
l'Étoile du Nord

French-American Heritage Foundation of Minnesota

2019 Annual Report
French-American Heritage Foundation



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



French-American Heritage Foundation of Minnesota

P.O. Box 25384, Woodbury, MN 55125
Email: frenchheritagefoundation@gmail.com

President
Mark Labine

Vice President
Pierre Girard

Treasurer
Jerry Foley

Secretary
Mark Dillon

Directors

Dick Bernard
Brian Caldwell
Gregory Cash
Dustin Dufault
Donald Marier
Jean McFarlane
Gayle Middlecamp
Caroline Meilleur
Simeon Morbey
Jane Peck
Robert Perrizo
Mark Petty
Michele Pierce
Michael Rainville
Patricia Ruffing
Marie Trepanier
MaryEllen Weller

Website
www.fahfminn.org

Mission Statement:
To preserve and promote the French-American Heritage in Minnesota through education and community events.

YouTube:
FAHF Minn

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

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.

2019 Events

- **January 14, 2019-** Theo's Choice, presentation by filmmaker and history professor Thomas Cauvin about exploring the battle to keep the French language alive in Louisiana.
- **February 16, 2019-** Virgil Benoit and Louisville Foundation presentation at Shoreview Library.
- **February 22, 2019-** Mark Labine presentation at Macalester College on French heritage in Minnesota.
- **April 7, 2019-** "Finding the Real Bottineau"- an event about the life and identifying influences on Pierre Bottineau. Event held at St. Joseph the Worker Catholic Church.
- **May 18, 2019-** Prairie du Chien Heritage Tour.
- **June 23, 2019-** St. Jean Baptiste Festival at Sibley Historic Site.
- **July 14, 2019-** Table at Bastille Day- St. Paul.
- **August 15, 2019-** Presentation on Fur Trade by Greg Cash at Banfill-Locke Center for the Arts in Fridley.
- **September 14, 2019-** Table at Mendota Mdewakanton Pow Wow in Mendota.
- **October 4-5-** Table at Annual North Star Genealogy Conference.
- **October 11, 2019-** Presentation by Mattie Harper, Ph.D., on the Bonga family's multigenerational story of living within structures of empire, slavery and colonialism, and the ways in which their identities lay at the heart of their survival. Event held at Grande Salle at the Alliance Française Joly Family Center for International Understanding.
- **October 25, 2019-** Co-sponsor with Alliance Française of movie Dure Bataille, by Dusan Hudec.
- **October 26, 2019-** Table at Family History Day at Hennepin County Library.

Planned 2020 Events

- **March 22, 2020-** Presentation by Caroline Meilleur at St. John Baptiste Catholic Church in Dayton on French Genealogy.
- **June 21, 2020-** St. Jean Baptiste Day Festival (Fête St. Jean Baptiste) at Sibley Historic Site.
- **July 12, 2020-** Bastille Day Fête, Downtown St. Paul.
- **July, 2020-** Heritage Tour to Grand Portage and Fort William
- **August 16, 2020-** The Life & Legacy of William Gates LeDuc. At the LeDuc House in Hastings, Minnesota.

