

Finding Aid to the North Dakota 1889 Constitutional Convention Autograph Book

North Dakota 1889 Constitutional Convention Autograph Book, 1889

1 item (28 p.)

Collection number: Mss 363

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OVERVIEW

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HISTORY

The Enabling Act of February 22, 1889, authorized North Dakota statehood and provided for a state constitutional convention consisting of seventy-five delegates to be selected from twenty-five districts in the state. The delegates were elected on May 14, 1889, and the Constitutional Convention opened in Bismarck on July 4, 1889. The president of the Constitutional Convention was Fred Fancher, the GOP caucus nominee.

The delegates to the Constitutional Convention consisted primarily of farmers and lawyers with all but six from districts in the eastern half of the state. Twenty-three of the delegates were foreign born; none were

natives of Dakota Territory. Politically, fifty-one Republicans dominated the convention, outnumbering nineteen Democrats, two Prohibitionists, two Populists, and one independent.

The constitution drafted by the convention was lengthy and reflected reform ideas shared by many of the delegates. The constitution effectively limited the power of the state government and state officials and attempted to limit the power and influence of corporations and other ‘interests’ on the state government. The constitution also provided for the location of thirteen state colleges and institutions and included a prohibition article that was required to be ratified separately from the constitution. Voters in the state ratified the constitution overwhelmingly on October 1, 1889 by a vote of 27,441 to 8,107 and narrowly approved the prohibition article by a vote of 18,552 to 17,393. (Extracted from *Guide to the North Dakota State Archives*, by David P. Gray, p. 17-18.)

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The **North Dakota 1889 Constitutional Convention Autograph Book** is a cloth-covered album (12 x 20 cm.) in which on separate pages seventy-one of the seventy-five delegates signed their name, together with their town and sometimes county of residence. Some delegates also included the date of their signature, including August 13 and 16, 1889.

BOX AND FOLDER LIST

Box/Folder	Content
1/1	Finding aid
1/2	Autograph Book
	Autographs (in page order)
	A. D. Robertson, Minto
	H.F Miller, Fargo
	E. A. Williams, Bismarck
	Harvey Harris, Bismarck
	H. L. Holmes, Neche
	Robert B. Richardson, Drayton
	W. D. Best, Bay Center
	H. M. Peterson, Horace
	E. H. Lohnes, Devils Lake
	Enos Gray, Embden
	John E. Carland, Bismarck
	W. J. Clapp, Tower City
	E. W. Chaffee, Amenia

H. M. Clark, New Rockford
Arne P. Haugen, Reynolds
Geo. H. Fay, Ashley
Alex D. Flemington, Ellendale
A. S. Parsons, Mandan
Alex Griggs, Grand Forks
Wm. Budge, Grand Forks
J. Lowell, Fargo
Jas. F. O'Brien, Devils Lake
Jno. McBride, Alma
W. E. Purcell, Wahpeton
Albert F. Appleton, Crystal
V. B. Noble, Bottineau
M. K. Marrinan, Grafton
Elmer Elliott, Sanborn
Jay Wellwood, Minnie Lake
S. H. Moer, La Moure
John Powers, Havana
James A. Douglas, Park River
Jas Bell, Minto
Ezra Turner, Bottineau
Addison Leech, Davenport
J. L. Colton, Burlington
C. V. Brown, Sykeston
M. N. Johnson, Lakota
O. G. Meacham, Carrington
A. W. Hoyt, Mandan
T. W. Bean, Michigan City
Roger Allin, Grafton
C. P. Parsons, Rolla
P. McHugh, Langdon
B. R. Glick, Langdon
J. D. McKenzie, Milnor
W. S. Lauder, Wahpeton
Eugene Rolfe, Minnewaukan
John W. Scott, Valley City
Edgar W. Camp, Jamestown
Joseph Powles, Milton
John Shuman, Rutland
R. N. Stevens, Lisbon
Geo. H. Fay, Ashley
F. B. Fancher, [Jamestown]
Jas. H. Mathews, Larimore
J. B. Grayton, Hampton

Andrew Blewett, Jamestown
Andrew Slotten, Wahpeton
David Bartlett, Cooperstown
Richard Bennett, Grand Forks
Kund J. Nomland, Caledonia
J. F. Selby, Hillsboro
Andrew Sandager, Lisbon
Chas. Carothers, Emerado
M. F. Hegge, Hatton
M. V. Linwell, Northwood
R. M. Pollock, Casselton
W. Ray, Dickinson
E. D. Wallace, Hope
B. F. Spalding, Fargo