospital, 600-ft. extension to the airport's 3,700-foot paved and lighted runway, sale of Superior Development Corporation's 20,000-square-foot spec building with a 28-acre site with utilities still available
- Regional tourism with a Festival every Memorial weekend celebrating our Victorian heritage
- High participation and community support with active Chamber of Commerce

Superior is an ideal place to start your business, stop by or call home.

SUPERIOR DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
(402) 879-3419
 354 N. Commercial • Superior, NE 68978 • superiorcc@windstream.net
www.cityofsuperior.org

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Hours: Monday-Friday 9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Saturday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. ♥ Sunday Closed
www.sugarshackcandles.com



Photo courtesy Nuckolls County Visitor's Committee

Immerse yourself in Victorian culture at the Victorian Tea at the Lady Vestey Festival in Superior.

volleyball, and a 3 on 3 golf tournament. Stick around for dinner and supper in the park and enjoy the evening fireworks show. The Nuckolls County Fair is held in July each year, at the Fair Grounds located just south of Nelson. Superior holds a three-day Victorian Festival each Memorial Weekend and a July 4th celebration with a 10K run, games and a fireworks show. Lawrence has a Fun Day every year during the summer that includes activities for all kids and adults. Every fourth year, Oak hosts a celebration based upon the Oregon Trail and the area's rich heritage. This includes a reenactment tour of the Oregon Trail.

All of the towns in Nuckolls County were started during the late Victorian period and have great examples of Victorian architecture. Downtown businesses and ornately decorated homes are commonplace in both Nelson and Superior and the county seat, Nelson, is home to the stately Nuckolls County Courthouse, built in 1890. Superior has been designated by the Nebraska legislature as the Victorian Capital of Nebraska. The community has several building on the National Register of Historic Places. Pick up a tour guide pamphlet at the Chamber of Commerce office and spend an afternoon walking about the town absorbing the community history from the Victorian period.

NEED A PLACE TO STAY?

Superior and Nelson both have motels to accommodate travelers. If you are seeking a clean, quiet room to relax in, would rather indulge yourself with a room outfitted in Victorian luxury or want to experience unusual décor like a room featuring a porch swing, you can find it in Nuckolls County. A quiet country get-away for couples that also features a space specializing in amenities for hunters is also available right outside of Superior. If you RV, parks in Superior, Nelson, Lawrence, and Oak have RV parking with electrical hookups. Superior's RV Park has water hookups and a dump station, while Nelson's RV Park has water and sewer hookups and a dump station. Nearby Lovewell Lake State Park and

Liberty Cove State Recreation Area have hundreds of camping spots ranging from primitive to full-service. The 1,600-acre state park also has showers, beaches, shelter houses, a full-service marina and grill, and cabins for rent by the day or week. The lake is a 3,000-surface-acre reservoir and is a hotspot for fishing enthusiasts, boaters, swimmers and skiers. Visit it in the right season you are apt to see eagles, turkey buzzards, pelicans as well as thousands of geese and ducks.

INTERESTED IN ONE-OF-A-KIND DINING OR SHOPPING?

Interested in Wine? Think lattes or gourmet muffins or wraps are only found in the city? You'll find them here as well as delicacies that are unique to Nuckolls County. Throughout the county you will have your choice of chain restaurants or establishments that are the favorites of locals. Be sure to leave plenty of time to shop. We can boast of having some of the finest antique and gift shopping in the area not to mention day spas and salons for rejuvenating. A recently established winery in Superior offers a close-up look at grape production, and wine making as well as samples of wine that are bottled on-site.

LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO PUT DOWN ROOTS AND ESTABLISH A NEW HOME?

Come grow with us. The living is good and the rates are reasonable. Residents of Nuckolls County enjoy excellent schools, top medical facilities and recreational amenities that appeal to families in every stage of their life. Safe, secure, and serene describe their lifestyle.

For up-to-date and more detailed information on what the people of Nuckolls County have to offer, please check out the following websites. Some addresses you may want to consider are cityofnelson.com, cityofsuperior.org, superiorne.com, lawrence-ne.com, nuckollscounty.ne.gov, nuckollscountyonline.com, and jewellcountyonline.com.



Photo courtesy Nuckolls County Visitor's Committee

Ready, Set, Go! Contestants line up for the "Diaper Dash." (Pic from the "Journey to the Core" event, Superior.)

MILE
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6
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WEBSTER COUNTY

MILE
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WEBSTER COUNTY HISTORY

Webster County, located in the southern tier of counties approximately 150 miles west of the Missouri River, was first settled by whites in the spring of 1870. The first group consisted of 19 members of the Rankin colony of Omaha and a second group arrived from Beatrice later that same year. On April 19, 1871, an election was held to organize the county and to locate the county seat, although the boundaries had earlier been defined by a state legislative act approved February 16, 1867. The organization of the county was approved by the voters and the county seat was located at Red Cloud. This community, the first in the county, was settled by Silas Garber, and was conveniently located in relation to the more densely populated portion of the county.

Webster County was named in honor of Daniel Webster (1782-1852), the American statesman.

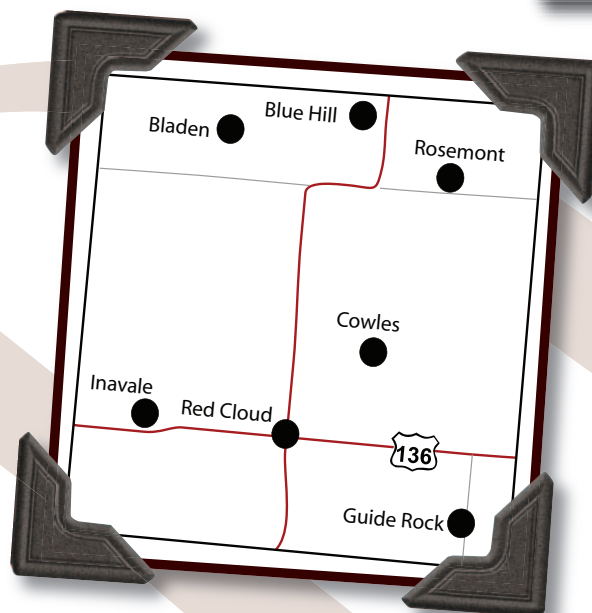
RED CLOUD HISTORY

www.RedCloudGuideRock.com

Willard Thorp, in *American Writing in the Twentieth Century* says, "from the literary standpoint, Red Cloud ranks as one of the most famous villages in American Literature." This is because Red Cloud is home to the largest living memorial to an author in the country. Willa Cather spent her childhood in this small railroad town, and it is the mission of the Willa Cather Foundation to promote and assist in the development and preservation of the art, literary, and historical collections relating to the life, times, and works of one of America's - and the world's - most beloved and respected authors. As a result of its efforts, the Foundation brings over 10,000 visitors to Red Cloud each year.

Founded in 1871 and named by Silas Garber - banker and fourth governor of Nebraska - Red Cloud was a booming, growing pioneer community that saw eight passenger trains a day come through its Burlington Depot, now restored and maintained by the Willa Cather Foundation in conjunction with the Nebraska State Historical Society. In total, this partnership preserves and cares for nearly 20 nationally designated buildings related to the writings of Willa Cather. (Red Cloud was the prototype for six fictional villages in Cather's novels and for many more towns that appear in her short stories.)

Garber and a group of local businessmen named the town Red Cloud in honor of the chief of the



Oglala division of the Teton-Lakota Sioux, who became nationally known in 1870 during the first of many trips to Washington, D.C., as a dedicated negotiator for the Sioux. (Red Cloud is located in what is known traditionally as Pawnee/Otoe territory; there is no evidence of Sioux having been in this area.)

GUIDE ROCK HISTORY

www.RedCloudGuideRock.com

Guide Rock was named after a prominent rock bluff - Pa-Hur - which was an important landmark and guide to early trappers and Native Americans (Pawnee). The bluff is situated on the southeast end of town. Guide Rock was settled in 1870. The Rankin party was the first settlers to arrive. They had planned to continue further west but instead chose to settle in Guide Rock and erect a stockade. The Guide Rock Post Office was established that same year, and A.M. Talbot was the very first postmaster.

The railroad was built through Guide Rock in 1881-1882, and the main street was moved to accommodate the depot. Immigration from the East and overseas increased with settlers coming west on the trains. Over the decades, Guide Rock continued to grow and prosper. Early enterprises included Portwoods Groceries, the Hi-Way Cafe, and Ely's Grains, Feeds, and Seeds. The 1950 Diversion Dam, erected 2.5 miles west of Guide Rock, improved irrigation and water control for the river valley, which expanded agricultural activity in the region. ♦♦



BLUE HILL HISTORY

www.bluehillne.com

Blue Hill is located 22.5 miles north of the Nebraska-Kansas line and 150 miles west of the Missouri River. It is 40 miles north and a little east of the geographical center of the United States. The town is along the north border of Webster County and lies between the Republican and Little Blue rivers.

The town of Blue Hill was considered to be named Belmont, but finding another town in Nebraska by that name, Blue Hill was the name finally selected. The name was derived from its location on the hills of the Blue River. According to Henry Gannett's work from "The Origin of Certain Place Names in the United States" he states, "The town was so named because of the bluish atmosphere surrounding the hill on which the village is located."

The town of Blue Hill is at the crossing of the Hastings branch of the Burlington and Missouri River Railroad and the Nebraska and Colorado Railroad. It was surveyed and platted in September 1878, for its original proprietor, Solomon B. Rohrer, of Hagerstown, Md. After the survey was complete, building commenced immediately. The first train arrived in December of 1878. The Missouri River Railroad soon built a depot and section house. Blue Hill's distance from large towns, and its fine railroad

facilities and the good country surrounding it, rendered its future success.

BLADEN HISTORY

Bladen, named for Ellen Bladen Gere, daughter of the *Lincoln State Journal* founder, was surveyed in May 1886 by A. B. Smith for the Lincoln Land Company. Laid out on flat ground east of the pioneer town of "Wells," it is where four sections corner each other in Glenwood Precinct in Webster County. Silas and Sylvia Wells had established the Wells Post Office when they homesteaded there in early 1872. The settlement was known as "Pickleville" after Silas, a truck gardener, had a bumper crop of cucumbers which supplied pickles for the whole area. The town of Wells was also known for "that-there frog pond" on main street that would fill up during the rainy season, and for the bridge on the Little Blue River which could be used "except when it rained." When the people in Wells learned that the Burlington and Missouri River Railroad would be building through the county, they offered the railroad \$3,000 to locate the depot at Wells. However, a train would not be able to make the grade if it stopped at the bottom of the hill so land was purchased from W. C. Wicks and L. B. Thorne east of Wells. Tracks were laid right through the center of Wells which quickly became a ghost town as merchants and residents scrambled to ➡

Bladen • Blue Hill • Cowles • Guide Rock • Red Cloud • Rosemont • Inavale

WEBSTER COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM



Our Genealogy Room is open year-round. Call for appointment throughout the months of December-March.

Open from April 1 to October 30 1 p.m.- 5 p.m. six days a week.
Closed on Mondays and Holidays.

**721 West Fourth Avenue, P.O. Box 464
Red Cloud, NE 68970**

Located 6 blocks west of downtown Red Cloud, on Nebraska Byway 136, the Webster County Historical Museum is housed in a beautiful 1910 classic revival style brick mansion. The rich heritage of the early settlers of Webster County is shown through the collections depicted throughout the four floors.

The Man & The Land Exhibit Building has an outstanding display "Creating the Plains Community." It also shows some of the paleontology finds of this area along the Republican River valley. Special showings are on exhibit each season in this building.

