

*Castor
canadensis*
American
beaver

An
Oklahoma
Perspective

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TABLE 5. Number of beaver pelts purchased and average price paid by Oklahoma fur dealers, 1967–81. (Oklahoma Dept. Wildl. Conserv.)

<i>Year</i>	<i>No. Pelts Bought</i>	<i>Avg. Price/Pelt</i>	<i>Total</i>
1967–68	581	\$ 5.92	\$ 3,539.52
1968–69	319	6.82	2,175.50
1969–70	289	5.63	1,627.40
1970–71	89	6.04	537.50
1971–72	82	6.25	528.90
1972–73	661	8.66	5,724.19
1973–74	705	7.18	5,064.25
1974–75	1,941	8.50	16,490.32
1975–76	1,003	5.13	5,147.28
1976–77	3,090	8.07	24,941.50
1977–78	1,904	6.21	11,823.84
1978–79	1,592	6.39	10,172.88
1979–80	2,894	12.05	34,881.50
1980–81	2,686	7.78	20,897.08

Table-2: Total Number of Pelts by Year Sold at OFBA and FTO Auctions in Oklahoma

Species/Year	Badger	Beaver	Bobcat	Coyote	Gray Fox	Red Fox*	Mink	Muskrat	Nutria	Opossum	Raccoon	Striped Skunk	River Otter**
2005	49	755	3452	974	321		13	54	0	1474	7913	125	
2006	44	1062	3322	662	153		18	59	0	850	4019	69	
2007	115	1193	5104	1076	251	0	19	25	19	699	6733	142	
2008	88	1153	3469	898	390	32	20	17	0	1474	8740	133	72
2009	51	571	2007	389	413	17	13	21	0	1020	6875	111	115
2010	16	522	1012	166	59	2	8	11	0	361	2240	53	76
2011	75	801	3636	605	193	22	20	53	0	732	6781	103	84
2012	99	1364	3569	1244	304	60	15	25	1	1353	11292	58	208
2013	3	539	821	558	112	14	3	18	0	488	3377	218	90
2014	2	360	903	467	179	16	13	67	0	236	3189	73	96
2015	4	160	564	474	54	4	3	38	0	578	1887	127	49
2016	0	92	288	260	34	1	3	34	0	470	609	79	40
*Red Fox season opened in 2006-2007 season.													
**River Otter season opened in 2007-2008 season.													
***Total harvest by fur sales from given year.													

Table-3: Average Price per Pelt Sold at OFBA and FTO Auctions in Oklahoma

Species	Badger	Beaver	Bobcat	Coyote	Gray Fox	Red Fox	Mink	Muskrat	Nutria	Opossum	Raccoon	St. Skunk	R. Otter
Year													
2005	11.5	4.61	48.33	6.08	9.65	*	8.78	0.99	*	0.7	5.28	0.69	*
2006	11.85	9.03	56.67	6.99	13.36	*	14.01	2.93	*	1.07	4.01	4.2	*
2007	12.36	8.99	63.69	9.69	18.98	*	15.96	14.38	4.52	1.04	6.47	3.2	*
2008	21.41	7.23	73.22	7.81	25.5	15.79	11.75	1.71	*	1.56	8.92	2.25	25.87
2009	7.47	4.58	42.21	4.68	12.81	10.99	6.89	1.43	*	0.68	4.72	1.19	19.8
2010	6.33	4.78	27.69	3.35	9.85	8.5	5.5	2.03	*	0.88	4.27	1.62	18.34
2011	8.45	5.42	71.4	5.42	13.15	13.32	10.51	3.47	*	0.94	5.72	2.02	38.88
2012	10.81	6.69	87.89	8.15	16.27	20.07	12.16	4.93	2	1.03	6.29	2.43	63.44
2013	10.83	10.45	157.4	13.9	20.09	40.51	24.5	7.22	*	1.09	10.12	2.05	71.45
2014	10	7.02	104.48	11.38	22.57	30.3	13.36	7.14	*	0.89	5.81	4.21	50.08
2015	10.75	4.7	77.5	12.6	15.08	20.34	6.25	3.93	*	0.92	3.61	2.06	29.49
2016	*	5.09	32.63	5.4	9.56	15	17	2.67	*	0.34	1.25	3.33	16.39
*None Sold													
* All values shown represented in U.S. currency (\$)													

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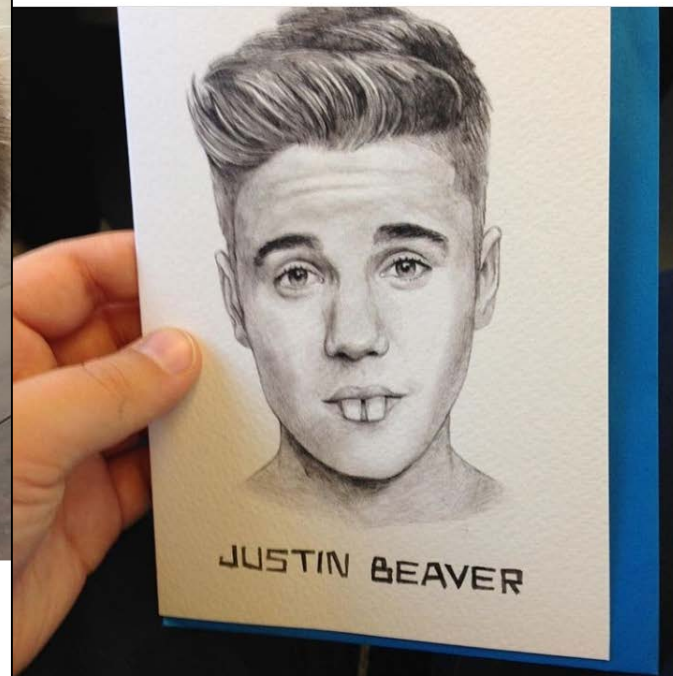


