

*A Guide to the Microfilm Edition of*

*Research Collections on the American West*

# **Papers of the St. Louis Fur Trade**

**Part 1: The Chouteau Collection, 1752–1925**

**Part 2: Fur Company Ledgers and Account Books, 1802–1871**



University Publications of America

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**Part 1: The Chouteau Collection, 1752–1925**

**and**

**Part 2: Fur Company Ledgers and Account  
Books, 1802–1871**

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**A microfilm project of  
UNIVERSITY PUBLICATIONS OF AMERICA  
*An Imprint of CIS*  
4520 East-West Highway • Bethesda, MD 20814-3389**

CIP 92-33229

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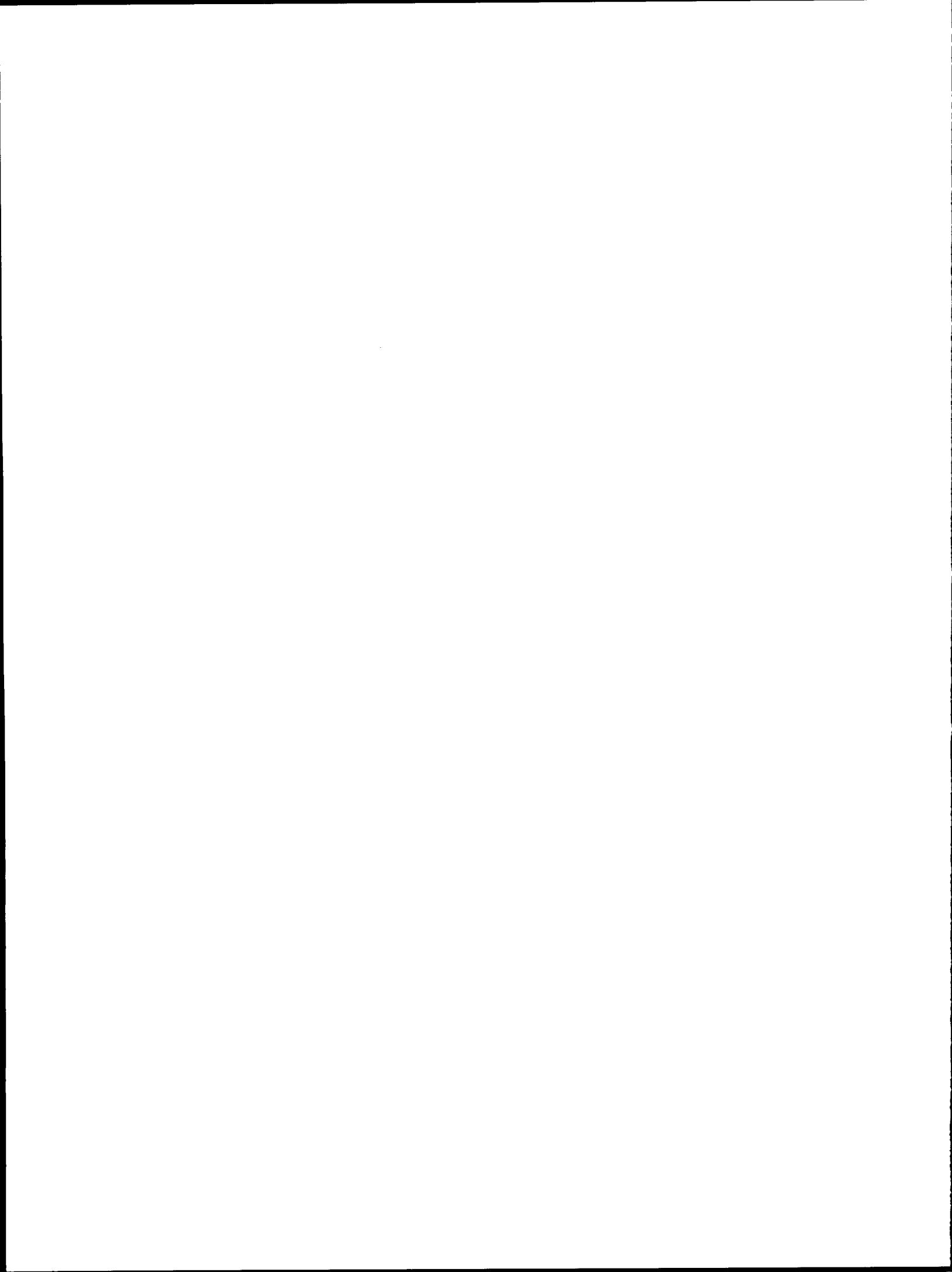
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ISBN 1-55655-411-7 (Part 1).

ISBN 1-55655-412-5 (Part 2).

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# GENERAL INTRODUCTION

Several North American colonial cities trace their early development almost exclusively to the fur trade. Quebec, Albany, and Montreal were first. These cities set the stage for international competition between French, Spanish, Dutch, Russian, and English fur traders. In 1764, at the conclusion of the French and Indian War, another important city was founded near the strategic junction of the Missouri and Mississippi rivers. This city, Saint Louis, became the "gateway to the West." It also served as the residence and the business headquarters for entrepreneurs eager to tap the resources of a vast hinterland to the north, west, and south.

Within the commercial and social milieu dominated primarily by French families with roots in Europe, French-Canada, and in the lower Mississippi Valley, the Chouteaus became the leading family of St. Louis. Their business papers, now permanently housed at the Missouri Historical Society in St. Louis, have been microfilmed under the general title, *Papers of the St. Louis Fur Trade*. The Chouteau Collection, as it is known to most researchers, is a record of the business life of a very large extended family, its financial partners, and a myriad of business associates. It is also a social record of the city of St. Louis and of the smaller communities that were created and supplied out of the metropolis by the Chouteaus and others. Within the collection one also finds documents pertaining to political, economic, and social history. Local and national elections, slavery, immigration, Indian-White relations, and the daily lives of people in the working classes, as well as those elites who owned businesses, controlled resources, and ran the political and economic machinery of late colonial and early national St. Louis society, surface as subjects important to those who recorded their activities in the fur trade.

Unlike some large collections of family papers, this is not a scrapbook of intimate letters, newspaper clippings, and other personal memorabilia. Letters between family members occasionally reveal family matters, and there are birth, marriage, and probate records, but the correspondence primarily concerns money, commerce, and the logistics of trade. Complementary to the Papers of the American Fur Company in the New York Historical Society in New York City, the Chouteau Collection provides glimpses of the family's marital and social life mainly as reflected in the financial and business realms they entered. Personal letters between company officers who were connected by marriage illustrate the point that private and public life could not always be separate spheres.

The collection was acquired by stages and from several branches of the Chouteau family. Six separate sets of Chouteau papers form this microfilm col-

lection. The earliest material dates back to the eighteenth century and came to the Missouri Historical Society in 1908 as the Auguste Chouteau Collection. The Pierre Chouteau Collection, acquired in 1907, includes some early French (pre-1763) and Spanish-period (1763–1803) material but is mostly financial ledgers and company correspondence of the American period. Additional large family collections were acquired over the years: the Chouteau-Maffit papers in 1926; the Chouteau-Papin Collection in 1931; the Chouteau-Walsh family papers in 1947; and three parcels of the Chouteau-Dyer Collection in 1949, 1952, and 1970.

### **Part 1: The Chouteau Collection**

Part 1 of the combined microfilm edition consists of letters and letterbooks, as well as occasional legal documents dating from 1752 and including a few twentieth century items. The bulk of Part 1 material covers the period from 1780 to 1850. Sixty archival boxes occupying twenty-five linear feet house the original documents, usually cited by date or by box number and date. Arranged in sequence, they have been microfilmed in chronological order in forty reels.

The first scholarly use of this part of the collection was undertaken by Hiram M. Chittenden, an officer in the Army Corps of Engineers, and his wife, Nettie Parker Chittenden. While posted in St. Louis, Chittenden approached Chouteau family members in 1896 and succeeded in gaining access to many of the same family papers now preserved by the Missouri Historical Society. He also used many documents that have since been lost. His personal papers are now preserved in three archives: the Washington State Historical Society in Tacoma; the University of Washington; and, the Missouri Historical Society. Shortly before his death in 1917, Chittenden reminisced about his days in St. Louis:

Now began the experience which has been a source of astonishment to me ever since. I didn't care enough about the Missouri River to waste any unnecessary energy thereon, for I felt as certain then as I do now that it would all be labor lost. I, therefore, had no compunction in directing as much of my time as I could to work which I believed would be of a great deal more use to my countrymen. So I started in to unearth data and finally got in touch with the Chouteaus, who were the repositories of all the American Fur Company records. I cannot but wonder that they should have turned over to me as they did the half carload or so of records, dealing with their most intimate concerns of the past; but such was the case, and now I was confronted with the appalling task of going through these records and extracting the fugitive gold from such masses of pure dross. The records were at least two-thirds in French and some in Spanish. The documents were covered with at least three-fourths of the coal iron dust of St. Louis and I had to dress up in workmen's clothes whenever I went to select a package for use . . . Extracts were made extensively. When these were brief they were made only on cards, when more extensive they were made in large notebooks for the purpose and in this Mrs. Chittenden rendered me a good deal of assistance in copying.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Some of General Chittenden's memoirs and letters have been published as *H.M. Chittenden, A Western Epic; Being a Selection from His Unpublished Journals, Diaries and Reports*, ed. Bruce Le Roy (Tacoma: Washington State Historical Society, 1961), p. 82.

After six intensive years of research and writing, Chittenden's study appeared in 1902 as *The American Fur Trade of the Far West*, an ambitious three-volume study focusing on the years 1807–1843.<sup>2</sup> As Chittenden's primary biographer, Gordon B. Dodds, has noted, this work remains the standard by which all subsequent studies of that period and the topic have to be measured.<sup>3</sup> Researchers interested in fur trade personnel, company partnerships and histories, and the names and locations of fur trade posts will want to have Chittenden in hand while using reels of the microfilm edition pertaining to the nineteenth century Upper Missouri and Rocky Mountain fur trades. These two "systems" have been schematically analyzed in *The Fur Trade of the American West: 1807–1840: A Geographical Synthesis*, which shows spatial relationships of posts and contains many useful diagrams and maps.<sup>4</sup>

Beyond Chittenden's own reflections on his research, no analysis of the collection has been published. Missouri Historical Society librarian Nettie Beauregard and archivist Frances Stadler organized sections of the collection, making it accessible to scholars after World War II. More recently, staff members and volunteers at the Missouri Historical Society have added cover summary abstracts to most of the documents, making them much easier to access. Date, place of origin, important place names mentioned, people listed, and some idea of context are provided on these summary sheets.

More than half the correspondence in Part 1 is in French. Mrs. Max W. Myer, a volunteer for many years at the Missouri Historical Society, made summary abstracts and English translations of many of these letters. Her translations provide a reliable overview of those documents. Where Mrs. Myer could not decipher a word or a phrase, she inserted a question mark, giving future researchers the challenge of completing the translation. She did not compile a glossary of French terms, but researchers will find *A Glossary of Mississippi Valley French, 1673–1850* helpful for many historical usages and etymologies.<sup>5</sup>

The Missouri Historical Society has 3" x 5" card files on materials in the Chouteau Collection. These are cross-referenced for users at the society's archives. They are not reproduced here, however. Several major books and dissertations have been supported by material from the letters and the letterbooks in the collection. These studies provide background on the collection as well as

<sup>2</sup> Hiram Martin Chittenden, *The American Fur Trade of the Far West: A History of the Pioneer Trading Posts and Early Fur Companies of the Missouri Valley and the Rocky Mountains and of the Overland Commerce with Santa Fe*. 3 vols. (New York: Francis P. Harper, 1902).

<sup>3</sup> Gordon B. Dodds, "The Fur Trade and Exploration," in *Historians and the American West*, ed. Michael P. Malone (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1983), pp. 57–58; see also Dodds, *Hiram M. Chittenden: His Public Career* (Lexington: University of Kentucky Press, 1973). For a discussion of the context of Chittenden's work, see James P. Ronda, "Foreword," Vol. 1, and W. R. Swagerty, "Foreword," Vol. 2 to the reprint of the 1935 edition of *The American Fur Trade of the Far West* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1986).

<sup>4</sup> David J. Wishart, *The Fur Trade of the American West, 1807–1840: A Geographical Synthesis* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1979).

<sup>5</sup> John F. McDermott, *A Glossary of Mississippi Valley French, 1763–1850* (St. Louis: Washington University Studies, New Series, Language and Literature No. 12, 1941).



interpretation of the material therein. The following authors are among those who have used the Chouteau Collection extensively: Dale L. Morgan, Donald Jackson, John F. McDermott, David Lavender, Janet Lecompte, John E. Sunder, John C. Ewers, Robert G. Athearn, Harvey L. Carter, Richard Oglesby, Erwin N. Thompson, David J. Wishart, James P. Ronda, William E. Foley and C. David Rice, Jack Holterman, and many of the contributors to LeRoy R. Hafen's multi-volume work, *The Mountain Men and the Fur Trade of the Far West*.<sup>6</sup>

## **Part 2: Fur Company Ledgers and Account Books**

Part 2 consists of twenty-three reels comprising seventy volumes of fur trade account books and company ledgers and a volume of index (Reel 23). This segment was also acquired in stages and was accessioned using two systems (see Scope and Content Note, p. 27). The ledgers in Part 2 are written mostly in French and remain untranslated. Documents in Part 2 can be correlated by date with correspondence and other documents found in Part 1. The index, found on the last reel, is indispensable and contains 1,398 pages wherein variant spellings of people and place names are cross-referenced. The index does not cover Part 1 but should be consulted for spellings.