The Farm Implement Building also offers displays of rural farm life set in the late 1800s and the early 1900s. A 1904 Rumely steam engine and a 1910 Case threshing machine are housed here along with many other farm implements. A scale model of the "Round Barn" is also featured here.

History of bygone settlements and the small communities of Blue Hill, Rosemont, Bladen, Inavale, Guide Rock, and Red Cloud are depicted.

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WEBSTER COUNTY



relocate up on the hill in the new town of Bladen. The first passenger train arrived on Christmas Eve, 1886. The new town's hotel was ready for business with nine bedrooms, a dining room, and separate parlors for ladies and gentlemen. The Bladen House registered names of salesmen from Illinois to California. G.P. Cather Jr., cousin of Willa Cather, is one of the names found on the pages.

The Webster County Fair has been at Bladen since 1905, when a group of eager young businessmen gave it a home. (The county seat had little interest in having it due to alleged "bad influence from horse races and carnivals." Bladen boasted one of the finest half-mile race tracks in the state when harness racing was popular.) The fair is the big event of the summer, with 4-H exhibits and activities a large part of the programs.

Bladen, part of Catherland, was the home of Mrs. Pavelka, prototype of *My Antonia*, perhaps Willa Cather's most widely-known book. East Lawn Cemetery, near town, is where the grave of G. P. Cather Jr. is located. The first Nebraska officer to be killed on duty in France in World War I, he was the red-haired farm lad called "Claude" in Willa Cather's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel *One of Ours*.



Photo courtesy Willa Cather Foundation.

Willa Cather Childhood Home

Attractions

WILLA CATHER STATE HISTORIC SITE
413 North Webster Street, Red Cloud
866-731-7304

www.WillaCather.org
info@willacather.org

Red Cloud was the childhood home of Willa Cather, the Pulitzer Prize-winning author, and it is known throughout the world as the setting for her six Nebraska novels and numerous short stories. Her legacy lives on today, and is present in the rich array of cultural and artistic activities and events that are available in Red Cloud.

WILLA CATHER CHILDHOOD HOME
NEBRASKA STATE HISTORICAL SITE

World-famous author Willa Sibert Cather (1873-1947) moved with her family from Virginia to the Red Cloud area in 1883. Many of her best-known writings deal with life in the Red Cloud vicinity. The Cather House, in which she lived from 1884 to 1890, figures prominently in *The Song of the Lark*, *The Best Years*, and *Old Mrs. Harris*. This house, located in Red Cloud, is the most important Nebraska building associated with her literary career. ➡

Starke Round Barn



Historical Site

Located near Red Cloud, Neb., this National Register property is the largest true round barn in the world.

The building has 3 stories and it is 130 feet in diameter, 400 feet in circumference and the center silo has a diameter of 28 feet and is 60 feet high. The frame of this huge structure is held together by balance and tension rather than nails or pegs. The massive 12"x12" timbers were shipped by rail from the virgin forests of Wisconsin. This National Registry property is over 100 years old.

Join us each year for Barnfest

A full day of activities such as butter churning, cider pressing, old-time farming demonstrations and machinery displays. Don't miss out on all the fun!

For details about this and our other special events,
 go to www.starkeroundbarn.com or lrasser@gmail.com.

Starke Round Barn, LLC
632 Road H • Red Cloud, NE 68970

From the Junction of U.S. Highways 281 and 136 in Red Cloud, Neb., go east 4.5 miles and turn right at the BNSF tracks at Amboy.



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Make a reservation today by calling
402-746-2201

Green Acres Motel and RV Park
 Troi and Stan Ellis • 791 N Hwy 281 Red Cloud, NE



HARLING HOUSE

Built ca. 1878, the Miner house is one of the finest large historic houses in Red Cloud. This is the home described in *My Antonia*, where Antonia worked. Annie Pavelka is the prototype for Antonia, and she lived here while working for the Miner family (the Miner family was the prototype for the Harling family). Willa Cather's first playmate in Red Cloud was Mary Miner. Cather became friends with all of the Miner children, but especially Carrie. She wrote to Carrie regularly throughout her life and her book *My Antonia* is dedicated "To Carrie and Irene Miner, In memory of affections old and true."

RED CLOUD OPERA HOUSE

411 N. Webster Street, Red Cloud
(402) 746-2641

www.willacather.org

The Opera House building was constructed in 1885 to house the hardware business of Morhart and Fulton on the ground floor and the opera house above. The stage of the opera house saw the performances of many traveling stock companies and it served as the center of social and cultural life in Red Cloud for more than 30 years. Willa Cather gave her high school commencement address from the stage of the opera house. It closed its doors in 1916 and was silent for 87 years. After a Willa Cather Foundation refurbishment, the restored Opera House opened its doors in May 2003, and has been hosting shows, musicals, exhibits, and world premiers ever since.

WILLA CATHER MEMORIAL PRAIRIE

413 N. Webster, Red Cloud
(402) 746-2653

www.willacather.org

The Willa Cather Memorial Prairie is a large tract of unbroken prairie nearly 608 acres in area. The prairie, which characterized this land when the

Cathers first arrived in Nebraska, had a profound, lasting influence on the young Willa Cather. She refers to this land in both *My Antonia* and *O Pioneers!* This tract of never-been-plowed, native prairie is an ecological gem that is being conserved and restored to its pre-1900 conditions. The newly established walking trails are a great place for visitors to explore.

MOON BLOCK

The building was constructed in 1886 by Sen. John Moon as commercial and office space. One of the second level offices was occupied by Willa Cather's first adult friend, Dr. G. E. McKeeby (Dr. Archie in *Song of the Lark*).

BAPTIST CHURCH

The First Baptist Church was built with funds provided by the American Baptist Home Mission Society, as well as local funds. The church was dedicated in 1884. The Cather family were Baptists when they moved to Nebraska and remained with that denomination until 1922, when they joined the Episcopal Church. The Baptist Church was completed about the time the Cathers moved into Red Cloud, and is the church building they attended while they were members.

BURLINGTON DEPOT

NEBRASKA STATE HISTORICAL SITE

Depots in general played a significant role in Willa Cather's writings. The original two-story section of the depot, constructed in 1897, is the building Cather was familiar with during her last years in Red Cloud. Red Cloud was on the main line of the Burlington and Missouri between Kansas City and Denver. At one time, eight passenger trains passed through town daily, making the Red Cloud depot a busy and exciting place.

ST. JULIANA FALCONIERI

CATHOLIC CHURCH

NEBRASKA STATE HISTORICAL SITE

St. Juliana Falconieri Catholic Church is the church that Annie Pavelka, "Antonia," was married in and where her illegitimate child was baptized. Architecturally, the church is a significant vernacular structure, a fine specimen of modest church architecture for the period and, aside from the depot, the most impressive architectural feature of South Red Cloud.

FARMERS' AND MERCHANTS' BANK

NEBRASKA STATE HISTORICAL SITE

Built in 1888-89, it is also known as the Garber Bank. The bank was organized by Silas Garber, who was its first president. Willa Cather was long a ➔



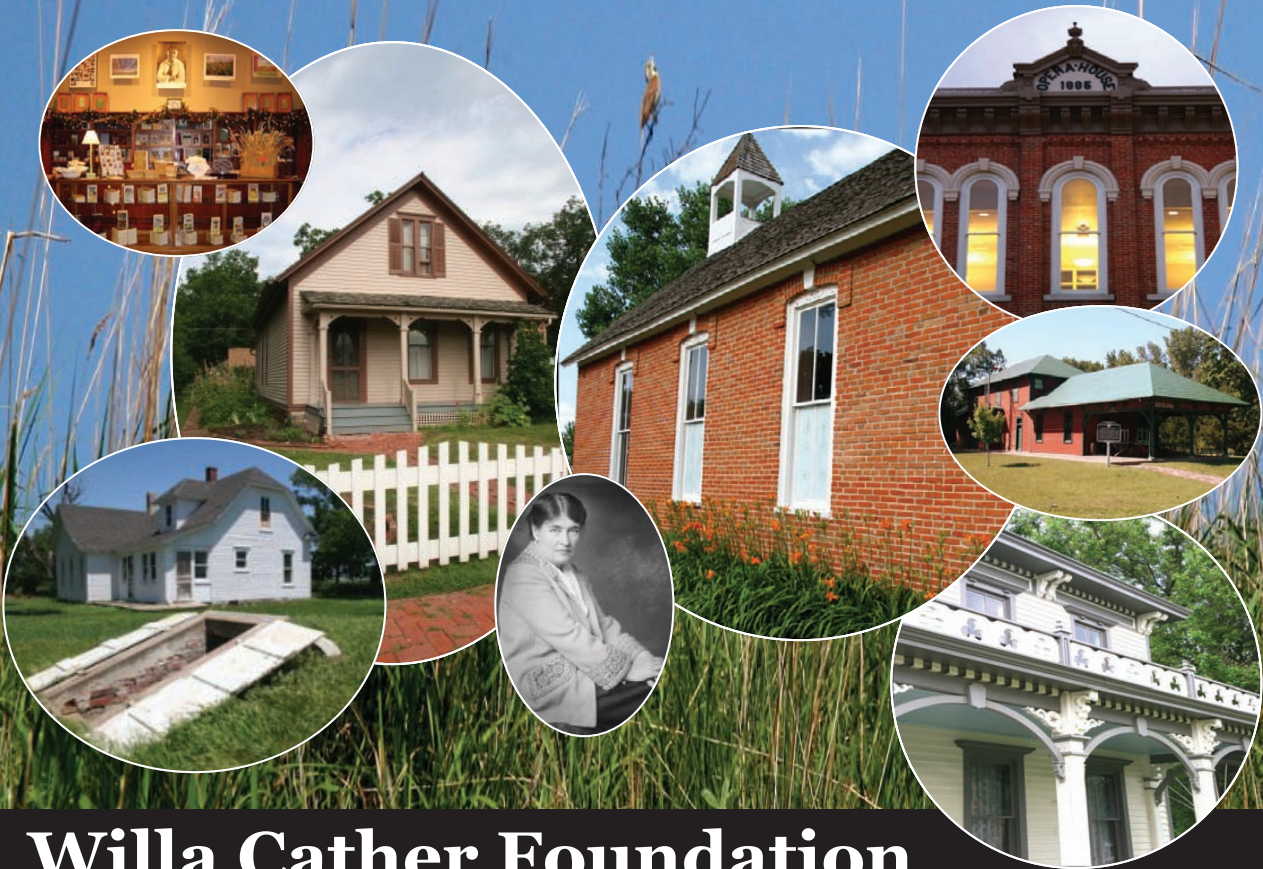
Willa Cather Memorial Prairie

Photo courtesy Willa Cather Foundation.



RED CLOUD

Willa Cather's Window to the World



Willa Cather Foundation

Situated in the heart of Heritage Highway, the Willa Cather Foundation is the perfect place to stop, explore, and stay on your travels from Brownville or Edison.

The Red Cloud Opera House is a captivating setting for book signings, readings, humanities presentations, and theatrical performances. Tours of Willa Cather's childhood home and other historic buildings related to her life and writing are offered daily, and the Willa Cather Memorial Prairie is a must see for all birding and nature enthusiasts.

Nebraska State Historical Society Site

*Tours • Prairie • Bookstore
Gallery • Opera House*



For more information visit
www.WillaCather.org or call 866-731-7304

personal friend of the Garbers and eventually used them as prototypes for Captain and Mrs. Forrester in *A Lost Lady*. The bank is used in two of Cather's other writings: the short story, "Two Friends," and the novel, *Lucy Gayheart*.

