



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN HISTORIANS HOLDS
CONFERENCE IN LINCOLN, NEBRASKA, JULY 6-8, 2006**

**CENTENNIAL
1907 - 2007**

Bloomington, Ind. – June 28, 2006. The Organization of American Historians

(OAH)—the largest learned society devoted to the study of American history—in conjunction with the University of Nebraska Department of History, will meet at the Cornhusker Hotel in Lincoln, Nebraska, July 6-8, 2006.

Individuals with an interest in history are encouraged to attend the conference which focuses on the Midwest.

The meeting also will include a celebration of the life and work of University of Nebraska Professor James A. Rawley, a widely respected historian of the American Civil War and American race relations. During his twenty-three years on the University of Nebraska faculty, Professor Rawley won most of the highest honors that the university can bestow. Professor Rawley's former students and colleagues will present a tribute to his life and work Friday, July 7 at 1:15 p.m.

The Nebraska State Historical Society will host conference registrants for a reception on Friday evening, July 7 from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The reception commemorates the one hundredth anniversary of the Organization of American Historians, which held its first meeting at the Nebraska State Historical Society in October of 1907.

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS. ■ The conference will feature a wide range of sessions that examine the study, teaching, and presentation of history, including: "Slavery, Race, and Politics in Nineteenth-Century America: A Tribute to University of Nebraska Professor James A. Rawley," Join Vernon Volpe, University of Nebraska, Kearney, and Kenneth J. Winkle, University of Nebraska, Lincoln as they celebrate the life and work of James A. Rawley, a widely respected historian of the Civil War era and American race relations and a biographer of Abraham Lincoln. ■ John E. Carter, Nebraska State Historical Society, presents "Seeing Old Photographs

Through New Eyes,” explores the discoveries made using the state-of-the-art digital imaging laboratory at the Nebraska State Historical Society’s Gerald R. Ford Conservation Center to reset the horizons for the uses of photographs in knowing and understanding the past. ■ A Friday evening Reception at the Museum of Nebraska History. Join us for a reception in the birthplace of the OAH, sponsored by the Nebraska State Historical Society.

HISTORY AND BACKGROUND. In 1907, Clarence Paine, the newly selected secretary of the Nebraska State Historical Society, invited six other historical societies in the Midwest to send representatives to Lincoln for the purpose of organizing a new historical association to facilitate collaboration, improve professional standards, and highlight the region’s rich history. On October 17-18, 1907, representatives of the seven historical societies met in Lincoln, adopted a constitution, and created the Mississippi Valley Historical Association, the antecedent of today’s OAH. Clarence Paine was chosen as the first Secretary-Treasurer, a position he held until his untimely death at age 49 in 1916, whereupon his widow, Clara Paine, librarian at the Nebraska State Historical Society, succeeded him until her retirement in 1952. In 1914, the MVHA launched *The Mississippi Valley Historical Review*, the precursor of *The Journal of American History*, which is the leading scholarly publication in the field of American history today.

CONTACT INFORMATION. Contact Ms. Terry Govan, Organization of American Historians, 112 North Bryan Avenue, Bloomington, Indiana, 47407. Telephone: 812/855-7311, Fax: 812/855-0696. Online: <<http://www.oah.org/>>. Founded in 1907, the Organization of American Historians is the largest learned society devoted to the study of American history. Headquartered in Bloomington, Indiana, the OAH promotes excellence in the scholarship, teaching, and presentation of American history, and encourages wide discussion of historical questions and equitable treatment of all practitioners of history.

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