



CASTOR CANADENSIS

Newsletter of the Jedediah Smith Society • University of the Pacific, Stockton, California

SUMMER 2018

The Life and Archive of Robert Campbell (1804-1879)

BY, ANDY HAHN,

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CAMPBELL HOUSE MUSEUM

Robert Campbell holds a unique place in the history of the fur trade. He not only had an unusually successful and long trading career which touched nearly every corner of the West, but more importantly Campbell left a very large collection of letters, ledgers, and journals, including his famous "Narrative," that give detailed accounts of events and people from the fur trade. Strangely this archive is still largely unknown. His career began in earnest when William Ashley and Jedediah Smith hired the 21-year-old Campbell as the company clerk for their caravan heading to the 1826 rendezvous. Campbell's relationship with Smith would be pivotal to his future.

Campbell was born in 1804 at his family home in County Tyrone in Ireland (preserved as a museum at the Ulster-American Folk Park). Economic stagnation in Ireland pushed a young Robert to follow his older brother Hugh to America. By the fall of 1823 Campbell had arrived in St. Louis and a meeting with John O'Fallon presented an opportunity for the young immigrant.

Like Campbell, O'Fallon's family originally hailed from County Tyrone in Ireland. O'Fallon's St. Louis family connections (William Clark was his uncle) helped him secure the post of sutler at Council Bluffs on the Missouri River. Campbell was offered the position of assistant clerk, working the winter of 1823-24 at Bellevue, just across the river from Council Bluffs. Campbell, who had respiratory problems, suffered greatly through the winter. When he returned to St. Louis in the spring, O'Fallon introduced him to a local doctor who advised Campbell, "your symptoms are consumptive and I advise you to go to the Rocky Mountains. I have before sent two or three young men there in your condition, and they came back restored to health and healthy as bucks."

Life in the Mountains

This advice was just the motivation Campbell needed to take a risk in the growing Rocky Mountain trade. In October 1825, he met

Jedediah Smith who had just days earlier returned from the Rockies. Smith was quickly preparing to leave St. Louis again so he could be in the mountains to trade the next summer. Smith offered Campbell to position of company clerk for the trade caravan that would depart within weeks. With two years in the mountains under his belt, Smith became Campbell's mentor, teaching him about

Indians, animals, trapping and survival. The two were fast friends. Smith, Campbell and a company of more than 60 men and 150 pack animals carrying \$20,000 worth of trade goods left St. Louis on November 1, 1825.



Hand-colored photograph of Robert Campbell, circa 1860

Table of Contents

Table of Contents.....	1
Featured Article	1-5
Editor's Note	6
President's Message	7
Green River Days at the Museum of the Mountain Man	8-9
Upcoming Events	10
Archives Corner:	
The Dr. TGV Simons Family in Indiana, Part I.....	11-12
Jedediah Smith Letters at Kansas State Historical Society ...	12
Montana Historical Markers Getting a Re-Make.....	13-14
Wall and Interactive Website Maps	14
The Material Culture of the Fur Trade	15-16
Members' Section: New Members, Donor List, JSS Officers, Relatives of JSS	17

After crossing the state of Missouri, the caravan headed west along the Kansas River and northeast up the Republican Fork towards the Platte River. January snowstorms nearly buried them alive. With their pack animals dying, they sheltered in an uninhabited Pawnee village. Smith sent Moses Harris and Jim Beckwourth back to St. Louis with a message to Ashley to send a relief expedition with more animals and supplies.

Smith, Campbell and their men who did not desert spent the next two months in the Pawnee village. In his "Narrative" Campbell recalled that they "suffered very much for want of provisions. One-third of our mules died that winter...Some of our men knew where the Indians had formerly cached their corn, and they dug it up. When the Pawnees returned to their village, they having gone out on the Buffalo hunt, we paid them for so much of the corn as we had taken...The chief of the Republican Pawnees was Ish-Ka-ta-pa. Mr. Smith and myself stayed in his lodge. We had no interpreters. We lived on the corn taken from the caches, and killed some buffalo bulls on the Smoky Hill Fork while going out."

By April 1, Ashley had caught up to the caravan, now along the Platte River. Over the next two months Ashley, Smith, Campbell and the rest of their company would travel west across the prairie, into the mountains and over the South Pass on their way to Cache Valley for the rendezvous of 1826. It was here that Campbell met William Sublette, who later became his partner and close friend.

As the rendezvous came to an end, Campbell was the witness to the sale of Ashley's stake in the fur trade to the new partnership of Jedediah Smith, William Sublette, and David Jackson. Beneath the three partners were their lieutenants—Campbell, Thomas Fitzpatrick, Jim Bridger, Moses Harris, and Jim Beckwourth. Under the agreement, Ashley handed over \$16,000 worth of goods he had brought to rendezvous, along with the command of forty-two trappers. Clearly Campbell had made an impression, especially with Smith, who trusted Campbell enough to make him the executor of his will.

Campbell spent the winter of 1826-27 as David Jackson's clerk trapping and hunting in the Yellowstone region. By the next spring Campbell had been made the leader of Smith, Jackson and Sublette's northern trapping brigade. While in command of that brigade they were attacked by the Blackfeet and one of their party, a Iroquois chief named Pierre, was killed. The site of the attack still bears his name, Pierre's Hole, on the West side of the Grand Tetons.

