

## Online North Dakota Censuses & Substitutes

compiled by William Dollarhide

This is an extracted list of bibliographic entries from Dollarhide's *North Dakota Censuses & Substitute Name Lists, 1832-2015* (Family Roots Publishing Co., 2017). The 80 censuses & substitute name lists herein are in chronological order. They include territorial, state, and federal censuses; histories, newspapers, court records, directories, tax lists, and vital records. The 40 online database entries each include a link to an Internet website with a searchable database. The 40 print & microfilm entries each include a link to the applicable Family History Library (FHL) online catalog page. And, printed articles from genealogical periodicals are linked to PERSI (PERiodical Source Index) at the FindMyPast.com website. Find a North Dakota name list, then find the name of your North Dakota ancestor. Good luck. - bill\$hide

### Red River Settlements, 1797-1818 Dakota Country, 1818-1858

The French-Canadian trading posts known as the Red River Settlements were mainly in what is now Manitoba. There were a number of Métis traders who followed the Red River south into the Dakota Country to establish trade with the Indians. In 1797, Jean Baptiste Chaboillez, working for the North West Fur Company, established a trading post at Pembina (present North Dakota). Soon after, a Hudson's Bay Company trading post was established near Pembina as well. The Pembina settlements were not American territory until the Anglo-American Convention of 1818, when the U.S. and Britain agreed on the 49th Parallel as the international boundary. The earliest American censuses that included residents of the Dakota Country were the 1836 Wisconsin Territory census; the 1838 Iowa Territory census; and the 1850 & 1857 Minnesota Territory censuses.

**1832-1870. Red River Settlement and Province of Manitoba: A Typed Card Index to the Nominal Census Returns** [Microfilm/Digital Capture], 3 rolls. Early French Canadian trappers, traders, and settlers were known to move up and down the Red River between present Manitoba and North Dakota. They were the founders of the Pembina settlements in present North Dakota. To view the digital images, see the FHL catalog page:  
<https://familysearch.org/search/catalog/629379>.

**1836. The First Census of the Original Counties of Dubuque and Des Moines (Wisconsin Territory, now Iowa) Taken in July, 1836** [Microfilm/Digital Capture], 2 vols., included the Pembina settlements (2 miles south of the present Canadian border). To view the digital images, see the FHL catalog page:  
<https://familysearch.org/search/catalog/2223215>.

**1838. Iowa 1838 Territorial Census Index** [Printed Index], Included the Pembina settlements in present-day North Dakota. see the FHL catalog page:

<https://familysearch.org/search/catalog/46727>.

**1838. "The Census of 1838"** [Printed Article], in *The Palimpsest* (IA State Hist. Soc., Des Moines), Vol. 19 (May 1938). Indexed at PERSI. See

<http://search.findmypast.com/search/periodical-source-index>.

**1840. Federal Census, Iowa Territory** [Printed Book/Digital Capture]. In 1840, Iowa Territory included lands between the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers. To view the digital images, see the FHL catalog page:

<https://familysearch.org/search/catalog/193563>.

**1850. Dakota Census Index; 1850 Pembina District (Minnesota Territory)** [Printed Index], see the FHL catalog page:

<https://familysearch.org/search/catalog/498856>.

**1850. Minnesota Territorial Census** [Printed Book], from the MN state copy, see the FHL catalog page:

<https://familysearch.org/search/catalog/200411>.

**1850. Minnesota Territory Federal Census** [Microfilm/Digital Capture], from the federal copy at the National Archives, to view the digital images, see the FHL catalog page:

<https://familysearch.org/search/catalog/121180>.

**1857. Federal Census, Minnesota Territory** [Microfilm/Digital Capture], including Pembina County (now North Dakota), 8 rolls, to view the digital images, see the FHL catalog page:

<https://familysearch.org/search/catalog/90983>.

### Unorganized Dakota, 1858-1861

When Minnesota became a state in 1858, the Dakota Country was orphaned, and remained outside of any jurisdiction until the Territory of Dakota was established in 1861. However, a portion of the Dakota Country between the Minnesota line and Missouri river was included in the 1860 federal census. The name **Unorganized Dakota** was used by the U.S. Census Office to describe the area.

