Omitting the Indian and Metis hunters and the wandering unrecorded whites who were sometimes found in the border land between the land occupied by the whites and those used by the Indians, the earliest white travelers in this part of North Dakota were probably J. N. Nicollet and his engineer officer Lt. John C. Fremont. Their exploration of the country west of the Sheyenne from near Bear Ben Hill and Devils Lake is illustrated in the map which they made following their trip in 1839. This indicates that they paused briefly at Lake Jessie on the 25-26th July, 1839. Their camp was on the bare knoll north of the old McColloch building site, the legal description, the southwest quarter of Section 14-147-60. Lt. Fremont named the lake for the lady whom he later married. Jessie Benton, daughter of Senator Thomas Benton of St. Louis, Missouri. It is said that the Senator did not approve of the proposed match and had a hand in sending the young lieutenant in to the wilderness hoping the romance would cool off. The two young leaders of this exploring party noted several landmarks by name which are still in use. Butte Michaude, on the Sheyenne north¬east of Cooperstown (center of Section 35 Township 148 Range 59), Nicollet says the elevation was 1586 above the sea and 120 feet above the surrounding prairie. The name is supposed to have been taken from some old Indian leader buried in the artificial mound on the summit. The name being French would indicate that it originated after the Indians had contact with the whites. Metis hunters told me many years ago that on an occasion when they had a hunting camp in the vicinity, one of their men named Michaude became separated from the camp in a fog and was absent long enough so that his friends became anxious for his safety, after he was relocated they called the Butte Michaude or "the place where Michaude was lost".

On P. 155 of Upham's Glacial Lake (1887) Agassiz he says "another angle of the moraine is marked by the conspicuous hill called Butte Mashue, from the name of an Indian who was buried in the mound on its summit. This hill, situated in the east half of Section 35 Township 148 Range 59, rises 150 feet or 175 feet above the general level east and north, or nearly 350 feet above the Sheyenne river, which is only a mile distant to the northeast."

On Nicollet's map the name is spelled Michaux, they made the elevation 1386. Their map also gives the location of Horse Butte and Lake, also on the Sheyenne, on SW quarter of section 24 Township 147 Range 58, named from an Indian tra¬dition. Farther up the Sheyenne the Beaver lodge creek and Poplar groves are located. Both are land marks from long ago, they are in Nelson county.

In the text of Nicollet's report, P. 138 he uses the name "Lake Jessie" with the French name (Lac des Bois or Wood Lake) he makes no further reference to Lake Jessie in the text.

The elevation in the text is given as 1586 for Butte Michaude possibly the 5 was originally 3 or 1386 feet elevation which would be nearer correct. He gives the water level of the Sheyenne at north of Beaver Lodge creek at 1328-the plateau 1486, this is some distance to the northwest up the Sheyenne Mouth of 1st Bald Hill creek (riverie aux Buttes Pelees)