

Religion in North Dakota

This pathfinder will lead researchers to several resources available at the North Dakota State Archives highlighting the religious composition of North Dakota.

Archival Collections

10077 First Baptist Church (Bathgate, N.D.) Records

Minute book (1881-1889), two financial ledgers (1882-1923) and a ledger (1882-1917) with minutes, membership, and church records.

10086 Church History Records

Photographs, newspaper clippings, and histories of various Baptist, Catholic, Congregational, Episcopal, Methodist, and Presbyterian churches in North Dakota. Includes a history of the North Dakota Sunday School Association and a report of the North Dakota Council of Christian Education, 1939.

10101 Leroy F. Jackson Papers

Transcripts of letters from Reverend John Robinson, St. Mary's Mission, concerning Methodist missionary activities near Sisseton (S.D.), a biographical sketch of John Robinson, transcripts of letters from Reverend Samuel Spates and the Spates family concerning missionary activity in Dakota Territory, a biographical sketch of Reverend Spates, a transcript of the diary of Jedediah Dwight Stevens (1827-1830) describing mission work among Indians in Wisconsin, and a manuscript by Reverend John H. Pitezel entitled "Story of Backwoods Life" describing mission work in Michigan and Wisconsin.

10156 Johan August Johanson Papers

Diaries, photographs, Chinese language manuscripts, Tibetan language manuscripts, and printed material relating to mission work.

10157 North Dakota Oral History Project Records

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.

Useful Search Guidance

Subjects

- Jewish
- Christianity
- Catholic
- Presbyterian
- Lutheran
- Methodist
- Baptist
- Orthodox
- Islam
- Native American religious history
- Christian missions

People

- Leroy F. Jackson, 1881-1958
- John Shanley, 1852-1909
- James Perry Schell, 1845-1932
- George Selkirk

Locations

- Ross, North Dakota

Journal Articles

John Shanley: North Dakota's First Catholic Bishop

Kevin A Duchscherer— *North Dakota History* Vol. 46 Issue 2

American Indian Women and the Catholic Church

Valerie Sherer Mathes — *North Dakota History* Vol. 47 Issue 4

Jewish Communal Life in Fargo, North Dakota: The Formative Years

Robert J. Lazar — *North Dakota History* Vol. 36 Issue 4

10231 Dakota Jewish History Project Records

Biographical information questionnaires, reports, correspondence, financial records, lists of individuals to mail questionnaires to, notes, newspaper clippings and press release information about the project to document Jewish history in the Dakotas.

10241 Alfred A. Thal Collection

Correspondence, documentation of the Dakota Jewish History Project, scrapbooks, family histories, taped interviews, and photos, chiefly relating to the Jewish community in North Dakota; together with records of Agoodas Achim Jewish Congregation, Dickinson (ND) and a history of the Temple B'nai Ephram.

10286 Harold W. Case Papers

Correspondence, diaries, sermons, subject files, reports, scrapbooks, maps, photographic materials, records of various civic and women's organizations, and records of the Fort Berthold Mission. Included are a diary, architectural drawings, pamphlets, and stationery letterhead for Reverend Case. Congregational missionary. The American Missionary Association scrapbook contains letters to and from Susan W. Hall, wife of Charles Hall, American Missionary Association representative at Elbowoods (N.D.).

10462 Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota Records

Consists of minutes; correspondence; subject files; reports; audits; grant files; parish files; property files; deeds and abstracts; architectural drawings; Indian Convocation records; clergy files; histories; programs; scrapbooks; papers of Bishop George T. Masuda; convention proceedings and materials; memoranda; news releases; treasurer's reports; financial statements; ledgers; policy manuals; newspaper clippings; photographs; altar books; and artifacts. Records relate to administration of the Diocese, religious education, women's guild, ecumenism, administration of parishes, Indian missions, clergy affairs, ministerial activities, and various social issues.

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.

10562 B'nai Israel Synagogue (Grand Forks, N.D.) Records

A photocopy of the minutes of the Congregation of the Children of Israel (Grand Forks, ND), the original Jewish synagogue organized in 1891. The first service was in 1892. B'nai Israel Synagogue was built in 1937.

10731 Barbara Honeyman Papers

Consists of newsletters, brochures, legislative information, publications, and memorabilia associated with the women's movement.

10766 First Church of Christ, Scientist, and Society (Bismarck, N.D.) Records

Board of directors report, correspondence, rental leases, pamphlets, and newspaper clippings.

11180 Gethsemane Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Free Church (Tolna, N.D.) Records

Church minutes, pastors' logs, church guest books, 75th anniversary programs, and historical information about the church. The church was incorporated in 1904.

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.

20368 St. Paul's Church Records (Oliver County, North Dakota)

Brief history of the church, ca. 1885 to 1947.

20381 James Perry Schell Papers

Papers consist of correspondence, reports, newspaper clippings, printed materials and historical sketches relating to early Presbyterian churches and ministers, Christian Endeavor Societies, and reminiscences of home mission work in Dakota Territory.

20419 Glenn J. Fruth Papers

Typescript entitled "The Brethren Churches of the District of North Dakota and Eastern Montana." The history describes missionary activities and includes brief histories of many Brethren congregations in North Dakota. Collection includes a dedicatory program of the Cando Church of the Brethren.

20448 George Selkirk Papers

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

Books

The Role of Religion in Social and Economic Development

1967 - Walter B. Rogers

Call Number: 261.8 R633r

The First Presbyterian Church of Fargo, North Dakota: A Centennial History, 1877-1977

1978 – Bill G Reid

Call Number: 266 R272

Presbyterianism in North Dakota

1959 – W.C. Hunter

Call Number: 285.1784 H945p 1959

History of the Methodist Church in North Dakota

1946 – C. A. Armstrong

Call Number: 287 Ar57h

Lutherans in North America

1965 – Richard C. Wolf; Frank W. Klos, editor; John Gretzer, artist

Call Number: 284.173 W853ℓ 1965

The Religions of the American Indians

1979 – Åke Hultkrantz; translated by Monica Setterwall

Call Number: 299.7 H917a 1980

Native Religions and Cultures of North America

2000—edited by Lawrence E. Sullivan

Call Number: 299.7 N278 2000

Peyote Religion : A History

1987—Omer C. Stewart

Call Number: 299.78 St49p

Prairie Peddlers: The Syrian-Lebanese in North Dakota

2002—William C. Sherman, Paul L. Whitney, John Guerrero

The appendix includes the name of every person of Arab background found to be living in the state in U.S. Census data for 1900, 1910, and 1920. It also includes naturalization records, land acquisitions records; list of veterans, name changes, and a list of WPA interviewees.

Call Number: 978.4004927 S5536p 2002

Islam

General Information File

Online Resources

[Lebanese Immigrants—A Lot More Than Prairie Peddlers](#)

Tom Isern – Pierce County Tribune October 11, 2003

[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

[First Mosque](#)

Dakota Datebook article by Merry Helm on the Prairie Public Newsroom website

[Mission Life](#)

Dakota Datebook article by Merry Helm on the Prairie Public Newsroom 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.



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