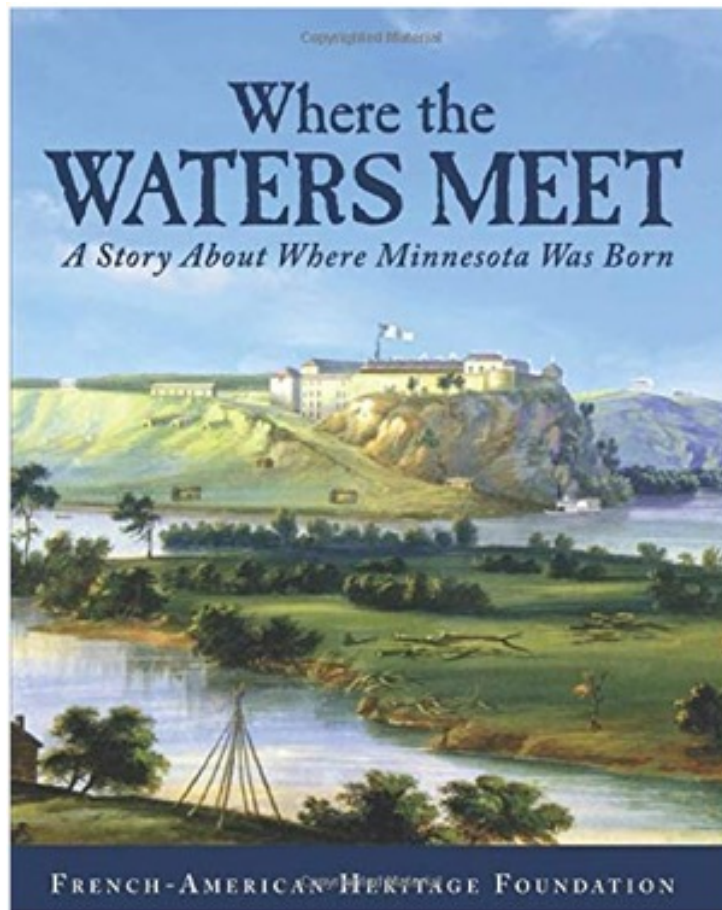
In addition to above events, the French-American Heritage Foundation plans to participate in the Bastille Day event in downtown St. Paul, the Mendota Mdewakanton Pow Wow, the MGS Annual Genealogy Conference and the Family History Day at the Hennepin County Library.

French-American Heritage Foundation Projects

The French-American Heritage Foundation completed two heritage projects in 2019. The publication of a book titled “Where the Waters Meet,” and the completion of a French heritage brochure.

Where the Waters Meet

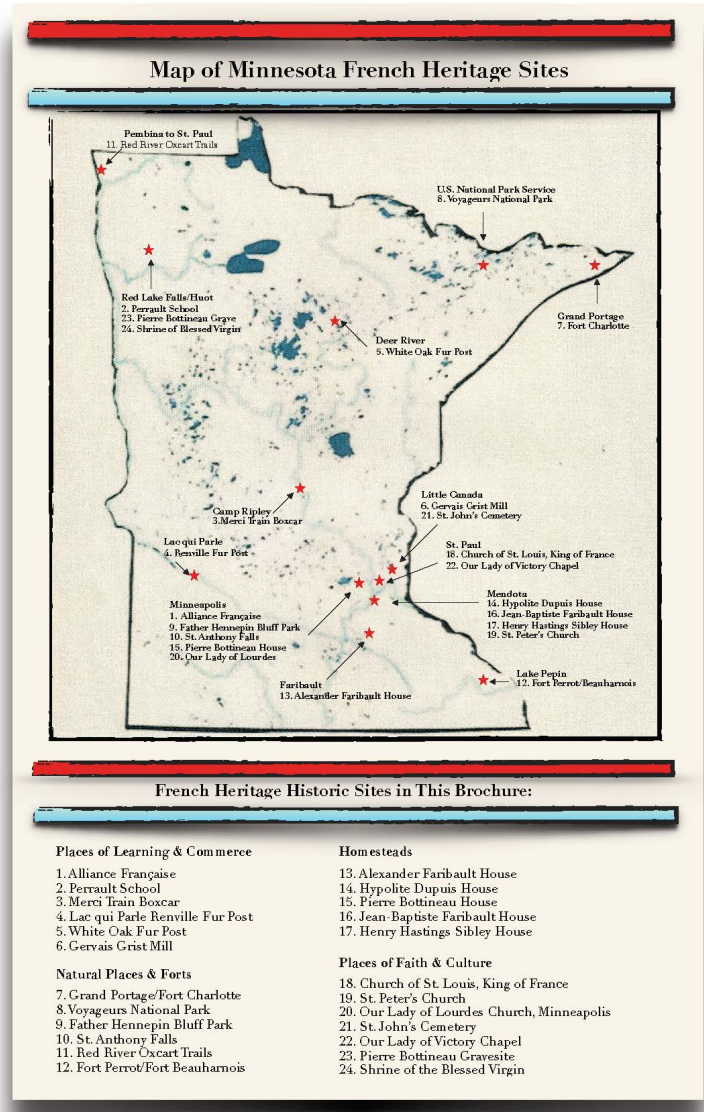
The Foundation’s new book titled “Where the Waters Meet,” is the story about how the state of Minnesota had its beginnings in the area known as “Mdote” by the Dakota (aka Bdote) which literally means “the place where the waters meet.” The state’s beginnings involved an interesting cast of characters including French explorers and fur traders with names such as: Pierre Le Sueur, Nicolas Perrot, Alexis Bailly, Jean Baptiste and Alexander Faribault, Joseph Rolette, and Joseph LaFramboise. This book is the story of that place, its role in our state’s beginning, and a focus on the French-speaking people who were part of the transformation from Dakota Nation to a member of the United States. The book will be for sale at heritage events and can be purchased online at Amazon.com.



