

*Report of the
Nebraska Branch of the
Historical Society of the
United States Courts in the Eighth Circuit
September, 2006*

Our Branch has been fairly quiet. Nevertheless, there are two items of interest to report.

Book on History of the District Court:

Dr. John Wunder, the district court's historian, suffered a heart attack recently. While Dr. Wunder is recovering from that illness, Dr. Mark Scherer has been contacted to complete the first installment of a written history for the Nebraska federal court.

Dr. Scherer received his Ph.D. from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 2003, and his J.D. from the Ohio State University College of Law in 1981. A former practicing attorney, he is the author of *Imperfect Victories: The Legal Tenacity of the Omaha Tribe, 1945-1995*, and numerous Journal articles, encyclopedia entries, and book reviews related to U.S. and Native American legal history. He is currently completing work on a book-length assessment of the United States Supreme Court decision in *Nebraska Press Association v. Stuart* (1976), a decision emanating from Nebraska which remains a landmark opinion on the delicate balance between the rights of free press and fair trial.

We are hopeful that written history of the United States District Court for the District of Nebraska, from the territorial beginnings to the *Wounded Knee* cases, will be completed within a year or so. We look forward to the completion of the manuscript, and, thereafter, the promotion of the book. As the attached Treasurer's report indicates, we have a strong financial basis upon which to base our promotional efforts.

Oral Histories:

Chief Judge Mahoney reports that Dr. Richard Shugrue, J.D., Ph.D, who is a law professor at Creighton University, hopes to conclude his video taping of the oral histories of Judge Beam and Judge Shanahan by the end of December. Hopefully, Judge Urbom's history will be completed soon as well.

The Branch has made it a practice of providing copies of the oral histories of Nebraska federal judges to the Nebraska State Historical Society. That practice will be followed for these histories as well.

Sincerely,

Mary Hewitt-Jones
President