

# To Honor a Great Fur Trader



JAMES BRIDGER

INDIAN MOUND WHERE ASHLEY IS BURIED



BY ELMO SCOTT WATSON

PRESENT plans are carried out, the state of Missouri will soon pay long-expected honor to one of her greatest citizens, Gen. William Henry Ashley. For nearly a hundred years Ashley's body has lain in an unmarked grave in an Indian mound near the confluence of the Lamine and Missouri rivers in Cooper county, his name and fame almost forgotten. Now, thanks to the initiative of a Missouri country editor, Edgar Nyssen of the Booneville (Mo.) Advertiser, whose suggestion has been taken up by the Booneville D. A. R. chapter, a movement has been started to locate his grave and place there a memorial in keeping with the importance of his services, not only to the state, but to the whole country as well.

For there was a time when Ashley was a national figure even though it was then little suspected, perhaps, by his fellow-Missourians and even though his significance in the annals of the American frontier has been unappreciated until comparatively recent years. Virginians can claim with Missourians an equal pride in his achievements for he was born in Powhattan county in that state in 1782. At the age of eighteen he came to Missouri territory, or upper Louisiana, as it was then called, and settled first at Cape Girardeau. He was even then a man of considerable education and property and added to the latter by acquiring a large land grant which included what is now Jackson, the county seat of Cape Girardeau county. Ashley next moved to Forts when he engaged in the manufacture of gunpowder, and later to St. Louis, where he was one of the promoters of the old Bank of St. Louis.

During the War of 1812 Ashley, whose forceful personality had apparently impressed itself upon the community, was made a brigadier general of the state militia. Later when Missouri entered the sisterhood of states he was to become her first lieutenant-governor and was barely beaten in the race for governor by Frederick Bates. In 1821 he was elected as a Whig to the Twenty-second congress, to fill out the unexpired term of Spencer Perce, who was killed in a duel with Maj. Thomas Biddle, and he was re-elected to the Twenty-third and Twenty-fourth congresses. But it is Ashley the pioneer, the fur trader, the explorer, and the patron of other explorers, rather than Ashley, the holder of state political office, whose importance extends far beyond state boundaries, makes him a national figure and gives to the proposed memorial nation-wide interest.

From the earliest days the fur trade has been an important factor in American history. During the long series of colonial wars England and France wrestled for the control of the interior of the North American continent be-

cause it was a vast reservoir of valuable furs. The fur trade was one of the contributing factors which brought about the American Revolution and later the contest between British and Americans to determine who would control the fur trade, was again a factor in embroiling the two countries in the troubles which resulted in the War of 1812. In the period of national expansion which followed this war men still thought in terms of beaver, but by this time their eyes were turned to the vast expanse of the trans-Mississippi west. Especially was this true in St. Louis which stood at the gateway to this virgin wilderness and which had been the jumping-off place for the Lewis and Clark expedition and for several fur-trading expeditions, such as those headed by Manuel Lisa and Maj. Andrew Henry, who as early as 1809 had trapped the northern Rocky Mountain streams. Fur packs valued at from ten thousand dollars to fifteen thousand dollars had been brought back to St. Louis by various individual trappers and traders and it was plain to see that great opportunities awaited those who went into the business on a large scale.

So with the time ripe, the man with the imagination and business acumen to seize the opportunity was on the scene. On March 20, 1822, the following history-making notice appeared in the Missouri Republican, a St. Louis newspaper:

To enterprising young men: The subscriber wishes to engage one hundred young men who will be employed for one, two or three years. For particular enquire of Major Andrew Henry, near the lead mines in the county of Washington, who will ascend with and command the party; or of the subscriber near St. Louis.

Signed, WILLIAM H. ASHLEY.

So the Ashley-Henry company or the Rocky Mountain Fur company, as the organization was later to be called, came into existence and brought into the limelight among its 100 "enterprising young men" such names as James Bridger, Erienne Provot, Thomas Fitzpatrick, Milton Sublette, William L. Sublette, James Beckwourth, Edward Rose, Louis Vasquez, Jedediah S. Smith, David E. Jackson and Hugh Glass. There you have a veritable Who's Who of the Missouri fur-trade notables, the "long-haired mountain men immortalized by the brush of Frederic Remington and the pen of John G. Neihardt!