Part 2 contains detailed records of inventories, packing lists, accounts receivable and payable, balances, cash books, and record books containing additional letters and legal agreements not found in Part 1. Economists and business historians will find this section especially rewarding. However, users not familiar with double-entry accounting methods may find these volumes difficult to use. Furthermore, the quality of the original ledgers (and therefore the microfilm) varies, the later ledgers being the most faded. Peter Michel, director of Library and Archives at the Missouri Historical Society, has published an excellent introduction to the company ledgers and accounting books. His overview should be consulted before any serious project is undertaken in these documents.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>6</sup> Dale L. Morgan, ed., *The West of William H. Ashley* (Denver: The Old West Publishing Company, 1964); Donald Jackson, *Voyages of the Steamboat Yellow Stone* (New York: Ticknor & Fields, 1985); John F. McDermott, ed., *Frenchmen and French Ways in the Mississippi Valley* (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1969); David Lavender, *The Fist in the Wilderness* (New York: Doubleday and Company, 1964); Janet Lecompte, *Pueblo, Hardscrabble, Greenhorn: The Upper Arkansas, 1832-1856* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1978); John E. Sunder, *The Fur Trade on the Upper Missouri, 1840-1865* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1965); John C. Ewers, *The Blackfeet: Raiders on the Northwestern Plains* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1958); John C. Ewers, *Indian Life on the Upper Missouri* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1968); Robert G. Athearn, *Forts of the Upper Missouri* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1967); Harvey L. Carter, "Dear Old Kit": *The Historical Christopher Carson* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1968); Richard Oglesby, *Manuel Lisa and the Opening of the Missouri Fur Trade* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1963); Erwin N. Thompson, *Fort Union Trading Post: Fur Trade Empire on the Upper Missouri* (Medora: Theodore Roosevelt Nature and History Association, 1986); David J. Wishart, *The Fur Trade of the American West, 1807-1840: A Geographical Synthesis* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1979); James P. Ronda, *Astoria and Empire* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1990); William E. Foley and C. David Rice, *The First Chouteaus: River Barons of Early St. Louis* (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1983); Jack Holterman, *King of the High Missouri: The Saga of the Culbertsons* (Helena: Falcon Press, 1987); and LeRoy R. Hafen, ed., *Mountain Men and the Fur Trade of the Far West*, 10 vols. (Glendale, Ca: Arthur H. Clark Company, 1965-1972).

<sup>7</sup> Peter Michel, "The St. Louis Fur Trade: Fur Company Ledgers and Account Books in the Archives of the Missouri Historical Society." *Gateway Heritage* 6 (2) (1985): 10-17.

## Research Potentials

Researchers interested specifically in the Chouteau family have several places to turn before commencing work in the microfilm edition. Mary B. Cunningham and Jeanne C. Blythe have produced an excellent genealogy in their book, *The Founding Family of St. Louis*.<sup>8</sup> William E. Foley and C. David Rice's *The First Chouteaus: River Barons of Early St. Louis* traces the eighteenth and early nineteenth century family.<sup>9</sup> Foley and Rice are working on an extension of *The First Chouteaus* that will focus on the next generation, including Pierre "Cadet" Chouteau, Jr. (1789–1865), the most important person in the documents, whose life spans the critical period in American history from the first years of the New Republic through the Civil War. No full history of the family's variously named fur trade enterprises has been written, although an early article by Harriette Johnson Westbrook outlines "The Chouteaus and Their Commercial Enterprises."<sup>10</sup> Janet Lecompte's brief essay, "The Chouteaus and the St. Louis Fur Trade" that follows on page xiii provides an introduction but should be supplemented with her more comprehensive study of Pierre Chouteau, Jr. from the Hafén biographical series.<sup>11</sup>

One glimpse at letters to Cadet Chouteau from family members, partners in business, or government officers quickly reveals the research potential of this collection. Not only is the strata of social and economic life of St. Louis exposed, but patterns of the national experience surface as the Chouteau, Pratte, Cabanne, Gratiot, and other leading families in St. Louis discuss economic life, lobby for congressional favors, press for western internal improvements, and report on developments in the western territories among themselves and with associates such as the Astors and Ramsay Crooks in New York.

Correspondence from Crooks to his "dear cousin" Pierre is especially informative on private business matters as well as national political life. For example, in October 1841, Crooks wrote to Chouteau from New York about the following:

The Buffaloes have until lately been going off at a fair pace, but recently the demand has slackened. The dealers here ascribe this inactivity to the election which takes place in this state the first week in November, as it keeps people at home in order to be able to vote, while others give up their business for the public good, and devote their time to electioneering—I shall be glad when it is over and hope the Robe trade will again revive with decided activity.<sup>12</sup>

The collection sounds the heartbeat of American business life during the early national period through ante-bellum times. It is especially rich in materials pertaining to the Jacksonian Era. Correspondence between the St. Louis office of

<sup>8</sup> Mary B. Cunningham and Jeanne C. Blythe, *The Founding Family of St. Louis* (St. Louis: Midwest Technical Publications, 1977).

<sup>9</sup> Foley and Rice, *The First Chouteaus*, *supra* note 6.

<sup>10</sup> Harriette Johnson Westbrook, "The Chouteaus and Their Commercial Enterprises," *Chronicles of Oklahoma* 11 (1933): 786–97; 942–66.

<sup>11</sup> Janet Lecompte, "Pierre Chouteau, Jr." in *Mountain Men*, *supra* note 6, Vol. 9, pp. 92–123.

<sup>12</sup> Ramsay Crooks to Pierre Chouteau, Jr., New York, October 31, 1841, Chouteau Collection; Reel 27, frame 0875.

the Chouteaus and their associates with the central office of the American Fur Company in New York City is incomplete. Nevertheless, it has valuable references to tariffs, the international climate in trade, the fur markets in London and Leipzig, the regulation of currency, the controversy over the National Bank, the Panic of 1836, trade and war with Mexico, and relations with the British along the northern international boundary.

Those seeking information on the relationship between the Chouteaus and John Jacob Astor's American Fur Company (AFC) will find John D. Haeger's recent study *John Jacob Astor: Business and Finance in the Early Republic* brief but useful.<sup>13</sup> The American Fur Company Papers in the New York (City) Historical Society contain copies of letters to and from Pierre Chouteau, Jr. and other company officers during the active years of the Western Department of Astor's giant company.<sup>14</sup> In 1927, historian Grace Lee Nute alerted the profession to the potential of these papers and was subsequently commissioned to index them by the American Historical Association.<sup>15</sup> The indexes were released in two bound volumes in 1945,<sup>16</sup> and the AFC Papers were microfilmed in thirty-seven reels during the 1950s. Additional Astor papers that bear on the St. Louis trade are held by the Baker Library at Harvard University. This twenty-nine box collection (seven linear feet) spans the years 1784 to 1892 with primary focus on the period from 1809 to 1848.<sup>17</sup> Further Astor materials have recently surfaced in private family hands and are available as *John Jacob Astor: Business Letters, 1813-1828*.<sup>18</sup>

At the regional level, those interested in the history of Missouri will find a wealth of data in this collection on land speculation, holdings, and transfers, as well as on the flow of people, animals, and commodities in the triangular trade of St. Louis, New Orleans, and the eastern cities. Westward expansion out of Missouri, the Santa Fe trade, government relations with Indians, and the Mexican and Oregon "questions" may also be found by the diligent scholar.

The collection contains surprisingly little on events leading to the Civil War, the question of the morality of slavery, or the issue of slavery in the territories, although most of St. Louis's leading families were domestic slaveholders and were well connected with Missouri and other slave-state congressmen including Senator Thomas Hart Benton. The references to slaves are sparse, but they

<sup>13</sup> John Denis Hager, *John Jacob Astor: Business and Finance in the Early Republic* (Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 1991).

<sup>14</sup> See *Guide to Use of Microfilm Copy on Thirty-Seven Reels of the American Fur Company Papers Owned by the New York Historical Society and Filmed 1951-1953 for Subscribing Libraries* (New York: The New York Historical Society, n.d.).

<sup>15</sup> Grace Lee Nute, "The Papers of the American Fur Company: A Brief Estimate of Their Significance." *American Historical Review* 32 (2) (1927): 519-38.

<sup>16</sup> Grace Lee Nute, comp., *Calendar of the American Fur Company's Papers, Part I: 1831-1840; Part II: 1841-1849*, released as *Annual Report of the American Historical Association for the Year 1944*. Vols. 2-3 (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1945).

<sup>17</sup> "John Jacob Astor Collection," Baker Library, Harvard Graduate School of Business, Cambridge, Mass.

<sup>18</sup> *John Jacob Astor: Business Letters, 1813-1828* (Benson, Vt.: Chalidze Publications, 1991).

include valuation statements and documents pertaining to the sale of slaves as "property" upon the death of family members. For example, a broadside of 1830 announces a "Public Sale of Slaves" belonging to the late Auguste Chouteau. Therese Cerré Chouteau, executrix of the estate, sold thirty-one "men, boys, women, and girls" at a public auction held at the Court House; among the purchasers were Henry Chouteau, Gabriel Chouteau, Jean Baptiste Sarpy, Bernard Pratte, and Hypolite Papin, all active in the St. Louis fur trade.<sup>19</sup>

A valuable aspect of the collection is its documents referring to the Osage, Oto, Pawnee, Sac, Fox, Mandan, Arikara, Crow, Blackfeet, Stoney, Cree, Gros Ventre, and western Sioux and their relationships with traders, government agents, and private travelers. Ethnohistorians of the Plains Indians have long known the utility of these documents in research on the Great Smallpox Epidemic of 1837, Blackfeet and Arikara hostilities toward white traders, locations of bands of the Sioux during the nineteenth century, Crow and Assiniboin roles as "middlemen" in the trade, and the impact of European material culture on native lifeways. Much remains to be learned from the collection about whites, Métis, and Blacks connected with the fur trade as well as Native Americans whose homelands became geographic arenas for European, Canadian, and American competition.

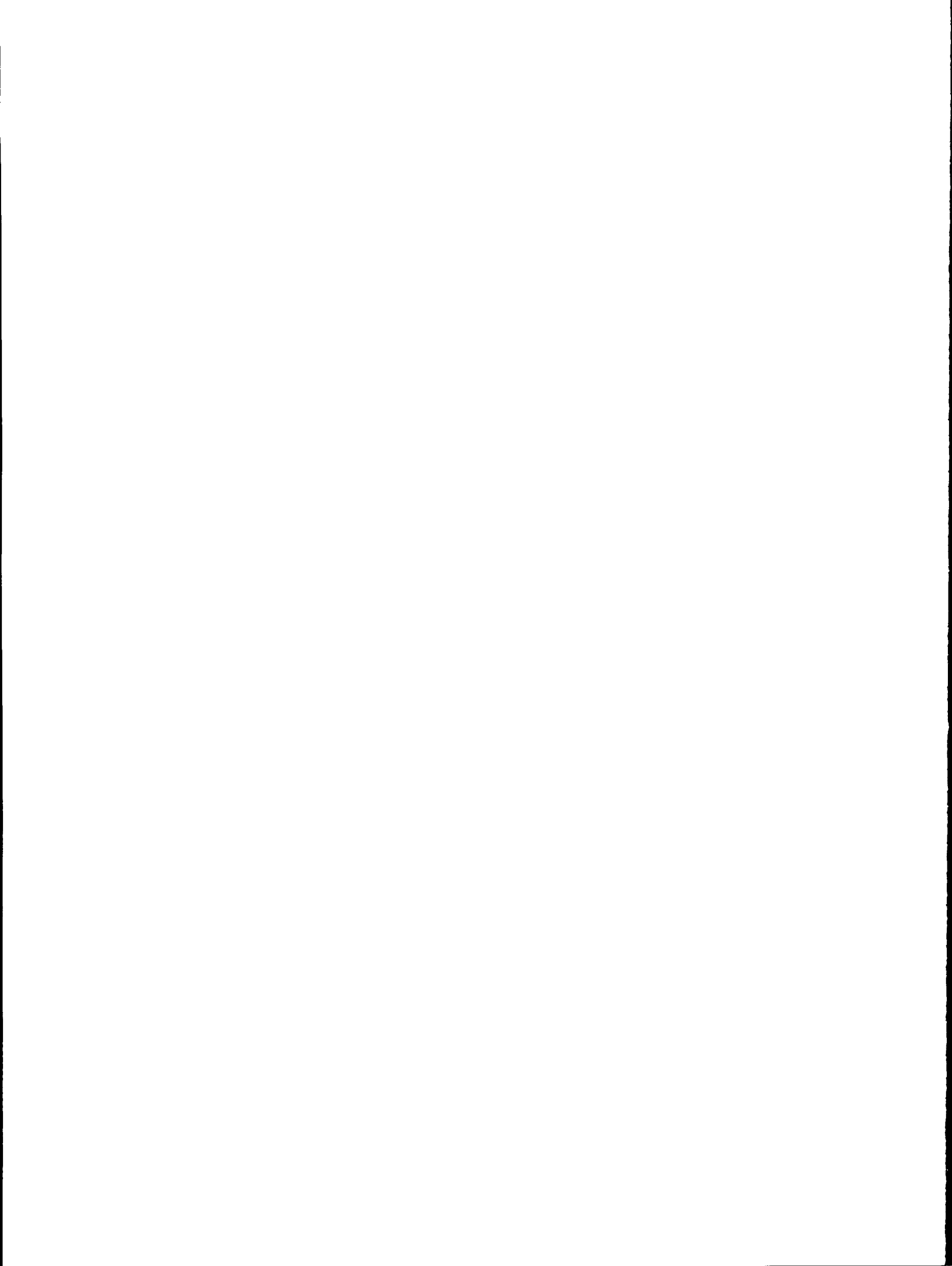
Little work has been done on the declining years of the fur trade—the 1850s and 1860s—when most AFC posts were sold, abandoned, or converted into U.S. military forts. During these years, the Chouteaus diversified their fur business with investments in steamboats, railroads, mining, and manufacturing. Upon the death of Pierre Chouteau, Jr. in 1865, the company's fur trade operations were sold, but the family continued its ascendancy in business and social spheres of St. Louis. The collection is not strong on this period, and there are gaps in the chronological sequence between Pierre Chouteau's final letterbooks (ending in 1861) and those of his son, Charles P. Chouteau (from 1884–1888), who succeeded him as head of the company. Nevertheless, historians of post-Civil War America will find these final reels of interest.

The Chouteau Collection is a magnificent assemblage of documents that throws light on many facets of history spanning a century and a half. The spine that holds the collection together is the Chouteaus, a large and remarkable family whose importance in the history of the nation has been strangely overlooked, perhaps because records have been difficult to access. This microfilm edition should go far in correcting this neglect.

