

Dr. Susan La Flesche Picotte: Lighting the Way

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Senior Division

Group Exhibit

Process Paper: 474

Exhibit Word Count: 420

Susan La Flesche Process Paper - NHD 2020

For our project, we chose Susan La Flesche because of prior knowledge about the La Flesche family. One of our members had done a research project on Susette, her sister, and knew she had other famous family members. We knew she had broken many barriers by just being a woman doctor and a Native American in the 1800s. Since she was from Nebraska, we also knew we would have multiple sources on her from the Nebraska Archives.

We started our research by just doing light reading on her background and who she was. Once we had found more specific points in her life to research, we moved into a more in depth online search. We went to the library next to find books about her and her family to find quotes and information about their life on the Omaha Reservation. After that, we headed to the Nebraska Archives to find primary sources to get a more hands on look with documents that La Flesche had written and was regarded in. We also looked at La Flesche family photos and photos Susan had taken of her house. Many of both we had displayed on our exhibit.

We selected our presentation category because we thought it would be the most enjoyable to create as a group. We knew that we could make it both visually appealing and interactive to look at. As a group, we all have different strengths that the exhibit could use. We could also find a good balance between creativity and have a sense of control by being limited to a size and in words. We created the project by putting two trifold together and adding two foam boards on the sides to create the look of Dr. La Flesche's hospital's doors. We then cut out a section of the trifold to insert a candle, similar to a candle that was always lit outside her window, to show that she was able to take clients and patients.

Dr. Susan La Flesche Picotte broke many stereotypes and barriers through her various actions and bravery consistently shown throughout her life. She was the first Native American to get their medical degree. She was also an advocate for all Native Americans, especially the Omaha tribe, in legislation. She went to the Secretary of Interior and the Attorney General about Native Americans being able to control their own land, money, and lives. She also got a bill passed that banned alcohol sales in the towns of Walthill and Rosalie, on the Omaha reservation. After her husband, Henry died of alcoholism, she talked to legislation in Washington D.C. about the negative effects that alcoholism was having on her community and her family. She also chose to continue working after she had children, which was not common practice for a woman to do in the late 1800's to early 1900's.

Primary Works Cited

Bancroft Barn. 1908. La Flesche Family, Nebraska Historical Society, RG2026.PH61.

We used this picture to show what the town she was from was like during her life. It was mostly barren, but you could see the developments that were happening at that time.

La Flesche, Susan. *Dr. S La Flesche Picotte - Residence*. 1908. La Flesche Family, Nebraska Historical Society, RG2026.PH26.

Using this picture, we observed Susan's house and establishment for herself and her sons in Walthill. A widow, she bought the corner lot on November 17th of 1906. This picture shows her independence and success in her town as well as a mother and defying odds as a woman in a rural country.

---. *Report of Chairman of State Health Committee*. 1913.

From this source we found quotes about La Flesche opinions on the health issues that her community was facing due to improper education and support from the government. We also got information about her want to end drinking on the reservation.

La Flesche Picotte, Susan, Dr. Letter to Commissioner of Indian Affairs. 29 Apr. 1914, Nebraska State Historical Society, RG2026-LETTER-1914.

In this source we got information about how La Flesche felt about the education that the Native Americans were getting about their health. From this we were able to see how she advocated for the community to get equal and fair access to basic services.

---. "Omaha and the New Order." *Omaha Daily Bee* [Omaha, Nebraska], 30 Dec. 1909, p. 6.

Library of Congress,

chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn99021999/1909-12-30/ed-1/seq-6/#date1=1836&index=5&date2=1922&searchType=advanced&language=&sequence=0&lccn=sn99021999&words=FLESCHE+LA+PICOTTE&proxdistance=5&rows=20&ortext=LaFlesche&proxtext=&phrasertext=&andtext=Picotte&dateFilterType=yearRange&page=1. Accessed 17 Nov. 2019.

In this source, we got information about La Flesche's opinions on the Winnebago Agency. It also shows her work outside of being the doctor to the Native American communities.

Map of Walthill, Nebraska and Surrounding Area. *City-Data.com*,

www.city-data.com/city/Walthill-Nebraska.html. Accessed 8 Dec. 2019.

We used this map to better understand the geography and relevance of the various towns Susan was heavily involved in. All on the Omaha reservation, towns Walthill, Bancroft, and Rosalie are all important to Susan's impact on her community.

"Omaha Indians in Council." *Omaha Daily Bee* [Omaha], 17 July 1909. *Library of Congress*,

Chronicling America,

<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn99021999/1909-07-17/ed-1/seq-3/>. Accessed 7 Dec. 2019.

This newspaper article from 1909 provided us with another situation of the involvement of Susan La Flesche in an Omaha council. In this article, she and other council members had presented to the Omaha agency. Herself and other council members were discussing the extension of maintaining possession and rights to the Omaha tribe's land.

"Omaha Indians Protest." *Omaha Daily Bee* [Omaha], 29 Jan. 1910. *Library of Congress, Chronicling America*,
<<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn99021999/1910-01-29/ed-1/seq-1/>>. Accessed 7 Dec. 2019.

This brief newspaper article discusses Susan La Flesche and other Omaha delegates' presentation to the president and secretary of interior on the consolidation of the Omaha and Winnebago tribes. We used this article to learn more about her involvement as a delegate for her tribe.

"Omahas to Meet at Macy and Hear Washington Report." *Omaha Daily Bee* [Omaha], 8 Mar. 1910. *Library of Congress, Chronicling America*,
<<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn99021999/1910-03-08/ed-1/seq-12/>>.
Accessed 7 Dec. 2019.

