



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: History's Place in the Nebraska Country Press

Full Citation: Hon W H Smith, "History's Place in the Nebraska Country Press," *Nebraska History* 21 (1940): 29-30.

URL of article: http://www.nebraskahistory.org/publish/publicat/history/full-text/NH1940Country_Press.pdf

Date: 8/29/2012

Article Summary: History has had a prominent place in the Country Press of the state; and the Country Press, likewise, occupies an indispensable place in Nebraska History. From the time of the publication of the first issue of the *Nebraska Palladium* at Bellevue on July 15, 1854, to the present day — have recorded the history of the communities in which they are published (and of the state) in a fair and impartial manner, and the publishers have played a prominent part in their affairs.

:

History's Place in the Nebraska Country Press*

HON. W. H. SMITH, Seward

The subject assigned to me might properly be reversed to read: "The Place of the Country Press in Nebraska's History." So far as history's place in the Nebraska Country press is concerned, however, the country weekly newspapers thruout the state—from the time of the publication of the first issue of the *Nebraska Palladium* at Bellevue on July 15, 1854, to the present day—have recorded the history of the communities in which they are published (and of the state) in a fair and impartial manner, and the publishers have played a prominent part in their affairs. At the present time there are 348 of these country weekly newspapers, not including the weeklies published in Omaha, which are of a different type than the average weekly in the small town. The State Historical Society has a remarkable collection of weekly papers, some of which are consulted almost daily by persons interested in getting information on some historical fact.

The settlement of the state by the early pioneers is recorded in these papers, and the various incidents that have transpired thru the years, thought to be of local interest only at the time, but that have become of general interest with the passing of years—all these are recorded therein. Those persons connected with the Nebraska Writers' Project and who in recent months have been conducting research in the files of the old papers,

*Toast at Annual Meeting, State Historical Society, October 19, 1940.

have brought to light many incidents that have proven of state-wide importance.

The arrival of the homesteader in the covered wagon, the development of the community by the building of the first sod houses, the school houses, the roads and bridges — all recorded in those days as a matter of news — have since become historical events of local and state-wide interest. The drought and the grasshopper plagues, as well as the periods of prosperity, have all been recorded in the country press.

The events incident to participation by people of the communities in the last three wars in which the country has engaged — these too have been made a matter of record therein.

No event of importance has escaped the observation of the publishers of these country weeklies; and the account thereof, as recorded in the paper, makes interesting historical reading today.

Those compiling local histories of counties or communities invariably consult the musty old files of the country press, and much of the information used therein is obtained from that source.

History, therefore, has had a prominent place in the Country Press of the state; and the Country Press, likewise, occupies an indispensable place in Nebraska History.