Fort Dauphin

La Vérendrye's records on May 12, 1742, the establishment of Fort Dauphin, which was founded in the autumn of 1741 at the west side of the mouth of the Mossey River. This site is in the present day town of Winnipegosis "Little Muddy Water," Manitoba. The founder of this fort was La Vérendrye's son, Chevalier. The latter also founded about the same time, Fort Bourbon at the mouth of the Pasquia (Saskatchewan River). Later this Fort Bourbon was removed to the west side of Cedar Lake.

This post was attacked by Indians in 1743 and rebuilt on a site further upriver. It was abandoned by the French about 1758 A second Fort Dauphin was built in 1767 on the north shore of Lake Dauphin, so both the fort and the lake had the same name. Alexander Henry joined the North West Company (NWCo.) in 1791, trading at both the Whitemud River and Fort Dauphin. He then went to Pembina in 1801.

Peter Fidler, Hudson's Bay Company fur-trader, explorer and cartographer died at Fort Dauphin on December 17, 1822.

In 1886, the first general store and post office for the region was established at "Dogtown," so named for the pack and sled dogs which were the hallmark of First Nations and Métis settlements. By 1893, Dogtown had so many immigrants from eastern Canada that the old Métis community had become distinctly British-Canadian.

Compiled by Lawrence Barkwell
Coordinator of Metis Heritage and History Research
Louis Riel Institute