



IDAHO STATE  
**HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY**

**IDAHO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
REFERENCE SERIES**

**FUR TRADE ERA - IDAHO  
ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Number 480

1962

- Alter, J. Cecil, Jim Bridger: Trapper, Frontiersman, Scout, and Guide. Salt Lake: Shepherd Book Company, 1925. Jim Bridger is counted among the most notable of the mountain men who ranged into Idaho while conducting the Rocky Mountain fur trade.
- Billington, Ray Allen, The Far Western Frontier, 1830-1860. New York: Harper and Brothers, 1956. A well written chapter on the mountain men is included.
- Campbell, Marjorie, The Northwest Company. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1957. The story of the great Canadian rival of the Hudson's Bay Company in the Northwest fur trade.
- Chittenden, Hiram Martin, American Fur Trade in the Far West. New York: F. P. Harper, 1902. An early classic account which still retains much of its value, although later investigations have corrected numerous errors in factual detail.
- Dale, Harrison Clifford, The Ashley-Smith Explorations and the Discovery of A Central Route to the Pacific, 1822-1829. Cleveland: Arthur H. Clark, 1918. William H. Ashley and Jedediah Smith expanded the Saint Louis fur trade into Idaho in 1824.
- Davidson, Gordon C., The North West Company. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1917. A scholarly study of Idaho's earliest fur trade concern--although Idaho itself does not receive extended attention.
- Davies, K. G., Peter Skene Ogden's Snake Country Journal, 1826-1827. London: Hudson's Bay Record Society, 1961. Although this expedition came only to the edge of Idaho, an excellent introduction by Dorothy Johansen explains Ogden's activity in Idaho as well as in the rest of the Northwest.

- DeVoto, Bernard, Across the Wide Missouri. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1947. A popular account of the Rocky Mountain fur trade.
- Ferris, Warren Angus, Life in the Rocky Mountains, 1830-1835. Salt Lake: Rocky Mountain Book Shop, 1940. A narrative of a mountain man who reported a number of experiences in the Snake River country.
- Galbraith, John S., The Hudson's Bay Company as an Imperial Factor, 1821-1869. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1957. Idaho for years was a disputed borderland between British and American fur traders; this account of the international aspects of the fight provides an excellent explanation of British policies that shaped the Idaho fur trade.
- Goodhart, George W., Trails of Early Idaho, The Pioneer Life of George W. Goodhart and His Association With the Hudson's Bay and American Fur Company's Traders and Trappers, As Told to Abraham C. Anderson. Caldwell: The Caxton Printers, Ltd., 1940. Goodhart was a trapper at the end of the fur trade era. He later settled in the Soda Springs area, where he had trapped. Thus his experiences in Idaho begin in the preterritorial period and extend into the territorial period of Idaho's history.
- Hafen, LeRoy and W. J. Ghent, Broken Hand: The Life Story of Thomas Fitzpatrick. Denver: 1931. An outstanding account of the most prominent Idaho mountain men.
- Howay, F. W., and W. N. Sage and H. F. Angus, British Columbia and the United States. Toronto: Ryerson Press, 1942. A general survey of the fur trade in the Oregon country, including Idaho, is an important part of this book.
- Innis, Harold A., The Fur Trade of Canada. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1956. Although the Idaho fur trade receives little direct attention, this is an important economic history of two of the major companies which operated in Idaho.
- Irving, Washington, Astoria. John Jacob Astor sent Wilson Price Hunt across the United States to Astoria, Oregon, in 1811 in the interest of the fur trade. Hunt explored the Snake River Plains of Idaho in the course of the trip, of which Astoria is a somewhat romanticized account.

