

**21 Explorers  
Murdered  
Massacre Island Named  
in their Honor**

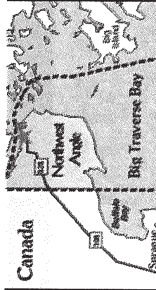
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**RESTORATION  
OF FORT  
ST. CHARLES**

Page 3

**EUREKA!!  
LOCALS STRIKE  
GOLD!!**

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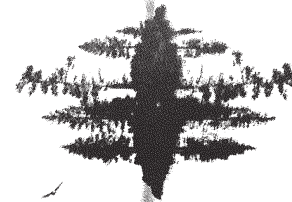
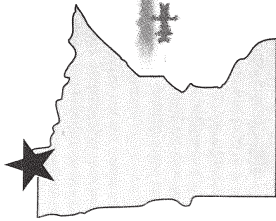


**Native  
Sons!!**



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**TOP OF THE NATION**



*the*  
**Northwest Angle  
and Islands**

➤ Greetings to you from the Northwest Angle & Islands. As you read this newspaper, you will see we are a historically rich and deep area. Co-mingled with the histories of the French and Canadian, British, aboriginals and First Nation peoples, we are proud to share the following colorful and memorable stories of fact, fiction, and folklore of the area with you.

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**3rd Edition**

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# HISTORY, MYSTERY AND MORE...

## Lake of the Woods Discovered

The year is 1688. A 20-year-old French lad, Jacques de Noyon, and his Indian companions guide their canoes around the last bend in the Rainy River. De Noyon becomes the first white man to see one of the most beautiful and exciting bodies of water in all the world - the Lake of the Woods. De Noyon built a fort on Rainy River and made his mark in history as the first white man to see the Lake of the Woods. Someone had to be first. We will never know, of course, the

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The history of why the Northwest Angle & Islands is part of the United States and Minnesota is very interesting... The Angle was created because some of our founding fathers didn't know their wilderness geography. In defining the boundary between American and British possession (to become Canada) at the treaty of Paris after the French and Indian War, the intention was to run a line through the Great Lakes to the ultimate source of the St. Lawrence



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## Colonel Wolseley

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The year 1870 was of considerable significance to the history of the Lake of the Woods and the Canadian West. It was the year "law and order" arrived in the wilderness. Reports of revolts and lawlessness in the Red River area aroused sufficient concern on the part of the Dominion Government to send Lt. Col. John Garnet Wolseley with a contingent of 1,200 men to that area via Lake of the Woods and Rat Portage. Although they traveled an established route, the size of the army made it necessary

agreement too late because a prairie fire burned down the telegraph poles.

It wasn't until 1872 that this point was finally announced as 29 23', 50.28 latitude and 95 08', 56.7 longitude. In an interesting book by William E. Lass, *Minnesota's Boundary With Canada*, published by Minnesota Historical Society Press, he refers to the Northwest Angle as "that seeming aberration of man's rationality."

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Someone had to be first. We will never know, of course, the name of the first Indian to come upon our lake. If the legends of Vikings or other whites coming to this continent before Columbus have a kernel of truth, it might just be possible that we don't even know the name of the first white man to arrive at Lake of the Woods. But history does record that a white man did come to the lake in 1688, a Frenchman named Jacques de Noyon. We shall therefore give him full credit for discovering Lake of the Woods – credit well earned.

What was he doing in the middle of the continent three centuries ago? Primarily, he was interested in furs. During the first century of white man's contact with the area, there seemed to be an almost continuous struggle for possession of the lake between the woodland Indians (the Cree and Ojibway) and the Indians of the plains (the Sioux). Prior to De Noyon's discovery, you can almost picture the lake with Indian villages along the shores and on the larger islands.

