

JOHN COLTER (177?-1812)**Mountain Man & Lewis and Clark Explorer**

A member of Lewis and Clark's expedition, who traveled through what is now North Dakota, later became a famous mountain man, is believed by many to have been the first white man to see the geysers and hot springs of Yellowstone Park, is the first known white man to have entered the boundaries of the present state of Wyoming, and was a hunting partner with Daniel Boone.

DUNCAN GRAHAM (1772-1847)**War Hero for the British, Early Settler, & Peacemaker**

One of the early pioneers in what is now North Dakota won a battle against a national war hero who later became President of the United States. With a force of 30 soldiers, one piece of artillery, and about 1,000 Native-Americans, Duncan Graham defeated the Americans under the command of Major Zachary Taylor at the Battle of Credit Island on September 5, 1814. Soon after the Treaty of Ghent was signed, ending the war in 1814, Graham established a trading post on Devils Lake.

NORMAN KITTSON (1814-1888)**Early Trader & First Millionaire in what is now North Dakota**

The man who built the oldest existing building in what is now North Dakota was also the first person to make a million dollars in the state. He later became mayor of St. Paul, Minnesota. Norman Kittson was one of this area's first entrepreneurs who appeared to have success with everything he tried. Historian Elwyn Robinson described him as "an intelligent sprightly young man." When Kittson died in 1888, his estate was worth over \$5,000,000.

PIERRE BOTTINEAU (1817-1895)**Hero of North Dakota & Minnesota**

A man born in present-day North Dakota has a city and county in this state named after him, is a legendary hero in the state of Minnesota, and is considered to be one of the founding fathers of Minneapolis-St. Paul and other numerous cities in Minnesota and North Dakota. Pierre Bottineau is also given much of the credit for keeping Fort Abercrombie from being overrun by hostile Sioux in 1862. Today, Bottineau is honored with a public library and a boulevard in Minneapolis, a memorial statue in the town of Bottineau, and a parade every July in the city of Maple Grove.

WALTER A. BURLEIGH (1820-1896)**Early Area Opportunist**

Burleigh County, the home of our state capitol, was named after one of the most ambitious, opportunistic, and perhaps ruthless individuals during the days of Dakota Territory. Walter A. Burleigh was educated as both a doctor and lawyer, but he left a legacy as a politician, land and railroad speculator, Indian agent, steamboat owner, and wheeler-dealer of the first order.

SONDRE NORHEIM (1825-1897)**Inventor of Modern Skiing & North Dakota Farmer**

The inventor of modern skiing, later became a farmer in North Dakota. No person had a greater impact on the sport of skiing than Sondre Norheim. He developed the slalom and introduced the two most important turns in skiing, the Telemark and Christiana. Norheim also made innovations on ski equipment that had a tremendous impact on competitive skiing: He devised a foot binding

that allowed sharp turning and perfected a ski shape that went on to become the model for modern Alpine skis. After becoming a Norwegian hero for winning many skiing competitions, Norheim immigrated to the U.S. and settled on a farm near the small town of Denbigh, located midway between Rugby and Minot.

ANDREW MCHENCH (1832-1912)

A Founder of Fargo & First Education Leader

The first education leader in what is now North Dakota was married to the woman who introduced the dandelion to the region. He was also a legislator, and, because the dandelion is now a major nuisance in many urban yards, this may give us a better understanding as to why politicians are often blamed for issues that lie far beyond the realm of politics.

HENRY G. THOMAS (1837-1897)

Fort Seward Founder & First Officer to Command an All-Black Regiment

During the Civil War, the first regular officer to command an all African-American regiment also established the camp near Jamestown known as Fort Seward. Henry Goddard Thomas has not received the same acclaim as Robert Gould Shaw, the only white hero of the excellent 1989 Civil War movie, *Glory*. However, unlike Shaw, Thomas was not killed in battle.

DUNN-QUAIN FAMILY

John Dunn (1839-1917) Bismarck Pioneer

Fanny Dunn-Quain (1874-1950) Tuberculosis Treatment Pioneer

Eric Quain (1870-1962) Novocaine Pioneer

The man who opened the first drug store in North Dakota was the father of the first female doctor born in the state, and she, in turn, was married to the man who first introduced Novocaine to the U.S.

