
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; in1608 establishes permanent settlement now called Quebec City.
1634 – Founding of Trois Rivieres
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 the New France (now Quebec).
1688 – French explorer, Jacques de Noyon, explores what is now Quetico/Boundary water area.
1736 – Rene Bourassa sets up trading post at Vermilion River MN
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, Louis 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:

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”.

For information by mail or phone, contact Dick Bernard, FAHF PO Box 25384, Woodbury MN 55125, or by phone 651-334-5744