

## SPAIN REGARDS ALL OF NORTH AMERICA WEST OF THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER AS ITS OWN

Spanish claims of sovereignty, especially on the Pacific coast, dated back centuries

Spain had long held that all foreign sailors in the Pacific Ocean were to be treated as enemies

One of the first serious threats to the Spanish claim

came from the extension of Russian fur trading activity from Siberia into North America

## SPANISH GOVERNMENT BECOMES CONCERNED ABOUT ITS POSSESSION

England was at the earliest beginnings of a Westward movement into the heart of North America  
ever closer to the long-held American Southwest and Pacific possessions of Spain

Spain's Pacific coast settlements also were threatened by an advancing Russian effort from the north

it was decided to explore into the Russian domain to strengthen the Spanish claim there

Spain was determined to build colonies and place forts on the Pacific coast

in the area north of Baja California at San Diego Bay and Monterey Bay

to strengthen Spanish control of "Upper California"

## RIVALS COMPETE FOR CONTROL OF THE INTERIOR OF NORTH AMERICA

Three powerful empires, France, England and the Iroquois Indian League

all claimed the right to control the interior of North America

these competing claimants collided in a major military conflict

In this conflict English colonists and their Iroquois allies faced the French and their Indian allies

this was a regional conflict with both English and French colonists

being supported by military units from their Mother Countries

Americans have labeled this conflict the "French and Indian War" -- 1754-[1763]

Canadians refer to this struggle as the "War of Conquest"

fighting erupted at the confluence of the Allegheny and Monongahela rivers

where French Fort Duquesne (present-day Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania)<sup>1</sup> was located

Virginia militiamen under the command of George Washington

ambushed a French patrol -- May 1754

In subsequent fighting British military operations in the frontier areas of Pennsylvania and New York

all efforts failed 1755-[1757]

## RIVALS COMPETE FOR CONTROL OF THE INTERIOR OF NORTH AMERICA

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<sup>1</sup> Locations in parenthesis (present-day Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania) were not known by that name at the time.

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#### FROBISHER BROTHERS ENTER THE CANADIAN FUR TRADE

Benjamin and Thomas Frobisher arrived in Quebec from London to enter the trade for beaver pelts  
soon after the outbreak of the French and Indian War --1754-[1763]  
Frobisher brothers worked well together  
Benjamin’s talents laid in management  
from Montreal he concentrated on organizing the trade with London  
Thomas preferred the voyageur lifestyle of the wilderness and visited Montreal only briefly

#### STRAIT OF JUAN DE FUCA IS LOCATED ON THE MAP

J.N. Bellin, an eminent cartographer, placed on a map of North America  
the “Entrance of Juan de Fuca” with its pinnacle at forty-seven degrees latitude -- 1755  
even the map maker did not fully believe the story of its discovery  
(later, when explorers found a strait at forty-eight and a half degrees, guarded by a pinnacle  
it set them wondering)

#### FIGHTING IN NORTH AMERICA EXPANDS TO INCLUDE EUROPE

As the French and Indian War continued in North America  
Europe became involved in the “Seven Years’ War” which was fought to resolve  
overlapping colonial and trade empires around the world 1756-[1763]  
Seven Years War involved most of the great powers of the time  
England allied with Germany confronted France allied with Spain  
leaders of other European empires took sides to protect their own interests  
Seven Years War affected Europe, North America, Central America, the West Africa coast,  
India and the Philippines  
French and Indian War (War of Conquest) became part of the Seven Years War

Great Britain focused its attention on capturing Canada

while France focused on defeating Prussia (today's Germany) ruled by the House of Hohenzollern  
British military forces successfully took Quebec City -- September 13, 1759

in a fifteen minute fight known as the "Battle of Quebec"

(or sometimes, the "Battle of the Plains of Abraham" after the owner of the battlefield)

Great Britain had penetrated the heartland of New France

#### INDEPENDENT FUR TRADERS TAKE CONTROL FROM THE FRENCH

Following the French and Indian War Battle of Quebec -- [September 12]-13, 1759

and subsequent British conquest of Canada

swarms of "coureur de bois" (independent traders) arose out of the old French-Canadian trade

coureurs de bois wintered at trading posts in the field

they conducted trade, trapped and secured furs, kept records

and explored the expanding territory

some were Frenchmen such as Etienne Champion obtained a license to trade

south of Fort Michilimackinac on the upper Mississippi River

some were Scotsmen like American-born Alexander Henry

who invaded the former French domain and entered the fur trade

some like Peter Pond were independent Americans

who saw the Canadian fur trade as a financial opportunity

American "Free trappers" were an entirely different class of men from other traders

usually American by birth, Virginia and Kentucky was home for most

they were patient and tireless in trapping

yet given to wild squander and savage reveling during annual trips to carry out their catch

they were harsh and cruel to the Indians

bold and overbearing to strangers and friends alike

blood was always in their eye, thunder in their voice and a gun in their hands

they proved to be indifferent to either sympathy or company affiliations

#### ALEXANDER HENRY ("THE ELDER") ENTERS THE CANADIAN FUR TRADE

Alexander Henry (later referred to as Alexander Henry "The Elder" to differentiate from his nephew)

was born in New Jersey where he was raised by his Scottish parents

when he became a fur trader at age twenty-one he was one of the first, if not the first,

Scotsman in the independent Canadian fur trade -- 1760

he became known by the Indians as the "handsome Englishman"

Though ignorant of Indian life and the fur business, Alexander Henry achieved great renown

he was a successful judge of men and opportunities

## AMERICAN-BORN ROBERT ROGERS RISES TO HIGH RANK IN THE BRITISH ARMY

Born in northeast Massachusetts [1731] his family moved to the wilderness of New Hampshire during the French and Indian War he became a recruiter for the British army

he raised and commanded the famous Rogers' Rangers to fight the French for the British they were one of the few non-Indian forces able to operate in inhospitable conditions due to the harsh winters and mountainous terrain they frequently undertook winter raids against French towns and military targets

## TRADE WITH CANTON, CHINA LINKS THE EAST AND WEST

(Chinese port of Canton opened to French and English traders [1690s])

Canton was supervised by a Chinese merchant

who not only guaranteed the proper payment of all duties and fees to the Chinese government, but also guaranteed the proper behavior of every foreign person connected with the ship British East India Company in turn was responsible for all British ships and personnel governments of Great Britain and China had no formal, let alone diplomatic, relationship but dealt with each other only through intermediary merchant groups)

Canton literally became the only Chinese port open to foreign trade -- 1760

only selected Chinese merchants were authorized to sell tea and silk

there was no department of foreign trade, no trade board and no other ministry that had any control over matters of foreign trade

there was no government official to whom an aggrieved merchant could complain

and no one else had jurisdiction over the Chinese merchants

Foreign ships trading at Canton had to anchor, load and unload their cargoes only at Whampoa thirteen miles below the city of Canton and nowhere else

no warship was permitted to enter the Pearl River

all pilots, boatmen and agents working for foreigners

had to be licensed by Chinese authorities in Macau, China

foreigners were not permitted to row boats in the Pearl River,

nor were they permitted to sit in sedan-chairs, or use sampan boats flying foreign flags they could ride only in small topless boats

smuggling was forbidden, credit was not allowed, and Chinese merchants were prohibited from going into debt with foreigners

finally, foreign merchants were made subject to Chinese law

prisoners were presumed guilty until proven innocent

they were often subject to torture and arbitrary imprisonment

## SPANISH SHIP IS WRECKED ALONG (WHAT BECAME THE OREGON) COAST

Spanish sailors were stranded along (today's Oregon) coast at the mouth of the (Nehalem) River  
one of the sailors had red hair which immediately drew the attention of the local Indians  
jealously toward the sailors arose among the natives  
because of their attentions toward the native women  
sailors were killed after defending themselves as long as they could with home-made sling-shots  
however, the red-headed Spanish sailor was saved by an Indian girl -- 1760  
he returned to his wrecked ship to secure guns and ammunition  
he married his "Nehalem Pocahontas" after shooting a jealous rival  
Red haired Spanish sailor and his wife moved their family into the country of a Clatsop chief  
who had befriended them  
many years later, the red-haired sailor took care of the Clatsop chief who had become ill  
both men died of the same disease  
(Lewis and Clark found a freckled, red-haired Indian near Clatsop [1806])

## ALEXANDER HENRY TRADES WITH THE INDIANS OF THE GREAT LAKES REGION

Alexander Henry was determined to travel from Montreal to Fort Michilimackinac -- 1761  
located on the upper Mississippi River at a strategic point  
where the post commanded the trade route into Lake Superior  
(little did he realize then that he would be gone from civilization for sixteen year)  
Henry and his traveling companions paddled up the Ottawa River  
carrying their canoe and supplies over many portages  
until he reached the settlement of Ottawa where he ascended the Mattawa River  
only French trappers had penetrated this region to conduct trade with the Indians  
Henry and his men reached Lake Huron where they conducted trade  
relying on rum as the principal enticement for the Indians  
Henry was told by the natives that the Indians living further west would kill him  
because French traders had turned them against all Englishmen (although was American)  
Alexander Henry and his men continued on and reached the northern region of Lake Superior  
they stopped at the island of Michilimackinac where they found a large village of Chippewas  
leaving the village as quickly as possible they pushed on to Fort Michilimackinac  
there a stockade surrounded thirty houses and a church  
Fort Michilimackinac was the primary depot for furs from (today's Wisconsin and Michigan)  
at Fort Michilimackinac, Henry was visited by sixty Chipewyan Indians prepared for war  
but they consented to trade with him and assured his safety

## ALEXANDER HENRY SETS OUT FROM FORT MICHILIJACKINAC TO TRADE

Having wintered at Michilimackinac, Henry set out -- May 1762

for the area of Sault de Sainte-Marie where four houses stood behind a stockade

Trade in the region was not successful as the Indians gathered to protest British trade policies

#### FRANCE CEDES LOUISIANA TERRITORY (NEW FRANCE) TO SPAIN

France and Great Britain had been fighting the French and Indian War for eight years

St. John's, Newfoundland had been captured by the French -- June 27, 1762

British forces retook the city in a surprise attack called the "Battle of Signal Hill"

this was the last battle in the French and Indian War -- September 15, 1762

After France had lost the Battle of Signal Hill

France's King Louis XV secretly proposed to his cousin King Carlos III of Spain

that Louisiana as well as New Orleans and the island in which the city was located  
become a colony of Spain

Charles accepted the Treaty of Fontainebleau -- November 13, 1762

this agreement was kept secret while the French negotiated peace terms with the British

#### TREATY OF PARIS ENDS THE FRENCH AND INDIAN WAR

French and Indian War officially came to an end

with the signing of the Treaty of Paris by France and Great Britain -- February 10, 1763

Under terms of the treaty:

- France's Louisiana Territory (New France) was divided at the Mississippi River
    - eastern half was ceded to Great Britain
    - western half and New Orleans were retained by France (although actually controlled by Spain)Spain did not contest Britain's control of eastern Louisiana
  - also under the Treaty of Paris, Spain ceded Florida to Great Britain
- Spain considered her secretly owned western Louisiana Territory to be compensation enough for this consideration

British colonies would be surrounded by Spain and water

Spain intended to press in on the English colonies from the south and west

All three victors, British, Indians and Americans, emerged from the conflict

with very different, and ultimately incompatible, understandings of what they had won:

- Great Britain concluded they had secured a glorious future in vanquishing the French, they had conclusively established their claim to the continent;
- Britain's allies, the Iroquois Indian League believed that they had secured their political and territorial independence through their service in the war;
- American colonists concluded that by defeating the French and their Indian allies they had secured the western frontier for themselves

## YORK FACTORY IS HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY'S MOST IMPORTANT POST

York Factory was returned to the British with the Treaty of Paris --1763

it was located at the mouth of the Hayes River on the southwestern shore of Hudson Bay  
(in today's northeastern Manitoba, Canada)

all goods going into the West and all furs coming out of the interior passed through this post  
volume of trade at York Factory exceeded all other Hudson's Bay Company trading posts

## GREAT BRITAIN EXERTS CONTROL OVER HER COLONIES

French Government had established regulations governing the fur trade in Canada

Following the signing of the Treaty of Paris

Great Britain assumed control of Canada and embarked on a policy of imperial expansion

St. Lawrence and Ohio river valleys became part of Great Britain

open only to Hudson's Bay Company

thus French competition in the fur trade in that area was eliminated

Britain took control of forts Detroit and Michilimackinac in the Great Lakes region

no person was permitted to enter the countries lying northwest of Detroit

unless they had been issued a license

military commanders had the privilege of granting to any individual

exclusive trade of particular districts

Of immediate significance with the end of the French and Indian War

was the fact the French had been almost completely removed as a rival for North America

French competition with Britain's Hudson's Bay Company for furs was all but eliminated

forts Detroit and Michilimackinac under the British

continued to serve as major fur trading facilities

Ottawa and Chippewa natives in the region resented the British takeover

they found British policies harsh compared to those of the French

## INDEPENDENT FUR TRAPPERS AND TRADERS CONDUCT BUSINESS IN CANADA

Inter-racial trade was the foundation of the fur trading business

native people made the long journey to trading posts like Hudson's Bay Company's York Factory

there Indians would exchange pelts with Hudson's Bay Company factors (traders)

for European guns, kettles, knives and blankets

Independent Canadian fur traders rushed into the void created by the disappearance of the French

Canadians worked in the field to divert Indians from visiting far away trading posts

operated by Hudson's Bay Company

they would conduct their own trade buying pelts from the Indians in the wilderness

in exchange for various types of furs, natives received red blankets and calicoes,  
various color and sizes of beads, tobacco, kettles and house wares, guns, ammunition,  
knives, trinkets, toys, buttons and whiskey  
Canadian traders were more ruthless than those who worked for Hudson's Bay Company  
soon independent Canadian traders encircled Hudson's Bay Company trading preserves  
they intercepted and diverted furs destined for York Factory  
Some control over these independent traders was obtained by compelling them to secure licenses  
British Canadian government attempted to license all trappers and traders in their jurisdiction  
French traders with a license were given a monopoly in a district by the British government  
they attained the title of "Superintendent" and possessed the authority of peace officers  
one provision under which French fur traders working out of Montreal held their licenses  
was a promise that they would try locating a route to the Western Sea

