Annual Report of French-American Heritage Foundation

St. Anthony Falls in Minneapolis as they looked when first seen by Father Louis Hennepin in 1680.
Picture by Albert Bierstadt (1830-1902)
1. Background Info

The French-American Heritage Foundation is a 501(c)3 charitable non profit organization with the primary purpose of promoting and sponsoring French Heritage events in Minnesota. The Mission Statement for the Foundation is as follows:

To promote and cultivate French-language cultures through education and public programming.

French language cultures have played an important role in the history of Minnesota and Minnesota’s connections to French language cultures continues to this day. It is important and proper that these French connections should be celebrated and remembered, both through education and public programming.

2. Organizational Information

The French-American Heritage Foundation is run by a Board of Directors who meet monthly. At the present time there are twelve members of the Board, shown below:

Board of Directors

1. Mark Libos, President
   3892 Boulevard Ave
   Arden Hills, MN 55112
   Cell: 651-230-1399
   Home: 651-639-9276
   mark@emq.com

2. Dick Boudreau, Vice President
   6915 Rose Road
   Woodbury, MN 55125
   Cell: 651-334-5914
   Home: 651-720-9649
   dick_boudreau@msn.com
   www.thenarrowsmn.org

3. MaryEllen Walter, Secretary
   7100 Frenchtown, Downey
   Madison, Wisconsin 53719
   Cell: 608-268-6821
   Email: maryellenwalter@msn.com

4. Jerry Foley, Treasurer
   4056 Coffee Lane
   Mankato, MN 56006
   612-712-7072
   jbfoley@msn.com

5. Pierre Genet
   5000 Fremont Ave North
   Golden Valley, MN 55427-3066
   763-525-3065
   pgfrench@cox.com

6. Virgil Bousley
   10527 10th Ave SW
   Red Lake Falls, MN 56750
   218-559-0770
   virgilbousley@gmail.com
3. Advisory Committee

At the present time, the French-American Heritage Foundation Advisory Committee consists of twenty-four members, as shown below. Members of the Advisory Committee support the mission of the French-American Heritage Foundation and provide advice and counsel to the Foundation when requested regarding their area of expertise.

### Advisory Committee

1. **Beth Helle**
   
   Director of Tourism
   
   City of Minneapolis
   
   250 Marquette Ave South
   
   Suite 1300
   
   Minneapolis, MN 55401
   
   Work 612/767-8112
   
   Email: bethh@minneapolis.org

2. **Jerry Landreville**
   
   Food Service and Liquor Sales
   
   Former owner of Charyps, Gallissyne, Showboat, North End Depot, Chain Link, Gables by the Park and Ol’Mexco. Has French Canadian Heritage.
   
   2726 Olde Cypress Drive
   
   Naples, Fl. 34119
   
   Cell 239-398-5216
   
   Email: jilandreville1@netzero.net

3. **Richard Martin Guidry**
   
   Expertise in Cajun/Acadiana foods, music, genealogy, and organization of festivals or events, etc.
   
   6139 North Shore Drive
   
   Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70817
   
   Phone 225-755-1915
   
   Email: guidryrm@cox.net

4. **Keith Iverson**
   
   Public & Cultural Affairs Officer
   
   Quebec Delegation
   
   Government Office in Chicago
   
   444 N. Michigan Ave, Suite 3600
   
   Chicago, IL 60611
   
   Phone: 312-645-0392 Fax 59712
   
   Email: keith.iverson@魁北克政府办公室.

5. **Barbara Redmond**
   
   Redmond Barbara Design
   
   Publisher, A Women’s Pens
   
   Communications/Advertising/Promotion expertise
   
   10 South 5th Street
   
   Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402
   
   Phone: 612-669-1331
   
   Email: design@barbararedmond.com

6. **Steve Masdon**
   
   SRO Productions, Inc.
   
   Productions and Promotion Company.
   
   Creates and Produces Festivals and Events
   
   6524 Walker Street, Suite 210
   
   St. Louis Park, Minnesota 55426
   
   Phone: 612-341-4110
   
   Email: masdon@ropro.com

7. **Jacqueline Regis**
   
   District Court Judge, former Assistant Attorney General, and President of Minnesota Women’s Lawyers. Born and raised in Les Cayes Haiti. Strong Francophone interests and member of Alliance Francaise.
   
