



The Nebraska State Historical Society in 1953

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Article Summary: Olson traces the history of the Society, beginning with its founding in 1878. He describes its early leaders and activities and concludes with the construction of its new headquarters building, dedicated in 1953.

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Photographs of Dedication Day 1953: Governor Robert Crosby escorting President Lawrence into the new NSHS building, Crosby signing the guest book, guests looking at the period rooms, a crowd around a popular diorama

THE NEBRASKA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY IN 1953

(With a Glance Backward to 1878)

BY JAMES C. OLSON

ON August 12, 1878, Robert W. Furnas of Brownville, who had served as governor of Nebraska from 1873 to 1875, addressed the following letter to a number of his fellow Nebraskans:

Feeling, as I presume every citizen of this state does, the necessity for a state historical association, after some consultation with persons in several parts of the state, it is thought advisable to call a meeting at Lincoln on some day of the State Fair to effect the organization of a "state historical society." Would like your views, and, if favorably entertained, to use your name to such call. Please advise me at your earliest convenience.

We do not know to how many people Governor Furnas sent that letter. Nineteen of the most substantial citizens of the new state joined him in the proposed call. Their names might well be recorded here:

Alvin Saunders
A. S. Paddock
Robert Hawke
R. R. Livingston
D. H. Wheeler
Enos Lowe
John L. Carson
Silas Garber
Frank Welch
George L. Miller

J. Sterling Morton
J. C. Lincoln
Wm. Adair
J. L. Edwards
Elam Clark
E. B. Fairfield
G. C. Barton
E. H. Rogers
Thomas W. Tipton

Dr. James C. Olson is superintendent of the Nebraska State Historical Society. This report was presented in part at the 75th annual meeting of the Nebraska State Historical Society, Lincoln, 26 September 1953.

Pursuant to the aforementioned call, twenty-four Nebraskans gathered in the old Commercial Hotel in Lincoln on the evening of September 25, 1878. Dr. George L. Miller, founder of the *Omaha Herald*, was elected chairman of the meeting and former Governor Robert W. Furnas, secretary. A committee on organization, consisting of S. R. Thompson, J. Q. Goss, D. H. Wheeler, J. M. Taggart, and Lorenzo Crounse, reported favorably, recommending that the name of the organization be Nebraska State Historical Society, that the officers be one president, two vice-presidents, a treasurer and a secretary, with a board of five directors, and that membership be elective upon payment of a fee and annual assessment to be agreed upon. The hour being late, the meeting then adjourned to convene the next evening, and at that meeting a constitution and by-laws were adopted, and the following officers were elected:

President	Robert W. Furnas, Nemaha County
First Vice-President	Dr. George L. Miller, Douglas County
Second Vice-President	Judge Elmer S. Dundy, Rich- ardson County
Treasurer	W. W. Wilson, Lancaster County
Secretary	Professor Samuel Aughey, Lancaster County
Corresponding Secretary	D. H. Wheeler, Cass County
Directors	Governor Silas Garber J. Sterling Morton Professor C. D. Wilbur Dr. G. C. Monell Lorenzo Crounse

At the annual meeting of 1879, held at Library Hall in the University Building; Lincoln; January 23, the secretary was ordered to publish one thousand copies of the constitution and by-laws and to have a bookcase made, not to exceed in cost sixteen dollars. In addition, twenty dollars were appropriated to defray incidental expenses of the secretary's office for the year. The secretary reported that room could be had in the University Building free of cost for the bookcase and other property of the Society. This, as the minutes record, was "accepted with thanks."

For many years the Society continued this practice of meeting each January at the University. The meetings soon outgrew the facilities of Library Hall and were transferred to the University Chapel. At the meetings territorial pioneers read their reminiscences, and distinguished citizens read papers which they had been invited to prepare on specific aspects of Nebraska's history with which they were particularly familiar.

In 1883 the Society was designated a state institution, and the legislature made an appropriation for its activities—one thousand dollars for the biennium, 1883-1885. Under the impetus of this assistance, the first volume of *Transactions and Reports* was published in 1885. Edited by Robert W. Furnas, it contained the transactions of the Society from 1878 to 1884, a series of pioneer reminiscences, a number of biographical sketches, and a number of addresses delivered before the Society during the preceding years. The second volume was published in 1887, two more in 1892, and a fifth in 1893. A new series, *Proceedings and Collections*, was then started. Altogether, nine volumes were published in this series. Beginning with Volume 16 (Volume 14 was not issued) in 1911, the title was changed to *Collections*. With Volume 18 in 1917, the title was changed to *Publications*, and thus it remained through Volume 22, 1936, when the last of the series was published. Most of the volumes contained a miscellany of historical papers, although occasionally, as with Volume 4, second series, 1902, an entire volume was devoted to one work, in this case Senator Thomas W. Tipton's reminiscences, *Forty Years of Nebraska at Home and In Congress*. Volumes 6-8, second series, were devoted to the reports of the debates and proceedings of the Nebraska Constitutional Convention of 1871. Volume 22, the last, was Dr. Addison E. Sheldon's *Land Systems and Land Policies in Nebraska*.

