

Guide to the North West Company Voyageur Contracts

WA MSS S-3238



Karen Spicher

2017 April

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
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CALL NUMBER: WA MSS S-3238

CREATOR: North West Company

TITLE: North West Company voyageur contracts

DATES: 1801-1821

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 0.42 linear feet (1 box)

LANGUAGE: French

SUMMARY: Forty-four printed contracts completed in manuscript, 1801-1821, between North West Company shareholding firms and voyageurs or laborers. Outfitters and destinations include: M'Tavish, Frobisher & Co., to Grand Portage, Rainy Lake, and Timiskaming, 1801 and 1806; Parker, Gerrard, Ogilvy & Co., to Michilimackinac, 18027; Alexander Mackenzie & Co., to Grand Portage and Rainy Lake, 1802; and M'Tavish, M'Gillivrays & Co., to Fort William, 1808-1821.

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To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to beinecke.images@yale.edu.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased from William Reese Co. on the Frederick W. and Carrie S. Beinecke Fund for Western Americana, 2011.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Preferred Citation

North West Company Voyageur Contracts. Yale Collection of Western Americana, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

Related Materials

Associated material: Davies/Scroggie collection of Canadian fur trade documents (WA MSS S-2357), Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

Other Finding Aids

Accompanied by vendor descriptions.

North West Company

The North West Company, a Canadian fur trading firms based in Montréal, Québec, was founded in the 1770s and merged with the Hudson's Bay Company in 1821. The Company was comprised of shareholding firms who engaged and outfitted voyageurs to transport furs from trading posts in the Canadian Northwest to Montréal.

Scope and Contents

Forty-four printed contracts completed in manuscript, 1801-1821, between North West Company shareholding firms and voyageurs or laborers. Outfitters and destinations include: M'Tavish, Frobisher & Co., to Grand Portage, Rainy Lake, and Timiskaming, 1801 and 1806; Parker, Gerrard, Ogilvy & Co., to Michilimackinac, 18027; Alexander Mackenzie & Co., to Grand Portage and Rainy Lake, 1802; and M'Tavish, M'Gillivrays & Co., to Fort William, 1808-1821.

Arrangement

Arranged in chronological order.

Collection Contents

Series I: Voyageur contracts, 1801-1821

b. 1, f. 1	M'Tavish, Frobisher & Co.; Jean Marie Boucher, agent Voyageur: Joseph Derosier, dit Lafreniere, of Isle au Castor Place: [Montreal] Destination: Grand Portage Position: devant	1801 January 5
b. 1, f. 2	M'Tavish, Frobisher & Co.; Jean Marie Boucher, agent Voyageur: Jean Baptiste Généreun, of Berthier Place: [Montreal] Destination: Rainy Lake Position: milieu	1801 January 6
b. 1, f. 3	M'Tavish, Frobisher & Co.; Joseph Faniant, agent Voyageur: Joseph Ossant, dit Lange, of Sorel Place: [Montreal] Destination: Grand Portage Position: milieu	1801 January 17
b. 1, f. 4	M'Tavish, Frobisher & Co.; Jean Marie Boucher, agent Voyageur: Joseph de Lorme, of St. Cuthbert Place: [Montreal] Destination: Grand Portage Position: devant	1801 January 28
b. 1, f. 5	M'Tavish, Frobisher & Co.; Louis Belair and Jean Marie Boucher, agents Voyageur: Antoine Saint Pierre, of Masquinongé Place: [Montreal] Destination: Northern posts Position: wintering milieu	1801 March 20
b. 1, f. 6	M'Tavish, Frobisher & Co.; Louis Belair and Jean Marie Boucher, agents Voyageur: Augustin Landry, of Masquinongé Place: [Montreal] Destination: Northern posts Position: wintering milieu	1801 March 20

