

four cannon, supplying it with other munitions of war, and placing it under the command of a Mr. Haswell; that he there built a vessel of forty tons, called the *Adventurer*; that, in March, 1792, Captain Gray left Clioquot, to explore the coast, southward, and, on the eleventh day of May, in the same year, he discovered and entered the mouth of a large river, which, to this day, bears the name of the ship *Columbia*, which first ascended its waters, and thus perpetuates the memory of the original discovery; that Captain Gray sailed fourteen miles up this river, and, with the officers and marines of the ships, landed on its northerly bank, raised the American flag, and took possession of the country, in the name of the United States; that he continued in this river until the twenty-first of May, exploring its channels and trading with the natives; and that he named the two capes, at the entrance of the river, "Hancock" and "Adams." The memorialists further represent that Captain Kendrick remained on the coast, with the sloop *Washington*, and, in the Winter of 1789, he erected "Fort Washington" at Mauniana, in Nootka-sound; that, in 1790, he explored the whole extent of the Straits of De Fuca; that, in the Summer of 1791, he purchased of the native Chiefs, for the benefit of the owners, extensive tracts of land, and took formal possession of them, having obtained deeds for the same, embracing all the lands, rivers, creeks, islands, etc., with all the minerals, etc., from the Chief of the native tribe, who duly executed the same, attested by thirteen witnesses; and that copies of several of these deeds, with a full explanation of the transaction, in a letter from Captain J. Kendrick, addressed to the Hon. Thomas Jefferson, Secretary of State, are in the Department of State, and the affidavits of several early navigators, in further evidence of said purchases, are upon the files of the honorable House of Representatives.

The memorialists urge that, from these discoveries, explorations, purchases, and taking possession, with a claim of title which was recognized by Spain and by early English authorities, the United States Government founded their claim to be endowed with the strongest rights to the possession of the territories on the Northwest coast; and that immense benefits have resulted therefrom, and many additions of acres have been added to our national domain. They further represent, that, from the unforeseen disasters attending so new and remote an enterprise, the projectors were subjected to great expenses and an entire loss of their investments. Captain Kendrick lost his life in an accidental discharge of a salute; the vessel and cargo of furs were subsequently lost on the coast of China; the original owners have now

all deceased; and their numerous heirs and representatives are dispersed throughout the States, and some of them, in advanced age, without adequate means of support; that several similar applications have been heretofore made, but, until the settlement of the question of division and boundary, with Great Britain, every application has been fruitless. They ask, in behalf of the heirs of the owners, the heirs of Captain John Kendrick, and the widow of Captain Robert Gray, that their title to the lands purchased on the Northwest coast, in 1791, may be confirmed, and for some reasonable remuneration, in land or money, for the benefits which have accrued to the United States, from their enterprise and discoveries.

Accompanying the Memorial, and in proof of the facts therein set forth, are several original books, maps, letters and other documents, which furnish the most conclusive proof of the foregoing facts. Copies of some of them, with extracts from others, your Committee append herewith, and make part of this Report.

From the *Historical and Political Memoir on the Northwest Coast of America*, by Robert Greenhow, Translator and Librarian to the Department of State, published as Senate Document, No. 174, Twenty-sixth Congress, First Session, it appears that the Spaniards were the first discoverers of that coast; that, previous to 1774, they had examined the coast, as far North as the forty-third degree of Latitude, and the Russians, sailing eastward, across the Pacific, from their dominions in Asia, had discovered land southerly as far as the fifty-fifth degree of Latitude. In 1774, the Spaniards attempted to explore from the forty-third to the sixtieth degree; but the Spanish Government carefully concealed all information respecting these explorations, till 1802, when a meagre account of them was printed, in an introductory essay to the narrative of the voyage of the schooners *Sutil* and *Mexicana*, at Madrid.

In 1775, the Viceroy of Mexico ordered that another expedition should be sent out, for the purpose of examining the coast; and the *Santiago* and the *Sonora* were sent forth. The *Journal of Maurelle*, the Pilot of the latter, was published in London, in 1782. On the fourteenth of August, 1775, Heeceta, the commander of the *Santiago*, while sailing along the coast, discovered a promontory, called by him, *Cape San Roque*, and, immediately South of it, in Latitude 46° 16', an opening in the land which appeared to be a harbor.

This opening, Greenhow thinks to have been the mouth of the Columbia-river, thus first beheld by the native of a civilized country. In March, 1778, Captain Cook, the English navigator arrived on the coast, who passed the

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