

Edith Abbott

Edith Abbott, an educator, social reformer, and author, became the first woman dean in the School of Social Services at the University of Chicago (1924-1942), and the first dean of a graduate school in an American university. A native of Grand Island, Miss Abbott graduated with honors from Omaha's Brownell Hall in 1893. She taught at a Grand Island high school before attending the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, from which she was graduated in 1901. Abbott earned her Ph.D. degree at the University of Chicago.

As dean of the School of Social Services at the University of Chicago, she advocated field work and training for social workers, and was an advisor for federal aid in relief during the Depression. She also was an advisor to the International Office of the League of Nations. Calling herself a "social investigator" Abbott inquired into problems of women in industry, child labor, immigration, legislation, pensions, wages, and police brutality.

Among the books she authored are Women in Industry, Historical Aspects of Immigration, Crime and the Foreign Born, and Social Welfare and Professional Education.

Edith Abbott died in Grand Island on December 14, 1957. The Edith Abbott Memorial Library in Grand Island is named in her honor.

Name: Edith Abbott (1876-1957)

Death date: December 14, 1957

Contribution to State: High school teacher, Grand Island, 1893-1899

National Contribution: Author, Educator, Social Reformer

Grace Abbott

Grace Abbott was an educator, author, and a well-known social reformer during the first half of the twentieth century. Miss Abbott, a Grand Island, Nebraska, native, attended the Grand Island Baptist College, and then taught in high schools in Grand Island and in Broken Bow, Nebraska. In 1907 she went to Chicago to continue her education at the University of Chicago.

Miss Abbott began her career in social work in 1908, working with immigrants at Hull House in Chicago. For nine years she directed the Immigrants Protective League, which helped immigrants adjust to their new life, and to protect them from exploitation. She wrote several books about the problems of immigrants, including The Immigrant and His Community.

Concerned about the welfare of children and infants, especially the low pay and long hours required of children who worked in factories, she became a leader in the fight for federal legislation protecting children's rights. Through her efforts, the Sheppard-Towner Act, coordinating federal and state aid for mothers and children, was passed.

In 1921 President Warren Harding appointed Miss Abbott head of the Children's Bureau in the Department of Labor. As head of the bureau, she administered the Sheppard-Towner Act's provisions. She continued in this position until 1934 when she resigned to become a professor of public welfare at the University of Chicago. Her two-volume book, The Child and the State, became a classic and was used as a text by the University of Chicago.

Abbott received her master of philosophy degree in political science in 1909 from the University of Chicago. Honorary degrees were conferred upon her by the University of New Hampshire in 1931 and by the University of Wisconsin in 1932.

Abbott headed the U.S. delegation to the Pan-American Child Welfare Congress in Mexico City in 1935. She also headed the delegation from the United States to the International Labor Conference in Geneva, Switzerland in 1937.

Grace Abbott died in Chicago on June 19, 1939. For thirty years she had fought against infant and mortality, child labor, and juvenile delinquency. Abbott had been named one of America's most distinguished women by Good Housekeeping magazine in 1931. Grace Abbott Park, a children's playground park in Grand Island, was named in her honor. She was voted into the Nebraska Hall of Fame in 1976.

Name: Grace Abbott (1878-1939)

Category: Education, social change, author

Death date: June 19, 1939

Years in Nebraska: 1878-1907

Nebraska contribution: High school teacher

National contribution: Social reform

Bess Streeter Aldrich

Born and educated in Iowa, Author Bess Streeter Aldrich was a teacher in Iowa and Utah schools before she and her husband, Charles S. Aldrich, moved to Elmwood, Nebraska in 1909. Elmwood was her home until 1946 when she moved into Lincoln. From 1911 through 1918 she wrote under a pen name, Margaret Dean Stevens; thereafter she wrote under her own name.

Her first novel, *Mother Mason*, was published in 1924. She was the author of about 200 short stories and thirteen novels, including *Miss Bishop*, which was made into a motion picture, that premiered in Lincoln in 1941.

Aldrich received an honorary degree in literature from the University of Nebraska in 1934 and was named into the Nebraska Hall of Fame in 1973. She died in Lincoln on August 3, 1954.

Name: Bess Streeter Aldrich (1881-1954)

Category: Author

Death date: August 3, 1954

Contribution to State: Stories with Nebraska settings

Years in Nebraska: 1909-54

National contribution: Author of thirteen major novels, 200 short stories.

Grover Cleveland Alexander

Grover Cleveland "Pete" Alexander, noted major league baseball pitcher, was born near Elba, Nebraska in 1887. He started his baseball career in Central City. Later, while playing for a Galesburg, Illinois team, his talent was recognized by the Philadelphia Phillies, and he played for them for seven years. He was then sold to the Chicago Cubs, and later, in 1928 he joined the St. Louis Cardinals. His big league career ended in 1929, but he continued to play for independent clubs for another ten years.

His outstanding pitching records earned him a place in the Cooperstown, New York Baseball Hall of Fame in 1938. He pitched in the National League from 1911 to 1929 and won 373 games and lost 208. Other accomplishments which remain high in all-time major league records include ranking fourth in career victories, first in shutouts pitched in one season, second in career shutouts, and sixth in innings pitched. In the 1926 World Series, when he nearly forty years old, he was credited with the final game victory by a strike out in the seventh inning with the bases loaded.

Suffering from alcoholism and other health problems, Alexander retired to Saint Paul, Nebraska, in 1949 and died there November 4, 1950. His life story was portrayed in a 1952 movie, "The Winning Team," starring Ronald Reagan and Doris Day.

Name: Grover Cleveland Alexander (1887-1950)

Category: Sports

Death date: November 4, 1950

Years in Nebraska: 1887-1911

State Contribution: Played baseball for Central City team; served in Nebraska's Eighty-ninth Division, World War I

National Contribution: Record setting big league baseball pitcher

Erwin Hinkley Barbour

Erwin Hinkley Barbour became a professor of paleontology at the University of Nebraska in 1891. He organized the University of Nebraska State Museum, which we know as Morrill Hall, and became its first curator.

The Ohio native, born in 1856, received his education at Yale, and taught at Iowa College before coming to Nebraska. Barbour had been an assistant paleontologist for the United States Geological Survey, and after organizing the Nebraska Geological Survey, became the Nebraska state geologist.

A conservationist, Barbour's interest in irrigation and water wells led him in 1897-98 to investigate and to report on homemade windmills along the Platte River. He published a pamphlet which encouraged the building of windmills, and in 1904, he received a silver medal from the United States Department of Agriculture for the best designed homemade windmill.

At Agate Springs Ranch, owned by James Henry Cook, Barbour in 1905 opened two quarries which he named University Hill and Carnegie Hill. These widely-known fossil quarries are part of an area in Sioux County, designated in 1965 as Agate Fossil Beds National Monument.

Barbour was the Nebraska representative at the Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893. At the Trans-Mississippi Exposition in Omaha, 1897-98, he was superintendent of mining, forestry, and university educational exhibits. In 1903 he was superintendent of education, mining, and

resources at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition, St. Louis.

Barbour was the author of more than 400 scientific books and reports and received many awards and medals for his work at the Expositions and in scientific organizations. Barbour died in Lincoln on May 11, 1947.

Name: Erwin Hinkley Barbour (1856-1947)

Death date: May 11, 1947

Category: Science, Conservation, Education, Author

Years in state: 1891-1947

State contribution: Professor at University of Nebraska, Museum organizer and curator, state geologist

National contribution: Scientific books, Nebraska's representative at Chicago Exposition, Superintendent of Education and Mining Exhibits at Omaha Exposition and at St. Louis Louisiana Purchase Exposition, 1904.

Charles Edwin Bessey

Called the father of the Nebraska National Forest at Halsey, Nebraska, Charles Edwin Bessey is credited with creating this man-planted forest in the Sandhills of Nebraska. Bessey came to the University of Nebraska in 1884 to be a professor of botany. The Ohio native had studied at Michigan Agricultural College, at Harvard, and at Iowa State University. He was professor of botany at Iowa Agricultural College from 1870-84. Bessey established a botanical laboratory at Iowa State University in 1873 when, according to Bessey, "botanical laboratories were unknown, even in the great universities of the country."

Dr. Bessey was made dean of the University of Nebraska Agricultural College, and became head dean in 1909. He served as interim chancellor of the University 1888-91, 1899 and again in 1899. The college's enrollment and curriculum grew during Bessey's administration.

In 1885 Bessey was appointed scientist of the State Board of Agriculture. His research and reports on plant life in Nebraska helped in the agricultural development of the state. He collected specimens of Nebraska's natural plants and grasses and arranged for their exhibit at the state fair.

Bessey's successful tree planting experiment in Holt County on land furnished by Lawrence Bruner in 1891 led to the establishment of forest reservations in Thomas and Cherry Counties in 1902. The Nebraska National Forest is the only one in our National Forest system which is planted rather than natural.

Bessey was elected to the board of managers of the national Wild Flower Preservation Society in 1902. He influenced this group to publicize the organization. Public awareness of the group and its work helped prevent the destruction of wild flowers. Shortly afterwards Bessey was asked by the Outdoor Art League of California to support their efforts in preserving sequoia trees in Calaveras and Tuolumne counties of California. As committee chairman of a botany section of the American Association for Advancement of Science, Bessey recommended that all botanists support federal legislation preserving the giant trees. His influence eventually led to state and federal protection of the Calaveras sequoia trees.

Dr. Bessey held offices in many state and national societies devoted to agriculture and science, including president of the Botanical Society of America, 1895-96. and president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, 1910-12. He was the author of many reports and textbooks on botany. His best known book was Essential of Botany, published in 1884. In 1914, Bessey and his son Ernst A. Bessey rewrote the book and titled it The Essentials of College Botany. From 1899-1915 he was editor of Science magazine.

Bessey died in Lincoln on February 26, 1915. He was named to the Nebraska Hall of Agricultural Achievement in 1918.

Name: Charles Edwin Bessey (1845-1915)

Categories: Conservation, Botany, Education, Author

Death date: February 26, 1915

Contribution to State: Botany professor, University of Nebr; promoter of forestry;

conservationist, author, dean of University of Nebraska Agricultural College, 1909, interim chancellor of University of Nebraska three times.

Years in Nebraska: 1884-1915

National Contribution: Influence in Wild Flower Preservation Society and in the preserving of California Sequoia trees, president of American Association for Advancement of Science, Editor of American Naturalist

John Gutzon Borglum

John Gutzon Borglum, noted Mount Rushmore sculptor, moved in 1874 from Idaho to Fremont at the age of seven. Educated in Fremont and Omaha, Borglum showed an early aptitude for sketching. He later attended St. Mary's College in Kansas. An Idaho native, Borglum returned to the West and established a studio in California.

Borglum's early painting "Staging in California" was declared a masterpiece during an 1890 art show in Omaha. Purchased by J. L. Brandeis, the painting was later presented to Joslyn Art Museum. George W. Lininger, an early merchant and art patron, recognized young Borglum's talent and sent him to Europe, where he studied at the Academie Julien in Paris and the Ecole des Beaux Arts also in Paris. He was honored with membership in the Society of Beaux Arts and the Royal Society of British Artists.

Borglum's sculptures brought him nation-wide recognition. His first attempt at mountain carving in 1916 at Stone Mountain, Georgia ended when a misunderstanding caused the work to be terminated by the project's sponsors.

The Mount Rushmore carvings of Washington, Lincoln, Jefferson, and Theodore Roosevelt, Borglum's greatest and best known work, were carved between 1927 and 1941, and were completed by his son, Lincoln Borglum. Borglum died on March 6, 1941 in Chicago. He is buried in Forest Lawn Memorial Park Cemetery, Glendale, California.

Name: John Gutzon Borglum (1871-1941)

Category: Arts

Death date: March 6, 1941

Years in state: Childhood through college age

National contribution: Mount Rushmore sculptures

Lawrence Bruner

Lawrence Bruner, professor of entomology at the University of Nebraska, was born in 1856 in Pennsylvania and as an infant came to Nebraska with his parents. One of the first students at the University of Nebraska, where his father had been appointed a regent, Bruner enrolled at the university at the age of 15. After teaching school for a few years, he was employed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture as a field agent for the university. He served as an entomologist for the Nebraska Agricultural Experiment Station from 1888 to 1890. Bruner was an instructor at the university from 1890 to 1895 and a professor there from 1895 to 1923. For two years (1897-1898) he did entomological research in South America.

A promoter of Sand Hills tree planting, Bruner agreed to furnish land he owned in Holt County for experimental planting in 1891. This was a success and showed that the Sand Hills were suitable for growing evergreen trees.

Bruner was the author of several books on entomology and on agriculture. He represented Nebraska at the Panama-Pacific Exposition in 1915.

Bruner died on January 30, 1937 at Berkeley, California. In 1938 he was voted into the Nebraska Hall of Agricultural Achievement.

Name: Lawrence Bruner (1856-1937)

Category: Conservation, education, author

Death date: January 30, 1937

State contribution: Professor of entomology, University of Nebraska

William Jennings Bryan

William Jennings Bryan influenced Nebraska politics for nearly thirty years. Born in Illinois in 1860, Bryan came to Lincoln in 1887 and set up a law practice. In 1890 he became the first Democratic congressman from Nebraska, serving two terms. Bryan advocated free coinage of silver and won Populist as well as Democratic support. At the age of thirty-six he was nominated for president of the United States at the Democratic National Convention in 1896 but he was defeated by Republican William McKinley. He became the Democratic party's nominee again in 1900 and in 1908 but was defeated both times.

Bryan's influence made the Democratic Party less conservative. He was appointed secretary of state by Woodrow Wilson in 1913, but resigned in 1915 because of foreign policy disagreements. By 1916 Bryan's influence on state politics had waned.

Bryan was editor of the Omaha World Herald from 1894-1896. He was known as the "Great Commoner" because of his concern for the working man. In 1901 he founded The Commoner, a Lincoln newspaper, to promote his political views.

During the Spanish American War in 1898-99 he served in Florida as colonel of the Third Nebraska Volunteer Regiment. Bryan was a world traveler and writer and was in great demand as a lecturer from 1915-1925. He was also on the Chautauqua circuit.

Bryan was married in 1884 to Mary Elizabeth Baird, and they were the parents of three children.