In 1918 the publications program was expanded with the inauguration of *Nebraska History and Record of Pioneer Days*. With Volume 7 it became *Nebraska History Magazine* and with Volume 19, simply *Nebraska History*.

The first volume contained seven numbers, but beginning with Volume 2, the magazine became a quarterly.

Doctor Samuel Aughey continued to serve the Society as secretary until he left Nebraska in 1885 to become geologist of Wyoming Territory. Appointed in his stead was Professor George E. Howard of the Department of History, University of Nebraska. Professor Howard, then a young man of thirty-six, had graduated from Peru State Normal and had been a member of the second class to complete the full four-year course at the University of Nebraska, receiving his A. B. in 1876. Following his graduation from the University, he spent two years abroad and upon his return was appointed the first professor of history in the University of Nebraska. Professor Howard developed rapidly as one of the nation's most promising young scholars. In addition to his work at the University, he gave many hours of his time to the work of the State Historical Society, building its collections, particularly of books, and editing its publications. He served as secretary and superintendent of the Society from 1885 to 1891, when he was chosen by David Starr Jordan as one of the fifteen professors who formed the original faculty of Stanford University.

Mr. Howard was succeeded as secretary of the Society and as head of the History Department at the University by Howard W. Caldwell, who had taken his Ph. B. and Master's degrees at the University of Nebraska and had studied at Johns Hopkins. He had been a member of the University's History Department since 1883 and prior to that had served as principal of Lincoln High School. During Professor Caldwell's ten years as secretary the Society greatly expanded its activities, an expansion made possible by an increase in the biennial appropriation to twelve thousand five hundred dollars. The increased appropriation made possible the development of a staff of permanent employees. J. Amos Barrett was appointed curator and librarian; Addison E. Sheldon, director of field work; and Elmer E. Blackman, archeologist. In appointing Mr. Blackman as its first archeologist, the Society recognized the growing importance of research in archeology and definitely established

that work as one of the institution's principal functions. Mr. Blackman's capable pioneering work in this field was carried on by A. T. Hill from 1932 to 1949, and since 1949 it has been under the direction of Marvin F. Kivett. In 1909 Albert Watkins became the Society's historian, a post he filled with great distinction until his death in 1923.

During Mr. Caldwell's tenure also, the Society began to feel the need for a building of its own to house its steadily growing collections, and under Professor Caldwell's leadership steps were taken to make possible the construction of a building.

In 1907 Professor Caldwell was succeeded by Clarence S. Paine whose brilliant ten-year administration of the Society was cut short by his untimely death in 1917. During his superintendency the Society secured the half block of ground just east of the Capitol on 16th Street between H and J, and the legislature in 1907 appropriated twenty five thousand dollars for, "the construction and equipment of the basement story of a fire-proof wing" on the site. Unfortunately, in 1909 Governor Shallenberger vetoed a similar appropriation to carry forward the construction, and the basement, completed in 1908, remained for more than forty years a derelict monument to thwarted ambition. Undaunted by this failure, Mr. Paine continued to build the collections of the Society and to develop its research and publications program. Sensing the need for an organization to strengthen the ties among various historical societies and university departments of history, Mr. Paine in 1907 invited a number of his fellow historians from the Midwest to meet in Lincoln to consider the formation of such an organization. Out of this meeting developed the Mississippi Valley Historical Association. Mr. Paine served as secretary-treasurer of the Association until his death in 1917 and was largely responsible for its early development. A review of Mr. Paine's work in this connection will be found in Professor James L. Sellers' presidential address before the Mississippi Valley Historical Association meeting in Lexington, Kentucky in May, 1953.

