

**HISTORY OF THE NEBRASKA
AMERICAN LEGION: THE FIRST
VOLUME OF A HISTORICAL RECORD
OF THE AMERICAN LEGION,
DEPARTMENT OF NEBRASKA**

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History of the Nebraska American Legion: The First Volume of a Historical Record of the American Legion, Department of Nebraska by Frank Boyd O'Connell

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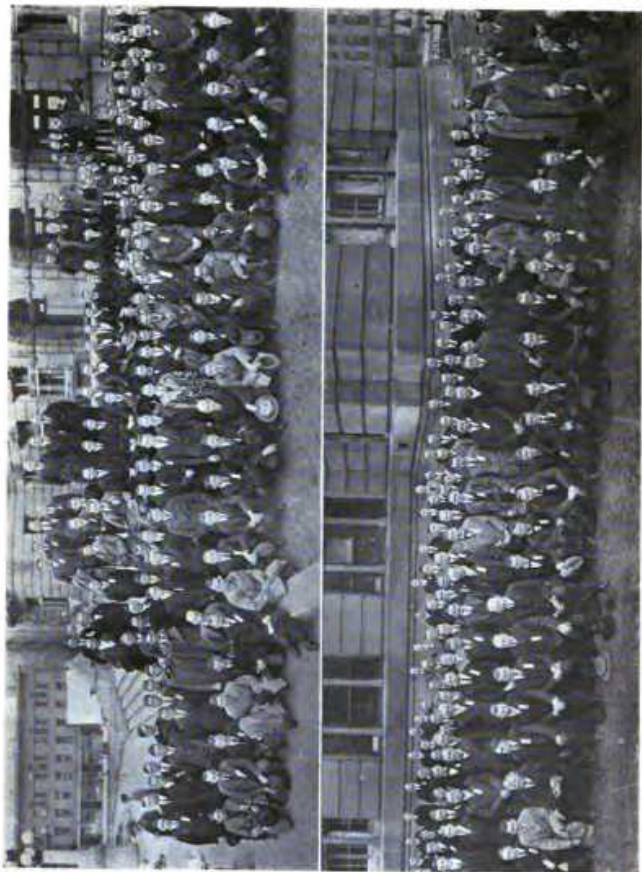
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FRANK BOYD O'CONNELL

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First State Convention, Omaha, (1919)

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By

FRANK BOYD O'CONNELL

*The first volume of a historical
record of the American Legion,
Department of Nebraska. . . .*

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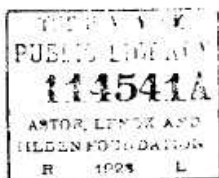
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1922

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*Dedicated to those valiant Soldiers and
Sailors of Nebraska who made the
supreme sacrifice for their Country.*

FOREWORD

It is a difficult task to write a history. Especially is this true when one is very close to his subject and must choose from a thousand details those things of historical interest.

It has been the desire of the author to write this history in a narrative form, keeping away from dry convention proceedings and minutes and yet giving all the facts and important events concerning the Nebraska branch of the American Legion that have transpired during the first four years of its existence.

Even though this history must be written during the spare moments that one can snatch from a busy life, the writing has been a genuine pleasure. The American Legion of Nebraska has grown into a great organization made up of splendid young men with high and noble ideals, and the recording of their achievements and aspirations has been an inspiring task. It is a particular pleasure to set down a few expressions regarding the founders of the organization who have given so unstintingly of their time and have worked so hard to make the American Legion an institution of which America and our own state of Nebraska is justly proud.

The author wishes to acknowledge his indebtedness to "The American Legion Weekly", "The Mid-West Veteran", and to George S Wheat, author of "The Story of the American Legion", for many facts and figures which have been most valuable in the compilation of this book.

Lincoln, Nebr. July, 1922.

F. B. O'C.

To the Men of the American Legion:

Having served in the Civil War for three years, and with the experience of almost three score years in civil life since, and noting with considerable interest events during that time which did much in shaping legislation and placing wholesome laws on our statute books, and knowing the direct and indirect influence which the young men had in giving direction to the Ship of State, I may, without seeming to be egotistic, express my views as to the part to be taken by the young men of the American Legion.

You have splendid mental and physical endowments. Your military training has supplemented nature in giving you great physical endurance which qualifies you for the hard and rugged passages in life. You should not hesitate to use these powers in giving direction to the affairs of state. In all moral, social and political reforms your position is at the front. Do not be mere followers. There is always an abundance of material to serve in the rear guards. Your place is at the front, blazing the way for the onward march of your country in all her high and holy aspirations.

Lincoln, Nebr.
August, 1922.

J. H. PRESSON,
Past Department Commander,
Grand Army of the Republic.

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