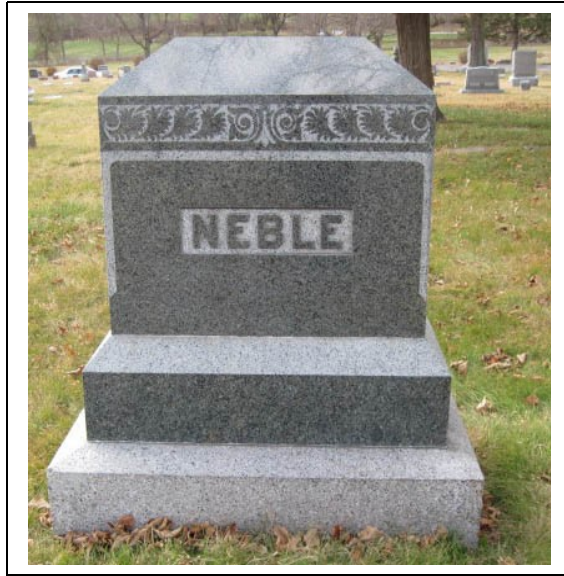


**Across Oceans, Across Time® ...**  
**Stories from the Family History & Genealogy Center**



This solid tombstone in Omaha's Springwell Cemetery marks the family gravesite of **Sophus Martinus Frederik Neble**, long-time publisher of *Den danske Pioneer/The Danish Pioneer*, one of the two Danish-language newspapers in the United States continually published for more than a century. Neble, born in Stubbekøbing on the island of Falster on December 15, 1858, came from quite modest circumstances, the great-grandson and grandson of shoemakers and son of a tailor who fell during the 1864 Dano-Prussian War. Following his confirmation Neble apprenticed as a typographer. After working for a Stubbekøbing newspaper for a time, he switched to dairying on the advice of his fiancée, Christine Larsen, who felt that the newspaper trade had no future. It was as a dairyman that Neble immigrated to Minneapolis in April, 1883, but the lure of the printed page was in his veins and within a year he had relocated to Omaha, Nebraska, found a job with the Danish-language newspaper founded by Mark Hansen in 1872, and convinced Christine that he could make a go of it. The following year he purchased the paper and thus became "the voice of Danish America" in the Midwest for nearly half a century. Sophus was later joined in Omaha by his younger brother, Johan Louis Nicolai (John) Neble, who also worked on the newspaper, and his mother, Karen Paulsen Neble. As an influential leader in the Danish community Neble held many civic posts, including acting as Douglas County Commissioner for a number of years. He was given the honorary title of Colonel by the governor of Nebraska in 1908. Loss continued to dog his personal life, however. In sixteen years of marriage Christine gave birth to eleven children, but only three survived infancy. Following the stillbirth of her last child, she died in August of 1900 at the age of 36. Three years later Sophus married Olivia, who had immigrated to the U.S. from Denmark as a child. An enterprising woman who was the first female licensed driver in Omaha, Olivia and her step-son E. S. Neble continued publishing the *Pioneer* following Sophus' death in 1931 until July 10, 1958. A group of Chicago Danes rescued the paper from History and publication continued under the editorial leadership of Hjalmar Bertelsen and later, Chris Steffensen. In 1912 it celebrates 140 years of publication under the editorship of Chris' daughter, Linda Steffensen.

**The Danish Immigrant Museum**

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