- \_\_\_\_\_, Adventures of Captain Bonneville. A classic tale of the man who entered such interesting Idaho places as the Teton Valley, the plains of eastern Idaho, the Portneuf, Bear and Salmon rivers.
- Merk, Frederick, Fur Trade and Empire. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1931. Sir George Simpson's reorganization of the Idaho fur trade in 1824 and the British-American contest for control of the Snake River Valley are important topics taken up in this narrative of Simpson's journey to the Columbia.
- Morgan, Dale L., Jedediah Smith and the Opening of the West. Indianapolis: Bobbs, Merrill, 1953. Smith was the discoverer of the easy route through South Pass, Wyoming. The Oregon Trail followed the Platte to this pass, and then went down the Green River, an easy way through the formidable barrier of the Rockies. Jedediah Smith spent a considerable portion of his time trapping in south Idaho.
- Phillips, Paul C., The Fur Trade. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1961. The Idaho trade is explained in its broad setting in Volume 2 of this general account of the North American fur trade.
- Rich, E. E., The History of the Hudson's Bay Company, 1670-1870. London: Hudson's Bay Record Society, 1959. This excellent, detailed history of the major company that conducted fur trade in Idaho, devotes considerable attention to operations in the Pacific Northwest. Another edition was published in New York by MacMillan in 1961.
- \_\_\_\_\_, ed., Peter Skene Ogden's Snake Country Journals, 1824-25 and 1825-26. London: Hudson's Bay Record Society, 1950. Ogden's own report of two of his six Snake country expeditions. Both of these Hudson's Bay Company fur hunts went through much of Idaho.
- Rollins, Philip Ashton, ed., The Discovery of the Oregon Trail: Robert Stuart's Narratives. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1935. Original accounts by Wilson Price Hunt and Robert Stuart of the overland journeys across southern Idaho in 1811-1812 are included in these narratives of the Astorian expedition. Stuart's narrative has been republished:
- Kenneth A. Spaulding, ed., On The Oregon Trail: Robert

- Ross, Alexander, The Fur Hunters of the Far West. Edited by Kenneth A. Spalding. Norman, Oklahoma: University of Oklahoma Press, 1953. An early British fur trader in Idaho gives a very readable account of his experiences in the Northwest.
- Russell, Osborne, Journal of A Trapper. Boise: Syms-York Company, 1910. The journal of a member of Wyeth's party in the Northwest in the 1830's. A new Boise edition (1921) of this work has been followed by a Champoege Press edition (Portland) in 1955.
- Sunder, John Edward, Bill Sublette, Mountain Man. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1959. William L. Sublette was a pioneer St. Louis fur trader in Idaho.
- Tobie, Harvey E., No Man Like Joe. Portland: Binfords and Mort, 1949. The story of Joseph Meek, fur trapper in Idaho. He was later United States Marshal for Oregon Territory in the 1840's, when Idaho was still a part of Oregon, and an officer in the brigades which fought the Indians in Oregon in the 1850's.
- Townsend, John K., Narrative of A Journey Across the Rocky Mountains to the Columbia River. Philadelphia: Henry Perkins, 1839, reprinted in R. G. Thwaites, Early Western Travels. Cleveland: Arthur H. Clark, 1905. Townsend was a Philadelphia naturalist who accompanied the Wyeth expedition that established Fort Hall. His story of the trip is one of the most interesting of the narratives of the fur trade era.
- Tyrell, J. B., ed., David Thompson's Narrative of His Expeditions in Western America, 1784-1812. Toronto: Champlain Society, 1916. David Thompson established the original Idaho fur trade, and there is a fairly detailed account in his narrative.
- Vestal, Stanley, Kit Carson: The Happy Warrior of the Old West. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1928. Walter S. Campbell, writing under the name of Stanley Vestal, has produced interesting biographies of three Idaho mountain men.
- \_\_\_\_\_, Joe Meek: The Merry Mountain Man. Caldwell: The Caxton Printers, Ltd., 1952.
- \_\_\_\_\_, Jim Bridger: Mountain Man. New York: Morrow, 1946.

- Wallace, W. Stewart, ed., Documents Relating to the North West Company. Toronto: Champlain Society, 1934. Aside from the texts of the documents themselves, this work contains an excellent brief history of the company.
- White, M. C., ed., David Thompson's Journals Relating to Montana and Adjacent Regions, 1808-1812. Missoula: University of Montana Press, 1950. Thompson's Idaho activity is included in this Montana publication, which has a detailed bibliography of material on Thompson's activities in the Northwest.
- Work, John, The Journal of John Work. Edited by William S. Lewis and Paul C. Phillips. Cleveland: Arthur H. Clark Company, 1923. A very significant annal of the exploration of the mountains of south central Idaho. Well annotated.
- Young, F. G., ed., The Correspondence and Journals of Captain Nathaniel J. Wyeth, 1831-1836. Eugene, Oregon: Historical Society, 1899. Founding of Fort Hall is of special importance to students of the fur trade.