

Philibert accompanied by Chouteau and De Munn

A. P. Chouteau and Julius De Munn had the way opened for them in 1811 by Ezekial Williams, who led 19 men to the upper Arkansas. In 1812-13 Williams was a captive of the Arapahoes. In the spring he managed to escape, cache his furs and make his way back to Missouri. **In 1814, he joined a party of 21 westward bound trappers under Joseph Philibert, hoping to recover his furs and rescue the two companions still held by the Indians. In 1815, Philibert was accompanied by A. P. Chouteau and Julius De Munn, who purchased the outfit and the services of the men which Philibert had left in the mountains.** For the next two years Chouteau and De Munn conducted successful trapping business in Colorado, maintaining about 50 trappers in the field. This firm not only did trapping but also traded with the Indians for peltries. One large trading council was held on the South Platte River a few miles south of present Denver. In 1817 they were arrested by the Spanish authorities and their furs confiscated. This discouraged further trapping in Colorado until Mexico achieved her independence from Spain. (Hafen, 1933, 76-80)