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<sup>19</sup> Broadside, "Public Sale of Slaves, St. Louis, Aug. 24, 1830" and "Sale of the Slaves of the Estate of Auguste Chouteau deceased, made at auction on the 15th Sept. 1830." The widow Chouteau apparently kept five slaves, for there were thirty-six at Auguste's death. Chouteau Collection, Reel 16, frames 1034, 1080–1084.



# THE CHOUTEAUS AND THE ST. LOUIS FUR TRADE

For a century the Chouteau name was more or less synonymous with the fur trade of the West. There was scarcely a member of the huge family who was not intimately connected with a fur trade venture. There was hardly an Indian tribe that had not felt the influence of business decisions of the family, or a trapper or trader who did not at some time owe his fortunes or misfortunes to family patronage or lack of it.

Like most great enterprise, it started small. In 1763 the governor of Louisiana granted to Maxent & Laclède, New Orleans merchants, a six-year monopoly for trade with Indians living on the left bank of the Mississippi River and on the Missouri River. In August 1763, Pierre Laclède Liguist (1729–1778) and his stepson Auguste Chouteau (1749–1829), then fourteen, ascended the Mississippi with a crew of workmen to build a trading post on the west side of the river about twenty miles below the mouth of the Missouri. The settlement that grew up around it was called “St. Louis” in honor of the King of France, although by then Louisiana was in Spanish territory.

In New Orleans, Laclède lived with Marie Thérèse Bourgeois Chouteau (1733–1814) and her two sons, Renato and Auguste, by her husband René Chouteau who had deserted her. By Laclède she had another son, Pierre (1758–1849) and three daughters, Pelagie, Marie Louise, and Victoire, all born in New Orleans. Madame Chouteau and her children joined Laclède in the village of St. Louis in 1764, where the family prospered.

After Laclède’s death in 1778, his widow carried on parts of his business and accumulated a handsome estate in property, money, and slaves. She also created a family system. Her children married the offspring of other prominent families and produced sons who became fur traders, and daughters whose marriages secured business alliances and social power. By the fourth generation the family included Cerrés, Gratiots, Papins, Labbadies, Pauls, Bertholds, Dubreuil, Menards, Cabannés, DeMuns, Sarpys, Prattes, Loisels, Chenies, LeDucs, and later a smattering of Anglo-Americans. When the widow Chouteau died in 1814, it was said that all the prominent people of St. Louis could legitimately put on mourning for her.

In 1767 a Spanish commander and a handful of soldiers arrived to govern St. Louis, but for the next four decades the town maintained its French institutions, customs, and language under a lenient and sometimes permissive Spanish authority. Almost all of the men of St. Louis were in the fur trade, as partners in

companies, merchants, *bourgeois* (managers) of trading posts, trappers, hunters, boatmen, or laborers. Some traders spent part or all of each year on the Missouri River with the Osage, Missouri, Kansas, Oto, Panimaha and Pawnee tribes; others waited in St. Louis for the twenty-five tribes of Indians who came to St. Louis a few times a year to receive a government annuity and to sell their furs.

As the number of St. Louis traders grew, so did competition from the English, who had been trading with Indians of the Upper Missouri since the 1720s. English traders incited Winnebago, Sac, Fox, and Menominee Indians to attack St. Louis in 1780, but the settlers successfully defended themselves. To compete with the English, in 1794 many St. Louis traders joined Jacques Clamorgan in the "Company of Explorers of the Upper Missouri," (called the Missouri Company), but its three yearly expeditions were failures.

Competition among the St. Louis traders left some of them in financial misery. To reduce competition, the governor of Louisiana granted traders exclusive privileges to visit certain Indians with certain goods. The commander at St. Louis then distributed the trade by lots. The Chouteau half-brothers, Auguste and Pierre, won exclusive trade privileges with the Osage, where they had traded since the early 1770s.

The Osage were the most numerous and profitable Missouri River tribe; they were also the most hostile. In 1787 Osage killings and pillagings caused Governor Miró to prohibit trade with them, but Commander Cruzat at St. Louis apparently closed his official eyes as Pierre Chouteau continued to supply them with arms, ammunition, and flour. Chouteau also made a treaty with the Osage in 1792 that granted him a large piece of their land, at the same time that the Osage were making war on white settlements. A year later, Auguste Chouteau offered to build a fort at his own expense near the Big Osage village, to be manned with twenty militiamen under his brother Pierre, in return for a six-year monopoly of their trade.

It has been suggested that the Chouteaus abused their privileges for private gain. In 1902 historian H. M. Chittenden wrote of Pierre Chouteau, Jr. that his business ethics were "sufficiently elastic to fit the situation with which he had to deal," and perhaps the same could be said of his father and uncle (and of almost all traders then and later). Even if Fort Carondelet was an instance of elastic ethics, it turned out to be successful: Commander Trudeau wrote in 1797 that "from the moment when Don Augusto Chouteau put his plans into execution we have enjoyed the greatest peace and tranquillity."

The sons of Auguste and Pierre Chouteau were groomed for their fathers' business. Pierre's eldest son Auguste Pierre, known as A. P. Chouteau (1786–1839), graduated from the military academy at West Point in the class of 1806. After serving six months in the army, he ascended the Missouri with his uncle Auguste in 1807 and again in 1808. As a representative of Chouteau interests, he became a partner in Manuel Lisa's St. Louis Missouri Fur Company. He made his last trip up the Missouri in 1809, spending the winter at the Lisa's Fort Mandan. In 1812 he began a lifetime of trading with the Osage Indians.

Pierre's second son, Pierre Chouteau Jr. (1789–1865), generally called "Cadet," began his career as clerk in his uncle Auguste's office. As a youth he and his father traded in the Little Osage village where Lieutenant Zebulon Pike bought a horse from him in September 1806. In 1810 Cadet was sent to the lead mines at what today is Dubuque, Iowa, where Auguste Chouteau had bought half of Julien Dubuque's interest. Cadet lived at the mines off and on until the start of the War of 1812, when he returned to St. Louis and the family business.

After the purchase of Louisiana by the United States in 1803, President Jefferson sent expeditions to explore it, which helped to delineate and demystify the lands between the Yellowstone and Columbia rivers and opened up possibilities of trade in the Southwest with Indians and Spaniards of New Mexico. First among the fur traders to exploit the Louisiana Purchase was Manuel Lisa (1772–1821), born of Spanish parents in New Orleans and a trader in St. Louis by 1800. In the spring of 1807 Lisa ascended the Missouri and built Fort Manuel among the Mandans. In later expeditions he built trading posts among the Crows and Sioux and sent his men to trade with the Arapahos on the Platte and Arkansas rivers, and, unsuccessfully, with the Spaniards at Santa Fe.

In 1809 Lisa organized the St. Louis Missouri Fur Company, with A. P. Chouteau, Jr. and Pierre Chouteau, Sr. and others as partners. In 1812 he reorganized his St. Louis Missouri Fur Company with fewer partners and only one member of the Chouteau family, A. P. Chouteau. While he was up the Missouri, the other partners decided Lisa's profits were inadequate and replaced him as partner with Pierre Chouteau, Sr., a slight that Lisa reciprocated later. The company was dissolved in 1813 after the War of 1812 began.

The War of 1812 caused many casualties in the fur trade, none more catastrophic for the United States than the loss of Astoria. The magnificent dream of John Jacob Astor (1763–1848) involved a trading post at the mouth of the Columbia River, supply ships from New York, trade with China, and trappers throughout the Northwest. The plan was virtually achieved, but its failure in 1813 and sale to the British meant the loss of U.S. control of the Northwest for over three decades. The debacle at Astoria sent Astor in search of other big ventures, and his eye was on the Chouteaus and the infant St. Louis mercantile system. At this time the Chouteaus were insignificant except in St. Louis—mere local merchants with interests in the local Indian trade. In 1813 Cadet and his brother-in-law Bartholomew Berthold opened a store in St. Louis for groceries, dry goods, hardware, crockery, etc. Six weeks later, Cadet married his first cousin, Emilie Anne Gratiot (1793–1862), adding important men to the Chouteau network—her father Charles Gratiot and her sisters' husbands, Jean P. Cabanné (1773–1841) and Jules DeMun (1782–1843).

After a year, Berthold & Chouteau slipped inevitably into the fur trade, sending parties up the Missouri River and incurring huge losses by backing incompetent family members. In 1814 they supplied a disastrous trapping expedition of A.P. Chouteau and Jules DeMun, who were imprisoned for a month by Spaniards in Santa Fe. Their goods and furs, worth \$30,380.74, were confiscated, and it



was Berthold & Chouteau who paid the bill. When they returned to St. Louis, A. P. Chouteau, Jules DeMun, and John B. Sarpy (1799–1857) opened a store that failed in 1821, costing Berthold & Chouteau another \$66,000.

Unable to pay his huge debt to Berthold & Chouteau, in 1822 A. P. Chouteau left his wife Sophie Labbadie Chouteau (1791–1862) and their numerous children in St. Louis and moved among the Osage in present Oklahoma. There he directed Berthold & Chouteau's "Osage Outfit" with its four trading posts and its host of younger Chouteaus as traders and clerks, including brothers Paul Ligest Chouteau (1792–1851), Francis Guesseau Chouteau (1813–1874), Cyprien Chouteau (1802–1879), Louis Pharamond Chouteau (1806–1831), and cousins Pierre Mellicourt Papin (1793–1828) and Auguste Aristide Chouteau (1792–1833). Although honored by other traders and loved by the Indians, A. P. Chouteau continued to be financially irresponsible and died hopelessly in debt to the company in 1839.

Besides debts it was forced to assume, Berthold & Chouteau faced competition from U.S. government trading posts or factories (instituted 1796 and abolished 1822) and from companies of other family members like that of Jean P. Cabanné, husband of Cadet's wife's sister. Cabanné & Company dissolved in 1819, and Cabanné joined Berthold & Chouteau in backing Lisa's expedition up the Missouri for the reorganized Missouri Fur Company. Lisa returned before reaching the mountains for fear his partners were cheating him in his absence, as they had in 1812. Berthold & Chouteau lost \$22,286.45 in this joint venture.

At this time Berthold & Chouteau faced opposition it could not handle. The Missouri Fur Company, reborn in 1819, comprised a group of experienced traders including Manuel Lisa, Joshua Pilcher, Lucien Fontenelle, Andrew Drips, Charles Bent, and William Vanderburgh. These men dashed high up the Missouri to establish posts among new tribes, as St. Louis fur men had tried to do since 1794. Acting slowly and timidly in opposition, Berthold & Chouteau established Missouri River posts close to home, such as Fort aux Cedrés near White River, under ineffective traders like Joseph Brazeau ("Cayowa").

The St. Louis fur trade in 1819 was run primarily by one big extended family involved in numerous small companies that had no real center, no leader, at least not yet. Berthold & Chouteau (known sometimes as "The French Company") was the largest Chouteau mercantile family enterprise, but its partners and other family members made up partnerships within partnerships, forcing partners to compete with family members and even with their own best interests. Berthold & Chouteau (1813–22) saw many reorganizations: Berthold, Chouteau & Pratte (1822–24); Bernard Pratte & Co. (1826–34); Pratte, Chouteau & Co. (1834–39); and finally, Pierre Chouteau Jr. & Co.

At this time the leaders in the trader-trapper end of the St. Louis fur trade were not Chouteaus but outsiders. Manuel Lisa dominated the Missouri trade until his death in 1821, and William H. Ashley (1778–1838) dominated the Rocky Mountain trade until 1826. In 1822 Ashley and his partner Andrew Henry collected a group of free trappers who became so famous that they personify

trapping for many people: James Bridger, Thomas Fitzpatrick, Jedediah S. Smith, William L. Sublette, James P. Beckwourth, and Étienne Provost. Ashley and his men revolutionized the fur trade by ignoring the Indian middlemen and setting their own traps, and by designating locations for summer rendezvous where trappers bought supplies and sold furs.

Ashley made a fortune in a few years and retired; B. Pratte & Co. continued to take losses. Cadet Chouteau was general superintendent and still hired inept relatives who made dangerous blunders. Berthold became head of the Upper Missouri operations and in 1827 was caught lying to customs officers; Jean P. Cabanné, head of the Lower Missouri and stationed at Council Bluffs, arrested a rival trader in 1832 and caused a lawsuit that nearly sank the company. To make a profit, the company was forced to supply other fur companies like Ashley or share ventures with other traders like the Missouri Fur Company or slippery old Joseph Robidoux, who donned the sheep's clothing of a B. Pratte & Company employee to make his own expeditions in direct or indirect competition.

More than anything else, B. Pratte & Company needed good men and good counsel, and at this fortuitous juncture John Jacob Astor and his American Fur Company stepped in. For twenty years Astor had watched the Chouteaus through his St. Louis agent, Charles Gratiot, who was Auguste's brother-in-law and Pierre Jr.'s father-in-law. In 1800, eight years before he incorporated his American Fur Company, Astor proposed that Auguste Chouteau send furs direct to him, for he could get him a good price on merchandise from Europe, but Chouteau declined. In 1819, Astor proposed that the Chouteaus buy him out; again they declined.

In 1819 a catalyst in the form of a new rival supplier, Stone, Bostwick & Co. of Detroit, determined the fate of the St. Louis traders. Stone, Bostwick & Co. had moved to St. Louis and outfitted Manuel Lisa in 1819, the Missouri Fur Company in 1821, Ashley and Henry in 1822, and others. In 1823 Astor ended this new threat by summoning David Stone and Oliver Bostwick to New York and buying up their goods and contracts. Then he hired them, putting Bostwick in charge of his St. Louis operation and Stone in charge of Detroit.

Astor then established the Western Department of the American Fur Company at St. Louis and put Ramsay Crooks (1787–1859) in charge of it. Crooks was a Scot and a fur trader out of Montreal who had joined the overland Astorians and stayed on with Astor. In 1825 Crooks married Bernard Pratte's daughter, Emilie. After Astor retired in 1834, Crooks became president of the company and moved his family permanently to New York City.

In 1823 the Chouteaus cautiously agreed to sign a year's contract with Crooks to buy supplies and sell furs through the company. The arrangement was so profitable that each partner's share amounted to \$16,053.65. Astor had made his point, but it took three more years of competition and disaster for the Chouteaus to give up their family autonomy.

