

The Marquis de Mores – Dakota Entrepreneur



State Historical Society of North Dakota 0042-102

Antoine de Vallombrosa, The Marquis de Mores
1858 - 1896



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Antoine Amedee Marie Vincent Amat Manca de Vallombrosa was born in Paris, France on June 14, 1858. He was the son of a French nobleman with Spanish and Italian heritage. His family received their title and lands as a reward for military service to the king of Spain.

The family divided their time between Paris and the Riviera filling their lives with sport, culture and travel. The Marquis's father helped make the Riviera and the city of Cannes famous by starting the Yacht Club of France and the Society of Racing.

Antoine learned French, English, Italian and German by the time he was ten years old. He was a brilliant student with a quick, analytical mind. A devout Catholic, religion had a part in his education and in his personal beliefs. After graduation from college and the military academy, he entered the French army. He resigned his commission in 1881 because he found peacetime too boring.

He returned to Paris, where he became the Marquis de Mores, the title which he received when he reached his age of majority. He met and married an American named Medora von Hoffman. They moved to the United States and came to Dakota Territory in 1883. He wanted to establish a cattle empire but that dream failed. The Marquis and his family returned to France where he went into politics. Because of his outspoken views he was arrested several times and fought several successful duels. He went to Africa to establish an alliance between the native tribes and France to push England out of North Africa. He was killed by his own guides. His wife always believed that his death was ordered by his political enemies.



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Something to think about:

Why do you think someone with the Marquis's wealth and background wanted to go to Dakota?