



State Historical Society Platform Speakers—1878-1940

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Article Summary: This list of speakers includes the dates, venues, and subjects of all NSHS addresses through 1940.

State Historical Society Platform

Noted Speakers Who Have Appeared During the Past Sixty Years, and Their Subjects

Superintendent Sheldon of the State Historical Society has compiled a remarkable story, worthy of preservation in the record of Nebraska's history. That story is the complete list of noted speakers on notable subjects which the Society has presented to the Nebraska public during the six decades just past. It illustrates the enterprise of the Society and emphasizes a remark made by one of its members:

"The platform of the Nebraska State Historical Society has been one of the most noted public platforms in the United States in its personnel and in its addresses."

These addresses have been preserved in the manuscript library of the Society. Following are the most outstanding features of the annual programs, which did not begin until 1878. The Society was founded August 26, 1867, by the State Capital Commission, and the legislature provided a block of land for its use.

1878 September 25, Commercial Hotel.

"The Importance of Forming a Historical Society" — Dr. George L. Miller, Omaha.

1879 January 23, University Hall.

Discussion of the Restoration of "Historical Block" to the State Historical Society.

1880 January 23, University Chapel.

"Importance and True Policy of the State Historical Society" — James W. Woolworth, Omaha.

"Admission of Nebraska to the Union" — C. H. Gere, Lincoln.

1881 January 11, University Chapel.

"Early Gold Hunting and Its Effect on Nebraska". — Dr. A. L. Childs, Plattsmouth.

"An Historical Fireplace in My Omaha Residence" — James W. Woolworth, Omaha.

1882 (No meeting held on account of severe weather in January.)

1883 January 17, Commercial Hotel.

Discussion and appointment of committee to again ask the Legislature for recognition as a state institution, and to obtain, if possible, a room in the Capitol building for library and other accumulating matter.

1884 (No printed record of meeting.)

1885 January 14, University Chapel.

"The Place of History in Modern Education" — Prof. George E. Howard, University of Nebraska.

"The Pioneer Populists and Their Finance in the Territory of

- Nebraska in 1855, 1856, 1857, and the Results. A Parallel between Past and Present Fallacies" — Hon. J. Sterling Morton, Nebraska City.
- 1886 January 12, University Chapel.
"The Location of the Capital at Lincoln" — Hon. Charles H. Gere, Lincoln.
- 1887 January 12, University Chapel.
"The Relation of History to the Study and Practice of Law" — Hon. H. H. Wilson, Lincoln.
- 1888 January 10, University Chapel.
"Life in Lancaster County, 1861-1864" — Hon. W. W. Cox, Seward County.
"History in Art" — Sarah Wool Moore.
- 1889 January 8, University Chapel.
"An Introduction to the History of Higher Education in Nebraska" — Prof. H. W. Caldwell, University of Nebraska.
January 9.
"Political Science in American State Universities" — Dr. A. G. Warner, Lincoln.
- 1890 January 15, University Chapel.
"Salem Witchcraft" — Prof. J. S. Kingsley, Lincoln.
- 1891 January 14, University Chapel.
Special attention to be given during the coming year to the collection of all possible material pertaining to the archeology and ethnology of Nebraska. (Discussion)
- 1892 January 13, University Chapel.
"The Indian Trouble and the Battle of Wounded Knee" — Hon. W. F. Kelley, Lincoln.
- 1893 January 11, University Chapel.
"The Lincoln Public Library from 1875 to 1892" — Mrs. S. B. Pound, Lincoln.
- 1894 January 10, University Chapel.
"The Effects of Early Legislation upon the Courts of Nebraska" — Hon. T. M. Marquette, Lincoln.
- 1895 January 15, Funke Opera House.
"The Late Sioux War" — Brigadier General L. W. Colby.
- 1896 January 14, University Chapel.
"Bellevue, Its Past and Present" — J. A. Goss, Bellevue.
January 15.
"The True Story of the Death of Sitting Bull" — Major E. G. Fechet, Lincoln.
- 1897 January 13, University Chapel.
"Native Nebraskans" — Roscoe Pound, Lincoln.
- 1898 January 11, University Chapel.
"History of Newspapers" — Dr. George L. Miller, Omaha.