Heritage Brochure

French-American Heritage Foundation completed the creation of a brochure showing French heritage sites in Minnesota. The heritage brochure project was designed to promote multidisciplinary on-site visitation and remote learning in a way that expands public awareness and understanding. The heritage brochure includes new, original illustrations and descriptions of 24 statewide sites and their significance to French heritage in Minnesota. All featured sites are publicly accessible.


During the early years of European settlement in Minnesota, many French Canadians migrated here, and at least 79 French-speaking towns and communities were formed in Minnesota. French-speaking ancestors were important in all sectors of society, and they helped build our state and region into what it is today. This brochure shows some of the heritage sites in Minnesota that are related to Minnesota's French accent. The paintings in the brochure were created by artist H. Jean McFarlane (née Collette), a board member of the Foundation. They will be available at Foundation heritage events.



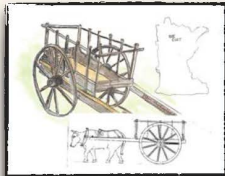
Below is one of the pages of the heritage brochure. All the artwork is original and was created specifically for the heritage brochure project.

Rivers


Father Hennepin Bluff Park. This 5.5-acre park rests on a wooded bluff overlooking the Mississippi River and St. Anthony Falls. It connects to many parks on both sides of the river through an extensive trail system. It is named for French-speaking Catholic Franciscan priest Fr. Louis Hennepin who visited the region in 1680 and kept a diary of his journeys and his discovery and naming of St. Anthony Falls. (9)



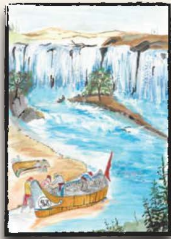
Red River Oxcart Trails. This network of 19th century oxcart routes connected the Red River Colony in Canada with the Mississippi River at Mendota and St. Paul. The trails provided French Canadians and the Métis people a way to transport furs and supplies without reliance on the monopolistic Hudson's Bay Company trade developed by and along the trails connecting Fort Garry with St. Paul. This commerce contributed to the settlement of Minnesota and North Dakota, and accelerated the settlement of Western Canada. (11)



Lake Pepin, Fort Perrot/Fort Beauharnois. The lake was first named in a 1703 map of New France made by Guillaume Delisle at the request of King Louis XIV. The lake was named for Jean Pepin who settled on its shores in the late 1600s after exploring the Great Lakes from Boucherville. Nicolas Perrot erected the first of several fur trade posts, Fort Saint Antoine, in 1686. In 1727 René Boucher de La Perrière and Michel Guignas built Fort Beauharnois on the lake. In the 19th century the lake was used to transport lumber downstream to mills at Winona and St. Louis. (12)



St. Anthony Falls. A major waterfall located in Minneapolis on the Upper Mississippi River, it was first named the Chutes de Saint Antoine in Father Louis Hennepin's 1680 journal and is part of the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area. It was a leading tourist attraction for French traders and early European settlers, and a special place for the Dakota people. This once significant source of water power sustained wool, cotton, and flour mills, as well as sawmill and paper mill trades. (10)




Donations

The French-American Heritage Foundation needs monetary contributions 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 funds, 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.fahminn.org.