In this newspaper article from the Daily Bee in 1910, discusses Susan's role in the Omaha Council and states a somewhat update on their progress in a policy presentation. The Omaha tribe council would be protesting in Washington over recent changes in policy for the Indian department and tribe.

Picotte Gravestone "K". La Flesche Family, Nebraska State Historical Society, RG2026-74 K.

Using this source we can see the gravestone of both Susan and her husband Henry Picotte. They were buried in Bancroft, a town close to both of them. This shows us the burial site but also the respect of the Picotte and La Flesche name after she passed away.

Portrait of Susan La Flesche. 3 Apr. 1941. La Flesche Family, Nebraska Historical Society, RG2026.PH71.

This portrait of Susan shares her appearance. This picture is the best tool to provide what she looked like and make her more personable.

The Red Cloud Chief [Red Cloud, Webster Co]. 11 Oct. 1889. *Library of Congress, Chronicling America*, <<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn84022835/1889-10-11/ed-1/seq-6/>>. Accessed 7 Dec. 2019.

This clip from a newspaper article published in Red Cloud, commemorates Susan La Flesche's graduation from medical college. It also mentions her work with the agency and that she is now serving as a physician for the Omaha tribe.

The Residence of Dr. Susan LaFlesche Picotte on the Omaha Indian Reservation. 1 Apr. 1910. RG4963 Omaha Indian Photo Album, Nebraska State Historical Society, RG4963.PH000001-000201.

This is another picture of Susan La Flesche's house in Walthill. The description included for this picture showed us that her house was on the reservation, likely for accessibility of people in need on the reservation. It also shows that she chose to stay and resist a form of brain drain to help her people.

Smith, Vina. "Famous American Indians." *Chemawa American*, 23 May 1928.

From this newsletter, we learned valuable comments and found some very good quotes about Susan's lasting impact on her community and her people. As a primary source, only published 8 years after Susan's passing, this newsletter offered insightful perspectives and achievements of Dr. La Flesche.

Susan and Her Sibling and 2 Other Kids. 1880. La Flesche Family, Nebraska State Historical Society, RG2026-67.

This picture, taken in 1880 shows Susan La Flesche as a 15 year-old surrounded by the her older sister, Marguerite. Susan was the youngest of the siblings and was well accomplished and her siblings did as well. They are pictured with 2 kids identified as "Fremonts".

Susan, Her Mom Mary and Her Sons. Aug. 1902. La Flesche Family, Nebraska Historical Society, RG2026.PH39.

This picture shows Susan with her sons, Caryl and Pierre, and her mom, Mary. They are at her home in Walthill. This picture was taken in 1902. It shows her family, with a proud but lonely toned moment.

Susan La Flesche Diary 1910. Os, 1910.

In this source we learned that she took notes over everything. By seeing this, it proved just how dedicated she was to her patients and her work to help support them.

Susan La Flesche's Hospital in Walthill. La Flesche Family, Nebraska Historical Society, RG2026PH7a.

This picture shows possibly Susan's proudest accomplishment, her hospital in Walthill.

Established in 1912, the hospital was the first building built on the reservation with out government financial support.

Susan's Sons Caryl and Pierre. 1895. La Flesche Family, Nebraska Historical Society, RG2026.PH31.

Susan's two sons Caryl and Pierre. This picture showed us her family, after her husband Henry had passed away.

Taken in 1895, this picture shows Susan when she was 30 at the time and would forgo the stay at home life many women favored or did. She would later become a widow and remain a doctor for her people.

Secondary Works Cited

Cisewski, Ginger, editor. *Thurston County Site*. Ginger Cisewski, 2006,

www.usgennet.org/usa/ne/county/thurston/susan.html. Accessed 7 Dec. 2019.

We used this source to better understand Susan's contributions to the Thurston County Medical Center and other effects it had on people in her reservation and those around her. In addition we learned more about Susan's fight for temperance following her husband's death of alcoholism.

"Dr. Susan La Flesche Biography." *Changing the Face of Medicine*, 3 June 2015,

cfmedicine.nlm.nih.gov/physicians/biography_253.html. Accessed 19 Nov. 2019.

We used this source to get general background information about her life and what she did for the reservation. This source helped us because we knew what specific facts and statistics to look for to elaborate on her time in college and/ or how she helped fight for prohibition of alcohol on the reservation.

Dr. Susan LaFlesche Picotte Center.

www.drsusancenter.org/omaha-indian-tribe-dr-susan-laflesche-picotte-center/

We used this source to get a more clear idea of what Susan's hospital looked like, more specifically the door to the hospital that inspired the look of our exhibit. In addition we learned more about the history of the Omaha tribe that Susan was apart of.

"Dr. Susan La Flesche Picotte, First Native American Woman Physician." *History Nebraska*, history.nebraska.gov/blog/dr-susan-la-flesche-picotte-first-native-american-woman-physician. Accessed 21 Nov. 2019.

From this source we got quotes about her day to day life before and after she got her medical degree. We got that she was apart of the tribal council and fought for the protection of Native American women and girl's inheritance.

Editorial: Honoring the legacy of Dr. Susan La Flesche Picotte worthwhile. 27 Feb. 2018, omaha.com/news/nebraska/editorial-honoring-the-legacy-of-dr-susan-la-flesche-picotte/article_b76f7ccd-ce53-5962-9191-2cfe7763ad32.html. Accessed 7 Dec. 2019.

We used this source to better understand the symbolism of Susan's hospital and multiple struggles that Susan had to overcome in order to not only survive, but help countless people.

Ferris, Jeri. *Native American Doctor: The Story of Susan LaFlesche Picotte*. Minneapolis, Lerner Group, 1991.

