



RED RIVER BRIGADE

The Trace

February 2014



From The Booshway:

Hello Brothers

Well I hope everyone survived the holidays and is getting back to their normal routine. My wife and I, along with Brother Jason Mays and his woman spent News Year's Eve riding horses over to my other place and had a good camp in our tipi. It was a beautiful cold clear night and we sat at our fire until the New Year came in.

I would like to welcome new Pilgrim, Jason Messmer to our brigade. He is the son of our Editor of *The Trace*, Gerry "Lucky" Messmer. We wish him well in his pilgrim's journey.

I would encourage our members if you see a man that seems to be wanting to do it right, then reach out and invite him to a few camps, see how he is, perhaps he would be a good candidate for the AMM.

Plans for our upcoming Brigade winter camp are going well. I hear that there will be several colleges and we will have some guests in camp. All in all, it sounds like we have a good event planned for our first Brigade 'vous of the year.

Other events in the near future will be the AMM Eastern Spring rendezvous on our land in Kentucky 20-23 Mar. 2014. If you have not been to the land, I would urge you to go and take a look, It's pretty nice!

I hope that we all will have a good year getting to go to as many camps as we can.

We are always looking for material to fill the pages of our fine news letter. Please send just a short write up of anything that you're doing or projects that you are working on, pictures are always welcome too.

One more reminder, if you have not paid your dues, it's time.

See Ya on th' trail
Yr. Svt.
Kraig



Ramblings from the Editor:

Brothers,

Well, I never thought I would see the day when prices for fur were as high as they are this year!

I grew up in Upstate New York in a town called Interlaken between Seneca and Cayuga Lakes. The area is called the Finger Lakes Region. It is known for being the second largest wine producing area of the country and now has, thanks to my brother, a "cheese trail" married to the "Finger Lakes Wine Trail" for tourism.

As a kid, I started trapping when I was 11 years old going after the wiley muskrat and occasional coons and once in a great while a fox. In the mid-70s muskrat was going for \$7.50-8.00 at the top end and the best I ever did on a big old coon was \$32. I thought I was in high cotton after I sold my hides. I made enough each year to pay my way through wrestling camp and to have gas money for my car when I got older. Anyways, I always had spending money in my pocket because I was a trapper.

One season I was out checking traps before school when I found a skunk in one of my traps. Having heard a good head shot would keep them from spraying when dying, I backed off with my .22 Winchester rifle and took good aim and sent that lead message into that old skunk. He rolled right over and sure enough, no spray. I waited a minute and then walked up in my glory and brilliance to remove him from the trap. Just as I bent over to free the poor fella he stood up and let loose!

Needless to say, I had good cover scent on my clothes for the rest of the trapping season, but it forced me to change in the barn and run to the house in long johns every morning. I did go to school that day and apparently had not gotten all the smell off of me. In homeroom class everyone smelled a skunk and went to the windows to look for it. I quietly went to the front and told my homeroom teacher, who upon close quarters realized it was me and let me go home to shower again!



So anyway, this year I have been looking at fur prices and found that 2014 hit a 30 year high for furs. The best prices, of course, are for hides coming from the North Country with central and southern hide's not selling very well if at all.



Montana is having a boom year for those in that area. From an article on line here is some great information:

"...Trappers are seeing an increase in their paychecks in the state of Montana," said Toby Walrath, president of the Montana Trappers Association. "The market is strong and improving. It's a good time to be a trapper right now."

Montana trappers received \$2.7 million in income in 2012 from the sale of raw fur, according to the Montana Trappers Association. This year's state auction also paid out \$230,000 for the pelts of prized species, including those monitored by state game officials.

The economic impact is pretty significant," Walrath said. "I think it's far more significant than people realize. There's money to be made by lots of people."

Walrath's confidence in the industry has been backed by national reports. A recent story by National Public Radio said the retail fur industry held an estimated worth of \$15.5 billion last year – an increase of 45 percent from 10 years ago.

Fashion designers are driving the trade's resurgence by incorporating more fur into their clothing lines. One British magazine reported that nearly 70 percent of fall collections included some form of fur.

Walrath's own pelts have been fashioned into mittens and hats.

"In China, fur is a fashion statement, and they're looking at the longer coats," Walrath said. "In Russia, it's more of a practical use than a fashion statement. In the U.S., fur is being used for trim around hoods on coats, cuffs on sleeves, and collars, things like that."

Fur prices are on the rise due to European markets and their demand for American pelts..."



I'm so cute...why would you want to trap ME?

Here is a good chart showing what prices were this year:

<u>Species</u>	<u>Offered</u>	<u>% Sold</u>	<u>Section</u>	<u>Average</u>	<u>Top</u>
Beaver	20,299	85%	1st Section	\$35.66	
		34%	3rd Section	\$7.10	\$74.00
			Overall	\$32.79	
Castoreum		Grade #1 \$50.00/lb	Grade #2 \$40.00/lb		Grade #3 \$30.00/lb
Wild Mink	2,920	50%	Overall	\$17.61	\$24.00
Otter	904	85%	Overall	\$60.33	\$110.00
Muskrat	36,950	99%	Eastern	\$10.11	\$16.50
			NWT	\$9.34	\$10.00
Raccoon	30,551	35% 65%	Canadian	\$11.78	\$33.00
		45% 40%	Minn./Wisc.	\$31.47	\$62.00
			Iowa East	\$19.33	\$24.00
			USA Bigger sizes unsold.	\$10.26	\$12.00
Red Fox	1,199	100% 100%	Eastern	\$59.26	\$110.00
		25%	Northern	\$86.94	\$105.00
			Central	\$21.84	\$30.00
Cross Fox	67	100%	Overall	\$61.62	\$78.00
Arctic Fox	633	100%	Overall	\$50.82	\$72.00
Grey Fox	470	80%	Overall	\$28.65	\$35.00
Coyote	3,263	24%	Overall	\$56.90	\$78.00
Timber Wolf	201	76% 55%	Arctic Eastern	\$281.04	\$540.00
				\$100.91	\$200.00
Wolverine	52	54%	Overall	\$259.23	\$370.00
Black Bear	21	81%	Overall	\$110.29	\$290.00
Seal	1,078	42%	Overall	\$37.92	\$66.00
Weasel	9,395		Mainly Unsold		\$8.00
Squirrel	918	100%	Overall	\$0.95	\$1.80

Keep yer powder dry!

Yer most humble servant,

Lucky



Favorite Quotes of Wild Bill Baker

Just as relevant today as ever! Thank you Bill!!

“Those who hammer their guns into plows will plow for those who do not”

Thomas Jefferson

“The country today seems to want for little but perhaps a modicum of common sense...I see disturbing proofs of Jefferson’s theory that the natural progress of things is for Liberty to yield and government to gain ground. Remember always, that Government is not reason; it is not eloquence-it is a force! Like fire, it is a dangerous servant, and a fearful master.”

George Washington

“The spirit of the times may alter, will alter. Our rulers will become corrupt, our people careless...From the conclusion of this [Revolutionary] war we shall be going downhill. It will not then be necessary to resort every moment to the people for support. They will be forgotten, therefore, and their rights disregarded. They will forget themselves in the sole faculty of making money, and will never think of uniting to affect a due respect for their rights. The shackles, therefore, which shall not be knocked off at the conclusion of this war, will be heavier and heavier, till our rights shall revive or expire in a convulsion.

Thomas Jefferson-Notes on Virginia



Herbs and Medicinal Notes by Wild Bill Baker



Our-Lady's Bedstraw

The herb, ladies bedstraw is said to have been used by Mary to prepare the Christ child's bed, thereafter it was known as Our Lady's Bedstraw and the formerly white flower heads turned their present golden color. Abundant in the Adirondacks, this herb has long been used for stuffing of mattresses and a person's body heat is supposed to release soothing honey like vapors. The plant was also used as a natural dye material giving red, purplish red, orange red, plum and yellow colors to fabrics depending on the mordant used to fix the color.



Juniper

Juniper, widely known as a pesky weed and a serious threat to any farm field in the Adirondacks, is where gin derives its flavor. The name gin is derived from the dutch jenever, which means "juniper". A relative of the Red Cedar, juniper is the only conifer to inhabit all three northern continents; North America, Europe and Asia. Adding a handful of juniper needles to your bath water will soothe sore muscles. Indians tied bundles of steaming boughs to sore limbs. Legend has it that Juniper planted outside the front door will keep witches out!



