

Andre's Journal

To sort out his thoughts, Andre began to keep a journal beginning after the new year. He didn't write every day because paper is too scarce. Can you think of something he might have written each month? It will help him remember what to tell Papa and Maman.

Janvier (January) 13

All winter I have been writing lists of Latin verbs and add sums. I read from Father Goiffon's book of history—sometimes that made me sleepy, sometimes it was exciting. What is it for? I don't know why I am in school but Papa says I must go and Maman pulls me out of bed every morning. They will not let me chop wood or be useful.

Février (February) 20

After working with arithmetic for most of an hour, Father Goiffon had me do dancing steps. That was terrible. Did I see someone peering in at us through the window, just as I was doing a spin? At least at the end of class, he took out the canes for sword-fighting. That made the day better.

Février (February) 21

Claude saw me at Father Goiffon's! He told Michel, Gustav, others. Everyone knows. They laugh. I cannot hold up my head. I can only hope they are off getting wood when I sneak home.

Février (February) 27

We got a letter, a real one, the first one we ever have received. The paper feels so stiff. Papa is not my Papa, and Maman not my Maman either. That explains why I don't look like them. And school. But Denis? I am trying to remember more.

Mars (March) 15

For the last two weeks, Papa (In my heart he is my Papa, not Joseph) has taught me to "paddle" even if we are not in the water. I imagine the feeling, how I must pull and turn. We sing, to keep the pace, and I cannot keep up to him. But today I finally can "paddle" to three full songs before I am tired. Papa says I must build my strength to at least a dozen more. That is about how long a crew will paddle on the lakes before they stop for a rest and a pipe of tobacco. What he is teaching is wonderful, if hard. I want to be a voyageur, to travel the rivers and Great Lakes by canoe, just like him.

Mars (March) 19

Even school is better. Last week Father Goiffon showed me how arithmetic is used to keep the records of a business — what money comes in and goes out. What is going on? Papa will not say.

Avril (April) [You start here...]

Mai (May)

Juin (June)

Juillet (July)

Août (August)

Septembre (September)

Octobre (October)

Novembre (November)

Décembre (December)

Janvier (January)

Février (February)

Mars (March)

Avril (April)