

Thomas Fitzpatrick

1837-1847

0.25 linear feet

Ms. 240

Abstract

For twenty-five years Fitzpatrick was a fur trader and guide. Part of that time he spent working with William Ashley. In the years 1841 and 1842 he led emigrants to Oregon and in 1843 served as a guide for John Fremont's expedition there. Three years later he guided Kearny's Army of the West into New Mexico. In 1846 Fitzpatrick was appointed as an agent to Bent's Fort but he did not arrive at his post until spring of the next year. He served in this capacity until his death in 1854. His life and activities are documented in an article appearing in *Colorado Magazine* as listed below

Thomas Fitzpatrick and the First Indian Agency in Colorado by LeRoy R. Hafen, *Colorado Magazine*, Vol. VI (March 1929): 53-62

Background Note

The collection is an artificial one containing no original materials. While specific details regarding provenance are unknown it is possible that LeRoy Hafen transcribed information from collections held by the Missouri Historical Society as well as obtaining Photostat copies of records held in the National Archives. Interested researchers should refer to the numerous footnotes in the *Colorado Magazine* article.

Scope and Content

The collection contains typescripts of reports (1847) and Photostat copies of ledgers (1837-38) and correspondence (1842, 1847-48). The typescript report dated 1847 details Fitzpatrick's journey from St. Louis to Bent's Fort. The ledger pages are statements of license for the "Indian trade" granted by William Clark, Superintendent of Indian Affairs. There are five pieces of correspondence, four of which are from Fitzpatrick reporting his activities.

Subjects

Fort Leavenworth, Bent's Fort, Fort Hall, Fort Laramie, Platte River, Arkansas River; New Mexico; Cheyenne Indians, Yellow Wolf and Old Tobacco (Cheyenne), Arapaho Indians, Apache Indians, Comanche Indians; U.S. Military.

Contents List

FF	Folder title	Date	Folder Description (if applicable)
1	Statements of License for Indian Trade	1837-38	3 Photostat copies
2	Correspondence to D.D. Mitchell	Jan. 1, 1842	Photostat, 2 pages
3	Report to T.H. Harvey	Sept. 18, 1847	Typescript 21 pages (2 copies) One copy is missing pages 6 and 11.
4	Correspondence [Recipient unnamed]	Jan. 7, 1847	Photostat, 3 pages
5	Correspondence [Recipient unnamed]	May 1847 [?]	Photostat, 4 pages

- But communicated to Col. M. Dill
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|---|--|---------------|---------------------|
| 6 | Correspondence [Recipient unnamed] | Oct. 19, 1847 | Photostat, 16 pages |
| 7 | Correspondence, T.H. Harvey to W. Medill | Dec. 30, 1847 | 1 page typed |
| 8 | Correspondence [Recipient unnamed] | Aug. 11, 1848 | Photostat, 5 pages |

Additional Information:

Accession number/R number
old number- MSS XXI-20a

Provenance

Unknown. See Background Note

Preferred Citation

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Processing Information

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