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Article Summary: Riley describes the establishment of the Nebraska Hall of Agricultural Achievement in 1916. The article includes a partial list of honorees for the years 1917-1971.

### Cataloging Information:

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## THE NEBRASKA HALL OF AGRICULTURAL ACHIEVEMENT

By PAUL D. RILEY

The honoring of outstanding Nebraska leaders in agriculture was first proposed by Samuel C. Bassett of Gibbon speaking before a meeting of the Nebraska State Horticultural Society on January 19, 1916. Bassett, a former member of the state legislature, served for many years on the State Board of Agriculture and was active in both the state historical and horticultural societies. He was a founder and first president of the Nebraska Dairyman's Association.

In his proposal Bassett said, "Fifty years ago it was not believed generally that Nebraska was or could be made an agricultural state, or that by means of agriculture we could support any considerable population within the borders of the state." In speaking of the progress that had been made, he stated, "As a people we have not shown due appreciation of the value of such achievements; the names of many of our people who have rendered valuable and lasting service to the state in the peaceful pursuits of agriculture are practically unknown and their services unrecognized."

As conceived by Bassett, the Nebraska Hall of Agricultural Achievement would consist of about fifty men and women, representing all aspects of Nebraska agriculture. Meeting once a year, they would honor a deceased Nebraskan for his role in the state's agricultural development. A photograph of this individual would then be placed on exhibit in Agricultural Hall, College of Agriculture, Lincoln. Bassett's original proposal has been changed only slightly in the intervening years.

Membership in the Hall now numbers about one hundred,

while the honoree is usually a living person, selected by the officers and directors of the Hall. Quite often the annual honoree is not one of the members who make up the Hall, though they receive membership at the time of their election. It was not until 1968, however, that photographs of all the honorees were placed on exhibition. The grouped photographs now hang in the C. Y. Thompson Library, East Campus, University of Nebraska at Lincoln. Thompson, it might be noted, was the Hall's honoree in 1958. Bassett, the Hall's founder, was honored in 1927.

During the Hall's existence, the honorees have been men of greatly varied achievement, many of whom would be unknown to the majority of Nebraskans, while others are widely known. Two Nebraskans, J. Sterling Morton and Clifford M. Hardin, have served as U. S. Secretary of Agriculture, and both have been honored by the Hall, as has General Henry Atkinson, commandant at Fort Atkinson in the early nineteenth century, who promoted the first formal agricultural experiments in what is now Nebraska. The honorees include scientists, promoters, nurserymen, ranchers, conservationists, dairymen and breeders of sheep, swine, horses, and cattle.

During the past five years ecology has become one of the most talked of sciences not only in the United States but around the world. The problems facing man and his environment have finally, hopefully not too late, become one of the most pressing issues facing mankind. Whether the members of the Hall thought of ecology as such, it may be said that in every honoree, long before the subject became common property, the Nebraska Hall of Agricultural Achievement has been honoring men who were promoters of ecology.

For example, in 1918—the second year of awards—the three giants of Nebraska agricultural history were honored. J. Sterling Morton, Robert W. Furnas, and Charles E. Bessey were men of foresight. They were thinkers, but most of all they were men of action. Morton and Furnas became active in the promotion of Nebraska and its agrarian future almost immediately upon their arrival in Nebraska, during the opening days of the territory. Their activities continued until their deaths after the turn of the century. Bessey was a later arrival in the state, a generation

younger than the other two, and his work continued a decade longer.

It is interesting that all three men were promoters of tree planting. It was Morton who proposed the idea of Arbor Day, while it was Furnas, then governor of Nebraska, who first proclaimed it, and Bessey is best remembered for his promotion of our present Sandhills national forests. Yet their work encompassed far more than that—Bessey, for example, revolutionized the College of Agriculture, turning it into one of the most scientific schools of that day, laying the foundations for progressive agricultural training which continues to the present.

But the following list of honorees of the Nebraska Hall of Agricultural Achievement contains many names all but forgotten. The publishing of this list will hopefully bring their notable achievements once again to the attention of the public.

Year  
Elected

## HONOREES

1917—

Daniels, Richard W. (1830-1902) — Sarpy County. Shorthorn cattle breeder; leader in movement toward improving common cattle herds.

Pollard, Isaac M. (1830-1916) — Cass County. Pioneer stock raiser, farmer, and orchardist.

Andrews, Thomas, Sr. (1840-1914) — Furnas County. Pioneer Shorthorn breeder and importer of blooded stock.

