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## Historical Notes and News

THE NEBRASKA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY met in accordance to call on January 12, 1945. The meeting assembled in the Society's offices at the Capitol with nineteen members present.

An informal roll call was taken, members responding and giving the name of their town or county.

At the request of President J. E. Lawrence, the call for the meeting including the business proposal for consideration was read by Acting-Secretary J. L. Sellers. The proposed amendment to the Society constitution was read and its adoption moved. After some discussion the amendment was adopted by a unanimous vote.

The matter of the additional positions on the Board was taken up and considerable discussion followed. It was then moved that the President of the Society, with the approval of the board, should appoint the new directors. After brief consideration, this motion was unanimously carried and the meeting adjourned.

The amendment adopted reads: "The government of the Society and the custody of its property shall be vested in a board of sixteen members, the Governor, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, the President of the State Press Association, the Chancellor of the State University and twelve members who shall be elected at the annual meeting of the Society . . . . At each annual meeting four shall be elected for the full term of three years. Only annual or life members shall be chosen for directors."

After much careful study and consideration, the President is able to announce the selection of Senator Daniel Garber of Red Cloud, E. W. Huse of Wayne and A. R. Outhouse of Loup City to fill the three new positions.

THE SOCIETY'S MEMBERSHIP changes constantly. Since our last publication seventeen new members, representing nine different communities have come in. The Society is glad to add to its membership and especially appreciates efforts of individual members to secure new subscribers.

## New Members of the Society

Adams, Rev. J. A., Elmwood	Lundy, Frank A., Lincoln
Calame, L. H., Scottsbluff	McBride, Gregg M., Lincoln
Canaday, Mrs. J. S., Minden	Malek, James, Lincoln
Carpenter, Jay G., Sioux City	Oldfather, Dean C. H., Lincoln
Iowa	Olson, Lt. James C., APO,
Cox, Frank R., Lincoln	San Francisco
Dale, Emma J. Core, Lincoln	Pierce, Mrs. Mark, Lincoln
Doane College Library, Crete	Robertson, Frank P., Lincoln
Hannsen, A. H., Grand Island	Ziebarth, Edward, Kenesaw
Knickrehm, John, Lincoln	

Of deceased members, the following notices have come to us.

Brenan, Sister Mary Angela,	Irion, Charles H., Scottsbluff
Omaha	Munroe, John A., Omaha
Douglas, J. B., Tecumseh	Murtey, Eva Worrell, Lincoln
Figge, Theo, Minneapolis,	Reuter, F. A., Syracuse
Minn.	Rine, John A., Omaha
Hinman, Daisy, North Platte	

THE REFERENCE DEPARTMENT of the Society's library has recently been strengthened by the addition of such standard works as *Dictionary of American History* 6 volumes, and *Dictionary of American Biography* 21 volumes, with index and supplement. Another notable addition has been a number of volumes of the American Guide Series covering the states west of the Mississippi. These guide books, compiled and written by the Federal Writers' Project and completed for every state in the Union, comprise much more than merely handbooks for travelers. Each contains a carefully written, up-to-date historical sketch of the state running from 150 to 200 pages. In addition, a wealth of local history pertaining to cities and towns, historic sites and other places of interest, is found in the detailed guide tours covering the state.

AMONG NEBRASKA NEWSPAPERS the wartime mortality continues. Hardly a month passes that does not add a new name or

two to the list of papers suspending publication entirely or consolidating with others. Recent suspensions are the *Merna Messenger*, *Bushnell Record*, *Cook Courier* and the *Osceola, Polk County Democrat*.

A special publication of interest, discontinued with the December, 1944 issue, was the *Winners of the West*, published at St. Joseph, Missouri. Established in 1923 by George W. Webb, it became the official organ and spokesman of the veterans of the Plains Indian Wars. Until his death in 1938 Editor Webb carried on the work of organizing Indian War veterans and making a fight to secure better pensions for them and for their widows. Much material on the various Indian battles and skirmishes was collected and published. A great part of this material, consisting of recollections and accounts by participants, is not found in print elsewhere.

Since 1938 the editorship was held by V. E. Wing who in 1942 became Mrs. Frederick S. Bangerter. An almost complete file of *Winners of the West* is in the Historical Society library.