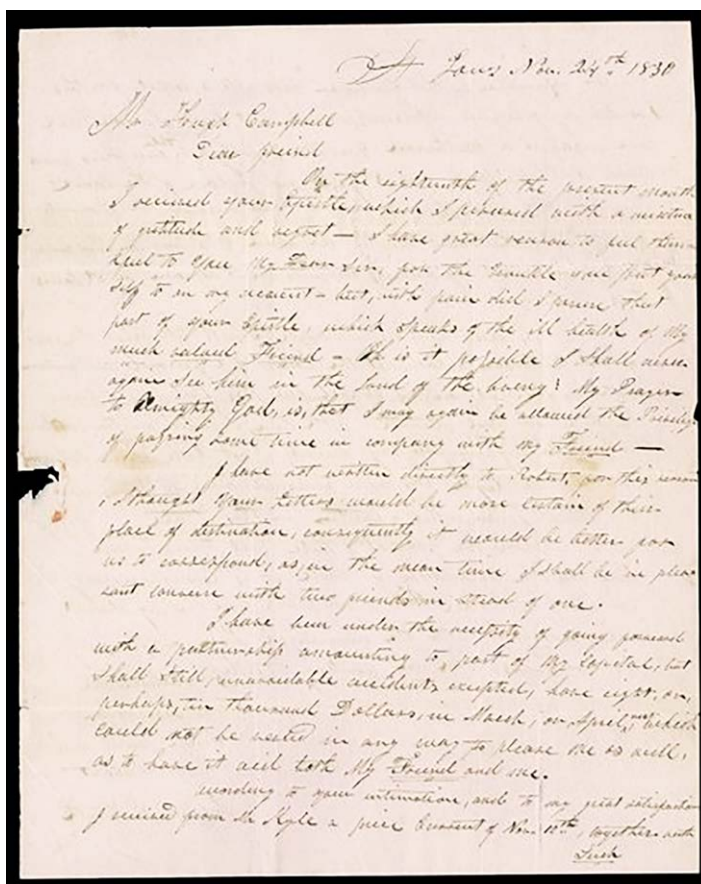
Smith and Campbell would last see each other at the rendezvous of 1827 but they had forged a lasting bond. Over the next three years each would have their own set of

adventures. By the fall of 1830 Smith was in St. Louis and Campbell was back in Ireland visiting his family. While in Ireland Campbell became gravely ill. In November 1830 Smith wrote to Campbell's brother Hugh in Philadelphia,

"I received your epistle, which I perused with a mixture of gratitude and regret – I have great reason to feel thankful to you my dear Sir, for the trouble you put yourself to on my account – but, with pain did I peruse that part of your epistle, which speaks of the ill health of my much beloved Friend – Oh is it possible I shall never again see him in the land of the living? My prayer to Almighty God, is, that I may again be allowed the privilege of passing some time in company with my Friend."

"I have not written directly to Robert, for this reason, I thought your letters would be more certain of their place of destination, consequently it would be better for us to correspond, as in the meantime I shall be in pleasant converse with two friends instead of one."

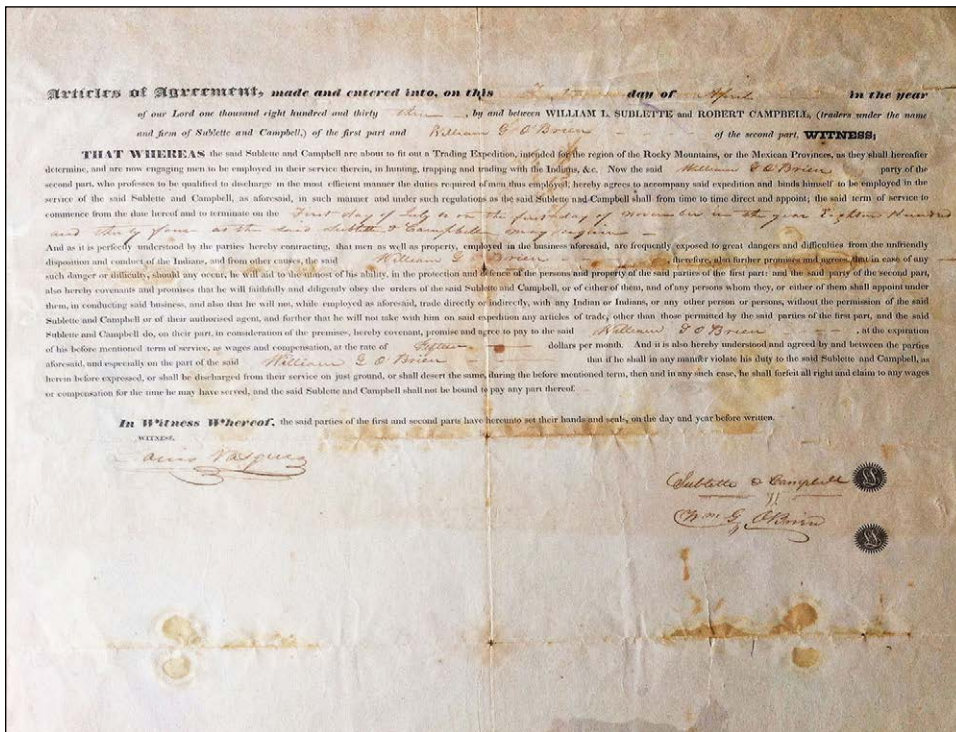
Of course Smith's story would come to an end just a few months later, however Campbell's was just beginning.



Jedediah Smith's 1830 letter to Hugh Campbell

After the rendezvous of 1832 Campbell and William Sublette would form a new partnership. Campbell and Sublette shifted their focus from the rendezvous to directly challenging the American Fur Company by building their own forts adjacent to their competitor's. Campbell would direct the building of Fort William in 1833 near the mouth of the Yellowstone River to compete with the established Fort Union. The partnership was successful enough to prompt the American Fur Company to buyout a number of Campbell and Sublette's forts. Their timing could not have been better. The fur trade was quickly changing, and Sublette and Campbell began to concentrate on the buffalo robe trade and dry goods. In 1835, their robes sold for more than beaver pelts for the first time.

Business in St. Louis



1833 employment contract between Wm. O'Brien and Campbell and Sublette

In September 1836 Campbell and Sublette purchased a building on Main Street in St. Louis. From there, they engaged in the dry goods business, frequently selling on credit. They amassed large amounts of real estate across the west, served as loan agents for several banks, and invested in insurance companies. All of this investment, however, threatened to overextend the partners. They frequently teetered on the edge of bankruptcy because of difficulty in collecting from their debtors. The state legislature elected Campbell to the Missouri State Bank's board of directors in December 1839, and while he rarely had much cash on hand,

he was financially sound enough to purchase a large tract of land which he would soon help develop into Kansas City.

By 1841 Campbell was ready to settle down and in February he married Virginia Kyle, the daughter of a prominent Eastern merchant family. It was a genuine love story and 13 children would be born to the Campbells over 22 years. Tragically only 3 would survive to adulthood.