From this book we got quotes about her inspiration to become a doctor. We also got information about her report on whiskey to the Indian Association.

Hansen, Matthew. "Hansen: Susan La Flesche Picotte, First Native American Doctor, Turned down Fame, but Earned a Place in History ." *Live Well Nebraska* , 7 Dec. 2016, www.omaha.com/livewellnebraska/hansen-susan-la-flesche-picotte-first-native-american

-doctor-turned/article_218af825-5f19-5088-a1ba-2e6bebc2e2c6.html. Accessed 7 Dec. 2019.

We learned that she turned down multiple jobs that could get her famous and prestigious status.

She also promoted not only healthcare, but education and libraries.

History Nebraska. mynehistory.com/items/show/501

From this source we learned more about Susan's education and experiences leading up to the opening of her hospital in Walthill. We learned that she attended Elizabeth Institute for young women and The Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania before returning home as a civic leader and physician.

Klein, Christopher. "Remembering the First Native American Woman Doctor." *History.com*, 31 Aug. 2018, www.history.com/news/remembering-the-first-native-american-woman-doctor. Accessed 21 Nov. 2019.

From this source we got information about how she broke stereotypes for both women and Native Americans at the time. She marries a Souix from South Dakota, she didn't become a stay at home mother when she had children, and went to medical school, even though it was a common belief that women had smaller brains.

Legends of America . www.legendsofamerica.com/na-susanlafleschepicotte/. Accessed 7 Dec. 2019.

From this source we learned that accident that caused her to be bed ridden for 2 months. We also found out that she was fighting to keep the right to oversee her husband's estate after he died.

Library of Congress.

www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/presentationsandactivities/presentations/elections/voting-rights-native-americans.html. Accessed 7 Dec. 2019.

For this source, we gained information about Native Americans as a whole and their voting ability. We will use this for her struggles that she faced because she was unable to vote in government elections to advocate for her tribe.

Nebraska Commission on the Status of Women. *Nebraska Women through the Years*. Johnsen Publishing company, 1967.

From the source we got information about Susan before she attended medical school. We also got information about her intern year at an all women's hospital.

Northern Plains Reservation Aid .

www.nativepartnership.org/site/PageServer?pagename=airc_bio_susanlaflesche.

From this source we got a broad outline of her life and what she did for the reservation. She also got information about which diseases she help treat and prevent from spreading.

Pascal, Jordan. "Susan La Flesche's Legacy Lives on ." *Native Daughters* ,
cojmc.unl.edu/nativedaughters/healers/susan-la-flesches-legacy-lives-on. Accessed 7
Dec. 2019.

From this source we gained information about her legacy on the reservation and how the children
from her hometown don't learn about her. We also learned how she was homesick when
she was in school on the East Coast.

Prezi. prezi.com/p/7lftqlc5cxro/susan-la-flesche-picotte-first-native-american-physician/.

We used this source to learn more general facts and background about Susan's life. We learned
that she suffered from bone cancer, and her experiences that drove her passion for
wanting to become a doctor, such as watching her people suffer from detrimental illness.

Sanders, Jean. *Notable Nebraskans*. Lincoln, Media Productions and Marketing, 1998.

We used this book to gain information about her work with the government to help fight
alcoholism on the Rosalie and Walthill reservations. We also got quotes about her life
and how her community felt she impacted them.

Starita, Joe. "Q&A with Joe Starita, author of A Warrior of the People, biography of Susan La
Flesche, America's First Indian Doctor." *History Nebraska*,
history.nebraska.gov/blog/flashback-friday-qa-joe-starita-author-warrior-people-biograph
y-susan-la-flesche-americas-first. Accessed 21 Nov. 2019. Interview.

This source is an interview with Joe Starita , author of "A warrior of the People: How Susan La Flesche Overcame racial and Gender Inequality to Become America's first Indian Doctor", we gathered information about how her life ran. He said that she wasn't always just practicing medicine, she was helping with legal documents or working with legislation. This source gave us the confirmation that she was in fact the first Indian doctor, male or female.

Starita, Joe. *A Warrior of the People: How Susan La Flesche Overcame Racial and Gender Inequality to Become America's First Indian Doctor*. New York, St. Martin's Press, 2016.

From this book we got information about Susan's early life on the reservation. We also got a quote about how women were seen in society as unable to perform the same tasks as men.

"Susan La Flesche Picotte First Na Female Physician." *Susan La Flesche Picotte*, Nebraska Studies,
www.nebraskastudies.org/1875-1899/susan-la-flesche-picotte-first-na-female-physician/.
Accessed 21 Nov. 2019.

From this source we got background information about her family in her early life. We also got information about her husband and home life, after she got her medical license.

Tong, Benson. *Susan La Flesche Picotte, M.D.: Omaha Indian Leader and Reformer*. Norman, Univ. of Oklahoma Press, 1999.

From this source we gained information about Susan's work as a missionary, advocate, and a doctor. We also got information about how she bridged the gaps between cultures.

Vaughan, Carson. "The Incredible Legacy of Susan La Flesche, the First Native American to Earn a Medical Degree." *Smithsonian.com*, 1 Mar. 2017, www.smithsonianmag.com/history/incredible-legacy-susan-la-flesche-first-native-american-earn-medical-degree-180962332/. Accessed 21 Nov. 2019.

From this source we got the information of her starting the Thurston County Medical Association. We also got information about her mother being the daughter of a well-respected US army captain.

Volzke Kelley, Peggy A. *Women of Nebraska Hall of Fame*. Illustrated by Joan I. Tomlinson, Nebraska International Women's Year Coalition, 1976.

