Acting Governor Thomas B. Cuming signed a proclamation that established the Nebraska National Guard on December 23, 1854. The “1854 Proclamation” is in the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Collection at the Yale University Library. A copy of the document will be displayed as part of an alcove exhibit on the birth of the Nebraska National Guard.
What a great year we had at the Museum! The front third of the facility was ready for 7,815 people to tour it on July 4, 2016. Thank you so much to our donors and volunteers for helping make the Museum a destination to visit. The past three months have been busy with events at the Museum. We saw so many students from Seward and Crete Public Schools during the fall semester. We were able to teach classes on World War I and II and Veterans Day in the Concordia University Learning Center. On Veterans Day we unveiled the “Brothers and Sisters in Arms” display in the John W. Cattle, Sr. Exhibit Area. It was a tribute to the family of Eldon “Buzzy” Hermann and was well attended. Would like to thank his brother, Charlie, for the wonderful donation of a piano for the Museum. We topped off the year with a great celebration of the Nebraska National Guard Birthday at Bottle Rocket Brewery in Seward. We look forward to another great year of events and unveiling of displays at the Museum. Happy Holidays!

Nebraska National Guard Historical Society President, Darin Krueger. He served in the National Guard 1986-2013. He currently works for the VA in Lincoln.

NNGHS Mission Statement:

To collect, access, preserve, store, account for, de-militarize, and value historical artifacts and records for training, development, and interpretation of the Nebraska Army and Air National Guard and the State of Nebraska military history and heritage of its citizen-soldiers and airmen. To educate and “tell the story” to the members of the Army and Air Guard and the general public about the heritage of the Nebraska National Guard in both peace and war.
“Brothers and Sisters in Arms”

The Hermann family gathered to honor a legacy of service at the Museum on Veterans Day. The “Brothers and Sisters in Arms” was on display in the John W. Cattle, Sr. Exhibit Area. The collections of artifacts from the Hermann family were in cases for the public to see. Eldon “Buzzy” Hermann was a member of the Nebraska National Guard before volunteering for airborne training during World War II. He made combat jumps with the 101st Airborne. His brother, Charlie, joined the Navy and served on the West Coast. His other brother, Bill, served in the 8th Air Force on a B-17. His brother in law joined the Royal Canadian Air Force and was a POW. His sister served in the Civil Air Patrol. The Hermann family was on hand to cut the ribbon to the display on Veterans Day.

Bill and Charlie cut the ribbon on the display and later relax during the program on Veterans Day.

“Remember Pearl Harbor” Banner

The Museum hosted a “Remember Pearl Harbor” Banner for patrons to sign during the month of December. Designed by Amy Givens. She was the first to sign in memory of her loved one that served at the military hospital during the attack. The banner was on display in the Concordia University Learning Center. The 75th Anniversary of the attack was marked by the Museum with the flag at half staff for the day, Pearl Harbor documentaries on the monitor in the learning center, and the banner for signing. The Japanese attack on Sunday, December 7, 1941 entered the United States into WWII.
Nebraska National Guard Birthday Party

Bottle Rocket Brewery and the Museum Society hosted the annual Nebraska National Guard Birthday on Friday, December 16, 2016. The event featured a social catered by Nate’s on the Nines and a ceremonial cutting of the birthday cake (from Tasteful Indulgence) and tapping of the “1854 Proclamation” Beer. The event was a huge success and profits from the event went back to the museum exhibits. Command Sergeant Major Baker was in attendance to thank the crowd. A severe ice storm limited the out of town attendance but the party was considered a success.
The Museum was host to Christmas in the Military events on November 26, 2016. The facility had veterans greeting the visitors and sharing experiences of the holidays in the military: David Pankoke, Darrell Carr, Ted Payne, David Payne, Nate Payne, David Payne (Sr.), Ken Meyer and Pee Wee Schulz. The event took place in the John W. Cattle, Sr. Exhibit Area. The main display was a Christmas Tree decorated like a scene described in Biography of a Battalion about Christmas in 1944 with the 134th Infantry in Europe during World War II. Music talent also played at the event: Sally Jost on piano, the “Firehouse Five”, and Ellie Stark on the piano. Everyone enjoyed the great music that was provided at the event. A special display on loan was Presidential Christmas Cards in the Gift Shop. The event drew 374 patrons to the Museum.
Kiwanis Veterans Lunch at Museum

On Monday, November 7, 2016, the Kiwanis and the Society hosted a Veterans Lunch in honor of Veterans Day later in the week. Over 85 people were treated to a free, catered meal from PacNSave in Seward.

