

The
Columbia River
Historical
Expedition

1926



American
Good Will Association
Franco-American Branch
Edition

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Historical
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The Bird Woman

Erected by the Women of the United States in Memory of Sacajawea, the only woman in the Lewis and Clark Expedition and in Honor of the Pioneer Mother of Old Oregon.

The Columbia River Historical Expedition of 1926

Introduction

By JOHN H. FINLEY

Former President of the State University of New York

Many people have the impression that the Northwest has no history, outside of possibly the Lewis and Clark explorations and a few Indian legends. This, however, is not the fact, the history of the Northwest is as interesting and almost as old as that of the more settled eastern and southern portions of the country. Its rivers were traveled more than two centuries ago by men unafraid, bent on exploration and undaunted by the dangers of the wilderness; its hills and coulees mark the scenes of long, drawn-out battles between the white man and the red and its valleys mark the sites of old forts and trading-posts where a handful of men controlled an empire as large as all Europe.

Five years before the landing of the Pilgrim fathers at Plymouth Rock, Champlain had penetrated into the west as far as Lake Huron and the year 1659 saw Radisson and Groseillers trading with the Indians in what is now Wisconsin, Minnesota, western Canada and possibly the Dakotas. Eighty some years later, while the settlers of the Atlantic seaboard had barely penetrated beyond the Alleghenies, the Chevalier de la Verendrye was gazing upon the snow-capped peaks of the Rocky Mountains.

On the Pacific Coast, recorded history starts at even an earlier period, going back to the explorations of Balboa in 1513. He was followed by other intrepid Spanish explorers who gradually worked their way up the coast, and by Vitus Bering, a Danish mariner sent out by the Russian government, who discovered Alaska and explored the coast as far south as the present northern limits of British Columbia. In later years the English took up the quest, discovering and exploring, among other places, Puget Sound. Finally the Americans arrived, notably Captain Robert Gray, discoverer of the Columbia River, completed the explorations and ultimately settled the country

The story of these early explorers, fur traders and missionaries is an alluring narrative of daring adventure and achievement. It will bring to every true American a greater realization of the constant dangers, both from the natural hazards of the wilderness and from the ferocious savages who inhabited the country, that were overcome by these valiant pioneers who first blazed the trail for the present empire of the Northwest.

The names of many of these men have long remained in obscurity, but at last a tardy recognition has been made. During the month of July, 1925, a distinguished group of historians, educators, statesmen and men of letters made a trip into the Northwest to dedicate a number of monuments and conduct appropriate ceremonies to honor some of these heroic men. This expedition was known as the Upper Missouri Historical Expedition and was sponsored by the Governors and Historical Societies of Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota and Montana.

Considerable progress was made by this expedition in furthering historical study of the Northwest, but a great deal still remains to be done, and this year another pilgrimage will be made into the Northwestern states to continue the work begun in 1925. This second venture will be known as the Columbia River Historical Expedition and will make a trip, via the Great Northern Railway, from Chicago to the mouth of the Columbia River, dedicating a number of monuments in honor of the men and women who opened up the Pacific Northwest.

A large portion of the membership of this year's party will be made up of the winners in the High School Oratorical Contests that are now being conducted under the auspices of the Franco-American Branch of the American Good Will Association. The title "The French Pioneers in America" has been selected as the subject—a very appropriate theme, as the French have taken a most important part in the opening up of the Northwest, first as the explorers of the major portion of the country, later as members of the great fur companies and finally as actual settlers. Their service to the Northwest is incalculable and the story of their exploits should provide material for a most interesting oration.

The High School Oratorical Contests

*Conducted under the auspices of the Franco-American Branch
of the American Good Will Association*

An important feature of the Columbia River Historical Expedition will be a special membership unit comprised of students from fifty or more high schools throughout the United States who will study the territory to be covered from the standpoint of the contributions made to its development by the French pioneers.

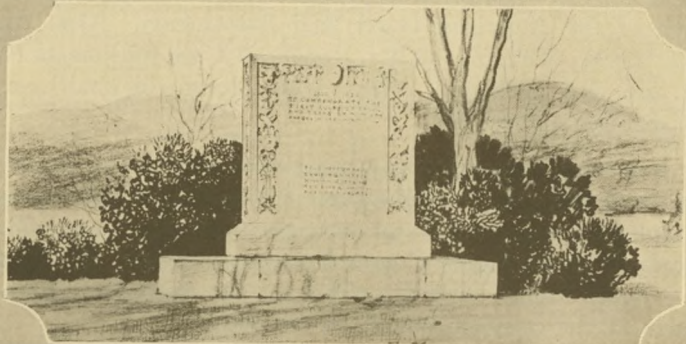
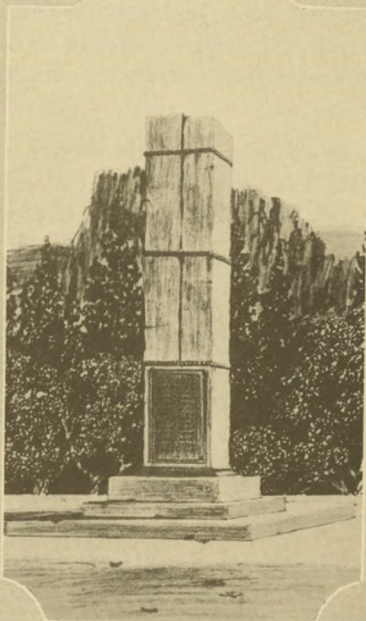
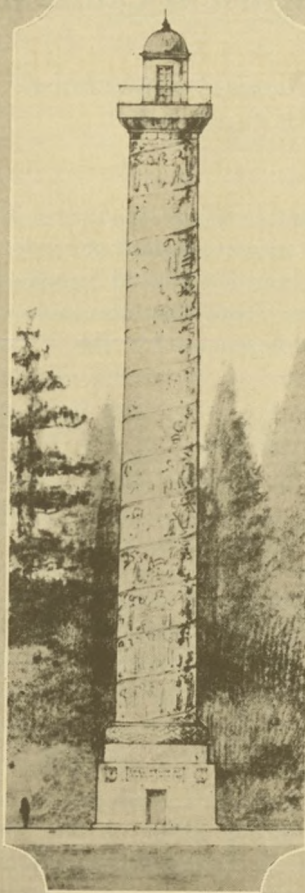
These students will be chosen through a series of oratorical contests that are now being conducted in the high schools of several cities under the auspices of the local committees representing the Franco-American Branch of the American Good Will Association.

This organization, which has its national headquarters at 50 East 42nd Street, New York City, is educational in character and national in membership. Its program is designed to further knowledge and understanding between the people of the United States and the people of France. The oratorical contest study of "The French Pioneers in America" is an important part of its program for the present year.

Mr. Lawrence F. Abbott, contributing editor of the "Outlook" and a member of the committee in charge of the Columbia River Historical Expedition, is president of the Franco-American Branch of the American Good Will Association. Mrs. Anne Murray Dyke, of Paris, and Mr. Rouget de Lisle Jenkins, of New York, are vice-presidents. Miss Anne Morgan is chairman of the Executive Committee.

