



French-American Heritage Foundation of Minnesota

1887 Beckman Ave, Arden Hills, MN 55112

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Website

www.fahfminn.org

Mission

Statement:

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

Board of Directors Bios

Dick Bernard

Dick Bernard has been very actively engaged in French-Canadian family history for over 30 years and has been very active in midwest French-Canadian heritage efforts during the same time period. His work included editing a newsletter, *Chez Nous*, from 1985 through 2001, for La Société Canadienne-Française du Minnesota (LSC-F). He was part of the committee which put together the 2012 Franco-Fête in Minneapolis and in 1995 coordinated a major Franco-American cultural event in the Twin Cities. He is a past president and was a long-time member of LSC-F. He grew up in North Dakota, completing college there. His father is 100% French Canadian from a family whose first ancestor in Quebec arrived in 1618, and perhaps earlier. He was a teacher and for the last 27 years of his work career has represented teachers through the Minnesota Education Association (now Education Minnesota).

Brian Caldwell

Brian is a certified public accountant and has been providing accounting services to a wide variety of non-profit organizations since 2008. He is a retired veteran who served two tours of duty in Iraq. He is a member of the VFW and American Legion. "My father (who passed away in December 2012) had a friend named Al Dubois who was in World War II. While rummaging through my father's files I came across excerpts from an article written about Al's experience in the War. I wanted the entire article and my google search came up with the Durand Heritage Foundation newsletter which then led me to the F-AHF."

Dustin DuFault

Dustin DuFault hails from the far reaches of northwestern Minnesota wherein both sides of his family can trace their roots to the outskirts of Montreal before emigrating to the United States in the late part of the 19th century. Dustin maintains a solo law practice in downtown Minneapolis wherein he specializes in intellectual property law. Dustin resides in Minnetonka with his wife, Carolina, who is an elementary teacher. Dustin has hopes to one day improve his French-speaking skills, which at the moment, are in need of a little help.

Jerry Foley

In his retirement years, Jerry has been an avid student of Canadian history and genealogy. He authored MINNESOTA, EHP? A Foley/Perras Family History. With a Canadian cousin, he created a genealogy of the family of George Fallu, his great-great-grandfather and the first mayor of Nouvelle, Quebec.

Pierre Girard

Pierre's grandparents immigrated to Wisconsin from the Trois-Rivières area of Quebec. He was raised in an ethnic home and appreciates his heritage. Through his involvement with La Société Canadienne Française, Les Canadiens Errants and trips to Canada and France, he has thoroughly explored that heritage. Now in retirement, he is a volunteer at the Minneapolis City Hall where he gives building tours and plays concerts on the City Hall Tower chime.

Mark Labine

Mark Labine, graduated from the University of Minnesota in 1977 and received a J.D. from Hamline University School of Law in 1980. He practiced Law and worked part time as a contract Administrative Law Judge, Arbitrator, Magistrate, Referee and Mediator until June, 2005 when he appointed to be Court Referee for Hennepin County District Court.

Mark has served on Board of Directors of Ramsey County Bar Association; Midway YMCA; St. Anthony Park Business Association; (President); Minnesota Association of Mediators, (President); Conflict Resolution Minnesota; Tareyton Condo Association (President); the St. Mary's Men's Club (Treasurer) the West Side Voice newspaper; and the Hamline Law Alumni Association. He served on the Parks Commission and Finance Committee for City of Arden Hills and was member of the District 12 Community Council for City of Saint Paul.

Mark has taken a keen interest in his French-Canadian ancestry and genealogy. He served as President of the Société Canadienne Française du Minnesota from 1988 to 1990 and has written a number of books on his family history and ancestors. His latest book, "Ancestral Pathways," documents over 1,700 of his ancestors, including many ancestral lines that go back to France.

Jane Skinner Peck

Though not French by blood, Jane is French by experience. Living in France at the age of 19, she has returned many times for further study, absorbing the language and culture into her life and work. As a dance historian, choreographer, and professor of dance Jane has researched and performed the dances and cultures of many French cultures: 18th c. Versailles, Quebec, Red River Metis, Haiti, West Africa. She directs her company , Dance Revels Moving History, in many of these performances and teaches workshops across the Midwest. She has been adjunct faculty at Winona State University Department of Theater and Dance for three years.

Mark Petty

Mark is an attorney editor at Thomson Reuters and a volunteer translator for The Advocates for Human Rights. He received the 2014 volunteer award from the Advocates for Human Rights. He is a member of Epsilon Sigma Alpha, a nonprofit service organization. He studied French, Spanish and mathematics at the University of North Dakota and law at the University of North Dakota School of Law.

Marie Trépanier

Since my French-speaking grandmother lived with us when I was eleven years old, my interest has been peaked for the French-Canadian roots on that side of my family.

Now, as a retired nurse, I have embarked on pursuing family genealogical mysteries and visiting places of ancestral origins. Our region has a treasure trove of history, culture, architecture and language brought here by the early French Canadians that we must never forget. I would like to help keep our history alive.

MaryEllen Weller

MaryEllen Weller taught French and Spanish at Apple Valley High School and Mesabi Range Community College. She has authored a biography of the *voyageurs* artist, Frances Anne Hopkins, and is passionate about family history and genealogy (for the grandchildren!), and all things French-American.