

Title: North Dakota Oral History Project. Records
Date: 1973-1977
Collection Number: Mss 10157
Quantity: 5 linear feet
Abstract: Consists of oral history interview transcripts, indexes to recorded oral history interviews, interview referral files, interview files, photographs, lists of donations to the Project, oral history interview transcripts relating to the Governor's Mansion, family histories, biographies, reminiscences, and manuscripts. Most of the records document administration of the Project. Genealogical information and oral history interview transcripts make up the remainder of the collection.

Provenance: The State Historical Society of North Dakota acquired the North Dakota Oral History Project Records as a gift from project director Larry Sprunk in June 1977. Juliann Henriksen prepared the inventory to the North Dakota Oral History Project Records in January 1984.

Property Rights: The State Historical Society of North Dakota owns the property rights to this collection.

Copyrights: Copyrights to this collection remain with the donor, publisher, author, or author's heirs. Researchers should consult the 1976 Copyright Act, Public Law 94-553, Title 17, *U.S. Code* or an archivist at this repository if clarification of copyright requirements are needed.

Access: This collection is open under the rules and regulations of the State Historical Society of North Dakota.

Citation: Researchers are requested to cite the collection title, collection number, and the State Historical Society of North Dakota in all footnote and bibliographic references.

Transfer: Twenty-seven publications were transferred to the Library in January 1984. A list of transferred publications and donors is located at the end of the inventory. One hundred ninety-three photographs donated to the project were removed from the records and transferred to the Photo Archives in January 1984. Over eleven hundred photographs of interviewees were also transferred to the Photo Archives

HISTORICAL SKETCH

In November 1973 Larry Sprunk, the North Dakota Oral History Project director, submitted a proposal for the project to the North Dakota American Revolution Bicentennial Commission. The Commission approved funding for a seven month pilot program with the intention of providing additional support later under Bicentennial grant programs. Due to the lack of funds, the North Dakota American Revolution Bicentennial Commission discontinued funding the project at the conclusion of the seven month trial period. The North Dakota Farmers Union sponsored the project from July 1974 to June 1975 as their contribution to the bicentennial

activities. In July 1975 the State Historical Society of North Dakota assumed funding for the project. The project was completed in June 1977.

The primary objective of the North Dakota Oral History Project was to conduct "oral tape recorded interviews with North Dakotans who have lived through the state's history and who can speak of this history from a first-hand basis." Interviewees were photographed at the time of their interviews. Photographs of interviewees are available in the Photo Archives. In addition, the project borrowed over 6,000 historical photographs which were copied and added to the State Historical Society's collection. Many interviewees also donated family histories, documents, letters, ledgers, books, and artifacts.

Sources: North Dakota Oral History Project Records, A157.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The North Dakota Oral History Project Records date from 1973 to 1977 and occupy five cubic feet. The records are divided into ten series: table of contents, incomplete transcripts, old Governor's Mansion transcripts, referral files, signed releases, completed interview files, miscellaneous files, data sheets, donation and loan lists, and special collections.

The table of contents series serves as an index to individual interviews and consists of a list of subjects discussed by the interviewee with a counter number for the location on the tape. The table of contents are filed under the county where the interviewee lived. Approximately 30% of the interviews do not have a table of contents.

The incomplete transcripts series consists of transcribed interviews which were edited for possible publication in *North Dakota History*. There are also editorial notes concerning the interest value of a particular passage.

The old Governor's Mansion transcripts consist of transcribed interviews which were conducted with people knowledgeable about the former Governor's Mansion.

The referral files are organized by region and consist of letters and forms identifying older residents who would be good candidates for an oral history interview. The forms provide the nominee's age, past occupation, address, and personality characteristics.

The signed releases series consists of a release form signed by the interviewee governing property rights and copyrights to the oral history interviews. The signed releases are organized according to the interviewee's county of residence.

The completed interview files consist of letters and forms relating to scheduling of oral history interviews.

