

2023 Annual Report

French-American Heritage Foundation



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



P.O. Box 25384, Woodbury, MN 55125 Email: foundation@fahfminn.org

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Michele Pierce

Michael Rainville

Patricia Ruffing

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John Ward

MaryEllen Weller

Executive Director

Jenny Hambleton

Website

fahfminn.org

Mission:

To foster a greater understanding of the rich history and heritage of French-speaking people who helped form what is now Minnesota.

Vision:

To preserve, advance, and celebrate French-American heritage and culture.

YouTube:

FAHF Minn

Message from the President

The pages that follow represent the tenth annual report from the French-American Heritage Foundation, which was established in 2013. Our accomplishments continue to add up over the past ten years, and we plan to continue our promotion of educational and community events in Minnesota for years to come.

The year 2023 marked an important milestone for the Foundation. We hosted our 10-year anniversary celebration where we enjoyed catered hors d'oeuvres, wine, live music, a silent auction, and most importantly—great camaraderie! As an all-volunteer organization, our success is due to several factors, including: focusing on our mission and vision; board member initiatives and involvement; positive response from the community for our programs; our ability to collaborate with other business entities and individuals; our receptivity to new ideas and opportunities; and, much-needed funding provided by generous donors.

For 2024, we are looking forward to a presentation by our first 100 Associates grant recipient, Danielle Enblom, which will focus on the Tremblay/Nadon ancestral connections between Québec, Manitoba, Minnesota, and the Métis Nation. Other plans include presentations about: French Huguenots in North America; Dr. Hippolyte Joseph Seigneuret (physician and inventor), from Henderson, MN; Rev E.B. Gauverau, and the former Church of St. Mary, Beardsley, MN. We will participate in the annual local Fête de la Saint-Jean-Baptiste, the National Holiday of Québec, which is also celebrated across French-speaking Canada and the United States, in June, and the annual Bastille Day celebration, in July.

Our 100 Associates Endowment Fund continues to grow. As of December 2023, we had raised over \$42,000 towards our goal of \$100,000. Also, in 2023, we were able to award our second annual grant, in the amount of \$1,000, with investment earnings from the endowment fund.

The Foundation's mission is: *To foster a greater understanding of the rich history and heritage of French-speaking people who helped form what is now Minnesota.*

Please help support the mission of our organization. Your financial contribution and/or personal involvement is very much appreciated. We look forward to welcoming you at our heritage events!

Sincerely,

Gregory D. Cash
President



P.O. Box 25384, Woodbury, MN 55125 Email: foundation@fahfminn.org

The French-American Heritage Foundation is a 501(c)(3) charitable nonprofit organization with the primary purpose of promoting and sponsoring French heritage events in Minnesota.

Our Mission Statement: To foster a greater understanding of the rich history and heritage of French-speaking people who helped form what is now Minnesota.

Our Vision: To preserve, advance, and celebrate French-American heritage and culture.

French-language heritage has played an important role in the history of Minnesota. It is important 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 about French-American heritage, information about their genealogy and family history, and sharing resources that deal with French-American heritage. Members are encouraged to volunteer to assist in activities the Foundation sponsors.

2023 French-American Heritage Foundation Members

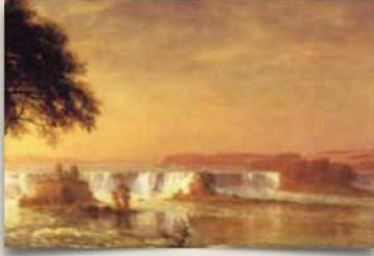
Below is list of all the people who have donated \$25 or more to become members of the French-American Heritage Foundation. A special thanks to all of them for their willingness to support our organization.

Gregory Cash	Therese Wallerius	Pat Ruffing
Henry Gowin	Ben Cyr	Jackie Cronin
Dick Bernard	Mark & Judy Labine	Jerry Foley
Mark Dillon	Nanette McCann	Simone Germain
Noel Labine	Michele Pierce	John England
Chris DeMeules	Maureen Guay	Mark Petty
R. Martin Guidry	Janet Magnuson	Romain Lorentz
Todd & Polly Walker	Angela Simonson	Dana Gervais Johnson
Mary Ellen Weller	Nikki Rajala	John Buettner
Carole Mayers	Pierre Girard	Romain Lorentz
Marie Jean Proulx	Neil Simonson	Dana Johnson
Peter & Connie Graham	Katie Byboth	Anne-Lise Whitescarver
Terrence Mackin & Judith Appelen	Charles & Micaela Sieracki	Pierre LaGrandeur
Sandra Beaupre		

100 Associates Endowment Fund

Our endowment fund, named **100 Associates**, was created in 2019 and is managed by the Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation. We have a goal of reaching \$100,000, and more, from donations of one hundred individuals, each contributing \$1,000. We now have 41 fully-paid members. Our current fund balance, as of year-end, is \$42,707.29. The endowment's purpose is to provide financial support for the French-American Heritage Foundation, and to fund grants to groups, individuals, organizations, or family groups, for research, educational events, entertainment, projects, and classes that embrace or feature French heritage in Minnesota and the Midwest.

