

Lewis & Clark Scenic Byway

Along this stretch of U.S. Highway 75, the history is shaped around the influential and inspirational people who came through the region before us. Native Americans, famous explorers, military men, and even poets left their mark along the banks of the Missouri River.

Historical Happenings

- ① Forced to give up their homeland in Wisconsin, the members of the Winnebago Tribe settled on a portion of the Omaha Indian Reservation. The two tribes have coexisted peacefully, and they both still celebrate their heritage in northeast Nebraska.
- ② The daughter of an Omaha Chief, Dr. Susan LaFleshe Picotte became the first Native American woman to practice modern medicine in the United States. After receiving her medical education and training in Philadelphia, she returned to Walthill and helped build the Dr. Susan Picotte Memorial Hospital to serve the Omaha Indian Reservation.
- ③ John G. Neihardt, Nebraska Poet Laureate, lived with his family for a time in Bancroft. It was there that he got to know Native Americans from the Omaha Indian Reservation who inspired many of his works. His study can still be seen at the John G. Neihardt State Historic Site in Bancroft.
- ④ Back in 1865, the steamboat *Bertrand* made its way up the Missouri River, bound for the Montana Territory. Near present-day Blair, the vessel hit a snag and sank in 10 minutes. Fortunately, no lives were lost. Artifacts from the shipwreck are on display at the DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge.
- ⑤ The Lewis and Clark expedition passed through the region as it followed the Missouri River. While here, they met with Native American leaders at a place they called Council Bluff. Later Lewis and Clark recommended the location for a military fort. Fort Atkinson was built on that site (near what is now the town of Fort Calhoun) and became the first American military post west of the Missouri River.



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