

# Native Americans: Way of Life

Long before Europeans began to settle the Great Plains, many Native American tribes lived on the frontier. This pathfinder will lead researchers to several resources available at the North Dakota State Archives highlighting the culture and lifestyle of different Native American tribes.

## Archival Collections

### 10013 John Victor Bean Papers

Biography, orders, and correspondence concerning Missouri River navigation; wagon trains; army life and the construction of buildings at Fort Stevenson; warfare between the Sioux, Mandan, Arikara, and Gros Ventres (Hidatsa); hunting; and Indian policy.

### 10024 Henry A. Boller Papers

Letters from Boller to his relatives in Pennsylvania describing his trip to Fort Atkinson, his life there, and the Indians; correspondence with Elliott Coues, Washington Matthews, George Catlin and others concerning a revised edition of his book, *Among the Indians* (1868); a notebook of Hidatsa linguistic material, newspaper clippings concerning Boller's book, and a diary.

### 10058 Lewis Ferandus Crawford Papers

Notebooks, essays, newspaper clippings, and correspondence concerning ranching, banking, Indians, and settlement in western North Dakota. Collection includes interviews with early settlers.

### 10059 Ernst Reinhold Steinbrueck Papers

Correspondence, drawings, maps, photographs and manuscripts including, "My Red Brother," primarily dealing with the Mandan Indians, written by former archaeologist and curator of the State Historical Society of North Dakota.

### 10061 James H. Howard Papers

Notes and manuscripts entitled "Dakota Winter Count as a Source of Plains History," "Notes on the Plains Ojibwa," "The Ethnography of the Northern Ponca," "The Like-a-Fish-Hook Village," and "The Turtle Mountain Plains-Ojibwa and Metis."

### 10313 James McLaughlin Correspondence

Letters are addressed to James McLaughlin, Indian Agent for many years at Fort Totten and Standing Rock in Dakota Territory (later North Dakota). The first letter, (Continued on next page)

## Useful Search Guidance

### Subjects

- Indians of North America
- American Indians
- Native Americans
- Bison hunting
- Native American Agriculture
- Religion

### People

- Horatio Larned
- James H. Howard
- Paul Fasthorse
- Josephine Wagner
- Big Elk

### Locations

- Northern Dakota Territory

## Journal Articles

### *A Buffalo Hunt*

*North Dakota Historical Quarterly* Vol. 2  
Issue 1

### *Indians of North Dakota*

Raymond F. Schulenburg – *North Dakota History* Vol. 23 Issue 3 & 4

### *Life in an Indian Village*

Ethel C. Jacobsen – *North Dakota History* Vol. 26 Issue 2

written in 1872, concerns a land grant in Maryland that was given to a military ancestor. McLaughlin seems to have asked the author of the letter to research the grant in order to learn if McLaughlin held title to it. The letter provides initial results of the search. The second letter addressed to McLaughlin concerns a matter of law, and two are congratulatory wishes upon two of his reappointments as Indian Agent at Fort Yates. The letters were transcribed by volunteer Janet Beltran, and the transcriptions are available in the case file.

#### **10431 Gordon J. Keeney Papers**

Annotated typescript of a journal entitled, "The Buffalo Hunter of the Pembina." The journal describes buffalo hunting in the North Dakota region, ca. 1862-1865.

#### **10553 Frank E. Vyzralek Collection**

The collection includes the research files, personal papers, photographs and audiovisual materials of lifelong researcher and former North Dakota State Archivist Frank Edward Vyzralek. The research files include original work and information compiled about agriculture, arts and entertainment, business and industry, city and town life, education, ethnicity, Indians of North America, history, military, people, places, politics and government, religion and transportation. These broad areas of research are organized further by topic. Notable areas of research include North Dakota photographers, baseball, beer and bottling, mills and elevators, crime, the North Dakota Teachers Insurance and Retirement Fund, North Dakota "Centennial Moments," biographies, place names, Bismarck (N.D.), railroads and steamboats.

#### **11068 Kaye Gudbranson**

Two typescripts of the James H. Howard article: "Dakota Winter Counts as a Source of Plains History," published in the Smithsonian Institution, Bureau of Ethnology Bulletin 173, 1960. One of the typescripts is a copy and the other has original handwritten notes. Notebook 1935 with handwritten notes on Native American biographies, family trees, stories, customs, and language; notebook 1932-1935 with handwritten accounts and native American stories. Both notebooks may have belonged to Paul Ewald. Gudbranson found the materials in a trunk that belonged to her mother who lived in New Town, N.D.

#### **20152 Horatio H. Larned**

Correspondence between Larned and Paul Fasthorse, Cannonball, North Dakota, newspaper clippings, post cards, drawings by Paul Fasthorse and Austin C. Wood of the Sioux sun dance, grass dance, a buffalo hunt and other related subjects, and a letter from Larned to James H. Cramer describing an Indian attack on the Fisk Expedition in 1864.