1918 —

Morton, Julius Sterling (1832-1902) — Otoe County. Father of Arbor Day, agricultural promoter, and Secretary of Agriculture.

Furnas, Robert Wilkinson (1824-1905) — Nemaha County. Founding editor of *Nebraska Farmer*, member of State Board of Agriculture and Horticulture, agricultural promoter, and governor of Nebraska.

Bessey, Charles Edwin (1845-1915) — Lancaster County. Long-time professor of botany at University of Nebraska and leading promoter for planting Nebraska's national forests.

1919 —

Harrison, Charles Simmons (1832-1919) — York County. Horticulturalist and author of horticulture pamphlets; started a state experimental station at Franklin, Nebraska, Academy.

1922 —

Youngers, Peter (1852-1921) — Fillmore County. Pioneer orchardist and nurseryman; member of both state boards of agriculture and horticulture; early promoter of alfalfa.

1923 —

Atkinson, General Henry (1782-1842) — Washington County. At Fort Atkinson conducted first formal agriculture experiments in what is now Nebraska.

Barkhurst, Joseph (1835-1916) — Box Butte County. Rancher and tree planter; called Nebraska's first successful dryland farmer.

1924 —

Filley, Elijah (1839-1920) — Gage County. A founder of the state Grange and active in other farmers' organizations.

Hervey, George W. (1846-1923) — Douglas County. Purebred stock promoter; editor *Nebraska Farmer*; and agricultural editor of *Omaha World-Herald*.

1925 —

Akers, William R. (1839-1915) — Scottsbluff County. Pioneer promoter of large scale irrigation; introduced first irrigation legislation in Nebraska.

Ream, James D. (1852-1933) — Custer County. Homesteader and orchardist; grand master of state Grange; member State Board of Agriculture; established farmers' institutes in central Nebraska.

1926 —

Stocking, Moses (1813-1881) — Saunders County. Promoter of sheep raising; member of State Board of Agriculture.

Thompson, Samuel R. (1833-1896) — Lancaster County. First professor and first dean of College of Agriculture; main promoter of establishment and development of college.

1927 —

Bassett, Samuel Clay (1844-1926) — Buffalo County. Agricultural promoter and member of State Board of Agriculture.

1928 —

Baker, Daniel W. (1854-1927) — York County. Active in farmers' organizations and agricultural promoter.

Ollis, James Ammiel (1859-1922) — Valley County. Purebred swine and horse breeder; cattle and hog feeder; member State Board of Agriculture; leader in securing funds for state fair, Agriculture College, and experiment stations.

1930 —

Chase, Fred W. (1853-1925) — Pawnee County. Leader in improved seed corn movement.

Coupland, George (1857-1926) — Antelope County. Noted for studies in soil conditions, soil fertility and soil formations; member Board of Regents, University of Nebraska.

1931 —

Sandoz, Jules Ami (1857-1928) — Sheridan County. Pioneer Sandhills orchardist and promoter.

1932 —

Morrill, Charles Henry (1842-1928) — Polk County. Rancher and farm leader.

1933 —

Whitmore, William Gunn (1849-1931) — Douglas County. Prominent dairyman; exponent of agricultural research; promoter of Agriculture College while on Board of Regents.

## 1935 —

Snyder, William Patton (1875-1934) — Lincoln County. Superintendent North Platte Agriculture Experiment Station, 1904-1934; noted for studies on alfalfa, dry land crop systems, livestock production and pump irrigation.

## 1936 —

Roberts, Joseph (1854-1932) — Dodge County. Member State Board of Agriculture; farmer.

Modisett, Albert Riser (1861-1935) — Sheridan County. Rancher; a Nebraska Master Farmer; active in and officer of state and national livestock associations.

## 1937 —

Jansen, Peter (1852-1923) — Gage County. Colony promoter and agriculture experimentalist.

Lute, Harry Detlef (1870-1933) — Keith County. Farmer, stockman and writer for *Nebraska Farmer*; leader in Nebraska Farm Bureau and Farmers' Union.

## 1938 —

Bruner, Lawrence (1856-1937) — Lancaster County. Naturalist and Sandhills tree planting promoter; entomology professor, University of Nebraska.

## 1939 —

Hopt, Edwin (1876-1938) — Lancaster County. Professor of agronomy, University of Nebraska.

## 1940 —

Haecker, Archibald Louis (1872-1938) — Lancaster County. Professor department of dairy husbandry, University of Nebraska; chief of dairy and pure food and drugs department, Nebraska Department of Agriculture.