Upon the death of Mr. Paine in 1917, Addison E. Sheldon, who had been identified with the work of the Society since 1903 as director of field work and as director of the legislative reference service, succeeded to the superintendency. Before coming to the Society Mr. Sheldon had been a homesteader, newspaper editor, and legislator. He attended Doane College and the University of Nebraska, receiving his A. B. in 1902 and his M. A. in 1904. He was given a leave of absence in 1918 to complete work for his Ph. D. at Columbia University. During World War I he had served as a correspondent with the American Expeditionary Forces. During the twenty-six years he served as superintendent, Dr. Sheldon put the unmistakable stamp of his vigorous personality upon the Society. A fluent speaker and writer, Dr. Sheldon's published works run to many volumes, and manuscripts of historical addresses delivered in all parts of Nebraska fill a large filing case. Dr. Sheldon was particularly concerned with popularizing the work of the Society and in reaching as large an audience for the Society's publications as possible. During his tenure as superintendent, *Nebraska History*, the Society's quarterly magazine was begun and carried forward on a regular basis. With the assistance of A. T. Hill, who came to the Society in 1932 and whose distinguished career was memorialized in *Nebraska History*, June, 1953, he established the museum in the new capitol building where it was visited by many thousands each year. During the depression of the 1930's Dr. Sheldon was quick to see the possibilities of using labor and funds made available by the federal government to further the study of Nebraska's history, and under his direction sizeable programs of records-inventorying, newspaper-indexing, and publication were carried forward. He was actively concerned, too, with the problem of securing a building for the Society. The collections grew steadily during his administration, and the need became more pressing with each passing year. Though the museum and most of the library had been moved from the University to the new capitol, part of the library remained in the University library building. In the last year of Dr. Sheldon's life, and of his superintend-

ency, the legislature enacted L. B. No. 425 by which funds were made available for the building being dedicated at this meeting.

Upon Dr. Sheldon's death, his daughter, Ruth, took over the affairs of the Society for a short time or until the board could make arrangements for a successor. The board prevailed upon Professor James L. Sellers of the Department of History at the University of Nebraska to serve as acting superintendent until such time as a permanent successor to Dr. Sheldon could be found. Although carrying a heavy load at the University and operating under the stress of wartime conditions, Professor Sellers carried on the work of the Society and strengthened it in many ways. The library was consolidated at the state capitol; *Nebraska History*, the quarterly journal, was regularized and greatly strengthened; the staff was reorganized.

The present superintendent assumed his duties in March, 1946. The activities of the Society since that date have been detailed in recent annual reports. They need not be discussed further here. With this introduction, then, I wish to present a brief report for the period beginning 1 October, 1952 and ending 31 August, 1953. Inasmuch as the date of the annual meeting was moved from October to September to make possible the celebration of the seventy-fifth anniversary upon the exact date of the anniversary, this report will cover only eleven months rather than twelve as has been the case in the past.

During 1953 our principal concern has been the establishment of the Society in its new building; the move, save for certain newspapers being held in the capitol until they can be microfilmed, was completed September 4. Throughout the move, every member of the staff gave freely of his time and energy, suffering inconveniences and long hours of overtime work without complaint. The library rendered service to patrons every day, either at the capitol or at the new building. The members of the museum staff worked day, night, and Sundays to prepare meaningful exhibits for the opening of the building. In this connection, I want to pay particular tribute to the work of Marvin F. Kivett,

director of the museum; Stanley Sohl, museum artist; Sally A. Johnson, curator of history; and Iris Daugherty, special artist. By virtue of their efforts, the very difficult job of establishing a museum has been accomplished in a remarkably satisfactory manner in an unbelievably short time.

The sixty-fifth session of the Nebraska Legislature appropriated a total of \$221,165.87 for the work of the Society during the biennium beginning 1 July, 1953 and ending 30 June, 1955. This is an increase of \$53,001.12 over the amount appropriated for the previous biennium—a small increase when the added responsibilities of the Society during the centennial period and the added cost of operating an independent building are considered. Of the total amount appropriated, \$47,165.87 was re-appropriated from funds saved during the biennium, 1951-1953. Financial details will be found in the report of the treasurer.

While much of our attention has been centered upon the new building, the regular work of the Society has been carried forward.

The spring regional meetings, inaugurated successfully in Omaha in 1952, were carried forward in 1953 with a meeting in Nebraska City. Over 200 attended the meeting sponsored by the Otoe County Historical Society, Sunday noon, May 17. The Society continued its program for expanding its educational services. A series of educational leaflets was begun and made available to the schools of the state. A series of eight film strips on the history of Nebraska, produced in co-operation with the Bureau of Audio-visual Instruction at the University of Nebraska was completed. A ninth film strip, on the history of Lincoln, is in process.

