
l'Étoile du Nord

French-American Heritage Foundation of Minnesota

2020 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

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Jane Peck
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

Message from the President

The following pages represent the eighth annual report for the French-American Heritage Foundation, which was incorporated and organized in 2013. Our Foundation has accomplished a lot in these past eight years, and we hope the Foundation will continue to promote education and community events in Minnesota for years to come.

Needless to say, 2020 was a challenging year, and many of the events we were planning to sponsor had to be cancelled due to COVID-19. Our plans for 2021 will depend on how the progress to overcome the pandemic evolves. We are hopeful we will be able to schedule events again soon, but only time will tell.

In the meantime, we continue to work on heritage projects, and continue to maintain our website, and continue to work towards our goal of establishing an endowment fund called 100 Associates to ensure future funding for our education and community events.

Please help support our mission and our organization, and hopefully, we will be able to see you soon at our next heritage event.

Sincerely,

Mark Labine, President



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 preserve the French-American Heritage in Minnesota through education and community events.

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. Although the Foundation does not provide direct services or benefits to members, it does use the funds provided by members to put on heritage events that are informative and fun! 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 The Oxbow/Louisville at Old Crossing 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 Day 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.

2020 Events

- **February 29, 2020-** Presentation by Dick Bernard on the history of Chez Nous for an Oxbow Conversation event at the Little Canada Historical Society.
- **March 22, 2020-** Presentation by Caroline Meilleur at St. John the Baptiste Catholic Church, in Dayton, on French-Canadian genealogy. *Cancelled due to COVID.*
- **June 21, 2020-** St. Jean-Baptiste Day Festival (Fête St. Jean-Baptiste) at Sibley Historic Site. *Cancelled due to COVID*
- **July 14, 2020-** Bastille Day Fête. *Cancelled due to COVID*
- **July, 2020-** Heritage Tour to Grand Portage and Fort William. *Cancelled due to COVID.*
- **August 16, 2020-** The Life & Legacy of William Gates LeDuc. At the LeDuc House in Hastings, Minnesota. *Cancelled due to COVID*

In addition to above events, the French-American Heritage Foundation planned to participate in the MGS Annual Genealogy Conference and the Family History Day at the Hennepin County Library. However, due to COVID 19, all the above events were cancelled, except for the Bastille Day Fête which occurred on a reduced scale in the parking lot near the Joly Family Center for International Understanding.

Planned 2021 Events

At the present time, there are no planned events scheduled for 2021. Events planned for 2020 will be rescheduled once it is deemed safe to socially gather again.

The French-American Heritage Foundation is currently working on two heritage projects, namely the Little Rapids project and the Grand Portage project.

Les Canadiens Errants

On October 1, 2020, Les Canadiens Errants, (The Wandering Canadians), a Minnesota nonprofit organization formed under Chapter 317A of the Minnesota Nonprofit Corporation Act, dissolved and transferred all of its assets to the French-American Heritage Foundation. Les Canadiens Errants mission was to preserve and to conduct performances of French and French-Canadian folk music. It was originally formed under the name Les Joyeux Balladins in 1977, and reorganized under the name Les Canadiens Errants in 1983. Included with these assets are three CD recordings all sung in French: Voyageur music Volumes One and Two, and French Christmas Carols. These CD's will now be available for sale at all our future heritage events.