On April 15, 1822, the expedition embarked at St. Louis on keel boats which were to ascend the Missouri to the streams in Montana, trap the streams on both sides of the Rockies, perhaps penetrate to the mouth of the Columbia river, and return before the expiration of the three-year contract with the men. The expedition was commanded by Major Henry but the adventurous Ashley accompanied it. After a series of adventures with treacherous and thieving Indians and with the even more treacherous river whose floating snags wrecked one boat and caused a loss of \$100,000 worth of merchandise, the expedition reached the mouth of the Yellowstone river and decided to halt there for the season. Leaving Henry in charge, Ashley returned by canoe to St. Louis to recruit another trapping party and obtain supplies for the trading activities of the next three years.

So important was this company that to write a history of the fur trade without mentioning it would be another example of playing Hamlet without the melancholy Dane. It was Ashley who established the now famous institution of the trapper's summer rendezvous as a means of conducting the fur trade. The summer rendezvous was an annual gathering of trappers and Indians where took place not only those affairs of barter but also heroic scenes of drinking, carousing, fighting and primitive love-making between white men and red maidens—the saga stuff of which Neihardt has made such good use. The personality of Ashley was so indelibly stamped upon the fur trade of that period that after a time "Ashley Beaver" became a trade mark of the best brand of beaver fur.

It is Ashley, the explorer and patron of other explorers, however, rather than Ashley, the fur trader, who is most entitled to a national memorial. This is because he was the leader of the first overland expedition to the Pacific coast by a different route than that followed in general by Lewis and Clark. According to Harrison Clifford Dale of the University of Wyoming in his book "The Ashley-Smith Explorations and Discovery of a Central Route to the Pacific, 1822-1825":

"The expedition of William Henry Ashley in 1824-1825 up to the South Plate across what is now northern Colorado, in the dead of winter, over the continental divide, and through the perilous canyons of Green river in rudely constructed boats, and finally still further westward to the vicinity of the Great Salt Lake, forms the first stage in the discovery and utilization of the famous overland route to California. From the Interior Basin in 1826, Jedediah Strong Smith pushed on across the deserts of Utah and Nevada and over the Sierras to San Gabriel and San Diego—the first American to reach California by land. Journeying north to the Stanislaus river, he recrossed the Sierras and re-traversed the deserts of Utah and Nevada to the Great Salt Lake. Two expeditions together form a single enterprise—the discovery of the central and southwestern route to the Pacific."

Ashley decided to sell out his interest in the Rocky Mountain Fur company in 1826. The purchasers were his associates, William L. Sublette, Jedediah Smith and David E. Jackson. The articles of agreement were signed on July 23, 1826, near the Great Salt Lake in Utah. Although he retired from active connection with the company, he retained his interest in the fur trade in that he decided to furnish the cannon which is said to have been the first ever taken into the Rocky mountains. This was in 1827 and it was hauled twelve hundred miles by ox-team to be set up on the walls of one of the company's forts.

But to return to Ashley's withdrawal from the fur company which he had made famous—it must have been a dramatic scene when the general stood before the trappers at the rendezvous and bade them good-by in these words:

Mountaineers and friends: When I first came to the mountains, I came a poor man. You, by your industrious exertions, toils, and privations have procured me an independent fortune. With ordinary prudence in the management of what I have accumulated, I shall never want for anything. For

dramatic films and reaches its maximum when there is musical accompaniment. Hence it is advised that no children under thirteen should be allowed to attend the movies.

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A series of sandstone cliffs, 300 feet high, stretching along the shore of Lake Superior for about five miles, are given the name "Pictured Rocks." They are about 45 miles east of Marquette.

this, my friends, I feel myself under great obligations to you. Many of you have served with me personally, and I shall always be proud to testify to the fidelity with which you have stood by me through all danger, and the friendly and brotherly feelings which you have ever, one and all, evinced toward me. For these faithful and devoted services I wish you to accept my thanks; the gratitude that I express to you springs from my heart and will ever retain a lively hold on my feelings. I am now about to leave you, to take up my abode in St. Louis. Whenever any of you return thither, your first duty must be to call at my house, to talk over the scenes of peril we have encountered, and partake of the best cheer my table can afford. I now wash my hands of the toils of the Rocky mountains. Farewell mountaineers and friends! May God bless you all!"

