# American Indian Leaders




*Sitting Bull*

Three prominent leaders among the Lakota and Dakota Sioux who called this region home and resisted encroachment by white Americans were Tatanka Iyotake (Sitting Bull), Pizi (Gall), and Inkpaduta (Red Point).

Sitting Bull, born in 1831, became an international figure when his coalition of native tribes defeated Lt. Col. George Custer and his Seventh Cavalry at the Battle of the Little Bighorn in Montana in 1876. Sitting Bull retreated to Canada in 1877. Facing starvation in 1881, Sitting Bull and the last of his followers returned and surrendered.

Sitting Bull toured with Buffalo Bill Cody's Wild West Show in 1885 and was killed in 1890 on the Standing Rock Reservation in South Dakota during an arrest attempt.




*Gall*




*Sitting Bull with William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody*

Gall was born in 1840. He followed Sitting Bull to Canada but returned in 1880 to surrender. He was settled on the Standing Rock Reservation, where he became a tribal judge. Gall died in 1894.

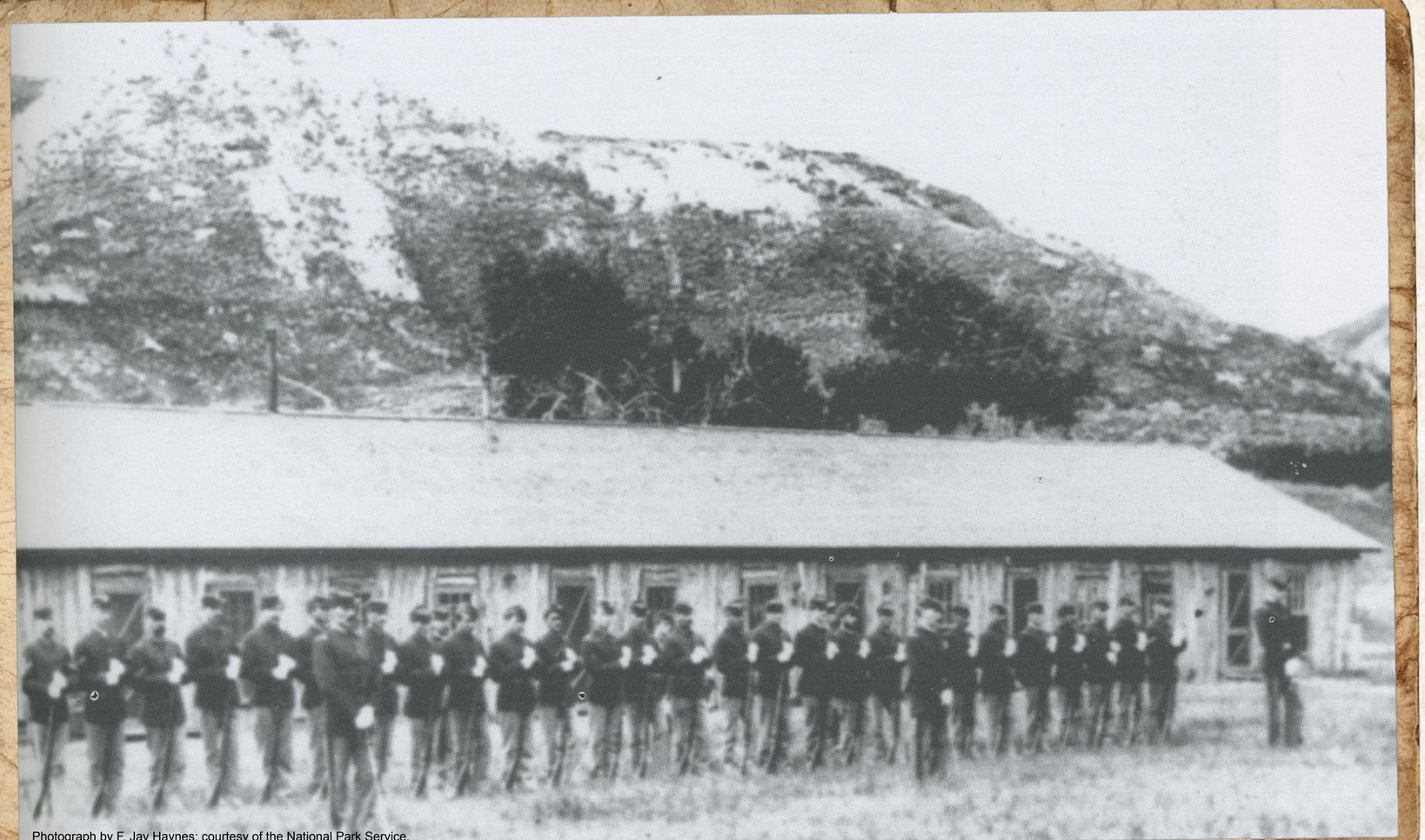
Red Point was a Dakota from Iowa and Minnesota. Born about 1810, he fled that area in 1857 after leading his small band in an uprising against white settlers near Spirit Lake. Red Point moved west of the Missouri River and allied himself with Sitting Bull and Gall. Red Point retreated to Canada, where he died about 1879.

These men and other equally influential leaders are recognized today for their courage and leadership in the tragic collision of cultures.

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Historic Medora
North Dakota USA

# Bad Lands Cantonment



Photograph by F. Jay Haynes; courtesy of the National Park Service.

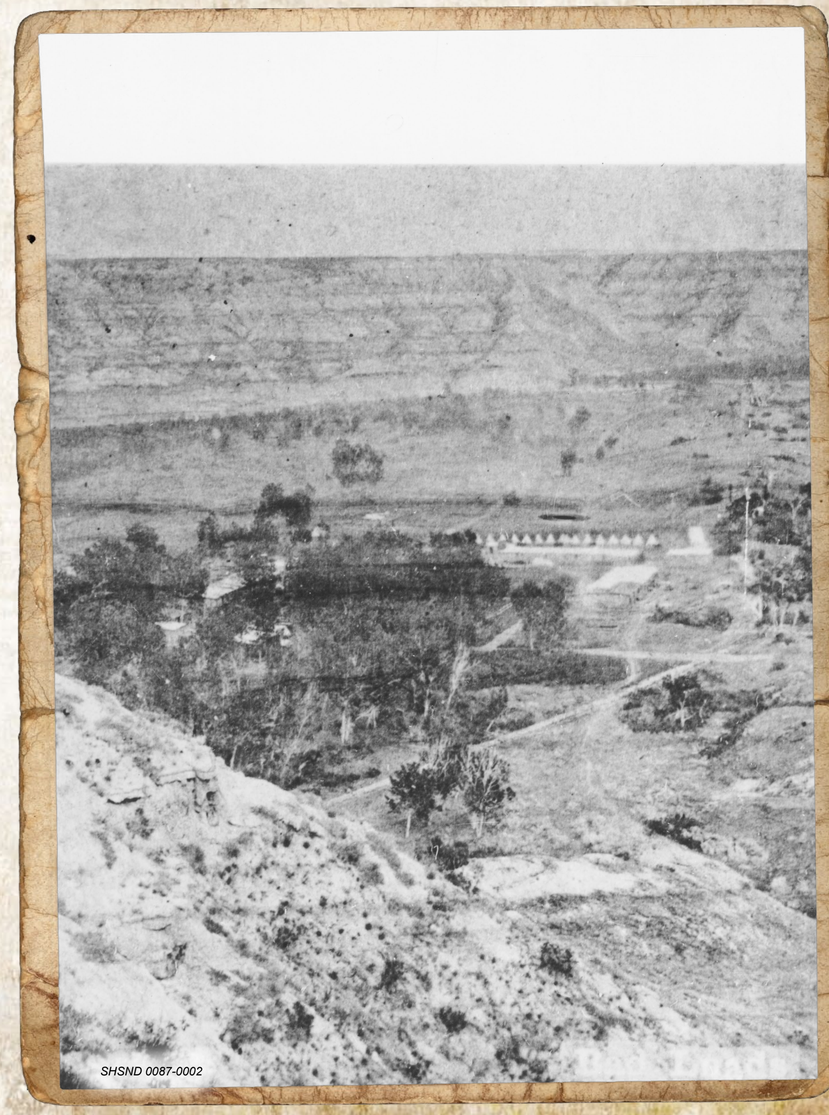
*Soldiers standing outside the Bad Lands Cantonment, 1880*

The Bad Lands Cantonment, a temporary military base to protect railroad construction workers from Indian attacks, was established on November 10, 1879. At first consisting of only canvas tents, the cantonment soon grew to eight lumber buildings, servicing a garrison of up to 60 men.

Indians never did attack the cantonment, but in early June 1880, Indians ran off a horse picketed on a nearby ridge.

A week later, a hunting party was attacked. A small detail of soldiers started in pursuit of the raiding party, coming upon them near Sentinel Butte, about 12 miles west of the cantonment. A brisk engagement ensued during which the soldiers' horses became frightened and ran into the Indians' herd and were captured. The soldiers were forced to walk back to the cantonment, arriving about midnight. Attempts to recover their horses were unsuccessful.

The cantonment was abandoned by the military on March 4, 1883, but its usefulness was not ended. The buildings would continue to serve in various capacities including as Medora's first school and later as the offices of the *Bad Lands Cow Boy*, a local newspaper.



SHSND 0087-0002

*A view from the late 1870s of the Bad Lands Cantonment*

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HISTORIC MEDORA
NORTH DAKOTA

# Billings County Courthouse

Billings County was formed in 1879 and organized in 1886. Medora became the county seat in 1886, three years before North Dakota became a state in 1889. The first county offices were located in Roberts Hall.

Two small homes built in the 1880s were joined and the single building became the Billings County Courthouse in the early 1900s. The second floor with courtroom was added in 1913.

The Register of Deeds vault (the brick addition on the north side) was added in the 1950s. A new courthouse, next door to the south, was built in 1983. In 1984, county commissioners turned the old courthouse over to the Billings County Historical Society, eventually renaming it the Billings County Museum. The Grand opening of the Billings County Museum took place on May 25, 1986.

The Billings County Museum is owned and maintained by Billings County and run by the Billings County Historical Society. Special highlights of the Museum are the restored courtroom and early pioneer days jail.

The building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



BCHS

*The Billings County Courthouse after the second floor was added in 1913*


BCHS

*Roberts Hall housed the first county offices.*



*The second courthouse for Billings County*

BCHS

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HISTORIC MEDORA
NORTH DAKOTA USA

# CCC Camp

The Civilian Conservation Corps was a peacetime army of civilians working from 1933 to 1941 to create jobs for unemployed men and to protect natural resources. Two CCC camps were located near Medora.

In 1934 the CCC camp of Company 2767 was established on the west bank of the Little Missouri River in what is now the South Unit of Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

Two other camps were established in what is now the North Unit of Theodore Roosevelt National Park. One of those, Company 2772, was moved to the Park's South Unit on the east bank of the river in 1939. It remained at this location until the camp was closed in 1941, which marked the end of the CCC presence in the badlands.

In North Dakota, the CCC established wildlife refuges, developed state and municipal parks, built irrigation systems, and constructed dams for flood control and wildlife habitat. A total of 32,764 men participated in the CCC in North Dakota.

CCC enrollees were paid $30 per month. The men received $5 to $8 per month to spend on entertainment and personal needs. The remainder was sent home to their families.

North Dakota CCC companies were frequently transferred in and out of state. The number of camps varied from year to year, depending upon appropriations to the CCC program. In North Dakota there was an average of eight camps per year.



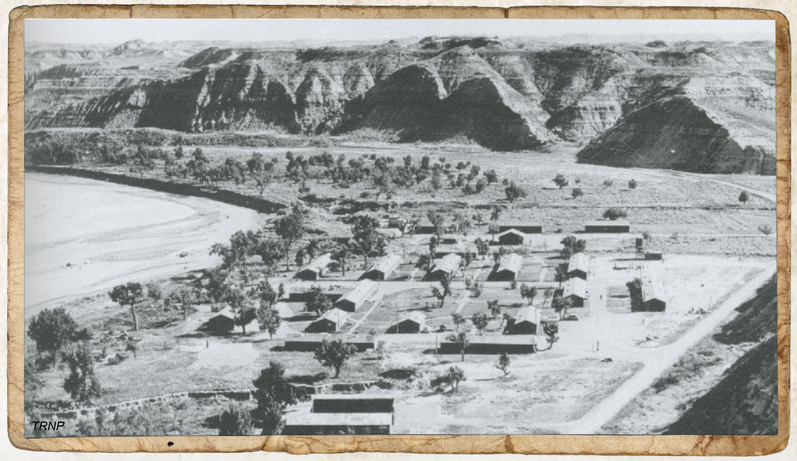
TRNP - 0957-03

*The CCC employed nearly three million young men in its nine-year life span.*



2004-P-05-01 CCC Company 27721935 Roosevelt State park ND Badlands

*A total of 32,764 CCC workers helped municipalities throughout North Dakota.*



TRNP

*Company 2772 of the CCC was headquartered in what is now the South Unit of Theodore Roosevelt National Park from 1939-1941.*




2004-P-05-01 CCC Company 27721935 Roosevelt State park ND Badlands

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HISTORIC MEDORA
NORTH DAKOTA USA

# Coal Mining

One of the goals of early exploring parties in this area was to find naturally occurring fuel, which was needed for railroad construction.

One of the first area coal mines was located just west of Medora. Originally thought to be high-grade, the coal was actually low-grade lignite. The Northern Pacific Coal Company operated this mine, selling mostly to the railroad, with some coal being sold locally for heating. The mine closed in 1884 and a new mine opened at the base of the butte on the east side of Medora.



Gary Leppart Collection

*Conrad "Dutch" Ziegler is shown inside the High Grade Coal Mine near Medora.*

Coal was mined commercially in Medora from the 1920s through the 1940s. The three coal mines were the High Grade, Red Trail, and Little Missouri. The ventilation shaft from the High Grade mine is still visible in the side of the butte.

Today, North Dakota coal is converted to electricity through the gasification process. Most of the coal trains passing through Medora come from Montana and Wyoming. The trains are heading to destinations in other states.

*The opening to an underground coal mine, circa 1920s*

BCHS




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HISTORIC MEDORA
NORTH DAKOTA

# Cowboys

The American cowboy has become a mythic figure in the national consciousness. This would, no doubt, have surprised most of the common laborers who earned their meager pay as cowboys. A number of them were indeed colorful characters. Some became outlaws and some became lawmen. Most, however, quietly worked and saved until they could start ranches of their own.

Cowboys came from every background and were of every ethnicity. They ranged in age from boys to old men. Some were well-educated and some were illiterate. Their most common shared traits were an independent nature and a penchant for outdoor labor. They were, above all, individualists.

Many cowboys made the long ride to Medora, and some stayed to become substantial citizens whose descendants still live in this area.




