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 of 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.


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.


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

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

Reel 3
Volume


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


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(?)


Reel 7
Volume


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


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


Reel 10
Volume

FF. continued, pp 537-643.


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(?).


Reel 14
Volume


Reel 15
Volume


Reel 16
Volume


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

Reel 17
Volume


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(?).


**FUR TRADE BOOKS NOT ASSIGNED A LETTER**

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

Reel 18
Volume


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


Reel 20
Volume


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


Reel 22
Volume


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
FUR TRADE
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