Little Rapids

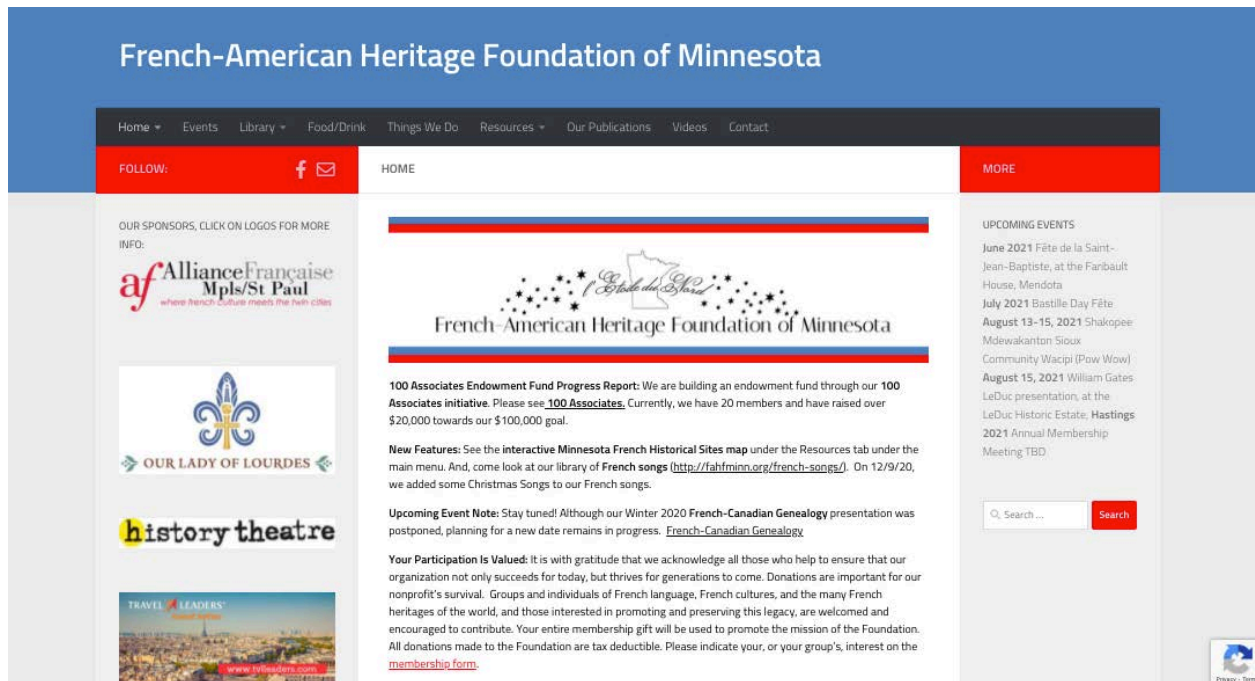
First, members of the Foundation have made several hiking excursions to the Louisville Swamp in Scott County to establish the location of the Jean-Baptiste Faribault Fur Trading Post located near the Dakota Village of Inyan Ceyaka. Otherwise known as Little Rapids, the Foundation intends to publish a story and film a YouTube video about this trading post and the Dakota village located nearby.

Grand Portage

In August 2020, three members of the Foundation hiked the Grand Portage in Northern Minnesota and intend to produce a YouTube video about this excursion.

French-American Heritage Foundation Website

The French-American Heritage Foundation has a website at fahfminn.org in which information about what we do and current events are posted. Included on the website is a library of books, articles and publications on French Heritage. There is also a genealogy section for those who wish to pursue their French or French Canadian ancestry.



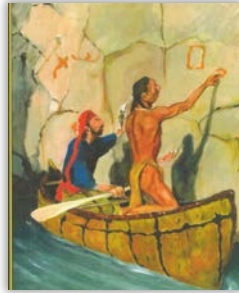
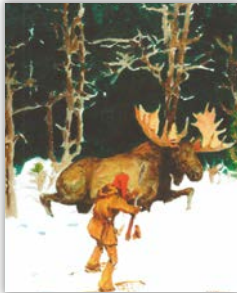
Information in the French-American Heritage Foundation Website includes the following:

1. A **Home page** describing our organization and showing a list of our sponsors. The home page also shows a list of upcoming events planned by the Foundation. Please consider sponsoring an ad our our website.
2. An **About** page giving the history of our Foundation with List of Board of Directors.
3. A French-American Heritage Foundation **Board Information** page listing current board of directors.
4. An **Annual Report** page listing all past annual reports for the Foundation.
5. A **Membership** page where people can sign up to be members and make donations.
6. A **Genealogy** page where we have info on French and French-Canadian genealogy websites.
7. A **French Heritage Library** page with many articles on French heritage, copies of newsletters of old French organizations, and links to other French heritage sites.
8. A **Publications** page describing the four French heritage publications published by the Foundation.
9. A **Videos** page showing past YouTube videos produced by the Foundation on French heritage and history.

This is a sample of some of the information included on the French-American Heritage Foundation website. A special thanks to Mark Petty and Michele Pierce for their work in 2020 on updating and maintaining the website.

In Memory of Former Board Member Robert Hughes Perrizo **Former French-American Heritage Foundation Board Member**

Perrizo, Robert Hughes age 81, of Edina, passed away on Friday, March 13, 2020. Robert "Bob" grew up in Clontarf, Minnesota, graduated from Benson High School where he was an all-around athlete, later he graduated from the University of Minnesota's School of Journalism. Bob served one year in the United States Army before joining the Public Relations and Advertising Department at 3M. Later he launched his own advertising company, Promotional Mix, in Bloomington. He was a prolific sketch artist and renowned painter of portraits and scenes of historical times of the Midwest and was fascinated by and a descendant of the French voyageurs of the 1600's. Robert was a member of the French-American Heritage Foundation board of directors and graciously agreed to share his paintings with the Foundation's Heritage Book Projects. Copies of his paintings can be found in the books "They Spoke French" and "Where the Waters Meet."



