Minnesota With a French Accent

Presented by the French-American Heritage Foundation

Presenters: Jerry Foley, Jane Peck, Mark Labine, Pierre Girard and Dick Bernard
Course Outline

• 1. Early French Explorers, Pioneers and Fur Traders - Jerry Foley and Jane Peck
• 2. Minnesota’s Early French Canadian Settlers - Mark Labine
• 3. Ethnic Tensions facing French in Minnesota - Pierre Girard
• 4. The Richness of Our Heritage - Dick Bernard
Week 2 Outline

• Selkirk Colony
• First French Canadian Settlers
• Founding of St. Paul
• French Canadian emigration from 1840 to 1930
• French Canadian communities in Minnesota
Minnesota has a French Flair
St. Anthony Falls named by Father Hennepin in honor of his patron saint, St. Anthony of Padua (Picture by Albert Bierstadt)
Selkirk Colony

- The Red River Colony (or Selkirk Settlement) was a colonization project set up by Thomas Douglas, 5th Earl of Selkirk in 1811 on land granted to him by the Hudson’s Bay Company. Selkirk died in 1820. His colony struggled. Made up of Scottish, Swiss and some French Canadians.
MAP OF 1817
showing LORD SELKIRKS Grant of
116,000 SQUARE MILES
KNOWN AS ASSINIBOIA
INCLUDING THE FORTS.

55° 55°

CUMBERLAND HOUSE

JACK RIVER HOUSE

Fort Pembina

Fort Douglas

Old Fort

Lake of Woods

Brandon

The Grand Forks

Red Lake

Pointed Sioux

P. Gover

F. de la fen
commune

P. Mau

20° 10° 0°

5° 5° 10°

10 miles to 1 inch.
Selkirk Colony Failed

• War of 1812- Changed boundary line
• Dispute between Hudson’s Bay Company, Northwest Company, and American Fur Trade Company.
• Grasshoppers
• Flood
• Cold
1837 move to Fort Snelling

• In fall of 1837, 60 persons from the Selkirk colony, Including family of Joseph Labissoniere (b.1786) and Francois Desjarlais (b.1796), They first settled near Fort Snelling. Joseph was a clerk for Northwest Company in Grand Forks, (Les Grandes Fourches). Later moved to St. Boniface, Manitoba. Pierre Bottineau also involved.
Seth Eastman painting of Fort Snelling
Fort Snelling
Early French Canadian Settlers

• After the fur trade business began to die out due to beaver becoming scarce and control of industry by the Hudson Bay Company, early French Canadians in the fur trade business began to establish farming as their livelihood in Minnesota. The city of St. Paul began from once such early French Canadian settlement.
Metis

• Many of early settlers from Selkirk Colony were Metis. The mother of Francois Desjarlais, wife of Joseph Labissoniere, was from Little Snake Tribe in Manitoba. Her name was Pert Won. She died in St. Paul in 1842. Perk Won was wife of Antoine Desjarlais, a fur trader who worked at post in Pembina in 1804 and was at Lac La Biche in Alberta in 1821. The Lac La Biche mission is now a national historic site.

• Many of early settlers were of mixed blood.
References

• Acta et Dicta (Catholic Historical Society) Issac Labissoniere obituary.
• A Pioneer’s Talk of Pioneer Days. (Article written in the Northwestern Chronicle about Isaac Labissoniere)
• “Past and present of St. Paul, Minnesota; being a relation of the progressive history of the capital city of Minnesota from the earliest historical times down to the present day. Together with an exposition of the lives of the makers of history” (Book by William B. Hennessy)
• Military Report of Major Dearborn (Commander of Fort Snelling in 1842)
• History of Minnesota by William E. Lass
ACTA ET DICTA

A collection of historical data regarding the origin and growth of the Catholic Church in the Northwest.
A Pioneer's Talk of Pioneer Days.

Written for The Chronicle by Mr. Isaac Labissoniere.

