



## ELP and ESP Station Handout Trapper Station

### INTRODUCTION

This handout will help you lead the Trapper station on your ELP or ESP day. You will learn about the history and the occupation of fur trapping, during John Sutter's time in the 1840s. Through the Trapper station, your students will learn about history and have the opportunity for a hands-on activity. The students will learn some of the skills required of the hunters and trappers of the 1840s. Activities explained in this handout:

- The importance of fur trade
- The importance of conservation.
- Basic tracking.
- Basic survival skills - shelter building and fire making.
- Basic leather work and other Native American Skills

### THE PEOPLE

John Sutter's trappers were a group of men between careers. In early 1840s, the economy of the fur trade put many men out of work. The American beaver trade, of the last 150 years, had nearly disappeared due a new fashion trend. Silk top hats replaced beaver felt hats. When trapping started to disappear, many trappers became scouts and guides.

However, Sutter was always looking for a way to make money and entered the weakened fur trade. Beaver fur was nearly worthless, but Sutter had his own hatter and could make money from other furs. Otter and Muskrat furs were now the most valuable and tied to the Chinese silk trade.

Sutter hired every experienced and inexperienced trapper he could find to field brigades. His brigades were mildly successful. Economics and the Hudson's Bay Company (HBC) were the major reasons. The HBC had created a buffer, a dead zone, between California and the Oregon Country. They did this by killing every fur-bearing animal they could find in Northern California. This limited Sutter's Brigades to the "wilds," the swamp we now call the Sacramento - San Joaquin Delta. This hurt Sutter's profits.

The clothing worn by the trapper was the best he could afford. When at the Fort, greasy buckskin trousers were replaced by wool, corduroy or canvas if possible. A cotton or homespun shirt with a vest or a hunter's coat of cloth or buckskin were normal. A wide leather belt or sash held a large butcher knife about his waist. A wide brimmed beaver felt hat on his head, moccasins on his feet, a shooting pouch on his shoulder, and a rifle in his hand completed his outfit.





## THE PLACE

The trapper's station is a tent set up in the west yard of the Fort between the kitchen fire and the carpenter's shop. On a rainy day, the station sets up under the covered area between the Northwest Bastion and the Distillery. In case of inclement weather, the station may be moved. Check with the ELP Coordinator in this case.

## RUNNING THE STATION

The trapper station is a very popular station not only for the students participating on the ELP/ESP day, but also for the general public. It is important to be aware your teacher's expectations of the station prior to your ELP or ESP day. The Fort supplies a trapper box, which contains, furs, traps, blankets, and other trapper tools/materials. There are other supplemental materials for the station located in the ELP Storeroom such as a musket, beaver rounds, and a deer hide. It is important on your arrival to the Fort that you inventory these materials prior to setting up the station.

### Safety and Precautions

Today, it is hard to imagine the dangers in a frontiersman's life. Trappers made their living by the gun, knife, and trap. Your students, for the most part, won't be dealing with these. There are, however, a few points to consider.

1. Make sure to handle all supplies with care. If you break or misplace items, you will have to replace them. Always be aware of your surroundings. The Fort can be very busy with visiting school groups. If your station is at a tent, small items can "walk away" if left unattended.
2. Make sure the students and public touch the furs with only the backs of their hands. The oils from your palm can damage the furs.
3. Be careful handling the traps. **DO NOT STEP ON THE SIDES OF THE TRAPS.** The proper way to set the traps is by hand.
4. The musket should be treated like a loaded firearm. Do not let the students point it at anybody.
5. With flint and steel, a child or two will probably cut their knuckles. A box of band aids may come in handy. When starting fire, the two big things to watch out for are clothes and hair. Most of your students' costumes, especially the girls, will be made of lightweight cotton. Cotton burns easily and with loose fitting clothing, a small flame may not be noticed right away. Long hair should be tied back during this exercise. Male instructors please watch your beards and/or mustaches. **Have a bucket of water close by as well.**
6. Do not pass around the bowie knife to the students or public.
7. With the medicine bags, please be cautious with needles and awls. Pre-punching your leather medicine bags and having the children lace them is easier and safer, but the instructor should bring an awl along in case a hole needs to be punched or enlarged.
8. If you have any injuries occur, report them to Fort staff.





Following is a list of possible activities during the station rotation:

### **A. Furs and Fur Trade**

While passing around the some of the furs, explain to the children the economic importance of the fur trade. Explain how fashion style change made the fur trade decline. Trappers left their mark on the West. Many mountain routes, modern highways, and railroads follow trade routes across the Unites States. Below is an outline of information to cover.

