

Marquis de Morés

In 1883, the Marquis de Morés built a town in North Dakota centered around his meat-packing business and named it after his wife, Medora. He hoped to revolutionize meat-packing by slaughtering the beef before shipping it. This pathfinder will lead researchers to several resources available at the North Dakota State Archives highlighting the history of Medora, North Dakota, and the Marquis de Morés' life.

Archival Collections

10036 Antoine Amedee Marie Vincent Manca de Vallombrosa, Marquis de Mores Collection

Family and business papers and miscellany. Family and business papers consist of correspondence, financial records, a scrapbook, language exercise notebooks, Marquis de Mores and Company records, and murder trial records. Correspondence Reports from the Pinkerton Detective Agency concerning investigation of suspected cattle and horse rustlers, safe passage letter through Indian reservations, telegrams, last wishes of the Marquis, and a letter to Gov. Gilbert A. Pierce concerning Standing Rock Sioux documents. Correspondents include Daniel Collins, Henry H. Gorringer, and Frank O'Donald.

10037 Arnold O. Goplen Papers

Photographs and bibliographies and notes on cards compiled for use in preparing reports for the WPA on Fort Abraham Lincoln, Marquis de Mores, and the Chateau at Medora, together with correspondence on the de Mores coat-of arms, miscellaneous notes, and pictures of the Chateau and typical ranch buildings in South Roosevelt Park.

10069 Nina Farley Wishek Papers, Box 1, Folder 1

Manuscript entitled "The Marquis de Mores and the North Dakota Bad Lands," correspondence and notes relating to the Sully Expedition and stage lines in southern North Dakota, the North Dakota women's suffrage association, and poetry.

10070 Usher Lloyd Burdick Papers, Box 1, Folder 34

Burdick family correspondence, manuscript drafts and copies of articles written by Burdick and others, speeches, correspondence, articles "Your Congressman Comments," legal material, political records, copies of House bills introduced by Burdick, sources used by Burdick for his research, and rare and valuable publications relating to North Dakota, American history and topics of interest to Burdick.

Useful Search Guidance

Subjects

- Northern Pacific Refrigerator Car Company
- Chateau de Morés
- Medora-Deadwood Stagecoach Line

People

- Antoine Amedee Marie Vicent Manca de Vallombrosa (Marquis de Morés), 1858-1896
- Medora von Hoffman (Marquise de Morés), 1856-1921
- Riley Luffsey, 1859-1883

Locations

- Medora, North Dakota

Journal Articles

Marquis de Mores in North Dakota
Geo. F. Will – *North Dakota Historical Quarterly* Vol. 8 Issue 1

The Career of the Marquis de Mores in the Badlands
Arnold O Goplen – *North Dakota History* Vol. 13 Issue 1&2

The Marquis de Mores: Instrument of American Progress
Lewis O. Saum – *North Dakota History* Vol. 36 Issue 2

10190 Will Family Papers

The primary creator of the collection was George F. Will Sr., and the bulk of the papers reflect Will's interest in North Dakota archaeology, dendrology, ethnobotany, the Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara people, and the history of Bismarck (N.D.) and the Northern Plains. These interests are reflected in extensive correspondence, manuscripts, publications and research files. The collection also includes research and manuscripts by Josephine Waggoner and Melvin Gilmore, among many others.

10464 Dennis Neumann Papers

Papers consist of notes, news releases, letters, schedules, KFYZ-TV news broadcast scripts, memoranda, and printed material relating to the 1976 North Dakota - Mideast Trade Mission; sound recordings, audiocassette tapes, and video cassettes.

10553 Frank E. Vyzralek Collection

Correspondence, subject files, biographies, research notes, and maps. Papers relate primarily to local and family history, archeological surveys, and the State Historical Society of North Dakota, diaries, correspondence, newspaper clippings, family histories, and memorabilia, and notes and an 1863 map of the military trail of General H.H. Sibley in Burleigh, Kidder and Stutsman County (N.D.).

10691 Roy Johnson and Louis Pfaller Collection

Newspaper clippings, articles, photographs, maps, pamphlets, and correspondence documenting the research of two historians, Johnson and Pfaller, on Major James McLaughlin, forts, battles, railroads, steamboats, exploration, pioneers, Native Americans, weather, murders, schools, missionaries, etc.

20349 Zdena Irma Trinka Papers

"Main Street" manuscript and copies of letters from Duke de Vallombrosa to Trinkka concerning the Marquis de Mores entitled "The Monte Cristo of the Bad Lands."

20979 Medora and the Marquis de Mores Papers (Medora, North Dakota)

The collection includes a series printed in the Minot Daily News by Tom Miller, a photocopy from the editorial page of the Minot Daily News Medora (N.D.), photocopies of identified photographs from the GNDA photo album of newspaper publishers and committee members who promoted Medora, a 1958 program from the musical *Old Four Eyes*, and a copy of the North Dakota History publication on the career of the Marquis. January-April, 1946.

21337 Gladys Pearce Papers

"Claimed by the Prairies" (manuscript) is a typed copy and covers the life of Winnie Nicholls from 1830 to 1914, dealing particularly with her life after 1873 as a Bismarck Pioneer. Among people mentioned are Alexander McKenzie, Dennis Hannifin, Calamity Jane, General Custer, the horse, Comanche, William Latimer, Dr. E. P. Quain, Linda Slaughter, and the Marquis de Mores. Described are travel by covered wagon, Fort Seward (Jamestown), gambling halls, the removal of the capital to Bismarck, the 1898 fire, Negro settlements, statehood, Camp Hancock, early schools, social life of Bismarck, scenes in early Montana and many other subjects.

Books

Medora von Hoffman de Vallombrosa Marquise de Mores: 1856-1921: A Brief Biographical Sketch

2003 - State Historical Society of North Dakota Foundation

A memento of the Medora de Mores 100th Anniversary Commemorative Ball.

Medora, North Dakota, October 4, 2003

Call Number: 92 M816m 2003

The Marquis de Mores, His Dakota Experiences and His Enterprises in Dakota, 1883-1913

1995 – Frank E. Vyzralek

A report prepared for the Museum Division of the State Historical Society of North Dakota

Call Number: 92 M816v 1995

Medora: The Secret of the Badlands

1960 – Zena Irma Trinka

Call Number: 813 T737 1960

Aristocracy on the Western Frontier: the Legacy of the Marquis de Mores

1994 – edited by Virginia Heidenreich-Barber

Call Number: 920 M816a

Marquis de Mores at War in the Bad Lands

1929 – Usher L. Burdick

Call Number: 920 M816b 1930

The Marquis de Morès: Emperor of the Bad Lands

1970 – Donald Dresden

Call Number: 920 M816d

The Marquis de Mores: the Story of a Failure

1955—Steven S. Schwarzchild

Call Number: 4427

Online Resources

[10 Surprising Facts About North Dakota's Famous French Aristocrat](#)

Anna Killian – State Historical Society of North Dakota Blog

[SHSND Photobook](#)

State Historical Society of North Dakota's Online Search Portal for all digitized photographs

[Digital Horizons](#)

Online consortium of historic photographs from the collections of the State Historical Society of North Dakota

[WorldCat](#)

State Historical Society of North Dakota's publication search portal

External Resources

[The Shooting of Riley Luffsey](#)

Excerpt from *Medora: Boom, Bust, and Resurrection* by Rolff Sletten posted to the Medora, North Dakota Blog

[Chateau de Mores—History](#)

Article on the State Historical Society website

State Archives

For more information related to the collections and resources available at the North Dakota State Archives, please email archives@nd.gov or call (701) 328-2668.



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