



## **James E Lawrence, President of the Nebraska State Historical Society, 1940-1955**

(Article begins on page 2 below.)

This article is copyrighted by History Nebraska (formerly the Nebraska State Historical Society).  
You may download it for your personal use.

For permission to re-use materials, or for photo ordering information, see:

<https://history.nebraska.gov/publications/re-use-nshs-materials>

Learn more about *Nebraska History* (and search articles) here:

<https://history.nebraska.gov/publications/nebraska-history-magazine>

History Nebraska members receive four issues of *Nebraska History* annually:

<https://history.nebraska.gov/get-involved/membership>

Full Citation: James E Lawrence, President of the Nebraska State Historical Society, 1940-1955, *Nebraska History* 36 (1955): 222-225

Article Summary: a declaration honoring Lawrence at the end of his presidency of the Society



James E. Lawrence at his desk.

## **JAMES E. LAWRENCE**

### **PRESIDENT OF THE NEBRASKA STATE**

#### **HISTORICAL SOCIETY, 1940-1955**

**WHEREAS:** The Executive Board of the Nebraska State Historical Society has with great reluctance acceded to the request of James E. Lawrence that he be relieved of the duties of President of our Society at the close of his present incumbency.

**WE THEREFORE:** Spread upon our minute book and cause to be published in *Nebraska History* a humble recognition of his sterling qualities and some of the many great services rendered to our State and our Society by our Jim Lawrence. To wit:

James E. Lawrence, President of the Nebraska State Historical Society, 1940-55; a good citizen and a cultured gentleman whose lifelong major interest has been the well-being of Nebraska, the state of his birth, has made worthy contributions to our state and national history.

He understands, as few people understand, the history of Nebraska and the Middle West; and he sees clearly the relationship of that history to the national story. This understanding has been a major factor in his distinguished success as president of the Society.

As a distinguished editor of a leading Nebraska daily newspaper, he has exerted his thoughtful strength always toward the development of our prairie culture, good government, good citizenship, the development of our natural resources and the continuing advancement of the standing of our State in this proud Nation. His great prestige in the State has been used unselfishly in the interests of the Society.

To Jim Lawrence's efforts may be attributed much of the success of Nebraska's historically important public power and irrigation system, which in the days of its early development needed clear thinking friends and staunch supporters.

To Jim Lawrence we give our thanks for his part in securing the funds for the construction of our new building and for his leadership in directing its planning. Largely through his efforts, the help of the Regents of the University was obtained in providing the present site of the Society's home so well situated under the wing and the influence of the great Nebraska University. After seventy-odd years a homeless wanderer, the Historical Society now has a home of its own, in which Nebraskans take pride. Chief credit for this great accomplishment is due Mr. Lawrence.

It has been under his inspiration that the Society materially increased in membership and scope. When he became president in 1940, he found the Society struggling along on an appropriation wholly inadequate for its work. Each biennium during his presidency saw an increase in our appropriation.

Throughout all the expansion of the activities of the Society, Mr. Lawrence as president has kept firmly in mind the basic purposes of an organization such as an historical society and has furnished the leadership essential to building a highly trained, professional staff to carry forward those purposes.

As presiding officer Mr. Lawrence has shown ability, courtesy and tact, accomplishing much in the direction of the Society during a period of increasing size and effectiveness.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:** That the members of the Executive Board of the Nebraska State Historical Society salute our retiring President, Jim Lawrence, as an untiring worker, a staunch friend of the Society and a man whose high ideals, sound judgment and courage have been an inspiration to us all.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT: As the old Concord coach rolls to a quick-change stop, and driver Jim hands the reins to another and steps down as the late afternoon sun shines on his kindly smiling face, let us ask him not to leave us at this stop but stay out the journey with us as we need him to show us the safe trail that he knows so well.

**EXECUTIVE BOARD**

Arthur Carmody	E. M. Marvin
Nathan J. Gold	A. R. Owens
Louis A. Holmes	J. L. Sellers
Rollie Ley	J. H. Sweet
Frank Latenser	Warren C. Wood
Wayland Magee	

**EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS**

Victor E. Anderson.....	Governor of Nebraska
Clifford M. Hardin.....	Chancellor of the University of Nebraska
Robert G. Simmons..	Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Nebraska
Byron B. Vaughn.....	President of the Nebraska Press Association
James C. Olson.....	Director