



*Nebraska History* posts materials online for your personal use. Please remember that the contents of *Nebraska History* are copyrighted by the Nebraska State Historical Society (except for materials credited to other institutions). The NSHS retains its copyrights even to materials it posts on the web.

For permission to re-use materials or for photo ordering information, please see:

<http://www.nebraskahistory.org/magazine/permission.htm>

Nebraska State Historical Society members receive four issues of *Nebraska History* and four issues of *Nebraska History News* annually. For membership information, see:

<http://nebraskahistory.org/admin/members/index.htm>

Article Title: Postscript: The State Fair in Lincoln

Full Citation: "Postscript: The State Fair in Lincoln," *Nebraska History* 90 (2009): 168

URL of article: <http://www.nebraskahistory.org/publish/publicat/history/full-text/NH2009PSSStateFair.pdf>

Date: 2/20/2015

Cataloging Information:

Nebraska Cities Hosting the State Fair: Nebraska City, Brownville, Lincoln, Omaha, Grand Island

Photographs / Images: birds-eye view of the state fairgrounds in Lincoln, September 1888



Looking south from the amphitheater, a photographer captured this bird's-eye view of the state fairgrounds in Lincoln in September 1888. Paid attendance topped 40,000 that year, down a bit from the year before.

According to Morton and Watkins' *History of Nebraska* (1913), liquor sales and gambling were prominent in early fairs, but were banned in 1879 along with "indecent shows or dances." On the other hand, attempts to stop littering were apparently left to the future.

As shown by this photo and others in this issue, the fair has long been associated with Lincoln. It wasn't always so. Nebraska City hosted Nebraska's first and only territorial fair in 1859, and hosted the first state fairs in 1868 and '69. Brownville hosted the fair in 1870-71. Lincoln and Omaha each served as host city multiple times between 1872 and 1901, when the state legislature designated a permanent state fairgrounds in Lincoln.

Permanent, that is, until now. Lincoln's long run ended this year. As of 2010, the fair's new permanent home is Grand Island, the fifth city to host the event. ☐