

# North Dakota

## A LOOK BACK AT OUR HISTORY

### Lewis & Clark meet Sakakawea - 1804

Explorers Meriwether Lewis and William Clark lead the Corps of Discovery through what is now North Dakota while exploring the Missouri River and the wider Louisiana Purchase. When in present day North Dakota, the explorers met Sakakawea, who would be an invaluable guide and interpreter.

*Learn more about the expedition "Undaunted Courage" by Stephen E. Ambrose*

### Battle of Killdeer Mountain - 1864

This was the last battle of the Sully and Sibley Expeditions that were undertaken in response to the Dakota Uprising that took place in Minnesota and Iowa. Native Americans that took part in the Uprising fled to Dakota Territory and the U.S. military followed. However, the Native Americans in this battle were not the ones that took part in the Uprising.

*Learn more in "The Sully Expedition of 1864 featuring the Killdeer Mountain and Badlands Battles" by Louis Pfaller*

### Teddy Roosevelt in Dakota Territory - 1883

Theodore Roosevelt went west to hunt buffalo and ranch. He had two headquarters near Medora. The first was the Maltese Cross Ranch and the second was the Elkhorn Ranch. Roosevelt said he never would have been president if not for his time in North Dakota.

*Learn more in "Roosevelt in the Bad Lands" by Hermann Hagedorn*

### Philippine War - 1899

After the Spanish American War, the United States fought an insurrection in the Philippines for years. North Dakota sent the 1st North Dakota Volunteer Infantry to fight. This was the first official overseas engagement by North Dakota troops.

*Learn more about the 1st North Dakota Volunteer Infantry in "Never Subdued: a True Story of the Philippine-American War and the Moro Campaigns" by William Franklin Hook*

### Governor Recall - 1921

Lynn Frazier was the first governor recalled in the United States. A member of the Non-Partisan League, Frazier was the target of a smear campaign and lost a recall election. He returned to politics and represented North Dakota in the United States Senate for 3 terms.

*Learn more in "Political Prairie Fire; the Nonpartisan League, 1915-1922" by Robert Loren Morlan*

### Last Lynching in North Dakota - 1931

Charles Bannon was accused of murdering the farm family for whom he worked. A rumor started that Bannon might not be convicted. The townspeople of Schaefer, ND, near present day Watford City, took measures into their own hands and lynched Bannon. A lawman removed hoods from some members of the lynch mob, but didn't recognize anyone.

*Learn more in "End of the Rope: The True Story of North Dakota's Last Lynching" by Dennis Edward Johnson and Breanna Bohmbach*

### Blizzard of 1966 - 1966

In March, a blizzard hit North Dakota hard. Visibility was reduced to zero for hours on end. Five North Dakotans lost their lives as a result of the storm.

*Learn more in "One to Remember: The Relentless Blizzard of March 1966" by Douglas Ramsey*

### Zip to Zap - 1969

2,000 college students descended on Zap, ND, a town of 300. Riots started when the beer ran out and 700 National Guardsmen had to be sent in to restore order.

*Learn more in "Unbelievable Dakota People" by William Jackson*

### Homestead Act - 1862

The Federal government encouraged farmers to move to the area by passing the Homestead Act of 1862. People were given free deeds to the land if they filed an application and improved the land over a span of 5 years.

*Learn more about early farming in "North Dakota: 100 Years Ago" by Larry Aasen*

### Invasion of Canada - 1866

The Irish rebels, angered over British occupation of Ireland, tried to form an alliance with the Métis people of North Dakota to invade Canada and hold the colony hostage in return for Irish independence. The Métis didn't go along with the plan but the Irish rebels, known as Fenians, crossed the border from what is now North Dakota with around 40 men and seized a fort in Canada before they were captured.

*Learn more about the Métis in "Metis Legacy: a Metis Historiography and Annotated Bibliography" by Lawrence J. Barkwell.*

### Marquis De Mores Settles in Medora - 1883

The French aristocrat Antoine de Vallombrosa, the Marquis De Mores, started a meat packing plant in Medora, a city he named after his wife. The Marquis built a chateau overlooking the rugged Badlands.

*See pictures of his operation in "Medora and Theodore Roosevelt National Park" by Gary Leppart*

### Sitting Bull's Gravesite - 1890

Sitting Bull, the Hunkpapa Lakota holy man, was shot and killed on the Standing Rock Reservation while being arrested for his involvement in the Ghost Dance movement. He was buried at Fort Yates, but his remains were moved in 1953 to Mobridge, South Dakota, where a granite shaft marks his resting place.

*Learn more about Sitting Bull in "The Lance and the Shield" by Robert Utley. Learn more about the grave robbing in "The Best of Dakota Mysteries and Oddities" by William Jackson*

### State Capitol Burns Down - 1930

A fire that started in a janitor's closet destroyed the original State Capitol Building on December 28th. The present State Capitol Building was built on the same site and was completed in 1934.

*Learn more in "Bismarck North Dakota" by Cathy A. Langemo*

### The Dust Bowl - 1932

A drought in the 1930's made times difficult for farmers. The dry topsoil was blown away in dust storms that spanned states. Many people moved away from the state. The population of North Dakota in 1930 was only just surpassed in the 2010 census.

*Learn more in "The Dust Bowl: an Illustrated History" by Dayton Duncan*

### North Dakota Secedes from U.S. - 1934

After being convicted of misappropriating federal funds, Governor William "Wild Bill" Langer was asked to step down by the State Supreme Court. Langer and a few aides refused to go and hatched a plan to secede from the Union. The plan fizzled out the next day. Langer's conviction was eventually overturned and he went on to represent North Dakota in the United States Senate.

*Learn more in "The Fighting Governor: The Story of William Langer and the State of North Dakota" John M Holzworth*

### Grand Forks Flood - 1997

50,000 residents of the area had to be evacuated when the Red River crested above 54 feet on April 21st. A fire broke out and damaged 11 downtown buildings after the evacuation. The river didn't fall below flood stage until the end of May.

*Learn more in "Flood Stage and Rising" by Jane Varley*

The content above came from North Dakota State Library items, ND Studies materials and the State Archives. Photo credit: State Historical Society of North Dakota 0200-5X7-0292

