

LA SALLE AND THE EXPLORERS OF THE MISSISSIPPI (WORLD EXPLORERS) pdf

1: Rene-Robert Cavelier, sieur de La Salle | Biography & Facts | www.enganchecubano.com

Early life. La Salle was educated at a Jesuit college. He first studied for the priesthood, but at the age of 22 he found himself more attracted to adventure and exploration and in set out for Canada to seek his fortune.

He was the first European to travel the length of the Mississippi River. His mission was to explore and establish fur-trade routes along the river. La Salle named the entire Mississippi basin Louisiana, in honor of the King, and claimed it for France on April 9, 1682. He tried to start a settlement in the southern Mississippi River Valley, but the venture ended in disaster. He was determined to find a water passage to the east through North America. Leaving Montreal in July, 1681, La Salle crossed Lake Ontario, Lake Erie, and other places which are not documented he did not return to Montreal until late 1682, and may have traveled down the Ohio or Mississippi River. La Salle made many exploring trips during the years to 1685. He returned to Canada in 1684 with his friend, Henri de Tonty, and others. They traveled across land to Lake Michigan, which they paddled across in canoes. Returning, they discovered that the Griffon was lost, the fort at Niagara had burned down, and many men had deserted their posts, robbing supply stores. Traveling the Length of the Mississippi River: On an expedition, La Salle and about 40 men again headed to the Mississippi River. They reached the Mississippi River on February 6, 1682, then headed down it in canoes. They claimed all the land along the Mississippi River for France. Their return to New France was beset by illness and Indian attacks. La Salle returned to France in 1685, but sailed to the New World again in 1685 with four ships, intending to start a colony in the Mississippi River Valley the king actually wanted him to travel to the Rio Grande to take over Spanish mines, but La Salle lied and told him that the Mississippi was farther north than it is. The expedition lost a vital supply ship en route, and mistakenly landed in Matagorda Bay, near what is now Houston, Texas, where one ship ran aground. One ship returned to France with a disgruntled crew. The French expedition built a fort at the mouth of the Lavaca River, and explored the area. The last remaining ship was wrecked by a drunken pilot in April 1686, stranding the French in Texas. The 20 men traveled up the Lavaca River, trying to locate the Mississippi River so they could follow it north into the French missions in the Great Lakes region. Most of the men in this expedition died, and the 8 survivors returned to the fort in October, 1686. On a second try, La Salle and 17 others set out 25 people remained at the fort; in a few months, a group of five mutineers shot and killed La Salle near Navasota, Texas on March 19, 1687. They left his body for the animals to eat. The rest of the expedition made it to Montreal in 1689, but those at the fort were killed by the Karankawa Indians.

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2: Human Resources

The Expeditions of René-Robert Cavelier, Sieur de La Salle were a series of trips into the Mississippi and Ohio Valley by French explorers led by René-Robert Cavelier, Sieur de La Salle that began in the late 17th century and continued for two decades.