Mary Bryan acquired a law degree to help her husband in this career. She handled most of his correspondence and after his death completed his biography. The Bryans moved to Lincoln from Jacksonville, Illinois in 1887, and built a home at 1625 D Street. Approximately six years later they bought five acres of land about three miles southeast of downtown Lincoln and named the site "Fairview." This was the beginning of a series of land purchases. By 1908 the farm consisted of 160 acres and later purchases brought the total to 350 acres. In the fall of 1901, construction of their new home began at Fairview. The next spring the family sold the D Street home, and that fall they moved into the Fairview mansion. This was their home until 1921, when they moved to Florida because of Mary Bryan's health.

In 1906 Bryan donated a track of land along Antelope Creek, for the establishment of Antelope Park. He deeded the mansion at Fairview, along with ten acres of land, to the Nebraska Methodist Conference in 1921 as a site for a hospital. Fairview mansion still stands today on the grounds of Bryan Memorial Hospital at 50th and Sumner Streets, Lincoln.

Bryan assisted the State of Tennessee with the prosecution in the well-known Scopes evolution trial. Shortly after this trial, Bryan died at Dayton, Tennessee on July 26, 1925, and was buried at Arlington National Cemetery. Bryan was named to the Nebraska Hall of Fame in 1969. A bust of Bryan was placed in the United States Capitol Statuary Hall in Washington, D.C. in 1937.

Name: William Jennings Bryan (1860-1925)

Category: Politics, law, commerce, journalism

Death Date: July 26, 1925

Years in state: 1887-1921

State contribution: lawyer, newspaperman, politics

National contribution: U.S. Congressman, soldier, Secretary of State, Scopes evolution trial lawyer

Solomon Devoe Butcher

Solomon Devoe Butcher, well-known Nebraska sod house photographer, was born in Virginia on January 24, 1856. He received his early education in Illinois, became an apprentice to a tintypist, and learned photography. After working as a salesman in Ohio, he came to Custer County in 1880 with his father and brother to take a homestead.

However, he soon left Custer County and attended college in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Here he was married to Lillie Barber Hamilton, and in 1882 they moved to Custer County, Nebraska, where Butcher taught school. This enabled him to purchase land on which to build a small structure and to purchase photographic equipment.

In December 1884 he and his family moved into the newly founded town of Walworth, and with a partner built a photo gallery.

The town's economic failure forced them to sell the gallery, and Butcher also lost his family's new sod home.

Soon afterwards he conceived a plan to produce a photographic history of Custer County. Traveling by team and a specially outfitted wagon over nearly non-existent roads, he took photographs and collected biographies from Custer County residents. Delays in the project were caused by financial setbacks, loss of his farm, and a fire which destroyed his manuscripts.

By 1901 he had completed the text for the book and had ordered the engravings to illustrate it.

Pioneer History of Custer County and Short Sketches of Early Days in Nebraska was published with the financial backing of E.S. Finch of Custer County. In 1902 Butcher opened a photographic studio in Kearney and also started a postcard industry. When Butcher went into other business ventures, the studio was operated by his son; later the son chose a military career and the studio was sold. After unsuccessful ventures in real estate, manufacturing, and the production of a patent medicine, Butcher moved to Greeley, Colorado, where he died on March 18, 1927. Butcher's extensive collection of some 3,500 photographs of sod houses and other Nebraska scenes was acquired and preserved by the Nebraska State Historical Society.

Name: Solomon Devoe Butcher

Category: Author, Arts (Photography)

Death Date: March 18, 1927

Years in State: 1880-1927

State contribution: History of Custer County, Photos of sod houses

National contribution: The Butcher Collection of Sod House Photos

Elizabeth Honor Dolan

Born in Iowa, Elizabeth Honor Dolan, painter of murals and portraits, moved, when a small child, to Tecumseh, Nebraska. She later moved to Lincoln and attended the University of Nebraska School of Fine Arts 1891-95. She continued her education in Chicago, New York, France, and Italy. A versatile artist, she painted portraits and murals and created stained glass windows and frescos.

She returned to Nebraska in 1926. Her mural, Spirit of the Prairie in the Nebraska State Capitol Library, was chosen in 1931 as one of the twelve best mother and child paintings in America. Other murals she painted in Lincoln include backgrounds for displays at the University of Nebraska State Museum (Morrill Hall) and murals at the Lincoln YMCA, Masonic Temple, University Club, Miller and Paine department store, the student union on the University of Nebraska campus, Unitarian Church, and at the Bennett Martin Public Library, Lincoln.

Dolan's work was well-known in Europe. Among these were a fresco of Leonardo de Vinci's "Head of Christ" at Fourqueux, France and a fresco in a theater in Fontainebleau, France. In 1937 she had a one-artist show at Joslyn Art Gallery, Omaha, and she also participated in shows in Paris, Chicago, and New York and at the 1939 World's Fair in New York.

She died in Lincoln on May 26, 1948.

Name: Elizabeth Honor Dolan (1871-1948)

Category: Art

Death date: May 26, 1948

Years in State: Childhood through 1948

State contribution: Paintings at Morrill Hall, UNL campus, state capitol

National contribution: Painter of portraits, murals; stained glass art

Willa Siebert Cather

Willa Sibert Cather, Nebraska's most noted novelist, was born in 1873 in Virginia. At the age of ten, she moved with her family to Webster County, Nebraska, and lived on a farm there for two years before moving into the town of Red Cloud. Many of Cather's acquaintances and Red Cloud area scenes can be recognized in her writings. Cather was graduated from the University of Nebraska in 1895. While attending the university, she was a drama critic for the Lincoln Journal. She worked for Home Monthly and the Daily Leader in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and later taught English and Latin at Allegheny, Pennsylvania. She moved to New York and became the leading magazine editor of her day while serving as managing editor of McClure's Magazine from 1906 to 1912. Cather continued her education and received an doctorate of letters at the University of Nebraska in 1917. She also received honorary degrees from the University of Michigan, the University of California, and from Columbia, Yale, and Princeton.

Cather wrote poetry, short stories, essays, and novels, winning many awards including the Gold Metal of the National Institute of Arts and Letters. In 1922 she won the Pulitzer Prize for her novel, One of Ours, about a Nebraska farm boy who went off to World War I. Her novel, A Lost Lady, was made into a silent movie in 1925, It premiered in Red Cloud, Nebraska and starred Irene Rich. Another movie of A Lost Lady was made in 1934, starring Barbara Stanwyck. Other well-known Cather novels include My Antonia, O Pioneers, Death Comes for the Archbishop, and The Professor's House.

Cather died April 24, 1947 in New York. In 1961 Cather was the

first woman voted into the Nebraska Hall of Fame. She was inducted into the Hall of Great Westerners in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma in 1974 and into the National Women's Hall of Fame at Seneca, New York in 1988.

The Willa Cather Pioneer Memorial and Educational Foundation at Red Cloud, Nebraska preserved her childhood home and other buildings connected with her writings. In 1978 these properties were given to the State of Nebraska to be administered as the Willa Cather Historical Center by the Nebraska State Historical Society. The Nature Conservancy purchased 210 acres of native grassland south of Red Cloud in 1974, and the following year it was dedicated as the Willa Cather Memorial Prairie.

Name: Willa Siebert Cather

Category: Arts

Death date: April 24, 1947

Years in State: 1883-1906

State contribution: Lincoln newspaper staff member; school teacher; author of Nebraska-based short stories and novels

National contribution: Editor, Pulitzer Prize-winning Author

Berlin Guy Chamberlin

Berlin Guy Chamberlin, outstanding Nebraska football player in 1914-15, was born in Blue Springs, Nebraska in 1894 and was graduated from the University of Nebraska in 1916. A football great, he played at Wesleyan University, Lincoln, and then played for the University of Nebraska with Coach E. O. Stiehm's "Stiehm Rollers." In 1915 he was named All-American end.

Chamberlin taught science and was a coach at the Lexington, Nebraska high school in 1916-17. He served in the United States Army from 1917 to 1919, and was athletic director at Camp Kearney, California from February through September, 1919. Chamberlin played professional football from 1919-1926 for such teams as the Canton, Ohio Bulldogs, Chicago Bears, and Philadelphia Yellow Jackets. During his football career, he played in about 160 games. In an eleven year period to time, his team lost only two games, and was undefeated in nine of these years. He was named to the Pro-football Hall of Fame in 1962.

Chamberlin returned to Blue Springs in 1932, where he became a farmer, stockman, and businessman. A well-known authority on football, he became a public speaker and radio broadcaster. The Guy Chamberlin athletic Scholarship was established in 1967 to be awarded each year to the outstanding Nebraska high school football player. Chamberlin died in Lincoln on April 4, 1967.

Name: Berlin Guy Chamberlin (1894-1967)

Category: Sports

Death date: April 4, 1967

Years in state: 1894-1917

State contribution: University of Nebraska football player, high school teacher-coach

National contribution: Professional football player, Professional Football Hall of Fame

Henry Tefft Clarke

Henry Tefft Clarke, pioneer legislator, freighter, and bridge builder, was native of New York and came to Bellevue, Nebraska in 1855. Convinced that a railroad would sometime be built at Bellevue, Clarke decided to settle there. He became a steamboat agent at Bellevue, and later began a general merchandise business. He contracted with the government to supply corn and oats to Fort Kearny between 1862 and 1864, hauling these products by oxen or horses from Bellevue. Later Clarke freighted merchandise and miners' supplies to Denver, making two round trips a year.

In the mid-1860s Clarke made surveys to promote locating the eastern terminus of the Union Pacific Railroad at Bellevue; and the location of railroads from Bellevue to Sioux City via Omaha, and from Bellevue to Lincoln. After completing the surveys, Clarke obtained the right-of-way and constructed the first ten miles of the Burlington line which ran from Omaha to Bellevue and on southward.

In 1870 Clarke began building highway and railroad bridges, in time building seven bridges over the Platte River. In 1876 he built a bridge over the north fork of the Platte at Camp Merrill in present-day Merrill County. This toll bridge provided a short line to the Black Hills gold fields over the Sidney to Deadwood Trail.

When the bridge was completed, Clarke received government protection for it, because it was located in Sioux and Cheyenne Indian country. A two-story blockhouse erected on an island in

the Platte River housed soldiers. This building also was the location of Clarke's general store and the Camp Clarke post office. The bridge's location made it indispensable for cattlemen, the United States Army, and freighters.

Clarke established the Clarke Centennial Pony Express in 1876, connecting Sidney with outposts in the Black Hills. He also established post offices in the mining towns and operated a large store, dealing mainly in mining camp supplies. The store housed the office of Clarke's Pony Express company.

For building railroads in the state, Clarke received state lands, and used the land to raise grain and livestock. In 1879 he became involved in the hardware business, and in 1883, he started the H. T. Clarke Drug Company, a wholesale drug business.

Clarke was a member of the Nebraska Territorial House of Representatives in 1862, and in 1864 was elected to the board of education in Omaha. He was one of the incorporators of the Northwestern Electric Light Company, which first furnished electricity for Omaha.

Clarke laid out the town of Bellevue, built its first school house, and founded Bellevue College. He built Clarke Hall in 1882 and donated it, along with two houses and 265 acres of land, to the Presbyterian Church. Clarke became the first president of the board of Bellevue College.

Clarke was elected president of the Nebraska Territorial Pioneers' Association and was elected president of the Nebraska State Historical Society in 1906. Clarke promoted Missouri River

navigation and became president of the Missouri River Improvement Association.

Clarke died February 3, 1913 at Excelsior Springs, Missouri.

Name: Henry Tefft Clarke (1834-1913)

Category: Commerce, education, politics, frontier life, philanthropy

Death date: February 3, 1913

Years in state: 1855-1913

State contribution: pioneer freighter, highway & bridge construction, merchant wholesaler, territorial legislature & council,

National contribution: railroad promoter, freighter

William Frederick Cody

Born in Iowa, William Frederick ("Buffalo Bill") Cody, was raised in Kansas. The buffalo hunter, Army scout, and showman began his career as a military scout in Kansas, and in 1868 became a scout for the 5th Cavalry at Fort McPherson, Nebraska. For the next three years he was a guide for expeditions in western Nebraska. In 1872 he led the hunting party of the Grand Duke Alexis of Russia. He served in the Nebraska National Guard from 1890 to 1891.

Cody became a legendary figure partly because of dime novels written by Ned Buntline. These books enlarged Cody's reputation as a Pony Express rider, buffalo hunter, and U.S. Army Scout (although historians have cast considerable doubt on his Pony Express rider claims). Buntline influenced Cody to go to New York to star in a melodrama, "The Scouts of the Prairie" in 1872-73. After this Cody formed his own dramatic company and produced stage shows from 1875 to 1882. In partnership with Dr. W.F. Carver, Cody opened a show, "Wild West, Rocky Mountain, and Prairie Exhibition" in May 1883 in Omaha before an audience of 8,000 people. This was the first truly successful entertainment of this type, and tours in the United States and in Europe followed from 1883 to 1913.

At the time of the Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893, Cody's Wild West Show was located nearby. One of the means used to publicize the exposition was a horse race from Chadron, Nebraska to Chicago. Buffalo Bill and a small crowd greeted the winner of the race, John Berry, and Cody added \$500 to the original prize money Berry received.

Cody was later associated with the North Brothers in a ranch on the Dismal River north of North Platte from 1877 to 1882. This was the first ranch with headquarters north of the Platte River valley in the Sandhills. Later Cody developed his Scout's Rest Ranch near North Platte, and it is now a state historical park. Cody moved to Wyoming, where he became a land developer near present-day Cody, a town named in his honor. Cody died January 10, 1917, at Denver, Colorado and he is buried atop Lookout Mountain, Golden, Colorado. He was made a member of the Cowboy Hall of Fame in Oklahoma City in 1958 and a member of the Nebraska Hall of Fame in 1967.

Cody received the United States Medal of Honor in 1872 for gallantry as an army scout, but a congressional ruling in 1917, shortly after Cody's death, caused his medal to be revoked. The ruling stated that only enlisted men and officers could receive the medal and that army scouts, who were considered civilians, were ineligible. In the summer of 1989 the army returned Cody's name to the Medal of Honor list. The medal which reads "The Congress to William F.Cody, guide, for gallantry at Platte River, Neb., April 26, 1872," had been retained by the Cody family, because the army had not requested its return. The bronze, star-shaped medal may be seen at the Buffalo Bill Historical Center at Cody, Wyoming.

Name: William Frederick Cody

Category: Frontier Life

Death Date: January 10, 1917

Years in State: 1869-?