1842 saw the end of "Sublette and Campbell," as both men opted not to renew the partnership. An economic crisis in the early-1840s threatened to ruin Campbell, but the timely influx of cash from Scottish Laird (Lord) Sir William Drummond Stewart, a good friend, prevented much worse. Sublette became seriously ill and died in 1845, depriving Campbell of a close friend and ally.

Campbell's involvement in the west did not end in 1835. When the Mexican-American War broke out in 1846, he outfitted 400 cavalry volunteers. Although the unit saw no action, Campbell was appointed a state militia colonel for his efforts. Victory for the United States enabled Campbell to begin expanding his business into the American Southwest along the Santa Fe Trail. Campbell also outfitted John C. Fremont's 1843 Expedition of exploration in the region. His involvement with famous figures of the west extended beyond military matters as well. Jesuit missionary Father DeSmet became close to Campbell as they shared many of the same views regarding the West, especially about Native Americans.

Despite the seemingly precarious nature of his business, Campbell was highly successful in the remainder of the 1840s. He was elected President of the State Bank of Missouri in 1846, increasing its deposits and value of its notes. Campbell's stewardship of the bank was highly successful, and bank notes signed by him were accepted across the nation. Campbell succeeded in finding a new partner as well, William Campbell (no relation), forming the firm "R. and W. Campbell" in 1848. The new firm continued in the Western trade and invested in railroads and steamboats, and was successful in placing allies as sutlers in several western forts.

Growing tensions between rival tribes, as well as continued American westward expansion, threatened conflict in the west. Because of his experiences, Campbell was called to participate in the negotiations for the Fort Laramie Treaty of 1851 to avert war. Campbell and Sublette had built the fort under the name Fort William (this is not to be confused with the 1833 Fort William, on the Yellowstone River).

Campbell moved his family to a large new house in St. Louis in 1854 (today the Campbell House Museum). Throughout the 1850s Campbell continued to expand his businesses. The robe trade on the upper Missouri continued to reap profits, and western traders trusted Campbell's reputation and advice. Steamboats continued to rise in importance, and Campbell purchased the "A. B. Chambers" in 1858. This boat became the first piloting job for Samuel Clemens [Mark Twain].

Living in Missouri during the Civil War required a delicate balancing act between pro-Southern and Unionist interests. Campbell undertook few overt political roles for most of the war, instead focusing on business. He supplied the army for most of the war, including a large contract dispensing payroll to troops in New Mexico. The disruption of Mississippi River traffic slowed business, and even when it had reopened, the government would sometimes requisition Robert's boats.

When Campbell did involve himself in politics, it was generally in opposition to radical Republican policy. He supported his future neighbor and present commander of the Army of the West, General William Harney, and also his successor and friend, General John Frémont. Campbell also attempted to secure freedom for friends arrested under the strict martial law. Such activities were not without their dangers. Several St. Louis citizens expressed doubts over the loyalty of Campbell and his brother Hugh, particularly because of their Southern wives. Despite the political strength of the Republicans, both Campbells were able to emerge from the war with their reputations intact. Although Campbell probably disliked the loyalty oaths required by Special Order No. 80, he signed his in September of 1862, ensuring he remained in the upper echelons of society.

In 1867 the Campbells undertook a year-long grand tour of Europe and even visited the glass factories in Venice where he personally selected the newest color seed beads for the Indian trade.

The late 1860s and 1870s saw the Campbell family at the height of their political and social influence. General Ulysses Grant was elected President in 1868, and the Campbell family enjoyed close relationships with the Grant family. The Campbells hosted Grant and other guests on at least four occasions, and the Campbells also were guests at the White

House. Campbell was also friends with two other Civil War heroes, William Tecumseh Sherman and Philip Sheridan.

Campbell's connections to Grant, coupled with his extensive experience with the Native American tribes of the west, led to his appointment in 1869 to the Board of Indian Commissioners. Men on the board were because of their wealth and integrity which was a guarantee that they not abuse their position, so as to help ensure the government uphold the Indian treaties. Since most of the other Commissioners were eastern religious figures with little experience dealing with Native Americans, Campbell was asked to travel through the west, meeting various tribes including the Ute, Cherokee, and the Oglala chief Red Cloud. With the Commission unable to make any headway against corruption in the Indian Bureau, and the government's inability to uphold its treaties, every member, including Campbell, resigned in protest in May 1874.



Robert Campbell's buckskin jacket

Campbell's health declined considerably throughout the 1870s. His lung problems, which had never fully been resolved, continued to plague him and he died at home on October 16, 1879. His wife and adult sons would continue to live in the family home in St. Louis for the rest of their lives. Amazingly the last of Campbell's sons did not die until 1938, preserving not only the family home but an unparalleled collection of furniture, paintings, clothing (including two stunning buckskin suits), carriages and a unique set of interior photographs taken in the mid-1880s. Today, Campbell's house is preserved and open to the public as the Campbell House Museum. The crown jewel of the Campbell collection is the vast archive of Campbell's documents.

The Campbell Archive

Robert Campbell's archive is housed at four institutions in St. Louis—the Campbell House Museum, the Missouri Historical Society, the St. Louis Circuit Court and the St. Louis Mercantile Library. The collection comprises papers that were scattered after the death of Campbell's last son in

The Life and Archive of Robert Campbell (1804-1879)

1938. Miraculously tens-of-thousands of documents survive. The Campbell House Museum preserves the Campbell's home, household objects, more than 1,000 photographs and hundreds of personal letters and documents and a choice collection of fur trade era letters and William Ashley's 1825-26 journal. The fur trade letters and journal have only come to light since 1999.

The Campbell documents at the Missouri Historical Society are part of their renowned fur trade collection which includes the Sublette and Chouteau papers. Their Robert Campbell collection includes dozens of letters and Campbell's 1833 "Private Journal" and his "Narrative" of experiences in the fur trade dictated to a journalist in 1870.

Housed in the records of the St. Louis Circuit Court are dozens of court cases to which Campbell and Sublette were a party. Also preserved in the court record are more than 140 pages of Jedediah Smith's probate estate records.

The largest collection of Campbell documents is at the St. Louis Mercantile Library. These papers resurfaced in a St.

