

## Fur Trader

IN THE SUMMER OF 1815, MR A P CHOUTEAU AND JULIUS DE MUNN OF ST LOUIS FORMED A PARTNERSHIP FOR THE PURPOSE OF TRADING ON THE UPPER ARKANSAS RIVER. THEY LEFT ST LOUIS ON THE 10TH OF SEPT, IN THE COMPANY OF JOSEPH PHILIBERT, A TRADER, WHO HAD GONE TO THE MOUNTAINS THE YEAR BEFORE. HE'D RETURNED TO GET A SUPPLY OF GOODS AND HORSES TO ENABLE HIM TO BRING IN HIS FURS, WHILE LEAVING SOME MEN BEHIND WITH HIS CACHE OF FURS. ON THE WAY TO THE MOUNTAINS CHOUTEAU AND DE MUNN PURCHASED PHILIBERT'S ENTIRE OUTFIT AND THE TIME OF HIS MEN.

PHILIBERT HAD APPOINTED HUERFANO CREEK, A BRANCH OF THE ARKANSAS, AS A RENDEZVOUS FOR HIS MEN, BUT WHEN THE PARTY ARRIVED THERE, IN DECEMBER OF 1815, THEY LEARNED FROM SOME INDIANS THAT THE MEN, DEPAIRING OF PHILIBERT'S RETURN, AND DESTITUTE FOR NECESSARIES, HAD GONE OVER TO THE SPANIARDS, TAKING EVERYTHING WITH THEM.

IT WAS ACCORDINGLY DECIDED THAT DE MUNN SHOULD GO AFTER THEM. HE FOUND THE MEN AT TAOS, WHERE THEY HAD BEEN WELL TREATED. DE MUNN THEN TRAVELED TO SANTE FE TO SEEK PERMISSION FROM THE GOVERNOR TO TRAP BEAVER ON THE HEADWATERS OF THE RIO GRANDE. WHILE THE GOVENOR FORWARDED THIS REQUEST, TO HIS GOVERNMENT, DE MUNN, TAKING HIS ENGAGES FROM TAOS, RETURNED TO CHOUTEAU'S CAMP ON THE HUERFANO.

IT WAS THEN DECIDED THAT DE MUNN SHOULD RETURN TO ST LUIS FOR ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT. DE MUNN, JOSEPH PHILIBERT, ALONG WITH ONE OTHER MAN SET OUT AT THE END OF FEBRUARY AND REACHED ST LUIS FORTY-SIX DAYS LATER.

note: upon De Munn's return, he and Chouteau went to Stanta Fe, to see if the authority to hunt in Spanish territory had been granted. Having had a change in Governor, to one that was ill-disposed to the American trappers. The final outcome was that they were imprisoned for 48 days, had all of their property, with the exception of one horse each, confiscated, and forced to leave the dominions of Spain.

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