#### BRITISH MAJOR ROBERT ROGERS IS POSTED TO THE WEST

Hero of the French and Indian War and noted Indian fighter Major Robert Rogers  
was briefly occupied in the fur trade (near today's Detroit) -- however, he failed financially  
gamboling debts led to his imprisonment in New York but he escaped  
Re-entering the British army Rogers was made British Royal Governor  
and commander of Fort Michilimackinac -- the Western-most post under British control  
at Michilimackinac Rogers picked up a variant to adventurer and author Arthur Dobbs' idea  
regarding the existence of a Northwest Passage  
Robert Rogers developed his own refinements  
he believed a "River of the West" flowed from the Great Lakes area to the Pacific Ocean

#### CHIEF PONTIAC'S WAR TAKES PLACE IN DETROIT

Ottawa Chief Pontiac led a loose confederation of elements of several Native American tribes  
primarily from the Great Lakes, Illinois and Ohio regions  
who were dissatisfied with British postwar policies  
Chief Pontiac led talks demanding the British provide better trade prices  
and furnish natives with ammunition  
After these talks failed, Chief Pontiac led a surprise attack on Fort Detroit -- May 1763  
a group of Chippewa Indians staged a ballgame outside the stockade to create a diversion  
they gained entrance to the post and attacked and killed most of the British occupants  
Indian success at Detroit led to open warfare and the capture of British frontier posts in the west  
eight forts including Sault de Sainte-Marie were destroyed  
hundreds of colonists were killed or captured many more fled to Fort Michilimackinac  
in an act of kindness a Chippewa Indian adopted Alexander Henry as his brother

British officers at Fort Pitt (the former French Fort Duquesne)  
attempted to kill the besieging Indians with smallpox using infected blankets  
Chipewyas, with some Ottawas, murdered the English at Michilimackinac  
their promise to keep Alexander Henry safe was broken and he was taken prisoner -- 1763  
Henry was saved only by the friendly efforts of the Chipewya Indian who had adopted him  
Robert Rogers led 200 men of Rogers' Rangers from Montreal in whaleboats  
to re-take Fort Detroit for the British -- November 1763  
(Only after the British brought more soldiers to America did Pontiac's War end  
with the defeat of the Native Americans [July 25, 1766])

#### INDEPENDENT AMERICAN FUR TRADER PETER POND BEGINS OPERATIONS

Peter Pond, an American fur trader and explorer, was born in Milford, Connecticut  
he served in the French and Indian War  
at various times he was a soldier, fur trader, explorer and cartographer  
Peter Pond became an independent western fur trader (in today's Detroit area) with his father -- 1765  
for six years he traded with the Indians throughout (Minnesota and Wisconsin)  
Peter Pond, a quarrelsome man, was extremely difficult to get along with  
he was notorious for his violence and was mixed up with robbery  
he often acquired furs by using opium on the natives  
which quickly produced a cooperative attitude from the Indians  
unless dose was too large -- which induced violence or death  
Through his business he became acquainted with American Alexander Henry (The Elder),  
Scottish trader and merchant Simon McTavish  
and the English brothers Thomas and Benjamin Frobisher

#### ALEXANDER HENRY SETS OUT ON HIS SECOND TRADING EXPEDITION

Scottish-American Alexander Henry wintered at Chagouemig (today's Chequamegon, Wisconsin)  
this had long been a gathering place for Indians -- Henry counted fifty lodges  
all were poor because their trade had been impeded  
by the English invasion of Canada (French and Indian War [1754-1763])  
and by Pontiac's War  
Indians began arriving at Chagouemig bringing in their winter's catch -- spring 1766  
Henry collected 150 ninety-pound bales of beaver pelts  
and twenty-five bales of otter and marten skins  
Alexander Henry remained in the Sault Sainte-Marie region until [1775]  
this trade greatly improved the lives of the local natives)

## RUSSIAN FUR TRADE IN NORTH AMERICA EXPANDS

Activities of independent Russian fur traders' in North America

caught the interest of Czarina Catherine II (Catherine the Great)

Catherine II began an effort to complete the work of exploration begun by Czar Peter

she ordered Lieutenant Synd to make a thorough investigation of the fur trade -- 1766

although not successful in accomplishing his assignment,

valuable cargoes of furs acquired by the Russians caused great excitement in Russia

## CAPTAIN JONATHAN CARVER PROPOSES TO CROSS NORTH AMERICA TO THE PACIFIC

Army officer and traveler Captain Jonathan Carver from Connecticut

had served in the French and Indian War

Captain Carver proposed to cross the continent to the Pacific Ocean

he referred to hearing of **“the four great rivers that take their rise within a few leagues of each other, nearly about the center of this great continent, viz: the river Bourbon, which empties into Hudson’s Bay, the waters of the St. Lawrence, the Mississippi, and the river Oregon, or the river of the West, that falls into the Pacific Ocean at the Strait of Anian.”**<sup>2</sup>

(President Jefferson later used this spelling of Oregon in his instructions to Lewis and Clark)

however, Carver could not find a financial backer for his expedition

Captain Carver was contacted by Robert Rogers, commander of Fort Michilimackinac, to lead

an expedition to find a western water route, the Northwest Passage, to the Pacific Ocean -- 1766

Carver left Fort Michilimackinac traveling in large fur-trading canoes -- spring 1766

he followed the well-utilized French trade routes along the northern shore of Lake Michigan

then cut across (what is now Wisconsin) looking for the Northwest Passage

he resupplied at a small French settlement (at today’s Green Bay) and set out up the Fox River

he reached the well used “Grand Portage” (now Portage, Wisconsin)

Carver crossed to the Wisconsin River and traveled down stream to the Mississippi River

he turned north crossing (today’s Minnesota as far as Minneapolis) where he spent the winter

## ALEXANDER HENRY EXPLORES WEST OF MICHILIMACKINAC

American trader Alexander Henry was the first trader to push west beyond Michilimackinac

into Lake Superior country -- his canoes were the first on Lake Winnipeg (Manitoba, Canada)

Henry spent sixteen years in the wilderness 1766-[1783]

traveling as far north as Beaver Lake and the Churchill River (in today’s Northern Manitoba)

on the way to Churchill River he traveled with independent trappers Peter Pond

and the brothers Benjamin and Joseph Frobisher

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<sup>2</sup> George Fuller, *A History of the Pacific Northwest*, P. 49.

## CAPTAIN JONATHAN CARVER SEARCHES FOR THE “RIVER OF THE WEST”

Carver returned to Fort Michilimackinac ending his unsuccessful search for the Northwest Passage however, his trading expedition had been very successful -- spring 1767  
he discovered Royal Governor Robert Rogers had been arrested for treason against Great Britain  
First ship of the season out of Fort Michilimackinac carried both Rogers and Carver to Detroit  
Carver traveled in the relative comfort of a passenger cabin  
he expended his energies writing a book of his travels during this time  
Rogers was forced to sit out the journey seated on the ballast rocks in the hold of the ship  
(in Montreal the Royal Governor, Commander of Fort Michilimackinac was found not guilty)  
Arriving in Montreal Captain Jonathan Carver submitted to his superiors a list of expenses  
he had incurred while searching for the Northwest Passage  
but payment was denied on the grounds that Royal Governor Rogers  
did not have the authority to order such an expedition  
Outraged Jonathan Carver traveled to London  
there the British government ordered his journal turned over to them  
Carver bought the journals back from the printer -- he made a copy for himself  
then turned the journals over to the British government  
(Carver later published his book: *Jonathan Carver's Travels Through America, 1766-1768*  
which was an immediate success [1778])

## BRITISH PARLIAMENT PASSES THE TOWNSHEND ACTS

Townshend Acts were a series of British laws named after the British Chancellor of the Exchequer (equivalent to America's Secretary of the Treasury) Charles Townshend -- June 15-July 2, 1767  
Townshend Acts served several purposes for the British government:

- raised money in the colonies to pay the salaries of governors and judges  
so they would not be dependent on the colonists  
enforcement of trade regulations would be more effective for the British  
if consideration of colonists' concerns could be disregarded;
- British government had passed the [1765] Quartering Act  
which housed British soldiers in colonists' homes  
Townshend Acts provided British financing to enforced that law  
in the province of New York which had refused to comply;
- Townshend Acts demonstrated the British right to tax its colonies

Although these laws had a dramatic effect on Britain's North American colonies  
no input from the colonists was sought during their passage

## SPAIN BECOMES VERY CONCERNED ABOUT RUSSIAN ACTIVITIES

Russian efforts to establish fur trading posts in the North Pacific were reported to King Carlos III Viceroy of New Spain Carlos Francisco de Croix, Marquis of Croix was ordered in a letter from Madrid, Spain “...to observe such attempts as the Russians may make there [Alaska], frustrating them if possible.”<sup>3</sup> -- January 23, 1768

San Blas, New Spain (Mexico) was selected by Viceroy de Croix as the location of a new naval facility to serve as a base for sending a series of exploration and reconnaissance voyages to the north -- 1768

one purpose of these voyages was to ascertain the strength of the Russian threat another was to reinforce Spain’s claims of sovereignty by right of discovery through the use of formal possession-taking rituals which were still regarded as a meaningful part of international law

final purpose was to search for the Strait of Anian (Northwest Passage) because if it existed and fell under the control of another nation such as Great Britain it could prove disastrous to New Spain’s Pacific coast ambitions

Manuel Rivera and 116 families arrived to construct the naval base at San Blas at first only two ships used to carry supplies to California were assigned to the port:

- packet ship *San Carlos* was commanded by Juan Josef Perez Hernandez (Perez);
- packet ship *El Principe* was commanded by Vicente Vila

four new vessels were ordered to be built at San Blas

#### OFFER OF ENGLISH REWARDS LEAD TO EXPLORATION

British parliament offered a £20,000 reward to the qualified geographer who would “**first discover a communication between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, in any direction whatever, in the northern hemisphere; and also to such as shall first penetrate beyond the 89th degree of northern latitude.**”<sup>4</sup>

this motivated efforts to develop a new route across North America that would make it easier to carry trade goods inland and furs out

#### JAMES COOK -- BRITAIN’S GREATEST CAPTAIN AND EXPLORER

James Cook was born [October 27, 1728] the second of eight children of Grace (Pace) Cook and James Cook, a Scottish farm laborer in the village of Marton, Durham County Yorkshire after five years of school, James began working for his father -- now a farm manager when he was sixteen he moved twenty miles from home to a fishing village there he was apprenticed as a shop boy to a grocer and haberdasher (hat maker) having little success with his apprenticeship, he took up residence in a nearby port town he was taken on as a merchant sailor apprentice by the owners of a small fleet of vessels

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<sup>3</sup> David Lavender, *Land of Giants*, P. 15.

<sup>4</sup> Cecil Dryden, *History of Washington*, P. 33.

that carried coal along the English coast -- his apprenticeship lasted three years  
during this time he studied algebra, geometry, trigonometry, navigation and astronomy  
James next worked on trading ships on the Baltic Sea and earned command of a vessel  
but within a month he joined the British Navy which was then re-arming  
for an anticipated war with France (the Seven Years War [1756-1763])

Cook returned to England and married Elizabeth Batts [1762]

James Cook sailed to Canada after the Treaty of Paris had been signed [February 10, 1763]  
he showed a talent for surveying and cartography (map making)  
he was responsible for mapping much of the entrance to the Saint Lawrence River  
he also mapped the jagged coastline of Newfoundland, Canada  
(Cook's maps were used into the Twentieth Century)

Cook was an excellent sailor and commander

although he had little formal education, he was considered well read  
and he was a keen observer of men and events  
trusted and respected for his sound judgment, he was nearly always right  
inquisitive but emotionless, he rarely showed any symptom of romance affecting his judgment

he was a firm disciplinarian as a British officer

but this was moderated with human sympathy and understanding  
normally unassuming and mild mannered,

an astonishing temper could occasionally be unleashed  
perhaps his greatest strength and his greatest weakness was his over-tenacity  
perseverance could shift to stubbornness

one remarkable weakness was his tendency to overestimate the value of property

he often placed his life and that of his crew at risk to gain return of a hatchet or knife, etc.