De Noyon (like most of his contemporaries and successors) had an additional mission in mind – to find a route to the Western Sea. However, his major contribution to the body of knowledge of his day was finding and detailing a route to these lakes from Lake Superior. De Noyon, his contemporaries and his successors, were often gullible explorers. Upon hearing Indian stories of how close they were to the salt water of the Western Sea, they naturally displayed a great deal of pleasure and excitement. As a result, the Indians told the whites what they wanted to hear and exaggerated all the more. Between De Noyon's expeditions and La Verendrye's explorations, no known others penetrated the Lake of the Woods region.

De Noyon Island, south of Big Narrows Island, honors the first European to reach Lake of the Woods.

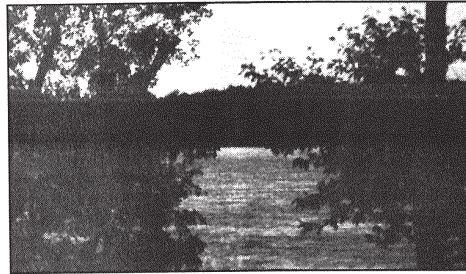
*Ignorance, Inaccuracies, Bad Timing Favor the U.S.*

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Individuals involved in the decision to include it in U.S. lands, eventually to be part of Minnesota were Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, and John Jay – the land became U.S. property because of ignorance, compromise, accident, and an astronomer's ruler. Boundary disputes arose, some serious, some complicated, because of the lack of sufficient geographical knowledge as well as errors in the reading of maps, sometimes crudely made.

The confusion had its beginning at the treaty of Paris at the conclusion of the American Revolutionary War (1783) and



did not end until the boundary was surveyed and definitely established in 1925 – nearly a century and a half later.

Franklin, Adams and Jay were among those representing the U.S. at the Treaty of Paris. The British ministry suggested that the boundary follow Rainy River "to the Lake of the Woods, thence through the said lake to the most northwestern part thereof, and from thence on a due west course to the river Mississippi."

Shortly after the signing of the treaty, the British became aware of the problem. As the Treaty of Ghent was being negotiated, they proposed that boundary negotiations be reopened and that the line be redefined. The U.S. acknowledged the problem, but said that it was not interested in dropping the border south of Lake of the Woods to the Mississippi River. If it had, the Mesabi and Vermilion iron ranges, and most of what we call the Arrowhead Country, would have been lost by us to Britain. An international commission was appointed to resolve the problem. However, the surveyors hired to locate the "northwesternmost point" found they could not cope with the irregular shoreline and all of the peninsulas and bays. They

actually gave up and reported the impossibility of the task.

In 1841, they appointed Dr. I. L. Tiarks, an astronomer, to study the problem. He finally took a map of the lake and a ruler. He placed the ruler across the lake at an exact NE to SW direction and then slowly moved it to the left across the map. He determined that the last point of shoreline touched by the ruler as it moved away from the lake would be the northwest point. Once the northwesternmost point was established by Dr. Tiarks, he dropped a line straight south to the 49th parallel, thus creating the Northwest Angle of the United States (the present "chimney" on top of Minnesota). His decision was accepted by both sides, but to the favor of the United States. The British government became aware of the fact that a piece of land was to be left in United States territory that they thought rightfully should be theirs. Again – argument, protest, and further investigation was requested between the two countries. Britain wished to retain what is now Angle Inlet for herself. However, America got that bulge of land on the continent because the British agent, a man by the name of Cameron, received the order to delay signing the final

agreement too late because a prairie fire burned down the telegraph poles.

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The sometimes irregular boundary line between the mouth of the Rainy River and the northwest point was worked out separately, thus deciding which islands would be American and which Canadian. In that long process, however, this island we now call Oak came into discussion.

### OAK ISLAND

The question was whether Oak Island was in U.S. or in Canadian waters. Steamboat captains used the channel south and west of Oak Island just as in our day this channel was commonly used by the Island Queen, Bert Steele, and the Resolute. So local people thought that this channel was the international border and that, therefore, Oak Island was part of Canada. However, it was finally established that the island referred to as "No. 1" in the Webster-Ashburton Treaty was Oak Island, and therefore, it was part of the United States. So Oak Island, the largest island on Lake of the Woods in U.S. waters, ended up on the map at the top of the chimney-like Northwest Angle. Until the United States admitted Alaska to the Union in 1959, the Angle had the distinction of being the northernmost point in the United States.