THEY SPOKE FRENCH



In the spring of 1659, Pierre-Esprit Radisson and his brother-in-law, Médard Chouart, Sieur des Groseilliers, explored the area around the Great Lakes region that included Minnesota. Thus began the origins of the French presence in Minnesota. In fact, French was spoken here for almost 200 years before Minnesota became a state in 1858. During early 19th century settlement, thousands of French Canadians migrated to Minnesota and surrounding areas. These early settlers, and their descendants, were important in all sectors of the society that built our state and region into what it is today.



100 ASSOCIATES



French-American Heritage Foundation of Minnesota

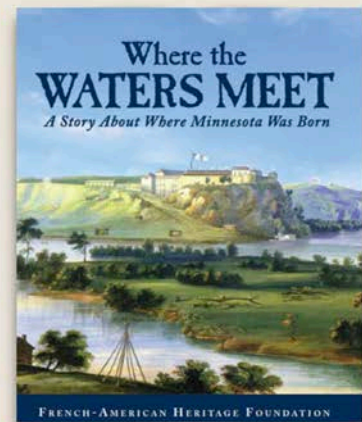
Goal: Raise no less than \$100,000 through one hundred donations of \$1,000 each from individuals, groups of individuals, families, and organizations.

Endowment Fund: All funds are deposited into our 100 Associates Endowment Fund that is managed by the Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation. This is 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 a designated successor.

Purpose of Funds: The purpose of the fund's earnings is to provide financial support for the French-American Heritage Foundation and to fund programs that embrace or feature French heritage in Minnesota and the Midwest.

FRENCH-AMERICAN HERITAGE
FOUNDATION OF MINNESOTA
P.O. Box 25384
Woodbury, MN 55125
Website: fahfminn.org

WHERE THE WATERS MEET



Modern Minnesota's beginnings were launched at the place where the Minnesota and Mississippi rivers converge in Mendota, by French-speaking fur traders who lived with and formed close family associations with the Dakota. The terms "Mdote" or "Bdote" literally mean *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.

French-American Heritage Foundation

Current 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 Trépanier | 20. Pierre Girard | 21. Mark Dillon |
| 22. Constance & Fred Halverson | 23. Gayle Middlecamp | 24. Labisonierre Family |
| 25. Virgil Benoit | 26. John & Michele Ward | 27. Pat & John Ruffing |
| 28. R. Martin Guidry | 29. Helene A. Houle | 30. Gerald & Jean Ann Landreville |
| 31. Mary A. Maher | 32. Roy & Susie Merie (Trombley) Dennis Family | 33. Robert E. & Gladys Paquin Family |
| 34. Harold & Carol (LaGesse) Johnson Family | 35. Frank Bernard | 36. Kenneth & Solange (Boinnard) Austin Family |
| 37. Norman & Odette (DuBois) Buettner Family | 38. Richard & Margaret (Tessier) Tansom Family | 39. Vavreck Family (LaBrosse) |
| 40. Bob & Jean McFarlane | 41. Frederick & Florence Michaud Family | |

\$1,000 Pledge Payments in Progress

Christine Schulze
\$500 Paid to Date

** This information is current as of December 18, 2023. As fully-paid memberships increase, or as pledge payments are added, an updated 100 Associates list will be reflected on our website, fahfminn.org*

2023 Events

- October 28, 2023.** At Our Lady of Lourdes, in northeast Minneapolis, board members Marie Trépanier, Michele Pierce, Mark Dillon, and Michael Rainville were among 49 volunteers who participated in the church's annual meat pie baking event, which successfully produced 489 tourtières. Especially popular during holidays, tourtières are available for purchase, at the church, throughout the year.
- October 27, 2023.** Minnesota with a French Accent presentation by Pierre Girard, at Nokomis Library, in Minneapolis, about French history and heritage in Minnesota.
- October 7, 2023.** French-American Heritage Foundation's 10-Year Anniversary Celebration included catering by Valerie's French Kitchen, French-Canadian music by Dan Chouinard, and a silent auction featuring watercolor paintings of 23 French heritage sites in Minnesota.
- September 6, 2023.** Presentation by Mark Labine at Our Lady of Lourdes Church about the Métis and the oxcart trails in early Minneapolis.
- July 22, 2023.** French-Métis Cultural Arts Day, Portage, WI. MaryEllen Weller presented information about artist Frances Anne Hopkins, whose work included paintings of voyageurs during the fur-trading era. Greg Cash discussed the fur trade, and Mark Labine and John Ward staffed the FAHF booth.
- June 24, 2023.** 2023's Fête de la Saint-Jean-Baptiste took place at the Sibley Historic Site in Mendota, MN. This is an event created by the Dakota County Historical Society in partnership with the Québec Government office in Chicago / Délégation du Québec à Chicago, Alliance Française Mpls / St Paul, and the French-American Heritage Foundation. Activities included site tours, performances by dancer/fiddler Danielle Enblom, dancing by Jane Skinner Peck, and singing by FAHF's Les Canadiens Errant.
- April 2, 2023.** Bottineau Jig: Untold Tales of Early Minnesota. This heritage event, co-sponsored by Alliance Française Mpls / St Paul and the French-American Heritage Foundation featured a video showing of a unique performance from 2011, filled with the history, important characters, dance, and live music from the 1840s Minnesota.