James Cook was promoted to British naval lieutenant

and was given command of HMS (His Majesty's Ship) *Endeavor*

he was to lead a Royal Navy scientific voyage to the South Seas (Southern Pacific Ocean)  
commissioned by England's King George III

and the Royal Society of London for Improving Natural Knowledge -- 1768-[1771]

Cook specifically was to chart the movement of the planet Venus as it crossed the sun

he also was to look for an "Unknown Continent" and prove if it did not exist  
instead he discovered Australia which the British recognized as a continent

although it was too small to actually qualify for that status

he explored extensively around New Zealand and Australia

and learned vegetables, lightly pickled, could ward off scurvy

James Cook was elevated from lieutenant to the rank of commander

## SPANISH GOVERNMENT BECOMES CONCERNED ABOUT ITS LAND POSSESSION

England was at the earliest beginnings of a Westward movement across the Appalachian Mountains ever closer to the long held Pacific possessions of Spain

Spain's Pacific coast claim also was threatened by advancing Russian efforts from the north it was decided to explore into the Russian domain to strengthen the Spanish claim there

Spain was determined to build forts and place colonies at San Diego Bay and Monterey Bay located on the Pacific coast to strengthen Spanish control of "Upper California"

(that is the area north of Baja California)

## SPANISH COLONIES ARE PLACED IN CALIFORNIA

San Diego Mission was established by Catholic Father Junipero Serra -- July 16, 1769

this was the first of a "rosary of missions" to be built in California

San Diego Mission represented both the Catholic Church and the Spanish government it provided spiritual comforts, civil needs and military occupation

as the mission was accompanied by a Presidio (fortress) for a military garrison

(San Diego was soon followed by a settlement at Monterey Bay [1770])

which became the capitol of "Upper California")

## FROBISHER BROTHERS BEGIN AN INDEPENDENT TRADING COMPANY

Benjamin and Thomas Frobisher operated their independent trading activities out of Montreal they were joined by their youngest brother, Joseph --1769

all three brothers put their accumulated money together to set up a fur trading company based in Montreal, Canada

Frobisher brothers worked well together

Benjamin saw to the business in Montreal,

Thomas lived in the wilderness and conducted trade with the Indians,

Joseph had a more varied experience, dividing his time between outlying posts and Montreal

## SIMON McTAVISH ENTERS THE FUR TRADE

Simon McTavish had arrived in New York from Scotland at age thirteen with his sister and her husband [1764]

he was apprenticed to a Scots merchant in New York

where he recognized the opportunities offered by the fur trade

Simon McTavish set out on his own to trade -- 1769

(over the next few years McTavish prospered in the fur trading business)

## ARCTIC OCEAN IS REACHED BY HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY EMPLOYEE SAMUEL HEARNE

English traders on Hudson Bay had long known that Indians to the northwest used local copper  
this was indicated by such words as “Yellowknife”

Northern natives brought lumps of copper to Hudson’s Bay Company’s Churchill Factory  
on the Churchill River (in today’s upper Manitoba, Canada)

English explorer, fur trader, author and naturalist Samuel Hearne was sent by Hudson’s Bay Company  
to explore all of Northern Canada beyond Hudson Bay in search of a possible copper mine  
even Hearne knew this was an absurd assignment

(Hearne had been born in London, England [February 1745])

he joined the British Navy at age twelve

he went to work for Hudson’s Bay Company [February 1766])

Hearne’s first expedition lasted only a month -- November 1769

young explorer discovered the Coppermine River and journeyed overland to its mouth

he was the first European to travel overland across northern Canada to the Arctic Ocean

(Hearne’s second effort did little better as it lasted only five months [April-October 1770])

#### BOSTON MASSACRE TAKES PLACE

British troops had been sent to Boston to maintain order and enforce the hated Townshend Acts [1768]  
these soldiers were constantly tormented by irresponsible gangs of colonists

One British sentry was surrounded by a mob that insulted and harassed him -- night of March 5, 1770  
eight British soldiers who came to his support also were harassed and were hit with thrown objects  
without orders, they fired into the crowd instantly killing three

Crispus Attucks, a black man took two bullets in the chest and was the first to die,

Samuel Gray and James Caldwell also were killed -- six others were wounded

two men, Samuel Maverick and Patrick Carr, later died of their wounds

Funeral service for the victims was the scene of a great patriot demonstration

#### MONTREAL MERCHANTS FORM SMALL TRAPPING COMBINES OF THE OWN

Competition with Hudson’s Bay Company forced independent fur traders and trappers to cooperate  
but they also vigorously competed among themselves -- sometimes violently

Several Montreal merchants of Scottish blood formed trapping and trading combines  
to provide limited competition with Hudson’s Bay Company

these entrepreneurs were Canadian traders -- not English

Scottish Montreal merchants and their independent Canadian trappers and traders

moved into the wilderness where they succeeded in capturing much of the Indian trade

#### MONTREAL MERCHANTS COMPETE WITH HUDSON’S BAY COMPANY

Montreal merchants assumed control of the Montreal-based fur trade

they dominated the region west and south of Fort Michilimackinac  
Competition for Hudson's Bay Company from independent fur traders and trappers was serious  
furs poured into Europe to be sold at public auction  
skins such as wolverine, bear, mink, squirrel, elk, marten, otter and fox  
were sold by the single pelt  
beaver pelts, bed-feathers and whale fins were sold by the pound  
lowly rabbits came in lots of a dozen  
goose quills sold by the thousand

#### TRIALS OF THE BOSTON MASSACRE SOLDIERS

Colonial officials were determined to give the soldiers a fair trial  
so there could be no grounds for retaliation from the British government  
and so that moderate rebels would not be alienated from the Patriot cause  
British Captain Thomas Preston, the officer of the watch, was the first soldier to go on trial  
patriot leader John Adams agreed to serve as lead defense attorney  
Captain Preston was acquitted when the jury was convinced  
he had not ordered the troops to fire -- October 1770  
(In a subsequent trial two of the British soldiers were found guilty of man slaughter  
they were punished by branding their right thumbs  
another trial found the colonial civilians not guilty)  
Root cause of the Boston Massacre had been the British Townshend Acts

#### BRITISH EAST INDIA COMPANY FALLS ON HARD TIMES

British East India Company, famed for spreading British influence throughout the East and India,  
had fallen on hard times -- early 1770s  
To shore up the failing company British policymakers imposed a tariff (tax)  
on commodities sold in the American colonies -- Americans boycotted English goods  
American boycotts of British imports convinced the British government to repeal the tariffs

#### COMMANDER JAMES COOK'S SECOND SCIENTIFIC EXPEDITION

Commander James Cook's second voyage was commissioned by the Royal Navy  
with advice from the Royal Society of London for Improving Natural Knowledge -- 1772-[1775]  
he was to circumnavigate the globe as far south as possible and search for the Unknown Continent  
Cook's *Resolution* was the first ship to sail across the Antarctic Circle  
he explored the Antarctic subcontinent but failed to discover the mythical land mass  
nonetheless, he but did add to the scientific data of the world  
Commander Cook discovered a method of controlling and almost eliminating scurvy -- eating limes

during this two-year voyage not one man died of scurvy  
(British sailors were referred to by Americans as “limeys” -- that is, lime eaters)  
Great honor was heaped on Cook after his second expedition  
he was promoted to “post-captain”, an honorary title for those without a command  
position of captain in the Royal Navy was reserved to those of aristocratic birth

#### SPANISH BECOME CONCERNED ABOUT RUSSIAN TRADERS

Spanish minister at the Russian court wrote to his king, Carlos III  
that Russian merchants were trading in North America furs -- February 1773  
and had formed a settlement somewhere north of California  
Spanish government became alarmed  
Antonio Maria de Bucareli y Ursua, 46<sup>th</sup> Viceroy of New Spain, was ordered to send ships at once  
to explore north beyond Monterey Bay

#### FRESH ALARMS REACHED MEXICO REGARDING RUSSIAN ACTIVITIES

Antonio Maria de Bucareli y Ursua, 46<sup>th</sup> Viceroy of New Spain (Mexico),  
directed the founding of San Francisco as a defensive outpost for New Spain’s northern flank  
he also ordered that a naval survey of the north Pacific waters be made -- 1773  
this was to be the first exploring voyage along the west coast  
since Sebastian Vizcaino’s [1602] expedition had reached Monterey Bay, California  
There was only one place on the West Coast equipped to outfit Spanish ships  
naval base at San Blas, New Spain was a tiny port  
from which supplies were dispatched to the missions of “Upper and Lower California”  
San Blas was quickly equipped with a boatyard, arsenal and warehouses  
Juan Josef Perez was chosen to lead the expedition to explore Nueva Galicia (the west coast)  
born and raised in Mallorca, Spain Perez was his country’s most respected navigator  
eminently practical, moderately efficient and a well-trained leader of men  
he had been in command of a Manila galleon  
Lieutenant Esteban Jose Martinez was made second in command of the expedition

#### BRITISH PARLIAMENT PASSES THE TEA ACT

Americans continued to boycott India tea  
East India Company had warehouses full of tea but was teetering on the brink of bankruptcy  
British Parliament passed the Tea Act to help the struggling company survive -- May 10, 1773  
Tea Act allowed the British East India Company to sell tea directly to the colonies  
thereby saving the company from bankruptcy  
prices were lowered to undercut those charged by smugglers

lower price on tea was supposed to convince the colonists to purchase company tea  
on which duties were paid -- and thus accept Parliament's right of taxation  
once again the British government had imposed a tax on the colonies  
with no American representation

Colonists in the Thirteen Colonies recognized the implications of the Tea Act's provisions  
coalition of merchants was formed in opposition to delivery and distribution of the tea  
in many colonies successful efforts were made to prevent India tea from being landed

#### AMERICAN TRADER PETER POND COMPETES WITH HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY TRADERS

American trader and adventurer Peter Pond went to Montreal.

he purchased 4,600 pounds of trade goods in bales from merchants Isaac Todd and James McGill  
and arranged to have these items shipped in their canoes

Pond engaged men to accompany him and set out by way of the Ottawa River for Michilimackinac  
Peter Pond and his men arrived at Fort Michilimackinac with twelve canoes  
preparations were begun for an extensive trading venture into the wilderness

#### AMERICAN PETER POND CONDUCTS TRADE (IN TODAY'S WISCONSIN)

Peter Pond and his men crossed Lake Michigan to (today's Green Bay, Wisconsin) -- September 1773  
he visited the Menominees on the north side of the bay  
and the Winnebagos on "Peuans Lake" (Lake Winnebago.)  
he may also have traded with the Fox Indians

Pond ascended the Fox River before he portaged to the Wisconsin River  
(which is a part of the Mississippi drainage system)

Peter Pond and his traders reached Prairie du Chien where he found many French traders and Indians  
purchasing supplies for the winter hunt

he stayed ten days while he dispatched nine clerks to trade  
along various tributaries of the Wisconsin and Mississippi rivers

Pond set out for the St. Peters River (today's Minnesota River) with two other traders  
about fourteen miles from the mouth of the river he found a log house

which he supposed to be that of Jonathan Carver where the explorer had [wintered 1766-1767]  
Pond passed the winter of 1773-1774 on the high banks of the St. Peters River (Minnesota River)  
he conducted business with the Indians in gentle competition with a French trader  
(When the ice broke and the water level receded, Pond's party descended the river to Prairie du Chien  
where he collected pelts from various tribes gathered by his trading partners [1774])

#### BOSTON TEA PARTY RESISTS BRITISH TAXES

Resistance to India tea culminated in the Boston "Tea Party" -- December 16, 1773

colonists, some disguised as Native Americans, boarded tea ships anchored in Boston Harbor and dumped 342 tea chests overboard as a cheering crowd on the dock shouted its approval  
Boston Tea Party was quickly restaged in other port cities in America  
these activities polarize the colonists in the widening dispute

both “Patriots” and “Loyalists” became more zealous in their views

Parliament responded to the destruction with a series of acts that were intended to:

- punish Boston for destruction of private property,
- restore British authority in Massachusetts,
- reform colonial government in America

#### SPANISH GOVERNMENT ORDERS JUAN JOSEF PEREZ’S EXPEDITION BE SENT NORTH

Juan Josef Perz and Lieutenant Esteban Jose Martinez received their final orders

for a secret Spanish expedition to Nueva Galicia (the west coast) -- December 24, 1773

they were to sail to 60° North before making landfall; then turn south

they were to attempt a careful search for harbors and Russian settlements

they were to land often at the best places for settlements

take possession, erect a cross and bury a bottle containing a record of the act of possession  
as demanded by international law

#### SPANISH CAPTAIN JUAN JOSEF PEREZ SAILS NORTH

Juan Josef Perez departed on the ship *Santiago* with crew of eighty-eight -- January 24, 1774

he sailed from San Blas, New Spain (Mexico) with a year’s supplies

bound for the Spanish Catholic missions at San Diego and Monterey, California

there he was to discharge cargo before proceeding on to 60° North in great secrecy

When Perez arrived at the settlement, San Diego was on the verge of starvation

after delivering supplies he continued on to Monterey -- May 9

there he rested for almost a month in preparation for his voyage north to seek out the Russians

#### BRITISH SOLDIERS ARRIVE IN BOSTON

British Generals John Burgoyne, Sir Henry Clinton and Sir William Howe arrived in Boston

to reinforce the British Army under Governor-General Sir Thomas Gage -- May 13, 1774

Catherine the Great, Czar of Russia refused to lend fellow monarch George III of England

a few thousand of her troops for his use against the rebel colonists

(this refusal on the part of Russia set conditions for friendly relations

between Russia and the fledgling United States which lasted more than a century)

#### HUDSON’S BAY COMPANY ESTABLISHES CUMBERLAND HOUSE

Hudson's Bay Company saw it would be obliged to branch inland for the protection of its trade

Samuel Hearne traveled down the Saskatchewan River

he set up Cumberland House on Pine Island in the Saskatchewan River Delta -- 1774

this post was founded (in north-eastern Saskatchewan, Canada)

because of the large number of Cree gathered there in the spring

it was a good place to trade for the rich furs they collected

Hudson's Bay Company's Cumberland House was the first of a series of inland posts

location of Cumberland House on the Saskatchewan River was crucial to Hudson's Bay Company

Saskatchewan River led to Lake Winnipeg and on to York Factory on Hudson Bay

but the river also led to independent Canadian trading companies at Montreal

to the west the river led to the Rocky Mountains (and a pass to Oregon Country)

to the north the Sturgeon-Weir River led to the Churchill River region of Manitoba

which continued on to Methye Portage and the rich Athabasca Country to the northwest

Cumberland House was used as a depot for east-bound furs and west-bound trade goods

forty days paddling were required to travel from Hudson's Bay Company's base at York Factory

(Samuel Hearne eventually proved there was open water above Hudson Strait

and far to the northwest of Hudson Bay

he suggested a channel to the Pacific Ocean might be found to the north

which, he thought, would probably link with the Bering Strait)

#### HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY RECEIVES COMPETITION IN THE CHURCHILL RIVER REGION

As Indians in the Churchill River region of northern Manitoba, Canada

carried their furs to the Hudson's Bay Company's Cumberland House

Joseph Frobisher met them on the way and induced them to trade with him

Frobisher remained two seasons in the Saskatchewan Valley

enduring great hardships 1774-[1776]

he was forced to depend upon what the woods and waters afforded for subsistence

#### PETER POND RETURNS TO FORT MICHILIMACKINACK

American fur trader and adventurer Peter Pond

returned to Fort Michilimackinac from Prairie du Chien -- July 1774

Pond's first venture had ended -- he had learned the beaver trade well

he became adept in dealing successfully with native peoples

he mastered the art of getting along with fellow traders when possible

and at the same time out-trading them when necessary

he had become familiar with wilderness travel and survival

he had established himself as a successful entrepreneur

## PETER POND FORMS A PARTERSHIP

While at Fort Michilimackinac, Pond entered into partnership with merchant Thomas Williams -- 1774  
(this arrangement that would last until [1777])

Peter Pond arranged to have the next season's trade goods brought northwest to Grand Portage located at the west end of Lake Superior (near today's Grand Portage, Minnesota)

Grand Portage was a nine-mile footpath which bypassed a set of waterfalls and rapids on the last twenty miles of the Pigeon River before it flows into Lake Superior

