17th and 18th Century Maps of the Great Lakes and Detroit

Detroit Historical Museum – 30 September 2017
Diane Wolford Sheppard, FCHSM Member
My discussion of the 17th century maps will focus on the relevant history and the little known facts about Michigan and Detroit’s history.

In most cases we will first look at the complete map followed by a cropped portion of the map where the history will be discussed in one or more slides.
Between 1610 and 1641 – French Canadians had explored or founded missions as far north as Hudson Bay, as far southeast as Maryland, and as far west as Green Bay – these men paved the way for the explorations of Jacques Marquette, S.J., Louis Jolliet, Daniel Greysolon, sieur Du Lhut, René Robert Cavalier, sieur de La Salle, and Pierre Lemoine, sieur d’Iberville.

- 1610-1611 – Nicolas Vignault may have visited Hudson Bay.
- 1615 – Father Joseph Le Caron and Samuel de Champlain reached Georgian Bay, where Caron established a mission. The following year, Caron founded missions to the Tobacco / Petun, Ottawa, and Nipissing.
- 1615 – Étienne Brûlé explored present-day Maryland and Pennsylvania.
- 1620-1621 – Étienne Brûlé and Grenolle explored Lake Superior.
- 1632 – The Jesuits established missions to the Huron at Georgian Bay / Huronia.
- 1634 – Jean Nicolet visited the Native-Americans around present-day Green Bay, Wisconsin.


Available from BAnQ:

[link](http://services.banq.qc.ca/sdx/cep/list_notice.xsp?field=date_publication&value=.*&mode=hp p&col=* Sanson never visited North America
Nicolas Sanson – cropped portion of map

• While this map is not accurate, it allows us to review often misunderstood facts about Michigan and southwest Ontario’s Native Tribes.
• 1640 – 1650 – The Iroquois attacked the Native Tribes that lived around Georgian Bay and southwestern Ontario.
• The Huron / Wendat lived south of Georgian Bay; the Tobacco / Petun lived on the Bruce Peninsula. The Odawa / Ottawa lived on Manitoulin Island. The Potawatomi may have lived in the area around Detroit. The Ojibwa / Chippewa lived north and south of Lake Superior.
Iroquois Attacks from 1640 to the 1690s – historical background

• Following the destruction of Huronia between 1640 – 1650, the Iroquois continued their attacks on the tribes living as far as the Mississippi Valley and as far north as Lake Superior.

• The motivation for these attacks was to gain captives that could be adopted into the tribe; thereby increasing their numbers that had been decimated by disease and war; the wars had nothing to do with control of the fur trade and should not be referred to as the Beaver Wars.

• In order to avoid these attacks, the Tribes living in southeast Michigan and southwest Ontario moved their permanent villages out of the areas where they had lived for centuries, although some Tribes ventured south of Michilimackinac for hunting purposes. They would not return to their historic homelands for more than 50 years!

• See the History of New France Page and the Native Americans Pages on the FCHSM Website: http://www.habitantheritage.org/french-canadian_resources/history_of_new_france; http://www.habitantheritage.org/native_americans
René Bréhant de Galinée’s 1669 / 1670 map of Lakes Ontario, Erie, and Huron – available from Gallica – this is a much more accurate map which illustrates the two main routes to Michigan’s Upper Peninsula
René Bréhant de Galinée’s 1669 / 1670 map of Lakes Ontario, Erie, and Huron – historical background

• Adrien Jolliet (older brother of Louise Jolliet) rescued an Iroquois prisoner from Sault Ste, Marie who guided him to Lake Ontario through Lake Huron and Lake Erie. Jolliet informed missionaries Galinée and Dollier de Casson of the route.

• Galinée’s narrative is invaluable for his description of the voyage to Sault Ste. Marie. When they passed through the Detroit River, they found and destroyed an idol, but they did not see any Native Villages. The narrative also discusses the return voyage to Montréal via the Ottawa River route.

