



North Dakota Veterans' History Project Fact Sheet



What is the project's purpose? The North Dakota Veterans' History Project exists to capture the stories of war-time veterans who live in or served from North Dakota. These stories will illuminate individuals' experiences, enhance the understanding of these eras, and provide bridges between generations.

Who are the project sponsors? The project is a cooperative effort, spearheaded by U.S. Senator Byron Dorgan and the Library of Congress, coordinated by the State Historical Society of North Dakota with assistance from the North Dakota Department of Veterans' Affairs, and made possible by the combined efforts of many organizations and individuals, including AARP North Dakota, the North Dakota Humanities Council, veterans' service officers, North Dakota veterans' organizations, North Dakota State University, education groups, and numerous volunteers and supporters.

What will happen to the interviews? The original interview tape will go to the State Historical Society of North Dakota where it will be copied and a file maintained on the interview. A copy of the tape will remain at the North Dakota Heritage Center for research use and other copies may be available for study or other educational purposes. Copies may be deposited with the Library of Congress or other research centers. As much as is possible, individual interviews may be indexed or transcribed. Any supporting material, including photographs or personal papers, will be filed as part of the collections of the State Historical Society of North Dakota.

Will the interviews be transcribed? Transcription is preferred and we hope that interviews can be transcribed. The project is seeking volunteers who will assist in transcription. However, because transcription is a slow and therefore expensive process, the project sponsors believe that what is most important right now is to record the narrators' stories. The project will gladly receive support for transcribing interviews, either as volunteer assistance or as donations.

Why a gift agreement? Oral interviews, whether transcribed or not, are protected by copyright laws. The gift agreement gives these rights to the tape repository so that researchers may use the interviews and quote from them. It also permits the repository to make copies of the tapes or transcripts for researchers, family members, other repositories, or others in the future. Without the gift agreement the interview tapes will not be accepted by any historical repository. The person conducting the interview must also sign the gift agreement.

Who will be interviewed? Veterans who are interested in participating and who have a story to tell are welcome to be a part of this project. Veterans residing in North Dakota and those who served from North Dakota (but may now reside elsewhere) are expected to be part of the project. Only a small fraction of the state's 60,000 veterans can be interviewed and the project will initially give priority to those who served in World Wars I and II and the Korean War. Veterans

may volunteer to be interviewed, be nominated by veterans' organizations, or by the county veterans' service officer. The Veterans' Service Officers will assemble a list of veterans in each county who might be interviewed.

Will all veterans be interviewed? Oral histories take a lot of time to do, including time before the interview to contact people and travel, and time following to organize the information and materials gathered. Even with excellent cooperation of veterans and an outpouring of volunteer interviewers, only a small fraction of the state's large number of veterans can be interviewed.

Who will do the interviews? Volunteers, which may include other veterans, students, and historians, will conduct the interviews. Interviewers are expected to have background knowledge on the era and the war the interview is about and to follow the procedures outlined for the project.

Will you collect other materials? Photos, diaries, letters, and other unpublished materials relating to the wartime experience can be donated as part of this project as well. Any such items must be included in the gift agreement and noted on the data sheet.

North Dakota Veterans' History Project Partners:

- United States Senator Byron Dorgan
- North Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs
- State Historical Society of North Dakota
- North Dakota Humanities Council
- North Dakota State University
- AARP

We apologize if we have neglected to list any partners. Please bring it to our attention if we have. This project is growing and we look forward to working with the many people who are eager to see this project capture the stories of North Dakota's service-men and service-women.

Contact Information:

Veterans' History Project Coordinator
State Historical Society of North Dakota
612 East Boulevard Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58505-0830
701-328-2666

07/01/03