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

NEBRASKA STATE HISTORICAL SITE

Willa Cather was brought up in the Baptist Church, but became a member of Grace Church in 1922. The altar rail was dedicated in memory of Willa's brother, Douglas, and Willa, herself, dedicated two of the stained glass windows - one to her mother and one to her father.

PAVELKA FARMSTEAD

(ÁNTONIA FARMSTEAD)

NEBRASKA STATE HISTORICAL SITE

The Pavelka farmstead is located in the northern part of a small but substantial Bohemian settlement concentrated primarily in Batin and Glenwood townships. The farmstead is significant as the setting for Willa Cather's *Book V*, "Cuzak's Boys," of *My Antonia*, and the short story, "Neighbor Rosicky." Additionally, the site's significance to Czech-American cultural heritage is considerably enhanced through Cather's use of the site in these writings.

RED CLOUD GOLF COURSE

(402) 746-2567

Red Cloud is proud to have the third best nine-hole public golf course in Nebraska. Designed by the late PGA Tour pro Harry Obitz in 1988, the course boasts elevated greens for quick play after a hard rain. It has a driving range and putting green and offers cart rental and a full clubhouse bar. The Red Cloud Golf Course is fun for players of all levels. Open year-round. Located 2 miles east and ½ mile north of Red Cloud. For more information, call (402) 746-2567.



Webster County Museum



Starke Round Barn

STARKE ROUND BARN

3.5 miles east of Red Cloud

(402) 746-2754

www.starkeroundbarn.com

Starke Round Barn is a historic and engineering marvel. More than 100 years old, the barn is massive in size but its frame is held together without nails or pegs of any kind. Measuring 130 feet in diameter and three stories in height, the structure is constructed with balloon framing and heavy timber supports. The Starke Brothers: Conrad, Ernest, William and Chris, who came to Nebraska from Milwaukee, Wis., built the Starke Barn in 1902-1903. The top level of the structure was used for hay storage, the main level of the barn was for machinery storage, and grain bins were eventually added around the silo. The lower level was used for livestock -- the southern end for cows and the northern end for horses. The Starke Round Barn is the state's largest and one of the largest in the nation. This extraordinary barn was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in April 1972. The barn now holds numerous special events throughout the year and is the site of the annual Barnfest celebration.

WEBSTER COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM

721 West 4th Avenue, P.O. Box 464

Red Cloud

(402) 746-2444

wchmdirector@gpcom.net

Housed in a 1909 classic revival-style brick mansion, the Webster County Historical Museum is a beautiful landmark and an outstanding resource for learning about the area's rich pioneering and agricultural history. The four floors of the museum bring to life the early settlers of Webster County. It is a treasure trove of information about local families living in the Red Cloud and Guide Rock areas during the late 1800s and early 1900s. Items include books, diaries, Bibles, hymnals, paintings, clothing, and furniture. There are also schoolbooks and desks from the first schoolhouse in Webster County, which was

Photo courtesy Willa Cather Foundation.

Bladen • Blue Hill • Cowles • Guide Rock • Red Cloud • Rosemont • Inavale

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WEBSTER COUNTY



Little Red School House

opened in Guide Rock in 1867. Mary Kingsley was the first teacher of the Guide Rock school, earning \$12 a month in salary. Photographs and a select few brochures and letters from Silas Garber are also available at the museum. Garber was one of the original settlers of Webster County and was the governor of Nebraska from 1875-1879. There are a few photographs and personal accounts of the "Great Storm of Red Cloud," which happened in 1879, when a storm nearly destroyed the entire town. The majority of the town's buildings were leveled and there was over \$10,000 in damages. Museum artifacts also include a 1904 Rumely steam engine and a 1910 Case threshing machine, along with other examples of early-day farming machinery. The paleontology exhibit, "Digging Through Time" showcases some of the wondrous fossil finds that have been discovered in Webster County. The museum's genealogy department is a popular destination for those interested in learning more about their family tree. They have marriage announcements and obituaries that date back to the late 1800s. The department also has old copies of the *Blue Hill Leader* and the *Webster County Argus* available for review and research. The museum is located 6 blocks west of downtown Red Cloud, on Nebraska Byway 136. It is open daily 1-5 p.m. April 1-October 30, with the exception of Easter, Mother's Day, and July 4th. The genealogy department is open year-round.

YOST FARM SCHOOL

This schoolhouse, known as North Star of Webster County School District 81 and referred to as "Little Tin Schoolhouse," was located near Cowles, Neb. It was built in 1887 and closed in 1959. In 1989, it was moved to its current location on the Yost Farm. The inside walls feature the original wainscoting. The anteroom features an overshoe bench, washstand, water bucket and tin cups, as well as a coat rack along one wall. Many schoolchildren experience the past by participating in hands-on activities at the Yost Farm School. These activities

include: churning butter, washing clothes, grinding coffee, peeling apples, roping, playing old-fashioned games, and square dancing in the barn. They can also experience what learning was like at a country school. The school farm setting is also used for club meetings, family reunions, church groups, filming movies, and Willa Cather Foundation Spring Conference activities.

LITTLE RED SCHOOL HOUSE

School District 37 was organized by early settlers in Stillwater Precinct in 1872. Pioneer students were taught from grades one to eight in this rural school. The last classes were held here in 1959. The school has been moved from its original site with its contents intact and the original playground equipment on the grounds.

CHALK CLIFFS

The chalk cliffs are exposed bluffs along the south edge of the Republican River just south of Red Cloud. The cliffs are a naturally occurring geologic feature, exposed by the action of the Republican River and considered a landmark in the community and also noted in Willa Cather's writings.

RED CLOUD BRIDGE

The Nebraska Department of Roads and Irrigation designed the Red Cloud Bridge in 1935 after spring floods weakened the old structure. Although the highway department generally constructed simple truss spans, it instead delineated a continuous truss for the Red Cloud Bridge. The channel spans consist of three continuous pony trusses, flanked by deck girder approaches. To provide sway bracing, overhead lateral struts connect the upper chords of both webs at the bridge piers. The four main piers are constructed of concrete with up- and downstream cutwaters. The piers rest on concrete-filled tubes driven to bedrock. The approach span abutments consist of steel piles encased in concrete, with flared, sloped wing walls. Highway department engineers took great pains to ensure that the bridge was seated properly to avoid undue stresses at the



Harling House

Photo courtesy Willa Cather Foundation.



Photo courtesy Willa Cather Foundation.

Auld Public Library

bearing points, weighing each truss with hydraulic jacks before the concrete deck was poured. The Red Cloud Bridge, located near the town of Red Cloud, is technologically significant as a rare experimental design by the state highway department. Representing a highly unusual foray into continuous truss engineering, the Red Cloud Bridge is unique in Nebraska and is one of the state's most important vehicular spans.

AULD PUBLIC LIBRARY (402) 746-3352

Constructed in 1917-18, the Auld Public Library is an excellent example of educational architecture in Red Cloud. Designed in the neo-classical style, the building is a fine representative of early 20th-century library design as found in communities throughout Nebraska during this period. This facility was the result of William T. Auld's generous donation to erect the first permanent library for the community.

WEBSTER COUNTY COURTHOUSE

The Webster County Courthouse was built in 1914. The building, a vitrified brick edifice of three stories, is designed in the Second Renaissance Revival style. Trimmed in stone, with a stone foundation, the symmetrical rectangular building features central projecting pavilions at each of its two side ends and a front, south facade that projects slightly across its entire width from the main block of the building. A high parapet above the wall cornice slopes upward slightly toward the center of each facade. Willa Cather used the courthouse as the setting for the immigrant trials in her novel, *One of Ours*.

RED CLOUD UNITED STATES POST OFFICE

The Red Cloud United States Post Office is a one-story, buff-colored brick building constructed in 1939

in the Modernistic style. While the building retains a high degree of integrity, its historical significance derives from the mural painted on an interior wall.

Through New Deal programs such as the Public Works of Art Project and the WPA Federal Art Project, thousands of artists were employed. In 1934, the Section of Painting and Sculpture (renamed the Section of Fine Arts in 1938) was organized under the auspices of the Treasury Department to provide murals and sculptures for the many federal buildings constructed during the New Deal era.

Between 1938 and 1942, the Treasury Department's Section of Fine Arts (generally known as "the Section") commissioned 12 murals for 12 newly constructed post offices in Nebraska. Red Cloud, along with the other 11 post office murals in Nebraska represent the Section's goal of making art accessible to the general population by reserving one percent of new building construction budgets for art.

INDIAN CREEK POND

Indian Creek is located 1 mile south of Red Cloud and is known for channel catfish, blue gill, and largemouth bass. Anglers can also access the Republican River from this small pond.

SWEETWATER GLASSWORKS

Sweetwater Glassworks features owner Amy Springer's latest glass projects as well as other original artists. Special events and exhibits keep the artwork fresh and interesting in this lovely historic gallery.

RED CLOUD CITY PARK & SWIMMING POOL (402) 746-3399

The parks are a great place for kids to climb on the playground equipment or enjoy a pickup game of basketball. The shimmering and always refreshing city pool is also located in Red Cloud's City Park. With diving boards, slides, a water basketball hoop, and a full staff of lifeguards, the pool is a fun and safe place for everyone. Open Memorial Day to Labor Day.



Photo courtesy Willa Cather Foundation.

Red Cloud Pool


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FRANKLIN COUNTY

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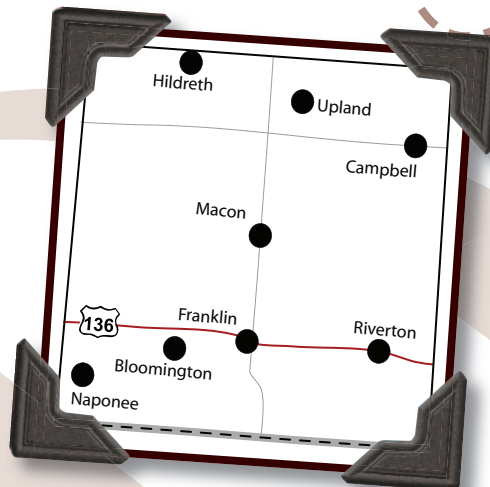
FRANKLIN COUNTY HISTORY

Archeological evidence indicates that the area around and including Franklin County and the Republican River was frequented by a nomadic people that were probably the forefathers of the indigenous Pawnee Indians. The Pawnee were a dominant power on the Central Plains until the 1870s, and the Republican River was actually named after one of the four bands of the Pawnee tribe. The Pawnee culture revolved around regular buffalo hunts in the 'tallgrass prairie' and frequent raids and skirmishes with neighboring Indian tribes and pioneers. Known for their exceptional cunning and courage, the Pawnee's favorite pastime was stealing horses. In 1806, American explorer Zebulon Pike met with the Pawnee and in his reports described the land as a "hunter's paradise," thick with game. Indeed, herds of buffalo frequented the area numbering in the hundreds of thousands. Because of the plentiful game, fertile soil and abundant water resources, settlement started in the Franklin County area starting in the mid-1860s. As more westward migration began to take place, stores were opened, mail and delivery routes were established and pioneers began to settle land along the trails and creeks spurred on by generous homesteading incentives offered by the federal government. By the early 1870s, the population of Franklin County had blossomed from a mere handful to over 2,000 souls with the cities of Riverton, Franklin and Bloomington bustling with commerce and activity.

Franklin County Communities

HILDRETH HISTORY

Located on a high, level plateau dotted in some places with sandhills, this area did not settle as rapidly as the valley to the south. Although some settlers came as early as 1871, a number of German immigrants moved into the Hildreth area around 1873. The railroad came through the area in 1885 and served the area for many years. Named after a highly respected businessman, Carson Hildreth, the town was incorporated in 1886 and reached its peak population of 603 in 1907.



