MUSEUMS AND MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS

The principal collection of artifacts reposes in the museum of the North Dakota State Historical Society in Bismarck. There are also substantial collections in the museum at Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park five miles south of Mandan, in the Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park Museum, and at the Chateau de Mores in Medora. Smaller collections are maintained at Camp Hancock in downtown Bismarck, at Fort Abercrombie, Fort Totten, Fort Buford, Fort Pembina, Whitestone Hill Battlefield, and by a number of local historical societies and private collectors. The older museums, as well as many historic buildings and sites, are described in Federal Writers’ Project of the Works Progress Administration for the State of North Dakota, *North Dakota: A Guide to the Northern Prairie State* (2nd ed.; New York: Oxford University Press, 1950). That work also contains a useful list of books on North Dakota.

There are three large collections of unpublished manuscript materials dealing with North Dakota. That of the North Dakota Institute for Regional Studies at North Dakota State University, Fargo, is especially valuable for its records of bonanza farms. The Orin G. Libby Historical Manuscript Collection in the Chester Fritz Library at the University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, is notable for the papers of William Langer, William Lemke, John Moses, Milton R. Young, and the North Dakota Wheat Growers Association. Its holdings are described in Glenn L. Brudvig (comp.), “The Catalog of the Orin G. Libby Historical Manuscripts Collection, University of North Dakota Library,” *North Dakota History*, XXXI (January 1964), 79-90. North Dakota’s largest manuscript collection is owned by the State Historical Society and is described in Margaret Rose (comp.), “Manuscript Collections of the State Historical Society of North Dakota,” *North Dakota History*, XXX (January 1963), 17-61. The society has a file of more than fifteen thousand photographs.

PRINTED SOURCES

Printed sources of North Dakota history are largely comprised of three types of
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materials: (1) federal, territorial, and state government documents; (2) daily and weekly newspapers published in the state; and (3) the Collections of the State Historical Society (7 vols.; Bismarck, 1906-1925), edited by Orin G. Libby, the quarterly of the State Historical Society, North Dakota Historical Quarterly (11 vols., 1926-1933 and 1940-1944), also edited by Libby, and North Dakota History (21 vols., 1945-1965), edited by Russell Reid.

A law passed by the legislature in 1905 requiring that each newspaper published in the state deposit two copies of each issue with the State Historical Society, laid the foundation for the excellent newspaper files in the Society’s library. In addition to primary sources, the Collections and quarterly of the society contain many scholarly articles. The results of much research, often partly historical in nature, have appeared in bulletins issued by the North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station at Fargo. By 1965 the experiment station had published over 450 bulletins.

UNPUBLISHED THESES AND DISSERTATIONS

A large amount of research by candidates for graduate degrees has been performed at institutions of higher education both within and outside the state. The resultant master’s theses and doctoral dissertations, though generally not published, make valuable contributions to knowledge of North Dakota history. The following unpublished theses and dissertations were used in the preparation of this volume.

Bibliographical Essay


Voeller, Joseph B. “The Origin of the German-Russian People and Their Role in North Dakota.” M.S. thesis, University of North Dakota, 1940.


SOURCES FOR STATISTICAL DATA

Quantitative measurements are of prime importance in the history of a state. To understand certain situations, one must know how many, how much, what percentage. Only statistics can measure growth, change, and accomplishment; only statistics can show clearly the nature of a society and the direction in which it has moved. In history, quantity is often the only available measure of quality.

crime, climate, public lands, income, roads, agriculture, industry, transportation, and virtually every other aspect of American life. More detailed information, often by counties and for population by townships, is given in the decennial censuses. Because it came shortly before the completion of settlement, the 1910 census is particularly important in North Dakota history. The volume entitled *Thirteenth Census of the United States: 1910, Abstract of the Census with Supplement for North Dakota*, pp. 568 ff., lists not only population by minor civil divisions but also the number of foreign-born by national origin and their children living in each county (pp. 598-608). The *Fourteenth Census of the United States: 1920, III, Population*, 764, gives the country of birth of the foreign-born whites for each of the counties in the state for that census year. Data on the mother tongue of foreign white stock for 1910 is found in *Thirteenth Census of the United States: 1910, I, Population*, 998, 1000-1001, and for 1920 in *Fourteenth Census of the United States: 1920, II, Population, General Report and Analytical Tables*, 996.