In 1826 B. Pratte & Co. took its worst beating when it sent Sylvestre Pratte, Bernard Pratte's son, to Taos to lead a hundred and twenty trappers into the

Rocky Mountains. Young Pratte died in the mountains, but not before signing what Cadet disconsolately referred to as "these inexhaustible fur-drafts" that the company was forced to honor. Historian H. M. Chittenden's judgment that Pierre Chouteau, Jr. turned to profit everything he touched was far from true.

The losses from the "Taos adventure" may have made up Cadet's mind. In December 1826, Cadet and Astor signed an agreement in New York naming B. Pratte & Co. the sole western agent of the American Fur Company. Under Astor's tutelage, Cadet and his associates eventually learned to enlarge their operations and to master Astor's techniques of dealing with competition, which was simply to eliminate it by buying it out, allowing no scrap of it to attach to other rivals. Thus—eventually—Cadet acquired a corps of good partners, traders, and trapping brigade leaders.

After the merger, no matter how well competitors in the field did against the big company, they ended up working for it. Traders of the Columbia Fur Company outmaneuvered B. Pratte & Co. traders at every point on the Missouri in the spring of 1827, but that summer B. Pratte & Co. took it over intact with its trading posts and Scottish partners, Kenneth McKenzie, William Laidlaw, James Kipp, and Daniel Lamont. To accommodate these bright and vigorous leaders, the company created the Upper Missouri Outfit (UMO).

More experienced mountain men came from the collapse of the Missouri Fur Company at the 1828 rendezvous, after which B. Pratte & Co. hired Fontenelle, Vanderburgh and Drips for the UMO's "mountain business." In 1829 Chouteau sent Kenneth McKenzie to the mouth of the Yellowstone to build Fort Union, which became the principal supply and collection point for rendezvous and free-trapper trade in the mountains. It also became the major depot for trade with Blackfeet, Crow, Cree, and Assiniboin. Many other posts were built in the next two decades, and about three hundred American Fur Company men were divided into outfits based at Fort Union, Fort Clark, and Fort Pierre, and the six divisions of the Sioux. Other traders were at the Sacs, Iowas, Osages, Kansas, Poncas, and Otoes.

The mountain division of the UMO was an annual financial loss for the ten years of its existence. The company consistently failed to get its goods to the rendezvous in time, losing thereby the trade of free trappers; worse, some of its best men were lost as trapping brigades boldly invaded the dangerous Blackfeet country. The "mountain business" continued until 1839 only because the company could not afford to abandon the mountains to its rivals.

The American Fur Company did not countenance rivals. B. Pratte & Co. bought out Joseph Robidoux in 1828 and paid him \$1,000 to stay home for a year. In 1830 the company bought out Papin & Co., a shaky little organization called "the French Fur Company" for \$21,000 and hired its leaders, Pierre D. Papin, Pascal Cerré, and Honoré Picotte at salaries of \$1,000 a year, which was good pay for men that the company had no reason to trust.

New companies were formed from partnerships that had dissolved, but none lasted more than a few seasons. William H. Ashley, whom Cadet described as

"always in my way," sold out to Jedediah S. Smith, David Jackson, and William Sublette in 1826. These men in turn sold out in 1830 to the Rocky Mountain Fur Company, whose partners were Fitzpatrick, Bridger, Milton Sublette, Henry Fraeb, and Jean Baptiste Gervais. All seasoned fur men, they were absorbed by the superior resources of the American Fur Company (Pratte, Chouteau & Co.), which bought them out in 1834.

The most challenging competitors that the company faced in the 1830s were William Sublette and Robert Campbell, who sold out in 1834 to Fontenelle, Fitzpatrick & Co. and returned to St. Louis as merchants. Fontenelle and his partners sold their assets to Pratte, Chouteau & Co. in 1836, who then hired them as "the Rocky Mountain Outfit."

In 1832 the company began using steamboats for transporting goods as far as Fort Union. The first of these, named the *Yellow Stone*, carried important company guests—royal scientists Prince Paul of Württemberg and Prince Maximilian of Wied-Neuwied; artists Carl Bodmer, John J. Audubon, and George Catlin.

Increased company investments in posts and transportation did not curb the decline in the beaver trade in the 1830s, caused by scarcity of the animal, the vogue for silk top hats, and the advantage enjoyed by the Hudson's Bay Company in price and quality of trade goods. In 1834 Chouteau competitors built three important trading posts whose locations reflected the decline. Nathaniel Wyeth's Fort Hall on the Portneuf near Snake River became a strategic location for the Hudson's Bay Company, which bought the post in 1837. Bent's Fort on the Upper Arkansas and William Sublette's Fort William on the North Platte (an American Fur Company post by 1836) were built to trade with Plains Indians, whose product was buffalo robes, not beaver.

In 1834 Astor responded to the beaver decline and other pressures by selling the Western Department to Pratte, Chouteau & Co. Without Astor's guidance Cadet began to make mistakes. He allowed the Rocky Mountain Fur Company to reorganize and compete with him; he reorganized the Upper Missouri Outfit and forced good men like Laidlaw and Lamont to quit. Lamont became a partner in Powell Lamont & Co., which bought and sold to the Arkansas Valley and Santa Fe market that the company had coveted. To the annoyance of his employees, Cadet spent most of his time in Washington both lobbying for payment of tribal debts to traders as specified in Indian treaties and bidding for annuity contracts.

Pratte, Chouteau & Co. was reorganized in 1839 to become P. Chouteau Jr. & Co., but it remained a closely held family business. The reorganization marked the end of the mountain business, for beaver was scarce and in little demand. Beaver recovered during the 1840s, both in the streams and in the world markets, but by then buffalo robes had become the companies' principal commodity.

Trade in buffalo robes changed the nature of the business. The field of operations shifted from mountains to plains, from trapping to Indian trading in the valleys of the Missouri, the North and South Platte, and the Arkansas. The company acquired trading posts among the Sioux, Arapaho, and Cheyenne, and

bought robes from subsidiaries like Bent's Fort and Fort Laramie and from independent traders at Fort Pueblo and Hardscrabble on the Arkansas.

The financial panic of 1837 devastated markets in the East, and by 1841 the fur trade had foundered. Fur markets in Europe closed and the price of fur plummeted; money was tight, credit non-existent; smallpox ravaged the Indians and they stopped making robes. In the 1840s, fur company executives retired or changed occupations, and settlements of out-of-work trappers and small traders sprung up on the Arkansas at Pueblo and Hardscrabble, at Taos in New Mexico, at French Prairie in Oregon, and in California's Napa Valley.

In 1846 the Mexican War with its soldiers and supply wagons along the Santa Fe Trail made enemies of friendly Cheyenne, Arapaho, Kiowa, and Kiowa-Apache, destroying Indian trade at Bent's Fort and Fort Pueblo by 1848. Along the Oregon and California trails, emigrants ruined trade at Fort Laramie, which was sold to the U.S. Army in 1849 and dedicated henceforth to safety of emigrants and control of Indians.

Like everyone else in the mean 1840s, Pierre Chouteau, Jr. wanted out of the fur trade, and began to groom his son-in-law John F. A. Sanford (1806–1857) and his son Charles Pierre (1819–1901) as his successors. Sanford was a former Indian agent and trader who had married Cadet's daughter Emilie in 1832 and joined the company in 1834. Despite Emilie's death in 1836, Sanford remained in Cadet's service for the rest of his life, as Cadet's right-hand man and lobbyist in Washington. Sanford died in 1856, and Cadet's expectations then centered on his son, Charles Pierre Chouteau (1819–1901).

Charles followed the family pattern. He started working for the company at the age of eighteen and married his cousin Julia Gratiot in 1845. In 1850 he assumed supervision of the American Fur Company, which now operated only on the Missouri and declined year by year.

Cadet spent his retirement developing railroads that became branches of the Illinois Central; an iron mine and summer resort at Iron Mountain near Ste. Genevieve, Missouri; a rolling mill in St. Louis; and real estate in St. Louis and Minnesota. He died, totally blind, on September 6, 1865.

So ended the influence of the Chouteaus of St. Louis whose name had been central to every facet of the western fur trade for a century. Just before Cadet's death, his son Charles sold the western interests of the company, which was weakened by charges of transport and sale of illegal liquor, of manipulating bids for shipping annuities, and of cheating Indians. Indian trader James Boyd Hubbell of Mankato, Minnesota bought it and sold shares to his partner Alpheus F. Hawley and other investors. Hubbell carried on the faltering business as the Northwestern Fur Trade centered at Fort Benton, at the head of Missouri River navigation, until the end of the Civil War.

**Janet Lecompte  
Historian and author**

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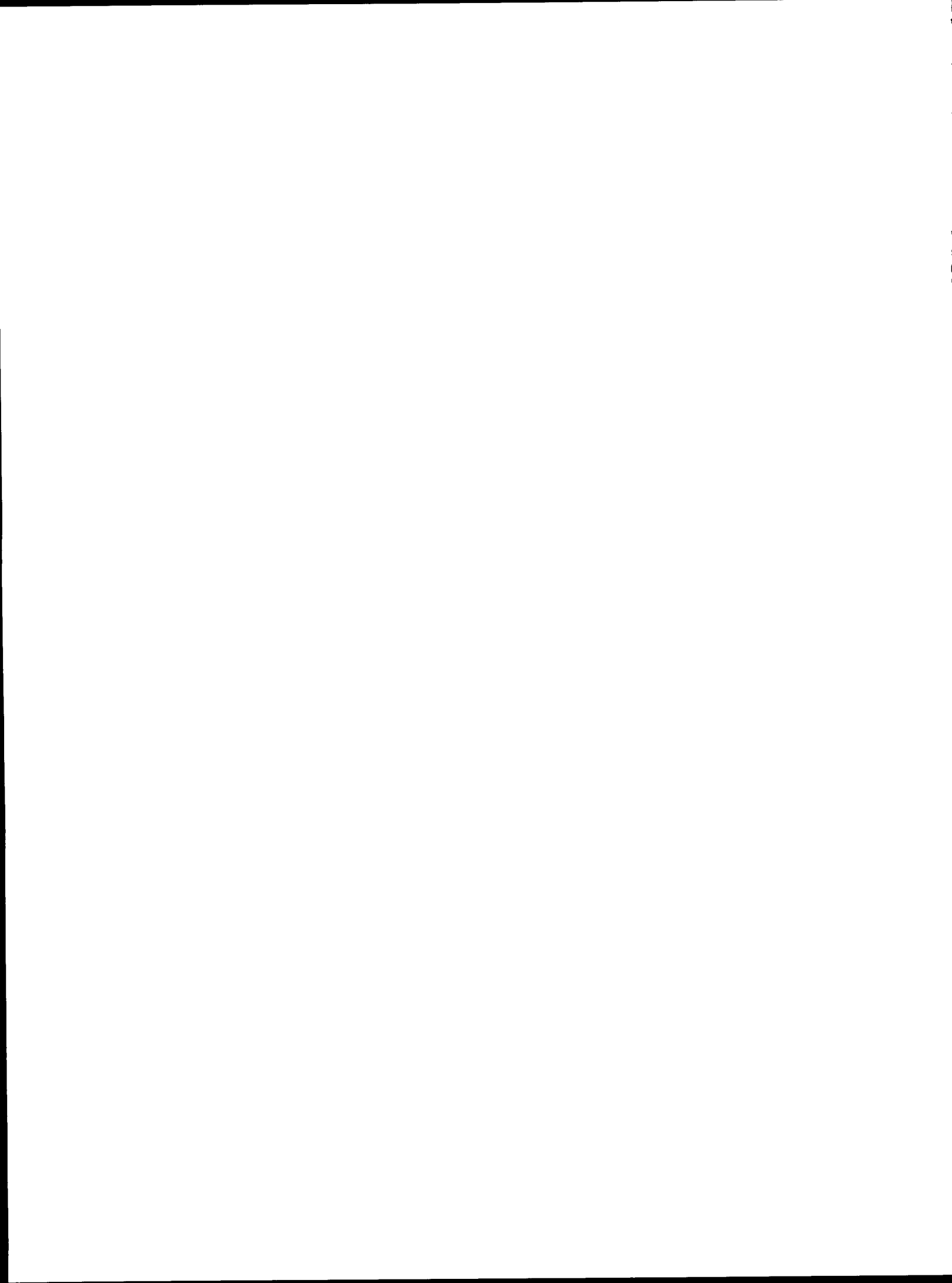
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**PAPERS OF THE  
ST. LOUIS FUR TRADE**

**Part 1: The Chouteau Collection, 1752–1925**





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## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Chouteau Collection comprises five series of related items including: Papers, 1752–1975 and Undated; Unprocessed Materials, 1775–1854; Pierre Chouteau, Jr. & Co. Letterbooks, 1856–1861; Charles P. Chouteau Letterbooks, 1884–1888; and Estate Papers and Miscellany, 1802–1874 and Undated.

Items are filed in folders arranged chronologically within series. January listings for a year include groups of documents spanning the entire year and items for that year with the month unknown. Accounts are usually filed at the date of first entry, but may also be filed at the settlement date. Related documents such as bills and receipts, bills of lading, packing lists, accounts, contracts, legal papers, estate papers, cancelled checks, and correspondence are often filed as a group at the start of a month.

File folders are microfilmed with each item or group of items. Folders indicate the number of documents or pages, language (if not English), place of origin, sender, recipient, subject, and persons and places mentioned. Many French language items have translations appended.

The Reel Index does not itemize folders, but lists the location on the microfilm and number of frames for chronological groups of folders. It was not feasible to list each folder, since there are nearly ten thousand individual folders. Indented below the main entries in the Reel Index are itemized listings of volumes and occasional misfiles.

Researchers interested in a particular subject or person should determine what time period is relevant. By referring to the Reel Index, they can determine which reels or parts of reels within each series come within the scope of their search.

## **NOTE ON SOURCES**

The collection microfilmed in this edition is a holding of the Missouri Historical Society, Library and Archives, 225 S. Skinker Boulevard, St. Louis, MO 63105.

## **EDITORIAL NOTE**

The Chouteau Collection has been microfilmed in its entirety. Several photostats of documents from other repositories are omitted due to copyright restrictions, but descriptions of these items are included with a target on the film indicating omissions.