#### Animal

- 1) Beaver
  - a. The soft hair was used to make felt hats like top hats
    - i. Top hats were a status symbol for the wealthy
  - b. \$0.50/lb of Beaver pelts
    - i. Sold as one hundred-pound packs
    - ii. Get \$50 per pack
    - iii. Average beaver pelt = 2 lbs
- 2) River Otter
  - a. Pelts were used for clothing, worn on the cuffs and collars of coats.
  - b. Traded in the far east for silk and spices with Chinese merchants.
- 3) Raccoon
  - a. Not as valuable as the river otter but served the same purpose and were traded for the same items.
  - b. Trappers did not wear raccoon skin caps. It was more of a myth.
- 4) Bobcats
  - a. Pelts used for quivers
  - b. This pelt was a status symbol for hunters and Natives.
- 5) Coyote
  - a. Eats chickens and other animals that were vital to the Fort community.
  - b. Sutter put a bounty on coyotes
- 6) Badger
  - a. More hair-like than fur
  - b. Made good brushes (i.e. shaving brush, varnish brush)
  - c. Pelt is not valuable.
- 7) Skunk
  - a. Used as hand muffs
- 8) Foxes
  - a. Previously not a lot of foxes because eaten by coyotes & wolves
  - b. A cheaper garment fur
- 9) Deer and Elk
  - a. Hunted for meat for not only trapping camps but also for the Fort
  - b. Hides used for clothing, belts, bags, etc.
  - c. Antlers could be cut to make buttons or handles for tools.

#### How to trap Beaver



1. Best time of year – Winter
  - a. Since pelts sold by the pound, want to catch when pelt thickest, heaviest
  - b. Winter is cold
    - i. Beaver eats more & gets fatter
    - ii. Pelt gets thicker against the cold
  - c. Dams not built with fast moving water, especially around here
  - d. Eat bark to keep teeth sharp & shorter
    - i. Teeth grow constantly like fingernails
    - ii. If allowed to grow unchecked, would prevent eating & puncture into sinuses
  - e. 80 lb animal, Pelt is 2 lbs, The meat was not consumed by trappers
2. Beaver is territorial animal
  - a. Beavers have a castor scent and would use that scent to mark their territory. The beaver mixes with mud and marks their territory with their tail.
  - b. When trapped, trappers would harvest the scent gland to use as bait on traps.
  - c. Beavers will survey their territory two times a day
  - d. They have a great sense of smell. Trappers would wear beaver scent to mask their own smell.
3. Trapping Beaver
  - a. Go to river
  - b. Drive stake into riverbed that about 3-4 ft deep with 12 inches sticking out of water
  - c. Put attached piece of wood on string on top of stake
  - d. Attach chained trap to stick and place up toward shore, underwater about 18 inches
  - e. Put castor scent on stick hanging above trap, which attracts beavers to fight to defend their territory
  - f. Beaver walks along the bottom and gets caught in trap
  - g. Frightened so swims back to deeper water and gets stuck underwater
  - h. Asphyxiates because forgot to take a breath within 2 minutes, technically doesn't drown
  - i. Cut out castor gland for future use
  - j. Keep tail as proof of kill
  - k. Tail made of fat/gristle - Used as butter or dip in cooking
4. River otter – Trapped with meat as bait since carnivorous

Ultimately, Beavers drove the fur trade

1. Beaver Felt
  - a. Beaver made the best quality and very durable felt
  - b. Boil, roll out, pound with a hammer
  - c. Best felt for hats
  - d. Beaver hats – Drove the trade market
    - i. Gentleman's Top Hats!
    - ii. Took 6-10 beavers / Top hat



- iii. Took 20 beavers / French broad hats
- iv. In 1830s, hats were around \$200

## **B. Conservation**

Conservation can be addressed with the Hudson's Bay Company kill zone in California. Trappers were not concerned about their impact on the environment.

## **C. Basic Tracking**

The Fort supplies a footprint sample board. The names are on the frame, but are covered with leather to create a guessing game. **However, please do not allow the children to pick up the footprint board. It is heavy, breakable and not easily replaceable.**

## **D. Survival Skills**

The program supplies a tent. Ask the children how trapper might protect himself from the weather if he were not at a cabin – e.g., lean-to made of canvas or leather, a brush or tree-branch lean-to, etc.