To join with their American contemporaries in this study of the work of the early French explorers, traders and missionaries, a group of French students of corresponding school age will be selected in France by the Comité Français du Good Will Américain. These French students will meet the American group in Chicago at the commencement of the trip.

Monuments that
will be dedicated by
the Columbia River
Historical Expedi-
tion.



The Astoria Column

The monument at Wishram

The Bonners Ferry Monument

The Columbia River Historical Expedition of 1926

A unique pilgrimage will be made into the Northwest during the month of July of this year when a group of distinguished historians and writers and the winners of the High School Oratorical contests on "The French Pioneers in America" meet in Chicago to make a journey to the Pacific Northwest. This party is being organized under the leadership of Governor Theodore Christianson of Minnesota, Governor A. G. Sorlie of North Dakota, Governor J. E. Erickson of Montana, Governor Chas. C. Moore of Idaho, Governor R. H. Hartley of Washington and Governor W. M. Pierce of Oregon, in cooperation with the Historical Societies of these states, and will be known as the Columbia River Historical Expedition.

One of the principal objects of the Expedition is to do honor to certain early explorers, traders and pioneers who rendered valuable services in opening up the Northwest to civilization. This is a continuation of the purposes that were behind the Historical Expedition of 1925. Another object is to dedicate permanent monuments to commemorate events of outstanding historical significance.

The 1925 pilgrimage was known as the Upper Missouri Historical Expedition and the trip was of about nine days' duration in the states of North Dakota and Montana. Several of the early explorers and fur traders of the Northwest were honored with appropriate ceremonies and monuments to some of them were dedicated.

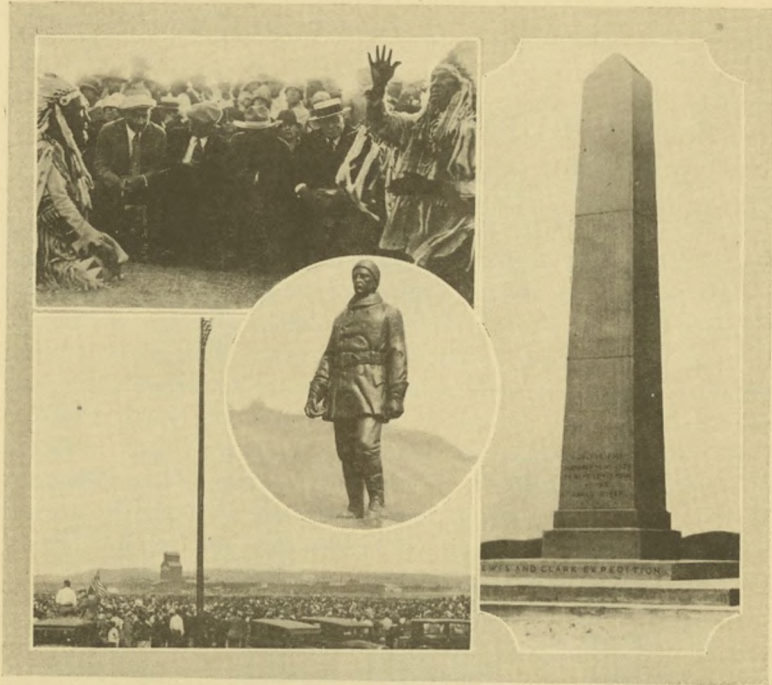
Among the prominent people who made up the 1925 Expedition were

The Honorable Pierce Butler, Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court.

Major General Hugh L. Scott, retired, U. S. Army, and member of the United States Board of Indian Commissioners, considered the greatest living authority on the North American Indian.

Governor A. G. Sorlie of North Dakota.

Governor J. E. Erickson of Montana.



Fort Union, Stevens Statue, Lewis Monument

Lawrence F Abbott, New York, Contributing Editor of Outlook Magazine and President of the Franco-American Branch of the American Good Will Association.

Lawrence J Burpee, Canadian historian, author of "The Search for the Western Sea" and other notable books on the History of the Northwest.

Agnes C. Laut, authoress.

Grace Flandrau, authoress.

T C. Elliott, of Portland, Oregon, prominent historian and scholar

John F Stevens, of New York, whose engineering achievements in the Northwest give him an honored place among the makers of history in this region.

Charles M. Russell, cowboy artist, of Great Falls, Montana.

Official representatives of many historical societies were also members of this Expedition, including Solon J Buck, Superintendent, Minnesota Historical Society; Lewis F Crawford, Superintendent and O. G. Libby, Secretary, North Dakota

Historical Society; David Hilger, Librarian, Historical Society of Montana; Doane C. Robinson, Superintendent, South Dakota Department of History; Miss Stella M. Drumm, Librarian, Missouri Historical Society; Floyd C. Shoemaker, Secretary, State Historical Society of Missouri, and Mrs. Clarence S. Paine, Secretary of the Mississippi River Valley Historical Society

Nearly all of these people have indicated their intention of accompanying the Columbia River Historical Expedition in July, 1926.

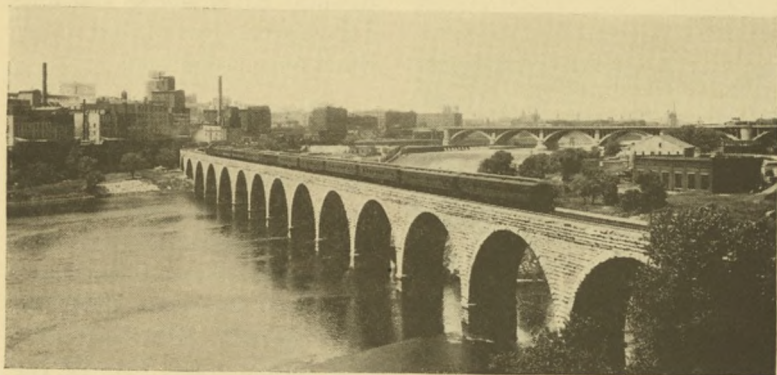
The Itinerary

The Great Northern Railway's train carrying members of this Expedition will be known as the Columbia River Special and will leave the new Union Station, Chicago, at 6:00 P. M., Thursday, July 15, making an overnight run to St. Paul, Minnesota.

Friday, July 16

An auto trip will be made to various points of interest about the Twin Cities, including the old Sibley House, once the headquarters of the American Fur Company for this district; Fort Snelling, the earliest military post in the Northwest, and Minnehaha Falls, made famous by Longfellow's poem, "Hiawatha"

Upon their arrival in Minneapolis the party will again board the Columbia River Special and during the remainder of the day the route will be along the Mississippi as far as St. Cloud and then northwesterly through the Lake Park Region of Minnesota, following closely the route of the Red River Ox-Carts, to Grand Forks, North Dakota, crossing the famous Red River of the North at Fargo, the metropolis of North Dakota.



