Horn Button

Traditionally, Native Americans used paint, teeth, shells, and other items found in nature for decoration. Native Americans welcomed the buttons, glass beads, and ribbons the Europeans traded for their furs. They quickly adopted these trade items as ornaments to decorate their clothing and bags. European Americans and Native Americans alike often owned every everyday buttons made from the common materials at hand — shell, bone, and horn. This button is made of horn. Horn buttons are still available today.

Fur trade began in North America in the late seventeenth century. However, not until the American-owned Missouri Fur Company began operating in 1807 did trading with Native Americans in the Central Plains become extensive.