

## The Marquis de Mores – Dakota Entrepreneur



State Historical Society of North Dakota 0042-062

Medora de Vallombrosa, the Marquise de Mores  
1856-1921

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Medora von Hoffman was born on August 21, 1856. Her father was a wealthy New York banker. She was privately schooled as were most wealthy girls at that time. Medora spoke seven languages and was a gifted artist. She also was an excellent horsewoman and a sharpshooter.

She was living with her parents at their winter home at Cannes, France when she met the Marquis de Mores. They were married at Cannes on February 15, 1882. They had three children: Athenais and Louis, born in New York, 1883 and 1885, and Paul, born in France, 1890.

As the wife of the Marquis, she was responsible for the management of the household. She brought a staff of 12 - 15 servants with her from New York to do the work at the Chateau. She would order supplies, pay all of the bills for the household, and make out the menus. One of her responsibilities was also to entertain guests with musical selections. She played the piano very well and loved to play for her guests to dance on the porch. Medora loved to hunt and often organized hunting trips for the guests even if the Marquis could not go. On one of those trips she killed three bears!



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After the death of her husband, Madame de Mores lived in Paris and Cannes. In 1903, she brought her older two children back to Medora to see the place she loved so well. During World War I, she used her home as a hospital for wounded soldiers. She became ill from an infection that she caught a long time before while hunting in Nepal. Before she died, she asked her children to never sell her Medora home. She died in France in 1921.

### **Something to think about:**

Why do you think she asked her children to never sell her Medora home?