In the trapper box, materials are available for starting fires with flint and steel. This is a big thrill for the children, but you should practice ahead of time. Flint and steel kits may be purchased at the Sutter's Fort Trade Store. **Caution: you must have a bucket of water close by any time you start a fire.**

**Supplies:** flint, steel, charcloth and tinder. Charcloth is 100% cotton burned in an enclosed metal can. The easiest tinder to acquire is macramé jute (be sure it hasn't been treated with a fire retardant).

**How to:** Unravel the jute rope and fluff it out to build a bird's nest. Hold the charcloth on the flint near a sharp edge. Hit the flint with the steel striker and sparks will fly. When a spark lands on the charcloth, it will stick and the spark will grow. Put the charcloth into the bird's nest of jute fluff and blow on it until it flames up.

## **E. Basic Leatherworking and Other Native American Skills**

Trappers were often a blend of Native American and European cultures. They adopted many skills from Native Americans, including California Indians. For example, many sailors, soldiers and travelers of the time often carried small mementos of home in pouches around their necks. This was from a superstition that as long as they had a piece of home with them, they would return. Many Native American tribes had similar pouches of religious significance. Many trappers adopted the Indian practice of wearing medicine bags.





Having your students assemble and decorate their own medicine bags will give them an understanding of simple leatherwork. In addition, they will have a special keepsake from their time at Sutter's Fort.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

For fun, we are including a glossary of some of the trappers' colorful language. These may be used to add to your persona as the station persona.

### Mountain Man Glossary and Related Terms:

- **BIG MUDDY** - The trapper's name for the Missouri River.
- **BOOSHWAY** - A boss, the man who paid the trapper his wages, if he worked as a hired trapper or skin trapper. This man directed the brigade. The name is probably derived from the French word bourgeois.
- **BULLBOAT** - A round boat made from buffalo hides stretched across willow boughs and lashed together with green hide strips to form a deep saucer-like boat.
- **CACHE** (pronounced cash) - A storehouse in the wilderness, where trappers hid beaver furs. They dug a pit 5 or 6 feet deep in a bank of solid earth, deposited their furs and concealed all traces of digging. This hideaway was temporary until they could return and collect the furs on their way to the rendezvous.
- **CAPOTE** (pronounced kuh-poat') - A coat with a hood made from a blanket.
- **CASTOREUM** (pronounced cas-toh-ree-um) - A secretion taken from the gland of the beaver and used as bait when setting traps. The odor attracted beaver and gave the mountain man a "unique" smell too.
- **CHILE** (child) - A word used by a mountain man to refer to himself.
- **CRICK** - The westerner's term for creek.
- **FAT COW** - Good living.
- **FOOFARRAW** (pronounced foo-fah-row) - Any unnecessary adornment, fancy thing, or anything beyond what was strictly needed. From the French word fanfaron.
- **FREE TRAPPER** - A beaver hunter who was a free agent. He trapped where and when he wanted and bargained with traders at the rendezvous.
- **TO UNDER, GONE UNDER** - An expression used when it was thought a fellow trapper had died or been killed.
- **GREEN RIVER KNIFE OR BUTCHER KNIFE** - A weapon manufactured by John Russell in his factory on the Green River in Deerfield, Massachusetts. This knife was a favorite of the mountain man.
- **HAWKEN RIFLE** - A heavy (10-12 lbs.), 34 inch, octagonal-barreled rifle, about .53 caliber with low sights, set trigger, and percussion lock. Another favorite among the mountain men.
- **HOSS AN BEAVER** - Everything. "The works!" Through gambling or disaster raids the trapper might lose his horse and his beaver, thus hoss and beaver.
- **HUMP RIBS** - The meat of the buffalo's high shoulder hump, considered a delicacy by frontiersmen.
- **PARFLECHE SOLE** (pronounced par-flesh-soh) - The tough sole of moccasins.





- PELT, PELTRIES - The fur piece of a small animal such as beaver.
- PIROGUE (pronounced puh-roag) - A dugout canoe used in the early days of trapping.
- PLEWS - Prime beaver skins, from the French word plus.
- PLUNDER - The equipment or gear of the mountain man
- RENDEZVOUS - A summer fur fair, the meeting of mountain men and Native Americans in a particular place to sell and trade their beaver pelts to traders and large fur companies.
- SIGN - Anything which indicated the presence of others, or animals, such as cut or broken trees, a blade of grass pressed down, etc.
- SPOOK EM - To scare something.
- THAT'S THE WAY THE STICK FLOATS - That's the way things look.
- UP TO BEAVER - Rich in beaver pelts.
- WAUGH! (pronounced waw) – An emphatic exclamation comparable to “Wow!”