## 1942 —

Avery, Samuel (1865-1936) — Lancaster County. Professor Agricultural chemistry, University of Nebraska; chancellor, University of Nebraska.

1943 —

Burnett, Edgar Allen (1865-1941) — Lancaster County. Director Nebraska Agricultural Experimental Station, 1901-1928; professor animal husbandry, dean of Agriculture College and chancellor University of Nebraska.

1947 —

Sheldon, Addison Erwin (1861-1943) — Lancaster County. Homesteader; frontier and Nebraska historian.

1948 —

Jackson, George W. (1858-1945) — Nuckolls County. Pure-bred hog and poultry raiser; member State Fair Board; active in farmers' organizations.

1949 —

Noyes, Carlton B. (1864-1935) — Douglas County. Leader in Farm Bureau and other farmers' organizations.

1950 —

Mellor, William Robert (1860-1949) — Lancaster County. Member and president State Board of Agriculture; Sherman County homesteader and legislator.

1951 —

Brown, Edward Provost (1870-1950) — Lancaster County. Farm leader; member Board of Regents, University of Nebraska.

1952 —

Smith, Howard Remus (1872-1962) — Lancaster County. Chairman, Department of Animal Husbandry, University of Nebraska, 1903-1912; national leader in TB eradication.

1954 —

Howard, Rufas Melvin (1888-1952) — McPherson County. Rancher, legislative leader in rural roads improvement; state agriculture director, 1943-1952.

Robinson, Frank L. (1878-1919) — Buffalo County. Polled Hereford breeder; leader in chemical use of agricultural products.



## 1955 —

Condra, George Evert (1869-1958) — Lancaster County. Pioneer in Nebraska geology; head of Conservation and Survey Division, University of Nebraska.

## 1956 —

Burr, William Wesley (1880-1963) — Lancaster County. Expert in dry land agriculture; chairman Department of Agronomy; dean of College of Agriculture.

## 1957 —

Filley, Horace Clyde (1878- ) — Lancaster County. chairman Department of Rural Economics, thirty-eight years; consulting economist national farm organizations.

Keim, Franklin David (1886-1956) — Lancaster County. Chairman University of Nebraska, Department of Agronomy, 1932-1952.

Warner, Charles Joseph (1875-1955) — Lancaster County. Progressive farmer and Hereford breeder; member State Fair Board and State Board of Agriculture.

## 1958 —

Thompson, Charles Yoder (1875-1970) — Cuming County. Farmer and cattle feeder; president state Farm Bureau.

## 1959 —

Magdanz, Albert Frederick (1880-1965) — Pierce County. Leader in land improvement and livestock production methods; leader in farm organizations.

## 1960 —

Magee, Wayland Wells (1881-1970) — Douglas County. Progressive farmer and dairyman; president Nebraska Crop Growers Association.

## 1961 —

Kuska, Val (1887- ) — Lancaster County. Agriculture Development Agent, C B & Q Railroad; leader in Nebraska irrigation and 4-H work.

Liebers, Otto Hugo (1887-1968) — Lancaster County. Dairyman; leader in state and national dairy organizations; conservation leader.

1962 —

Haskell, Cornelius D. (1886-1965) — Cedar County. Promoter of experimental farms; leader in 4-H programs.

1963 —

Brokaw, William Hageman (1877-1965) — Lancaster County. Director of State Agriculture Extension Service thirty years; leader in soil conservation; one of founders of 4-H program in Nebraska.

1964 —

Haumont, Frank Joseph (1894- ) — Custer County. Shorthorn cattle breeder; conservationist; leader in farm organizations.

1965 —

Baker, Marvel Leon (1895- ) — Lancaster County. Professor of animal husbandry; assistant dean of Agriculture College; assistant director experimental stations.

1966 —

Lewis, Glenn (1895- ) — Fillmore County. Cattle feeder and large scale farmer; leader in state farm organizations.

1967 —

Marshall, Charles (1899- ) — Cass County. President Nebraska Farm Bureau, farm leader.

1968 —

Lee, Emmett J. (1896- ) — Greeley County. Soil and water conservationist, farm leader.

1969 —

Hardin, Clifford Morris (1915- ) — Lancaster County. Chancellor University of Nebraska, Secretary of Agriculture.

Ochsner, Honor M. (1902-1969) — Madison County. Prominent in agricultural activities — livestock.