HILDRETH CENTENNIAL MARKER

Village of Hildreth

248 Commercial Avenue, Hildreth, NE 68947
308-938-2471

www.villageofhildreth.com

e-mail: cityoffice@villageofhildreth.com

HILDRETH PUBLIC LIBRARY

Village of Hildreth

248 Commercial Avenue, Hildreth, NE 68947
308-938-3008

www.hildrethlibrary.com

e-mail: hpl@gtmc.net

VETERANS MEMORIAL

Franklin City Park

NW Corner - State Hwy 10 & P Street
Franklin, NE 68939
308-425-6295

www.franklinnebraska.com

BLOOMINGTON HISTORY

Named after the city in Illinois, Bloomington was initially settled near Antietam Post, an Indian stockade built along a travel route south from Fort Kearney, across the Republican River and into Kansas known as Brookline Road. Although the fort was officially abandoned in 1871, some local Civil War veteran settlers kept it open. In 1872, a company selected the site to locate a town hoping it would be the principal town in the county. Indeed, the town became prosperous with its railroad station, the U.S. Land Office and at one point, the county seat. ➡

OLD ROCK JAIL
Bloomington City Park
NE Corner – Central & 6th
Bloomington, NE 68929
308-775-9200

Earl Lantis helped his father haul native rock from across the Republican River for its construction and a murder in 1899 provided this new jail with its first occupants: Truman Tooman and W.S. Cole. Located on the south end of the City Park.

BLOOMINGTON CITY PARK
NE Corner - Central & 6th
Bloomington, NE 68929
308-775-9200

The park features a German WWII 155mm Howitzer cannon, a stone marker commemorating its history, a monument for the old school, the Old Rock Jail and playground equipment.

BLOOMINGTON COMMUNITY CENTER
& MUSEUM
Across from Bloomington City Park
North of Post Office on Central
Bloomington, NE 68929
308-775-9200

The old U.S. Post Office (still in use) and the Community Center which contains a pictorial history of the town and the old public school. Open only during city meetings and functions.

FRANKLIN HISTORY

Originally called Franklin City (and named after founding father Benjamin), Franklin was settled by a land speculation company referred to as the Knight Colony starting in 1870. In 1871, Governor Butler proclaimed it the Franklin County seat. Although later lost to Bloomington, Franklin proved resilient and was eventually able to regain it in 1920. The railroad arrived in 1879 and with it, more homesteaders and more growth. In 1881, the Franklin Academy was established, one of six Congregational Church 'prep schools' in Nebraska patterned after the Ivy League colleges in the Northeast. It became a prime contributor to the success of the City. Located in what is now City Park, the Dupee Music Hall (built in 1902) was part of the Academy and is the only structure from the Academy that remains today. Franklin was incorporated in 1883.

MACON HISTORY

Macon is the geographical center of Franklin County. The Macon Prairie is good, rich farmland of flat, treeless prairie. Originally settled in 1871 and maybe as early

as 1870, some 30 families settled in this vicinity in the summer of 1872 because it contained a lake, which did not prove to be permanent. The 'lake' was actually an old buffalo wallow which is now a federal wetlands production area (Macon Lakes). The immigrants consisted of Germans and many Civil War veterans.

RIVERTON HISTORY

The first real settlement of Franklin County commenced here on Thompson Creek, probably the finest tributary to the Republican River with its sparkling clarity, springs and substantial water flow. Excited by the glowing reports of good soil, water and the abundant wildlife by hunters and occasional travelers in the area, a land company known as the Thompson Colony was formed out of Omaha, Neb., for the purpose of settling the area. After the initial exploration in 1870, the town they would call Riverton began to take shape in 1871 and by 1879 was the county's busiest town, providing a bustling center for trade from Red Cloud, to Bloomington, south through Smith County, Kan., and north to the Franklin County line.

Attractions & Recreation

FRANKLIN COUNTY FAIR
c/o Fair Manager - Sheryl Anderson
P.O. Box 42, Franklin, NE 68939
(308) 425-6250
e-mail: dpedersen@gtmc.net

Usually held in the first two weeks of July, the Franklin County Fair runs about 10 full days and is one of the premier events that take place in our area. The Fair features carnival rides, 4-H Club and FFA livestock competitions and awards, livestock scrambles, tractor pulls and demolition derbies. Live entertainment, dances and a free barbecue along with lots of arts, crafts, cooking and baking competitions round out the attractions at this popular event. The Fair is held at the Franklin ➡

RIGHTWAY GROCERY

Phone www.rightwaygrocery.com
308-425-3233



601 15th Ave.
P.O. Box 302
Franklin, NE 68939-0302





County Fairgrounds located 1 mile west of Franklin on J Street. For more information, call the Franklin County Extension office at (308) 425-6277.

FRANKLIN CITY PARK
NW Corner -- State Highway 10 & P Street
Franklin, NE 68939
308-425-6295
www.franklinnebraska.com

The Franklin City Park has lots of amenities and activity possibilities for the entire family, featuring: public restroom facilities, BBQ grills, tennis courts, sand volleyball, a basketball court, sheltered picnic tables, a big playground, the Franklin Swimming Pool, Franklin Veterans Memorial, the Franklin Public Library, and the Dupee Music Hall (the last building remaining of the old Franklin Academy). Arrangements can be made with the City for large gatherings, and pets on leash are welcome.

FRANKLIN COUNTY MUSEUM
1309 H Road, Franklin
308-425-3030
www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nefrankl/museum/fcmuseum/index.htm

Established in 1932, the Franklin County Historical Society, Inc. (a Nebraska non-profit tax exempt 501.c3 corporation) operates the Franklin County Museum. The Museum preserves the heritage and genealogy of Franklin County with many displays of historical items. It consists of three separate buildings. The largest contains many artifacts and memorabilia from the area such as WWI and WWII uniforms, newspaper articles, pictures, letters, ammunition, honor ribbons and medals. Most of the artifacts are from Franklin County residents who fought for their country during many different time periods, and in numerous wars and battles. It also contains many pictures of the pioneers that founded and first lived in Franklin. A special exhibit is dedicated to the life and times of Pierce Lyden, famous 'bad man' of Hollywood's old westerns. The exhibit displays hundreds of items from his movie years including his saddles, clothes, pistols, posters and pictures. Pierce was born in Franklin County. The middle building contains what is called "Ol' Towne." It is designed to look like an old western township. Inside are old fire engines, antique tractors, horse drawn implements, tools, Indian artifacts, rock specimens, photographs, old farm items and many other articles that depict the lives of previous generations of Franklin County settlers.

The third building is the old District 36 "Lone Star" one-room schoolhouse that was used in Franklin County from 1876 through 1963. Located just southeast of Macon, the schoolhouse was moved to City Park and eventually moved to its current site on the Museum grounds. It is decorated to reflect how it would have looked in its

heyday. Many of Franklin County's residents were educated in this schoolhouse until the advent of the public school system.

Overall, the Franklin County Museum has countless interesting artifacts, books, articles and pictures that definitely make it worth the visit. Arrangements can be made to open the Museum for special tours and facilities are available for private meetings. Admittance is by free-will donation. Suggested admittance is \$2.00 for adults, \$1.00 for children. Hours of operation are Saturday – Sunday 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

FRANKLIN COUNTY VETERANS MEMORIAL
Franklin City Park
NW Corner - State Highway 10 & P Street
Franklin, NE 68939
308-425-6295
www.franklinnebraska.com

Located on the east side of the Franklin City Park, this Memorial honors the 72 Franklin County residents who gave their lives for their country and recognizes over 340 local service personnel.

Consisting of an "Honor Wall," the Memorial also contains an M60A1 Patton main battle tank manufactured in 1962, a Model M113A2 Armored Personnel Carrier manufactured in 1965 and an F-80 "Shooting Star" fighter jet manufactured in 1948 which was very active in the Korean War.

FRANKLIN GOLF COURSE
Spur 31D and P Street
Franklin, NE 68939
308-425-3614
www.franklinnebraska.com

Franklin Golf Course is a beautiful and challenging nine-hole public golf course located where P Street turns into Country Club Road at the west edge of town. It features irrigated bent grass greens and lush fairways with Center Creek winding through the course and coming into play on seven out of the nine holes. The Golf Course features a modern club facility with several TVs (including a big screen), showers and socializing area. The Clubhouse offers sodas, beer, mixed drinks, snacks, popcorn and hot dogs. The facility is available for private parties or gatherings.

FRANKLIN HIKING TRAIL
City of Franklin
Trailhead West of Greenwood Cemetery
Entrance, Franklin, NE 68939
308-425-6295
www.franklinnebraska.com

Enjoy the serenity of a nice hike along a tree-lined creek. Find the trailhead just east of the Museum on H Road. The trail meanders to the south and comes out on Highway 136 just east of 19th Avenue. Currently, the ➡

trail allows only hiking. Bikes and motorized vehicles are prohibited.

FRANKLIN SOUTH PARK RV CAMPGROUND
SW Corner of State Highway 10 and J Street
City of Franklin
308-425-6295

www.franklinnebraska.com

Located at the southwest corner of State Highway 10 and J Street is the city-owned and operated RV Park. The RV Park has an all-weather graveled surface that can accommodate up to five full-size RVs with 20A, 30A and 50A electrical service, water and sewer hookups and a free dump station. In addition, there are picnic tables for each RV slot, public restroom facilities and a playground area, all for a very affordable \$10.00 per day. Payment is made at a lockbox located at the RV Park.

REPUBLICAN RIVER BRIDGE
NEBRASKA NATIONAL REGISTER SITE
43 Road & E/F Road, Riverton, NE 68972

Built by the Empire Bridge Co. in 1911, it is also referred to as the 'Farmers Bridge' because of the local farmers who put up the money to build the bridge to facilitate crossing the Republican River. Consisting of multiple-span trusses, this type of bridge was typically built over the wider crossings. However, almost all of these early bridges have since been replaced or substantially altered. A regionally important crossing in southern Nebraska, this bridge is technologically significant as a well-preserved example of this now uncommon vehicular bridge type. Standing next to the current modern concrete bridge, the old bridge is essentially a 'park' unto itself where you can stop and enjoy a walk over the Republican River or sit on one of the benches to enjoy the outdoors. Located 1 ½ miles south of Highway 136 and 43 Road (E/F Road).



Rose Bowl Theater

Photo courtesy Franklin Chamber of Commerce

ROSE BOWL THEATER
611 15th Avenue, Franklin, NE 68939
308-425-3313

After being renovated by many volunteers, the Rose Bowl Theater began showing movies again in 1992. With its 250 seats, the theater offers quality entertainment in air-conditioned comfort for the entire family. Made possible initially by the Franklin Chamber of Commerce and the City of Franklin, the theater is now owned by the Rose Bowl Playhouse, Inc., a tax-exempt organization operated by a Board of Directors that consists of volunteer families.

CLARENCE MITCHELL HOUSE
(now a private residence)
1927 M Street, Franklin, NE 68939

Home of major league baseball player, Clarence Mitchell, famous 'spitball' pitcher from 1911-1932.

CARSON HILDRETH HOUSE
c/o Lucille Plank
501 14th Avenue, Franklin, NE 68939
308-425-3711

Prominent businessman Carson and Flora Adele Mowbray Hildreth built this house starting in 1901. Hildreth was the founder of the Franklin State Bank and the namesake for the Village of Hildreth.

ORIGINAL FRANKLIN COUNTY MUSEUM
Franklin City Park
NW Corner - State Highway 10 & P Street
Franklin, NE 68939
308-425-6295

www.franklinnebraska.com

A WPA project in 1939, this building was constructed of native rock and timbers to house the Franklin County Museum. Inlaid into the concrete flooring are a number of millstones that were once used for grinding grains at the various mills in Franklin County that were located on the many streams and tributaries that flowed into the Republican River.