(As a result of his thinking Grand Portage, and later Fort William [Thunder Bay, Ontario]

would eventually supplant Michilimackinac as the western supply depot of the northwest fur trade)

## JUAN JOSEF PEREZ SAILES *SANTIAGO* ON HIS JOURNEY NORTH IN SEARCH OF RUSSIANS

Juan Josef Perez sailed from Monterey, California -- June 6, 1774

he made little progress as strong winds drove *Santiago* south of Monterey

three weeks were wasted until the wind changed to favorable and progress north could begin

Sailing far out to sea Perez cautiously reached 55° north

he identified a group of islands at 53° North Latitude (the Queen Charlotte Islands today's Haida Gwaii)

because he was short on water he turned east -- July 15

Land was sighted for the first time since leaving Monterey -- July 18

off the (Alaska panhandle near Baranof Island, Alaska)

Strong currents kept *Santiago* out to sea along the southern coast of Alaska -- July 20

Perez sighted no Russian settlements -- he was too far away from land

he returned to landfall near Baranof Island

Perez could not find a suitable place to land and he feared the period of good weather was near an end after reaching 54° 20' (modern boundary between Alaska and British Columbia)

he abandoned his orders and turned for San Blas, New Spain (Mexico)

## JUAN JOSEF PEREZ CONTINUED SOUTH ON THE *SANTIAGO*

Unfavorable weather continued -- July 22, 1774

Perez sailed in a fog which lifted only periodically and prevented careful examination of the terrain

he sailed along the west side (of today's Queen Charlotte Islands)

past (today's Cape St. James in the Queen Charlotte group)

he encountered Haida Indians (in the Queen Charlotte Islands)

but he apparently lacked the curiosity to explore the region

Perez sighted lofty mountains covered with snow on the north end of (today's Vancouver Island)

he named these the San Christobal Mountains

## JUAN JOSEF PEREZ MADE LANDFALL

Perez laid anchor 49° 30' north (on the western side [outside] of today's Vancouver Island) on the following day Perez claimed to have run into a "C" shaped harbor  
Perez named the inlet *Surgidero* (anchorage) de San Lorenzo  
after the saint of the day -- August 2, 1774  
(this name will later be changed to King Georges' Sound by James Cook  
and then to Nootka Sound [1778])  
today there is considerable confusion regarding the naming of this area  
as Perez' description of San Lorenzo does not match Nootka Sound<sup>5</sup>)

## NOOTKA INDIANS MAKE CONTACT WITH JUAN JOSEF PEREZ

Perez dropped anchor near Esteban Point (at the mouth of today's Nootka Sound) -- August 8, 1774  
which he named in honor of his pilot and second in command Esteban Jose Martinez  
Local natives had never before seen a ship  
bravest of the natives took to their canoes and reconnoitered from a distance  
occupants of three canoes approached and gestured to the Spanish to leave  
Perez indicated by signs that he meant no harm -- he was seeking fresh water

## PEREZ CONDUCTS TRADE WITH THE NOOTKA INDIANS

Next morning several canoes loaded with curious natives paddled out to greet him -- August 9, 1774  
some of the natives soon grew bold enough to board the *Santiago*  
during their visit one of the natives took two silver tablespoons  
from the ship's pilot Esteban Jose Martinez  
Although the Spanish explorers did not land  
they traded briefly with about 2,000 Nootka Indians in a village they called Yuqot  
furs were exchanged by the Indians for clothing, knives and attractive abalone shells  
that Spanish sailors had brought from California  
Perez made no further landing on his journey south to San Blas, New Spain  
but sighted and named: Esteban Island, and Esteban Sound named for his second in command  
Perez had a longboat readied to take possession of the new land  
but a west wind arose and his anchor began dragging  
at the moment it appeared more important for the *Santiago* to leave at once

## JUAN JOSEF PEREZ CONTINUED SOUTH

Next afternoon Perez sighted was appeared to be a snow-white cliff -- August 10, 1774

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<sup>5</sup> Captain John T. Walbran, *British Columbia Place Names*, P. 360-361.

he soon saw it was a mountain flanked by foothills  
which he named Sierra Nevada de Santa Rosalia (today's Mount Olympus)  
(this was the first geographic feature in Washington to be given a European name)  
*Santiago* continued south as once again fog and rain obscured the land -- August 11  
near mouth of Queets River his crew was not able to raise the anchor up fast enough to suit Perez  
heavy winds compelled Perez to cut the cables and run to out sea  
storms continued to impede the expedition  
*Santiago* arrived back at Monterey, California -- August 22, 1774  
before continuing on to San Blas, New Spain

#### JUAN JOSEF PEREZ'S EXPEDITION WAS ALMOST A COMPLETE FAILURE

*Santaigo* arrived in San Blas, New Spain -- November 5, 1774  
crew had contracted scurvy but only one man died of the disease  
Perez's voyage was a disappointment to Spanish Viceroy Antonio Maria de Bucareli y Ursua  
Perez had failed to attempt the important things his orders demanded:

- he had failed to reach the region visited by Russians;
- he had failed to carry out the claim of discovery ceremony required under international law;
- in fact, he had accomplished nothing his orders called for

but Juan Josef Perez was the first to describe the Washington coast  
and this gave Spain at least some right to the claim of discovery  
After Perez made his inadequate report it was decided to send a second expedition  
north in search of Russian trading and trapping activities

#### SPANISH PREPARE A SECOND EXPEDITION TO SAIL NORTH

Having learned of the difficulties encountered by sending only one ship north to explore  
46<sup>th</sup> Viceroy of Mexico Antonio Maria de Bucareli y Ursua ordered a three-ship effort be readied  
naval officers recently transferred from Spain's best naval academies to San Blas, Mexico  
were expressly recruited for the purpose of taking part in this important secret expedition  
Spain's second expedition was to formally take possession of the land  
and exert Spain's full claim to the remote region  
Thirty-seven-year-old Spanish Lieutenant-Commander Bruno de Heceta (or sometimes Hezeta)  
was of noble birth and an officer by training -- he was given command the expedition  
Heceta's expedition to further explore Nueva Galicia (the west coast) would be composed of:

- Santiago*, Perez' old ship was chosen by Heceta to be his flagship with a crew of ninety  
Juan Josef Perez served as pilot;
- smaller and more nimble two-masted supply schooner *Sonora*  
(officially named the *Nuestra Sonora de Guadalupe*) served as escort for the *Santiago*

under the command of Juan de Ayala, she was to perform coastal reconnaissance and mapping; *Sonora* could make landfall in places the larger *Santiago* had been unable to approach before this tiny vessel, thirty-six feet long with a twelve-foot beam and eight-foot-deep hold, was so small the crew of sixteen had no room to walk on deck and the hold was so shallow that a man could not stand upright in it

- packet boat *San Carlos* with fifty-four men under the command of Miguel Manrique<sup>6</sup> carried provisions for the newly-established mission outpost at Monterey, California

Manrique was instructed to investigate and map the bay of San Francisco which a previous Spanish naval expedition [1769] had discovered

Bruno de Heceta's expedition was composed of 160 officers and men majority of the crew was made up of capable and strong Mexican Indian ranch hands who were completely untrained and unseasoned in naval duties they were ill-suited and unprepared to be sequestered for months aboard a cramped damp ship in the open sea<sup>7</sup>

Provisions included several tons of jerked beef, more than a ton of dried fish, hardtack (a hard biscuit made of flour and water), half-ton of lard, quantities of beans, rice, wheat, lentils, onions, cheese, chili peppers, salt, vinegar, sugar, pork, cinnamon, cloves, saffron, pepper, chocolate, barrels of brandy, barrels of wine and an assortment of fruits and vegetables<sup>8</sup>

#### HECETA'S EXPEDITION SAILS NORTH

Commander Bruno de Heceta's fleet left San Blas with a year's supplies -- March 16, 1775 his orders from the Viceroy Bucareli were to examine along the coast to 65° north latitude they were to land, search for evidence of Russian intrusions and conduct the formal act of possession

Vicious storms slowed progress from San Blas, New Spain (Mexico) toward Monterey, California because of its small size *Sonora* proved to be unstable in ocean water in an attempt to make headway Heceta had to resort to towing his escort ship for a time before Monterey, California was reached

#### TROUBLE HITS HECETA'S EXPEDITION EARLY<sup>9</sup>

Just three days out San Blas, Mexico the *San Carlos* fired its canons twice -- March 19, 1775 its red signal flag was hoisted atop its mast -- an emergency distress signal to the other two ships

When the *Sonora* and *Santiago* reached the stricken ship they found Lieutenant Miguel Manrique

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<sup>6</sup> Antonio Sanchez, Essay 5682, HistoryLink.org, April 14, 2004.

<sup>7</sup> Antonio Sanchez, Essay 5682, HistoryLink.org, April 14, 2004.

<sup>8</sup> Antonio Sanchez, Essay 5682, HistoryLink.org, April 14, 2004.

<sup>9</sup> Antonio Sanchez, Essay 5682, HistoryLink.org, April 14, 2004.

in a state of total psychological breakdown and unable to function as commander after a brief meeting, Heceta ordered the ill pilot returned to San Blas immediately

Juan de Ayala was now given command of the *San Carlos*

Juan Francisco de la Bodega Y Quadra assumed command of the *Sonora*

thirty-two-year-old lieutenant had been born in Chile

he was the only expedition member not from Spain

he was often referred to as Bodega, his father's name, but he preferred Quadra

Three days had been lost with the exchange of officers and the unstable *Sonora*

## FIGHTING BETWEEN THE BRITISH AND AMERICANS BREAKS OUT

Battles of Lexington and Concord, Massachusetts

were the first military engagements of the American Revolution

700 British Army regulars marched to Concord with orders to destroy military supplies there through the use of an effective spy system and the efforts of Paul Revere and others

American militiamen learned of the plan and laid in wait at Lexington, Massachusetts

Fighting began at daybreak -- April 19, 1775

this was the first open conflict between Great Britain and its American colonies  
reinforcements arrived for both sides,

but the outnumbered Americans were overpowered in the fight

## HECETA'S EXPEDITION DEPARTS FROM MONTEREY, CALIFORNIA

Spanish Lieutenant-Commander Bruno de Heceta on the *Santiago*

and Lieutenant Juan Francisco de la Bodega Y Quadra on the *Sonora*

sailed out of Monterey -- May 21, 1775

Heceta set out to sea to catch more favorable winds -- *Sonora* was towed by the *Santiago*

Bruno de Heceta's expedition passed the well-known landmark of Cape Mendocino

he entered a small bay to the north

after they anchored in the bay, Heceta entered into friendly relations with the local natives  
in (today's Shelter Bay) before continuing northward

Despite a difficult and meandering journey, the crews of the *Santiago* and *Sonora* finally sighted land off the coast of California -- June 9, 1775

Heceta and Quadra decided to anchor in what they named Trinidad Bay

for two days they traded with the Indians

climbing Trinity Head, Heceta and two Catholic Franciscan priests

erected a cross on the summit and formally claimed the region

in the name of Spanish King Carlos III -- June 11, 1775

Leaving Trinity Bay, Heceta and Quadra sailed north far out to sea -- out of the sight of land

little progress was made northward due to unfavorable and variable winds  
when a favorable wind did come it was from the west and northwest  
and drove them toward land sooner than Commander Bruno de Heceta wanted

#### GREAT BRITAIN AND HER COLONIES ENGAGE IN WAR

George Washington was unanimously elected by the Continental Congress  
to serve as commander-in-chief of the American forces -- June 15, 1775  
Battle of Bunker Hill took place above Charlestown Heights, Massachusetts -- June 16-17  
Americans led by Colonel William Prescott lost the battle (which took place on Breeds Hill)  
during the battle the town of Charleston Heights was burned to the ground  
victory for the British was at such a high cost that the sense of achievement was gone

#### ALEXANDER HENRY CHANGES THE LOCATION OF HIS TRADING OPERATION

Henry left Sault Sainte-Marie region after trading there for twelve years [1762-1774]  
he traveled with four large canoes and twelve small ones, carrying goods and provisions  
west over the Grand Portage, passed Lake of the Woods and finally reached Lake Winnipeg  
Cree Indians there were friendly

#### HECETA'S EXPEDITION SAILS OFF THE COAST OF (TODAY'S WASHINGTON STATE)

Early morning sun shown as the jagged green coastline was sighted -- July 11, 1775<sup>10</sup>  
with its majestic white peaks and dense rain forests  
(at the Olympic Peninsula located in today's Washington State)  
Lieutenant Juan Francisco de la Bodega Y Quadra's officers on *Senora*  
thought they must be near the entrance to the Strait of Juan de Fuca  
which had been placed in this vicinity on a French map they carried  
Sea was rough and the sky overcast -- west winds blew in gusts  
sudden squall seized and nearly capsized the tiny *Senora*

#### HECETA AND QUADRA ANCHOR FOR THE NIGHT

After cautiously maneuvering through dangerous shoals at 48° north latitude,  
*Santiago* and *Sonora* found a protected bay in which to anchor (at today's Point Grenville)  
Due to unfavorable conditions, the *Santiago* kept its distance from the rocky shores  
while the smaller *Sonora* maneuvered closer toward land<sup>11</sup>  
While *Sonora* was safely anchored, nine Quinault Indians canoes surrounded her -- July 11, 1775  
Indians motioned to the crew of the *Sonora* to land and go ashore

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<sup>10</sup> Antonio Sanchez, Essay 5682, HistoryLink.org, April 14, 2004.