Yarrow Plant

The leaves of the Yarrow Plant are used to stop bleeding in wounds, to reduce inflammation and to heal rashes when applied directly to the injured area. Relief of a tooth ache may be found by chewing the leaves. It contains an alkaloid that was found to make blood clot faster and also contains a volatile oil called Azulene that is an anti-inflammatory. Caution: Yarrow contains thulone which in sufficient quantities can cause abortion. One cup of yarrow tea has the stimulant qualities of several cups of coffee.

A bit of humor from Kraig Fallwell

On his 70th birthday, a man was given a gift certificate from his wife. The certificate was for consultation with an Indian medicine man living on a nearby reservation who was rumored to have a simple cure for erectile dysfunction! The husband went to the reservation and saw the medicine man.

The old Indian gave him a potion and with a grip on his shoulder warned, "This is a powerful medicine. You take only a teaspoonful, and then say " 1-2-3." When you do, you will become more manly than you have ever been in your life, and you can perform for as long as you want." The man thanked the old Indian and as he walked away, he turned and asked, "How do I stop the medicine from working?" "Your partner must say '1-2-3-4,' he responded, "but when she does, the medicine will not work again until the next full moon."

He was very eager to see if it worked so he went home, showered, shaved, took a spoonful of the medicine, and then invited his wife to join him in the bedroom. When she came in, he took off his clothes and said, "1-2-3!" Immediately, he was the manliest of men. His wife was excited and began throwing off her clothes, and then she asked, "What was the 1-2-3 for?"

And that, boys and girls, is why we should never end our sentences with a preposition, because we could end up with a dangling participle.



This picture has nothing to do with herbs! However, Wild Bill would think I was nuts not to include it...this fella was at the Eastern...



A cast iron Dutch oven like this was carried west by Water Hamilton Crow with Mormon Pioneers in 1847 and is on display at the Daughters of Utah Pioneers Museum.

Cast Iron Cookware during the Fur Trade? By Wild Bill Baker

Howdy Brothers,

I'm "Wild Bill" Baker #1905 H of the Jed Smith Party. When at a primitive camp you can hear someone getting hell for having a dutch oven, "dam'it, they didn't have them" folks will say! However, by the 16th century, the art of casting had become well established. By the mid 18th century tight fitting lids began to appear on pots and kettles. Someone at camp would say, " why would they carry that extra weight"? Well, most trappers went out in brigades with many pack horses, so why not bring along an iron pot? They carried hundreds of pounds of powder and lead, not to mention the weight of many heavy beaver traps. So, why not throw in a cast iron pot or two? Also, most forts had a smithy for everyday repairs and by the way, how much do you think an anvil and all the tools weighed to move west? Well, anyway, here is what I am leading to. One of the Brothers, Vince Bernstein gave me a book for Christmas called "Field Guide to Dutch Oven Cooking" compiled by the International Dutch Oven Society. In the forward there is a history of Dutch ovens in Utah and here is what it said, read it twice and check credits:

"...On numerous occasions cast iron pots and ovens entered Utah long before its permanent settlement. Most of the early explorers and trappers carried with them cast iron cookware in the form of kettles, pots and bake ovens. These items were the most prized possessions they owned. Some of the earliest explorers entering the Utah area were Dominguez and Escalante on their journey through the west in 1776. From this time on, the area later known as Utah was regularly visited by trappers and explorers, nearly all of them carrying cast iron cookware. Early explorers of the west such as Lewis and Clark, John C. Fremont, Jedediah S. Smith, Peter Skene Ogden and other notables were known to have a Dutch oven or two with them as they traveled.





18th Century Rev War era cast footed pot

One of these trappers and explorers, Osborne Russell, kept an extensive journal of his travels and experiences. On one occasion, while entering Cache Valley, in Northern Utah, they killed 2 bears. They were very excited to get the meat and the fat, not only because it had been about ten days since they had eaten meat but also to have fat to grease their iron pots and kettles. The cast iron had become dry from regularly boiling thistle root..."

And just for historical shits and giggles, why is it when I walk through camp with my 8 inch cast iron pot offering my fresh baked peach cobbler no one gives me hell? HA!

References:

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What is Japanning?

By Patsy Harper, Phil “Cuz” Trumble and “Lucky” Gerry Messmer

Patsy Harper has been looking into the history and method of “japanning” wood and metal to preserve it. Based on her research she, Cuz and I put together this short article to give you some basic information. A couple years ago I came across an original tinder box at an antique store. It was tin and covered in “black paint”, so I thought. But many tin pieces were japanned to preserve them during shipping, etc. Patsy works at Home Depot in the paint department and they carry the high-gloss high heat spray paint for BBQ pits (up to 1200 degrees F) , and gloss black spray paint for engines (up to 2000 degrees F). They also carry spray lacquer in gloss black for items that do not need to resist much heat. Other hardware stores probably do too. These products can be used to get a look similar to old-time japanning.

And “Cuz” has been doing research as well as he shares: This past year while making and repairing some horse gear, I ran across the problem of nickel and chrome buckles, rings, and clips. In my research, I think most metal parts of historic horse gear were either hand-forged, or japanned iron, or brass. Chrome and stainless steel came into common use on horse gear after World War II.

There is a shop in Yoakum that specializes in repairing leather sewing machines. They also have a lot of hardware used in making horse gear. No leather, just hardware, most of it chromed or nickel, some brass. The old man in the back who works on the sewing machines told me to burn off the chrome by heating it with a propane or map gas to cherry red, and quenching it in motor oil. “Blackpowder” Jim Branson and I tried this and it works somewhat. It at least gets the nickel or chrome off.

The color is from black to a blue steel look. I suspect we did not get it hot enough. We used map gas and it seemed to work a little better than propane. Of course heating anything with a spring will ruin the spring. We were burning mostly rings and it was hard to get the entire ring the same color. The buckles were smaller and worked better. Using a forge might work better, for more even heat, rather than a torch.



British Diplomatic Bicorne japanned tin hat case

Also using crank case oil, particularly from a diesel engine, has more carbon in it.

More recently I got a can of oil-based gloss black paint for metal and just dipped some spring-latches and let them dry. I did one set during warmer weather and they dried quicker. I did another set in much cooler weather and it took three times as long to dry but gave a thinner coat. I like the thin coat better.

I think that with time the leather rubbing the metal that the heated treated metal would lose its finish quicker

than the painted. I'll have to see. I have not japanned any thinner pieces of metal.

The place in Yoakum also has some hand tools and unwaxed linen thread for sewing leather. I think the roll is about 65 dollars but that was given to me, and it lasted about 8 years. I bought a new one three years ago.

Below is the history on japanning and some methods to reproduce it. But first, here is a little bit of clarification on various terms for different coatings, such as shellac, lacquer, varnish, and modern polyurethane.

Shellac is a flaky resin secreted by the female lac bug to form a cocoon. This bug is often found on trees in the forests of India and Thailand and Pakistan, and its waxy resin is used to protect the cocoons for its larvae. To be used in shellac, the resin is scraped off of trees, processed into flakes or powder, and mixed with denatured alcohol. This makes shellac very easy to apply, as it dries quickly thanks to the alcohol. Unfortunately, alcohol spills make shellac susceptible to dissolving. It dries fast (to the touch in 10 minutes) and thus avoids gathering all of the dust and bugs that are close by. On wood, clear shellac turns white when a hot object or water is left on it like a drink glass, but the ring goes away if you wipe it with alcohol.



Antique Japanned tin spice container

Do not use shellac on a humid day because the alcohol draws moisture into it, and it will cause the shellac to almost never dry. Heating metal first before application of shellac will cause the finish to dry too fast. After it is dry to touch, the coated pieces can be warmed to accelerate complete hardening, but shellac reacts unfavorably to too much heat, so it is not good for articles that will be used over a fire, such as coffee pots.

Lacquer generally means a fast drying glossy, hard finish based upon flammable solvents - a protective coating consisting of a resin, cellulose ester, or both, dissolved in a volatile solvent, sometimes with pigment added.

The term *lacquer* originates from the Sanskrit word *laksha* meaning "one hundred thousand", which was used for both the Lac insect (because of their enormous number) and the scarlet resinous secretion it produces that was used as wood finish in ancient India and neighboring areas. In terms of modern products, lac-based finishes are referred to as shellac, while lacquer refers to other polymers dissolved in volatile organic compounds (VOCs), such as nitrocellulose, and later [acrylic](#) compounds dissolved in lacquer thinner. While both lacquer and shellac are traditional finishes, lacquer is more durable than shellac.