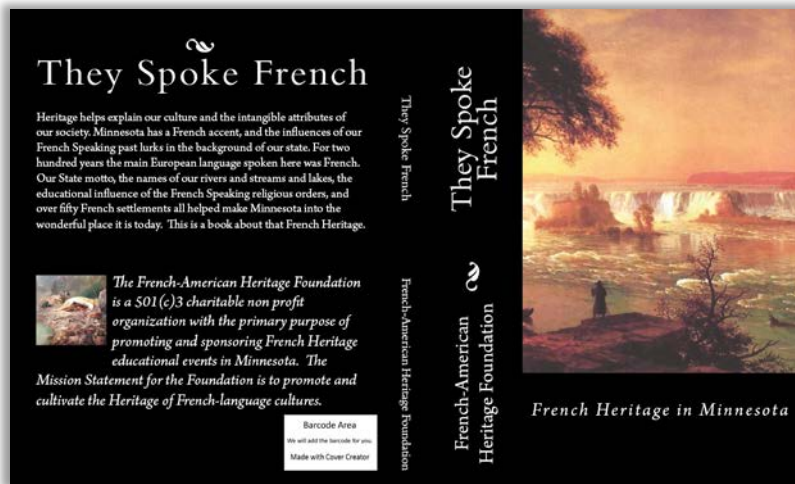
Robert Perrizo Paintings

French-American Heritage Foundation Projects

The French-American Heritage Foundation has completed five heritage projects. This includes the publication of four books, and the completion of a Heritage Brochure. Information about these five heritage projects are shown below. All these publications may be purchased at future French-American Heritage Foundation events and online at Amazon.com.

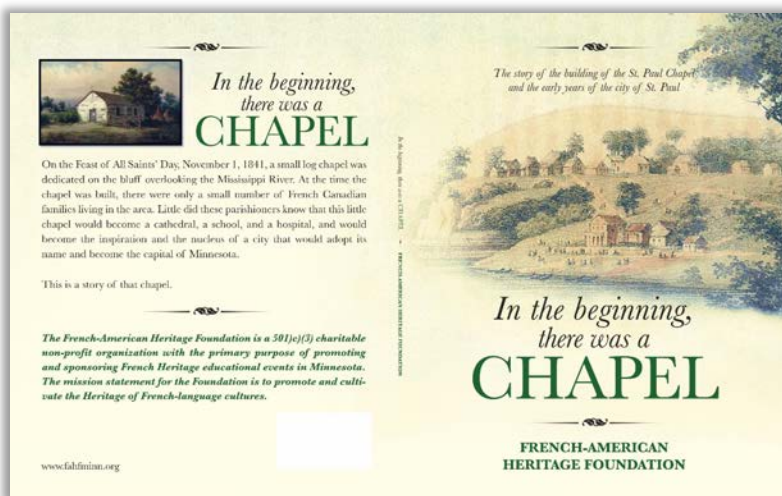
1. They Spoke French

They Spoke French is a book on French heritage in Minnesota, including information on early explorers and settlers, early French Speaking settlements, including Metis, French Heritage Sites, French place names and other information about Minnesota's French Accent.



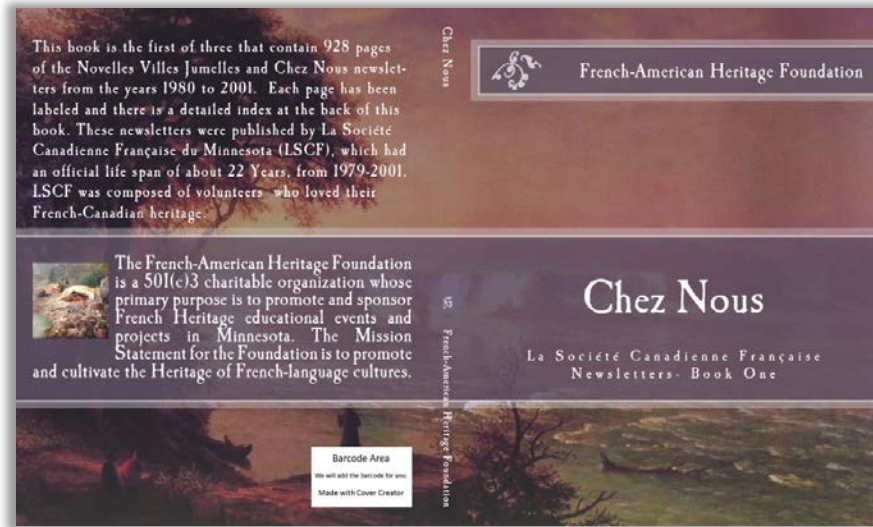
2. In the beginning, there was a CHAPEL

In the beginning, there was a CHAPEL, is the story of the small log chapel built by French-Canadians that became the nucleus of the city of St. Paul.