- 1899 January 10, University Chapel.
 "Some Peculiar Features of the Nebraska Constitution" — C. S. Lobingier, Omaha.
- 1900 January 9, University Chapel.
 "The State Republican Convention of 1870, and Incidents of that Campaign: A Character Sketch of Governor Butler" — L. J. Abbott, South Omaha.
- 1901 January 8, University Chapel.
 "The Grange and the Farmer's Alliance" — J. M. Thompson, Lincoln.
- January 9.
 "Early Roads and Routes in Nebraska" — C. E. Persinger, Lincoln.
- 1902 January 14, University Chapel.
 "The Great Railroad Migration into North Nebraska" — J. R. Buchanan, Omaha, General Passenger Agent, Elkhorn Railroad.
 "The Work of the Union Pacific Railroad" — E. E. Lomax, General Passenger Agent, Union Pacific Railroad.
- January 15.
 "Recollection of the Nebraska State Board of Transportation" — Gilbert L. Laws, Lincoln, Ex-member State Board of Transportation.
 "Nebraska Politics and Nebraska Railroads" — J. H. Ager, Lincoln, Burlington and Missouri River Railway.
- 1903 January 13, University Chapel.
 "Pioneering on the Missouri River" — Captain W. R. Massie, St. Louis,
 "The Rise and Fall of Steamboating on the Missouri River" — Phil E. Chappell, Kansas City.
- January 14.
 "The Passing of a Romantic Business" — Captain H. M. Chittenden, U. S. Engineer, Yellowstone Park.
 "The All-Water Routes to the Rockies" — Captain D. L. Keiser, Booneville, Missouri.
 "Running the Indian Blockade on the Missouri" — Captain W. H. Gould, Yankton, South Dakota.
 "Sailing on the Old Missouri" — Captain James Kennedy, Kansas City, Missouri.
 "Steamboating Now and Then" — Captain W. A. Cade, Kansas City, Missouri.
- 1904 January 12, University Chapel.
 "The Making of the Constitution of 1866" — Judge George B. Lake, Omaha.
 "The Convention of 1871" — Judge Eleazer Wakely, Omaha.
 "The Convention of 1875 and The One-Night Constitution" — Judge J. H. Broady, Lincoln.

- "The Convention of 1875. The Debate on the Separate Propositions" — Judge W. M. Robertson, Norfolk.
- 1905 January 10, University Chapel.
"History of the Lincoln Salt Basin" — Judge J. H. Ames, Lincoln.
January 11.
"Experiences of a Frontier Judge" — Judge William Gaslin, Kearney.
- 1906 January 18, University Chapel.
"Railroad Taxation in Nebraska" — Attorney General Norris Brown, Lincoln.
"The Problem of Railroad Taxation" — Professor E. A. Ross, Lincoln.
"The New Revenue Law and Its Workings" — Governor J. H. Mickey, Lincoln.
- 1907 January 16, University Chapel.
"Across the Plains in 1860-1865" — H. E. Palmer, Omaha.
"Recollections of the First Nebraska Cavalry" — T. J. Majors, Peru.
January 17.
"Evidence of Nebraska Loess Man" — Edwin H. Barbour, Lincoln.
- 1908 January 13, Temple Theater.
"History" — Hon. W. J. Bryan, Normal, Nebraska.
"Fifty Years of Educational Progress in Nebraska" — Jasper L. McBrien, Lincoln, State Superintendent of Public Instruction.
- 1909 January 12, Temple Theater.
"Comparison of Constitutions" — Rev. William Murphy, Seward.
- 1910 January 17, First Christian Church.
"The First Catholic Bishop of Nebraska" — Rev. Michael A. Shine, Plattsmouth.
January 18.
"The Indian Ghost Dance" — James Mooney, Bureau of American Ethnology, Washington, D. C.
- January 19.
"History of Nebraska State Penitentiary" — Dr. Potter C. Johnson.
"The Mississippi Valley as a Field for Historical Research" — Dr. Benjamin F. Shambaugh, Superintendent of Iowa State Historical Society.
"The Indian Campaign of 1864" — Hon. Eugene F. Ware, Kansas City, Kansas.
- 1911 January 10, Temple Theater.
"The History of the West and the Pioneers" — Dr. Benjamin F. Shambaugh, President Iowa State Historical Society.
"My Life with the Indians" — James Mooney, Washington, D. C.

- 1912 January 10, Temple Theater.
 "Geography of Nebraska as Known by the Indians"—Francis La Flesche, Washington, D. C.
- 1913 January 15, Temple Theater.
 "The Mission of Local History"—Reuben Gold Thwaites, President Mississippi Valley Historical Association; Secretary and Superintendent State Historical Society of Wisconsin.
- January 16.
 "The Importance of the Study of Local History"—Professor James LeRossignol, Lincoln.
- 1914 January 21, Temple Theater.
 "Patriotism"—Rogers Clark Ballard Thruston, Kentucky, President National Society Sons of American Revolution.
- 1915 January 12, Temple Theater.
 "Some New Forces in American History"—Allen D. Albert, Editor Minneapolis Tribune.
- 1916 January 17, Temple Theater.
 "Omaha Indians in Peace and War"—Alfred Blackbird, Full-Blood Omaha Indian.
- 1917 January 11, St. Paul Church.
 "The Present European War was Unnecessary"—General Nelson A. Miles.
- 1918 January 15, Temple Theater.
 "Farmers' Movements in Nebraska, 1857-1917"—Representatives from Nebraska Counties.
- January 16.
 "The Farmers' Alliance"—Nebraska Men.
 "Mutual Farm Insurance"—Nebraska Speakers.
 "National Non-Partisan League"—Dr. Samuel R. Maxwell, Denver.
- 1919 January 14, University Hall.
 Mrs. Mary Carmack of Omaha, Secretary of the Douglas County Association of Nebraska Pioneers, spoke of their Society and its members.
 Discussion on importance and methods of securing and preserving history of Nebraska's part in the World War.
- 1920 January 13, University Library.
 "Nebraska in the World War; Demobilization and Return to Peace"—Gov. S. R. McKelvie, Lincoln.
 "The Nebraska Fuel Administration"—Hon. John L. Kennedy, Omaha.
 "The Nebraska National Guard"—Col. P. L. Hall, Jr., Greenwood.
 "The Liberty Bond Campaign in Nebraska"—E. L. Folda, Omaha.

