

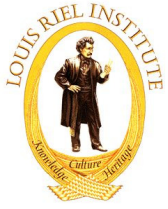
Margaret Daniel. (1862-1928)

Marguerite Daniel was born in St. Boniface, the Metis daughter of a Hudson's Bay Company employee, and married French-Canadian fur trader Pierre Leon Morase (1845-1894). The city of Lewistown Montana is on the site of their original homestead.

Lewistown Democrat News article Dec. 22-26 (John E. (Pat) Brown)

In the 1870's Paul Morase and his wife, Margaret, came to the Montana Territory from Canada where he had been a fur trader. They settled at Rocky Point on the Missouri River where he operated a wood yard supplying wood for the steamboats as they made their way between St. Louis, Missouri and Fort Benton. At that time Indians, prospectors and trappers roamed the country. Game was plentiful along the river, supplying them with meat. Their staple groceries were brought in by boat from Fort Benton, a large supply of which was stocked for the winter months as ice would curtail the steamboat traffic until the ice break-up in the spring. Morase had several men working for him and they stocked the wood yard during the winter months. One day in the summer of 1879, Mrs. Morase had just put her baby to sleep and returned from the bedroom to find six Indians in the kitchen. She at once recognized one who had traded at the trading post in Canada and he also remember her because of her red hair. She had learned much of their language while living in Canada. This Indian told her about some Indians on the warpath who were possibly coming in their direction. She told him that her husband and the men would be back shortly for the noon meal. He asked her to go out and meet the men and tell them that they were friendly Indians. After hearing about the hostile Indians and the danger of remaining on the river, Morase decided to move and loaded the wagons. They headed for Judith Basin and Reed's Fort. After leaving the Missouri they made their way through the coulees and across the prairies, passing prairie dog towns and the bleaching bones of the buffalo. They came to a valley where a creek wended it's way towards the Judith River. This was the location of Reed's Fort and later the site of the city of Lewistown and Fergus County. No one seems to know for sure who were the first settlers in Lewistown, whether it was Morase or Francis Janeaux, but most agree that they arrived about the same time. Janeaux's claim was the north part of what was to become Lewistown and Morase's joined Janeaux on the south. Morase's house was near Janeaux Street between Dawes Street and First Avenue South. After the death of Morase in 1894, Mrs. Morase married Pete Shields, from whom Shields Street in Lewistown is named. Morase Street is named for Paul. The Morases's daughter, Bertha, married William Brown. They had a son, John (Pat) Brown, all of whom lived in Lewistown at one time or the other. Their daughter was Mrs. Merwyn McChesney. Mrs. Morase Shields died in 1928. She is buried in Calvary Cemetery along with Morase. All of the original Morase family have long passed on. They saw Montana in the Territorial days when roads were but dim trails traveled by wagons and Red River carts, the last of the great buffalo and the days of the open range. The influx of homesteaders, the breaking of sod and the building of barb wire fences, changed the country. They saw a few scattered tents and log cabins change to a city with modern business buildings and residences with paved streets to replace the rutted ones. They saw the coming of the railroad and the advent of the automobile.

In the beginning they, too, suffered the hardships along with the other pioneer settlers, but they found happiness in living and raising their family in the town they helped to build.



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