The four-digit number to the left of each entry indicates the frame number at which a particular document or series of documents begins.

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0451	1787. 14 frames.
0465	1788. 61 frames.
0526	1789. 44 frames.
0570	1790. 50 frames.
0620	1791. 13 frames.
0633	1792. 44 frames.
0677	1793. 33 frames.
0710	1794. 101 frames.
0811	1795. 97 frames.
0908	1796. 130 frames.

## Reel 2

Frame  
No.

### Papers cont. 1797-1800

0001	1797. 112 frames.
0113	1798. 116 frames.
0229	1799. 271 frames.
0418	Misfile, September 20, 1800. 4 frames.
0500	1800. 359 frames. [ <i>see also</i> frame 0418 above]

## Reel 3

### Papers cont. 1801-June 1803

0001	January 1801. 28 frames.
0029	February 1801. 10 frames.
0039	March 1801. 6 frames.
0045	April 1801. 28 frames.
0073	May 1801. 17 frames.
0090	June 1801. 9 frames.
0099	July 1801. 20 frames.
0119	August 1801. 21 frames.
0140	September 1801. 26 frames.
0166	October 1801. 12 frames.
0178	November 1801. 8 frames.
0186	December 1801. 33 frames.
0219	January 1802. 36 frames.
0255	February 1802. 16 frames.
0271	March 1802. 11 frames.
0282	April 1802. 61 frames.
0343	May 1802. 39 frames. [ <i>see also</i> frame 0416 below]
0382	June 1802. 63 frames.
0416	Misfile, May 12, 1802. 3 frames.
0445	July 1802. 30 frames.
0475	August 1802. 64 frames.
0539	September 1802. 36 frames.
0575	October 1802. 35 frames.



0610 November 1802. 29 frames.  
0639 December 1802. 34 frames.  
0673 January 1803. 112 frames.  
0785 February 1803. 55 frames.  
0840 March 1803. 52 frames.  
0892 April 1803. 6 frames.  
0898 May 1803. 45 frames.  
0943 June 1803. 34 frames.

0083 March 1806. 39 frames.  
0122 April 1806. 48 frames.  
0170 May 1806. 71 frames.  
0241 June 1806. 44 frames.  
0285 July 1806. 38 frames.  
0323 August 1806. 51 frames.  
0374 September 1806. 34 frames.  
0408 October 1806. 18 frames.  
0426 November 1806. 13 frames.  
0439 December 1806. 8 frames.  
0447 January 1807. 35 frames.  
0482 February 1807. 45 frames.  
0527 March 1807. 29 frames.  
0556 April 1807. 62 frames.  
0618 May 1807. 69 frames.  
0687 June 1807. 67 frames.  
0754 July 1807. 68 frames.  
0822 August 1807. 55 frames.  
0877 September 1807. 15 frames.  
0892 October 1807. 53 frames.  
0893 Account Book, October–  
November 1807. 19  
frames.  
0945 November 1807. 33 frames.  
0978 December 1807. 34 frames.

## Reel 4

### Papers cont. July 1803–1805

0001 July 1803. 48 frames.  
0049 August 1803. 31 frames.  
0080 September 1803. 32 frames.  
0112 October 1803. 40 frames.  
0152 November 1803. 19 frames.  
0171 December 1803. 20 frames.  
0191 January 1804. 64 frames.  
0255 February 1804. 16 frames.  
0271 March 1804. 45 frames.  
0316 April 1804. 54 frames.  
0370 May 1804. 42 frames.  
0412 June 1804. 50 frames.  
0462 July 1804. 51 frames.  
0513 August 1804. 49 frames.  
0562 September 1804. 45 frames.  
0607 October 1804. 53 frames.  
0660 November 1804. 27 frames.  
0687 December 1804. 16 frames.  
0703 January 1805. 40 frames.  
0743 February 1805. 37 frames.  
0780 March 1805. 42 frames.  
0822 April 1805. 54 frames.  
0876 May 1805. 46 frames.  
0922 June 1805. 27 frames.  
0949 July 1805. 51 frames.  
1000 August 1805. 29 frames.  
1029 September 1805. 11 frames.  
1040 October 1805. 46 frames.  
1086 November 1805. 13 frames.  
1099 December 1805. 24 frames.

## Reel 6

### Papers cont. 1808–1809

0001 January 1808. 47 frames.  
0048 February 1808. 32 frames.  
0080 March 1808. 32 frames.  
0112 April 1808. 9 frames.  
0121 May 1808. 42 frames.  
0163 June 1808. 20 frames.  
0183 July 1808. 17 frames.  
0200 August 1808. 29 frames.  
0229 September 1808. 38 frames.  
0267 October 1808. 13 frames.  
0280 November 1808. 20 frames.  
0300 December 1808. 27 frames.  
0327 January 1809. 143 frames.  
0327 Account Book of  
A. Chouteau, 1809.  
97 frames.  
0470 February 1809. 48 frames.  
0518 March 1809. 41 frames.  
0559 April 1809. 19 frames.  
0578 May 1809. 57 frames.  
0635 June 1809. 42 frames.  
0677 July 1809. 50 frames.  
0727 August 1809. 33 frames.

## Reel 5

### Papers cont. 1806–1807

0001 January 1806. 46 frames.  
0047 February 1806. 36 frames.

Frame  
No.

0760 September 1809. 47 frames.  
0807 October 1809. 60 frames.  
0867 November 1809. 39 frames.  
0906 December 1809. 17 frames.

Frame  
No.

0988 September 1813. 3 frames.  
0991 October 1813. 8 frames.  
0999 November 1813. 16 frames.  
1013 December 1813. 16 frames.

Part 1

## Reel 7

### Papers cont. 1810-1813

0001 January 1810. 59 frames.  
0060 February 1810. 13 frames.  
0073 March 1810. 4 frames.  
0077 April 1810. 21 frames.  
0098 May 1810. 14 frames.  
0112 June 1810. 35 frames.  
0147 July 1810. 36 frames.  
0183 August 1810. 23 frames.  
0206 September 1810. 25 frames.  
0231 October 1810. 19 frames.  
0250 November 1810. 22 frames.  
0272 December 1810. 11 frames.  
0283 January 1811. 67 frames.  
0350 February 1811. 8 frames.  
0358 March 1811. 32 frames.  
0390 April 1811. 11 frames.  
0401 May 1811. 21 frames.  
0422 June 1811. 21 frames.  
0443 July 1811. 41 frames.  
0484 August 1811. 17 frames.  
0501 September 1811. 21 frames.  
0522 October 1811. 9 frames.  
0531 November 1811. 14 frames.  
0545 December 1811. 26 frames.  
0571 January 1812. 18 frames.  
0589 February 1812. 7 frames.  
0596 March 1812. 26 frames.  
0622 April 1812. 11 frames.  
0633 May 1812. 14 frames.  
0647 June 1812. 27 frames.  
0674 July 1812. 23 frames.  
0697 August 1812. 29 frames.  
0726 September 1812. 15 frames.  
0741 October 1812. 11 frames.  
0752 November 1812. 29 frames.  
0781 December 1812. 9 frames.  
0790 January 1813. 67 frames.  
0857 February 1813. 38 frames.  
0895 March 1813. 12 frames.  
0907 April 1813. 14 frames.  
0921 May 1813. 13 frames.  
0934 June 1813. 22 frames.  
0956 July 1813. 6 frames.  
0962 August 1813. 26 frames.

## Reel 8

### Papers cont. 1814-1817

0001 January 1814. 31 frames.  
0032 February 1814. 3 frames.  
0035 March 1814. 24 frames.  
0059 April 1814. 18 frames.  
0077 May 1814. 11 frames.  
0088 June 1814. 19 frames.  
0107 July 1814. 15 frames.  
0122 August 1814. 37 frames.  
0159 September 1814. 16 frames.  
0175 October 1814. 80 frames.  
0255 November 1814. 79 frames.  
0334 December 1814. 58 frames.  
0392 January 1815. 46 frames.  
0438 February 1815. 7 frames.  
0445 March 1815. 20 frames.  
0465 April 1815. 6 frames.  
0471 May 1815. 27 frames.  
0498 June 1815. 15 frames.  
0513 July 1815. 10 frames.  
0523 August 1815. 8 frames.  
0531 September 1815. 16 frames.  
0547 October 1815. 15 frames.  
0562 November 1815. 17 frames.  
0579 December 1815. 13 frames.  
0592 January 1816. 9 frames.  
0601 February 1816. 16 frames.  
0617 March 1816. 32 frames.  
0649 April 1816. 12 frames.  
0661 May 1816. 16 frames.  
0677 June 1816. 16 frames.  
0693 July 1816. 19 frames.  
0712 August 1816. 12 frames.  
0724 September 1816. 29 frames.  
0753 October 1816. 17 frames.  
0770 November 1816. 8 frames.  
0778 December 1816. 11 frames.  
0789 January 1817. 15 frames.  
0804 February 1817. 21 frames.  
0825 March 1817. 28 frames.  
0853 April 1817. 33 frames.  
0870 Bank Book of Auguste  
Chouteau, April 23,  
1817-February 5, 1819.  
16 frames.

0886 May 1817. 28 frames.  
0914 June 1817. 17 frames.  
0931 July 1817. 18 frames.  
0949 August 1817. 21 frames.  
0970 September 1817. 17 frames.  
0987 October 1817. 29 frames.  
1016 November 1817. 8 frames.  
1024 December 1817. 25 frames.

## Reel 9

### Papers cont. 1818–June 1820

0001 January 1818. 54 frames.  
0055 February 1818. 10 frames.  
0065 March 1818. 40 frames.  
0105 April 1818. 8 frames.  
0113 May 1818. 45 frames.  
0132 Bank Book of M. P. Leduc, May 19, 1818–August 24, 1821. 14 frames.  
0158 June 1818. 27 frames. [*see also* frame 0223 below]  
0185 July 1818. 49 frames.  
0213 Account Book of Chouteau & St. Vrain, Undated, ca. 1818. 10 frames.  
0223 Misfile, June 19, 1818. 5 frames.  
0234 August 1818. 58 frames.  
0292 September 1818. 21 frames.  
0313 October 1818. 51 frames.  
0364 November 1818. 17 frames.  
0381 December 1818. 5 frames.  
0386 January 1819. 102 frames.  
0488 February 1819. 19 frames.  
0507 March 1819. 45 frames.  
0552 May 1819. 33 frames.  
0585 June 1819. 31 frames.  
0616 July 1819. 18 frames.  
0634 August 1819. 47 frames.  
0681 September 1819. 33 frames.  
0713 October 1819. 3 frames.  
0716 November 1819. 14 frames.  
0730 December 1819. 2 frames.  
0732 January 1820. 49 frames.  
0781 February 1820. 42 frames.  
0823 March 1820. 54 frames.  
0877 April 1820. 17 frames.  
0894 May 1820. 17 frames.  
0911 June 1820. 20 frames.

## Reel 10

### Papers cont. July 1820–1822

0001 July 1820. 30 frames.  
0031 August 1820. 31 frames.  
0062 September 1820. 19 frames.  
0081 October 1820. 25 frames.  
0106 November 1820. 24 frames.  
0130 December 1820. 20 frames.  
0150 January 1821. 90 frames.  
0240 February 1821. 10 frames.  
0250 March 1821. 28 frames.  
0278 April 1821. 7 frames.  
0285 May 1821. 8 frames.  
0293 June 1821. 11 frames.  
0304 July 1821. 15 frames.  
0319 August 1821. 27 frames.  
0346 September 1821. 18 frames.  
0364 October 1821. 22 frames.  
0386 November 1821. 3 frames.  
0389 December 1821. 17 frames.  
0406 January 1822. 107 frames.  
0471 Personal Account Book of Auguste Chouteau, January 1822–November 1827. 28 frames.  
0513 February 1822. 23 frames.  
0536 March 1822. 45 frames.  
0581 April 1822. 62 frames.  
0643 May 1822. 45 frames.  
0688 June 1822. 37 frames.  
0725 July 1822. 93 frames.  
0818 August 1822. 38 frames.  
0856 September 1822. 27 frames.  
0883 October 1822. 30 frames.  
0913 November 1822. 21 frames.  
0934 December 1822. 16 frames.

## Reel 11

### Papers cont. 1823–June 1824

0001 January 1823. 81 frames.  
0082 February 1823. 35 frames.  
0117 March 1823. 37 frames.  
0154 April 1823. 63 frames.  
0217 May 1823. 49 frames.  
0266 June 1823. 37 frames.  
0303 July 1823. 53 frames.  
0356 August 1823. 81 frames.

0437 September 1823. 68 frames.  
0505 October 1823. 85 frames.  
0590 November 1823. 58 frames.  
0648 December 1823. 55 frames.  
0703 January 1824. 56 frames.  
0759 February 1824. 31 frames.  
0790 March 1824. 46 frames.  
0836 April 1824. 39 frames.  
0875 May 1824. 53 frames.  
0928 June 1824. 39 frames.

0234 January 1827. 38 frames.  
0272 February 1827. 15 frames.  
0285 March 1827. 9 frames.  
0294 April 1827. 13 frames.  
0307 May 1827. 20 frames.  
0327 June 1827. 58 frames.  
0385 July 1827. 125 frames.  
0510 August 1827. 162 frames.  
0672 September 1827. 114 frames.  
0786 October 1827. 121 frames.  
0907 November 1827. 78 frames.  
0933 Inventory, Columbian Fur  
Co., November 10, 1827.  
16 frames.  
0985 December 1827. 38 frames.

## Reel 12

### Papers cont. July 1824—June 1826

0001 July 1824. 29 frames.  
0030 August 1824. 87 frames.  
0117 September 1824. 67 frames.  
0184 October 1824. 87 frames.  
0271 November 1824. 67 frames.  
0338 December 1824. 66 frames.  
0404 January 1825. 75 frames.  
0479 February 1825. 17 frames.  
0496 March 1825. 18 frames.  
0514 April 1825. 41 frames.  
0555 May 1825. 15 frames.  
0570 June 1825. 29 frames.  
0599 July 1825. 22 frames.  
0621 August 1825. 6 frames.  
0627 September 1825. 17 frames.  
0644 October 1825. 6 frames.  
0650 November 1825. 26 frames.  
0676 December 1825. 9 frames.  
0685 January 1826. 61 frames.  
0746 February 1826. 50 frames.  
0796 March 1826. 70 frames.  
0866 April 1826. 70 frames.  
0936 May 1826. 50 frames.  
0986 June 1826. 59 frames.