However, after confessing that he was unsuited to the life of a cleric, the Jesuits released him from his vows. In the spring of 1681, nearly destitute from the vow of poverty he had taken when he joined the Society, La Salle embarked on a voyage to Canada where he joined his brother who had moved to the colony of Montreal the year before. From the beginning of his adventure in the New World, the young man was enthralled with the vast unmapped lands of the North American continent. After spending nearly three years exploring the territory surrounding his own land grant on the western end of the Island of Montreal, and studying the languages of the local native peoples, La Salle learned of a great river some distance to the south the Indians called the Ohio. His plan was to follow the downstream course of the river, hoping that it would flow into the Mississippi and eventually on into the Gulf of Mexico. Unfortunately, the falls at the present day site of Louisville, Kentucky, proved impassable for his boats and prevented the expedition from continuing any further. These efforts culminated in a major expedition to determine once and for all whether the Mississippi River flowed into the Gulf of Mexico as he had always surmised. Departing from present day Fort Wayne, Indiana, his expedition canoed down the entire length of the Mississippi and reached the Gulf in April, 1682. Excited by his discovery, La Salle returned to France, determined to convince the king that a French colony must be established on the Gulf of Mexico at the mouth of the Mississippi. From such a colony France would be in position to control the shipment of goods from the interior of the continent, harass Spanish shipping in the Gulf, or even launch an invasion of New Spain if it became necessary. King Louis agreed and on July 24, 1684, La Salle set sail from the French port of La Rochelle with high hopes and a fleet of four ships and men. Unfortunately, the expedition would suffer many misfortunes along the way. Left - La Belle. Middle - Le Joly. Then after entering the Gulf and diligently searching the coast for hundreds of miles, the Frenchman was unable to locate the mouth of the Mississippi River. For La Salle, this problem was compounded by the lack of a proper map and the expansive delta system at the mouth of the Mississippi River that seemed to offer a thousand dead ends to the entrance of the mighty river. Instead of a sturdy palisade or defensible wall, there were only a few crude wooden huts with thatch roofs scattered around a clearing. However, when the French discovered the Indians had salvaged some of the provisions that washed ashore from the wrecked supply ship, they demanded that the Karankawa return them. Of course, the Indians refused and fighting broke out. Several Frenchmen were either killed or wounded before they made it back to their settlement, and from then on a state of hostilities existed between the French and the Karankawa. Facing increased pressure from the savage Indians and a shortage of supplies, La Salle made La Belle ready for sea and moved the ship to an anchorage he assumed was safe. He was planning to make a search by sea for the elusive mouth of the Mississippi. However, before embarking on this vitally important voyage he made a mysterious trek to the west, leaving the ship in the hands of some unreliable seaman. While La Salle was gone the seaman ran short of water and decided to weigh anchor and move the ship to a more favorable location. During what should have been a simple maneuver, a fierce northerly wind arose and the inept crewmen were unable to work the rigging. In desperation they dropped the bow anchor, but the wind was such that it failed to hold. The ship was driven southward across the bay, the anchor dragging the bottom until the wounded vessel slammed into a barrier of sand known today as Matagorda Peninsula and slowly sank. Drought ruined their crops and many colonists became ill or simply wandered away, never to be heard from again. By October of 1685, the colony was in desperate need of supplies, and La Salle decided to take a small party and attempt to seek a land route to the mouth of the Mississippi. Setting out with his brother and fifty men, he traveled down the Lavaca River and then eastward on foot, but he was unsuccessful and returned to Fort St. Louis in late March of 1686, having lost

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most of his men. In April, La Salle tried again, but after reaching the Sabine River with twenty men, he once again returned to the fort, this time with only eight survivors. By late , only forty-five French colonists were still alive. The others had either died from disease or been killed by the Karankawa. On January 12, , La Salle decided to take twenty of the survivors and make one last desperate attempt to reach the Mississippi. Many of the men argued against this decision, and a few of the dissenters hatched a plot to kill La Salle. He was shot by one of his own men on March 19, , near present day Navasota. A statue was dedicated there in his memory. In , Joutel journeyed to France to ask King Louis to send a rescue mission to Texas , but the king decided that France had already spent too much money exploring the Gulf of Mexico. Left stranded and alone, most of the remaining settlers either died of sickness or were massacred by the Karankawa. Six French children were the exception, five of them from the Talon family. The Karankawa adopted and raised the children, and ten years later they were discovered by the Spanish and taken to Mexico City. The French presence in Texas finally stirred the Spanish to action. Fearing they would lose the race to claim the Americas, the Spaniards renewed their exploration of the Gulf Coast and began working diligently to settle east Texas. Over the years, the location of Fort St. Louis and the site of the sinking of La Belle have been the subjects of intense historical interest. In fact, much speculation still centered on the location of the fort even though a preliminary archeological study identified numerous French artifacts on the site. Photo courtesy Barclay Gibson , December Likewise, in , after years of diligent but unsuccessful searching, a crew of archeologists from the Commission discovered the wreck of La Belle all but swallowed up for years in the mud of Matagorda Bay. Excavating the shipwreck required a remarkable and expensive effort, but to date more than a million artifacts have been conserved and catalogued. Louis, offer much more detailed information on these delightful historical subjects.

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3: » Explorers Never Stop La Salle Magazine

René-Robert Cavelier, Sieur de La Salle, or Robert de La Salle [verification needed] (November 22, - March 19,) was a French explorer who explored the Great Lakes region of the United States and Canada, the Mississippi River, and the Gulf of Mexico.