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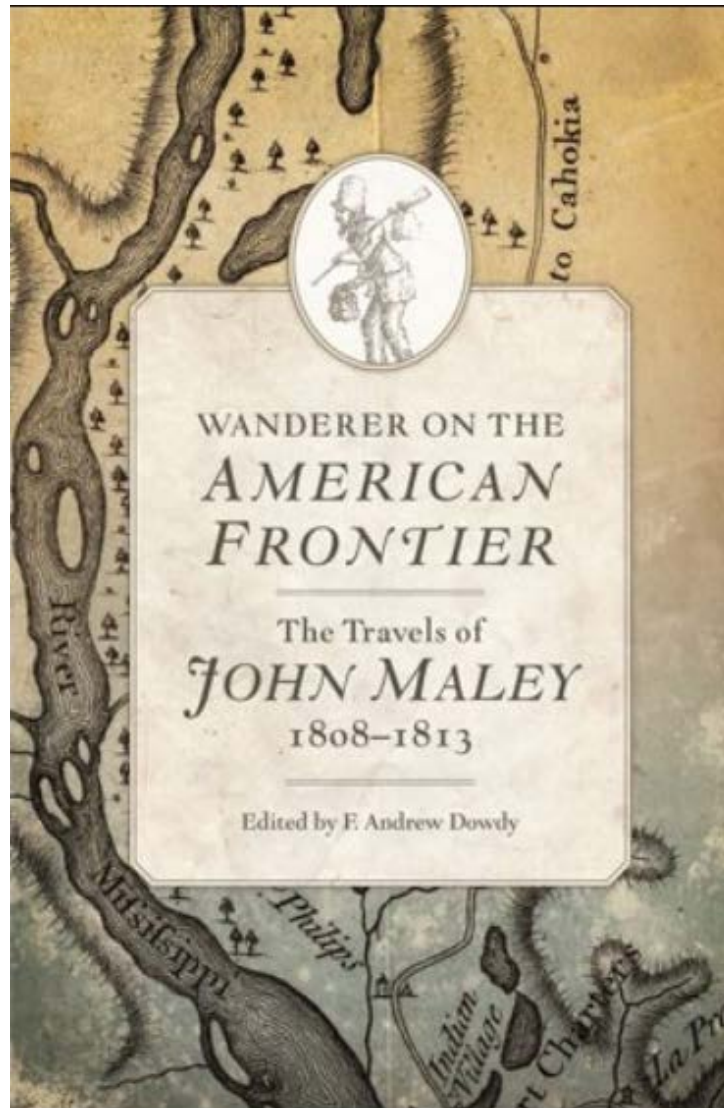
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(p. 94) "We started early next morning as we were in a hurry to get up as high as the Keyademish, a branch of Red River, as I was informed, famous for beaver. This was about 50 miles higher. It took us two days to get there. We passed altogether good land. We took up the Keyademish which comes in on the north side. We found the land excellent on this river. We took up it two days journey and found plenty of beaver signs. We then searched for a good camping ground as we were determined to stay there till the trapping season was over and also I wanted to see the country (p. 95) on to the north bordering on the waters of the Little Missouri which is a branch of the Ouattchitta River. We found a commodious place there. We built us a tight cabin to keep our things dry if bad weather should come on us. We set our traps the first night and were successful. Caught five beaver next morning. I thought that it would be best for me to take a route by myself and leave my companions to catch beaver. I started with my rifle and tomahawk and side knife, plenty of ammunition. I took my leave early in the morning the 12th of April. I laid my course north, travelled on the first day in low bottom land very fertile with some cane breaks which was very difficult travelling. I had a disagreeable place to camp upon on account of the ground being (p. 96) so wet to lye upon but I made out to pass the night, and that unmolested. I killed nothing the first day. I started early and by 10 o'clock I got on higher ground, fine open woods,

camp near the bank of the creek that night, provided myself with wood, but (p. 9) pine knots I could not get any. I slept unmolested that night. In the morning after travelling a few miles down the stream, I found that it was a great disadvantage to keep near the river, that it took so many different windings, and also the bottoms now began to get thicker timbered, and land richer. I sheared off from the river a mile or two till I got in open woods, then laid my course. The country all very near alike, I travelled on two days south until I got in a rich soil of land. I then shifted my course for the Keyademish. It took the best part of a day to get to it, and when I got there I discovered that I was below our camp. I had to sleep once more by myself. Next (p. 10) morning I laid my course up the river and about the middle of the day I found my companions. They were much rejoiced to see me. They had almost given me out for lost. They had caught 35 beaver and 7 otter. They had been up and down the river for several miles. They told me they had seen a number of Indians that steered their course for higher up. They appeared to be Choctaws. They did not discover themselves too them, but let them pass on. I showed my panthers ear and told them of the dangers I had encountered. I had been out 12 days which brought us now to the 22nd of April. We got our baggage aboard and took down the Keyademish and got safe into Red River. Took up it and in one days travel we got to high bluffs on the south side of the river”.

“I was very full of ticks which I picked off of me before dark but they still troubled me all night. I was rejoiced to see day light.”

John Maley, April 1812

Kiamichi River