## Reel 13

### Papers cont. July 1826—1827

0001 July 1826. 32 frames.  
0033 August 1826. 46 frames.  
0079 September 1826. 34 frames.  
0113 October 1826. 23 frames.  
0136 November 1826. 43 frames.  
0179 December 1826. 55 frames.

## Reel 14

### Papers cont. 1828

0001 January 1828. 128 frames.  
0129 February 1828. 66 frames.  
0196 March 1828. 74 frames.  
0270 April 1828. 77 frames.  
0347 May 1828. 88 frames.  
0435 June 1828. 118 frames.  
0553 July 1828. 69 frames.  
0622 August 1828. 145 frames.  
0767 September 1828. 82 frames.  
0849 October 1828. 68 frames.  
0917 November 1828. 39 frames.  
0956 December 1828. 68 frames.

## Reel 15

### Papers cont. January—October 1829

0001 January 1829. 87 frames.  
0088 February 1829. 27 frames.  
0115 March 1829. 39 frames.  
0154 April 1829. 105 frames.  
0259 May 1829. 211 frames.  
0470 June 1829. 99 frames.  
0569 July 1829. 177 frames.  
0746 August 1829. 178 frames.  
0924 September 1829. 114 frames.  
1038 October 1829. 65 frames.

## Reel 16

### Papers cont. November 1829– September 1830

- 0001 November 1829. 104 frames.  
0105 December 1829. 104 frames.  
0209 January 1830. 228 frames.  
0399 Journal of Fort  
Tecumseh, January 31–  
June 13, 1830.  
38 frames.  
0437 February 1830. 14 frames.  
0451 March 1830. 41 frames.  
0492 April 1830. 78 frames.  
0570 May 1830. 89 frames.  
0659 June 1830. 206 frames.  
0790 Journal of Fort  
Tecumseh, June 14,  
1830–April 8, 1831.  
27 frames.  
0865 July 1830. 114 frames.  
0970 Misfile, November 24–  
25, 1830. 9 frames.  
0979 August 1830. 77 frames.  
1056 September 1830. 40 frames.

## Reel 17

### Papers cont. October 1830–April 1831

- 0001 October 1830. 73 frames.  
0074 November 1830. 141 frames. [*see  
also* Reel 16, frame 0970 above]  
0085 Fort Tecumseh and Fort  
Pierre Letterbook,  
November 1, 1830–  
December 14, 1832.  
75 frames.  
0215 December 1830. 56 frames.  
0271 January 1831. 258 frames.  
0271 Packing Account of  
Goods for Kanza Outfit,  
1831–1833. 26 frames.  
0529 February 1831. 105 frames.  
0634 March 1831. 283 frames.  
0917 April 1831. 224 frames.

## Reel 18

### Papers cont. May–October 1831

- 0001 May 1831. 134 frames.  
0135 June 1831. 180 frames.  
0315 July 1831. 175 frames.  
0490 August 1831. 243 frames.  
0733 September 1831. 147 frames.  
0880 October 1831. 173 frames.

## Reel 19

### Papers cont. November 1831–June 1832

- 0001 November 1831. 84 frames.  
0085 December 1831. 98 frames.  
0183 January 1832. 246 frames.  
0389 Fort Tecumseh Journal,  
January 27, 1832–June  
1, 1833. 26 frames.  
0429 February 1832. 199 frames.  
0628 March 1832. 199 frames.  
0827 April 1832. 66 frames.  
0893 May 1832. 76 frames.  
0969 June 1832. 151 frames.

## Reel 20

### Papers cont. July 1832–January 1833

- 0001 July 1832. 177 frames.  
0178 August 1832. 85 frames.  
0263 September 1832. 109 frames. [*see  
also* frame 0486 below]  
0358 Misfile, October 24,  
1832. 2 frames.  
0372 October 1832. 112 frames. [*see  
also* frame 0358 above]  
0484 November 1832. 106 frames.  
0486 Misfile, September 1,  
1832. 6 frames.  
0590 December 1832. 170 frames.  
0697 Fort Pierre Letterbook,  
December 20, 1832–  
August 25, 1835.  
63 frames.  
0760 January 1833. 366 frames.

## Reel 21

### Papers cont. February–June 1833

0001 February 1833. 146 frames.  
0147 March 1833. 210 frames.  
0357 April 1833. 190 frames.  
0547 May 1833. 182 frames.  
0729 June 1833. 223 frames.

## Reel 22

### Papers cont. July–December 1833

0001 July 1833. 261 frames.  
0262 August 1833. 153 frames.  
0415 September 1833. 210 frames.  
0625 October 1833. 211 frames.  
0780 Fort Union Letterbook,  
October 29, 1833–  
December 10, 1835.  
53 frames.  
0836 November 1833. 180 frames.  
1016 December 1833. 91 frames.

## Reel 23

### Papers cont. 1834

0001 January 1834. 158 frames.  
0001 Packing Account of Sac  
Outfit, 1834–1836.  
43 frames.  
0044 Packing Account of  
Kansas [Kansas] Outfit,  
1834–1836. 39 frames.  
0159 February 1834. 65 frames.  
0224 March 1834. 144 frames.  
0347 Daybook Account of  
Indians with American  
Fur Co., March 30–July  
3, 1834. 18 frames.  
0368 April 1834. 124 frames.  
0492 May 1834. 153 frames.  
0645 June 1834. 88 frames.  
0733 July 1834. 95 frames.  
0828 August 1834. 46 frames.  
0874 September 1834. 144 frames.

1018 October 1834. 104 frames.  
1122 November 1834. 61 frames.  
1183 December 1834. 52 frames.

## Reel 24

### Papers cont. 1835–June 1837

0001 January 1835. 31 frames.  
0032 February 1835. 10 frames.  
0042 March 1835. 17 frames.  
0059 April 1835. 9 frames.  
0068 May 1835. 61 frames.  
0129 June 1835. 51 frames.  
0180 July 1835. 42 frames.  
0222 August 1835. 10 frames.  
0232 September 1835. 34 frames.  
0266 October 1835. 32 frames.  
0298 November 1835. 8 frames.  
0306 December 1835. 21 frames.  
0327 January 1836. 64 frames.  
0391 February 1836. 33 frames.  
0424 March 1836. 38 frames.  
0462 April 1836. 20 frames.  
0482 May 1836. 43 frames.  
0525 June 1836. 72 frames.  
0597 July 1836. 92 frames.  
0689 August 1836. 51 frames.  
0740 September 1836. 43 frames.  
0783 October 1836. 43 frames.  
0826 November 1836. 59 frames.  
0885 December 1836. 90 frames.  
0975 January 1837. 32 frames.  
1007 February 1837. 33 frames.  
1040 March 1837. 46 frames.  
1086 April 1837. 62 frames.  
1148 May 1837. 67 frames.  
1152 Packing Accounts for  
Fort Pierre and the Sioux  
Outfit, Spring 1837 and  
May 3, 1837. 13 frames.  
1215 June 1837. 53 frames.

## Reel 25

### Papers cont. July 1837–February 1839

0001 July 1837. 17 frames.  
0018 August 1837. 31 frames.  
0049 September 1837. 55 frames.

Frame  
No.

Frame  
No.

Part 1

0104	October 1837. 28 frames.	0291	May 1840. 32 frames.
0132	November 1837. 70 frames.	0323	June 1840. 23 frames.
0202	December 1837. 85 frames.	0346	July 1840. 18 frames.
0287	January 1838. 165 frames.	0364	August 1840. 40 frames.
	0294 Julia Augusta Gratiot (Chouteau) Souvenir Album and Memory Book, 1838–1842. 26 frames.	0404	September 1840. 11 frames.
		0415	October 1840. 14 frames.
0452	February 1838. 44 frames.	0429	November 1840. 36 frames.
0496	March 1838. 64 frames.	0465	December 1840. 38 frames.
0560	April 1838. 64 frames.	0503	January 1841. 24 frames.
0624	May 1838. 32 frames.	0527	February 1841. 33 frames.
0656	June 1838. 30 frames.	0560	March 1841. 72 frames.
0686	July 1838. 47 frames.	0632	April 1841. 14 frames.
0733	August 1838. 23 frames.	0646	May 1841. 60 frames.
0760	September 1838. 30 frames.	0706	June 1841. 80 frames.
0790	October 1838. 87 frames.	0786	July 1841. 35 frames.
0877	November 1838. 62 frames.	0821	August 1841. 18 frames.
0939	December 1838. 95 frames.	0839	September 1841. 16 frames.
1034	January 1839. 137 frames.	0855	October 1841. 24 frames.
	1034 Account Book with Shareholders of American Fur Co., 1839– 1848. 29 frames.	0879	November 1841. 37 frames.
		0916	December 1841. 17 frames.
1171	February 1839. 54 frames.	0933	January 1842. 78 frames.
		1011	February 1842. 14 frames.
		1025	March 1842. 27 frames.
		1052	April 1842. 23 frames.
		1075	May 1842. 32 frames.
		1107	June 1842. 20 frames.

## Reel 26

### Papers cont. March 1839–January 1840

0001	March 1839. 41 frames.
0042	April 1839. 87 frames.
0129	May 1839. 331 frames.
0460	June 1839. 41 frames.
0501	July 1839. 82 frames.
0583	August 1839. 142 frames.
0725	September 1839. 34 frames.
0759	October 1839. 171 frames.
0930	November 1839. 118 frames.
1048	December 1839. 31 frames.
1079	January 1840. 202 frames.

## Reel 27

### Papers cont. February 1840–June 1842

0001	February 1840. 130 frames.
0131	March 1840. 135 frames.
0266	April 1840. 25 frames.

## Reel 28

### Papers cont. July 1842–1844

0001	July 1842. 24 frames.
0025	August 1842. 67 frames.
0092	September 1842. 160 frames.
0252	October 1842. 34 frames.
0286	November 1842. 15 frames.
0301	December 1842. 99 frames.
0400	January 1843. 60 frames.
0460	February 1843. 26 frames.
0486	March 1843. 81 frames.
0567	April 1843. 75 frames.
0642	May 1843. 13 frames.
0655	June 1843. 14 frames.
0669	July 1843. 15 frames.
0684	August 1843. 14 frames.
0698	September 1843. 88 frames.
0786	October 1843. 19 frames.
0805	November 1843. 40 frames.
0845	December 1843. 30 frames.
0875	January 1844. 99 frames.
0922	Bank Book of Dr. William Maffitt, 1844–1849. 11 frames.

0974 February 1844. 34 frames.  
1008 March 1844. 33 frames.  
1041 April 1844. 37 frames.  
1078 May 1844. 37 frames.  
1115 June 1844. 13 frames.  
1128 July 1844. 16 frames.  
1144 August 1844. 38 frames.  
1182 September 1844. 6 frames.  
1188 October 1844. 31 frames.  
1219 November 1844. 45 frames.  
1264 December 1844. 19 frames.

## Reel 29

### Papers cont. 1845–May 1847

0001 January 1845. 113 frames.  
0001 Account Books of Dr.  
William Maffitt, 1845–  
1856. 41 frames.  
0114 February 1845. 12 frames.  
0126 March 1845. 20 frames.  
0146 April 1845. 25 frames.  
0171 May 1845. 42 frames.  
0213 June 1845. 50 frames.  
0237 Fort Pierre Letterbook,  
June 25, 1845–June 16,  
1846. 26 frames.  
0263 July 1845. 21 frames.  
0284 August 1845. 10 frames.  
0294 September 1845. 15 frames.  
0309 October 1845. 21 frames.  
0330 November 1845. 13 frames.  
0343 December 1845. 19 frames.  
0362 January 1846. 40 frames.  
0402 February 1846. 30 frames.  
0432 March 1846. 38 frames.  
0470 April 1846. 36 frames.  
0506 May 1846. 47 frames.  
0553 June 1846. 45 frames.  
0598 July 1846. 28 frames.  
0646 August 1846. 35 frames.  
0681 September 1846. 38 frames.  
0719 October 1846. 45 frames.  
0764 November 1846. 58 frames.  
0822 December 1846. 76 frames.  
0898 January 1847. 153 frames.  
0943 Account Book, 1847.  
21 frames.  
1051 February 1847. 24 frames.  
1075 March 1847. 30 frames.  
1105 April 1847. 113 frames.  
1218 May 1847. 59 frames.

## Reel 30

### Papers cont. June 1847–June 1849

0001 June 1847. 48 frames.  
0049 July 1847. 21 frames.  
0070 August 1847. 32 frames.  
0102 September 1847. 33 frames.  
0135 October 1847. 26 frames.  
0161 November 1847. 68 frames.  
0229 December 1847. 104 frames.  
0234 Fort Pierre Letterbook,  
December 1, 1847–May  
9, 1848. 29 frames.  
0333 January 1848. 131 frames.  
0464 February 1848. 265 frames.  
0729 March 1848. 27 frames.  
0756 April 1848. 27 frames.  
0783 May 1848. 54 frames.  
0827 June 1848. 33 frames.  
0860 July 1848. 13 frames.  
0873 August 1848. 27 frames.  
0900 September 1848. 20 frames.  
0920 October 1848. 12 frames.  
0932 November 1848. 40 frames.  
0972 December 1848. 25 frames.  
0997 January 1849. 97 frames.  
1029 Rent Book of Pierre  
Didier Papin, 1849–1851.  
24 frames.  
1094 February 1849. 56 frames.  
1100 Fort Pierre Letterbook,  
February 12, 1849–  
December 4, 1850.  
39 frames.  
1150 March 1849. 16 frames.  
1166 April 1849. 12 frames.  
1178 May 1849. 54 frames.  
1232 June 1849. 15 frames.

## Reel 31

### Papers cont. July 1849–September 1851

0001 July 1849. 12 frames.  
0013 August 1849. 32 frames.  
0021 Bank Book of Mrs.  
Victoire Labadie, August  
25, 1849–April 26, 1855.  
14 frames.  
0045 September 1849. 22 frames.



