

which he could reach the Lake of the Woods, which is in latitude 49° and longitude 95° , and writes of it as an important fact he had substantiated that there was no navigable passage to the east from latitude 30° to 56° . Capt. Hendrick, an American, in 1789 went around Vancouver's island.

While it is within eighty years since we have learned what is the coast outline of our continent, it is not till within a period less than half of that, that we have become acquainted with the outlines of its interior geography. The continent a hundred years since had never been traversed by a European, north of Mexico; nor in Mexico, north of the gulf of California. Delisle's map of 1785 has in an immense blank space the record: "the whole interior is unknown."

The plan of Jonathan Carver of Connecticut for crossing from ocean to ocean in 1772 had failed. His scheme was to have a military post established at the straits of Anian near Oregon. His map of 1778 contains a delineation of the sea of the west, the straits of Anian and of De Fuca, now fables of the past.

John Ledyard, also of Connecticut, in 1786, persevered in a scheme, in which he was aided by Jefferson, to traverse the American continent by entering it from Russia; but was hindered from accomplishing it, owing to his imprisonment by the Russians.

Samuel Hearne of London, in 1772, by his journey of thirteen hundred miles from Fort Prince of Wales in latitude 60° to the Coppermine river, established the fact that the continent did not extend to the North pole.

Alexander McKenzie in his first journey westward in 1789, reached only the Arctic ocean, but farther west than Hearne, to the river still called after his name as discoverer. In his second journey in 1793, he was the first