The ancient Chinese/Japanese lacquer techniques, later imitated by Europeans, used uroshiol-based lacquers made from a resin of a tree native to China, *Toxicodendron vernicifluum*,

commonly known as the Lacquer Tree. Uroshiol is also the component of poison ivy that causes a rash (contact dermatitis). Lacquer ware became a very popular technique in China in 1600 BC, but its use may go back to 8000 BC.

Nitrocellulose lacquers are the most common lacquer you will find today, and if the label on the can says lacquer, it's this type. These finishes were developed in the early 1920s and are composed of an alkyd/nitrocellulose resin dissolved and then mixed with fast-evaporating solvents (lacquer thinner), rather than alcohol. They have moderate water resistance, but are sensitive to heat and certain solvents. Like Shellac, it is hard and dries rapidly. It is available in a brush-on or a spray-on form.



Antique japanned tin

For most clear metal coating, lacquer is the most convenient and practical form of protection. The effect of shellac is pleasing, and is suitable as a way to produce an authentic appearance to pieces which will be protectively displayed, and not subject to frequent handling.

Varnish refers to finishes that are made from drying oils like linseed oil or tung oil and tough, durable synthetic resins. There are non-polyurethane finishes in Varnish but you seldom see them anymore. Some varnishes are simply solutions of the resin and oil, like phenolic resin varnish. Others like alkyd varnishes and polyurethane are really drying oils like linseed, tung or soya oil that's modified with chemicals called polyols and acids. This forms an oil/resin structure called an alkyd, which is also the basis for most modern oil-based paints.

Actually Varnish is a collective term and includes shellac, varnishes as we know them today, paints, and lacquers. All these finishes (shellac, lacquer, varnish, and polyurethane) are safe to come in contact with food and non-toxic, as soon as they are dry and the solvents have evaporated.

Polyurethane and Spar urethane are modern finishes and are similar plastic resins carried in water or solvent. Spar urethane is an oil-based form that is made so it is more flexible and can be use outdoors and won't yellow as much. Polyurethane is an interior product that usually has better wear tendencies and is actually more waterproof than the outdoor version. Polyurethane comes in water-based form and oil-based. Water-based polys dry quicker, but turpentine-based oil-based polys take at least 8 hours to dry, thus gathering all of the bugs and dust that will be available during that time. But these coatings were introduced in the 1950's and 1960's, so they do not date to our reenacting time period.

And now, here's the history of japanning.

Japanning describes the European imitation of Asian lacquer work, originally used on furniture. The word originated in the 17th century. Japanned is most often a heavy black lacquer, almost like enamel paint. Black is common enough that japanning is often assumed to be synonymous with black japanning. The European technique uses varnishes that have a resin base, similar to shellac, applied in heat-dried layers which are then polished, to give a smooth glossy finish. It can also come in reds, greens and blues.

Originating in India, China and Japan as a decorative coating for pottery, it made its way into Europe by the 17th century. In the late 17th century, high European demand and rumors that higher quality pieces were not exported led to production starting in Italy. Its traditional form can be found using gold designs and pictorials, contrasting with the black base color.



Civil War era japanned artillery tin case

As the demand for all things japanned grew, the Italian technique for imitating Asian lacquer work also spread. The art of japanning developed in seventeenth-century Britain, France, Italy, and the Low Countries. The technique was described in manuals such as Stalker and Parker's *Treatise of Japanning and Varnishing*, published in Oxford in 1688. Colonial Boston was a major center of the japanning trade in America, where at least a dozen cabinetmakers included it among their specialties. In England, decoupage, the art of applying paper cutouts to other items, became very popular, especially the botanically inspired works of Mary Delaney.

Wolverhampton and Bilston were important centres for the manufacture of japanned ware. Trade directories for 1818 list 20 firms of japanners in Wolverhampton and 15 in Bilston. According to Samuel Timmins' book *Birmingham and the Midland Hardware District*, published in 1866, there were 2000 people employed in the japanning and tin-plate industries in Wolverhampton and Bilston at the time.

Japanning firms ranged in size from small family workshops, which often adjoined the proprietor's home, to a few large factories employing over 250 people. In the larger workshops, the production of tin plate and papier-mâché articles and the japanning process all took place under one roof, while small workshops tended to carry out only one or two of the trades, usually tin-plate working and japanning.

At the height of its popularity, richly decorated japanned ware was to be seen in every middle class home, but from the mid-19th century this began to change. By the 1880s, the japanning and tin-plate industries were in decline. This was due partly to changes in fashion and taste and partly due to the development of electroplating. In response, makers of japanned ware began to focus on more utilitarian items, including japanned cash boxes.

Ironware was japanned black, for decorative reasons. It was also used to render it rustproof, suitable for carrying water. A significant industry developed at Pontypool and Usk, shortly before tinplate began to be made in the area. Japanned ware was being also made at Bilston by 1719 and later elsewhere in the area.

In the 19th and 20th centuries, this lacquering technique evolved into the handicraft of decoupage. Decoupage focuses less on furniture and more on temporary boxes and toiletry containers.

The technique was also developed to protect wood and later industrial metal objects such as hand planes, builders' hardware, and in North America, watt-hour meters made before the mid-1930s. Later, it was as an insulating film on transformer laminations. It was also used as the substrate for the tintype photographic process.

In the late 17th century, there was a developing trade in metal goods made of thin iron sheet, spurred by development of the rolling mill. Rust proofing this iron was obviously important. Tin plating had been developed in Germany, and British manufacturers needed to compete.

While it was the growth of the iron foundries and tin plating that gave birth to japanning on metal, tin plated iron was not the only metal used. There are examples of brass, copper and bronze used as substrates. In France copper is the metal primarily used because it had to be hammered into shape rather than rolled and stamped the surface was uneven. This did not provide the best surface for japanning thus it has a greater tendency to flake off than the smoother English tin ware. When the French made tin ware it was often trimmed with bronze.

The use of metal allowed a variety of forms that were required to withstand heat and water. Coffee pots, tea sets, candle sticks and other household items could all be japanned and decorated in the popular fashion.

These japanned metal objects are very stable so a great many still survive. In most cases it is easy to ascertain the underlying metal because it can be seen in losses or scratches. If the japanning is intact, a magnet can be used to identify iron. Most iron trays show some rust on the back where only a single coating was applied. Even the tin plated iron objects show rust in some areas.

It's worth remembering the unavailability of effective paint, at this time. The surface finishes that did exist either had poor adhesion to their substrate, or required either a porous or an organic substrate to bond to. There simply weren't the solvent- or resin-based paints for metals that we assume today.

The process of japanning with the use of an oil varnish and heat is credited to Thomas Allgood of Pontypool. In the late seventeenth century, during his search for a corrosion-resistant coating for iron, he



developed a recipe that included asphaltum, linseed oil and burnt umber. Once applied to metal and heated the coating turned black and was extremely tough and durable.

Pontypool is in a steep valley in South Wales, surrounded by coal and iron working. The iron used was produced by the furnaces of Blaenavon to the North, and most of the "Pontypool ware" was actually produced in nearby Usk or Newport, at the Southern end of the valley. Similar recipes or "secret varnishes" were also used in Birmingham, Many pieces survive today with little rust.

W. D. John, in his book on Pontypool japan, published one of the recipes the workmen had handed down through generations:

- 448 pounds of raw linseed oil,
- 22 pounds of lump umber,
- 20 pounds of flake litharge,
- 100 pounds of asphaltum,
- 5 pounds of cobalt resinate and
- 406 pounds of white spirit or turpentine.

The linseed oil was heated together with the umber and the asphaltum while the litharge and cobalt were added slowly. According to the recipe, the varnish was ready when a drop of varnish dripped onto cold glass remained in a ball. After cooling, the turpentine was added. There was also a pale clear version which omitted the asphaltum and the cobalt (John, 1953). In the author's test, this varnish worked equally well on paper mâché and metal plates. Three coats produced a durable glossy black finish.

This recipe bears a remarkable similarity to one for gold size published by both Robert Dossie in 1764 and Stalker and Parker in 1688. In that version, linseed oil is boiled together with gum animi, asphaltum, litharge and umber in approximately the same proportions as the Pontypool recipe. It appears that the secret recipe for Pontypool japan had been in existence for some time before its use for japanning metal.

