

too had set out to find a Western way to Asia—and discovered America. Jacques Cartier was in search of a mythical passage to the Orient—and was the pioneer of a northern empire. La Salle set forth from Montreal to reach China—and explored the valley of the Mississippi, the memory of his original project being preserved in the name La Chine, or, as we write it now, Lachine, to the celebrated rapids in the St. Lawrence above Montreal. In like manner Pierre de la Verendrye and his sons, were led on by the myth of a Western Sea—and explored the northwestern section of the continent.



BORN at Three Rivers, on the St. Lawrence, in 1685, where his father was Governor, Pierre de la Verendrye as a young man had a notable career in the French army. At the battle of Malplaquet, where Marlborough won a famous victory, he was left for dead on the field, shot through the body and with several sabre wounds, but recovered and returned to Canada, where he showed himself a man of keen ambition and untiring energy. When he set forth from Montreal on June 8, 1731, on

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