Louis estate in 1985 and include more than 200 ledgers, 27 letter copy books, checkbooks, business reports, cash books, and stock inventories. The documents here include the letter books of Campbell and Sublette from 1836 until the 1842 and Campbell's ledger from the 1832 rendezvous. One ledger also records Jedediah Smith's estate, noting the buyers of Smith's property—William Sublette was the biggest purchaser. This collection is so large that a project begun in 2010 to index it is still not complete.

Dale Morgan wrote in the preface of his landmark book *The West of William H. Ashley*, that if there were one work written about the fur trade in the 1830s that a “book focusing upon Robert Campbell seems to be the best place.” Morgan made this statement on the basis of the Campbell documents known to him and in fact planned to compile this book but never did. He would I think be astounded at the thousands of fur trade era documents that have since emerged from the archive of Robert Campbell.

To learn more about the Campbell archive visit
campbellhousemuseum.org.

[illegible]

Statement of Smith's estate from the Campbell archive



Campbell House Museum, St. Louis

Editor's Note

From the *Castor* Editor - Kevin Kucera



It is an honor to be the new Editor of the *Castor Canadensis*. We appreciate that our members have responded to the recent member survey, and your responses highlighted the need to continue to publish a quality newsletter on Jedediah Smith and the early fur trade. So moving forward, it is exciting that we have our feature article in this edition on business associates and friends, Robert Campbell and Jedediah Smith.

Recently two of my sons, Luke and Corbin, and I followed part of the 1825-1826 Smith/Campbell/Ashley Expedition trail from St. Louis to Chimney Rock, Nebraska. We used the 2014 *Rocky Mountain Fur Trade Journal* article, William H. Ashley's Newly Discovered 1826 Fur Trade Journal, by Dr. H. Buckley, as a guide. We learned that these men documented, for apparent commercial purposes, their Kansas and Nebraska trails and campsites on what would become the Oregon Trail. They encountered trouble on the trail and they made the choice to winter in the empty Pawnee Village on the Republican River. On our trip we visited the one of a kind Pawnee Indian Museum. At this historic and sacred site, my sons and I learned about the most impressive Pawnee Culture, and how they lived. We were surprised and excited to learn the Pawnee were great Astronomers. Our next *Castor Canadensis* will feature an article by Richard Gould, Site Administrator – Retired, Pawnee Indian Museum State Historic Site, Republic, Kansas. It will be about which Pawnee Village Campbell and Smith actually wintered at on the Republican River during their 1825-1826 Expedition.

Please let me draw your attention to a national treasure, The Campbell House Museum, St. Louis, www.campbellhouse.org. This beautiful home built in 1851 is today as it was when Robert died in 1879 in his own bed. It is known for its rich collection of 19th century Victorian decorative arts which includes thousands of pieces of original family furniture, fixtures, paintings, china, carriages, documents, etc. Although Jedediah Smith never visited this opulent residence owned by his friend, other Mountain Men may have passed through these doors including Jim Bridger and James Beckworth. When westerner friends visited the Campbell home, their parlor stories of the west must have been jaw dropping, and the private conversations in the library even better. You will be amazed about the Campbell Family history, especially the wonderful life-long love affair shared by Robert and his wife, Virginia. The Campbell House is a fine example of the Gilded Age in America. So if you are in the St. Louis area, this jewel of a museum is a must see visit.

Thank you for your membership. I hope you enjoy this issue.
Happy Trails, Kevin

CASTOR CANADENSIS NEWSLETTER GUIDELINES

The editor welcomes articles for publication. Please review the following guidelines:

1. Prospective authors should send their articles or questions to Kevin Kucera at kckucera@msn.com
2. Submit in MS Word.
3. End notes should be numbered consecutively.
4. Photographs, maps or illustrations should be sent as an attachment and not embedded into the article. They should also be numbered i.e. Fig 1. A separate list with Fig. No. should be attached with a short title of the photograph etc.
5. After receipt the article will be reviewed by a technical editor. Once this is completed the author will be notified and an approximate date for publication will be provided.
6. Please note the *Castor Canadensis* is not responsible for either the research or the opinions of the writer.

President's Message - Jim Smith, Helena, Montana



One of the Society's finest accomplishments was the publication of *Jedediah Smith And His Monuments* in 1999. Compiled by Raymund F. Wood, this single volume contains a detailed description, a photograph of, and specific directions to each of the 66 monuments, located in eight (8) states, dedicated to Jedediah Smith, and other early explorers of the TransMississippi West. Most of these are in the state of California, and most are the standard historical markers: the wooden sign mounted between posts or beams, or the bronze plaque on a large boulder. There are, however, a few unique testaments to Jedediah, including the beautiful bronze statue of Jedediah at San Dimas, CA, the medallion to Jedediah at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, the 10,000 foot Mount Jedediah Smith in the Teton Range, or the lonely Jedediah Smith Butte in the Mohave Desert. What impressed me most about this book was learning that these monuments to Jedediah were primarily the result of grassroots efforts rather than some kind of national, organized program. It's been ordinary, local folks with an interest, understanding and passion for their country who have preserved this significant history: on the ground in the form of the monuments themselves, and as wonderfully commemorated in *Jedediah Smith And His Monuments*.

And the beat goes on, as they say. The interest in Jedediah around the country remains strong and vibrant. That interest has resulted in at least another sixteen monuments or markers being dedicated since 1999. In May of 2000 the first historical marker to Jedediah in the state of Montana was placed on the banks of the Yellowstone river near Hysham in Treasure county. Jedediah and William Ashley floated right past the spot in 1825, right after the first Rendezvous, on their way back to St. Louis.

