



# Manuel Lisa, Fur Trader on the Upper Missouri (1901)

*Hiram Martin Chittenden*

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## **Manuel Lisa, Fur Trader on the Upper Missouri (1901)** Hiram Martin Chittenden

Hiram Martin Chittenden (1858–1917) was a leading historian of the American West, especially the fur trade. A graduate of West Point, he was the Seattle district engineer for the Army Corps of Engineers.

Manuel Lisa, also known as Manuel de Lisa (1772 – 1820), was a Spanish fur trader, explorer, and United States Indian agent. He was among the founders in St. Louis of the Missouri Fur Company, an early fur trading company. Lisa gained respect through his trading among Native American tribes of the upper Missouri River region, such as the Teton Sioux, Omaha and Ponca.

After being appointed as US Indian agent during the War of 1812, Lisa used his standing among the tribes to encourage their alliance with the United States and their warfare against tribes allied with the United Kingdom. Although he was already married to a European-American woman in St. Louis, where he kept a residence, in 1814 Lisa married Mitain, a daughter of Big Elk, the principal chief of the Omaha people, as part of securing their alliance.

Contents:

Manuel Lisa

His supposed attempt in the Santa Fe trade

His journeyings

Made sub-agent

His work in the War of 1812

Becomes president of the Missouri Fur Company

His death

Magnitude of his work

His energetic nature

His enemies

His marriage

His Indian marriage

His name and language

His religion.

Founding of Fort Lisa

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