

NEBRASKA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY COLLECTION RECORD

RG4235.AM: American Fur Company

Records: 1802-1871

No. of Items: 23 reels of microfilm

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The American Fur Company account books were donated to the Missouri Historical Society by Pierre Chouteau, Jr. and other members of the Chouteau family circa 1920. The collection consists of 71 account books, primarily of the Western Department of the American Fur Company (St. Louis), and its successor, Pierre Chouteau, Jr. and Company. Also included are account books of Chouteau and Sarpy, Bernard Pratte and Company, James A. Harrison, the Pacific Fur Co., and the St. Louis Missouri Fur Company. Included are journals, ledgers, inventory books, cash books, day books, letterbooks, and receipt books. A key to terms follows on page ii. The collection spans the years 1802-1871, with the bulk of the account books falling between 1822-1860. The first 54 volumes are arranged in a rough chronological order, since most of them overlap the following volumes somewhat. Each volume is assigned a letter of the alphabet A-Z, AA-ZZ, and so forth. The last 17 volumes included on the microfilm were added to the collection later, and were not assigned an alphabetical designation, but rather a volume number.

The index to the American Fur Company account books is reproduced in the last reel of this microfilm set, and indexes proper names and geographical locations. The index lists the volume letter and page number in each volume in which a person or place is mentioned. With the exception of volume 3, these last 17 volumes were not included in the index. Volumes 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, and 7 contain indexes within each volume. Volumes 8 through 17 were never indexed. The researcher should not assume that there are no references simply because the person or place does not appear in the index.

Reel numbers for each volume appear at the end of the volume description appearing on page ii.

This material was purchased from the Missouri Historical Society in April 1986. That same agency compiled this entire inventory.

AMERICAN FUR COMPANY ACCOUNT BOOKS

Key to Terms Used

Account book: A record used to summarize all increases and decreases in a particular asset, such as Cash, or any other type of asset, liability, owners' equity, revenue or expense.

Journal: A chronological record of transactions, showing for each transaction the debits and credits to be entered in specific ledger accounts; likely to contain inventories of trade items, prices paid for furs and peltries.

Inventory book: Inventory of merchandise and cost of goods sold.

Cash book: A record showing all transactions involving the receipt of cash; less likely to contain inventories of trade items, prices paid for furs and peltries.

Day book: See description of Journal.

DESCRIPTION

Reel 1

Volume

A. Ledger, Invoices Outward, American Fur Company, Western, 1822, 40 pp., entered St. Louis.

B. Ledger, Invoices Inward, American Fur Company, Western, 1822, 28 pp., Entered New York (companion volume to A).

C. Inventory book for goods on hand at various outfits and at the St. Louis warehouse, American Fur company, Western, 1822-July 1823, 60 pp., entered St. Louis.

D. Journal, Chouteau and Sarpy, 1822-1825, 453 pp., in French, entered St. Louis.

E. Cash book, American Fur Company, Western, 1822-1827, 60 pp., entered St. Louis.

F. Journal, American Fur Company, Western, 1822-1827, 60 pp., entered St. Louis.

G. Ledger, American Fur Company, Western, 1822-November 1829, 154 pp., entered St. Louis. (compiled from Journal F)

H. Ledger, Chouteau and Sarpy, 1822-1833, 377 pp., entered St. Louis? (compiled from Journal F) – Pages 1-263 on Reel number 1, continued on Reel number 2.

Reel 2

Volume

I. Cash book, American Fur Company, Western, April 1823-December 1825, 262 pp., entered St. Louis.

J. Ledger, Accounts Current, American Fur Company, Western, 1823-1827, 178 pp.

K. Journal, American Fur Company, Western, April 1823-February 1826, 447 pp., entered

St. Louis.

L. Ledger, American Fur Company, Western, 1823-1828, 345 pp., entered St. Louis.

Reel 3
Volume

M. Journal, Bernard Pratte and Company, 378 pp., entered St. Louis.

N. Cash book, American Fur Company, Western, January 1826-November 1827, 234 pp., entered St. Louis.

O. Journal, American Fur Company, Western, March 1826-November 1829, 348 pp., entered St. Louis.

P. Cash book, American Fur Company retail store, July 1827-October 1829, 559 pp., entered St. Louis(?) – Pages 1-357 on reel 3, continued on Reel number 4.

