

Women's Suffrage in Dakota Territory and North Dakota

Women's suffrage was an issue that surfaced many times over in Dakota Territory and North Dakota political arenas, including at the constitutional convention in 1889 and in numerous sessions and elections afterward. The right for women to vote was granted universally in the United States in the form of the 19th amendment. This pathfinder will lead researchers to resources available at the North Dakota State Archives highlighting the efforts of those fighting for and against suffrage in North Dakota's history.

Archival Collections

10003 Linda (Warfel) and Benjamin Franklin Slaughter Family Papers

Papers of Linda (Warfel) Slaughter, her husband Benjamin Franklin Slaughter, daughters Linnie Lee (Mrs. Albin) Hedstrom, and Jessamine (Mrs. Arthur) Burgum, sister Aidee, granddaughter Hazel (Hedstrom) Eastman, grandson Ted Hedstrom, grandson Vern Hedstrom, and great-granddaughter Virginia (Eastman) Dullum. The collection also includes family history and genealogy information, newspaper clippings about the Slaughters, papers of Albin Hedstrom (Burleigh County Sheriff), Allan Eastman (Bismarck Tribune writer), Vern Hedstrom's Army records, and football and basketball coaching materials, and Allan's parents Phillip K. and Maude Eastman (store owners in Wilton, N.D.).

10069 Nina Farley Wishek Papers

Manuscript entitled "The Marquis de Mores and the North Dakota Bad Lands," correspondence and notes relating to the Sully Expedition and stage lines in southern North Dakota, the North Dakota women's suffrage association, and poetry.

10103 Eben Ezer Saunders Papers

The collection consists primarily of articles by Saunders and also includes correspondence and miscellaneous printed material. The columns by Saunders cover topics such as prohibition, suffrage, pioneer histories, and Saunders' commentary on the political, cultural, and social issues of the time.

10108 Elizabeth Preston Anderson Papers

Scrapbook documenting the North Dakota Women's Christian Temperance Union, essays concerning temperance lobbying activities, and an autobiography.

Useful Search Guidance

Subjects

- National Woman Suffrage Association
- Woman's Christian Temperance Union
- American Woman Suffrage Association
- Votes for Women League
- Temperance
- Suffrage
- Anti-suffrage
- North Dakota Constitutional Convention of 1889

People

- Enos Stutsman, 1826-1874
- Major Pickler, 1844-1910
- Alice Pickler, 1848-1932
- Linda Slaughter, 1843-1911
- Elizabeth Preston Anderson, 1861-1954
- Henry B. Blackwell, 1825-1909
- Lucy Stone, 1818-1893
- Dr. Cora Smith Eaton, 1867-1939
- Susan B. Anthony, 1820-1906

Locations

- Wyoming Territory
- Dakota Territory

Journal Articles

Susan B. Anthony in the Dakotas

Alma Lutz – *North Dakota History* Vol. 25 Issue 4

Land, Liquor, and the Women of Hatton, North Dakota

Barbara Handy-Marchello – *North Dakota History* Vol. 59 Issue 4

Elizabeth Preston Anderson: A Rhetorical Legacy

Linda Johnson Wurtz – *North Dakota History* Vol. 63 Issue 2 & 3

10133 Women's Christian Temperance Union of North Dakota Records

Annual convention minutes and reports, constitution, correspondence, organizational history, records of the Florence Crittenden home, activities, scrapbooks, obituaries, news clippings, printed material, financial records, songbooks, photographs and post cards, audio visual material, and records of local and district chapters. Also includes minutes and reports from the annual meetings of the WCTU of Dakota (1884-1889).

10605 Commission on the Status of Women Plum Valley Chapter (Minot, N.D.) Records Box 2, Folder 40

Copies of interviews of 94 Ward County women, community involvement reports, photographs, photocopies of newspaper clippings, scrapbooks, and ephemera.

11354 Ephemera Collection

Box 7; Map Folder 38

The ephemera collection contains a variety of materials which are arranged first by size, then by topic (in alphabetical order).

11406 Shakespeare Club (Devils Lake, N.D.) Records

Minutes, correspondence, programs, membership records, by-laws of the organization.

11480 Ella Leidy Collection

Oral history interview with Ella Leidy conducted by SHSND staff. The interview touched on the following: biographical information about her family, discussion of growing up in Wilton, ND, thoughts on small town life, small town school, her earliest memories of participating in 4-H, her preferred art styles (graphite, portraits), how her interest in women's suffrage and activism developed, Building the Movement art contest experience (Leidy drew a modernized portrait of Elizabeth Preston Anderson as part of the project) including how the COVID-19 pandemic affected the trip, Washington D.C. experience (included tours, a speech from the White House, COVID test upon exiting the plane, First lady Melania Trump, and future plans of going into law/women's rights and eventually politics.

11487 North Dakota Women Suffrage Centennial Committee (NDWSCC) Records

Agenda and minutes, member biographies, correspondence, committee history, speeches, Persistence (play) including recording on CD, timeline of suffrage in North Dakota, centennial events, Ratification day, North Dakota women's suffrage curriculum, trail markers, suffragist biographies, articles and promotion in magazines and newspapers, newsletter, Dakota Datebook, suffrage research, fundraising and funding, and printed material.

20672 Wyoming Territory Records

Photocopy of a Wyoming Territorial Council bill granting rights of suffrage and holding public office to women in the territory.

Books

Century of Struggle: The Woman's Rights Movement in the United States

1959 - Eleanor Flexner

Call Number: 324.3 F639

Suffragists and Democrats: The Politics of Woman Suffrage in America

1972—David Morgan

Call Number: 324.6230973 M847s 1972

Equality at the Ballot Box: Votes for Women on the Northern Great Plains

2019—edited by Lori Ann Lahlum & Molly P. Rozum

Editors Lori Ann Lahlum and Molly P. Rozum have compiled a set of original essays that illuminate key aspects of the women's suffrage movement.

Call Number: 324.6230978 E648 2019

The International Woman Suffrage News: The Monthly Organ of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance

1917-1930

Call Number: 324.623 I612

Winning the West For women : The Life of Suffragist Emma Smith DeVoe

2011—Jennifer M. Ross-Nazzari

Winning the West for Women demonstrates the importance of the West in the national suffrage movement. It reveals the central role played by the National Council of Women Voters, whose members were predominately western women, in securing the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment.

Call Number: 324.623 R825w 2011

The History of the Woman's Suffrage Movement in North Dakota

1951—Jeanne F. Tucker

Call Number: 324.623 T892h

Women's Suffrage

General Information File

Online Resources

Woman Suffrage at Statehood

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 and the 19th Amendment

National Park Service website

North Dakota Women's Suffrage Items Added to Digital Horizons

North Dakota State University website, Archives site

Dakota Datebook: 100 Years of Women Voting

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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