## GIFTS TO THE MUSEUM

The Historical Society Museum has had considerable rearrangement. A number of the large cases on loan to the museum were withdrawn. This made space for the collections and cases of the Grand Army of the Republic and the United Spanish War Veterans. These are excellent collections of materials relating to the Civil War and the Spanish-American War, and are displayed in attractive cases. The two organizations concerned, arranged with Director A. T. Hill to place their exhibits in the museum for the present. The Society is happy to display them.

A good attendance at the museum in the past few months is reported by Director Hill. Many of the visitors are from outside Nebraska. These are chiefly soldiers from the Lincoln Army Air Field and relatives and friends coming to see them before they are shipped out. A typical sampling of two day's registrations showed visitors from twenty-three different states from Maine to California as well as two from South America.

A number of gifts have come to the museum in the past few

months, representing contributions from twenty-two separate donors. A brief list follows:

WILLIAM P. BANCROFT, Lincoln: Nails from the Old Capitol,, secured in 1927 when building was in process of being wrecked.

ROBERT CARLETON, Omaha: A number of photographs of Plains Indians in full color; photos of Abraham Lincoln and of his private railroad car, together with other Lincoln connected articles.

SENATOR J. E. CONKLIN, Hubbell: An old sword-like weapon found near Hubbell, probably some type of Spanish machete; an old clock made in Bristol, Connecticut.

MRS. FRED M. DEWEESE, Lincoln: Hair wreath of the type so popular back in the last century. This one made in 1858.

MR. AND MRS. J. G. DURANSKE, Lincoln: A Wheeler and Wilson sewing machine manufactured in 1872.

DR. R. A. FRARY, Lincoln: French gun from World War 1 found near Nancy.

LAURETTA GRIFFIN, Lincoln: A number of old and unusual utensils; cream skimmer, soup ladle, combination peeler, slicer and corer; other miscellaneous articles.

MAY GUND, Lincoln: An elaborate side saddle; silk top hat, buggy whip and a red, white and blue umbrella carried during Bryan's campaign.

EDITH THOMPSON HALL, Lincoln: A portfolio, cartridge box and water bottle carried through the Civil War by Mrs. Hall's grandfather, Dr. Martin V. Clark, pioneer physician at Sutton.

DELMAR HANBERY, Laurel: Very fine old rosewood melodeon and stool.

F. E. HENRY, Lincoln: Large one cent coin, dated 1837.

JOSLYN MEMORIAL, Omaha: An army belt worn by William Wood, Union soldier in Civil War.

DANIEL MINTFIELD, Lincoln: A collection of twenty-eight old-time pictures.

DICK NELSON, Lincoln: A machine gun slug, 50 calibre.

L. D. POWERS, Kearney: Cane head made from material from the old Battleship Oregon; cane made of wood from building at Fort Kearny.

CHRIST ROHWER, Lincoln: Kodak pictures and drawing of old water power mill on Henry Rohwer farm and of the early type wood cog wheel.

M. E. SHAFFER, Lincoln: Specimens of hob nail glass.

RUTH SHELDON, Washington, D. C.: A small silver lapel watch.

LILA SPURLOCK, Salem: Printing press used in Salem, Nebraska, newspaper office, by W. W. Spurlock in 1870.

JAMES VYSKOCIL, Lincoln: Copper box from cornerstone of first church built in Havelock, razed in 1944.

WESTERN SUPPLY COMPANY, Lincoln: A 4.2 mortar shell. This type of mortar has been playing an important part in many battle areas in World War II.

C. R. YOHIO, Lincoln: A large massive piano, a fine example of the type brought to Nebraska by early settlers.

THE JANUARY 12, 1888 BLIZZARD CLUB held its annual meeting in the Y.M.C.A. at Lincoln on the anniversary day. The president W. H. O'Gara had arranged a program and reported the business transactions of the club. The program consisted of an address by Senator C. Petrus Peterson and remarks by Professor J. L. Sellers. The theme used by both speakers was Storms in History. Senator Peterson gave a graphic account of his own experience in the storm of 1888 when he was a small school boy. His father called at the schoolhouse in a large wagon pulled by two strong horses. He took the entire school to his home where they all spent a cozy evening and night. He described the touch-

ing scene when parents called the next morning for their children.

With considerable information and a vivid imagination Senator Peterson forecast the future possibilities of weather forecasting that should reduce the emergencies arising from weather conditions. These, he indicated, should make a very remarkable difference in the meeting of the social problems of the future.

