

I introduced the Indians to Catholicism and helped France and the Indians during the French and Indian War. How did I start all this? It all happened when I built Fort La Presentation in May 1749.

I entered the seminary of Lyons in France and was ordained a deacon in 1731. When I moved to Montreal I became involved in the ministry.

Once I was in Montreal, I spent the next few years learning about Indian languages and customs. I learned many parts of the Indian culture that helped the French during the French and Indian War. I wanted to spread the idea of Catholicism and be sure that the Indians were going to side with France during the war.

I did this by building a mission fort called Fort La Presentation where the Oswegatchie River and St. Lawrence River meet. It is also known as Fort La Galette. This fort served as a church, school, trading post, and Indian village. In 1755, 392 Indian families joined France to help them in the French and Indian War. Amongst these Indians were Onodagons, Senecas, and Iroquois. The last French Bishop of Quebec baptized 132 Indian families into Catholicism.

I left the fort during the Seven Years' War because there was a new military leader at La Presentation who had a different view of the fort. I did return though. In July, I lead Indian troops in the Battle of Carillion.

In 1759, the fort was abandoned. We then moved to Fort Levis on Chimney Island. We fought the last battle of the war at Fort Levis. Although the French lost the war, the Indians were still a big help. The British got to keep most of the land in northern New York. They kept Fort La Presentation and renamed it Fort Oswegatchie. From there I left for New Orleans to spread the word about Catholicism. I returned to France in 1772. I retired from the ministry in 1779.

Who am I you ask? I am Abbe Francois Picquet a missionary and military leader during the French and Indian War. My life during the French and Indian War was more than just spreading Catholicism. I was involved in the fight. I am Abbe Francois Picquet.