   Phone: 763-205-5225
   
   Email: jacqueline.regis@comcast.net

8. **Dr. Fatima Lawson**
   
   Principal, L’Ecole du Nord Immersion School
   
   1305 Prosperity Ave (Upper Campus)
   
   St. Paul, MN 55106
   
   Phone: 651-221-1480
   
   Email: Fatima.lawson@mpls.org

   
   Pastor St. Boniface Catholic Church
   
   Fratricole AFRICAN Cheptatissy
   
   629 2nd Street N.E.,
   
   Minneapolis, Minnesota 55413
   
   Email: joomangala05@gmail.com
10. Annie Muske
French Teacher since 1995. Currently
French Teacher at
Lakeville South High School.
Coordinator, A Vous la Parole
Minnesota AATF
21135 Jacquard Ave
Lakeville, MN 55044
Phone: 952-232-3999 ext. 6397
Email: avoulaparole@comcast.net

11. François Fouquere
Dean of French Voyager Program for
Concordia Language Villages. Native of
Normandy, France
901 8th Street South
Moorhead, MN 56562
Phone: 1800-222-4730
Email: fouquere@cord.edu.com

12. Christine Loe
Author, Director and Producer of "En
Avant" which is a film about French
Heritage in Minnesota.
See website
www.enavantfilm.com
Resident of France
Phone: +33(0)6 51 25 48 73 &
U.S. phone: 1-612-562-4214
Email: ch.loe@gmail.com

13. John Schade
Librarian, Minnesota Genealogical
Library. Former President of Minnesota
Genealogical Society. Expert in French
Canadian Genealogical Research.
911 Scheffer Avenue,
St. Paul, MN 55102
Phone: 651-224-7988
Email: johnschade@comcast.net

14. Joelle Vitello
Associate Professor
Department of French and Francophone
Studies, Macalester College
Saint Paul, MN 55105
Phone: 651-696-6437
Email: vitello@macalester.edu

15. Guy Vadeboncoeur
Professional musicologist and Vice
President, Muséologie for the Music
McCord Stewart Museum in Montreal, Quebec
543, 20e Avenue
Deux-Montagnes, Quebec
Canada J5R 0A7
Mobile Phone: 514-531-9784
Home: 450-473-4619
Email: vadeboncoeur@hotmail.com

16. Professor Daniel Brewer
Professor, Department of French and
Italian, University of Minnesota
314 Folwell Hall
9 Pleasant Street SE
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455
Phone: 612-624-0565
Email: dbrewer@umn.edu

17. Rev. Ronald G. DesRosiers, S.M.
Assistant Professor (ret.), Department of
Religious Studies & Philosophy
Madonna University, Lorain, Michigan
Church of St. Louis King of France
506 Cedar Street
Saint Paul, MN 55101-2280
Phone: 651-224-3379
Email: rgds@mac.com

18. Carrie Hettinger
Owner of Carrie On Travel. Advisor on
travel accommodations for out of town
entertainers, guest of Franco-Fête
Festival. Also interested in helping
with Festival.
Website: www.carrieontavel.com
Phone: 612-226-9482
Email: carrieontravel@yahoo.com

Legal Counsel for Foundation
Attorney at Law
Former resident of Ottawa, Canada is
both Canadian and U.S. citizen.
Proficient in French Language
Morley & Olson P.L.L.P
www.morleylaw.com
1302 2nd Street NE, Suite 216
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55413
Phone: 612-331-3667
Email: simeon@morleylaw.com

20. Jordi Tellier
Dean, Site Manager, Academic Programs
French Program Coordinator,
La Cité du Bois, Stillwater
Concordia Language Villages at The Forest
Phone: 651-433-4375
jtellier@cord.edu

21. Michael Rainville
Partnership Marketing Manager
Meet Minneapolis Convention and
Visitors Association
250 Marquette Ave South
Suite 1300
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401
Phone: 612-761-8074
Email: Mike@minneapolis.org
4. Charitable Foundation

On June 26, 2014, the Internal Revenue Service granted the French-American Heritage Foundation full tax exempt status as shown in the letter below:

Dear Applicant:

We are pleased to inform you that upon review of your application for tax exempt status we have determined that you are exempt from Federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions to you are deductible under section 170 of the Code. You are also qualified to receive tax deductible bequests, devises, transfers or gifts under section 2525, 2526 or 2522 of the Code. Because this letter could help resolve any questions regarding your exempt status, you should keep it in your permanent records.

Organisations exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Code are further classified as either public charities or private foundations. We determined that you are a public charity under the Code section(s) listed in the heading of this letter.

Please see enclosed Publication 4215-RC, Compliance Guide for 501(c)(3) Public Charities, for some helpful information about your responsibilities as an exempt organization.

Sincerely,

[Tamara Ruppersdorf]

Director, Exempt Organizations

Enclosure. Publication 4215-RC
5. Membership Structure

Membership of the French-American Heritage Foundation was established as a means to raise funds to finance and support its mission statement. A membership structure based on the calendar year was set up as a way to solicit donations for the foundation. Three membership categories were established.