Having first departed from La Rochelle on July 24, the fleet was forced to make port at Rochefort for repairs to the Royal Navy escort vessel Joly. With Spain and France at war, La Salle planned to establish a colony sixty leagues up the river as a base for striking Mexico, afflicting Spanish shipping, and blocking English expansion, while providing a warmwater port for the Mississippi valley fur trade. He planned to settle near the Taensa Indians, whose villages lined Lake St. Joseph in Tensas Parish, Louisiana. The war with Spain ended two weeks after La Salle sailed. After putting soldiers ashore to reconnoiter the Texas coast at Cedar Bayou, he landed the colonists at Matagorda Bay, which he deemed the "western mouth of the Colbert River," on February 20. After the storeship *Aimable* was lost in Pass Cavallo at the mouth of the bay, her crew and several disenchanted colonists, including the engineer Minet, returned to France with the naval vessel Joly. By the time a temporary fort was built on the eastern end of Matagorda Island, a series of other misfortunes had reduced the number of colonists to 17. As the work of building a more permanent settlement progressed, many succumbed to overwork, malnutrition, and disease, or became lost in the wilderness. In late winter the bark *Belle*, the only remaining ship, was wrecked on Matagorda Peninsula during a squall. He was absent from the settlement from October to March, and there is evidence that he traveled far to the west, reaching the Rio Grande and ascending it as far as the site of present-day Langtry. At last realizing that the bay he was on lay west of the Mississippi, he made two easterly marches, to the Hasinai, or Tejas, Indians, hoping to find the river and proceed to his Fort St. Louis of the Illinois. On the second of these he was slain in an ambush by a disenchanted follower, Pierre Duhaut, six leagues from one of the Hasinai villages, on March 19. The bloodletting, already begun in a hunting camp, claimed the lives of seven others. Six of the seventeen who had left the settlement site with La Salle continued to Canada and, eventually, France. Six other Frenchmen, including two deserters who had reappeared, remained among the East Texas Indians. At his settlement site La Salle had left hardly more than twenty persons, with the crippled Gabriel Minime, Sieur de Barbier, in charge. Madame Barbier and her babe at breast—the first white child of record born in Texas—were saved temporarily by the Indian women, only to be slain when the men returned from the massacre. The Spaniards, having learned of the French intrusion from captured pirates who turned out to be defectors from La Salle, sought the French colony with five sea voyages and six land marches. Fragments of the storeship *Aimable* were found in Cavallo Pass, where she had grounded, and along the coast. The children were taken to Mexico to live as servants in the house of the viceroy Conde de Galve. Documents that became available to researchers only in the 1930s, taken with others that have not been well understood, shed new light on the matter. La Salle, facing a largely unexplored continent, formed his own hypothesis during his exploration of the Mississippi in 1682, then acted on it as though it were dead certainty. His observations of the river were at sharp variance with maps of the period. With his compass broken and his astrolabe giving erroneous latitudes, as Minet reveals, he oriented himself by the sun, which was often obscured by clouds or fog. Its latitude corresponded with the one La Salle had taken at the mouth of the Mississippi. Additionally, it established in the minds of the French a claim to Texas that refused to die; thenceforth, until the French were eliminated from colonial rivalry, virtually every Spanish move in Texas and the borderlands came as a reaction to a French threat, real or imagined. Henri Joutel, spurning an opportunity to go with Iberville, sent his journal instead. Pierre and Jean Baptiste Talon, repatriated when the Spanish ship on which they were serving was captured by a French vessel in 1685, joined Louis Juchereau de St. In Pierre and another brother, Robert, served as guides and interpreters for St. Robert later settled in Mobile. Louis massacre were still living among the Indians. Isaac Joslin Cox, ed. Barnes, ; 2d ed. Murray, ; new ed. New American Library, Three Primary

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4: René-Robert Cavelier, Sieur de La Salle - Wikipedia

*LA Salle and the Explorers of the Mississippi (World Explorers) [Tony Coulter] on www.enganchecubano.com *FREE* shipping on qualifying offers. A history of the exploration of the Mississippi River, discussing the men who accomplished it.*