FRANKLIN PUBLIC LIBRARY
502 P Street
Franklin, NE 68939
308-425-3162
www.franklinnebraska.com

FRANKLIN ACADEMY HISTORIC MARKER
Franklin City Park
NW Corner - State Highway 10 & P Street
Franklin, NE 68939
308-425-6295
www.franklinnebraska.com

Just west of the Franklin Swimming Pool is a stone monument with a large metal plaque honoring the Franklin Academy, its founders and administrators. Nearby is a large piece of petrified wood that was maintained on campus. Built in 1925.

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HARLAN COUNTY

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HARLAN COUNTY...A LAKE AND MORE

Harlan County, Nebraska, located in the Republican River Valley on the border of Kansas, is many things to many people: a peaceful refuge away from the hectic pace of city life, a prime hunting and fishing region, a wide-open location in which to view and interact with nature, and a family vacation destination with a diversity of activities to suit a variety of interests. Rich in both Native American and pioneer history, Harlan County and the Republican River Valley were once home to the largest concentration of buffalo on the Great Plains and were a favored hunting ground for the Pawnee, Sioux, Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes. Although warned by the native populations about the common occurrence of major flooding in the area, Europeans settled along the river and in 1935 over 100 people drowned and most bridges and farm buildings were destroyed by an 8-foot-high wall of flood water moving downriver. The Harlan County Dam and Reservoir were then built to control flooding and manage irrigation, but they have since become the crown jewel of the region, serving as the prime outdoor recreation destination and wildlife haven in south-central Nebraska.

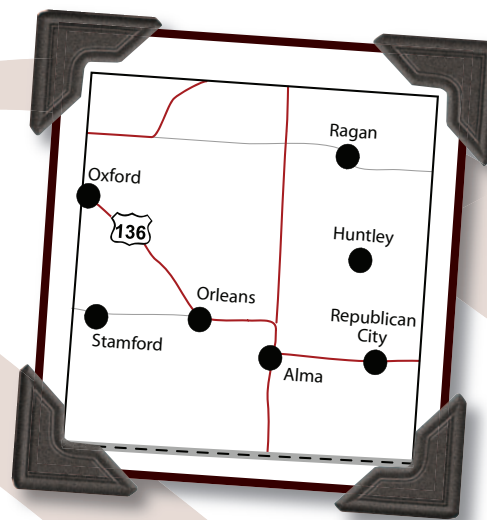


Harlan County Lake

Photo courtesy Republican Valley Review.

A PRAIRIE PARADISE FOR BIRDS AND BIRDWATCHERS

Harlan County Reservoir is one of the largest bodies of water within the North American Central Flyway and is a primary stopover for millions of migrating birds, including bald and golden eagles, American white pelicans, osprey, ducks and geese



including Ross's and snow geese, seven species of gulls, and many more, including an occasional sighting of a great whooping crane. Over 300 bird species have been observed in the area. Parking lots, campgrounds, and local marinas around the reservoir make prime viewing sites.

For a more comprehensive list of species in Harlan County and along the Republican River, visit the nonprofit www.chickendancetrail.org and click on Republican River Adventure.



Peckernack Horse Trail

Photo courtesy Republican Valley Review.

WALKING, BIKING, ATV, HORSE AND CANOE TRAILS

Trail enthusiasts will find a wide variety of trail types in Harlan County. There is no fee for the use of any of the trails.

The River's Edge Nature Trail is a packed-earth walking trail located just east and north of the Harlan County Dam spillway, within the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' North Outlet Park. The trail winds through river bottom forest and is well-maintained with many trees identified by markers. ➡

The Pheasant Ridge Trail is a 3-mile concrete walking and biking trail winding along the north edge of Harlan County Lake from a gazebo off Highway 183 and South Street in Alma all the way to the Methodist Cove boat-ramp parking area, and like all good trails, it offers an entirely different experience depending on the direction of travel.



Harlan County Lake

Photo courtesy Republican Valley Review.



Cedar Run ATV Trail

Photo courtesy Republican Valley Review.

Cedar Run ATV Trail is a 470-acre, family-friendly riding area located south of Republican City and southeast of the Harlan County Dam. A staging area at the north parking lot includes a picnic shelter, grill, kids' riding area, and accessible restrooms and parking. A trailhead access and loading area with restrooms is also located in the south parking lot. The Corps of Engineers maintains a "Call Before You Haul" trail conditions hotline at 308-799-2105 and a map of the trail is available on-site or at www.nwk.usace.army.mil/hc/Brochure/HarlanCounty-ATVBrochure.pdf. ➡

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We cater to the Outdoorsman!

Clean, comfortable rooms with full kitchenettes, indoor game cleaning room, laundry, BBQs and picnic tables.

Comfortable Accommodations

While you enjoy your stay in Harlan County, Nebraska!



Located just 1 mile from Harlan County Lake.

Welcome to Harlan County! We hope you enjoy all of the great things Republican City and Harlan County Lake have to offer. We invite you to stay with us while you are here!

Our rooms are clean, conveniently located to services and the lake and are reasonably priced. We'd like to help you with information and assistance to make your stay in Harlan County enjoyable.

WE WELCOME GROUPS AND REUNIONS!

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leon@sportsmenapartments.com



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Republican City, NE 68971

308.799.2073

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HARLAN COUNTY



Photo courtesy Republican Valley Review.

Hunting around Harlan County Lake.

A well-marked, volunteer-maintained horse trail meanders through the rugged hills bordering the south edge of Harlan County Lake. The trailhead for the Peckernack Horse Trail is located just south of Alma and the lake, at the first turn east off Highway 183, immediately south of the bridge. A map of the trail is available at www.megavision.net/hctour/horsetrail.htm

HUNTING, FISHING, CAMPING/LODGING, AND WATERSPORTS

Over 17,000 acres of public hunting ground is available on Corps of Engineers property around Harlan County Lake. The area is rich with white-tail



Photo courtesy Republican Valley Review.

Fishing is available at many Harlan County Parks.

deer, waterfowl, turkey, pheasant and quail. Other hunted species include rabbit, squirrel, bobcat and coyote. Many local lodging facilities have kennels available.

The lake is known to fishing enthusiasts far and wide for its walleye, wipers, northern pike, large mouth bass, white bass, crappie and catfish. Seven boat ramps are available around the lake, and free fish-cleaning stations are maintained at Hunter Cove Park and Methodist Cove Park.

There are nine well-maintained campgrounds in the county, and additional lodging options range from beachy cabins to B&B's to traditional motels. Holiday weekends are generally booked up well in advance, so early reservations are recommended for all lodging types.

Boating, water-skiing, and jet-skiing are some of the most popular watersports at the lake. A community yacht club schedules races throughout the year and can be contacted at 308-995-6609. ➡



Photo courtesy Republican Valley Review.

Water Fun at Harlan County Lake.

WEEKLY SPECIALS

Thurs., Fri., Sat. - Mexican Food

Sat. - Prime Rib

Plus Daily Drink & Food Specials

Beer • Bait • Burgers • Video Rentals • Liquor
Tobacco • Catering • Hunting & Fishing Licenses

Dave & Mya Walker

Orleans, NE 308-473-3135



Photo courtesy Republican Valley Review.

Harlan County Dam

GUIDED TOURS OF THE DAM

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers offers free tours of the Harlan County Dam every Sunday beginning Memorial weekend through Labor Day weekend. The tours begin at 2:00 p.m. at the Corps office on Corps Road A just north of the dam. More information is available from the Corps at 308-799-2105.

SELF-GUIDED HISTORY TOUR

Harlan County has many historic homes and buildings along with outdoor historic sites. There is a county-operated museum in Orleans. A self-guided tour brochure of historic sites in Harlan and Franklin County is available at many area retail facilities and can also be requested from the Harlan County Tourism Office, 800-762-5498 or harlancountytourism@yahoo.com.

MOTOCROSS, GOLF, AND LIVE THEATRE

The Alma Motocross track is one of four on the circuit of the Cornhusker Motocross Association, with several races scheduled locally throughout the year. Race schedules are available at www.crnhs-krmx.com. The track is open to the public for riding on days other than race days. The track is located 2.5 miles south and 2.5 miles west of Alma on Highway 89.



Photo courtesy Republican Valley Review.

Alma Motocross Track

Alma and Oxford have nicely maintained nine-hole golf courses and many tournaments throughout the season.

The Harlan County Dam Players present live shows during the summer months at a community-owned playhouse in Republican City. Schedules and other information are available at <http://harlancountyplayers.webs.com>



Photo courtesy Republican Valley Review.

July 4th Parade

SMALL-TOWN FESTIVALS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

Oxford holds its Turkey Days celebration each summer on the second weekend in June. The four-day celebration includes a parade, carnival, contests and many other fun activities. Visit www.oxfordnebraska.com/turkeyDays.htm for more information.

Alma's 4th of July celebration is known far and wide for its 10K "Best Race by a Dam Site" and 5K fun run, parade, art-in-the-park, and the region's largest fireworks display over the water at the west end of the lake. This event is sponsored by the City of Alma and the Alma Chamber of Commerce.

Women's Wilderness Weekend, sponsored by Trailblazer RC&D, is held annually in August and provides women from all walks of life an opportunity to experience and learn about outdoor activities, including sailing, jeeping, hunting, boating, fishing, outdoor cooking, and many others.

Stamford's annual Pork Days celebration is held on the last Saturday in September and includes a parade, children's games, craft and food vendors, and more. An annual favorite activity is the "best pet" contest, where creativity in what is considered a "pet" knows no ends, and every child wins. The Pumpkin Corners pumpkin patch opens the next day.

Orleans holds an Applefest celebration annually the first weekend of October. The event provides a craft fair, food and fun for all ages, including plenty of apples and cider.

Call, e-mail, or visit: Harlan County Tourism, 800-762-5498, 311 Main Street, Alma, NE 68920, harlancountytourism@yahoo.com.



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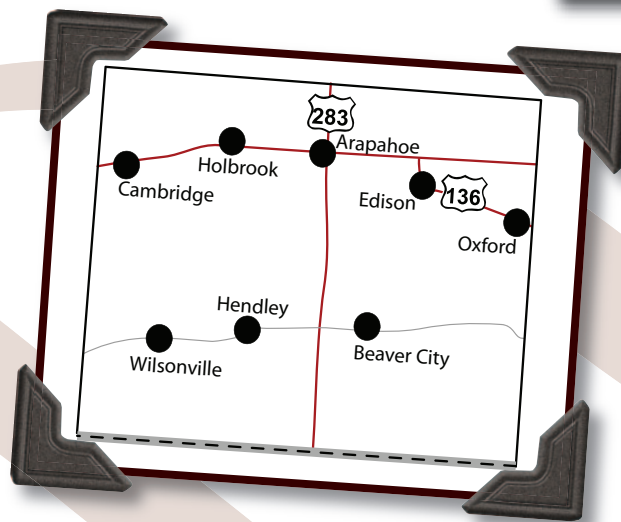
FURNAS COUNTY

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HISTORY

The pride and enthusiasm that early settlers placed in locating the seat of local government was possibly nowhere more evident than in Furnas County. Events there showed just how strong the emotions could become. When Robert W. Furnas became governor in 1873, the Legislature adopted an act to organize an area along the Kansas border and name this latest county in his honor. The influx of settlers that had preceded the Legislature's action had already resulted in the settlements of Arapahoe and Beaver City being established.