How many horses would it require at the present condition of the market to purchase St. Anthony hill? This is the question an old man asked himself as he strolled among the mansions of St. Paul's aristocratic elevation yesterday and ruminated upon the fact that he had once driven a hard bargain with a man and palmed the unwatered hill off on the other for a good sound horse, worth all of $15 or $20.

"And I felt somewhat conscience-stricken afterward, for it was a good horse, which was a much better recommendation than I could give along with the present site of the fish hatchery, then known as Pimcreek.

The younger Labissoniere established a homestead of his own at Osceola, where he lived until a year ago. He is now in St. Paul, living with his son-in-law.

"I can get all the pleasure out of what years are left to me in walking around the town and comparing it with what it was when I lived here before," said Mr. Labissoniere, as he made his way down the Jackson street "trail" yesterday.

One of the bloodiest incidents in the history of St. Paul occurred under the very eyes of Labissoniere, and he figured in it as its hero, making his way in early evening through the woods that were alive with bloodthirsty Indians, and summoning troops to the rescue of twenty beleaguered families who had escaped in canoes to Raspberry island after the famous battle of July 8, 1813, between the Chippewas and the Sioux.

"There was only one other family down in the Pine creek district at that time," said Mr. Labissoniere, "and along the other side of the river the Sioux held forth. Big Thunder was their chief and there were five other villages stretched along the river.

Sioux chief. His face was spotted with grief and rage and he aloft a long, bloody bowie knife as he screamed at my mother:

"My five sons have been killed. It is your fault. Your blood must pay. You knew your people were coming and you did not tell us. My sons are dead. You killed them." I don't know why he didn't kill her in her tracks, and I don't know why I didn't slay him. I never felt like killing a man so much in my life as I did at that moment. At any rate, he backed out of the house and went howling up the road.

"Feeling sure that we would be murdered that night, I decided to come to St. Paul for help, and I sneaked into the settlement in the dark. I found the place in terror, however, as the Sioux were rushing into the houses and con- séquently all the guns they could find. Then they would throw their blankets down on the ground, indicating that they were ready to fight, and yelling 'Chippewa, Chippewa,' would dash in pursuit of the enemy, I went back after my mother, and with nineteen other families, mostly women and children, went to Raspberry island in canoes. As I was the only person anywhere near a man's size I volunteered to go to Fort Snelling and notify the troops.

"This little job only delayed the eight skirmishers a minute or two, and elated over their capture of scalps, they proceeded to lead the score of furious Sioux into the trap which had been prepared for them. The Sioux fell into it nicely, and nineteen of them fell in a narrow ravine.

"I saw the charge of the Chippewas, and this reminds me of a peculiarity of the Indians that is seldom heard of in connection with the descriptions of battles. Killing and scalping, of course, conducted to the glory of the brave, according to the number they personally conducted, but there was only one man.
Issac Labissoniere

• Issac Labissoniere came to Minnesota with his parents Joseph Labissoniere and Francois Desjarlais and is the main character of this story of the early French Canadian Settlement in St. Paul, Minnesota. His wife was Theresa Theroux.

• His story is typical of the first French Canadian Settlers in Minnesota. Persons related to the fur trade who decided to settle when the fur trade ended and land became available.
Issac Labissoniere and wife Theresa Theroux
Ox Cart trip from Osseo to Red Lake Falls - 19 days
Drovers

- Ox Cart drivers were called drovers. Carts were used to haul freight between Red River and Twin Cities area. Carts pulled by oxen and traveled about 15 miles a day. Each drover usually responsible for four carts. Joe (Joly Joe) Rolette was a drover who became one of Minnesota Territory’s first legislators.
Joe Rolette

- French Canadian. Put into place in 1842 a unique method of transportation between Pembina and Mendota called the Ox Cart or Red River Trails. In 1851 elected to Minnesota Territorial Legislature. Chairman of enrollment committee and bill making St. Peter Capital had to pass through his committee. Joe took bill and disappeared until session over. St. Paul remained capital.
Dodge Treaty of 1837

