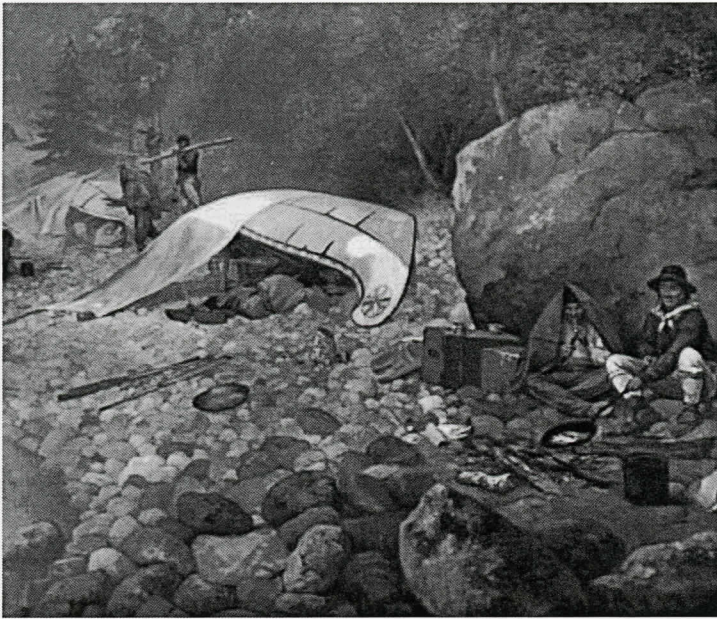


LA Fête DE LA SAINT-JEAN- BAPTISTE



SIBLEY HISTORIC SITE
1357 SIBLEY MEMORIAL HWY
MENDOTA, MN 55150

JUNE 23, 2019
5—7 P.M.

HISTORY OF THE SIBLEY SITE & MENDOTA, MINNESOTA

Before the railroad tracks and state park trail existed, you would have seen the river from the front porch of either the Sibley or Faribault House. Canoes would have pulled up with packages of furs for the American Fur Company. The Voyageurs would have done much of the transporting and packing of these furs. Most of them had French last names and many were French-Canadians from Quebec, Canada. Some were Metis, mixed native and French, before leaving Canada; others were mixed blood from this region and had been in the fur trade for several generations.

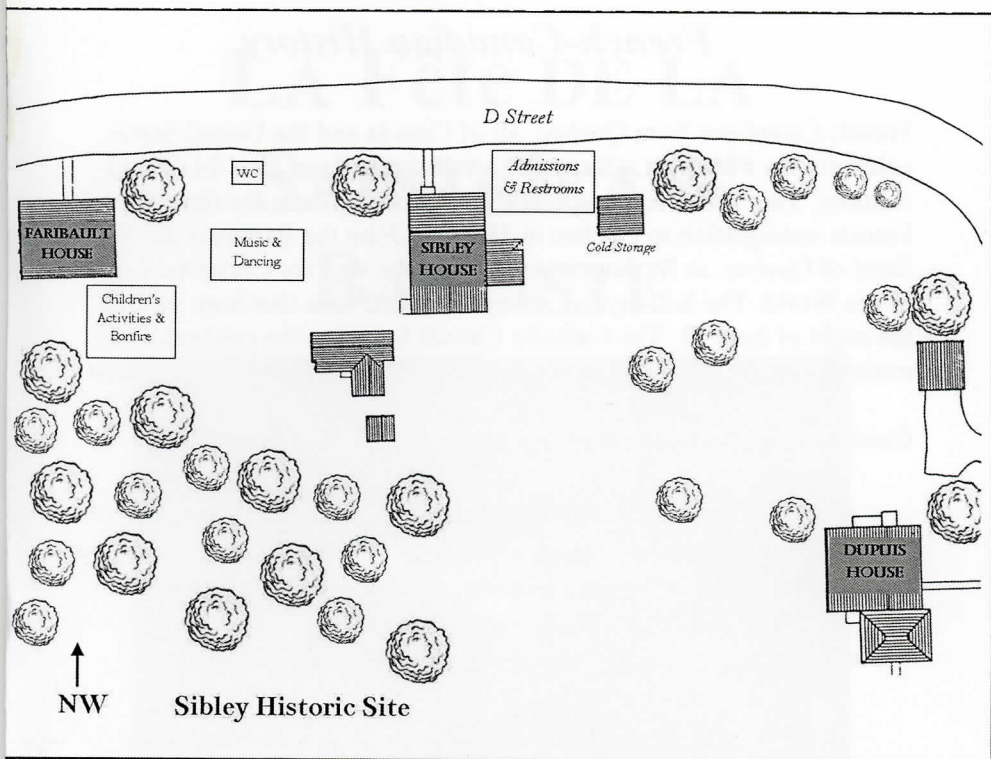
The voyageurs spoke French and often one or two native languages—only some spoke English. They were Catholic and their priests were French, they attended services in area chapels like St. Peter's Church in Mendota. They were often described as good natured, fun-loving, and very fond of dancing and singing. Most of them wore bright clothing—a stark contrast to the Protestant American settlers that started to make their way out West.

Mendota, where the Mississippi and Minnesota Rivers come together, began with the fur trade. The Dakota in the area lived in the villages of Kaposia, Shakopee, and Black Dog.

In the early 1800s, one French-Canadian, Jean Baptiste Faribault, traded in the area moving his wife, Pelagie, and their children to Mendota in 1825. After being flooded out more than once, in 1839 Faribault built his stone house.

In 1835, as part of the American Fur Trade Company, Henry Hastings Sibley came to Mendota, building his home in 1836 to be headquarters for the company. When Sibley was elected Minnesota's first state governor, his home became the first governor's mansion.

Another French-Canadian, Hypolite DuPuis, managed the affairs of the American Fur Company store. DuPuis and his wife Angelique Renville DuPuis, built a red brick house for their family in 1854, and operated a general store there.



Schedule of Events

- 5:00 p.m.—Dance Instruction by Jane Peck and Gary Schulte
- 5:25 p.m.—Music by Francine Roche and Mark Stillman
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French-Canadian History

French-Canadians from Quebec, all of Canada and the United States, celebrate **LA FÊTE DE LA SAINT-JEAN-BAPTISTE**, on June 24 or mid-summer. This was a very popular French holiday from the time of French immigration to Quebec in 1636. St. John the Baptist is the Patron Saint of Quebec, as St. Jean was said to make way for Christ the Light of the World. The holiday has always included fires that burn through the night of June 23. The Catholic Church linked to the celebration of midsummer, or summer solstice, when the sun is longest and brightest.

Common French-Canadian Names

Early French Residents of Mendota

Archambault	Auge	Baudette	Chapdelain	
DuPuis	Dufort	Faribault	Fourcier	Gervais
Guerin	Hamel	Labissoniere	LeClaire	Lereux
Parrant	Rossicot	Rondeau	St. Antoine	Trudelle

Cities

Mille Lacs	Roseau	Lac qui Parle	Le Sueur	Grand Portage
Voyageurs	National Park	Bois Blanc Lake	Belle Rose Island	
Lac Vieux	Desert Lake	La Croix	Lake Bellaire	
Dumont	Duluth	Duquette	Frontenac	
Nicollet County	Lac des Bois	(Lake of the Woods)		

EVENT SPONSORS

LA COMPAGNIE

DAKOTA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

FRENCH-AMERICAN HERITAGE FOUNDATION OF MINNESOTA

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JANE PECK