Mr. Sellers pointed out how weather on numerous historical occasions had affected the outcome of significant situations. The decisive battles at Waterloo and Princeton, the invasions of Norway and France were greatly affected by weather conditions. The great storm of January 12, 1888 produced a crisis in physical condition of most of the people of Nebraska and helped to create a tradition of common experience which binds our people together in sentiment.

The club chose its officers for the succeeding year and discussed plans for its future work.

Officers elected were: W. H. O'Gara, Lincoln, president; J. E. Higgins, Rogers, 1st vice-president; Henry Behrens, Lincoln, 2nd vice-president; John D. Brady, Lincoln, secretary; Frank Pilger, Lincoln, treasurer.

A Board of Directors was also chosen. Samuel Tutty, A. T. Hill and J. R. Jewell all of Lincoln, and Senator Fred A. Mueller of Kearney, were named directors. J. L. Sellers was made Club Historian.

THE AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION despite wartime conditions held its annual meeting in Chicago, December 28 and 29. Plans for the meeting had been completed before the recent restrictions upon transportation were announced. Among the Nebraskans in attendance were Mrs. C. S. Paine, Oscar A. Hammen, James E. Lawrence, P. Raymond Nielsen, C. H. Oldfather, R. V. Shumate and J. L. Sellers.

Mr. Lawrence presented a paper on the career of George W. Norris entitled "Forty Years of Struggle". Professor Harvey Wish of Smith College offered a critical and commendatory discussion of the paper.

The autobiography of George W. Norris edited by Mr. Law-

rence is now in press and should be available by the time this reaches the readers.

KEARNEY COUNTY Historical Society held its annual meeting October 23 at Minden, elected officers and discussed future plans for the society. All the present officers were reelected: Mrs. J. S. Canady, president; B. H. Bracken, vice-president; C. E. Frank, second vice-president; Henry Johnson, treasurer and B. F. Darnell, secretary.

A report on the museum fund showed nearly enough on hand at that date to pay for the building and lot.

(*Minden Courier*, November 9, 1944)

PAWNEE COUNTY Historical Society met in Pawnee City, November 17. A number of papers on local history were read and the following slate of officers elected for the coming year. Miss Elsie Humrich, Pawnee City, president; Mrs. W. R. Klein, Steinauer, vice-president; Charles McCourtney, Table Rock, treasurer; Miss Mable Ord, DuBois, secretary.

The members held some discussion concerning the desirability of securing a suitable place in Pawnee City to display relics, documents and books relating to Pawnee County.

(*Pawnee City Republican*, November 23, 1944)

C. C. HOWELL, president of the Jefferson County Historical Society, in a letter to the mayor and city council of Fairbury, proposed that after the war the city construct a historical building. Mr. Howell pointed out that the need for such a building would increase with the return of soldiers bringing with them all manner of relics and curios from every part of the world.

(From the *Fairbury Journal*, quoted in the

*Crete News* December 21, 1944-

## PIONEER ARTICLE CONTEST FOR 1945

## Native Sons and Daughters of Nebraska

*Subject:* A pioneer Nebraska character, incident, business, or institution. Examples — rancher, cowboy, cattle rustler, preacher, missionary, doctor; buffalo hunt, cock fight, lynching, duel, wedding, baptism; grist mill, inn, newspaper, church, hospital.

*Contestants:* Everyone is eligible to enter the contest whether or not a Nebraskan or a native of Nebraska.

*Treatment of subject:* The treatment must be strictly factual, preferably not based altogether on printed sources, but also on first-hand accounts and personal experience.

*Length of article:* The article must be between 3,000 and 5,000 words.

*Manuscript form:* Manuscripts must be typed double-spaced on only one side of paper. Authors are advised to keep carbon copies.

*Rights to articles:* All articles submitted become the property of The Nebraska State Historical Society. No manuscripts will be returned.

*Closing dates:* All manuscripts must be mailed before September 15, 1945 to Mrs. Ora Clement, 1730 C Street, Lincoln, Nebraska.

*Prize:* The author of the best article will be awarded a prize of \$100 on condition that his article is accepted for publication in PRAIRIE SCHOONER. The author of the second-best article will be given honorable mention if his manuscript is accepted for publication in PRAIRIE SCHOONER.

*Judges:* Mrs. Roy Green, James L. Sellers, and Lowry C. Wimberly.