DAVID HOUSTON (1841-1906)

Red River Valley Farmer & Camera Innovator

The name Kodak, associated worldwide with cameras, likely came from the term “Nodak.” David Houston, a bonanza farmer in northern Cass County and the inventor of many camera devices, loved northern Dakota and, to him, “Nodak” was a term of endearment.

SMITH STIMMEL (1842-1935)

Lincoln Bodyguard & Northern Dakota Political Leader

One of President Lincoln’s bodyguards later became an important political leader in North Dakota. Unfortunately, Smith Stimmel was not with Abraham Lincoln on April 13, 1865, the evening he was shot at Ford’s Theater, because, as Stimmel wrote, “President Lincoln flatly refused to have a military guard with him when he went to places of entertainment or to the church.”

LINDA SLAUGHTER (1843-1911)

Pioneer Teacher & Early Female Political Organizer

The first woman to vote in selecting a U.S. Presidential candidate at a national party convention was from North Dakota. In 1892, Linda Warfel Slaughter voted at the People’s Party Convention, where James B. Weaver was nominated to be their Presidential candidate. Since North Dakota was not admitted into the Union until November 2, 1889, the year 1892 also marked the first time that North Dakotans could vote in a Presidential election. The plurality voted for Weaver.

JOHN B. RAYMOND (1844-1886)**First U.S. Marshal & Early Bonanza Farmer**

The first U. S. Marshal to operate out of what is now North Dakota also served in Congress, was a Red River Valley bonanza farmer, and helped start a railroad. John B. Raymond had a remarkable career until his death in Fargo at age 41.

HUGHES FAMILY**Alexander (1846-1907) Dakota Political Leader****George (1871-1944) Inventor****Edmund (1878-1970) Utilities Pioneer**

The man who cast the deciding vote that moved the Dakota Territory capital from Yankton to Bismarck later, with his son George, established the first company in the nation to make electric stoves. Alexander Hughes had a major impact on early North Dakota, both in terms of politics and economic development.

OAKLEY CRAWFORD (1847-1917)**Notorious Swindler Who Fled North Dakota**

One of the world's most successful and nefarious swindlers tried to ply his tactics on the citizens of northern Dakota Territory in early 1889. However, he was soon exposed and fled the area knowing he would not be able to con Dakota citizens.

BJUG HARSTAD (1848-1933)**Prolific Church Founder & Religious Leader**

A man who lived and worked in North Dakota founded 18 church congregations, 4 schools, a highly respected college, and an active Lutheran synod. This man was Bjug Harstad, who was also the father of a major league baseball player.

HENRY WHEELER (1854-1930)**Man Who Foiled James' Gang Bank Robbery Later Became Grand Forks Mayor & Doctor**

The person given the most credit for foiling the attempt of Jesse James' gang to rob the First National Bank in Northfield, Minnesota later became mayor of Grand Forks. Henry Wheeler was one of North Dakota's most interesting characters. He was a well-respected surgeon and doctor in Grand Forks for fifty years (1881-1930), an avid hunter, noted sharpshooter, inventor, mayor, owner of the city's first automobile, and winner of the city's first auto race.

JOHN WISHEK (1855-1932)**Early Pioneer Leader Tried for War Crimes**

An early political and business leader in North Dakota was tried for violating the Espionage Act during World War I and could have been sent to Federal Prison for 20 years if found guilty. John H. Wishek was a founder of the towns Ashley and Wishek. He was also a legislator, attorney, banker, and business leader. Wishek did more than anyone in southcentral North Dakota to welcome 10,000 German immigrants to the region. He was also politically active and, as a result, made some enemies who were happy to find him vulnerable to legal wrongdoing during the "Great War."

FRANK WHITE (1856-1940)

State Governor & U.S. Treasurer, Buried in Arlington Cemetery

A former North Dakota governor is buried in Arlington National Cemetery, a place where many war heroes, military leaders, and distinguished statesmen are laid to rest. Frank White became the first state governor elected for two terms and was buried with full military honors in Arlington after his death on March 23, 1940.

