

Bonjour les amis,

I am a Joel Brown, I portray 'GEORGE BONGA of 1837' - George, born in 1802 at present day Duluth, MN - His father Pierre had become successful in the Fur Trade to send George to Montreal for his education! Therefore, this history is a thrilling saga of Mixed Blood intrigue where Québécois was the common language - Pierre's eldest child Marguerete BONGA in 1823 married Jacob Fahlstrom of Stockholm, Sweden - It is said Jacob was one of Minnesota's first Swedish residents!

SVP. (Please), I am looking forward to share with you an enlightening history "buried in plain sight" - We will rendezvous Sat&Sun July 21&22, 2018 at 2 PM in Faribault House at the Sibley historic site...

Gratefully,
Joel Brown



Joel Brown as George Bonga

Fur Trade Weekend



Travel back in time to Minnesota's Fur Trade Era! Enjoy ongoing demonstrations, scheduled presentations, hands-on activities, Irish Wolfhounds, and much more. There is something for everyone!

Highlights Include:

- Saturday- Kids Crafts
- Sunday- Period music

Admission

- Adults \$9
- Seniors/College \$8
- Children \$7
- Families of 5+ \$30 flat rate
- MNHS, DCHS, The Friends of the Sibley Historic Site FREE

Sibley Historic Site

1357 Sibley Memorial Hwy
Mendota, MN, 55150

Questions? Call 651-452-1596 or visit our Facebook Page @SibleyHouse

Time: 1:00-5:00pm

Date: July 21 and July 22



Dakota County
Historical Society
Dakotahistory.org

LEARN ABOUT FIRST BLACK SETTLERS OF LATE 1700's in MN...

PIERRE BONGA

THE EARLIEST RECORD OF A PERSON OF AFRICAN DESCENT IN MN TELLS US THAT IN THE 1790'S PIERRE BONGA WORKED FOR THE NORTH-WEST FUR CO. IN GRAND PORTAGE A FEW MILES SOUTH OF THE CANADIAN BORDER IN EXTREME NORTHERN MN, AND ALSO THE RED RIVER VALLEY. HE MARRIED AN OJIBWE INDIAN AND THEIR SON GEORGE WAS BORN NEAR THE SITE OF DULUTH IN 1802. GEORGE ALSO MARRIED AN OJIBWE WOMAN. GEORGE LIKE HIS FATHER PIERRE SPOKE SEVERAL INDIAN LANGUAGES AS WELL AS ENGLISH AND FRENCH. GEORGE ACTED AS AN INTERPRETER MANY TIMES. HE WORKED FOR THE AMERICAN FUR CO. AND LATER PROSPERED AS AN INDEPENDENT TRADER OF FUR AND OTHER GOODS.

THE STATE OF MN DID NOT RECOGNIZE AFRICAN AMERICANS AS CITIZENS BEFORE 1869.