References for Japanning

1. Jump up ^ The history of Wolverhampton, the city and its people
<http://www.wolverhamptonhistory.org.uk/work/industry/japanning>
2. Jump up ^ M. B. Rowlands, Masters and Men in the West Midlands metalware trades before the industrial revolution (Manchester University Press 1975), 134-136 etc.
3. <http://www.cranialstorage.com/Wood/japanning.html#Japan-Application>

Further reading

Eerdmans, Emily (2006). "The International Court Style: William & Mary and Queen Anne: 1689-1714, The Call of the Orient". *Classic English Design and Antiques: Period Styles and Furniture; The Hyde Park Antiques Collection*. New York: Rizzoli International Publications. pp. 22–25. ISBN 978-0-8478-2863-0.

Difference between shellac, lacquer, varnish, and polyurethane:

<http://answers.yahoo.com/question/index?qid=20091209131618AAHUR6n>

and: <http://www.doityourself.com/stry/lacquer-finish-vs-shellac#.UuFx5LDnaM8>

Shellac vs. lacquer on metal: <http://www.horology.com/htr-laqu.html>

Mountaineers Clothing

By Tim Austin #1564 Hiv.



Mountaineers Clothing 1810 – 1840

Many of us have read all the diaries and journals we can locate of the mountaineers before 1840 west of the Mississippi River. All of the ones I have read are worth the read, be they from a Mountaineer or a visitor. Many of them cover many of the same events and time periods. Most of them will give descriptions of what they say a mountaineer will carry, ride, or wear. Many of these descriptions have much in common, but all are a little different. I am only going to cover the clothes worn by these mountaineers. I have found that although the accounts are similar, there are vast differences in each. First I will cite

accounts tell us.

David Meriwether worked as a subter (store operator) for the U.S. Army at their post located at the Bluffs from 1819 through 1821. It is a U.S. Army event, so will not be "standard" for what the mountaineers wore, but it is very interesting. It tells how the people survived out in the harsh winters of the time. It starts on January 1, 1820, and is very detailed, which is why I am including it. He, Mr. Meriwether was asked to make a 270 river mile trip to another military fort to obtain medicine for the soldiers where he was the subter. The soldiers at the post where he was stationed were unable to perform their mission because about half of them were suffering from scurvy.

The Commander of the Post thought Mr. Meriwether would be the best to send as he had experience in wilderness travel. He agreed to make the trip on the condition he could select the men and they would wear the proper clothing, as opposed to them wearing their uniforms. It was agreed upon and the trip was planned. The tailors of each company made the required clothing and the party left on January 4, 1820. He showed them a suit of clothing that he had for himself, and he required each man to be furnished with the same. These clothes consisted of:

- a buckskin hunting shirt reaching down to about his knees
- a pair of pants made of the same material, which reached nearly to the arm pits
- a vest made entirely of otter skins
- an otter skin cap which would cover the ears and every part of the face, except the mouth, nose, and eyes

He also wanted each man to have:

- a pair of drawers, an undershirt, and several pairs of socks of what was called "South Sea baize" (which was a woolen cloth about as thick as a good mackinaw blanket but with a much longer nap)
- a pair of buckskin mittens, lined with the same kind of baize, and which should come well up on the wrist so as to cover the coat sleeve
- a pair of moccasins of otter skins with the fur turned inside, and lacing high above the ankles.

This is so very interesting because he then tells us it took almost 30 days to make the trip where on the coldest night it got to 32 degrees below freezing. They never changed clothes except for socks and they carried no additional clothing, no capotes or tarps. After they arrived and got the required medicine, they did

not stay inside at that fort, but stayed outside so they would not lose their outdoor feelings and returned the next day for another almost 30 days of travel. This might help some of the boys in the Northern parts to make their winter gear.

Another person is Thomas James who went to the headwaters of the Missouri river with Manuel Lisa in 1810. He returned from there and started his own trading venture and in 1821 went from St. Louis to Santa Fe. His mention of clothing is not as good or as descriptive as others, but he tells us they made moccasins and leggings. His description of winter moccasins is very good. They made moccasins of skin taken from the legs of a buffalo with the hair next my feet and legs. Another point he mentions a coarse calico shirt, and then gives what the company charged for items, one dollar and a half per yard for course tow linen for tents, the same for a common butcher knife, and so on...". One of his few statements about articles of clothing he tells of a calico shirt.

James Clayman was in the mountains in 1823. He tells us they wore:

- Linsey Woolsey shirt
- Buckskin pants
- Footwear
- Coonskin cap (worn when in the settlement)#

Washington Irving, who in the fall of 1832 toured from Fort Gibson (northeast Oklahoma), to the Southwest and back (going as far as what is now Oklahoma City), not only gives us very good descriptions of what he wore, but what the men who accompanied him wore. He was joined on this adventure with 3 others who also kept diaries and all have been published. They joined a group of what at that time were called "Rangers", an Army group of men that were horse back and were to "control" the prairie.

He first describes what the "average" rifleman was wearing in this group of rangers. He tells us they wore:

- frock-coats made of green blankets
- leathern hunting-shirts (in marvelously ill-cut garments)
- took off his pantaloons and rode in his deerskin leggings and a pair of drawers
- handkerchief twisted round their heads
- spectacles on nose
- Holland shirt
- hunting frock and leggings of deer skin
- Indian hunting frock of dressed deer skin
- Leathern pantaloons
- moccasins
- a foraging cap (some were leather)
- a rifle shirt of dressed deer skin
- hand in his breeches pockets#
- common soldier's great-coat

Then he makes a comment about washing his clothes. This is interesting in that it indicates he had at least 3 shirts. He states he hung up to dry "the two shirts which I washed yesterday." Thus can we assume that most had more than 1 shirt?

In 1834, there are several journals that give good descriptions of what they bought for their trip to the mountains, what was worn by the writers and their companions, and how much of each they used. The first I will quote is from Osborne Russell. He tells us that he is dressed in the following way:

- a flannel or cotton shirt (if he is fortunate enough to obtain one, if not Antelope skin answers the purpose of over and under shirt)
- a pair of leather breeches
- Blanket or smoked Buffalo skin leggings
- a coat made of Blanket or a Buffalo robe
- a hat or cap of wool, Buffalo, or Otter skin
- hose are pieces of Blanket lapped round his feet which are covered with a pair of Moccasins made of Dressed Deer Elk or Buffalo

Osborne then makes a statement that fits with what most of his journal indicates and that is "made Moccasins of raw Elk hide" which agrees with many other statements of other journals. Several journals write about the fact that they needed moccasins so they killed an elk, deer, or buffalo and made moccasins and the group only stopped for a few hours and each man had made several pair of moccasins. In one journal, and I cannot remember which one it was, the writer says he and his friend woke about 2 in the morning because their moccasins were beginning to dry and hurting their feet, so they went down to the river to let their feet soak for awhile before going back to bed. I have tried to make moccasins out of raw deer hide, and could never wear them long before they hurt my feet so badly I had to remove them. They also gave no padding against the rocks and stuff on the ground and walking was very painful. Of course that was East Texas deer after the hide was fleshed and de-haired.

Joe Meek is another of the men that went to the mountains early and stayed until the "mountain man" era ended. He tells us of many things, and his statement of making moccasins in the spring from the lodges they stayed in all winter were the best because they were heavily smoked and did not shrink in wetting "like raw skins."

This is another example of many of the moccasins made were from un-tanned skins. He tells us because the moccasins made from the winter lodges were better and it was very important as he was almost constantly in the water. He then tells us why "Sometimes after trapping all day, the tired and soaked trapper lies down in his blankets at night, still wet. But by-an-by he is awakened by the pinching of his moccasins, and is obliged to rise and seek the water again to relieve himself of the pain." He also tells us because the trapper is always in the water he cuts off the lower half of his buckskin breeches and replaces the bottom half with blanket leggings. He said they did not have many garments, buckskin breeches, a blanket capote, and a beaver skin cap.



John Kirk Townsend got outfitted in St. Louis, again in 1834, for a trip to the Columbia River. He was told by Captain Wyeth, who was allowing him to accompany his expedition, not to bring any clothing for the trip as he, Captain Wyeth, would help him get cloths for the trip when they got to St. Louis. Here is what he got:

- several pairs of leathern pantaloons
- enormous overcoats, made of green blankets
- white wool hats, with round crowns, fitting tightly to the head, brims five inches wide, and almost enough to resist a rifle ball.

