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Founders and Presidents of the Nebraska Academy of Sciences, 1880-1986

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INTRODUCTION

The Nebraska Academy of Sciences is the oldest interdisciplinary scientific organization in Nebraska and one of the oldest and most successful state academies in the United States. It was founded in Omaha on January 30, 1880, and there were seventy-five Charter Members from eighteen communities.

The Union Pacific Railroad officials and employees provided much of the impetus for the establishment of an Academy of Sciences in Nebraska by providing office space and meeting rooms near the Union Pacific headquarters. Railroad passes were issued to all science teachers, professional scientists, and interested citizens to attend monthly meetings. Five of the officers were from the Union Pacific staff.

The Academy was formed to encourage the exchange of scientific data and to improve the communication between the various disciplines of scientific research and teaching in the different educational institutions in Nebraska. The goals of 106 years ago are basically the same as those of today. Interest in the Academy has continued and now there are twelve sections; two divisions, GNATS (Greater Nebraska Association of Teachers of Science) and TER-QUA (Institute for Tertiary and Quaternary Studies); three Junior Academies; two Collegiate Sections; and nine associated societies.
HARSHA, Rev. Wm. J., Omaha; HITCHCOCK, Hon. P.W., Omaha; HOWE, Church, Brownville; HUNTINGTON, Chas. S., Omaha; JEWETT, Geo. H., Sidney; JONES, Alf. D., Omaha; KALEY, H.S., Red Cloud; KENNEDY, B.E.B., Omaha; *KENNEDY, H., Omaha; *KIMBALL, Thos. L., Omaha; KOUTZE, H., Omaha; LARNED, N., Wilber; LEISENRING, P.S., Omaha; LIVINGSTON, R.R., Plattsmouth; *LONG, E.K., Omaha; LOVE, Prof. J.W., Plattsmouth; LUDINGTON, Horace, Omaha; MCBRIDE, J.C., Lincoln; MCKOON, M.G., Omaha; MOORE, Richard C., Omaha; NICHOLSON, Prof. H.H., Peru; PALMER, C.H., Plattsmouth; PEABODY, J.H., Omaha; *PERINE, P.E., Omaha; POINTS, J.J., Omaha; *POPPLETON, A.J., Omaha; REED, Byron, Omaha; ROE, J.P., Kearney; SAUNDERS, Hon. S., Omaha; SAVAGE, Jas. W., Omaha; *SCOTT, W.H., Omaha; SESSIONS, Louis, Norfolk; SMALL, Jas. W., Fairfield; STANTON, Maj. F.H., U.S.A.; *STEBBINS, Chas., Omaha; TUCKER, T.S., Omaha; VALENTINE, Hon. E.K., West Point; WALKER, C.H., Bloomington; *WEBSTER, J.L., Omaha; WHEELER, D.H., Plattsmouth; *WILBER, Prof. C.D., Wilber; WILLIAMS, Rev. Jon, Omaha.

During the 1880s Omaha became an important industrial city and by the early 1890s Lincoln became known as the "educational center of the West." There were eight colleges and universities, as well as a business school and a conservatory of music (Schultz, 1982). The Nebraska Academy of Sciences was reorganized in Lincoln in 1890 and on January 1, 1891 a new Constitution and By-laws, similar to the original ones, were adopted and published (Anonymous, 1891). There were forty-nine Charter Members, and these are listed below.

