

Michipicoten Post and Michipicoten River:

In the days of the fur trade, this river provided access to James Bay by way of the Missinaibi and Moose Rivers. It empties into Michipicoten Bay on the eastern shore of Lake Superior near the town of Wawa, Ontario. It was also a mid-point between Fort William and Sault Ste. Marie. A French trading post was built at the river's mouth in the early 18th century.

Alexander Henry traded out of the Michipicoten Post until 1767. Jean Baptiste Nolin came to prominence in 1777 when in partnership with Venance Lemaire, *dit* Saint-Germain, he purchased the trading post at Michipicoten from Alexander Henry the elder for 15,000 *livres*. The partners employed four or five men there for the next three years. Because the American Revolution disrupted shipments of trade goods from Montreal, the business was only moderately successful. By 1781 Nolin had given up the post and gone to Michilimackinac

The HBC started building trading posts along the route in the 1770s and its post at Michipicoten River remained in use until it was abandoned in 1904. In 1781, Philip Turnor, HBC's first full-time surveyor, performed a detailed survey of the river. After 1821, the Moose River, Missinaibi River and Michipicoten route became the established supply route for HBC's Lake Superior District. The Robinson Superior Treaty Paylists list a number of Michipicoten Half Breeds; Toussaint Boucher, Joseph Dubois, John Swanston¹, William Scheller, Pierre Deschamps and David La Perdrix Blanche. Louisa Mackenzie, the wife of Angus Bethune, who was a Chief Factor for the Hudson's Bay Co. in Sault Ste. Marie in 1830, died while her husband was stationed as a relief factor at Michipicoten's Hudson's Bay Co. post in 1833.²



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1 John Swanston was an HBC Chief Factor. He was an interpreter for the 1850 Treaty and also signed it as a witness.

2 . Louisa' father was Roderick Mackenzie, a partner in the North West Co. Louisa Mackenzie was the great-grandmother of the renowned Canadian Doctor Norman Bethune