The Fur Trade in Michigan's History

The fur trade was a vital industry in the Great Lakes region long before Michigan became a state. From the early days of French-Canadian "voyageurs" who travelled the waterways in birch-bark canoes, trappers and traders followed their business from the Straits of Mackinac to the Straits of Detroit and beyond.

Below is a selection of materials in the Library. To generate a more comprehensive list, use our online ANSWER catalog under these subjects:

Frontier and Pioneer Life -- Michigan
Fur Garments
Fur Trade
Fur Traders
Great Lakes Region -- History
Michigan -- History
Pioneers -- Michigan
Trapping -- Michigan

Burnett, William.
*MICH. F566.B92 1967*

Cadillac, Antoine de la Mothe.
*The western country in the 17th century; the memoirs of Lamothe Cadillac and Pierre Liette*. 1947.
*MICH. E78.N76 C3 1947*

Epstein, Sam.
*Dr. Beaumont and the man with the hole in his stomach*. 1978.
*MICH. QP145.E67*

Ford, R. Clyde.
*MICH. PZ3.F7556 Sanz 1985*

*MICH. Oversize F551.F9 1985* (flat file)

Gilman, Carolyn.
*MICH. HD9944.U46 G744 1982*
Gilman, Rhoda R.  
The fur trade in the upper Mississippi Valley, 1630-1850. 1974.  
MICH. HD9944.U63 M6 1974

Hamil, Frederick Coyne.  
When beaver was king. 1951.  
MICH. HD9778.U63 M5

Henry, Alexander.  
Massacre at Mackinac: Alexander Henry's travels and adventures in Canada and the Indian territories between the years 1760 and 1764. 1966.  
MI DOC CN M158: 2M41

MICH. CS71.J6452 1982z

Johnson, Ida Amanda.  
MICH. HD9944.U46 M5 1971

Kozlak, Chet.  
MICH. HD9944.U46 G756z

Nute, Grace Lee.  
The voyageur. 1986, c1931.  
MICH. F1027.N96 1986

Prescott, Philander.  
The recollections of Philander Prescott, frontiersman of the Old Northwest, 1819-1862. 1966.  
MICH. F606.P74 1966

Rentmeester, Les.  
MICH. HD9944.U46 W67 1991

Russell, Donna Valley.  
MICH. HD9944.U63 M3z

Wheeler, Robert C.  
A toast to the fur trade: a picture essay on its material culture. 1985.  
MICH. F597.W57 1985
Michigan legislative and state government employees may obtain copies of any of these materials as well as additional research by calling the Library of Michigan reference desk at (517) 373-1300. Our FAX number is (517) 373-5853 or email librarian@michigan.gov. Please visit us: michigan.gov/libraryofmichigan Or on Facebook.