The stone arch bridge and the Falls of St. Anthony

Before the coming of the railroad these ox-carts were practically the only means of transportation between the settlements of the Red River Valley and the head of navigation on the Mississippi at St. Paul. They were picturesque, high, two-wheeled carts, constructed entirely of wood, even the various parts being held together by wooden pins; each cart was usually drawn by a single oxen. One driver was allotted four of these carts and as many as six hundred were to be found in a single train. They were slow, cumbersome vehicles and the journey from the Red River of the North to the Mississippi was a matter of weeks instead of the few hours now taken by the "Oriental Limited" and other fast trains of today

The Columbia River Special will reach the University of North Dakota, on the outskirts of Grand Forks, in the early evening. During this stop the University and environs will be visited and there will be a parade of the ancient ox-carts so that the members of the Expedition can visualize the character of early day transportation in the Northwest. After this parade a banquet will be given in honor of the Columbia River Historical Expedition and a number of prominent men, authorities on the history of the region, will tell of early events in the historic Red River Valley, and the part played by the French in its discovery

During the night the Expedition will move westward across North Dakota arriving at Fort Union on the boundary between

North Dakota and Montana at 8:30 A. M. Saturday. A tall flag-pole just to the south of the tracks and overlooking the Missouri River marks the site of the historic fort of that name which once stood here.

Saturday, July 17

Fort Union, established in 1828, was the most important post in the entire region of the Upper Missouri. It was the headquarters post of the American Fur Company and the trade-center for all of the Northwest Indian tribes east of the Rockies. From here Kenneth



A Red River ox-cart train

McKenzie ruled supreme over a territory half as large as all Europe.

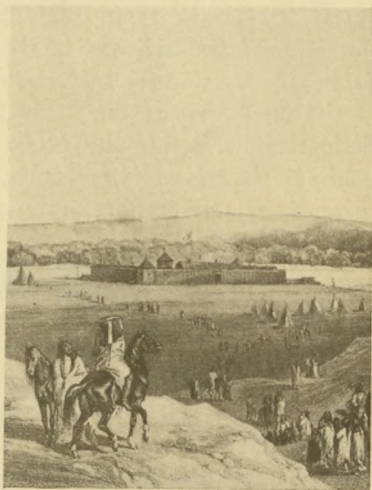
The celebration to be held here will be a colorful pageant depicting the country as it was a hundred years ago. Indian tribes, whose ancestors once traded at this post, will dominate the program. Indian chiefs, braves, squaws and papooses—dressed in their finery of beaded buckskin and feathered head-dresses—will dance to the measured beat of the tom-tom, Assiniboine will talk to Hidatsa and Sioux will talk to Blackfeet by means of the sign language, the universal language of the plains, the many tribes will compete in horse races and old-time games, notably the hand game and the wheel game, there will be a special teepee race for the squaws and other events. Many of these were staged during last year's celebration and proved fascinating and instructive, especially to those people to whom the Indian is merely a story-book character

Sunday, July 18

The following morning the Expedition will arrive at Fort Benton, Mont., an old-time post of the days of the Indian trade and, until the coming of the Great Northern in 1887, it was the head of navigation on the Missouri River and as such an important gateway for trade and travel. Three hours will be spent visiting this historic spot and then the party will proceed to Great Falls, Mont. After luncheon, a visit will be made to the Great Falls of the Missouri, discovered by Lewis and Clark, June 13, 1805, while on their memorable journey up the Missouri and over the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific Coast. At 6:00 P. M. the Columbia River Special will proceed to Bonners Ferry, Idaho, which will be reached early the next day

Monday, July 19

At Bonners Ferry a monument will be dedicated to commemorate the first route of trade and travel across what is now the State of Idaho. This monument will be of Kettle River sandstone and will have a decorative motif sculptured in its face.



Fort Union, 1833



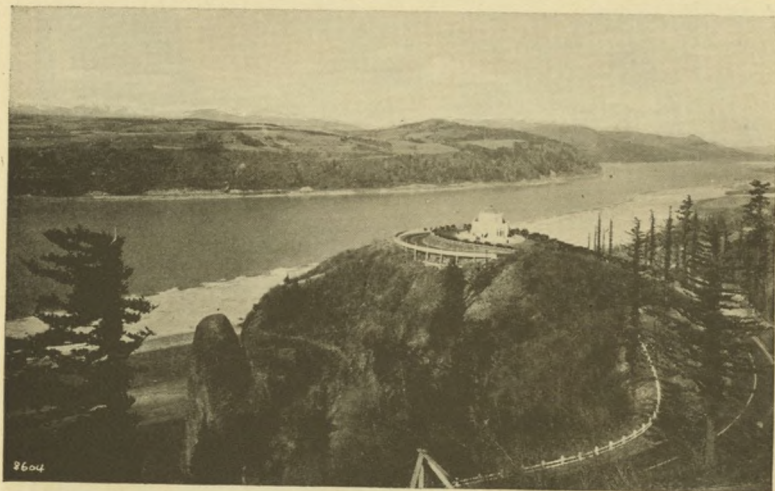
In the Canyon of the Kootenai

The tracks of the Great Northern Railway, at this point, follow the beautiful canyon of the Kootenai and further on enter the valleys of the Pend d'Oreille and Spokane Rivers, from time immemorial the highway of the Indian and later the route of the first explorers and the brigades of the fur companies. This is one of the most picturesque train rides in the Northwest, with the delicate, bewildering blue-green waters mingling with the brighter colors of the trees and flowers and all set off by the grayish purple haze of the surrounding mountains.

At the end of this journey along the age-old trail across the mountains is Spokane, the hub of the Inland Empire and the largest city between the Glacier Park Rockies and the Pacific Northwest. The Columbia River Special will arrive in this city early in the afternoon and here the members will be taken by auto to many places of historic and scenic interest, among others the summit of Mt. Spokane, from which may be seen the vast region in which Father De Smet and his Jesuit missionaries labored among the Indian tribes in 1842. The old Mission at Cataldo,



Scenes along the Columbia



On the Columbia River Highway

Idaho, still stands as a monument to the devoted endeavors of these men. Upon their return to Spokane they will partake of a banquet at the Davenport Hotel and will listen to talks on the early history of the Spokane country

Tuesday, July 20

The next day will be spent on the banks of the Columbia, the far-famed river of the west, searched for in vain by Verendrye and his sons, by the Spaniards and the English mariners, discovered by an American sea captain, Robert Gray, in 1792; afterwards explored for a great part of its length by another group of Americans, the Lewis and Clark Expedition of 1804-06; and for its entire length by David Thompson in 1811; and finally opened to trade by John Jacob Astor's Pacific Fur Company in 1811.

The route of the Expedition from Spokane is via the Spokane, Portland and Seattle Railway, the "North Bank" route along the Columbia River. For over three hundred miles the Columbia River Special will follow this mighty stream, passing in and out of tunnels, now under some high precipice, now passing in view of some delicate waterfall, now rounding a bend where the river stretches endlessly into the distance, gradually unfolding a continuous panorama of beautiful pictures as the train speeds on its way

A stop will be made at Wishram, overlooking Celilo Falls of the



The beach at Seaside, Ore.