The miscellaneous files consist of administrative files, original forms, press releases, correspondence, deed of gift forms, research notes, financial records, photograph loans, articles

on oral history techniques, county nursing home information, and miscellaneous papers. The administrative files consist of the North Dakota American Revolution Bicentennial Commission grant application and correspondence regarding funding and support of the project. The research notes contain regional historical information gathered in preparation for oral history interviews. The financial records consist of sales receipts for equipment and vouchers. The photograph loans consist of a master list of loaned photographs that were duplicated and returned. The county nursing home information consists of a list of nursing homes in North Dakota.

The data sheets series provides names of interviewees, interview number, cassette size, town, county, time and an occasional interviewee obituary.

The donation and loan lists consist of a record of when a donation or loan was received, photocopied, and returned. The sheets are filed by county and interview number.

The special collections consist of family histories, biographies, autobiographies, reminiscences, documents, poetry, newspaper clippings, maps, correspondence, and manuscripts that were donated by a number of interviewees.

SERIES DESCRIPTION

- Series I Table of Contents, n.d., Box 1
- Consists of a list of subjects discussed by the interviewee with a counter number for the location on the tape.
- Series II Incomplete Transcripts, n.d., Box 1-2
- Consists of transcribed interviews which were edited for possible publication in *North Dakota History*.
- Series III. Old Governor's Mansion Transcripts, n.d., Box 2
- Consists of transcribed interviews which were conducted with people knowledgeable about the former Governor's Mansion.
- Series IV. Referral Files, n.d., Box 2
- Consists of letters and forms identifying older residents who would be good candidates for an oral history interview.
- Series V. Signed Releases, 1973-1977, Box 2-3
- Consists of a release form signed by the interviewee.
- Series VI. Completed Interview Files, n.d., Box 3

Consists of letters and forms scheduling oral history interviews.

Series VII. Miscellaneous Files, 1973-1977, Box 3-4

Consists of administrative files, original forms, press releases, correspondence, deed of gift forms, research notes, financial records, photograph loans, county nursing home information, and miscellaneous.

Series VIII. Data Sheets, n.d., Box 4

Consists of an information form listing the interviewee's name, interview number, cassette size, town, county, time and an occasional interviewee obituary.

Series IX. Donation and Loan Lists, 1973-1977, Box 4

Consists of a sheet recording when a donation or loan was received, photocopied, and returned.

Series X. Special Collections, 1885-1976, Box 4-5

Consists of family histories, biographies, autobiographies, reminiscences, documents, poetry, newspaper clippings, maps, correspondence, and manuscripts that were donated by a number of interviewees.

Box	Folder	Description	Mss 10157
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Series I. Table of Contents

1	1	Adams County
	2	Barnes County
	3	Benson County
	4	Billings County
	5	Bottineau County
	6	Bowman County
	7	Burke County
	8	Burleigh County
	9	Cass County
	10	Cavalier County

- 11 Dickey County
- 12 Divide County
- 13 Dunn County
- 14 Eddy County
- 15 Emmons County
- 16 Foster County
- 17 Golden Valley County
- 18 Grand Forks County
- 19 Grant County
- 20 Griggs County
- 21 Hettinger County
- 22 Kidder County
- 23 LaMoure County
- 24 Logan County
- 25 McHenry County
- 26 McIntosh County
- 27 McKenzie County
- 28 McLean County
- 29 Mercer County
- 30 Morton County
- 31 Mountrail County
- 32 Nelson County
- 33 Oliver County
- 34 Pembina County
- 35 Pierce County
- 36 Ramsey County
- 37 Ransom County
- 38 Renville County

39	Richland County
40	Rolette County
41	Sargent County
42	Sheridan County
43	Sioux County
44	Slope County
45	Stark County
46	Steele County
47	Stutsman County
48	Towner County
49	Traill County
50	Walsh County
51	Ward County
52	Wells County
53	Williams County
54	Miscellaneous

