

# The Fur Trade and European Settlement

In the late 1700s and early 1800s, Europeans began trading goods with Native American tribes in North America in exchange for fur pelts. Many Europeans began settling in North America to stay close to the trade. This pathfinder will lead researchers to several resources available at the North Dakota State Archives highlighting the fur trade in North Dakota and European fur traders that settled in North Dakota.

## Archival Collections

### 10007 Ferdinand A. Van Ostrand Papers

Diary maintained by Ferdinand A. Van Ostrand while an agent of the Durfee and Peck Company at Fort Berthold. The diary contains entries concerning Indian relations, trading activities of the company, recreation at Fort Berthold, and weather conditions. Collection includes a transcript of the diary, correspondence, and research notes by Russell Reid.

### 10070 Usher Lloyd Burdick Papers

#### Box 4, Folder 2

Burdick family correspondence, manuscript drafts and copies of articles written by Burdick and others, speeches, correspondence, articles "Your Congressman Comments," legal material, political records, copies of House bills introduced by Burdick, sources used by Burdick for his research, and rare and valuable publications relating to North Dakota, American history and topics of interest to Burdick.

### 10119 Ray H. Mattison Papers

Mattison's manuscript "My Years in North Dakota" (excerpts from "As I Saw It: Recollections and Observations of a Nebraska Maverick, 1903-1978"), research notes on Theodore Roosevelt in North Dakota, and a press release about the dedication of the Theodore Roosevelt National Park and a research outline on "The Fur Trade on the Upper Missouri."

### 10362 Charles Chaboillez Papers [microfilm]

Journal contains financial accounts and entries concerning hunting and fur trading activities near present day Pembina (N.D.).

### 10371 Fort Union Records

Records consist of an account book and a letter book of agent Kenneth McKenzie detailing fur trading and other business activities.

## Useful Search Guidance

### Subjects

- North Dakota fur trade
- American Indian
- Native Americans
- Hunting

### People

- Alexander Henry, Jr.
- Robert Dickinson
- Peter Grant
- Charles Jean Baptiste Chaboillez

### Locations

- Fort Clark
- Fort Union
- Fort Berthold
- Fort Pembina
- Fort Assiniboine

## Journal Articles

*Robert Dickinson, British Fur Trader on the Upper Mississippi*

Louis Arthur Tohill— *North Dakota Historical Quarterly* Vol. 3 Issues 1, 2, & 3

*Some Official Aspects of the Fur Trade in the Northwest, 1815-1825*

Edgar B. Wesley – *North Dakota Historical Quarterly* Vol. 6 Issue 3

*The Fur Trade as an Aid to Settlement*

Willoughby M. Babcock – *North Dakota Historical Quarterly* Vol. 7 Issues 2 & 3

**10422 Francis A. Chardon Journal [microfilm]**

Journal contains a diary concerning trading activities and Indian affairs, inventories of horses, furs, and supplies; and a record of accounts. Published in Chardon's Journal at Fort Clark, 1834-1839.

**10691 Roy Johnson and Louis Pfaller Collection****Box 13, Folder 18**

Newspaper clippings, articles, photographs, maps, pamphlets, and correspondence documenting the research of two historians, Johnson and Pfaller, on Major James McLaughlin, forts, battles, railroads, steamboats, exploration, pioneers, Native Americans, weather, murders, schools, missionaries, etc.

**10839 Papers of St. Louis Fur Trade (Chouteau collection) [microfilm]**

Papers of St. Louis Fur Trade, 1752-1925. [microfilm]

**11101 W. Raymond Wood Papers**

Consists of Wood's research for the article "James Kipp: Upper Missouri River Fur Trader and Missouri Farmer," for North Dakota History, Journal of the Northern Plains, Vol. 77 No. 1 & 2, 2011. The published article was photocopied and added to the collection.

**11141 Fort Union and Fort Pierre Letterbooks**

The Fort Union and Fort Pierre (Fort Tecumseh) letterbooks are copies from the Chouteau Family Papers, A0274, 1752-1946, at the Missouri History Museum Archives, St. Louis.

**11493 Doreen Chaky Research Collection****Box 1, Folder 62; Box 2, Folder 57; Box 3, Folder 42; Box 4, Folder 44; Box 7; Box 8, File 57; Box 10, Files 30, 78**

Research for the book Terrible Justice, numerous freelance articles, and work with the Williston Oil Reporter, as well as article drafts and notes.