## Colonel Wolseley

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The real significance of the expedition lay in the fact that law and order had to be established to the West. Colonel Wolseley had demonstrated that a sizeable military force could be moved across the wilderness whenever necessary and lawlessness would not be tolerated. The travel difficulties of the expedition were a dramatic demonstration of the need for improvement of the Dawson route.

**READ ON**  
More interesting stories about areas of historical people and development  
**The Northwest Angle and Islands**

## East Coast to West Coast Waterway Sought THE PACIFIC OCEAN IN SIGHT?? Voyageurs Establish Fort St. Charles in their Quest to the West

Following De Noyon's travels, another explorer, Pierre Gauthier De La Verendrye became an important figure in the Northwest Angle's history. Born at Three Rivers, Quebec, in 1685, he was an adventurous individual. He joined the army at age 12. He fought the British in Boston and the men of the Duke of Marlborough in Flanders. On his return to Canada he was named commander of a small trading post

His adventures started in June of 1731, with a goal of building 3 forts at Rainy Lake, Lake of the Woods, and Lake Winnipeg, as well as trading furs with the Indians. The La Verendrye party left Montreal June 5, 1731, with a crew of 50 men. They made it to the source of the Rainy River and built a fort, now named Fort St. Pierre, in honor of Pierre La Verendrye (one of his sons). In the spring and



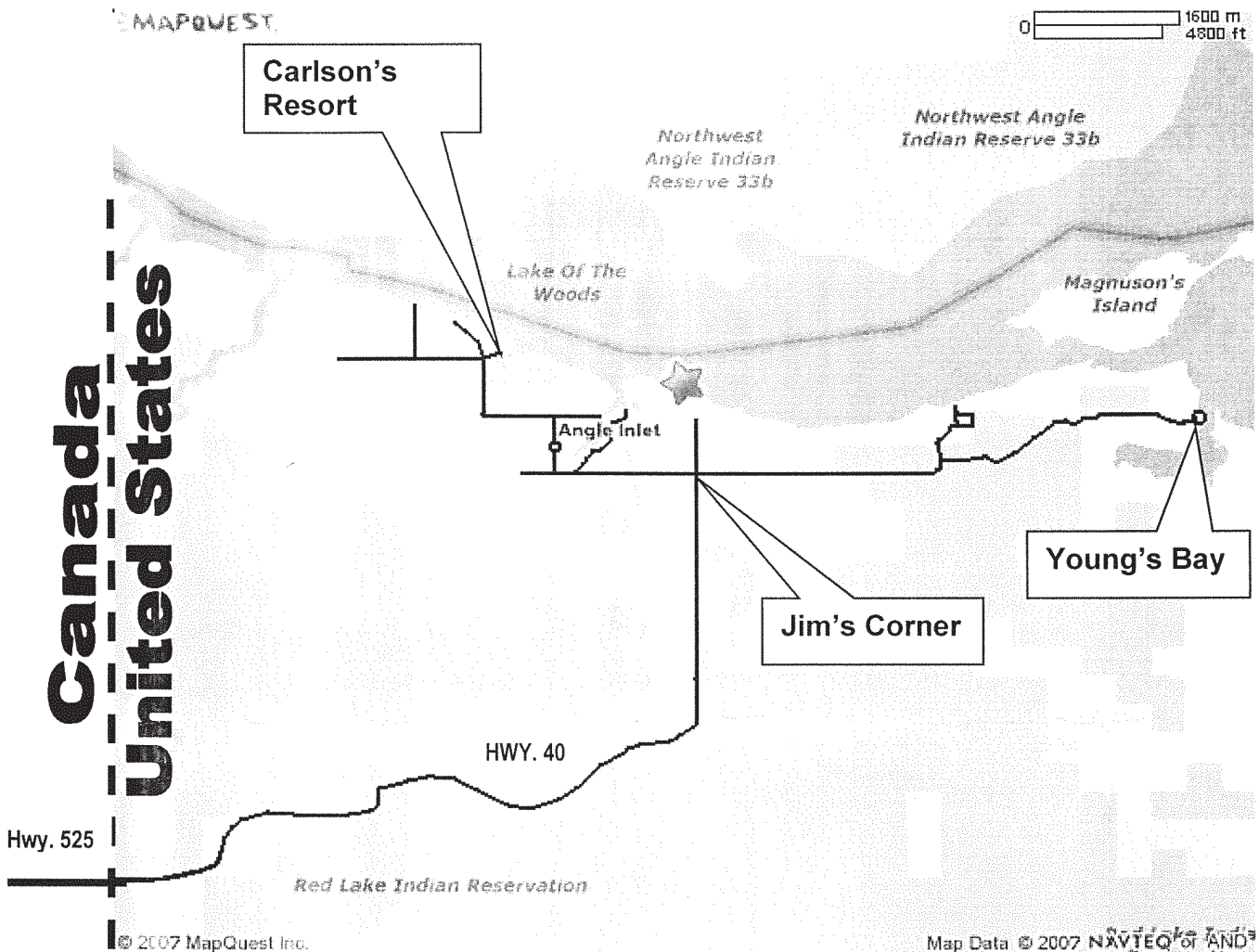
Charles was built at the mouth of the inlet. Many years later, with water erosion, the land became an island; it is now called Magnuson's Island. What La Verendrye did not know and what was not to be discovered until more than a century later, was that he had built his fort at the top of the Northwest Angle, the most northerly land in the contiguous United States. At the tip is Angle Inlet, a unique geological formation, most of it located in Lake of

