

Quebec to proceed westward as far as the Assiniboine river and see if, as was then thought, the Pacific ocean rolled below the Height of Land. In 1736 one of Verendrye's sons with a company of twenty men was sent by his father to explore the Lake of the Woods country. On their way from the Assiniboine, where Verendrye the elder was encamped, his band fell in with Father Anneau, one of the most intrepid of the Jesuits. He agreed to accompany them to the Lake of the Woods, and there every soul was massacred on an island in the lake. A party of Canadian voyageurs, who came upon their bodies some days after, saw their heads piled in a heap on the robes of beaver they carried with them as blankets. Young Verendrye was lying upon his stomach, his back hacked with knives and a spade driven into his loins. His headless trunk was decorated with porcupine quills. Father Anneau, who had not been beheaded, had a frightful gash in his abdomen, from which his entrails had been torn. One hand—his right—pointed upward; his left had been cut off. Their entire camp equipage and personal effects had been stolen by the Indians who had butchered them. Doubtless these relics were brought in there by the Indians or by traders having dealings with the tribes, who in the long ago were scattered round the Lake of the Woods."

Several copper plates were also found, each with an engraving of the arms of the Roi Tres Chretien of France, Louis XIV. These, no doubt, were deposited in cairns by the early French explorers. Le Sieur Bourdon, who explored the Labrador coast and entered Hudson's Bay in 1656, was the first of these. When he landed where the post now stands, "he stepped ashore," says the chronicle, "calling on God to bless this new-found land; and though it was 10 o'clock at night, and a fierce and blustery night, he at once planted a cross in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost, and deposited at the foot of it His Majesty's arms engraved in copper and laid between two sheets of lead,