State Contribution: Indian scout, ranch owner

National contribution: Entertainer; Pony Express Rider

James Henry Cook

James Henry Cook, rancher and army scout, purchased land in 1887 and established the first ranch on the Niobrara River in present Sioux County, Nebraska. The Michigan native was married in 1886 to Kate Graham in Cheyenne, where their two sons were born.

Before purchasing the ranch and moving to Nebraska, Cook had been a sailor, cowboy, ranch owner, game hunter and trapper, hunting guide, military scout and courier, and helped lay out major cattle trails, such as the Oglala, Plum Creek, and Red Cloud trails.

Cook had made his last cattle drive in 1877 and had gone to Cheyenne. Because he was a skilled marksman, he became a market-hunter and supplied meat for the railroad workers. He also outfitted and became a guide for American and English hunting parties. He established and managed a large ranch in New Mexico in 1882, and was a scout and courier for the U.S. Army during its skirmishes with the Apache Indians.

Cook developed the 04 Ranch, which he renamed Agate Springs, into holdings of 13,000 acres. On this ranch is found the Agate Fossil Beds National Monument, from whose quarries many museums have received their fossils.

Cook's work as a mediator between Indian tribes earned him respect and friendship among several tribes, especially the Cheyenne and Sioux. Gifts to Cook from these tribes resulted in his large collection of Plains Indian articles, now preserved by the National Park Service.

Cook died at Agate Springs on January 29, 1942. He was inducted into the Hall of Great Westerners at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, in 1960.

Name: James Henry Cook

Category: Frontier Life, Rancher

Death date: January 29, 1942

Years in State: 1887-1942

State contribution: Cattle trails; ranch owner; fossil bed finder

National contribution: Hunting guide; army scout; Indian mediator; helped locate major cattle trails; conservation of fossils

Orrin Alonzo Cooper

Orrin Alonzo Cooper, Nebraska businessman, was born in New York state in 1849 and came to Nebraska in 1869 at the age of twenty. After working two years on his father's homestead, Cooper began his grain elevator career as a grain buyer at Table Rock, Nebraska, shortly after the railroad was extended to that town.

Cooper spent six months in Indian territory, trading and buying cattle under a government permit. He returned to Table Rock and in 1879, with a partner, purchased a grain elevator and started a lumber and livestock business. He later purchased grain facilities at Humboldt, Nebraska. His company built the first steam mill in Humboldt.

In time branch grain elevators were established at the Nebraska towns of Elk Creek, Smartville, Sterling, and Beaver City, and also at Ludell, Atwood, Blakeman, Wheeler and St. Francis, all in Kansas. The company's headquarters was at Humboldt.

A civic leader, as well as a business leader, Cooper was mayor of Humboldt for six terms. He died March 23, 1923 at Humboldt.

Name: Orrin Alonzo Cooper (1849-1923)

Category: Commerce

Death Date: March 23, 1923

Years in State: 1869-1923

State contribution: Grain elevator, milling, lumber businesses

National Contribution: Businesses in Nebraska and Kansas

George Evert Condra

George Evert Condra, state geologist and University of Nebraska professor, is said to be the first geologist to realize the great contribution that geology could make to agriculture. Condra was born in Seymour, Iowa in 1869 and came to Lincoln to attend the University of Nebraska in 1892 after attending universities in Iowa and in Michigan. He received his B.A. from the University of Nebraska in 1896, his M.A. in 1898, and his Ph.D. in 1902. Condra enrolled in special studies at Cornell University in 1902 and returned there to be a professor of geography for the summer sessions from 1905-1911.

Condra taught sciences at Lincoln Normal School and at Lincoln High School, then became an instructor in geography and in economic geology at the University of Nebraska in 1902. He was made head professor of geography and conservation in 1912. Beginning in 1912, he served as director of several conservation and geological organizations in Nebraska. He was appointed state geologist in 1918. He became a dean and the director of Conservation and Survey at the University of Nebraska in 1928.

From 1915 on Condra held offices in national conservation, geology, and irrigation groups. In 1943 he was president of the Izaak Walton League. During World War I he was commander of the 214th Engineers at Fort Riley, Kansas, and was a member of the Council of Defense.

Condra was the author of several books on geography, geology, and conservation. He died in Lincoln on August 8, 1958. He was named to the Nebraska Hall of Agricultural Achievement in

1955.

Name: George Evert Condra

Category: Education, geology, conservation, author

Death date: August 8, 1958

Years in State: 1892-1958

State contribution: University of Nebraska professor; director of Conservation and Survey Division; State geologist 1918-?

National contribution: Author of books on Geology and Conservation; offices in national conservation, geological and irrigation groups.

Edward A. Creighton

Edward A. Creighton, businessman and builder of telegraph lines, came to Omaha in 1857. The Ohio native had been a farmer, freighter, and builder of telegraph lines before coming to Nebraska. He began his long career as an Omaha businessman with the sale of lumber he had arranged to have shipped to Omaha from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Creighton re-entered the telegraph business in 1858, assisting with the building of a line from St. Joseph, Missouri to Omaha, which gave Omaha its first connection by telegraph to the east coast. Creighton visualized the building of a telegraph line to the Pacific Coast. He was commissioned in 1860-61 to survey a route between the Missouri River and the Pacific Coast. The Union Pacific Railroad would later, for the most part, follow this route.

Congress subsidized the building of a telegraph line from Julesburg, Colorado through South Pass to Salt Lake City, where it was to connect with a line to be built by a California company. Creighton became the first general superintendent of the new company, known as the Pacific Telegraph Company. In October, 1861 the lines merged at Salt Lake City. He resigned as company president in 1867 and later built a telegraph line from Salt Lake City to Montana.

Creighton invested both in the Pacific Telegraph Company and in a freighting company which operated out of Omaha to Denver, then to Salt Lake City, and on to the Montana gold fields. He also contracted for grading for the Union Pacific Railroad and put up its telegraph lines. In 1864 Creighton became a cattleman near Laramie, Wyoming and supplied beef to the Union Pacific

construction crews.

Through the years Creighton maintained his business interests in Omaha. He was president of the First National Bank in Omaha from its founding in 1863 until his death on November 5, 1874. He had hoped to build an institution of learning in Omaha, but died before this was accomplished. However, his widow, Mary Wareham Creighton, provided the initial funds for the formation of Creighton University in 1875 through her will.

Creighton was made a member of the National Cowboy Hall of Fame in 1958 and was inducted into the Nebraska Hall of Fame in March 1983.

Name: Edward A. Creighton (1820-74)

Category: Commerce, Philanthropy, Frontier Life

Death date: November 5, 1874

Years in Nebraska: 1857-74 (Fourteen of these centered in Nebraska)

State contribution: Omaha businessman; telegraph and railroad development; endowment of Creighton University

National contribution: Builder of telegraph lines, freighting

Margaretta Shaw Stewart Dietrich

Margaretta Shaw Stewart Dietrich, supporter of both state and national woman suffrage groups, was born and raised in Pennsylvania. In 1909 she married Charles H. Dietrich, who formerly had been a Nebraska governor (1901) and a United States Senator (1901-3), and they made their home in Hastings, Nebraska. He died in 1924.

Mrs. Dietrich was involved in the suffrage movement in Adams County and later, in 1919 became president of the state organization. In 1920 she was elected the first president of the Nebraska League of Women Voters, formerly called Nebraska Suffrage Association.

Beginning in 1921 she served five years as one of the regional directors on the board of the National League of Women Voters. Her influence caused the League to become active in promoting legislation to improve the welfare of women and children, to secure independent citizenship for married women, and to regulate child labor.

Mrs. Dietrich also was involved in community projects in Hastings. These included Sunnyside Home for dependent elderly, the Adams County Red Cross, and political organizations.

In 1927 Mrs. Dietrich moved to New Mexico where she worked to improve conditions for Indians in that state. She served as president of the New Mexico Association for Indian Affairs for twenty years and also lobbied for them in Washington, D.C.

Mrs. Dietrich died on January 13, 1961 in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Name: Margaretta Shaw Stewart Dietrich (1881-1961)

Category: Social Activism

Death date: January 13,1961

Years in state: 1909-1927

State contribution: Civic leader, Woman Suffrage leader, first president of Nebraska League of Women Voters

National contribution: Director of National League of Women Voters, Women's and Children's welfare legislation

Terence Romaine Duren

Terence Romaine Duren, one of Nebraska's most noted artists, was born in Shelby, Nebraska in 1904. He began to paint at the age of six, after he had been ill with polio.

He was graduated from the Art Institute in Chicago in 1929 and later studied in France, Germany, and Austria. From 1931 to 1941 he was an instructor at the Cleveland Museum of Art, Case Western Reserve University. His paintings vary in style from surrealism to romantic and are found in permanent collections of museums in Cleveland, Springfield, Omaha, Chicago, and Los Angeles. The recipient of many awards in art, he has had exhibitions in Nebraska, California, New York, Washington, D.C. and in Europe.

After returning to Nebraska, he continued to paint, and his paintings of pioneer Nebraska became well-known. His paintings are found in many Nebraska art collections. His works have appeared on covers of the World-Herald Sunday magazine and on covers of Nebraska History, the quarterly magazine of the Nebraska State Historical Society. Duren resided in Shelby, except for his years of study and teaching. He died September 28, 1968 at Columbus, Nebraska.

Name: Terence Romaine Duren (1904-1968)

Category: Art

Death date: September 28, 1968

State contribution: Paintings of pioneer Nebraska

National contribution: artist

Loren Corey Eiseley

Loren Corey Eiseley, writer and anthropologist, was graduated from the University of Nebraska in 1933. The Lincoln native was a member of the Morrill Paleontological Expedition of 1931-33. At the University of Pennsylvania he received his master's degree and his doctorate in anthropology. He taught at the University of Kansas and at Oberlin College in Ohio. Then, in 1947, he returned to the University of Pennsylvania and was associated with that university for more than 30 years. He was chair of the anthropology department and curator of early man at the University of Pennsylvania Museum.

Known for his efforts to make science understandable, Eiseley hosted "Animal Secrets," an award-winning educational television series about science. In 1971 he was elected to the National Institute of Arts and Letters for his straightforward style of writing about nature. The first of his eleven books was The Immense Journey, a collection of essays about man and nature.

While at the University of Nebraska, Eiseley was one of the editors of the university's Prairie Schooner magazine. His poetry at that time led to his being named the University's Poet Laureate. This interest in poetry later re-surfaced, and two volumes of his poetry were published.

Eiseley died July 9, 1977 in Philadelphia. He was inducted into the Nebraska Hall of Fame with the unveiling of a bronze bust at ceremonies at the Capitol on September 3, 1987.

Name: Loren Corey Eiseley (1907-1977)

Category: Arts, Science, Education

Death Date: July 9, 1977

Years in Nebraska: 1907-1933

State Contribution: Morrill Paleontological Expedition of 1931-33; University of Nebraska

Poet Laureate

National contribution: Author, poet, anthropologist, university professor, museum curator, TV science show host

Edward Joseph Flanagan

Edward J. Flanagan, founder of Boys Town, came to Nebraska in 1912 to serve as an assistant pastor at St. Patrick's Catholic Church at O'Neill, Nebraska. A native of Ireland, Flanagan came to America in 1904 and became an American citizen in 1919. He attended Mount St. Mary's College in Emmetsburg, Maryland, where in 1906, he received a bachelor of arts degree and a master of arts degree in 1908.

Flanagan studied at St Joseph's Seminary in Dunwoodie, New York, and then continued his studies in Italy and Austria. He was ordained a Roman Catholic priest in 1912 in Innsbruck, Austria. After serving in O'Neill, he then became an assistant pastor at St. Patrick's Church in Omaha and later at St.Philomena's Church, Omaha.

Working among Omaha's poor, he established and operated a shelter for unemployed men and later, in 1917, founded the Home for Homeless Boys. Because the downtown facilities were inadequate, he established Boys Town, ten miles west of Omaha, in 1921. Under Flanagan's direction, Boys Town grew to be a large community with its own boy-mayor, schools, chapel, post office, cottages, gymnasium, and other facilities, where boys between ages 10 and 16 could receive an education and learn a trade.

Incorporated in 1936, the village was featured in a 1936 motion picture starring Spencer Tracy and Mickey Rooney. Another movie, "Men of Boys Town," was made in 1941.

Flanagan received many awards for his work with homeless and delinquent boys. He served on several committees and boards dealing with the welfare of children, and was the author of articles on child welfare.

Internationally known, Flanagan traveled to Japan and Korea in 1947 to study child welfare problems. He made a similar trip to Austria and Germany and while in Germany, died on May 15, 1948. He was buried in the Dowd Chapel at Boys Town. Flanagan was made a member of the Nebraska Hall of Fame in 1965.

Name: Edward Joseph Flanagan (1886-1948)

Category: Humanitarian, Social Activism

Death date: May 15, 1948

Years in Nebraska: 1912-48

Nebraska contribution: Founder of Boys Town, social and welfare work

National contribution: Government consultant on youth problems, on advisory panel on juvenile delinquency.

Logan Fontenelle

Logan Fontenelle, well-known chief of the Omaha tribe, was born at Fort Atkinson in 1825. A son of Lucien Fontenelle, a Frenchman and noted fur trader, his mother was an Omaha Indian woman. After receiving his education in Saint Louis, he returned to Bellevue, where he was an interpreter for the United States Government from 1840 to 1853.

Although he was not a chief by blood, he was elected principal chief of the tribe in 1853 at the time that the transfer of the tribe to its northeast Nebraska reservation was being negotiated. He played an important part in the signing of the Treaty of 1854 which gave all of the Omaha Indian land to the government. Fontenelle was respected by members of his tribe and by the whites. While he maintained absolute control over the Omaha, he promoted education and agriculture.

Although there is controversy over his exact death date, Logan Fontenelle was killed in a skirmish with the Sioux while leading Omaha Indians on a hunt on Beaver Creek in present-day Boone County in the summer of 1855.

Many Nebraska landmarks have been named for Logan Fontenelle, including a town (spelled "Fontanelle") in Washington County; Fontenelle Forest north of Bellevue; and parks, schools, streets, and public housing in eastern Nebraska.

Name: Logan Fontenelle (1825-1855)

Category: Frontier Life

Death date: July 16, 1855 (?)

Years in Nebraska: 1825-55

Nebraska contribution: Chief of Omaha tribe, tribal spokesman

National contribution: Interpreter for U.S. government, 1840-53

Daniel Freeman

Daniel Freeman is credited as being the first person in the nation to file a homestead claim, January 1, 1863.