**1860. (Unorganized) Dakota, 1860 Federal Census: Population Schedules** [Microfilm], from the originals at the National Archives, Washington, DC. The main population centers of Unorganized Dakota were the communities of Sioux Falls, Yankton Agency, and the Pembina settlements on the Red River, Orphan's Village on the Red River; and the Old Trading House on the Niobrara River. 2 rolls, see the FHL catalog page:

<https://familysearch.org/search/catalog/704550>. Indexed in

**1860. (Unorganized) Dakota 1860** [Printed Index], see the FHL catalog page:

<https://familysearch.org/search/catalog/967817>.

**1860. United States Census, 1860** [Online Database], Search: Residence Place=Dakota. See <https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1473181>.

**1860. Federal Census Images (Unorganized Dakota)** [Online Database], see [www.usgwarchives.net/sd/census/1860images.html](http://www.usgwarchives.net/sd/census/1860images.html).

**1860. (Unorganized) Dakota 1860 Census – Interactive Search** [Online Database]. Type a couple letters of a surname to search the entire database. See [www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sdcensus/sd1860cen.pl](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sdcensus/sd1860cen.pl).

### Dakota Territory, 1861-1889

The only territorial census was the Dakota Territory census of 1885, which was later divided into northern and southern counties. 50 of the 56 counties in place in the North Dakota area in 1885 have survived.

**1861. “Dakota Inhabitants, A-D,”** in *Wy-Mon-Dak Messenger* (Tri-State Genealogical Society, Belle Fourche, SD), (Summer 1989). Indexed at PERSI. See <http://search.findmypast.com/search/periodical-source-index>.

**1861. “Dakota Inhabitants, D-M,”** in *Wy-Mon-Dak Messenger*, (Tri-State Genealogical Society, Belle Fourche, SD), (Fall 1989). Indexed at PERSI. See <http://search.findmypast.com/search/periodical-source-index>.

**1861. “Dakota Inhabitants, M-Z,”** in *Wy-Mon-Dak Messenger* (Tri-State Genealogical Society, Belle Fourche, SD), (Winter 1990). Indexed at PERSI. See <http://search.findmypast.com/search/periodical-source-index>.

**1861-1862. Gazetteer of Pioneers and Others in North Dakota Previous to 1862** [Online Database], see <http://genealogytrails.com/ndak/earlysettlers.html>.

**1861-1865. Index to Compiled Service Records of Volunteer Union soldiers Who Served in Organizations From the Territory of Dakota** [Microfilm/Digital Capture], to view the digital images, see the FHL catalog page: <https://familysearch.org/search/catalog/313567>.

**1861-1865. Dakota Territory Civil War Service Records of Union Soldiers** [Online Database], see <https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1932393>.

**1861-1889. History of Dakota Territory** [Online Database], 2 Vols., 5,248 records, see <http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=25507>.

**1861-1900s. North Dakota Biography Index** [Online Database], see <https://library.ndsu.edu/db/biography>.

**1861-1900s. Original Land Owners, Burleigh County, North Dakota** [Online Database], see [www.usgwarchives.net/nd/burleigh/burland.html](http://www.usgwarchives.net/nd/burleigh/burland.html).

**1865-1931. North Dakota Newspaper Archives** [Online Database], digitized and indexed for Bismarck, Fargo, Fort Rice, Grand Forks, Mandan, Michigan, and Tower City. See [www.genealogybank.com/explore/newspapers/all/usa/north-dakota](http://www.genealogybank.com/explore/newspapers/all/usa/north-dakota).

**1870. Surname Index to the 1870 Census of Manitoba and Red River** [Printed Book], see the FHL catalog page: <https://familysearch.org/search/catalog/85838>.

**1870. Dakota Territory, 1870 Federal Census: Population** [Microfilm], 2 rolls, see the FHL catalog page: <https://familysearch.org/search/catalog/698889>.

**1870. Dakota Territory 1870 Census Index, A-Z** [Printed Book], see the FHL catalog page: <https://familysearch.org/search/catalog/971769>.

**1870. United States Census, 1870** [Online Database], Search: Residence Place=Dakota. See <https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1438024>.

**1873-1900. Early History, Pioneers of Burleigh County, North Dakota** [Online Database], indexed at the Genealogy Trails website. See

<http://genealogytrails.com/ndak/burleigh/history.html#pioneers>.

**1873-1952. North Dakota Naturalization Records Index** [Online Database], See [www.history.nd.gov/archives/datanaturalization.html](http://www.history.nd.gov/archives/datanaturalization.html).