Matzke, Stanley A. (1898-1969) — Seward County. Soil and water conservationist.

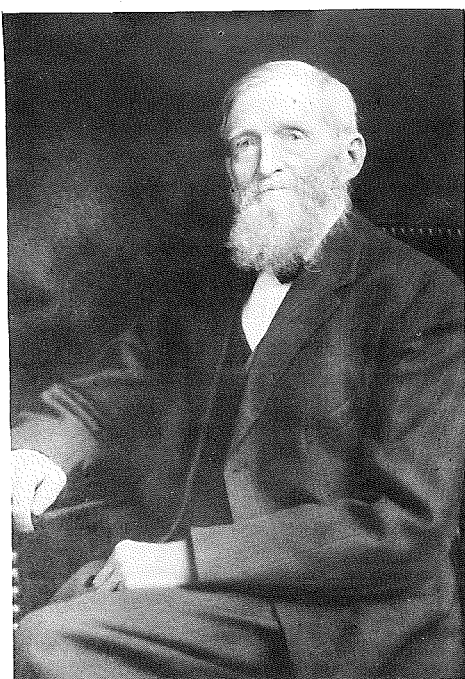
1970 —

Eidem, John E. (1904- ) — Douglas County. Agricultural and cooperative banking leader.

1971 —

Raikes, Ralph (1907- ) — Saunders County. Certified seed producer; farm credit banking leader.

**SELECTED MEMBERS OF THE  
AGRICULTURAL HALL OF ACHIEVEMENT  
with Year Elected**



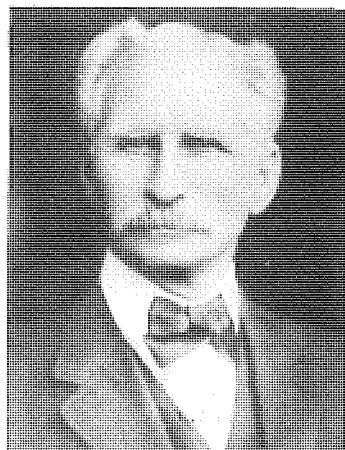
Isaac M. Pollard, 1917



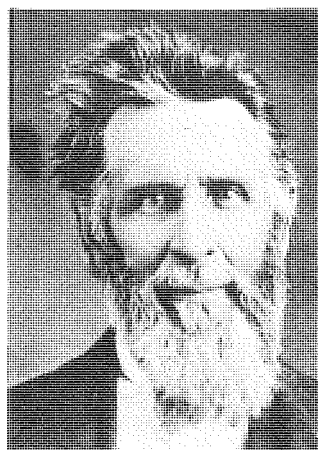
Gen. Henry Atkinson, 1923



**Elijah Filley, 1924**



**James D. Ream, 1925**



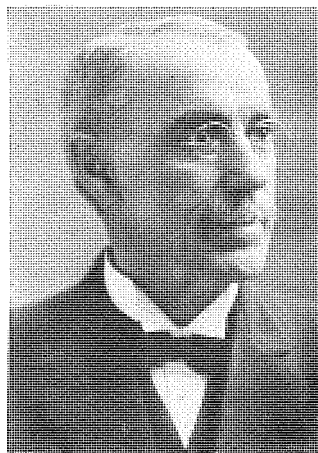
**Moses Stocking, 1926**



**Samuel C. Bassett, 1927**



**Jules A. Sandoz, 1931**



**Charles H. Morrill, 1932**



**Peter Jansen, 1937**



**Lawrence Bruner, 1938**



**Addison E. Sheldon, 1947**



**George E. Condra, 1955**



**Charles J. Warner, 1957**



**H. Clyde Filley, 1957**



**Wayland W. Magee, 1960**



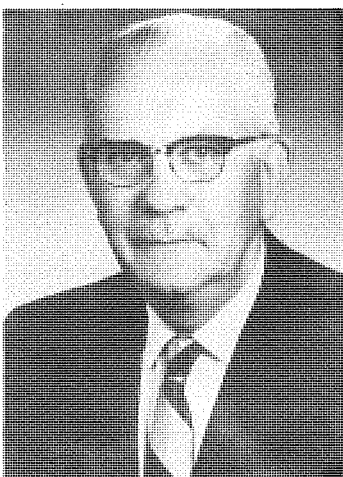
**Otto H. Liebers, 1961**



**Val Kuska, 1961**



**Frank J. Haumont, 1964**



**Stanley A. Matzke, 1969**



**Honor M. Ochsner, 1969**