

First Non-Native Settlers

Sylvan Township Historical Series
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 By Mike North

Zebulon Pike (1779-1813)



- Sent by Thomas Jefferson in 1805 to:
 - ◆ Locate source of Mississippi River
 - ◆ Explore northern parts of Louisiana Purchase
 - ◆ Regulate British fur traders operating "illegally" in the new territory
- First U.S. government official to set foot in Minnesota

Zebulon Pike Expedition

- Left St. Louis August 9, 1805, traveling in a keel boat
- Reached confluence of Mississippi and Minnesota Rivers Sept. 21st
- Negotiated an unauthorized treaty with Dakota Indians for right to build a fort (Fort Snelling)
- Stopped at mouth of Swan River just south of Little Falls Oct. 16th to construct a winter camp
- Started northward Dec. 10th on a foot journey along Mississippi River, visiting various fur posts

Zebulon Pike Expedition

- Reached Northwest Co. fur post at Leech Lake on Feb. 1; had British flag shot down and replaced with American flag; stayed there 3 weeks
- On a side trip to fur post at Cass Lake, declared Cass Lake to be the headwaters of the Mississippi River
- Along the way, collected British tokens and medallions from Indians and replaced them with American tokens
- Returned to his winter camp March 5th
- Left winter camp April 7th, returned to St. Louis April 20th without losing any men

Zebulon Pike

- Had a reputation for being a harsh task master and ill-tempered
- Also had a reputation for being a prodigious hunter, supplying most of the meat for his contingent
- 1806-1807 led expedition to Spanish Southwest (Colorado)
- Killed in War of 1812 in Toronto

Earliest Temporary Traders at Crow Wing

- Unknown Frenchman, 1767
- James McGill, first known trader to occupy the Crow Wing village site, in winter 1771-1772
- Jean Perrault, 1790
- First permanent trading post, 1823, Allan Morrison of the Northwest Company

William Alexander Aitkin, 1785-1851

- American Fur Company trader at Sandy Lake, Fond du Lac, Pembina, Rainy Lake, and at Crow Wing
- Trading at Sandy Lake prior to War of 1812
- Present at 1837 Treaty negotiations; received \$20,000 out of Treaty
- Came to Crow Wing ca. 1841-2
- Buried in Morrison County opposite mouth of Swan River

Clement Houdon Beaulieu

- Arrived from LaPointe ca. 1848-9
- Formed major trading company with John Fairbanks, erected several buildings
- Half-Ojibwe
- Paul Beaulieu (brother)
- Had his finger in many political and economic endeavors
- Owned over 1100 lots in Crow Wing



Henry Mower Rice, 1816-1894

- Fur trader
- Joined in partnership with Allan Morrison and Donald McDonald in 1846
- United States Senator, 1858-63



William Whipple Warren, 1825-1853

- Mixed race son of Lyman Warren
- Fluent in Ojibwe language; interpreter for Henry Rice
- Lived at McDougal Prairie and Crow Wing Village
- Married Matilda Aitkin, daughter of William Aitkin
- Member of Territorial Legislature, 1850
- Published first written history of the Ojibwe people in 1853



George Bonga

- Trader, guide, interpreter
- Witnessed Treaty signed by Hole-n-the-Day regarding relocation to White Earth
- Mixed race: ½ black, ½ Indian
- Primarily at Leech Lake, but relatives at Chippewa Agency



John H. Fairbanks

- Trader associated with Allan Morrison
- Moved to Crow Wing 1844
- Married Ojibwe woman, Mary

Chippewa Agency

- Burned by Ojibwe in 1854
- Planned attack, 1862, by Hole-in-the-Day
- Agents:
 - J.S. Watrous (1851-?)
 - D.B. Herriman (1853-?)
 - J.W. Lynde (ca. 1858)
 - Lucius C. Walker (1861-2) (committed suicide while fleeing 1862 uprising)
 - Ashley C. Morrill (1862-?)
 - Edwin Clarke (1865-7)
 - Joel B. Bassett (1867-1869)