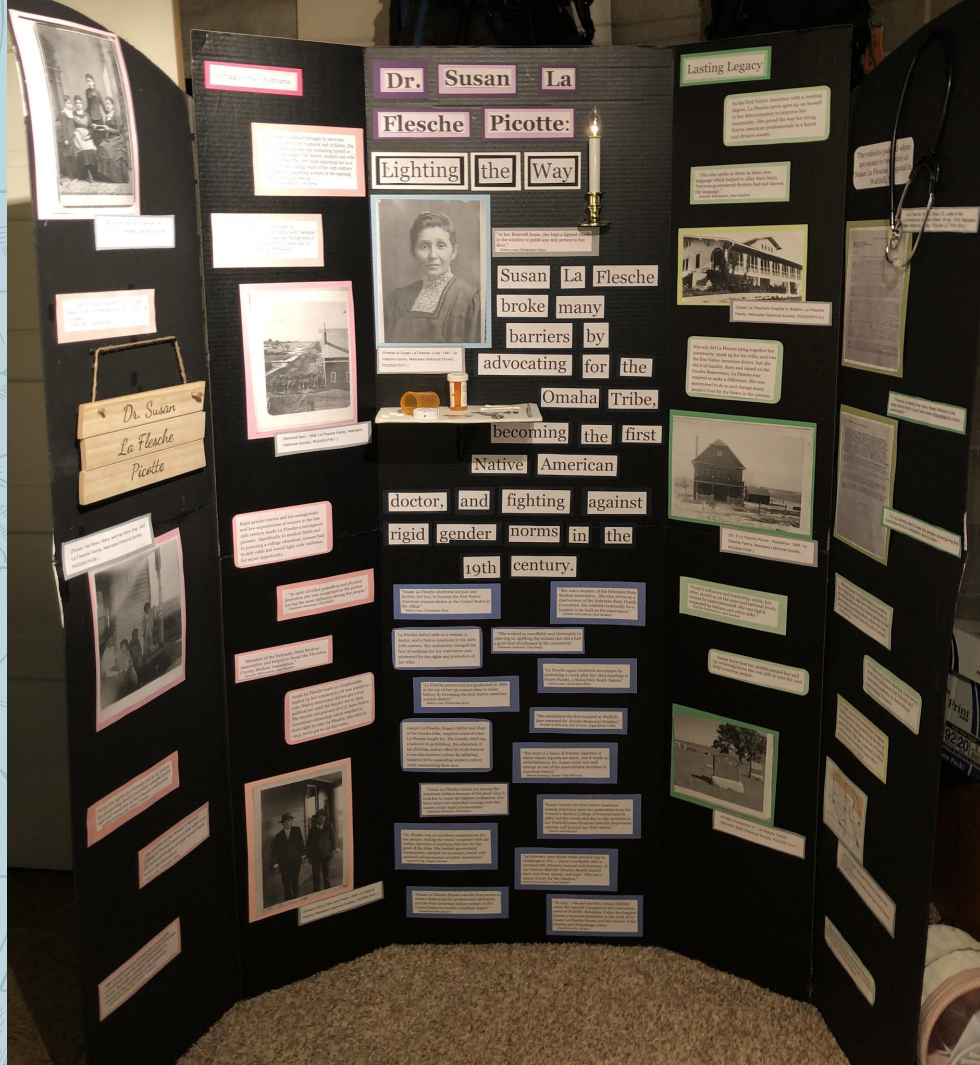
From this book we got information about the first hospital at Walthill that was later turned into Dr. Picotte Memorial Hospital. We also got a quote talking about her dedication to go and help her patients, no matter the weather.

Dr. Susan La Flesche Picotte: Lighting the Way

Maggie Buettner, Meg
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Lighting the Way



Susan La Flesche
broke many
barriers by
advocating for the
Omaha Tribe,

becoming the first
Native American

doctor, and fighting against
rigid gender norms in the
19th century.

Lasting Legacy

Dr. Susan La Flesche Picotte was a pioneer in the field of medicine for Native Americans. She was the first Native American woman to become a doctor, and she spent her life advocating for the rights of her people. Her work was groundbreaking, and she is remembered for her dedication and courage.

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(Susan and Her Sibling and 2 Other Kids. 1880. La Flesche Family, Nebraska State Historical Society, RG2026-67.)

"A harvard doctor had written a 300 page thesis on why women shouldn't be allowed to go to college"

history.com, Christopher Klein

Dr. Susan
La Flesche
Picotte

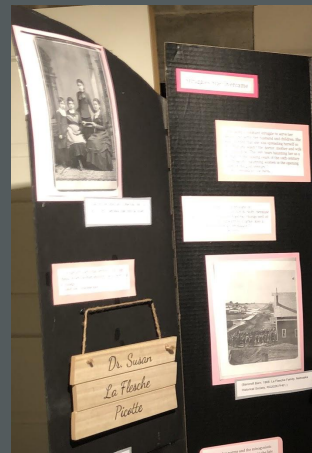
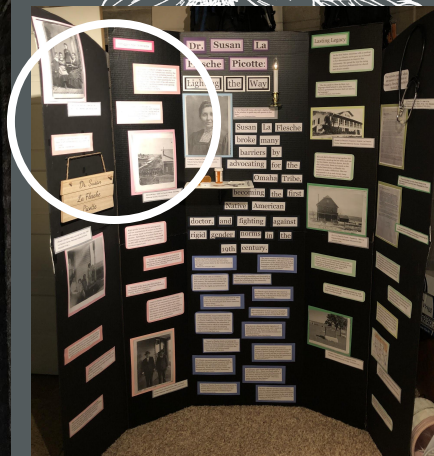
Struggles She Overcame

"She faced a constant struggle to serve her people and serve her husband and children. She was haunted that she was spreading herself so thin that she wasn't the doctor, mother and wife she should be. The very fears haunting her as a woman in the closing years of the 19th century are those still haunting women in the opening years of the 21st century."

history.nebraska.gov, Joe Starita,

"Women, he noted, could educate or menstruate, but they could not do both, because a woman's system never does two things well at the same time'- Dr. Edward H. Clarke, also a Harvard Medical School Professor."