Columbia. This place, made famous in story by Washington Irving, in his *Astoria*, was once the most important Indian village in the west. To it came the tribes of the sea coast and the nomads of the mountains to trade for salmon, bead work and other articles. Nearly every exploring and trading expedition into the Northwest stopped here to barter with the Indians and to portage their canoes around the falls. Lewis and Clark mention the place in their journals. Narratives of the overland Astorians give complete descriptions of this aboriginal trading center. To honor the many pathfinders and pioneers, both men and women, who stopped at this place the Columbia River Historical Expedition will dedicate an appropriate monument composed of rock taken from the majestic palisades of basalt, which line the Columbia for many miles.

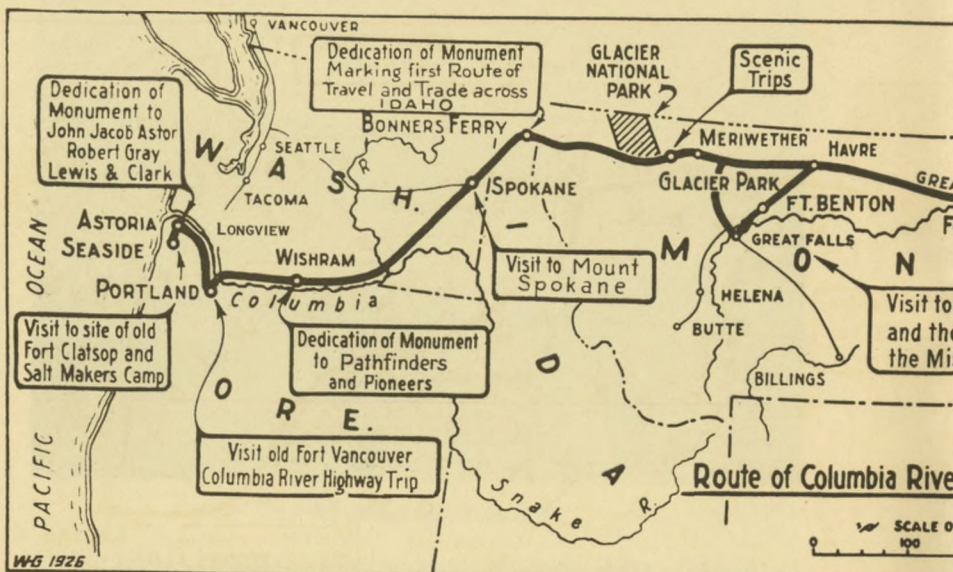
Leaving Wishram at 10:30 A. M. the Expedition will continue down the Columbia to Portland, the Rose City, arriving there in early after-



Fort Clatsop



*Remains of Lewis and Clark's
salt cairn*



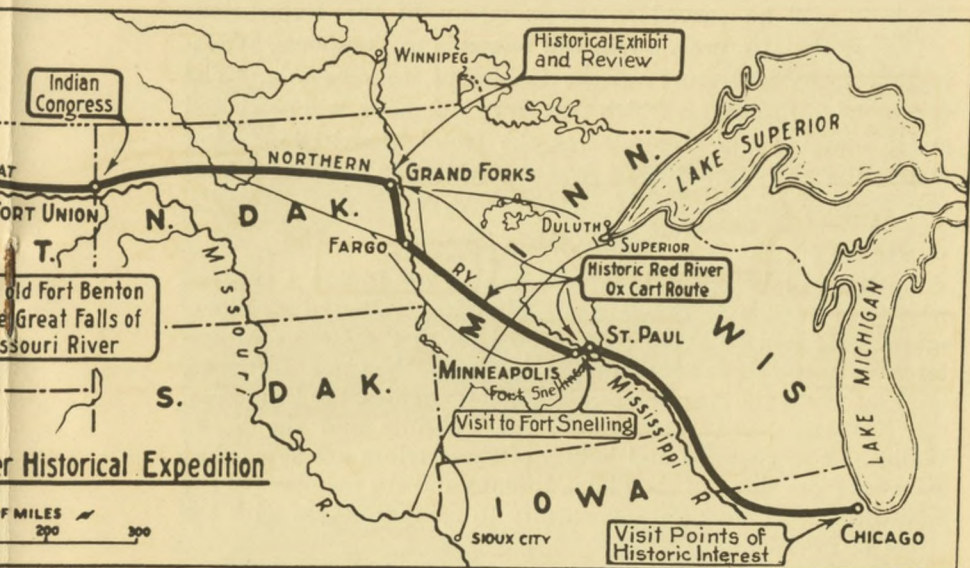
noon. A visit will be made to the site of Old Fort Vancouver on the north bank of the Columbia where Dr John McLaughlin established a trading-post for the Hudson's Bay Company in 1824. At Portland autos will be waiting to carry the members up the Columbia River Highway to Multnomah Falls, on the south side of the river, where supper will be served, and the return journey made in the early evening.

Wednesday, July 21

The route of Lewis and Clark has been touched at many places throughout the journey, first on the Missouri to the west of Williston, N D., again at Fort Benton and Great Falls, Montana, a third time near Meriwether, Montana, a fourth time along the Columbia and on Wednesday their route will be visited again; this time at Seaside and Clatsop Beach where these intrepid Americans camped for the winter of 1805-06 and



Fort Astoria, 1813



built their camp for the manufacture of a supply of salt to use on their return journey

Thursday, July 22

Captain Robert Gray, Lewis and Clark and John Jacob Astor will be honored during Thursday's ceremonies which are to be held on Coxcomb Hill, Astor Park, Astoria, Oregon. Through the generosity of Vincent Astor, a descendant of John Jacob Astor, a column 125 feet in height is being erected on Coxcomb Hill. A ribbon-like frieze spirals up this column and upon it is carved a series of pictures portraying the discoveries of Captain Gray, the explorations of Lewis and Clark and various incidents in the building and settlement of old Fort Astoria, John Jacob Astor's fur-trading post on the Pacific. The dedication of this monument will be the principal ceremony of the day and at noon a picnic



The Columbia

luncheon will be served to the members of the Expedition.

During the afternoon a trip will be made to Longview, Washington, a short distance up the Columbia from Astoria. The enormous saw mills, for which that town is famous, will be visited and a banquet will be served at the Hotel Monticello. After which, the party will again board the train and start on the return journey east.

Friday, July 23

Friday will be spent in attendance at an Indian Congress, which the people of Spokane are planning. The tribes represented here will be those that dwell west of the Rocky Mountains. Among these tribes are the Spokanes, the Coeur d'Alenes, the Flatheads, the Nez Perces, the Pend d'Oreilles, the Umatillas, the Kootenais, the Wenatchees, the Colvilles and the Walla Wallas. The customs and habits of these tribes are somewhat different from those of the plains Indians and the members of the Expedition will have an opportunity to compare them with the tribes at Fort Union.