Nebraska History, now in its thirty-fourth year, continue to publish a wide variety of articles on Nebraska's past. The first three issues of Volume 34 contain contributions from our members and from scholars representing the following institutions: Baldwin-Wallace College, Columbia University, Concordia College, University of Kansas, Kearney State Teachers College, National Park Service, University of Nebraska, Smithsonian Institution, and the Univer-



Above: Governor Robert B. Crosby, having just cut the blue ribbon holding the door, escorts President Lawrence into the building. Watching are Mr. Nathan J. Gold, Society Treasurer, and Bishop Howard R. Brinker, of Omaha.

DEDICATION DAY, 1953

Below: Governor Crosby signs the guest book. Waiting to sign are Mrs. Crosby and President Lawrence. Presiding over the guest book is Mrs. Norman Yule. Seated at the desk is Mrs. Lauretta Griffin, Society receptionist.





Above: Part of the crowd studies the period rooms. At extreme left is Miss Rose Carson of Lincoln, who gave the Carson Room to the Society.

DEDICATION DAY, 1953

Below: The diorama depicting the Pawnee Sacrificial Ceremony proved to be a popular exhibit.



sity of Wyoming. The issue for June, 1953, was a special memorial issue devoted to the memory of Asa T. Hill, who died March 21. The *Historical News Letter*, now in its sixth year, continues to be published monthly. "Out of Old Nebraska," the superintendent's weekly column, continues to appear regularly in the press of the state. As of 30 September, these columns will have been issued for 376 consecutive weeks.

The superintendent continued to fill numerous speaking engagements. During the year he spoke on thirty-five different occasions, including eight in Lincoln; three in Lexington; two each in Beatrice, Minden, Nebraska City, North Platte and Omaha; and one each in Bellevue, Cozad, Chadron, Crete, Fairbury, Gibbon, Hastings, Red Cloud, Seward, Stockville, Valentine, Wayne, Buffalo, New York, and Detroit, Michigan. In addition he made fifty-one radio addresses on various phases of Nebraska's history.

The Society was represented at the meetings of the American Historical Association in Washington; the Mississippi Valley Historical Association in Lexington, Kentucky; the Association of American Museums in Buffalo, New York; the American Association for State and Local History in Detroit, Michigan; the Society of American Archivists in Detroit; the Tenth Plains Conference for Archeology in Lincoln; The Nebraska Academy of Sciences in Lincoln; and the Photographic Society of America in Los Angeles. The museum artist, Mr. Stanley D. Sohl, received the coveted Award of Merit from the Photographic Society of America. He also served as judge at the annual Photographic Salon of the Omaha Lens and Shutter Club and the Nebraska State Fair. The librarian, Mr. John B. White, served as a member of the Constitution Committee of the Nebraska Library Association. The superintendent served as a member of the council and chairman of the Nominating Committee of the American Association for State and Local History, chairman of the History Section of the American Association of Museums, a member of the Board of Managers of the Nebraska Hall of Agricultural Achievement, president of the Nebraska Writer's Guild,

and consultant to the Defense Department on the history of the United States Army in World War II.

During the year the Executive Board entered into an arrangement with the Mississippi Valley Historical Association whereby the superintendent would serve as secretary-treasurer of the Association. The superintendent serves in this capacity without added compensation although the Mississippi Valley Historical Association pays the salary of a half-time secretary and pays the operating expenses incident to the running of its office. By this arrangement, the Society continues its role as one of the major patrons of the Mississippi Valley Historical Association, the nation's outstanding group for the study of American history, begun when Clarence S. Paine organized the Association in 1907.

At present the staff consists of seventeen permanent full time employees and twelve temporary and part-time employees. Additional part-time help has been hired during the moving period. Permanent full-time employees joining the staff during the past year are: Mrs. Phyllis Winkelman, Lincoln, Director of Education; Dr. Robert H. Easton, microfilm technican; Patricia Johnson, Pleasant Dale, stenographer; W. R. Parry, Lincoln, custodian of the building; Edward Lean, Lincoln, custodian. Iris Daugherty has worked during the summer as artist.

The Society continues to attract new members. New life members who joined the Society were: Ellery L. Davis, Lincoln; Irvin Gillen, Lincoln; Mrs. Irvin Gillen, Lincoln; Frank-Edward Gillen, Lincoln; Larry Wentz, Lincoln; Mrs. Thomas C. Woods, Lincoln; Thomas C. Woods, Lincoln; Roscoe Hill, Lincoln; Marjorie L. Barstow, Lincoln; Marian Day, Superior. In addition, 483 new annual members joined during the eleven-month period. As of 30 August, the total membership was 2,148.