William Marshall Anderson, who was on the same trip as Mr. Townsend, tells us his view of the clothing he saw. He tells us a suit of clothes is seldom washed or turned from the time it is first worn. Caps and hats are made of beaver, otter skins, the skins of buffalo calves, and etc. Some of these hats are fantastically ornamented with tails and horns. The buckskin hunting shirt and leggings gracefully hung with fringes along the arms and sides, six to seven inches long, and densely on every seam.

Reviewing what William Drummond Stewart told us about his clothing is very interesting. He took half a dozen colored shirts, an over-coat of white blanket with a hood, a broad-brimmed un-napped white hat, a leather shirt over the cotton one, and leather leggings. He also gives a good description of Bill Williams dress, shinning leather pants, and he also wore "an old black beaver". He also tells of Jim Mackarey wearing a blue capote, scarlet vest, and white hat. Then one of his statements is very worthy of examination, "an Indian among some white capotes which marked them as whites." He also recognized his friends because of the red silk handkerchief they wore.

Christopher "Kit" Carson was in the mountains from 1826 until his death in 1868. He remained in the mountains, and after trapping he settled in Taos where he made his home. He was one of the primary mountaineers of the time and after that was the chief scout for Colonel Fremont in all of Colonel Fremont's exploring expeditions. His biography is one that is well worth the read. He dictated it to DeWitt C. Peters before he died and Mr. Peters published it in 1881.

Here is the description of dress of the average trapper. "The trapper, when in full dress for an expedition...His wardrobe is meager in the extreme...to consist of buckskin pantaloons, two woolen shirts, a loose, fringed buckskin coat and an old slouched hat (usually made of some kind of skin with the fur on). His baggage, limited to a very small bundle, comprises his blankets, a buffalo robe or two, a spare hide of dressed buckskin, his extra garments above spoke of, and a little tobacco (when it can be had). These, with his camp kettle and outfit of powder, lead, extra traps, scanty allowance of provisions, guns, pistols, horses, bridles, saddles...it may be only for a few months, or it may be for years." This really fits with what all the others have stated.

Then, someone who is outside our time period, but just by a year, and because he gives good descriptions, I feel it is worth citing him is Rufus B. Sage. He was in the mountains from 1841 until 1844. His description of what was worn:

- four shirts and a single change of clothes are as much luggage as any individual should think of taking for their own use
- His head is surmounted by a low crowned wool-hat, or a rude substitute of his own manufacture.
- His clothes are of buckskin, gaily fringed at the seams with strings of the same material, cut and made in a fashion peculiar to himself and his associates.
- The deer and buffalo furnish him the required covering for his feet, which he fabricates at the impulse of want.
- His waist is encircled with a belt of leather, holding encased his butcher-knife and pistols.
- While from his neck is suspended a bullet-pouch securely fastened to the belt in front.
- Beneath the right arm hangs a powder-horn transversely from his shoulder, behind which, upon the strap attached to it, are affixed his bullet-mould, ball-screw, wiper, awl, &c.
- With a gun-stick made of some hard wood, and a good rifle placed in his hands, carrying from thirty to thirty-five balls to the pound

The description Mr. Sage gives for "shoe-making" is very informative. I have never tried this style, but am anxious for someone to tell me how good it works. He tells us they were always moccasin-making.

"The latter is a business in which every mountaineer is necessarily a proficient, and rarely will he venture upon a long journey without the appurtenances of his profession. The process of shoe-making with him is reduced to its most simple form. He merely takes two pieces of buffalo (or any other suitable) skin, each being a little longer and wider than his foot, particularly towards the heel; these he folds separately, and lays them together parallel with the turned edges; then, rounding and trimming the sides, to render them foot-shaped, with an awl and the sinew of buffalo or other animal, or small strips of thin deer-skin, ("whang") he sews the vamps from end to end, --then after cutting a tongue-like appendage in the upper side, midway from heel to toe, and stitching together the posterior parts, his task is done."

I thought it would be better in his words, so one could understand what he is saying, and interpret it himself. James Ohio Pattie is a very interesting person. He never gives full details of his or his companion's clothes, but just gives snippets. Examples: "we killed some antelopes and deer, and dressed their skins to make moccasins"; "a suit of the finest cloth"; "leather hunting shirt"; "large dressed buck skin for moccasins"; "an old straw hat"; "My legs were fitted with leather leggings, and my body arrayed in a leather hunting shirt"; "we dressed in deer skin, with leggings, moccasins, hunting shirts, customary Indian dress around the loins, this was of red cloth"; "my waistcoat"; "large straw hat shaded my head from the sun"; "our red flannel shirts"; "our white pantaloons".

The last person I will cite is Captain John Marcy. He was in the US Army and stationed in the west. He is important in that he wrote his instructions to those that would be taking the Oregon or California Trail. It is an informative book and I encourage you to get and read it. The title is, "The Prairie Traveler", and was published in 1859. Much of what Captain Marcy says is based upon his many years of service in the west. He had a scout

most of his time in the west who was as he termed it "an old mountaineer" of the time prior to 1840. Much of what he cites in the book he gives his scout credit for stating it is what the mountaineers did while they were trapping beaver.

I will give his description as he gives it because I do not want to skim over any of it.

"Cotton or linen fabrics do not sufficiently protect the body against the direct rays of the sun at midday, nor against rains or sudden changes of temperature. Wool, being a non-conductor, is the best material for this mode of locomotion, and should always be adopted for the plains. The coat should be short and stout, the shirt of red or blue flannel, such as can be found in almost all the shops on the frontier: this, in warm weather, answers for an outside garment. The pants should be of thick and soft woolen material, and it is well to have them re-enforced on the inside, where they come in contact with the saddle, with soft buckskin, which makes them more durable and comfortable. Woolen socks and stout boots, coming up well at the knees, and made large, so as to admit the pants, will be found the best for horsemen, and they guard against rattlesnake bites.

In traveling through deep snow during very cold weather in winter, moccasins are preferable to boots or shoes, as being more pliable, and allowing a freer circulation of the blood. In crossing the Rocky Mountains in the winter, the weather being intensely cold, I wore two pairs of woolen socks, and a square piece of thick blanket sufficient to cover the feet and ankles, over which were drawn a pair of thick buckskin moccasins, and the whole enveloped in a pair of buffalo-skin boots with the hair inside, made open in the front and ties with buckskin strings. At the same time I wore a pair of elk skin pants, which most effectually prevented the air from penetrating to the skin, and made an excellent defense against brush and thorns."

Lastly Captain Marcy gives a list of what to take, which is:

- 2 blue or red flannel over shirts, open in front, with buttons.
- 2 woolen undershirts.
- 2 pairs thick cotton drawers.
- 4 pairs woolen socks.
- 2 pairs cotton socks.
- 4 colored silk handkerchiefs.

- 2 pairs stout shoes, for footmen.
- 1 pair boots, for horsemen.
- 1 pair shoes, for horsemen.
- 3 towels.
- 1 gutta percha poncho.
- 1 broad-brimmed hat of soft felt.

What is really interesting about this, it has many of the items that earlier journalist say is how they were dressed.

More sources could be reviewed, but this, I feel, is enough for us to get a good description of what the mountaineers wore. Here is, as I see it, what the "typical" mountaineer of 1810 – 1840 was wearing. From the above cited sources what can we determine the "average" mountaineer from 1810 – 1840 wore? His shirt is the first item I will discuss. A leather shirt would have been what today we call "brain tanned". He would have worn or had a cotton, linen, or flannel shirt when he initially left St. Louis, and would have preferred these. Flannel then was wool and not like anything we have access to today, the closest we have would be the light wool flannel, which is difficult at best to locate. I have seen examples of flannel from our time period; it was a very loose weave that allowed the material to breath. Remember, Captain Marcy told us that cotton and linen do not protect the body like wool does when crossing the prairie. I think the longer you were in the mountains; you would wear cotton, linen, or wool shirts. The Mountaineers would obtain them at the Rendezvous, and wear them until they wore out and then go back to skins.

The pants worn by the mountaineers will be the next item of discussion. It seems all of the sources tell us of leather pants. Earlier in our time period these pants were probably what we today call knee breaches, as that was the predominate dress before heading to the mountains. Several have told us they wore "knee breaches", in that they were easier to wear getting in and out of the streams all the time. Some would attach blanket strips to the bottom of these to assist in keeping themselves warm. Those that wore the long leather pants no doubt had a strap under the foot to keep the legs from riding up while riding, which is what they did more than walking. Several might have left St. Louis wearing the normal cloth pants, but as Captain Macey tells us, these wear out quickly and should be lined with buckskin to make them last longer. If anyone has had the opportunity to make long rides, the cloth pants do not hold up as long as leather ones do.