Bottineau Jig

Untold Tales of Early Minnesota

Join the Alliance Française and the French-American Heritage Foundation for this heritage event:
Time: Sunday, April 2, 2023, at 2 p.m. **Location:** The Joly Family Center for International Understanding, 227 Colfax Ave N, Minneapolis, MN 55405. **Cost:** \$10.00. Register on website of the French-American Heritage Foundation at fahf.org or send a check made payable to FAHF at PO Box 25304, Woodbury, MN 55123. Refreshments and beer if desired will be provided.




Bottineau Jig: Untold Tales of Early Minnesota, is a video showing of a unique performance from 2011 filled with the history, important characters, dance, and live music from 1840s Minnesota. At this time Dakota, Ojibwe, Métis, and French languages and cultures dominated this region where a variety of cultures mixed freely until the 1831 treaty. That world is seen through the eyes and life of Métis guide Pierre Bottineau, who is portrayed as an elder by Virgil Benoit and as a young man by Paulino Berger. Director, playwright, and choreographer Jane Peck will be on hand to provide extra background information and answer questions. This show includes prominent performers from each culture portrayed. A drawing by Métis artist Al Rus, inspired by the show, will accompany the video showing. The original show was created thanks to a legislative appropriation for the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.



Jane Peck is an education writer, historical playwright, choreographer, and dance historian. Her company has performed in schools, colleges & museums throughout the Upper Midwest & Canada.



Virgil Benoit was a professor emeritus for the University of North Dakota and holds numerous awards recognizing his academic record and knowledge of French-Canadian history.





A heritage event co-sponsored by the Alliance Française and the French-American Heritage Foundation

FÊTE DE LA SAINT JEAN-BAPTISTE



FAMILY FRIENDLY EVENT TO CELEBRATE
FÊTE NATIONALE DU QUÉBEC!

JUNE 24, 2023
3-8PM

SIBLEY HISTORIC SITE
1357 SIBLEY MEMORIAL HWY.
MENDOTA, MN 55150

LIVE MUSIC!
DANCING!
FOOD!

LEARN MORE AT
WWW.AFMSP.ORG







The Historic Indian Agency House
presents

**French - Métis
Cultural Arts Day**

**Saturday, July 22
10 to 4**



Minnesota History with a French Accent

Minnesota's state motto, l'Etoile du Nord, reminds us that the French left an indelible mark on our society and culture. Pierre Girard of the French-American Heritage Foundation recounts the French history and heritage of Minnesota.

Free | Nokomis Library | 612-668-4828
Fri | Oct 27 | 1-2:30 pm

One of the oldest houses in Wisconsin, built in 1832, the Historic Indian Agency House in Portage, WI, is situated at the ancient trail between the Fox and Wisconsin Rivers at Fort Winnebago. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1972.

www.agencyhouse.org

Performances:



Métis Step Dancing
by
Danielle Enblom
of
The Step Collective
11:00 am

Of Red River Métis / Quebecois ancestry herself, Danielle is a master dancer, fiddler, and ethnochoreologist (dance anthropologist). We are excited to have her with us to

share her Métis voice and perspective, her expertise on the cultural context of Métis dance, and her dynamic step dancing.



French - Métis Fiddling
by
Pierre Jacques Pleau
2:00 pm

A Minnesota native with French-Canadian roots, Pierre is a singer, songwriter, musician, playwright, performer, teaching artist, and Artistic Director of the North Star Theater Company. You will enjoy his lively tunes!

Demonstrations/Exhibitions



Interact with author Mary Ellen Weller-Smith

(In visitor center) Learn about the fascinating lives of French Voyageurs through the paintings of Frances Anne Hopkins (1838-1919) and others. Mary Ellen is a scholar on the topic, having recently published the book, *Frances Anne Hopkins: Hudson's Bay Company Wife, Voyageurs' Artist*.



French Fur Trade in the Upper Midwest

Gregory Cash is a descendant of Médard Chouart de Groseilliers, an early voyageur and fur trader. Learn about the history of the fur trade; coureurs de bois, voyageurs, hivernants, and bourgeois; the significance behind voyageurs' dress; fur trader diet, daily activities, and routines; why the fur trade came to an end.



Canadien / Métis Cultural Clothing & Adornment

Learn about traditional styles, adaptation, and blending of European and Native clothing, as well as the meaning behind the cultural art of adornment with Isaac Walters. Being demonstrated and shown will be moccasin making, beading, quillwork, ribbon applique, and more. Enjoy fascinating demonstrations of this adornment and the clothing that exemplified Métis life and culture in Wisconsin



A Close Look at a French Fur Trade Post

Mark Labine, a board member of the French American Heritage Foundation and descendant of early fur traders and voyageurs, is eager to share with you what he has discovered in his research on the 18th and 19th century Little Rapids fur trade post near a Dakota village on the Minnesota River.

Try It Yourself!



Birchbark Canoe Travel & Maintenance

A unique native technology, the birchbark canoe made travel and trade possible across the myriad of streams, ponds, portages, and lakes of the frontier. Learn how the French Canadians adapted and implemented the canoe as you also experience hands-on preparation of cordage and gumming. Discover the enduring and superior qualities of an authentic birchbark canoe on site with Joel Barthel.



Métis Finger Weaving

Try your own hand at Métis finger weaving—an art with deep Indigenous roots amalgamated with French-Canadian materials and traditions. Jenny Novey shows you how.



