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Article Summary: A tribute to Rowen, who had served briefly as NSHS Curator of History, directing a survey of historic buildings.

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RICHARD DEAN ROWEN

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BY MARVIN F. KIVETT

THE Nebraska State Historical Society and the field of museum activity lost a dedicated and able worker with the accidental death of Richard D. Rowen on January 26, 1963.

Dick was born in Lincoln on April 17, 1932 and received his early schooling in the Auburn and Nebraska City schools. He graduated from the University of Nebraska in 1958 and was working toward a Masters degree at the time of his death. Before joining the Society staff as Curator of History in January 1961, he had taught in the public schools at Mead and Syracuse and had served in the Armed Services.

His lifelong interest in local and regional history caused him to become interested in the project to preserve and interpret the history of Brownville, where he purchased and restored the Muir House. He served as Curator, and later, on the Board of Directors of the Brownville Historical Society.

Marvin F. Kivett, Museum Director, was closely associated with Mr. Rowen in his work at the Society.

In his period of service to the Society he brought to his work great enthusiasm and perception. He possessed an excellent knowledge of furniture, chinaware and related items and was able to translate his knowledge into interesting exhibits.

Perhaps his major interests were in period settings and architectural features. His interest in period settings was utilized in such recent display projects as the Carson Parlor and the Sheldon Sod House interiors. He spent much time and effort in research on Fairview, the home of William Jennings Bryan, and his work again is evident in the restoration there. Dick's interest in architectural features stimulated Society activity in gathering information on Nebraska's historic structures, and he was in direct charge of our present survey of historic buildings.

He had made a substantial contribution to Historical work in the State in a brief period, and the State Historical Society and historical interests suffered a deep loss in his untimely death.