The other items that seem to be common to the mountaineers of our time will be discussed next. It seems they all had a silk scarf, and it seems red, yellow, blue, and black was the preferred colors. I prefer the raw silk scarf as it is much warmer, and more protective than the finished silk scarf. After a few years of wear, the raw silk scarves will get a "hue" about them that really comes close to what we see as the finished silk scarves today.

It seems that most, if not all, of the cited sources confirm moccasins as the footwear of choice. Several reasons are, there was no place west of St. Louis that they could get shoes or boots repaired, and the rugged use and abuse of this item made it more practical to wear moccasins. They had summer and winter moccasins. They also all seemed to wear socks. Several tell us of the types of socks, made from blankets. Several specify they took strips of wool from their blankets and wrapped them around their feet and up their ankles and then covered these with the moccasins. During the winter they also made moccasins from buffalo, elk, or deer with the hair worn on the inside, and a good way up their ankles. They also mention about using raw skins for moccasins. Almost all tell of these types of moccasins. So, when will I see some of these at one of our gatherings?

They would also wear hats, at least from St. Louis. These seemed to be low crowns, 3½ inches tall and broad brims, 4½ to 5 inches wide, mostly white. They were beaver felt, which many called them beaver hats, but these hats would many times get blown away while they were crossing the prairies and thus the mountaineers would then make their own. Most talk of buffalo, otter, or another skin they could not make money from at Rendezvous. They tell of the hoods on their capotes, which cannot be worn successfully while wearing a broad brim hat. For winter many would make a head covering from their blankets and we have examples in several of the "Sketch Books" published by Mr. James Hansen.

Mr. Pattie even tells us they wore straw hats, which makes good sense as they were in the Southwestern part of the country and it is so very hot there in the summer. Several people that kept diaries tell of wearing vests, or earlier waistcoats. These seem to have been so normal that they were not mentioned much, and only comments made by the writers tell us of them. Mr. Pattie is very specific in that he tells us they wore waistcoats. Several others tell us of their vests, Mr. Warren specifies red vest. Capotes, seem to be of a type we are all familiar with. Mr. Townsend tells us of green capotes, others talk about red and sky blue being worn by Indians and that whites mostly wore white capotes.

I know after spending time in a "winter" camp in Colorado, the capote should be lined with cotton or something that will block the wind, and it should have more of a closure than just a belt. Trying to just belt the capote around you is great, but when it is really cold, something else is required to keep one warm. They had large heavy belts around their waist to carry their pistols in and to assist in keeping their pants up. It seems all of them wore suspenders to keep their pants up.

In conclusion, it seems the "average" mountaineer would have worn a shirt of cotton, linen, or wool covered with a leather shirt or jacket, and if he had not a cloth shirt he wore a leather shirt. He would have worn buckskin pants. He would have worn a hat, either low crown and broad brim, or one of his own making from a skin that was not sellable at Rendezvous. He would have worn a silk scarf, a vest, and a large leather belt. His moccasins would have been made of deer, elk, or buffalo and for winter he would have had blanket socks and possibly the same type leather with the hair on the inside. His capote would have been white, blue, or green.

Though there would undoubtedly have been individual differences, the first-person accounts provide us with sufficient detail to form a relatively clear picture of what the mountaineers actually wore, and this picture gives us an exceptionally good benchmark to use in our quest for authenticity.



Hunting Opportunities:

Brothers,

This is **LAST YEARS** Texas lottery opportunities to give you an idea of what is out there. My recommendation is that if a lottery can have three people, then three people get together and they all submit as the primary with the other two as add-ons so the chance of getting the lottery is three times higher.

This year's lottery draws are not published yet. I highlighted the ones with good odds for selection. Again, we could increase odds if all the members of the permit applied on their own.

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN Area Code: ST

NOTICE: Standby hunt permit fees are by check or money order only.

SPECIAL RESTRICTIONS: MUZZLELOADERS, ARCHERY EQUIPMENT and SHOTGUNS WITH SLUGS are the only legal means that may be possessed or used during this hunt.

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS: Two white-tailed deer (either sex, limit one buck). Buck must have an inside main beam spread of 13 inches or greater or at least one unbranched antler. Unlimited feral hogs.

HUNT METHOD: By compartment. Baiting is allowed. No blinds are available on the park. Hunters are encouraged to bring portable blinds.

PERMITS AVAILABLE: 10

LAST YEAR: 353 applicants for 13 permits HUNTER SUCCESS: 31%

Stephen F. Austin SP covers 473 acres in Austin County and is located approximately 5 miles east of Sealy in the town of San Felipe. To access the park, take FM 1458 north of IH-10, then Park Road 38. The Park is primarily Brazos River bottomland with mature pecan, elm and cottonwood trees throughout, with relatively open understory. Objectives of the public hunts are to manage the deer herd nearer the carrying capacity, while providing public hunting opportunity. Access to the Park will be limited to participants of the public hunt. Hunters will be allowed to camp and normal fees will apply. The hunter check station is located at the Park headquarters accessed off FM 1458 and Park Road 38. For more information, call the Park headquarters (979/885-3613).

BROWNWOOD Area Code: BW

SPECIAL RESTRICTIONS: MUZZLELOADERS AND SHOTGUNS WITH SLUGS OR BUCKSHOT are the only legal means that may be possessed or used during this hunt. No more than TWO NAMES per card.

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS: Three white-tailed deer (either sex, limit two bucks). Bucks must have an inside main beam spread of 13 inches or greater (limit one) or at least one unbranched antler. Unlimited feral hogs.

HUNT METHOD: By assigned blind.

PERMITS AVAILABLE: 5

LAST YEAR: 220 applicants for 5 permits HUNTER SUCCESS: 60%

Lake Brownwood SP is located 18 miles northwest of Brownwood on SH 279, then east on Park Road 15 for 6 miles. The 538-acre park is located on a peninsula in Lake Brownwood in the Cross Timbers region of the state. Camping and lodging will be available to hunters at regular fees during the hunts. For more information contact the Park (325/784-5223).

PEDERNALES FALLS ANNEX Area Code: PA

NOTICE: These extended hunt periods will have a \$130 permit fee.

SPECIAL RESTRICTIONS: MUZZLELOADERS and ARCHERY EQUIPMENT are the only legal means that may be possessed or used during these hunts.

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS: Two white-tailed deer (either sex, limit one buck). Unlimited feral hogs and exotic mammals. For more information about this backpacking hunt, call the Park (830/868-7304).

HUNT METHOD: By compartment. Baiting is allowed.

PERMITS AVAILABLE: 6

LAST YEAR: 67 applicants for 6 permits HUNTER SUCCESS: 133%

The "Annex" is about 350 acres of park property across the Pedernales River from the Park. A hunt on this area will be a backpacking experience and it is suggested that only those with backpacking experience and in good physical condition participate. A hunt on this property will include use of a cabin and the park will charge a \$30.00 facility use fee (paid at the Park) for the duration of the hunt. Hunters will hike with their equipment down a short embankment and across the river. The river will be about one to three feet deep, rocky and about 100 feet wide. Ice chests can be floated across. Once across there is a 300-yard hike to the cabin. Game carts will be provided to transport animals back to camp. Cabin amenities include water, electricity, stove, and refrigerator, self composting toilet, cooking and eating utensils. The cabin has a couch/sleeper and a bunk bed. Hunters will have to bring their own linens or sleeping bag. Due to the unpredictable nature of the Pedernales River, the Park may have to cancel the hunt if severe river or weather conditions are expected. Call the Park headquarters for further information (830/868-7304).

SEMINOLE CANYON Area Code: SC

SPECIAL RESTRICTIONS: MUZZLELOADERS are the only legal means that may be possessed or used during these hunts.

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS: Two white-tailed deer (either sex, limit one buck).

HUNT METHOD: By compartment. Baiting is allowed.