On September 26, 1826 there appeared in the Missouri Republican the following news item: "General Ashley and his party have arrived at St. Louis from the Rocky mountains with 125 packs of beaver valued at \$60,000." This was the valdetrifery of Ashley, the adventurer and fur trader. At this point his career as one of Missouri's most distinguished citizens began. He became a large land owner, the purchase of a tract of 90,000 acres (an old French land measure which varied widely, according to the locality), an area ten miles long and six miles wide. This was the famous "Chouteau-Lamine" claim, given originally by the Osage Indians in 1702 to Maj. Pierre Chouteau, a brother of Auguste Chouteau, one of the founders of St. Louis. Chouteau's title was confirmed by the Spanish lieutenant-governor of Upper Louisiana, Charles Delhaulte Delassus, in 1766, but when this country came under the control of the United States by the Louisiana purchase there was some dispute as to whether or not the new rulers would recognize the title. Ashley was then a member of congress and through his efforts the title was confirmed by an act of congress on July 4, 1836. Chouteau later sold the entire tract to Ashley for \$125 an acre.

Ashley made his home on this grant on a high bluff overlooking the Missouri and Lamine rivers, surrounded by a number of Indian mounds. He was married three times but at the time of his death in 1838 he left no descendants. According to tradition, when he felt that death was near, he walked along the river bluffs looking for a site for his last resting place. His selection was the top of one of the Indian mounds in a bend of the river, overlooking the wide sweep of the Missouri, against whose muddy stream he had set forth upon his "magnificent adventure" and down which had gone the host of furs to bring him his vast fortune. There he was buried.

Although the school histories have neglected him, Ashley's deeds have been recorded in Capt. Hiram Chittenden's monumental "History of the American Fur Trade of the Far West." In Professor Dale's scholarly study, in J. Cecil Alter's fine biography, "James Bridger," in Neihardt's saga and in the writings of that appreciative historian of the Old West, Emerson Hough, Missouri now proposes to erect in his honor a more enduring memorial than the printed page and it is a project in which all Americans can have a sympathetic interest.

**Art in America**  
Art-mad America can be said to have three main divisions: those who write poetry; those who practice on the saxophone, and those who plan to go into the movies.—Genevieve Taggart, in the Century.

**If It Could Be Harnessed**  
The enormous energy stored in the winds of the world could run all the factories in the United States for more than 400 years.

# Codfish Livers Rival Sun Rays

## Scientists Point Benefits to Be Derived From Use of Sea Food.

Philadelphia.—Shades of Apollo and Enak Walton! Here is science claiming that the vital of the sun is found in "a poor fish."

We know that Sir Walter Scott sang once to the effect that "It's no' fish ye're buying—it's men's lives." We remember also the lines of an old Scotch song, a fishmonger's call in which a similar prophetic note was sounded. "Wha'll buy my little her-rin'?" the cry runs. "Ye'll ken their worth."

"O, you may call them vulgar far'n'; Wives and mithers maist desparin' Ca' them lives of men."

One hundred years after these words rang out in the chill, foggy air of Scottish markets, scientists step from their laboratories long enough to tell us that, next to the sun, "desparin' wives and mithers" must depend upon a fish to maintain the stalwart limbs and stout backbone of the nation's youth.

In those few remaining regions of the earth where clothes are incidental, if not negligible, where the sun is given its chance to feed the bodies of men, we find, as a rule, that the natives of such Edens are straight as an arrow, well formed, strong, and happy. It is when we reach civilization that we encounter frequent deformities, bowed legs, gawky knees, bulging wrists and ankles.

### Clothes Rob Man of Sun.

The fact that we free to the sun only the few square inches of our face and the backs of ungloved hands is a primary factor in the general tendency in this and other civilized countries toward rachitic conditions. The average infant is too much over-clothed when lying in the sun to derive its full benefits. Sun porches are light, cheery, and warm; but unless their glass is of a special type none of the helpful ultra-violet rays of the sun make their way inside.

Without sufficient sunlight or without sufficient supply in another form of the factor that is conveyed by the sun's rays, our children develop rickets, that starvation of bone structures that leaves them soft and flexible, producing various forms of deformity, including soft teeth, misshapen skulls, jaws and skeletal structures, and even constricted chests.

The elements that give proper strength to bones and teeth are calcium and phosphorus. These two elements cannot be utilized in bone growth, however, unless a third factor is present. Just as a pile of coal is useless without ignition to convert it into heat.

### Like Bones Made of Rubber.

This factor is vitamin D. Without this vitamin, calcium phosphate cannot be deposited sufficiently in the bony structures of the body. Although bones keep right on growing, the unfortunate child to whom they belong might as well have a rubber skeleton if the vitamin deficiency is not corrected.