*George Gardner, WIlliam Fordino, Bill McCarty*

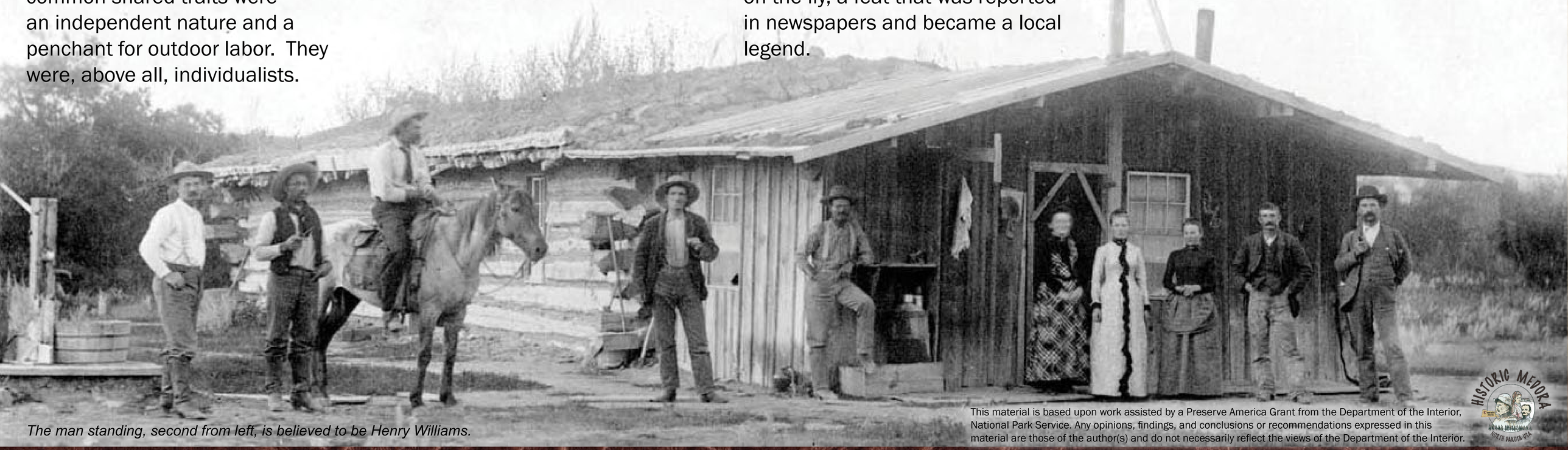
Medora's most famous cowboy resident was, of course, Theodore Roosevelt. Roosevelt came from his New York City home in 1883 to hunt buffalo, and quickly invested in two area cattle ranches. He enjoyed working as a common cowboy, and often credited his time in the badlands with enabling him to pursue his national destiny.

Two prominent area ranchers, Bill McCarty and George Gardner, toured for a time as riders with Buffalo Bill Cody's internationally famous Wild West Show.

Early-day mulatto cowboy Henry Williams was noted for his exceptional roping and horse-breaking abilities. In July 1886 he roped a goose on the fly, a feat that was reported in newspapers and became a local legend.




*Bronc bustin' was part of a cowboy's work.*



*The man standing, second from left, is believed to be Henry Williams.*

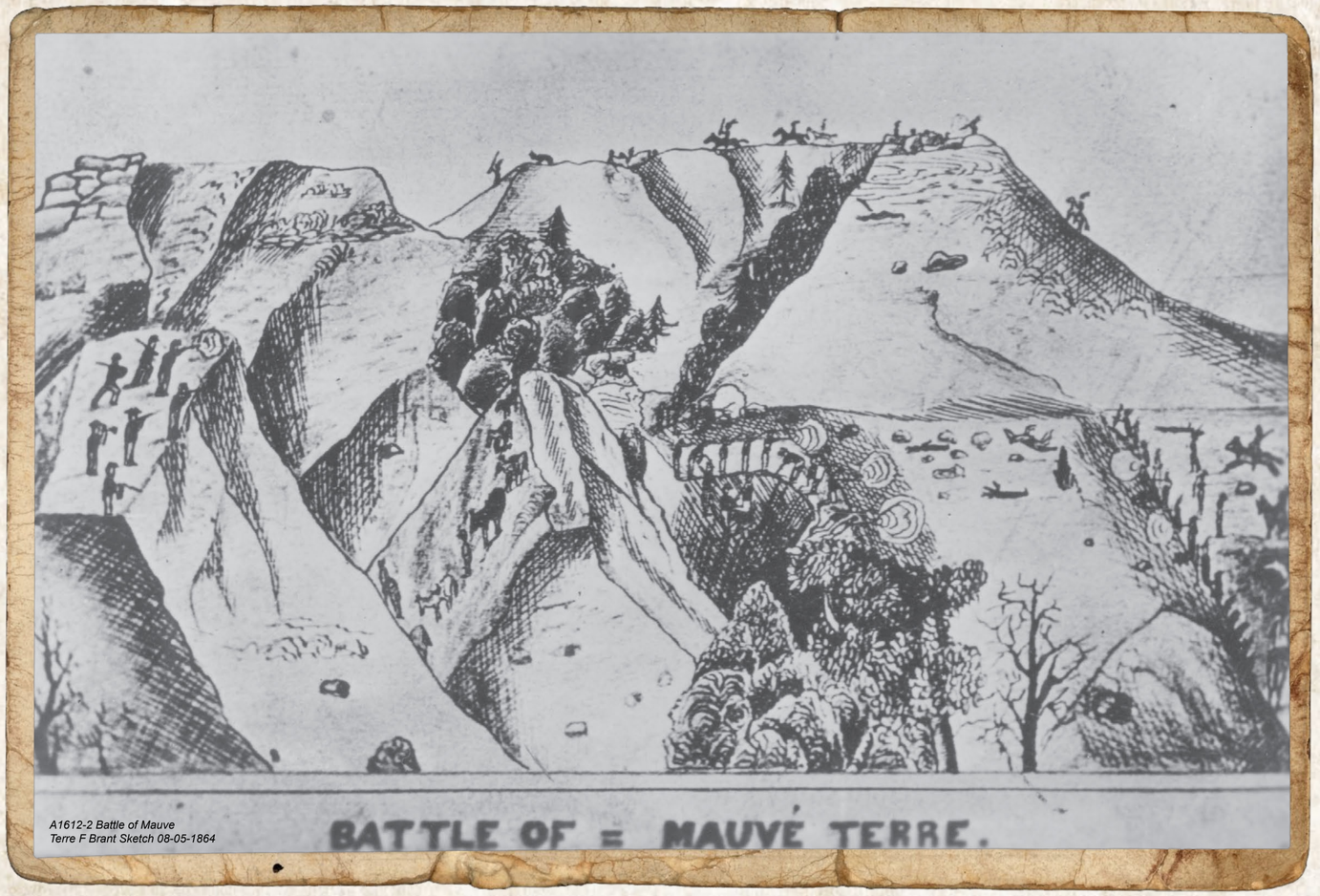
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HISTORIC MEDORA
NORTH DAKOTA 1883

# Frontier Military

The Little Missouri Badlands played a key strategic role in the conflict between American Indians and the expanding United States.

General Alfred Sully in 1864 led the first military expedition to cross the badlands. The expedition of 2,200 men and a large civilian wagon train entered the badlands from the east on August 6, fresh from a decisive victory on July 28 over the Sioux Indians at Killdeer Mountain.




A1612-2 Battle of Mauve
Terre F Brant Sketch 08-05-1864

*Battle of the Badlands 1864, drawn by a participant*

Later in 1876, General George Crook passed through from the west, before turning south toward the Black Hills in a desperate march for supplies.

The U. S. Military established a presence in 1879 with the construction of the Bad Lands Cantonment at the Northern Pacific railroad crossing on the west side of the Little Missouri River, west of present-day Medora. The cantonment was abandoned in early 1883, by which time the Indian threat had ended.



*Lt. Col. George Custer*
SHSND 10548-3-8

Sully despaired of finding a route across the rugged terrain, but followed the guidance of a young Indian scout and successfully blazed a trail several miles south of present-day Medora. Sully's command emerged from the badlands on August 9, after engaging the Sioux in hot skirmishes, known as the Battle of the Badlands.

Military expeditions in 1871, 1872 and 1873 were formed as protection for railroad survey crews. Lieutenant Colonel George Armstrong Custer and his Seventh U. S. Cavalry were part of the 1873 escort.

Custer and his regiment passed through the area in 1876 on the way to defeat at the Little Bighorn River in Montana. The Custer Trail is now identified and marked for posterity.



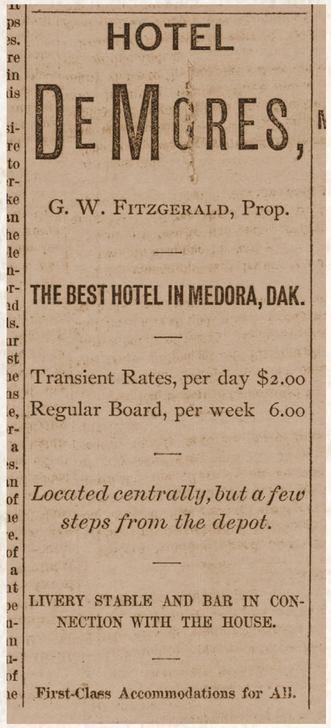
*General Alfred Sully*
SHSND sa10548

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# Hotel de Mores

The Hotel de Mores was built by the Marquis de Mores in 1883 and served as a boarding house for up to 100 people. The 100' x 25' hotel was located north of the railroad depot and faced west.

Manager George Fitzgerald advertised it as the best hotel in Medora, providing rooms for $2.00 per day or $6.00 per week. A livery stable and bar operated in connection with the hotel. The bar advertised the very best quality of wines, liquors and cigars.



HOTEL

DE MORES,

G. W. FITZGERALD, Prop.

THE BEST HOTEL IN MEDORA, DAK.

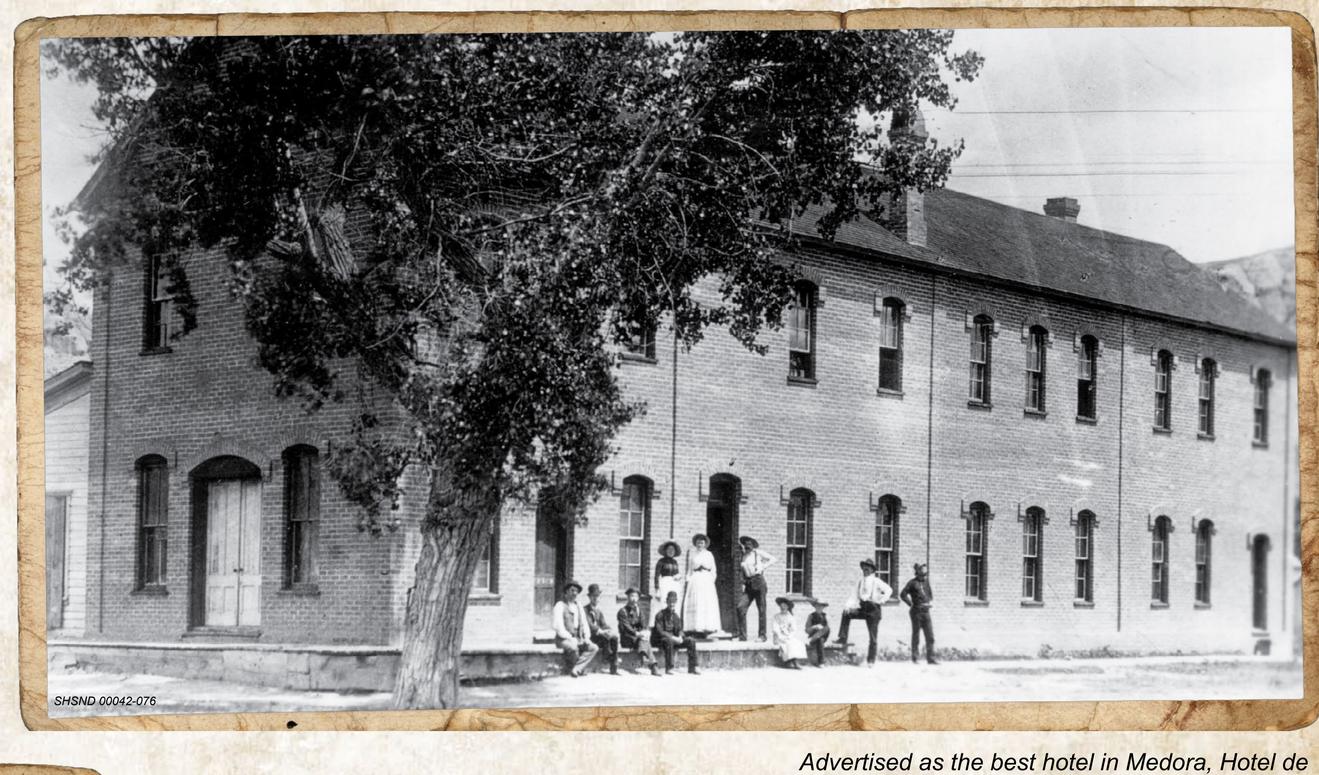
Transient Rates, per day $2.00
Regular Board, per week 6.00

*Located centrally, but a few steps from the depot.*

LIVERY STABLE AND BAR IN CONNECTION WITH THE HOUSE.

First-Class Accommodations for All.

*The* Bad Lands Cow Boy
*February 7, 1884*



SHSND 00042-076

*Advertised as the best hotel in Medora, Hotel de Mores offered rooms, livery stable and bar.*



SHSND 0042-149

*Hotel de Mores was a grand structure, the envy of many innkeepers.*

During the winter of 1883-84, the hotel was the social center of Medora. Dances were held on weekends and the hotel dining room was also used for meetings and social gatherings.

When Fitzgerald left to operate his new Metropolitan Hotel in 1885, the Marquis had the facility remodeled. A porch and veranda were added, the building was veneered with Medora-made brick, and the kitchen and rooms were filled with new furniture. The building was renamed The Northern Pacific Hotel and officially reopened June 1, 1885. Arch Boyd was the operator. It featured dances and social hops and served as an office to traveling businessmen.

Because Marquis de Mores' businesses were failing, Boyd closed the Northern Pacific Hotel in 1886, gathered his possessions and left town. Hotel de Mores caught fire from a burning haystack and burned to the ground on September 13, 1897.

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HISTORIC MEDORA
NORTH DAKOTA USA

# Hunting and Trapping

The Little Missouri Badlands have always been ideal habitat for wildlife. American Indians hunted these lands for centuries. The first known white explorers, the La Verendrye brothers, ventured into the badlands in 1742. Trapper Jean Baptiste La Page descended the Little Missouri River in late 1804 and soon joined Lewis and Clark in their winter camp on the Missouri. Their expedition ushered in the Upper Missouri fur trade, which flourished into the second half of the nineteenth century.

The Little Missouri drainage was hunted for buffalo, bear, elk, deer, antelope, wolves, cougars, beaver, and many other species. The badlands became a haven for adventurous sportsmen, such as John Palliser of Britain, who hunted the area in 1848, and Irish nobleman Sir St. George Gore, who led a large hunting party through in 1856.



SHSND 00042-083

*The marquise (left, sitting side-saddle) and Marquis de Mores (foreground) were involved in many hunting expeditions.*



SHSND C0119

*The Badlands were a hunter's paradise with many species of wild game harvested.*

Construction of the Northern Pacific Railroad in 1880 provided easy access to this hunter's paradise. Among the many who came to hunt was young Theodore Roosevelt in 1883. Roosevelt adopted the badlands as a second home and helped popularize the area through his prolific writing.