<sup>11</sup> Antonio Sanchez, Essay 5682, HistoryLink.org, April 14, 2004.

this was ignored by Juan Francisco de la Bodega Y Quadra  
Indians then approached the ship, boarded and initiated friendly trade  
gifts of fish, whale meat, wild onion and game were given to the *Senora*  
natives also brought vessels of fresh water  
crew members returned the favor by offering gifts to the natives  
Quinalts departed at sunset but returned later that evening  
bearing more gifts to repay the Spanish for the gifts they had received earlier in the day  
Quadra offered them additional trade items  
but after receiving the gifts the Quinault men began a chorus of ominous chants  
which gave Quadra cause for concern  
canoes remained around the ship until late into the night -- July 11

#### QUADRA'S *SONORA* BECOMES TRAPPED IN SHALLOW WATER

Lieutenant Juan Francisco de la Bodega Y Quadra had intended  
to hoist the *Senora's* anchor at daybreak -- July 12, 1775  
but an unusually low tide exposed a reef that blocked his departure  
tiny *Sonora* was now trapped by the rocky shoals  
it was impossible to maneuver out of the trap until higher tide waters arrived

#### SPANISH CLAIM WHAT IS (TODAY'S WASHINGTON STATE)

As the sun came up a single canoe bearing nine Quinalts approached *Santiago* -- July 14, 1775  
they initiated another friendly round of trading with the Spanish  
After the Quinalts had departed, twenty men from the *Santiago* formed a landing party  
which included Bruno de Heceta, Catholic Father Benito de la Sierra, Cristobal Revilla,  
surgeon Juan Gonzales and Juan Josef Perez  
When they reached the shore they became the first Europeans to set foot on (Washington State)  
at what is (now Point Grenville near the Hoh River on the Olympic Peninsula)  
Heceta erected a cross and buried a wax-sealed bottle containing a record of the Spanish claim  
of Nueva Galicia (the west coast)  
in the name of His Catholic Majesty Spanish King Carlos III -- July 14, 1775  
Heceta named the landing spot Rada de Bucareli in honor of the Viceroy of New Spain  
Nueva Galicia could now be officially considered part of New Spain (Mexico)  
and part of the Kingdom of Spain  
Heceta found Indian boys gathering shellfish south of the cape  
they invited the visitors to join them in a feast but Heceta declined

## MASSACRE TAKES PLACE IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST<sup>12</sup>

While some the *Santiago*'s officers and crew were still on the mainland,  
it became possible for the *Sonora* to move to deeper water just a short distance away  
*Sonora* anchored beside a nearby island

As the *Sonora* lay at anchor the Quinault men who had visited the previous night  
showed up again and boarded the ship  
this time, in a bold act of confidence, they brought with them three women  
in a friendly atmosphere, the Quinaults traded salmon and other types of dried fish for glass beads

After the Indians left, Quadra formed a landing party  
*Sonora*'s boatswain and six of her most able crewmen went ashore on the island  
to fill fresh water casks at a stream and to gather firewood  
although the men were armed, all were under strict orders from the Spanish Viceroy  
to **“not offend the Indians and only make use of the weapons in self defense”**<sup>13</sup>

With whitecap waves almost swamping the small landing boat, members of the landing party  
struggled to reach the shore some thirty yards from the *Sonora*

When the landing party reached the island, several hundred Quinault Indians  
rushed out of the woods -- July 14, 1775  
in the fierce but quick battle that followed, the Quinaults massacred all seven of the Spanish crew  
not a shot had been fired at the assailants by the landing party

Quinaults then hacked the small landing boat to pieces in search of scraps of metal

Juan Francisco de la Bodega Y Quadra watched through his spyglass in horror  
he was unable to save his men from the unexpected and unprovoked attack

Quadra with the aid of his half dozen remaining crewmen  
struggled to maneuver the *Sonora* into deeper and safer waters  
armed and determined Quinault men in their canoes paddled menacingly in close pursuit  
several of the warriors in the lead canoe were able to climb aboard the retreating ship

Quadra reacted by ordering a volley of shots which killed several Quinault Indians  
this thwarted the complete annihilation of the *Sonora*'s crew

With Heceta still on shore, *Santiago* was over a mile away from the *Sonora*  
and remained unaware of the horrors that had befallen their companions

An exhausted and remorseful Quadra rendezvoused  
with Lieutenant Francisco Maurelle on the *Santiago* to tell him of the disaster

## BRUNO DE HECETA LEARNS OF THE MASSACRE

Heceta and his landing party returned to the *Santiago* -- about 8:00 a.m. July 14, 1775

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<sup>12</sup> Antonio Sanchez, Essay 5682, HistoryLink.org, April 14, 2004.

<sup>13</sup> Warren L. Cook, *Flood Tide of Empire: Spain and the Pacific Northwest, 1543-1819*, P. 72.

he and Quadra held a brief meeting to discuss what had occurred and their options  
Quadra was furious and wanted to lead a party in to punish the Indians  
Loss of the men in the massacre and the advent of scurvy on the Spanish ships  
led to a council of officers aboard the *Santiago* later that day  
Heceta and his staff tried to persuade Quadra and Lieutenant Francisco Maurelle  
to take the now undermanned *Sonora* back to San Blas, New Spain (Mexico)  
Quadra objected as did Juan Josef Perez, the pilot of the *Santiago*  
After taking a vote of the officers, it was agreed to continue their mission without seeking retribution  
six crewmen from the *Santiago* were quickly transferred to the *Sonora*

#### SANTIAGO AND SONORA ATTEMPT TO SAIL AWAY

Heceta, on *Santiago*, waited until 11:00 o'clock a.m. July 14, 1775  
for a favorable wind to carry him offshore  
in the distance he could see the men of the *Sonora* attempting to weigh anchor  
an hour later the *Senora* fired a distress signal  
a reef at this place barred their progress (it still carries the *Sonora's* name)  
Heceta moved as close to the schooner as he dared and slackened sail to offer protection  
When the tide became high enough to lift the *Sonora*  
Heceta and Quadra once again continued to sail north -- July 14, 1775  
a number of their men were ill with scurvy  
Before he left the area, Quadra named the named the point of island where the massacre occurred  
Punta de los Martires (Point of the Martyrs) (today it is known as Point Grenville)  
he also named the nearby island Isle Dolores (Island of Sorrows -- today's Destruction Island)

#### HECETA AND QUADRA BECOME SEPARATED

Bruno de Heceta on the *Santiago* and Juan Francisco de la Bodega Y Quadra on *Sonora* separated  
either by agreement or because of a storm or by an act of independence by Quadra  
(the records are not clear) -- night of July 29, 1775  
Heceta awoke in the morning in latitude 46° 42' with no *Sonora* in sight -- July 30  
Heceta called for a council to determine their course of action  
officers favored a return to Monterey, California  
because scurvy left not enough men fit for duty to sail the ship in a storm  
Hecera agreed to turn his course toward land, but he also sailed as far north as possible  
Juan Francisco de la Bodega Y Quadra carefully examined the coast  
beyond where Juan Josef Perez had previously visited  
he was now sailing the tiny *Sonora* in uncharted waters  
he was short of fresh water and food and the *Santiago* no longer provided protection

however, he and his crew unanimously agreed  
to continue braving the uncharted course before them to keep the original mission alive  
*Sonora* continued sailing north up the coast but kept close to land  
Quadra placed a Spanish cross in (today's Prince of Wales Archipelago) -- August 7  
before continuing north  
Bruno de Heceta on the *Santiago* shadowed the coast line  
land was sighted -- August 10, 1775  
in the vicinity of Juan Josef Perez's earlier discovered San Lorenzo (Nootka Sound)  
they were greeted by Indians and the Spanish conducted a favorable trade  
Heceta claimed San Lorenzo (Nootka Sound) for the King of Spain  
and he drew maps of the region for the many Spanish ships that would soon follow  
Heceta sailed as far north at 58° north before the ever cautious, and now quite frail,  
Juan Josef Perez encouraged the commander to return back to San Blas, New Spain  
with his sick and scurvy ridden crew -- August 11  
turning south now, Heceta enjoyed fair weather but his lookouts once more  
missed the opening to the Strait of Juan de Fuca either due to fog or darkness  
*Santiago* was back in the vicinity of Isle de Dolores (Destruction Island) -- August 15

#### QUADRA CONTINUED TO SAIL NORTH

Land was unexpectedly sighted and he formally took possession  
for a second time at 58° north -- August 16, 1775  
Quadra ultimately reached 59° north (short of his 65° north goal)  
he entered (Sitka Sound near present-day Sitka, Alaska)  
he performed several ceremonies claiming the region for Spain  
he claimed Kruzof Island in Sitka Sound, Puerto de los Remedios (Salisbury Sound)  
and Puerto de los Remedios (Sea Lion Bay)  
he sighted the beautiful cone of a mountain covered with snow  
he named *Cerro San Jacinto* (renamed Mount Edgecumbe by Captain James Cook)

#### HECETA DISCOVERS A GREAT RIVER

Heceta sighted a large bay between two capes that penetrated so far inland that it reached the horizon  
he named the high cliff on the north side of the entrance Cabo de San Rogue  
(which is now Cape Disappointment) -- afternoon of August 17, 1775  
Heceta's journal notes: **“On the 17th of August I sailed along the coast to the 46th degree, and observed that from the latitude 47 degrees 4 minutes to that of 46 degrees 10 minutes, it runs in the angle of 18 degrees of the second quadrant, and from that latitude to 46 degrees 4 minutes, in the**

angle of 12 degrees of the same quadrant; the soundings, the shore, the wooded character of the country, and the little islands, being the same as on the preceding days.

“On the evening of this day I discovered a large bay, to which I gave the name Assumption Bay, and a plan of which will be found in this journal. Its latitude and longitude are determined according to the most exact means afforded by theory and practice. The latitudes of the two most prominent capes of this bay are calculated from the observations of this day.

“Having arrived opposite this bay at six in the evening, and placed the ship nearly midway between the two capes, I sounded and found bottom in four brazas [nearly four fathoms]. The currents and eddies were so strong that, notwithstanding a press of sail, it was difficult to get out clear of the northern cape, towards which the current ran, though its direction was eastward in consequence of the tide being at the flood. These currents and eddies caused me to believe that the place is the mouth of some great river, or of some passage to another sea. Had I not been certain of the latitude of this bay, from my observations of the same day, I might easily have believed it to be the passage discovered by Juan de Fuca, in 1592, which is placed on the charts between the 47th and the 48th degrees; where I am certain no such strait exists; because I anchored on the 14th day of July midway between these latitudes, and carefully examined everything around. Notwithstanding the great difference between his bay and the passage mentioned by De Fuca, I have little difficulty in conceiving they may be the same, having observed equal or greater differences in the latitudes of other capes and ports on this coast, as I will show at the proper time; and in all cases latitudes thus assigned are higher than the real ones.

“I did not enter and anchor in this port, which in my plan I suppose to be formed by an island, notwithstanding my strong desire to do so; because, having consulted with the second captain, Don Juan Perez, and the pilot Don Christobal Revilla, they insisted I ought not to attempt it, as, if we let go the anchor, we should not have men enough to get it up, and to attend to the other operations which would be thereby necessary. Considering this, and also, that in order to reach the anchorage, I should be obliged to lower my long boat the only boat I had and to man it with at least fourteen of the crew, as I could not manage with fewer, and also as it was then late in the day, I resolved to put out; and at the distance of three leagues I lay to.”<sup>14</sup>

That night heavy outflow of current swept *Santiago* off of her course and out to sea

further convincing Heceta of the existence of a great river

he also noted great quantities of silt floating in the sea

and saw the discoloring of salt water by fresh water

Heceta made two efforts to sail across the sand bar at the river’s mouth

but the powerful currents and uncertain depths deterred him as he noted: “**In the course of that night, I experienced heavy currents to the south-west, which made it impossible to enter the bay on**

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<sup>14</sup> William Denison Lyman, *The Columbia River*, P. 53.

**the following morning, as I was far to leeward. These currents, however, convinced me that a great quantity of water rushed from this bay on the ebb of the tide.”<sup>15</sup>**

Heceta named the cape on the South side Cape Frondoso (Leafy Cape; now Point Adams)

Heceta wrote: **“The two capes which I name in my plan, Cape San Rogue and Cape Frondoso, lie in the angle of 10 degrees of the third quadrant. They are both faced with red earth and are of little elevation.”**

Heceta concluded from currents and eddies that the place was **“the mouth of some great river, or of some passage to another sea.”<sup>16</sup>**

Heceta wanted to explore the river but he was short-handed and the currents were strong

his men were too ill with scurvy to lift the anchor if he stopped or to handle the ship and longboat

Heceta reluctantly took the advice of his officers and did not attempt to enter the river

Bruno de Heceta assumed he had found the mouth of a large river

he named Bahia de la Asuncion de Nuestra Senora (“Bay of the Assumption of Our Lady”)

(when Heceta’s charts were published in New Spain (Mexico) this bay was renamed

Ensenada de Heceta (“Heceta’s Entrance”) and the river Rio San Roc (Rio San Rogue)<sup>17</sup>

(this was, in fact, the Columbia River)

HECETA CONTINUED SOUTH ON THE *SANTIAGO* TOWARD SAN BLAS, NEW SPAIN

**“On the 18th I observed Cape Frondoso, with another cape to which I gave the name of Cape Falcon, situated in the latitude of 45 degrees 43 minutes, and they lay at an angle of 22 degrees of the third quadrant, and from the last mentioned cape I traced the coast running in the angle of 5 degrees of the second quadrant. This land is mountainous, but not very high, nor so well wooded as that lying between the latitudes of 48 degrees 30 minutes, and 46 degrees. On sounding I found great differences: at a distance of seven leagues I got bottom at 84 brazas; and nearer the coast I sometimes found not bottom; from which I am inclined to believe there are reefs or shoals on these coasts, which is also shown by the color of the water. In some places the coast presents a beach, in others, it is rocky.”<sup>18</sup>**

Bruno de Heceta mistook the Clatsop plains (of today’s Oregon) for an island

he judged the entrance to a river lay on the further side

Heceta named Cape Falcon (now Tillamook Head)

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<sup>15</sup> William Denison Lyman, *The Columbia River*, P. 53.-54.

<sup>16</sup> George W. Fuller, *A History of the Pacific Northwest*. P.42.

<sup>17</sup> From the 1858 United States Senate’s “Report of the Superintendent of the Coast Survey showing the Progress of the Survey during the Year 1858”

<sup>18</sup> William Denison Lyman, *The Columbia River*, P. 54.