A Warrior of the People, Joe Starita



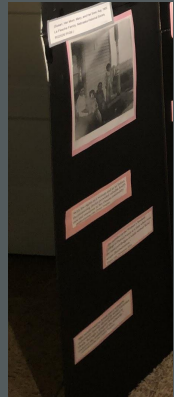
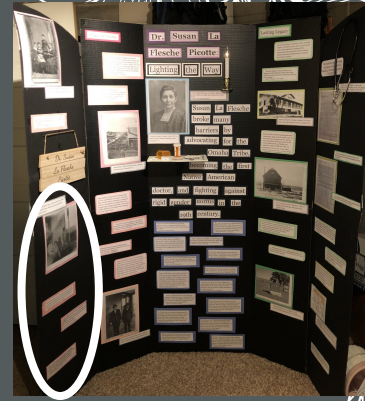
(Susan, Her Mom, Mary, and Her Sons. Aug. 1902.
La Flesche Family, Nebraska Historical Society,
RG2026.PH39.)

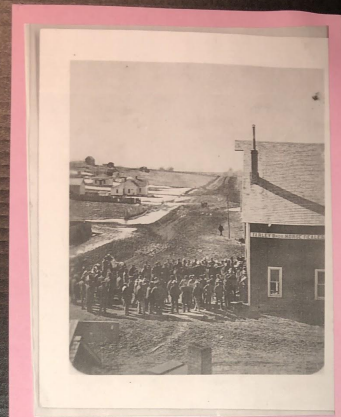


"With few rights as a woman and as an Indian,
the pioneering doctor provided valuable health
care and resources to her Omaha community."
smithsonianmag.com, Carson Vaughan

"She enrolled in the Woman's Medical
College of Pennsylvania at a time when even
the most privileges of white woman faced
severe discrimination."
History.com, Christopher Klein

"She would need to break into a scientific
community heavily skewed by sexist Victorian
ideals, through a zeitgeist determined to
undercut the ambitions of the minority."
smithsonianmag.com, Carson Vaughan





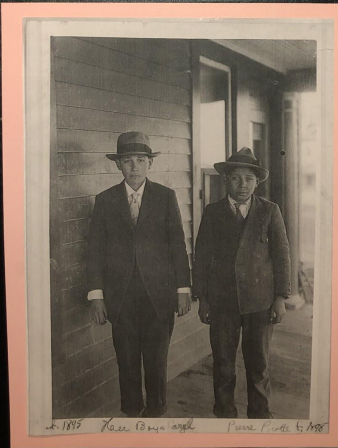
(Bancroft Barn. 1908. La Flesche Family, Nebraska Historical Society, RG2026.PH61.)

Rigid gender norms and the misogynistic and low expectations of women in the late 19th century made La Flesche a courageous pioneer. Specifically in medical fields and in pursuing a college education, women had to defy odds but would fight with resilience for equal opportunity.

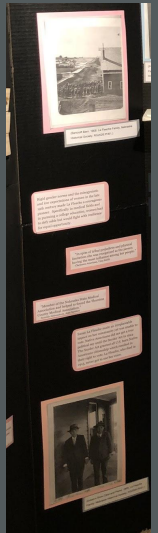
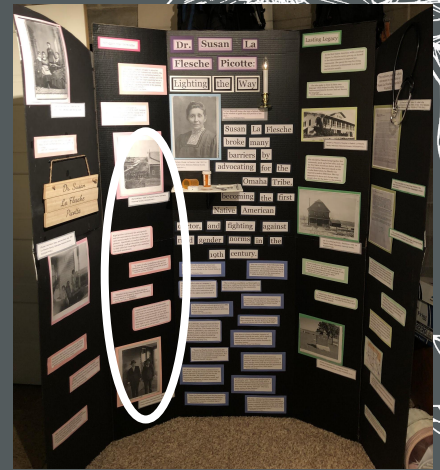
"In spite of tribal prejudices and physical limitation she was recognized as the person having the most influence among her people."
Chemawa American, Vina Smith

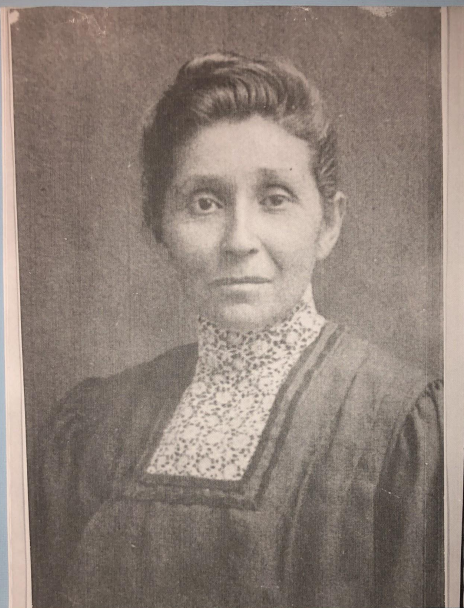
"Member of the Nebraska State Medical Association and helped to found the Thurston County Medical Association."
Notable Nebraskans, Jean Sanders

Susan La Flesche made an irreplaceable impact on her community yet was unable to vote. Native Americans did not get a true political say until the Snyder Act in 1924. The Snyder Act granted all U.S. born Native Americans citizenship which resulted in their right to vote. La Flesche, who died in 1915, never got to use her voice.