Long time Society member Joe Molter has been keeping track of the monuments and markers erected since 1999. Here's his list:

- 1) Hysham, MT. Wooden historical marker entitled simply 'Jedediah Smith.'
- 2) Bainbridge, NY. Jed's birthplace. Bronze monument located in Pathfinder Park.
- 3) West of Salt Lake City, UT on I-80. Bronze marker to Jedediah. He called the Great Salt Lake his 'Home in the Wilderness.'
- 4) San Joaquin county, CA Historical Society. Bronze monument.
- 5) Near Red Bluff, CA. Jed's Overlook. Mural Board with description of Jed's travels in northern California, between the upper Sacramento River valley and the Pacific coast.
- 6) Near Cove Fort, UT. Fremont Indian State Park, UT. Sculpture and Plaque.
- 7) Monterey, CA. Brass Plaque telling about Jed's imprisonment there in 1828.
- 8) Cody, WY. Painting and description of Jedediah on an individual Mural Board.
- 9) Barstow, CA. Painting and description, individual Mural Board.
- 10) Roadside Rest between Bakersfield & Fresno, CA. A picture of Jed in larger mural depicting history of area.
- 11) Merced, CA. Merced Post Office. A large (6'X 8') painting of Jed crossing the Merced River.
- 12) Crescent City, CA. A large outside mural depicting Jedediah Smith entering the Redwoods.
- 13) Walker Lake, NV. A monument that mentions Jed passing through that area in 1827.
- 14) Lane's Crossing near Victorville, CA. A monument that mentions Jed's crossing of the Mojave River.
- 15) Near Plains, MT. Historical Marker entitled 'Flathead House.' It mentions Jed's 1824 visit to this Hudson Bay Company Post.
- 16) Near Ennis, MT. Historical Marker entitled 'A Tough Business.' It mentions Jedediah, the Madison River and the dangers of the fur trapping business.

The list above generates all kinds of thoughts and ideas. First of all, it may be time to re-publish *Jedediah Smith And His Monuments*, with these new monuments included? Second, are there other monuments that we are not aware of? Third, as noted elsewhere in this issue of *Castor*, these monuments are periodically being replaced, or reconfigured or relocated by local or state agencies, such as state highway departments. Finally my fellow members----in your travels please seek out these new monuments and take photographs of them. Please tell us about your trips, your adventures and your visits to any of these monuments with a photo and an article for the newsletter.

The real significance of all this in my view is that the Fur Trade Era, and especially the explorations Jedediah Smith, continues to fascinate ordinary people around the country. This is an interest worth cultivating and nurturing. That's our job at the Jedediah Smith Society. It's a job we love.

Sincerely, Jim Smith
jim@smithandmcgowan.com

Green River Days at the Museum of the Mountain Man

By, Jim Smith



Clint Gilchrist, Executive Director of the Museum of the Mountain Man outside the Museum with the new Jeddediah Smith map.



Jim Smith presenting the Jeddediah Smith map to Clint Gilchrist at the Museum's Annual Art Auction.



The Jeddediah Smith map and panel on display in the Museum of the Mountain Man.

Jeddediah's journeys in the west. During her presentation time, Sheri zeroed in on the area around South Pass, and in Utah. She invited people to join the Society in October for the 62nd Rendezvous, which will re-trace Jed's travels in Utah, especially his Southwest Expedition of 1826-27. Jim Auld concentrated on the Pacific Northwest, and especially Jeddediah's horrific experience on the banks of the Umpqua River in 1828. As luck would have it, Jim pointed out that July 14 was the 190th anniversary of Jed's defeat in Oregon.

A hardy trio of Jeddediah Smith Society folks made their way to Pinedale, Wyoming in July for the 83rd Annual Green River Days. Since 1935 the people, of Pinedale and Sublette county have celebrated their distinguished place in the history of the fur trade era. Six of the annual fur trade rendezvous were held in the valley of the upper Green River, a few miles west of Pinedale. This year Jim Auld from Seattle, Washington, Sheri Wysong from Delta, Utah and Jim Smith, from Helena, Montana joined the party.

At the Museum of the Mountain Man, an Art Auction and Wine Fair kick off the weekend every year. This year the Jeddediah Smith Society donated a large wall map of the Jeddediah's Travels in the West to the Museum. Jim Smith presented the map to Clint Gilchrist, Executive Director of the Museum right before the auction the evening of July 12th. This map will be displayed, along with a new panel dedicated to Jeddediah's life and explorations. The Society presented the Museum with a second map to be used as the Museum decides, perhaps as an item at next years' auction.



One of the American Mountain Man at the encampment at the Museum.

A highlight of the evening was the opportunity to review and purchase Volume 12 of the Rocky Mountain Fur Trade Journal. This excellent publication is a collaboration between the Museum and the Journal's editor, Jim Hardee. Jim, of course, is a long time member and past president of the Jeddediah Smith Society. Most of the authors were on hand to receive their award from Jim Hardee. In addition, the authors autographed copies of the Journal for folks on hand.

On Saturday afternoon, July 14th, Jim Auld and Sheri Wysong presented a workshop on the Jeddediah Smith digital map. Starting at the web site (www.JeddediahSmithSociety.org), Jim and Sheri showed the good sized crowd on hand how to access and use the digital map. People were quite impressed with this way of following



Jim Auld (L) and Sheri Wysong (R) showing the Jeddediah Smith Digital map to a group at the Museum.

Green River Days at the Museum of the Mountain Man - *Continued*



Flags lead the 83rd Annual Green River Days Parade.

The real highlights of Green River Days, however, are the parade on Saturday and the Rendezvous Reenactment on Sunday. Relying on volunteers and community members, these events involve nearly every living soul in Sublette county, or so it seems. It's a wonderful way to celebrate the colorful, significant history of the area and to keep the spirit of the Fur Trade Era alive and well in Wyoming.



American Indian in the Parade



The Rocky Mountain Fur Company Wagon



Mountain Men and Ladies at the Parade



Narcissa Whitman, Eliza Spalding, Father De Smet and a couple in the Parade



The new Jedediah Smith panel at the Museum of the Mountain Man

Upcoming Events

2018 JSS RENDEZVOUS - UTAH OCTOBER 12-14, 2018

Jedediah referred to the Great Salt Lake as his "Home in the Wilderness." Plan to join the Jedediah Smith Society this October 12-14 as we retrace his significant travels in the state of Utah. We'll be ably led by Ms. Sheri Wysong, a Society member from Delta, Utah. For further information, and for **late registration** for the Rendezvous please contact Jim Smith or Sheri Wysong.

YOU MUST BE REGISTERED (SIGNED UP) WITH THE JEDEDIAH SMITH SOCIETY IN ORDER TO ATTEND. YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE A MEMBER OF THE SOCIETY. WE NEED TO KNOW WELL AHEAD OF TIME HOW MANY FOLKS ARE COMING TO THE 2018 RENDEZVOUS. THERE IS NO FEE FOR THE RENDEZVOUS ITSELF. FOLKS WILL BE ASKED TO SIGN A STANDARD WAIVER OF LIABILITY PRIOR TO SETTING OUT OCTOBER 13TH.