0067 October 1849. 27 frames.  
0094 November 1849. 45 frames.  
0139 December 1849. 88 frames.  
0227 January 1850. 107 frames.  
0334 February 1850. 15 frames.  
0349 March 1850. 28 frames.  
0377 April 1850. 23 frames.  
0400 May 1850. 20 frames.  
0420 June 1850. 82 frames.  
0502 July 1850. 32 frames.  
0534 August 1850. 28 frames.  
0562 September 1850. 54 frames.  
0616 October 1850. 13 frames.  
0629 November 1850. 36 frames.  
0665 December 1850. 58 frames.  
0723 January 1851. 55 frames.  
0778 February 1851. 29 frames.  
0807 March 1851. 54 frames.  
0861 April 1851. 23 frames.  
0884 May 1851. 55 frames.  
0939 June 1851. 120 frames.  
1059 July 1851. 63 frames.  
1122 August 1851. 58 frames.  
1180 September 1851. 37 frames.

## Reel 32

### Papers cont. October 1851–July 1854

0001 October 1851. 88 frames.  
0089 November 1851. 50 frames.  
0139 December 1851. 38 frames.  
0177 January 1852. 17 frames.  
0194 February 1852. 21 frames.  
0215 April 1852. 17 frames.  
0232 May 1852. 59 frames.  
0291 June 1852. 65 frames.  
0356 July 1852. 44 frames.  
0400 August 1852. 12 frames.  
0412 September 1852. 40 frames.  
0452 October 1852. 4 frames.  
0456 November 1852. 9 frames.  
0465 December 1852. 24 frames.  
0489 January 1853. 51 frames.  
0498 Record Book of the  
Steamboat *Robert  
Campbell*, 1853–1854.  
24 frames.  
0540 February 1853. 8 frames.  
0548 March 1853. 37 frames.  
0585 April 1853. 12 frames.  
0597 May 1853. 12 frames.  
0609 June 1853. 11 frames.

0620 July 1853. 41 frames.  
0661 August 1853. 15 frames.  
0676 September 1853. 17 frames.  
0693 October 1853. 39 frames.  
0732 November 1853. 35 frames.  
0767 December 1853. 59 frames.  
0826 January 1854. 43 frames.  
0869 February 1854. 39 frames.  
0918 March 1854. 42 frames.  
0960 April 1854. 29 frames.  
0989 May 1854. 56 frames.  
1045 June 1854. 63 frames.  
1108 July 1854. 89 frames.

## Reel 33

### Papers cont. August 1854–1855

0001 August 1854. 107 frames.  
0108 September 1854. 30 frames.  
0138 October 1854. 36 frames.  
0174 November 1854. 53 frames.  
0227 December 1854. 83 frames.  
0310 January 1855. 94 frames.  
0404 February 1854. 131 frames.  
0535 March 1855. 71 frames.  
0606 April 1855. 139 frames.  
0745 May 1855. 61 frames.  
0806 June 1855. 33 frames.  
0839 July 1855. 34 frames.  
0873 August 1855. 16 frames.  
0889 September 1855. 46 frames.  
0935 October 1855. 41 frames.  
0976 November 1855. 85 frames.  
1061 December 1855. 44 frames.

## Reel 34

### Papers cont. 1856–1859

0001 January 1856. 119 frames.  
0120 February 1856. 109 frames.  
0229 March 1856. 56 frames.  
0285 April 1856. 13 frames.  
0298 May 1856. 8 frames.  
0306 June 1856. 16 frames.  
0322 July 1856. 22 frames.  
0344 August 1856. 14 frames.  
0359 September 1856. 10 frames.  
0369 October 1856. 40 frames.

0409	November 1856. 14 frames.
0423	December 1856. 17 frames.
0440	January 1857. 61 frames.
0511	February 1857. 17 frames.
0528	March 1857. 17 frames.
0545	April 1857. 38 frames.
0583	May 1857. 17 frames.
0600	June 1857. 32 frames.
0632	July 1857. 16 frames.
0648	August 1857. 30 frames.
0678	September 1857. 13 frames.
0691	January 1858. 89 frames.
0780	March 1858. 3 frames.
0783	April 1858. 10 frames.
0793	May 1858. 5 frames.
0798	June 1858. 12 frames.
0810	July 1858. 20 frames.
0830	August 1858. 11 frames.
0841	September 1858. 45 frames.
0886	October 1858. 3 frames.
0889	November 1858. 3 frames.
0892	January 1859. 25 frames.
0917	February 1859. 16 frames.
0933	March 1859. 59 frames.
0992	April 1859. 20 frames.
1012	May 1859. 77 frames.
1089	June 1859. 17 frames.
1106	July 1859. 22 frames.
1128	August 1859. 4 frames.
1132	September 1859. 11 frames.
1143	October 1859. 37 frames.
1180	November 1859. 4 frames.
1184	December 1859. 51 frames. [ <i>see also</i> Reel 35, frame 0080 below]

## Reel 36

### Papers cont. 1868-1892

0001	1868. 76 frames.
0077	1869. 42 frames.
0119	1870. 156 frames.
0275	1871. 75 frames.
0350	1872. 64 frames.
0414	1873. 50 frames.
0464	1874. 73 frames.
0537	1875. 51 frames.
0578	1876. 45 frames.
0623	1877. 53 frames.
0676	1878. 70 frames.
0746	1879. 7 frames.
0753	1880. 32 frames.
0785	1881. 45 frames.
0830	1882. 12 frames.
0842	1883. 70 frames.
0912	1884. 35 frames.
0947	1885. 134 frames.
1081	1886. 30 frames.
1111	1887. 83 frames.
1152	Bank Book of J. G. Chouteau, December 7, 1887-July 1896. 42 frames.
1194	1888. 16 frames.
1210	1889. 25 frames.
1235	1890. 17 frames.
1252	1891. 20 frames.
1272	1892. 4 frames.

## Reel 35

### Papers cont. 1860-1867

0001	1860. 214 frames.
0080	Misfile, December 14, 1859. 5 frames.
0215	1861. 134 frames.
0349	1862. 50 frames.
0399	1863. 113 frames.
0512	1864. 204 frames.
0716	1865. 206 frames.
0922	1866. 186 frames.
1108	1867. 129 frames.

## Reel 37

### Papers cont. 1893-1975 and Undated

0001	1893. 30 frames.
0031	1894. 13 frames.
0044	1895. 39 frames.
0093	1896. 10 frames.
0103	1897. 11 frames.
0114	1898. 30 frames.
0144	1899-1921. 130 frames.
0278	1934-1975. 231 frames.

Frame  
No.

Frame  
No.

Part 1

0509 Undated. 800 frames.  
0692 Index to Account Book of  
Auguste Chouteau,  
Undated. 23 frames.  
0855 Exercise Book of Julia  
Maffitt, Undated.  
18 frames.

0350 [Letterbook] Volume 2, 1859–1860.  
550 frames.  
0900 [Letterbook] Volume 3, 1860–1861.  
200 frames.

## Reel 38

### Unprocessed Materials 1775–1854

0001 1775–1808. 12 frames.  
0013 1830. 2 frames.  
0015 1831. 8 frames.  
0023 1832. 6 frames.  
0029 1833. 26 frames.  
0055 1834. 7 frames.  
0062 1835. 18 frames.  
0080 1836. 63 frames.  
0143 1837. 42 frames.  
0148 Misfile, February 11,  
1838. 3 frames.  
0185 1838. 99 frames. [*see also* frame  
0148 above]  
0284 1839. 69 frames.  
0353 1840. 47 frames.  
0400 1841. 53 frames.  
0453 1842. 35 frames.  
0488 1843. 17 frames.  
0505 1844. 23 frames.  
0528 1845. 28 frames.  
0556 1846. 20 frames.  
0576 1847. 24 frames.  
0600 1848. 46 frames.  
0646 1849–1854. 37 frames.

### Pierre Chouteau, Jr. & Co. Letterbooks

0683 [Letterbook] Volume 1, 1856–1860.  
439 frames.

## Reel 39

### Pierre Chouteau, Jr. & Co. Letterbooks cont.

0001 [Letterbook] Volume 1, 1856–1860  
cont. 349 frames.

## Reel 40

### Pierre Chouteau, Jr. & Co. Letterbooks cont.

0001 [Letterbook] Volume 3, 1860–1861  
cont. 388 frames.

### Charles P. Chouteau Letterbook

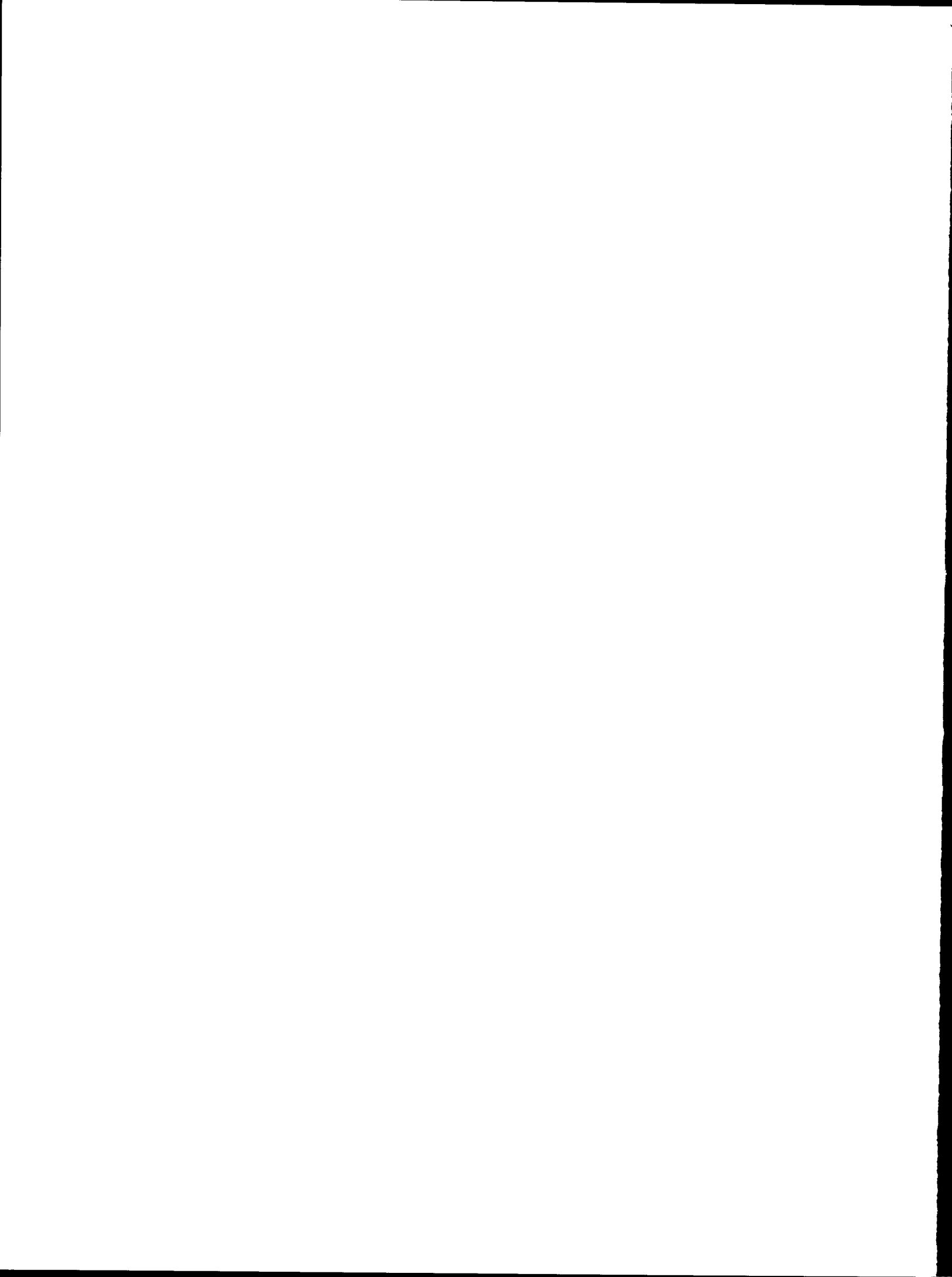
0389 [Letterbook 4] Volume 1, 1884–  
1888. 326 frames.

### Estate Papers and Miscellany 1802–1874 and Undated

0715 Madame Theresa Chouteau (née  
Bourgeois), 1814. 25 frames.  
0740 Charles Gratiot, 1817–1823 and  
Undated. 9 frames.  
0749 Regis Loisel, 1809. 33 frames.  
0782 Joseph Robidoux, 1809–1811.  
94 frames.  
0876 Auguste A. Chouteau, 1809–1820.  
33 frames.  
0909 St. Paul Le Croix, 1815–1822.  
13 frames.  
0922 Committee for Building Cathedral,  
1819. 3 frames.  
0925 Auguste A. Chouteau, 1830–1839.  
45 frames.  
0970 Pierre Chouteau, Sr., 1808–1836.  
30 frames.  
1000 Pierre Chouteau, Jr., 1824–1838.  
13 frames.  
1013 Henry Chouteau, 1830–1840.  
9 frames.  
1022 Miscellany, 1802–1874 and  
Undated. 43 frames.

# **PAPERS OF THE ST. LOUIS FUR TRADE**

**Part 2: Fur Company Ledgers  
and Accounts Books, 1802–1871**



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## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The American Fur Co. account books were donated by Pierre Chouteau, Jr., and other members of the Chouteau family circa 1920. The collection consists of 74 account books, primarily of the Western Department of the American Fur Co. (St. Louis), and its successor, Pierre Chouteau, Jr. & Co. Also included are account books of Pierre Chouteau, Sr.; Chouteau & Sarpy; Bernard Pratte & Co.; James A. Harrison; the Pacific Fur Co.; and the St. Louis Missouri Fur Co. Included are journals, ledgers, inventory books, cash books, day books, letterbooks, and receipt books. A key to terms follows on page 29. The collection spans the years 1802–1871, with the bulk of the account books falling between 1822–1860.