ALLEN, Prof. Harold N., Mathematics & Physics, Lincoln; ARMSTRONG, J.T., M.D., Psychology, Beatrice; BEATTIE, Prof. James A., Mathematics & Astronomy, Lincoln; BELL, A.T., Botany, Crete; BESSEY, Prof. Charles E., Botany, Lincoln; BIRSS, Miss M. Evelyn, Geology, Peru; BOUTON, Miss Rosa, Chemistry, Lincoln; BRUNER, Prof. Lawrence, Entomology, Lincoln; BURBANK, F.L., M.D., Anatomy, Lincoln; BURNET, Prof. Percy B., Zoology, Lincoln; CLAPP, Prof. Charles R., M.D., Biology, Neligh; CLASON, Horace S., Archaeology, Lincoln; CONKLIN, Julius, Botany, Lincoln; DALES, J.S., Botany, Lincoln; DUNCANSON, Henry B., Botany, Lincoln; FARNAM, George L., Psychology, Peru; FULMER, H. Elton, Chemistry, Lincoln; HART, Alexis C., Psychology, Franklin; HARTLEY, E.T., Microscopy, Lincoln; HIBBARD, D.O., Physics, Blair; HICKS, Prof. Lewis E., Geology, Lincoln; HITCHCOCK, Prof. Henry E., Mathematics, Lincoln; KINGSLEY, Prof. J. Sterling, Biology, Lincoln; KENYON, Frederick C., Zoology, Lincoln; LLOYD, Prof. Rachel, Chemistry, Lincoln; LOWRY, H.B., M.D., Physiology, Lincoln; MANNING, C.D., M.D., Physiology, Lincoln; MANSFELDE, A.S., M.D., Physiology, Ashland; MARSLAND, T.H., Zoology & Chemistry, Lincoln; MERRIAM, L.A., M.D., Psychology, Omaha; NETTLETON, Mrs. Eliza G., Botany, McCook; NICHOLSON, Prof. Hudson H., Chemistry, Lincoln; O'CONNOR, D.C., Chemistry & Botany, Arlington; OLIVER, T.J., M.D., Natural History, Lincoln; POUND, Roscoe, Botany & Law, Lincoln; RAY, Miss Harriet D., Botany, Omaha; SALLEE, L.F., Biology, Mason City; SENTER, Herbert A., Chemistry, Lincoln; SKINNER, Wells H., Botany, Crete; STEPHENS, Andrew B., Botany, Fairbury; SWEZEN, Goodwin D., Natural Science, Crete; TAYLOR, Prof. F.W., Botany, Lincoln; TAYLOR, W. Edgar, Zoology & Geology, Peru; TUCKER, Francis F., Chemistry, Lincoln; VAN VLEET, Albert H., Chemistry & Physics, Peru; WILLIAMS, Prof. Tom A., Botany, Brookings, South Dakota; WISE, W.J., Chemistry & Psychology, Pawnee City; WOODS, Albert F., Botany, Lincoln.
HISTORY

The Nebraska Academy of Sciences has flourished largely through the efforts of dedicated members and volunteers, but the Nebraska State Legislature did provide funds for the printing of twelve small volumes of the Publications series from the 1890s through the early 1920s. The Academy was incorporated on September 20, 1950.

In 1960 the Academy received the first endowment from the estate of two of its Life Members, Rachael and Benjamin Maiben. The Maiben Memorial Endowment consists of invested funds and the Maiben Scientific Research Center (a quarter section of contoured land near Palmyra in Otoe County located about 20 miles [32.2 km] southeast of Lincoln). The interests and dividends from the funds and the sale of the crops from the farm provided money for the establishment of an Academy business office in Morrill Hall on the University of Nebraska downtown campus, and for secretarial help. The Maiben endowment was merged with the Lincoln Foundation in 1983 in order to insure the management of the income as long as the Academy remains active. The Academy continues to seek additional endowments.

The Nebraska State Legislature directly or through the Nebraska Department of Education has provided funds for the publication of the Transactions since 1969. The University of Nebraska libraries became the depository for the Academy publications, the Transactions and the Proceedings, in 1939; and those publications are exchanged with some 600 libraries throughout the world. Since 1972 "Friends of the Academy," which includes numerous business organizations (including foundations) and individuals, have generously provided funds in order to keep the work of the Academy active in all of the colleges, universities, and high schools of the State. Recently, over thirty organizations and forty individuals have made substantial gifts and grants.

PRESIDENTS FROM 1880 TO 1986

*Samuel Aughey, Geology-Biology, UN-Lincoln ................................................................. 1880-1881
*Samuel Aughey, ........................................................................................................ 1881-1882
*Samuel Aughey, ........................................................................................................ 1882-1883
*Samuel Aughey, ........................................................................................................ 1883-1884
*Samuel Aughey, ........................................................................................................ 1884-1885

Charles E. Bessey (Lincoln), Lawrence Bruner (Lincoln) and Hudson H. Nicholson (Peru) kept the Academy active from 1885 to 1891, with monthly meetings chaired by Bessey and Bruner. Bessey had organized the Iowa Academy of Science in 1875 and was President of that organization from 1875 until 1884 when he became a faculty member of the University of Nebraska.

