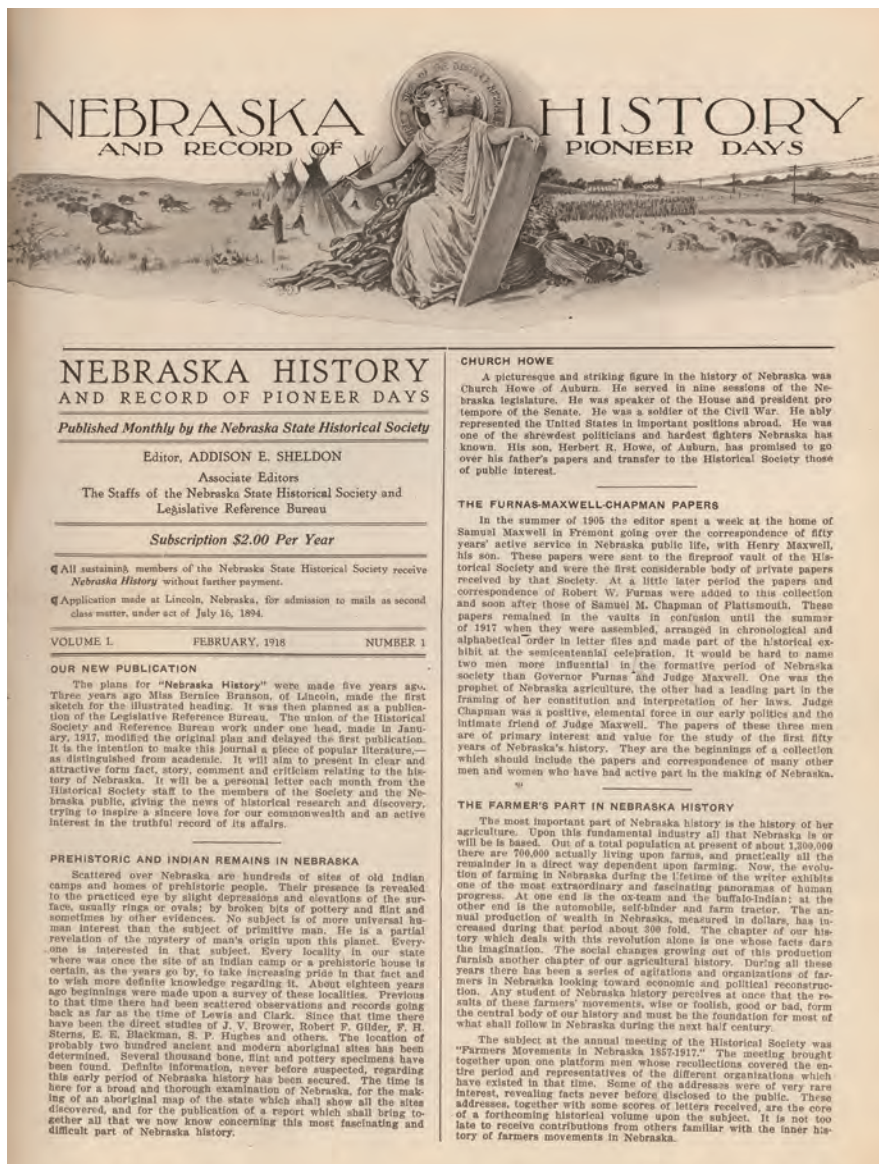


P.S.

100 Years of Nebraska History



Front page of Volume 1, Number 1. Early issues of *Nebraska History* were printed on newsprint in tabloid format.

“The first number of a new monthly publication, ‘Nebraska History,’ published by the Nebraska State Historical Society, is just off the press,” reported the *Daily Nebraskan* on March 7, 1918.

Addison Sheldon had been trying for five years to start such a magazine, first proposing it as a publication of the Nebraska Legislative Reference Bureau before that agency merged with the NSHS.

In the premier issue Sheldon wrote that the magazine would “aim to present in clear and attractive form fact, story, comment, and criticism” as “popular literature, as distinguished from academic.”

The monthly magazine became a quarterly within a year, and even that schedule proved daunting. The issues came later and later, falling so far behind that Sheldon skipped the 1930-31 issues to catch up (which is why we’re only now beginning Volume 99). He hired a talented associate editor in 1934, but Mari Sandoz didn’t stay long. Her first book, *Old Jules*, was published a year later, launching her career as one of Nebraska’s most noted authors.

Founded during the First World War, *Nebraska History* continued publication throughout the Second, printing on cheap, pulpy paper during wartime shortages. After Sheldon died in 1943, his successor, James L. Sellers—a University of Nebraska history professor—began emphasizing scholarly articles, as we do today. Decades later, improvements in printing technology allowed better photo reproduction and use of color, so that *Nebraska History* could both show and tell our state’s past.

Sheldon would be proud to see his little magazine filling some thirteen feet of shelf space, and would be astonished to find back issues available online (a concept that would take some explaining). What began as an effort to preserve pioneer reminiscences has grown into the most extensive body of Nebraska historical knowledge in existence, an ongoing, generation-spanning project to interpret the past.

—David L. Bristow, Editor