

## French Mountain Men

*Francophone Mountain Men and Their Influence on the Mormon Settlement of Utah*, was published on June 26, 2017 in a university journal. Its author is Jay Buckley, a History Professor and expert in the field. [Changed for easier reading using ChatGPT.] Original found at <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1493&context=jur>

The main reason French mountain men were successful was because of how they got along with Native Americans. Most mountain men were scared of being attacked by Native people since they lived far from any help. Even though there was danger, French-speaking mountain men like Peter Ogden were usually able to build friendlier relationships with Native tribes than English-speaking trappers. Despite having some prejudice, Ogden saw the value of working with Native people—he was married twice to Native women. Their success came from the mutual respect and cooperation between them and the Native Americans.

~~

It was clear that the French mountain men understood that Native people wanted to trade for their own benefit—and the trappers were just as interested in gaining from the trade. Because of the fur trade and these close relationships, many Native tribes began to depend more on outside goods like horses, guns, and alcohol. The French-speaking traders met these demands, but this created problems later. When the Mormons arrived and later banned this kind of trade in the 1850s, the Native tribes suffered from losing access to the goods they had come to rely on.

## Original

The unique element of success that the Francophone mountain man possessed was his relationship with the natives. In general, every mountain man feared being ambushed by Indians as he was hundreds of miles away from any help...Even with the potential danger from locals, Francophone mountain men like Peter Ogden could build more peaceful relationships with the natives than their English counterparts...Despite his many prejudices, Ogden still saw a benefit of the Indians and in fact, he was married twice to Indian women. Their success as mountain men came from their mutual respect and acceptance between themselves and the natives...

It is apparent that the Francophone mountain men understood the Natives' self-interest in trade; furthermore, it was also obvious that the Francophones were just as self-interested as the Indians...Because of the fur trade and their relationships between Francophone mountain men and the Native Americans, local tribes began to become more reliant and dependent on outside goods such as horses, guns, and alcohol to the Indian tribes...This Francophone self-interested practice of adapting to the demand of the Indians caused an expectation of these goods supplied to the natives in the region, which in turn led to negative repercussions when the Mormons arrived and outlawed this trade in the 1850s.