This area continues to be a popular destination for hunters, including those who prefer to hunt with a camera or a sketchbook.

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HISTORIC MEDORA
NORTH DAKOTA USA

# Joe Ferris General Store

Joe Ferris wore many hats in Medora. He was a hunting guide, a Medora postmaster, and a successful merchant.

Ferris opened his first general store in Little Missouri. In 1885 he began work in Medora on the current two story, 25’ x 75’ structure. Ferris also operated a feed stable behind the store.

Theodore Roosevelt rented one of the upstairs rooms to use while on his trips to town. Legend has it that Roosevelt could be heard pacing at night as he worked on books and magazine articles.


TRMF Collection

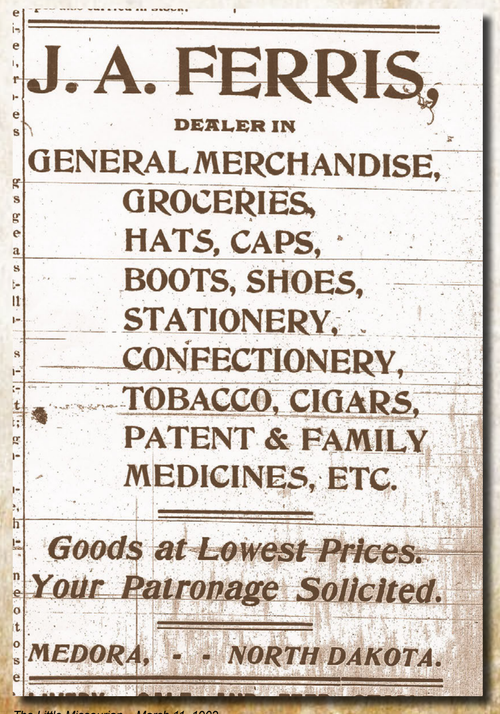
*The early Joe Ferris General Store: a shoppers paradise for home and business.*

By 1887 Medora was in decline, but the Ferris Store remained and was soon nearly the only operating business in town. Ferris served as the town postmaster in 1887 and from 1893 to 1908. Ferris sold his store in 1909 and moved to Montana. The store closed in 1925, and over the years it was used as a pool hall, warehouse, and living quarters.

In 1963, Bismarck entrepreneur Harold Schafer and his Gold Seal Company bought the building and began reconstruction. The local landmark was again reopened as a general store.


TRMF Collection

*Joe and Lilly Ferris with their children and family dog, circa 1900*



J. A. FERRIS,

DEALER IN

GENERAL MERCHANDISE,
GROCERIES,
HATS, CAPS,
BOOTS, SHOES,
STATIONERY,
CONFECTIONERY,
TOBACCO, CIGARS,
PATENT & FAMILY
MEDICINES, ETC.

*Goods at Lowest Prices.*
*Your Patronage Solicited.*

MEDORA, - - NORTH DAKOTA.

*The Little Missourian – March 11, 1902*


SHSND 00042-035

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HISTORIC MEDORA
NORTH DAKOTA USA

# Law Enforcement

From its formation in 1879 to its official organization on April 12, 1886, Billings County was without county offices or officials. All administrative duties were performed through the Morton County courthouse at Mandan, some 130 miles to the east.




The absence of a local lawman during the early boom years of Little Missouri and Medora resulted in the towns gaining a wide reputation as hell-roaring Wild West towns. This reputation was exaggerated in the press, but shootings did occur and at least two men were killed in gunfights: William S. Livingston on July 17, 1881, and William Riley Luffsey on June 26, 1883.



*Fred Patrikus*

Fred Willard, a young man who came to town with experience as a lawman and gunfighter, was appointed a Deputy U. S. Marshal in June 1885, and immediately posted notice that shooting in town was now prohibited. With the organization of Billings County the following year, Willard was elected the first sheriff.

The only Billings County officer to die in the line of duty was Sheriff Fred Patrikus, who was fatally shot by a Minnesota fugitive on August 20, 1940. Patrikus died five days later.



*Photo of revolver used to fatally wound Fred Patrikus. The revolver is on display at the Billings County Museum.*

## Medora's Hanging Tree




While there is no record of an actual hanging or lynching ever occurring in Medora, the town received notoriety for its "Hanging Tree." This photograph was taken in December, 1895, in the aftermath of a controversial murder trial.

On December 21, 1894, it was reported that cowboy and hunter Ed Severson was killed by a horse kick early that morning on the ranch of Mr. and Mrs. Mark Wadsworth, along the Little Missouri River north of Medora. The coroner found Severson's body in the corral, and without suspicion substantiated the manner of death. While neighbors were dressing the body for burial, however, a bullet hole was discovered in his chest.

Mr. and Mrs. Wadsworth proclaimed their innocence, but their 15 year old ranch hand Harry Roehm confessed that Wadsworth had paid him $200 to shoot Severson, and was present at the killing. Harry Roehm pleaded guilty to the murder and on March 28, 1895, he was sentenced to a term in reform school at Plankinton, South Dakota.

The Wadsworth trial was moved to Bismarck in Burleigh County, where Mr. and Mrs. Wadsworth provided each other with alibis. On December 21, 1895 – one year to the day after Severson's death – the jury found the defendants not guilty. Medora residents expressed their rage at the verdict by hanging the jury in effigy and displaying a large banner on the side of the de Mores Hotel. An enterprising photographer recorded the scene for posterity.

Following the acquittal, Mark Wadsworth and his wife stayed for a short time at Dickinson, sold their property, and left the area.

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HISTORIC MEDORA
NORTH DAKOTA USA

# Little Missouri

Little Missouri was founded in 1880 at the site of the Northern Pacific Railroad section house and depot, on the west bank of the Little Missouri River. In late 1880, Frank Moore, the Post Trader of the nearby military cantonment, opened the Pyramid Park Hotel. The badlands were already becoming a destination for hunters, scientists, and tourists.



Doug Ellison Collection

A formal town site was never platted at Little Missouri, which some locals called “Little Misery”




*The town of Little Missouri was on the west bank of the Little Missouri River.*

The Little Missouri business community soon grew to include Big-Mouthed Bob’s Bug Juice Dispensary, a general store, and a boarding house.

Within a week in 1883 two distinguished visitors stepped off the train at Little Missouri: President Chester A. Arthur on September 2, returning east from Yellowstone National Park; and future president Theodore Roosevelt on September 8, who came west to hunt.

The Marquis de Mores arrived in April 1883, and established a new town east of the river, naming it Medora. As the new town grew, Little Missouri faded.

Original plans involved loading the Little Missouri depot onto a flatcar for use at another station, but the structure was too wide to fit through the railroad bridges. As a result, the depot was sold locally and taken to the HT Ranch, about 40 miles south of Medora.

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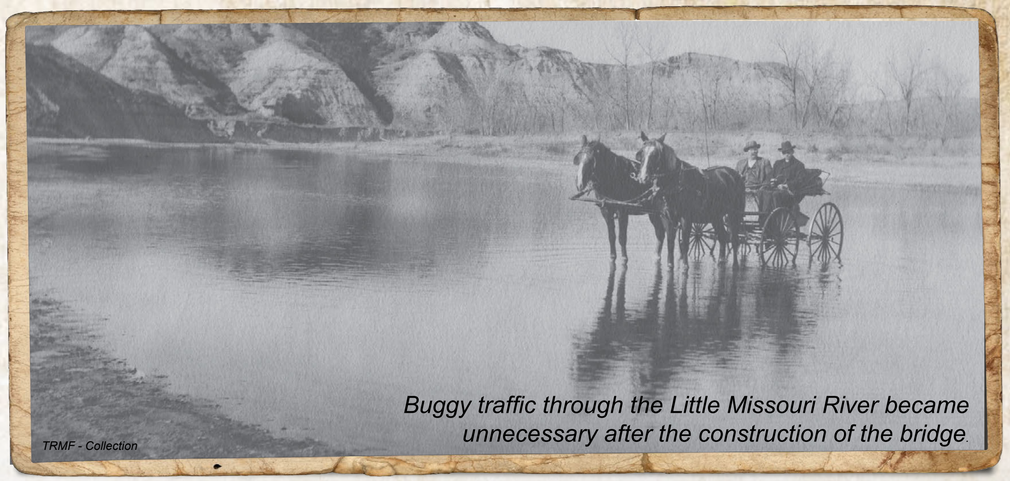
HISTORIC MEDORA
NORTH DAKOTA USA

# Little Missouri Bridge

The Little Missouri River was a challenge for motorists. Motorists had to ford the river or wait for a railroad crew to carry their auto across on a flatcar.

Construction of the transcontinental highway systems began in 1912. The lack of proper river crossings impeded the highway's progress.

Because Medora lacked the finances to build a bridge, the National Parks Highway Association solicited donations from communities along the route. In the spirit of "boosting" the region linked by the highway, donations from $800 to $1700 were collected to raise the necessary funding.  For a time the span was known locally as "The Bridge That Boost Built."



*Buggy traffic through the Little Missouri River became unnecessary after the construction of the bridge.*

TRMF - Collection




*Many people attended the dedication of the bridge in 1916.*

SHSND - 0259-12 Red Trail Bridge Medora ND

In 1915 the Illinois Steel Bridge Company was contracted to build the bridge. The narrow, steel-truss structure consisted of three 137' 9" spans supported by steel piers 24' high, resting upon a concrete base 10' thick. The final cost was $14,580. Grade and road fees were $3,200.

The bridge dedication took place on July 24, 1916. A large crowd gathered to hear well-known North Dakota poet James W. Foley, Jr., a Medora native, read an original composition entitled "The Building of the Bridge."

The 1916 bridge across the Little Missouri continued in use until it was replaced in 1942 by a bridge 32 feet wide.



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HISTORIC MEDORA
NORTH DAKOTA USA

# Margaret Roberts

Margaret Barr was born in Ireland on September 15, 1853, and immigrated to Iowa with her family about 1864. In April 1871, Margaret married John Lloyd Roberts from Wales, becoming a pioneer wife to a cattle dealer and butcher.

The couple arrived at Bismarck in 1877 and by 1882 Lloyd was foreman of the Eaton Brothers' Custer Trail Ranch south of Medora. In 1883 the family built Sloping Bottom Ranch about 10 miles south of Medora, raising sheep, cattle and horses.

In 1886 her husband John traveled to Cheyenne, Wyoming Territory with about $2,000 to buy cattle. He was never heard from again and Margaret believed he was killed for his money. She found herself a widow with five young daughters to raise. She continued to operate the ranch, eventually filing a homestead claim in 1899.




*Margaret Barr Roberts*

Margaret exemplified the pioneer rectitude and persistence that her neighbor Theodore Roosevelt so admired. He described her as "the most wonderful little woman in the Bad Lands."

Margaret eventually moved to Dickinson, North Dakota. She died on April 9, 1938 at the age of 84.




*Margaret Barr Roberts was an excellent horseback rider.*




*Margaret and John Lloyd Roberts*

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HISTORIC MEDORA
NORTH DAKOTA, USA

# Medora Business District

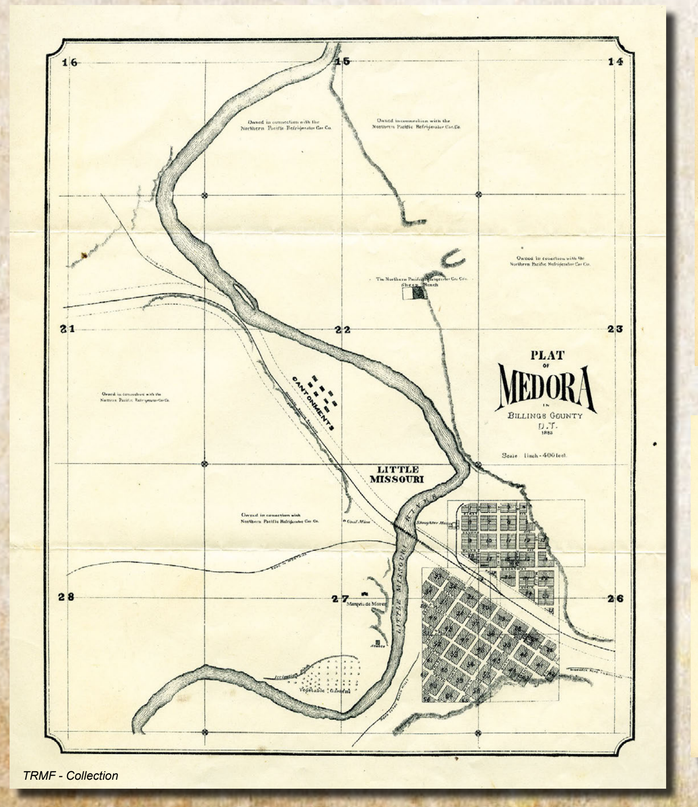
Medora's unofficial business district originated north of 3rd Avenue. After Medora was founded in 1883, carpenters, masons, and other laborers filled the community, constructing homes and businesses. Medora also became a supply hub for area ranchers and farmers.



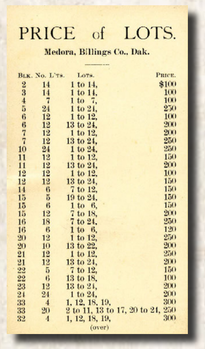

*The Medora Business district circa-1920s*

Subsequent businesses operating out of the building included Mrs. Foley's gift shop, which catered to the growing tourist industry, and the Rusth Store, which included a grocery and meat shop. In the 1940s the building was made over with a log facade. Jim and Hattie Barnhart opened the Log Cabin Bar and Store, providing necessary provisions to the growing number of tourists who visited Medora.

The building was purchased by the Gold Seal Company in the 1960s and was renamed the Badlands Saloon.




*Early plat of Medora*

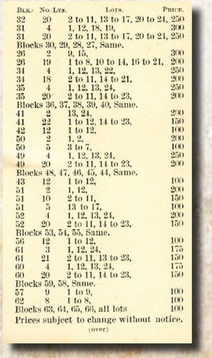


PRICE of LOTS.