An Ohio native, Freeman was raised in Knox County, Illinois. After he was graduated from a medical institute in Cincinnati, Ohio, Freeman practiced medicine in Ottawa, Illinois. He enlisted in the Seventeenth Illinois Volunteer Infantry and served in the secret service during the Civil War. (His military service has not been documented.)

While headquartered at Fort Leavenworth, he chose a piece of land along Cub Creek about four miles northwest of Beatrice, Nebraska and made plans to file a claim when the Homestead Act went into effect. As the story goes, Freeman was on furlough and due back to his unit before the Brownville, Nebraska, land office opened January 1, 1863, the first day for filing under the Homestead Act. He persuaded the registrar of the land office to open just after midnight so that Freeman could file his claim. Although the patent on his land is designated Homestead Certificate No. 1, Application No. 1, the numbers apply only to claims in the Brownville Land District. Other individuals who filed claims on January 1, 1863, had application No. 1 and certificate No. 1 in their respective land districts.

Freeman was married to Elizabeth Wilber, who died in 1861, leaving three children. In 1865, after his discharge from the army, Freeman built a log cabin on his claim, and moved there with his second wife, Agnes Suiter. They became the parents of eight children. Freeman lived on his

claim until his death on December 30, 1908. Agnes Suiter Freeman continued to live on the homestead until shortly before her death in 1931.

In 1939, by an act of the United States Congress, the site of Freeman's homestead was recognized as the "first" homestead in the United States when it was designated the Homestead National Monument of America.

Name: Daniel Freeman (1826-1908)

Category: Frontier Life

Death Date: December 30, 1908

Years in Nebraska: 1865-1908

Nebraska contribution: Homesteader

National contribution: Credited with being the first homesteader in United States under Homestead Act

Robert Wilkinson Furnas

Robert Wilkinson Furnas, second governor of Nebraska (1873-1875), came to Nebraska in 1856. Two months after his arrival, he printed the first issue of the Nebraska Advertiser newspaper. As editor of this successful publication, Furnas promoted Nebraska, its soil, water, and agricultural possibilities, and had great influence on the development of the state.

Furnas, before coming to Nebraska at age 32, had worked as a storekeeper, tinsmith, postmaster, village clerk, train conductor, insurance agent, and as a printer, editor, and publisher in Troy, Ohio, his birthplace. In 1868 Furnas edited and published the Nebraska Farmer, the first agricultural paper to be published in Nebraska.

In the fall of 1856, he was elected to the Council of the 3rd Legislative Assembly of Nebraska territory and served through the eighth session. He was the author of the first common school law of Nebraska and also the law forming a territorial Board of Agriculture.

Furnas served six years as regent of the State University. He organized the first public school board and presided over the first educational convention held in the state.

During the Civil War, Furnas was commissioned a colonel of the territorial militia. In 1862 he was made a colonel in the regular army by President A. Lincoln. Furnas then organized and commanded three Indian regiments. Colonel Furnas captured the Cherokee Indian, Chief John Ross. By sending Chief Ross and his family to Washington, D.C., Furnas was instrumental in

ending troubles between the government and the Cherokee nation. He was commissioned a colonel of the Second Nebraska Cavalry and served under General Sully in the campaign against the Sioux that culminated in the Battle of White Stone Hill in Dakota Territory, September 3, 1863.

Following his military service Furnas was appointed by President Lincoln as Indian agent for the Omaha, Winnebago, and Ponca tribes and served for four years. During the time he was Indian agent, the Omahas ceded a portion of their reservation in Thurston County to the Winnebagos.

Furnas was the first president of the newly organized Nebraska State Historical Society from 1878 to 1890 and served as president again from 1904 to 1905. He served as United States commissioner to the Philadelphia Centennial Exposition, the New Orleans Cotton Centennial, the Chicago Columbian Exposition, and to the International Exposition in London. He was president of the American Fair Association and helped develop the Nebraska State Fair.

Furnas served as president of the State Board of Agriculture and as president of the State Horticultural Society. He promoted the planting of trees in Nebraska and during his administration as governor Arbor Day was created. He was elected to the Hall of Agricultural Achievement in 1918 and was named to the Nebraska Hall of Fame in 1980.

Furnas died at Lincoln on June 1, 1905.

Name: Robert Wilkinson Furnas (1824-1905)

Category: Agriculture, Frontier Life, Politics & Government, Commerce, Education, conservation, journalism, military

Death date: June 1, 1905

Years in Nebraska: 1856 - 1905

Nebraska contribution: Governor of Nebraska, founder of Nebraska Farmer magazine; university regent; organized Second Nebraska Cavalry; promoted tree planting.

National contribution: Army service, Indian agent, National Exposition committees

Charles Henry Gere

Charles Henry Gere, founder of the Nebraska State Journal, received his education in Pennsylvania, studied law in Baltimore, Maryland, and served in the Civil War before coming to Nebraska in 1865. The New York native soon became a partner of David Butler in a law office in Pawnee City. When Butler became the state's first governor in 1967, Gere served as his private secretary.

Gere was a member of the first state legislature, which met in Omaha in 1866, and served in the state senate 1869-70 and 1881-82. As a member of the education committee, he introduced a bill which founded the state university, and beginning in 1881, he was a member of the Board of Regents, serving as its president for ten years. Gere influenced the passage of legislation which helped establish and maintain free public libraries in Nebraska.

Gere was a member of the committee on railroads, which sponsored a bill appropriating money for railroads within the state. Two years later, sections of four railroad systems were being built, with Lincoln on each one's route. Gere served on the railroad commission soon after its founding in the 1880s. In 1875 Gere served as a delegate to the State Constitutional Convention.

Gere founded Lincoln's first newspaper, The Nebraska Commonwealth (later named the Nebraska State Journal) in 1867. Gere had served as county prosecuting attorney at Pawnee City and as county attorney for Lancaster County. When the State Journal became a daily in 1870, Gere left the practice of law and became more actively involved in the newspaper. He was

responsible for the controversial editorial position of the State Journal, taking a stand against the Farmer's Alliance and its candidates. Gere was president of the State Journal Company from 1872 until his death in Lincoln on September 30, 1904.

Name: Charles Henry Gere (1838-1904)

Category: Politics, commerce, law, journalism

Death date: September 30, 1904

Years in Nebraska: 1865-1904

State contribution: State legislator, Founder/editor Nebraska State Journal, University of Nebraska regent

National contribution: Political editorials

Melvin R. Gilmore

Melvin R. Gilmore, noted ethnologist and author, laid the groundwork for present-day analytical cultural ethnology. The Valley, Nebraska native was graduated from Cotner College, Lincoln, in 1903 and later taught biology there while a part-time student at the University of Nebraska. He received his master's from the University in 1909 and his doctorate in botany in 1914. Gilmore's field of interest was ethnobotany, a study of native Americans and their environment.

When Gilmore was employed at the Nebraska State Historical Society, 1911-16, his work centered around caring for the Museum. He pursued his interest in ethnobotany, and, on land in Lincoln owned by the Nebraska State Historical Society, Gilmore raised plants known to be grown by native Americans. In 1914 he accompanied White Eagle, an elderly Pawnee Indian, to central Nebraska and recorded information about many abandoned village sites which were identified by White Eagle. Continuing his interest in the Pawnee, Gilmore conducted interviews in Oklahoma about Pawnee traditions.

From 1916 to 1923 Gilmore was curator at the State Historical Society of North Dakota at Bismarck. He served on the staff of the Museum of the American Indian in New York from 1913 to 1928. He was curator of ethnology at the University of Michigan from 1929 to 1939. He recorded ritualistic ceremonies of the Arikara tribe in 1924. While in New York and in Michigan, he created ethnobotanical gardens.

The author of various works on botany and on Indian life, Gilmore's best known work was Use of

plants by Indians of the Missouri River Region. He died on July 25, 1940 at Lincoln.

Name: Melvin R. Gilmore (1868-1940)

Category: Science, Author

Death date: July 25, 1940

Years in Nebraska: 1868-1916

State contribution: Curator at Nebraska State Museum

National contribution: Museum curator at North Dakota, University of Michigan, staff of Museum of the American Indian in New York.

Robert Henri

Robert Henri,(pronounced HEN-rie) one of America's greatest artists, had a Nebraska connection which remained unknown until the 1950s. Born Robert Henry Cozad in Cincinnati, Ohio in 1865, he came to Dawson County, Nebraska at the age of eight. His father, John J. Cozad founded the town of Cozad in 1873. The outcome of a legal dispute with neighbors caused the elder Cozad to leave Nebraska in 1882, and his family soon followed. The family settled in Atlantic City, New Jersey. The father changed his name to Richard Henry Lee, and Robert and his brother posed as foster sons, taking the names Robert Henry and Frank Sothern.

In 1886 Robert Henri enrolled in an art school in Philadelphia and then studied three years in Paris. After teaching in Philadelphia at the Woman's School of Design, Henri returned to Paris and lived there several years.

Henri taught at various academies and founded the Henri School. He was the leader of the "Ash Can" group who pioneered realistic paintings and who believed that artists should have freedom of expression in art. A book about Henri, The Art Spirit by Marge Ryerson, is well-known to art students and to art lovers.

Henri's paintings hang in the principal art galleries of the world. Mari Sandoz wrote a novel, Son of a Gambling Man, which is based on Robert Henri's Nebraska childhood. Henri died in New York City on July 12, 1929.

Name: Robert Henri (1865-1929)

Category: Art

Death date: July 12, 1929

Years in Nebraska: Seven years, during childhood

State contribution: None

National contribution: Widely known artist

Gilbert Monell Hitchcock

Gilbert Monell Hitchcock, founder of the Omaha World-Herald newspaper, was born in Omaha in 1859. He received his education in the Omaha schools and in Germany, and then studied law at Michigan University. After he was graduated from law school in 1881, Hitchcock returned to Omaha and set up a law office. Four years later his interest in journalism led to his founding the Evening World. In 1889 he purchased the Morning Herald and merged the two papers into the World-Herald.

While at first a political independent, he later became a Democrat. He hired both a Democrat and a Republican to discuss the issues in the World-Herald. William Jennings Bryan was an editor of the paper for two years, and the World-Herald supported Bryan in his unsuccessful bid for the presidency. Later, when Bryan and Woodrow Wilson disagreed on foreign policy, Hitchcock continued to support Woodrow Wilson.

Hitchcock was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1902. He defeated in 1904 but was re-elected in 1906 and in 1908. He was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1910 and in 1916. Hitchcock introduced the resolution to declare war on Germany in World War I and, as a member of the banking committee, was instrumental in the passage of two postal savings bank bills and the bill to create the Federal Reserve Banking System. He backed Wilson's views on the League of Nations, believing that it promised a new order of world peace.

Although he relinquished the position of editor of the Omaha World-Herald to an associate in

1911, Hitchcock after 1920, again directed his publishing business. He ran for the Senate once more, this time against George W. Norris in the 1930 primary, but was unsuccessful.

Hitchcock was interested in Omaha civic affairs. He was active in the organization of the Trans-Mississippi Exposition at Omaha in 1898 and acted as director of publicity. He was also interested in youth. He initiated the annual giving of a scholarship by the World-Herald to a deserving graduate of each of Omaha's high schools, which continues.

Hitchcock died in Washington D.C. on February 3, 1934. He was made a member of the Nebraska Hall of Fame in 1986.

Name: Gilbert Monell Hitchcock (1859-1934)

Category: Commerce, politics, government, journalism

Death Date: February 3, 1934

Years in Nebraska: 1859-1934

State contribution: Founded the Omaha World Herald

National contribution: Served in the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate

Crazy Horse

Crazy Horse is the English name of the great Oglala Sioux war chief, Tasunka Witho, born in 1842. The 1868 Treaty of Fort Laramie established reservations for the Sioux, and they agreed to its terms, with the understanding that they would be allowed to hunt on their old ranges. Red Cloud and the Oglala agreed to a reservation located on the White River in northwest Nebraska.

However, many of the young men of the Oglala, under the leadership of Crazy Horse and Sitting Bull, refused to accept the terms of the treaty, and the army issued orders to bring these non-treaty bands under control. While on a buffalo hunt in December 1875 the Sioux were ordered to return to the reservation by January 31, 1876. Although the time allowed was inadequate, the army was ordered to return by force those who did not comply with the order.

In the conflict which resulted, Crazy Horse proved to be an able warrior and military strategist. A band of Sioux under Crazy Horse prevented General George Crook's troops from uniting his forces with those of General Alfred Terry. Eight days later on June 25, 1876, five companies of General George Custer's Seventh Cavalry were annihilated by Indians under the command of Crazy Horse and Sitting Bull at the Battle of the Little Big Horn in Montana.

Following Custer's defeat, small bands of Sioux scattered. Crazy Horse and his band resisted capture during the winter of 1876-77. Finally because they were short of arms and supplies, Crazy Horse brought about 2,000 of his followers to the Red Cloud Agency and surrendered in

May 1877.

Crazy Horse was kept under surveillance at Fort Robinson. He was asked to be a scout for the army's planned expedition against the Nez Peres. A misunderstanding which followed this request led to Crazy Horse's arrest. While being led to a guard house cell, Crazy Horse attempted to escape, was mortally wounded, and died on September 7, 1877.

Name: Crazy Horse (1842-1877)

Category: Frontier Life

Death date: September 7, 1877

Years in State: 1842-1877?

State contribution: Chief of Oglala Sioux

National contribution: Oglala leader in Battle of Little Big Horn

Thomas Berger Johnson

Nebraska born artist Thomas Berger Johnson was born in Omaha in 1890 and spent his early years in Omaha and Harvard, Nebraska and Stanton, Iowa. Although in his youth he showed an interest and an ability in art, he did not begin formal training in this field until 1921 at the age of thirty-one.

He then studied painting, drawing, and art history for two years at Bethany College, Lindsborg, Kansas, under Professor Birger Sandzen. Johnson's close association with Sandzen led to his use of the impressionistic style and the "impasto" painting technique which Sandzen favored. The impasto technique uses two separate colors of paint on the brush at the same time. From 1923-27 Johnson continued his art studies in Colorado Springs and Minneapolis, and he also returned to Bethany College for further studies. His ability in drawing and in creating block prints is recognized by both artists and laymen.

Prior to the study of art, Johnson had worked as a blacksmith and had taken a special course in welding. In addition to his painting, Johnson developed his metalworking techniques into crafted iron sculptures. Johnson's art has been shown in several places in Nebraska, including the State Office Building (1983), the NBC Bank (1984), and the State Museum of History (1984), all in Lincoln.