So when the county's first organization election was held on April 8, 1873, ballots were cast at both sites. Election results from Arapahoe were filed with the Secretary of State's office within the appointed time limit. The returns from Beaver City, however, were delayed en route to Lincoln because of a heavy snowstorm. As a result, Beaver City's ballots did not arrive until after the day on which the ballots were counted. The Secretary of State issued certificates of election of officials in Arapahoe and ruled that settlement to be the county seat. What followed was a series of court orders and bitter political fights between the settlers in the north and south parts of the county. A court quickly ordered the Secretary of State to canvass the Beaver City votes and issue certificates of election to the candidates who received the highest vote from the combined returns of Arapahoe and Beaver City, and to designate as the county seat the site that received the greatest vote. A second election was held the following October. This time, Beaver City was declared the victor. Inhabitants



of Arapahoe continued to claim victory based on the April election. It took three years of legal challenges before the Supreme Court ruled that Beaver City was indeed the county seat.

Continued dissension delayed the building of a courthouse until 1888. The first courthouse stood for 60 years before being declared unsafe for occupancy in 1948. The courthouse was dismantled the following year and after the county offices were housed in various downtown buildings for two years, the current courthouse was dedicated on May 4, 1951.

Places to Visit

ARAPAHOE

Many travelers on Highway 6 and 34 stop in Arapahoe to see the beautiful Our Lady Fatima Shrine and the Furnas County Museum located downtown. Arapahoe also features a modern movie theater and a picturesque city park with two picnic areas, playground, bandstand and swimming pool.

Arapahoe celebrates Prairie Pioneer Days in July and Holiday Highlight craft show the second weekend in November.

OXFORD

Take the loop four minutes off Highway 6 and 34 and you'll find a beautiful, scenic view of the Republican Valley and the small town of Oxford. The town offers a free RV park with all services and a new movie theater. Annual events in Oxford include Turkey Days and Festival of Lights. ♦♦



Turkey Day

Photo courtesy Rosie Stockton.

BEAVER CITY

Beaver City, the county seat, hosts the annual Furnas County Fair and Eager Beaver Days. The town also is home to the Furnas County Genealogical Society and Furnas County Inn.

HENDLEY

Edwin Perkins, inventor of Kool-Aid, was born in Hendley. The town is also the birthplace of Victor Meyers, who was born on the last day of World War I and killed on the first day of World War II at Pearl Harbor.

WILSONVILLE

For years, the merchants of Wilsonville have promoted an annual festival called Harvest Home. The tradition of community togetherness carries on today with Wilsonville's annual festival. During the first full weekend of June, Wilsonville hosts a rodeo complete with a parade, free barbecue and the crowning of a rodeo queen.

CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge is located in the northern part of Furnas County on the Medicine Creek. Approximately 3 miles out on Highway 6 and 34 is Sky Chief Springs Ranch. Robert and Joyce Stear welcome anyone to stop in and see the man-made ponds that are fed by springs. The monument, dedicated in 1924 to the Pawnee leader, Sky Chief, is at this site. There are Indian mounds and an early dugout to be viewed. Ten miles north of Cambridge is Medicine Creek Reservoir with fishing, swimming, boating, and camping areas.

Cambridge also has a new museum offering free admission. Among the many activities Cambridge

offers each year are Medicine Creek Days in late May or early June and Christmas Fantasia, held every year in December.

HOLBROOK

As you drive on Highway 6 and 34 into Holbrook, you will notice the log cabin on the north side of the road built in 1874 by William Penington. The Norwegian Lutheran Church is 1 1/2 miles west and 2 miles north of town.

The Holbrook Park offers free RV parking as well as a picnic shelter and horseshoe pit. Holbrook has an annual celebration, Holbrook Days, each summer in mid July. The festival includes a parade, livestock show, and River Rat Volleyball Tournament.



Turkey Day

Photo courtesy Rosie Stockton



Turkey Day

Photo courtesy Rosie Stockton



Turkey Day

Photo courtesy Rosie Stockton



Oxford

*A Place to Go...
A Place to Grow*

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E-mail:

chamber@oxfordnebraska.com

*Small-town family fun
awaits you in Oxford!*

JUNE: TURKEY DAYS CELEBRATION

JULY: JULY 4TH PORK IN THE PARK

OCTOBER: KIDS FALL FUN DAY

DECEMBER: FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS



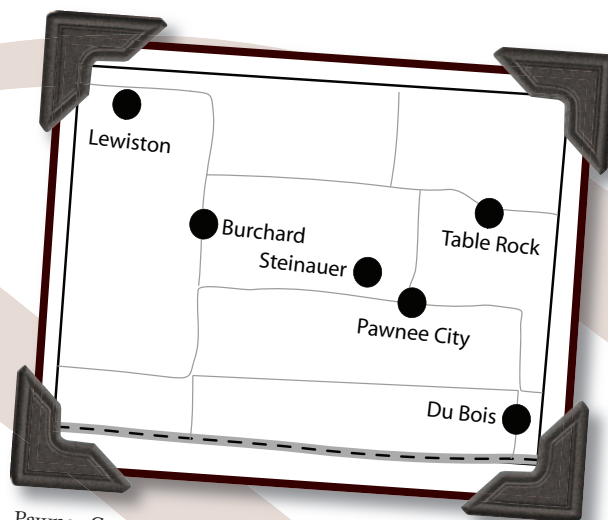
CORRIDOR COUNTIES

PAWNEE COUNTY

In Pawnee County, there are so many attractions that tour buses allow you to pick and choose what you want for the day, tailoring your experience to fit your interests and the amount of time you have. Anyone wishing to tour picturesque Pawnee County may call (402) 852-3131 to get set up.

Attractions include a bison farm and sustainable farm for large groups to see. We have an Amish furniture shop and small country store with baked goods available from them during the Farmers Market in the summer and other special days.

Pawnee County has five wildlife management areas where you can see many different kinds of birds or you can hunt. You can pick up a bird brochure at the tourism office located in Pawnee City. Two lakes provide water recreation in Pawnee County. Burchard Lake is located 8 miles west and 4 miles north of Pawnee City. It is a 150-acre lake. In the park around the lake, blinds have been constructed so you can watch Prairie Chickens booming in February, March, and April. You can also fish in this lake. Iron Horse Trail Lake is located ¼ mile north of DuBois and 1 mile east. You can fish there. It was completely renovated in 2010 and will be open to the public this year.



Pawnee County Map

Pawnee Attractions

BURCHARD, NEBRASKA

The Harold Lloyd Home is where the 1920s silent movie entertainer was born. His silent movies can be shown there. It is now a museum and his memorabilia can be seen there. It is open by appointment. Call (402) 865-4665 or (402) 865-4725 for a tour.

DUBOIS, NEBRASKA

ZCJB Hall has one-of-a-kind architecture. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and has dances on weekends. ZCJB Hall is located east of Pawnee City on Highway 8 & 50 to 706 Road, then turn right (62568 706 Road). For more information, call (402) 859-4562.

PAWNEE CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

501 P Street, Pawnee City
(402) 852-3131

www.pawneecountyhistory.com

Pawnee City Historical Society and Museum have added two new buildings in 2010. U.S. Sen. Kenneth Wherry's Library is now open with his memorabilia. The desk from his Washington, D.C., office is on display. Many pictures of the devastation of Germany during World War II are stored on a computer in this building. The senator took these pictures when he was sent there by the federal government to witness the devastation. The other new building is the Irene LeSeur genealogy research center. Over 450 digital pictures are available for sale; cemetery records for the county, school records for country schools and many other things can be located. These two buildings make a total of 22 located at the museum preserving the history of Pawnee County. The barn where Larry the Cable Guy did chores as a youngster has been moved to the site and renovated and painted. The last weekend in September will be Pawnee City Historical Day on Saturday. The museum is open, demonstrations will be held, with vendors onsite. Go to www.pawneecountyhistory.com for more information and to find out when it is open.

THE PEDAL CLINIC

70527 Highway 65, Pawnee City
(402) 852-2655

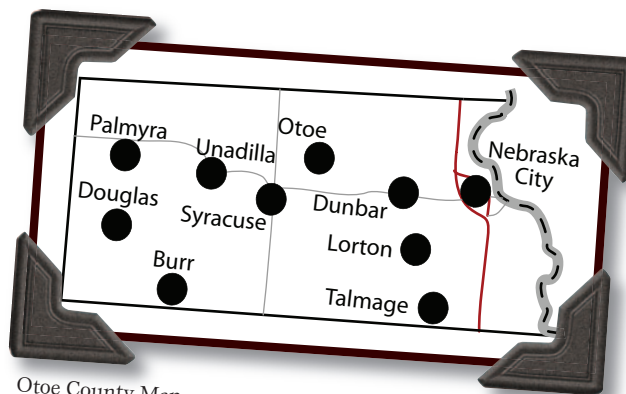
Located at Highway 8 and I Street, it has more than 450 pedal cars, tractors, airplanes and other toys of interest to both young and old. It is located in a restored church. Call (402) 852-2655 for appointment. ♦♦

SCHILLING BRIDGE WINERY AND MICROBREWERY

62193 710 Road, Pawnee City
(402) 852-2400

www.schillingbridgewinery.com

Nebraska's first farm winery-microbrewery combination. Wine-tasting events are held throughout the year. Taste their award-winning wines. Visit their Web site or call (402) 852-2400 to find out the many events they have.



Otoe County Map

TABLE ROCK MUSEUM

See signs on Buildings

(402) 839-4135

Table Rock Museum is a nine-building complex featuring an 1877 Catholic Church with interior murals. A new building honors veterans of all wars. The Lawrence and Nettie Stehlik building is another new one with their memorabilia in it.

HAROLD LLOYD HOME

405 2nd Street

(402) 865-4665

(402) 852-4725 for a tour ➡



Pawnee Battle

Photo courtesy Jerry Jacobitz

BIG BLUE RANCH & LODGE



Relax



Fish



Hunt



Ride Horses

At the Big Blue Ranch & Lodge we have a lot to offer! If you're looking to catch master angler fish, join in on a cattle drive, hunt for trophy deer or huge hybrid turkeys or just relax indoors by the stone fireplace and watch the spectacular sunset unfold, we have it all. Be amazed by the clear view of the great Milky Way at night, fresh air and a chance to relax in this secluded country destination. From a row boat, canoe or hike around the lake, enjoy all that nature has to offer.

BIG BLUE RANCH & LODGE, LLC

www.BigBlueRanch.com • 402-730-3643

70804 608th Ave. • Burchard, NE 68323



Home of
SchillingBridge
Winery & Microbrewery

Pawnee City
Historical Society
Museum
25,000 reasons to visit

Pawnee City
Historical Day
Sept. 24, 2011

www.pawneecity.org
www.pawneecountyhistory.com

VISIT Pawnee City, Nebraska!

A Complete Tour Package

Pawnee City's downtown district is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



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CORRIDOR COUNTIES

Pawnee - Burchard • Lewiston • Pawnee City • Table Rock • Du Bois • Steinauer
Otoe - Burr, Douglas, Dunbar, Lorton, Nebraska City, Otoe, Palmyra, Syracuse, Unadilla



OTOE COUNTY

Located in southeast Nebraska within easy distance of Omaha, Lincoln, and Kansas City, Otoe County is a lovely, rolling region of rich, cultivated soil, apple orchards, vineyards, and untamed woods. It borders the dramatic bluffs and rapid water of the Missouri to the east and, to the west, the High Plains. Otoe, as in the Otoe Indians, is an abbreviation for Watota, which means "lovers of pleasure." And we're sure you'll find much pleasure discovering the geographic diversity of the area as well as the frankly surprising variety of historic, cultural, romantic and family-friendly attractions.

