

TIME LINE & HISTORY for Sault Ste. Marie, MI

Before and after 1600s__Area is inhabited by Chippewa (or Ojibway), Ottawa and other Indian tribes for a summer gathering place and because of its excellent fishing grounds.

THE FRENCH PERIOD

1600s to late 1790s__Besides natives staying in vicinity French explorers, Jesuit missionaries, voyageurs and French and British fur traders visited and lived in the Sault on and off.

1623__Brule passed through the rapids of the St. Mary's river into the lake of the north (Lake Superior). In his journal he named the Indians living there Saulters or dwellers of the rapids. In maps of this period the lake is known as Lac Tracy.

1641__Father Isaac Jogues and Charles Raymbeult visited Ba-wating (Indian name for village or site) and established a small temporary mission. After spending some seven weeks in residence they returned to Huronia and soon met their death at the hands of the Iroquois Indians.

1668__Father Jacques Marquette arrives in the Sault and builds mission for local Indians. It is the first permanent wooden structure built in the State of Michigan. Built of cedar posts it was 12 feet high and enclosed a chapel and residence. The site of the mission was between the Indian village and the rapids.

1669__Father Marquette was transferred to the mission at Chequamagon Bay and was replaced at the Sault by Father Gabriel Druillettes.

1671__Pageant at the Sault in which France laid claim to all lands of the vicinity. An excellent source of color and pageantry during early French times. Present at this pageant were: St. Luson, representing the crown; Nicholes Perrot, the interpreter; Fathers Allouez and Dablon, representing the church. M. Cadotte (cadeaux) the father of Jean Baptiste Cadotte, came with this group and stayed in the vicinity afterward.

1750__de la Jonquiers, the governor general of New France awarded a large siegny to his erst-while nephew de Bonne and soldier-of- fortune de Repetigny at the Sault. The purpose of this 6 square league award was to establish a post to intercept Indians going to trade with the English and the Dutch. This siegny consisted of over 214,000 sq. acres.

1751__Fort de Repetigny - Repetigny established his small post near the rapids and named it after himself. His chief assistant was Jean Baptiste Cadotte, a local trader who was married to the daughter of the local chief (one of the first on record). The fort consisted of a 15 foot palisade which was 110 feet on a side.

Inside were: two buildings 25 feet by 20 feet, one building 20 feet by 30 feet, and a 12 feet by 12 feet redoubt, built of oak and 27 feet tall. The settlement was also supplied with animals from Fort Michilimackinac consisting of cows, bulls, oxen, horses and mares.

1758__Repentigny left his fort to fight for the French government against the British in Quebec. He fought at Montmorency Falls and was present at the French government defeat at Quebec. De Bonne was killed in this later fight. Cadotte was left in charge much like a feudal tenant landlord.

BRITISH PERIOD

1762__Lieutenant Jemmet of the British Army was sent from Fort Michilimackinac to take over Fort Repentigny from the French. Cadotte continues to live at the fort after the British takeover and later in life becomes a strong British supporter. In December of that year a mysterious fire destroyed all the buildings except Cadott's house and a portion of the stockade. The British soldiers left at once for Michilimackinac leaving Cadotte, his wife and family, Lt. Jemmet and Alexander Henry at the Sault.

1763__In January Lt. Jemmet, Cadotte and his family, and Alexander Henry leave for Fort Michilimackinac. Later that year Lt. Jemmet is killed in the Indian uprising at Fort Michilimackinac and Henry is taken prisoner. Cadotte and his family returned to the Sault early in the spring.

1763__Indian warriors from the Michilimackinac massacre and holding Henry a prisoner are encountered by Cadott's' wife and are persuaded into releasing him to her custody. Henry is then brought back to the Sault. Later a band of Indians from the Niagara area report that peace has been made with the British and then helps to calm the local Indians.

1793__John Johnston is considered to be first permanent white settler in the Sault. He came with his native wife who was the daughter of Chippewa Chief Waub-o-jeeg. Johnston had emigrated from Ireland and became a successful fur trader with the help of his wife's family connections. Johnston educated his children himself. Johnston assisted the British during the War of 1812 and as punishment his business was raided and burnt by U. S. forces. Johnston himself never became a U.S. citizen and his eldest son Lewis fought for Great Britain during the War of 1812 and was captured by Captain Perry during the battle on Lake Erie. His eldest daughter Jane, married Henry Rowe Schoolcraft, who was sent to the Sault as the Indian Agent with the first U. S. troops. He became famous for his native American research and writing, much of it made possible with the assistance of Jane, at first as interpreter, and her family connections. Two other daughters also married prominent white men, Anna married James Schoolcraft, the brother of Henry Rowe Schoolcraft and Charlotte married a missionary

missionary working in Canada named Mr. MacMurray. A son George worked as a fur trader for a while and also worked for Henry Schoolcraft in various roles for the Indian Agency. The youngest daughter, Eliza never married. Johnston had another son, John McDougall who settled on Sugar Island (an island along the St. Mary's river) across from Canada. John McDougall Johnston was also the last official Indian Agent in the area.

