St. Anthony Falls in Minneapolis as they looked when first seen by Father Louis Hennepin in 1680. Picture by Albert Bierstadt (1830-1902)
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. Our Mission Statement:

**To promote and cultivate the heritage of French-language cultures.**

French-language heritage has played an important role in the history of Minnesota. It is important and proper that this heritage be celebrated and remembered. The French-American Heritage foundation:

- Maintains a website and a Facebook page focused on French-language heritages
- Sponsors educational events focused on French heritage
- Sponsors educational materials and books about French heritage
- Posts Minnesota French-American family history and genealogy to our website
- Provides scholarships for French language and culture studies

**Board of Directors**

More information of the Board Members is available on the French-American Heritage Foundation website.

1. Mark Labine, President
2. Dick Bernard, Vice President
3. MaryEllen Weller, Secretary
4. Jerry Foley, Treasurer

5. Pierre Girard

6. Virgil Benoit

7. Dustin DuFault

8. Mark Petty

9. Brian Caldwell

10. Marie Trepanier

11. Jane Peck

12. Corey LeVasseur

13. Robert Hughes Perrino

14. Patricia Ruffing

15. Anita Proehl
Membership Structure

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. Membership is annual and for the calendar year.

Members may make contributions to the website in the form of articles on French-American heritage, information on their genealogy and family history, and share resources that deal with French-American Heritage. Members are encouraged to volunteer to assist in activities the foundation sponsors, especially the Franco-Fête festival.

Please encourage family and friends to join and support the French-American Heritage Foundation of Minnesota.

2016 Accomplishments

Your Board of Directors is pleased to note the following accomplishments in our third year of existence:


2. Published three French Heritage books, namely,


   b. In the beginning, there was a Chapel. A book on the small log chapel built by French Canadians that became the nucleus of the city of St. Paul. Cost of book is $15.00 U.S. plus shipping and handling if ordered online. Now Available for purchase at website of French-American Heritage Foundation. Go to www.fahfminn.org search library/books and order your book there. In alternative, go to:

c. Chez Nous - a three volume set. The French-American Heritage Foundation is proud to announce the publication of three books called Chez Nous. These three books contain 928 pages of Nouvelles Villes Jumelées and Chez Nous newsletters published during the years 1979 to 2001. Each page has been numbered and there is a detailed index at the back of each book. These newsletters were published by La Société Canadienne Française du Minnesota (LSCF), which had an official life span of 22 years, from 1979 to 2001. Cost of each book is $17.00 U.S. plus shipping and handling if ordered online. Now Available for purchase at website of French-American Heritage Foundation. Go to www.fahfminn.org search library/books and order your book there. In alternative, go to:

https://www.createspace.com/5926636 for book one,
https://www.createspace.com/6033896 for book two

All of these books are also available for purchase on Amazon.com.

They Spoke French, French Heritage in Minnesota
In the beginning, there was a Chapel

On the Feast of All Saints’ Day, November 1, 1841, a small log chapel was dedicated on the bluff overlooking the Mississippi River. At the time the chapel was built, there were only a small number of French Canadian families living in the area. Little did these pioneers know that this little chapel would become a cathedral, a school, and a hospital, and would become the inspiration and the nucleus of a city that would adopt its name and become the capital of Minnesota.

This is a story of that chapel.

The French-American Heritage Foundation is a 501(c)(3) charitable nonprofit organization with the primary purpose of promoting and sponsoring French Heritage educational events in Minnesota. The mission statement for the Foundation is to promote and cultivate the Heritage of French-language cultures.

www.fahfminnesota.org
3. Sponsored two educational Heritage events:

- **a. June 18, 2016** - sponsored a tour to Henderson, Minnesota to visit their museum and take a tour of the French-Canadian history there.

- **b. November 1, 2016** - Sponsored a French Heritage event at the Minnesota History to commemorate the 175th anniversary of the building of the Chapel of St. Paul by French Canadians.
Conducted three “Minnesota with a French Accent” community Education Classes in the Twin Cities, including:

a. **March 1 to 24, 2016**- Nokomis Library in Minneapolis, “Minnesota with French Accent” classes. Four classes from 10:30 a.m. to noon.

b. **October 3 to 24th**- Maple Grove Community Education “Minnesota with French Accent” classes. Maplewood Community Center. Four classes from 10 a.m. to noon.

c. **November 8 to November 29, 2016**. North St. Paul Community Education “Minnesota with French Accent” classes at Gladstone Senior Center Four classes from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.


