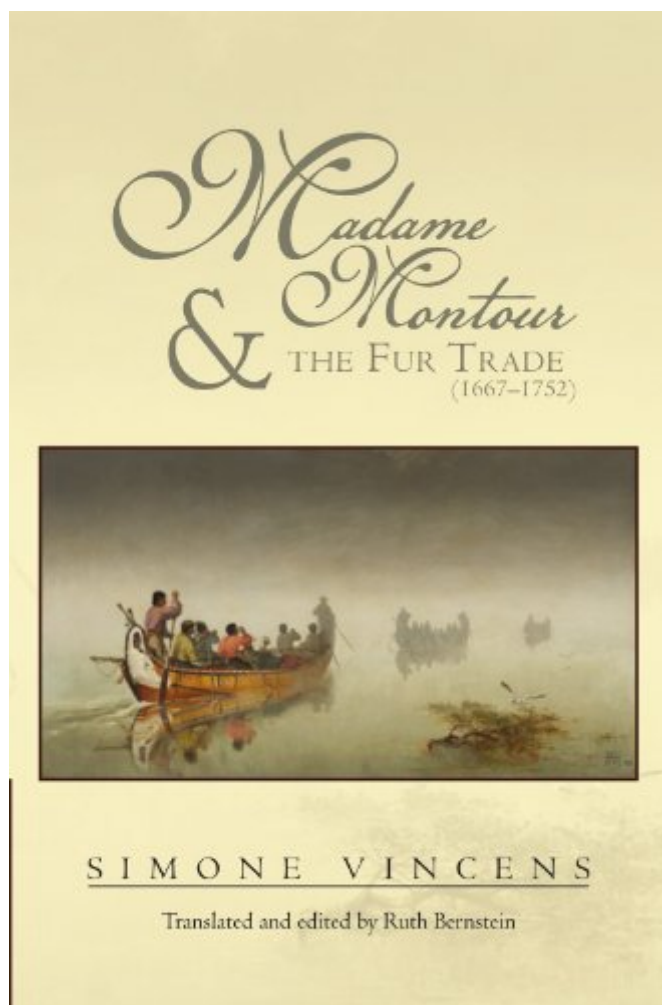


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Madame Montour And The Fur Trade (1667–1752)



Synopsis

The fascinating biography, *Madame Montour et son temps* by Simone Vincens, is now available in English under the title of *Madame Montour and the Fur Trade (1667-1752)*. This book, which gives a French perspective to events, is a beautifully written and thoroughly researched account of an extraordinary woman as well as a unique presentation of events leading up to the French and Indian War. The main theme of the book is the life of Isabelle Montour (1667-1752). This adventurous, self-reliant woman was the daughter of a French soldier and an Algonkin mother. The first third of her life was spent as a member of the French colony on the St. Lawrence River, the second third she lived on the fringes of French and Ottawa societies at the western outposts of Michilimackinac and Detroit, and the final third she lived as an Iroquois in the provinces of New York and Pennsylvania. Isabelle was fluent in several Indian languages as well as French and English; she became an influential interpreter-diplomat for the governors of New York and Pennsylvania. Much of her life was devoted to improving relations between Indians and Europeans. As Madame Montour's extraordinary life unfolds, we learn about European-Indian relations during the century leading up to the French and Indian War. This well-referenced history, told with drama and detail, covers the French-Iroquois hostilities on the Saint Lawrence River, the fur-trade center at Fort Michilimackinac, the political turmoil at Detroit, the immigration of western tribes into New York province, and the growing conflict between Pennsylvania merchants and French soldiers in the Ohio Valley. Isabelle Montour was involved in all these events.

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Customer Reviews

Well researched especially on the french Canadian sources, even some from France. There has been many misunderstandings concerning Madame Montour and many of the Montours. Much more than a family name, the Montours were foremost in rejecting the absolute, corrupt and sinful French government and by being interpreters and fur traders for over a century in most of northeast America and the Great Lakes they went far in diminishing French trade and influence. Most historians seem painfully unaware of the huge contributions Metis in general and Montours in particular made in shaping alliances, trade and peace. This book, with many sources, translations and points of view is a refreshing advance in scope and understanding of politics, trade and cultural change in the new world.

If your family comes from Quebec to Michigan in the times of the Fur Trade, this book will surely be a splendid entry into the world you have often thought about. I am often amazed at the amount of daily life the author has uncovered as well as the minute detail of this era. A very engrossing, smallish book that I do not want to end. It is also an interesting foray into the beginning of life in the Americas and the trials that took place.

I appreciated the lengths the authors had to go to with their research to produce such a great telling of the story of Madame Montour and her family. It intersects well with other books I have read on related subjects but amplifies the lives of the Montours. It also gave me a greater appreciation for the role of the fur trade in the building and upending of family Native-intermarried family groups.

Excellent purchase. Made and exceeded my expectations.

An amazing read about an amazing woman at the onset of the fur trade. Lot of historical facts, many names and a great tool if you are looking to learn about a strong person during a tough time in North American history.

I am a descendant of Madame Montour. I really enjoyed the book.

Loved the book lots of information on Madame Montour she is my 7th time great grandmother I got to learn a lot about her

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