

Statehood and the Constitution: A New Frontier

The Enabling Act of 1889 allowed Dakota Territory to apply for statehood as two separate states. The North Dakota Constitutional Convention opened on July 4, 1889. The state constitution was ratified on October 1, 1889. This pathfinder will lead researchers to several resources available at the North Dakota State Archives highlighting North Dakota's admittance to the Union as a state and the North Dakota Constitution.

Archival Collections

10001 Burleigh Folsom Spalding Papers

Autobiography, correspondence, account books, autograph book containing signatures of delegates to the North Dakota Constitutional Convention, letterpress copy books, legal documents, poetry, speeches, and attorney dockets relating to law practice. The records relate primarily to Spalding's personal, business, and political activities. The collection includes the records Capitol Commission (1883-1886), the "Admission-As-A-Whole Commission" (1887), and a roster of North Dakota county political committee members, 1904.

11354 Ephemera Collection

Map Folder 35

The ephemera collection contains a variety of materials which are arranged first by size, then by topic (in alphabetical order). The collection primarily Printed material such as posters, tickets, programs, brochures, and pamphlets. The first group of materials is letter size or smaller, the second group is larger than letter size and smaller than 11x17" and the third group is larger than 11x17". Also includes digital files in SADR.

11493 Doreen Chaky Research Collection

Research for the book *Terrible Justice*, numerous freelance articles, and work with the Williston Oil Reporter, as well as article drafts and notes.

11494 Alexander Flemington Papers

Consists primarily of Flemington's personal and professional correspondence, as well as printed material from his school years and legislative career, and copies of reports and journals from the 1887 Territorial Convention and the 1889 North Dakota Constitutional Convention, with legislation proposed by Flemington identified.

Useful Search Guidance

Subjects

- Enabling Act of 1889
- North Dakota Constitution of 1889

People

- Alexander Flemington, 1856-1905
- Burleigh Folsom Spalding, 1853-1934
- Frederick Fancher, 1852-1944
- John Scott

Locations

- North Dakota

Journal Articles

History of the State Constitutional Convention of 1889

R. M. Black— *North Dakota Historical Collections* Vol. 3

Constitutional Convention, 1889

Burleigh F. Spalding — *North Dakota History* Vol. 31 Issue 3

John Wesley Powell's Address at the North Dakota Constitutional Convention

Edited by James E. Sperry — *North Dakota History* Vol. 36 Issue 4

20086 William McKendree Springer Papers

Transcript of a letter from Springer to L. G. Johnson, Aberdeen (Dakota Territory), concerning Springer's opposition to the division of Dakota Territory into two states.

20124 North Dakota Statehood Convention Records

Announcement of the statehood convention, and the resolution adopted by the Jamestown convention advocating division of the Dakota Territory and admission of North Dakota to the Union.

20310 Donald L. Kinzer Papers

Photocopy of a paper by Kinzer concerning the admission of North Dakota to the Union, entitled "The Congress and State-Making, 1889 - Centennials and Precedents." The paper was presented in an abbreviated form at the 1980 meeting of the Western History Association in Kansas City (Mo.).

31545 Historical Society. State Archives, Statehood proclamation

Historical Society. State Archives. Statehood proclamation, November 2, 1889.

31732 Secretary of State. North Dakota Constitution

This series contains the handwritten original draft of the North Dakota Constitution.

80042 John Scott Election Certificate

Dakota Territory certificate of election as a delegate from Barnes County to the 1889 Constitutional Convention.

Books

The Government of the People of the State of North Dakota

1896 - H. B. Woodworth

Call Number: 320.9784 W879g

The Bill of Rights: The North Dakota Perspective

1992 – designed and edited by Everett C. Albers

The North Dakota Declaration of Rights, 24 rights in the First Article of the ND

Constitution adopted in 1889

Call Number: 342.784085 B596

Journal of the Constitutional Convention for North Dakota: Held at Bismarck, Thursday, July 4 to Aug. 17, 1889, Together With the Enabling Act of Congress and the Proceedings of the Joint Commission Appointed For the Equitable Division of Territorial Property

1889—North Dakota Constitutional Convention (1889)

Call Number: 342.784 N811j

Official Report of the Proceedings and Debates of the First Constitutional Convention of North Dakota, Assembled in the City of Bismarck, July 4th to Aug. 17th, 1889.; R.M.

Tuttle, Official Stenographer

1889 – North Dakota Constitutional Convention (1889)

Call Number: 342.784 N811o 1889

The Year of Statehood (1889): Dakota—Official Guide—Containing Useful Information in Handy Form For Settlers and Homeseekers Concerning North and South Dakota

1889 – published by Frank H. Hagerty, commissioner of immigration

Call Number: 917.8 H144y 1889

Statehood and Growth of North Dakota

1979 – Darrell McNamara, Jan Rath, Keith Rath and Harvey Sletten

A booklet of Project Study. This publication has been funded by an ESEA Title IV-C (P. L. 93-380) grant through the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction.

Call Number: 978.403 M232

Online Resources

Constitutional Convention, 1889

State Historical Society of North Dakota website

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

North Dakota Legislative Branch: Constitution

Updated North Dakota Constitution on the North Dakota State Government website

Woman Suffrage at Statehood

State Historical Society of North Dakota website

State Archives

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



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