TO REGISTER PLEASE CONTACT:

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Recommended Reading.

Jedediah Smith and the Opening of the West. By Dale Morgan.

The Southwest Expedition of Jedediah S. Smith. By George R. Brooks.

The Song of Jed Smith. Part of the Cycle of the West Trilogy: The Mountain Men. By John G. Neihardt.

FUR TRADE SYMPOSIUM 2018



— Save the Date —

2018 Fur Trade Symposium "Old Forts Never Die"

The Middle Missouri Fur Trade, 1790-1860
September 26-29, 2018 • Bismarck, ND

The Dr. TGV Simons Family in Indiana, Part I

by, Kevin Kucera

Having resided now in Indiana for ten years, I felt it was high time to visit the gravesite of Dr. Titus Gordon Vespasian Simons; the teacher, mentor and esteemed friend of Jedediah Smith. Dr. Simons is buried in the Allen Chapel Cemetery, two miles southeast of Kendallville, Indiana. He was a member of the Methodist Protestant Society that first built a church on this location in 1849-1850. This original church had two entrances, one for the women and one for the men. Seating in the church was also thus segregated. You can find his grave at www.findagrave.com, Memorial ID 89290938. In his later years, Dr. Simons lived with his son, David and his family, in Swan, Indiana, and then later in Lisbon, Indiana. He was one of the first Physicians to serve Northern Indiana.

In file no. MSJS19 in the Maurice Sullivan personal papers, Holt – Atherton Collection, University of Pacific (UOP), is a 13 July 1931 letter from David Roberts, Kendallville, Indiana, to Maurice Sullivan. This letter identifies Dr. Simons as the Great – Grandfather of David Roberts. David Roberts Grandfather was David Sylvester Simons, the first child of Dr. Simons and his first wife who died shortly after he was born. In the letter David Roberts states that Dr. Simons second wife was a Smith! For obvious reasons this is interesting due to the close history and marriages between the Simons and Smith families. David Roberts also mentions another son of Dr. Simons, Titus Simons, and that Titus moved to the author's hometown of Plymouth, Indiana, in 1847. This letter by David Roberts is a wealth of information on the Simons and Smith families, and, it also states that the Simons family came from the Isle of Man.

Titus Simons, born in 1804, is the son of Dr. Simons and Ms. (Smith) Simons. Jedediah Smith mentions Titus in his December 24, 1829, Wind River, letter to his older brother, Ralph Smith. You can view this amazing letter by going to the Kansas State Historical Society link provided in this issue. Last spring, I found the gravesite of Titus Simons, and his first child, TGV Simons, at the old Oak Hill Cemetery, Plymouth, Indiana. TGV is also the grandson and namesake of Dr. Simons. You can find his gravesite at www.findagrave.com, Memorial ID 182821241. Note the birth mother in this electronic record is incorrect.

In looking at the official written record of death for TGV Simons at the Oak Hill Cemetery office, I was shocked to see TGV Simon's Mother was Mary Smith! Yes, this could very well be the same Mari Smith (Note the varied spelling of Mary which is not uncommon for this era), younger sister of Jedediah, documented by the original Smith Family Christian birth records located in the Presbyterian Church in Bainbridge, New York. Note TGV Simons official Oak Hill Cemetery Record of Death was recently put on file in the University of Pacific collections.

Ms. Mary Drachler, past Jedediah Smith Society Board Member, provided to me the baptismal records of the Jedediah Smith Sr. family including his wife, Sally Smith, and his children which includes this society's namesake Jedediah Strong Smith and Mari Smith. Jedediah was baptized on August 13, 1800, and Mari was baptized on May 9, 1802 in Jericho, New York. The Smith Family were members of the Christian Religious Congregational Society of Cilicia or the Church of Cilicia (Jerico). Jedediah Smith's Father was a founder and leader in this Church. Copies of the Smith Family baptismal records and other church documents have recently been put on file in the UOP Collections.

After the birth of TGV Simons, Titus Simons had five more children with Mary (Mitchell) Simons. You can find her gravesite at www.findagrave.com, Memorial ID 182821264. In her record TGV Simons is not listed as one of her children, so this electronic record is correct. When you are at this site, please also look at the photograph of the massive Simons family tombstone.

Archives Corner

The Dr. TGV Simons Family in Indiana, Part I (*Continued*)

What I take from the above is both Dr. Simons and his son, Titus Simons, had relationships with women whose family name was Smith, and both relationships bore children. It makes me wonder how many possible Simons and Smith families marriages and partnerships were there in total? I now reach out to all JSS members to welcome you in joining us in the research of these amazing American frontier families.

To further the investigation into Titus and Mary Smith, I found Titus in the 1830 Census living in Plain, Wayne County, Ohio. You can find this record at www.ancestry.com, Source Citation: 1830; Census Place: Plain, Wayne, Ohio; Series: M19; Roll: 142; Page: 40; Family History Library Film: 0337953. The census family demographics show that it was probably Mary Mitchell Simons listed as the female, and TGV Simons, born December 27, 1830, listed as the infant. Yet clearly Mary Mitchell Simons was not his birth mother. More research is needed in this area.

In 1847, Titus Simons moved his family to Plymouth, Indiana, and purchased a farm from William Mitchell. Is this person related to Mary Mitchell Simons? This pretty farm is located on the Lincoln Highway between Plymouth and Bourbon, Indiana. A map of the exact location of this 1847 farm is on file in the UOP Collections. Titus and his family thrived in Northern Indiana, but by the turn of the next century they had lost the entire family fortune, and the family died out per local records. An indication of their success is represented in the massive family tombstone. This towering nine foot monument weighs 55,000 pounds and is Hillo – fare granite quarried in Scotland which is not too far from the Isle of Man in the Irish Sea. The Simons Family history in Indiana is a dynamic family story which I will share as Part II of this article in the next *Castor Canadensis*.