7. **July 19, 2016**: Made a presentation of “They Spoke French” books to the Mayor of Tours, France on July 19, 2016.

8. **July 30, 2016**: Anita Proehl and Jerry Foley represented French-American Heritage Foundation at booth at Little Canada Days, in Little Canada.

9. **September 29-October 1, 2016**: Minnesota Genealogical Society Fall annual conference- Colonial Church, Edina, MN. Jerry and Dick participated.

10. **October 29, 2016**: Family History Fair at Minneapolis Public Library- Jerry, Mark, Dick, MaryEllen and Pierre attended.

11. Awarded two scholarships to the Voyageur Program headed by François Fouquerel of the Lac Du Bois camp of the Concordia Language Villages. The two scholarships are $400 each and will be awarded annually.

**2017 Plans**

1. **2017 Events**

   a. **February 24, 2017**, Paths and Road to Becoming French, and a Book-Loving Métis. Friday at 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the Grande Salle at Alliance Francaise. Joe Amato, author, will speak. In it, he will trace his own three paths to becoming French: how as a young man, studies took him to the Université of Quebec where he learned to think and write about French cultures; then how as a university teacher and researcher he discovered his own ancient roots at Port Royal, Acadian and his family’s long migration to Wisconsin; and finally, how now he is making himself a Métis with his fictional creation of book called Buffalo Man.

   b. **April 29, 2017**, Tour of Twin Cities buildings designed by architect Emmanuel Masqueray- Mary Ellen Weller will chair event. Do bus tour of Twin Cities buildings designed by Masqueray. Included in tour will be gravesite where Masqueray buried and tour exhibit at St. Thomas on Masqueray.

   c. **French Heritage Classes on YouTube and Cable T.V.** Pat Ruffing and others on board plan to do 5-7 French Heritage Educational speeches and also 45 minute to one hour presentations on subjects dealing with French Heritage in Minnesota and the Midwest. Stay tuned for more information on this project. There will be one or possibly two evenings of stories on French Heritage in Minnesota.
2. Award two scholarships to the Voyageur Program of the Lac du Bois camp of the Concordia Language Villages, of $400 each.

3. Maintain and add to our website fahfminn.org and our Facebook Page so that we develop a large database of family websites, heritage articles, and resources for learning about the French-American Heritage in Minnesota.

4. Other events to be announced in future.

**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.fahfminn.org](http://www.fahfminn.org).

**Financial Report**

Below is the 2016 financial report for the Foundation.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. 2016 Income</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sponsors</td>
<td>3,009.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sustaining Members</td>
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<td>Supporting Members</td>
<td>340.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Events</td>
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<tr>
<td>Book Sales</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>2. 2016 Expenses</th>
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<td>Ad in Alliance Directory</td>
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<td>Concordia Scholarships</td>
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<td>Events</td>
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<td>Postage</td>
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<td>Book Publishing Costs</td>
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<td>Book editing costs</td>
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<td>Website</td>
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<tr>
<td>Misc. expenses</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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## 3. Cash Flow

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<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
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<tr>
<td>Assets Beginning of Year</td>
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<td>$4,975.31</td>
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<td>Income</td>
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<td>Expenses</td>
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<td>Net Cash Flow (loss)</td>
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<td>Assets End of Year</td>
<td>$3,012.54</td>
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## 4. Assets

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PayPal</td>
<td>869.89</td>
<td>387.00</td>
<td>227.84</td>
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<td>Associated Bank</td>
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<td>Current Asset Value</td>
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<td>4,975.31</td>
<td>5251.77</td>
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</tbody>
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## French-American Heritage Foundation of Minnesota Members

### List of 2016 French-American Heritage Foundation Members

1. Andrews, Robert and Lisa
2. Bernard, Dick
3. Bernard, John
4. Beyendorff, Tara
5. Black, Jeanine
6. Caldwell, Brian
7. Collette, Alan and Cynthia
8. Cronin, Jackie
9. Foley, Jerry
10. Fulks, Howard
11. Garney, Suzanne
12. Girard, Pierre
13. Horn, William
14. Houle, Helen
15. Hunter, Lucie
16. Jenkins, Karen
17. Labine, Mark
18. Labine, Noel
19. Marier, Donald
20. McMahon, Kathleen
21. Petty, Mark
22. Rainville, Michael
23. Trepanier, Marie
24. Turgeon, Francis
25. Zink, Jerry and Virginia