• Henry Dodge, territorial governor of Wisconsin, negotiated a treaty with the Chippewa at Fort Snelling in 1837. Major land concessions were made in exchange for cash ($16,000 plus goods, plus $40,000 a year for future years). Their friends received $110,000 and fur traders owed money by the Indians received $90,000. Land east of Mississippi in Minnesota was ceded which opened way to settlement. This included land where current St. Paul located.
The 1837 Treaty of St. Peters or the Treaty with the Chippewa (or informally as the White Pine Treaty) was a treaty conducted between Governor Henry Dodge for the United States and representatives from various Ojibwa Bands located across today's Wisconsin and Minnesota. It was conducted on July 29, 1837, at St. Peters, (known today as Mendota, Minnesota). Signatory tribes commonly call this treaty The Treaty of 1837. The treaty was proclaimed on June 15, 1838, and codified in the United States Statutes at Large as 7 Stat. 536. Below is picture taken at the treaty signing.
Anishinaabeg Ceded Lands in Minnesota
Grand Marais

• After the Dodge Treaty with the Chippewa Indians threw open settlement east of Mississippi in the fall of 1838, Joseph Labissoniere and his wife and family then moved to area known as “Grand Marais” (Big Swamp) which is near downtown St. Paul area. Area also known as “Pigs Eye” by some.
Pierre "Pig's Eye" Parrant, first settler in Saint Paul, MN
Labissonieres and other French Settlers first settled near near Point LeClaire in lowlands southeast of downtown. (Seth Eastman, Farm scene 1846)

This scene I believe is looking towards downtown St. Paul
View of Labissoniere Hayfields

(Painting by James Desvarreaux Larpenteur (1847-1937) titled “St. Paul from Pig’s Eye.”)
Site of Labissoniere Farm
(Near present day Fish Hatcheries)
Labissoniere Farm site 2014
Drawing of Lucien Galtier from an 1876 history of the city of St. Paul.
St. Paul, 1856.
Chapel built on higher ground, not lowlands.
Saint Paul Chapel

- Father Lucien Galtier appeared as mission priest in May 1840 and on Feast of All Saints day, November 1, 1841, Chapel of Saint Paul dedicated.
Saint Paul Chapel

St. Paul Chapel
Battle of Kaposia July 8, 1842
Kaposia (Kapoja)
Seth Eastman Painting of village
Kaposia in 1848 by Henry Lewis, from a lithograph in Das illustrierte Mississippi, 56 (Minnesota Historical Society collections).
Chief Little Crow son of Big Thunder who fought at Kaposia. In 1837 Big Thunder and 37 Sioux Chiefs went to Washington for treaty that led to sale of property “East of Mississippi River”
Description of Battle
The Kaposia battle began when Ojibwe warriors came across the Grand Marais just to the south of the Labissoniere farm. They shot their guns into the Kaposia village. The Dakota then gave chase. The Ojibwe killed the wife of a French Canadian and their half-breed son. They then ambushed the pursuing Dakota at Battle Creek.
• 19 Dakota killed, including sons of Big Thunder
• 10 Ojibwe killed.
• Dakota wife and her child killed.
• Battle Creek Park named after battle.
Joseph married to Francois Desjarlais, daughter of Pert Won, Ojibwe.
Big Thunder angry at her mother
Seth Eastman painting Ojibwe woman.
Raspberry Island
Mendota (formerly St. Peter’s)
Painting by Seth Eastman
Issac went to Henry Sibley’s House
Major Dearborn came with troops July 9, 1842

Henry Hastings Sibley lived in present day Mendota and was a partner in American Fur Company. His first wife was granddaughter of Mdewakanton Dakota Chief. The official report of Major Dearborn, First Infantry, U. S. A., then in command of Fort Snelling, supplies essential facts of the battle of Kaposia. Sibley became first Governor of State of Minnesota in 1858.
Fort Snelling
• French-Canadian settlement of Grand Marais with little chapel called St. Paul became present day St. Paul, Minnesota.
• St. Paul Chapel which ministered to the early French-Canadian settlers became St. Paul Cathedral when Father Joseph Cretin was installed as the first Bishop of St. Paul on July 2, 1851.

