

# THE RED JOURNAL

*A Century of Historical Events*

(AND HOW THE FICTION FITS IN)



- Scottish immigrants launch the Red River Settlement (now Winnipeg)
- Fort Snelling established (near current Saint Paul)
- 49th Parallel recognized as official Canada-US border

- Victorian era (1837-1901) lifestyle, culture, and mores influence frontier America
- Telegraph and telephone invented

**1800s**

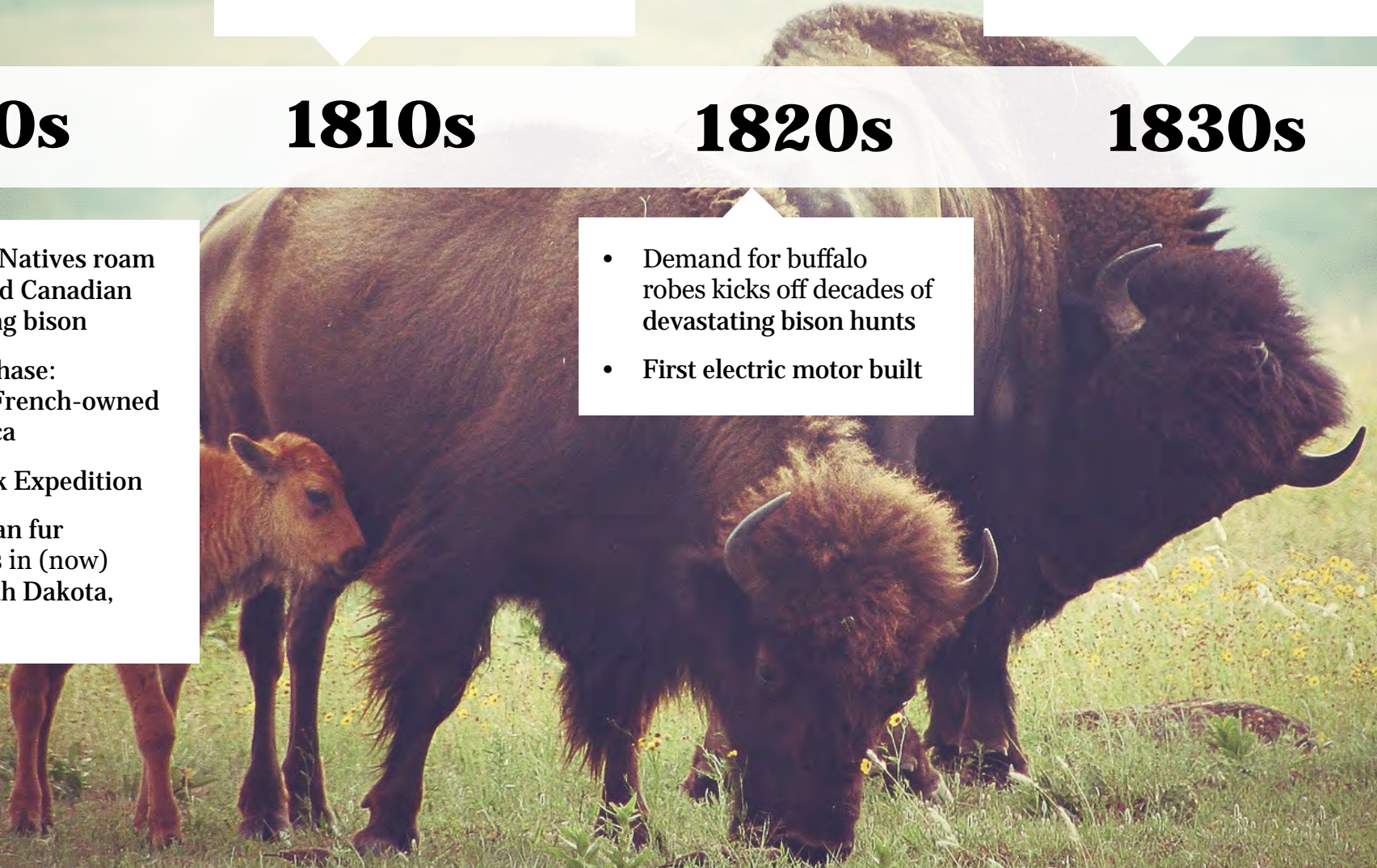
**1810s**

**1820s**

**1830s**

- Generations of Natives roam Great Plains and Canadian Prairies, hunting bison
- Louisiana Purchase: Acquisition of French-owned land for America
- Lewis and Clark Expedition
- European-Indian fur trade flourishes in (now) Manitoba, North Dakota, Minnesota

- Demand for buffalo robes kicks off decades of devastating bison hunts
- First electric motor built





- Hudson's Bay Company monopolizes fur trade
- Steamboats replace ox carts
- Hamline University founded in MN
- Indian Appropriation Act establishes U.S. reservation system
- Minnesota achieves statehood

**1852** / Reverend Uriah (Father) Laird and wife arrive at Red River Settlement from Scotland during the Great Flood

**1865** / Moses David Melchizedek (MDM) Laird born at Red River Settlement

# 1840s

# 1850s

# 1860s

- First hymnal written in Cree
- Métis (Scots-Indian mix) initiate cart trade transporting furs from Red River Settlement southward to Saint Paul along the Red River of the North
- Minnesota Territory formed
- First wagon train sets out westward from Missouri

- Indian Wars rage
- First county formed in Dakota Territory—Pembina (Chipewyan: “highbush cranberry”)
- Illegal whiskey trade flourishes
- Slavery abolished following Civil War
- Indian Act of Canada governs First Nations Reserves



- Dakota Territories become North and South Dakota
- Forced assimilation policies being effected by religious and governmental authorities
- Railway boom takes over cart, wagon, and steamboat transportation
- Minnehaha Park (Minneapolis) established as first US state park sacred to Native Americans

**1882** / MDM at university in Minnesota receives notice of his mother's death in crossfire of interracial battle, takes part in bison hunt

**1887** / MDM achieves financial successes in Dakota Territory through railway and investments

**1888** / MDM founds Kirkton in Pembina County and procures land grants for agricultural enterprise (Father Laird as silent partner) for benefit of Plains people

## 1870s

## 1880s

## 1890s

- Cree, Blackfoot, and Assiniboia still command the plains
- Epidemics decimate population of Plains peoples
- Manitoba becomes a province
- Private bison herds initiated
- Edison invents lightbulb
- Railway established between Saint Paul and Winnipeg
- The Battle of the Little Bighorn/Custer's Last Stand

- Ghost Dance religious movement sweeps through western US
- Wounded Knee Massacre
- Death of Lakota leader Sitting Bull at Standing Rock Indian Reservation
- Bison all but gone from the Great Plains and Canadian Prairies

**1897-8** / MDM builds Laird Mansion, grandest house in county

**1905** / Widow Henrietta Adams-Farris hired by MDM as housekeeper