Medora, Billings Co., Dak.

| Blk. | No. Lts. | Lots. | Price. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | 14 | 1 to 14, | $100 |
| 3 | 14 | 1 to 14, | 100 |
| 4 | 7 | 1 to 7, | 100 |
| 5 | 24 | 1 to 24, | 250 |
| 6 | 12 | 1 to 12, | 100 |
| 6 | 12 | 13 to 24, | 200 |
| 7 | 12 | 1 to 12, | 200 |
| 7 | 12 | 13 to 24, | 250 |
| 10 | 24 | 1 to 24, | 250 |
| 11 | 12 | 1 to 12, | 150 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 to 24, | 200 |
| 12 | 12 | 1 to 12, | 100 |
| 12 | 12 | 13 to 24, | 150 |
| 14 | 6 | 7 to 12, | 150 |
| 15 | 5 | 19 to 24, | 150 |
| 15 | 6 | 1 to 6, | 150 |
| 15 | 12 | 7 to 18, | 200 |
| 16 | 18 | 7 to 24, | 250 |
| 16 | 6 | 1 to 6, | 120 |
| 20 | 12 | 1 to 12, | 250 |
| 20 | 10 | 13 to 22, | 200 |
| 21 | 12 | 1 to 12, | 250 |
| 21 | 12 | 13 to 24, | 200 |
| 22 | 5 | 7 to 12, | 150 |
| 22 | 6 | 13 to 18, | 100 |
| 23 | 12 | 13 to 24, | 200 |
| 24 | 24 | 1 to 24, | 300 |
| 32 | 4 | 1, 12, 18, 19, | 300 |
| 33 | 20 | 2 to 11, 13 to 17, 20 to 24, | 250 |
| 32 | 4 | 1, 12, 18, 19, | 300 |

(over)



| Blk. | No. Lts. | Lots. | Price. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 32 | 20 | 2 to 11, 13 to 17, 20 to 24, | 250 |
| 31 | 4 | 1, 12, 18, 19, | 300 |
| 31 | 20 | 2 to 11, 13 to 17, 20 to 24, | 250 |
| Blocks 30, 29, 28, 27, Same. | | | |
| 26 | 2 | 9, 15, | 300 |
| 26 | 19 | 1 to 8, 10 to 14, 16 to 24, | 200 |
| 34 | 4 | 1, 12, 13, 22, | 350 |
| 34 | 18 | 2 to 11, 14 to 21, | 300 |
| 35 | 4 | 1, 12, 13, 24, | 350 |
| 35 | 20 | 2 to 11, 14 to 23, | 300 |
| Blocks 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, Same. | | | |
| 41 | 2 | 13, 24, | 200 |
| 41 | 22 | 1 to 12, 14 to 23, | 150 |
| 42 | 12 | 1 to 12, | 100 |
| 50 | 2 | 1, 2, | 200 |
| 50 | 5 | 3 to 7, | 100 |
| 49 | 4 | 1, 12, 13, 24, | 250 |
| 48 | 20 | 2 to 11, 14 to 23, | 200 |
| Blocks 48, 47, 46, 45, 44, Same. | | | |
| 43 | 12 | 1 to 12, | 100 |
| 51 | 2 | 1, 12, | 200 |
| 51 | 10 | 2 to 11, | 150 |
| 51 | 5 | 13 to 17, | 100 |
| 52 | 4 | 1, 12, 13, 24, | 200 |
| 52 | 20 | 2 to 11, 14 to 23, | 150 |
| Blocks 53, 54, 55, Same. | | | |
| 56 | 12 | 1 to 12, | 100 |
| 61 | 3 | 1, 12, 24, | 175 |
| 61 | 21 | 2 to 11, 13 to 23, | 150 |
| 60 | 4 | 1, 12, 13, 24, | 175 |
| 60 | 20 | 2 to 11, 14 to 23, | 150 |
| Blocks 59, 58, Same. | | | |
| 57 | 9 | 1 to 9, | 100 |
| 62 | 8 | 1 to 8, | 100 |
| Blocks 63, 64, 65, 66, all lots | | | 100 |

Prices subject to change without notice.

(over)

According to Medora's first newspaper, the *Bad Lands Cow Boy*, the original tenant on the northwest corner of the 3rd Street intersection was a drug store. It then became a small dry goods store, and eventually the building became the LZ Club Room.

A log frame structure was built next to the LZ Club Room, housing a blacksmith shop. The two buildings were eventually connected.




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HISTORIC MEDORA
NORTH DAKOTA USA

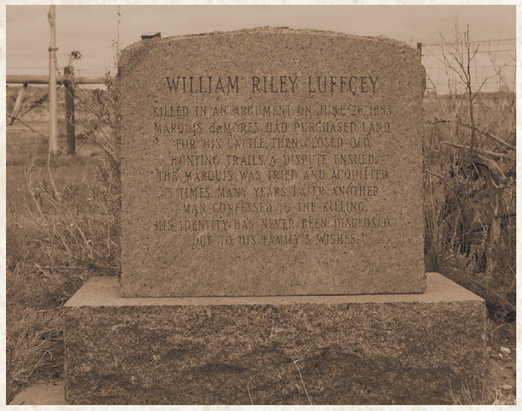
# Medora Cemetery

The Medora Cemetery consists of 1.93 acres located on a grassy plateau on the west bank of the Little Missouri River overlooking Medora. The Medora Cemetery Association was formed on October 15, 1919, by six pioneers of this area, Geo. R. Osterhout, Oren Kendley, Frank Shaw, Jim O. Gray, John F. Tester, and Paul W. Lebo.

November 27, 1919, Medora de Vallombrosa, wife of the Marquis de Mores, transferred her deed to this parcel of land to the Medora Cemetery Association.

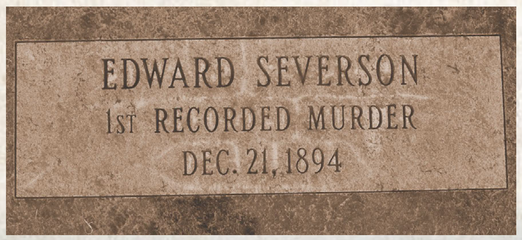
The first recorded burial in the cemetery area was that of William S. Livingston, who was shot and killed at Little Missouri on July 17, 1881. The locations of a number of graves from early days are unknown and unmarked.

*Those remembered in our cemeteries are our heritage, a testament to the fragileness of life yet a beacon of hope for those who were granted the gift of life to help make a better Billings County -- and world. (Echoing Trails II)*












Some of the gravestones are based on local folklore. Several existing monuments either do not mark graves or are misidentified.

The marker inscribed E. Gary Paddock, U.S. Marshall, 1845-1907 clearly refers to Elbridge Gerry Paddock, a colorful early day resident who served for a time as a Deputy U.S. Marshal. Paddock was in the Little Missouri valley by 1880. He left North Dakota in 1907 for California. He is buried in the Mission Hill Memorial Park Cemetery, Santa Clera, California.

The marker inscribed Frency deNoyer, Medora's 1st resident, 1829 refers to longtime resident Francoise/ Frank de Noyer, known as Frency. De Noyer enlisted in the Eighth Minnesota Infantry and marched through the Little Missouri Badlands with the expedition of General Alfred Sully in 1864.

The marker inscribed U.S. Army Soldier From Contonement, Fell From R.R. Bridge remains a mystery. The official records of the Badlands Cantonement state that no soldier died there during the life of the post, 1879-1883, nor has any record been found of a soldier dying while on campaign in the area.

The marker inscribed Man the Bank Fell on may refer to Joseph Doulisch, who was injured when an earthen foundation fell upon him at Medora on March 19, 1881. Doulisch died of his injuries on April 3.

Conversely, no monument exists today for a man named John Margranahan, who was dismembered and killed when he fell from a train at Medora on the night of April 26-27, 1884. There may be other individuals in the cemetery who rest in unmarked graves.

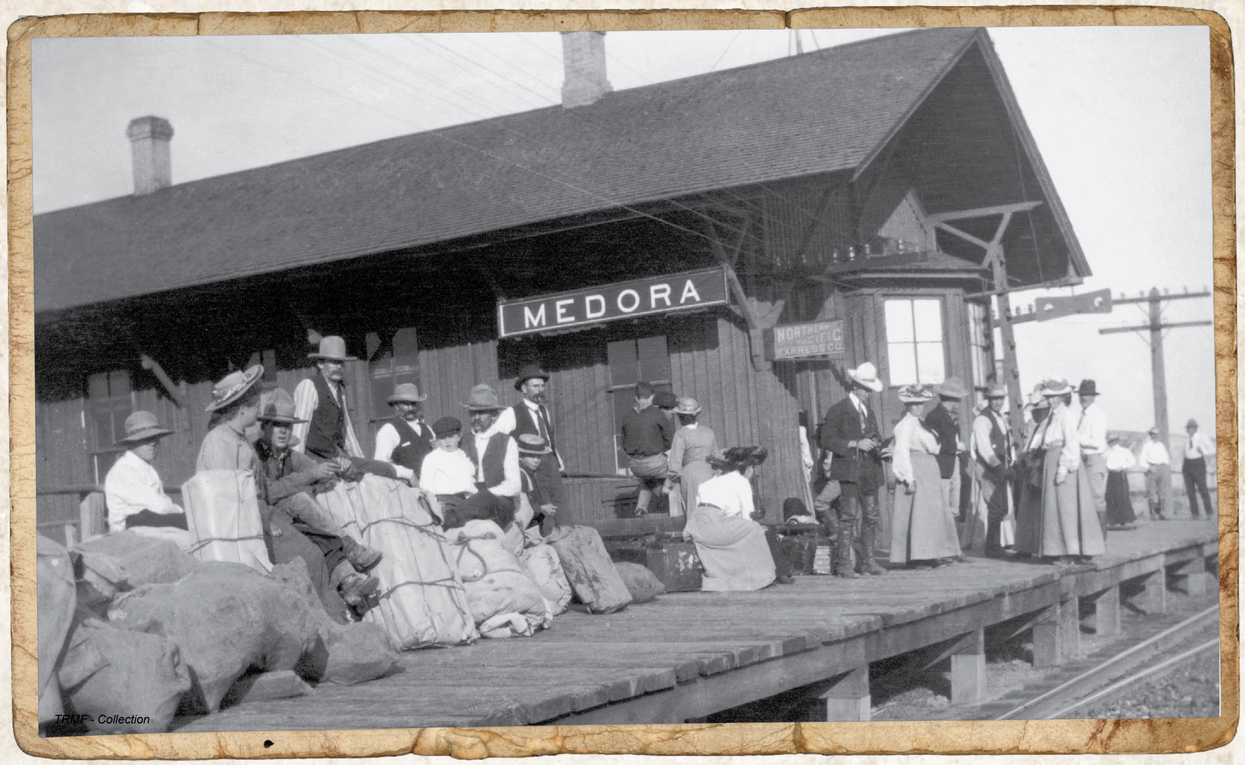
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HISTORIC MEDORA
NORTH DAKOTA, USA

# Medora Depot & Railroad

The railroad reached the Little Missouri River in 1880. The Northern Pacific Railroad had named the area Pyramid Park.

When the Marquis de Mores and Theodore Roosevelt arrived in 1883, the train depot was on the west side of the Little Missouri River. In 1884 Northern Pacific Railroad trains began stopping in the new town of Medora, instead of across the river at the earlier depot.




*Passengers gather with their freight and personal belongings on the Medora Depot platform awaiting the arrival of the next train, circa 1910s.*

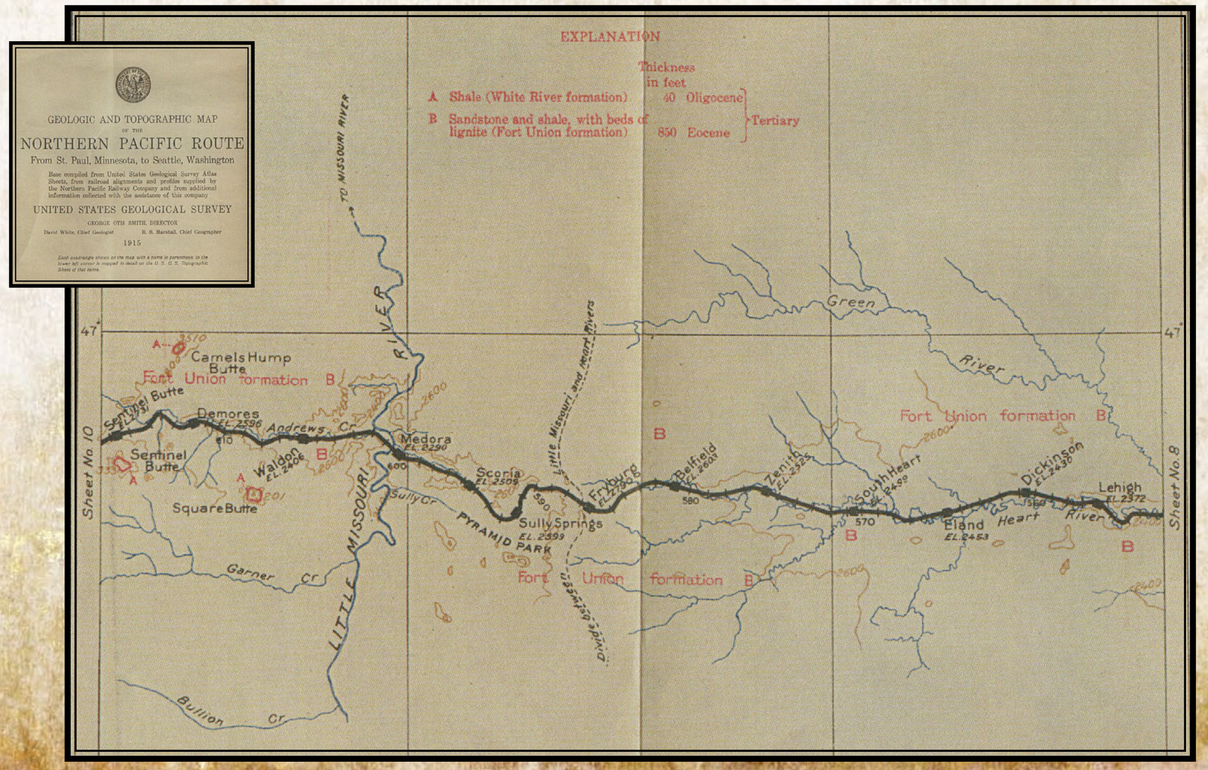
The depot building was situated near the present day Medora Convenience Store. The building was located perpendicular to the railroad tracks with the office and agent's window on the track-side of the building. The depot was destroyed by fire in 1925.

A depot building was moved in from Yates, Montana and used until 1968, when mail and passenger service was discontinued. The building was sold and dismantled.

In 1977, the City of Medora replicated the original depot.




*The Medora Depot served the Northern Pacific Railroad from 1884-1925.*




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HISTORIC MEDORA
NORTH DAKOTA USA

# Medora Education

The need for educating local children was first publicly expressed in 1884 when St. Mary's Catholic Church Father Martin Schmitt, O.S.B., appealed to Medora residents to establish a school.




Classes were begun in a cantonment building west of the Little Missouri River in July 1884 with Dan Williams instructing. The first classes in Medora opened on December 15, 1884, in St. Mary's Catholic Church, with a Miss Finger as teacher. Madame de Vallombrosa, wife of the Marquis de Mores, paid the salary of the teacher.

A more permanent school began in the Medora Hall in 1885. The de Mores School building was completed in 1916, housing grades 1-12. The last high school graduating class was 1961. That building was replaced with the present school, which was completed in 1986.



*Early day Medora education.*

The first eighth grade diploma was awarded in 1902. The Billings County Superintendent of Schools oversaw as many as 18 school districts from 1902 until county-wide school districts were consolidated in 1966.

At one time, there were as many as 50 one-room schools providing education to the youth of Billings County. Teachers taught grades 1-8 in the country schools.