- "The Nebraska State Council of Defense" — R. M. Joyce, Lincoln.
- "The History of Burt County in the World War" — Hon. J. R. Sutherland, Tekamah.
- "The Three Hundred Fifty-fifth Regiment" — Captain Earl Cline, Nebraska City.
- 1921 January 12, University Hall.
- "Fifty Years Building the Burlington in Nebraska" — George E. Holdrege, Retiring General Manager, Omaha.
- 1922 January 10, University Hall.
- "The Pawnee Battalion, Defenders of the Nebraska Frontier" — Captain Lute H. North, Columbus.
- "Recollections of Cow-Boy Life in Western Nebraska" — James C. Dahlman, Omaha.
- "Are We Downhearted? Fifty-Five Years of Nebraska" — James F. Hanson, Fremont.
- 1923 January 9, University Hall.
- "The Historical Society and the State" — Floyd C. Shoemaker, Secretary Missouri Historical Society, Columbia, Missouri.
- 1924 January 16, University Hall.
- "The Education of Red Cloud" — Doane Robinson, Pierre, South Dakota, Superintendent South Dakota Historical Society.
- 1925 January 13, University Hall.
- "Nebraska, the World War and the World Peace" — Hon. Gilbert M. Hitchcock, Omaha.
- 1926 January 12, University Hall.
- "The Pioneer Spirit, and the Problems of Today" — Dean Roscoe Pound, Harvard Law College, Cambridge, Mass.
- 1927 January 11, University Hall.
- "The Origin, Development and Present Worth of Soil Culture, or Dry Farming, on the Western Plains" — Speakers, Hardy W. Campbell, South Pasadena, California; Albert Weaver, Bird City, Kansas.
- 1928 January 10, University Hall.
- "The Evolution of Bank Guaranty in Nebraska" — Hon. Dan V. Stephens, Fremont.
- 1929 January 8, Temple Theater.
- "Nebraska History in Nebraska Novels" — Bess Streeter Aldrich, Elmwood.
- "The Nebraska Bank Guaranty System, Its History and Its Crises" — Dan V. Stephens, Fremont.
- 1930 January 7, Temple Theater.
- "Peoples' Memorials and Their Monuments" — Gutzon Borglum, San Antonio, Texas.
- 1931 January 6, Temple Theater.
- Visit to New York Home of Senator Charles H. VanWyck — Dr. J. L. Sellers, University of Nebraska, Lincoln.

- "Prehistoric Man in Nebraska and the Plains Region" — Curator Harold J. Cook, Agate Ranch, Sioux County, Nebraska.
- 1932 January 12, Capitol Tower.
 "Railroads and Motor Transportation" — E. M. Westervelt, Lincoln, Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railway.
 "Air Transportation in Nebraska" — H. W. Peterson, United Air Lines.
- 1933 October 7, State Capitol.
 "The American Indian's Adjustment to Present-Day Civilization" — Native Son Henry Roe Cloud, Superintendent Haskell Institute, Lawrence Kansas.
- 1934 October 5, State Capitol.
 "The Oglala Sioux and Nebraska" — Chief James H. Red Cloud, Pine Ridge Agency, South Dakota.
- 1935 October 4, State Capitol.
 "Decisions Which Have Changed Nebraska History" — Justice Bayard H. Paine, Member of Supreme Court, Grand Island.
- 1936 October 2, State Capitol.
 "The Mount Rushmore Memorial: The Shrine of Democracy and the Political Philosophy of a People's Self-Determining Government" — Gutzon Borglum, Sculptor.
- 1937 October 1, State Capitol.
 "The Challenge of the Drouth" — Hon. John C. Page, Commissioner United States Reclamation Bureau, Washington, D. C.
- 1938 September 30, State Capitol.
 "Calamity Howlers in Historical Perspective" — Dr. Chauncey S. Boucher, Chancellor, University of Nebraska, Lincoln.
- 1939 September 29, State Capitol.
 "A Re-Reading of Reconstruction History with Special Reference to the South in our National Development" — Dr. C. Mildred Thompson, Dean and Professor of History, Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, New York.
- 1940 October 19, State Capitol.
 "Early Trails as a National Heritage" — Dr. Howard R. Driggs, President American Pioneer Trails Association and head of English Education Department, New York University.
 "Pump Irrigation in Nebraska" — Senator Harry E. Gantz, Alliance.
 "Discovery of Oil in Nebraska" — Hon. A. J. Weaver and Edward A. Huffman, Falls City.