• Fourth Cathedral commissioned well-known French Beaux-Arts architect Emmanuel Masqueray, who was also the chief architect of the 1904 World’s Fair in St. Louis, Missouri.
St. Paul Cathedral III
On June 2, 1907, cornerstone laid for present day cathedral. Issac Labissoniere present since he was one of builders of first cathedral.
Issac & Theresa in 1903-04

Picture, front row, left to right: Issac Labissoniere, Lawrence Labine and Theresa Theroux. Top row: Julia Labine, granddaughter, and Julia Verboncoeur, daughter of Issac and Theresa (married David Verboncoeur).
• Many of early French-Canadian settlers ended up migrating to area today called Little Canada or to northwest around Dayton, and Osseo, Minnesota. Isaac one of original settlers and founders of Osseo (formerly called Bottineau Prairie). Worked as a guide for Sibley during Sioux uprising of 1862.
Osseo

The International Hotel and Bar was located at 2nd and Central. In the picture those that are identified are: Meinke Bros., bar owners, Joe Blonigan, Harry Richey, Joe Paul, Isaac LaBissonnier, and others.
"This is Paradise," Pierre Bottineau exclaimed, as he and his traveling companions, Joseph Potvin, Peter Raiche, and Peter Gervais, stepped forth from the deep woods and scanned the beautiful prairie before them. This was beginning of Osseo settlement.

In 1854, Warren Sampson, Isaac Labissoniere, Clark Ellsworth, Senaca Brown, D.B. Thayer, and James McRay settled on "Bottineau Prairie." Mr. Sampson built and opened a store of general merchandise and a post office in the settlement then called Palestine. The years 1855–1856 saw much growth, and in 1856 the settlement was officially renamed Osseo, and platted by Mr. Sampson and Mr. Labissoniere.
Pierre Bottineau

- **Pierre Bottineau** (January 1, 1817 – July 26, 1895) born near Grand Forks, died in Red Lake Falls. Buried there.
- Known as the "Kit Carson of the Northwest"
- Married twice. First to Genevieve Larance, a metis, Second to Martha Gervais (m.1/6/1852) of Little Canada. Had between 23-26 children.
- Integral part of the history and development of Minnesota and North Dakota. He was an accomplished surveyor and involved in settlements of St. Paul, Osseo, Maple Grove, Breckenridge, Wahpeton, ND and Red Lake Falls.
- He also took part in the founding of Orono Village, Sherburne County, MN (later absorbed by), Elk River, MN and the booming city of St. Anthony.
- Purchased 9000 acres in Red River Valley in 1877-78.
Little Canadas- 1850-1900

• Factors in Canada led to emigration of French Canadians. Limited farm land. Large families. Population of Quebec increased by 400 percent between 1784 and 1844. A drop in farm prices, failure of wheat and potato crops, poor access to markets, lack of available credit through financial institutions, forced many to look elsewhere for their future.
• Faced with hard choices between poverty, starvation, and emigration, many headed for textile mills of New England or available farm lands opening up in midwestern United States.

• IN 1850’s transportation became easier, faster and more economical. Railroad lines increased.