WILLIAM D. BOYCE (1858-1929)

North Dakota Newspaper Editor & Founder of Boy Scouts of America

The man who started Boy Scouts of America was a newspaper reporter in Fargo and also started a newspaper in Lisbon, North Dakota. The life, legacy, and interests of William D. Boyce closely parallel those of another adopted North Dakota son, Teddy Roosevelt.

MELVIN HILDRETH SR. (1859-1944)

Early Democratic Party Leader & Federal Prosecutor

At the time of North Dakota statehood, one of the leaders of Democratic Party politics later gained national prominence by successfully prosecuting highly publicized wartime espionage cases. Melvin Hildreth was also awarded the Philippine Congressional Medal for his action in the Spanish-American War and is buried at the Arlington National Cemetery.

CASS GILBERT (1859-1934)

Skyscraper Pioneer Who Designed North Dakota Landmark

The man considered by many as a “pioneer of the skyscraper” designed a notable two-story structure in Fargo. Cass Gilbert became one of the top architects in the country by designing three state capitol buildings, the U.S. Supreme Court, and the Woolworth building - the tallest building in the world for 16 years.

WILLIAM H. BATES (1860-1931)

Doctor Who Discovered Adrenaline Practiced in North Dakota

The doctor who discovered adrenaline practiced medicine in North Dakota. He also invented a surgery to correct deafness in some patients and first performed a keratotomy operation to correct astigmatism. From 1903 to 1910, he also worked with the public schools in Grand Forks, implementing methods for preventing myopia in schoolchildren.

JOHN FRAINE (1861-1943)

Spanish-American War Regiment Leader & State Flag Creator

The North Dakota State Flag, the founding of the famed 164th Infantry Regiment, and the Miller Brewing Company all have something in common – John Fraine. In 1911, Fraine introduced the bill authorizing an official flag for North Dakota; in 1917, he was one of the founders of the 164th Regiment; and in 1945, the buildings of the North Dakota Army National Guard in Bismarck were named after him - Fraine Barracks. Prior to statehood, the land upon which Fraine Barracks is now located was the site of a brewery owned by Frederick Miller of Milwaukee.

GEORGE BROADHURST (1866-1952)**Director of Grand Forks Opera House & Noted Playwright**

A former Grand Forks newspaper reporter managed the city's magnificent opera house and later had one of the most famous theaters on Broadway named after him. While in Grand Forks George Broadhurst began writing plays. Because of his ability to write, direct, and produce successful plays, the Schubert brothers decided to build a Broadway theater for him to feature many of his own productions.

WILBUR BROTHERS**Curtis (1867-1954) Chief Justice of California Supreme Court & Secretary of the Navy****Ray (1875-1949) President of Stanford & Secretary of the Interior**

Two brothers from Jamestown became institutional leaders in California and later were U.S. Presidential cabinet secretaries. Curtis Dwight Wilbur was chief justice of the California Supreme Court and President Coolidge's Secretary of the Navy. Younger brother, Ray Lyman Wilbur, was president of Stanford University and Herbert Hoover's Secretary of the Interior.

NEIL MACDONALD (1876-1923)**Education Reformer**

On January 5, 1919, following a statewide election in North Dakota, the defeated candidate refused to vacate his office. The incumbent, Neil Macdonald, on the advice of the Nonpartisan League (NPL), refused to turn over the office of superintendent of the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) to Minnie J. Nielson, even though she had defeated him by a vote of 58,324 to 52,777. Neil C. Macdonald was a highly educated school official who had possibly done more than any other administrator to improve education within the state.

VIHJALMUR STEFANSSON (1879-1962)**Noted Arctic Explorer Who Pioneered High Meat and Fat Diet**

The first person to recommend a diet high in meat and fat for good health and low obesity was a famous Arctic explorer from North Dakota. Seventy-five years ago, long before the Atkins Diet or the South Beach Diet became popular, Vilhjalmur Stefansson wrote a number of articles in popular magazines and journals about a healthy diet high in these two food groups.

THOMAS CAMPBELL (1882-1966)**Owner of World's Largest Privately Owned Wheat Farm**

The owner of the world's largest privately owned wheat farm was born and raised in North Dakota. Thomas D. Campbell. Campbell obtained 95,000 acres in Montana and Wyoming and 512 acres in New Mexico. During World War II he also invented the "fire bomb" using petroleum jelly.