100 Associates


In recognition of the rich and long history of French presence in this state, a group of people interested in history, heritage and culture formed the French-American Heritage Foundation (FAHF) in 2013 with the purpose of promoting and sponsoring educational events, seminars and classes on French Heritage in Minnesota. Most other ethnic groups in Minnesota have organizations that promote and preserve their heritage, and it is appropriate that Minnesota also have an organization that helps to preserve its French-Canadian and French heritage.



In the spring of 1660, Pierre-Esprit Radisson and his brother-in-law, Medard Chouart, Sieur des Groseilliers explored the area around the Great Lakes region which included Minnesota. Thus began the beginning of the French presence in Minnesota. In fact, “They Spoke French” in Minnesota for almost 200 years before Minnesota became a State in 1858.



100 ASSOCIATES



French-American Heritage Foundation of Minnesota

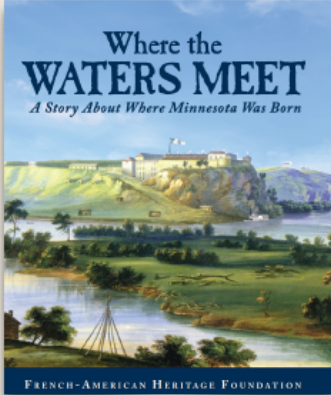
Goal: Raise \$100,000 through one hundred donations from individuals, groups of individuals, families, organizations and others of \$1,000 each.

Endowment Fund: All funds will be deposited into an Endowment fund managed by the St. Paul Foundation. This will be a perpetual fund and only the income from the fund will be disbursed for qualified projects as determined by the Board of Directors of the French-American Heritage Foundation, or designated successor organization.

Purpose of Funds: To fund programs and grants for educational events, entertainment, projects and classes that embrace or feature French Heritage in Minnesota and the Midwest.


FRENCH-AMERICAN HERITAGE FOUNDATION
P.O. Box 25884
Woodbury, MN 55125

WHERE THE WATERS MEET



Where the
WATERS MEET
A Story About Where Minnesota Was Born
FRENCH-AMERICAN HERITAGE FOUNDATION

Modern Minnesota's beginnings began at the “Place where Waters Meet” in Mendota by French Speaking fur traders who lived with and formed close familial associations with the Dakota. The term “Mdote” or “Bdote” literally means “Where the Waters Meet” in the Dakota language.



In the short time this Foundation has been in existence, it has become clear that the people of Minnesota appreciate the efforts and contributions that this Foundation has made to provide historical information and educational materials to the public. There will always be a need and desire to learn about our state’s history. The French heritage in this state is part of our history, and should be remembered and be available to everyone. It is the intent of the FAHF to fulfill that need.



Mission : To preserve and promote the French-American Heritage in Minnesota through education and community events...

In recognition of the rich and long French presence in the midwest, a group of people interested in history, heritage and culture formed the French-American Heritage Foundation (FAHF) in 2013 with the purpose of promoting and sponsoring educational events, seminars and classes on French Heritage in Minnesota. Most other ethnic groups in Minnesota have organizations that promote and preserve their heritage, and it is appropriate that Minnesota also have an organization that helps to preserve its French-Canadian and French heritage. The French heritage in this state is part of our history, and should be remembered and be available to everyone. It is the intent of the FAHF to fulfill that need.

FRENCH HERITAGE IN THE MIDWEST

There will always be a need and desire to learn more about our state's past. The French Heritage in the midwest is part of our history, and should be remembered and be available to everyone. It is the intent of the FAHF to fulfill that need. These efforts take time and money, and to ensure that this Foundation survives, it must have funds to ensure that its mission will be able to continue long into the future

FRENCH-AMERICAN HERITAGE EVENTS:

The French-American Heritage Foundation has sponsored many events since its conception in 2013, including speakers on French-Heritage, a Heritage Storytelling event, genealogy workshops, community education classes titled: Minnesota has a French Accent, a Fete St. Jean Baptiste, and tours of French Heritage sites in Minnesota, and Wisconsin.