The volumes of the decennial census up to and including 1950 have full data on agriculture. In 1954, Congress provided for mid-decade censuses of agriculture. There was one in 1954 and a second in 1959. Statistics for agriculture in North Dakota are also given in Baldur H. Kristjanson and C. J. Heltemes, *Handbook of Facts about North Dakota Agriculture*, North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station Bulletin 357 (Fargo, 1950), and in Fred R. Taylor, C. J. Heltemes, and R. F. Engelking, *North Dakota Agricultural Statistics*, North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station Bulletin 408 (Fargo, 1957).

Since 1957 the North Dakota Crop and Livestock Reporting Service, a joint venture of the United States Department of Agriculture’s Agricultural Marketing Service and the North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station, has issued an annual report entitled *North Dakota Crop and Livestock Statistics*. It has also published other valuable statistical works: *Price Trends in North Dakota, 1910-1957* (Fargo, 19.58); *North Dakota Wheat* (Fargo, 1960); *Barley, Oats, Rye: County Estimates, 1919-1954* (Fargo, 1960); *North Dakota Livestock: County Estimates, 1925-1961* (Fargo, 1962); *Corn, Potatoes, Hay* (Fargo, 1963); *Price Trends in North Dakota, 1950-1963* (Fargo, 1964).


Statistics on the finances of the state government are found in the annual or biennial reports of the state treasurer, the state tax commissioner, and the state budget board. Auto registrations by counties are on a mimeographed sheet from the office of the state vehicle registrar; data in the *Statistical Abstract* allows a comparison between states. That volume also gives figures on highways. More detailed information is found in the United States Bureau of Public Roads, *Highway Statistics*, and in North Dakota Highway Department, *North Dakota Highway Statistics*, both annual publications. Statistics on railroad traffic are issued in mimeographed form (*Railroad Freight Commodity Statistics*) by the North Dakota Public Service Commission. Election returns by counties have been published, beginning with the 1914 election, in North Dakota Secretary of State, *Compiled Election
Bibliographical Essay

Returns. For earlier elections they were published in North Dakota Secretary of State. North Dakota Blue Book, a biennial volume from 1897 to 1919.

Statistics on cooperatives are given by counties in North Dakota Department of Agriculture and Labor, Division of Cooperatives, Annual Statistical Report. The number of newspapers and their circulations are found in N. W. Ayer and Son’s Newspaper Annual and Directory (Philadelphia: N. W. Ayer and Son, Inc., 1880—), in North Dakota Press Association, Directory and Rate Book (Grand Forks), an annual, and for dailies in the Audit Bureau of Circulation Reports. Statistical data on libraries are in the biennial reports of the State Library Commission. Statistical data on schools are in the biennial reports of the Department of Public Instruction. Yearly precipitation and other climatic data have been compiled by Frank J. Bavendick in Climate and Weather in North Dakota (2nd ed.; Bismarck: North Dakota State Water Conservation Commission, 1952).

GENERAL HISTORIES OF NORTH DAKOTA

Probably the first attempt to write a general history of the state was the Compendium of History and Biography of North Dakota (Chicago: Geo. A. Ogle and Company, 1900), a fat leather-bound volume of 1,410 gold-tipped pages which was largely made up of the biographical sketches of the subscribers to the work. The second, William B. Hennessy, History of North Dakota... including the Biographies of the Builders of the Commonwealth (Bismarck: Bismarck Tribune Company, 1910), was a similar venture, but the historical section, more than a third of the total, was more extensive. Clement A. Lounsberry wrote a much more detailed and scholarly history, which profited from both his long interest in the subject (he had been publishing The Record, a historical magazine on the state, for a number of years), and from his active part in North Dakota life (he had founded the Bismarck Tribune, the state’s first newspaper, in 1873). First published in 1913, Lounsberry’s history was then combined with two volumes of biographical sketches of the subscribers as North Dakota History and People: Outlines of American History (3 vols.; Chicago: S. J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1917). It was later published separately, with some additional chapters (645 large pages in all), as Early History of North Dakota: Essential Outlines of American History (Washington: Liberty Press, 1919).