The action of the ultra-violet rays of the sun upon one of the fatty components of our skin produces vitamin D or its physiological equivalent, according to researches conducted by Huldshinsky, Hess, Shipley, and other scientists.

Sunlight, then, is the natural protection against rickets. But civilized man does not lead a natural life. Our mode of dressing and dwelling does not permit natural living. And it is not likely that we shall emulate the Polynesian soon by discarding our clothing for bared existence under a beneficent sun.

When it is known how important vitamin D is to life and health, it seems an odd prank of nature that this factor is absent in practically all foods used for human consumption except the liver of codfish. Probably nature felt that she was taking ample care of us by giving us sunlight. Then she permitted man to discover for himself how prodigally she provides for his welfare by storing this valuable factor in one of his commonest sources of food.

### One Theory of Scientists.

Just how the cod manages to distinguish himself above all other animals of earth, sea and sky by monopolizing the storage of vitamin D is not clearly determined. One theory of scientists has it that the ultra-violet rays of the sun penetrate below the surface of the ocean and so irradiate the cod. This would presuppose that the cod's skin is especially sensitized to these rays as man's skin seems to be. Just as if both cod and man were photographic negatives which, upon exposure to ul-

tra-violet rays, produce a positive effect when developed in the chemistry of the body.

It is more likely, however, that the cod gets his sunlight by eating it. Study of the habits of the cod in Norwegian waters and in the waters of Newfoundland, Nova Scotia and Maine have strengthened this theory. F. F. Berg of the Squibb laboratories watched the early spring surge of thousands of cod to the shallower, warmer waters near the Lofoten islands, where they came to spawn.

At this period of a cod's life he develops a ravenous appetite. And it is what nature provides to satisfy that hunger that offers another theory in explanation of the fact that cod liver oil is the most prolific source of vitamin D known to man.

### Piscatorial Drama.

This piscatorial drama is very much like the "house that Jack built." Great shoals of herring are loosed by nature into the waters near Norway and our northeastern coast just as the cod feels these pangs of hunger. So here is the cod that gives us vitamins. Here are the squid that are eaten by the herring that are eaten by the cod that gives us vitamins. Here are the mosses and sea plants that are eaten by the squid that are eaten by the herring that are eaten by the cod that gives us vitamins.

Day after day, week upon week, the sun pours its rays down upon these sea plants. The squid themselves do little more than float around near the surface of the sea, absorbing still more ultra-violet rays. From that point on it is obvious how, theoretically, the codfish acquires his vast store of vitamin D by literally eating sunshine.

It has been only a few years since the existence of vitamin D was recognized. In fact, its identification came about through experiments by Prof. K. V. McCollum of Johns Hopkins university with cod liver oil. From that moment, the medical profession moved with reinforced courage against the threat of rickets. The late Dr. Emmet Holt, at the time of his death, was stressing the importance of dependence upon sound health in adult life upon building bones, blood and muscles in childhood.

### Would Reduce Teeth Ills.

It is claimed that, if the perfect condition of bone, blood and muscle in new-born children had been maintained in the last century through sufficient vitamin D supply, dental statistics would not show that 98 per cent of the people of the United States have imperfect teeth. There would have been less excuse for rheumatism and heart and kidney troubles, which are, in fact, after-effects of some local infection.

Authorities are urging that the growing generation of children be granted the heritage that is their right under the sun. Plenty of sunlight is advocated, but, at best, the sun alone under modern living conditions cannot assure sufficient vitamin D for a stout-limbed posterity.

Dr. Morris Fishbein, editor of the Journal of the American Medical Association, states in a recent article: "One of the greatest discoveries of the last five years has been the establishing of the fact that cod-liver oil

## BEAUTIFUL BACK



Trade Brionne of Vienna, a notable figure in the dramatic world, who was recently picked by prominent sculptors and artists as having the most beautiful back.

## AMERICAN WOMAN RUNS HISTORIC FRENCH HOSTELRY

Wife of Frenchman Amazes Village Peasants by Her Business Energy.

Les Andelys, France.—A brisk, curly-haired American woman, graduate of Wellesley college in 1912, is the hostess of one of France's most famous historic inns.

