

Native American Innovation: Inventions, Everyday Tools, and Traditional Regalia

Long before European settlement of North America, Native Americans created their own tools and decorated regalia using resources from nature. Many of these artifacts have been found in North Dakota or preserved by families throughout generations. This pathfinder will lead researchers to several resources available at the North Dakota State Archives highlighting the artifacts, tools, and traditional regalia of North Dakota's Native American tribes.

Archival Collections

00007 Indians of North America Stereographic Library Photo Collection

Volume 1 of the Keystone View Company's Indians in North America series. Images were marketed by the Keystone Company. Subjects include: Medicine Woman, Flathead Babe Cradleboard, Blackfoot Indians, Tipi, Painted Lodges, Plenty Coos, Chief of Crows, Squaw Dance, Bear Chief of Hudson Bay Coat, Flathead War Dance, Black Bear at Sun Dance, Joe LaMoose, Grass Dance, Little Dog Blackfoot Chief, Blackfeet Travois, Sampson of Flatheads, Ness-Pierce, Crow War Dance, Choosing Dance, Chief Chariot and family 1888, Blackfeet Maidens, Peace Pipe, Mr. Wild Gun, Chief Moise, Kootensis Sun Dance Lodge, Chippewa Chief 1788-1922.

00022-H Frank J. Hutchinson Photo Collection

Includes photographs captured by David F. Barry of Northern Plains Indians and other significant people, places, and events in Dakota Territory and the American West.

00036 James McLaughlin Photograph Collection

Portraits of James McLaughlin, the McLaughlin family, the Parkin and Van Solen families, various group images of delegations and other gatherings, scenes from the Standing Rock Agency, Fort Yates (N.D.), and across Dakota Territory, North Dakota, South Dakota, Oklahoma, and California.

Useful Search Guidance

Subjects

- Beadwork
- Knife River Flint tools
- Axes
- Spears
- Arrowheads
- Bone tools
- Traditional Native American tools and practices
- Native American regalia
- Pottery

People

- Martin (Old Dog) Cross, 1906-1964
- Marilyn Cross Hudson, 1936-2020

Locations

- North America
- Dakota Territory

Journal Articles

The Stone and Bone Implements of the Arickarees

Lewis H. Morgan – *North Dakota History* Vol. 30 Issue 2 & 3

North Dakota's Knife River Flint Quarries

Stanley A. Ahler – *North Dakota History* Vol. 58 Issue 1

A Buffalo Drive on Heart River

Arthur F. Johnson – *North Dakota History* Vol. 31 Issue 4

00039 Monroe P. Killy Photograph Collection

Photographic prints mounted on album pages of Indian people on the Fort Berthold Reservation, log cabins, flint quarries, women working with hides and other images, mostly from 1942. This collection includes the album, prints, and negatives of the images. These images were taken mainly by Monroe P. Killy and collected by Melvin R. Gilmore.

00086 Paul Ewald Photograph Collection

Consists of prints and some copy negatives of several photographers on the Fort Berthold Reservation, primarily Gilbert L. Wilson, and also including Frances Densmore, Frank Fiske, Fred Olson, Sumner Matteson, and several unidentified photographers. Ewald wrote identification of many photographs in his collection based upon suggestions from the people of Fort Berthold. Images include celebrations and gatherings, dances, sweat lodges, Little Missouri camps, cradles, portraits, Buffalo Bird Woman, Wolf Chief, Goodbird, Indian crafts and skills, artifacts, wood gathering, gardening, food processing and cooking, earth lodges, bullboats, travois, and Indian cowboys.

00122 Butch Thunderhawk Photograph Collection (Items may be restricted. Contact the reference desk for assistance.)

Copy negatives and prints from Butch Thunderhawk's photograph collection of Native Americans in North Dakota.

10148 Paul Ewald Papers

Correspondence, printed material, subject files, reports, studies, photographs, slides, and notes relating to Indians, archeology, administration of the State Historical Society of North Dakota, historic sites, natural history, research, and personal and business affairs. Collection includes the diary and transcript of Joe Flying Eagle, 1913-1959.

10536 Martin P. Mosbrucker Collection

The majority of the collection consists of archaeological files, drawings, research, correspondence, and publications that support Mosbrucker's archaeological collection, which is among the collections in the Archaeology and Historic Preservation Division of the State Historical Society of North Dakota. Mosbrucker collected the artifacts with his wife, Lavinia, while living in Mandan (N.D.). The bulk of his collection came from the Boley site (the site of a Mandan earth lodge village, 1725-1785), and from Fort Abraham Lincoln. The rest of the collection was collected at various sites in North Dakota. The papers provide insight into Mosbrucker's collection, his system of organizing and describing the artifacts in the collection, and reflect his particular interests in the Mandan culture, history, and archaeological excavation.

