Midwest Lacrosse on the Prairie

By J. Alan Childs
Origins of lacrosse
St. Lawrence River Valley
Algonquian moved from the east coast areas
Spread out to the Midwest prairie
Traveled through the Cradle of Lacrosse
Medicine Game

- North: winter
- East: spring
- South: summer
- West: fall

- Elder: spiritual
- Youth: emotional
- Infancy: physical
- Air: water

Tuesday, November 07, 2017

J. Alan Childs – Midwest Lacrosse on the Prairie
Lacrosse Sticks

• Western Great Lakes Style

Sketch from Dr. Beers book on Lacrosse

• Six Nations Style

Kervin’s Lacrosse Stick from St. Paul Lacrosse Club

Source – Minnesota Historical Society
Brian Larney (Choctaw / Seminole Artist)
Ball Club and La Crosse

La Crosse, Wisconsin

near Leech Lake, Minnesota
Fort Snelling

Louisiana Purchase 1803
Land acquired by Lt. Zebulon Pike 1805
Fort completed 1825
Built at B’Dote (Minnesota and Mississippi Rivers)
Giacomo Constantino Beltrami

Explorer trying to find the head waters of the Mississippi River.

Acquired Red Lake Ojibwe stick

_The Beltrami 1823 Ojibwe Lacrosse Stick_
_Collected by Beltrami at Red Lake, Minnesota_
_now located in Bergamo Museum, Italy_
George Catlin

George Catlin by William Fisk,
National Portrait Gallery

Ball Players, by George Catlin

Tuesday, November 07, 2017

J. Alan Childs – Midwest Lacrosse on the Prairie
Red Lake

Lacross Game, Red Lake, 1910
Game adopted in USA

Shamrock Lacrosse Club - World Champs, Montreal
October 14, 1871

John R. Flannery, Sr. was the father of American Lacrosse
First Player in center row reading left to right
United States Lacrosse Timeline

United States National Amateur Lacrosse Association – 1879
Newport, Rhode Island

Champions
1879 – Boston Union
1880 – Boston Union
1881 – New York
1882 – Louisville
1883 – Calumets of Chicago
1884 – St. Paul
1885 – St. Paul
1886 – New York
1887 – Calumets awarded cup
1888 – League ended
St. Paul, Minnesota 1883

THE ST. PAUL LACROSSE TEAM OF 1883

Left to right, standing—Devine, Wernick, Martin, Lovell, McAulay, Try, Smith, Gibberton.
Sitting—Mair, Stark, Auty, Q. Gibberton, Warner. Dr. A. Macdonald, president of team, in center of group.
St. Paul Athletic Club sheet in 1884 showing Throwing of the Lacrosse Ball results
St. Paul Lacrosse Club late 1890s
Source: Minnesota Historical Society
The Washington rink which had a hardwood skating surface 80 by 325 feet—the largest in the world.

Minneapolis Tribune June 30, 1912
BAND OF CHIPPEWA INDIANS in Lacrosse Games. They Challenge the Championship of the United States.

FROM THE FAIR GROUNDS.

An effort is being made to secure railroad rates at one-half regular fare for the round trip from points on lines in the state.

Measurements were made of the grounds yesterday and the site found to be 2,425 feet east and west, and 3,025 north and south, an area of 7,335,625 feet.

The St. Paul Lacrosse club has sent word that they will challenge the visiting Indians, who are said to be experts, to play a game, the Indians to fix the date.

St. Paul Globe - 1884
Lallys Lacrosse Stick Catalog

St. Paul Lacrosse Club John Stark’s “Lallys Special” Lacrosse Stick

St. Paul Lacrosse Club George Kerwin’s “Duke’s Special” Lacrosse Stick
St. Paul Lacrosse Club at Lexington Park
LACROSSE ON THE ICE, ON THE TANK AT MONTREAL.
1904 Olympics – World’s Fair
100 year Celebration of Louisiana Purchase

Shamrocks of Winnipeg
Gold Medal Champions

St. Paul Lacrosse Club
1904
Drewry Cup – Championship Trophy of WCLA
(Western Canadian Lacrosse Association)
Archives of Manitoba, O’Dowda Collection #174

For International Lacrosse

The Hudson’s Bay Cup

St. Paul Globe, 1903
End of US Midwest Lacrosse

1905 – President Roosevelt saves the sport of football
1906 – Chicago fight ended the Northwest Lacrosse League
1911 – UMN Coach Trott dies on Lake Minnetonka
1914 – World War I

Boarding schools end lacrosse as part of assimilation

GI Bill allows Ojibwe and Dakota soldiers to attend college

Traditions of lacrosse in Upper Midwest end in 1940s
Red Lake, Leech Lake, Ball Club area all die out.
Dan Ninham – Oneida in Red Lake
Bringing lacrosse back home