French Canadian Fiddle Workshop for Beginners

12:00 - 12:30 (fiddles provided) | **12:30 - 1:00** (bring own fiddle)
Spaces limited / pre-registration strongly suggested

***1:00-1:30: Try Playing a Fiddle: Drop-In Station: ***

Stop in at Pierre Pleau's station for a 2-5 minute-per-person lesson on how to play a fiddle. Student size fiddles will be provided.

TEN-YEAR ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



JOIN THE FRENCH-AMERICAN HERITAGE FOUNDATION FOR OUR ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Date/Time: Saturday, October 7, 2023, at 4 to 7 p.m. Location: Alliance Française, Grande Salle, 227 Colfax Ave N, Minneapolis, MN 55405. Cost: \$50.00. Register on website of the French-American Heritage Foundation at fahfminn.org or send a check made payable to FAHF at P.O. Box 253884, Woodbury, MN 55125. Enjoy complementary refreshments and hors d'oeuvres.

Greg Cash, president of the French-American Heritage Foundation will give a short presentation about the history of the Foundation. In addition, a brief video will be shown, photos taken at past events will be displayed, and a silent auction will be held featuring original artwork by H. Jean McFarlane.



Music by Dan Chouinard, pianist and accordionist, an enabler of community sing-alongs and a writer of hit shows for public radio, concert hall and theatrical stage. Dan has been a perennial favorite for nearly 40 years now.

A silent auction will be held for 25 framed paintings by artist H. Jean McFarlane, which depict scenes of Minnesota French history. Online bidding begins September 20, via the website events.auctria.com, followed by in person auction bidding that will begin and end during the evening of the celebration. Starting October 6, the art exhibit will be featured at our Alliance Française location, in the Vaaler Galerie, so you can see all of the auction artwork there in person.



SILENT AUCTION
ORIGINAL ARTWORK BY
H. JEAN MCFARLANE



Tasty French cuisine will be provided by Valerie's French Kitchen, along with tourtière (French-Canadian meat pie). And, wine provided by Alexis Bailly Vineyard will be featured.

**ALEXIS
BAILLY VINEYARD**
HASTINGS, MINNESOTA

St. Louis du St. Pierre
French-American Heritage Foundation of Minnesota



French-American Heritage Foundation — Ten-Year Anniversary Celebration

All of the watercolors featured in the ten-year anniversary celebration's silent auction were painted by French-Canadian artist H. Jean McFarlane; they had been commissioned in 2019 for the Foundation's *Minnesota French Heritage Sites* brochure. Jean matted and framed all of that original artwork and very generously donated those 23 paintings to the Foundation for its highly successful auction.



H. Jean McFarlane holding the artwork guide prepared for the 10-year anniversary event.

Board member MaryEllen Weller compiled English and French explanatory exhibit guides for FAHF's art auction, which began online September 20 and continued as a silent auction at FAHF's 10th anniversary celebration. The guides described each painting site's significance in Minnesota French-heritage history.

Examples of Other Events from the Past Two Years

2022 Events

- **January 23, 2022.** Joseph Courselle’s French-Dakota Connections, Sibley Historic Site. Independent researcher Jane Hayden-Hart shared her findings about the 1855-1856 “Sioux Affidavits” which were taken by commissioners H.H. Johnson and William Ashley Jones from persons attempting to establish mixed-blood status in order to receive benefits from the treaty signed at Prairie du Chien in 1830. Jane has been researching her maternal Coursolle family history for over 15 years, with her great-great-grandfather Joseph Coursolle being a principal subject. Our musical guest was guitarist Phillippe Gallandat who played and sang French-Canadian and French songs.
- **March 5, 2022.** Charles Napoleon Morin (1849-1922). Presentation at the Little Canada Historical Society, by Jim Morin, a retired marketing executive who has recently edited and published an English translation of his great-grandfather’s memoir, *Charles Napoleon Morin – Memories of My Travels and Adventures*. Jim used Charles’s remarkable first person story to recall what life was like in the late 1800s, and how what began as a sixteen-year-old’s widespread search, eventually gained Charles

fulfillment in work, adventure, faith and life. This event's musical guest was Danielle Enblom, a Minneapolis-based step dancer, fiddler, and ethnochoreologist (dance anthropologist).

- **April 29, 2022.** Sibley Historic Site, Fur Trade Presentation and Tour, for Minnesota New Country School, from Henderson, Minnesota; presentation by Greg Cash.
- **August 7, 2022.** In the Beginning There was a Chapel, presentation by Mark Labine, at Washington County Heritage Center, in Stillwater, about the humble, small log chapel, that was dedicated on November 1, 1841; this little Saint Paul Chapel would later become the Cathedral of Saint Paul.
- **August 14, 2022.** The Pond Dakota Heritage Society sponsored a history presentation, by Mark Labine, at Gideon Pond House, in Bloomington. Mark spoke about his research regarding the Little Rapids Fur Post, on the Mississippi River, near the Dakota village named Inyan Ceyaka.
- **September 24, 2022.** Salon du Livre, at Alliance Française; participants included Mark Labine, who provided an overview of his book *They Spoke French*.
- **October 16, 2022.** French genealogy presentation at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Dayton, MN.
- **November 11, 2022.** Partners in Peace, Armistice Day Commemoration at Brit's Pub, Minneapolis, MN. In partnership with Brit's Pub, Alliance Française, Consulate General of Canada in Minneapolis, Vets For Peace, and Minnesota Vikings. The event featured a color guard and words honoring global veterans on the Anniversary of the Armistice that ended World War I. Mark Labine gave a speech about his grandfather Phillip Labine's experiences during World War I, in France.

