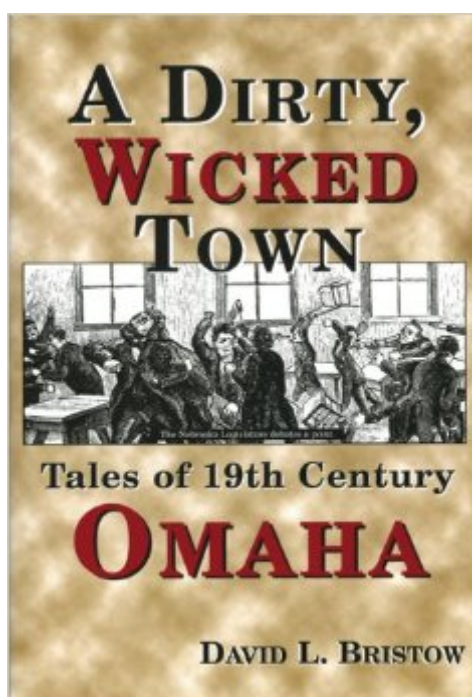


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# Dirty, Wicked Town (Nebraska)



## Synopsis

Omaha, Nebraska, is a laid-back city in America's heartland. In the nineteenth century, however, it had a very different reputation. Omaha grew from a speculative scheme in 1854 to a booming city. Along the way there were scores of great stories.

## Book Information

Series: Nebraska

Paperback: 300 pages

Publisher: Caxton Press; 1st edition (April 1, 2000)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0870043986

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Product Dimensions: 5.9 x 0.7 x 9.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (17 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #359,987 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #147 in [Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Regional U.S. > Midwest](#) #3925 in [Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Historical > United States](#) #6210 in [Books > History > Americas > United States > State & Local](#)

## Customer Reviews

David Bristow's book "A Dirty, Wicked Town: Tales of 19th Century Omaha," published by Caxton Press, is a book that any person with even the most fleeting interest in American history will find very enjoyable. The 300-page book is divided into 22 chapters, and in a technique reminiscent of what John Dos Passos did in the "USA Trilogy," Bristow includes excerpts from actual newspaper stories to make the historical context more real. Chapters from this work have been included in "Nebraska Life" magazine, with several more forthcoming. Bristow grew up in Des Moines, Iowa, and graduated from the University of Northern Iowa. He is formally trained in neither creative writing nor history, but instead holds degrees in psychology. Bristow does not embrace the role of historian in a traditional sense, but rather picks and chooses stories that illuminate different dimensions of Omaha history in an interesting way. He wrote to me in an e-mail from his Omaha home, "My goal was to tell a limited number of true stories, writing each so that it would read like fiction." Instead of writing a comprehensive history, Bristow was free to use his own criteria to select which tales he relates. He tells me, "I chose the stories I did because each has some universal human quality about it--humor, tragedy, love, hatred, hope, injustice, stupidity--and often all of them mixed in together. That's really

why any storyteller chooses his or her subject matter."The book opens with what can be considered as Omaha's first day. In 1854, a hasty Independence Day picnic was broken up by what appeared to be a hostile band of Indians. The early chapters of the book fill in details about Omaha's settlement and its struggle to attain viability as a community.

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