THE MUSEUM

This has been a year of great activity for the museum, which continued under the able direction of Marvin F. Kivett. For several months the museum has not functioned in its normal fashion and has not been open to the public.

It has been a year of research and preparation for the new building. Large numbers of visitors viewed the collections during the period that the museum was actively functioning. More than seventy thousand persons visited the museum during a period of nine months ending in June of this year. The summer months are normally the period of the greatest museum attendance. Our program of conducted museum tours for schools and other organized groups continued but will be much expanded and improved in the new building. Several educational leaflets designed to supplement an educational program have been prepared and distributed.

Persons throughout Nebraska and the nation have continued to give generously to the museum. One hundred persons gave from one to several thousand items. One of the most important collections we have ever received was given by Miss Rose Carson of Lincoln in memory of her father, Captain John L. Carson, and his wife, Mary. Captain Carson came to Brownville in 1857 to become one of the pioneer bankers. Miss Carson has provided the original parlor furnishings from their Brownville home for a period setting in the special exhibits gallery of the new building. Another significant addition is the Garrett Fritzen collection of archeological materials from the Republican River Valley of south central Nebraska. The Fritzen collection is well documented and will be of great value for comparative study. It represents more than twenty-five years of active interest in local archeology for Mr. Fritzen.

Archeological field work has been limited this year because of the move to the new building and the plans for a new museum. Several field trips were carried out, including two in the Fort Atkinson and Missouri Cantonment area near Fort Calhoun. Tentative plans call for more extensive investigations in that area. One week was also spent in a co-operative archeological project with the Boy Scout Explorers Group at Camp Cedars, Saunders County, Nebraska. Here, under the supervision of the museum director, the remains of a prehistoric Indian earth lodge were investigated. Scouts from eastern Nebraska and western Iowa participated in this program.

THE LIBRARY

The library, like the museum, found its operations seriously upset as a result of the move. Under the capable leadership of Dr. John B. White, however, the library continued to serve its patrons and to process the vast backlog of unorganized materials and all current acquisitions. A total of 2,379 volumes were catalogued during the year, of which 1,519 were from the backlog and the remainder were acquisitions—61 by purchase, 621 by gift, and 178 by exchange. One hundred seventy-six maps and 301 photographs were added during the year. As of 31 August, 304 Nebraska newspapers were being regularly received, of which 23 were dailies, 269 weeklies, and 12 were of other frequency. Also, as of 31 August, 387 periodicals were being currently received, of which 166 were published in Nebraska. Two hundred twenty-eight volumes were repaired in the bindery. Seven hundred eighty-nine reels of microfilm were processed. In summary, the following inventory is presented.

Bound volumes	24,876
Bound volumes, newspapers	26,537
Maps	301
Microfilm reels	936
Genealogical charts	7
Photographs	53,677
Backlog	28,481

In the manuscript division the following collections were processed:

1. Frank A. Harrison, clippings, manuscripts, and scrapbook.
2. Samuel Chapman papers, 3,686 letters, nine letter-books, and two letterpress books.
3. William Bradt diaries and account book.
4. Lincoln Electric Railroad Company minutes.
5. George William Norris letters, clippings, and scrap-books.
6. Nebraska State Normal School, Peru. Minutes of the Board of Education.
7. Joseph Gould, record books of a general store.
8. Mordecai T. Bartram journal.
9. Luther North letters and papers, 267 items.
10. George Bird Grinnell letters, 59 items.
11. U. S. Infantry 134 Regiment, records 1941-1945.
12. New England Veterans, Soldiers, and Sailors Association in Nebraska, records 1885-1902.