2021 Events

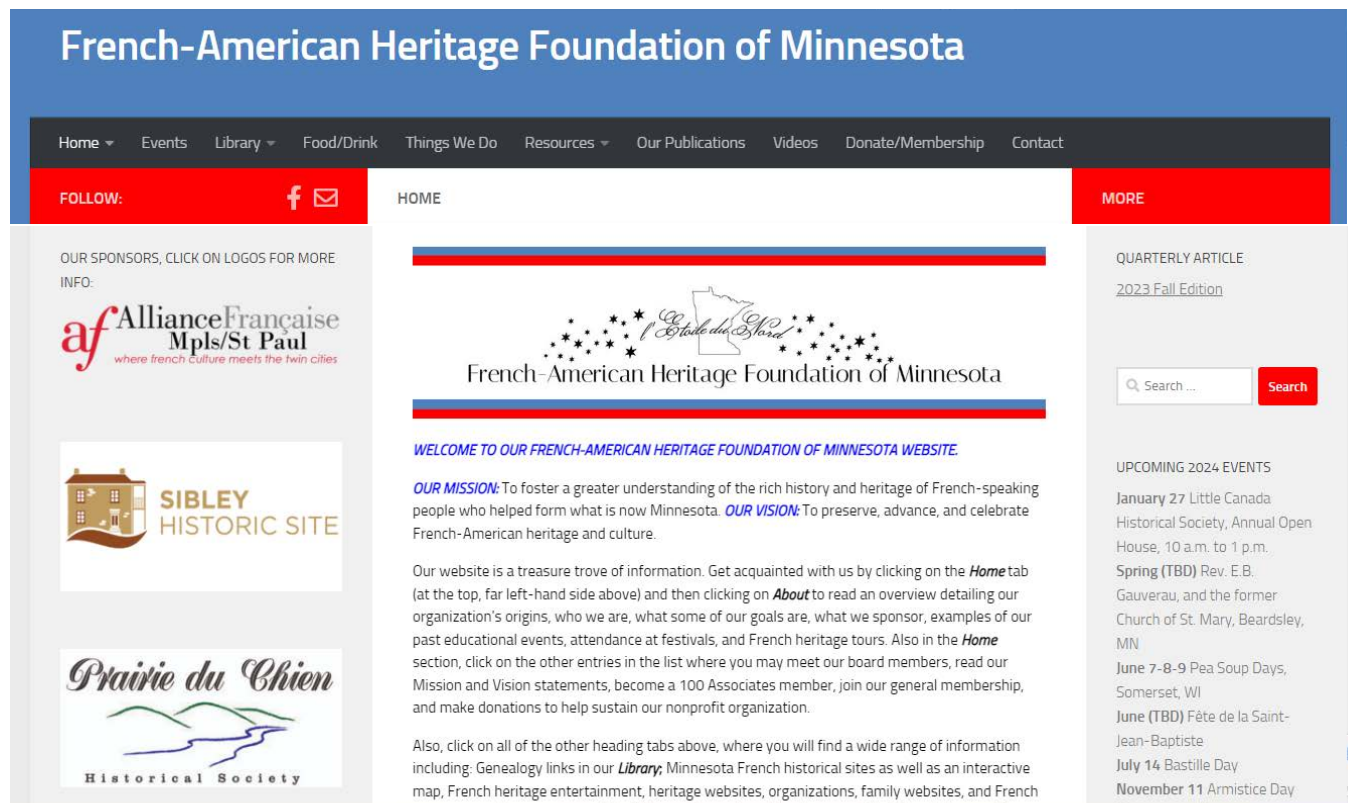
- **July 14, 2021.** Table at Bastille Day, Minneapolis.
- **August 15, 2021.** Presentation by author Steve Werle at the LeDuc Historic Estate in Hastings, Minnesota. Title of the presentation was "An American Gothic, The Life and Legacy of William Gates LeDuc. LeDuc was the grandson of a military officer who served with George Washington at the Battle of Yorktown. Pioneer William Gates LeDuc played a significant role in Minnesota's transition from territory to statehood.
- **October 12, 2021.** Presentation by Mark Labine on his research into the 18th and 19th Century Little Rapids Fur Trade Post on the Minnesota River near the Dakota village named Inyan Ceyaka. The musical group Bundle and Go played French-Canadian and Métis music at this event.

Examples of Flyers from Past Heritage Events, and Brochure and Book Covers



These efforts, for our many events and projects, take time and money, and to make sure that this Foundation survives, it must acquire funding to ensure that its mission will be able to continue long into the future. For this reason, FAHF has embarked on its 100 Associates fundraising campaign to generate \$100,000, all of which will be placed into a perpetual endowment fund currently managed by the St. Paul Foundation. The income from this endowment is being used to help support the Foundation, and to fund grants, develop future educational events, and provide services that meet the mission and vision of the French-American Heritage Foundation, which are **to foster a greater understanding of the rich history and heritage of French-speaking people who helped form what is now Minnesota, and to preserve, advance, and celebrate French-American heritage and culture.**

NOTE: A listing of events, from more past years, is found on our website. Go to fahfminn.org, click on the “Home” tab, then click on “About” to learn more.