• Minnesota set up State Board of Immigration in 1855. Official encouragement of immigration to Minnesota began at time Minnesota became territory in 1849.
Railroads

• Railroads increased their lines in 1850’s.
• Large land grants given railroads to encourage building.
• First rails in state laid in 1862, and by 1880, the state had nearly thirty-one hundred miles of line.
• Railroads took active role in promoting settlement in 1870.
1863-Old Crossing Treaty

- The Pembina and Red Lake bands of the Ojibwe, then known as the Chippewa Indians, purportedly ceded to the United States all of their rights to the Red River Valley.
Homestead Act of 1862


- Pre-emption- 160 acres. $1.25 acre plus costs. Must purchase within 1 year of actual proof of residence and must show proof of cultivation. Could not own more than 320 acres. 6 months minimum residency.

- Railroad Land- Same as pre-emption except cost $2.50 plus costs. $1.25 to railroad and rest to state.
Homestead Certificate

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

To all to whom these presents shall come, Greeting:

APPLICATION for a Homestead Certificate to Herman D. Noset, residing at Jamestown, North Dakota, as follows:

Whereas, there has been deposited in the General Land Office of the United States a certificate of the issuance of a homestead certificate, whereby it appears that, pursuant to the Act of Congress approved 26th May, 1862, "To secure Homesteads to Actual Settlers on the Public Domain," and the acts supplemental thereto, the claim has been established and duly consummated, in conformity with law, for the East half of the North half-acre quarter of the township, one hundred and forty, the North of Range twenty-one West of the Fifth Principal Meridian in North Dakota, containing the hundred and fifty acres

Now know ye, That there is, therefore, granted by the United States unto the said Herman D. Noset the tract of land above-described, to have and to hold the said tract of land, with the appurtenances thereof, under the said Act, and to his heirs and assigns forever; subject to any vested and accrued water rights for mining, agricultural, manufacturing, or other purposes, and rights of light and reserved rights therein or thereunder used in connection with public improvements, as may be recognized and acknowledged by the local customs, laws, and decisions of courts, and also subject to the right, superior to a vein or bed to extract and remove his ore, therefrom, should the same be found to penetrate or intersect the premises hereby granted, as provided by law.

In testimony whereof, Grover Cleveland, President of the United States of America, have caused these letters to be made Patent, and the seal of the General Land Office to be hereunto affixed.

Given under my hand, at the City of Washington, the day of ______, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and ______, and of the Independence of the United States the one hundred and ______th year.

By the President: Grover Cleveland

By the Secretary: ________

Recorder, Recorder of the General Land Office.
Pre-Emption Certificate

Land title Certificate of Alfred Labine in 1889 signed by President Benjamin Harrison. This shows that Alfred acquired 160 acres in Section 26 through the doctrine of “pre-emption” instead of using the Homestead Act. The difference between these two ways to acquire land is described in more detail above.
The above certificate shows that Alfred Labine acquired title to property through the doctrine of “Pre-emption” in 1889. Under the doctrine of Pre-emption in 1889, heads of families over the age of 21 who are citizens of the U.S. may purchase land of up to 160 acres at a low fee. The land must be eligible land belonging to the United States. If the tract is eligible, the settlor must file his “declaratory statement” in the United States Land Office within thirty days after making settlement, and within one year from the date of settlement he must make proof of actual residence on and cultivation of the land, and thereupon purchase the same at $1.25 per acre, if outside the limits of a railroad land grant, and at $2.50 per acre if within railroad land grant limits. A Pre-emptor may submit proofs of continuous residence at any time after six months from the date of settlement, and obtain title to his land. The settler in possession of a valid pre-emption claim may, at any time, convert his pre-emption claim into a homestead. No person who abandons his residence upon land of his own (not a town lot) to reside upon public lands in the same State or Territory, or who owns 320 acres of land in any State or Territory, is entitled to the benefits of the pre-emption laws. The pre-emption law was different from the Homestead law, which stated that a person or a head of family who is 21 years old may receive title to land of up to 160 acres provided he takes up residence on the land and cultivates it for five years continuously. The only cost was a fee of $10 and commission of $4 to $12 dollars. If you were a soldier in the “rebellion” (civil war) you could count your time of service in the military towards your five years. The advantage of doing the pre-emption was that you could get title to the land at a low cost within six months, while under the Homestead rules, he had to wait five years.
Labine Family immigration