- Supporting Member: $25
- Sustaining Member: $100
- Sponsor: $500 and above

The Membership was structured so that 100% of the membership payment is tax deductible. IRS rules state that membership payments are fully deductible where there are no services given to members. The hope is that people will become members on an annual basis because they support the mission statement of the French-American Heritage Foundation.

Although no services per se will be given Members, Members will be given notice of activities, receive regular news by email, and will be given an annual report each year. It is also anticipated that Members will make contributions to the website in the form of articles on French American Heritage, information about their genealogy and family history, and list any websites they know about that deal with French American Heritage. Of course, it is also hoped that members will be willing to volunteer to assist in activities the foundation sponsors in years to come, such as the Franco Fete French Festival.

6. 2014 Accomplishments

In 2014 the French-American Heritage Foundation accomplished the following:

1. Maintained and added information to its website. A number of article on French Heritage were added and the following family genealogy books were added: Ancestral Pathways (ancestors of Mark Labine) Aubert Family book, Belisle Family, Chabrier dit Vadeboncoeur, Cote Family, Foley/Fallu/Falleau family book by Jerry Foley, Maria Chapdelaine, Narrative of the Travels and Adventures of a Merchant Voyageur in the Savage Territories of Northern America, Proulx family book, and the Verboncoeur family. The website currently has sixteen articles on French Heritage, including “En Avant”, the story about the film currently being made by Christine Loys about Minnesota’s film connections, the history of Gentily, Minnesota, Artiles written by Greg Brick about Pigs Eye Fountain Cave and the LeSeur Saltpeter Caves in Minnesota, plus others.

2. Received tax exempt letter from the Internal Revenue Service.

3. Added members to the French-American Heritage Foundation Advisory Committee.
4. Explored the idea of sponsoring a Franco Fete French Festival sometime in the future. The French-American Heritage Foundation is discussing doing a joint venture with other organizations and discussions continue. This is still a future hope of the Foundation.

5. Sponsored two French Heritage Educational events.

June 28, 2014. The first event was held on Saturday, June 28, 2014 at the Provence Room at Salut Bar Americain in St. Paul. Dr. Greg Brick, Department of Earth Sciences, University of Minnesota discussed the discovery of saltpeter caves along the Minnesota shore of Lake Pepin by Pierre-Charles Le Sueur in 1700. These caves were recently located and were the subject of his doctoral research at the University of Minnesota. Forty persons registered for this event. The cost for the event was $30 which included a meal.

October 3, 2014. ON October 3rd, the French-American Heritage Foundation and the Alliance Francaise co-sponsored an event held at the Grande Salle of the Alliance Francaise located at 113 N First Street, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401. There were three presenters at this event. Mark Labine discussed the early French-Canadian settlement in downtown St. Paul and the battle of Kaposia (pronounced Kapoja) which took place on July 8, 1842 in which French-Canadian Settlers spent the night on Raspberry Island in downtown St. Paul to protect themselves from the conflict. Christine Loïs, documentary film-maker and author will talk about her film about the French Heritage in Minnesota. Martine Sauret, Associate Professor at Macalester College, will talk about Martine Sauret will speak about Nicollet's journal and its disappearance (the original of Nicollet's journal has disappeared but it was read by Jesuit fathers Paul Le Jeune and Vimont. Portions of it appear in the Jesuit Relations.). The cost for the event was $10 for AF/FAHF members and $15 for the general public. Wine and refreshments were served.

7. 2015 Planned Agenda

In 2015, the French-American Heritage Foundation hopes to continue to promote its mission statement and the following projects/events are currently being discussed:

a. Discussions will continue on sponsoring a Franco-Fete French Festival in Minnesota.

b. A social event is being planned at a French food restaurant in the twin cities.

c. Mary Ellen Weller and Michael Rainville are working to organize a French Heritage progressive dinner which be held on April 23, 2015.

d. An educational event is being planned for October 2014 that will feature John Schade, who is a member of our Advisory Committee, talking about his French Canadian Genealogical Research.

e. A French Heritage educational course on the History of French and French-Canadian immigrants in Minnesota is being planned which will be taught at Washburn Library in
Minneapolis, Minnesota. This court will be on the French Legacy in Minnesota and will be on Fridays in June, 2015.

f. The board is discussing a project to create a brochure that would feature French and French Canadian Heritage Landmarks in the twin cities. This brochure could be made available to tourists, the history center, and other groups. It is expected that the Foundation will apply for a grant from the History Center to fund this project and it is expected Jane Peck will head this project.

g. The Foundation will explore sponsoring scholarships for French language students at a college or university in the Midwest.

h. The Foundation will provide scholarships for students who attend the Concordia Languages Village’s French Camp, Lac du Bois where they will develop their French Language skills. These scholarships will be called the French-American Heritage Foundation Scholarship and will total $800 per year.

