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## **CITY OF KEARNEY** **PRESS RELEASE** ***For Immediate Release***

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### **Brown Bag History Series – *Extinct Education: Nebraska's Rural School Past* presented by Laurinda Weisse at the Kearney Public Library**

Kearney Public Library and UNK-History Department welcome you to the History Brown Bag lunch series Wednesday, June 14 from noon-1:00 pm. University Archivist and Digital Repository Manager, Associate Professor Laurinda Weisse will present on Nebraska's rural schools.

In 1917, Nebraska had 7,000 one-room schoolhouses. By 1984 in Nebraska the number of school districts offering only elementary education was down to 666. Several more recent rounds of consolidation have further reduced that number. Drawing upon materials from the Country School Legacy project and other materials available in the UNK Archives, Prof. Laurinda Weisse highlights rural education in Nebraska before 1980. From snakes to floods that cut off a school, rural education posed singular challenges but studying it also opens a unique window into life in rural communities.

Laurinda Weisse is the University Archivist and Digital Repository Manager and an Associate Professor at UNK, in other words “a librarian for the rare and unique, special, one-of-a-kind items on campus.” They are in charge of UNK Archives & Special Collections and OpenSPACES, UNK's digital repository. Prof. Weisse's research is varied and includes co-founding Coming to the Plains.

This program is free and open to the public so bring your lunch and learn! This collaborative program is presented by UNK-History Department, and the Kearney Public Library. Mark your calendars for this ongoing series on July 12.

**Check out our web site at [www.cityofkearney.org](http://www.cityofkearney.org).**

*We are sending this News Release as a service to the news media and citizens of Kearney.*