Concordia University Foundation

On Monday, October 24, 2016, the Concordia Foundation and the Society hosted a social at the Museum to showcase the Learning Center and other exhibits to members and community supporters. Over 100 people enjoyed the evening.
The Nebraska National Guard entry into the Sixth Annual Christmas Parade in Seward was the winner of the “Starry Bright” Award. The entry was the HUMMV and trailer with the Mini-Phantom covered in lights. The Museum would like to thank Ron, Roberto and Cody for volunteering time to get the entry ready for the parade.
Anniversaries

- October 10, 1961—Berlin Crisis. 1056th Transportation Company (Crete) and 1057th Transportation Company (York) are called up for federal service.
- November 8, 1944—Attack against the Saar Region in Europe with the 134th Infantry during WWII. The battle would last until December 16th.
- November 11, 1990—24th Medical Company is mobilized for Desert Shield.
- November 28, 1971—Nebraska Air National Guard gets the first RF-4C’s.
- December 7, 1945—134th Infantry is deactivated from federal service on the anniversary of Pearl Harbor attack.
- December 23, 1854—Proclamation signed by acting Governor Thomas Cuming founded the Nebraska National Guard. The National Guard (MA Militia) was founded on December 13, 1636.
- December 23, 1940—Nebraska National Guard units are called to federal service for one year. They will be extended for the duration following the attacks at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941.
- December 25, 1944—134th Infantry is drawn into the Battle of the Bulge near Bastogne.

The Seward 4th of July and NE150 Committee and Museum

The Museum will play a prominent role in the 2017 festivals in Seward. As part of the 150th birthday of the state of Nebraska (NE150), the Museum will host several events in conjunction with the city of Seward (who is also 150 years old). As part of NE150 this is a partial list of events: Arbor Day tree planting, Memorial Day, Chautauqua 2017, and Veterans Day. The events will focus on outreach mission of the museum (Chautauqua is a WWI themed event). The 4th of July events: switching out the Bob Hope show to a WWI (1917) Vaudeville Show on July 2nd and the usual events for July 4th—Dedication of room/exhibits, Open House, Static Displays, and Parade. The Museum expects over 10,000 visitors on July 4, 2017. Volunteers are needed to set-up/meet/greet/serve/clean up on that day.
The Museum hosted several school visits in the Fall. Seward High School history classes of Tom Tvrdy came for classes on World War I and II. The students were fortunate to meet a group of veterans from Lincoln when they were at the Museum. Crete Middle School 8th graders stopped in the Museum for Veterans Day week. They got a tour of the main floor, intro movie in the theater and a behind the scenes tour of the curator’s area downstairs. This was the first of the many school groups that will be able to utilize the Concordia University Learning Center and lesson plans in the future.

Thank you to all the organizers of these visits. Appreciate that Ken Meyer and Kevin Hynes came in to talk with students. Thank you to Cody for doing the “show and tell” with artifacts.
1937 Philco Radio Restored

Clarence Wattier spotted our 1937 Philco which was donated from Lee Luebbe Machine Shop and Liberty House B&B, and took it to his shop for a full restoration. The radio looks brand new. It has the tubes removed and set up for a modern sound system. Thank you Clarence for the great work!

Airborne Group Visits

82nd Airborne Association of Nebraska Meeting was held in Seward on October 20, 2016, which included a visit to “Airborne!” display above the Concordia Learning Center. Thank you to this fine group of paratroopers for stopping in and visiting. See you next “Airborne Day” 2017!

Greenlief Visit to Museum

When Kevin Greenlief walked in the door and signed in from Virginia....the Museum staff quickly guessed this was the son of General Francis Greenlief...WWII Hero and former Chief, National Guard Bureau and namesake of our training site in Hastings. His dad’s image is around the place....one being in the theater.
Enlisting into the Nebraska Army National Guard

When Buffett enlisted into the Nebraska Army National Guard shortly after graduating from Columbia University in 1951, the Nebraska National Guard was well on its way to reestablishing itself following World War II as a newly reconstitution organization. New Soldiers were filling the Guard’s ranks and leftover World War II equipment was starting to flow into the hands of the new and veteran Guard Soldiers.

At this time, however, new Soldiers did not yet attend basic training as they would in later decades. Instead, new enlistees received their training from the more experienced unit non-commissioned officers during weekly drills at local armories.

State facilities were still a far-cry from what they would be in later years, with many units conducting training in the basements of local city halls, or on the second floors of local businesses or community centers.

Still, as Buffett would later attest, the same “can-do” spirit that exists in today’s Nebraska National Guard was in ample evidence in the early 1950s.

“I was 20 years old and I knew that I was coming back to Omaha. I was going to start selling stocks at this small firm that my dad had. I didn’t know what the draft situation might be, so I joined the Guard.”

That’s how Buffett recalled his decision to join the Nebraska Army National Guard in January 1951. A native of Omaha, Nebraska, who had finished high school in the Washington, D.C., area while his father served in the U.S. Congress, Buffett had just earned his Master of Science degree in Economics when he decided to enlist into the Nebraska Army National Guard “near the Pentagon.”

When he arrived back in Omaha, one of the first people Buffett met was then-Lt. Col. Francis Greenlief, a veteran of Nebraska’s 134th Infantry Regiment who had earned a Silver Star during the 1944 Battle of St. Lo, France.

“He told me I was in Captain (Melvin) Murphy’s company and I was to do whatever Sergeant (John) Miglini told me to do,” said Buffett about his encounter with Greenlief.