*The two story brick school house served to educate area youth 1919-1985*

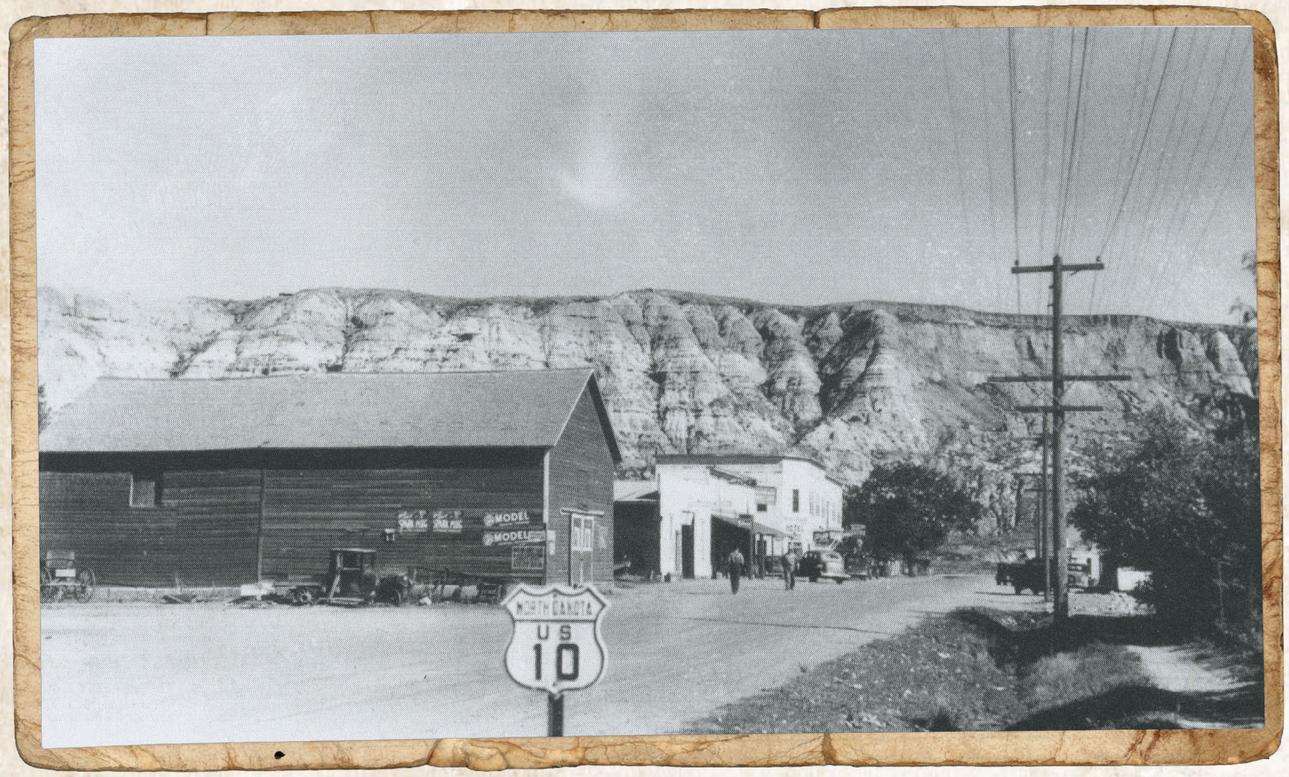
*State Historical Society of North Dakota (00259-08)*

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HISTORIC MEDORA
NORTH DAKOTA USA

# Medora Livery Stable

Stables were important in the early development of Medora, serving the primary means of local transportation: horseback and horse-drawn vehicles. Generally, livery stables offered horses, teams, and wagons for hire.

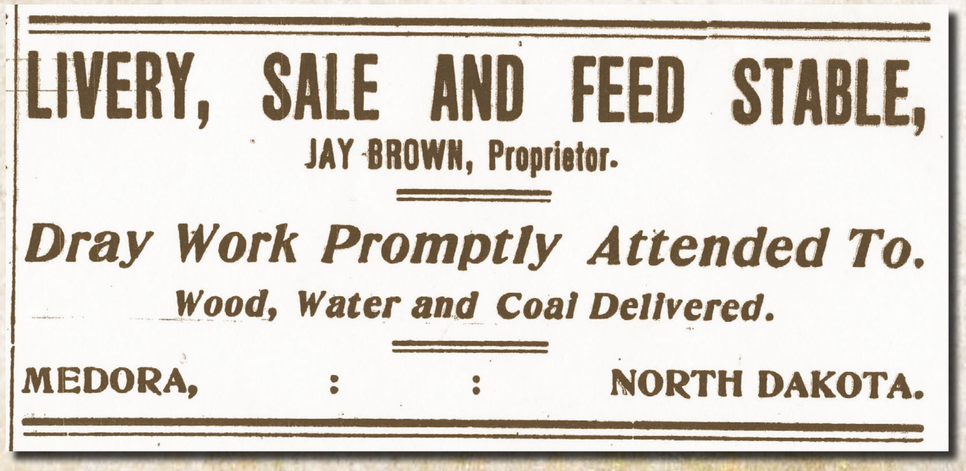



TRMF - Collection

*The Medora Livery Stable*

Livery stables were built in conjunction with hotels so guests' horses would have a place to stay. This was a bit of a comfort contradiction because of the stench, noise, and vermin problems associated with a livery. In addition to transportation services, liveries also offered hay, grain, coal, and wood.

The Medora Livery Stable was constructed in the early 1900s. No doubt it relied on the patronage of guests staying at the Metropolitan Hotel (renamed Rough Riders Hotel) located several doors to the east.


LIVERY, SALE AND FEED STABLE,
JAY BROWN, Proprietor.
Dray Work Promptly Attended To.
Wood, Water and Coal Delivered.
MEDORA, : : NORTH DAKOTA.

*This advertisement from* The Bad Lands Cow Boy *promoted the services at the Medora Livery Stable. A place to board horses was important to overnight guests in Medora.*

*Bad Lands Cow Boy*

The Medora Livery Stable was conveniently located for ranchers coming to town on business. With the introduction of the automobile, livery stables quietly disappeared. First from larger cities, then dwindling away in towns, with Medora's hanging on until the 1940s.

Liveries often acted as social centers. The local livery was nicknamed by locals the Medora Country Club. In addition to dealing cattle, ranchers enjoyed blackjack and five-card stud. Legend says that fortunes were lost and won in the back room of Medora's Livery Barn.



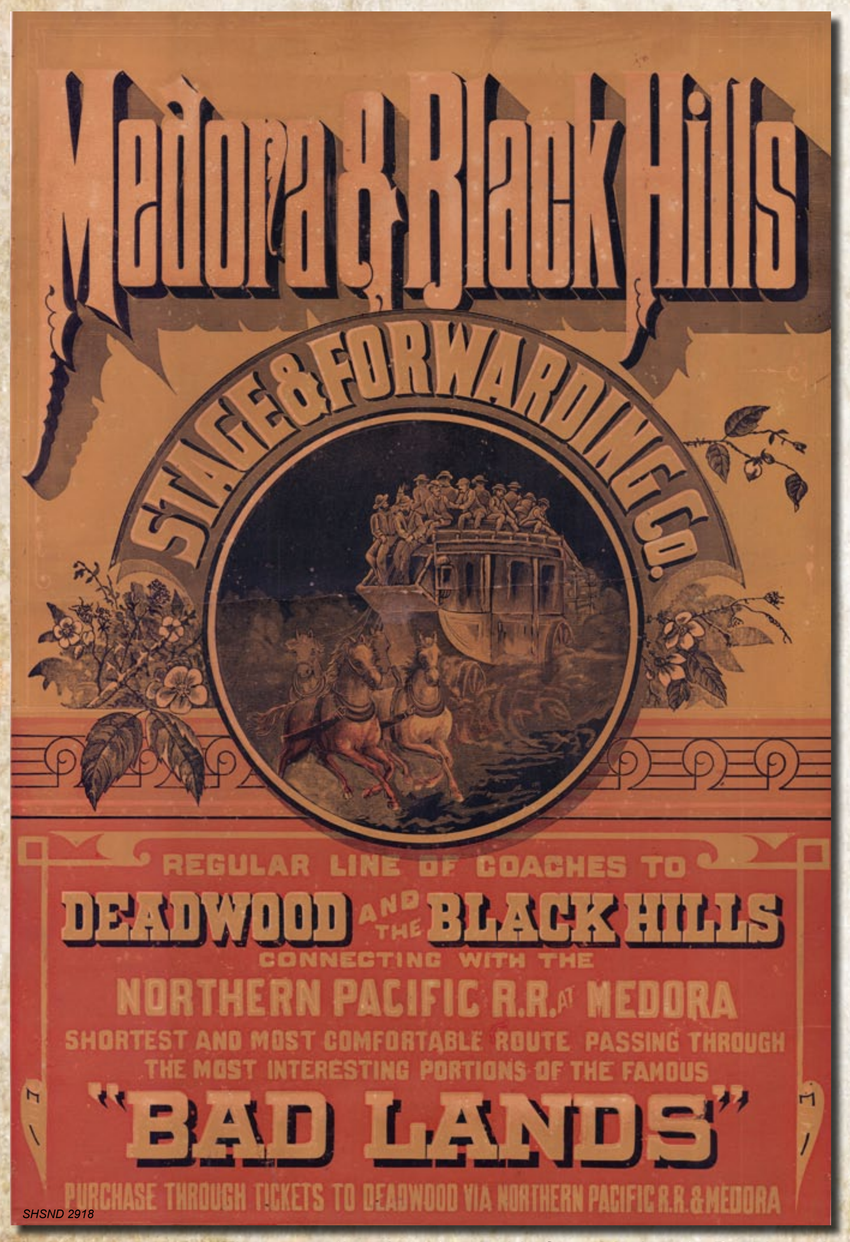
North Dakota Cowboy Hall of Fame Collection

*Many games of blackjack and five-card stud were played.*

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HISTORIC MEDORA
NORTH DAKOTA USA

# Medora Stage and Forwarding Company




*The promotional poster: a ride from Medora to Deadwood.*

Marquis de Mores was an entrepreneur. In the fall of 1884 he started daily round-trip stage and freight service from Medora to the Black Hills of South Dakota.

Four coaches were purchased for the venture and the *Kittie*, *Medora*, *Dakota,* and *Deadwood* would make the trip to the gold fields with a four or six horse hitch in 36 hours, depending on the weather. The original *Deadwood* coach is on display at the Chateau de Mores.




*Medora Stage horses had a special brand.*




*The stage as it was ready to roll from Medora to Deadwood, SD.*

The cost of the 215-mile ride was $21.50 per person. In addition to the coaches, other teams pulled wagons loaded with up to two tons of freight from the rail yards of Medora to the Black Hills. Stage stations were established every 10 to 15 miles and drivers were paid $50 a month plus "three hots and a cot."

Despite a visionary attitude by de Mores, many challenges arose, including trying to land a major mail contract. Competition in the stage and freight business was intense. *The Bad Lands Cow Boy* reported: "On May 19th (1885) the entire stage outfit rolled in, horses, coaches, station furniture, and all."

After only seven and a half months, the Marquis' adventure in the stagecoach business ended.

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HISTORIC MEDORA
NORTH DAKOTA USA

# Medora Town Hall

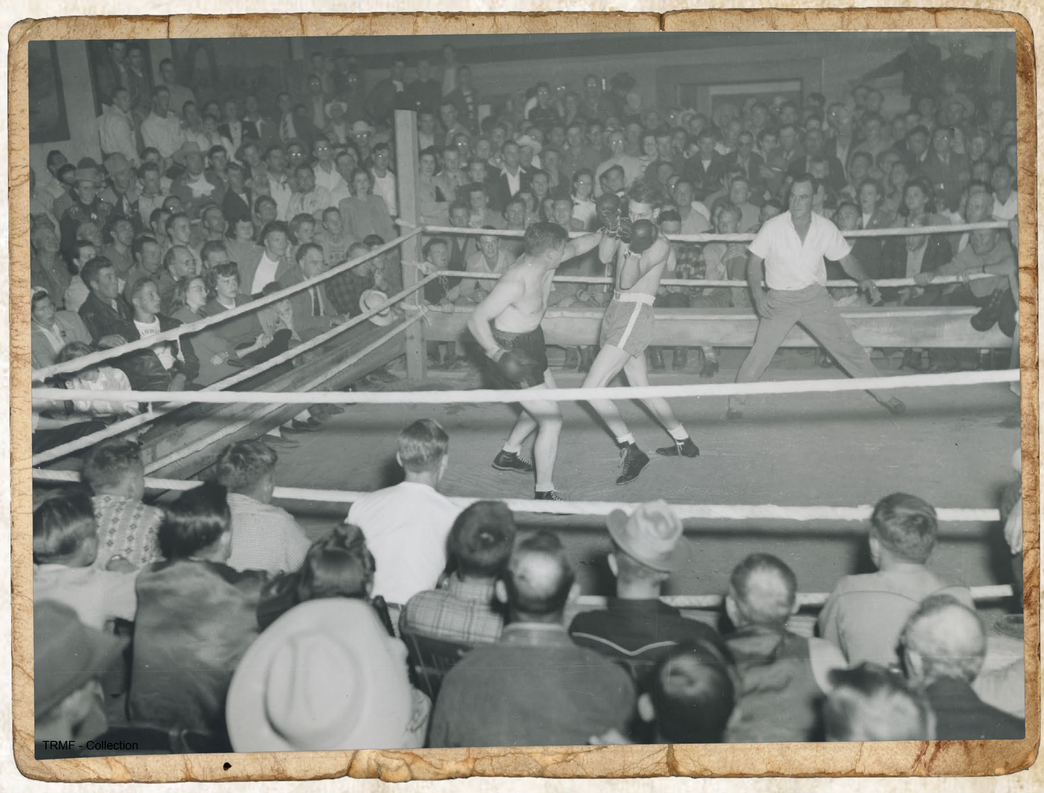
The Town Hall was built in 1924 to serve as an activity center for Medora. The building featured electric lights, a hot water heating system, partial basement, a furnished balcony, and a projection booth.

In the early days a Dickinson moving picture company showed silent movies every other week. The movie company provided a five-piece orchestra to furnish the music, and a dance would follow the film. People of all ages attended these events.




NDSU Libraries - 001303

A unique characteristic of the hall is the collection of murals done in 1936 by an itinerant artist named Joe Breckenridge, known as Cowboy Joe Breckenridge returned in 1960 and touched up his work from years earlier, adding a few smaller murals.



TRMF - Collection

*Boxing was a popular event in the early years of the Medora Town Hall.*

Opera chairs were provided for ordinary events. On special occasions that drew large crowds, attendees brought their own chairs rather than sitting on the planks and boxes provided.

The hall hosted public events, from school plays to graduation ceremonies to basketball games. Improvements were made to the building to serve as a celebration center for American Bicentennial activities in 1976. The Town Hall is now a theater, owned by the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation.



TRMF - Collection

*Mural by Joe Breckenridge*

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HISTORIC MEDORA
NORTH DAKOTA USA

# Ralph "Doc" Hubbard



BCHS

*"Doc" Hubbard authored a section of the Boy Scouts of America handbook.*

Ralph "Doc" Hubbard was one of the most accomplished people to call Medora home. He was born on June 22, 1885, in New York to Elbert Hubbard, a prominent author and publisher, and his wife Bertha Crawford Hubbard.