The biographical sketches in the Compendium, the Hennessy, and the three-volume Lounsberry, although invariably laudatory, did preserve much information on those who settled the state and their experiences. Unfortunately, many important people did not subscribe to these works and so were omitted.

Children were introduced to North Dakota history by William M. Wemett, a teacher at Valley City State Teachers College, in The Story of the Flickertail State (Valley City: The Author, 1923). and by Herbert Clay Fish and R. M. Black, A Brief History of North Dakota (New York: American Book Company, 1925). Fish was the former curator of the North Dakota State Historical Society Museum, and Black was the president of the state normal school at Ellendale. These early elementary texts were finally replaced by Conrad W. Leifur, Our State: North Dakota (New York: American Book Company, 1942), an excellent brief account written for eighth-grade pupils.

Two important books were published in the 1930’s. Lewis F. Crawford, History of North Dakota (3 vols.; Chicago: American Historical Society, Inc., 1931), and Federal Writers’ Project of the Works Progress Administration for the State of North Dakota, North Dakota: A Guide to the Northern Prairie State (Fargo: Knight Printing Company, 1938; 2nd ed., New York: Oxford University Press, 1950). Crawford’s history, like Lounsberry’s, was one volume of historical narrative and two volumes of biographical sketches of subscribers—an effective way of making historical scholarship pay. One edition even had gold-tipped pages. Although Crawford’s work lacked some of the detail
found in Lounsberry’s, it was better organized and thus marked clear-cut advancement. Crawford, trained in history and political science at Harvard, had been a rancher and banker at Sentinel Butte, and hi, chapter on ranching history was a distinct contribution to scholarship. *North Dakota: A Guide to the Northern Prairie State*, edited by talented Ethel Schlasinger, was well planned and well written. The best book on the state yet written at the time of its publication, it listed a wealth of interesting historical information on virtually every North Dakota community in its descriptive tours section.

All of the histories published before 1946 dealt largely with the Indians, exploration, the fur trade, and the epic of pioneering. Neither Lounsberry nor Crawford, writing from a conservative point of view, gave any indication of the sense of exploitation felt by a large part of the population, or of the bitter strife against outside interests which had marked North Dakota history. The break with the conservative—and, in a way, romanticized and ancestor-admiring—style of writing came in Bruce Nelson, *Land of the Dacotahs* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1946). Nelson, a young North Dakota newspaperman and something of a radical, was awarded a University of Minnesota Fellowship in Regional Writing to assist him with the work. A more gifted and exciting writer than any who had yet attempted a historical work on the state, Nelson used much colorful material on the Indians and the fur trade, but he also wrote a long and sympathetic chapter (the best in the book) on the Nonpartisan League revolt and another, very realistic one on the controversy over Missouri River development.

Most of the histories have been illustrated, Lounsberry and *North Dakota: A Guide to the Northern Prairie State* being notable in this respect. A much fuller photographic record is found in Marion J. Piper, *Dakota Portraits: A Sentimental Journal of Pictorial History* (Mohall: The Author, 1964). An interesting text is combined with some 425 pictures, many of them never published before. About the same number of pictures are reproduced in Erling N. Rolfsrud, *The Story of North Dakota* (Alexandria, Minn.: Lantern Books, 1963), a new and attractive history for young readers.


As an explanation for the remainder of the Bibliographical Essay, it should be noted that documentation of the text consists of the footnotes and the books and articles described below for each chapter, except that the statistical sources and the general works described earlier are not usually cited. The purpose is not to give a specific source for each statement, but to show generally the principal sources for each chapter and those which a reader might most profitably consult.

CHAPTER 1

THE GRASSLAND SETTING

There are three general accounts of the topography and geology of North Dakota. The


CHAPTER 2

INDIANS OF THE PLAINS AND PRAIRIES


CHAPTER 3

A STRUGGLE FOR THE INDIAN TRADE

History of North Dakota

1890). Many important documents are included in Reuben Gold Thwaites (ed.), *Original Journals of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, 1804-1806* (8 vols.; New York: Dodd, Mead and Company, 1904-1905). The original manuscript journals, together with the text prepared by Nicholas Biddle (first published in 1814), for the time the expedition was in North Dakota were edited by Russell Reid in “Lewis and Clark in North Dakota,” *North Dakota History*, XIV (1947), 5-45, 73-145, 173-241, 287-391, and XV (1948), 15-74.