## **A BRIEF HISTORY OF TRAPPING AT SUTTER'S FORT 1840-1846**

Much of the history of John Sutter's trapping activities in the Sacramento Valley prior to P.B. Reading's 1845 expedition is unknown to us. Records have been lost or destroyed or are scattered widely in bits and pieces of obscure journals and correspondence. However, we do know that, almost from its founding, trapping was as important to the Fort's economy as almost any other activity. It was a business for which Sutter held high hopes and expectations, but also one that, for a variety of reasons, never quite lived up to its potential.

In 1840, Sutter officially entered into the California fur trade by obtaining what he thought were exclusive trapping rights from the civil government. With these rights he believed that he had the power to exclude all trapping parties, except his own, from hunting the Sacramento and San Joaquin Valleys. Sutter seems to have been unaware that in 1837 the California government had signed an agreement with the Hudson's Bay Company (HBC) granting them rights to trap the valleys, an agreement which had never been invalidated. Vallejo had stated that he would not interfere with any trapping parties from HBC in the valley and so the basis for a continuing war of claims and counterclaims had been set. By late in the year 1840 Sutter seems to have been ready to jump into the fur business "with both feet," and visitors to the Fort noted that his fledgling establishment was a magnet for former Rocky Mountain trappers and sailors who had deserted their naval posts and had drifted into Sutter's service as trappers.

The year 1841 seems to have marked the first organized efforts to harvest furs by Sutter. Joseph Gendreau had been appointed as Chief of Trappers and Sutter's blacksmiths had manufactured enough traps to outfit 4 canoes. Unfortunately no notes can be found that would testify to either the success or failure of this early expedition. We do know that the valleys of the Sacramento and San Joaquin had yielded tremendous amounts of fur in previous years. During the 6 month trapping expedition of the HBC in 1830 4,000 hides had been taken. Beaver skins along with cowhides were the only form of legal tender in California during that time and it appears that yearly hunts by the HBC had netted an





average take of 3,000 beaver per year. HBC had about 170 men employed in the area in 1841 / 42. In September of that year HBC purchased a building in Yerba Buena to serve as their headquarters in the valley as well as to function as a trading post. It is obvious from this that the Company did not plan to abandon its position in Alta California. In fact, James Douglas of the HBC visited Alvarado during 1841 and entered into an agreement that would pay Alvarado 50 cents for each beaver taken by the Company in California

By 1842, Sutter had built up a sizable trapping force and has some 8,000 traps ready for the field. In addition to his Rocky Mountain trappers and ex-sailors, a large number of French Canadians had been hired. A new chief of trappers, Henry McVicker, led Sutter's trapping forces. In an interesting note one of the French Canadians, a man called Big Nicholas, had vowed to kill Sutter. The reasons for Big Nicholas's rancor are unknown. The harvest for the year recorded 193 lbs. of beaver plus 166 skins of unknown weight (approx. 210 lbs.) Sutter believed that McVicker had stolen a good part of the harvest and sold the skins to Dr. Marsh and others. Sutter also noted, in a letter to Sunol, that his trappers had taken deer instead of beaver because "it pleased them more." How Henry McVicker became the Chief of Trappers is unknown but it is obvious that leadership was not his one of his major attributes.

The year of 1843 found Sutter full of confidence about the upcoming trapping season. In a letter to Sunol, Sutter confided that all of his regular trappers are out in the field. In addition, Sutter stated that he had added about 40 men to his normal number of trappers and that he soon would equip another dozen. He also stated that he believed that the HBC would not be coming to the valley that year. Sutter's belief that HBC would not come to the valley in 1843 was mistaken. HBC brigades led by Michael La Framboise harvested some 650 otter and beaver skins during the year. Sutter's take from the valley is unknown but probably was less than HBC's. Since this hunt is the one portrayed by our Mobile Living History program it should also be noted that there seems to have been a plan by Sutter, to harass any HBC parties who were found and that Sutter's trappers seem to have hunted both north and south of the Fort that year. Since the area north of the Fort had been virtually hunted out in previous years this was probably done in an attempt to locate any Hudson's Bay parties in the valley rather than in any expectation of a lucrative harvest in that area. In the fall of the year Sir George Simpson of the HBC stated in various letters that Sutter had surrounded himself with "runaway sailors, vagabond trappers from the United States and other desperadoes who are risking violence by attempting to drive Hudson's Bay Company out of the valley." It is uncertain who acted as Sutter's Chief of Trappers during the year but evidence seems to indicate that it was the former Rocky Mountain brigade leader, John Gantt. At any rate the harvest for the year must have been a disappointment to the Captain who had invested so many resources in the endeavor.