Johnson was employed at the University of Nebraska College of Agricultural Engineering, Laboratory Division, from 1930 to 1955. He then retired and moved from Lincoln to Seward,

Nebraska where he died on January 20, 1968.

Name: Thomas Berger Johnson (1890-1968)

Category: Art

Death date: January 20, 1968

Years in Nebraska: 1890-1921 and 1930-1968

State contribution: UNL College of Agriculture employee, Painter of Nebraska scenes

National contribution: Artist

Thomas Rogers Kimball

Thomas Rogers Kimball became nationally known for his architectural work as the architect-in-chief along with C. Howard Walker for the 1898 Trans-Mississippi and International Exposition in Omaha. While in his early teens he came with his family to Nebraska after his father became an executive for the Union Pacific Railroad. Kimball attended the University of Nebraska for two years and then continued his studies at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology School of Architecture from 1885 to 1887. He also studied art and developed skills in drawing and painting which he used throughout his career. He studied art in Paris for one year.

Kimball used his artistic talents in design while he was associated with MIT's first architectural magazine. In 1889 Kimball opened his own architectural office and soon, with two partners, published a series of architectural illustrations.

Kimball became associated in a partnership in 1891 with C. Howard Walker, his former instructor at MIT. The firm expanded to Omaha and Kimball and his wife Annie moved there. In Omaha his social contacts led to many architectural contracts. Among the buildings in Omaha designed by Kimball are the Omaha Public Library, the Burlington Station, Hotel Fontenelle, St. Cecelia's Cathedral, Monmouth Park School, and the Omaha World Herald Building.

Kimball's work is also found in other parts of Nebraska where he designed the Hall County Court House, the Hastings Railroad Station, the Grand Island First National Bank, and the University of

Nebraska Administration Building in Lincoln. Kimball designed residences for several prominent Omaha families, including one for Gordon Wattles, who later became president of the 1898 Exposition in Omaha.

In 1897 Kimball and Walker were chosen as architects-in-chief for the Trans-Mississippi and International Exposition. The Exposition was to tell America about Omaha and the West, and to show how the area had prospered. Kimball prepared the layout for the park and designed the Arch of the States, the Administration Building, Transportation Building and the Boys' and Girls' Building.

Although the partnership was dissolved after the Omaha Exposition, Kimball and Walker were together again from 1900 to 1903, when they worked on the layout and design of the park for the Louisiana Purchase Exposition at St Louis in 1904.

Kimball acted as a consultant for a new firm formed in 1927. He also served as an advisor in the Nebraska State Capitol competition, and wrote the design competition which led to the selection of Bertram G. Goodhue as architect for the Nebraska State Capitol. In later years Kimball was a consultant in the designing of the federal office building in Omaha.

Kimball's work is also found in other states. In 1902 he designed the Battle Mountain Sanatorium in Hot Springs, South Dakota in the Spanish Mission style. He became the first western architect to receive an important government commission.

Kimball worked in various architectural styles, including Italian Renaissance Revival, Classical Revival, and Spanish Mission.

In 1909 Kimball was made a member of the first commission of Fine Arts by President Theodore Roosevelt. He served in several offices for the national American Institute of Architecture and was its national president from 1918 to 1920.

Name: Thomas Rogers Kimball (1862-1934)

Category: Architecture

Death date: September 7, 1934

Years in Nebraska: 1873(?)-1934

State contribution: Architectural design of Omaha Trans-Mississippi and International Exposition of 1898; Nebraska residences and public buildings, professional advisor to the Nebraska State Capitol Commission

National contribution: Designed park for Louisiana Exposition at St Louis in 1904, and Battle Mountain Sanatorium, Hot Springs, S.D. in 1902, National president of American Institute of Architecture, 1918 to 1920.

Moses Pierce Kinkaid

Moses Pierce Kinkaid, attorney, judge, and congressman, came to O'Neill, Nebraska in 1881 to practice law. Kinkaid was born in West Virginia in 1850 and received his law degree at the University of Michigan. He became a member of the Nebraska State Senate in 1883 and served as chairman of the judicial committee. He was appointed judge of the ten-county 12th District in northwest Nebraska in 1887 by Governor John Thayer and served until 1896.

Kinkaid served ten consecutive terms in the United States Congress from 1903 to 1922 from the 6th District. In 1904 he proposed the Kinkaid Homestead Act which allowed settlers in a thirty-seven county area in northern and western Nebraska to homestead up to 640 acres in western Nebraska, and was instrumental in its passage.

The Kinkaid Act was intended to stimulate settlement in Nebraska's Sand Hills and panhandle, where farming was impossible on the 160 acres allowed by the original Homestead Act. The Kinkaid Act, like the Homestead Act, required the homesteader to live on the land for five years and make \$800 worth of improvements. Although even the Kinkaid Act failed to provide enough land for farming in the Sand Hills, it did help bring settlers into western Nebraska. Moses Kinkaid also had a part in preventing the abandonment of Fort Niobrara in 1904 and of Fort Robinson in 1906.

Kinkaid was named to the Hall of Great Westerners, a division of the Cowboy Hall of Fame in

Oklahoma City in 1963. He died in Washington, D.C., on July 6, 1922, while serving in Congress.

Name: Moses Pierce Kinkaid (1850-1922)

Category: Politics, government, law, agriculture

Death Date: July 6, 1922

Years in Nebraska: 1881-1922 (nineteen years in Washington, D.C.)

State contribution: Judge, State senator

National contribution: U.S. Senator 1903-1922, Kinkaid Act

Val Kuska

Val Kuska, an agricultural agent for the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy Railroads, advocated major irrigation and reclamation projects in Nebraska. Born near Ohioa, Kuska attended school at Milligan and was graduated from the School of Agriculture at the University of Nebraska.

Experience and knowledge gained during his years when he had managed farms and ranches in parts of western Nebraska, Wyoming, and Colorado, and his studies of farming methods while traveling in Europe, qualified Kuska for the position of farm demonstrator in Madison County in 1914. County agents later replaced farm demonstrators.

After service in World War I, Kuska served as a colonizer for a Denver-based land company and, later, for the Burlington Railroad, helped locate settlers on land owned by the railroad in Colorado and Wyoming. He was also the railroad's agricultural development agent, and promoted irrigation and reclamation projects as well as methods to improve crop and livestock breeding. Believing that irrigation would bring stability to agriculture, he supported projects such as Tri-County and the Republican River irrigation projects. The railroad encouraged agricultural development not only to sell land, but also because it would provide more business for the railroad.

Kuska promoted the County Agricultural Extension Service and 4-H work, and was instrumental in getting legislative support, as well as county level support for these projects. Kuska received

the National 4-H Alumni Award in 1954 and the Nebraska County Agents' Association Certificate of Commendation in 1956.

Kuska retired in 1957 and was named to the Nebraska Hall of Agricultural Achievement in 1961. He died in Lincoln on May 21, 1972.

Name: Val Kuska (1887-1972)

Category: Agriculture, conservation

Death date: May 21, 1972

Years in Nebraska: 1887-1972

Nebraska contribution: Agricultural Extension Service, conservation, irrigation, 4-H work

Susette ("Bright Eyes") LaFlesche Tibbles

Inshata-Theumba, Indian name of Susette LaFlesche Tibbles, was a well-known lecturer, writer, and artist from the Omaha Tribe in eastern Nebraska. Also known as Bright Eyes, she is probably the best known for being the interpreter for Standing Bear during his trial in Omaha in 1879 and on his tours of the eastern United States.

Susette, who was first named Yosette, was born in Bellevue in 1854, the year the Omaha gave up their Nebraska hunting grounds and agreed to move to a northeastern Nebraska reservation. Susette's parents were Mary, daughter of Fort Atkinson surgeon Dr. John Gale and Ni-co-ma of the Iowa tribe and Joseph LaFlesche, son of French trader Joseph LaFlesche, a French trader, and Ponca Indian wife. Her father, Joseph LaFlesche, also known as Iron Eye, was the last recognized chief of the Omaha.

Iron Eye's belief that his people's future lay in becoming educated, in using the farming methods of the white man, in becoming Christians, and in adopting the white man's ways greatly influenced Susette and her brothers and sisters. Although Susette and her siblings disagreed about political issues and economic methods which affected the Omaha, all of them contributed to the improvement in life of native Americans and particularly the Omaha tribe.

Susette was raised on the Omaha reservation and from 1862-69 attended the Presbyterian Mission Boarding-Day School on the reservation. The Mission School had been started at

Bellevue in 1845 and was moved to the reservation in 1857. Susette learned to read, write, and speak English and to cook and sew.

After Susette expressed her desire to further her education, arrangements were made in 1869 for her to attend the Elizabeth Institute for Young Ladies, a private school at Elizabeth, New Jersey. She became known for her writing ability, and an essay written during her senior year, was published by the New York Tribune. Following her graduation, Susette returned to the reservation. Three years later, Susette was accepted as a teacher at the government school on the reservation and she taught there for several years.

The Ponca had been moved from northeastern Nebraska to Indian Territory (present-day Oklahoma) in 1877. Because Iron Eye's mother was Ponca, Susette accompanied her father to Indian Territory, to investigate conditions under which the Ponca were living. When they returned, Susette worked with Thomas H. Tibbles of the Omaha Morning Herald to publicize the Ponca's plight. A few Ponca led by Standing Bear had returned to Nebraska. Standing Bear's subsequent arrest and trial in Omaha led to Judge Elmer Dundy's decision that an Indian was a person in the eyes of the law. Susette was Standing Bear's interpreter during the trial in May 1879.

After the trial, Susette became known as Bright Eyes. Tibbles organized a speaking tour of the eastern United States for Standing Bear, Bright Eyes, and her brother, Francis LaFlesche. They were entertained by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow at his home at Cambridge, Massachusetts. When he saw Bright Eyes, Longfellow said, "This could be Minnehaha," who was the Indian

maiden in his poem "The Song of Hiawatha." Along with Tibbles, Bright Eyes appeared before a congressional committee, presenting her concerns about native American rights.

In 1882 Bright Eyes and Thomas Tibbles were married. They continued their lecture tours in the East, and during 1886 traveled to England and Scotland for a ten-month tour. Here Bright Eyes was received by nobility and by literary circles.

When they returned to Omaha in 1890, Tibbles went back to work at the Omaha World-Herald. In 1891 they traveled to Pine Ridge in southwestern South Dakota to inquire about the Battle of Wounded Knee and problems of native Americans at the reservation there.

From 1893-1895 the Tibbles lived in Washington D.C. where he worked as a newspaper correspondent. After returning to Nebraska Tibbles edited The Independent, a weekly Populist newspaper in Lincoln until 1915. Bright Eyes continued to write, lecture, and to advocate Indian concerns before government committees.

Thomas Tibbles and Bright Eyes moved to Bancroft in 1902 to live among the Omaha. She died there on May 26, 1903 at her home near Bancroft at the age of 49. She was eulogized in the U.S. Senate and is remembered as the first woman to speak out for the cause of native Americans.

With Fannie Reed Griffin, Bright Eyes co-authored a book, Oo-mah-ha Ta-wa-tha in 1898, and illustrated it. Her art work appeared in several books, among them Ploughed-Under: The Story of an Indian Chief, which she also edited.

Susette ("Bright Eyes") LaFlesche Tibbles was inducted into the Nebraska Hall of Fame in 1983.

Name: Susette ("Bright Eyes") LaFlesche Tibbles (1854-1903)

Category: Frontier life, Social Activism, Education, Author, Artist

Death Date: May 26, 1903

Years in Nebraska: 1854-1903 except for lecture tours

State contribution: Teacher, translator, writer, artist

National contribution: Lecturer, writer, artist

Joseph LaFlesche (Iron Eye)

The Indian name of Joseph LaFlesche, also known as Iron Eye, was E-sta-mah-za. LaFlesche, the son of a Frenchman and a woman of the Ponca tribe, was the adopted son of Chief Big Elk, the First, of the Omahas. He was selected by Big Elk to be his successor as chief. LaFlesche's policy, favoring civilization and education for the Omaha tribe, was met with disapproval by the Omahas. He brought about the elimination of intemperance among tribal members during his rule. Even though he was trusted and respected, the time he was chief of the Omahas was filled with strife.

Visualizing that white people would soon populate the Plains region, LaFlesche advocated the tribe's peaceful cohabitation of the Plains by their becoming farmers and by their seeking education for their children. Though he had no formal education, and could not speak English, nor read or write, LaFlesche wanted his people to have the rights citizenship would bring, and also to own land individually by patent.

LaFlesche was the last to be made chief under the old Omaha rituals. As mediator between the Omaha tribe and the government, he tried to ease the Omaha's way into the new society in which they found themselves.

LaFlesche was married twice, first to Mary, the daughter of Dr. John Gale and Nicomi, a woman of the Iowa tribe. His second wife was Tainne of the Omaha tribe. He was the father of several children, among them Susette (Bright Eyes) Tibbles, nationally known social activist, Dr. Susan

Picotte, first native American woman physician in the United States, and Francis LaFlesche, who was an author in Washington, D.C.

Name: Joseph LaFlesche (Iron Eye) (ca 1820-1888)

Category: Frontier Life

Death date: September 24, 1888

Years in State: ca 1820-1888

State contribution: Omaha tribal chief

Susan LaFlesche Picotte

Susan LaFlesche Picotte, the first native American woman to earn a medical degree, was born on the Omaha reservation near Macy in northeastern Nebraska in 1865. She was the youngest daughter of Mary and Joseph LaFlesche. Mary was a daughter of Dr. John Gale and Ni-co-mi of the Iowa tribe. Joseph, also known as Iron Eye, was a son of Joseph LaFlesche, a French trader and his wife, a woman of the Ponca tribe. Iron Eye was the last recognized chief of the Omaha.

Between 1870 and 1879 Susan attended school on the reservation. At the age of 14, she enrolled at the Elizabeth Institute for Young Ladies at Elizabeth, New Jersey. Here she studied philosophy, physiology, and literature. After she was graduated in 1882, Susan worked at the Mission School on the Omaha reservation until 1884. Along with two of her sisters, she attended Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute in Virginia from 1884 to 1886.