Reel 4
Volume

Q. Journal, Bernard Pratte and Company, 1828-1839, 396 pp., entered St. Louis.

R. Ledger, American Fur Company, Western, retail store, April 1829-November 1832, 526 pp., entered St. Louis.

S. Packing Book, American Fur Company, Western, 1830-1833, 164 pp., entered St. Louis – pp. 1-99 on Reel number 4, continued on Reel number 5.

Reel 5
Volume

S. Continued

T. Ledger, American Fur Company, Western, Upper Missouri Outfit, 1830-1834, 628 pp., entered St. Louis.

U. Ledger, American Fur Company, Western, 1831-1834, 529 pp., entered St. Louis.

Reel 6
Volume

V. Ledger, American Fur Company, Western, Post accounts current for Ft. Union, Ft. McKenzie, and others, 1831-1836, 401 pp., entered St. Louis(?).

W. Ledger, American Fur Company, Western, Upper Missouri Outfit, 1831-1836, 401 pp., in French and English, entered St. Louis(?).

X. Journal, Pierre Chouteau Jr. and Company, retail store, 1834-1837, 529 pp., entered St. Louis.

Reel 7
Volume

Y. Ledger, Invoices outward, Pierre Chouteau Jr. & Company, February 1834-October 1839, 372 pp., entered St. Louis.

Z. Ledger, Invoice blotter, Pierre Chouteau Jr. and Company, 1836-1839, 507 pp., entered St. Louis.

AA. Ledger, Pierre Chouteau Jr. and Company, 1837-1841, 425 pp., entered St. Louis – pp. 1-177 on Reel number 7, continued Reel number 8.

Reel 8
Volume

AA. Continued, pages 178-425

BB. Ledger, Pierre Chouteau Jr. and Company, 1839-1842, 358 pp., entered St. Louis(?)

CC. Ledger, American Fur Company, Western, retail store, 490 pp., entered St. Louis.

Reel 9
Volume

DD. Ledger, Invoice blotter, Pierre Chouteau Jr. and Co., 1839-1841, 340 pp., entered St. Louis.

EE. Journal, American Fur Company, Western, August 1841-March 1852, 409 pp., entered St. Louis.

FF. Ledger, Pierre Chouteau Jr. and Company, 1842-1848, 643 pp., entered St. Louis – pp. 1-536 on Reel number 9, continued on Reel number 10.

Reel 10
Volume

FF. continued, pp 537-643.

GG. Ledger, Pierre Chouteau Jr. and Company, March 1842-October 1845, 486 pp., entered St. Louis.

HH. Cash book, Pierre Chouteau Jr. and Company, 1842-1846, 462 pp., entered St. Louis.

II. Ledger, Pierre Chouteau Jr. and Company, Ft. Pierre, 182-1848, 451 pp., entered St. Louis – pp. 1-269 on Reel number 10, continued on Reel number 11.

Reel 11
Volume

II. Continued, pp. 270-451.

JJ. Inventory, Pierre Chouteau Jr. and Company, 1844-1847, 491 pp., entered St. Louis.

Reel 12
Volume

KK. Ledger, Pierre Chouteau Jr. and Company, accounts with individual Indians, 1846-1851, 486 pp., entered St. Louis.

LL. Inventory, Pierre Chouteau Jr. and Company, post accounts, 1846-1851, 486 pp., entered St. Louis.

Reel 13
Volume

MM. Ledger, American Fur Company, 1847-1850, 794 pp., entered New York(?).

NN. Ledger, Pierre Chouteau Jr. and Company, 1849-1852, 355 pp., entered St. Louis.

Reel 14
Volume

OO. Ledger, Invoice blotter, Pierre Chouteau Jr. and Company, 1848-1850, 472 pp., entered St. Louis.

PP. Journal, Pierre Chouteau Jr. and Company, 1858-1859, 218 pp., entered New York.

QQ. Ledger, Pierre Chouteau Jr. and Company, 1858-1860, 205 pp., entered New York.

RR. Ledger, Invoices inward, Pierre Chouteau Jr. and Company, 1850-1856, 351 pp., entered St. Louis.