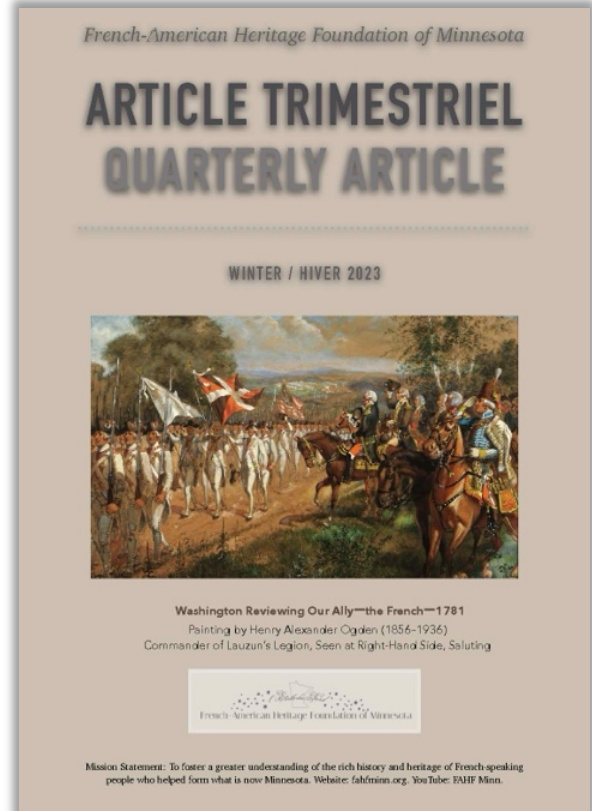
Information on the French-American Heritage Foundation Website includes the following, and **more**:

- **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 on our website.
- **About** page giving the history of our Foundation
- **FAHF Board Information** page listing current board of directors.
- **Annual Report** page listing all past annual reports for the Foundation.
- **Food/Drink** page listing Twin Cities area restaurants with a “French connection.”
- **Things We Do** about scholarships and opportunities regarding French heritage classes
- **Library** page with many articles about French heritage, copies of newsletters of old French organizations, and links to other French heritage sites.
- **Genealogy** page where we have info on French and French-Canadian genealogy websites.
- **Publications** page describing the four French heritage books published by the Foundation.
- **Videos** page showing past YouTube videos produced by the Foundation about French heritage and history.
- **Donate/Membership** page where people can sign up to be members and make donations.

Article Trimestriel (Quarterly Article)

The French-American Heritage Foundation publishes various articles related to French-Canadian heritage on the website. The Winter / Hiver 2023 issue covered *A Tale of Two Identities: The Story of French-Slovak-American Patriot Jan Ladislav Polareczky*; Spring-Summer / Printemps-Ete 2023 detailed *The Power of Family History Research*; and Fall / Automne 2023 notes *French-American Heritage Foundation Marks 10 Years of Growth*.

These articles, as well as past articles, are located on the French-American Heritage Foundation's website: fahfminn.org. See QUARTERLY ARTICLE in the upper right-hand corner of our home page and then click on the link for 2023 Fall Edition.

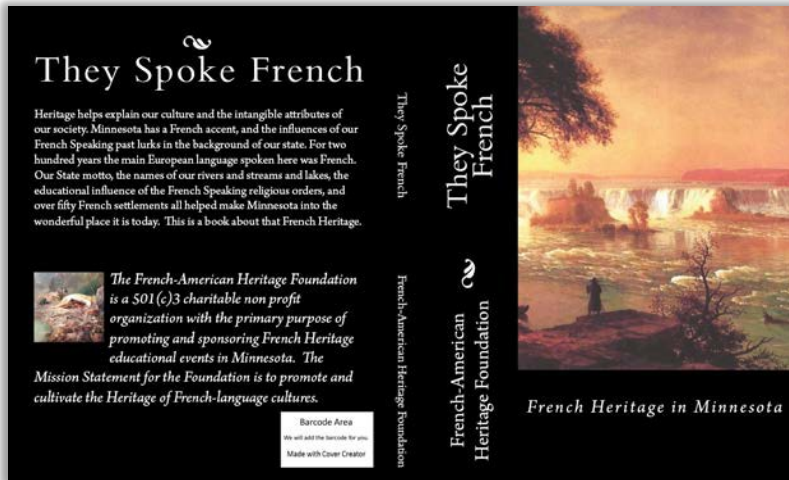


French-Canadian artist Jean McFarlane, center, poses with Rick and Diane Kruger, the buyers of her painting of St. Peter's Church, Mendota, at FAHF's 10-year anniversary celebration and art exhibit held at Alliance Française, in Minneapolis, on October 7.

This photo is included in the Fall / Automne 2023 Quarterly Article: *French-American Heritage Foundation Marks 10 Years of Growth*.

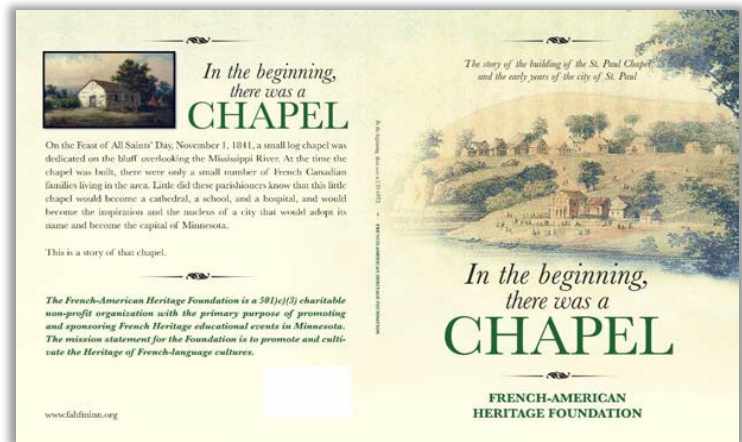
French-American Heritage Foundation Publications Projects

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, (and a new book in progress), are shown below. These publications may be purchased at future French-American Heritage Foundation events, and the books are available online at Amazon.com.

