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Article Summary: Wood was "the dean of the newspapermen of the Nebraska Panhandle." He had served as president of the Nebraska Historical Society.

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A. B. Wood

Asa Butler Wood, August 26, 1865-May 7, 1945, was born in Wapello County, Iowa, the son of Clay and Jane Warren Wood. He started work as a printer at Ottumwa, Iowa 1882-1886. Thence he moved to Broken Bow, Nebraska. A year later, 1887, he established the *Gering Courier*. Twenty years later he was president of the Star-Herald Printing Company and published the papers at Torrington, Wyoming and Scottsbluff as well as Gering. He has long been the dean of the newspaper men of the Nebraska Panhandle.

A. B. Wood was a public figure in Nebraska and especially

in western Nebraska. The list of offices and committee appointments which he filled is impressive. Every worthy activity and enterprise from manager of the local baseball team to state senator and director of the Historical Society profited from his initiative and tireless support. He was chairman of the Park Board, secretary and manager of the Scotts Bluff County Fair Association. In turn he held all the offices of North Platte Valley Chamber of Commerce, and was President of the Nebraska Oregon Trail Monuments Commission. Mr. Wood was chosen a director of the Nebraska Historical Society in January, 1929. He was President of the Society 1936-38 and remained an interested and active member of the Board to the end of his life.

At his last meeting with the Board, December 8, 1944, Mr. Wood was active in the discussion and made numerous constructive suggestions. At four o'clock the business finished, some of the members had to go. For those who remained Mr. Wood's frank and illuminating discussion will remain a delightful memory. His broad acquaintance, full experience, his accurate observations and his honest candor made his conversation instructive and delightful. In his *Pioneer Tales of the Nebraska Panhandle* A. B. Wood has presented much of Nebraska's history. Likewise the *Tales* contain much that depicts the life and character of the author. A. B. Wood added color and meaning to the life of Western Nebraska.