Of the 1844 trapping season nothing is known. It would appear that John Gantt was still in charge of the trappers, but the harvests for the year, as well as any documentation as to the numbers of men employed, have not been found.







The 1845 / 46 trapping season is the one that we know most about. P.B. Reading's (Chief of Trappers) log books as well as correspondence between Sutter and Reading are available for study. What is apparent is that the nature of the trapping parties had changed. Trapping was mostly done by the California Indian and Hawaiian employees of the Fort. Reading, in 1845, led an expedition into the area now known as the Trinity Alps. This expedition was the first known attempt by white men to harvest furs in that area. Again, most of the trapping occurred south of the Fort during those years. "*The Fort Sutter Papers*," a transcript of the Manuscripts and Commentaries published by Edward Eberstadt in 1922 contains some important information about the makeup of the trappers at the Fort. It contains, for instance, the following notations made during the fall of 1846:

A ledger entry showing that 20 trappers were issued:

- A. 20 pea jackets
- B. 20 pair coarse shoes
- C. 20 blue cloth trowsers
- D. 20 fine combs
- E. 20 coarse combs

Another ledger entry showing the following goods bought for 29 trappers, including 20 Indians:

- A. Blue Flannel shirts
- B. 48 Duck trowsers (40 to Indians)
- C. 24 Duck frocks (20 to Indians)

While it cannot be said with any certainty that these 29 men were the same as those named in Reading's log books it is true that his log books contains the names of nine white men who were definitely part of the 1845 / 46 trapping parties.

We know that the harvest for the 1845 / 46 hunt totaled 323 beaver and 173 otter skins. Otter skins sold, at that time, for about \$3.50 each and beaver for approximately \$3.00 per lb. Since the average California beaver hide weighed from 1 ½ to 2 lbs. this harvest represented a cash income of about \$2100.00. While this certainly does not represent a fortune it would have been very welcome by the cash poor Sutter. Additionally, many other animals whose hides represented cash money such as skunk, raccoon, coyote and wolves were also harvested during this hunt. Sutter made several statements in his various letters to Reading, expressing his delight with the harvest.

The job of trying to outfit this expedition appears to have consumed much of Reading's time. Reading's demands for blankets and Sutter's excuses for not delivering them appear over and over in the correspondence between the two men. Reading also asked on many occasions for other supplies such as clothing, cloth, flour, salt, needles, powder and lead. Sutter appeared to be doing his best to keep Reading supplied. At one point Sutter wrote to Reading that he hoped to obtain (apparently for the trappers) "beads, clothing, sheet copper, iron etc." Except for the clothing these supplies were apparently intended as trade items as sheet copper and sheet iron were, by that time, much in demand by the





Indians in the valley. Reading's log book lists goods supplied to his trappers and the prices charged the trappers for them. Among his entries are:

Red Blanket	\$ 8.00	1 lb. of tobacco	\$ 1.00
Knife	1.00	3 ½ lbs. sugar	1.75
1 pr. pants	3.00	¼ lb . tea	1.00
1 strand beads	.25	1 pea jacket	15.00
1 shirt	3.50	1 wool shirt	4.00
1 pr. suspenders	.75	5 dz. fish	2.00
		hooks	
6 spoons	2.00	3 hatchets	4.50
1 gingham box	.75	2 yds. blue drill	1.50

The following list contains the names of those men from Reading's logs. They were known to have been working for Reading during the 1845 / 46 expedition:

White Men

Native Americans and Hawaiians

Moor, Wm. C.	Holeboch
Hinsley, S.	Iahatche
Merrit, Ezekial	Chabba
La Framboise, Michael	Mercado
Myers, John	Olympio
Bidwell, John	Osa
Bercier, Francis	Ignace
Jones, I.M.	Clemente

The following men were named in Sutter's letters to Reading and appear to have been involved in hunting or trapping during the same period, but who may or may not have been employed by Reading for the main expedition:

White Men

Native Americans and Hawaiians

Bristow, Elijah	Maintop
Gendreau, G. Francois	Dolohuck
Rouell, Jean B.	Yauti
Hicks, William	Chipcha
Hubbard	Wakino
Green, Jacob	Nuut
Mast	
Coats, James	

Found in a letter to Reading: Sutter described an incident that occurred at the Fort in early March 1846 involving three free trappers. The three, R.K.Payne, Franklin Sears and Granville Swift were accused of stealing three blankets from Sutter's Indian employees.