The region is known for its great wines, BBQ, and, of course, apple pie, but be sure to sample some of the local cafes and Mexican restaurants as well. Shopping is also a treat! You won't get many chains in these parts, but you will find some outstanding specialty boutiques: antiques, art galleries, quilt shops, clothing stores, and green goods are the favorites.

So . . . join us for a sun-filled adventure at Arbor Day Farm or the Syracuse Aqua Center, or encounter

culture and history at one of over a dozen museums, including Arbor Lodge State Historical Park, the Home of Arbor Day!

Otoe County Visitors Committee invites you to select one of the area's unique lodging options so that you may take in all the area has to offer. B&Bs, lodges, campgrounds, hotels and motels await.

RECREATION

Situated on the beautifully wooded Missouri River, Nebraska City is rural Otoe County's largest community and one of the most popular tourist destinations in the Midwest. Its 7,500 residents are proud to say they're from the Home of Arbor Day, the National Arbor Day Foundation, Arbor Day Farm, Arbor Lodge State Historical Park, the Missouri River Basin Lewis and Clark Center, and the Mayhew Cabin, which is Nebraska's only site on the National Park Service Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Program. Although best known for their lush fall foliage and apple harvests, you can experience the splendor of Arbor Day's hometown year-round. Climb a 50-foot tree-house; visit one of the community's 11 museums; lose yourself in the aroma of 300 varieties of lilacs; hone your golf game, sample some of the best cider, microbrews, and wines in the region; cozy up in front of the fireplace on a romantic winter getaway. Go ahead . . . Take Your Pick at www.NebraskaCity.com.

In the heart of Otoe County rests Syracuse, Neb., which is at the intersection of Nebraska Highways 2 and 50. It is a community of 1,762 that combines elements of the past --- original bricks on the downtown streets and renovated historic buildings --- with up-to-date specialty design and home accent stores, an art gallery, a nationally recognized quilt shop, gift shops and coffeehouse.

The community celebrates its heritage with the annual GermanFest, held on the second Saturday in July. The event is a combination of a downtown farmer's market and craft show, German entertainment, parade, kids' activities, "Veiner" dog races, street dance and fireworks.

In August, the Otoe County Fair comes to town with all the old-fashioned fair attractions. It is located on the south edge of town at the Otoe County Fairgrounds.

Syracuse hosts a variety of recreational opportunities and facilities. Williams Park is located ♦♦



A most enjoyable experience awaits you at the elegant and restful Convent House Bed & Breakfast, located in the charming village of Steinauer, Nebraska! This historic two-story brick building has been masterfully transformed from a convent to a gracious bed & breakfast. Refurbished hardwood floors and a gracious staircase lead guest through the elegant banquet room, cozy garden room, a lovely dining room, serene chapel and six beautiful guest rooms on 3 floors.

311 Hickory • Steinauer, NE
(402) 869-2230

www.conventhousebedandbreakfast.com



in the middle of town and features a mile-long lighted bike/walk path, playground equipment, sheltered picnic areas and restroom, along with a fishing pond. Near Williams Park is the Lion's Club Arboretum. The South Park, located on the south edge of town adjacent to the Otoe County Fairgrounds, offers several large picnic shelters, camper hookups, restrooms and playground. A newly constructed sports complex is in the SW corner of Syracuse. It features four ball fields, picnic shelters, volleyball and basketball courts, multi-purpose field and bike/walk path.

The Syracuse Aqua Center offers six lap lanes, drop slide, diving boards, zero-depth entry, floor geysers and a flower geyser. In addition, the Syracuse Country Club hosts a well-kept par 70, nine-hole golf course on the western edge of the community. The course is open to the public.

Syracuse is the home of the Otoe County Museum of Memories, housed in the former First Faith Church, dedicated in 1881. The museum complex also houses the Kramer Building, a nature exhibit and is open every Sunday afternoon from May



Photo courtesy Nebraska City Travel & Tourism.

Arbor Lodge

through September or by appointment.

Overnight visitors have the option of staying in a 74-room motel located at the intersection of Highways 2 and 50, a motel located at Ninth and Park streets or at the Alte Haus, a quaint bed-and-breakfast located on the southwest corner of Thorne and Sixth streets. For more information, contact the Syracuse Area Chamber of Commerce at (402) 269-3242.

Pawnee - Burchard • Lewiston • Pawnee City • Table Rock • Du Bois • Steinauer
Otoe - Burr, Douglas, Dunbar, Lorton, Nebraska City, Otoe, Palmyra, Syracuse, Talmage, Unadilla



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CORRIDOR COUNTIES



Photos © Arbor Day Foundation, Nebraska City Tourism and Commerce, and Syracuse Journal Democrat

From renowned lodging & festivals to world-class recreation & historic sites, the home of Arbor Day delivers.

Take your pick.

AppleJack Festival • Arbor Day Celebration
GermanFest • Wine Under the Pines • Groundhog Day

SYRACUSE and the communities of OTOE COUNTY
NebraskaCity.com • 800-514-9113



BED & BREAKFASTS

Gage County

The Carriage House B&B
25478 S. 23rd Road
Beatrice 68310
www.beatricene.com/
carriagehouse-bb
(402) 228-0356
(888) 228-0356

The Cottage at Oak Aven Acres
23440 S.W. 75 Road
Beatrice 68310
(402) 228-0125

Edna's Main House B&B
822 Main Street
Adams 68301
(402) 988-2020

Harlan County

AnnaBelle's B&B
517 Kennedy Avenue
Alma 68920
(308) 928-9983

Nemaha County

Blacksmith Shop
125 N. 1st Street
Brownville 68321
www.marysemporium.com
(402) 825-6637

Cooper House
712 13th Street
Auburn, NE
(402) 274-1577

Pearson-Kelly Guest House
Brownville 68321
(402) 825-6637

Hill House
Bed & Breakfast
Brownville 68321
(402) 825-4921

The Pierce Cottage B&B and Deer Run Suite
974 Main Street.
Brownville 68321
(402) 825-4921
The Cabin at Honey Creek
64524 733 Road
Peru 68421
www.nebraskathegoodlife.com
(850) 916-1616

River Inn Resort
72898 648 A Avenue
Brownville 68321
www.river-inn-resort.com
(402) 825-6441

Otoe County

Whispering Pines B&B
Nebraska City 68410
www.bbwhisperingpines.com
(402) 873-5850
(877) 277-3577

Cassel Grove Homestead Inn
750 S. 64th Road
Nebraska City 68410
www.casselgrovehomesteadinn.com
(402) 873-0602

Pawnee County

My Blue Heaven
1041 5th Street
Pawnee City 68420
www.nabb1.com
(402) 852-3131

Convent House
311 Hickory Street
Steinauer 68348
www.conventhousebedandbreakfast.com
(402) 869-2230

Richardson County

Gandy House B&B
715 5th Street
Humboldt 68376
www.gandyhouse.com
(402) 862-3278

Saline County

Hotel Wilber
203 S. Wilson Street
Wilber 68465
(402) 821-2020

HOTELS & MOTELS

Franklin County

Drop Tyne Lodge
104 16th Street
Franklin 68939
www.plunkandbunk.com
(308) 425-6269

Furnas County

Arapahoe Motel
658 Chestnut Street
Arapahoe 68922
www.arapahoe-motel.com
(308) 962-7948

Bunkhouse Motel
120 Nasby Street
Cambridge 69022
(308) 697-4540

Furnas County Inn
NE Highway 89 & 9th Street
Beaver City 68926
(308) 268-7705

Medicine Creek Lodge
72848 Trail 1
Cambridge 69022
(308) 697-3774

Shady Rest Camp Motel
309 Chestnut
Arapahoe 68922
(308) 962-5461

Gage County

Victorian Inn
1903 N. 6th Street
Beatrice 68310
www.victorianinnhotels.com
(402) 228-5955

Holiday Inn Express
4005 N. 6th
Beatrice 68310
www.hiexpress.com/
beatricene
(402) 228-7000

Travelers Lodge
3500 N. 6th Street
Beatrice 68310
(402) 223-4074

Econo Lodge
3210 N. 6th Street
Beatrice 68310
www.econolodge.com
(402) 223-3536
(800) 553-2666

New Victorian Inn & Suites
3721 N. 6th Street
Beatrice 68701
www.newvictorianinn.com
(402) 228-8808

D&M Motel
601 S. 14th Street
Wymore 68466
(402) 645-3801

Harlan County

Arrow Lodge
510 US Highway 183
Alma 68920
www.megavision.net/
hctour
(308) 928-2167

Blue Sky Cabins
Patterson Harbor,
Harlan County Lake
Republican City 68971
www.blueskycabinsatharlan.com
(308) 799-3635

Hilltop Inn

#17 US Highway 136

Republican City 68971
www.megavision.net/hc-
tour

(308) 799-2736

Orleans Hotel

101 Pine Street

Orleans 68966

www.megavision.com/
hctour

(308) 473-4025

**Sportsmen Vacation
Apartments**

11 Berrigan Road

(US Highway 136)

Republican City 68971

(308) 799-2073

Super 8 Motel

305 US Highway 183

Alma 68920

www.super8.com

(308) 928-9911

(800) 800-8000

Western Holiday Motel

210 US Highway 183

Alma 68920

(308) 928-2155

(800) 258-8124

Jefferson County**Above the Gallery**

Lodging

515 4th Street

Fairbury 68352

www.fairbury.com

(402) 729-3034

Capri Motel

1100 14th Street

Fairbury 68352

(402) 729-3317

(800) 932-0589

**Fairbury Executive
Suites**

506 E Street

Fairbury 68352

www.fairbury.com

(402) 613-2063

Johnson County**Towne & Country
Motel**

186 US Highway 136 W.

Tecumseh 68450

(402) 335-3386

Super 7 Inn

402 N. 12th

Tecumseh 68450

(402) 335-3100

Nemaha County**Auburn Inn**

517 J Street

Auburn 68305

www.auburnmotelsne.com

(402) 274-3143

Palmer House Motel

1918 J Street

Auburn 68305

www.auburnmotelsne.com

(402) 274-3193

Arbor Manor

1617 Central Avenue

Auburn 68305

(402) 274-3663

Nuckolls County**OxBow Motel**

422 N. Main Street

Nelson 68961

(402) 225-2651

Victorian Inn

1540 Idaho Street

Superior 68978

www.victorianinnsuperior.
com

(402) 879-3245

Pawnee County**Pawnee Inn**

1023 F Street

Pawnee City 68420

(402) 852-2238

Otoe County**Deluxe Inn**

1715 S. 11th Street

Nebraska City 68410

(402) 873-6656

Best Western**Nebraska City Inn**

2515 S. 11th Street

Nebraska City 68410

www.bestwesternnebraska.
com

(402) 873-7000

(877) 397-1100

Economy Inn

1905 S. 11th Street

Nebraska City 68410

(402) 873-6610

Lied Lodge

& Conference Center

2700 Sylvan Road

Nebraska City 68410

www.liedlodge.org

(402) 873-8733

(800) 546-5433

Mustang Motel

940 Park Street

Syracuse 68446

(402) 269-2185

Thayer County**Rosewood Villa Motel**

140 S. 13th Street

Hebron 68370

(402) 768-6524

Wayfarer Motel

104 N. 13th Street

Hebron 68370

(402) 768-7226

Riverside Motel

305 S. 13th

Hebron 68370

www.riversidemotel-he-
bron.com

(402) 768-7366

Webster County**Blue Hill Motel**

US Highway 281 N.