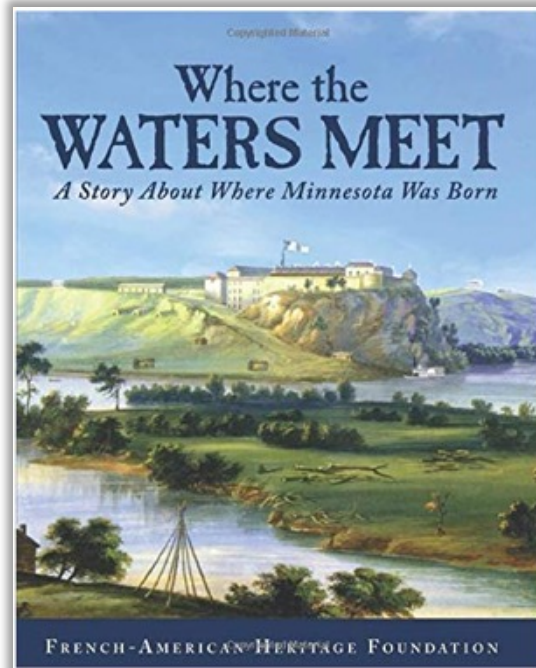
3. Chez Nous

This set of three books contains 928 pages of Nouvelles Villes Jumelles and Chez Nous newsletters published during the years 1980 to 2001 by La Société Canadienne Française du Minnesota (LSCF). These three books are filled with numerous articles and stories about Minnesota's French-Canadian heritage and stories of French Heritage in North America.



4. Where the Waters Meet

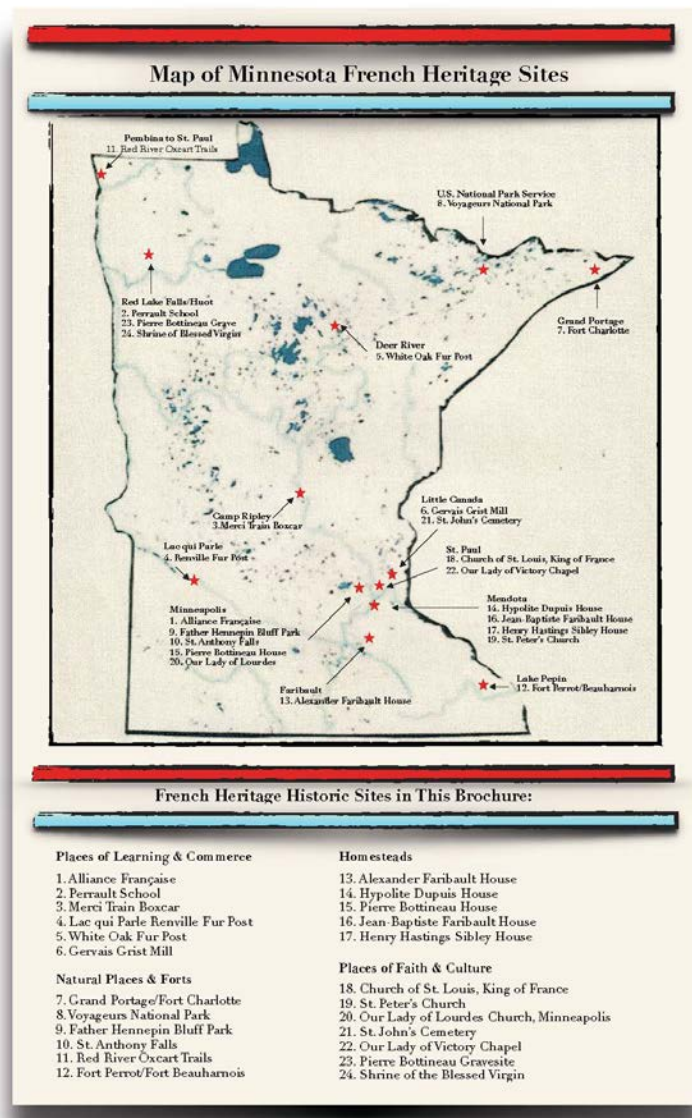
“Where the Waters Meet,” is the story about how the state of Minnesota had its beginnings in the area known as “Mdote” by the Dakota (aka Bdote) which literally means “the place where the waters meet.” The state’s beginnings involved an interesting cast of characters including French explorers and fur 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.



