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Late in February, 1679, La Salle returned to Fort Frontenac after inspecting the progress of building his warehouses and his ship on the Niagara. Father Hennepin returned also to meet his Superior and some brother Franciscans at Fort Frontenac, in time for their spring religious retreat. It was a stormy voyage on Lake Ontario and Indian women traveling on the same vessel with Father Hennepin were seasick.

There were several Franciscan priests at Fort Frontenac when Father Hennepin arrived from Niagara.

A word here is necessary about the Franciscans in their relation to colonial New France. The Franciscans, beginning with Father Joseph Le Caron, did missionary work in the St. Lawrence River and Huron country between 1615 and 1629. In 1629 the British Admiral Kirke captured Quebec and compelled both Jesuits and Franciscans to leave. In 1633, when Quebec was restored to the French, the Jesuits were admitted but the Franciscans were not allowed to return until 1670.

See Habig, Heroes of the Cross pp 71 and 103.

There were therefore no Franciscan priests connected with French Canada between 1629 and 1670. La Salle, on his first visit to Irondequoit Bay in 1669, was under the guidance of two priests of St. Sulpice, Father De Casson and Galinee, whose costumes could not be correctly painted to, as has recently been done, as similar to that of the Franciscans.

It was exactly 260 years ago from the day in June of this writing when in 1679 La Salle appeared at Irondequoit Bay for his third recorded visit. His Franciscan chaplains Membre, Hennepin, De La Ribourde and others had arrived there eight days before in a sailing vessel which Father Hennepin calls a "brigantine."

It was at this time that Franciscan visitors had the temporary chapel as commemorated on the monument at Mercy High School. It was at this time (1679) that La Salle was at Irondequoit Bay with the Franciscan priests as painted on the mural at Monroe High School by the artist Ezra Winter. La Salle and party left Irondequoit and went to Niagara and the ship Griffon was completed.

Soon the ship sailed, breaking aside with its prow, waters which never before had carried a sailing vessel and carrying the largest group of civilized men who up to then ever had advanced into the Illinois country.

The ship reached Mackinac where the Jesuit mission extended some hospitality. Father Claude-Jean Allouez, a Jesuit, was in charge of the mission and twenty French traders were on hand. The ship proceeded to Washington Island in Green Bay Wisconsin where La Salle had it loaded with furs and sent to go back to Niagara in order to satisfy some of his creditors. It was never heard from again.

Advancing in canoes down the west side of Lake Michigan with some of his party including the Franciscan priests, La Salle passed the site of Milwaukee, the site of Loyola College in Chicago. Then they rounded the southern half circle of Lake Michigan and came to the site of St. Joseph, Michigan, on the southeast side of Lake Michigan nearly opposite Chicago, at the mouth of St. Joseph River.

They came ashore near the site of La Salle boulder monument in St. Joseph, Michigan where La Salle built Fort Miami of the Illinois. On Dec. 30, 1679, the party started a move which took them toward Central Illinois. Intimate knowledge of rivers was required to make this move. They went up the St. Joseph River in canoes to a portage which is not far from the site of the campus of Notre

Dame University, South Bend, Indiana.

The portage took out of the St. Joseph River into the Kankakee River. This Kankakee River, by making a curved detour and by keeping a score or more of miles back over the ridge from the southern shores of Lake Michigan, succeeds in keeping out of Lake Michigan and the cold Gulf of St. Lawrence. Flowing into the Illinois River and thence into the Mississippi it reaches the balmy waters of the Gulf of Mexico. This canoe route was just that kind of a short connection between the Great Lakes and the Mississippi River which La Salle had been seeking when he had come to Totiakton ten years earlier, hoping then to find a way through by the Genesee, Alleghany, and Ohio Rivers.

La Salle and party reached the Illinois River and after going down stream some distance, they encamped and La Salle caused Fort Creve couer to be built on that stretch of the river where the city of La Salle, Illinois now is and also where La Salle State Park shows on nearly all modern road maps. The locality was in La Salle's day a populous center for Illinois Indians.

Crevecouer (Broken Heart) as any good Catholic would easily guess, refers back to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and was not an indication that La Salle was heart-broken over the loss of two ships, as Parkman implies.

It is beyond the purpose of this article to trace the vicissitudes of La Salle, or to tell of the burning of his fort by enemies or of the desertion of his men or of his several journeys to Fort Frontenac, and to Quebec and return with new determination and new supplies, although it is one of the most magnificent stories of unbreakable courage in American History.

For this part of the story in detail, Parkman's "La Salle" is the masterpiece.

In the spring of 1680 Father Hennepin, who was a Belgian; and two Frenchmen, Accau and Du Gay, at the request of La Salle, set out from the fort on the Illinois River in canoes and went down the Illinois River to its confluence with the Mississippi River, and then ascended the Mississippi River to the falls at the site of the city of Minneapolis. Father Hennepin called these falls the Falls of St. Anthony of Padua.

We now have covered the voyage from the monument at our Lady of Mercy High School in Rochester to the Hennepin monument in Minneapolis. Sioux Indians captured Father Hennepin and Daniel Freyson Duluth, the godfather of Duluth, Minnesota—who was the controlling influence among the Indians. Free traders of Lake Superior rescued Father Hennepin and brought him back to Niagara and to Irondequoit Bay, and thence to Montreal and Quebec. This was the third (or fourth?) visit of Hennepin to the Senecas near Irondequoit. While returning from Minnesota, Hennepin said his costume was made of the skins of "wild bulls" (buffalo).

ILLINOIS FORT DESTROYED

In the winter of 1679-1680, La Salle in the Illinois country looked forward to the return from Niagara of the ship Griffon, with the supplies for his colony and with materials for the sailing ship, which he expected to use in navigating the Mississippi River. When the ship, after months of anxious waiting, did not come back to Fort Miami of the Illinois, La Salle set out with some companions to walk through snow and slush across what is now the southern part of the State of Michigan (St. Joseph to Detroit) and thence to Niagara and Fort Frontenac.

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