8. Donations

The French-American Heritage Foundation needs donations in order to survive. We need those interested in preserving and promoting French-American Heritage in Minnesota to donate to our Foundation. All donations are tax deductible. As a way to assist the Foundation to raise donations, rack cards have been printed that provide prospective members with information about our foundation. Copies of these rack cards are shown below.

For donations or to show your support, simply write a check made payable to the French-American Heritage Foundation and mail to either Jerry Foley, Treasurer, 4736 Coffey Lane, Minneapolis, MN 55406, or to the French-American Heritage Foundation, P.O. Box 25384, Woodbury, MN 55125.

Donations can also be made by credit card thru PayPal on the French-American Heritage Foundation website at www.fafhminn.org.
9. Website

An important step in forming a new Foundation or community based organization is to form a website. The Foundation has a website located at www.fahfminn.org.
Above is a picture of the home page to this website which is located at www.fahfminn.org.
There are currently 17 pages on this website and they are titled as possible.

1. **Home**  
   a. About  
   b. Board Members  
   c. Membership  
   d. Mission Statement

2. **New and Events**  
   a. News  
   b. Events

3. **Library**  
   a. Articles  
   b. Books  
   c. Chez Nous  
   d. Genealogy

4. **Food/Drink**

5. **Resources**  
   a. French Heritage Entertainment  
   b. Family Heritage Websites  
   c. Organizations  
   d. Family Websites

6. **Contact**

Our plan is to keep the website updated on a regular basis with news about events sponsored by the Foundation. We also anticipate that over time we will develop a large database of family websites, French-American Heritage articles and books for people who want to learn more about their French-American Heritage and genealogy.

We encourage all members to send to Mark Labine at his email address: mlabine@msn.com, or send to the French-American Heritage Foundation at their email address: frenchheritagefoundation@gmail.com any websites you would like displayed at the French-American Heritage Foundation website, including family genealogy websites, family reunion websites, articles, book information, etc.

Below is the 2014 financial report for the Foundation.

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<th>Funds at Beginning of Year</th>
<th>$1,665.77</th>
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<td>Income</td>
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<td>Sponsors</td>
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<td>Sustaining Members</td>
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<td>Supporting Members</td>
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<td><strong>Total Income in 2014</strong></td>
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<td>Expenses</td>
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<td>Reuben Cordaro- Logos</td>
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<td>Website Expenses</td>
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<td>Rack Card Expenses</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midwest Art Fair (Franco Fete)</td>
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<td>Kim Miller (Event Set up)</td>
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<td>Post Office Box</td>
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<td>Deluxe Checks</td>
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<td>FA Chamber of Commerce</td>
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<td>Fete Du Vin</td>
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<td>Paypal Expenses</td>
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<td><strong>Total Expenses in 2014</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Net cash flow in 2014</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Funds at End of Year</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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11. Proposed Franco Fete

One of the Foundation’s raison d’être or reason to exist is to promote and sponsor a Franco-Fete French Festival in the Metropolitan area. No specific plans for a Franco Fete currently are in place. We continue to have discussions and Logos have been prepared as shown below with the hope that someday a Franco Fete festival will occur.
Proposed Franco-Fete banner for festival, designed by Bruce & Jim at Rubin Cordaro Design

Franco-Fete Festival Logo
designed by Bruce & Jim at Rubin Cordaro Design

2012 Franco Fete Logo
12. Membership

List of 2013 French-American Heritage Foundation Members

1. Bernard, Dick
2. Durand, Mike
3. Foley, Gerald
4. Labine, Mark
5. Weller, MaryEllen
6. Beiring, Jacqueline Demeules
7. Benoit, Virgil
8. Fillion, Barbara
9. Horn, William B.
10. Loys, Christine
11. Regis, Jacqueline M.
12. Peck, Jane
13. Ruffing, John J. and Patricia

List of 2014 French-American Heritage Foundation Members

1. Benoit, Virgil
2. Bernard, Dick
3. Bomier, Bruce
4. Brunelle, Philip
5. Caldwell, Brian
6. Collette, John
7. Cronin, Jackie
8. Demueles, Christopher
9. Dufault, Dustin
10. Dufault, Robert and Lana
11. Dufour, Roger
12. England, John S.
13. Foley, Gerald
14. Gagne, Paulette
15. Girard, Pierre
16. Horn, William
17. Labine, Mark
18. Labrosse, George
19. Mayers, Carole
20. Mayers, Paul and Caroline
21. Petty, Mark
22. Proulx, Marie-Jean
23. Ruffing, John and Patricia
24. Weller, MaryEllen
25. Wolsey, Mary Lou