

**Get to Know....**  
**LIZ RASSER**  
Owner of  
**STARKE ROUND BARN HISTORIC SITE**



*Sketch of the Starke Round Barn by Kent Anderson*

*Liz Rasser is a lifelong local resident and passionate advocate of rural living. She and her sons Cal and Brooks run a corn/soy and cow/calf operation and grandsons Quinton and Caden are also involved. She has three granddaughters, Avery, Ellarae and Emmalane who are always happy to help with special events at the Round Barn, and sometimes lend a hand working cattle.*

### **What is your favorite thing about Red Cloud?**

Walking almost anywhere in town and knowing most of the people I run into. I feel Red Cloud is a safe, caring community. I also appreciate the people who are involved in the community and all the amazing things that they have accomplished.



*Liz Rasser with some of her trusty sidekicks*

**You'll host the inaugural Nebraska Narratives event at the Starke Round Barn from Sept. 9<sup>th</sup> to Sept. 16<sup>th</sup>. Can you tell our readers what to expect?**

This event will feature the work of 8 Nebraska photographers in the bucolic atmosphere of the historic Starke Round Barn property east of Red Cloud. The opening on Sunday, September 9<sup>th</sup> will also offer live entertainment by Just Marla Tee (Marla Bean Teegerstrom) singing a variety of familiar tunes. The photograph exhibit display will continue until Sunday,



September 16<sup>th</sup> and will include a presentation about the Starke Round Barn that afternoon.



**What are some of your favorite businesses to shop at in Red Cloud? Why?**

I believe it's important to shop local and support all our local businesses. I am so pleased at the changes with our grocery. Can you imagine not having a grocery in Red Cloud? Think about it! We also have several eating establishments now. For our size I feel we have a good, solid business community with most essential services available.

**What do you wish everyone knew about the Starke Round Barn?**

First of all, that it is the largest round barn in the world! Also, that the amazing framework is held together by stress and balance rather than fasteners. Finally, what a remarkable building it was when it was built.

**If you could have a superpower what would it be and why?**

I would be the super-peacemaker of the world



*Liz gives a group of tourists a guided tour of the Starke Round Barn*

**Do you have any hobbies or interests you'd like to share?**

I enjoy photography (favorite topic is Nebraska sunsets) and, when time permits, playing guitar or piano and singing. Studying the genealogy and history of the different branches of my family tree is a favorite pastime as well. I'm looking forward to exploring the family tradition of home brewing, making brandy from our apples and possibly distilling whiskey from our heirloom Floriani corn with our copper pot still.

**Do you have any pets?**

Yes, I do. I have two fox red Labrador dogs that are my constant companions. I also have three cats and four Arabian horses. Pretty safe to say that I am an animal lover.

**What would your high school teachers or guidance counselor say about you if we asked?**

My guidance counselor would say I took his advice when he said I could be anything I wanted except maybe a rocket scientist. (But I was the only girl



in the rocket club in high school). I wish they could say I was a good student, but instead they usually said I could be a good student if I just applied myself.

**THE GOOD LIVING TOUR**

**RED CLOUD**

**JULY 24**

**LLOYD MCCARTER & THE HONKY TONK REVIVAL**  
HONKY-TONK (LINCOLN)

**THE HOTTMAN SISTERS** (INDIE ROCK (OMAHA))

**LESTER JUNCTION** (ROCK (RED CLOUD))

**DJ: SPENCE LOVE** (HARRISON)

**SUNDAY 4PM / 5PM**  
DOORS SHOW

**STARKE ROUND BARN**

**FREE, ALL-AGES CONCERT**  
[HEARNEBRASKA.ORG](http://HEARNEBRASKA.ORG) [GOODLIVINGTOUR.COM](http://GOODLIVINGTOUR.COM)

**PRODUCED BY HEAR NEBRASKA**  
**PRESENTED BY NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**SPONSORS:** THE WILLA CATHER FOUNDATION, RED CLOUD COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FUND, RED CLOUD AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, CITY OF RED CLOUD, SOUTH CENTRAL STATE BANK, GARY THOMPSON AGENCY, CPI, PETERS, NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, NEPS, CENTER for RURAL AFFAIRS, Pinnacle Bank, HN, PETER KUNST FOUNDATION.

*Liz and her family helped make this now annual event possible—Cal and Brooks are both members of Lester Junction*

## What are you most proud of?

My family and how we have supported each other when we've faced adversity over the years.

**Do you have a mantra or mission statement you live by?**

Carpe Diem. Don't put things off because your life can change in a heartbeat. Never take anything for granted.