The unit Buffett joined was the headquarters company for the 34th Infantry Division, which had been reformed in 1946 as a “shared” division between the Iowa and Nebraska Army National Guard. For Buffett, this meant attending weekly drills at the unit’s armory at “around 20th and Woolworth” Streets in Omaha, where the unit’s NCOs – some of them World War II veterans – oversaw the initial training of the new enlistees.

Buffett said the training was pretty rudimentary.

“There wasn’t much training to do in terms of what I was going to be working on when we went to camp – which was going to be payroll – so, it was pretty basic, almost like you would see in the movies,” Buffett said. “It was about learning about the rifle and learning about the Army.”

“Sergeant Miglini would have us fall in and then we would learn about what we would be doing over the next few hours,” Buffett recalled. “It was a variety of things that we were learning about… it wasn’t a lot of specialized training because you didn’t need it in the job that I had.”

According to Buffett, he’s not exactly sure when he was assigned to serve as a payroll specialist within the headquarters unit, but it was fairly early on.

He added that his financial background probably had at least something to do with the assignment.

“There wasn’t a lot to do with that specialized duty except when you went to camp,” he said. “I could do debits and credits.”

Much like today, drills were spent preparing for annual training camps, typically held during the summer months. In Buffett’s case, this meant yearly trips to Fort McCoy, Wisconsin.

One particular memory stands out: the trip up to Fort McCoy. Typically, he said, the Soldiers would begin reporting to the Omaha train depot at around 8 or 9 p.m. on the Friday before camp started. “We wouldn’t board until 12:01,” said Buffett. “That way they wouldn’t have to pay you for Friday.”

After sleeping through the night, Buffett said he would awake around 6 or 7 a.m. The train had traveled roughly 50 miles from Omaha. “That was a very, very slow train,” Buffett added, laughing.

Buffett said he spent the rest of the day peeling potatoes in an open boxcar and then mashing them with “big wooden sticks.”

“We pounded potatoes,” he said. “I learned a lot about mashing potatoes… thousands of potatoes.
Seward is the host city for Chautauqua 2017 in Nebraska. It will be held 14-18 June in Seward. The Museum is one of the venue sites. The theme is World War I. The Museum is planning speakers and displays for the event. More to follow.
Thank You to Our Sponsors of the NENG Birthday Party 2016

Nate on the Nine’s for catering the event. Thank you Nate!

Kitty at Tasteful Indulgence for the beautiful birthday cakes for the evening.

Bottle Rocket Brewery. Jason, Gerald and Ryan for hosting and making the “1854 Proclamation Beer” for the event. Dr. Van Vahle for assisting with the linens and decorating for the evening. CSM Baker for getting to the event, despite the ice storm. Thank you to all that were able to attend.

CHECK OUT THE WEBSITE: WWW.NENGM.ORG
We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude for your interest in applying for membership in the Nebraska National Guard Historical Society, Inc.

We further provide the following information in order to qualify this document as a true attestation that the donations received will be used for purely non-profit purpose(s), in our capacity as a 501(c)(3) charitable or non-profit organization.

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CHECK OUT THE WEBSITE: WWW.NENGM.ORG
Cornrow to Hedgerow Room Fundraising Campaign to begin in 2017

The Museum will start the fundraising campaign to create an interactive display of the Keith Rocco painting of the 134th Infantry (Nebraska National Guard) in the hedgerows outside the city of St. Lo, France in July, 1944. This display will be in 4D and will be quite expensive. The dedication is set for July 4, 2019 on the 75th Anniversary of the Liberation of St. Lo.

Military Appreciation 2016 Football Game at Concordia University in Seward. Thank you to Dr. Van Vahle for helping with moving Jeeps to the game. Thank you to Pee Wee Schulz, Ken Meyer and Al Isaac for stopping down and helping greet people and bring out the giant American Flag for the National Anthem.

The Museum would like to thank World War II Navy Veteran Charlie Hermann for the beautiful piano that he donated. The piano was a big hit for the Veterans Day Lunch with the Ki-tones and was played at the Christmas Open House by Sally Jost and Ellie Stark. Charlie also donated a new portable sound system for the Museum! Thank you Charlie!
Merry Christmas from the Museum!

Thank you to all that helped make this a great Christmas season! Roxie for setting up the Jean Kolterman tree in the Concordia Learning Center. Clark for all the patriotic decorations. Thank you to Senator and Ms. Mark Kolterman for the huge tree in the John W. Cattle, Sr. Exhibit Area. Thank you to Seward High students Jake, Derek and Tyson for setting up and decorating. Thank you to Dr. Van Vahle for bringing up lunch to the staff! To everyone that brought in Christmas treats for the staff!
Picture from the Past.....

Visitors to the Museum.....

The Museum was honored to have Mr. Trevor Jones, Nebraska State Historical Society CEO visit the facility with Major General Bohac and Brigadier General Dahlman. The discussion was on how to better partner between the two entities in the future. Great visit!

Presidential Christmas Card Display

The Museum would like to thank Allen Beermann for the loan of his Presidential Christmas Card Display for the holiday season. It is on display in the future gift shop area.

CHECK OUT THE WEBSITE: WWW.NENGM.ORG