**1873-1976. Grand Forks County Heritage Book: A History of Rural Grand Forks County, North Dakota** [Printed Book], see the FHL catalog page: <https://familysearch.org/search/catalog/693042>.

**1877-1944. North Dakota, Cass County, Marriage Records** [Microfilm & Digital Capture], 28 rolls, to view the digital images, see the FHL catalog page: see <https://familysearch.org/search/catalog/2627418>.

**1880. Dakota, 1880 Federal Census: Soundex and Population Schedules** [Microfilm], 11 rolls, see the FHL catalog page: <https://familysearch.org/search/catalog/670376>.

**1880. United States Census, 1880** [Online Database], search: Residence=Dakota Territory. See <https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1417683>.

**1881-2015. Public Death Index** [Online Database], see <https://apps.nd.gov/doh/certificates/deathCertSearch.htm>.

**1882. “Tax List, Burleigh County, Dakota Territory”** [Printed Article], in *Bismarck-Mandan Historical and Genealogical Society Quarterly*, (Bismarck, ND), (Vol. 10, No. 1 (Mar 1981) through Vol. 12, No. 4 (Dec 1983); and Vol. 14, No. 4 (Dec 1985) through Vol. 15, No. 3 (Sep 1986). Indexed at PERSI. See <http://search.findmypast.com/search/periodical-source-index>.

**1883. The Leading Business Men of Dakota Cities: Accompanying the Map of Dakota Territory, Name and Address** [Microfilm], see the FHL catalog page: <https://familysearch.org/search/catalog/502915>.

**1883. Pensioners on the Roll as of January 1, 1883 (Living in Dakota Territory)** [Printed Book], see the FHL catalog page: <https://familysearch.org/search/catalog/778622>.

**1883-1934. Fargo (North Dakota) City Directories** [Microfilm], 5 rolls, see the FHL catalog page: <https://familysearch.org/search/catalog/620271>.

**1885. Territorial Census, Dakota Territory (North Dakota Counties)** [Microfilm], 12 rolls, available on interlibrary loan.

at the SHSND. For information, see <http://history.nd.gov/archives/genealogy.html>.

**1885. "Dakota Territorial Census of 1885: From the Original Records on File at Bismarck, N.D."** [Printed Article], in *North Dakota Historical Quarterly*, Vol. 4 (1913), Includes census name lists for the North Dakota counties of Allred, Bowman, Buford, Dunn, McIntosh, McKenzie, Mercer, Mountraille, Oliver, Renville, Stanton, Towner, Villard, Wallace, Ward, Wells and Wynn. see the FHL catalog page: <https://familysearch.org/search/catalog/1034163>. Indexed in **1885 Census Index** [Printed Index], see the FHL catalog page: <https://familysearch.org/search/catalog/96587>.  
**1885. Dakota Territory 1885 Census** [Online Database], over 151,500 names., see <https://library.ndsu.edu/ndsuarhives/dakota-territory-1885-census-database>.

### State of North Dakota, 1889 - Present

After admission to the Union in 1889, the state of North Dakota conducted three state censuses, in 1905, 1915 and 1925. Only a statistical summary of the 1905 state census survives, but the full census schedules for the 1915 and 1925 censuses are extant.

**1890-1900. Records of Wills and Marriages from County Judge's Office, Burleigh Co., North Dakota** [Microfilm], see the FHL catalog page:

<https://familysearch.org/search/catalog/353846>.

**1890-1924. Declarations of Intention (U.S. Circuit Court, Fargo, ND)** [Microfilm], 2 rolls, see the FHL catalog page:

<https://familysearch.org/search/catalog/437978>.

**1890-1940. Index to Oral History Collection** [Online Database], see

<http://history.nd.gov/archives/ORALHIST.pdf>.

**1891-1906. Declarations of Intention (U.S. Circuit Court, Devil's Lake, ND)** [Microfilm], see the FHL catalog page:

<https://familysearch.org/search/catalog/438446>.

**1891-1910. North Dakota Pioneers From the Banat** [Printed Book], These Germans settled in Stark and Hettinger counties, North Dakota. see the FHL catalog page:

<https://familysearch.org/search/catalog/2524552>.