5. 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.



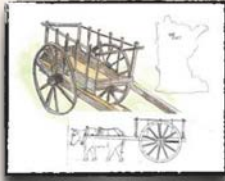
Below is one of the pages of the heritage brochure. All the artwork is original and was created specifically for the heritage brochure project.

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)



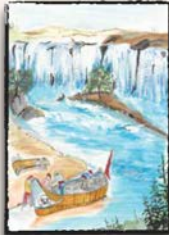
Red River Oxcart Trails. This network of 19th century oxcart routes connected the Red River Colony in Canada with the Mississippi River at Mendota and St. Paul. The trails provided French Canadians and the Métis people a way to transport furs and supplies without reliance on the monopolistic Hudson's 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 relies on 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 in the following 100 Associates section.

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 through PayPal on the French-American Heritage Foundation website at www.fafhminn.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 has an organization that helps to preserve its French-Canadian and French heritage.

FRENCH HERITAGE
EVENTS

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

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
 Website: <http://fahfminn.org>

FRENCH HERITAGE
BOOKS

They Spoke French
IN THE BEGINNING, THERE WAS A CHAPEL
Chez Nous

They Spoke French
 St. Paul Chapel
 Chez Nous Books

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.



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 \$20,000 from twenty-one persons, organizations or families. 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.

100 Associates

Current Members of 100 Associates

- | | | | |
|--|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| 1. Jerry Foley | 2. Dick Bernard | 3. Michael Rainville | 4. William Horn |
| 5. John Bernard | 6. Mark & Judy Labine | 7. Oliver & Doris Labine | 8. Greg Wentz |
| 9. Jeanne Rivard in Honor of John Rivard | 10. Florence & Carter Hedeem | 11. Michele Pierce | 12. French-American Heritage Foundation |
| 13. Max Perras & Nellie Toulouse | 14. Gregory Cash | 15. Little Canada Historical Society | 16. Don & Abby Marier |
| 17. Kerri & Mark Petty | 18. George (Foley) Fallu | 19. Marie Trepainer | 20. Pierre Girard |
| 21. Mark Dillon
(2021 Donation) | | | |

\$1,000 Pledge Payments in Progress

22. Gayle Middlecamp

2020 Financial Report

Below is the 2020 financial report for the Foundation.

1. FAHF Assets at Beginning of Year- January 1, 2020	\$10,673.22
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2. 2020 Income	
Members	1,225.00
Events	0.00
Book Sales	446.22
Web Sponsors	300.00
Alliance Fund	600.00
Other (See 01/23/20 report)	996.45
Les Canadians Errants	483.50
Interest	21.07
Heritage Brochure Fundraiser	25.00
Total	\$4,097.24

3. 2020 Expenses	
Ideal Printers (Heritage Brochure)	660.00
Vistaprint (Heritage Brochure)	51.52
Concordia Scholarships	500.00
Book Publishing Costs	73.11
Website	72.50
Alliance Française Donation	1,000.00
U.S. Postal Service	92.00
Mendota Dakota	100.00
Transfer to 100 Associates Account	1,500.00
Misc. expenses (paypal fees (23.75), & Dick Bernard postage (61.45))	85.20
Total	\$4,134.33

4. Cash Flow Summary					
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Assets Beginning of Year	\$4,975.31	\$5,251.86	\$9,418.72	\$11,080.13	\$10,673.22
Income	\$10,066.66	\$7,213.43	\$4,736.42	\$8,757.13	\$4,097.24
Expenses	-\$9,790.11	-\$3,146.48	-3,075.01	-\$9,164.00	-\$4,134.33
Assets End of Year	\$5,251.86	\$9,418.72	\$11,080.13	\$10,673.22	\$10,636.13
Net Cash Flow (loss)	\$276.55	\$4,066.95	\$1,661.41	-406.89	-37.09

5. Assets					
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
PayPal	227.84	\$1,001.78	\$1,025.14	\$1020.70	337.41
Bank Account	4,937.53	\$8,416.94	\$10,045.11	\$9,652.54	\$10,636.13
100 Associates Endowment Fund			\$8,181.53	\$16,045.75	\$20,243.66
Createspace/Kindle	86.40	0	\$9.88	\$141.71	\$0
Current Asset Value	\$5,251.77	\$9,418.72	\$11,080.13	\$26,860.70	\$31,217.20