

Some Significant Dates and Happenings in the Evolution of What Is Now Minnesota and Surrounding Area As It Specifically Relates to French-Canadians and France.

This brief timeline summarizes some important dates in N. and Mid-American history involving the **Native people**, the French, the English, French-Canadians and the United States. We hope this list will encourage conversation and research.

We acknowledge the events listed all resulted in "winners" and "losers", and while most events long preceded the present day, their effects linger. We encourage frank conversation and dialogue towards strengthening a sense of community, which includes all of us, together.

- 1534 – Cartier enters the St. Lawrence River, first French contact in N. America
- 1603 – Champlain first visits to-be Quebec City; 1604, Acadia; in 1608 establishes permanent settlement now called Quebec City.
- 1629-32 – English briefly retakes New France.
- 1634 – Founding of Trois Rivières
- 1642 – Founding of Montreal. In this time period fur trade became important, licensing controlled by the French Crown and tightly controlled in New France. This later became a problem when France lost the colony (1763). Very early relationships established between French and Native populations. Metis early became part of population.
- 1658/60 – Radisson and Grosseilliers first Europeans in to-be Minnesota, at Prairie Island.
- 1670 – Chartering of Hudson Bay Company by England
- 1679 – Daniel Greysolon du Lhut plants the arms of Louis XIV on shore of Lake Mille Lacs.
- 1680 – Fr. Hennepin sees and names the Falls of St. Anthony
- 1685 – Revocation of Edict of Nantes (1598), which had permitted Huguenots to freely practice their religion in France, caused some French immigration to what was to become the U.S., primarily Carolinas and Georgia. Catholics only were allowed to come to the New France (now Quebec).
- 1688 – French explorer, Jacques de Noyon, explores what is now Quetico/Boundary water area.
- 1754-63 – Seven Years War (in N. America called the French and Indian War); 1759 – British defeat the French at Plains of Abraham; 1763 Treaty of Paris cedes northern half of N. America to England.
- 1774 – Quebec Act gives certain rights to French-Canadians. Later French-Canadian's ally with English against American revolutionists as U.S. is born; France allies with the Americans
- 1776-87 – The United States is born
- 1779 – Northwest Company (fur trade; competition to Hudson Bay) founded in Montreal
- 1789, 1830, 1848 – The Revolutions in France, each of which led to immigrations of French to the United States, among other places. Also, the suppression of the Paris Commune in 1870 also contributed to immigration.
- 1803-05 – Louisiana Purchase, Lewis and Clark Expedition. Haiti slaves successfully revolt against France, thus France loses its richest colony in 1804.
- 1808 – Founding of the American Fur Company
- 1811 – Red River Colony (Winnipeg and area) established
- 1812 – The War of 1812 between England and U.S.
- 1819 – Ft. Snelling established at confluence of Minnesota and Mississippi Rivers
- ca 1820-70 – The Oxcart era, Red River to St. Paul
- 1830 – U.S. Indian Removal Act; Half-Breed Tract Treaty enacted in Lake Pepin Area

1837 – Unsuccessful Rebellions by French Canada against English Canada. Key Actors: Papineau in Lower Canada; Mackenzie in Upper Canada, each called Patriotes/Patriots (not rebels) by their admirers.

1837 & 1855 – Chippewa Treaty (Mille Lacs Area). Telegraphy invented (1837)

1841 – First “Cathedral” of St. Paul built by eight French-Canadians; “Pigs Eye” renamed St. Paul

1846 – Iowa becomes a state

1847 – City of St. Paul officially established

1848 – Wisconsin becomes a state

1849 – Minnesota Territory established

1849 – St. Anthony established beside Falls of St. Anthony; in 1872 annexed to Minneapolis

1851 – Treaties of Traverse des Sioux and Mendota

1854 – “Grand Excursion” up Mississippi from Rock Island IL to St. Paul begins settlement boom to Minnesota

1858 – Minnesota becomes a state.

1861-65 – U. S. Civil War

1861 – Dakota Territory established; First Transcontinental Transmission by Telegraph

1862-63 – Homestead Act; U.S. - Dakota War of 1862-63; 38 Sioux hung at Mankato 1862

1863 – Sibley and Sully expeditions drive Dakota west across the Missouri; Whitestone Hill Massacre in Dakota Territory (southwest of present day Edgeley ND).

1863 – Old Crossing Treaty at Huot cedes NW Minn and Eastern ND to U.S.

1867 – Railroad connects Chicago and St. Paul; Ontario’s boundaries established.

1870 – Province of Manitoba established

1876 – “Custer’s Last Stand” at Little Big Horn, Montana

1878 – Railroad connects Minneapolis and Winnipeg

1870 – Manitoba Act gives Metis significant rights in new Canadian Province

1880 – Railroad reaches Grand Forks, Dakota Territory

1885 – Metis insurrection crushed, Louis Riel hung.

1881-85 – Transcontinental Canadian-Pacific Railroad completed

1889 – North and South Dakota granted statehood

1905 – Province of Saskatchewan established

1968 – War Act against uprising of separatists in Quebec.

1992 – Canada formally recognizes Louis Riel

NOTE TO READER:

This timeline appears in the three-volume book, *Chez Nous*, published by French-American Heritage Foundation in 2016.

For more information about *Chez Nous* or other books by the Foundation, go to Amazon.com, enter in the search box *French-American Heritage Foundation*, and you will find information about the three books published: “*They Spoke French*”; “*Chez Nous*” (three volumes); and “*In the Beginning, there was a Chapel*”.

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