

FEATURES SERVICE

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MANITOBA

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THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

March 30, 1801: The historic Red River cart, fabled in song and story as a unique Red River institution, was born this day.

An unnamed voyageur, working at Alexander Henry's Fort Pembina, near where the Pembina river pours its waters into the Red, was the father of the idea. Henry, in his journal of this date makes a casual reference. "One of my men undertook to make a real pair of wheels on the plan of those in Canada; he finished them today and they were very well done. I made him chief wheelwright and we shall soon have some capital carts."

Henry's journal also gives a clue as to when the first cart was used for transport. Under the date of April 23 he notes: "I sent a man with a new cart to Portage la Prairie by way of the White Horse Plains, which is a little above the Grand Passage on the Assiniboine."

On May 5, he had another note. "I started Mr. (Augustine) Cadotte with a man for Riviere Aux Islets du Bois (the present Boyne River) with one of our new carts. This invention is worth four horses to us, as it would require five horses to carry on their backs as one will drag in these huge carts." On May 12, he remarked briefly: "Cadotte returned with a cart load of sugar and skins." The sugar alluded to was maple sugar, taken from the maples in the area.

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MANITOBA PLACE NAMES

Star Mound School District: In 1885 this was listed as SD No. 413 and Maggie Yoemans was listed as teacher. The earliest mention of this district is in 1883, in the department of education foundation files. R. Dew of Snowflake was listed as teacher this year.

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