b. 1, f. 7	M'Tavish, Frobisher & Co.; Louis Belair and Jean Marie Boucher, agents Voyageur: Pierre Doucett, of Masquinongé Place: [Montreal] Destination: Grand Portage Position: milieu	1801 March 20
b. 1, f. 8	M'Tavish, Frobisher & Co.; Louis Belair and Jean Marie Boucher, agents Voyageur: Jacques Goulet, of Rivière-du-Loup Place: [Montreal] Destination: Grand Portage Position: milieu	1801 March 21
b. 1, f. 9	M'Tavish, Frobisher & Co.; Louis Belair and Jean Marie Boucher, agents Voyageur: Antoine Branchaux, of Rivière-du-Loup Place: [Montreal] Destination: Northern posts Position: wintering milieu	1801 March 21
b. 1, f. 10	M'Tavish, Frobisher & Co.; Louis Belair and Jean Marie Boucher, agents Voyageur: François Morais, of Rivierre du Louys Place: [Montreal] Destination: Grand Portage Position: milieu	1801 March 21
b. 1, f. 11	M'Tavish, Frobisher & Co.; Louis Belair and Jean Marie Boucher, agents Voyageur: Louis Brulée, of Rivière-du-Loup Place: [Montreal] Destination: Northern posts Position: wintering milieu	1801 March 21
b. 1, f. 12	M'Tavish, Frobisher & Co.; Louis Belair and Jean Marie Boucher, agents Voyageur: Alexandre Turner, of Rivière-du-Loup Place: [Montreal] Destination: Northern posts Position: wintering milieu	1801 March 21

b. 1, f. 13	M'Tavish, Frobisher & Co.; Louis Belair and Jean Marie Boucher, agents Voyageur: Michel Boucher, of Rivière-du-Loup, chez Joseph Duaiame Place: [Montreal] Destination: Northern posts Position: second dans le grande rivierre; gouvernail dans le nord	1801 March 21
b. 1, f. 14	M'Tavish, Frobisher & Co.; Louis Belair and Jean Marie Boucher, agents Voyageur: François Laurent, of Rivière-du-Loup Place: [Montreal] Destination: Northern posts Position: wintering milieu	1801 March 21
b. 1, f. 15	M'Tavish, Frobisher & Co.; Louis Belair and Jean Marie Boucher, agents Voyageur: François Bergeron, of Rivière-du-Loup Place: [Montreal] Destination: Grand Portage Position: second	1801 March 21
b. 1, f. 16	M'Tavish, Frobisher & Co.; Louis Belair and Jean Marie Boucher, agents Voyageur: Pierre Gabory, of Masquinongé Place: [Montreal] Destination: Grand Portage Position: milieu	1801 March 21
b. 1, f. 17	M'Tavish, Frobisher & Co.; Louis Belair and Jean Marie Boucher, agents Voyageur: Alexis Ricard, of Rivière-du-Loup Place: [Montreal] Destination: Grand Portage Position: second	1801 March 21
b. 1, f. 18	Parker, Gerrard, Ogilvy & Co. Voyageur: Louis Leblond, of Paroise de St. Anne Place: [Montreal] Destination: Michilimackinac Position: wintering milieu	1802 April 5

b. 1, f. 19	Alexander Mackenzie & Co. Voyageur: Baptiste Lemarche, of Paroisse de l'Assomption, chez Bat. Blanchard, voisin de Martel Place: [Montreal] Destination: Grand Portage Position: milieu	1802 April 15
b. 1, f. 20	Parker, Gerrard, Ogilvy & Co. Voyageur: Amable Duplissi, of Paroisse de St. Roch Place: [Montreal] Destination: Michilimackinac Position: wintering milieu	1802 April 27
b. 1, f. 21	Alexander Mackenzie & Co. Voyageur: François Normandin, of Paroisse de St. Ours Place: [Montreal] Destination: Grand Portage Position: milieu	1802 April 30
b. 1, f. 22	Alexander Mackenzie & Co. Voyageur: Paul Loinier, of Paroisse de St. Roc Place: [Montreal] Destination: Rainy Lake Position: gouvernail	1802 April 30
b. 1, f. 23	John Gregory, William M'Gillivray, Duncan M'Gillivray, William Hallowell & Roderick M'Kenzie ... sous le nom M'Tavish, Frobisher & Co. et John Ogilvy et Thomas Thain; John Gregory, agent	1806 March 22
b. 1, f. 24	John Gregory, William M'Gillivray, Duncan M'Gillivray, William Hallowell & Roderick M'Kenzie ... sous le nom M'Tavish, Frobisher & Co. et John Ogilvy et Thomas Thain; John Gregory, agent Voyageur: Joseph Atien, of Vaudrieul Place: [Montreal] Destination: Timiskaming Position: milieu	1806 March 28