Mme. Gwynnd Champsaur, formerly Miss Weller of New York and Montreal, assists her French husband to dispense to Europeans and Americans the kind of hospitality to which both are accustomed. Between them they contrive with equal facility corn on the cob and calvados, the famous apple brandy of Normandy.

## To Give Away Beams from White House

Washington.—Sections of lumber from the White House are probably will be scattered as relics in all parts of the country. Various organizations are writing in, asking pieces for use in making gavels.

The large beams are of long-leaf Georgia pine. Those unexposed to the weather are described as in excellent preservation. Museums also have requested pieces of the wood.

President Coolidge has given no instruction about what shall be done with the wood and nails taken from the old attic, but it is assumed that requests of museums will be granted and that permission may be given for turning some of the timber into gavels.

has specific properties in preventing the development of bone diseases of infancy and in aiding proper growth.

Under the unforgotten encouragement of the medical profession, child welfare agencies have preached the doctrine of liberal administration of cod-liver oil in infancy." Doctor Fishbein's article also stated that the council on pharmacy and chemistry of the American Medical association agreed upon advising "routine administration of cod-liver oil to all growing infants provided the product had been standardized as to its actual potency."

Every Wharf Had Its Keg. Long before we had knowledge of vitamins, cod-liver oil was used. Coast dwellers and seafaring folk drank it in quantities as a means for withstanding exposure to cold weather and as a tonic. Their method of extracting it was crude. Every wharf had its keg sitting in the sun, the barrel full of cod livers, the oil separating and rising to the top where it was skimmed off.

Modern methods of rendering oil include establishment of plants near enough to the fishing banks so that livers may be received fresh from the catch with a minimum of vitamin loss through exposure to the air.

From a modest position as a by-product of the fishing industry, the securing of livers for their oil is assuming an important and valuable major position. It is estimated that the world's output of cod-liver oil in 1925 was approximately 2,800,000 gallons, or 91,000 barrels of 30 gallons each. When it is known that it takes about six tons of codfish to yield enough liver to produce one barrel of cod-liver oil, some idea can be gathered of the gain that thousands of fishing families experience as a result of the laboratory discovery of vitamin D.

### More Vitamin A Than Milk.

While cod-liver oil is essential chiefly for its content of vitamin D, the fact that it is also a rich storehouse of vitamin A is by way of being a bonus that nature has thrown in for good measure. Vitamin A promotes growth and builds resistance against pulmonary infections, colds, pneumonia, tuberculosis, and the like. It is as essential as vitamin D, and the complete absence of one or the other generally results fatally. Vitamin A, unlike vitamin D, is present in other foods, principally in butter from cows that have been fed on green food, in milk and cream, and in green vegetables such as spinach.

When it is known, however, that one pint of cod-liver oil is as rich in vitamin A as at least 1,200 "pints of the best grade A milk, the greater concentration of the factor in oil becomes apparent.

Knowing that only two sources of the vital vitamin D exist, how truly we may say that a poor fish is elevated to a position where it alone vies with the sun in the service that both render mankind. It is in this service that hundreds of thousands of men are fishing the seas for better babies. With the promise of a sturdier race through ample access to the essential vitamin D, we may well sing along with Sir Walter Scott, "It's no' fish ye're buying; it's men's lives."

## Can Do All But Act, So She Runs Shows

Hartford, Conn.—Miss Marian Fuller, one of the few American women who are professional stage managers, has a record many young women would envy.

She was on her way to success as an artist, but her desire to act interfered with her studies, so she turned to the stage. Then the war came and she became a Red Cross worker, in which capacity she won the Croix de Guerre and other decorations. After her war experience she says: "Acting was the one thing I just couldn't do, so I turned to stage managing."

**What of It?**  
New York.—Twenty couples who have celebrated golden weddings seem to disagree with a statement that necking was unknown 50 years ago.

## Would Bar Children From Seeing "Movies"

Of stimulants to the emotions motion pictures are one of the most violent known to the modern world, according to the French psychiatrist, Doctor Toulouse. In the course of long researches he has studied the reaction on the breathing and on the blood circulation of healthy adults during the projection of various sorts of films. From his findings Doctor Toulouse draws attention to the dan-

gers presented to the health, particularly of children, by films which are too exciting. A report issued by a Japanese physical culture and health committee is much commented on here, as it sets forth even more forcible conclusions. Children up to twelve years, says the report, are extremely fatigued after only a few minutes of watching a film. The fatigue is not so marked in comedies as in big

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