Susan then entered Women's Medical College of Pennsylvania at Philadelphia, receiving financial aid from the Women's National Indian Association. She was graduated, first in her class of thirty-six members, in 1889 with a medical degree. After interning for one year at Women's Hospital in Philadelphia, Susan returned to the Omaha reservation to become a physician for the government school. Later she became government physician for the Omaha Tribe. She was the only Indian ever appointed as a medical missionary by the Presbyterian Board of Home Missions.

In 1894 Susan married Henry Picotte. They were the parents of two sons. After her marriage,

Dr. Picotte resigned from government school work and settled at Bancroft where she cared for her family and her ailing mother and also provided medical care for Indians and for her white neighbors.

In 1905 Henry Picotte died. The next year Dr. Picotte, along with her sons and her mother, moved to the new community of Walthill to live near her sister, Marguerite Diddock. The two sisters were active in the community, sponsoring religious and community activities.

Dr. Picotte was also active in medical organizations. She was one of the founders of the Thurston County Medical Association. As county health officer, she was involved in public health issues. She lobbied at the State Legislature for better public health laws.

As a member of the State Medical Association, Dr. Picotte worked to combat alcoholism among the Omaha, and she lectured in favor of temperance. Her father, Joseph LaFlesche, had worked successfully for temperance among the Omaha for many years. In 1906 Dr. Picotte's work brought about in Washington, D.C. a stipulation that every property deed in communities on the Omaha reservation would prohibit the sale of alcohol.

Dr. Picotte was an able spokesperson for her people, declaring that she would cooperate with the Indian Agencies in anything that was for the good of the tribe. She battled government bureaucracy and worked for economic, social, and spiritual advancement of native Americans.

In 1912 a new hospital, built for Dr. Picotte with funds received from grants and donations,

opened in Walthill. After Dr. Picotte died on September 18, 1915, the hospital was named in her honor. The hospital existed until the late 1940s. Later it served as a care center for the elderly. In 1989 the building was restored and it now displays photos and artifacts from Dr. Picotte's life. Named the Susan LaFlesche Picotte Center, it commemorates Dr. Picotte's medical work and her life, dedicated to the welfare of her people.

Because of Joseph LaFlesche's foresight, Susan LaFlesche Picotte and the other LaFlesche children were well educated. In order to work effectively for the welfare of the Omaha and other native Americans, they adapted to the ways of the white culture around them. They truly lived in two cultures.

Name: Susan LaFlesche Picotte (1865-1915)

Category: Frontier life, Social Activism, Medicine

Death Date: September 18, 1915

State Contribution: Medical doctor, founded hospital, public health legislation

National Contribution: Indian rights spokesperson, health legislation

Manuel Lisa

Manuel Lisa is called Nebraska's first white settler. Born in Cuba, Lisa came to Louisiana with his parents and then to St. Louis in the late 1790s. He came up the Missouri in 1807 to start a furtrading venture. Lisa built the first Ft. Lisa (also called Fort Manuel or Manuel's Fort) on the Big Horn River in Montana. When he returned to St. Louis he helped organize the St. Louis Fur company in 1809 and became one of its directors. In 1812 the company was reorganized and became known as the Missouri Fur Company of St. Louis and Lisa became its president.

Lisa had to abandon Ft. Lisa during the War of 1812 because of pressure from the British and the Indians. The Minnesota Sioux, Yanktonai, and some Upper Missouri Indians fought alongside of the British in the Northwest. From 1814 through 1817 Lisa was the sub-agent for all of the Indian tribes along the Missouri River north of Kansas. He helped prevent some of the Teton tribes from becoming British allies. Lisa spent 1813 to 1815 at Ft. Lisa and when he returned to St. Louis he brought forty-three chiefs together to negotiate treaties with the United States Government.

Lisa established the second Ft. Lisa, north of present-day Omaha in 1812, and it became one of the most important fur trading posts in what is now Nebraska. It controlled the fur trade of the Omaha, Oto, and Pawnee. As head of the Missouri Fur Co. of St. Louis Lisa again extended the fur trade into the Northwest from Ft. Lisa on the Missouri after the War of 1812.

Because Lisa spent most of the winters at Ft. Lisa, he became known as Nebraska's first white settler. He returned to St.

Louis each spring. He became one of the incorporators of the Bank of St. Louis in 1813. In 1818 he married Mary Hampstead Keeney of St Louis. She probably was the first white woman to live in Nebraska. She spent the winters of 1819 and 1820 at Ft. Lisa. In 1819 Lisa assisted the Yellowstone Expedition which had established its headquarters near Lisa's trading post. Lisa returned to St. Louis and died there on August 12, 1820.

Manuel Lisa and other furtraders generally were helpful to the Indians. They brought trade goods, blankets and other supplies, but also brought whiskey, which caused many problems. Lisa saw himself as the Indian's benefactor, not as an exploiter. He wrote in 1817 to William Clark that he had distributed garden seeds to the Indians, including seeds of pumpkin, beans, turnips, and potatoes; that he had loaned them traps and had arranged for blacksmithing to be done for them.

Name: Manuel Lisa (1772-1820)

Category: Frontier Life

Death Date: August 12, 1820

State contribution: Established fur-trading post in present-day Nebraska, sub-agent for Indian tribes along the Missouri

National contribution: President of the Missouri Fur Company of St Louis, assisted Yellowstone Expedition of 1819.

Charles W. McConaughy

Charles W. McConaughy was known as the "Father of the Tri-County Irrigation Project" in Nebraska. Along with George P. Kingsley of Minden, McConaughy began in 1913 what was to be a life-long effort to promote irrigation in central Nebraska.

McConaughy was born in Illinois in 1859 and worked in Ohio and in Pennsylvania before coming to Holdrege, Nebraska in 1892 to start a grain business. His work with the farmers in Phelps County aroused his interest in irrigation. Meetings with farmers led to the formation of the Tri-County Supplementary Water Association in 1913, with McConaughy as its first president.

McConaughy went to Washington, D.C. and with the help of Senator George W. Norris and Secretary of State William Jennings Bryan, he obtained financial aid from the Bureau of Reclamation for an initial survey. It was not until years later, when the drought came to south central Nebraska, that \$35 million was allotted for the Tri-County Project. The project would construct a dam on the North Platte River to irrigate land in Phelps, Kearney, and Adams counties.

McConaughy was one of the original members of the Tri-County board of directors and served on the board until 1936. At the time of his death at Holdrege on April 13, 1941, McConaughy saw his dream, the construction of the Central Nebraska (Tri-County) Public Power and Irrigation Project, nearly completed. The dam near Ogallala was named for George P. Kingsley,

while the reservoir it created was named Lake C.W. McConaughy. In addition to

Name: Charles W. McConaughy (1859-1941)

Category: Agriculture, Conservation, Commerce

Death date: April 13, 1941

Years in Nebraska: 1892-1941

State contribution: Irrigation and public power in Nebraska

National contribution: Influenced U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to support irrigation projects
irrigation, the Tri-County Project has provided recreation and the generation of electricity.

Samuel Roy McKelvie

Samuel Roy McKelvie was governor of Nebraska from 1919 to 1922. Elected at the age of 37, the Fairfield Nebraska native was then the youngest governor ever elected in the nation.

McKelvie attended the University of Nebraska and the Lincoln Business College, and then worked in advertising for the Bee Publishing Company of Omaha from 1902 to 1905. After several years as editor of the Nebraska Farmer, he purchased the magazine in 1907 and soon made it the leading farm paper in the state.

Through his work as publisher of the Nebraska Farmer, McKelvie became well-known and was elected to the state legislature in 1911. He served as lieutenant governor from 1913 to 1915 and was elected governor in 1918, serving two terms.

During these four years, a new state capitol was authorized. In 1919-20, a constitutional convention to update the state constitution was held. The legislature enacted the Civil Administration Code, combining state bureaus and commissions into six departments. It also recodified state laws. Other important legislation dealt with highway improvement, the state park system, state budget, and ratification of the Nineteenth (Woman Suffrage) Amendment by the Nebraska Legislature. McKelvie turned down an offer to be the Secretary of Agriculture under President Hoover, however he did serve on Hoover's Federal Farm Board.

Although he continued as owner-publisher of the Nebraska Farmer, McKelvie in 1931 became

actively engaged in the livestock business, an interest he had held since his youth in Clay County. He purchased a 10,000-acre ranch near Valentine and named it "By the Way Ranch." He helped organize the Sand Hills Cattle Association and was its president for ten years. In 1937 he became president of the American Hereford Association, then the largest organization of cattle breeders in the world.

One of the rewards he received for his lifelong dedication to Nebraska and the development of its agriculture, was an honorary doctor's degree in agriculture from the University of Nebraska in 1951. McKelvie died in Mesa, Arizona on January 6, 1956.

Name: Samuel Roy McKelvie (1881-1956)

Category: Agriculture, commerce, politics, journalism

Death Date: January 6, 1956

Years in Nebraska: 1881-1956

State contribution: Nebraska governor, legislator, owner-publisher of Nebraska Farmer magazine

National contribution: President of American Hereford Association, served on President Hoover's Federal Farm Board

Eliza Wilcox Merrill and Moses P. Merrill

The first missionaries to come to Nebraska were Rev. Moses P. Merrill and his wife, Eliza Wilcox Merrill, Baptist missionaries, who came in 1833 to Bellevue and established a school for the Oto Indians. Merrill, born and educated in Maine, was a school teacher before becoming a missionary-preacher. Merrill and Eliza Wilcox were married in 1830 and served together as missionaries in Michigan and at the Shawnee Mission in Missouri.

Their continued interest in missions to the Indians then led them to open the Oto mission school at Bellevue. From 1835 to 1840 they lived in the newly relocated Oto village eight miles southwest of Bellevue. In these two locations, the Merrills taught and ministered to the Oto. They learned the Oto language and prepared spelling and reading books and as well as a hymn book in the Oto language.

In 1838 Merrill accompanied the Oto on a buffalo hunt and afterwards his health declined and he died from tuberculosis on February 6, 1840.

Eliza Merrill was one of the first white women to reside in Nebraska. One week after the Merrills arrived in Bellevue, she opened a school for the Oto. The Merrills' son, born in 1835 at Bellevue shortly before they moved to the new village, was the second white child born in Nebraska. After the death of her husband, Mrs. Merrill moved to the East with her son, settling in New York. Here she later established the Albany Orphanage. She died in 1881

Name: Eliza Wilcox Merrill (1800-1881) and Moses P. Merrill (1803-1840)

Category: Frontier Life

Death Dates: Eliza, 1881; Moses, 1840

Years in Nebraska: 1833-40

State contribution: First school for Indians in Nebraska

National contribution: Translated literature into Oto language, including a spelling book, reader, and hymnal.

Dr. George Lorin Miller

Dr. George Lorin Miller, founder of the Omaha Daily Herald, which later became part of the Omaha-World Herald, arrived in Omaha in 1854, the year Nebraska territory was created. He started a medical practice in Omaha, but soon became a politician and a journalist.

The New York native was graduated from medical school in New York City in 1852 and practiced in Syracuse, N.Y. for two years before coming to Nebraska. During his first year in Nebraska, Miller was elected to the territorial legislature. He served one year in the house and then was elected to three terms in the council. He ran for territorial delegate to Congress in 1864 but was defeated. The next year he started the Omaha Daily Herald and was its editor for about 23 years before selling it in 1887.

Miller made many worthy contributions to the state. He helped in acquiring for Omaha the transcontinental railroad and the Union Pacific bridge. He assisted in recruiting the First Nebraska Regiment prior to the Civil War and thereafter was sutler at Fort Kearny until 1864.

Miller, along with George Holdrege, manager of the Burlington Railroad lines west of the Missouri, was instrumental in successfully introducing winter wheat into Nebraska, and advocated a new method of sowing wheat. He was a promoter of tree-planting and a booster of Nebraska agriculture.

Dr. Miller served on committees to promote the 1899 Trans-Mississippi Exposition in Omaha

and was its president in 1899. He served as president of the Nebraska State Historical Society from 1907-1909. Miller died in Omaha on August 28, 1920.

Name: Dr. George Lorin Miller (1830-1920)

Category: Commerce, politics, journalism

Death date: August 28, 1920

Years in state: 1854-1920

State contribution: State senator, founder of Omaha Herald, promoter of agriculture and tree planting

National contribution: promoted railroads and Omaha Trans-Mississippi and International Exposition of 1898.

J. Sterling Morton

Julius Sterling Morton, noted politician and together with Robert Furnas the co-founder of Arbor Day, was born in New York state and educated in Michigan. Morton and his bride, Carolyn Joy, set out for Nebraska territory on their wedding day in the fall of 1854. They soon settled in Nebraska City where he became the editor of the Nebraska News. His life-long interest in writing and publishing began in his grandfather's newspaper office in Michigan.

In the fall of 1855, 23-year old Morton was elected from Otoe County to the territory's 2nd Legislative Assembly and was re-elected in 1857. President James Buchanan appointed him secretary and acting governor of Nebraska Territory 1858-61. Morton was nominated for governor by the Democratic party in 1867 but was defeated by David Butler, who became the first state governor.

During the years between 1867-1882, Morton dropped out of politics and promoted agriculture. He served on the state board of agriculture and was a member of the state horticultural society, advocating improved farming methods, conservation programs, and tree planting.

The State Board of Agriculture, in 1872, adopted Morton's resolution setting April 10 as Arbor Day. This day was to be set aside to plant trees, and to offer a prize to the person who properly planted the most trees. Governor Robert Furnas issued a proclamation in 1874 asking Nebraskans to observe Arbor Day. In 1885 Morton's birthday, April 22, was designated as Arbor Day by the state legislature, and it became a legal holiday in

Nebraska. Arbor Day was observed on April 22 until 1989, when by legislative action the holiday was changed to the last Friday in April.

After several unsuccessful campaigns for governor and for the U.S. Senate between 1882 and 1893, Morton was appointed U.S. secretary of agriculture in 1893 by President Grover Cleveland. Morton was the first cabinet member appointed from west of the Missouri River.

Morton served four years as secretary of agriculture, then returned to Nebraska City where he published a weekly journal, The conservative. Arbor Lodge, the name given to Morton's home west of Nebraska City, grew from a four-room farm house into a fifty-two-room mansion, surrounded by a large grove of trees.

Most of these trees were planted by Morton and his wife. In 1923 the Morton family donated the house and grounds to the State of Nebraska as a monument to Morton. Today Arbor Lodge is a state historical park. A bronze statue of Morton, cast by Rudolph Evans, and financed by school children and other friends, was erected in 1905.