The above research has provided some clues which are useful in our quest to locate the lost journals and manuscript maps of Jedediah Smith. Living Smith family members will find of great interest the Smith Family baptismal records and church files in the UOP files. As you may know, a descendant of Paddock Smith, the brother of Jedediah, had a Parkman written copy of the 1823-1827 Jedediah Smith's first California Trip Journal, and this copy is on file at the Missouri Historical Society. Finding this journal changed the history of the west with unknown information coming to the surface. Did the other Smith and Simons family members receive Jedediah's journals and maps while in Ohio and later in Indiana? The fun is in the hunt – so let's keep searching for those missing Jedediah Smith journals and manuscript maps!

Please contact the author, Kevin Kucera, at kckucera@msn.com for more information.

Jedediah Smith Letters at Kansas State Historical Society

By, Michael Church

Archivist/Digital Coordinator, State Archives Division, Kansas Historical Society

The Kansas Historical Society has recently published on www.kansasmemory.org five original letters by or relating to Jedediah S. Smith (1799-1831) from the Jedediah S. Smith papers, 1826-1931, Ms. Coll. 504. E.D. Smith donated the letters to the Historical Society as two separate gifts in 1910 and 1911. Jedediah wrote four of the letters between 1829-1831 to his brother Ralph Smith in Ohio. He wrote about his travels, the death of his mother, his father, various correspondents and his hopes of receiving news from back home. The fifth letter, written almost four months after Jedediah's death, was written by Austin Smith to Jedediah Smith, Sr. informing him of his son's death. The 1830 letter includes a full transcription. Transcriptions of the other four letters are being prepared. All five of the letters may be accessed at <http://www.kansasmemory.org/category/13811>.

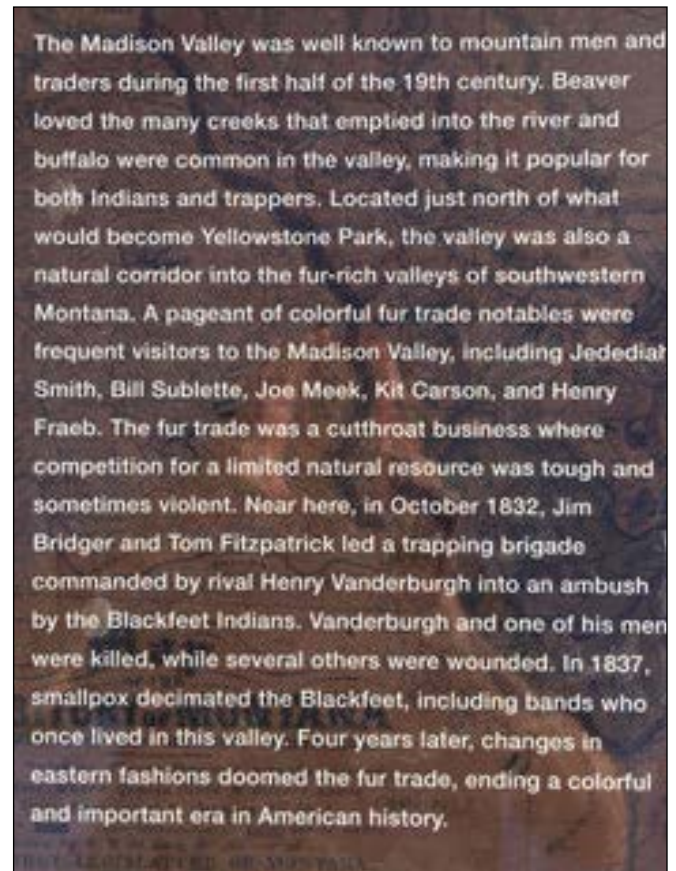
Montana Historical Markers Getting a Re-Make

By Jim Smith



The Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) is in the process of remodeling and upgrading several of the state's rest areas. This includes swapping out the old wooden historical markers (which don't hold up forever in the wind, snow, sun and weather) for new steel ones. One example is the historic marker entitled 'A Tough Business' that is 28 miles south of Ennis, on the banks of the Madison river, between mile markers 15 & 16 on US Highway 287. I stopped there July 15th on my way home from Green River Days in Pinedale, Wyoming; to pay my respects and to ponder for a moment just how tough a business the fur

trade was in the 1820s & 30s. I was able to snap a few photos of the new marker, and also found a couple of photos of the old one. The new marker includes a couple of photographs, the well know photo of Jim Bridger. Here's the text on the marker:



A Tough Business

The Madison Valley was well known to mountain man and traders during the first half of the 19th century. Beaver loved the many creeks that emptied into the river and buffalo were common in the valley, making it popular for both Indians and trappers. Located just

Montana Historical Markers Getting a Re-Make - *Continued*

notables were frequent visitors to the Madison Valley, including Jedediah Smith, Bill Sublette, Joe Meek, Kit Carson and Henry Fraeb. The fur trade was a cutthroat business where competition for a limited natural resource was tough and sometimes violent. Near here, in October 1832, Jim Bridger and Tom Fitzpatrick led a trapping brigade commanded by rival Henry Vanderburgh into an ambush by the Blackfeet Indians. Vanderburgh and one of his men were killed, while several others were wounded. In 1837, smallpox decimated the Blackfeet, including bands who once lived in this valley. Four years later, changes in eastern fashions doomed the fur trade, ending a colorful and important era in American history.



Another MDT Rest Area currently undergoing a remodel is located about 75 miles east of Billings, a few miles west of the Hysham exit, on I-94. This rest area and the historic marker is on the banks of the Yellowstone river. Jedediah and William Ashley floated right past the rest area after the 1825 Rendezvous with bull boats full of fur bound for St. Louis. The historic marker at Hysham is entitled 'Jedediah Smith.' It is entirely devoted to Smith and his role in the opening of the West.

Jedediah S. Smith Wall Map and Interactive Web Maps

Please remember to go to our website: www.JedediahSmithSociety.org to check out the interactive maps that have been created by our map team. They're unbelievable!

Also please consider purchasing a map for your wall.

They come in 2 sizes: 24" x 36" and 16" x 20". You may order the historic style or one with modern highways added. You will find the order sheet on-line with instructions.

The Material Culture of the Fur Trade

By Milton von Damm

TRADE BLANKETS

The single most important items of trade with Indians in North America were textiles, especially trade blankets. Trade blanks were made in France, England, the Netherlands and even Germany. Trade blankets and coats made from blankets, with or without hoods, were called capotes, and were introduced by French sailors in exchange for furs. In New France the blanket prices were high and tribes preferred the high quality and lower price Dutch blankets. The Dutch blankets wove a heavy napped wool cloth that was called “duffel” in tribute to Duffel, a small Dutch village that is located in the provenance of Antwerp.