PERMITS AVAILABLE: 40

LAST YEAR: 139 applicants for 42 permits HUNTER SUCCESS: 36%

Seminole Canyon SP/HS contains 2,173 acres located on US Hwy 90, 45 miles west of Del Rio. The Park is a short distance downstream from the confluence of the Rio Grande and the Pecos River. The rugged limestone terrain is noted for its sparse vegetation and deep canyons. Hunting will be by preassigned compartment. Camping is available on the Park. The check station is located 9 miles west of Comstock on US Hwy 90, just east of the Pecos River High Bridge. Call the Park headquarters for further information (432/292-4464).

DINOSAUR VALLEY Area Code: DV

SPECIAL RESTRICTIONS: MUZZLELOADERS and SHOTGUNS WITH SLUGS are the only legal means that may be possessed or used during these hunts.

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS: One white-tailed deer (antlerless or spike buck). Unlimited feral hogs.

Note: Feral hogs are in limited numbers on the area.

HUNT METHOD: By assigned blind. Baiting is allowed.

PERMITS AVAILABLE: 20

LAST YEAR: 256 applicants for 20 permits HUNTER SUCCESS: 35%

Dinosaur Valley SP has 1,523 acres and is located west of Glen Rose on Park Road 59 in Somervell County. Paluxy River drainage is characteristic of the Cross Timbers and Blackland Prairie ecological areas. The uplands show similarities of the Edwards Plateau to the south and west. The park is closed to visitors during the public hunts and the entrance fee is waived for hunt participants. The park is accessed by taking FM 205 off US Hwy 67 west of Glen Rose for 4 miles. Veer right onto Park Road 59 and follow it for .5 miles to the park entrance. Hunters may use park camping facilities for which the standard fee is charged (254/897-4588).

GUADALUPE RIVER – BAUER UNIT Area Code: GD

NOTICE: This extended hunt period will have a \$130 permit fee.

SPECIAL RESTRICTIONS: MUZZLELOADERS are the only legal means that may be possessed or used during this hunt.

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS: Five white-tailed deer (antlerless or spike buck). Unlimited feral hogs and exotic mammals.

HUNT METHOD: By assigned blind. Baiting is allowed. Vehicles with high ground clearance recommended.

PERMITS AVAILABLE: 5

LAST YEAR: 130 applicants for 5 permits HUNTER SUCCESS: 40%

Guadalupe River SP has approximately 1,938 acres open to public deer hunting by Special Permit only. In the uplands away from the river, the limestone terrain is typical of the Edwards Plateau and has oak and juniper woodlands with interspersed grasslands. The Bauer Unit of Guadalupe River SP consists of 661 acres of parkland located north of the Guadalupe River. Drawn hunters will report to the Guadalupe River SP hunter check station and will be escorted by park staff to their assigned blind. All hunters may use park camping facilities for which the prevailing fee is charged. Commercial lodging, restaurants, and private campgrounds are available in nearby Boerne, Blanco, New Braunfels, and the Canyon Lake area. Call the Park headquarters for further information (830/438-2656).

HUNTSVILLE Area Code: HV

SPECIAL RESTRICTIONS: CENTERFIRE RIFLES and MUZZLELOADERS .45 CALIBER OR LARGER are the only legal means that may be possessed or used during this hunt.

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS: Two white-tailed deer (limit one antlerless and one spike buck). Unlimited feral hogs.

HUNT METHOD: By assigned blind. Baiting is allowed.

PERMITS AVAILABLE: 15

LAST YEAR: 214 applicants for 30 permits HUNTER SUCCESS: 21%

Huntsville SP contains 2,083 acres in the pineywoods of the Sam Houston National Forest located 6 miles south of Huntsville. These woodlands, dominated by loblolly and shortleaf pines, are typical of East Texas. The Park will be closed to the general public during the hunt periods. Hunters may use park camping facilities for which the standard fee is charged. Call the Park headquarters for further information (936/295-5644).

LAKE WHITNEY Area Code: LW

SPECIAL RESTRICTIONS: MUZZLELOADERS are the only legal means that may be possessed or used during these hunts.

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS: One white-tailed deer (antlerless or spike buck). Unlimited feral hogs. Note: Feral hogs are in limited numbers on the area.

HUNT METHOD: By assigned blind. Baiting is allowed.

PERMITS AVAILABLE: 20

LAST YEAR: 50 applicants for 20 permits HUNTER SUCCESS: 83%

Lake Whitney SP consists of approximately 800 acres on the eastern shore of Lake Whitney in Hill County. The Park is located 2.5 miles southwest of Whitney on FM 1244. The area consists of rolling grassland with scattered stands of mesquite, cedar elm, hackberry, live oak, and post oak. The Park will be closed to the public during the hunt. Entrance fees will be waived to drawn hunters. Limited camping will be available to hunters at the regular camping fees. Call the Park headquarters at (254/694-3793) for further information.

Hunting Survey

Please print this page, fill in the survey and return via **snail mail** to:

Brother "Lucky" Gerry Messmer 426 Quail Hollow Drive Adkins, TX 78101

I am doing this via snail mail to protect Brothers privacy as land owners. Do not give specific address unless you are comfortable doing so.

_____ I am willing to travel out of state to hunt/trap or fish with Brothers requiring an out of state license

_____ I own land and am willing to host hunts or trapping events

Location: _____ (town or county and state, no specific address)

Potential dates: _____

Event: Hunting Trapping Fishing

Amount of land: _____ (acres)

How many Brothers could it accommodate for an event: _____?

_____ I have access to land and am willing to ask the land owner for use of the land for hunts or trapping events

Location: _____ (town or county and state, no specific address)

Potential dates: _____

Event: Hunting Trapping Fishing

Amount of land: _____ (acres)

How many Brothers could it accommodate for an event: _____?

_____ I am interested in the Texas lottery hunts and am willing to share in the cost of the fee

My E-mail Address is: _____

Notes: (annotate any special restrictions to your land available, like water availability, special hunting, trapping or fishing regulations, etc.)

Great Links:

www.redriverbrigade.com - [Our awesome website now connected to the AMM site.](#)

<http://user.xmission.com/~drudy/amm/moreamm.html> - you should recognize this site.

www.turkeyfootllc.com - They have great dried food and other wares of high quality. I have ordered from them in the past and been very impressed with their products and service.

www.powderhornsandmore.com - I have bought many powder horns from here to do scrimshaw work and final finishing for many folks. John is a class act, sends beautiful horns and his customer service is excellent. He won't send a product he doesn't want hanging from his shoulder.

http://woodtrekker.blogspot.com/2013/09/living-off-land-delusions-and.html#disqus_thread — This site lists caloric needs from a hunter-gatherer standpoint for long-term survival in the woods, and lists them for specific animals and specific plants. It might be of good use for folks doing their 3-days-hungry. It is very useful data.

<http://www.historicproperties.com/> - We are your online resource for buying and selling historic real estate. From projects to completed renovations, residential to commercial, west coast to east coast and now even outside the U.S.A., Federal to Eclectic; you can search our database of properties for sale. If you have a property to sell, you can list it for sale using the List a Home form and view it online within three business days.

<http://www.oldlogcabins.com/> - *Old Log Cabins* is dedicated to preserving the spirit of the American pioneer by offering original antique hand-hewn log cabins, structures and materials to our customers. We specialize in locating, documenting, and restoring these historic log cabins, barns and outbuildings. These uniquely American buildings were hand crafted by our ancestors in the 18th and 19th centuries, and their original integrity and character cannot be duplicated.

<http://www.smilingfoxforgellc.com/index.asp> - We at Smiling Fox Forge strive to bring you the highest quality 18th century reproductions you can buy. Therefore they are neither inexpensive nor cheap! We have all discovered "**Real Quality**" must be paid for.

Upcoming Events

Red River Brigade Winter Camp 2014

Location: Sterling, Oklahoma

Date: 21-23 February 2014

Amenities: Water available from a good well. There is a one-holer, no need for digging a hole.

Colleges: Sign language, Friction fire-the bow drill and hand drill and other colleges to be announced.

Directions: Sterling, Oklahoma is located near the intersection of highways 65 & 17. Approaching H.E. Bailey from the south, exit 36-A marked "Duncan", and proceed to SH 65. Approaching on the H.E. Bailey Turnpike (I-44), **from the north**, exit onto Whitfield Road at EXIT 62, proceed south to the intersection of SH 65 & 17. (You CAN NOT EXIT HERE COMING FROM THE SOUTH!)

Approaching from Lawton: take highway 7 (Lee Blvd within Lawton City limits) to SH 65.

Approaching from Duncan: take highway 81 to highway 7, proceed west to SH 65; north on 65 to highway 17.