Morton's statue stands in the National Hall of Fame in Washington, D.C. He was named to the Nebraska Hall of Agricultural Achievement in 1918. Morton was inducted into the Nebraska Hall of Fame in 1975. In 1987 he was made a member of the Agricultural Hall of Fame at Bonner Springs, Kansas. Morton was elected president of the Nebraska State Historical Society in 1891 and was serving in that office at the time of his death on April 27, 1902 at Lake Forest, Illinois.

Name: Dr. George Lorin Miller (1830-1920)

Category: Commerce, politics, journalism

Death date: August 28, 1920

Years in state: 1854-1920

State contribution: State senator, founder of Omaha Herald, promoter of agriculture and tree planting

National contribution: promoted railroads and Omaha Trans-Mississippi and International Exposition of 1898.

John Gneisenau Neihardt

John Gneisenau Neihardt was Nebraska's Poet Laureate for fifty-two years. Neihardt was born in 1881 and came to Wayne, Nebraska with his parents as a ten year old boy. The Illinois native was graduated from Wayne Normal College at the age of sixteen and then taught in rural schools near Hoskins, Nebraska in Wayne County for several years. He began writing poetry at the age of twelve and published his first book at the age of nineteen.

His life-long interest in native Americans, their culture, and their problems began when he moved to Bancroft, Nebraska in 1901. He was an assistant in a trader's office and worked closely with the Indian people. Eventually he became an authority on their traditions and customs. He spent many hours in Indian camps learning their history. Between 1944 and 1948 he held various positions with the United States Bureau of Indian Affairs.

For a time he was co-owner and editor of a small weekly newspaper in Bancroft. He then combined two of the things he enjoyed: writing and the study of Indian culture. In preparation for writing about America's westward expansion, Neihardt traveled extensively. He descended the Missouri River from its headwaters at Fort Benton, Montana, in an open boat. He also researched the experiences of trappers and traders who had explored the western wilderness and of the pioneers who had settled the area.

While Neihardt had used other forms of writing, he felt that poetry was his natural field. In 1912

he started A Cycle of the West, finally completing it in 1941. This epic poem has four parts: The Song of Hugh Glass, 1915; The Song of Three Friends, 1919; The Song of the Indian Wars, 1925; and The Song of the Messiah, 1941. These poems were published in 1949, and thereafter Neihardt became well-known in the literary world. Black Elk Speaks, first published in 1932, is now Neihardt's most famous work. It became popular in the 1970s after Neihardt's appearance on the Dick Cavett TV show had rekindled interest in the author and his works.

The meeting between Neihardt and his wife Mona Martinson, a talented sculptor, resulted from her interest in his writing.

Neihardt moved to Branson, Missouri in 1920 where he continued his writing. He was a professor in poetry at the University of Nebraska in 1923, and from 1926 to 1938 he was literary editor of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. At the age of sixty-eighty he became Poet-in-Residence and lecturer at the University of Missouri at Columbus, a position he held from 1949 to 1956.

Neihardt continued his writing and received national writing and poetry awards, including Prairie Poet Laureate of America in 1968. He was chosen Nebraska Poet Laureate in 1921 and held the title for fifty-two years until his death in 1973. Neihardt received honorary degrees from the University of Nebraska, from the University of Missouri, and from Creighton University in Omaha.

Neihardt moved to Lincoln when he was in his eighties and lived for a time with the Julius Young family. He returned to Missouri and died at his daughter's home in Columbia, Missouri at

the age of ninety-two on November 3, 1973.

Neihardt was inducted into the Nebraska Hall of Fame in 1974. The Neihardt Center, built at Bancroft (with funds provided by the state,) is a memorial to John G. Neihardt and his literary works. The Center, administered by the Nebraska State Historical Society, includes the Museum, Sioux Prayer Garden, and Neihardt's study, a small one-room building that Neihardt used as a quiet place to concentrate on his writing.

Name: John Gneisenau Neihardt (1881-1973)

Category: Author

Death date: November 3, 1973

Years in state: 1891-1920

State contribution: Teacher, Nebraska Poet Laureate, writer

National contribution: Poet, educator, philosophe

George William Norris

George William Norris came to Beaver City, Nebraska in 1885 to practice law. In his three terms as the prosecuting attorney of Furnas County, and in his seven years as judge in Nebraska's Fourteenth judicial district, Norris's influence was felt in south central Nebraska. However, in his 40 years in the U.S. Congress his outstanding contributions influenced the entire nation.

Norris was born in 1861 in Ohio and after one year at Baldwin University in Ohio, he enrolled in Indiana State Normal School at Valparaiso. During the years he was a school teacher, he also studied law. He then entered law school at Valparaiso and was admitted to the bar in 1883.

In order to have funds to set up a law practice, Norris returned to teaching for a short time, then in 1884 began a partnership with H.H. Harrington in a law office in Beatrice, Nebraska. Within a year, however, Norris moved to Beaver City in Furnas County, Nebraska, and established a law practice there.

In 1899 Norris moved to McCook, Nebraska. He was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1902 and served five terms. He was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1912, where he also served five terms. He served under seven presidents, from Theodore Roosevelt through Franklin Roosevelt.

Norris's accomplishments during these years that he represented Nebraska in Washington, D.C. included writing the Twentieth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which is also known as the

"Lame Duck" amendment. He introduced it in the Senate and helped secure its passage in 1933. This amendment provided that Congress convene in January following the election in November, instead of months later. It also advanced the presidential inauguration from March to January.

Norris is credited with planning the Tennessee Valley Authority, which provided flood control and created electricity in the region drained by the Tennessee River. The TVA, as it is known, was a forerunner of the Rural Electrification Act (REA), which eventually brought electricity to farms and ranches across the nation. Norris is also known for his support of the rights of laborers in collective bargaining.

Norris wrote and promoted the Nebraska constitutional amendment that created the Unicameral Legislature in Nebraska, which is unique among the 50 states.

While Norris was a Republican, except for his last term in office, his attitude and actions were that of a progressive. He had planned to retire in 1936 but was encouraged to run again for the Senate as an independent. He was elected by a large majority.

Throughout his years in public office, Norris had received much support from Democrats in Nebraska. In turn, he had campaigned for Alfred Smith (1928) and Franklin D. Roosevelt (1932, 1936, and 1940). Norris's defeat in the Senate race in 1942, was thought to have resulted from his support for these Democratic candidates.

Norris returned to McCook in 1943 and died there on September 2, 1944. He was the first person named to the newly created Nebraska Hall of Fame in 1961.

The Norris Home in McCook, a National Historic Landmark, contains original family furnishings and memorabilia from Norris's years in Washington and is open to the public as a branch museum of the Nebraska State Historical Society.

Name: George William Norris (1861-1944)

Category: Politics, law

Death date: September 2, 1944

Years in state: 1885-1944 (except for years in Washington, D.C. (1902-1942))

State contribution: Father of the Nebraska Unicameral legislature, district judge (1895-1902)

National contribution: U.S. Congressman, 1902-12; U.S. Senator, 1912-1942, sponsor of bills creating the Tennessee Valley Authority, Twentieth Amendment to U.S. Constitution.

Major Frank Joshua North

Major Frank Joshua North, the organizer and leader of the well-known Pawnee Scouts Army unit, was born in New York state in 1840. The family moved first to Ohio and later to Omaha in Nebraska territory in 1856. Several years later, after the death of his father, North moved in 1858 with his family to Platte County. To help support his family, young North found work as a clerk in the trader's store at the Pawnee Agency. He soon learned the Pawnee language and became an interpreter.

In 1864 he was employed by the U.S. Army to organize and lead a company of Pawnee Scouts against bands of Indians who were resisting the government. The next year he was made a captain in the army and was placed in command of the scouts. From 1865-1877 North and the Pawnee Scouts served in Nebraska, Kansas, and Wyoming.

North and the Pawnee Scouts saw action under General Patrick Conner in the Powder River Expedition of 1865. Following this battle, the Pawnee gave Captain North the name "Pani Le-Shar" (Chief of the Pawnee) as a special tribute. During 1867 and 1868 Captain North and four scout companies acted as guards for Union Pacific Railroad construction crews. He led the Pawnee Scouts in the Battle of Summit Springs, under Major General E. A. Carr in 1869.

North was promoted to major, put in charge of a scout battalion, and served under General George Crook in an expedition on the Big Horn in 1876-77.

Major North retired from army service in 1877. He served in the state house of representatives in 1882-83. North, along with Buffalo Bill Cody, and his brother, Luther North, actively managed a ranch located on the Dismal River north of North Platte, the first ranch to have its headquarters in the Sand Hills.

North is also listed as a performer in Buffalo Bill's 1883 "Wild West" show. He was known as the best revolver shot on the Plains.

North died at his home in Columbus, Nebraska on March 14, 1885. He was named to the Cowboy Hall of Fame in Oklahoma City in 1958.

Name: Major Frank Joshua North (1840-1885)

Category: Frontier Life

Death date: March 14, 1885

Years in state: 1856-1885

State contribution: Leader of Pawnee Scouts; helped provide protection for travelers on the trails; helped open state to white settlement.

National contribution: Under U.S. Army generals, led Pawnee scouts against Cheyenne and Sioux.

William A. Paxton

William A. Paxton, rancher, cattleman, and early Omaha businessman, was for fifty years one of the builders of Nebraska, beginning in 1857. Paxton was born in Kentucky in 1837, and his formal schooling ended at the age of twelve when the family moved to Missouri. Soon after that Paxton was employed by a nearby farmer, and by the time he was fifteen, he had started his own business. He purchased oxen and a plow and began to break prairie sod for new settlers. The following year Paxton became farm manager for M. J. Regan, for whom he was employed in several types of work between 1853 and 1862.

Paxton accompanied Regan to Omaha in 1857 and became the foreman of a bridge building crew on the military road between Omaha and Fort Kearny. Next, Paxton tried farming in Missouri. Several different attempts were unsuccessful, and after each try, he returned to Omaha.

In 1860 and again in 1863-64, Paxton was hired as a freighter, hauling between Omaha and Denver. He purchased a team of horses from Edward Creighton in 1865 and started his own freighting business, which he operated between Omaha and Denver until 1867. He had worked for Creighton, building Western Union Telegraph lines westward from Omaha in 1861.

Paxton in 1867 received a contract from the Union Pacific Railroad for grading the roadway west of Julesburg, Colorado. He was employed by the railroad for several years, first as foreman of a crew hired to supply railroad ties, and then as manager of a large railroad construction gang. Although Paxton returned to Omaha in 1868, his venture in railroad building continued the next

year when he contracted with the Omaha and Northwestern Railroad to build lines north out of Omaha to Oakland, Nebraska, about fifty-five miles.

After a short stay in Omaha, Paxton next became involved in the cattle business. He bought cattle at Abilene, Kansas, and drove them to Omaha, sold them, and went into ranching near Ogallala, Nebraska. Paxton and two partners supplied beef to Indian Agencies for five years. Paxton operated the Keystone Cattle Company ranch at Ogallala and also owned ranches near Hyannis and Paxton, Nebraska which was named for him. In 1875 Paxton returned to Omaha once more but did not sell his ranch until 1883.

Beginning in 1875 on Paxton was associated with several Omaha businesses. In 1879 he became a principal stockholder in the Nebraska Telephone Company, and in 1882, vice-president of the Omaha Savings Bank. The same year, in partnership with Ben Gallagher, he organized the Paxton and Gallagher Wholesale Grocery firm. This firm was in existence until 1958, when it was sold to Gilbert C. Swanson and W. Clarke Swanson and renamed Butternut Foods. Paxton was one of the organizers of the Paxton-Veirling Iron Works in 1886. He was part of a group which in 1880 purchased and developed a tract of land in Omaha which became the site of the Nebraska State Fair for several years.

In 1878 Paxton helped form the first Union Stockyards Company in Omaha, but soon afterwards it was moved to Council Bluffs, Iowa. When the Union Stockyards Company was reorganized and moved to South Omaha in 1883, Paxton became the first president of the corporation. He was also instrumental in organizing related businesses, including the Union Stockyards Bank of

South Omaha, Union Stockyards Railroad Company, the Union Elevator, the Union Trust Company, and the South Omaha Land Syndicate, of which he was vice-president.

In addition to the Paxton and Gallagher Company and the Paxton-Veirling Iron Works, William A. Paxton's name was given to the Paxton Block of office buildings which he constructed, the Paxton Hotel, and Paxton Boulevard. He also built the Ware Block (named for his wife, Mary Jane Ware), the Granite Block, and the Merchants Hotel.

While his main interest was in business, Paxton was involved briefly in politics. He was elected to the lower house of the state legislature in 1881 and served in the state senate in 1889. Paxton died in Omaha on July 18, 1907. His leadership was an essential factor in Omaha's becoming a prominent stockyards and meatpacking center.

Paxton was inducted into the Hall of Great Westerners in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma in 1961.

Name: William A. Paxton (1837-1907)

Category: Commerce, Frontier Life, Agriculture

Death date: July 18, 1907

Years in Nebraska: 1857-1907

State contribution: Union Stock Yards, rancher-cattleman

National contribution: Freightier, railroad construction

John Joseph Pershing

John Joseph Pershing, Commander of the American Expeditionary Forces in World War I, purchased a home in Lincoln in 1920, expecting to live there in retirement. Pershing had lived in Lincoln from 1891-1895 while he was a professor at the University of Nebraska.

John J. Pershing was born in Missouri in 1860. He attended Normal School and taught school in Missouri before entering the United States Military Academy at West Point. Upon graduation in 1886 he was commissioned a second lieutenant.

Pershing's first assignment was with the Sixth Cavalry in New Mexico where he served under General Nelson Miles in the Apache Campaign. His regiment was on the Sioux reservation in South Dakota in the winter of 1890-91 during the Wounded Knee episode.

He came to Lincoln in 1891 and became cadet instructor at the University of Nebraska. His title was "Professor of Military Science and Tactics." He started drill teams which grew into a national organization known as the "Pershing Rifles." While teaching mathematics at the University he studied law, and received his law degree in 1893. Later, in 1897-98, he was an instructor in tactics at the U.S. Military Academy.

As a first lieutenant in the 10th Cavalry, Pershing was sent in 1895-96 to Fort Assinboine, Montana, near Cree Indian Territory. After action there with a Negro unit of the Tenth Cavalry, he received his nickname, "Black Jack Pershing." Pershing served with the Tenth Cavalry in the

Spanish American War and in 1898 fought in the Battle of San Juan Hill.