When Sutter and Francis Hoen confronted these men who had been drinking heavily, to demand the return of the blankets, the hunters threatened to kill Sutter and Hoen. Sutter and Hoen retreated to the central building and were joined by Mr. Hannes and Mr. Dohling. Throughout the night the three trappers demanded, and were given, more liquor. They also continued their threats to kill the four men. By morning the "whiskey bravado" had worn off, the blankets mysteriously reappeared, and the three trappers left the Fort.

Hopefully more detailed information about trapping at Sutter's Fort during the early years of its existence will be found. It is apparent, however, that Sutter considered fur bearing animals as one of his greatest assets and harvesting them as one of his greatest challenges. Almost from the beginning of the establishment of his empire Sutter began to try to break the stranglehold that HBC held on the business in the valley. The facts are that, because of apparent duplicity by the civil government, the lessening demand for the furs, the unavailability of trained and dedicated personnel, and the massive harvesting that had occurred in the valley prior to his arrival his success was less than he had hoped but still not insignificant to the life of his enterprise. I will conclude with some interesting information obtained from the previously cited work by Edward Eberstadt that was brought to my attention by Richard Steed, a dedicated historian of early California and co-author of several books and articles on Johnson's Ranch. While these entries of accounts from ledgers of the Fort during the fall of 1846 don't directly pertain to activities by the trappers I think they are interesting on their own.

**ACCOUNTS OF GOODS ISSUED AT SUTTER'S FORT  
SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER 1846**

Issued to:

<u>Edmund Bray</u>	<u>Infantry Indians (30 men)</u>	<u>J.A. Sutter</u>
1 blue cloth trowser	30 duck frocks	1 pea jacket
2 blue flannel shirts	60 duck trowsers	2 blankets
2 duck frocks	30 coarse shoes	1 blue cloth trowser
1 pr. woolen stockings	90 lbs. soap	6 woolen socks
1 pr. coarse shoes		2 pr. woolen stockings
		1 mattress
<u>Henry Marshall</u>	<u>Indians (20)</u>	<u>J. McDowell</u>
1 pr. blankets	1 ea. blue shirt	1 lb. tobacco
1 pr. coarse shoes	1 ea. duck frock	1 blue flannel shirt
1 blue cloth trowsers	2 pr. ea. duck trowsers	
1 blue flannel shirt		
<u>J. Gregson</u>	<u>H. Downing</u>	<u>J. Tylee</u>
2 lbs. tobacco	1 blue shirt	2 blue flannel shirts
1 blue flannel shirt	2 pr. duck trowsers	2 pr. duck trowsers
2 pr. duck trowsers	2 duck frocks	1 black handkerchief





1 black handkerchief  
1 fine comb

2 black handkerchiefs  
1 fine comb

Wm. Northgate

1 duck frock  
2 pr. coarse shoes  
1 blanket

J. Smith

2 lbs. tobacco  
2 blue flannel shirts  
2 pr. stockings

**Bibliography:**

These books are fairly available, and can help you or your station leaders with your understanding of the trappers. In addition, you can find some good "yarnin" material for around the campfire.

- **Book of Buckskinning**
- **Indian Sign Language** by Tomkins
- **Journals of Lewis & Clark** by Devoto
- **Journal of a Mountain Man** by James Clyman
- **American Fur Trade of the Far West** by Chittenden
- **Adventures of a Mountain Man** by Zenas Leonard
- **Ewing Young** by Holmes
- **James Pattie's West** by Batman
- **The Mountain Men** by Laycock
- **Southwest Expedition of Jedediah S. Smith** by Brooks
- **Journal of a Trapper** by Osborne Russel
- **The Westering Man** by Gilbert
- **Mountain Men & The Fur Trade of the Far West** by Carter
- **Jedediah Smith and the Opening of the West** by Morgan
- **The Taos Trappers** by Weber
- **Kit Carson** by Esther Green
- **Joe Meek** by Stanley Vestal
- **Chinook Jargon**
- **Wah-To-Ya and The Taos Trail** by Gerrard
- **The New Helvetia Diary** by John Sutter

