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# Plains Indian Women and Interracial Marriage in the Upper Missouri Trade, 1804–1868

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## Abstract

Although Indian women remain invisible in most histories of the American fur trade, innumerable Native women became involved in the Upper Missouri trade through interracial relationships. In their ensuing roles as mediators, economic informants, cultural transmitters, and consumers they gained status in the eyes of both Natives and whites. In so doing, they helped usher in significant social, economic, and environmental changes on the Upper Missouri that helped end traditional Plains Indians ways of life.

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