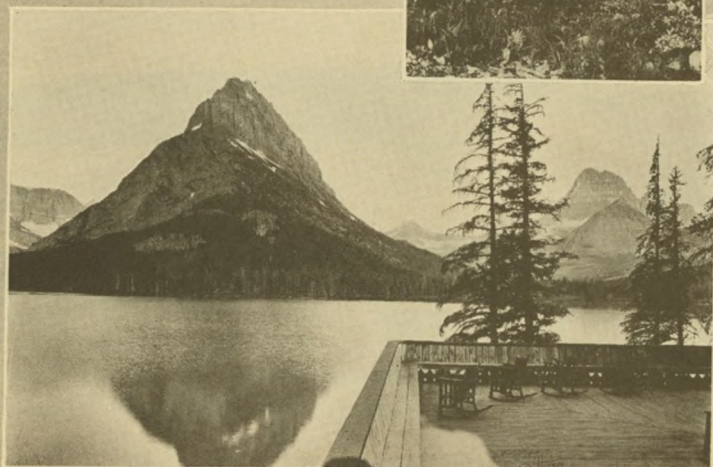
Saturday, July 24

Saturday and Sunday will be spent visiting that great mountain playground—Glacier National Park. Autos will meet the members at Glacier Park Station and convey them to Many-Glacier Hotel in the heart of the Park. This is a center of marvelous beauty, towering peaks rise abruptly on all sides, crystal clear lakes of every size and description glisten in the valleys. Down from the melting glaciers mighty cataracts foam and tumble or murmur through ever-green forests and flower-strewn meadows. Foot and horseback trails beckon you—some leading to lakes and falls—others leading upward and onward into the blue sky where the panorama of the mountains is unfolded. The Expedition will remain here until Sunday morning and then will proceed to St. Mary's Chalets where a boat will be waiting for the trip up St. Mary's Lake to Going-to-the-Sun Mountain and Chalets.

Sunday, July 25

If there is one mountain above all others in Glacier National Park whose overpowering personality impresses itself on the memory of the sightseer, it is Going-to-the-Sun. Standing, as it does, 9,584 feet above sea level and nearly a mile directly above the waters of St. Mary's Lake its classic outlines are clearly visible from all sides. Its unusual name is an inaccurate translation of the Indian title "Mah-tah-pee-o-stook-sis-meh-stuk"

According to the Indian legend the Sun Father sent his son Sour Spirit to the Piegans and the Blackfeet to teach them all the

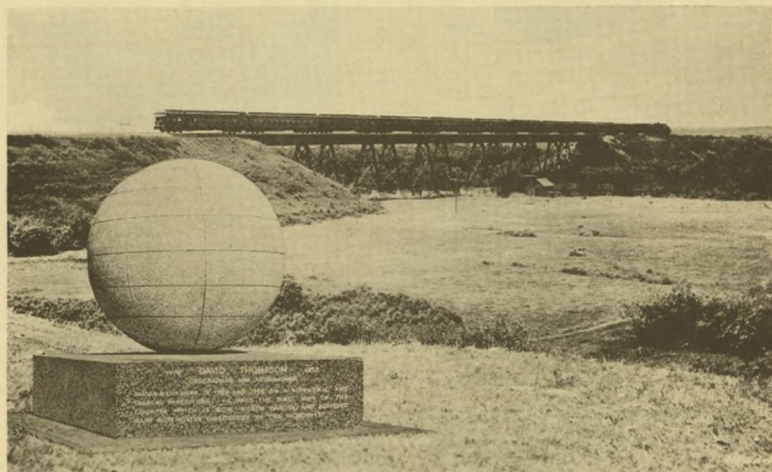


Glimpses of Glacier National Park

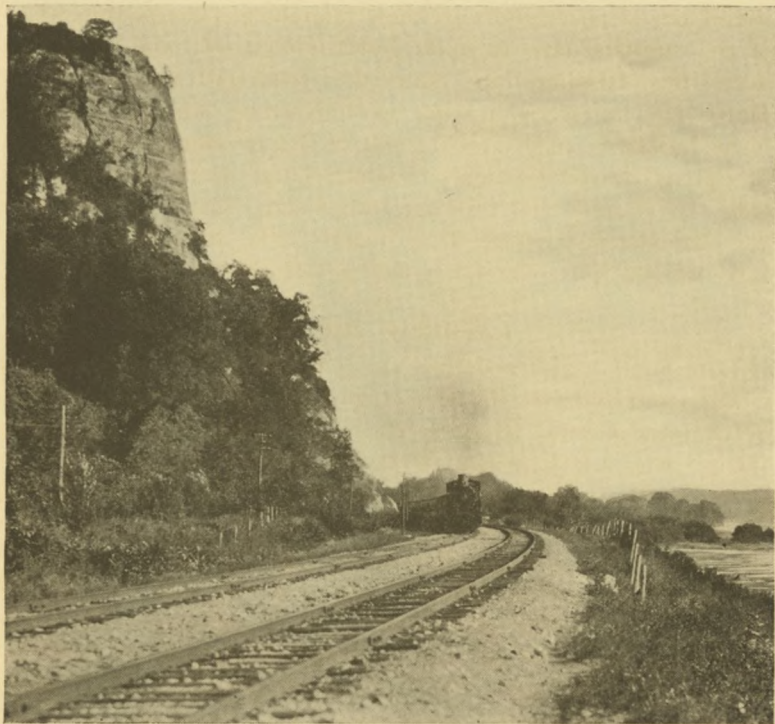
useful arts of peace and war—how to make teepees, tan the hides of the animals, how to make bows and arrows and the other necessities of Indian life. Sour Spirit lived with the Indians for many years and when his work was finished he caused the likeness of his face to be placed on the side of this mountain, in the form of a great snowfield which still remains high up on the mountain side. Ever since that time the Indians have given the mountain the aforementioned title which means "The-mountain-with-the-face-of-Sour-Spirit-who-has-gone-back-to-the-Sun."

Monday, July 26

Late Sunday afternoon the party will return to Glacier Park Station and following dinner at Glacier Park Hotel will board the returning Columbia River Special to continue the journey to the Twin Cities and Chicago. Fort Union will be passed at about 11:00 A. M. the following morning and at Minot the train will take the line comprising two hundred and thirty miles of almost straight track to Fargo. At about 5:30 in the afternoon the train will pass through Verendrye, N. D., and on the left side of the track, just after crossing the bridge over the Mouse River, the granite globe which the Upper Missouri Historical Expedition dedicated in honor of David Thompson, will be seen. Early Tuesday morning, July 27, the special will arrive in St. Paul and start on the final stage of the journey down the Mississippi River to Chicago on the Burlington Route.



The Thompson Monument at Verendrye, N. D.



