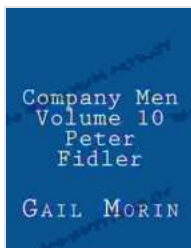


# Company Man Volume 10: Peter Fidler - Exploring the Uncharted Territories of Western Canada

In the annals of Western Canadian history, the name Peter Fidler stands out as a pioneer of exploration and a pivotal figure in the fur trade. As a "Company Man," he spent decades traversing the vast and uncharted territories of the Canadian West, meticulously documenting his observations and experiences. Through his detailed journals, maps, and sketches, Fidler left behind an invaluable legacy that continues to shape our understanding of the region's past and its Indigenous inhabitants.



## Company Men - Volume 10 - Peter Fidler by Gail Morin

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 1604 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 306 pages  
Lending : Enabled



## Early Life and Career

Peter Fidler was born in 1769 in Mildenhall, Suffolk, England. Little is known about his early life, but he joined the Hudson's Bay Company (HBC) in 1791 as an apprentice clerk. His initial assignments took him to posts in

the Athabasca region of modern-day Alberta. It was during this time that Fidler developed a keen interest in exploration and cartography.

## **Exploration and the Fur Trade**

In 1802, Fidler was sent by the HBC to establish a trading post on the North Saskatchewan River. This expedition marked the beginning of his extensive explorations of Western Canada. Over the next two decades, Fidler traveled thousands of kilometers, mapping rivers, lakes, and mountain ranges. He established new trading posts and explored previously uncharted territories, including the Athabasca, Peace, and Slave Rivers.

Fidler's exploration was not solely driven by commercial interests. He was also a keen observer of the natural world and Indigenous cultures. He documented the flora and fauna of the regions he visited, and he established friendly relations with local Indigenous communities. Fidler's journals provide valuable insights into the daily lives, customs, and beliefs of the Indigenous peoples of Western Canada.

## **War and Rivalry**

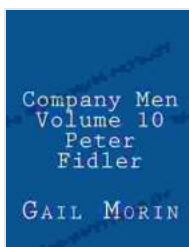
The early 19th century was a turbulent time in the fur trade, marked by intense competition between the HBC and its rival, the North West Company (NWC). Fidler found himself caught in the crossfire of this rivalry, and his loyalty to the HBC was tested on several occasions. In 1814, he was captured by the NWC and held prisoner for several months. Despite these challenges, Fidler remained committed to the HBC and continued his exploration and mapping work.

## **Legacy and Impact**

Peter Fidler retired from the fur trade in 1821 and returned to England. He died in 1822, leaving behind a remarkable legacy. His detailed journals and maps provide an invaluable record of the exploration and settlement of Western Canada. Fidler's work contributed significantly to our understanding of the region's geography, natural history, and Indigenous cultures.

In recognition of his contributions, Peter Fidler has been honored with numerous geographical features named after him, including the Fidler River in Alberta and the Fidler Point on the Peace River. His journals and maps continue to be studied by historians, geographers, and Indigenous scholars, providing insights into the past and shaping our understanding of the present.

Peter Fidler was a remarkable pioneer whose exploration and mapping of Western Canada left an enduring mark on the region. His keen observations, detailed journals, and meticulously drawn maps provide a priceless window into the past, shedding light on the Indigenous cultures, natural history, and geopolitical dynamics of this vast and diverse land. As we continue to explore and understand the Canadian West, the legacy of Peter Fidler, the "Company Man," will continue to inspire and inform generations to come.



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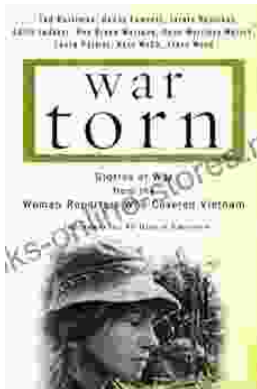
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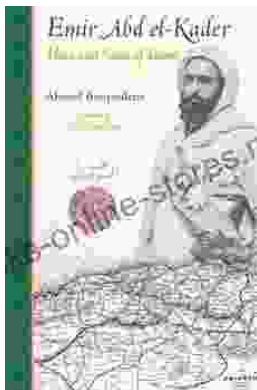
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