**1892-1909. Declarations of Intention (U.S. Circuit Court, Grand Forks, ND)** [Microfilm], see the FHL catalog page:

<https://familysearch.org/search/catalog/437961>.

**1892-1917. Declarations of Intention (U.S. Circuit Court, Bismarck, ND)** [Microfilm], see the FHL catalog page:

<https://familysearch.org/search/catalog/438466>.

**1906-1916. Declarations of Intention (U.S. Circuit Court, Minot, ND)** [Microfilm], 2 rolls, see the FHL catalog page:

<https://familysearch.org/search/catalog/437953>.

**1906-1924. Naturalization Records (U.S. Circuit Court, Fargo, ND)** [Microfilm]. Includes Declarations, Petitions, and Certificates. See the FHL catalog page:

<https://familysearch.org/search/catalog/438316>.

**1907-1948. Index to over 2,000 Obituaries From Various Minot Area Newspapers** [Printed Book], see the FHL catalog page: <https://familysearch.org/search/catalog/697569>.

**1910-1952. North Dakota Manifests of Immigrant Arrivals** [Online Database], 5,740 records, see <https://familysearch.org/search/collection/2443935>.

**1914. Northwestern Gazetteer, Minnesota, North and South Dakota and Montana Gazetteer and Business Directory** [Microfilm], 2 rolls, see the FHL catalog page: <https://familysearch.org/search/catalog/142321>.

**1914-1933. Bismarck (North Dakota) City Directories** [Microfilm], see the FHL catalog page: <https://familysearch.org/search/catalog/1108823>.

**1915. North Dakota State Census Schedules** [Microfilm/Digital Capture], 25 rolls, to view the digital images, see the FHL catalog page:

<https://familysearch.org/search/catalog/413937>. The microfilm is only available on interlibrary loan from the SHSND in Bismarck. For information, see <http://history.nd.gov/archives/genealogy.html>.

**1915. North Dakota State Census** [Online Database], 619,486 records, see <https://familysearch.org/search/collection/2346284>.

**1915. "North Dakota State Census, Bottineau County, Blaine Twp."** [Printed Article], in *North Central North Dakota Genealogical Record*, (Mouse River Loop Genealogical Society, Minot, ND), No. 84 (Sep 2000). Indexed at PERSI. See <http://search.findmypast.com/search/periodical-source-index>.

**1915. "North Dakota State Census, Burke County"** [Printed Article], in *North Central North Dakota Genealogical Record*, (Mouse River Loop Genealogical Society, Minot, ND), Vol. 1, (Nov 1983). Indexed at PERSI. See <http://search.findmypast.com/search/periodical-source-index>.

**1915. "North Dakota State Census, Mountrail County"** [Printed Article], in *North Central North Dakota Genealogical Record*, (Mouse River Loop Genealogical Society, Minot, ND), No. 82, (Mar 2000); and Mar 2001. Indexed at PERSI. See <http://search.findmypast.com/search/periodical-source-index>.

**1917-1918. North Dakota, World War I Selective Service System Draft Registration Cards** [Microfilm/Digital Capture], 30 rolls, to view the digital images, see the FHL catalog page: <https://familysearch.org/search/catalog/746993>.

**1917-1918. Roster of the Men and Women Who Served in the Army or Naval Service Including the Marine Corps, or the United States or its Allies From the State of North Dakota in the World War, 1917-1918** [Printed Book/Digital Capture], 4 vols., to view the digital images, see the FHL catalog page:

<https://familysearch.org/search/catalog/184980>.

**1925. North Dakota State Census Schedules** [Microfilm/Digital Capture], 16 rolls, to view the digital images, see the FHL catalog page:

<https://familysearch.org/search/catalog/441185>. The microfilm is only available on interlibrary loan from the SHSND in Bismarck. For information, see <http://history.nd.gov/archives/genealogy.html>.

**1925. North Dakota State Census** [Online Database], The index record includes: Name, Birth, Parents, Spouse,

Children, Other (names living in the household), and Residence. More details can be viewed on the digitized census page. This database has 678,504 records. See <https://familysearch.org/search/collection/2351024>.

**1930-1990. Polk's Grand Forks (Grand Forks County, N.D.) City Directory: Including East Grand Forks (Polk County, Minn.)** [Printed Book], includes 1930, 1956, 1967, 1980, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, and 1990 directories. see the FHL catalog page:

<https://familysearch.org/search/catalog/98146>.