The verdure-clad bluffs that line the Mississippi

Tuesday, July 27

This part of the journey will be of particular interest to the Oratorical Contest winners because of the important part the early French pioneers played in the discovery and exploration of this river. Many of the places passed mark the scenes of their endeavors. Near Trempealeau (a name which was bestowed by the early voyageurs on this distinctive peak) the ruins still remain of the fort and trading-post which Nicholas Perrot built in 1689. Farther on the tracks bridge the mouth of the Wisconsin River, on which floated the canoes of Marquette and Joliet and many other of the early explorers. Just across the river from East Dubuque is the Iowa city of Dubuque named after Julian Dubuque who came to the little Indian village, that once stood there, in 1788. These and many other historic spots of interest and the wonderful scenery that is unfolded as the train speeds along the banks of "The Father of Waters" will make the final day of the Columbia River Historical Expedition one that will be long remembered.



Bronzes from Marquette Bldg., Chicago
Verendrye Statue, Parliament Bldg., Quebec, Can.

*Starting at upper left-hand corner reading down—La Salle, Du Lhut, Joliet,
Tonty, Marquette, De Smet, Verendrye, Larpenteur*

The French Pioneers in America¹

In the initial discovery and settlement of America the French and the English each seized upon lands that fitted into their particular scheme of colonization. The English, coming here primarily for the settlement of small compact colonies, landed upon what is now the Atlantic seaboard of the United States, built their homes near some sheltered bay where easy communication could be had with the homeland and for many years did not extend their domain beyond the fall line. The French, on the other hand, did not come to form farming communities, but rather to establish trading relations with the Indian tribes and they acquired lands that fitted this purpose.

The discovery of the St. Lawrence River by Cartier in 1536 gave them access to the St. Lawrence-Great Lakes waterway and their further explorations in later years placed them upon that other great natural highway—the Mississippi River. This gave the French an almost continuous route through the heart of America, from the North Atlantic on the east to the Gulf of Mexico on the south; a highway that was made full use of by French missionaries and fur traders.

The fur trader was drawn into the enterprise by the lure of adventure and glory, and the immense profits that resulted from a successful trip. These men embarked, with their canoe loads of trade goods from one of the settlements along the St. Lawrence, and paddling their way up the Ottawa and over the portage to Lake Nipissing disappeared into the wilderness, to return after months and even years of absence with their canoes laden with furs. The sale of these furs netted them a profit of from eight to ten times their original investment, and as the newer the field the better the trade possibilities these men were soon far to the west of the Great Lakes discovering and opening up new territories that had never before been seen by civilized man.

The voyageurs and couriers des bois were a colorful offspring of this fur trade and did much to open up new territories, although not much is known of their discoveries, as the majority of them left no record of their adventures.

¹ This and the remaining pages will be devoted to a short article on "The French Pioneers in America" and brief biographies of a few of the French explorers, fur traders, and missionaries, for the benefit of the contestants in the High School Oratorical Contests now being conducted under the auspices of the Franco-American Branch of the American Good Will Association.

The missionaries traveled and explored far into the then unknown interior of America. These men traveled with and sometimes preceded the fur traders and government explorers. They belonged chiefly to two orders, the Recollets and the Jesuits, of which the Jesuits were the more active. Their mission was not one of conquest and exploration, but the conversion of souls and they spent their lives living among the Indian tribes, sometimes traveling from place to place as the tribe among whom they were laboring moved or erecting their little rude chapel at some point far in the wilderness where the roaming savages were wont to congregate. Many were the trials and tribulations of these men of God and a number of them died from the hardships of their calling or were murdered by the very men they had come to serve.

The conquest of Canada by the English in 1763 marked the downfall of French power in America, although the majority of the inhabitants of the St. Lawrence valley remained French in everything but name. They still took a prominent part in the development of the country, first as interpreters, free trappers and general helpers for the great fur companies that sprung up and later as the actual settlers of a great part of the country even as far west as the Willamette Valley in Oregon.

The narrative of the exploits and adventures of these early pioneers makes a thrilling story of indomitable perseverance in the face of almost insurmountable obstacles, of great sacrifices either for God or country—a tale that makes every true American thrill with pride.

Biographies

Jean Nicolet

Nicolet was born in Cherbourg, Normandy in 1598. He came to Canada when he was twenty years old and was immediately sent to the Algonquian Indians of Allumette Island on the Ottawa to learn their language. He remained with this tribe for two years and afterwards spent eight or nine years with the tribes around Nipissing Lake. Here he gained their confidence so much that they initiated him into the tribe and allowed him to take part in their councils.

Upon returning to Quebec, after an absence of fifteen years in the wilderness, he met Champlain, the exploring governor of Canada, who sent him west once more, this time far beyond the known limits of the country. During this trip Nicolet reached Green Bay (1634) and ascended the Fox River to the Wisconsin portage.

The following year he returned to Quebec and was made an interpreter for the fur trade at Three Rivers, where he remained until his death in 1642.

Pierre Esprit Radisson

Radisson was born in the port of St. Malo, France in the year 1636, but shortly after his family moved to Canada and settled at Three Rivers. When Radisson was only fifteen he was captured by the Iroquois and lived for two years in the Mohawk valley before he could effect his escape through the Dutch settlement at Albany.

In 1658 he formed a partnership with his brother-in-law, Groseillers and the two of them made two expeditions far to the west of Lake Superior, trading with the Indians on the Mississippi and with the tribes that frequented the Missouri. On their return from the second journey their furs were confiscated by the government and Radisson and Groseillers went to England.

Here they were instrumental in bringing about the organization of the Hudson's Bay Company, but, in turn, becoming dissatisfied with the English, they returned to Canada and organizing a party of Canadians captured Fort Nelson, on Hudson's Bay, from the British. The furs which they brought back from this trip were again confiscated by the government and a short while later Radisson re-enters the service of the Hudson's Bay Company.

He remained with this concern the rest of his life, but in spite of all he had done for them he died in London in the year 1710 almost penniless.

Medard Chouart, Sieur de Groseillers

Groseillers was born in 1621 at Charly-Saint Cyr, near Meaux in France and at an early age came to Canada, where he soon gained an enviable reputation as an intrepid explorer. He married a sister of Radisson's and soon after became his partner and companion in later adventures.

Whenever these two were together on their trips into the wilderness Radisson usually explored the country while Groseillers did the trading with the Indians.¹ When the two of them left the Hudson's Bay people Groseillers returned to Three Rivers for a time, but soon joined Radisson again for an expedition to the Hayes River in 1681-82.

His later days were filled with lawsuits due to the jealousies of the other fur traders and his petition to the French court for redress of his wrongs was ignored. Tiring of this unequal struggle he returned to Three Rivers where he lived quietly until his death about 1684.

¹ For a brief description of their exploits see Radisson's biography.

Father Claude Allouez

Father Allouez was born in France in 1620, where he received his early education in the Jesuit Order. He was soon transferred to Canada, however, and devoted the remainder of his life to missionary work among the Indians.

