

file: Quebec and Midwest Settlement Timeline

A Very General Timeline and Beginning Resources: Some Points of Reference

1535 – Cartier comes down the Riviere St. Laurent (St. Lawrence River)

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jacques_Cartier

mid 1500s –1600s – the time of the Huguenots and religious warfare in France.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Huguenot>

1608 – Champlain establishes Quebec, the first permanent European settlement in North American. Colonization begins, but very slowly. From the beginning trade in furs and other goods becomes a main focus of the new colony. (1565-1620 - other first European settlements in what is now the United States, including St. Augustine FL, Jamestown VA, Plymouth MA, Santa Fe NM.)

1629-32 – Kirke Brothers temporarily re-take New France for England. Only a handful of French remain in Quebec. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Kirke

1634 – Trois Rivieres, roughly mid-point between present day Quebec City and Montreal, is founded as the second permanent settlement in present day Quebec.

1637 – Montreal established; fur trade begins to look west. Lachine Rapids on the St. Laurent is a serious natural barrier to river transport, so trading by canoe with the interior of North America essentially begins to the west of these Rapids, proceeding down the Ottawa River which involved the traverse of the 10 mile long Chute Blondeau.

There are many works specifically about the fur trade. A general reference

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harold_Innis_and_the_fur_trade

1670 – Chartering of the Hudson Bay Company by England. (Hudson Bay Co territory was generally to the north of the country traversed by French voyageurs.)

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hudson%27s_Bay_Company

app 1750-1850 - Industrial Revolution changes ways of doing things in sundry ways, impacting on everything.

1754-63 – Seven Years War (in N. America called the French and Indian War)

1759 – British defeat the French at the Plains of Abraham and New France becomes British. French immigration to New France ceases.

1774 - Quebec Act essentially buys loyalty of French-Canadians to England.

1775 – American officer Benedict Arnold heads up the Chaudiere River with the intention of taking Quebec for the U.S. Foiled. <http://www.benedictarnold.org/>

1776-87 – The United States is born, beginning with Declaration of Independence, continuing with ratification of Constitution.

1779 – North West Company (fur trade) founded in Montreal including French-Canadian entrepreneurs http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_West_Company

1789 – The French Revolution in France

1803 – Louisiana Purchase; Lewis and Clark expedition

1804 - In Haiti, former slaves declare independence from France. Haiti had been France's richest colony.

Early 1800s – end of Coureur des bois/Voyageur/fur trade era, which was an important part of the entirety of the French settlement in New France, ends. http://www.en.wikipedia.org/coureur_des_bois

1811 – Red River Colony established http://www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Red_River?Colony . By the time Ft. Snelling was established (1819, see below) French and Metis were already beginning to leave Red River for various reasons, and migration began to focus towards what is now St. Paul and Minneapolis. An interesting website is <http://www.telusplanet.net/public/dgarneau/metis372a.htm>.

1812 – War of 1812 between England and U.S. impacted directly on Lower Canada and the west.

1819 – Ft. Snelling established at confluence of Minnesota and Mississippi Rivers.

ca 1820-70 – The Oxcart era, Red River to St. Paul.

1837 - Morse telegraph and code invented revolutionizing rapid communication; first transcontinental transmission in **1861**; use perfected in Civil War http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Electrical_telegraph.

1830s - 1840s – Early French-Canadian migration begins to what is now Twin Cities. St. Paul MN is developed, beginning in **1841**; officially becomes a town in **1847**. St. Anthony, a settlement near St. Anthony Falls is founded in 1850s, followed by Minneapolis on opposite side of the river. (Initially "St. Anthony" encompasses considerable geography between the Mississippi and St. Croix rivers).

1850s – migration of French-Canadians to the United States begins to increase. Here are some samples of population change during the Midwest settlement period; French-Canadians became part of the settlement flood.

Place	1850	1860	1870	1880	1890	2010
Dayton MN		540	951	1107	1075	4671
St. Paul MN	1294	10331	20030	41473	133156	285068*
St. Anthony	656	3258	5013 (merged into Minneapolis 1873)			
Minneapolis		2564	13066	46887	164738	382578*
Chicago	?	111214	298977	503185	1099850	2695598
Oakwood Dakota Terr (first settled 1878)					581	-
Grafton DT (settled 1878 founded 1882)					1594	4284

* in the 2010 census, the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area population was 3,279,833; Chicago's Metro Area population was 9,461,105

1854 - Grand Excursion celebrating the railroad reaching the Mississippi R at Rock Island IL escalates development of the region that soon becomes the State of Minnesota. <http://www.grandexcursion.com/g5-bin/client.cgi?G5button=300>

1858 – Minnesota becomes a state

ca 1860 - Continuing development of the “iron horse” and railroad lines facilitates migration and development. Canada railroads reach points contiguous to United States. In this same general time period, mechanization and increasing population in the United States makes possible increased production of goods, which requires more labor, much of which comes from French-Canada to the northeast. Water and oxcart transport begin to be replaced by other modes of transport throughout the eastern part of North America.

First railroad tracks in Minnesota: **1862**; Rail Chicago to St. Paul **1867**; rail reaches Grand Forks ND **1880**.

1861 - First transcontinental transmission by telegraph; use perfected in Civil War; revolutionizes long distance communication.

1862-63 - War against the Indians (now called Dakota Conflict) beginning in MN

1863 and 1864 – Treaty of Old Crossing (Huot, near present day Red Lake Falls MN) ceded huge parcel of land from Chippewa to the United States, including the territory later to become Oakwood and Grafton.

1878 –Railroad completed between Minneapolis and Winnipeg. The nearest stop to Oakwood is at Stephen MN, about 15 miles to the east.

1881-85 – The transcontinental Canadian-Pacific Railway is completed from Canada’s east to west coasts.