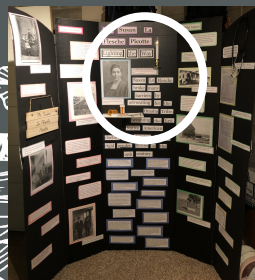
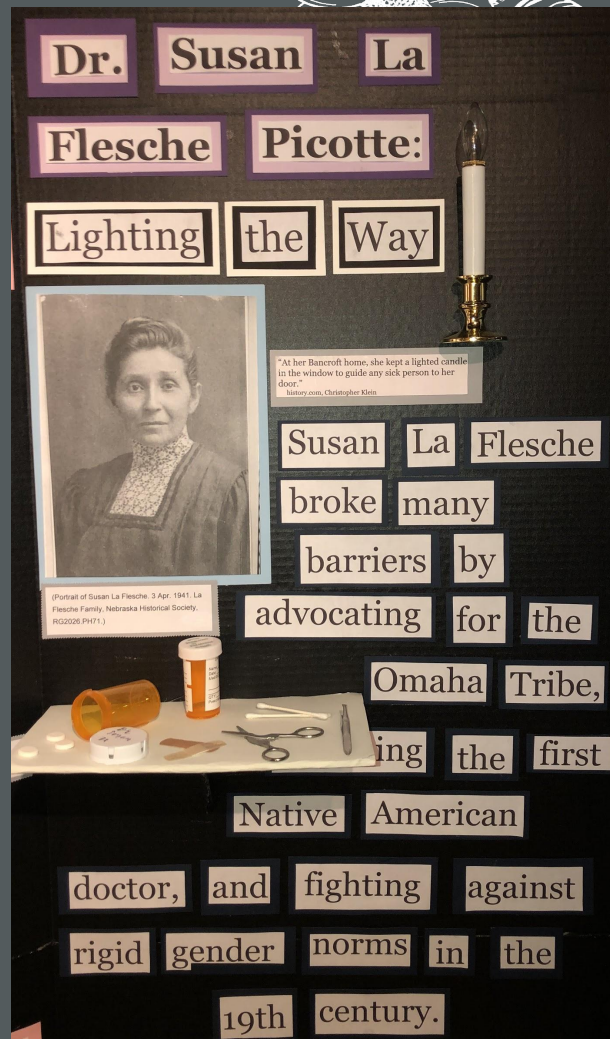
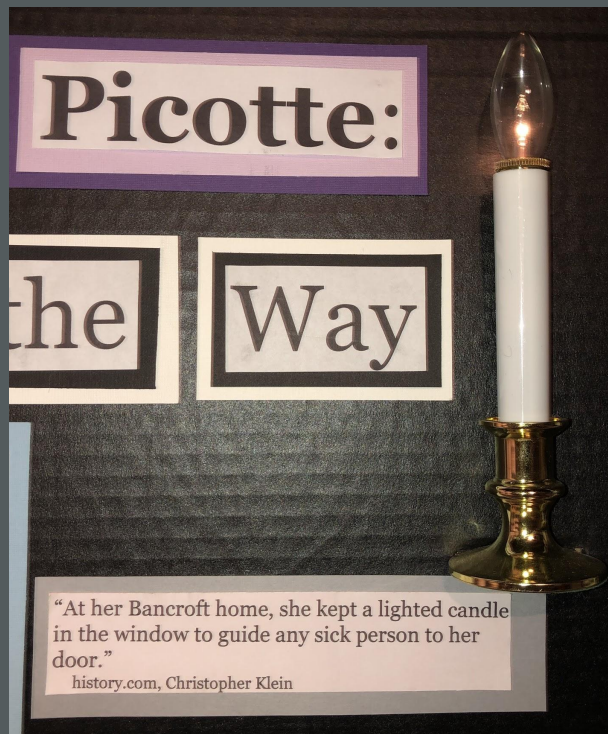


(Susan's Sons Caryl and Pierre. 1895. La Flesche Family, Nebraska Historical Society, RG2026.PH31.)





(Portrait of Susan La Flesche. 3 Apr. 1941. La Flesche Family, Nebraska Historical Society, RG2026.PH71.)



"Susan La Flesche shattered not just one barrier, but two, to become the first Native American woman doctor in the United States in the 1880s"
history.com, Christopher Klein

La Flesche defied odds as a woman, a doctor, and a Native American in the early 20th century. She undeniably changed the face of medicine for her reservation and advocated for the rights and protection of her tribe.

"La Flesche persevered and graduated in 1889 at the top of her 36-woman class to make history by becoming the first Native American woman doctor."
history.com, Christopher Klein

Joseph La Flesche, Susan's father and chief of the Omaha tribe, inspired much of what La Flesche fought for. The Omaha chief was a believer in prohibition, the education of his children, and an effort to work towards a less discriminant culture by adopting features of the expanding western culture while maintaining their own.

