**History at Home**

**with the**

**Milwaukee County Historical Society**

**Mary Jo Knapp**

**Family Activities Jobs that Built Wisconsin - Fur Trading**

Early in Wisconsin’s history (1760-1840’s), fur trading was one of our first major businesses. Native Americans would hunt for beavers and trade the coveted furs with the Europeans. Native Americans would receive things like metal pots, wool blankets, weapons and ammunition, lanterns, horses, etc. Solomon Juneau was one of Milwaukee’s first fur traders. The Europeans would sell the beaver furs back in their home country so that they could make beaver fur top hats which were very popular and helped keep men dry in the rain.

Activity:

Set up a trading post at home with your family. What would you trade? What would you want? How would it be fair?

* Here is a link about beavers: <http://justfunfacts.com/interesting-facts-about-north-american-beavers/>

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