Series II. Incomplete Transcripts

55	Ole Abelseth
56	John Baird
57	Dr. James Blunt
58	Oscar W.H. Bode
59	William Bosanco
60	Alfred O. Brown
61	Wilbur Chapin
62	Dr. Charles R. Chapman
63	Ivan Christianson
64	Alice Conitz

65	William E. Cook
66	Mrs. L.E. Correll
67	Matt Dahl
68	Ronald N. Davies
69	William T. DePuy
70	Ada Engen
71	Winifred Erdmann
72	Dr. M.G. Flath
73	Jim Gayton, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Gayton
74	William L. Gipp
75	Earl Henderson
76	Rudolph Haugen
77	Mildred Isakson
78	Margaret Johnson
79	Ernest and Lena Kohlmeier
80	Grace Lambert
81	Stella Long
82	Mabel Lorshbough
83	Henry Martinson
84	Frank Meier
1	Dr. S.W. Melzer
2	H.C. "Hugh" O'Conner
3	O. Leonard Orvedahl
4	Janet Penny
5	Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Powell
6	Ray and Hilda Putney
7	Dr. John W. Robinson
8	Mr. and Mrs. J.A. (Burt) Rock

9	Ed and Olga Sherlock
10	Don Short
11	William L. Smith
12	Charles and Collie Stedman
13	Olaf Tagestad
14	R.P. Taralseth
15	Edith Thompson
16	Henry Timm
17	Clarence Tweet
18	Esther Vaagen
19	Al J. Vohs
20	Hanna Walther
21	H.E. and Francis Winzenburg
22	Gilbert and Pearl Wick
23	Ted and Ralph Williams
24	Ray Zinsli

Series III. Old Governor's Mansion Transcripts

25	Luella Aandahl
26	Mr. and Mrs. Jay Bryant
27	Marion Burke
28	John E. Davis
29	Mary Langer Gokey
30	Edna Moser
31	James Moses and Mary Jean Moses Schwichtenberg
32	Frances Kellogg Shafer
33	Louise Aandahl Stockman

34 Jack and Thelma Vantine and Emerson
Liessman

Series IV. Referral Files

35 Region 1
36 Region 2
37 Region 3
38 Region 4
39 Region 5
40 Region 6
41 Region 7
42 Region 8
43 Region 9
44 Region 10
45 Region 11
46 Region 12
47 Region 13
48 Region 14
49 Region 15
50 Region 16
51 Region 17
52 Region 18

Series V. Signed Releases

53 Adams County
54 Barnes County
55 Benson County
56 Billings County

57	Bottineau County
58	Bowman County
59	Burke County
60	Burleigh County
61	Cass County
62	Cavalier County
63	Dickey County
64	Divide County
65	Dunn County
66	Eddy County
67	Emmons County
68	Foster County
69	Golden Valley County
70	Grand Forks County
71	Grant County
72	Griggs County
73	Hettinger County
1	Kidder County
2	LaMoure County
3	Logan County
4	McHenry County
5	McIntosh County
6	McKenzie County
7	McLean County
8	Mercer County
9	Morton County
10	Mountrail County
11	Nelson County

12	Oliver County
13	Pembina County
14	Pierce County
15	Ramsey County
16	Ransom County
17	Renville County
18	Richland County
19	Rolette County
20	Sargent County
21	Sheridan County
22	Sioux County
23	Slope County
24	Stark County
25	Steele County
26	Stutsman County
27	Towner County
28	Trail County
29	Walsh County
30	Ward County
31	Wells County
32	Williams County
33	Governor's Mansion
34	Miscellaneous

Series VI. Completed Interview Files

35	Region 1
36	Region 2
37	Region 3

38	Region 4
39	Region 5
40	Region 6
41	Region 7
42	Region 8
43	Region 9
44	Region 10
45	Region 11
46	Region 12
47	Region 13
48	Region 14
49	Region 15
50	Region 16
51	Region 17
52	Region 18

Series VII. Miscellaneous Files

53	Administrative File
54	Original Forms
55	Press Releases
56	Correspondence, A-I
57	Correspondence, J-R
58	Correspondence, S-Z
59	Deed of Gift Forms
60	Research Notes
1	Governor's Mansion Information
2	Financial Records
3	Photograph Loans

