

Did they have scissors back then?

An inventory of trade goods at Fort Edmonton, 1841-41

This is an extract from the inventory of goods and property at Fort Edmonton, taken in 1842. It shows the goods available for sewing: beads, cloth, thread, needles....and scissors!

Cloth, beads and sewing equipment: taken from 'Inventory of Goods, Property of HBC, remaining on hand in Saskatchewan District, 1st June 1841.' HBCA B.60/d/69 Edmonton House Account Book, 1841-42. Microfilm 1M471.

Used with permission from the Hudson's Bay Company Archives, Provincial Archives of Manitoba.

16 1/6 gross Indian awls

50³/₄ bunches Agate Beads

22 bunches Aquamarine Beads

2 bunches Barley corn Beads

1 bunch China flowered Beads

18¹/₃ bunches fancy cut glass Beads

20 bunches mock garnet Beads

3¹/₂ dozen cut necklace Beads

¹/₃ doz round necklace Beads

80¹/₄ [unclear] com. Round cold. [coloured] beads

12¹/₄ fine white enamel Beads

16¹/₄ gross hawk bells

15 yds 2nd light blue cloth

61 yds " " "

66⁷/₈ yds 2nd brown cloth

4 ¹/₄ yds " green "

220 ³/₄ " scarlet "

40 yds printed cotton

4 ³/₄ yds " [?] Guerah cotton

45 ¹/₂ yds com blue striped "

31 yds fine blue stripes cotton

12 yds blue duffle

26 yds white duffle

49 yds fine red flannel

48 yds fine white flannel

9 doz 4/4 cotton handkerchiefs

10 yds fancy printed muslin

unclear needles

[unclear] darning needles

2 cents glovers needles

[unclear] needles

1 ½ cents assorted needles

½ doz Kercers Lined Scissors

3 doz comm. “ scissors

18 pieces plain HB blue Strouds

110 yds plain HB blue Strouds

11¼ yds plain HB green Strouds

10 pieces plain HB red Strouds

5 ½ yds plain HB red Strouds

4 pieces plain HB white Strouds

39/2 yds plain HB white Strouds

10 ¾ pieces com. Plain blue Stroud

20/2 yds com. Plain blue Stroud

7 pieces com. Plain white Stroud

32/2 yds com. Plain white Stroud

10 yds fine Tartan

1/3 gross com brass Thimbles

[?] all cold. [coloured] Thread