**1938-1996. Fargo (Cass County, N.D.) and Moorhead (Clay County, Minn.) City Directory: including Dilworth, West Fargo and West Fargo Industrial Park** [Printed Book], publ. R.L. Polk & Co., St. Paul, MN. The FHL has 22 years of directories, For a complete list of titles and years, see the online FHL catalog page:

<https://familysearch.org/search/catalog/13548>.

**1942. North Dakota, World War II 4th Draft Registrations Cards** [Microfilm & Digital Images], see the FHL catalog page: <https://familysearch.org/search/catalog/2624775>.

**1987-Current. North Dakota Recent Newspaper Obituaries** [Online Database], digitized and indexed newspaper obituaries for Beulah, Bismarck, Center, Devils Lake, Garrison, Grand Forks, Hankinson, Hazen, McClusky, New Town, Parshall, Turtle Lake, Underwood, Valley City, Velve, Wahpeton, Washburn, and Williston. See [www.genealogybank.com/explore/obituaries/all/usa/north-dakota](http://www.genealogybank.com/explore/obituaries/all/usa/north-dakota).

### Best Online Resources for North Dakota Genealogy

**State Historical Society of North Dakota – Archives – Genealogy.** Online databases include Naturalization Records, Biographical Index, Oral History Collection, and Veterans History. For details, see <http://history.nd.gov/archives/genresearchsources.html>.

**North Dakota State University – Archives – Genealogy and Biography.** Online databases include 1885 Dakota Territory Census, obituaries, vital records, and court records, For details, see <https://library.ndsu.edu/ndsuarhives/genealogy-and-biography>.

**FamilySearch.org – North Dakota Research Page – Online Collections.** Includes North Dakota Indexed Historical Records, and North Dakota Image Only Historical Records. See <https://familysearch.org/search/collection/location/39>.

**FamilySearch.org – Catalog Search – North Dakota Counties.** Review the categories of censuses, tax lists, voter lists, directories, and more, at the FHL online catalog site for each of North Dakota's 53 counties. Search for Place=North Dakota, (name of county). See <https://familysearch.org/catalog/search>.

**Ancestry.com – North Dakota Family History Page – Online Collections.** Includes statewide databases of Census & Voter Lists; Birth, Marriage & Death; Military, Immigration, and more. Also, look for the Narrow by Region list of countywide databases. See <http://search.ancestry.com/Places/US/North-Dakota/Default.aspx>.

**North Dakota GenWeb Archives** [Online Database]. The NDGenWeb site offers free genealogical databases with searchable statewide name lists and for all North Dakota counties. Databases may include Bibles, Biographies, Cemeteries, Censuses, Court Records, Deaths, Deeds, Directories, Histories, Marriages, Military, Newspapers, Obituaries, Photos, Schools, Tax Lists, Wills, and more. See <http://usgwarchives.net/nd/ndfiles.htm>.

**Linkpendium – North Dakota: Family History & Genealogy, Census, Birth, Marriage, Death, Vital Records & More** [Online Databases]. Linkpendium is a genealogical portal site with links to state, county, town, and local databases. Currently listed are selected sites for North Dakota statewide resources (304), Renamed/Discontinued Counties (19), Adams County (97), Barnes County (182), Benson County (124), Billings County (97), Bottineau County (132), Bowman County (101), and 47 more North Dakota counties. See [www.linkpendium.com/nd-genealogy](http://www.linkpendium.com/nd-genealogy).

### Related Items by William Dollarhide

**Online North Dakota Censuses & Substitutes** [PDF eBook of this Insta-Guide], 4 pages, by William Dollarhide. [www.familyrootspublishing.com/store/product\\_view.php?id=3323](http://www.familyrootspublishing.com/store/product_view.php?id=3323).

**North Dakota Censuses & Substitutes, 1832-2015** [Printed Book], 2017, softbound, 79 pages, by William Dollarhide: [www.familyrootspublishing.com/store/product\\_view.php?id=3270](http://www.familyrootspublishing.com/store/product_view.php?id=3270).

**North Dakota Censuses & Substitutes, 1832-2015** [PDF eBook], 2017, 79 pages, by William Dollarhide. See [www.familyrootspublishing.com/store/product\\_view.php?id=3280](http://www.familyrootspublishing.com/store/product_view.php?id=3280).



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