• “The Journey of Dollier and Galinée” in Louise Phelps Kellogg, Ph.D., editor, Early Narratives of the Northwest (New York: Charles Scribner’s Sons, 1917, reprinted 1959 by the State Historical Society of Wisconsin), pp. 161-208 https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=mdp.39015015191607;view=1up;seq=1;size=125
Claude Allouez, S.J., and Jacques Marquette, S.J.’s 1671 map of Lake Superior
Movement of Michigan’s Tribes to Avoid the Iroquois

- **Huron / Wendat** – area around present-day Green Bay; then to the Black River; another band lived with the Odawa on an island in Lake Pepin on the Wisconsin / Minnesota border; then to Chequamegon Bay
  - **Miami** – 1670 – headwaters of the Fox River in present-day Wisconsin
  - **Odawa / Ottawa** – 1660 – Keweenaw Bay; another band lived on an island in Lake Pepin
  - **Ojibwa / Chippewa** – north and south of Lake Superior to Sault Ste. Marie
  - **Potawatomi** – 1667 – Chequamegon Bay; 1670 – a portion of the tribe lived in an island at the mouth of present-day Green Bay
Michigan’s 17th Century French Missions – the Missions often preceded the Forts / Posts

• The Missions are listed chronologically
• Baye Sainte Thérèse – On 15 October 1660, René Ménard, S.J., Jean Guérin founded a mission on Keweenaw Bay to serve the Ottawa.
• St. Ignace – in 1670, Claude Dablon, S.J. founded the mission on Mackinac Island; the following year, Jacques Marquette, S.J.. moved the mission to St. Ignace.
• St. François Borgia – in 1677, the Jesuits built a small chapel at St. Ignace to serve the Ottawa.
• St. Joseph – In 1686, the Governor and Intendant granted land to the Jesuits near present day, Niles, Michigan, so that they could found a mission to the Miami and the Potawatomi. Claude Allouez, S.J., founded the mission in 1687 or 1688.
A 1660-1663 Trading Voyage to Lake Superior

Six traders accompanied René Ménard, S.J. and Jean Guérin on their 1660 journey to Lake Superior: Claude David (ancestor of Thérèse David who married Jacob de Marsac), Sébastien Hodiau dit Laflèche (ancestor of Jeanne Cécile Catin who married Jacques Campeau), Adrien Jolliet, François LePoutrel sieur des Coulombiers, Pierre Levasseur dit Lespérance, and Antoine Trottier, sieur DesRuisseaux

- They were unable to obtain food from the Huron, Ottawa, and Potawatomi because they were dying of dysentery.
- Food was so scarce that at times the voyageurs shared one fish with four or five others and ate soup made of moss (tripe de roche) or fish bones, tree bark, or acorns.
- They spent a harsh winter of 1661-1662 on Chequamegon Bay, subsisting on the fish they caught on Lake Superior. They returned from some of their fishing expeditions with frozen hands and feet; while on other fishing expeditions, the storms were so violent that the wind blew snow so thick that the man steering the canoe could not see his companion in the bow. When a fishing expedition was successful they smoked and stored some of their fish for future use.
Crop of La Hontan’s Map – La Hontan was at Michilimackinac in 1688

- The Native American fields appear on the bottom left; the Ottawa Village is northeast of the fields; the Huron Village is southeast of the Ottawa Village; the Jesuit’s house is east of the Huron Village; the French village is east of the Jesuit Village.

- The crops raised by the Ottawa and Huron played a vital role during the summer of 1701, as did the crops raised by Native Americans on Lake Superior and at present-day Green Bay, Wisconsin, and Fort St. Joseph.
6 June 1686 – Governor Denonville ordered Daniel Greysolon, sieur Du Lhut, to establish a fort at the Strait of Lake Erie, called *Détroit*, “in an advantageous spot so as to secure this passage to us, **to protect our savages who go hunting there**, and to serve them as a refuge against the designs of their enemies and ours; you will do nothing and say nothing to the Iroquois, unless they venture on any attempt against you and against our allies.” The fort, which was named Fort St. Joseph, was located near present-day Port Huron.
Vincenzo Coronelli – 1688 – *Partie occidentale du Canada ou de la Nouvelle France où sont les nations des Illinois, de Tracy, les Iroquois, et plusieurs autres peuples, avec la Louisiane nouvellement découverte etc* – available from BAnQ
Cropped portion of Coronelli’s map – **remember that women and children were also voyageurs** – see the Fort St. Joseph, Michilimackinac, and River Raisin Page: [http://www.habitantheritage.org/french-canadian_resources/fort_st_joseph_michilimackinac_and_river_raisinfrenchtown](http://www.habitantheritage.org/french-canadian_resources/fort_st_joseph_michilimackinac_and_river_raisinfrenchtown)