Reel 15
Volume

SS. Day Book, Pierre Chouteau Jr. and Company, June 1852-December 1859, 259 pp., entered St. Louis.

TT. Journal, Pierre Chouteau Jr. and Company, 1852-1854, 783 pp., entered New York – pp. 1-600 on Reel number 15, continued on Reel number 16.

Reel 16
Volume

UU. Journal, Pierre Chouteau Jr. and Company, June 1854-July 1857, 275 pp., entered New York.

VV. Journal, Pierre Chouteau Jr. and Company, January 1855-December 1856, 780 pp., entered New York.

WW. Journal, Pierre Chouteau Jr. and Company, April 1856-October 1858, 76 pp., entered St. Louis.

Reel 17
Volume

XX. Journal, Pierre Chouteau Jr. and Company, May 1856-September 1858, 214 pp., entered St. Louis.

YY. Cash book, James A. Harrison(?) and Company, 1859-1860, 110 pp., entered St. Louis(?)

ZZ. Journal, American Fur Company, Northern Department, 1834-1851, 497 pp., entered Michilimackinac.

AAA. Journal, American Fur Company, Northern Department, June 1822-October 1823, 115 pp., entered St. Louis(?).

BBB. Cash book, American Fur Company, Western(?), October 1843-November 1846, 21 pp., entered St. Louis.

FUR TRADE BOOKS NOT ASSIGNED A LETTER

1. Ledger, St. Louis Missouri Fur Company, 1809, 150 pp., entered St. Louis.

Reel 18
Volume

2. Letterbook, American Fur Company, Ramsay Crooks, 1816-1820, 358 pp., entered Michilimackinac.

3. Journal, Pierre Chouteau, Sr., 1802-1817, 548 pp., entered St. Louis.

4. Ledger, Pierre Chouteau, Jr., January 1821-November 1841, 145 pp., entered St. Louis.

5. Ledger, Pierre Chouteau, Jr., 1836-1855, 175 pp., entered St. Louis.
6. Ledger, Pierre Chouteau, Jr., April 1847-April 1854, 8 pp., entered St. Louis.

Reel 19
Volume

7. Ledger, Pierre Chouteau, Jr. and Company, 1853-1857, 173 pp., entered St. Louis.
8. Journal, Pierre Chouteau, Jr. and Company, January 1855-March 1862, 249 pp., entered St. Louis.
9. Ledger, Pierre Chouteau, Jr. and Company, July 1856-December 1859, 146 pp., entered St. Louis.
10. Ledger, Pierre Chouteau, Jr. and Company, January 1869-December 1871, 146 pp., entered St. Louis.
11. Ledger, Pierre Chouteau, Jr. and Company, June 1857-January 1870, 129 pp., entered St. Louis.
12. Journal, Pierre Chouteau, Jr. and Company, 1864-1868, 317 pp., entered St. Louis.

Reel 20
Volume

13. Receipt book, Pierre Chouteau, Jr., and Company, 1857-1868, 430 pp., entered St. Louis.
14. Journal, American Fur Company, 1818-1823, 298 pp., entered Chicago.
15. Letterbook, Pacific Fur Company, Wilson Price Hunt, 1810-1813, 90 pp., also includes articles of agreement, entered Astoria, Columbia River (Oregon).

Reel 21
Volume

16. Journal, Wilson Price Hunt, 1840-1841, 308 pp., entered at St. Louis(?)
17. Sales book, Pierre Chouteau, Jr. and Company, 1859-1864, 71 pp., entered New York.

Reel 22
Volume

18. Bernard Pratte and Company, St. Louis, Journal C, 1826-1828 (355 pp)

19. Pierre Chouteau, Sr., St. Louis, Journal 1804 (680 pp)

20. Pierre Chouteau, Sr., St. Louis, Letterbook, 1804-1819 (175 pp)

Added Entries:

Sarpy, Peter A., 1805-1865
Chouteau (Pierre Jr.) and Company. St. Louis, MO
Chouteau and Sarpy. St. Louis, MO
Bernard Pratte and Company. St. Louis, MO
Harrison, James A.
Pacific Fur Company
St. Louis Missouri Fur Company
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