

In 1732 *Sieur de la Verandrye*, of Montreal, led an expedition to the west. *Father Messaiger*, a Jesuit, accompanied them. The voyage was fraught with many dangers owing to the vast wilderness they were obliged to traverse, and the hordes of savages who inhabited them. Upon reaching the above mentioned inlet, they established a fort which they called *St. Charles*. They were fortunately treated with friendliness by the Cree Indians in whose territory the fort was situated, and they carried on trade with the latter. In the fourth year after their arrival, through various circumstances, they became pressed for the want of food, so they were compelled to send to *Michillimackinac*, at the head of Lake Superior, to get provisions. Some time previous to this, *Father Aulneau*, a young man of scholarly attainments, had joined the party at *Ft. St. Charles*. He was a linguist of more than ordinary ability, and had mastered several Indian tongues. He was engaged at the time in instructing the Crees in their own language. When *Verandrye* was about to send the voyageurs, nineteen in number, on their journey, *Father Aulneau* expressed the desire that he might accompany them, and also that *Jean Baptiste*, son of *Sieur de la Verandrye* might lead the party. The *Sieur* consented. On June 3rd, 1736, the fearless little band set out on what was an extremely hazardous enterprise. They were warned to take every possible precaution to avoid the Sioux, who were at the time at war with the Crees, and suspected the French of siding with the latter. The adventurers bade adieu to their friends at the fort, and that was the last time that they were seen alive. A few weeks afterwards the garrison received the dismal intelligence of the appalling massacre of their beloved ones. They learned that scarcely had the voyageurs left *Ft. St. Charles*, before they were set upon by the Sioux, who had been lurking in the neighborhood. *La Verandrye*, though greatly grieved at the disaster, refrained from any hostilities with the Sioux, and restrained the Crees, who had become infuriated at the terrible news, from wreaking vengeance on their foes. *Verandrye* directed his efforts towards the recovery of the bodies of his murdered friends. The mortal remains were found on an island a few miles from the inlet. *Father Aulneau's* heart had been pierced with an arrow, and young *Verandrye* had received his death wound in the sacrum. The unfortunate victims were found decapitated and scalped. The remains were given a temporary burial. Later on they were transferred to *Ft. St. Charles*, where they were interred beneath the chapel with the solemnities of the church.