• Modeste Guildry dit Labine left Quebec in 1870. Two wifes, 1) Eleanore Magnan, and 2) Ozine Desmarais.
Modeste Labine Family

Picture of the Modeste Labine family (taken in late 1800's). Front row, left to right: Artemise (Napoleon's wife), Napoleon, Albina, (Mrs. Ed. Labarge) Stephanie (Regimbal) Eldige. Second row: Elize (Elizabeth Audette), Eugene, Charles, Adellina, Fred, Julie (Fred's wife) and Emelia (Eldige's Wife).
St. Jacques L’Achigan

House located on Quebec property in 1981 where Modeste Guildry dit Labine lived. Modeste left Quebec in 1871 so it is uncertain whether this is his house or if this is a house built after he left.
Modeste was the only son, as far as I know, of a family of seven. He farmed his Father's land, on lot number 355 in St. Jacques de l’Achigan, Quebec, which consisted of some 92 acres, for 25 to 30 years. Most of Modeste's children, including my Great Grandfather, Alfred, were born in the St. Jacques area. Land was scarce in Quebec in the late 1800's and many French couples did not have enough farmland to support their large families there.
1857 Mortgage of Modeste
Calumet, Michigan

The Calumet & Hecla Mine, Michigan, 1900
French Canadians wanted river land

The above google map shows the northwest corner of section 2 in Bloomer Township. Modeste Labine's Homestead is where the buildings are in the lower center of the picture. Eugene Labine's main farmstead was at the lower left of the picture. Eugene's initial homestead was a couple miles south.
Story of French Canadian Family

Photos of Oliver J. Labine
This book is a one hundred year pictorial memory of a Minnesota farm family (descendants of Modeste Guildry dit Labine) from 1879 to 1979.

Mark Labine is a lover of history who has written several books about his family genealogy and history, including “La Verduire de Mirilgueche”, “American Roots”, “Dascomb”, and “An Ancient and Knightly Line”.

MINNESOTA FARM FAMILY MEMORIES
Mark Labine
Little Canada

• In 1844, French Canadian settler Benjamin Gervais moved north from Saint Paul to claim land in order to build the first grist mill in Minnesota that was independent from the government. Today, the large lake on the east side of Little Canada bears his name (Lake Gervais). The grist mill was converted into a park, which is recognized as the birthplace of the city. Little Canada began as the township of New Canada in 1858.
Little Canada’s First Settlors

• Book written by Al Dahlquist which lists pedigree charts for seventy five of Little Canada’s first settlors.
• Al Dahlquist past President of Canadian Genealogical & Heritage Society of Minnesota.
• Book is available to view on website of French-American Heritage Foundation at www.fahfminn.org.
St. Johns the Evangelist
Little Canada
Gentilly

• 142 French Canadian residents in 1889, mostly related and mostly from Joliette, Quebec area.
• 1880 Railroad reached Grand Forks, ND.
• October 1873 township of Gentilly organized.
St. Peters Gentilly
Gentilly History Book

• Article written about Gentilly Minnesota titled “A French-Canadian Community in the Minnesota Red River Valley” by Virgil Benoit.

• Discusses history of early settlement of Gentilly.

• Article on Gentilly in French-American Heritage Foundation website library
Argyle

• Incorporated 1881
• Large group of French Canadians settled there. Many settled along river.
• First town called Louisa after first child. Railroad stop called Argyle established half mile away.
• Many came from St. Jacques L’Achigan area near Montreal.
St. Rose de Lima
St. Rose 100 Year History Book

- This book lists complete genealogies between 1879-1979 for all French Canadian families who settled in Argyle Minnesota. Book lists each family, with pictures of almost every family.

