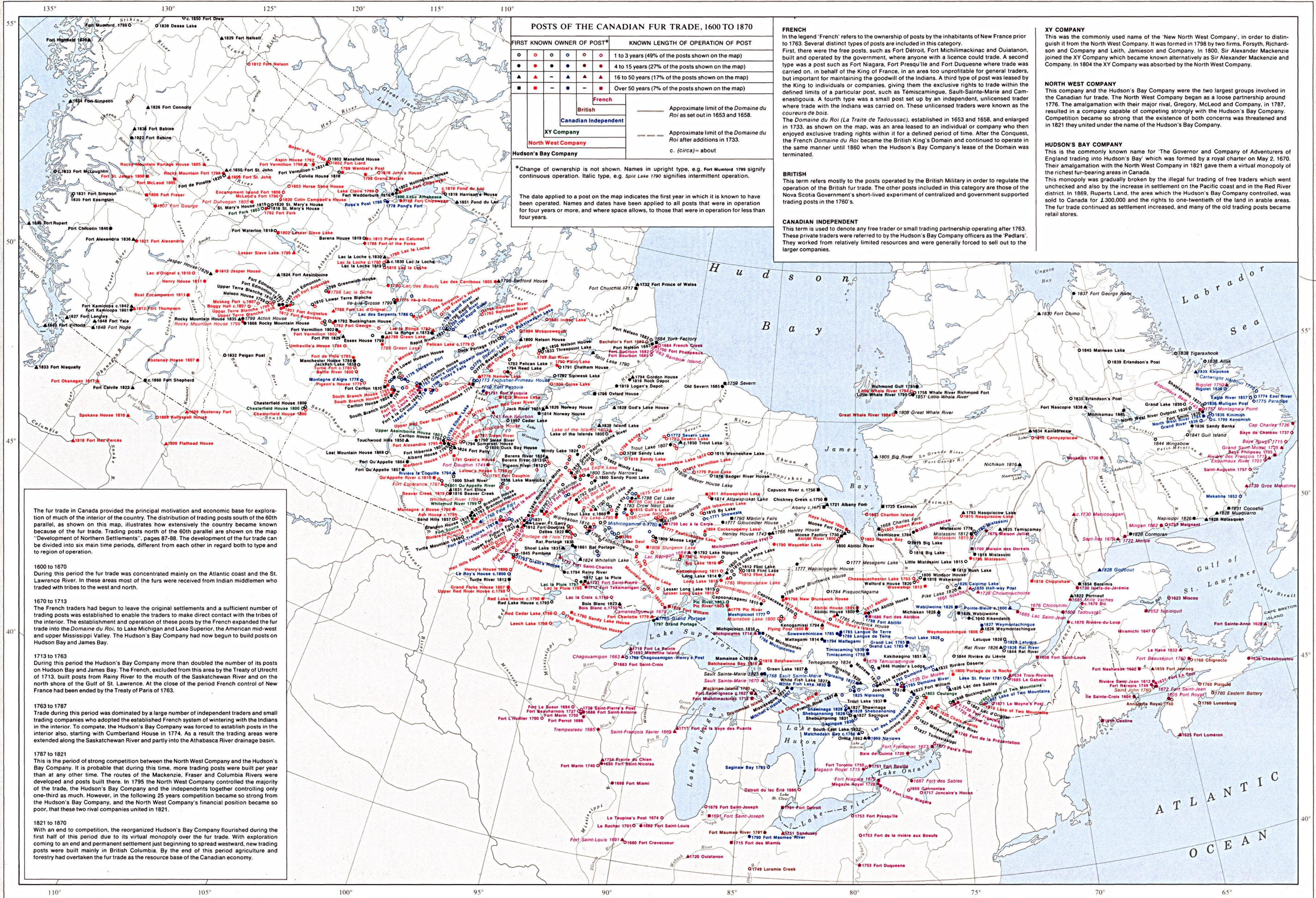


POSTS OF THE CANADIAN FUR TRADE

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**POSTS OF THE CANADIAN FUR TRADE, 1600 TO 1870**

FIRST KNOWN OWNER OF POST*	KNOWN LENGTH OF OPERATION OF POST
○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○	1 to 3 years (49% of the posts shown on the map)
● ● ● ● ● ●	4 to 15 years (27% of the posts shown on the map)
▲ ▲ ▲ ▲ ▲ ▲	16 to 50 years (17% of the posts shown on the map)
■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■	Over 50 years (7% of the posts shown on the map)

French	—	Approximate limit of the <i>Domaine du Roi</i> as set out in 1653 and 1658.
British	---	Approximate limit of the <i>Domaine du Roi</i> after additions in 1733.
Canadian Independent	---	
XY Company	---	
North West Company	---	
Hudson's Bay Company	---	c. (circa) = about

**FRENCH**  
In the legend 'French' refers to the ownership of posts by the inhabitants of New France prior to 1763. Several distinct types of posts are included in this category. First, there were the free posts, such as Fort Detroit, Fort Michilimackinac and Outaouan, built and operated by the government, where anyone with a licence could trade. A second type was a post such as Fort Niagara, Fort Presqu'île and Fort Duquesne where trade was carried on, in behalf of the King of France, in an area too unprofitable for general traders, but important for maintaining the goodwill of the Indians. A third type of post was leased by the King to individuals or companies, giving them the exclusive rights to trade within the defined limits of a particular post, such as Témiscamingue, Sault-Sainte-Marie and Camestiogouia. A fourth type was a small post set up by an independent, unlicensed trader where trade with the Indians was carried on. These unlicensed traders were known as the *coursiers de bois*. The *Domaine du Roi* (*La Traite de Tadoussac*), established in 1653 and 1658, and enlarged in 1733, as shown on the map, was an area leased to an individual or company who then enjoyed exclusive trading rights within it for a defined period of time. After the Conquest, the French *Domaine du Roi* became the British King's Domain and continued to operate in the same manner until 1860 when the Hudson's Bay Company's lease of the Domain was terminated.