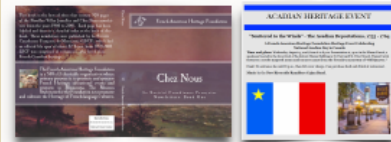


St. Paul Chapel

They Spoke French

FRENCH-AMERICAN HERITAGE PROJECTS:

In accordance with its mission statement the French-American Heritage Foundation has sponsored a number of Heritage Projects, including writing books on French Heritage in Minnesota, publication of Chez Nous Newsletters on French-Canadian Heritage, and creating a French Heritage brochure highlighting French Heritage sites in Minnesota.



Chez Nous Books

Acadian Event

PLEASE MAKE A CONTRIBUTION

Our mission to sponsor educational events and classes requires funds to rent venue sites, pay speaker fees, and to pay for the infrastructure required to keep a non-profit organization running. Setting up an endowment fund will ensure that the Mission of the French-American Heritage Foundation will remain viable for future generations.



Charles Coulobme Event

Heritage Storytelling

These efforts take time and money, and to ensure that this Foundation survives, it must have funds to ensure that its mission will be able to continue long into the future. For this reason, the FAHF is embarking on this fundraising campaign to raise \$100,000 to place into a perpetual endowment fund that will be managed by the St. Paul Foundation. The income from this endowment will then be used to help fund future educational events and services that meet the mission statement of the French-American Heritage Foundation.

At the present time the Foundation has received donations or pledges of \$19,000 from nineteen persons or couples. Once \$25,000 has been raised, the Foundation intends to open an account with the St. Paul Foundation and set up the fund so that annual distribution of the income generated from this fund will be distributed to the Foundation to fund future heritage events or projects.

2019 Financial Report

Below is the 2019 financial report for the Foundation (does not include 100 Associates).

1. 2019 Income	
Sustaining Members	\$1,014
Supporting Members	\$730
Events	\$1,640.00
Book Sales	\$873.38
Web Sponsors	\$887.50
Heritage Brochure Fundraiser	\$3,612.25
Total	\$8,757.13
2. 2019 Expenses	
Vistaprint (flyers)	\$73.99
Concordia Scholarships	\$500.00
Events	\$1,706.32
Postage	\$28.43
Post Office Box	\$82.00
Book Publishing Costs	\$618.00
Website	\$1,188.15
Paypal fees	\$76.16
Heritage Brochure ¹	\$3,221.02
Church of St. Louis Parish Bulletin	\$458.33
Transfer to 100 Associates	\$1,145.00
Misc. expenses	\$66.60
Total	\$9,164.00

3. Cash Flow					
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Assets Beginning of Year	\$3,012.54	\$4,975.31	\$5,251.86	\$9,418.72	\$11,080.13
Income	\$3,828.68	\$10,066.66	\$7,213.43	\$4,736.42	\$8,757.13
Expenses	-1,865.91	-\$9,790.11	-\$3,146.48	-3,075.01	-\$9,164.00
Net Cash Flow (loss)	\$1,962.77	\$276.55	\$4,066.95	\$1,661.41	-406.89
Assets End of Year	\$4,975.31	\$5,251.86	\$9,418.72	\$11,080.13	\$10,673.22

4. Assets					
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
PayPal	387.00	227.84	\$1,001.78	\$1,025.14	\$1020.70
Bank Account	4588.31	4,937.53	\$8,416.94	\$10,045.11	\$9,652.54
Endowment Fund				\$8,181.53	\$16,045.75
Createspace/Kindle		86.40	0	\$9.88	\$141.71
Current Asset Value	\$4,975.31	\$5,251.77	\$9,418.72	\$11,080.13	\$26,860.70

¹ These expenses do not include printing costs expected to be incurred in 2020.

5. 100 Associates Endowment Fund					
	2018	2019	2020		
Assets Beginning of Year	0	\$8,181.53	\$16,045.75		
Donations	\$8,181.53	\$7,864.22			
Income	0	0			
Distributions to FAHF	0	0			
Current Asset Value	\$8,181.53	\$16,045.75			