**“A flat-topped mountain, which I named the Table, will enable any navigator to know the position of Cape Falcon without observing it; as it is in the latitude of 45 degrees 28 minutes, and may be seen at a great distance, being somewhat elevated.”<sup>19</sup>**

At last he gave up the effort and issued orders to sail to San Blas, New Spain  
before his crew grew too weak to steer the ship  
*Santiago* reached Monterey, California -- August 29, 1775  
of a crew of ninety that began the voyage, forty-five remained  
thirty-five of these were landed at Monterey as they were too ill to continue

#### AMERICAN FUR TRADER PETER POND MOVES HIS AREA OF OPERATION

Peter Pond moved his trading activities from the upper Mississippi River's Michilimackinac region  
to the Grand Portage region located at the west end of Lake Superior  
Canadian traders from Montreal and factors from the Hudson's Bay Company  
had recently moved into Canada's Saskatchewan Valley seeking a better quality beaver pelts  
Peter Pond joined Alexander Henry near a Cree village  
at the mouth of the Winnipeg River -- August 18, 1775

#### QUADRA TAKES THE *SONORA* SOUTH

After reaching 59° north, Quadra was faced with contrary winds  
most of his men were seriously ill -- scurvy took an ever-increasing toll on his crew  
often only the officers could work, and even they were in critical condition  
Due to the illness of Lieutenant Juan Francisco de la Bodega Y Quadra and his crew  
*Sonora* set sail for San Blas, New Spain (Mexico) -- September 8, 1775  
On the return south from Alaskan waters Quadra discovered Puerto de Bucareli (Bucareli Bay)  
which he named in honor of the Viceroy of New Spain  
Quadra sailed the *Sonora* south past (today's Queen Charlotte Islands)  
but he was too far off the coast to make useful observations  
until they were south of the Strait of Juan de Fuca  
Quadra himself was bed-ridden with the fever yet he ordered a sharp lookout  
from 53° N to 47° N he could see the coast  
from 44° 30' north to 42° 49' north he searched but discovered only California's *Bodega Bay*  
*Senora* was almost swamped by high seas -- September 16, 1775  
nearly every man on board was injured or seriously sick with scurvy

#### PARTY OF TRADERS LED BY PETER POND SET UP FUR GATHERING OPERATIONS

Peter Pond and Alexander Henry formed a joint effort

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<sup>19</sup> William Denison Lyman, *The Columbia River*, P. 54.

they were overtaken by Thomas and Joseph Frobisher  
and Jean Baptiste Cadotte on the Saskatchewan River  
and by Charles Paterson at Sturgeon Lake -- October 1, 1775  
these traders united their efforts

About thirty canoes and 130 men used a tow-line to overcome the Great Rapids  
on the Saskatchewan River  
they reached Cedar Lake and arrived at the mouth of the Saskatchewan River  
before they continued on to Hudson's Bay Company's Cumberland House (Saskatchewan)  
where they were greeted with civility but also as unwanted guests

#### QUADRA SAILS THE *SONORA* TO MONTEREY, CALIFORNIA

With only two able seamen on board, *Sonora* dropped anchor at Monterey Bay -- October 7, 1775  
five weeks after Heceta had arrived with the *Santiago*  
Juan Francisco de la Bodega Y Quadra had to be carried from his ship  
Over the next weeks the commander and the *Sonora's* crew were nurtured back to health  
by the missionaries and their fellow expedition members from the *Santiago*

#### *SANTIAGO* AND *SENORA* SET SAIL FOR SAN BLAS, NEW SPAIN

Together the *Santiago* and *Sonora* sailed out of Monterey, California -- November 1, 1775  
Juan Josef Perez, aching from scurvy and poor health acquired during two heroic expeditions,  
died and was buried at sea with a solemn Catholic Mass in his honor, with a round of musket fire  
and a final fitting cannonade -- November 3, 1775

Both ships arrived at San Blas, New Spain (Mexico) -- November 20, 1775

Perez, Heceta and Quadra had given form to the coastline from (Mexico) to (Alaska)  
they produced accurate charts and maps (that would later serve as proof of Spain's claim  
to the costal territory from what is now Monterey, California, to the Gulf of Alaska)  
they dispelled the myths of the presence of Russian traders and settlements  
and took formal possession according to international law

However, Spain did not pursue these discoveries

no immediate effort was made to occupy the land  
as there seemed no immediate danger from the Russians,  
and the American Revolution occupied the English and the French  
maintaining her policy of secrecy

Spain did not publish any account of the explorations of her sea expeditions

#### PETER POND'S GROUP OF TRAPPERS SEPERATES TO CONDUCT TRADE

Peter Pond with two canoes went to Fort Dauphin on Lake Dauphin

he traveled across Little Lake Winnipeg (Lake Winnipegosis, Manitoba)

he continued on up the Mossy River to spend the winter on the northwest corner of Dauphin Lake  
where was plenty of buffalo meat available

he was in a position to intercept Indians bound for Cumberland House -- winter 1775-1776  
Alexander Henry and the Frobisher brothers agreed to winter on Beaver Lake (Alberta)

Beaver Lake was in wooded country and they found a good place for a post  
soon they were comfortably set for the winter

#### AMERICAN ADVENTURER JOHN LEDYARD SEES THE WORLD

John Ledyard was an American born in Groton, Connecticut [1751]

fatherless at ten, Ledyard had been raised in Hartford, Connecticut by an incompatible grandfather

Ledyard was then passed on to an equally unsympathetic uncle

Ledyard was invited to attend Dartmouth College

to prepare to become a Congregational missionary to the Indians

Ledyard liked Indians well enough, but he resented the discipline imposed on him by the school  
money trouble added to his difficulties

after four months he decided to leave college and live with the Iroquois Indians

John Ledyard set out to see the world -- 1776

headstrong, emotional, athletic and charming,

he persuaded several friends to help him chop down a tree

and hollow it into a clumsy fifty-foot dugout

alone in his oversized creation, he departed down the Connecticut River

to take a job as a common sailor with a shipload of mules bound for Africa  
(seafaring brought him to London at age twenty-four)

#### CONTINENTAL CONGRESS ADOPTS THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

Continental Congress, then at war with Great Britain, issued a statement

announcing the thirteen colonies declared themselves to be independent states -- July 4, 1776

rather than remain under British domination, they formed a new nation:

the United States of America

#### CAPTAIN JAMES COOK'S THIRD SCIENTIFIC EXPEDITION

Captain James Cook received orders to conduct a four-year tour of exploration -- July 6, 1776

he was to sail his two-ship exploring squadron from England

around the Cape of Good Hope (southern tip of Africa) and enter the Indian Ocean

he was to sail east across the South Indian Ocean visiting the Dutch East Indies

before continuing to New Zealand to make preparations to explore the South Pacific to Tahiti

he was then to set sail for New Albion (England's name for the Pacific Coast)  
between the Spanish and Russian claims along the Pacific Coast at about 45° north latitude  
(this part of the Pacific coast had been named by Sir Francis Drake [1579])  
upon their arrival at New Albion Cook's ships were to be refitted  
he was to sail to 65° north and begin a search for Straits of Anian or Northwest Passage  
to find a way from the Bering Strait to Hudson Bay or Baffin Bay  
if unable to locate a passage he was to continue to the Arctic Ocean and find a polar passage  
British Admiralty so confident of his success they dispatched naval vessels to meet him  
in Canada's Baffin Bay  
he was ordered not to interfere with Spaniards or any other settlers  
but he also carried secret orders which instructed him to seize for England  
all land not under Spanish or Russian title  
all of this was to be accomplished in four years -- 1776 to [1780]

#### AMERICAN ADVENTURER JOHN LEDYARD JOINS COOK'S EXPLORING SQUADRON

Captain James Cook was making preparations for his third voyage when Ledyard reached London,  
Ledyard enlisted with Cook  
about the time the Declaration of Independence was being signed  
but well before news of the event reached London

#### CAPTAIN COOK SETS SAIL FROM ENGLAND

Spanish fears were embodied in James Cook  
Cook was forty-seven years old when he set sail from Plymouth with two ships -- July 12, 1776  
HMS *Resolution* -- 462 tons (tonnage was a measure of volume and not weight)  
with crew of 100+ men under Cook's command  
carried twelve six-pounders (cannons) and twelve swivel guns  
HMS *Discovery* -- 229 tons with crew of eighty was under Captain Charles Clerke  
two of Cook's officers were:  
•William Bligh (who was later the object of a mutiny on HMS *Bounty* [1787])  
•George Vancouver (who later named many features of the Pacific Northwest [1791-1795])  
John Ledyard received the rating of corporal of the marines  
and in this capacity he sailed from London with Cook  
Cook made note of John Ledyard calling him “**an intelligent man** [who joined the  
expedition] **for the purpose of gaining information.**”<sup>20</sup>

#### AMERICAN TRADER PETER POND MAKES NEW BUSINESS ARRANGEMENTS

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<sup>20</sup> Oscar Osburn Winther, *The Great Northwest*, P. 27.

Peter Pond traveled from his Dauphin Lake post to Fort Michilimackinac -- 1776  
(Peter Pond spent a second winter in [today's Saskatchewan, Canada] -- 1776-1777)  
this time at the junction of the Sturgeon River [Saskatchewan] and the North Saskatchewan River)

#### CAPTAIN COOK'S EXPLORING SQUADRON ENTERS THE INDIAN OCEAN

Cook sailed the Cape of Good Hope around Southern Africa -- November 10, 1776  
they entered the Indian Ocean then crossed the South Indian Ocean  
to arrive in New Zealand where he stayed for two weeks -- February 1777  
Cook continued his exploration of the South Seas (South Pacific Ocean) for the remainder of the year

#### ALEXANDER HENRY AND THE FROBISHER BROTHERS RETURN TO CIVILIZATION

Leaving the remainder of their merchandise in the care of Thomas Frobisher at Beaver Lake -- 1777  
Alexander Henry accompanied by Joseph Frobisher set out Lake Athabasca where they separated  
Alexander Henry reached Grand Portage without further incident  
and continued to Montreal, Canada with a fortune in furs  
(Henry's travels ended in Montreal but he was still in the fur trade for many years  
he became a leading merchant in Montreal and returned to Michilimackinac [1790])  
Joseph Frobisher traveled the region of northern Manitoba to Montreal, Canada  
with a fortune in beaver pelts  
Benjamin Frobisher, the third brother and manager of the company, was very successful  
in selling the pelts delivered by his brothers in London

#### LAKE ATHABASCA REGION IS OPENED BY BEAVER TRADERS

Thomas Frobisher set out from Beaver Lake (Alberta) traveling deeper into the wilderness  
he discovered the untouched area on the edge of the Athabasca watershed --1777  
he pushed up the Churchill River to within forty miles of Lake Athabasca  
where he conducted excellent trade with the Indians  
who told him of an even richer fur bearing area to the north

#### GENERAL GEORGE WASHINGTON ESTABLISHES WINTER CAMP AT VALLEY FORGE

General Washington selected Valley Forge for his winter encampment -- 1777-1778  
located twenty miles from Philadelphia, the capitol of the fledging nation,  
it offered high ground near the Schuylkill River and within easy defense of the city  
12,000 men of the Continental Army went into camp in good spirits despite earlier defeats  
Supplies were scarce and the lack of clothing caused great suffering  
(when warmer weather arrived influenza, typhus, typhoid and dysentery all swept the camp  
of the 2,000 men who died at Valley Forge, two-thirds were killed by sickness)

## CAPTAIN COOK AND HIS EXPLORERS VISITED THE SANDWICH ISLANDS (HAWAII)

Cook sailed north from the South Seas (South Pacific Ocean)

he discovered the Sandwich Islands (Hawaii) at Waimea Harbor, Kauai -- January 18, 1778

he named the islands in honor of his patron, the fourth Earl of Sandwich

Cook sailed from the Sandwich Islands [February 1778] for the west coast of North America

## BRITISH CAPTAIN JAMES COOK REACHES NEW ALBION (THE PACIFIC COAST)

As he approached the coast of New Albion (the Pacific Northwest)

at 44° 30' north latitude -- March 7, 1778

bad weather drove him further south to about 43° north before they could begin to exploration

When Captain Cook turned North he began a general survey of the west coast of North America

from 44° North latitude he ran to 47° North where he began a careful search

for the Strait of Anian (Northwest Passage) as it was named by Sir Frances Drake [1579]

he named Cape Foulweather on the Oregon coast -- March 21

in memory of the bad rain squall two week earlier

he also named also Cape Gregory (near Florence, Oregon)

and Cape Perpetua (south of the Yachats River) on the same day

## CAPTAIN JAMES COOK MISSED THE MOUTH OF THE COLUMBIA RIVER

Continuing north, Cook was prevented by contrary winds

from seeing the mouth of Heceta's Rio San Rogue (mouth of the Columbia River)

Cook attempted to look for Juan de Fuca's Strait but he ran into vicious weather

storms drove him back into the high seas for a week

weather had been very stormy for days when a break in the fog revealed a headland

Cook name *Cape Flattery* which guards opening to Strait of Juan de Fuca

he wrote in his ship's log: **"there appeared to be a small opening which flattered us with the hopes of finding a harbour"**<sup>21</sup> -- March 22, 1778

he failed to notice the opening of Strait of Juan de Fuca and declared no passage existed

Cook wrote in his journal: **"It is in this very latitude where we now were that geographers have placed the pretended strait of Juan de Fuca. But we saw nothing like it; nor is there the least probability that ever any such thing existed."**<sup>22</sup>

## CAPTAIN COOK'S EXPLORING SQUADRON COASTED SLOWLY NORTHWARD

Cook's *Discovery* and *Resolution* sailed up the outside of what proved later to be (Vancouver Island)

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<sup>21</sup> Cecil Dryden, *History of Washington*, 1968, P. 34.

<sup>22</sup> Hubert Howe Bancroft, *History of the Northwest Coast*, P. 170.

