

Following out a most reasonable assumption, some Boston men in 1787 turned their gaze on Northwest America, for here were unknown lands with scattered barbarous occupants and here peradventure American occupancy might be made permanent.

With these dominating thoughts, it was a wise provision that supplied the ships with goods and trinkets to trade and use at times as presents. In 1787 the ship "Columbia" under "Captain John Kendrick" as head of the expedition, and the bark "Washington" under "Captain Robert Gray," with a friendly letter from the Spanish minister at Washington and God-speed from the people, made for the open ocean, beginning their long cruise, more fruitful in result directly and indirectly than any that has left American shores. The men who made this venture, apparently so costly, were nearly if not all, Boston men, and prominent citizens in their day.

Joseph Barrell, the leading merchant who in the Revolutionary war had re-victualled the French fleet at cost prices, showing a fervent patriotism; Charles Bulfinch, chairman of the Board of Selectmen, the first great architect; Pintard, Crowell and Hatch.

Actuated by patriotic motives, the orders to Kendrick and Gray show that not a few pelts or petty trading but acquisition of territory should be the great aim.

Captain Robert Gray in the Washington entered Nootka Sound on the west coast of Vancouver Island on Sept. 16, 1787; some time later Captain John Kendrick in the ship Columbia joined him.