

# OMAHA TRIBAL HISTORICAL RESEARCH PROJECT, INC.

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## Tribal Group Offers Free Book about 19<sup>th</sup> Century Nurse on "Giving Tuesday Now"

by OTHRP

Just in time for #GivingTuesdayNow on May 5, an Indigenous-led group from Nebraska is providing a free graphic novel about an Aboriginal nurse who saved hundreds of lives during a 19<sup>th</sup> Century epidemic at Standing Rock Agency.

The 40 page, pandemic edition of *Josephine Erlin Barnaby von Felden 1865-1915* is being offered by the Omaha Tribal Historical Research Project, OTHRP, as an incentive for patrons of "GivingTuesdayNow," a global charitable campaign to be held digitally on May 5, to raise funds for non-profit organizations affected by the covid-19 pandemic, including the Omaha.



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Born and raised on Reservation lands, Omaha tribal member Josephine Erllin Barnaby was trained as a nurse and teacher. A contemporary of the more famous Susan LaFlesche Picotte, the first Native medical doctor, von Felden assisted Dr. Sue while still on their ancestral Reservation lands in Nebraska.

Von Felden was teaching music at Grand River on the Standing Rock Agency in Dakota Territory when an epidemic struck the Reservation in the early 1890's. Hearing that the Agency's Western-trained hospital staff had fled, and confident in her medical skills, von Felden walked 42 miles to Fort Yates and took charge of the hospital. With assistance and guidance from local traditional medicine elders, Von Felden directed all the tribal volunteer help for three months until the epidemic ended, and "White 'help'" arrived.

One of 15 books OTHRP has compiled since 2009 for its "Four Hills of Life Umo<sup>N</sup>ho<sup>N</sup> (Omaha) Curriculum," this special pandemic digital edition includes highlights of OTHRP's 40 year history in research and cultural education while advancing Umoho<sup>n</sup>ho<sup>N</sup> (Omaha) interests on the Reservation, and throughout the world.



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"Giving Tuesday Now," of which OTHRP is an active recipient, is organized by the "Giving Tuesday" community "a global day of giving and unity set to take place on May 5, 2020 as an emergency response to the unprecedented need caused by COVID-19." During the annual "Giving Tuesday" campaign held the first Tuesday after Thanksgiving in 2019, \$511 million was raised online, and almost two billion dollars in total international donations was slated for thousands of non-profits across the globe.