He was the son of a wealthy merchant family from Rouen, France and came to the New World to set up trade with Native American populations. He went immediately to Montreal, which was then the furthest inland post the French controlled. At that time, the post was little more than a mission where his brother served as a Jesuit priest who was working to convert the local Huron to Christianity. At that time, the region was in the height of the Beaver Wars, a brutal conflict between the French-backed Algonquian tribes fighting against the English-supported Iroquois Confederacy. There he set up a thriving trading post, purchasing furs from the local tribes and serving as a middleman, selling the furs to European merchants who transported them back to France. From Seneca traders, La Salle first learned of the Ohio country and that a river flowed from there all the way to a great sea. The possibility of such a river intrigued La Salle because of its obvious value to trade. If such a route existed, it would make trading trips deep into the interior of North America [clarification needed] possible and much easier than overland routes. At the time, most Europeans, having no clear idea of the actual size of North America west of the Appalachians, still thought that they were very near the source of the Asian spices, and La Salle thought that perhaps this route would lead to India. He put together a group of twenty-four men and canoes and set off up the St. Lawrence River and into Lake Ontario. From there the party continued westward overland reaching Lake Erie where they turned toward the south. They continued moving overland until they reached a branch of the Ohio River which they canoed down to reach the main channel of the river. One possible route would have been up the Grand River, and then a short expedition over the established portage trail to the Mahoning River. Upon reaching the Ohio, in the area of modern western Pennsylvania, it would have been obvious that the expedition had reached a major river, rivaling the size of the largest European rivers. La Salle continued downstream and westward reaching the Falls of the Ohio near modern Louisville, Kentucky. There his men refused to go further and deserted him to return to Canada. La Salle continued to explore only briefly on his own, and returned to Canada on his own. He had also traveled further into the Ohio country than any previous expeditions. Despite his lack of success in finding the "southern sea", what he did find only intrigued him more and he soon decided that he wanted to launch a second attempt to find the outlet of the river. Second expedition [edit] In La Salle set out on another expedition. He led a group of men west across Lake Erie and then overland ending up at the southern tip of Lake Michigan. Although reports from the expedition do not indicate, it would have been obvious that the Great Lakes represented a vast freshwater sea. From the first expedition, La Salle would have known that the position on the Mississippi was far north of the Ohio. He likely deduced that both rivers flowed South to the river reported by De Soto. La Salle later followed up the discovery and sailed down the river all the way to the Gulf of Mexico. His trip made him the first European to travel the length of the Mississippi, but it had been visited by Europeans at its southern end possibly as early as the voyages of Christopher Columbus, and its midsection by Hernando De Soto a century earlier. The French Crown expanded on his exploration by claiming the entire Mississippi River Watershed Mississippi River Basin, and New Orleans was later created to control the southern end of the river. In the late 17th century, La Salle began the process of expanding and securing the fur trade by building series of forts and a line of communications from Montreal into the upper Great Lakes and into the Ohio Valley and Mississippi regions. Near the fort he constructed a sailing ship he named Le Griffon and used it to explore much of the Great Lakes. He voyaged as far as modern Green Bay, Wisconsin in the following summer where he set up a trading post. The region was still locked in the Beaver Wars and this new route over the lakes allowed the French to bypass the dangerous countryside and trade with the tribes beyond the front lines of the war. Two men eventually located the Falls of St. Joseph River on the

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east shore of Lake Michigan. They paddled upstream and there they built a small fort to serve as a base of operations for continued expeditions into the Illinois and Ohio Country. There they waited for supplies and men which were traveling overland to meet them. They set out to search for the Kankakee portage, an overland path that connected the St. Joseph River to the Kankakee River, but they missed the portage and La Salle became separated from the rest of his men. The group spent the night separated in a snow storm, but the next morning La Salle was able to relocate the river and rejoin his men. They continued searching and finally found the path and started overland to the Kankakee River. Once reaching the river they took to their canoes and traveled westward and then down the Mississippi. Their supplies began to run low, but they found a bison stranded in a mud pool which they were able to kill and eat, replenishing a large part of their supplies. There he established a trading agreement with the tribes and also discovered that they were also locked in the war with the Iroquois who had been frequent raiders in the area. The area contained numerous tribes, including the Miami tribe to the east, the Wea and Piankeshaw to the south-east, the Illinois tribe in the immediate area, and the Peoria tribe to the farther west. There were even several groups of refugees from as far away as Maine who had fled into the region hoping to avoid the Iroquois who had invaded their own homelands. Most of the country east of the fort, which was the Ohio Country, was empty according to the local tribes, most of the inhabitants had fled into the Illinois Country and beyond to escape the Iroquois. The men returned and sold the furs, but deserted and did not return. La Salle then set out for Canada to discover what had become of his men. On the return trip he encountered the new governor of New France who was coming to take possession of the outposts La Salle had established for the crown and to put in garrisons. The local tribes were nowhere to be found and had fled to the west of the Mississippi River, likely because of continued Iroquois raids. This time he began negotiations with the tribes to return and set up an alliance. He immediately began trade with them and through the next two years he began to import firearms and other metal tools that the tribes never had previous access to. He used the post as an even more forward base into the countryside. He spent the next several years establishing posts and trade throughout the Illinois Country. Using their new arms, the odds were evened with the Iroquois and the tribes were eventually able to reclaim their homeland following the Great Peace of Montreal. A map of the region explored by La Salle, based in large part on the findings of his expeditions La Salle then assembled a party for the expedition for which he is most remembered. On April 9, at the mouth of the Mississippi River, near modern Venice, Louisiana, La Salle buried an engraved plate and a cross, claiming the territory for France. Tonti was to command the fort while La Salle traveled again to France for supplies. On July 24, , La Salle sailed again from France and returned to America with a large expedition designed to establish a French colony on the Gulf of Mexico, at the mouth of the Mississippi River. They left France in with four ships and colonists. The expedition was plagued by pirates, hostile Indians, and poor navigation. One ship was lost to pirates in the West Indies, a second sank in the inlets of Matagorda Bay, where a third ran aground. La Salle led a group eastward on foot on three occasions to try to locate the Mississippi. During another search for the Mississippi River, his remaining 36 followers mutinied, near the site of modern Navasota, Texas. On March 19, , La Salle was slain by Pierre Duhaut, one of four attacking him, "six leagues" from the westernmost village of the Hasinai Tejas Indians. The colony lasted only until , when Karankawa-speaking Indians massacred the 20 remaining adults and took five children as captives. They also destroyed Fort Saint Louis. Impact[edit] Beginning in , the French Government began to become interested in the discoveries made by La Salle. The land was better for farming and settlement than lands in Canada and the government began plans to colonize the region. The land gained further importance with the growing power of the English colonies on the eastern seaboard. La Salle Texas expedition between and , in which triggered a series of events that culminated in Texas with all its wealth joining the United States of America. La Salle was never reported to have problems associating or interacting with the indigenous people in North America except for the Karankawa Indians of the gulf coast of Texas. Soon after his arrival in Texas in Jan , La Salle was able to determine from the tool marks on human bones at old Karankawa campsites that they practiced cannibalism as a matter of course. Thereafter, likely as a matter of self-preservation, La Salle

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and his settlers viewed themselves in a state of war with the Karankawas. In fact, many settlers were lost to the Karankawas in the years that followed and the settlement itself, Fort St Louis, was overrun by the Karankawas in Dec and all remaining adults killed. In early , a Spanish column searching for the French settlement happened upon the devastation that had been the fort and buried the remains of the dead which, inter alia, consisted of bones with tool marks scattered about the site. La Salle triggered a Spanish effort to settle Texas with colonists of their own to deny the French entry and generally establish their sovereignty over the area. Any colonists moving north through the lands of the Karankawas in east Texas had to be protected by accompanying soldiers at great expense and each settlement had to have a small garrison of soldiers as well. Eventually new settlers from Mexico became but a trickle while the influx of Americans from the north increased. In , Steve Austin organized the Texas Rangers for the protection of settlers mainly from the depredations of the Karankawas. The immigrants from the USA and Mexico gradually evolved into Texicans all having one interest – their Texas and freedom from Mexican occupation. When Generalissimo Santa Anna crossed the Rio Grande with men in intent on reinforcing Mexican sovereignty in Texas, the Texicans declared independence. Santa Anna, at first, enjoyed success in his invasion by winning a number of battles. His most dramatic success was his victory at the Alamo in San Antonio. But he had expended men and material without achieving his end goal being the defeat of General Houston and his forces. After the Alamo, he unwisely split his forces and went looking for Houston. This was a major military blunder. Elements of the two armies met at San Jacinto on 21 Apr Houston with men attacked Santa Anna and his troops during the siesta in the afternoon of that fateful day. Eighteen minutes after contact, it was over. Mopping up continued for the rest of the day and into the next day. Half the Mexican force was killed and the other half, including Santa Anna, taken prisoner. In the result, Santa Anna agreed to the independence of Texas and his army moved south of the Rio Grande leaving Texas free and independent in its wake. As history records, a few years later, Texas became a state of the United States of America bringing into the union its phenomenal oil, mineral and agricultural assets that fueled the massive industrialization of America in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. In his Texas period, LaSalle lost his life and failed to find a route to the Pacific or to found a permanent settlement that would establish a claim for the King of France over the area. But he had set in motion a chain of events that ended with Texas and its huge land mass and riches becoming a part of the United States of America.

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5: new world explorers cavalier de la salle

La Salle's career in exploration began in 1681, when he traveled to Quebec, Canada as a French colonist. In 1682, he was granted a seigneurie (a large plot of land) on Montreal Island, which he sold two years later in the hopes of jump starting his career as an explorer. Eager to find the fabled.

He had an untimely death, but his work set the stage for France and its new territorial gains for close to years. Robert de La Salle Facts: He grew to like science and nature and spent much time studying them and later became involved with the Jesuit religion. He showed an interest in exploration and navigation. While he was exploring New France he left the Jesuit religion. La Salle never married and he did not have any children. He set up a village and trade post where he learned to speak the native tongue of the Iroquois since he mostly dealt with the Mohawk tribe. Through this relationship he learned of the Mississippi River and its tributaries. Learning how to navigate the great river would allow La Salle to set up many trading posts that he could navigate quickly and create a network that would enhance the wealth of France and himself. The purpose of Fort Frontenac was to control the lucrative fur trade in the Great Lakes Basin to the west. The fort was also meant to be a bulwark against the English and Dutch, who were competing with the French for control of the fur trade. La Salle was left in command of the fort in 1683. Thanks to his powerful protector, the famous explorer managed, during a voyage to France in 1685, to secure for himself the grant of Fort Cataraqui and acquired letters of nobility for himself and his descendants. He returned and rebuilt Frontenac in stone. Using the fort as a base, he undertook expeditions to the west and southwest in the interest of developing a vast fur-trading empire. Henri de Tonti joined his explorations as his lieutenant. This allowed him to move his furs from Frontenac through shallow water with canoes or other small vessels to speed up their distribution. This also allowed him to bypass the rapids in the Niagara river that led to Niagara Falls. He also built a seven cannon barque that he used to navigate throughout the Northwest. He explored present day Wisconsin and most of the coastal cities around the Great Lakes list him as the first European to set foot on their land. He established more forts around Lake Michigan and continued to build his network. Final Expeditions La Salle reassembled a party for another major expedition. At what later became the site of Memphis, Tennessee, he built the small Fort Prudhomme. On April 9, 1689, at the mouth of the Mississippi River near modern Venice, Louisiana, he buried an engraved plate and a cross, claiming the territory for France. He appointed Tonti to command the fort while he traveled to France for supplies. On July 24, 1689, He departed France and returned to America with a large expedition designed to establish a French colony on the Gulf of Mexico, at the mouth of the Mississippi River. They had four ships and colonists. The expedition was plagued by pirates, hostile Indians, and poor navigation. One ship was lost to pirates in the West Indies, a second sank in the inlets of Matagorda Bay, and a third ran aground there. He was only 43 years old and had accomplished much. The network of forts he had built and his exploration of the Mississippi River gave France a significant foothold in the New World that they would keep until their loss of the French and Indian War.

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horses rode through beds of ripe wild strawberries so thick that their hooves were stained bright red at the end of the day. That night the soldiers picked heaps of berries for supper and feasted on strawberries and fresh cream. To some Iowa was a land of milk and honey. To those early soldiers it was the land of strawberries and cream! Rivers were the early highways bringing explorers, trappers, traders and then settlers to Iowa. Written for Iowa Pathways by Tom Morain.

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7: Rene-Robert Cavalier de La Salle and French Exploration in Early Texas.

René-Robert Cavalier, Sieur de La Salle: North American Explorer René-Robert Cavalier, Sieur de La Salle () was a French explorer. He was sent by King Louis XIV (14) to travel south from Canada and sail down the Mississippi River to the Gulf of Mexico.

As a man, he studied with the Jesuit religious order and became a member after taking initial vows in His parents were Jean Cavalier and Catherine Geest. He sailed for New France in the spring of He was granted a seigneurie on land at the western end of the Island of Montreal , which became known as Lachine. Some sources say the name referred to his desire to find a route to China, though the evidence for this claim is unclear and has been disputed. La Salle immediately began to issue land grants, set up a village and learn the languages of the native people, mostly Mohawk in this area. The Mohawk told him of a great river, called the Ohio , which flowed into the Mississippi River. Thinking the river flowed into the Gulf of Mexico , he began to plan for expeditions to find a western passage to China. He sought and received permission from Governor Daniel Courcelle and Intendant Jean Talon to embark on the enterprise. He sold his interests in Lachine to finance the venture. Painting by John David Kelly. The purpose of Fort Frontenac was to control the lucrative fur trade in the Great Lakes Basin to the west. The fort was also meant to be a bulwark against the English and Dutch, who were competing with the French for control of the fur trade. Thanks to his powerful protector, the discoverer managed, during a voyage to France in 1775, to secure for himself the grant of Fort Cataraqui and acquired letters of nobility for himself and his descendants. He returned and rebuilt Frontenac in stone. An Ontario Heritage Trust plaque describes La Salle at Cataraqui as "[a] major figure in the expansion of the French fur trade into the Lake Ontario region, Using the fort as a base, he undertook expeditions to the west and southwest in the interest of developing a vast fur-trading empire. There they loaded supplies from Fort Frontenac into smaller boats canoes or bateaux , so they could continue up the shallow and swiftly flowing lower Niagara River to what is now the location of Lewiston, New York. There the Iroquois had a well-established portage route which bypassed the rapids and the cataract later known as Niagara Falls. She was launched on August 7, Le Griffon left for Niagara with a load of furs, but was never seen again. He continued with his men in canoes down the western shore of Lake Michigan , rounding the southern end to the mouth of the Miami River now St. Joseph River , where they built a stockade in January They called it Fort Miami now known as St. There they waited for Tonti and his party, who had crossed the Lower Michigan peninsula on foot. Tonti arrived on November 20; on December 3, the entire party set off up the St. Joseph, which they followed until they had to take a portage at present-day South Bend, Indiana. They crossed to the Kankakee River and followed it to the Illinois River. La Salle set off on foot for Fort Frontenac for supplies. While he was gone, the soldiers at Ft. Crevecoeur, led by Martin Chartier , mutinied , destroyed the fort, and exiled Tonti, whom he had left in charge. Final expeditions Claiming Louisiana for France La Salle reassembled a party for another major expedition. At what later became the site of Memphis, Tennessee , he built the small Fort Prudhomme. On April 9, , at the mouth of the Mississippi River near modern Venice, Louisiana , he buried an engraved plate and a cross, claiming the territory for France. He appointed Tonti to command the fort while he traveled to France for supplies. On July 24, , [12] He departed France and returned to America with a large expedition designed to establish a French colony on the Gulf of Mexico , at the mouth of the Mississippi River. They had four ships and colonists. The expedition was plagued by pirates , hostile Indians, and poor navigation. One ship was lost to pirates in the West Indies , a second sank in the inlets of Matagorda Bay , and a third ran aground there. The Fort Saint Louis colony lasted only until , when Karankawa -speaking Native Americans killed the 20 remaining adults and took five children as captives. The historian Robert Weddle, for example, believes that his travel distances were miscalculated, and that he was murdered just east of the Trinity River. He also gave the name Louisiana to the interior North American territory he claimed for France, which lives on in the name of a US state. His efforts to encompass modern-day

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Ontario and the eight American states that border the Great Lakes became a foundational effort in defining the Great Lakes region. It has been the subject of archeological research. Artifacts from La Belle are shown at nine museums across Texas. A possible shipwreck of Le Griffon in Lake Michigan is the subject of a lawsuit concerning ownership of artifacts. A more promising wreck has now been identified in the depths of northern Lake Michigan, divers Monroe and Dykster happened upon an ancient wreckage in while looking for Confederate gold. The bowsprit of their find includes what appears to be a carved wooden Griffin, similar to other examples of the French 17th Century. See La Salle for a list of places, most of which were named after him.

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8: Rene-Robert Cavelier, Sieur de La Salle: Explorer - www.enganchecubano.com

Get this from a library! LaSalle and the explorers of the Mississippi. [Tony Coulter] -- A history of the exploration of the Mississippi River, discussing the men who accomplished it.

As a young man, La Salle planned to enter the priesthood, but found himself unsuited to the life. At the age of 24, he followed his brother to Canada, where he entered the fur trade. La Salle was soon captivated by the opportunities available in the largely unexplored lands of North America. In 1682, he launched his first expedition, discovering the Ohio River. Over the next several years, he combined exploration with his business ventures. He recorded a detailed daily chronology, as well as priceless information about the Indian cultures that the party encountered. He completed this journal in 1685 after returning to France, but the whereabouts of the original manuscript are unknown. Only two copies are known to exist, one at the Newberry Library in Chicago and the other recently discovered at the Texas State Library and Archives. The provenance of this document is uncertain, but it is believed to have been acquired by the Archives sometime in the late nineteenth century. For more information and the English translation of this remarkable document, see William C. In 1684, Robert La Salle obtained royal support for a venture to travel to the mouth of the Mississippi through the Gulf of Mexico and establish a colony for France. One of his ships had already been seized by Spanish pirates; by the end of 1685, a second ship had been lost, and a third taken back to France with some disenchanted colonists. In late winter 1686, the last remaining ship, the Belle, was wrecked by a squall. In spite of the severe setbacks, La Salle accomplished a great deal of exploration. It is believed that he explored the Rio Grande as far west as the Pecos River near the present-day town of Langtry. On March 19, 1689, while on a march to try to find the Mississippi and resume the original mission of the expedition, La Salle and seven others were killed in an uprising of his own men. Back at Matagorda Bay, the remaining colonists also fared poorly; except for a few children, they were massacred by the Karankawa Indians in December 1689. Spain increased its own exploration of the Texas coast and advanced the timetable for its own occupation in order to stave off French claims. As for France, it continued to claim Texas, a claim that was transferred to the United States after the Louisiana Purchase in 1803 and remained a sore point until the boundaries were settled by treaty in 1845. [Click on image for larger image of cover and journal pages.](#)