11236 Josephine Waggoner Papers

Consists of manuscripts written by Josephine (McCarthy) Waggoner (1871-1943) including stories of Lakota and Dakota tribal members, their traditional customs and beliefs, Waggoner's own life experiences, and biographies of Lakota and Dakota chiefs. Information for many of the manuscripts was told to Waggoner by tribal members. Waggoner worked with several individuals, including Frank Herriott and George F. Will Sr. to edit her manuscripts for publication. The collection includes original manuscripts by Waggoner, edited versions by both men, and related correspondence. The collection also includes correspondence about litigation undertaken by Waggoner's descendants to reclaim her manuscripts.

11517 Marilyn Cross Hudson Collection

Research, writings, working and subject files, and other materials created or collected by Hudson. Major subjects include the written, recorded or photographed tribal and oral histories of the MHA Nation, Elbowoods, the bottom lands of the Missouri River prior to development of the Garrison Dam, Native American veterans, Native American ranching, and the Cross family. Included are records of tribal, state and federal government proceedings leading up to construction of the Garrison Dam and the subsequent impacts on the tribe and its communities. The collection includes: writings and correspondence of Martin Cross, father of Marilyn Cross Hudson, who served 6 terms on the MHA Nation Tribal Council, 4 of those terms as Chairman; photographs, records and documents of Chief Old Dog, grandfather of Marilyn Cross Hudson; cemetery records, both on and off the Fort Berthold Reservation; and boarding school records.

31376 Historical Society. Education and Interpretation. Editor's Files.

Series consists of correspondence, notes, and memoranda with authors, researchers, and staff concerning publication of the North Dakota Historical Quarterly, The Museum Review, North Dakota History, PlainsTalk, and other Society publications such as the Traveler's Companion and exhibit catalogs.

32141 Historical Society. Events and Programming Photographs

Photographic slides, prints, and negatives taken by various Historical Society staff documenting events, exhibits, staff and programs presented or sponsored by the Society.

Books

Buckskin & Buffalo: The Artistry of the Plains Indians

1998 - Colin F. Taylor

Call Number: 704.0397078 T2393b 1998

North American Indian Jewelry and Adornment: From Prehistory to the Present

1999 - Lois Sherr Dubin ; original photography by Togashi, Paul Jones, and others

Call Number: 739.2708997 D8146n 1999

Authentic Indian Designs: 2,500 Illustrations From Reports of the Bureau of American Ethnology

1975 - edited by Maria Naylor

Large collection of 2,500 authentic illustrations of bowls, bottles and pipes, geometric and floral patterns on beadwork, pictographs, symbolic tipi decorations, masks, basket weaves, Hopi katchina figures, Zuni and Navaho sand paintings, totem poles, hide paintings, and much more.

Call Number: 745.441 A939 1975

Añicinábe Manido' Minesikan = Chippewa Beadwork

1996 - foreword by Leslie W. Peltier; introduction by Mark J. Halvorson

Call Number: 745.582089973 A597

Bone Tools and Technological Choice: Change and Stability on the Northern Plains

2006 - Janet Lynn Griffitts

This study examines decision making concerning tool use and raw material choice through the analysis of bone technology from five sites from the Middle Missouri subarea of the Northern Plains of North America.

Call Number: 978.0049752 G8559 2006

The Spark in the Stone: Skills and Projects From the Native American Tradition

1991 - Peter Goodchild

Introduces the highly successful wilderness technology possessed by Indians of North America in the millennia before white settlement. Includes projects for making simple tools, weaving, and crafting moccasins and willow baskets

Call Number: 745.5 G646s 1991

Indian Handcrafts

1990 - C. Keith Wilbur

Describes and gives instructions for making, a variety of traditional Indian tools, implements, clothing, toys, ornaments, and other items.

Call Number: 745.5 W666i 1990

North Dakota Pottery, 1933-1985: Indian & Government Ceramics

2018 - Arley H. & Bonnie J. Olson

Call Number: 738.09784 O524nd 2018

Online Resources

**Adventures in Archaeology Collections:
Larson Village**

Meagan Schoenfelder — 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

Native Americans: Tools, Weapons, and Resources

Smithsonian Learning Lab website

American Indian Art

Current website for the Brinton Museum in Wyoming

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.



North Dakota State Archives Subject Guides made possible through a grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC).