



The History of Nebraska Banking

In what year did Nebraska's first bank open - 1867, 1855, or 1876?

If you guessed 1855, you are right! Nebraska's first bank opened in Omaha in 1855. Banks were of course among the first businesses in Nebraska Territory, paving the way to build towns and buy land. In Nebraska's early days, banks might be part of another business. Nebraska's first bank was actually an insurance company, The Western Exchange Fire and Marine Insurance Company. In 1856, five new banks opened for business, the Bank of Florence (Omaha), the Fontenelle Bank (Bellevue), the Nemaha Valley Bank (Brownville), and the Platte Valley Bank (Nebraska City).

During the 1890s a group of over 265 Nebraska bankers met in Omaha to organize the Nebraska Bankers Association. This group of men met to lay the foundation for the organization.

The Nebraska State Historical Society is responsible for preserving Nebraska history, and through its quarterly *Nebraska History* and *History News* publications, we are sharing our state's rich history, which includes banking.

Call us at 402-471-3272 (use Code NBK15) to purchase *Nebraska History* and *Nebraska History News*, and share the important stories of Nebraska with your customers. To learn more about Nebraska and banking, visit the Nebraska State Historical Society's website at www.nebraskahistory.org and search "banking."