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9: Robert de La Salle Facts, Biography, and Expeditions - The History Junkie

Synopsis. Born in Rouen, France, on November 22, 1678, René-Robert Cavelier, Sieur de La Salle was an explorer best known for leading an expedition down the Illinois and Mississippi rivers.

The Explorers Louis Hennepin The reputation of the missionary and explorer Louis Hennepin is very bad indeed. He was not highly thought of in the colony where he lived for a few months at the beginning and end of his sojourn, but he painted a portrait of himself as a daring and courageous missionary. Worse still, after the death of his leader, he actually claimed to have discovered the mouth of the Mississippi two years before La Salle. By claiming for himself a merit that is still disputed to this day, the author of the first description of Niagara Falls threw discredit on his own contributions to the exploration of North America. Years of apostolate in Italy, Germany and Holland were followed by a stint on the French Atlantic coast, where he collected for his order. As chaplain among the injured and ill soldiers, he showed true devotion. At the battle of August 11, in Seneffe, Belgium, he encountered Daniel Greysolon Dulhut who would come to his rescue in July. A Dream of Adventure In , there was no shortage of new lands to discover. Designated by his superiors along with four of his fellow priests for missions in New France, Hennepin arrived in Quebec City on June. The journey enabled him to meet Monseigneur de Laval and Robert Cavelier de La Salle who was returning from Versailles with titles of nobility and full ownership of the fort and the seigneurie of Cataracoui created for him. Towards Niagara In early spring , Hennepin was sent to Fort Cataracoui, renamed Frontenac in honour of the governor. There he built a chapel and a residence for the missionaries. Two years later, he was back in Quebec City. The explorer had also obtained permission for Hennepin and two of his colleagues to come along and perform their duties in the wake of the discoveries. They were joined by the explorer at Fort Frontenac, and the group travelled to the junction of Lake Erie and Lake Ontario, marked by the incredible cataract of Niagara Falls. Arriving there in the first days of December , the group began the construction of Fort Conti and of a brig, the Griffon. Workers and coureurs des bois had deserted, food was scarce and they were lacking the necessary materials for navigation. This was the context in which Cavelier de La Salle decided to return to Niagara. Hennepin apparently refused to give up, and even proposed to set out ahead on the Mississippi: From there, remounting the tumultuous river, they passed present-day Minneapolis where a waterfall was named St. They were still a good distance from the mouth of the Illinois when, in the early afternoon of April 11, , they were captured by the Sioux who took them toward the Mille Lacs region, south of Lake Superior. Adopted by the village chief, the three men were confined there. On July 25 Daniel Greysolon Dulhut, who had negotiated the alliance of the French and the Western tribes against the Iroquois, came to demand the liberation of Hennepin, Accault and Auguel, who were only freed in September. Curiously, the missionary, who then travelled from Montreal to Quebec City with Frontenac, told him of his expedition, but kept silent on the details of his purported voyage toward the south of the Mississippi and the Gulf of Mexico. He maintained the same silence with Monseigneur de Laval. On his return to France at the end of , Hennepin began writing his first book. Dedicated to Louis XIV, the work was an enormous success. It was translated and re-edited in its original form on three occasions. La Salle, assassinated ten years earlier, was no longer there to contradict Hennepin who for the first time evoked the misunderstanding that he claimed characterized their relations. Nor could La Salle expose the absurdity of his claim to have travelled the length of the Mississippi, in only thirty days before being captured by the Sioux: This is why he sacrificed several persons to prevent them from publishing what they had seen and from foiling his secret plans. Due to circumstances and his thirst for fame, he had been a subject of both France and England. He was authorized to return to France in , but on May 27, , Louis XIV ordered that he be arrested if he ever attempted to return to New France.

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