Doc first visited Medora around 1905, and eventually settled in the community in 1964, managing the Fur Trade and Wildlife Museum (present site of the North Dakota Cowboy Hall of Fame). Between those dates, Hubbard wrote books, ranched, served in World War I, helped write a section of the *Boy Scouts of America handbook*, mentored youth, and taught in high schools and colleges.

Hubbard's love of the American West and American Indian culture helped him become a nationally recognized authority in those fields, and he was an expert craftsman of Indian clothing and accoutrements. He led troupes of Boy Scouts and Indian dancers across America and Europe.



TRMF - Collection

*"Doc" Hubbard was an American Indian culture scholar.*

Hubbard's first novel, *Queer Person*, appeared in 1930, followed by *Wolf Song* in 1978. Hubbard's biography, *A Man As Big As The West* by Nellie Snyder Yost, was published in 1979.

Doc Hubbard died November 14, 1980, and is buried in the Medora cemetery. An asteroid and a street in Medora are named in his honor, a testament to the thousands of lives touched through his writings and teachings.

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# Roberts' Hall

Having operated The Senate Billiard and Pool Hall in Little Missouri, Bob Roberts joined many of his fellow business owners across the river in Medora. An April 1884 edition of *The Bad Lands Cow Boy* reported the contract for construction of the new business was awarded to Thomas McClung and construction would begin almost immediately.

The new business was near the Hotel de Mores in full view of the railroad and was considered a prime location. Later that month contractors arrived and construction moved rapidly along.

In May, the newspaper announced the building reached its true proportions: 24' wide by 75' deep and over 26' high with clear interior ceiling heights of 12', a large building for its time. *The Bad Lands Cow Boy* reported the interior had a "hard finish with a thickness of brown paper and clapboarding on the outside which would make for a very warm and substantial building."

The cost of building Roberts' Hall was advertised at "well over $4,500." The floors were pine. The walls had three coats of plaster, the last with a luster.

The main floor contained a bar room and two clubrooms, which would lead off to a hall extending to the rear. The upper floor was a large hall that offered a movable stage and two dressing rooms.

Roberts' Hall also housed a bowling alley, a roller rink, county offices, and other attractions for recreation. The hall was dismantled in 1923.

*Roberts Hall was a prime location in downtown Medora in 1884. It once housed the Billings County Courthouse.*

*SHSND - 0615-02*

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HISTORIC MEDORA
NORTH DAKOTA USA

# Rough Riders Hotel

George Fitzgerald's success operating the Hotel de Mores was such that in November 1884 he began work on his own two-story hotel that measured 35' by 80'. Brick veneer was planned but never accomplished.

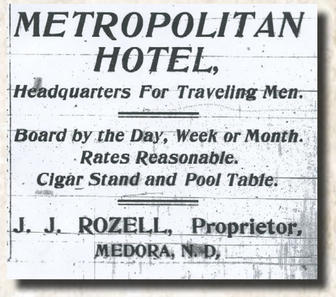
*The Bad Lands Cow Boy* described its interior as follows: "On the first floor are a bar room, office, and dining room as well as small rooms for wash and baggage. Above are sixteen sleeping rooms and a parlor."




*The Rough Riders Hotel was a place for public meetings and discussions. The tradition continues today.*

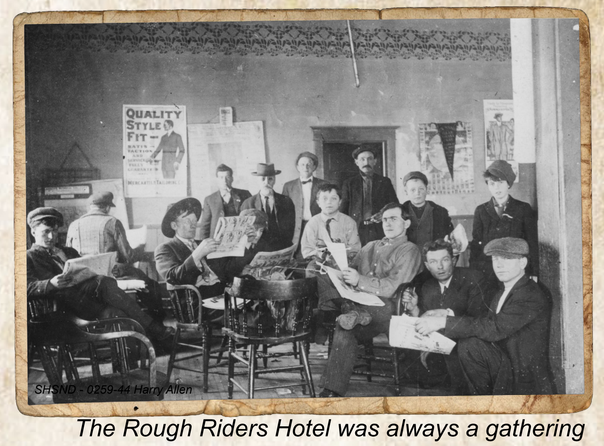
Fitzgerald opened the Metropolitan Hotel in February 1885. In October, he leased the place to J.B. Walker but within a few months it was back in its builder's hands. Fitzgerald saw Medora was declining and approached the Marquis for a $3,000 loan for improvements on the building, which was put up for security.

The money in hand, Fitzgerald took the first train west towards Seattle, leaving de Mores with a second hotel. When de Mores was forced to curtail his business activities in 1886, the Metropolitan Hotel closed.



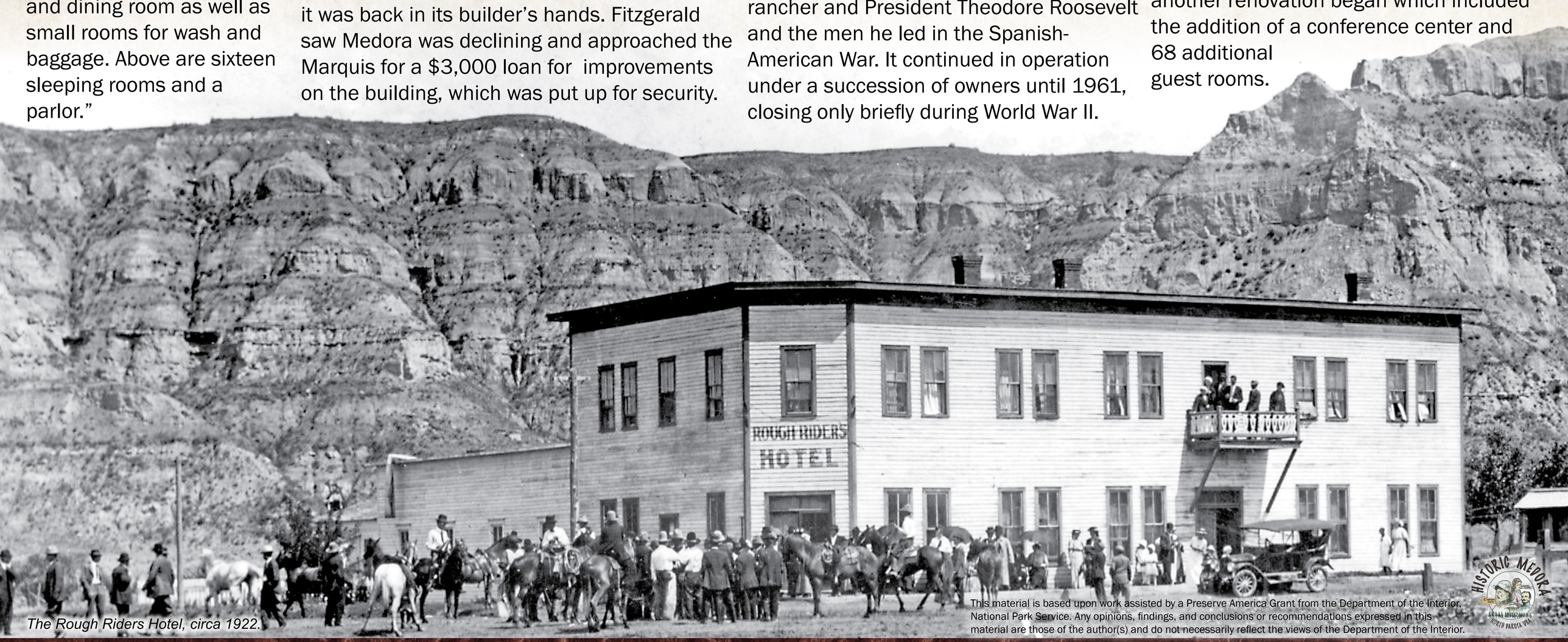

*The Little Missourian March 11,1902*

In 1901, J.J. Rozell reopened the hotel under its original name. Soon after, it was renamed the Rough Riders Hotel, a tribute to former Medora rancher and President Theodore Roosevelt and the men he led in the Spanish-American War. It continued in operation under a succession of owners until 1961, closing only briefly during World War II.




*The Rough Riders Hotel was always a gathering place for local residents, cowboys and guests.*

Harold Schafer purchased the building, which was disassembled in 1963 and replaced with a replica. In 2008 another renovation began which included the addition of a conference center and 68 additional guest rooms.




*The Rough Riders Hotel, circa 1922.*

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HISTORIC MEDORA
NORTH DAKOTA USA

# The Shooting of Riley Luffsey



SHSND - 917.84H12

John Reuter and Frank O'Donald

Territory of Dakota, )
) ss.
County of Morton. )

In District Court,
Sixth Judicial District,
2nd. Judicial Subdivision.

Territory of Dakota,

vs.

Antoinne de Vallombrosa,
Marquis de Mores, Frank Miller,
Richard Moore and Eldrige G. Paddock.

On Indictment

For Murder.

-------oooOooo-------

To the Hon. Wm. H. Francis,

Judge of the Sixth Judicial District:-

Your petitioner

Antoinne de Vallombrosa, Marquis de Mores, ~~respectfully shows~~ ~~that~~, for the reasons set forth in the annexed affidavits, made by himself and others, accompanying this petition and forming a part hereof, respectfully asks that the criminal action, by indictment found against him, the said Antoinne de Vallombrosa, Marquis de Mores, by the Grand Jury of said Second Judicial Sub-Division, for the killing of Reiley Luffsey, may be removed from the Court in which it is pending, namely; the Second Judicial Sub-Division of said Sixth Judicial District, to the First Judicial Sub-Division of said Sixth Judicial District;

And your petitioner will ever pray,

Antoine de Vallombrosa
Marquis de Mores

J B T E J Allen

SHSND



SHSND - 0042-078 Marquis de Mores on horseback [illegible] Medora, ND 1886

Marquis de Mores

William Riley Luffsey was born in Wayne County, Missouri, about 1859. He died in a gun battle along the Little Missouri River on June 26, 1883, about a mile west of the twin towns of Little Missouri and Medora.

Riley Luffsey was, by all accounts, a popular young man. He and his partners, Frank O'Donald and John Reuter (Dutch Wannigan), were hunters, supplying the military cantonment and the settlement with fresh game, as well as guiding visiting sportsmen.

Conflict arose with the arrival of the Marquis de Mores in April, 1883. The Marquis bought title to many acres of formerly public land, and ordered much of his land to be fenced. Where the fences crossed game trails traditionally used by the hunters, the hunters cut the wires.

Drunken threats were made against the Marquis, which the Marquis reported to the sheriff at Mandan, some 130 miles east. Before the sheriff arrived, a gunfight erupted between Luffsey, O'Donald and Reuter and several men led by the Marquis. O'Donald and Reuter testified it was an ambush. The Marquis' party testified it was self-defense.

In 1885, the Marquis de Mores and his foreman, E. G. Paddock, were indicted for Luffsey's murder. The Marquis was acquitted at trial, and the charges against Paddock were then dropped.

Although no one was held accountable for Riley Luffsey's death, he is remembered today with a handsome stone marker in Medora's cemetery, which overlooks the town and the site of his fatal gunfight.

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HISTORIC MEDORA
NORTH DAKOTA USA

# St Mary's Catholic Church



*Photo taken by the Marquis de Mores, 1889*

SHSND-00042-124



*Athenais de Vallombrosa*

SHSND-0097-39

Medora de Vallombrosa, wife of the Marquis de Mores, financed the construction of this brick church late in the summer of 1884. This gift to her namesake community was paid for from an annual income of $90,000, earned from a stock portfolio she received from her father before her marriage. Before the church was built, Medora had welcomed the visiting priest to hold mass once a month in her home, the Chateau de Mores.

Peter Book, who operated a brick factory south of Medora, was the contractor. The quality and color of the abundant clay in the badlands was excellent for brickmaking.

The church cornerstone was laid on September 20, 1884. The stone was inscribed "Marquise de Mores, Sept. 15, 1884," on one side and "Athenais" on the other.

While Medora's mother and daughter were both named Anthenais, it was generally assumed by locals that Athenais refers to her infant daughter.

St. Mary's Church is the oldest Catholic Church still in use in the Bismarck Diocese. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The interior has been updated over the years, but the first four pews and the altar are original.

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# Stockmens State Bank



TRMF - Collection

*Stockmens State Bank provided service to residents of Medora from 1909 until its closure in 1938, a victim of the Great Depression.*

In late 1908, Christ Pederson of Dickinson purchased the General Store from Joe Ferris and moved to Medora.

On August 6, 1909, Pederson, Harve Robinson, and George Burgess filed a Certificate of Organization. The Stockmens State Bank was capitalized at $15,000 and the ownership was equally divided among the three partners.

Construction of a new building began at the corner of what today is Pacific Avenue and Main Street. By October 22, 1909, the building was awaiting fixtures and the vault door. The *Billings County Herald* reported the abstract office of Burgess & Keohane would be moving from the Billings County Courthouse to the bank.




Billings County Herald November 1909

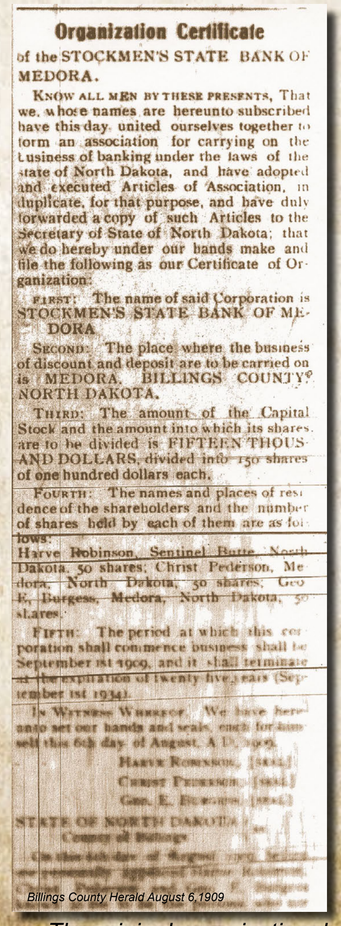



SHSND - 0743-23

In the fall of 1938 the Stockmens State Bank entered bankruptcy, a result of the Great Depression. By November 1938, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation established a claim center in the bank building. Patrons were encouraged to submit their claims as expeditiously as possible.

In years following, the building was used for a government office and then converted to a restaurant.

*Financial and insurance services were provided.*



**Organization Certificate**

of the STOCKMEN'S STATE BANK OF MEDORA.

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS, That we, whose names are hereunto subscribed have this day united ourselves together to form an association for carrying on the business of banking under the laws of the state of North Dakota, and have adopted and executed Articles of Association, in duplicate, for that purpose, and have duly forwarded a copy of such Articles to the Secretary of State of North Dakota; that we do hereby under our hands make and file the following as our Certificate of Organization:

FIRST: The name of said Corporation is STOCKMEN'S STATE BANK OF MEDORA

SECOND: The place where the business of discount and deposit are to be carried on is MEDORA, BILLINGS COUNTY, NORTH DAKOTA.

THIRD: The amount of the Capital Stock and the amount into which its shares are to be divided is FIFTEEN THOUSAND DOLLARS, divided into 150 shares of one hundred dollars each.

