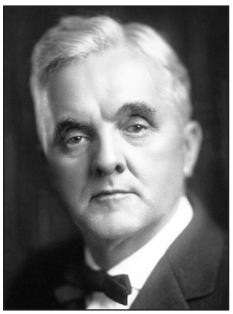
Nebraska Hall of Fame[51]

The Nebraska Hall of Fame was established in 1961 to officially recognize prominent Nebraskans. The Hall of Fame honors people (1) who were born in Nebraska, (2) who gained prominence while living in Nebraska, or (3) who lived in Nebraska and whose residence in Nebraska was an important influence on their lives and contributed to their greatness.

The Nebraska Hall of Fame Commission, which has members appointed by the governor, names people to the Hall of Fame.[52] Until 1996, the commission named one person every two years, except when two people were named in the first two years of the Hall of Fame's existence, and four people were selected in 1976 in honor of the nation's bicentennial. Legislation passed in 1998 provides that no more than one person can be added to the Hall of Fame every five years. The 1998 legislation also provides that no person can be considered for the Hall of Fame until at least 35 years after his or her death. Busts of Hall of Fame members are displayed in the State Capitol and in other commission-approved locations.



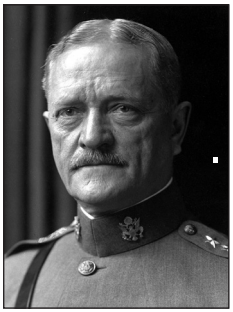
George W. Norris

George W. Norris (1861-1944), U.S. House of Representatives 1903-13, U.S. Senate 1913-43. Initiator of reform of House rules, anti-injunction law for labor, Tennessee Valley Authority, rural electrification and 20th amendment to U.S. Constitution. Sponsor of Nebraska Unicameral Legislature. Lived in Beatrice, Beaver City and McCook. Inducted into Hall of Fame 1961.

Willa Cather

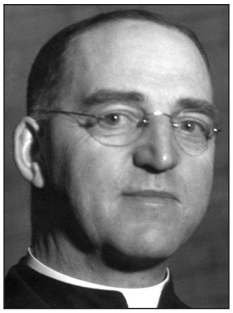
Willa Cather (1873-1947), Pulitzer Prize-winning author. "The history of every country begins in the heart of a man or a woman" (from Cather's book *O Pioneers!*). Lived in Red Cloud. Inducted into Hall of Fame 1962.

[51] Source: Nebraska State Historical Society.
[52] See Page 725 for more details on the Nebraska Hall of Fame Commission.



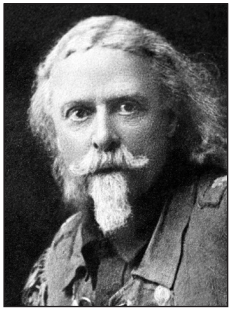
John J. Pershing

John J. Pershing (1860-1949), soldier. Commandant of cadets, University of Nebraska, 1891-95; founder, Pershing Rifles; service, Indian Wars, Cuba, Philippines; commander, Mexican Border, 1916; commander, American Expeditionary Forces, France, 1917-19; general, Armies of the United States, 1919; and Army chief of staff, 1921-24. Lived in Lincoln. Inducted into Hall of Fame 1963-64.



Edward J. Flanagan

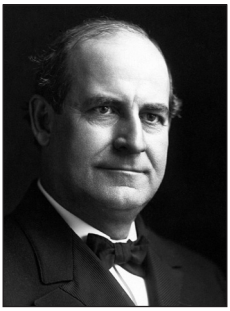
Edward J. Flanagan (1886-1948), founder of Father Flanagan's Boys Home, Boys Town. "I have never found a boy who really wanted to be bad." Lived in Omaha and Boys Town. Inducted into Hall of Fame 1965-66.



William Frederick Cody

William Frederick Cody (1846-1917), a.k.a. "Buffalo Bill," soldier, buffalo hunter, Army scout, actor, rancher, irrigationist and showman of the West. Lived in North Platte. Inducted into Hall of Fame 1967-68.

William Jennings Bryan (1860-1925), three-time Democratic Party nominee for president of the United States, U.S. congressman, U.S. secretary of state, orator, religious leader and author. Lived in Lincoln. Inducted into Hall of Fame 1969-70.

