

HOW GATE
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Adventurer. That in March, 1792, Captain Gray left Clynquot to explore the coast southward, and on the 11th 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 21st 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 Mauriana, 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, &c., with all the minerals, &c., 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 recognised 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 millions of acres 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 ensued 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, hereunto, and make part of this report.

From the historical and political memoir on the northwest coast of

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