

Finding Aid to the William A. Falconer Papers

Falconer, William A., 1859-1943

William A. Falconer Papers, 1930s

.2 linear ft.

Collection number: Mss 228

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OVERVIEW

Access: The collection is open under the rules and regulations of the Institute.

Provenance: Donated by Marion Pressler, 2000 (Acc. 2604).

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BIOGRAPHY

William A. Falconer was born at Hawksborough, Ontario on February 26, 1859, the son of James and Jane (McClennan) Falconer. In 1872 he left for Minneapolis, Minnesota with two brothers-in-law and then on to Brainerd, Minnesota looking to establish a grocery store. In 1873 they moved to Bismarck, N.D. He clerked in his brother-in-law's store from 1873 to 1885 when he was appointed deputy register of deeds for Burleigh County. In 1891 he became Register of Deeds and in 1895 deputy county treasurer. In 1901 he became county treasurer and retained the position until 1905 when he was appointed deputy state treasurer. Between 1910 and 1920 he was a collector for the International Harvester Co. In 1920 he was appointed Bismarck city assessor and retained the position until 1930.

William Falconer was married to Emma Bentley on August 28, 1883. They had three children born to them, Addison, and two daughters. He was very interested in local history and documented it in his writings. He died June 5, 1943 and is buried at Fairview Cemetery in Bismarck.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Falconer papers consist of four homemade, string-tied booklets containing the handwritten writings of Mr. Falconer. The paper used is pre-printed personal property tax forms from 1928 to 1932 on which he wrote on the back side. On the cover of each is the statement "Property of W.A. Falconer, 202 Avenue E, Bismarck, North Dakota." Whether they are written in his own hand or by someone else is not known.

The *Bismarck Tribune* booklet contains excerpts of a number of articles printed in the newspaper. Articles include extensive material on the laying of the Territorial capitol cornerstone in 1883, as well as several military items including regarding Gen. George A. Custer. The next booklet has a one-page item on the formation in 1873 of the Bismarck County Pioneers association, and quite large articles on the Sibley expedition and the New Ulm massacre. The reminiscences of Mr. Falconer are recorded on twenty-three pages and begin with his train trip from Brainerd, Minnesota to Bismarck, D.T. in 1874. This booklet also contains fifteen leaves regarding the Sibley expedition. The final booklet contains excerpts from the *Bismarck Tribune* of interest to Mr. Falconer regarding 1877 events in the area. At the end is a copy of General Custer's testimony in an 1876 U.S. War Office investigation.

BOX AND FOLDER LIST

Box/Folder	Contents
1/1	Finding aid, and Biographical material
1/2	<i>Bismarck Tribune</i> excerpts, 1877-1883
1/3	Burleigh County Pioneers, and Sibley Expedition
1/4	Early Experience of W.A. Falconer
1/5	Early History of 1877, Bismarck and Other Interesting Subject