*J. Sterling Kingsley, Zoology, Lincoln ........................................................................... 1891-1892
*Charles E. Bessey, Botany, UN-Lincoln ........................................................................ 1892-1893
*Charles E. Bessey, ........................................................................................................ 1893-1894
*Charles E. Bessey, ........................................................................................................ 1894-1895
*Alvin W. Norton, Psychology, Peru ................................................................................... 1895-1896
*Erwin H. Barbour, Geology, UN-Lincoln ........................................................................... 1896-1897
*Alexander S. von Mansfelde, Medicine, Ashland, M.D. ................................................ 1897-1898
*H. B. Ward, Zoology, Lincoln (Univ. Ill.) ........................................................................... 1898-1899
*Goodwin D. Swenzey, Biology/Astronomy, UN-Lincoln ................................................ 1899-1900
*Harold Gifford, Medicine, Omaha Med. Coll. .................................................................. 1900-1901
*R. Ellery Davis, Mathematics, UN-Lincoln ...................................................................... 1901-1902
*Charles Fordyce, Biology, Lincoln ................................................................................... 1902-1903
*Lawrence Bruner, Entomology, UN-Lincoln .................................................................... 1903-1904
*Henry B. Duncanson, Biology, Peru Normal ..................................................................... 1904-1905
*Robert H. Wolcott, Zoology, UN-Lincoln ........................................................................ 1905-1906
*S. R. Towne, Medicine, Omaha-Brandeis Bldg. ............................................................... 1906-1907
*F. E. Clements, Botany, UN-Lincoln ................................................................................ 1907-1908
*Albert F. Tyler, Entomology, Creighton, Bellevue ......................................................... 1908-1909
*George E. Condra, Geology, UN-Lincoln ........................................................................ 1909-1910
*George E. Condra, ......................................................................................................... 1910-1911
*George A. Loveland, Meteorology, UN-Lincoln ............................................................. 1911-1912
*Clarence J. Elmore, Biology, Grand Island ...................................................................... 1912-1913
*John C. Jensen, Physics, Wesleyan-Lincoln ..................................................................... 1913-1914
*Charles E. Bessey, Botany, UN-Lincoln ........................................................................... 1914-1915
*Lawrence Bruner, Entomology, UN-Lincoln .............................................. 1915-1916
*Raymond J. Pool, Botany, UN-Lincoln ................................................ 1916-1917
*F. C. Jean, Botany, Peru State Teachers ............................................ 1917-1918
*David D. Whitney, Zoology, UN-Lincoln .......................................... 1918-1919
*C. O. Carlson, Biology, Doane-Crete .............................................. 1919-1920
*Elda R. Walker, Botany, UN-Lincoln .............................................. 1920-1921
*John C. Jensen, Physics, Wesleyan-Lincoln ...................................... 1921-1922
*Harold G. Deming, Chemistry, UN-Lincoln .................................. 1922-1923
*H. von W. Schultz, Medicine, Creighton-Omaha ........................................ 1923-1924
Paul B. Sears, Botany, UN-Lincoln ............................................... 1924-1925
*Joseph A. Moss, Chemistry, Cotner Coll.-Bethany ...................................... 1925-1926
*George L. Peltier, Botany, UN-Lincoln ............................................ 1926-1927
*D. W. Crouse, Mathematics, Fremont ............................................... 1927-1928
*William C. Brenke, Mathematics, UN-Lincoln ...................................... 1928-1929
*Arthur E. Holch, Biology, Peru Normal ........................................... 1929-1930
*Henry H. Marvin, Physics, UN-Lincoln .............................................. 1930-1931
*Victor E. Levine, Medicine, Creighton, Omaha ........................................ 1931-1932
*Fred W. Upson, Chemistry, UN-Lincoln ............................................. 1932-1933
*E. Russel Wightman, Mathematics, Doane-Crete ...................................... 1933-1934
*Nels A. Bengtson, Geography, UN-Lincoln ........................................ 1934-1935
*Claude J. Shirk, Botany, UN-Lincoln .............................................. 1935-1936
*John E. Weaver, Botany/Biology, UN-Lincoln ....................................... 1936-1937
*Harry R. James, Zoology/Physics, Hastings Coll. .................................. 1937-1938
*Alvin L. Luhn, Geology, UN-Lincoln .............................................. 1938-1939
*V. Calvon McKim, Geography, Chadron State ........................................ 1939-1940
*Morton P. Brunig, Engineering, UN-Lincoln ........................................ 1940-1941
*L. N. Garlough, Biology, UN-Omaha ............................................. 1941-1942
*Harold W. Manter, Zoology, UN-Lincoln ........................................... 1942-1943
Gilbert C. Lueninghoener, Geology, Midland ........................................... 1943-1944
*Carl E. Georgi, Bacteriology, UN-Lincoln ........................................ 1944-1945
John S. Latta, Anatomy, UNMC-Omaha ............................................. 1945-1946
*Walter F. Wieland, Engineering, UN-Lincoln ....................................... 1946-1947
*Donald M. Pace, Physiology, UN-Lincoln ........................................ 1947-1948
*Victor E. Levine, Medicine, Creighton-Omaha ....................................... 1948-1949
*Frank L. Duley, Agronomy, UN-Lincoln ............................................. 1949-1950
*Otis Wade, Zoology, UN-Lincoln .................................................. 1950-1951
*Samuel B. Shively, Botany, Wesleyan-Lincoln ...................................... 1951-1952
W. Winfield Ray, Botany, UN-Lincoln ............................................. 1952-1953
*I. L. Hathaway, Agriculture, UN-Lincoln ........................................ 1953-1954
Henry M. Cox, Mathematics, UN-Lincoln ............................................. 1954-1955
Paul J. Stageman, Chemistry, UNO-Omaha ............................................. 1955-1956
Robert G. Bowman, Geography, UN-Lincoln ......................................... 1956-1957
Walter R. French, Jr., Physics, Wesleyan-Lincoln .................................. 1957-1958
*Harold F. Rhodes, Agronomy, UN-Lincoln ........................................... 1958-1959
Carl T. Brandhorst, Biology, Concordia-Seward ..................................... 1959-1960
John G. McMillan, Physics, UNO-Omaha .............................................. 1961-1962
Lloyd G. Tanner, Geology/Paleontology, UN-Lincoln .................................. 1962-1963
Walter G. Elwell, Physics, UNO-Omaha ............................................... 1963-1964
Walter E. Mientka, Mathematics, UN-Lincoln ...................................... 1964-1965
John C.W. Bliese, Biology, Kearney State ........................................... 1965-1966
C. Bertrand Schultz, Geology/Paleontology, UN-Lincoln .......................... 1966-1967
*William M. Barrows, Physics, Doane-Crete .......................................... 1967-1968
Founders and Presidents