**20012 Peter Garrioch Diary**

Diary contains entries concerning the fur trade at Fort Garry.

**20036 Otis A. Tye Papers**

Copies of reminiscences concerning fur trading and capture of horse rustlers, entitled "Some Things About the Vigilantes Raid on the Upper Missouri in 1884 That Are Not Generally Known."

**20061 Daniel Webster Longfellow Papers**

Stock inventory, invoices and receipts for fur shipments, a ledger sheet from the trader's store, a biographical sketch of Longfellow, and pamphlets by Reverend Charles Lemmon Hall.

**20101 Fur Trading Post Records**

Typescript containing brief descriptions of fur trading posts in the North Dakota region providing names of founders, dates, and locations.

**20320 William Laidlaw Papers**

Biography, transcripts of letters concerning the fur trade and supplies, ca. 1832, a transcript of an excerpt from the diary of George Catlin; and correspondence concerning genealogical research on the Laidlaw family.

**20333 Jerome Ketterling Papers**

Photocopy of a brief interpretive history of Fort Clark relating to the fur trade and physical features of the site.

**20570 Carolyn Swenson Papers**

Photocopy of a Dickinson State College history paper entitled "Fur Trading in North Dakota." Paper describes exploration and fur trade activities in North Dakota, ca. 1800s-1880s.

**21233 History of Stutsman County**

History of Stutsman County booklet written by Olga Litvinenko. The history includes the following topics: Explorers, Fur Traders and Missionaries; The Fur Trade; Native Animals of the County; The Indians; Indian Remains; Indian Relics in Neighborhood; The Pioneers and What they Did; How the Pioneers Got their Land; How the First Settlers Lived; How the First Settlers Traveled; What the Pioneer Women Worked With; What the Pioneer Men Worked With; Relics of Pioneer Days; Peculiar Pioneer Industry; The Pioneer School; Pioneer Narratives; Battles with Indians; Trails, Forts and Camps; Dangers and Hardships of Pioneer Life; A Story of Heroism; Famous Men and Women; and Cities and Villages.

**800080 Northwest Transportation Company Freight Receipt**

Freight receipt for hauling hides on the Steamer *General Terry*.

## Books

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*The Fur Trade of America and Some of the Men Who Made and Maintain It, Together With Furs and Fur Bearers of Other Continents and Countries and Islands of the Sea*  
1917 - A. L. Belden  
Call Number: 338.1 B41

*Map of the trans-Mississippi territory of the United States during the period of the American fur trade as conducted from St. Louis between the years 1807 and 1843: showing the location of Indian tribes, trading posts, routes of travel and other features of interest*  
1901 – Paul Burgoldt  
Call Number: 338.1 C449 v.3 map

*My First Years in the Fur Trade: the Journals of 1802-1804*  
2002 – George Nelson; edited by Laura Peers and Theresa M. Schenck  
Call Number: 338.372092 N426m 2002

*The Fur Trade in North Dakota*  
1990 – edited by Virginia L. Heidenreich  
Call Number: 639.09784 F983

*Trade Beads from Archeological Excavations at Fort Union Trading Post National Historic Site*  
2000 – Lester A. Ross  
Call Number: 745.58208997 R8249t 2000

*The Fur Trade of Northeastern North Dakota: the 1990 Fur Trade Sites Project*  
1991 – Lauren W. Ritterbush  
Project report, survey, and testing of fur trade sites in northeastern North Dakota  
Call Number: 930.1028 C764 260

## Online Resources

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### [On the Frontier of the Global Economy: Interpreting the Fur Trade Era](#)

Brian Hardy – State Historical Society of North Dakota Blog

### [SHSND Photobook](#)

State Historical Society of North Dakota's Online Search Portal for all digitized photographs

### [Digital Horizons](#)

Online consortium of historic photographs from the collections of the State Historical Society of North Dakota

### [WorldCat](#)

State Historical Society of North Dakota's publication search portal

## External Resources

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### [Fort Union Trading Post National Historic Site Website](#)

Current website for the Fort Union Trading Post Site

### [Fort Clark State Historic Site Website](#)

Current website for the Fort Clark Trading Post Site

## State Archives

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For more information related to the collections and resources available at the North Dakota State Archives, please email [archives@nd.gov](mailto:archives@nd.gov) or call (701) 328-2668.



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