He is often called the founder of Catholicity in the west as he was the first missionary to penetrate into the western Lake Superior Region. He preceded and was a co-worker of Marquette's. For thirty-two years he labored among the tribes of the west—it is said that he visited twenty different tribes and baptised over 20,000 savages—and in the course of his mission work he traveled over a wider territory than any of the missionaries of his days. He had many exciting adventures—at times the Indians wished to worship him as a god and at others they desired to sacrifice him to their Manitou—and died in 1689 near the St. John's River in the present state of Indiana.

Father Jacques Marquette

Father Marquette was born June 1, 1636 in the city of Laon, France. While still very young he entered the Jesuit order and after several years was sent to Canada as a missionary. Here he was sent to the western missions on Lake Superior and finally erected one of his own on the Straits of Mackinac.

In May 1673 he set out with Louis Joliet to explore the Mississippi which was thought to be a route to the Orient. By following the Fox and Wisconsin Rivers they finally entered the Mississippi on the 17th of June and descended its waters as far as the mouth of the Arkansas where they learned that it entered the Gulf of Mexico. They returned by way of the Illinois and Chicago Rivers and arrived at the mission at De Pere in September.

Late the following year Marquette again set out intending to work among the Illinois Indians. His ill health forced him to winter near the Chicago River and while he did manage to reach the Illinois, the following spring his health gave out entirely and he died May 18, 1675, while trying to reach his old mission of St. Ignace.

Louis Joliet

Louis Joliet was born in one of the little houses that clustered about the base of Quebec. His early education was in the Jesuit college of that city, but he later left that order and became a government explorer.

In 1669 he accompanied a party instructed by the governor of New France to search for copper mines in the Lake Superior region. Two years later he was a member of St. Luson's party which formally took possession of the Northwest country in the name of the king of France.

He was a co-worker with Marquette in the exploration of the Mississippi and some years later, mainly as a result of this trip, he was given, together with a public office, the Island of Anticosti and its profitable fishing grounds. He lived here with his family and was gradually growing wealthy when in 1690 Phip's fleet destroyed his establishment and he was ruined. At the time of his death (1690) he was suffering from poverty, although he owned a large tract of land near Quebec.

Rene Robert Cavalier Sieur de La Salle

La Salle was born in Rouen, France in 1643. He was educated in the Society of Jesus, but withdrawing from the Order he moved to Canada and took up a seignior near the rapids of La Chine. During the next few years he made extensive explorations around Lake Ontario and on the Ohio River and in 1679 built the "Griffin" and set sail from Fort Frontenac for a fur-trading voyage on the upper Great Lakes.

He dreamed of establishing a great inland empire along the Mississippi and pushing on to Green Bay (Wis.) he loaded the Griffin with furs and sent it back to Fort Frontenac, but it was lost on the way. La Salle continued down the coast of Lake Michi-

gan and meeting his Lieutenant Tonty, at the St. Joseph River proceeded down the Illinois and Mississippi Rivers to the Gulf of Mexico.

In 1684 he sailed from France with four vessels to establish a colony at the mouth of the Mississippi. This proved to be a disastrous expedition—they missed the mouth of the Mississippi and while wandering along the Texas coast La Salle was murdered by one of his discontented followers on March 19, 1687, near the mouth of the Trinity River.

Henri de Tonty

Tonty was born during the year 1650 in the town of Gaeta, Italy, but at an early age he left Italy and entered the military service of France where he remained until his twenty-eighth year. It was while in this service that he met La Salle and went with him to Canada.

In 1679 Tonty sailed along the eastern shore of Lake Michigan and met his chief (La Salle), who was coasting down the west shore, near the St. Joseph River. The combined parties then portaged over to the Illinois and some miles farther on built Ft Crevecoeur. Upon La Salle's return to Fort Frontenac for supplies Tonty was left in charge of this fort.

In 1682 he was with La Salle on his memorable journey down the Mississippi and upon the completion of the voyage was placed in charge of the new fort on the Illinois—Fort St. Louis. Here he remained for several years except for a journey he made down the Mississippi in 1686 in search of La Salle and his party and when he joined Denonville's expedition against the English Colonies.

He moved to Louisiana and joined Iberville's party in 1702 and there he spent the remaining two years of his life.

Father Louis Hennepin

Father Hennepin was a Belgian missionary and explorer. He was born at Ath in Hainault in 1640 and at an early age joined the Recollet branch of the Franciscan Order. For many years he taught in northern France and Belgium, but in 1675 he embarked for Canada on the same

boat as La Salle. His first year in Canada was spent in the Indian Mission of Fort Frontenac and a visit to the Mohawk country.

In 1678 he accompanied La Salle's expedition as far as Fort Crevecoeur, which was established on the Illinois. From here he was sent, with two companions, to explore the upper Mississippi. When this little party reached a point not far below the present site of St. Paul they were taken prisoners by the Sioux and carried north to Mille Lacs Lake where they were rescued by Du Lhut. During this journey, July 3, 1680, Hennepin discovered and named St. Anthony Falls.

Soon afterwards Hennepin sailed for France and published the story of his explorations. When ordered by his superiors to return to America he refused and took refuge in Holland, where he died in 1706.

Daniel de Greyclon Du Lhut

De Lhut was a French explorer who was born at Saint-Germain-en-Layr, France, in 1649. While still a lad he joined the Royal Guard and later was commissioned a captain and sent to Canada. In 1674 he returned to France and took part in the campaign against William of Orange.

When he again arrived in Montreal he formed an expedition to explore Lake Superior and the land to the west. This party left Montreal in September, 1678, and arrived at the present site of Duluth in July, 1679, after wintering somewhere along the shores of Lake Huron. During the summer he established friendly relations with the Sioux Indians and continued his explorations in the country west of Lake Superior.

The following year (1680) he went to Fond du Lac and explored westward to the Mississippi River. On this journey he rescued Father Hennepin and his two companions who were prisoners among the Sioux. In 1695 he was placed in command of Fort Frontenac and in 1709 he died at the age of sixty years.

Armand Louis, Baron de la Hontan

La Hontan was born at Mont-de-Maison, Gascony in 1666. At the age of 17 he went to Canada as a com-

mon soldier. Here he was stationed at various military posts and made several expeditions against the Indians, but his chief bid to fame is because of his books on his trips and explorations in the west. In 1688 he visited Michilimackinac and Sault Ste Marie and in the following year made a trip in which he claimed to have reached the upper Mississippi.

While on his way to France in 1692 he stopped at Placentier Bay, Newfoundland and helped defend the place against the British. For this he was made King's Lieutenant in Newfoundland and Acadia, but quarrelled with the Governor and was dismissed from the service.

In the following years he traveled extensively throughout Europe, finally settling in Hanover where he died in 1715 after publishing one or two books on his travels in America.

Pierre Charles Le Sueur

Le Sueur was born in 1657 of parents who had emigrated to Canada from the province of Artois in northern France. When he was twenty-six years of age he became an agent of the government and moved to the Mississippi, probably traveling with Perrot. He remained in this district for a number of years except for expedition for the sale of furs to Montreal and one or two voyages to France.