b. 1, f. 25	John Gregory, William M'Gillivray, Duncan M'Gillivray, William Hallowell & Roderick M'Kenzie ... sous le nom M'Tavish, Frobisher & Co. et John Ogilvy et Thomas Thain; John Gregory, agent Voyageur: Joseph Lariviere, of Cedres Place: [Montreal] Destination: Timiskaming Position: milieu	1806 March 31
b. 1, f. 26	John Gregory, William M'Gillivray, Duncan M'Gillivray, William Hallowell & Roderick M'Kenzie ... sous le nom M'Tavish, Frobisher & Co. et John Ogilvy et Thomas Thain; John Gregory, agent Voyageur: Charles Dechamps, of Vaudreuil Place: [Montreal] Destination: Timiskaming Position: milieu	1806 March 31
b. 1, f. 27	Parker, Gerrard, Ogilvy & Co. Voyageur: Jean Marie Acheté, of "en ville" Place: [Montreal] Destination: Bay of Quinte Position: journalier	1807 May 19
b. 1, f. 28	William Larue Voyageur: Antoine Mineron, of St. Rose Place: [Montreal] Destination: Yonge, haut Canada Position: journalier	1807 August 10
b. 1, f. 29	William M'Gillivray, Duncan M'Gillivray, William Hallowell & Roderick M'Kenzie ... sous le nom M'Tavish, M'Gillivrays & Co. et John Ogilvy et Thomas Thain Voyageur: Joseph Barry, of Rivière-du-Loup Place: [Montreal] Destination: Department de St. Maurice Position: winterer	1808 April 25
b. 1, f. 30	Joseph Forsyth and T. A. Turner Voyageur: Jean Baptiste Brunelle, of "la ville" Place: [Montreal] Destination: Kingston Position: journalier	1808 May 6

b. 1, f. 31	Joseph Forsyth and T. A. Turner Voyageur: Jean Baptiste Russell, of Fauxbourg, Québec Place: [Montreal] Destination: Kingston Position: journalier	1808 May 9
b. 1, f. 32	William M'Gillivray, William Hallowell, Roderick M'Kenzie, Angus Shaw, Archibald Norman M'Leod et James Hallowell ... sous le nom M'Tavish, M'Gillivrays & Co. et John Ogilvy et Thomas Thain; Archibald Norman M'Leod, agent Voyageur: Joseph Pettelle, of Laprairie Place: [Montreal] Destination: Fort William Position: milieu	1811 October 15
b. 1, f. 33	William M'Gillivray, William Hallowell, Roderick M'Kenzie, Angus Shaw, Archibald Norman M'Leod et James Hallowell ... sous le nom M'Tavish, M'Gillivrays & Co. et John Ogilvy et Thomas Thain; Archibald Norman M'Leod, agent Voyageur: Pierre Trempe, of Masquinongé Place: [Montreal] Destination: Fort William Position: gouvernail	1811 October 27
b. 1, f. 34	William M'Gillivray, William Hallowell, Roderick M'Kenzie, Angus Shaw, Archibald Norman M'Leod et James Hallowell ... sous le nom M'Tavish, M'Gillivrays & Co. et John Ogilvy et Thomas Thain; Archibald Norman M'Leod, agent Voyageur: François Ladouceur, of St. Menoit Place: [Montreal] Destination: Fort William Position: milieu	1811 October 28
b. 1, f. 35	William M'Gillivray, William Hallowell, Roderick M'Kenzie, Angus Shaw, Archibald Norman M'Leod et James Hallowell ... sous le nom M'Tavish, M'Gillivrays & Co. et John Ogilvy et Thomas Thain; Archibald Norman M'Leod, agent Voyageur: Charles L'Epine, dit Merard, of Grand St. Esprit Place: [Montreal] Destination: dépendances du Nord-Ouest Position: milieu	1811 October 28