FOURTH: The names and places of residence of the shareholders and the number of shares held by each of them are as follows:

Harve Robinson, Sentinel Butte, North Dakota, 50 shares; Christ Pederson, Medora, North Dakota, 50 shares; Geo E. Burgess, Medora, North Dakota, 50 shares.

FIFTH: The period at which this corporation shall commence business shall be September 1st 1909, and it shall terminate at the expiration of twenty five years (September 1st 1934).

In Witness Whereof, We have hereunto set our hands and seals, each for himself this 6th day of August, A D. 1909.

HARVE ROBINSON, [SEAL]
CHRIST PEDERSON, [SEAL]
GEO. E. BURGESS, [SEAL]

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA }
County of Billings }

Billings County Herald August 6,1909

*The original organizational certificate: owners capitalized the bank with $15,000.*

This material is based upon work assisted by a Preserve America Grant from the Department of the Interior, National Park Service. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of the Interior.

# The Bad Lands Cow Boy

At the young age of 22, Arthur T. Packard started *The Bad Lands Cow Boy*, Medora's first newspaper. The first weekly issue came off the press on February 7, 1884. Marquis de Mores was the major advertiser in the weekly paper.

Editor Packard produced a lively paper that balanced national news and feature articles with entertaining local news and in-depth coverage of the vital range cattle industry. Like most frontier towns, occasional shootings and violence were also reported in the local press.

A frequent visitor to *The Bad Lands Cow Boy* office was young rancher and writer Theodore Roosevelt. Packard befriended Roosevelt and cautioned him about carrying a six-shooter in town.



The Bad Lands Cow Boy.

VOLUME 1, NUMBER 1. LITTLE MISSOURI, MEDORA P. O., DAK., FEBRUARY 7, 1884. PRICE $2.00 PER YEAR.

JOHN NELSON, Has the Largest and Best Stock of DRY GOODS, GENTS' FURNISHING GOODS, Hats and Caps, Boots and Shoes, NOTIONS, ETC., —IN— LITTLE MISSOURI, DAKOTA. *Prices are Lower than the Lowest.*

LITTLE TOM'S SALOON.

There's Rest for the Weary.

*The "Festive Barkeep"* is a mixological of many year's experience, imported at large expense.

EVERY THING FROM COW-BOY BITTERS TO DUDE SODA FRESH ON TAP.

LITTLE MISSOURI, DAK.

PYRAMID Park Hotel

F. S. MOORE, Prop.,

Little Missouri, Dakota.

*The Pioneer Hotel of Little Missouri, situated close to the depot.*

HEADQUARTERS FOR TRAVELLING MEN. —FOR— GROCERIES OF ALL KINDS,

Furnishing Goods, Etc.

*JOSEPH CUSKELLEY* TAKES THE LEAD.

LITTLE MISSOURI, - - - DAK.

FLOUR A SPECIALTY.

THE GENERAL STORE —OF THE— N. P. R. C. CO., *MEDORA, - DAKOTA,*

HAS A COMPLETE LINE OF Groceries, Dry Goods,

READY-MADE CLOTHING, Hats, Caps, —ALL KINDS OF— CANNED GOODS, Harness, Saddles, Tobaco and Cigars, FELT SHOES, OVERSHOES, LARGE STOCK OF BOOTS AND SHOES, *FLOUR and FEED.*

HEADQUARTERS FOR TRAVELLING MEN. —FOR— GROCERIES OF ALL KINDS, Furnishing Goods, Etc. *JOSEPH CUSKELLEY* TAKES THE LEAD. LITTLE MISSOURI, - - - DAK. FLOUR A SPECIALTY.

Hunters' Outfits a Specialty.

In fact almost everything that anyone needs.

The business done is Wholesale and Retail, and hence purchasers have the benefit of low prices.

*J. A. FREEZE,* Contractor and Builder LITTLE MISSOURI, DAK. All kinds of Carpenter Work done with neatness and dispatch. Residence at Cantonment.

T. R. SELRES, President. H. R. LYON, Cashier. N. LANG, Vice President. FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF MANDAN, DAKOTA. Paid-up Capital, - $50,000 Surplus, $10,000. Interest paid on Time Deposits. General Banking and Exchange Business done.

H. LYLE, BARBER, Shop situated in The Elk, LITTLE MISSOURI, DAKOTA. Fine Work Guaranteed.

*DAN McKENZIE,* BLACKSMITHING —AND— HORSE-SHOEING, LITTLE MISSOURI, DAK. Work done neatly and promptly.

MICHAEL KNOTT, KEEPS ALL KINDS OF Wines, Liquors and Cigars, THE FINEST WHISKIES IN LITTLE MISSOURI.

ALL ARE MADE WELCOME. WESTERN HOUSE, PETER MALLOY, Prop., *Little Missouri, Dak.* Ttansient Rates per day. $1.50 Regular Board per week, 6.00

A FINE BAR connected with the house.



THE ELK. THE FINEST GOODS. COURTEOUS TREATMENT. THE PIONEER SALOON —OF— LITTLE MISSOURI. —CHOICEST BRANDS— LIQUORS & CIGARS. GILL KENNEDY, Prop.

BAD LANDS COW BOY, BY A. T. PACKARD.

THE COW BOY is not publish'd for fun, but for $2 per year. Advertising Rates made known on application. Standing Advertisements payable quarterly. Transient Advertisements and all job work, more or less eight. Address all communications to THE BAD LANDS COW BOY, MEDORA, DAKOTA.

INTRODUCTORY.

Unlike ninety-nine hundredths of the papers which have been started in the United States we do not come to fill a long-felt want. The cattle business here, though already of gigantic proportions, is still in its infancy in [illegible] of time. We do not come to subscribe [illegible] general end. Another field would [illegible] congenial. We do not come as agent or tool of any man or set [illegible]. There is a wide field for us to occupy, and we intend to cover it. We do come, however, to make some almighty dollars.

There is nothing like honesty, and now that we have come out thus plainly our motives cannot be impeached. But to fulfill our mission we must publish a good paper. We will not even be satisfied with this. Only when every one will acknowledge that ours is the best cattle paper in the Northwest will we be satisfied. Our beginning may be small, but not nearly so much so as that of many another paper which now stands at the head. This, then, is next to our principal mission, to publish the best cattle paper in the Northwest and to preach Kings Cattle to all men. For the present, our inside pages will furnish sufficient general reading matter and our outside pages will be devoted almost exclusively to cattle and Bad Lands items.

In politics we are Republican clear through to the backbone and will continue to be so as long as that party continues to merit the esteem of all fair-thinking men. Our allegiance to the Republican party is not such, however, as to blind us to its faults. In politics, as in all else, we will be free and out-spoken in our opinions. Whenever we see a wrong committed we will struggle with all our feeble might to have it righted.

To sum up, we intend to publish the best paper we can, sparing no expense in that direction, for we are confident that it will be "as bread cast upon the waters." it will return before many days in the shape of three same almighty dollars of which we have previously spoken.

A WORD TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS.

To reach a paying basis, a newspaper must, of all things, be conducted on business principles. To secure the adoption of these principles, payments must be met as promptly as in every other business, that is, every three months or sooner. With this in view we intend adopting a modification of the "cash in advance" system, namely, cash in hand or before the end of three months. Every subscription that is not paid up within that time will positively be taken from our list and what will be the subscriber's loss will be our everlasting gain.

All will understand that the editor is not out here for his health, as it is remarkably fine in any locality, and that the printers are not millionaires in disguise who tender their services gratis on account of their consuming love for the editor. We might also add, in this connection, that generous relatives have not contended with each other as to who should furnish us our outfit "without money and without price." Every thing from presses to galley rack was bought brand new from the best type foundry in the United States.

We suppose no one likes to be duned. Every subscriber can save the ill-feeling a dun excites by coming to the office with the subscription price or sending it to us anywhere. If a subscriber should happen to be out of cash, furs of all kinds at the highest market price will be taken in payment. They are as good to us as the money, and their hides will be bought in this way for twenty-five cents a pound, from five to seven cents more than can possibly be realized for them in cash.

If our subscribers will act upon these facts and thus avoid any seeming lack of confidence on our part by stopping the paper, it will greatly oblige the editor and enhance good feeling on both sides.

We are glad to see that Mr. Howard Eaton has taken the initiative in the one thing that is now most important to our cattle men. We refer to the subject of a cattle organization. In another column will be found the call for a meeting. This is a matter of vital interest to every stock man of the Bad Lands. Subjects continually come up that should be settled by the vote of the majority of our cattle men. As present there is no organization, and each man must decide all questions for himself. There is no need of recapitulating the list of benefits that will arise from this organization. They are patent to all. Every stock man must be in favor of it, and hence we look for a large meeting next Feb. 28. This date is an excellent one as it gives plenty of time to have matters which will come up for consideration at that time, considered beforehand and interfere in no way with the annual round-up. Every cattle man should read, probably will, arrange his business so as to be present. Each one should think of some matter that needs consideration, think it over carefully and be prepared with facts and figures upon it. This will avoid the loss of time and waste of wind that usually attends the beginning of an organization. Enough important matters will come up to occupy all the time that can be given to the meeting. This organization will be in the course of time, if not at once, one of the strongest in the Northwest. All then should attend the opening meeting which will be held at Little Missouri, the 28th of this month, at 10 A. M.

There is a feeling among a few of our cattle men that there are enough cattle here already and that any attempt at new dealers to bring cattle to this point should be discouraged. We are happy to state that this feeling is not by any means universal. Every man who is here now has his range, which will not be interfered with in any way by new stock raisers. There is an abundance of unoccupied land and an increase in the number of cattle and cattle raisers will work to the advantage of all concerned. If the Bad Lands were full of cattle it would not decrease the price, as the demand is far in advance of the supply. Word comes from Kansas that the cattle sections there are overstocked, and the cattle men there are looking to the Northwest for relief. To all these we would say, come. There is plenty of room and you will be made welcome.

From the articles in some of our exchanges it would seem that absent the only live topic their editors had was that of lying about Little Missouri. All sorts of stories are being published, the mildest ones implying that Little Missouri is as peaceful a one as can be found on the Northern Pacific. If our exchanges would have the manhood to publish articles in reference to Little Missouri which are made up from facts alone it will show that they have a regard for the truth which is more commendable than common among them.

RATTLESNAKE ON TOAST.

A typical cowboy, fresh from his herd, went into a Cheyenne chop-house. The tables were all filled with the exception of one, at which the terror of the plains seated himself. As he pulled off his hat and untied the red bandanna handkerchief from around his throat, he looked disdainfully around. The nimble waiter brushed an imaginary bread crumb from the cloth, whisked a bill of fare from the caster, and placed it before the festive and untamed youth.

"Take it away!" he snarled. "I can't eat that. I want rattlesnake on toast!"

"Rattlesnake on toast?" responded the cook.

There was a strange flutter among the greets at this strange order, and the cowboy was scanned by many curious eyes. He looked a little disconcerted at having his order so promptly taken, and glanced furtively toward the front of the house. He saw the cooks and waiters engaged in filling orders, and looking as solemn as graveyards after midnight. He assumed a nonchalant air and picked his teeth with his fork.

A cook deftly removed the skin from a pickerel, and cutting a strip the proper shape, placed it in a spider. The waiter who had taken the order came tripping back to the bold buccaneer of the pampas.

"Will you have your snake well done or rare?"

"Rare with milk gravy on it."

"Gimme that snake rare—milk gravy on the side," was hailed to the cook. "Snake rare; milk gravy—side," cook shouted back.

"Say?" said the bovine steerer as the waiter passed him, "I'll take it well done." "Make it well done." "Make it well done," was answered back.

The lariat wrestler began to grow nervous. The careless expression had left his eyes, and a sad, subdued, melancholy shade had taken its place. He fidgeted in his chair, and seemed to be nerving himself for an ordeal.

"Here you are, sir," said the culinary Ganymede, placing a dish in which was something nicely coiled, which looked like a fried specimen of the genus crotalus. "Have a little Worcester sauce? Gives a very fine flavor. Some folks like mushrooms with their snakes. Others prefer Chili colorow. A little salad dressing don't go bad. There's vinegar and olive oil in the castor. Will you have tea or coffee? Very fine snake, Caught yesterday. Fat and tender."

When the waiter was delivering himself of this eclogy on the meat the steer driver slowly shoved his chair back. His eyes bulged out and he became pale around the gills. "I don't think I'll eat anything. I ain't hungry," he said, as he rose unsteadily to his feet and reached for his hat.

"Maybe you'd prefer brilled mocassin," instantaneously suggested the waiter. "No," he replied, as the ashen pallor deepened on his face, "I ain't a bit hungry." He cast another glance at the dish he had ordered, and made a break for the door. He forgot to "pay at the counter."

ON THE RANGE.

Colorado sold 100,000 beef steers in 1883.

About 500,000 cattle were pastured in Nevada last year.

There are now over 9,000 head of cattle in the Smoky Hill Pool.

There have never been reports about the cattle as favorable as come from all sides this year.

Reports from all quarters indicate that there will be a rush of capitalists to the Wilde West to engage in the stock business.

The reports that many New Mexican cattle have died from want of water have been contradicted. An abundance of water is reported.

Near Kingmen, in Southern Kansas, many cattle have died from a new disease. There are symptoms of poisoning [illegible] A post mortem [illegible] heart. The affected cattle die in about two hours.

France is ahead of Great Britain in cattle and hogs, and behind in sheep, the figures being as follows: France has 11,750,000 cattle, 5,750,000 swine and 24,500,000 sheep. Great Britain has 5,962,000 cattle, 2,500,000 swine and 26,000,000 sheep.—[N. W. Live Stock Journal.

There is a prospect of a syndicate of St. Louis and Kansas gentlemen securing a lease of a large tract of grazing land in the Indian territory not far from Vinita. This is one of the finest grass sections anywhere to be found, and a lease will be a fortune to its owners.

South America is destined to be the next great beef-producing region of the world. It is estimated that in two years from now that the cattle in the Argentine Confederation will number 25,000,000, against 13,000,000 in 1877. The enormous increase in the number of cattle has brought down the price so that good fat steers are selling at $6 to $8.—[N. W. Live Stock Journal.

The Graphic says that a close guess as to the health of animals may be often made by feeling their pulse. In a horse, a good and strong but quiet pulse beats forty times a minute; in an ox, fifty to fifty-five; in sheep and pigs, not less than seventy nor more than eighty for ordinary health. It may be felt wherever a large artery crosses a bone. In a horse it is generally felt on the cord which crosses over the bone of the lower jaw in front of the curved position, or in the bony ridge above the eye, and in cattle over the middle of the first rib. In sheep it is, perhaps, easier to place the hand on the left side, where the beating of the heart may be felt. A rapid, hard and full pulse in stock points to inflammation and high fever; a rapid, small and weak pulse also to fever, but to fever accompanied by a poor and weak state of the subject. A very slow pulse in stock will often be found to indicate brain disease, while a jumping and irregular pulse shows something wrong with the heart.

