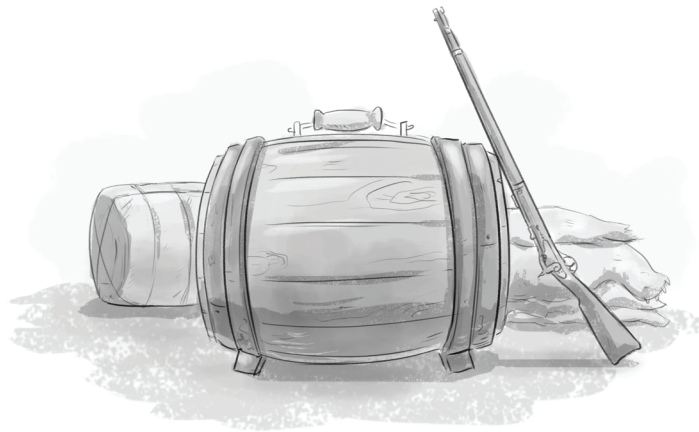


Adventures on the American Frontier

PIONEER TRADERS

Part Three
Manuel Lisa on the Missouri River



A Royal Fireworks Production

Royal Fireworks Press
Unionville, New York



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This book features QR codes that link to audio of the book being narrated so that readers can follow along.

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During the French and Indian War, the fighting to the north and east didn't much bother the people in the old French city of New Orleans. Their fur traders were bringing rich catches down the Mississippi River, and that hadn't stopped with the war.



Because the fur trade was so good for the traders coming down the Missouri River into the Mississippi River, the traders decided to open a new trading post farther north, near the place where the Missouri River flows into the Mississippi. So in 1763, the year that the governments of England, France, and Spain signed a treaty ending the war, traders started building on the spot where St. Louis would later be. It became the greatest fur-trading center of all.

It bothered the French that France had



given up to Spain the land on which St. Louis stood. But it bothered them more that the old French forts on the east side of the Mississippi River had been given to England. Soon French people from the forts on the east side of the river were moving across the river to St. Louis.

“We would rather live under the Spanish flag than under the English one,” they said. And even though the government there was run by the Spanish, St. Louis felt like a French city.

French trappers and traders came down the river to tie their canoes at the St. Louis riverfront and haul great packs of furs to the fur-trading storehouses. With singing and dancing, eating plenty of good French food and drinking French wine, they would joyfully pass the time of their short stay in St. Louis. Then off they would go, up the Mississippi River, up the Missouri River, and into the side streams, looking again for the Native Americans who would trade their furs with them. When they



had gathered another load of furs, down they came again, still happily singing their French songs.

There was a day in St. Louis in the year 1800 when the people watched the Spanish flag come down from its mast over the government building. They cheered as the red, white, and blue of France's flag waved in the breeze in its place, showing that France again owned the land on which St. Louis stood. But that lasted only a short time.