4	Oral History Techniques
5	County Nursing Home Information
6	Miscellaneous

Series VIII. Data Sheets

7	A
8	B
9	C
10	D
11	E
12	F
13	G
14	H
15	I
16	J
17	K
18	L
19	M
20	N
21	O
22	P, Q
23	R
24	S
25	T
26	U, V
27	W
28	X, Y, Z
29	Special Collections

Series IX. Donation and Loan Lists

- 30 Adams County - Grand Forks County
- 31 Grant County - Nelson County
- 32 Oliver County - Williams County

Series X. Special Collections

- 33 Henry Anderberg - correspondence, 1942; 1944; 1968
- 34 Carol Anderson - letter, 1910
- 35 Alice Arnegard - reminiscences
- 36 Enid Bern - reminiscences
- 37 Joseph L. Bina - biography; document, 1896
- 38 Mary Bishop - family history; documents
- 39 Boschee - autobiography
- 40 Frances Braaten - family history
- 41 Edward V. Brown - stock certificate, 1921
- 42 Mrs. Fred Bryans - family history
- 43 LeRoy Burnstad - correspondence; documents, 1905-1908
- 44 Alice Conitz - family history
- 45 Eva Connors - "South Prairie Saga"
- 46 Eva Connors - "Pictures of South Prairie"
- 47 G.M. Christensen - manuscript
- 48 Mary Christopherson - reminiscences
- 5 1 Gilbert S. Cryne - poetry
- 2 Gilbert S. Cryne - poetry
- 3 Peter Deutscher - reminiscences

- 4 Mrs. Alfred Domier - manuscripts
- 5 John Leslie Easton - reminiscences
- 6 Martha Espeseth
- 7 Ralph Fisher - family history
- 8 Fred Fleck - "Personal and Family History"
- 9 Clifton Foye - account book, n.d.
- 10 Mr. and Mrs. Charles Friese - reminiscences
- 11 Inga Geinager - family history
- 12 Anders Hagburg - family history
- 13 Lillian Haig - reminiscences
- 14 Sybil Hall - reminiscences
- 15 Ernest Halverson - miscellaneous
- 16 Mrs. Minard Halverson - newspaper clippings
- 17 Jean M. Hill - Valley City records; an account sheet and Christmas greetings
- 18 Rudolph Hoefs - reminiscences
- 19 Lewis Hoffman - mine location maps
- 20 Mrs. John Holbach - postmaster appointment
- 21 Mrs. Martin Holter - family history
- 22 Bernard Hultstrand - reminiscences
- 23 Fred Jeffries - "Washburn and McLean County"
- 24 Clarence Jensen - "Life of Elling and Hannah Jensen"
- 25 Cliff Jensen - *Tales*, 1896
- 26 Harvey Jenson - reminiscences
- 27 Frank Johnson - Dickey County newspaper list
- 28 Fred Kurle - reminiscences

- 29 Lee Leftwich - "History of Early Days in Sidney Township"
- 30 Edwin Leiby - letter, 1885
- 31 Issac and Dora Loeppke - family history
- 32 Oscar Lund - letters discussing family history, 1971-1976
- 33 George and Myrtle McHugh - "Mapes, D.T."
- 34 Harriet MacDonald - family history
- 35 Walter Martin - family history
- 36 Mrs. George Mitchell - family history
- 37 Mrs. Olaf Moen - family history
- 38 Gordon Olson - military documents
- 39 Ole A. Olson - poetry
- 40 Ole A. Olson - poetry
- 41 Mrs. William Overby - "Glimpses Into My Past" by Morten Mortenson
- 42 Mr. and Mrs. George Overn - periodical clipping
- 43 M.G. and Ida Pederson - autobiography, "History of Baldwin Township"
- 44 Kathryn J. Peters - song sheet "Our Hilltop Home"
- 45 Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Pierson - family history
- 46 Mary Pittsley - "Western North Dakota An Introduction to a Far County" by Rev. Ronald Korfmacher
- 47 S. Anne Preszler - "St. Mary's Catholic Church"
- 48 Ray Putney - poetry
- 49 Esther Rode - "Adrian: Just Passing Through" by Paulette Rode