MELVIN HILDRETH JR. (1890-1959)**Inspiration for Preservation of Ford's Theater**

The reconstruction and renovation of Ford's Theater, the building where President Lincoln was assassinated, happened because of the determined bipartisan work of two North Dakotans, Melvin Hildreth Jr. and Milton R. Young. The idea was the brainchild of Hildreth, a Democrat, and was implemented by U. S. Senator Young, a Republican.

EDWARD MELROE (1892-1955)**Creator of North Dakota's Most Successful Manufacturing Operation**

North Dakota's most successful agricultural manufacturing story was almost stopped in its infancy because the founder was unable to secure a loan from North Dakota banks. In 1952, Edward G. Melroe, his sons, and son-in-law hoped to obtain \$250,000 to build a factory for manufacturing farm machinery in Gwinner. They went to banks in Fargo with a loan request but were turned down. Undeterred, they contacted a bank in Chicago and received \$300,000 because the bank saw the lucrative potential of their business enterprise.

JAMES MORRIS (1893-1980)**Nuremberg Judge & Founder of North Dakota Boy's State Program**

One of the people most responsible for instituting the North Dakota Boy's State Program was later a tribunal judge at Nuremberg during the Nazi war trials. James Morris also served as North Dakota Attorney General and an associate justice on the North Dakota Supreme Court.

AVARD FAIRBANKS (1897-1987)**Noted Sculptor Who Created Ram Logo for Dodge Vehicles**

The man who created and designed the ram logo for Dodge motor vehicles, had strong connections with North Dakota and its artistic legacy. Avard Fairbanks sculpted the bronze statue of "The Pioneer Family" that sits at the entrance of the North Dakota Capitol Grounds and also the statue of former North Dakota Governor John Burke located in Statuary Hall in the Capitol Building in Washington, D.C. A replica of Burke's statue is also located at the south entrance of the North Dakota Capitol.

THORNTON FREELAND (1898-1987)**Movie Director Who First Teamed Fred Astaire & Ginger Rogers**

The movie director who first teamed Fred Astaire with Ginger Rogers and elevated Humphrey Bogart to starring roles in motion pictures was born in North Dakota. Some of the other stars of movies directed by Thornton Freeland were Spencer Tracy, Eddie Cantor, Rex Harrison, George Sanders, and Stewart Granger.

ALBERT "HAPPY" CHANDLER (1898-1991)**Baseball Hall of Famer Played Ball for Grafton**

The Major League baseball commissioner who first allowed integration in the big leagues played semi-pro baseball in the northern Red River Valley in the early 1920s. Unlike Major League baseball, these Red River Valley teams were not opposed to playing against rivals that had black players. Could it be that Happy Chandler's experience of playing ball against African-Americans motivated him to drop the unwritten "whites only" policy when he became Major League baseball commissioner in 1945?

BRYNHILD HAUGLAND (1905-1998)**Served in the North Dakota House for 52 Years**

A person from North Dakota served in the state house longer than any other person in the United States. When you consider that the legislator was a woman, it is even more remarkable. Brynhild Haugland, from Minot, was elected to represent her district a record 26 times, serving from 1939 to 1990. Haugland lost only one election in her political career, which was in 1936 when a broken leg

kept her from campaigning. She lost by only 100 votes. Haugland chose to run again in 1938 and never failed to gain a majority of her constituents' votes from that year on. She retired after the 1990 session.

ERA BELL THOMPSON (1905-1986)

Noted Athlete & Magazine Editor

The granddaughter of a former slave grew up to become "one of the most renowned woman athletes in North Dakota history." Later, Era Bell Thompson became the editor of *Ebony*, one of the country's most popular weekly magazines.

ETHEL CATHERWOOD (1908-1987)

Olympic Gold Medal Winner

The only person born in North Dakota to win an Olympic gold medal in an individual event won the medal for another country - Canada. Ethel Catherwood, who was born in Hannah, North Dakota, won the gold in the high jump at the 1928 Olympics in Amsterdam.

