Experience life on the frontiers of the Anglophone world.

The settling of vast areas of the world by Europeans has left a particular and lasting influence on history. This collection of digitised primary source documents sheds light on the many dynamics of frontier existence and its lasting influence.

Overview

This online collection captures the lives of people living on the edge of European settlement across the various frontiers of North America, Africa, Australia and New Zealand. Through a huge array of digitised primary source materials it documents the creation of new states, trade networks, and movements of people in these regions alongside the marginalisation and decline of indigenous peoples. Material ranges across four centuries, from the seventeenth to the early twentieth century.

Frontier Life brings together documents from sixteen archives and libraries around the world. This geographical spread of material allows users to take a comparative approach or focus on a particular region, making it ideal for teaching and student projects, as well as more in-depth scholarly research.

The vast majority of the collection is never-before published, making it a vital resource for scholars and students of colonialism and imperialism, global history, historical geography, indigenous studies, the American West, Africa, Australasia, migration, borderlands and economic history.
### Key Themes
- Settlement and colonial development
- Law and order
- Violence
- Expeditions and exploration
- Relations with indigenous peoples
- Trade and commerce
- Death and disease
- Missionaries and religion

### Highlights
- **Records of expeditions** allowing for comparison of exploration in North America, Africa and Australia.
- **Material on the fur trade** including the Robert Campbell papers and further documents from the Missouri History Museum, St. Louis Mercantile Library, the Hudson’s Bay Company Archives and the Glenbow Museum.
- **Letters of application of the 1820 settlers to the Cape Colony.**
- Abel Janney’s *captivity narrative* after his imprisonment by the Shawnee Indians.
- **Gold rush and mining** material relating to Klondike, Victoria, California, and the Transvaal.
- Dispatches from Arthur Phillip, first Governor of New South Wales, relating to the *settlement of Australia* and first encounters with Aboriginal peoples.
- Broadsides documenting the long and complicated history of *Mexico-Texas relations* before 1849, including material relating to the Texas Revolution and the Mexican-American War.

### Material Types
- Letters
- Diaries
- Government papers
- Books
- Artwork and Photographs
- Business documents
- Maps
Frontier Life: Borderlands, Settlement and Colonial Encounters examines settlement, existence and interactions at the edge of the Anglophone world from 1650-1920. These digitised primary source documents cover the frontiers of North America, Africa and Australasia.

Subject Areas
Frontier Life is an interdisciplinary resource that will appeal to a wide range of scholars and students working on subjects such as:

- Colonialism and imperialism
- The American West
- Transnationalism
- Migration
- Economic history
- Indigenous studies
- Social and cultural history
- Historical geography
- Settler-colonial studies

Source Archives
Material has been carefully selected from archives around the world:

- American Philosophical Society, Pennsylvania
- California Historical Society
- Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, University of Texas at Austin
- Earlham College, Indiana
- Glenbow Museum
- Guilford College, North Carolina
- Hudson’s Bay Company Archives and Archives of Manitoba
- Lilly Library, Indiana University
- Massachusetts Historical Society
- Missouri History Museum
- Royal Commonwealth Society collections at Cambridge University Library
- State Library of New South Wales
- St. Louis Mercantile Library at the University of Missouri – St. Louis
- The National Archives, UK
- University of California, San Diego
- University of Melbourne Library

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