Two accounts of the Upper Missouri in 1811 have been republished as Volumes V and VI of *Early Western Travels, 1748-1846*, edited by Reuben Gold Thwaites: John Bradbury, *Travels in the Interior of America in the Years 1809, 1810, and 1811* (Cleveland: A. H. Clark Company, 1904), describes the Mandans and Hidatsas; Henry M. Brackenridge, *Journal of a Voyage up the Missouri, Performed in 1811* (Cleveland: A. H. Clark Company, 1904), is a notable account of Manuel Lisa and keelboat travel. A description of the Mandans and Hidatsas by a North West trader is found in Joseph B. Tyrrell (ed.), *David Thompson’s Narrative of His Explorations in Western America, 1784-1812* (Toronto: Champlain Society, 1916).


CHAPTER 4

INDIAN, MÉTIS, AND WHITE IN THE RED RIVER VALLEY


CHAPTER 5

THE UPPER MISSOURI COUNTRY

The journals or recollections of two traders, two observant travelers, a steamboat man, and an army officer have been published for the third of a century from the 1830’s to the
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CHAPTER 6
THE BEGINNINGS OF SETTLEMENT


CHAPTER 7
THE GREAT DAKOTA BOOM
History of North Dakota


CHAPTER 8

PIONEER LIFE


CHAPTER 9

THE OPENING OF THE MISSOURI PLATEAU

Where the best things on pioneer life are primary sources, the best items for this chapter, with one exception, are scholarly syntheses. The exception is the autobiography of Indian Agent James McLaughlin, *My Friend the Indian* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1910), a significant document. McLaughlin’s experiences at Fort Totten are rounded out by Charles De Noyer, “The History of Fort Totten,” *North Dakota Historical Society Collections*, III (1910), 178-236, which reproduces some documents. Hermann Hagedorn’s *Roosevelt in the Bad Lands* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1921) is a readable book by a friend of Roosevelt. Father Louis Pfaffer, O.S.B., of Assumption Abbey has written an important article entitled “Fort Keogh to Bismarck Stage Route,” *North Dakota History*, XXI (July 1954), 91-125.

A large part of the recent scholarly writing on the Missouri Plateau region has been done by Ray H. Mattison while he was a historian with the National Park Service. With Olaf T. Hagen, he wrote “Pyramid Park—Where Roosevelt Came to Hunt,” *North Dakota History*, XIX (October 1952), 215-239; alone he brought out a whole series of carefully researched articles: “The Military Frontier on the Upper Missouri,” *Nebraska History*, XXXVII (September 1956), 159-182; “Indian Missions and Missionaries on the Upper Missouri to 1900,” *Nebraska History*, XXXVIII (June 1957), 127-154; “The Army Post on the Northern Plains, 1865-1885,” *Nebraska History*, XXXV (March 1954), 1-27; “The Indian Reservation System on the Upper Missouri, 1865-1890,” *Nebraska History*, XXXVI (September 1955), 141-172; “Ranching in the Dakota Badlands: A Study of
Bibliographical Essay 577

CHAPTER 10
THE MAKING OF A STATE
Howard R. Lamar, Dakota Territory, 1861-1889: A Study of Frontier Politics (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1956), is the best account of the movement for statehood. The sources on the making of the constitution are Official Report of the Proceedings and Debates of the Constitutional Convention of North Dakota (Bismarck, 1889), which contains the full debates, and the Journal of the Constitution Convention (Bismarck, 1889), which records the votes. There are two good accounts of the convention. R. M. Black, “History of the State Constitutional Convention of 1889,” North Dakota Historical Society Collections, III (1910), 111-157, is not as analytical as John D. Hicks, The Constitutions of the Northwest States, University of Nebraska Studies, Vol. XXIII, Nos. 1 and 2 (Lincoln, 1923), which is a comparative treatment of constitution making in 1889-1890. The constitution itself, with amendments, has been published frequently by the North Dakota Secretary of State.