The desk job which followed at the war department in Washington, D.C., was not to his liking, so with the help of the assistant secretary of war, George Meiklejohn of Fullerton, Nebraska, Pershing received an assignment in the Philippines. He became a captain in 1901 and in 1906 was made a brigadier general by President Theodore Roosevelt in recognition of his service fighting Philippine nationalists.

Pershing was a military attache with Kuroki's Army in Manchuria during the Russo-Japanese War in 1905. His military service from 1899 to 1913 was mainly in the Philippines, culminating at the

Battle of Mt. Bagsak in 1913 in the Moro Campaign, for which he later received the Distinguished Service Cross. Later that year he was sent to Presidio in San Francisco, where he was made commander of the Eighth Cavalry Brigade. In 1916 President Woodrow Wilson put him in command of forces assigned to capture Francisco "Pancho" Villa, head of Mexican revolutionaries who were raiding United States towns on the Mexican border. Villa avoided capture and after eleven months, Pershing was ordered to withdraw.

Now a major general, Pershing was chosen in 1917 to command American Expeditionary Forces in Europe when the United States entered World War I. Pershing's firm stand in a disagreement with other allied commanders led to the United States Army's fighting as an independent army under its own officers, rather than as mere replacements for British and French armies. At the end of the war, when Pershing wanted

to march into Berlin, other allied commanders voted against it.

By an act of Congress, Pershing was made General of the Armies of the United States in 1919. After returning to the United States, Pershing was appointed Chief of Staff, U.S. Army, in 1921 and succeeded in reorganizing the army in spite of peacetime opposition to maintaining a large force.

He retired from the Army in 1924 and was involved in special assignments until his health began to fail in 1933. In 1931 he wrote a book, My Experiences in World War I. Although in frail health, Pershing was concerned about the war situation in Europe, and addressed the nation by radio in 1940 to warn of the dangers of impending war.

Pershing lived at Walter Reed Hospital in Washington, D.C. from 1941 until his death on July 15, 1948. Burial was at Arlington National Cemetery. Although Pershing didn't return to his retirement home in Lincoln, his sisters lived in Lincoln and made a home for his son, Warren. Pershing's wife and three daughters had perished in a fire at The Presidio in 1915.

Pershing received an honorary degree from the University of Nebraska in 1917. He also received honorary degrees from Cambridge, Oxford, Pennsylvania Academy, Yale, and St. Andrews University in Scotland. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross and gold medals for leadership, military achievement, and for a "life of outstanding service to his country."

In 1954 the newly built armory on the agricultural campus of the University of Nebraska was

named Pershing Memorial Armory. Pershing Municipal Auditorium, Pershing Elementary School and Pershing Road, all in Lincoln, were named for him. When he was named to the Nebraska Hall of Fame for 1963-64, a bust of General Pershing was placed in the state capitol.

Name: John Joseph Pershing (1860-1948)

Category: Military

Death date: July 15, 1948

Years in Nebraska: 1891-1895

State contribution: Commandant of cadets at University of Nebraska

National contribution: Army service in Indian campaigns, Spanish-American War, Philippine War, Mexican Border Affair. Commanding General, American Expeditionary Forces, World War I.

Peter Abadie Sarpy

Peter Abadie Sarpy became well-known as the owner-operator of the Sarpy Trading Post in Bellevue and as a leader in commerce and politics at Bellevue from 1840 to 1860.

Sarpy was born in 1804 in New Orleans, Louisiana and moved with his family to St. Louis, where he received his education. He came to Nebraska Territory in 1823 to work at the American Fur Company's trading post near Bellevue. He was employed by his brother's father-in-law, John P. Cabanne. Sometime later Sarpy established a trading post for white traders on the Iowa side of the Missouri River and he named it the "Trader's Post." The post at Bellevue mainly served the Indians.

In 1832 Sarpy was ordered by Cabanne to head a group of American Fur Company employees whose orders were to take possession of a keelboat belonging to a competing company. As a result of this illegal seizure, Cabanne and Sarpy were ordered to leave Indian territory for a year. Later Cabanne was replaced at the trading post by Joshua Pilcher.

During 1835 Sarpy operated the Council Bluff trading post for one year, then moved westward where he established Fort Jackson on the upper South Platte River in present-day Colorado in 1837. The next year Sarpy returned to the Bellevue area and in 1840 moved into the Bellevue trading post formerly occupied by Lucien Fontenelle.

Sarpy started a ferrying business across the Missouri between Bellevue and St. Mary's on the

Iowa side. In 1847 Sarpy ferried the Mormons across the Missouri, helped supply them with food and clothing for the winter, and the following spring helped outfit them for the remainder of their travels. During the gold rush years, Sarpy's ferry boats hauled many of the would-be gold miners across the Missouri.

In 1853 "Traders' Post" was moved to St. Mary's. That year Sarpy's ferrying business was expanded and included ferries across the Elkhorn at Elkhorn City (later called Elk City) in Douglas County and across a Loup River fork near present day Columbus.

After Sarpy returned to Bellevue in 1838, he became influential in community affairs. Through his efforts, the post office was established there in 1849. Tradition says that the Bellevue area received its name from Manuel Lisa in the early 1800s, though the village was not established until after 1832. In 1854, Sarpy, along with others in the Old Town Company, laid out the town of Bellevue. Later Sarpy joined Stephen Decatur and others in founding Decatur, a town along the Missouri in northeastern Burt County in 1857, and Sarpy started a trading post there.

Sarpy was married to Ni-co-mi, an Omaha Indian woman. He was given the title "White Chief" by the Omaha Tribe. Sarpy moved to Plattsmouth in 1862, and died there on January 4, 1865. Sarpy County was named in his honor.

Name: Peter Abadie Sarpy (1804-1865)

Category: Frontier Life

Death date: January 4, 1865

State contribution: trading post owner-operator

National contribution: supplier of good to travelers, trappers, Indians, white settlers.

Frederick Andrew Seaton

Frederick Andrew Seaton, who was born in 1909 in Washington, D.C., returned to the national capitol to serve as a senator from Nebraska, as an assistant secretary of defense and as secretary of interior.

Seaton was raised in Manhattan, Kansas, where his father was in the newspaper publishing business. Seaton attended Kansas State University and was involved in radio broadcasting and in newspaper work.

From 1931 to 1937 Seaton was associate editor and business manager for Seaton Publications of Manhattan and later was a partner in the company. In 1937 he became publisher and general manager of the Hastings (Nebraska) Daily Tribune.

During the years before Seaton began his career in Washington, D.C., he was active in local and state affairs relating to agriculture, conservation, higher education, and politics, as well as various radio and press organizations. Continuing in his early interest in radio, Seaton became director-owner of KHAS Radio in Hastings and he also owned radio stations in Manhattan and Coffeyville, Kansas. Later, he owned KHAS-TV and was Nebraska chairman for Radio Free Europe.

Seaton had been active in Republican party politics in Kansas. In 1936 he was secretary to Alfred Landon in his unsuccessful presidential campaign. After coming to Nebraska, Seaton

continued his interest in politics. He was a Nebraska state senator for two terms, 1945-47, and 1947-49. During this time he was a member of the Nebraska Judicial Council and later chairman of the Nebraska Legislative Council.

Drawing on his experience in the Landon campaign, Seaton became Nebraska State Chairman for Harold Stassen's unsuccessful 1948 presidential bid and later was an advisor for Dwight D. Eisenhower's presidential campaign in 1952.

Seaton was appointed to the U.S. Senate in December, 1951 by Governor Val Peterson and served one year. After working for the Eisenhower campaign, Seaton was appointed assistant secretary of defense by Eisenhower in 1953. The next year Eisenhower appointed Seaton secretary of interior, and he held this position through 1961. During this time Alaska and Hawaii were admitted to statehood. Seaton later served as chairman of the Timber and Environment Committee in 1973 for President Richard Nixon. Seaton received the Presidential Medal of Honor for his work in the Department of Defense.

After returning to Hastings, Seaton continued to be active nationally in the Republican Party, where he was a member of the speakers bureau of the Republican National Committee.

Besides the Tribune newspaper at Hastings, Seaton owned seven other newspapers in Nebraska and Kansas. He received the Master Publisher-Editor Award given by the Nebraska Press Association.

Seaton was a member of the Board of Directors of the University of Nebraska Foundation, and was a Hastings College trustee for thirty-three years. He provided funds for the Dorothea Elizabeth Seaton Chapel at Hastings College, and gave scholarships at the University of Nebraska and at Kansas State University.

Fred Seaton died on January 16, 1974 in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Name: Frederick Andrew Seaton (1909-74)

Category: Commerce, politics

Death date: January 16, 1974

State contribution: Newspaper publisher, radio-TV station owner, state senator

National contribution: Secretary of Defense, Secretary of Interior under President Eisenhower, U.S. Senator

Standing Bear

The trial of Standing Bear, a Ponca Indian chief, in a United States District court in Omaha in 1879, led to a decision by Judge Elmer Dundy that native Americans are "persons within the meaning of the law" and have the rights of citizenship.

Standing Bear was born on the Ponca reservation in what is now Nebraska around 1834 (some sources say 1829). His Indian name was Ma-chu-nah-zah. Because he showed unusual abilities, he became a chief at an early age.

In early times the Ponca were driven southward by the Sioux. By the time Standing Bear was born they had settled in an area around the mouth of the Niobrara River. In 1858 the Ponca relinquished all land they had claimed except for a small reserve along the Niobrara. They tried to change from nomadic buffalo hunters to farmers. In the Treaty of 1868, the government mistakenly included the Ponca's land in the territory assigned to the Sioux. Following this the Sioux raided the area claimed by the Ponca and many lives were lost. The government's proposal to end the raids was to move the Ponca to Indian Territory (present day Oklahoma).

In 1876 when the Ponca were told they were to be moved to Indian Territory, they sent ten chiefs with a United States agent to look over the land and its prospects. They were to make a decision for the Ponca tribe. However, based on what they learned, the chiefs could not make a favorable report, and the tribe voted not to go to Indian Territory. The government then decided to send the Ponca to Indian Territory with or without their consent. So the Ponca left on foot for Indian

territory, escorted by the U.S. Army.

Inhospitable surroundings there caused many deaths. Standing Bear and thirty others tried to return to their home on the Niobrara. They were stopped on the Omaha Reservation and arrested on orders from the Secretary of Interior at Washington, D.C. General George Crook detained Standing Bear and the others at Fort Omaha. Although they were ordered back to Indian Territory at once, a delay was obtained so they could rest and regain their health. During this time their story was told to the public by Thomas Tibbles of the Omaha World-Herald.

With the help of Thomas Tibbles and two lawyers, John L. Webster and A.J. Poppleton, (and probably General Crook), Standing Bear petitioned the court by a writ of Habeas Corpus. He appeared before Judge Elmer Dundy. The government's lawyer was G.M. Lambertson.

Judge Dundy had to rule on whether an Indian had the rights of freedom guaranteed by the Constitution. The government tried to prove that an Indian was neither a person nor a citizen so couldn't bring suit against the government. On April 30, 1879 Judge Dundy stated that an Indian is a person within the law and that the Ponca were being held illegally. He set free Standing Bear and the Ponca. A government commission, appointed by President Rutherford B. Hayes, investigated and found the Ponca situation to be unjust. They arranged for the return of the Ponca from Indian Territory and allotted land to them along the Niobrara River.

Between 1879 and 1883 Standing Bear traveled in eastern United States and spoke about Indian rights. He was accompanied by Tibbles, Susette (Bright Eyes) LaFlesche, and her brother

Francis LaFlesche. Standing Bear won the support of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow and other prominent people.

After he returned from the East, Standing Bear resided on his old home on the Niobrara and farmed his land. He died in 1908.

Name: Standing Bear (1834 (?) - 1908)

Death date: 1908

Category: Frontier life

Contribution to state: Trial clarified status of Native Americans

Years in Nebraska: Approximately 68 years

National Contribution: Trial outcome declared Indians to be citizens under the law; speaker for Indian rights.

Louise Pound

Louise Pound, born in Lincoln on the 30th of June, 1872, excelled in many fields of endeavor. She combined into one, careers in education, writing, and sports.

Miss Pound enrolled at the University of Nebraska and earned a BA degree in 1892 and her MA in 1895. After two years as an English instructor at the university (from 1897 to 1899), she traveled to Germany and studied at Heidelberg University where she received her Doctor of Philosophy in 1900.

Returning to the University of Nebraska to be a professor of English, Miss Pound became a full professor in 1912. She continued in the English department until her retirement in 1945, when she was named a professor emeritus.

During these years she also was a lecturer, author, and an editor of books and magazines on literature, linguistics, education, and folklore. During summer sessions she lectured at other universities, including the University of California, Yale, Stanford, and the University of Chicago. She received a Doctorate of Literature from Smith College, Northampton, Mass. in 1928.

Interest in the English language and the origin and evolution of words led to her writing several books on linguistics. Other books she has written include Poetic Origins and the Ballad (1922); American Ballads and Songs (1923); Selected writings of Louise Pound (1949), and Nebraska

Folklore (1959).

Dr. Pound was active in many organizations on both the local and national level. She held national offices in several organizations, including Modern Language Association of America, National Council of English Teachers, Folklore Society of America, American Society of University Professors, American Dialect Society and American Society of University Women.

While her primary interest was in the field of education, she had many other interests, including women's equality, sports, and music. She received a diploma in piano from the University of Nebraska in 1892. She was active in the National League for Women's Service and served on the women's committee of the State Council of Defense in 1918.

While in college she helped organize a girls' military company and she set a record at rifle target practice. She was the first woman named to the Lincoln Journal Sports Hall of Fame in 1954. She participated in tennis, golf, cycling, and ice skating, and also coached girls' basketball.

In 1947 she was awarded the Kiwanis Distinguished Service Medal and in 1948, a Distinguished Service Medal from the University of Nebraska Alumni Association.

Dr. Pound died in Lincoln on June 28 1958.

Name: Louise Pound (1872-1958)

Category: Education, Writing, Sports

Years in Nebraska: 1872-1958

State Contribution: University of Nebraska professor, author, sports figure

National Contribution: Author, lecturer, held offices in national literature and education organizations

Death date: June 28, 1958

NOTABLE NEBRASKANS provides 250-800 words about citizens who have made significant contributions in a number of areas. The index lists the name and field of endeavor of the forty-seven Nebraskans for whom we currently have entries.

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