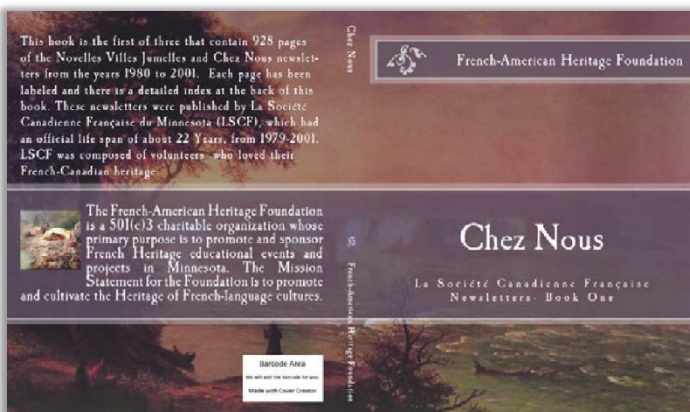


They Spoke French is about French heritage in Minnesota, including information on early explorers, early settlers, and early French-speaking settlements, including Métis, French-heritage sites, French place names and other information about the state of Minnesota's French accent.

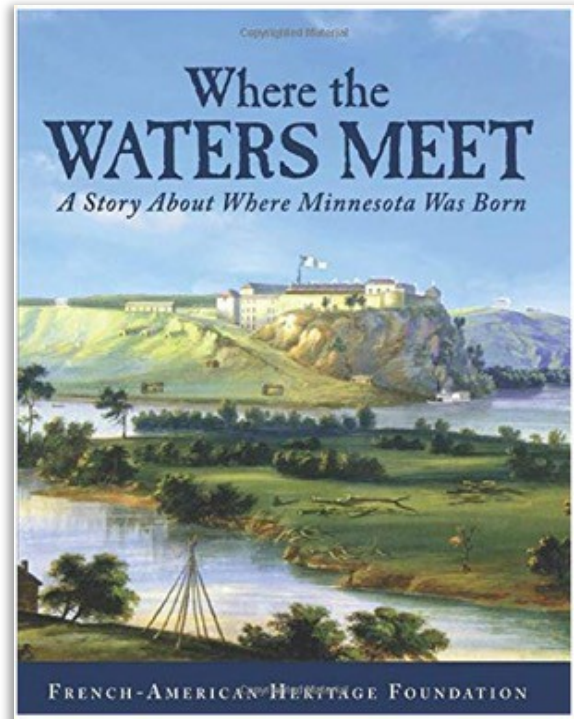
In the beginning, there was a CHAPEL, is the story of the small log chapel built by French- Canadian that became the nucleus of the city of St. Paul.



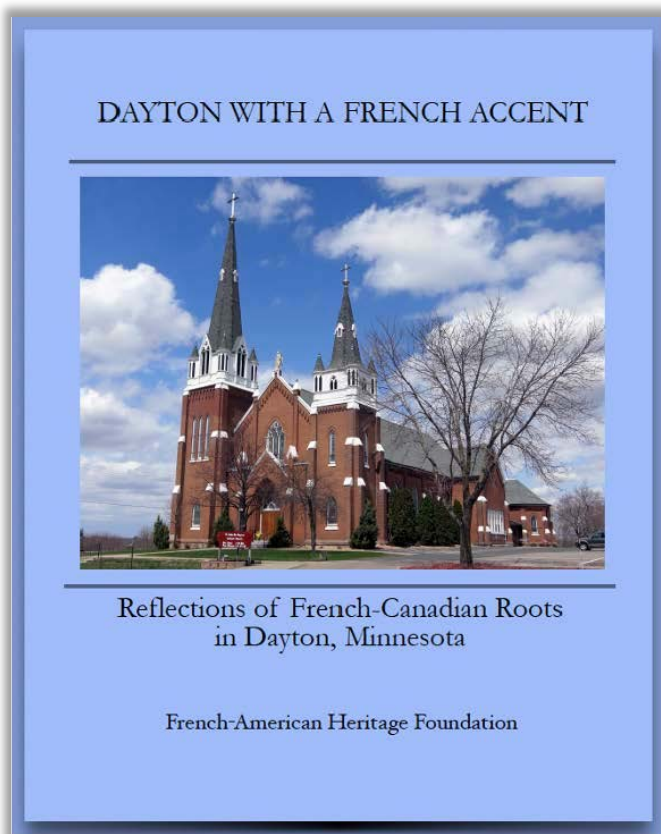
Chez Nous is a set of three books that contain 928 pages of *Nouvelles Villes Jumelles* and *Chez Nous* newsletters published during the years 1980 to 2001 by La Société Canadienne Française du Minnesota (LSCF). These three books are filled with numerous articles and stories about Minnesota's French-Canadian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



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 LeSueur, 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 many French-speaking people who were part of the transformation from Dakota Nation to a member of the United States.



