

**Journal of a  
fur-trading  
expedition on  
the Upper  
Missouri**

**John C. Luttig**

**JOURNAL OF A FUR-TRADING  
EXPEDITION ON THE  
UPPER MISSOURI  
1812-1813**

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**CLERK OF THE MISSOURI FUR COMPANY**

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*AUGUSTE DUROCHER*

**AUGUSTE DUROCHER** was born about 1779, as the record of his marriage to Marie Louise Hortiz, widow of Joseph Laprise, solemnized in St. Louis, April 4, 1839, states that he was then about sixty years old. He had contracted an alliance with this lady many years previous. The church records of the St. Louis Cathedral show that there were born of this couple: Marie Claire, November 22, 1821, who married at St. Louis, January 7, 1839, Louis Dessaint of Quebec; Auguste Edmond, July 25, 1825; and Joseph, May 23, 1827. Marie Durocher, widow of Auguste, died December 30, 1863, leaving the following heirs: Marie Dessaint, then living at Davenport, Iowa, daughter; Benjamin Durocher, son, living at Fort Benton; Louise Tetu, daughter; Julia, wife of Edmond Philibert, granddaughter; Augustus Schaeffer, grandson, children of her daughter Eloise.

On May 16, 1814, Joseph Philibert and his company started on an expedition to the Arapaho country, and Durocher accompanied him as interpreter. Upon the return of the Philibert party Durocher conducted a dancing school at Mr. Sanguinet's house and continued this profession for two years. On January 26, 1819, he held his last ball, so the newspaper advertisement reads. He was next heard of as a tavern keeper on North Main Street in St. Louis in 1822. Growing tired of this monotonous life, he joined, in 1829, the Kansas Outfit of the American Fur Company, as a boatman. The next year he re-engaged himself with the Company as boatman and hunter in the Upper Missouri Outfit and was stationed at Fort Union. He remained in this outfit until the fall of 1833, when he returned to St. Louis. Durocher seems to have remained in St. Louis for about fifteen years, as the directories and church records indicate that he was there in 1839, 1845, and 1848. In 1851 Mrs. Auguste Durocher is listed in the city directory as a widow. In about 1850 Auguste Durocher stopped in St. Joseph, Missouri, at the home of Pierre Harnois, who had been

a gunsmith in the American Fur Company for many years. He asked Mr. Harnois to care for some papers which he was leaving until his brother, who closely resembled himself, should call for them. Mr. Durocher stated that he was going to the Sandwich Islands, and that he had previously been working in the mines of California. He was never heard from after that, nor is there any record of him in St. Louis after 1848. He probably left St. Louis for the California gold-fields in 1849.

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