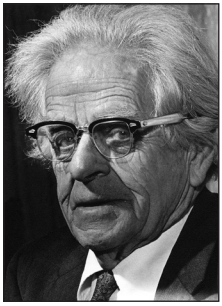


William Jennings Bryan

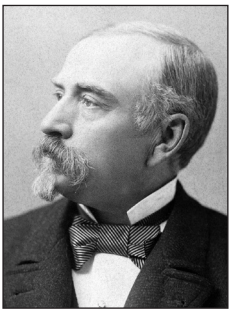
Bess Streeter Aldrich (1881-1954), author. Aldrich, narrator of Nebraska, gave literary life to Nebraska pioneer memories and honored the trials and dreams of settlers, that all may realize and cherish their heritage. One Aldrich novel, *A Lantern in her Hand*, was translated into many languages. Lived in Elmwood and Lincoln. Inducted into Hall of Fame 1971-72.

Bess Streeter Aldrich

John Gneisenau Neihardt (1881-1973), named Nebraska Poet Laureate in 1921. Epic poet of the West, historian, philosopher and friend of the American Indian. "My God and I shall interknit as rain and ocean, breath and air; and O, the luring thought of it is prayer" (from Neihardt's poem *L'Envoi*). Lived in Wayne and Bancroft. Inducted into Hall of Fame 1973-74.



John Gneisenau Neihardt



J. Sterling Morton

J. Sterling Morton (1832-1902), father of Arbor Day, U.S. secretary of agriculture, editor, farmer, legislator and Nebraska territorial secretary. "Other holidays repose upon the past. Arbor Day proposes for the future." Lived in Nebraska City. Inducted into Hall of Fame 1975-76.

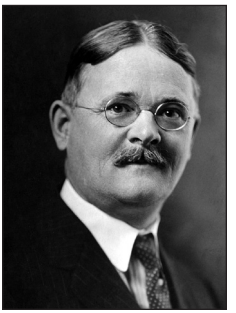
Grace Abbott

Grace Abbott (1873-1939), social reformer and social worker. A native Nebraskan internationally honored for her courageous and effective championship of children and mothers and for her promotion of pioneer social legislation of enduring benefit to U.S. citizens. Born and raised in Grand Island. Inducted into Hall of Fame 1975-76.

Mari Sandoz

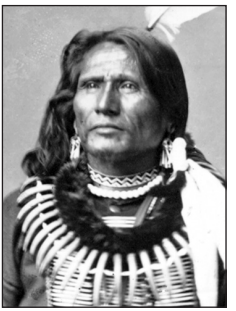
Mari Sandoz (1896-1966), novelist, historian and friend of the Indian. "The real frontier lies in the stimulation of the creative mind of man." Born in Sheridan County near Gordon; lived in Lincoln. Inducted into Hall of Fame 1975-76.

Nathan Roscoe Pound (1870-1964), botanist, pioneer ecologist, dean of University of Nebraska Law College and dean of Harvard Law School. Born and raised in Lincoln. Inducted into Hall of Fame 1975-76.



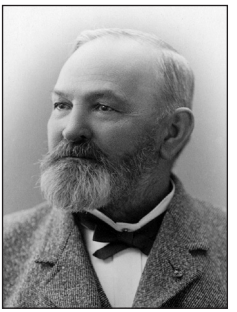
Nathan Roscoe Pound

Standing Bear (1829-1908), Ponca Indian chief; symbol for Indian rights. "I have found a better way" (Standing Bear). "An Indian is a person within the meaning of the law" (Judge Elmer Dundy). Probably born in northeast Nebraska; lived near the mouth of the Niobrara River in present Knox County at the time of his death. Inducted into Hall of Fame 1977-78.

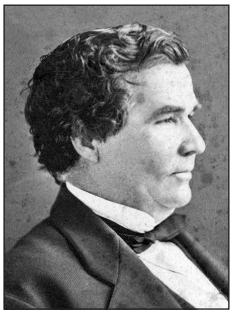


Standing Bear

Robert W. Furnas (1824-1905), newspaperman, soldier, historian, Nebraska governor 1873-75 and agriculturist. Lived in Brownville. Inducted into Hall of Fame 1979-80.



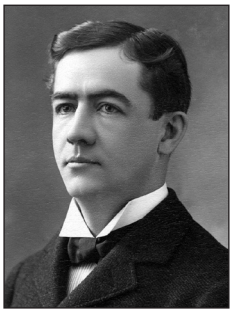
Robert W. Furnas


Edward Creighton

Edward Creighton (1820-74), telegraph pioneer and banker. Lived in Omaha. Inducted into Hall of Fame 1981-82.