13. James Wesley McKibben papers, 133 items.
14. Landy Clark, letters, clippings, and scrapbook.
15. Thomas P. Kennard, letters and papers, 615 items.
16. Kearney County School District No. 11, business correspondence.
17. Gage County School District No. 25, records, 1866-1917.
18. Harvey Silvester Souder, scrapbook and papers.
19. Nemaha County Bible Society, constitution and minutes.
20. Rulo, Nebraska, city records.
21. Union Club, Brownville, Nebraska, minutes, 1863.
22. Great Western Telegraph Company, papers.
23. Nebraska State Board of Real Estate Agents, constitution, proceedings and correspondence, 1870.
24. Brownville, Nebraska, treasurer's book, 1861-1870.
25. Thayer County Justice of Peace dockets.
26. Wyoming, Nebraska, town records, 1857-1858.
27. W. E. Womelsdorff, oath of office as assistant postmaster, Fremont, 1869.
28. "Evening Star" (ship) bill of lading, 1867.
29. Nebraska District Court (2nd District) records.
30. Silas Allen Strickland papers, clippings, and scrapbooks.
31. Elizabeth Lemen Wentz papers, 249 items.
32. Thomas E. Price, diary.
33. Olga Frances Stastny, papers, 349 items.
34. Thomas Frederic Arthur Williams, letters.
35. Fredrich Griggs, papers.
36. Mrs. Emma Johnston Heckens, reminiscences.
37. Parker Penn Fodrea, papers.
38. Ambrose S. Shelley, papers.
39. Lawrence Bruner, letters.
40. General German Colonization Society, warranty deed, 1860.
41. Uriah Bruner, letters.
42. Arthur A. Scharff, papers.
43. Sarpy County Agricultural Society, constitution and minutes, 1858-1861.
44. Sons of the American Revolution, Nebraska Society, records.
45. William B. Banning, address, MS.
46. Frank Richard Galbraith, papers.
47. Frederick William Taylor, letter books.
48. William M. Shelley, letters.
49. Thomas J. Fitzmorris, address, MS.
50. Otoe County School District No. 12, school census record, 1876.
51. Lewis Kingsley, letters and autographs.
52. James Johnston Snipes, "Snipes Family History," MS.
53. Albert Reed, arithmetic copybook.
54. James Woodruff Savage, "The Christening of the Platte," MS.
55. James F. Hanson, articles and clippings.
56. Don R. Gerlach, "Nebraska's Capitol", MS.

57. Consul Willshire Butterfield, "Butterfield's California Scrapbook."
58. Wayne W. Polk, letter.
59. Patrons of Husbandry. Nebraska State Grange Records, 1887-1900.
60. Helen Church Tilden, York County historical sketches.
61. Charles Albert Goss, address, MS.
62. Thomas O'Donnell, reminiscences.
63. Isaac Pollard, diary.
64. Anson Virgil Whiting, biography.
65. Henry Clay Rogers, extracts from a diary.

During the year, 1,091 persons were assisted in the library. The library staff answered 278 telephone inquiries and 395 inquiries received by mail. Loans, including inter-library loans, totalled 136. One hundred eighty photographs were loaned.

A LOOK AT THE FUTURE

The Society moves into its new building on the eve of Nebraska's territorial centennial. The opportunities for service to the people of Nebraska during this important period are thus immeasurably increased. The suitable commemoration of the territorial centennial is of vast importance to the Society. It is, however, a job that cannot be done by the Society alone. In recognition of that fact, the Executive Board in 1952 urged the creation of a State Centennial Commission. Senator Arthur Carmody of Trenton, our first vice-president, introduced a resolution in the 65th session of the Nebraska Legislature creating such a commission and designating the superintendent of the Society as ex-officio permanent secretary. The legislature approved the resolution, and Governor Crosby appointed a commission to be headed by James E. Lawrence, president of the Society. Other members of the Executive Board appointed by Governor Crosby to the commission are: Senator Carmody and Thomas L. Green. The membership of the commission is as follows: James E. Lawrence, Lincoln; T. L. Green, Scottsbluff; Arthur Carmody, Trenton; Ben H. Cowdery, Omaha; Morris Jacobs, Omaha; Robert Thomas, Norfolk; Bishop Louis B. Kucera, Lincoln; Henry F.

Brandt, Sr., Beatrice; Mrs. Haven Smith, Chappell; Bishop Howard R. Brinker, Omaha; E. N. Swett, South Sioux City; J. Hyde Sweet, Nebraska City; Harold C. Prichard, Falls City; Gus Fonner, Grand Island.

The centennial year will provide Nebraskans with an unparalleled opportunity to promote the study of our past. As you know, however, such study must be a continuing matter. Therefore, the mission of the Society during the next few years will be to deepen its research program in history and in anthropology and to expand its educational program.

In an effort to expand its educational program, the executive board authorized the creation of the position of Director of Education. Mrs. Phyllis Winkelman, who comes to us from the University of Missouri, has been appointed to that position, and it is hoped that the next year will see a significant expansion of our educational program.

As the Society celebrates its seventy-fifth anniversary, therefore, it can look back upon three quarters of a century of achievement in the cause of a better Nebraska. The future for Nebraska and the Society looks most promising. With the help of all of you we can make its promises come true.