



Zoom Chat Questions - Cadotte Program - 01-30-2022

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> From Dorothy: Didn't Native folk do the vast majority of the trapping? 	<p>Yes, they did. But exactly what portion of the trapping they were responsible for is impossible to know. Written records from traders rarely indicate who trapped what.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> From April: What was the Cadottes hardest struggle - do you think? 	<p>I believe it came after the War of 1812, when they had to switch from British to American citizenship and trade.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> From Dorothy: Can you tell us about the children and descendants? 	<p>Three of Michel and Equaysayway's sons served the British in the War of 1812. Two daughters married American traders who eventually took over Cadotte trade business.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> From Janet: Can you expand on the reason Cadotte, WI was given that name? Was there a direct relation to the Cadotte family and that location? 	<p>Most prominent stories say the town was named either for Michel and Equaysayway's son, Jean Baptiste Cadotte, or for their other son, Augustin. One of them established a trading post on the Chippewa River near where the town was eventually built.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> From Lorri: Did the Cadottes have deals with The Bongo family? 	<p>There was the <i>Bonga</i> family. Pierre was a trader contemporary with Michel and Jean Baptise Cadotte. His son, George Bonga, served as an interpreter for the U.S. government and was involved with Michel Cadotte's grandson, William Warren, in several treaty negotiations. I am not aware of any specific deals between the families.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> From Nicholas: Do you know what languages they spoke, and what language Michel and Ikwesewe spoke together? 	<p>Jean Baptiste Cadotte father and son were fluent in Ojibwe, French and English. Michel Cadotte was fluent in Ojibwe and French and spoke some English. William Warren said his grandparents spoke mostly Ojibwe at home.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> From Nick: Very interesting. Did you run across any evidence, (and if not do you have a perspective on from you research) the Cadotte's relationship to the conservation of fur-bearing animals? and for that matter, those Europeans also dependent on these animals? 	<p>No direct evidence of the fur-trade Cadottes being involved in conservation efforts. They would have been aware of decreasing numbers of beaver, white-tail deer and other animals in the Lake Superior region. What actions they may have taken in response to those declines, if any, is unknown.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> From Roxanne: Which Cadotte moved back to Canada? 	<p>Several Cadottes from different branches of the family remained in Canada. Of Michel and Equasayway's children, Jean Baptiste moved to Canada after the War of 1812 rather than become an American.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> From April: Were there many different fur trade posts and how was it chosen where a fur trader would trade? 	<p>There were scores of fur trade posts across North America. Most were situated on rivers or lakes frequented by Native Americans to better facilitate trade. Independent traders traded where ever they could. Large companies such as the NorthWest Company, which the Cadotte brothers worked for, gave each trader a specific geographic area in which to trade.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> From Kathleen: Did your research extend to any continued relationship with the Buffalo family? 	<p>Yes, I looked at Great Buffalo. He was apparently related to Michel Cadotte through Cadotte's Mother. Late in his life, he provided his great nephew, William Warren, with important information on Ojibwe history.</p>



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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> From Roxanne: Do you know the birth year of the one who moved to Canada, who he married, where did he live? 	<p>Mathurin Cadot was born in France in 1749. He moved to New France (Canada) in the late 1660s and married a woman of mixed ancestry named Marie Catherine Durand. After briefly working in the fur trade, he retired to a farm near Montreal, where he died in 1729.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> From Nick: With such an extensive amount of research, what was your biggest surprise or misconception you found? 	<p>I first thought of the Cadottes and other French Canadian traders like them as basically unsophisticated backwoods traders. In truth, they were very sophisticated, dealing with various Native American tribes, French, British and American traders and being familiar with complicated international trade rules and financial institutions.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> From Rob: Did the fighting between Ojibwe and Dakota or Fox come up in your research? 	<p>Yes. Both Jean Baptiste Cadotte Jr. and his brother, Michel Cadotte, had dangerous encounters with the Dakota while trading in the back country. Sometimes the Dakotas were enemies of the Ojibwe and their trading partners, and sometimes allies.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> From Janet: Can you speak to the difference in pronunciation of the Cadotte name? 	<p>Originally it was pronounced <i>Ca-do'</i> (last syllable rhymes with go). But, apparently the British pronounced it <i>Ca-dot'</i> (rhymes with spot). Eventually, the Cadottes accepted that pronunciation and changed the spelling of their surname to reflect that fact. The change is apparent in the family business ledgers early in the 19th century.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> From Skabewis: I came in late, but I hope Agatha Cadotte, and her marriage to John Morrison, whose son, married Eliza Morrin from the island came up. Eliza wrote a book about her island life. 	<p>We didn't discuss them during the presentation. But I used Eliza Morrin's book extensively as a source, especially when writing about sugar making. It is a wonderful book.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Cadottes were trusted by the French, the British, the Americans and various tribes. How did they earn that trust? 	<p>They served as interpreters, were honest and had solid relationships with the Ojibwe. The French, British and Americans all valued those traits.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Did you get a sense of how much of Michael's success was attributable to his Ojibwa wife, Equaysayway? 	<p>It's impossible to say exactly. But as the daughter of an important Ojibwe leader on Madeline Island, and niece of Ojibwe leaders on the Chippewa River, where Michel conducted much of his early fur-trading, there is no doubt she was critical to his success.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In your book you talk about how the backbone of shipping in the fur trade was the Montreal canoe. Do you have any idea how long such journey took and how often the canoes failed to reach their destination? 	<p>I incorrectly said during my talk the journey could take a month. Actually, it usually took about two months, from early May to early July, according to statements from Northwest company officials.</p> <p>Some canoes were lost in dangerous portages or in surprise storms on Lake Superior. But most made it safely from Montreal to Grand Portage and back.</p>



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Thank You Messages:

15:02:51 From Lisa: thank you
15:02:53 From Janet: Thank you!
15:03:03 From Lana: Thanks!
15:03:06 From Mary: miigwech thank you
15:03:07 From Madonna: Thank you!
15:03:10 From Dorothy: well done
15:03:12 From Lorri: Miigwech!
15:03:14 From Elizabeth: Thank you ~
15:03:18 From Ruth: Miigwech
15:03:22 From Lisa: Thanks!
15:03:22 From Elspeth: Thank you for a very interesting talk and questions!
15:03:27 From Kristy: Thank you for this presentation!
15:03:39 From Nicholas: Thanks Bob and all!
15:03:48 From April: Thanks Bob it was great