- Book available for purchase. Perhaps someday will be on website.
Red Lake Falls

- Red Lake Falls was the site of a North West Company fur post as early as 1796 or 1797, making it one of the oldest sites of European occupation in the State of Minnesota. A French Canadian fur trader, Jean Baptiste Cadotte, partner of the noted British-Canadian fur trader, Alexander Henry the elder.

- The surrounding territory was homesteaded by French-American settlers led by Pierre Bottineau, who were relocating via ox cart from their temporary stopping points in Ramsey and Hennepin Counties, Minnesota, in 1876. These pioneers were augmented in 1878 by 119 families of French Canadian settlers.
St. Josephs, Red Lake Falls
Dayton

Early French Canadian Settlement, St. John the Baptist Church Churchgoers of 1857 originally worshipped in a log cabin about a mile from the current site, yet still in the strong French community that came to be known as Dayton, Minnesota. St. John the Baptist Parish was established in 1856, and in 1866 a 50 ft x 70 ft wooden church was erected just north of the current church, which served until 1904. It was then used as a banquet hall. With a strong French base, confessions continued in French until the 1950's
Centerville

- French-Canadian settlers established the town of Centerville in the mid-1800's.
- In 1850, F.W. Traves built the first house here.
- In 1854, settlers Peltier, LaValle, and LaMotte laid out and platted the town. They chose the name Centerville because of its central location from St. Paul, Stillwater, and Anoka. The City was officially established on August 11, 1857, when Minnesota was still a territory.
- In 1854 Charles Peltier built a sawmill on Clearwater Creek which is now called Mill Road.
- Residents formed the Church of St. Genevieve of Paris.
- Many of early residents were from Sorel, Canada.
Church of St. Genevieve of Paris
Centerville
Somerset, Wisconsin

• Somerset first settled by French Canadians.
• The Catholic church at Somerset was first called "St Vincent de Paul" and the name was changed to "St Anne".
• History book: 125 French Canadian Pioneers (Somerset, Wisconsin: 125 pioneer families and Canadian connection: 125th year (1984)).
St. Anne, Somerset
St. Anthony de Padua

Our Lady of Lourdes church, which sits perched on a hill high above the St. Anthony Falls, was originally built as a Universalist church in 1857 when that side of the river was still the village of St. Anthony. Constructed out of local Platteville limestone, the church was originally designed in a simple neoclassical plan. In 1877, it was purchased by the French-Canadian Catholics who converted it to a French Gothic Revival structure.
Our Lady of Lourdes
Other Communities

- Fairibault
- LeCenter, LeSeur, Nicollet County, St. Peter all have french connections but little in way of French Canadian settlers.
- Brooks
- St. Hilaire
- Terrebonne, Emardville, Lambert, Lafontaine, Riviere Voleuse (Thief River) Lac aux Erables (Maple Lake).
- Mendota
St. Thomas University

• Founded in 1885 by archbishop John Ireland, who went to school in France. From the late 1920s through the mid-1930s, the University was run by the Holy Cross Fathers, who run the University of Notre Dame. The Holy Cross Fathers are a congregation of priests and brothers founded in 1837 in Le Mans, France.
Churches With French Canadian Heritage

- 1840- St. Peter- Mendota
- 1841 St. Paul
- 1848- Church of the Assumption- Pembina
- 1851- St. Anthony of Padua, Minneapolis
- 1852 St. John the Evangelist, Little Canada
- 1853 Holy Family, Belle Prairie
- 1854- ST. Joseph, Wallhalla, North Dakota
- 1855- St. Genevieve, Centerville
- 1863- St. John the Baptiste, Dayton
- 1868- Church of St. Louis, King of France, St. Paul
- 1877- Our Lady of Lourdes
- 1882- St. Joseph- Stillwater
- 1884 St. Clotilde, Minneapolis
- 1902- St. John the Baptiste- Hugo
- St. Joseph, Brooks, MN
- St. Joseph, Red Lake Falls, MN

St. Francis Xavier, Oklee, MN