(he supposed both Vancouver Island and Queen Charlotte Islands [renamed Haida Gwaii 2007]  
to be part of the continent)

Cook, after still another storm, sighted two deep inlets

which were separated by several miles of mountainous and heavily wooded shorelines

these sea arms formed a small island tucked snugly into what he thought was the mainland  
(actually it was the west coast of Vancouver Island)

(southern inlet had been designated "San Lorenzo" by Juan Josef Perez four years earlier)

#### CAPTAIN JAMES COOK MEETS THE NATIVES

As Cook's storm-buffed ships approached the inlet -- March 29, 1778

as John Ledyard noted they were greeted as **"...three canoes approached, the occupants flinging out feathers, red dust, and occasionally bursts of oratory by way of welcome. More canoes followed, until there were thirty-two, loaded with both men and women. They were singular craft, light of weight and instantly maneuverable, though some were as much as forty feet long and seven wide, each manufactured with infinite labor, fire, and steam, from the trunk of a single huge cedar tree.**

**"The rowers were equally singular. Such men as were dressed at all sported blankets woven of dog's hair mixed with the inner strands of cedar bark, the whole skillfully decorated, Corporal Ledyard noted, with paintings of whale hunts or other aquatic scenes. Over these blankets, many edged with fur, the wearers negligently draped priceless robes of ill-treated fox or sea-otter skin.**

**"Both the men and the women had daubed themselves with red clay mixed with whale oil. They wore their black hair long, soaked it in fish oil, sprinkled it with the while down of birds. Their bodies were short and stocky, their legs malformed from continual crouching in their seatless canoes. The uplifted faces were broad...horseshoe-shaped bits of metal bung from the Indian's pierced ears or from their flat pug noses. A few wore masks carved from wood, bizarrely painted and so ingeniously constructed, Ledyard saw with amazement, that the eyes and mouths could be made to move."**<sup>23</sup>

Cook went with small boats to find a good anchorage

he guided the ships into a snug cove and anchored near the Indian village of Yuquot

Cook, assured by the native speeches and feathers, felt welcomed

*Discovery* and *Resolution* made their first landing since (Hawaii) -- March 30, 1778

he was unaware the region had previously been visited by the Spanish

Captain Juan Josef Perez had not actually entered the sound itself

#### TRADE IS CONDUCTED BETWEEN THE YUQOUT INDIANS AND THE BRITISH SAILORS

Relations between Cook's crew and the Nootka people were cordial if sometimes strained

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<sup>23</sup> David Lavender, *Land of Giants*, P. 17-18.

to obtain metal from Cook's ships, the natives first tried stealing -- then resorted to trade they offered in barter everything they had: garments, bags of red ocher, carved wooden masks and female slaves captured from other villages but furs were what the sailors wanted most

knowing they were bound for the Arctic, they asked eagerly for **“the skins of various animals, such as bears, wolves, foxes, deer, raccoons, pole-cats, and martiens, and, in particular, sea-otter”**<sup>24</sup>

Cook and his men carried on a lively trade and observed the Indians

Nootkas essentially controlled the trade with the British vessels

usually they visited the ships in what Cook called *Ship Cove*

rather than the British visiting the Nootka village of Yuquot

sailors used trinkets and trade goods to acquire sea otter pelts

they traded copper, knives, fishhooks, buttons and glass beads for sea otter furs

but the Indians soon were not interested in lead, pewter or tin

as flashier items caught their attention

Englishmen were both attracted and repulsed by the Indians

as they thought them colorful dancers and singers, good hosts, friendly and brave

however, ship equipment and personal property had to be closely guarded

Cook, in addition to being an expert explorer, was a great trader

he quickly learned the value of a pound of iron or a pretty ribbon

regarding the fur trade, Cook noted: **“A considerable number of the natives visited us daily; and every now and then we saw new faces. On their first coming, they generally went through a singular mode of introducing themselves. They would paddle with all their strength quite round both ships, a chief or other principal person in the canoe standing up with a spear or some other weapon in his hand, and speaking, or rather hollooming all the time. Sometimes the orator of the canoe would have his face covered with a mask, representing either a human vestige or that of an animal; and instead of a weapon, would hold a rattle in his hand.... After making his circuit round the ships, they would come alongside and begin to trade without further ceremony. Very often, indeed, they would first give us a song in which all in the canoe joined, with a very pleasing harmony.**

**“Beads and such other toys, of which I had still some left, were in little estimation. Nothing would go down with our visitors but metal; and brass had by this time supplanted iron, being so eagerly sought after before we left this place that hardly a bit of it was left in the ships, except what belonged to our necessary instruments. Whole suits of clothes were stripped of every button, bureaus of their furniture, and copper kettles, tin canisters, candlesticks and the like all went to wreck, so that our American friends here got a greater medley and variety of things from us that any other nation which we visited in the course of the voyage.”**<sup>25</sup>

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<sup>24</sup> David Lavender, *Land of Giants*, P. 19.

<sup>25</sup> W. Storrs Lee, *Washington State*, P. 9-10.

## COOK REPAIRS HIS SHIPS

Captain Cook spent April 1-[26], 1778 making necessary repairs to *Resolution* and *Discovery*  
he changed the name of the location from Ship Cove to Resolution Cove  
As repairs were being undertaken, Cook made a survey of the region  
at first he called the area King George's Sound  
(but later, after attempted dialogues with the natives,  
he changed the name of the sound to *Nootka Sound* and the small island to Nootka Island  
although there was no such word actually in the Indian's language)  
Bligh Island was named in honor of one of Cook's officers, William Bligh,  
during his stay Cook made a survey of Nootka Sound

## CAPTAIN COOK VISITED OTHER NATIVE VILLAGES AND SETTLEMENTS IN THE REGION

British sailors found a curious, semi-mobile village on a bit of flat ground near the cove  
each communal house had a long, permanent roof beam  
supported by heavy wooden posts seven or eight feet tall  
roof itself and wall siding were made of broad, loose planks  
that could be pulled down, piled on the big canoes, and floated off to another site  
whenever economics, principally fishing, demanded  
each house sheltered several families  
inside the building each group had its own fireplace  
but otherwise made little attempt at private living  
slightly elevated platforms covered with mats or furs served for sleeping  
furniture consisted of storage boxes, wooden dishes, fishing implements and weapons  
all strewn about in complete confusion  
disorder was increased by painted wooden images four or five feet tall  
little effort was made to dispose of debris  
stinking fish, garbage and smoke was everywhere in and about the houses  
Cook visited the Nootka village of Yuquot located at what he called *Friendly Cove*  
(later traders would refer to the Indian village as Nootka)

## COOK BELIEVED HIS EXPEDITION WAS THE FIRST EUROPEANS IN THE REGION

Being unaware of the previous exploration of Spain's Juan Josef Perez [1774]  
Cook thought no whites had been near Nootka Sound before  
but the Indians were nonetheless familiar with certain articles of European origin  
they had chisel-ended bits of iron that they inserted into wooden handles  
and pounded with stone mallets

natives possessed copper for ornaments

and were wild to obtain the brass buttons right off the sailors' clothes to be used as nose bobs  
one Indian visited Cook's ship wearing a necklace formed of two silver teaspoons  
which appeared to be Spanish (undoubtedly from Juan Josef Perez' *Santiago*)  
(Cook caused future trouble for England by noting the fact in his journal)

Cook concluded other metal possessed by the natives must have followed aborigine trade routes  
across Canada from Hudson Bay

John Ledyard noted the trade activities which planted a daring thought in his mind  
if a white man's goods could cross America why couldn't a white man?

#### CAPTAIN COOK'S EXPLORING SQUADRON CONTINUES NORTH

Cook's two ships spent about a month in Nootka Sound  
before Cook bore northward again -- April 26 1778

*Resolution* and *Discovery* looked for inlets that might lead to the Strait of Anian (Northwest Passage)  
but they traveled through squalls and misty weather  
that prevented more than an occasional glimpse of the mainland  
Kayak Island was reached where Cook left a bottle and two silver two-penny coins  
as evidence of his visit

Mount Edgecumbe (Quadrans' San Jacinto Mountain) was sighted

Mount Fairweather was placed on the map

Vitus Bering's Mount St. Elias was mapped at 60° north latitude

Following the coastline of Russian-America (Alaska) Captain Cook turned to the west  
James Cook entered (today's Prince William Sound)

he named it Sandwich Sound after his patron the Earl of Sandwich  
at Prince William's Sound Cook's men were able to trade iron and beads for sea otter pelts  
broad expanse of Cook Inlet delayed the expedition several days  
near the entrance of Turnagain Arm (near Anchorage, Alaska)  
he landed and took possession for Great Britain  
he thought perhaps they had discovered the Straits of Anian  
until the inlet's upper end pinched off the hope

#### OTHER TRADERS LEARN OF THE RICH FUR-BEARING REGION OF LAKE ATHABASCA

At Pine Island Lake (Cumberland Lake, Saskatchewan),

several traders chiefly representing Benjamin, Thomas and Joseph Frobisher's company

and Simon McTavish and Company put their spare goods into a common stock -- spring 1778

they gave management of the enterprise to Peter Pond who had four canoes

Peter Pond was instructed to enter the English River (the upper Churchill River in today's Alberta),

follow Thomas Frobisher's route and, if possible, go into the Athabasca region,  
a country little known except by Indian reports  
Pond ascended the Churchill River to the most northwesterly place visited by traders to that time  
he continued on through essentially uncharted land known only to Indians

#### CONTINENTAL CONGRESS IS REPLACED BY A NEW GOVERNMENT

Articles of Confederation were adopted by the required nine states  
to establish a new government for the United States -- July 21, 1778  
Under the Articles of Confederation each state had one vote  
nine of the thirteen votes were needed to pass a law  
Under the Articles the central government could not tax, set tariffs, regulate trade, or coin money  
(it soon became obvious that under the Articles of Confederation the central government  
needed to be strengthened to meet the needs facing them)

#### BRITISH GOVERNMENT RELAXES THEIR SYSTEM OF SUPERINTENDENTS

Vast areas of Canada and the America Central Plains had proven to be too expensive to administer  
exclusive license privileges for French resident superintendents were abolished  
and their authority was removed  
Canada entered a period of unscrupulous competition among trappers and traders  
price cutting ruined business  
Indians were corrupted with liquor  
considerable bloodshed prevailed

#### BRITISH CAPTAIN JAMES COOK EXPLORES THE ALEUTIAN ISLANDS

Cook threaded the *Discovery* and *Resolution* through the Aleutian Islands -- August 1778  
he passed Kodiak Island, Sanak Island, Mount Shishaldin, Unalaska and Dutch Harbor  
when the opportunity was presented Cook landed to claim sovereignty for England  
Cook's expedition entered the Bering Sea  
he reached the area of Cape Prince of Wales -- August 9, 1778  
Captain Cook he entered the Bering Strait  
he continued north to the "western extremity of all America" -- 65° 46' north latitude  
his crewmen saw the eastern most point of Asia directly opposite their position  
Cook's expedition crossed the Arctic Circle (66° 33' 39" north latitude)  
continuing north Cook explored North America and Siberia to 70° 44' north latitude  
further north than even the Russians had explored  
he named *Icy Cape* and continued north to 70° 44' north latitude  
large numbers of walrus were on the ice all around the ships

about a dozen of these huge animals were killed to replenish the supplies of fresh meat  
and to provide oil for the lamps

*Discovery* and *Resolution* sailed to 71° north latitude -- August 11

After two weeks of probing, Cook concluded there was no passage and began the homeward trip  
he worked his way down the Russian-America (Alaska) coast heading south and east

Cook's expedition entered *Norton Sound* to search for the Northwest Passage -- September 1778

after a short time he realized it was too late in the season to continue -- he turned south

Cook paused at Unalaska Island long enough for American John Ledyard to find a Russian settlement  
and guide its commander back to the *Resolution* for a polite conference in sign language

From Unalaska Island Cook sailed south to the Sandwich Islands

all during his explorations Cook made no effort to formally claim possession of the land

### CAPTAIN JONATHAN CARVER PUBLISHES AN ACCOUNT OF HIS EXPLORATIONS

Fur trader Captain Jonathan Carver published a book in Boston -- 1778

*Three Years Travels Through the Interior Parts of North America*

this purported to be a record of his exploits across the North American continent

this was the first English account of the regions beyond the Mississippi River

it was so popular there were more than thirty editions

with translations in French, German and Dutch

Carver proposed a geographic theory regarding river drainage of the continent

he reported learning from Indians of a great river

this was called "Ouragon" or "Ourigan" by Michilimackinac commander Major Robert Rogers

this river rose in the West near the source of the Mississippi River

this proved to be near the truth: **"I say from these [Indian] nations together with my own observations, I have learned that the four most capital rivers of the Continent of North America, Viz. the St. Lawrence, the Mississippi, the Bourbon [sic], and the Oregon [sic] or Great River of the West...have their sources in the same neighborhood. The water of the three former are within thirty miles of each other, the latter however is rather further west."**<sup>26</sup>

More specifically, he noted: **"...the four great rivers that take their rise within a few leagues of each other, nearly about the center of this great continent, viz: the river Bourbon, which empties into Hudson's Bay, the waters of the St. Lawrence, the Mississippi, and the river Oregon [sic], or the river of the West, that falls into the Pacific Ocean at the Strait of Anian."**<sup>27</sup>

his accompanying map purported to prove his story true

Captain Carver was credited with being the first to put in print the name Oregon (spelled Oregon)  
for the Great River of the West

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<sup>26</sup> Jonathan Carver, *Three Years Travels Through the Interior Parts of North America*, P. 48.

<sup>27</sup> George Fuller, *A History of the Pacific Northwest*, P. 49.

he may have made it up as no Indians were ever subsequently found who used the same term

#### PETER POND EXPLORES THE CANADIAN GREAT PLAINS

Following the instructions of his partners Peter Pond discovered Lake Athabasca and became the first white man to reach the Athabasca River [in Alberta, Canada --1778] He built what became known as “Pond’s House” or the “Old Establishment” on the Athabasca River about forty miles from the lake -- fall 1778

#### PETER POND WINTERED ON THE ATHABASCA RIVER

Peter Pond wintered at his post about forty miles from Lake Athabasca -- 1778-1779 Cree and Chipewya natives from the area who were spared the long and difficult journey to the Hudson’s Bay Company greatly rewarded Pond they brought him thousands of the finest, darkest, silkiest beaver skins he had ever seen perhaps even more significantly, they introduced him to the merits of pemmican this mixture of dried buffalo meat and fat was lightweight and stored well Pond set up a series of caches of pemmican along his Athabasca route, this eliminated the need to hunt every day and allowed him to focus on trade and exploration Peter Pond discovered a westward flowing river from Slave Lake (today’s Great Slave Lake) which he thought might be the “Great River of the West” Peter Pond was thus able to obtain some 8,400 beaver pelts -- more furs than his canoes could carry he stockpiled the remainder in his winter hut by trading directly with the natives he effectively curbed the flow of fine furs from that area to Hudson’s Bay Company

#### BRITISH CAPTAIN JAMES COOK RETURNED TO HAWAII FOR THE WINTER

After circumnavigating the big island of Hawaii for over a month Cook’s exploring squadron finally anchored in Kealahou Bay -- January 16, 1779 *Resolution* and *Discovery* were given a hearty welcome by the islanders Hawaiians (known as “Kanakas” by Americans) in over 1,000 canoes came out to welcome them both Cook and Charles Clerke, master of the *Discovery* decided on a second effort to the Arctic to be undertaken (in the spring) Relations with the natives on the Island of Hawaii deteriorated and Cook left the island -- February 4

#### SPAIN SENDS A THIRD EXPEDITION NORTH<sup>28</sup>

Spanish settlements and outposts had advanced to San Francisco, California Juan Josef Perez’s [1774] exploration of Nueva Galicia (Pacific coast) had been partially successful

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<sup>28</sup> Antonio Sanchez, Essay 5682, HistoryLink.org, April 14, 2004.