CHAPTER 11
THE DEPRESSION NINETIES
Very little has been published on the 1890’s. The best account is the unpublished master’s thesis on the Farmers’ Alliance and the Populist movement by Glenn L. Brudvig cited earlier in the Bibliographical Essay and in the footnotes; it is an excellent piece of research and synthesis. There is some material in Paul R. Fossum, The Agrarian Movement in North Dakota, Johns Hopkins University Studies in Historical and Political Science, Vol. XLIII, No. 1 (Baltimore, 1925), a small book on a large subject.

CHAPTER 12
THE SECOND BOOM

CHAPTER 13
THE PROGRESSIVE MOVEMENT

**CHAPTER 14**

**THE LIFE OF THE MIND AND THE SPIRIT**

There is a good deal of cultural history in the interesting biographical sketches by Erling N. Rolfsrud in *Lanterns over the Prairies*. Two excellent works on Norwegian immigrants are Theodore C. Blegen, *Norwegian Migration to America* (2 vols.; Northfield, Minn.: Norwegian-American Historical Society, 1931-1940), and Einar I. Haugen, *The Norwegian Language in America: A Study of Bilingual Behavior* (2 vols.; Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1953). Unfortunately, there is less scholarly work on the German Russians. Two valuable recent volumes are Monsignor George P. Aberle’s *From the Steppes to the Prairies: The Story of the Germans Settling in Russia... Their Resettlement in the Americas* (Dickinson, N.D.: The Author, 1963) and Adolph Schock’s *In Quest of Free Land* (San Jose, Calif.: San Jose State College, 1964).


**CHAPTER 13**

**THE GREAT SOCIALIST EXPERIMENT**

The Socialist background of the Nonpartisan League is shown in Jackson K. Putnam, “The Role of NDSP in North Dakota History,” *North Dakota Quarterly, XXIV* (Fall 1956), 115-122. Probably more has been written on the early years of the Nonpartisan

CHAPTER 16

A SOCIALISTIC STATE IN THE FIRST WORLD WAR


CHAPTER 17

THE TWENTIES: BEGINNINGS OF READJUSTMENT


CHAPTER 18

THE THIRTIES: DROUGHT AND DEPRESSION

Blackorby’s *Prairie Rebel* is available for both the 1920’s and 1930’s, as is Knight’s *Grass Roots*. Roy L. Miller, “The Gubernatorial Controversy in North Dakota,” *American Political Science Review*, XXIX (June 1935), 418-432, is a good article on Langer’s ouster. Adam J. Schweitzer, “The Political Campaign of John Moses,” *North Dakota History*, XXXII (January 1965), 19-39, is based on research in the newspapers. An important document is Rupert N. Richardson (ed.), “The ‘Summary Foreword’ of the Future of the Great Plains,” *Mississippi Valley Historical Review*, XXX (June 1943), 49-68.

CHAPTER 19

THE IMPACT OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR

Compared with those concerning earlier years, there are few books or articles dealing with North Dakota history since 1920. Blackorby’s *Prairie Rebel* and Knight’s *Grass Roots* both cover a wide span of years. Wayne S. Cole’s *Senator Gerald P. Nye and American Foreign Relations* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1962) is a good treatment of the subject. See also Robert P. Wilkins, “The Nonpartisan League and Upper Midwest Isolationism,” *Agricultural History*, XXXIX (April 1965), 102-109.
CHAPTER 20

REVOLUTIONARY CHANGE IN THE POSTWAR YEARS


CHAPTER 21

CULTURAL GROWTH AND ADAPTATION: EDUCATION, RESEARCH, WRITING, AND MEDICINE, 1920-1960


CHAPTER 22

CULTURAL GROWTH AND ADAPTATION: THE ARTS, LIBRARIES, NEWSPAPERS, AND CHURCHES, 1920-1960

An atlas volume of Karl Bodmer’s drawings and paintings was published with Maximilian’s *Travels in the Interior of North America*. Many of George Catlin’s paintings are reproduced in his *North American Indians, Being Letters and Notes on Their Manners, Customs, and Conditions, Written during Eight Years’ Travel amongst the Wildest Tribes of Indians in North America, 1832-1839* (2 vols.; Philadelphia: Leary, Stuart and
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CHAPTER 23

THE CHARACTER OF A PEOPLE