- The northern route to the Great Lakes took the Ottawa River route to Michilimackinac and Detroit (via the Ottawa River, the Mattawa River, Lake Nipissing, and the French River to Lake Huron) this route involved approximately 30 portages.
- The southern route via Lakes Ontario and Lake Erie had an eight mile portage at Niagara. Jeanne Cécile Catin delivered Nicolas Campeau at the Niagara portage and Madeleine Thunay was 7-8 months pregnant when she made the portage.
The Detroit River Region in July 1701 – Legends vs. Facts

Legend: the Huron / Wendat, the Ottawa / Odawa, Pierre Roy, and François Pelletier lived in permanent villages in Detroit and greeted Cadillac when he arrived on 24 July 1701.

The facts are actually much more interesting – therefore, eliminate the image from your mind!
Although Cadillac had departed for Détroit with three months’ provisions, the convoy exhausted the food supplies during the journey or shortly after their arrival. If the Wendat or Odawa had their villages in Détroit, none of the following efforts to obtain food would not have been necessary.

- Cadillac sent Tonty to Michilimackinac to buy Indian corn.

- During the summer of 1701, Cadillac sent five canoes to other posts for trading purposes. Laurent Renaud and Charles Lemoine de Longueuil took two canoes to Lake Superior; Jacques Lemoine and Charles Rivard dit Loranger took two canoes to present-day Green Bay, Wisconsin; and Edmond Roy dit Châtellerault and Pierre Circé dit Saint-Michel took one canoe to Fort St. Joseph, near present-day Niles, Michigan.

- Governor Callière and Intendant Champigny sent two canoes of food and merchandise to Détroit during the summer. At the end of October, Cadillac sent Tonty to Fort Frontenac to get food for the settlement.

- In October after Governor Callière learned that no more corn was available at Michilimackinac, he ordered the Seneca to take corn to Détroit.
Efforts to Feed the Colony – continued

• Although Cadillac informed Pontchartrain that he had fed 6,000 Native Americans who spent the winter of 1701/1702 near Détroit, this is highly unlikely considering the lack of food in Détroit.
• In 1702, the Ottawa/Odawa and Huron/Wendat told Callière that they were reluctant to move to Détroit because of the lack of game and fish in the area, and the land was too marshy making it difficult to cultivate their crops.
• Further, on 9 November 1703, Louis Babie who had been part of the original convoy to Détroit and had worked for the Compagnie de la Colonie testified that there were only about 40 cabins of different Native Nations who lived in Détroit.
Carte du Lac Sainte-Claire, attributed to Antoine Laumet, sieur de Lamothe-Cadillac, 25 September 1702
Note the Native Villages in 1702

- Natives appearing in the Fort Pontchartrain Parish Records from 1704 – 1710: Miami, Huron, Ottawa, Iroquois of the Sault (Sault St. Louis), Seneca, Nipissing, Flat-Head, Pawnee, and Fox/Mesquakie

- Following the 1706 outbreak of violence among the Ottawa, Huron, and Miami, the Ottawa village was burned and they settled on the Canadian side of the River; the Miami moved their village south, perhaps to the area around present-day Monroe.
1749 Copy of Cadillac’s 1702 Map of Fort Pontchartrain / Détroit
Chaussegros de Léry’s 1749 copy of the 1702 map of the Fort