Chippewa Agency – 1860 Census

- Augustus and Clara Aspinwall (fur trader)
- Edward Aspinwall (book keeper)
- Paul Beaulieu (interpreter), wife Maria. 5 kids
- Emma Bell
- Desire Berthrand
- John Bowes (clerk)
- David and Sarah Chapman, 1 child (lumberman)
- Albert Charron (laborer)
- John Fessenden (Ireland)
- Elizabeth Herriman (3)
- Emma Day (Indian) (28, servant)
- Brigit Lynch (17, Ireland)
- Ed Lynde (clerk)
- Joseph W. Lynde (U.S. Indian Agent)
- Daniel Moores and wife (teamster)
- Elijah Sanford (laborer)
- Sylvester Stattar (blacksmith)
- John Thompson (teamster)
- Nelly Jane Thompson (3)
- Mathilda Warren (39)
- Truman Warren (32) (trader), wife Mary, 4 kids
- J.V. Wren (physician), wife Harriet, 1 child



Chippewa Agency -1870 Census

- William Aikins (48)
- Mary (50) and Roger Aikins (45)
- George Atcheson (Indian agent) (30)
- Anna Beaulieu (28)
- Lizzie Beaupre (20)
- Henry (37) and Frances Belanger (25)
- Paul (55) and Paul (30) Belanger
- Joseph Bertrand (Canada)
- Sarah Birch
- Ann Bonga (50), James (12), Betsy (19)
- George (64) and Elisabeth (48) Bonga
- George Bagley (civil engineer)
- John Bowen
- William Brucette
- Peter Burns (Canada)
- Jane Chappell
- Mary and Frances Colombe (Canada, Dakota Territory)
- Machelle Comptois
- Seth Crocker (civil engineer)
- Andrew Cummings (blacksmith)
- Robert Desfadan
- Francis DeVirgin
- Daniel Dick

Chippewa Agency -1870 Census

- Frederick Dickerson (Canada)
- James Dillion (Ireland)
- Henry Dufort
- Frank S. Eastman (25, MN) (civil engineer)
- Jane and John Fairbanks (teens)
- John Gilbert
- William Gūpatrick
- Reuben Gray
- Elezar Greenleaf
- Barney Griffith
- Thomas Hall
- Thomas Harding
- Charles Harris
- Samuel Keith (civil engineer)
- Andrew Herberger (Prussia)
- 186 Indians
- Fuller James
- Francis, James, and Wm. Johnson
- Edw. Jordan (civil engineer)
- Barny Kelly
- John and Moses Kimberly (civil engineer)
- Rachael Lamary
- Peter Larson
- John Lyst

Chippewa Agency -1870 Census

- William Marslow
- James McFay
- Montgomery Meigs (civil engineer)
- Mary Meshe
- Truman Moores
- Lincoln Morrison
- Ben Moss (civil engineer)
- Hans Nelson (Norway)
- Edward and Caroline Olson (hotel keeper)
- Robert Patterson (civil engineer)
- Mariott Pendleton
- Mariott Purinton
- Thomas Reese
- ____ Rich (cook)
- John Richardson
- Frank Roy
- Charles Ruffe
- Timothy Ryan
- Henry Selkirk
- Wm. Shaydance
- Charles, George Smith (civil engineer)
- Henry Stanley
- Wm. Streeter
- Oscar Swanson

Chippewa Agency -1870 Census

- Henry, James, Nancy Taylor
- George Uron
- Elisha Vace
- John Wakefield
- Alford Warren (26)
- Matilda Warren (48) (seamstress)
- Tyler Warren (27) (agent)
- George Washington
- John Wellwood
- Charles Williams (lumberman)
- George Wilson (hotel keeper)
- Colin Wise (civil engineer)
- Sela Wright
- Frank S. Eastman
 - Son of Seth Eastman, Officer at Ft. Snelling and famous Dakota Indian painter
 - Served in the Navy 1864-1868
 - Nothing else "known" about him ... until now
 - Civil Engineer at Chippewa Agency, 1870
 - Married in Washington DC
 - Patented a two-hub transport railroad car