50	Jennie Schindler - Indian stories
51	Otto Skager - family history
52	Horton Starke - land information
53	Charles Stedamn - "Early and Later History of Business Establishments in Sheyenne, ND"
54	Mrs. James Sullivan - "Pioneering in Eddy County 1854-1954"
55	Louis Thorstad - documents
56	Ernest Utke - family history
57	Joseph Volk - "Oral History of St. Anselm's Church"
58	Al J. Vohs - reminiscences
59	Mrs. M.E. Walsh - military documents
60	Meade D. Ward - military documents
61	Ole Watne - biography
62	Jacob P. Westby - Fairdale, ND history
63	Thomas B. White - "Narrative of James Sweeney"
64	Opal Wothe - "Prairie Smoke Tayles"
65	Philip Woutat - "Pioneer Medicine" by Dr. W. H. Witherstine

Publications Transferred to the Library

Co. No	Donor	Description
MZ-22	Margaret A. Johnson	<i>History of William Charles Johnson and Wife Catherine and Their Descendents, July 1970.</i>
MZ-17	Solveig J. Stedseth	<i>Echos, Anna O. Bertinuson, 1962 LO-16</i>
	John Gross	<i>Schmaltz Family History, 1971; Gross Family History, 1970</i>
WE-15	L.W. Bower	<i>Just An Ordinary Family, Mary Twist,</i>
TR-19	Wallace Haugom	<i>Diamond Jubilee, 1882-1957, Portland, ND</i>

TR-5	Peter O. Paulson	<i>The Evenson-Moen Family, 1785-1958</i>
TR-2	C. Norman Burnsdale	"Facts about North Dakota's New Laws."
RI-19	Rudolph Hoefs	<i>Area Fact Survey, Hankinson, North Dakota, 1964</i>
OL-10	Ralph Hickle	<i>My Family Tree - Seven Generations High, Sherman Hickle, 1952</i>
DU-20	Grace Smith	<i>The David Juzeler Family</i>
DU-1	Mrs. Harold Lee	<i>The David Juzeler Family</i>
DI-20	Mrs. Alfred Johnson	<i>Seventy-Fifth Anniversary - Our Savior's Lutheran Congregation, 1884-1959, Clement,</i>
		<i>North Dakota; Fortieth Anniversary - St. John's Lutheran Church, 1905-1945, Oakes, North Dakota</i>
BI-14	Hazel Schlangen	<i>Along Paupay Creek, Hazel Bendix Schlangen</i>
BA-24	Mrs. John O. Hanson	<i>Thanks Be To God, 1885-1960, The 75th Anniversary of Eidfold Evangelical Lutheran Church, Hannaford, North Dakota and St. Olaf Evangelical Lutheran Church, Walum, North Dakota.</i>
BA-22	Jean M. Hill	<i>The First Sibylline Book of Valley City High School, 1907</i>
BA-8	George & Esther Overn	<i>Kathryn Alumni, 1925-1975; Kathryn, North Dakota 75th Anniversary, 1900-1975; Seventy-Fifth Anniversary, 1886- 1961, Waldheim American Lutheran Church, Kathryn, North Dakota</i>
	Unknown	<i>St. Pauli Lutheran Church, 1903-1953, Kathryn, North Dakota</i>
		<i>The Chenoweth Trailblazers</i>
RI-10	John Barner	<i>Poems, Agnes Stowell Pinkney; Vocational Adjustment of Ex-Prisoners in the District of Columbia, Sister Helen Angela Hurley, 1938.</i>
		<i>Resources of Dakota, Commissioner of Immigration, 1887</i>
RM-6	Mrs. Minard Halverson	"Historic Ramsey County."