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# Phone Reporting from the North West Angle

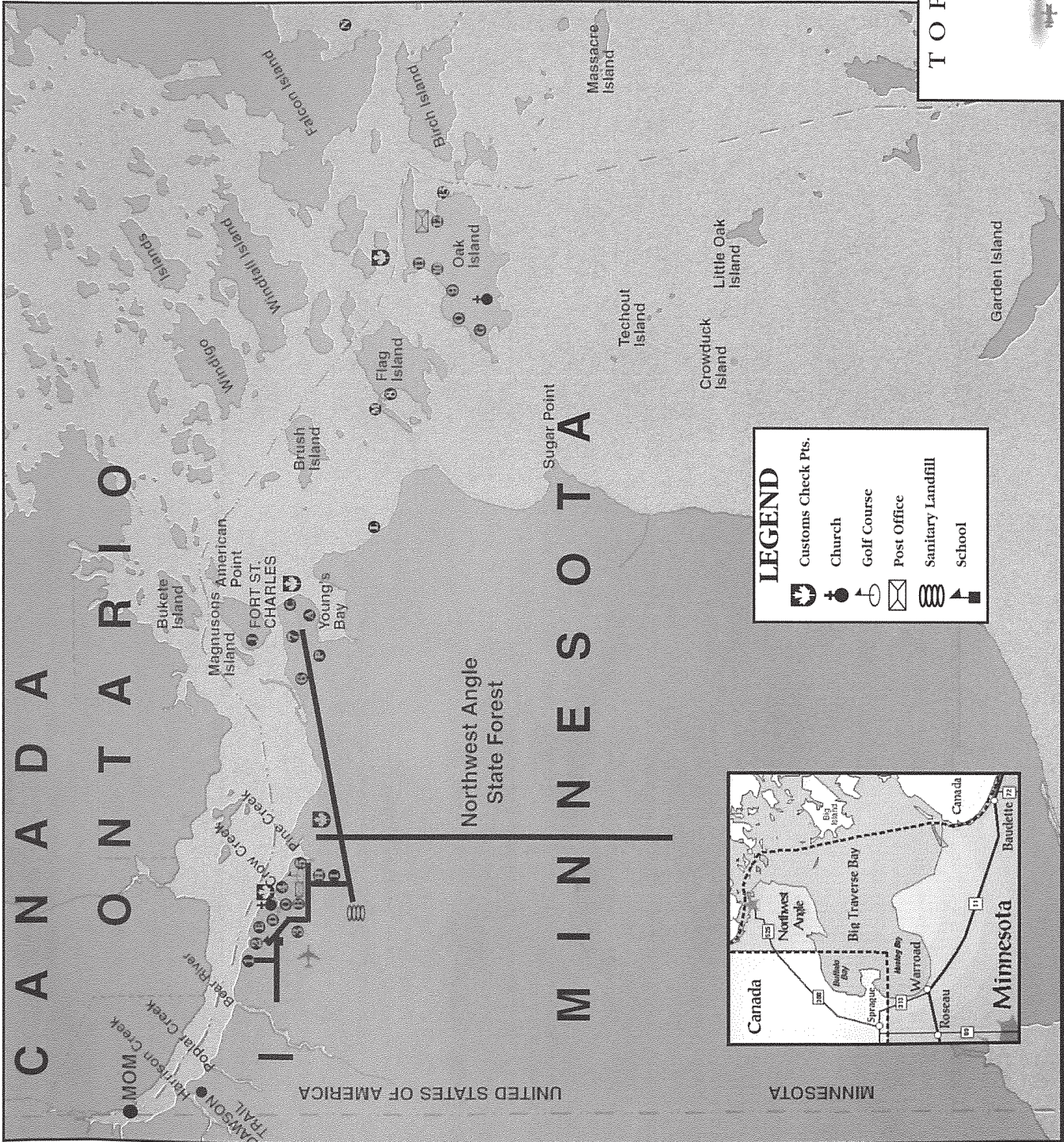


- Enter the North West Angle on Highway 525 in Canada then onto Highway 40 on the US side. Proceed to Jim's Corner. Go into the white building and push the "US FLAG" button on the reporting phone and it will auto-dial US Customs (as you are going into the US).
- When you leave the Angle, stop at the white booth at Jim's Corner and push the "CANADA FLAG" button on the reporting phone and it will auto-dial Canada Customs (as you are going into Canada).
- When Staying in a resort on the US side and you are going into Canadian waters, use one of the reporting phones at the docks at either Carlson's or Young's Bay. Report to Canada Customs before leaving and then to US Customs when returning.
- When staying in a Canadian resort and you are going into US water, use the reporting booths at either Carlson's or Young's Bay. Report to US Customs before going out on the lake and report to Canada Customs on your way back to the Resort.

Failure to report on each trip from one country to the other may result in a substantial penalty.

## Businesses and Resorts

1. Sage's Angle West – summer lodging
2. Prothero's Post Resort – summer lodging
3. Northwest Angle Resort – lodging
4. Carlson's Freight/Barge Service
5. Jake's Northwest Angle – lodging, gas
6. Angle Outpost – lodging, food, store
7. Young's Bay Resort – summer lodging, gas, store
8. Flag Island Resort – lodging, food, gas, bar
9. Bay Store Camp – lodging, gas
10. Oak Island Resort – summer lodging
12. Sportsman's Oak Island Lodge – lodging, food, gas, bar
13. Angle Inn Lodge – lodging, food, gas, bar
- A. Jerry's Restaurant and Lounge – food, gas, bar
- B. North Point Bar and Grill – food, gas, bar
- C. Island Passenger Service
- D. Angle Church – St. Luke's
- E. Angle Inlet School
- G. Laketrails Base Camp and Church
- H. J & M Company – gas, store
- I. Northwest Angle Services
- J. Fort St. Charles
- L. Feldspar Mine
- M. Moosylvania
- N. Mica Point
- O. North Border Realty
- P. D & S Storage and Service, Inc.



TOP OF THE NATION



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Sub Total 13.0  
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**TOTAL 13.00**

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THANKS COME AGAIN

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