

## **Native Populations**

### 12,000 BP - Human Immigration into Upper Midwest

Late-glacial and early post-glacial (Paleo-Indian) inhabitants are thought to be present in the Pool 4 region, located between present day Red Wing and Wabasha, but no actual evidence has been found.

### 9,000 - 10,000 BP - Plano Complex

Earliest spear points in Pool 4 region

### 9,000 - 2,500 BP Archiac Stage

is well documented in other areas of the Midwest, but is almost completely unknown in the Pool 4 area. This is a time of re-adaptation to the post-glacial environment.

### 2,500 - 900 BP The Woodland Stage

includes the development of ceramic vessels, earthen burial mounds and other earthworks and has several substages. There are more than 24 documented Woodland sites in and around Pool 4, none excavated.

### 950 - 700 BP The Mississippian Tradition (1050 - 1300 AD)

(Silvernale Phase) expanded into the Upper Mississippi Valley. 80% of the known sites around Pool 4 are associated with these cultures. Semi-sedentary villages of greatly increased population densities developed. This stage lasted about 200 years.

### 800 BP The Oneota culture (1200 AD)

Found along the margins of western woodlands and eastern plains persisted until the time of European contact in the mid-17th century, but there are no known Oneota sites around Pool 4 that post-date 1300 A.D.

### Roughly A.D. 1300,

Occupation of Lake Pepin region appears to decline until the Santee Dakota moved into the area in the seventeenth century. It is indicated that the Dakota lived particularly around the head of Lake Pepin from the early 1600's until their displacement in the early 1860's.

## **ARCHEOLOGY**

In order of priority, the following landforms in the Wells Creek Watershed have potential for producing archeological finds - deltas, stream terraces, uplands, streams and slopes. It is thought that use of the Wells Creek Watershed inland of the Mississippi River was probably restricted to hunting and gathering excursions limiting the probability of large, concentrated archeological finds.

The Minnesota Historical Society Site List has identified and numbered twelve sites in Frontenac State Park and vicinity. Ten of these are in close proximity to the Wells Creek Delta. Of the ten, five are villages and five burial mounds.

### **Settlement**

1680 - Father Louis Hennipen, first European exploration to this portion of the Mississippi.

1686 - French built a fort, named Antoine, on the east shore of Lake Pepin. Three years later, the commander proclaimed all the lands of the Upper Mississippi under the French King's Sovereignty.

The Wells Creek Delta "Point au Sable" was an easily recognized landmark and was a meeting and staging area for all people using Lake Pepin and the Mississippi River.

On September 17, 1727 (or 1696 as stated by W.H. Mitchell, 1869, History of Goodhue County), the French established a fort thought to be located on "Point au Sable" (Sand Point) . Referred to as Fort Beauharnois (Burn-wah) in honor of the governor of Canada, this fort also served as a shelter for Jesuit priests attempting to convert the Indians.

The fort was flooded in the spring of 1728, thought to be re-established on higher ground, possibly near the present day site of the Villa Maria.

1736 - Treaty of Paris, Great Britain claimed the former French territories

1750 - fur trading on the increase (primarily beaver), several trading posts constructed in the area, possibly on the former fort site.

1840 - first permanent white resident - James "Bully" Wells built trading post and home where Frontenac now stands. Bully's wife Jane was half Dakota Indian.

mid-1800's - fur trading declined and logging increased. Most wooded area in and around Frontenac State Park had been cleared.

1851 - treaty changes made it legal for Europeans to settle in southern Minnesota. Areas that had been previously cleared and extensive tracts of prairie were turned to agriculture.

1857 - Frontenac platted by Evert Westervelt and Israel Garrard. Named for Comte de Pallusa et de Frontenac (governor of New France 1671-1698). Development began, halted for the war, and reached its glory days in the 1870's - 80's. The town included a sawmill and quarry as well as the Lake Side Hotel which catered to the wealthy from around the country. There has been much written about

Frontenac in this time period, centering primarily on the Garrard family and the brothers that settle and shaped the town.

1870 - the railroad came to the area - routed around Frontenac by Garrard's donation of property.

1885 - Israel Garrard donated land to Ursuline nuns for prep school for girls - partially burned in 1968. Now knoww as the Villa Maria retreat center.

1935 - National Park Service first identified interest in Frontenac area.

1954 - Frontenac Park Association. formed

1957 - Minnesota State Legislature established the park in response to dedication of local people and donation of property.