**BRITISH**  
This term refers mostly to the posts operated by the British Military in order to regulate the operation of the British fur trade. The other posts included in this category are those of the Nova Scotia Government's short-lived experiment of centralized and government supported trading posts in the 1760's.

**CANADIAN INDEPENDENT**  
This term is used to denote any free trader or small trading partnership operating after 1763. These private traders were referred to by the Hudson's Bay Company officers as the 'Pedlars'. They worked from relatively limited resources and were generally forced to sell out to the larger companies.

**XY COMPANY**  
This was the commonly used name of the 'New North West Company', in order to distinguish it from the North West Company. It was formed in 1798 by two firms, Forsyth, Richardson and Company and Leith, Jamieson and Company. In 1800, Sir Alexander Mackenzie joined the XY Company which became known alternatively as Sir Alexander Mackenzie and Company. In 1804 the XY Company was absorbed by the North West Company.

**NORTH WEST COMPANY**  
This company and the Hudson's Bay Company were the two largest groups involved in the Canadian fur trade. The North West Company began as a loose partnership around 1776. The amalgamation with their major rival, Gregory, McLeod and Company, in 1787, resulted in a company capable of competing strongly with the Hudson's Bay Company. Competition became so strong that the existence of both concerns was threatened and in 1821 they united under the name of the Hudson's Bay Company.

**HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY**  
This is the commonly known name for 'The Governor and Company of Adventurers of England trading into Hudson's Bay' which was formed by a royal charter on May 2, 1670. Their amalgamation with the North West Company in 1821 gave them a virtual monopoly of the richest fur-bearing areas in Canada. This monopoly was gradually broken by the illegal fur trading of free traders which went unchecked and also by the increase in settlement on the Pacific coast and in the Red River district. In 1869, Ruperts Land, the area which the Hudson's Bay Company controlled, was sold to Canada for £300,000 and the rights to one-twentieth of the land in arable areas. The fur trade continued as settlement increased, and many of the old trading posts became retail stores.

The fur trade in Canada provided the principal motivation and economic base for exploration of much of the interior of the country. The distribution of trading posts south of the 60th parallel, as shown on this map, illustrates how extensively the country became known because of the fur trade. Trading posts north of the 60th parallel are shown on the map "Development of Northern Settlements", pages 87-88. The development of the fur trade can be divided into six main time periods, different from each other in regard both to type and to region of operation.

**1600 to 1670**  
During this period the fur trade was concentrated mainly on the Atlantic coast and the St. Lawrence River. In these areas most of the furs were received from Indian middlemen who traded with tribes to the west and north.

**1670 to 1713**  
The French traders had begun to leave the original settlements and a sufficient number of trading posts was established to enable the traders to make direct contact with the tribes of the interior. The establishment and operation of these posts by the French expanded the fur trade into the *Domaine du Roi*, to Lake Michigan and Lake Superior, the American mid-west and upper Mississippi Valley. The Hudson's Bay Company had now begun to build posts on Hudson Bay and James Bay.

**1713 to 1763**  
During this period the Hudson's Bay Company more than doubled the number of its posts on Hudson Bay and James Bay. The French, excluded from this area by the Treaty of Utrecht of 1713, built posts from Rainy River to the mouth of the Saskatchewan River and on the north shore of the Gulf of St. Lawrence. At the close of the period French control of New France had been ended by the Treaty of Paris of 1763.

**1763 to 1787**  
Trade during this period was dominated by a large number of independent traders and small trading companies who adopted the established French system of wintering with the Indians in the interior. To compete, the Hudson's Bay Company was forced to establish posts in the interior also, starting with Cumberland House in 1774. As a result the trading areas were extended along the Saskatchewan River and partly into the Athabasca River drainage basin.

**1787 to 1821**  
This is the period of strong competition between the North West Company and the Hudson's Bay Company. It is probable that during this time, more trading posts were built per year than at any other time. The routes of the Mackenzie, Fraser and Columbia Rivers were developed and posts built there. In 1795 the North West Company controlled the majority of the trade, the Hudson's Bay Company and the independents together controlling only one-third as much. However, in the following 25 years competition became so strong from the Hudson's Bay Company, and the North West Company's financial position became so poor, that these two rival companies united in 1821.

**1821 to 1870**  
With an end to competition, the reorganized Hudson's Bay Company flourished during the first half of this period due to its virtual monopoly over the fur trade. With exploration coming to an end and permanent settlement just beginning to spread westward, new trading posts were built mainly in British Columbia. By the end of this period agriculture and forestry had overtaken the fur trade as the resource base of the Canadian economy.