The idea prevails in many parts of the country that the per cent of losses among range cattle in the Northwest during the winter season is very great—sufficiently so to render the business extra hazardous. The following statement may act as an eye-opener in the matter: Late in the fall of 1881, T. J. Allen drove 9,000 head of Texas steers into the Niobrara river country about the line dividing Wyoming from Nebraska. Two thousand of them were turned on the range for the winter and gathered the next year. Out of the two thousand he found and took to market all but thirty-five head. Since that year he has found fourteen head of the missing ones, leaving but twenty-one lost out of two thousand, a shade over one per cent. Mr. Allen has had no men on the range since he gathered his stock in 1882, or he undoubtedly would have found some of the missing ones. There are other cases where equally as good showings can be made. This does not look like an "extra hazardous" business. —[N. W. Live Stock Journal.

There appears to be no question that in the far West prices of stock cattle are far in advance of corresponding prices for beef cattle. This condition of affairs would speedily bring about a crisis, if not a total collapse, in any other business than this, and bring ruin and embarrassment to those who have gone in at the recent range of prices. We do not believe it possible that this condition of affairs can or will be long maintained, because it is not natural, but do not anticipate that the settling of prices of range cattle will result in serious embarrassment to anybody. If the prices are too high, the growth of the younger animals will more than compensate for the difference, and the older ones, with their increase, at any price which may be called legitimate, will be worth another season far more than the animals without increase are rated this season. There is a possibility that a settling of prices will dissipate a moiety of anticipated profits; but it is a peculiarity of the live-stock business which has saved thousands from bankruptcy and brought success out of the most reckless management and unfavorable conditions, that no matter what price is paid, or what streaks of bad fortune are encountered, the stock will grow to the desired mark.—[Breeder's Gazette, Chicago.

Andre Christel defeated Charles Rixmine in a Greco-Roman wrestling match at New Orleans, Jan. 10. Christel was the tutor in wrestling of Whistler and Muldoon, but will now have a hard struggle to down either. He taught better than he knew.

SPORTING NOTES.

For the glut of the majority of the following articles we are indebted to that prince of American sporting journals, The Mirror of American Sports:

Parole's earnings for the last eight years have been $82,184.25.

The January turf meeting, [illegible] beans was almost a failure, [illegible] weather.

"Plunger" Walton still owes [illegible] debts in England. He has [illegible] name behind him.

The largest amount won [illegible] any driver last season was $1[illegible] Goldsmith was the driver.

The ball players who went [illegible] close of the season are now [illegible] back for advance money to pa[illegible] home.

George Fullpool, the champ[illegible] aspirants for pugilistic [illegible] fight Tom Gilmore for the ch[illegible] of Canada.

The unaltered pony in the [illegible] pet of Baroness Burdett-Cou[illegible] It is five years old and stan[illegible] inches high.

The Sullivan party have [illegible] grand series of drunken spre[illegible] beginning of their tour, wh[illegible] to emulate the manly art.

Mr. Richard Dowse, of Chic[illegible] 11, skated 100 yards in eleve[illegible] equaling the best record, while [illegible] by Mr. Ennis, the champion f[illegible]

Malone, of Chicago, won the [illegible] pleadin by a score of eig[illegible] games won and none lost. H[illegible] doubt the finest pool player t[illegible] ever produced.

Pierre Lerillard has thirty[illegible] in training for the coming s[illegible] older ones include Parole, H[illegible] bert, Drake Carter, Pinafo[illegible] Pizarro and Breeze.

Since Flora Temple electrif[illegible] ing world by a mile in 2:1[illegible] there have been 119 horses to[illegible] or better. Of these thirteen [illegible] ants of Rysdyk's Hambletonia[illegible]

The Rocky Mountain H[illegible] claims that horses reach [illegible] in the atmosphere of Dakota and Mo[illegible] far greater endurance when t[illegible] or altitudes than do the [illegible] horses.

Commodore Kitson is in [illegible] health and can no longer gi[illegible] attention to his valuable st[illegible] consists of twenty-six fine ri[illegible] training, the chief ones belo[illegible] mill Little Brown Jug.

John Flood, who was def[illegible] time ago by John L. Sullivan, [illegible] any man in the world to knock [illegible] his shoulder. He prefers to [illegible] van, but if they meet he won't have [illegible] especial preferences for same time.



*The original newspaper office.*



Hagedorn Collection

*A.T. Packard was the founder and publisher.*

Packard knew Roosevelt was no match for local cowboys who liked to drink and quarrel, and Packard set up a shooting demonstration. Two cans were thrown into the air and local cowboy Billy Roberts perforated both cans before they hit the ground.

Due to Roosevelt's poor eyesight, he was not a good shot. From that time on, Roosevelt left his pistol at the newspaper office while in town. After hearing Roosevelt's Fourth of July speech at nearby Dickinson in 1886, Packard predicted that Roosevelt might one day become President.

*The Bad Lands Cow Boy* ceased publication after its office was destroyed by fire on January 12, 1887.

TRMF Collection

*The first issue of* The Bad Lands Cow Boy *February 7, 1884.*

This material is based upon work assisted by a Preserve America Grant from the Department of the Interior, National Park Service. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of the Interior.

# The President Returns

Theodore Roosevelt first came to the badlands in September 1883 to hunt buffalo. “Old Four Eyes” loved the life of the badlands cowboys and participated in roundups, brandings and social events, earning the respect of those he so admired. He became enamored with the area. He invested in two cattle ranches, the Maltese Cross and the Elkhorn, which he maintained until 1898.

He left the ranching life, led his famed Rough Riders up San Juan Hill, and became the Republican vice-presidential candidate in 1900. He became president in 1901 when William McKinley was assassinated.

Although he lost a great deal of money in his ranching enterprise, he described the experience as “the romance of my life,” and often said “I would never have been President had it not been for my days in North Dakota.”

Theodore Roosevelt returned to Medora for his only visit as President on April 8, 1903. A public reception was held at this site in the old Medora Town Hall, and a photograph was taken.

Friends Roosevelt made in and around Medora during his ranching days turned out in large numbers to greet the local cowboy who had made it to the White House. Roosevelt was one of them, and they never forgot one another or the experiences they shared in the Dakota Badlands. Roosevelt’s time in the badlands influenced his conservation efforts as president and Theodore Roosevelt National Park was created to immortalize Roosevelt’s contributions.




*A formal gathering welcomed President Theodore Roosevelt in 1903.*




*President Theodore Roosevelt often spoke from a train.*




*An enthusiastic crowd welcomed President Theodore Roosevelt back to Medora at the train station.*

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HISTORIC MEDORA
NORTH DAKOTA USA

# Von Hoffman House

The Von Hoffman House, a rare surviving example of the craftsmanship of brickmason Peter Book, is notable in the history of Medora.

In August 1884, Athenais von Hoffman, mother-in-law of the Marquis de Mores, commissioned Book to erect a brick cottage for use by her and her husband, Louis. The new home was completed in 1884 but was probably not occupied until the following summer when the Baron von Hoffman returned for several weeks.



*Louis A. Von Hoffmann*
SHSND 00042-049



*Athenais Von Hoffmann*
SHSND 00042-050

It is difficult to say if the house was used again before 1890, when James Foley, Sr., moved in with his family following a fire that destroyed the home they had been living in. Foley worked as the manager of the de Mores properties from St. Paul to the west coast. In 1914, Madame de Mores transferred ownership of the brick cottage to the Foley family. In all, three generations of the Foley family lived in the home and served the de Mores family.



SHSND 0042-037

For more than forty years, this home served as the Medora Doll House. In 2011, work began to restore the house, and a collection of original furnishings was acquired for display.



SHSND 00041-0048

James Foley, Jr., the unofficial Poet Laureate of North Dakota, lived for a short time in the house with his family while serving as a local school teacher.

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HISTORIC MEDORA
NORTH DAKOTA USA

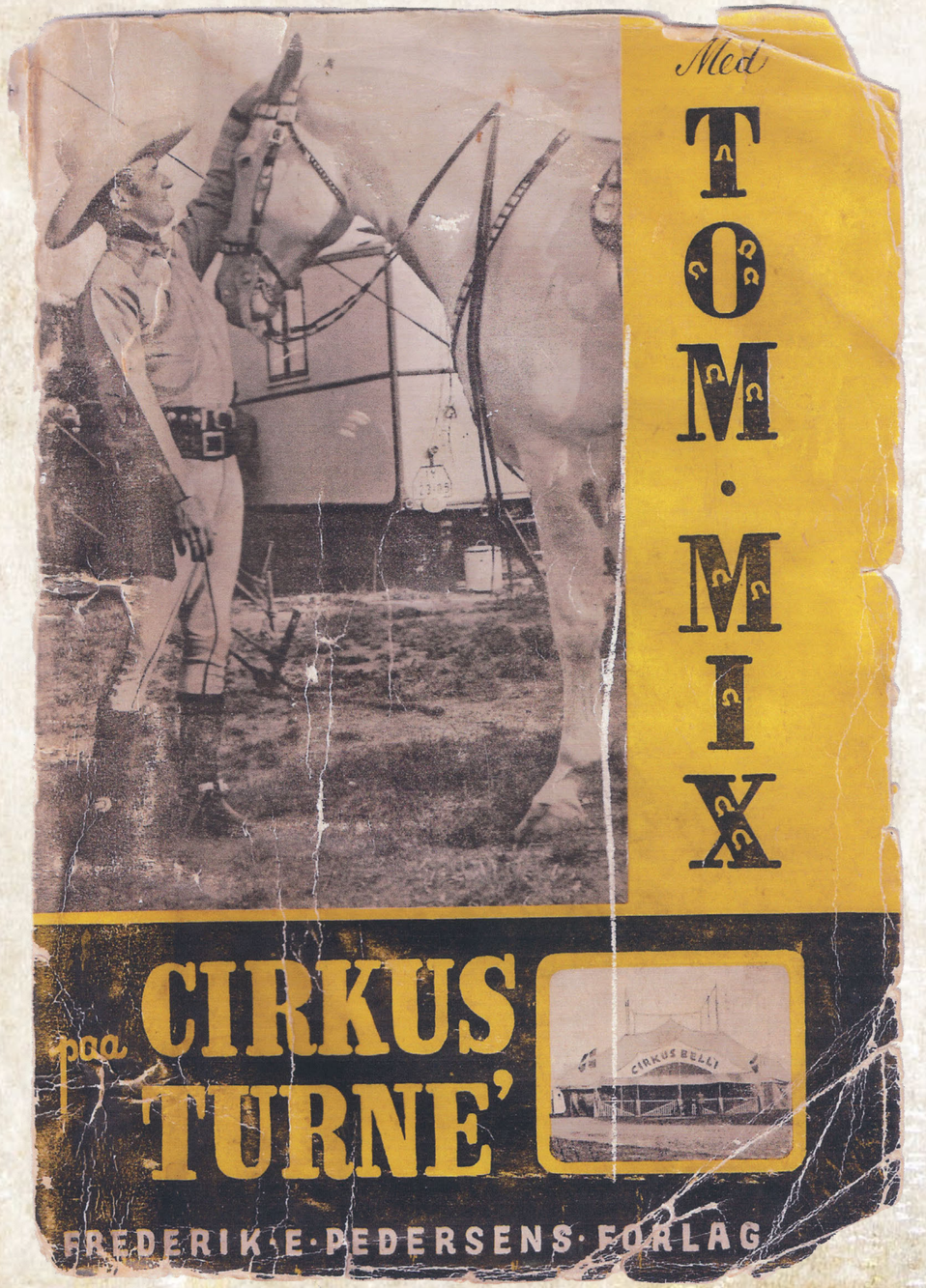
# Western Entertainment

The picturesque Little Missouri Badlands are a unique western landscape. The arrival of the railroad in 1880 opened the area to a wide variety of people, including sightseeing tourists who wanted to experience the western lifestyle.

The first dude ranch in America opened in 1882, four miles south of Medora. Howard, Willis, and Alden Eaton started the Custer Trail Ranch, entertaining visitors until moving to Wyoming in 1904.

Eatons were followed by other world famous western dude ranches: Buddy Ranch and Peaceful Valley Ranch. Peaceful Valley Ranch, located inside Theodore Roosevelt National Park, is on the National Register of Historic Places.

Medora cowboys George Gardner and Bill McCarty rode with the Buffalo Bill Cody Wild West Show. They and Pete Pelissier provided local entertainment and traveled throughout the United States, wooing crowds with the cowboy culture.

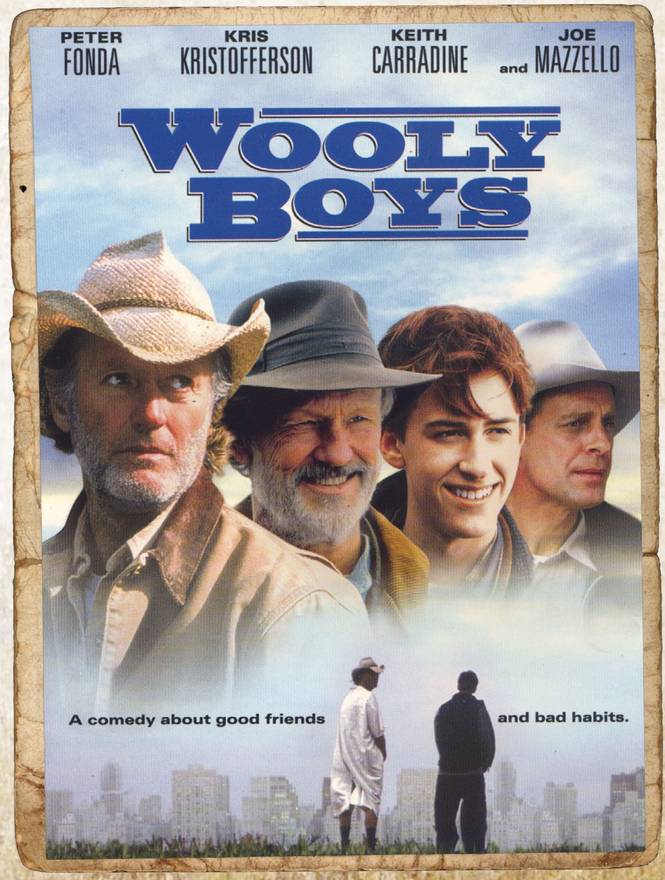



*Tom Mix of Hollywood fame was married in Medora.*

Tom Mix and Miss Olive Stokes, both of Oklahoma, came to the badlands to buy horses and were married in Medora on January 10, 1909. Later that year, Mix appeared in his first western movie and was on the fast track to superstardom as Hollywood's King of the Cowboys. A newspaper account in 1920 stated Mix was returning to the Medora Badlands to make a movie, but the project never materialized.

Roping entertainer Monty Montana, champagne music maker Lawrence Welk and world boxing champion Virgil Hill made stops in Medora. Hill even trained in Medora.

In the autumn of 2000, a major movie, *Wooly Boys,* was filmed in the badlands.




Wooly Boys *was made in and around Medora.*

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HISTORIC MEDORA
NORTH DAKOTA USA

# Medora: Looking Back


Medora Depot


Billings County Courthouse


Northern Pacific Refrigerator Car Company General Store and Offices


Roberts Hall

Medora Cemetery

Residences


Joe Ferris Store


Livery Barn


De Mores Packing Plant Chimney


Metropolitan Hotel


Von Hoffman House


St. Mary's Church

*Medora circa 1908*

*SHSND 0097-48*

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HISTORIC MEDORA
NORTH DAKOTA USA