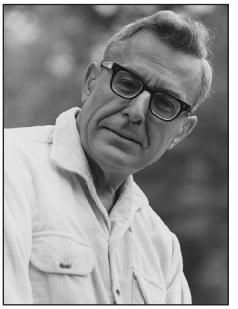
Susette LaFlesche Tibbles

Susette LaFlesche Tibbles (1854-1903), Omaha Indian, a.k.a. "Inshata Theumba" or "Bright Eyes," speaker and writer for Indian rights. Born in Bellevue; raised on Omaha reservation in Thurston County near Macy; lived in Lincoln; died in Bancroft. Inducted into Hall of Fame 1983-84.


Gilbert M. Hitchcock

Gilbert M. Hitchcock (1859-1934), newspaperman and politician. Founder of the *Omaha World-Herald* in 1889; U.S. House of Representatives 1902-04 and 1906-11; U.S. Senate 1911-22. Born in Omaha; lived in Omaha. Inducted into Hall of Fame 1985-86.

Loren Eiseley (1907-77), anthropologist, poet and philosopher of science. Born in Lincoln; lived in Lincoln. Inducted into Hall of Fame 1987-88.



Loren Eiseley

Hartley Burr Alexander (1873-1939), anthropologist, poet, philosopher, educator and authority on North American Indian mythology. Best known as author of the symbolism and inscriptions on the Nebraska State Capitol and other buildings across the United States. Born in Lincoln; raised in Syracuse; lived in Lincoln. Inducted into Hall of Fame 1989-90.

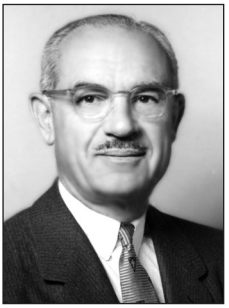
Hartley Burr Alexander

Arthur Weimar Thompson (1886-1970), premier auctioneer. In a 46-year career, Thompson called more than 7,500 livestock sales from New York to California and from Canada to Mexico. World's *Who's Who* recognized Thompson as "the leading purebred livestock auctioneer in the United States and Canada." Born in Bradshaw; lived in Lincoln. Inducted into Hall of Fame 1991-92.

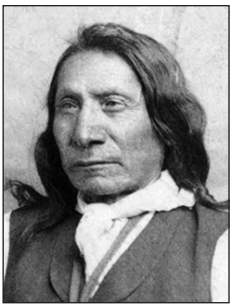
Arthur Weimar Thompson

Dwight Palmer Griswold

Dwight Palmer Griswold (1893-1954), banker, publisher, Nebraska governor 1941-47, U.S. senator 1953-54, chief of the American mission for aid to Greece 1947-48. Born in Harrison; raised in Gordon. Inducted into Hall of Fame 1993-94.

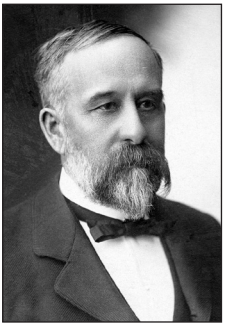

Nathan J. Gold

Nathan J. Gold (1894-1970), businessman, civic leader, philanthropist and Nebraska booster. Lived in Lincoln. Inducted into Hall of Fame 1995-96.


Red Cloud

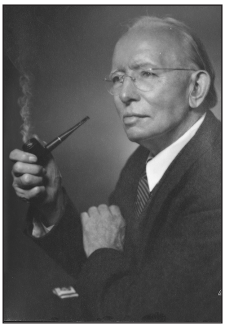
Red Cloud (1822-1909), statesman, war leader of the Oglala Sioux. Born in what became Garden County, he rose to leadership in the early 1860s. Red Cloud opposed westward expansion and in 1868 forced the government to abandon the Bozeman Trail in Wyoming. From 1873-77 the Red Cloud Agency was located on the White River in northwest Nebraska. He sought to ease his peoples' painful transition to reservation life. Inducted into Hall of Fame 2000-01.

Charles E. Bessey (1845-1915), nationally known University of Nebraska professor of botany and horticulture, 1884-1915, and author of federal legislation establishing agricultural experimentation stations at land-grant universities. Bessey's experiments with tree planting in the Nebraska Sandhills, and his tireless promotion of the idea, led to the establishment of the man-made Nebraska National Forest by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1902. Inducted into Hall of Fame 2007.



Charles E. Bessey

Alvin Saunders Johnson (1874-1971), internationally recognized economist, educator, humanitarian, author and social activist. Johnson was editor of *The New Republic* and founded the New School for Social Research in New York City — the model for American adult education — which he led for 22 years. Born near Homer; educated at the University of Nebraska. Inducted into Hall of Fame 2014.



Alvin Saunders Johnson