"She was a member of the Nebraska State Medical association...She also serves as a chairwoman of the Nebraska State Health Committee. She lobbied continually for a hospital to be built on the reservation."
Notable Nebraskans, Jean Sanders

"She worked so unselfishly and thoroughly in relieving an uplifting the Indians that she had a great deal of influence in the community."
Chemawa American, Vina Smith

"La Flesche again shattered stereotypes by continuing to work after her 1894 marriage to Henry Picotte, a Sioux from South Dakota"
history.com, Christopher Klein

"She established the first hospital at Walthill, later renamed Dr. Picotte Memorial Hospital."
Women of Nebraska Hall of Fame, Peggy Kelley Volzke

"Her story is a litany of frontier vignettes of which classic legends are made, and it needs no embellishment. Dr. Susan could very well emerge as one of the more notable heroines in American history."
Dennis Hastings, Omaha Tribe Historian

"Susan La Flesche stands out among the American Indians because of the short time it took her to reach the highest civilization. Her keen mind and unlimited courage were the source of her rapid advancement."
Chemawa American, Vina Smith

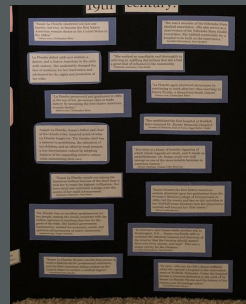
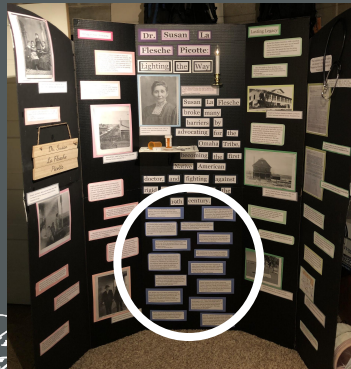
"Dr. Picotte was an excellent spokesperson for her people, stating she would cooperate with the Indian Agencies in anything that was for the good of the tribe. She battled government bureaucracy, worked for economic, social, and spiritual advancements of native Americans."
usgennet.org, Ginger Cisewski

"Susan La Flesche Picotte was the first person to receive federal aid for professional education, and the first American Indian woman in the United States to receive a medical degree."
Cfmedicine.nlm.nih.gov

"Susan became the first Native American woman physician upon her graduation from the Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania in 1889, but the events and day-to-day activities at her Walthill home illustrate how her importance extends well beyond her 'first' status."
History.nebraska.gov

"In February 1910 Susan made another trip to Washington, D.C.... Susan was finally able to convince the Attorney General and Secretary of the Interior that the Omahas should control their own lives, money, and land. This was a major victory for the Omahas."
Notable Nebraskans, Jean Sanders

"In 1913... she saw her life's dream fulfilled when she opened a hospital in the reservation town of Walthill, Nebraska. Today the hospital houses a museum dedicated to the work of Dr. Susan La Flesche Picotte and the history of the Omaha and Winnebago tribes."
Cfmedicine.nlm.nih.gov



Lasting Legacy

As the first Native American with a medical degree, La Flesche never gave up on herself or her determination to improve her community. She paved the way for rising Native American professionals in a harsh and divisive society.

"She also spoke to them in their own language which helped to allay their fears. Previous government doctors had not known the language."

Notable Nebraskans, Jean Sanders

The outsides painted white are meant to resemble of Susan La Flesche Hospital in Walthill, NE

(La Flesche Picotte, Susan, Dr. Letter to the
Commissioner of Indian Affairs. 29 Apr. 1914, Nebraska
State Historical Society, RG2026-LETTER-1914.)

Walthill, Nebraska, April 29, 1914.
Respected Otto Belle,
Commissioner of Indian Affairs,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:-

I am a member of the Omaha Tribe of Indians.

I call your attention to two problems that are of vital interest to my people, with your Department and ought to remedy. One is the liquor traffic which is carried on very extensively and openly among them; the other, the health condition prevailing among them, due to changes in their mode of living.

Two weeks ago an old Indian man was murdered; the accused, a young man, a member of the Omaha, all circumstances being the same and who said it being well known, a killing has been done about it. It seems useless to pursue the usual mode of procedure to try to locate the whiskey dispenser that has been followed in this locality.

I wish to ask your Department to let me have the use of your Tuberculosis exhibit as I am on to the public authorities of the Omaha and give the lecture on the Prevention of the disease. I have been making some time for your knowledge of how their nation and how we can be the last seven years have been working under the Presbyterian Missions Board.

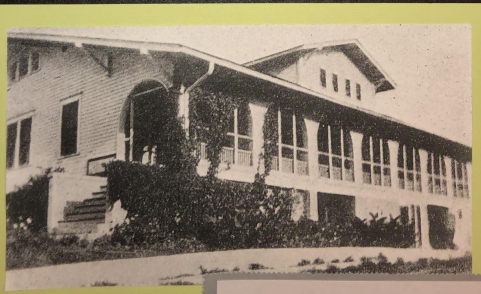
By work as Chairman of the State Health Committee of the Nebraska Board of Health for three years brought me a great deal of information as to the latest and most efficient methods of preventing the disease and caring for the sick. I have conducted a public lecture among the Omaha of families and individually, but I find it hard to get the same among them as among your people, "Eleventh Nations" as possible only where you stand a lecture in the hospital.

I have given lectures to them in the Indian Church at Walthill, as well as to the white people here in Walthill, on the dangers of the play as tuberculosis, and have mentioned my posters among them.

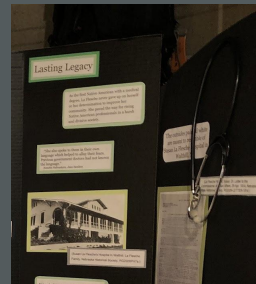
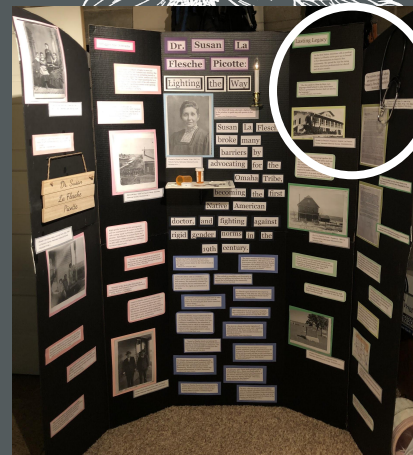
I could like to reach every family like manner with the slides. We have many pictures here in Walthill, but I want your effort to let me have more pictures sent to the Omaha. I want to have them sent, we have what can be used in the Omaha. I don't have time to let me have a better audience for him. The weather was very cold but I stood in the street for two hours waiting for him. The children and I went about forty Indian and about the same number of white people. There is no reason why with the facilities your Office has that they could not be willing for providing all these people.

