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As Americans prepare to mark their Bicentennial, *Canada Today/D' Aujourd'Hui* thinks it appropriate to take a look backward too. The countries share some history (in 1775, for example, General Benedict Arnold tried, unsuccessfully, to take Quebec City), but Canada has a long past all its own. Most Americans have heard of General Wolfe and General Montcalm, but few, we suspect, have heard of Louis Riel. In this special issue, the editors hope to tell you a number of things you don't know. We don't intend to tell all about four hundred years in eight pages, but we will try to give you an educational look at Canada's past to better understand Canada's present. In our next issue we return to 1973.

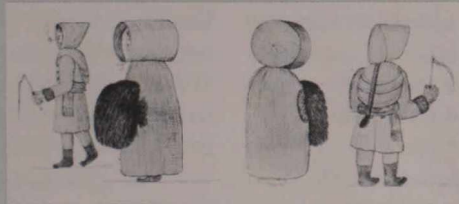
THE BRIEFEST HISTORY OF CANADA

Related in Episodes with Dates Attached

FROM THE BEGINNING UP TO WORLD WAR II

Oct. 2, 1535: Jacques Cartier, out of St. Malo, France, with three good ships, the Grand Ermine, the Petite Ermine and the Emerillon (as the English would say, the Sparrow Hawk) made his way past the fishing grounds of the coast and up the St. Lawrence in search of the fabulous Saguenay, a city of silver and gold.

He found a substantial village called Hochelaga at what is now Montreal. He described it: "The village is circular and is completely enclosed by a wooden palisade in three tiers like a pyramid. The top one is built crosswise, the middle one perpendicular and the lowest one of strips of wood placed lengthwise. The whole is well joined and lashed . . . there is only one gate . . . and that can be barred up. Over this gate and in many places . . . are . . . galleries with ladders for mounting to them, . . . provided with rocks and stones for the defense and protection of the place. There are some 50 houses . . . each about 50 or more paces in length and 12 or 15 in width, built completely of wood and covered in and bordered up with large pieces of bark and rind of trees as broad as a table, which are well and cunningly lashed . . . inside are many rooms and chambers; and in the middle is a large space without a floor where they light their fire and live together in common. Afterwards the men retire to the above-mentioned quarters with their wives and children. And further more there are lofts in the upper part of their houses where they store the corn of which they make their bread."



Canadiens in their winter dress, Quebec, 1805.

1604: Samuel de Champlain, a son of a sea captain of Brouage on the Bay of Biscay, followed in the wake of Cartier, up the St. Lawrence and down, to found Port Royal on the Bay of Fundy.

Port Royal had spacious houses of fragrant logs; an abundance of fruit, fish, fowl and game; an order of good fellows called L'ordre de Bon Temps; and a groaning board feast every day at noon.

1606: King James of England claimed some land the French had taken from the Indians.

1608: Champlain built Fort St. Louis on a rock and it slowly became Quebec, the foundation of a country. When the fort and city fell briefly to the English in 1629 (through siege, not assault) the garrison totaled sixteen and the town folk less than a hundred. New France, with the blessing of Cardinal Richelieu, sent priests and nuns to convert the natives and fur traders to convert the beavers. The French farmers preferred the vineyards of home.

1642: The Sieur de Maisonneuve set up Ville Marie — Montreal in embryo. The Company of One Hundred Associates, merchants of the fur trade, ran it and all New France.

1663: The Royal Government of France took over.

1655-65: The Iroquois tried to drive out the French, but were wiped out by smallpox and gunfire.

1727: The English built Fort Oswego and the