Blue Hill 68930

(402) 756-3901

Green Acres Motel

& RV Park

791 N. US Highway 281

Red Cloud 68970

(402) 746-2201

CAMPGROUNDS**Franklin County****South Park**

Campground

Jct NE Highway 10

& J Street

Franklin 68939

www.franklinnebraska.
com

(308) 425-6295

Furnas County**Cambridge City Park**

E. on US Hwys 6 & 34

in McKinley Park

Cambridge 69022

www.cambridgene.org

(308) 697-3711

Holbrook Park

N. on US Hwys 6 & 34

Holbrook 68948

(308) 493-5653

Orleans RV Park

201 E. North Street

Orleans 68966

www.megavision.net/
hctour

(308) 473-4185

Shady Rest Camp

309 Chestnut Street

Arapahoe 68922

(308) 962-5461

Westside Park

501 O Street

Beaver City 68926

(308) 268-2145



Gage County

Aunt Mary's RV Park
18550 N. US Highway
77

Hwys 136 & 77
Beatrice 68310
(402) 228-0103

Chautauqua Park
3 1/2 blks E. of US
Highway 77 on Grable
Street

Beatrice 68310
www.beatrice.ne.gov
(402) 228-5248

Feits Memorial Park
Broad Street & River
Road
Blue Springs 68318

(402) 645-3539

Gage County
Fairgrounds
1115 W. Scott Street
Beatrice 68310
www.gagecountyfair.
com
(402) 223-3247

Indian Creek Lodge
1 mi. S., 3/4 mi. E., 1/3
mi. N.
Odell 68415
(402) 766-3726

Oak Aven Acres
RV Park
23600 S.W. 75 Road
Beatrice 68310
(402) 239-9087

Riverside Park
Sumner Street & River
Road on US Highway
136
Beatrice 68310
www.beatrice.ne.gov
(402) 228-5248

Wymore Arbor State Park
9th & M Streets
Wymore 68466
(402) 645-3377

Harlan County

Alma RV Park
501 South Street
Alma 68920
www.almacity.com
(308) 928-3102

Hunter Cove Park
E. end of Harlan County
Lake
Republican City 68971
www.nwk.usace.army.
mil/hc/Camp-HunterCove.
cfm
(308) 799-2105

George R. Mitchell Park/
RV Park
114 W. Clark
Oxford 68967
www.oxfordnebraska.com
(308) 824-3511

Outlet Park Campground
Below dam at E. end of
Harlan County Lake
Republican City 68971
www.nwk.usace.army.
mil/hc/Camp-NorthOutlet.
cfm
(308) 799-2105

Patterson Harbor
12121 Road 3
Republican City 68971
www.pattersonharbor.com
(308) 799-4600

Methodist Cove
Campground
2 mi. E.
Alm 68971
www.nwk.usace.army.mil/
hc/Camp-MethodistCove.
cfm
(308) 799-2105

Western Village Park
110 E. Sumner Street
Western 68464
(402) 433-2861

Jefferson County

Buckley Creek
Recreation Area
1 mi. E., 1/2 mi. N.
Reynolds 68335
www.littlebluenrd.org
(402) 364-2145

Crystal Springs
1 1/2 mi. S.W.
Fairbury 68352
(402) 729-2148

Cub Creek Recreation Area
8 mi. E., 3 1/2 mi. N.
Fairbury 68310
www.lbbnrd.org
(402) 228-3402

Historic Steele City
Campground
209 S. Iowa Street
Steele City 68440
(402) 442-2360

Johnson County
Sterling Village Park
E. side of village
Sterling 68443
www.ci.sterling.ne.us
(402) 866-5481

Johnson County
Fairgrounds Park
633 N. 1st Street
Tecumseh 68450
(402) 335-7050

Wirth Brothers Lake
5 mi. N., 1 mi. W. of
Tecumseh
Tecumseh 68450
www.nemahanrd.org
(402) 335-3325

Nemaha County

City RV Park
& Sports Complex
W. on 6th Street, N.
on Q Street
Auburn 68305
www.auburn.ne.gov
(402) 274-3420

Longs Creek RV Park
517 J Street
Auburn 68305
www.auburnmotelsne.
com
(402) 274-3143

River Inn Resort
72898 A Avenue
Brownville 68321
www.river-inn-resort.
com
(402) 825-6441

Nuckolls County

Harbine Park
900 S. Wheeler
Nelson 68961
(402) 225-4401

Lincoln Park
Campground
840 W. 4th Street
Superior 68978
(402) 879-4713

Otoe County

Syracuse Campground
1st & Midland Streets
Syracuse 68446
www.syracusene.com
(402) 269-2601

Victorian Acres RV
Park & Campground
6591 NE Highway 2
Nebraska City 68410
www.victorianacres-
rvpark.com
(402) 873-6866

Pawnee County

Iron Horse Trail Lake
1/2 mi. N., 2 1/2 mi. W.
of DuBois
DuBois 68450
www.nemahanrd.org
(402) 335-3325

Pawnderosa
Campground
3rd Street & NE
Highway 63
Pawnee City 68420
pawneecity.com
(402) 852-2781

Richardson County

Kirkman's Cove
3 mi. N.W.
Humboldt 68450
www.nemahanrd.org
(402) 335-3325

Saline County

Legion Memorial Park
1000 S. School Street
Wilber 68465
(402) 821-3016

Thayer County

Bruning Dam
2 mi. E., 1 mi. N.,
3/4 mi. E.
Bruning 68335
www.littlebluenrd.org
(402) 364-2145

Chester City Park
1/4 mi. W. of NE
Highway 8 & US
Highway 81
Chester 68327
(402) 324-5755

Davenport City Park
S. of 6th & Fir Streets
Davenport 68355
www.ci.davenport.
ne.us
(402) 364-2292

Deshler City Park
4th & Park Streets
Deshler 68340
www.deshlernebraska.com
(402) 365-4260

Deshler City Park
4th & Park Streets
Deshler 68340
www.deshlernebraska.com
(402) 365-4260

Diller Campground
Diller Park
Diller 68342
www.diller-ne.com
(402) 793-5991

Riverside Park
10th Street & Holdrege
Avenue
Hebron 68370
(402) 768-6322

Webster County

Bell's Sleepy Valley
RV Park
3/4 mi. N. of US Highway
136 on US Highway 281
Red Cloud 68970
(402) 746-2919

Green Acres Motel & RV
Park
791 N. US Highway 281
Red Cloud 68970
(402) 746-2201

STATE HISTORICAL PARKS & RECREATION AREAS

Jefferson County

Rock Creek Station State
Historical Park
57426 710 Road
Fairbury 57426 outdoor-
nebraska.ne.gov/parks/
guides/parksearch/show-
park.asp?Area_No = 153
(402) 729-5777

Nemaha County

Brownville SRA
US Highway 136
Brownville 68437
outdoornebraska.ne.gov/
parks/guides/parksearch/
showpark.asp?Area_
No = 36 (402) 883-2575

Indian Cave State Park
2 mi. N., 5 mi. E.
Shubert 68437
outdoornebraska.ne.gov/
parks/guides/parksearch/
showpark.asp?Area_
No = 91
(402) 883-2575

Otoe County

Riverview Marina SRA
N. of Jct NE Highway 2 &
US Highway 75
Nebraska City 68410
outdoornebraska.ne.gov/
parks/guides/parksearch/
showpark.asp?Area_
No = 151
(402) 873-7222

Richardson County

Verdon Lake SRA
1/2 mi. W.
Verdon 68437
outdoornebraska.ne.gov/
parks/guides/parksearch/
showpark.asp?Area_
No = 178
(402) 883-2575

Thayer County

Alexandria SRA
3 mi. E., 1 mi. S.
Alexandria
Alexandria 68352
outdoornebraska.ne.gov/
parks/guides/parksearch/
showpark.asp?Area_No = 1
(402) 729-5777

GUEST RANCHES

Gage County

Cub Creek Hunting
24256 S.W. 142 Road
Beatrice 68310
www.cubcreekhunting.
com
(402) 228-0660

Homestead Creek Lodge
10921 W. PWF Road
Odell 68310
www.homesteadcreek-
lodge.com
(877) 228-8605

Indian Creek Lodge
1 mi. S., 3/4 mi. E.,
1/3 mi. N.
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*Traditional Wood Barns
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A Convenience Store and A Whole Lot More!

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Valid at participating stores only. Not valid with any other offer. One coupon per visit. Expires 9/30/2011.

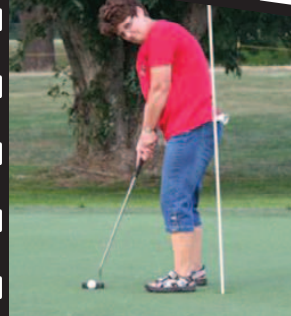
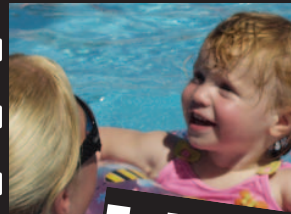
\$1 OFF A DOZEN DONUTS



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Capture Nuckolls County!

ANGUS • HARDY • LAWRENCE • NELSON
NORA • OAK • RUSKIN • SUPERIOR



Nuckolls County, Our Community's Foundation

Welcome to Nuckolls County! In the middle of the nation, we cherish our rural, down home lifestyle as a great place to raise your family. Nuckolls County is known for our historical re-enactments, Pony Express Ride, museums and our Victorian home tour. Come experience the Oregon Trail, County fair, the State High School rodeo and our small town parades. We enjoy outdoor activities all year round like hunting, fishing, camping and rodeos. Bring your families and enjoy our antique and curio shopping and unique places to stay. On your way through Nelson, stop in and see our Historical Courthouse and enjoy our history. There is always our Memorial Day Celebration in Superior and tour Superior for our Christmas Candy Cane Lane.

EXPERIENCE NEMAHA COUNTY

Auburn • Brock • Brownville • Johnson • Julian • Nemaha • Peru



WHISKEY RUN CREEK WINERY

Brownville's winery is a 100-year-old barn spanning Whiskey Run Creek. A truly unique setting with 1866 caves, the state-of-the-art production building, the waterfall and the serene and inspiring atmosphere inside and outside the facilities. Taste the fine wines and browse the gift shop stocked with collectable wine accessories.



LEGION PARK

Legion Park, located in Downtown Auburn, is on the National Register of Historic Places, one of six in the State of Nebraska. The unique structures within the park are constructed of native rock from the 1930 and 1940 era. Rustic bridges and stone stair wall highlight a water feature during rainstorms, bringing an aesthetic fashion throughout the park.



STEAMBOAT TRACE TRAIL

Brownville to Nebraska City 21 miles, hiking, biking through the Missouri River Bluffs. Trailheads at Brownville and Peru.



RAILROAD HISTORY MUSEUM

Brownville's newest museum is 1875 Burlington Route Railroad Depot with an adjacent caboose. Both are filled with Historic Brownville Railroad and Burlington Route memorabilia.

OH, THE STORIES YOU'LL TELL

**Hike, bike, fish, hunt,
shop and explore.**

Indian Cave State Park
Steamboat Trace Trail
Historic Brownville
Winery



INDIAN CAVE STATE PARK

Named for the huge sandstone cavity that is the main geologic feature of the area, Indian Cave State Park straddles the Nemaha-Richardson County line in southeastern Nebraska. It is possible that Indian Cave has existed for several thousand years. It is a natural formation, created by silt and fine-grained sand deposits in a Pennsylvanian rock channel. Petroglyphs or ancient Indian picture writings etched on the walls of the cave are the only known example of their kind in Nebraska.

**Birdwatching, art workshops, entertainment and events
throughout the year also help make this a great place to visit!**

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PAID FOR BY NEMAHA COUNTY VISITORS' COMMITTEE