Approaching from Chickasha: Proceed south on highway 81 to Rush Springs intersection of highway 17, proceed west.

Approaching from the south on 65: Proceed north approximately 13 miles to the intersection of highway 17.

FROM THE INTERSECTION OF HIGHWAYS 65 & 17 proceed east thru Sterling to 195th St North on 195th to Welch Rd (approximately 1 mile) East on Welch approximately 3/4 mile, look for signs near an entrance on the south side of the road, near an aluminum gate.

Once thru the gate, take a sharp left, & follow the road (it is sand, not yellow brick) to the parking area. There will be a sign in the parking area directing people to the camping area.

This site affords a parking area secluded from the camping area, yet not greatly distant. It also affords a well and an outhouse, but both are conveniently distanced from where we intend to pitch camp.

Upcoming Events

Brothers,

As a reminder from the Capitaine:

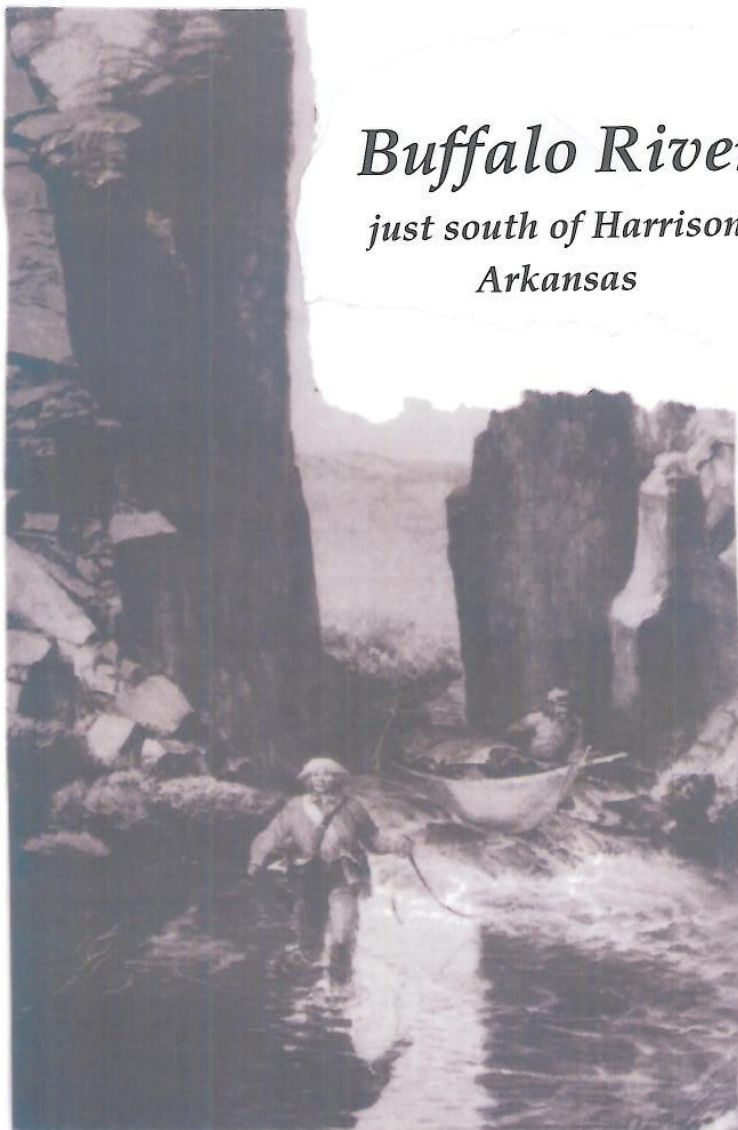
Requirement #4 (spending one full week, etc...) can only be met at one of these three (3) annual events:

AMM National Rendezvous	Montana	June 28th - July 6th, 2014
AMM Eastern Territorial Rendezvous	Illinois	October 4th - October 12th, 2014
AMM Western Territorial Rendezvous	Colorado	October 22nd - October 28th, 2014

Local party camps, or even brigade level camps, do not qualify. Details will be in T&LR and Moc Mails as we move into the year and I will re-print them here.

Five Day Float on the Nation's First Scenic River

May 14th thru 18th, 2014



Buffalo River just south of Harrison, Arkansas

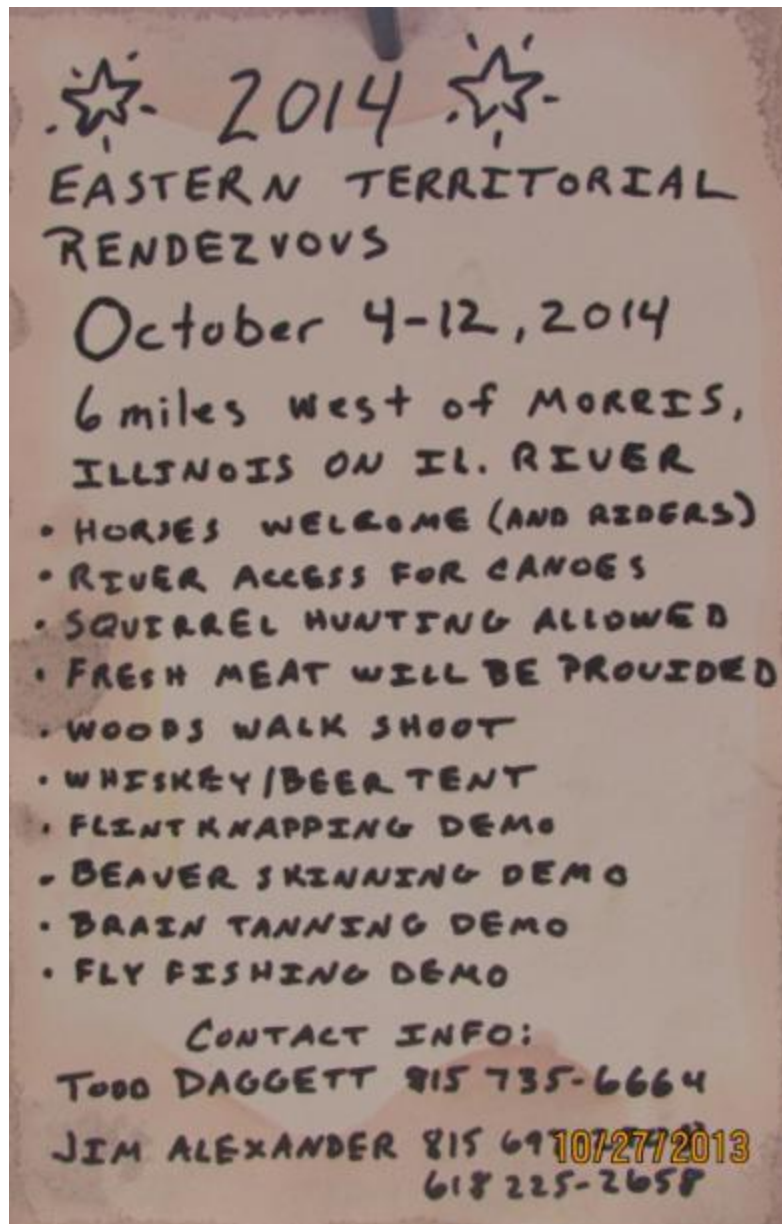
We will begin our travels at Midday on Wednesday, May 14th at Steel Creek Access Point\Camp Grounds. A class on how to construct a Buffalo Boat will begin at noon for any interested members and the boats should be completed by that evening for trial float. Should anyone wish to make the trip in the Buffalo Boat they will be permitted to do so.

From Steel Creek to Mt. Hersey Camp ground is 42 miles. Traveling one of the Nation's most beautiful River. This portion of the river consists of gravel bars that surrounded by willows, fast moving series class 1 and class 2 rapids, the highest waterfall in mid-America and lined with 500 foot-tall cliff walls. If the weather and water are in favor, the float might continue to Woolum Camp ground for a total of 50 miles.

All travelers are responsible for their own food, canoes and floatation vests. The float will end on Sunday 18th 2014 at noon. Wednesday's dinner of meat, corn and biscuits will be provided.

Those interested in additional information needs to contact Bruce Day at legacy.day@cox.net. This float will be for the completion of AMM Requirements Number 8 and 12

Upcoming Events



Todd Daggett: 815-735-6664

Jim Alexander: 815-697-2708 or 618-225-2658