**What historical figure or celebrity would you most like to have dinner with? Why?**

Queen Elizabeth I. I think she would be a very interesting dinner partner because she was a woman of incredible power and responsibility at a time when that was a rarity, and she devoted her life to doing the job well.



*Liz's granddaughter, Avery, poses in front of the Nebraska 150 Children's Mobile Museum in Red Cloud in 2017. The Round Barn is featured*

## **Do you have any advice for someone looking to relocate to rural Nebraska?**

I would tell them not to believe people who say there isn't anything to do here. Seems to me like there is always something going on if you look around. Also, be prepared for people to be there when you need help or hit a low spot.

## **What is your favorite song and/or recording artist?**

That depends a lot on the day and my mood, but Johnny Cash and Emmylou Harris or Etta Place and B.B. King are usually in the mix. If I'm feeling nostalgic I might put on some Janis or Jimi! But my favorite song would be a tie between "House of the Rising Sun" and "Proud Mary". I also enjoy the classical composers.



*Liz with fellow Republican Valley Arts Council members Connie Bostock and Harriet Zade. RVAC is a huge part of making local events successful and promoting arts in the area*



**Who is your favorite writer?**

John Steinbeck, Louisa May Alcott, Mark Twain. *Of Mice and Men* and *The Grapes of Wrath* are two of my favorites, and when I was young I read *Little Women*, *Little Men*, and *Jo's Boys* countless times. For humor you can't beat *Tom Sawyer* and *Huckleberry Finn*.

**What is your dream vacation?**

I'm not much of a traveler but if you could just beam me up to a remote part of the Black Hills for a week I'd be happy. Beautiful country.

**What's your favorite place to visit in Nebraska?**

I absolutely love the Sandhills.




**Who has been the biggest influence in your life? Explain why.**

My husband. He always encouraged (insisted!) that I do more, be more and ask more of myself.



**You're on the Heritage Tourism Advisory Council. What made you decide to join that group and why do you continue to be involved?**


When I was asked to join the group I thought it was temporary and would be dissolved after we found our Heritage Tourism Director. I was wrong. I have been grateful to continue to be a part of their work for the last few years. Our current priority is developing a hotel on main street to compliment local tourism.



**SUNDAY**  
SEP. 9 | 2018  
2:30–7:00 PM  
**ON DISPLAY**  
THROUGH SEP. 16

**NEBRASKA  
NARRATIVES**

**FEATURED SINGER**



WEBSTER COUNTY NATIVE  
MARLA TEEGERSTROM

**“EVERY PICTURE HAS A STORY ...”**

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**LOCATION**

STARKE ROUND BARN, 1639 HWY-136, RED CLOUD, NE

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**FEATURING PHOTOGRAPHY OF “ALL THINGS NEBRASKA”**

— STROLL THE GALLERY OF EIGHT PHOTOGRAPHERS WITH REFRESHMENTS —  
PURCHASED FROM ON THE BRIX AND PRAIRIE PLUM COFFEE

SPONSORED BY REPUBLICAN VALLEY ARTS COUNCIL,  
THE WILLA CATHER FOUNDATION AND THE STARKE ROUND BARN

DONATIONS WELCOMED TO SUPPORT REPUBLICAN VALLEY ARTS COUNCIL, WILLA CATHER FOUNDATION & STARKE ROUND BARN

**You're active with the Republican Valley Arts Council. What do you wish people knew about that organization?**

I wish more people knew how dedicated this group is, and how hard they work to support the arts in our community. They volunteer whenever and wherever they can, and try to bring opportunities to enjoy arts and culture to our community. We really enjoy working together. Anyone interested in becoming a part of the council please contact me.



*Visitors peruse the food and beverage options in the longshed at the Starke Round Barn Historic Site. A lone cowboy looks on. Photo by Hear Nebraska*

The Starke Round Barn is a privately owned nationally registered historic site. Group tours by appointment only. Tours must be scheduled at least two weeks in advance, please contact at (402)-746-4165 or [starkeroundbarn@gmail.com](mailto:starkeroundbarn@gmail.com). The tour includes the historic Starke Round Barn and the long shed which houses information about the barn's history. Admission: \$10 per person. Discounts for larger groups

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**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Phone: (402) 746-4165

Website: [www.starkeroundbarn.com](http://www.starkeroundbarn.com)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/StarkeRoundBarnNebraska/>

Republican Valley Arts Council: <https://www.facebook.com/RVArtsCouncil/>