The Hudson’s Bay Company was established in 1667 and by 1674 the British had driven out the Dutch colonies at New York and Fort Orange (Albany). British trade blankets became available and they copied the Dutch duffel blankets but made them lighter, although heavier “stroud” weight blankets were also available. The British, like the Dutch before them, offered higher quality and lower prices compared to the French.



The French introduced a point system in 1694 by inserting short lines in a blanket corner to denote blanket size and weight to make it easier for both sellers and buyers to recognize size and weight variations. The British adopted the point system in 1780. For example, a three-point blanket was about seventy three inches long and fifty four inches wide (mine is sixty six inches long and sixty two inches wide) and initially featured one stripe at each end , weighing three and one half or four pounds. The lighter size and weight was preferred for making clothing, capotes, leggings, ponchos or for wearing as a shawl. Duffel blanket material faded in popularity by 1815 as the point blanket became dominant.

It is interesting to note how government tax policy influenced business decisions, then, as now. Blankets woven in the mills of England were taxed by the blanket, so blankets were made twice as long and then divided in half when sold. The single stripes at each end of a blanket were inserted as a guide to where the trader should divide the blanket. The tax was cut in half.



The Material Culture of the Fur Trade - *Continued*

American fur trading companies ordered trade blankets through suppliers that filled the orders, mainly, from mills in England. Wister, Siter and Price in Philadelphia and Phn & Ellis in Schenectady, New York were principal suppliers serving the American Fur Company and trading companies in St. Louis. Large British hand mills were located in Witney and Leeds. Because there were no large American mills making trade blankets during the first half of the nineteenth century, even the US Office of Indian Trade was dependent on British and other foreign sources for their blanket needs.

TRADE BLANKETS USED IN THE EARLY FAR WEST

Long heavy four point trade blankets were not in demand during the 1820's when William Ashley and his men sought to skim the cream off of the far West fur trade. They were heavy and bulky to transport, especially on animals, and the native Americans and trapping brigades mainly utilized buffalo and other animal hides, plus perhaps saddle blankets for their bedding. Although trade blankets were available in several colors, most Indians preferred white with either a black or blue stripe when Jedediah was in the West. William Ashley's records reveal only slight insight into the blankets they carried to the Rocky Mountains and beyond. However, only three points sizes are mentioned.



There is no distinction between supplies for Ashley's men and blankets for trade or gifts. The price for three point white blanks was listed at \$9.00 and a few green blankets at \$11.00. It is uncertain whether the white blankets were the lighter "duffel" weight specified by the Hudson's Bay Company, or the emerging, slightly heavier "kersey", that was made of long staple wool with a strong nap, usually twilled.

The "Chief's" blanket also emerged in the 1820's and is distinguished by having four stripes at each end, usually yellow, red, green and black. The pictured uncut double blanket is an example.

Another blanket type that was popular with some traders for their personal use and sought by some Indians was the "Rose Blanket", a duffel blanket that was a light, coarse woolen cloth, not twilled, and with a rose pattern embroidered in each corner. Inventories at Fort Vancouver mention Rose Blankets as well as green blankets. At least one of Ogden's Snake River expeditions included green blankets, probably the same type as Smith, Jackson and Sublette's field purchase from William Ashley.



Information sources:

Museum of the Fur Trade Journals vol 24 #4, pages 4-10; vol 33 #3, pages 6-13

The Encyclopedia of Trade Goods of the Fur Trade, vol 4 *Clothing and Textiles*; various pages from 193 to 224, 567.

The West of William H. Ashley 1822-1838; pages 127 regarding an order of fifty 3 point

Blankets for Gardner & Williams, page 151 regarding the sale of goods associated with the July, 1826 sale of Ashley's Rocky Mountain field company to Smith, Jackson and Sublette.

Members' Section

New Members

Please welcome our new members to the Society. We welcome you to our events and participation on various committees. If you'd like to write an article please see the guidelines under the editor column.

David Kettman	Clancy, MT
Randolph Nelson	Beverly, MA
Scott Walker	Skokie, IL

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The Society wishes to thank the sponsors and patrons and all members for the investment in the future of our society.

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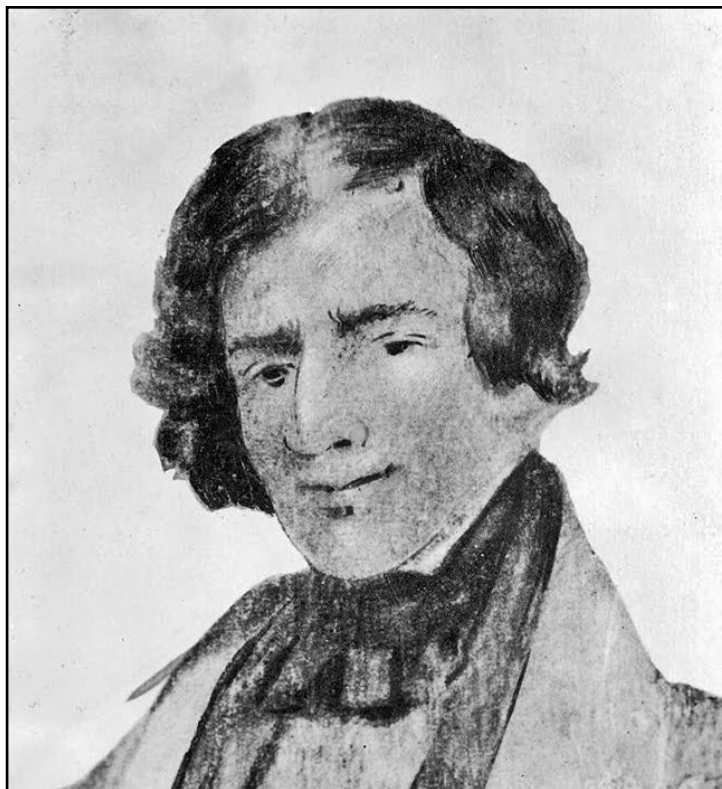
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