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Article Summary: Weaver, who lived in Falls City, belonged to the first generation of native Nebraskans. He served as governor of Nebraska and as president of NSHS.

Scroll Down for complete article.

Arthur J. Weaver

November 18, 1873 - October 18, 1945

The absence of Arthur J. Weaver at the annual meeting of the State Historical Society in October was noted by all present. The news of his death the succeeding week brought the explanation of his vacant chair.

Arthur J. Weaver belongs to the first generation of Native Nebraskans. He was born at Falls City, the son of Archibald J. and Martha Myers Weaver. His father was a judge, congressman and public figure in southeast Nebraska. Arthur was trained in law at the University College of Law after graduating from Arts College with his first degree, 1895. He was married to Persa Morris of Humboldt in 1897 and two years after her decease in January, 1906, he married Maude E. Hart of White Pigeon, Michigan.

Arthur Weaver maintained his home and business interest at Falls City throughout his entire life. He practiced law for eight years. Business interests and public duties encroached upon his time and ultimately absorbed his entire attention. He was attorney, 1899-1901 for Falls City, and he served Richardson County in the succeeding two years in a like capacity. From 1910 to 1916 he was a member of the city council and was chairman of the committee responsible for much of Fall City's improvements in pavement, sewage and lighting.

As a member of the Nebraska legislature in 1899 he introduced legislation setting up the permanent facilities for state fair exhibitions in Lincoln and likewise an appropriation for procuring the governor's mansion.

During the first quarter of the century Arthur Weaver gave a large part of his time to the development of his agricultural interests. Apple orchards and live stock raising were promoted on a very extensive scale. His business interests included the Weaver and Towle Orchard Company, Falls City Wholesale

and Supply Company, Falls City Theatre Realty Company, Miles, Morehead and Weaver, Inc., and the First National Bank of Falls City which he served as vice-president.

In 1920 the Nebraska Constitutional Convention chose him for its president. Nebraska Republicans supported him for Secretary of Agriculture in the Coolidge cabinet and in 1928 he was elected governor. As governor he became actively concerned with inland waterways. He was president of the Missouri River Navigation Association and was elected head of the Mississippi Valley Association. He represented these bodies before Congressional Committees and the President in efforts to secure the federal funds that were used on these river ways.

In a brief notice it is scarcely possible to note the numerous public functions and services that Governor Weaver rendered. The State Historical Society was a frequent recipient. While he was governor the present quarters in the State Capitol were assigned to the Society. He was elected to the Executive Board in 1935 and served until his death. During the biennium 1939-1941 he was president of the Society. He was regular in his attendance and took an active part in discussing and reaching a solution to the Society's problems. Members who attended the annual meetings will ever remember the fine spirit he dispensed along with the luscious apples from the Falls City orchards.

Governor Weaver has left upon the state the imprint of one of its great pioneers. He has left his name along with that of his father high on the documents that mold and fashion our social order. The Historical Society feels that it has lost one of its faithful and most consistent supporters.