*Nicholas Dietz, Jr., Biochemistry, Creighton ........................................... 1969-1970
*C. Robert Keppel, Chemistry, UNO-Omaha ........................................... 1971-1972
Dwight D. Miller, Zoology, UN-Lincoln ................................................ 1972-1973
Larrie E. Stone, Biology, Dana-Blair .................................................... 1973-1974
Theodore J. Urban, Dentistry, Creighton-Omaha ...................................... 1974-1975
Clyde C. Sachtlen, Physics, Hastings College .......................................... 1975-1976
T. Mylan Stout, Geology/Paleontology, UN-Lincoln ................................ 1976-1977
Laddie J. Bicak, Biology, Kearney State ................................................ 1977-1978
Claire M. Oswald, Biology, Coll. St. Mary-Omaha ..................................... 1978-1979
Robert C. Sutherland, Biology (Botany)-Wayne State ................................ 1979-1980
Carl Throckmorton, Physics, Hastings College .......................................... 1981-1982
Thomas B. Bragg, Biology, UNO-Omaha ................................................... 1982-1983
Ronald R. Weedon, Biology, Chadron State ............................................ 1983-1984
Carroll L. Moore, Physics, Wesleyan-Lincoln ......................................... 1984-1985
Marvin E. Glasser, Physics, Kearney State ............................................. 1985-1986
Donald E. Shult, Physics, UNO-Omaha ................................................... 1986-1987
Dale D. Rathe,** Science, Lincoln Public Schools ...................................... 1987-1988

* Deceased
**President-elect (1987-1988)

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REFERENCES

______. 1891. Constitution, officers, and list of members of the Nebraska Academy of Sciences, organized January 1, 1891. Lincoln, Nebraska Academy of Sciences, Publication Number 1:1-8.
______. 1983. Further research relating to the history of the Academy, 1880 through 1890. Proceedings of the Nebraska Academy of Sciences, 93:56.