#### **20302 Frances Lee Majors Papers**

Typescript of a brief history entitled "The Chippewa Indians." Much of the history is devoted to describing beliefs and customs.

#### **20328 Sidney August Russell Diary**

Transcript of a diary kept by Russell while stationed at Fort Rice, Dakota Territory. Diary describes weather conditions, Indian customs, and hunting activities.

#### **20406 Angela Cournoyer Fiske Papers**

Papers consist of transcripts of correspondence of Bruno Cournoyer (translated from French by George Will) relating to family and business affairs and relations with Indians in Nebraska and Dakota Territory; and a play by Angela Fiske, entitled, "The Cry of Lone Eagle."

#### **20448 George Selkirk Papers**

Typescript and photocopy of a brief history of Chippewa customs, legends, education, religion, and recreation.

#### **20451 Mrs. Clarke W. Kelly Papers**

Typescript entitled, "The Devils Lake Region." Describes the geologic formation, history, and Indians in the region.

#### **20455 Florence Jenson Papers**

Typescript entitled "A History of Benson County." History describes early settlement, Indians, the Fort Totten Indian School, churches, steamboat traffic, and harvesting buffalo bones.

#### **20502 Mary Wolfe Pennington Papers**

History of Sargent County and Milnor Township. History describes exploration, early settlers and settlement, Indians, businesses, farming, women, schools, military history, fraternal organizations, weather conditions, and an Independence Day celebration. Includes numerous photographs of towns, businesses, residents, and poetry.

#### **20552 Indian Drawings**

Drawings and written explanations of the drawings on the front and back of a ledger page depicting hunting and warfare scenes and animals.

#### **20630 Foundation of North American Indian Culture Records**

Records consist of brochures, news releases, newsletter, a letter, and a reprint article from the Bismarck (N.D.) Tribune.

#### **20676 Willard E. Arnold Papers**

Carbon copy typescript of reminiscences of homesteading, farming, personalities, dances, winter hazards, and encounters with Indians near Portland (N.D.), 1860s-1870s.

#### **20716 Sam O'Connell Papers**

Typescript reminiscences of a trading post and Indian life on the upper Missouri in Montana.

#### **20789 Wounded Face Drawings**

Drawings of the Mandan and Gros Ventre villages on the Missouri River.

#### **20848 Maa-baa-hi Ma-hac Collection**

Contains an audiocassette, brochure, and a songbook consisting of Arikara, Hidatsa, and Mandan songs originally recorded by Francis E. Densmore and Orin G. Libby.

**21430 Ida Mae Garrison (Evans) Papers**

Three oral interviews with Selfridge native Ida Mae Garrison, in which she discusses Medicine Joe, betrothal, drum circle, Crazy Horse treaties, her experiences at the Bismarck and Pipestone (Minn.) Indian Schools, the great spirit, snakes, Chased by Bull, conversion to Christianity, native foods, move to Washington D. C., Pipestone quarry, Cheyenne boyfriend, Round House, feasts and dancing.

**80056 James McLaughlin Collection**

Indian Inspection commissions.

## Books

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### *The Choctaws: A Critical Bibliography*

1980 — Clara Sue Kidwell and Charles Roberts

Includes maps of the old Choctaw country, Mississippi, and Choctaw land cessions.

Call Number: 016.97000497 K542c 1980

### *Bibliography of the Sioux*

1980 — Jack W. Marken and Herbert T. Hoover

Call Number: 016.97000497 M345b 1980

### *Indians of North America: Methods and Sources for Library Research*

1983 — Marilyn L. Haas

Call Number: 016.970 H111i

### *Many Nations : A Library of Congress Resource Guide for the Study of Indian and Alaska Native Peoples of the United States*

1996 — edited by Patrick Frazier and the Publishing Office

Call Number: 016.9730497 L6974m 1996

### *Native Religions and Cultures of North America*

2000 — edited by Lawrence E. Sullivan

Call Number: 299.7 N278 2000

### *The Lakota Ritual of the Sweat Lodge : History and Contemporary Practice*

1998 — Raymond A. Bucko

Call Number: 299.74 B925ℓ 1998

## Online Resources

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### [Do Indians Still Live in Tipis? \(And How to Find Answers to Other Questions About Native American Culture\)](#)

Danielle Stuckle — State Historical Society of North Dakota Blog

### [SHSND Photobook](#)

State Historical Society of North Dakota's Online Search Portal for all digitized photographs

### [Digital Horizons](#)

Online consortium of historic photographs from the collections of the State Historical Society of North Dakota

### [WorldCat](#)

State Historical Society of North Dakota's publication search portal

## External Resources

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### [MHA Nation Website](#)

Current website for the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Nation headquartered at Fort Berthold Indian Reservation

### [Standing Rock Sioux Tribe Website](#)

Current website for the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe

## State Archives

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For more information related to the collections and resources available at the North Dakota State Archives, please email [archives@nd.gov](mailto:archives@nd.gov) or call (701) 328-2668.



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