He was with Perrot at the time of his proclamation at Fort St. Antoine, 1689, when Perrot claimed the Northwest in the name of the French king. In 1693 he was stationed at Chequamegon Bay (Wisconsin) and two years later he established a post on Prairie Island (upper Mississippi). Later, after a trip to Montreal, he built a post on the Blue Earth River in Minnesota and here he thought that he had discovered copper ore. He transported nearly two tons of this supposed ore down the Mississippi and thence to France, where an assay proved it worthless. He died about 1712—some say while on the return voyage from France.

Pierre Gaultier de Varennes Sieur de la Verendrye

Verendrye was born at Three Rivers, Canada on the 17th of November, 1685. At an early age he entered the army and going to

France fought in the war of the Spanish Succession. Upon his return to the colonies he married and settled upon the Isle Dupas where his four sons, who were to take part in his voyages of discovery, were born.

In 1727 he moved to the Lake Nipigon trading-post and here he heard tales of the great river that flowed to the salt sea of the west. Four years later saw him starting in search of this fabled sea.

In the following years he built trading-posts at several points along the U. S.-Canadian border and farther up in Canada and had extended his explorations as far west as the Missouri River. In 1742 he sent his son, the Chevalier, on another trip into the west and planned still another which was stopped by his death in 1749.

The Chevalier de la Verendrye

Francois de la Verendrye or the Chevalier, as he is more commonly known, was the third eldest of the four sons of Pierre de la Verendrye. He accompanied his father on the first expeditions into the west and on the expedition of 1738 he was sent, with the younger Nolant, from the "Mantannes" village on the Mouse River to the second "Mantannes" village on the Missouri.

In 1742 Pierre sent the Chevalier, and his younger brother Louis Joseph, on another expedition in search of the western sea, and following their old trail as far as the second village they then headed in a westerly direction traveling from tribe to tribe until at last they met a war party of Bow Indians who were marching westward to attack the Snake Indians. They traveled with this tribe far into the west until they could see the snow-topped peaks of the Rockies rising directly in front. At this point the Bows gave up their expedition and the Verendryes were forced to return eastward. On this trip they placed a lead tablet in the ground near Fort Pierre, S. D.—where it was found in 1913—and proceeded on their way to the trading-post on the Assiniboine River.

Some years later war broke out between England and France and the Chevalier gave his life in the siege of Quebec.

Gabriel Franchere

Franchere, a French explorer and author, was born in Montreal in 1786. When he was about twenty-four he joined the Pacific Fur Company, organized by John Jacob Astor to trade in the Pacific Northwest, and sailed from New York harbor for the mouth of the Columbia on the ill-fated Tonquin. He helped to establish Fort Astoria in 1812 and a short time after returned to the east with the overland party.

Upon his arrival in Montreal he again entered the fur trade first in a post near Sault Ste Marie and later in New York. An occupation he continued almost up to the time of his death in 1856.

He wrote a book on his adventures in the Pacific Northwest entitled, "Relation d'un Voyage a la Cote du Nord-Ouest de l'Amerique Septentrionale," which later proved of great value to the United States in holding the Oregon country within our boundaries.

Charles Larpenteur

Larpenteur was born May 8, 1807 near Fontainebleau, France. His father was an ardent Napoleonist and upon the downfall of that man he moved to a farm near Baltimore, Md., with his family. Here Larpenteur lived until he was twenty-one, when he left home and moved to St. Louis.

In 1833 he determined to enter the fur trade and procured a position with the Rocky Mountain Fur Company. He made a trip into the Upper Yellowstone country and helped establish Fort William at the mouth of the Yellowstone while with that company and when the American Fur Company bought out the Rocky Mountain people, Larpenteur was transferred to Fort Union three miles away, as a clerk in that trading-post.

He remained with this latter company for many years, making several trips either into the Indian country or back to the settlements and was finally placed in charge of the Fort. At the end of the Indian troubles of the sixties he played an important part as interpreter for the army. For some time after he was a sutler at various military forts and in 1871 he

settled on a small farm near Little Sioux, Ia., where he died Nov. 15, 1872.

Pierre Choteau, Jr.

Pierre Choteau, Jr., was born in St. Louis, Missouri, Jan. 19, 1789. He, like his father, entered the fur trade while still very young, first as his father's clerk and later in business for himself. He was one of the partners of the Missouri Fur Company and when that concern was merged with the American Fur Company, Pierre became one of the directors of the combined outfit.

In the course of his business he traveled extensively throughout the Northwest to establish trading-posts and to open up trade with the many plains tribes. He was instrumental in the building of Fort Union, near the junction of the Yellowstone and Missouri Rivers and paid a number of visits to that territory.

In 1834 Pierre Choteau, Jr., bought out Mr. Astor's interests in the Northwest and five years later the firm of Pierre Choteau, Jr., and Company was organized. He remained head of this concern until his death, Sept. 8, 1865.

Father Peter John De Smet

Father De Smet was a Roman Catholic missionary to the Indians. He was born in Termonde, Belgium in 1801 and was educated at the episcopal seminary at Mechlin. When twenty years of age he embarked for the United States and shortly after was admitted to the Jesuit Order at Whitmarsh, Md.

In 1828 he went to St. Louis and participated in the organization of the University of St. Louis, remaining there for several years as one of its professors. Ten years later (1838) he became a missionary, first to the Potawatamie Indians and later to the Flathead Indians of the Rocky Mountains. It was among the Flatheads

and other tribes of the Rocky Mountain region that he spent the remainder of his life, making frequent trips to Europe to collect money and recruits for his missions. He died in St. Louis May 23, 1873.

Joseph La Barge

Joseph La Barge was born in St. Louis, Missouri, October 1, 1815, and died in the same city, April 3, 1899. Nearly all of his life was spent in steamboating and he became the most distinguished of the Missouri River pilots. He made and lost a fortune at the business and for many years he served on the steamboats of the American Fur Company. Chittenden, in his *History of Early Steamboat Navigation on the Missouri*, dwells at length on the life of this man and says that he was a man of high character and the best representative of the old Missouri River Pilots, who are now a thing of the past.

Joseph Nicolas Nicollet

J. N. Nicollet was born at Cluses in Savoy in 1787, but when he was twenty-one years of age he moved to Paris and a few years later became a naturalized French citizen. He was, at that time, working with the government observatory in Paris and in 1822 was promoted to assistant astronomer in the Bureau of Longitudes. He discovered the comet of 1821 at the same time as Pons, whom it is named after.

In 1830 he got into financial difficulties due to unfortunate speculations and moved to the United States. Here he was given some assistance by the government and made quite an extensive geographical and geological exploration of the country of the Upper Mississippi. He embodied the results of these explorations in a series of memoirs that were published shortly before his death in 1843.

Books on the French in America

Especially in the Northwest

The editor is indebted to Miss Gertrude Krausnick, Librarian of the Minnesota Historical Society, for the list of books which follows.

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