- A. *L’Eglise* [Church]
- B. *Sacristie* [Sacristy, place where religious supplies are kept]
- C. *Maison* [House] *du Commandant*
- D. *Maison de M. de Tonty*
- E. *Maison du R. P. Recolet*
- F. *Magasin* [storehouse]
- G. *Maisons des gardes Magazins* [Houses for the Storehouse guards]
- H. *Corps de gardes* [Lodging for soldiers]
- I. *La grande Porte du Fort* [large Door of the Fort]
- K. *La petite Porte* [small Door. It led to the Huron fort]
- L to Z – *Maisons* [Houses, 15]
1749 Copy of 1702 Map of Fort Pontchartrain

- Cadillac granted 68 sites within the fort between 1706 and 1710.
- Prior to 24 August 1711, Jacques Charles Renaud Dubuisson, acting commandant of Détroit, cut Fort Pontchartrain in half, because the palisades were rotting, and he felt that the fort was too large to be defended by the small number of men at his disposal. The following buildings were left outside the fort: the Church, a warehouse, and homes belonging to the following: Father Chérubin Deniau, Antoine Lamothe de Cadillac, Fafard Delorme, Parent, Mallet, Roy, Robert, Campeau (Michel) and Bélisle. When the Fox and their allies attacked the Fort in May 1712, their homes were burned and these families were forced to seek shelter with the other residents.
Building Styles Used in Michigan during the French Régime
Lorraine DiCerbo’s Photo taken at Colonial Michilimackinac

Uses of these styles in Détroit as of the 1710 census

- Posts in the earth (*poteaux-en-terre*) (left and center) – used for the houses at Fort Pontchartrain with a thatch roof
- Piece on piece (*pièce-sur-pièce*) (right) – used for the Church and warehouse
- Lot size ranges in Fort Pontchartrain: Antoine Beauregard – 70’ x 70’ to Pierre Bassinet – 10’ x 14’
Reconstructed Longhouse at Ste. Marie Among the Huron (left) and Interior of a Longhouse at the Huronia Museum (right) in Midland, Ontario
Chaussegros de Lery’s (?) copy of Henri Louis Deschamps de Boishebert’s 1731 map of Detroit, courtesy of Library and Archive’s New France Archives
Cropped portion of the previous map

American Side (left to right)
- Potawatomi Village
- Huron Village and Fields
- Fort
- Grande Marais

Canadian Side (left to right)
- Huron Fields
- Ottawa Fields and Village
1732 Plan of Fort Pontchartrain - Courtesy of Gallica:
http://gallica.bnf.fr/ark:/12148/btv1b78456209.r=detroit.langEN
1732 Maps of the Native Villages – see the Detroit River Region Page:

Potawatomi Village

Huron / Wendat Village

Ottawa / Odawa Village
1749 – 1750
New France prepared to check the infiltration of British Traders and Iroquois Indians along the Ohio Valley

- 1749 – Governor Roland Michel Barrin de La Galissonière planned to build additional posts/forts in the Great Lakes and to increase the population of Détroit to 1,000 so that it could feed and defend all of the other posts.

- 1749 – Governor La Galissonière sent Gaspard Joseph Chaussegros de Léry on a reconnaissance mission to Detroit. The fort was expanded.

- 1749 – Governor La Galissonière offered farm animals and equipment to French Canadians who agreed to settle in Detroit and on the Canadian side of the Detroit River.
1749 – 1750 Continued

• 1749 – Pierre Joseph Céleron de Blainville and 200 men reclaimed the Ohio Valley.

• 1750 – Additional French-Canadian families settled in Detroit.

• See the Census Page for The Edward Cicotte Ledger:
Gaspard Joseph Chaussegros de Léry’s 1749 map of The Detroit River – courtesy of Library and Archives Canada
Cropped Portion of Previous Map – a Census was also Taken in 1749 – see the Land Page:
Portion of 1930 Map Commissioned by the William Clements Library at U of M

The Map Lists the Property Owners on both sides of the Fort
Gaspard Joseph Chaussegros de Léry’s 1749 map of The Fort – courtesy of Library and Archives Canada
Lieutenant Diedrich Brehm’s 23 February 1761 Map of the Fort