The first 54 volumes, each assigned a letter of the alphabet A–Z, AA–ZZ, and AAA–BBB, are arranged in a rough chronological order, since most of them overlap the following volumes somewhat. The last 20 volumes, which were added to the collection later, were not assigned an alphabetical designation but were numbered 1–20.

The index to the American Fur Co. account books is reproduced on the last reel of this microfilm set and includes proper names and geographical locations. The index lists the volume letter and page number in each volume where a person or place is mentioned. With the exception of volume 3, the last 20 volumes are not included in the index. Volumes 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, and 7 each contain their own indexes. Volumes 8–20 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.

Descriptions of each volume appear in the Reel Index.



## **NOTE ON SOURCES**

The collection microfilmed in this edition is a holding of the Missouri Historical Society, Library and Archives, 225 S. Skinker Boulevard, St. Louis, MO 63105.

## **EDITORIAL NOTE**

The Fur Company Ledgers and Account Books were microfilmed for the Missouri Historical Society in 1984. The microfilm in this part does not have a frame counter; however, the pages within each volume are numbered.

## 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.

**Cash Book:** A record showing all transactions involving the receipt of cash. Cash Books are less likely to contain inventories of trade items and prices paid for furs and peltries.

**Day Book:** See description of Journal.

**Inventory Book:** An inventory of merchandise with cost of goods sold.

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

**Letterbook:** A chronological compilation of letters sent to various correspondents.

**Receipt Book:** A chronological compilation of receipts acknowledging the receiving of goods or money.

**Record Book:** A compilation of letters, legal agreements, and financial records relating to a particular enterprise.



# REEL INDEX

## Reel 1

### Indexed Volumes

- Volume A, American Fur Co., St. Louis, Samuel Abbott, Agent, Invoices Out, 1822. 40pp.
- Volume B, American Fur Co., St. Louis, Samuel Abbott, Agent, Invoices In, 1822. 28pp.
- Volume C, American Fur Co., St. Louis, Samuel Abbott, Agent, Inventory, 1822-1823. 60pp.
- Volume D, Bernard Pratte & Co., St. Louis, Journal A, 1822-1825. 453pp.
- Volume E, American Fur Co., St. Louis, Samuel Abbott, Agent, Cash Book, 1822-1827. 60pp.
- Volume F, American Fur Co., St. Louis, Samuel Abbott, Agent, Journal, 1822-1828. 181pp.
- Volume G, American Fur Co., St. Louis, Samuel Abbott, Agent, Ledger A, 1822-1829. 154pp.
- Volume H, Bernard Pratte & Co., St. Louis, Ledger A, 1822-1833. 377pp. (Pages 1-263 on Reel 1, continued on Reel 2)

## Reel 2

### Indexed Volumes cont.

- Volume H, Bernard Pratte & Co., St. Louis, Ledger A, 1822-1833 cont. (Pages 264-377)
- Volume I, American Fur Co., Western Department, St. Louis, O. N. Bostwick, Agent, Cash Book A, 1823-1825. 262pp.
- Volume J, American Fur Co., Western Department, St. Louis, O. N. Bostwick, Agent, Ledger, Accounts Current, 1823-1827. 178pp.
- Volume K, American Fur Co., Western Department, St. Louis, O. N. Bostwick, Agent, Journal A, 1823-1826. 447pp.
- Volume L, American Fur Co., Western Department, St. Louis, O. N. Bostwick, Agent, Ledger, 1823-1828. 345pp.

## Reel 3

### Indexed Volumes cont.

- Volume M, Bernard Pratte & Co., St. Louis, Journal B., 1825-1826. 378pp.
- Volume N, American Fur Co., Western Department, St. Louis, O. N. Bostwick, Agent, Cash Book B, 1826-1827. 234pp.
- Volume O, American Fur Co., Western Department, St. Louis, O. N. Bostwick, Agent, Journal B, 1826-1829. 348pp.
- Volume P, American Fur Co., Western Department, St. Louis, Pierre Chouteau, Jr., Agent, Retail Store Ledger A, 1827-1829. 559pp. (Pages 1-357 on Reel 3, continued on Reel 4)

## Reel 4

### Indexed Volumes cont.

- Volume P, American Fur Co., Western Department, St. Louis, Pierre Chouteau, Jr., Agent, Retail Store Ledger A, 1827–1829 cont. (Pages 358–559)
- Volume Q, Bernard Pratte & Co., St. Louis, Journal D., 1826–1833. 396pp.
- Volume R, American Fur Co., Western Department, St. Louis, Pierre Chouteau, Jr., Agent, Retail Store Ledger B, 1829–1833. 526pp.
- Volume S, American Fur Co., Western Department, St. Louis, Pierre Chouteau, Jr., Agent, Packing Book No. 2, 1830–1833. 264pp. (Pages 1–99 on Reel 4, continued on Reel 5)

## Reel 5

### Indexed Volumes cont.

- Volume S, American Fur Co., Western Department, St. Louis, Pierre Chouteau, Jr., Agent, Packing Book No. 2, 1830–1833 cont. (Pages 100–264)
- Volume T, American Fur Co., Western Department, St. Louis, Pierre Chouteau, Jr., Agent, Upper Missouri Outfit, Ledger B, 1830–1834. 628pp.
- Volume U, American Fur Co., Western Department, St. Louis, Pierre Chouteau, Jr., Agent, Retail Store Ledger C, 1831–1836. 529pp.

## Reel 6

### Indexed Volumes cont.

- Volume V, American Fur Co., Western Department, St. Louis, Pierre Chouteau, Jr., Agent, Post Accounts Current, Ledger D, 1831–1836. 401pp.
- Volume W, American Fur Co., Western Department, St. Louis, Pierre Chouteau, Jr., Agent, Upper Missouri Outfit, Ledger C, 1833–1836. 401pp.
- Volume X, Pratte, Chouteau & Co., St. Louis, Retail Store Ledger A, 1834–1837. 529pp.

## Reel 7

### Indexed Volumes cont.

- Volume Y, Pratte, Chouteau & Co., St. Louis, Invoices Out, 1834–1839. 372pp.
- Volume Z, Pratte, Chouteau & Co., St. Louis, Invoice Blotter B, 1836–1839. 507pp.
- Volume AA, Pratte, Chouteau & Co., St. Louis, Retail Store Ledger B, 1837–1841. 425pp. (Pages 1–177 on Reel 7, continued on Reel 8)

## Reel 8

### Indexed Volumes cont.

- Volume AA, Pratte, Chouteau & Co., St. Louis, Retail Store Ledger B, 1837–1841 cont.  
(Pages 178–425)  
Volume BB, Pierre Chouteau, Jr. & Co. (No. 1), St. Louis, Merchandise Ledger, 1839–1842.  
358pp.  
Volume CC, Pierre Chouteau, Jr. & Co. (No. 1), St. Louis, Retail Store Ledger, 1839–1841.  
490pp.

## Reel 9

### Indexed Volumes cont.

- Volume DD, Pierre Chouteau, Jr. & Co. (No. 1), St. Louis, Invoice Blotter No. 1, 1839–1841.  
340pp.  
Volume EE, Pierre Chouteau, Jr. & Co. (No. 2), St. Louis, Journal, 1841–1852. 409pp.  
Volume FF, Pierre Chouteau, Jr. & Co. (No. 2), St. Louis, Merchandise Ledger, 1842–1848.  
643pp. (Pages 1–536 on Reel 9, continued on Reel 10)

## Reel 10

### Indexed Volumes cont.

- Volume FF, Pierre Chouteau, Jr. & Co. (No. 2), St. Louis, Merchandise Ledger, 1842–1848  
cont. (Pages 537–643)  
Volume GG, Pierre Chouteau, Jr. & Co. (No. 2), St. Louis, Ledger, 1842–1845. 486pp.  
Volume HH, Pierre Chouteau, Jr. & Co. (No. 2), St. Louis, Cash Book, 1842–1846. 462pp.  
Volume II, Pierre Chouteau, Jr. & Co. (No. 2), Fort Pierre, Ledger B, 1842–1848. 451pp.  
(Pages 1–269 on Reel 10, continued on Reel 11)

## Reel 11

### Indexes Volumes cont.

- Volume II, Pierre Chouteau, Jr. & Co. (No. 2), Fort Pierre, Ledger B, 1842–1848 cont. (Pages  
270–451)  
Volume JJ, Pierre Chouteau, Jr. & Co. (No. 2), St. Louis, Inventories No. 2, 1844–1846.  
491pp.

## Reel 12

### Indexed Volumes cont.

- Volume KK, Pierre Chouteau, Jr. & Co. (No. 2), St. Louis, Indian Ledger, 1846–1848. 251pp.  
Volume LL, Pierre Chouteau, Jr. & Co. (No. 2), St. Louis, Inventories No. 3, 1847–1850.  
486pp.

## Reel 13

### Indexed Volumes cont.

Volume MM, Pierre Chouteau, Jr. & Co. (Chouteau, Merle & Sanford), New York, Ledger, 1847-1850. 794pp.

Volume NN, Pierre Chouteau, Jr. & Co. (No. 2), St. Louis, Ledger, 1849-1852. 355pp.

## Reel 14

### Indexed Volumes cont.

Volume OO, Pierre Chouteau, Jr. & Co. (No. 2), St. Louis, Invoice Blotter No. 4, 1848-1850. 472pp.

Volume PP, Pierre Chouteau, Jr. & Co., New York, Journal, 1858-1859. 218pp.

Volume QQ, Pierre Chouteau, Jr. & Co., New York, Ledger 1858-1860. 205pp.

Volume RR, Pierre Chouteau, Jr. & Co. (No. 3), St. Louis, Invoices In, 1850-1856. 351pp.

## Reel 15

### Indexed Volumes cont.

Volume SS, Pierre Chouteau, Jr. & Co. (No. 3), St. Louis, Journal No. 1, 1852-1859. 259pp.

Volume TT, Pierre Chouteau, Jr. & Co., New York, Journal No. 6, 1852-1854. 783pp. (Pages 1-600 on Reel 15, continued on Reel 16)

## Reel 16

### Indexed Volumes cont.

Volume TT, Pierre Chouteau, Jr. & Co., New York, Journal No. 6, 1852-1854 cont. (Pages 601-783)

Volume UU, Pierre Chouteau, Jr. & Co., New York, Journal No. 7, 1854-1855. 275pp.

Volume VV, Pierre Chouteau, Jr. & Co., New York, Journal No. 8, 1855-1856. 780pp.

Volume WW, Pierre Chouteau, Jr. & Co. (No. 3), St. Louis, Journal No. 2, 1856-1858. 76pp.

## Reel 17

### Indexed Volumes cont.

Volume XX, Pierre Chouteau, Jr. & Co. (No. 4), St. Louis, Journal No. 1, 1856-1858. 214pp.

Volume ZZ, American Fur Co., Northern Department, Michilimackinac, Journal, 1834-1851. 497pp.

Volume AAA, American Fur Co., St. Louis, Samuel Abbott, Agent, Journal (Contemporary copy of Volume F), 1822-1823. 115pp.

Volume BBB, Pierre Chouteau, Jr. & Co. (No. 2), Sac Outfit, Cash Book, 1843-1846. 21pp.

### Volumes with Internal Indexes

Volume 1, St. Louis Missouri Fur Co., St. Louis, Record Book, 1809-1812. 150pp.

## Reel 18

### Volumes with Internal Indexes cont.

Volume 2, American Fur Co., Northern Department, Michilimackinac, Ramsay Crooks/Robert Stuart Letterbook, 1816–1820. 358pp.

### Indexed Volumes cont.

Volume 3, Pierre Chouteau, Sr., St. Louis, Ledger, 1802–1816. 548pp.

### Volumes with Internal Indexes cont.

Volume 4, Pierre Chouteau, Jr., St. Louis, Personal Ledger, 1821–1841. 145pp.

Volume 5, Pierre Chouteau, Jr., St. Louis, Personal Ledger, 1836–1855. 175pp.

Volume 6, Pierre Chouteau, Jr., St. Louis, Personal Ledger (fragment), 1847–1854. 8pp.

## Reel 19

### Volumes with Internal Indexes cont.

Volume 7, Pierre Chouteau, Jr. & Co. (No. 3), St. Louis, Ledger, 1853–1857. 173pp.

### Unindexed Volumes

Volume 8, Pierre Chouteau, Jr. & Co. (No. 3), St. Louis, Journal, 1855–1862. 249pp.

Volume 9, Charles P. Chouteau and R. H. Cole, St. Louis, "Nut Factory" Ledger, 1856–1859. 146pp.

Volume 10, Pierre Chouteau, Jr. & Co. (No. 5), St. Louis, Ledger, Accounts Current, 1869–1871. 146pp.

Volume 11, Pierre Chouteau, Jr. & Co. (No. 5), St. Louis, Balances, 1857–1870. 129pp.

Volume 12, Pierre Chouteau, Jr. & Co. (No. 5), St. Louis, Journal, 1864–1868. 317pp.

## Reel 20

### Unindexed Volumes cont.

Volume 13, Pierre Chouteau, Jr. & Co. (No. 5), St. Louis, Receipt Book, 1857–1868. 430pp.

Volume 14, American Fur Co., Chicago, Chicago Outfit Account Book, 1818–1823. 298pp.

Volume 15, Pacific Fur Co., Astoria, Columbia River, Record Book (Wilson Price Hunt's copy), 1810–1813. 90pp.

## Reel 21

### Unindexed Volumes cont.

Volume 16, Wilson Price Hunt, St. Louis, Journal No. 5 (sales of furs), 1840–1841. 308pp.

Volume 17, Pierre Chouteau, Jr. & Co., New York, Sales Book, 1859–1864. 71pp.



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### Unindexed Volumes cont.

- Volume 18, Bernard Pratte & Co., St. Louis, Journal C, 1826–1828. 355pp.  
Volume 19, Pierre Chouteau, Sr., St. Louis, Journal, 1804. 680pp.  
Volume 20, Pierre Chouteau, Sr., St. Louis, Letterbook, 1814–1819. 175pp.

## Reel 23

### Index

Index to the Microfilm Edition of the American Fur Trade Ledgers at the Missouri Historical Society, 1984. 1,398pp. (With Introduction, Description, and Addenda of Variant Name Spellings, covers Volumes A–BBB and Volume 3)