DANIEL POSIN (1909-2003)

College Physics Professor & Emmy Award Winner

A former North Dakota college professor won six Emmy Awards, was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize six times, and was a close personal friend of Albert Einstein. Dr. Daniel Q. Posin was also the first television weatherman in Fargo and was involved in one of the biggest controversies in the history of the North Dakota Agricultural College (NDAC), now North Dakota State University.

DUANE TRAYNOR (1910-)

Uncovered Terrorist Plot Targeting Key U.S. Facilities

The first attempt of organized terrorism in the U.S. by an outside source was foiled largely because of the involvement of a former North Dakotan. It occurred over sixty years ago, during the early days of the U.S. involvement in World War II, when Duane Traynor was head of the sabotage unit of the FBI.

LLOYD RIGLER (1915-2003)

Built Meat Tenderizing Empire

A man who was a mushroom and brassier salesman and an agent for movie actors made a fortune marketing Adolph's Meat Tenderizer. With the wealth Lloyd Rigler accumulated, he became a major patron of the arts and collector of music videos. His collection serves as the basis for *Classic Arts Showcase* shown on public access stations throughout the U.S.

TED MANN (1916-2001)

TV Script Writer and Owner of the Most Popular Movie Theater

The person who undoubtedly had the greatest involvement in all aspects of the movie industry was born and raised in North Dakota. Ted Mann made popcorn, served as an usher, ran the projector, owned a chain of movie theaters, wrote scripts, and produced and appeared in motion pictures. He was also married to Rhonda Fleming, one of the most glamorous actresses in the business.

JAMES CRITCHFIELD (1917-2003)**Chief CIA Operative in Iraq**

The key operative of the CIA in a number of the major operations for the United States was from North Dakota. In his 26 years with the CIA, James H. Critchfield recruited former Nazi intelligence and military officials to help gather and interpret information about the former Soviet Union; worked with the Dalai Lama of Tibet in a guerrilla war against Communist China; and supported the Baath Party in Iraq in the 1963 and 1968 coups against the Iraqi government that helped bring Saddam Hussein to power. His work may appear to be highly controversial, but he always strove to do what appeared to be in the best interest of this country at the time. He was also remarkably effective.

MANCUR OLSON (1932-1998)**Economist for the World**

When a native North Dakotan died on February 19, 1998, world leaders all over the globe eulogized him. Former Russian Prime Minister Yegor Gaidar said, "Such persons as Professor Olson are, in our view, irreplaceable." After the fall of Communism, Mancur Olson Jr. assisted over 30 of the former Soviet bloc and/or developing countries in transitioning to a market economy and developing legal reforms. Yet, the average citizen of North Dakota did not know who he was.

ROBERT SCHOENHUT (1940-)**Photographer for Academy Award Winning Movie**

A North Dakota Native American was largely responsible for helping *Dances With Wolves* win Oscars for best cinematography and best picture in 1991. Robert Schoenhut Jr. was the camera operator for the most memorable scenes in the movie, the buffalo hunt sequences. Prior to the award winning movie he had been the chief cameraman for many popular television series including *The Waltons*, *Dallas*, *Knots Landing*, *The A-Team* and *Quantum Leap*.

BOBBY VEE (1943-)**Popular Singer**

The career of one of the most popular singers to come out of North Dakota started because of one of the greatest tragedies in show business history. On February 3, 1959, a plane carrying Buddy Holly, Richie Valens, The Big Bopper, and its pilot crashed in an Iowa cornfield, killing everyone on board. They had just finished a concert in Clearlake, Iowa and were on their way to perform at the Winter Dance Party in Moorhead, Minnesota. Initially, the promoters decided to cancel the show but later decided to seek out local talent to help fill out the schedule. One of those chosen was Robert Velline of Fargo, a 15-year old who knew the words to the songs of the deceased artists.

PHYLLIS FRELICH (1944-)**Tony Award Winning Actress**

The only person born in North Dakota to win a Tony Award for best actress was deaf. Phyllis Frellich won the award in 1980 for her starring role in *Children of a Lesser God*. She was honored in her home state when she received the North Dakota Theodore Roosevelt Roughrider Award.