b. 1, f. 36	William M'Gillivray, William Hallowell, Roderick M'Kenzie, Angus Shaw, Archibald Norman M'Leod et James Hallowell ... sous le nom M'Tavish, M'Gillivrays & Co. et John Ogilvy et Thomas Thain; Archibald Norman M'Leod, agent Voyageur: François Paradis, of Sorel Place: [Montreal] Destination: Fort William Position: milieu	1811 October 28
b. 1, f. 37	William M'Gillivray, William Hallowell, Roderick M'Kenzie, Angus Shaw, Archibald Norman M'Leod et James Hallowell ... sous le nom M'Tavish, M'Gillivrays & Co. et John Ogilvy et Thomas Thain; Archibald Norman M'Leod, agent Voyageur: Joseph Potvin, of Maska Place: [Montreal] Destination: Fort William Position: milieu	1811 October 28
b. 1, f. 38	William M'Gillivray, William Hallowell, Roderick M'Kenzie, Angus Shaw, Archibald Norman M'Leod et James Hallowell ... sous le nom M'Tavish, M'Gillivrays & Co. et John Ogilvy et Thomas Thain; Archibald Norman M'Leod, agent Voyageur: Jean Baptiste Dechamp, of Vaudreuil Place: [Montreal] Destination: Fort William Position: milieu	1811 October 30
b. 1, f. 39	William M'Gillivray, William Hallowell, Roderick M'Kenzie, Angus Shaw, Archibald Norman M'Leod et James Hallowell ... sous le nom M'Tavish, M'Gillivrays & Co. et John Ogilvy et Thomas Thain; Archibald Norman M'Leod, agent Voyageur: Pierre Malette, of Rigaut Rivière à la Graisse Place: [Montreal] Destination: Fort William Position: milieu	1811 October 30
b. 1, f. 40	William M'Gillivray, William Hallowell, Roderick M'Kenzie, Angus Shaw, Archibald Norman M'Leod et James Hallowell ... sous le nom M'Tavish, M'Gillivrays & Co. et John Ogilvy et Thomas Thain; Angus Shaw, agent Voyageur: Elias Bourdeaux, of Laprairie St. Constant Place: [Montreal] Destination: Fort William Position: milieu	1811 November 22

b. 1, f. 41	<p>William W. Matthews</p> <p>Voyageur: Joseph La Chapell, of St. Rocque, a present dans les Fauxbourg de Québec</p> <p>Place: [Montreal]</p> <p>Destination: winterer, three years</p> <p>Position: devant</p>	1818 March 18
b. 1, f. 42	<p>William M'Gillivray, Simon M'Gillivray, Archibald Norman M'Leod, Thomas Thain, et Henry Mackenzie ... sous le nom M'Tavish, M'Gillivrays & Co. & Pierre de Rocheblave; Archibald Norman M'Leod, agent</p> <p>Voyageur: Etienne Ducharme, dit Charron, of Berthier, and Georges Derie, of Masquinongé</p> <p>Place: [Montreal]</p> <p>Destination: dépendances du Nord-Ouest</p> <p>Position: milieu</p>	1820 October 18
b. 1, f. 43	<p>William M'Gillivray, Simon M'Gillivray, Archibald Norman M'Leod, Thomas Thain, et Henry Mackenzie ... sous le nom M'Tavish, M'Gillivrays & Co. & Pierre de Rocheblave; Archibald Norman M'Leod, agent</p> <p>Voyageur: Leger Robin, of Sorel</p> <p>Place: [Montreal]</p> <p>Destination: dépendances du Nord-Ouest</p> <p>Position: milieu</p>	1820 December 22
b. 1, f. 44	<p>William M'Gillivray, Simon M'Gillivray, Archibald Norman M'Leod, Thomas Thain, et Henry Mackenzie ... sous le nom M'Tavish, M'Gillivrays & Co. & Pierre de Rocheblave; Archibald Norman M'Leod, agent</p> <p>Voyageur: Jean Baptiste Tousignant, of Masquinongé</p> <p>Place: [Montreal]</p> <p>Destination: dépendances du Nord-Ouest</p> <p>Position: milieu</p>	1821 January 11

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects

Businessmen -- Québec -- Montréal
Fur trade -- Northwest, Canadian
Fur trade -- Québec -- Montréal
Fur traders -- Northwest, Canadian
Fur traders -- Québec -- Montréal

Geographic Names

Grand Portage (Minn.) -- Economic conditions -- 19th century
Mackinac County (Mich.) -- Economic conditions -- 19th century
Northwest, Canadian -- Economic conditions -- 19th century
Rainy Lake (Minn. and Ont.) -- Economic conditions -- 19th century
Thunder Bay (Ont.) -- Economic conditions -- 19th century
Timiskaming (Ont.) -- Economic conditions -- 19th century

Genres / Formats

Contracts -- Québec -- Montréal -- 19th century

Occupations

Businessmen -- Québec -- Montréal -- 19th century
Fur traders -- Québec -- Montréal -- 19th century

Corporate Bodies

Alexander Mackenzie & Co
M'Tavish, Frobisher & Co
M'Tavish, M'Gillivrays & Co
North West Company
Parker, Gerrard, Ogilvy & Co