AMERICAN PERIOD

1820__Lewis Cass, governor of Michigan territory, visits the Sault with a group of explorers and military personnel, to confirm territory for United States and make a peace treaty with Indians. Henry Rowe Schoolcraft is a member of this group and this is the first time he meets the Johnston family. Mrs. Johnston plays a critical role in preventing bloodshed between a particular group of warriors who sought to do violence to the Americans. Except for them the rest of the Indians would prefer peace. They had supported the British during two wars and thus been on the losing side of two wars. Cass and his group continued their trip up along the shore of Lake Superior for quite a ways and then returned to Detroit via the Sault again.

1822__Fort Brady I - American fort established by Col. Hugh Brady in the Sault on the shoreline of the St. Mary's river. The name "Fort Brady" was given to the fort in honor of its first commanding officer, as was the custom for frontier forts.

Henry Rowe Schoolcraft arrives with them as the Indian Agent and remains in the Sault for over 10 years. At that time there are only a few families. Some of the soldiers were accompanied by their families, and thus brought the first white women to the Sault. Before there had been only white men living in the Sault or area and they usually married native women or daughters of mixed blood (half native and half white) offspring of fur traders or voyageurs.

1826__A traveler described Fort Brady as picketed, without mounds, but defended by blockhouses and garrisoned by 200 men.

1828__Rev. Abel Bingham of the American Baptist Missionary Society moved to the Sault and started his mission to convert the Indians.

1831(Aug. 5)__Alexis de Tocqueville visits the Sault hoping to meet an Indian and visit the frontier. The Sault was definitely frontier and extremely isolated. The only way of reaching it was via a sailing vessel up the Saint Mary's River. During the winter it was totally isolated for months at a time when the river froze over. Locals (mostly Native Americans) did travel by snowshoe and dog sleds but it was extremely dangerous because of the weather conditions, long distances, and virgin forests and this was how the Sault got their mail during the winter months.

1832__Mrs. Anna Jamieson visits the Sault and the Johnston family. She is also the first white female to take a ride through the Rapids in a canoe manned by Chippewa Indians. She later writes a book about her travels.

~~1837~~__Michigan is admitted as a state.

Early 1840s-1848__Occupation of the post by U. S. troops was first interrupted during Mexican War. The federal troops were withdrawn and replaced by the First Michigan Infantry, under Lieut. E. K. Howard. In April 1848 the Michigan Infantry left the fort and it was temporarily abandoned.

1841__Copper is discovered in the Keweenaw Peninsula of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

1845__The steamship *Independence* was hauled around the rapids and thus became the first steamboat on Lake Superior. The *Julia Palmer* soon followed suit.

1846__Rev. Abel Bingham started the first public school in the area.

1848__Iron Ore is discovered in Negaunee, Michigan, also in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan near the Keweenaw Peninsula. During the fur trade and after the discovery of copper and ore, cargoes are portaged around the rapids.

1848__The *Lake Superior Mining Journal* was established in the Sault and thus became the first newspaper here. It is now the daily Marquette, MI paper.

1849__Fort Brady is again occupied by federal troops.

1850__A portage tramway was build down present day Portage Ave. to transport goods and small boats around the rapids. Later cargoes and whole wooden ships were portaged on rails along the same route down Portage Ave.

1853__Charles T. Harvey and the Sault Canal Company started work on the first lock at the Sault. A small lock had been built over 50 years before on the Canadian side by the fur companies of the area. It had long since been abandoned.

1853__The First Presbyterian Church became established as a church in the Sault and Henry Rowe Schoolcraft was one of the first members.

1854__Population of Chippewa County is 528 people according to a sheriff census.

1855__The first lock is completed which allows ships to move directly from ore fields on Lake Superior to the markets on the lower lakes. The first lock is 350 ft. long and 70 ft. wide. This first lock was operated by the State of Michigan for two years and then control was turned over to the federal control. Because of this it is usually referred to as the State Lock.