A Fifth Book Now In Progress...



Dayton with a French Accent is in the final stages of being written and it is planned for publication in 2024. This book furnishes genealogy information representing about 75 French-speaking pioneer families of Dayton, Minnesota, and some in adjoining Otsego. These individuals were first-generation French Canadians who were adults when they arrived in the Dayton area and who still have many living descendants there today. Of course, the 75 actually reflect about twice as many families, through the spouses. The French-speaking communities were, in large part, connected by ancestry, country of origin, language, and religion, so Dayton is connected to many other similar communities in Minnesota as well as neighboring states and provinces.


Minnesota French Heritage Sites Brochure

The 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. **NOTE:** Information about these sites can be found on our website: fahfminn.org—go to the menu bar at the top of our home page, select the “Resource” tab and then click on “Minnesota Historical Map.”

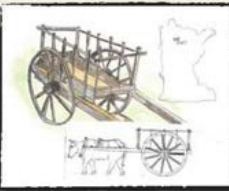
During the early years of European settlement in Minnesota, many French-Canadians migrated here, and at least 79 French-speaking towns and communities were formed in Minnesota. French-speaking ancestors were important in all sectors of society, and they helped build our state and region into what it 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. The brochures are available at Foundation heritage events.

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)

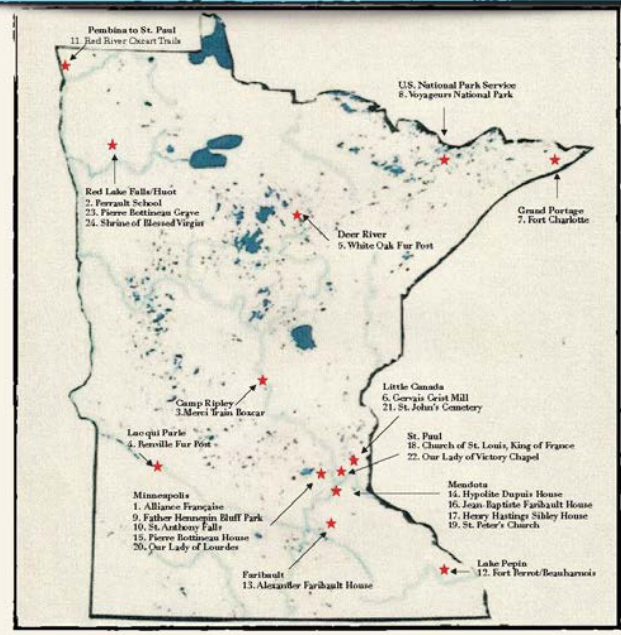


St. Anthony Falls. A major waterfall located in Minneapolis on the Upper Mississippi River, it was first named the Chutes de Saint Antoine in Father Louis Hennepin’s 1680 journal and is part of the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area. It was a leading tourist attraction for French traders 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)



Sample Panel from Inside Brochure

Map of Minnesota French Heritage Sites



French Heritage Historic Sites in This Brochure:

<p>Places of Learning & Commerce</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Alliance Française 2. Perrault School 3. Mercier Train Boxcar 4. Lac qui Parle Renville Fur Post 5. White Oak Fur Post 6. Gervais Cris Mill <p>Natural Places & Forts</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Grand Portage/Fort Charlotte 8. Voyageurs National Park 9. Father Hennepin Bluff Park 10. St. Anthony Falls 11. Red River Oxcart Trails 12. Fort Perrot/Beauharnois 	<p>Homesteads</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 13. Alexander Faribault House 14. Hypolite Dupuis House 15. Pierre Bottineau House 16. Jean-Baptiste Faribault House 17. Henry Hastings Sibley House <p>Places of Faith & Culture</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 18. Church of St. Louis, King of France 19. St. Peter’s Church 20. Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Minneapolis 21. St. John’s Cemetery 22. Our Lady of Victory Chapel 23. Pierre Bottineau Gravesite 24. Shrine of the Blessed Virgin
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Back Cover of Brochure

2023 Financial Report

French-American Heritage Foundation

2023 Income		
Member Donations Bank		1,882.42
Member Donations Paypal		715.89
100 Associates Donations		13,850.00
Events Bank		1,860.00
Events Paypal		1,242.01
Book Sales		854.90
Web Sponsors		200.00
Interest/Misc.		0.00
100 Associates Grant		1,029.82
McFarlane Paintings (Auction)		5,657.74
	Total	27,292.78

2023 Expenses		
PO Box Fee		166.00
Event Expenses		7,741.10
Donations		1,500.00
Book Purchases		63.60
Transfer to 100 Associates Endowment Fund		13,850.00
Board Expenses		200.00
100A Expenses		673.91
	Total	\$24,194.61

2023 Net Income (Loss)	\$3,098.17
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French-American Heritage Foundation Assets					
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
PayPal	\$1,162.41	\$337.41	686.62	154.87	1,036.09
Bank Account	\$9,652.54	\$10,636.13	12,374.30	14,275.48	15,037.65
100 Associates Endowment Fund	\$16,045.75	\$20,243.66	26,379.35	27,123.43	42,707.29
Current Asset Value	\$26,860.70	\$31,217.20	\$39,440.27	41,553.78	58,781.03