I would like to make the suggestion that a lecture on Tuberculosis, the signs of the Tuberculosis, signs, etc., be given in the Indian schools and the children of the Omaha.

I also wish to see that the children engaged in the Government schools be vaccinated monthly for the disease, for I have had several children



(Susan La Flesche's Hospital in Walthill. La Flesche Family, Nebraska Historical Society, RG2026PH7a.)



Not only did La Flesche bring together her community, speak up for her tribe, and was the first Native American doctor, but she did it all humbly. Born and raised on the Omaha Reservation, La Flesche was inspired to make a difference. She was determined to do so and change many people's lives for the better in the process.

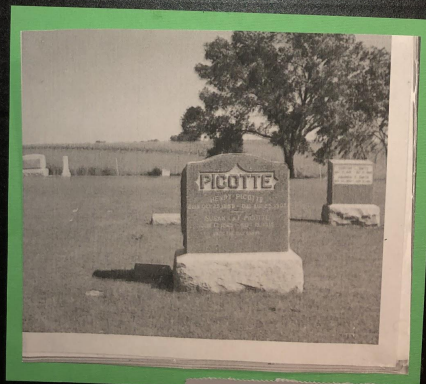


(Dr. S La Flesche Picotte - Residence. 1908. La Flesche Family, Nebraska Historical Society, RG2026.PH26.)

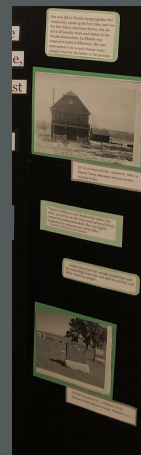
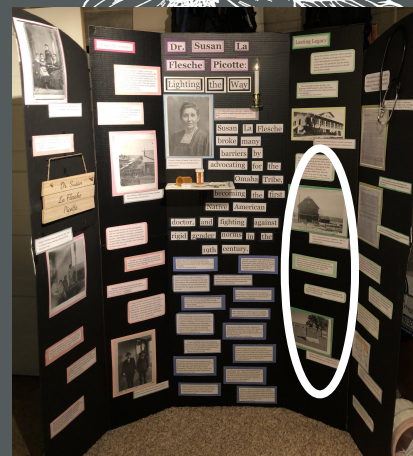
"Susan's influence and leadership within her tribe, as well as on the state and national levels, cannot be underestimated. She was highly respected by Indians and white alike."

Notable Nebraskans, Jean Sanders

Susan knew that her people needed her and by returning home she was able to care for, and help countless people.



(Picotte Gravestone "K". La Flesche Family, Nebraska State Historical Society, RG2026-74 K.)



"There is no telling how many these infected in the large school which could have been Prevented by proper examination."

Hon. Commissioner of Ind. Affairs- (2).

came home from one of these large schools, who had been suffering for several months from tuberculosis. She died within three days. came home January 15th, with temperature of 102-103; had been ailing since November. I diagnosed disease of the lung with the diagnosis sent her to Arizona but she died in a short while. The Superintendent told me one had been examined in January and returned. Another came home in March; I found her with tuberculosis of the lung who lived only six weeks. In spite of all precautions she infected her mother and grandmother, who both died. Another came home in June with tuberculosis, who had a skin disease which is a precursor of tuberculosis, and died of T. bacillus in three weeks. There is no telling how many these infected in that large school which could have been Prevented by proper examination.

In similar cases I have been examined microscopically; one by an assistant to whom I had written. I had this kept out of school. Without my knowledge he was sent to Omaha; I wrote the Surgeon,intendent, who sent him home on the next train. He is out of there all the time and is well now.

If an epidemic of a fly comes which I believe is the best of any I have seen for it tells what to do to kill the eggs of the fly, and other persons do not give this information.

It is so terribly hard to see the people undergoing the hardships from a civilization new to them. I believe a person will from you in the near future could be a great encouragement to them; a word from you could go a great way, and I hope you will come.

The attention of your Department has been called several times in the last two years to the violations of the liquor law by the bootlegger, you and the laws enacted that caused the hardship mentioned above.

Respectfully,

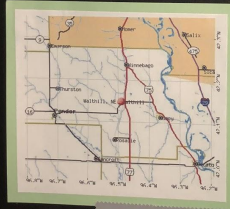
Dr. Picotte

"She remained in Philadelphia to complete year's internship, and then returned home to provide healthcare to the Omaha people at the government boarding school, where she was responsible for some twelve hundred people."
Cfmedicine.gov

The Thurston County Medical Association went on to help many low income and uninsured residents on reservations surrounding Thurston.

"In 1906, due to her persistence, Congress finally passed a law prohibiting the sale of alcohol in the reservation towns of Rosalie and Walthill. This Law remained in Effect until its repeal nearly fifty years later."

Notable Nebraskans, Jean Sanders



(Map of Walthill, Nebraska and Surrounding Area. City-Data.com. www.city-data.com/city/Walthill-Nebraska.html. Accessed 8 Dec. 2019.)

Susan's kind behaviour and actions allowed people on her reservation to feel safe and taken care of while receiving treatment.