Bruno de Heceta and Juan Francisco de la Bodega Y Quadra had returned in triumph  
from their [1775] expedition which had reached as far as (Alaska)  
they had successfully landed and claimed the (Washington coast) for Spain  
and endured the tragic massacre on the (Olympic Peninsula)  
Spain set out once again to strengthen her claims of discovery and exploration  
Commander Ignacio Arteaga was sent on a third expedition from San Blas, New Spain (Mexico)  
to Nueva Galicia (the west coast)  
he sailed the newly built ninety-eight-man frigate *Princesa* (*Princess*)  
Arteaga was accompanied by Juan Francisco de la Bodega Y Quadra on his second expedition  
this time in command of the one hundred-seven-man *Favorita* (*Favorite*)  
with Lieutenant Francisco Maurelle serving as pilot of the ship  
After a great deal of preparation, *Princesa* and *Favorita* set sail -- February 11, 1779  
with fifteen months of supplies on board  
both these Spanish ships were more comfortable, faster and well equipped for a long voyage  
they also provided ample protection for the crew and were outfitted to do battle, if necessary,  
should with any English ship be encountered  
their orders were to sail far from the coastline to 70° North Latitude  
on their return they were to take formal possession of the land between 50° and 70° north

#### CAPTAIN JAMES COOK CLASHES WITH THE HAWAIIAN NATIVES

When Cook left the big island of Hawaii his ships ran into a series of gales  
one of *Resolution's* masts was broken  
he was forced to anchor in Kealakekua Bay on the big island  
to made repairs to his ship -- February 11, 1779  
native people here did not understand the concept of private property  
thievery increased and quarrels soon boiled up  
it was discovered that natives had stolen the *Discovery's* cutter -- morning February 13  
Captain Cook led a small party of men ashore to recover the boat  
at Karakakoa Bay on the Kona Coast of the big island of Hawaii -- February 14, 1779  
they were determined to take the Hawaiian king as a hostage for the return of the cutter  
but the Hawaiians resisted and a fight broke out  
Cook's shore party was reinforced by some of the crew  
who had been rowing off the mouth of the bay before the disturbance began  
stones were thrown and shots fired  
Cook was hit on the head with a club while covering his men's retreat  
knocked semi-conscious he almost drowned in the surf  
but he scrambled to his feet and continued fighting

Captain Cook lost his footing and fell -- infuriated natives stabbed and clubbed him to death  
and tore his body to pieces  
four marines also were killed but nineteen others involved including John Ledyard  
fought their way clear and swam to safety  
Captain Cook's body was kept by the natives for several days  
then parts of his bones were regained  
British Captain James Cook's remains were buried with full military honors in Kealakekua Bay

#### SCIENTIST AND POLITICAL LEADER BENJAMIN FRANKLIN SUPPORTED CAPTAIN COOK

Revolutionary patriot and scientist Benjamin Franklin believe Captain Cook's expedition  
might well stop at the American colonies to resupply and repair their ships

From his assignment in Paris as the representative of the revolutionary colonial government

Franklin issued the following instructions to all Yankee captains: **"To all Captains and Commanders of armed Ships acting by Commission from the Congress in the United States of America, now in war with Great Britain, Gentlemen,**

**A ship having been fitted out from England before the commencement of this war, to make discoveries of new countries, in unknown seas, under the conduct of that most celebrated navigator and discoverer, Captain Cook, an undertaking truly laudable in itself, as the increase of geographical knowledge facilitates the communication between distant nations, in the exchange of useful products and manufactures, and the extension of arts, whereby the common enjoyments of human life are multiplied and augmented, and science of other kinds increased, to the benefit of mankind in general.**

**This is therefore most earnestly to recommend to every one of you, that in case the said ship, which is now expected to be soon in the European seas on her return, should happen to fall into your hands, you would not consider her as an enemy, nor suffer any plunder to be made of the effects contained in her, or sending her into any other part of Europe, or to America; but that you would treat the said Captain Cook and his people with all civility and kindness, affording them, as common friends to mankind, all the assistance in your power, which they may happen to stand in need of. In so doing, you will not only gratify the generosity of your own dispositions, but there is no doubt of your obtaining the approbation of the Congress, and your other American owners.**

**I have the honor to be, Gentlemen**

**Your most obedient, humble servant**

**B. Franklin**

**Minister Plenipotentiary**

**At Passy, near Paris  
this 10th day of March, 1779.**

**from the Congress of the  
United States, at the Court  
of France<sup>29</sup>**

Congress not only did not agree with Franklin and refused to fund the proposal  
but they also ordered the seizure of Cook and his ships if they were encountered

**SPAIN'S THIRD EXPEDITION TRAVELS NORTH<sup>30</sup>**

Commander Ignacio Arteaga on *Princesa* and Juan Francisco de la Bodega Y Quadra on *Favorita*  
saw the snowy mountain peaks of Canada -- May 1, 1779

Spanish explorers set anchor in the entrance of *Puerto de Bucareli* (Bucareli Bay in southeast Alaska)  
there they began a six-week investigation of the area -- May 2, 1779

commanders and crew cautiously set out in launches

they thoroughly explored these coastal areas, prepared precise charts of the coastline,

mapped the complex archipelago and its many waterways separating the islands

they also were able to record detailed descriptions of the customs, dress, language

and material culture of the Indians

while the exploring longboats were absent, a serious epidemic of an unspecified nature

broke out aboard the *Princesa*, causing severe illness and several deaths

crewmen constructed a hospital on shore to care for sick crew members

while ashore, a great deal of trade was conducted with the Indians

during this time a serious incident occurred

two crewmen left their companions and asked a group of Indians in a passing canoe for a ride

once the crew members were in the canoe, they were quickly taken hostage and tortured

Spanish sailors retaliated by taking an Indian hostage and holding him for ransom

in the confusion of a confrontation native canoes were overturned and shots were fired

two Indian were killed in the melee

when both Spanish crewmen were finally returned, Commander Arteaga ordered

they receive a hundred lashes each for jeopardizing the safety of the expedition

Before they left the Puerto de Bucareli, Spanish sailors traded copper and other goods

for five orphan children who were subsequently taken back to San Francisco, California

**CANADIAN FREE TRADERS FORM THE MICHILIMACKINAC COMPANY**

Thirty Canadian free traders working out of Montreal, Canada joined forces

to form the Michilimackinac Company --1779

they established nine trading posts near Michilimackinac west of Lake Superior

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<sup>29</sup> Gordon Speck, *Northwest Explorations*, Portland, Oregon, 1954, P. 99.

<sup>30</sup> Antonio Sanchez, Essay 5682, HistoryLink.org, April 14, 2004.

these free traders referred to themselves as “Mackinaw”  
Michilimackinac Company traders hurt Hudson’s Bay Company,  
but the Mackinaw traders hurt themselves much more -- sometimes they killed one another  
in addition to their competition, their use of rum in the trade was disastrous to the Indians  
traders were murdered by Indians on the war path  
their forts were attacked and burned and their goods stolen by the natives

#### PETER POND COMPLETES TWO YEARS OF TRADING IN THE ATHABASCA REGION

During the time he traded along the Athabasca River at Pond’s House (the “Old Establishment”)  
American trader and adventurer Peter Pond made 140 ninety-pound packs of pelts  
since one pack contained about sixty pelts, he had collected some 8,400 skins  
but he was forced to leave most of them behind when he journeyed to Montreal  
because he needed to stop en route to collect his trading partner’s pelts  
Pond was heavily laden with furs belonging to his partners  
when he arrived at Hudson’s Bay Company’s Cumberland House -- July 2, 1779  
Pond brought out more than 80,000 fine beaver skins -- about sixty tons of furs  
Peter Pond traveled from Hudson’s Bay Company’s Cumberland House  
east to Grand Portage to order supplies for the next season’s hunt  
before he returned to the Athabasca River to retrieve the furs he had left behind

#### NORTH WEST COMPANY WAS LOOSELY ORGANIZED BY MONTREAL BUSINESSMEN

Traders like Benjamin Frobisher and Simon McTavish and merchants Isaac Todd and James McGill  
organized trappers working in the field to undercut Hudson’s Bay Company trading posts  
Joseph Frobisher, Alexander Mackenzie and Duncan McGillivray joined the trading combine  
they traveled the trading routes themselves and met with wintering partners and clerks  
who manned remote trading posts deep in the Canadian interior  
Montreal merchants eventually formed the North West Company headquartered in Montreal -- 1779  
North West Company employees fought for control of the interior fur trade  
they gathered furs in field before Hudson’s Bay Company could acquire them from the Indians  
those furs had to be transported across Hudson’s Bay Company land to Montreal  
when the two groups met there was violence  
Competition, especially in the region west of Grand Portage,  
reached a point where indecencies were unbounded -- 1779  
Indians were demoralized with liquor  
fur-bearing animals were killed without regard to future supply  
Nor’Westers (as the company’s men were known) and Hudson’s Bay Company men  
resorted to outright murder in their efforts to monopolize trade with the natives

## SPAIN'S THIRD EXPEDITION CONTINUES THEIR EXPLORATION<sup>31</sup>

Spanish officers Ignacio Arteaga and Juan Francisco de la Bodega Y Quadra made repeated landings to take formal possession and to chart the new territory they anchored at an island they named *Magdalena* (today's Hinchinbrook Island) -- July 22, 1779 they also took formal possession of a bay near the tip of (Kenai Peninsula) which they named Nuestra Senora de la Regla ("Our Lady of the Rule")

Ignacio Arteaga on *Princesa* and Juan Francisco de la Bodega Y Quadra on *Favorita* sailed across the Gulf of Alaska to Kayak Island -- where Vitus Bering had landed [1741]) they entered James Cook's Prince William Sound and formally took possession there in the name of Spain

Commander Ignacio Arteaga on *Princesa* sailed as far as (Cape Elizabeth at the mouth of Cook Inlet) he sighted (Mount Iliamna) on the (Alaska Peninsula) -- August 7, 1779

## CAPTAIN CHARLES CLERKE TAKES COMMAND OF CAPTAIN COOK'S BRITISH EXPEDITION

With the death of Captain James Cook, leadership of the Cook expedition was given to Captain Charles Clerke who had been second in command

Captain Clerke [born 1741] had accompanied British Captain James Cook on all three of his journeys of scientific exploration leaving the *Resolution* Clerke took command of the *Discovery* as he and Captain Cook had previously agreed to do, he continued the expedition's exploration of the Northern Pacific coast searching for a navigable Northwest Passage

Captain Clerke led the exploring squadron back to the coast of Siberia (after Cook's crew left Hawaii no other foreign vessels stopped in until [1786] when two British and two French vessels visited)

Clerke was stricken with consumption (tuberculosis) and suffered declining health *Resolution* and *Discovery* stopped at several points along the Pacific Northwest coast including Nootka Sound where natives crowded around the ships exchanging sea otter pelts and other furs for anything the British sailors would part with *Resolution* and *Discovery* returned to Alaskan waters and Cook Inlet there crew members traded old iron tools for furs as a diversion

Clerke's illness reduced him to skeletal thinness six months after taking command of the expedition Captain Charles Clerke died from tuberculosis on his thirty-eighth birthday -- August 22, 1779 he was buried in Kamchatka, Siberia [August 29, 1779]

Clerke's second in command, Lieutenant John Gore (born in America possibly in Virginia)

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<sup>31</sup> Antonio Sanchez, Essay 5682, HistoryLink.org, April 14, 2004.

took command of the *Resolution* and the expedition's homeward journey to London  
he was unaware his birth place had declared its independence two years previously  
while James King took command of the *Discovery*  
(King later took an active role in writing the official account of Cook's third voyage)  
Cook's exploring squadron continued on toward Canton (today's Guangzhou) China

#### ARTEAGA AND QUADRA COMPLETE THEIR ORDERS

Final stage of the Ignacio Arteaga and Juan Francisco de la Bodega Y Quadra expedition  
began at 55° North Latitude (present-day Ketchikan, Alaska)  
Spanish mariners encountered very overcast, cold and snowy conditions  
several days after their arrival they sighted a very high mountain -- Mount St. Elias  
Indians they encountered there were quite friendly  
they approached the ships in streamlined native kayaks wanting to trade  
*Princesa* and *Favorita* reached the northern-most point of their expedition -- 60° 30' north  
here they named *Entrada de Santiago* (known today as Prince of Wales Sound, Alaska)  
They sailed south to Puerto de Regla (close to today's Cooks Inlet, Alaska)  
where they claimed the land for the Spanish King Carlos III

#### ARTEAGA AND QUADRA COMPLETE THEIR VOYAGE<sup>32</sup>

Ignacio Arteaga and Juan Francisco de la Bodega Y Quadra  
reached Afognak Island (near Kodiak, Alaska) before driving rains and cold, seven deaths  
and a crew that had become extremely ill with scurvy  
finally forced Arteaga to order the two ships to head south, back to California  
*Princesa* and *Favorita* arrived in San Francisco, California -- mid-September 1779  
they learned Spain had joined with the French to assist the American Continental Navy  
Spain did not directly attack Great Britain openly  
but did take part in operations to regain various Spanish territories previously lost

#### ARTEAGA AND QUADRA RETURN TO SAN BLAS, NEW SPAIN

Voyage of the *Princesa* and *Favorita* was completed  
Spanish explorers Ignacio Arteaga and Juan Francisco de la Bodega Y Quadra  
returned to San Blas, New Spain (Mexico) -- November 1779

#### SPAIN HAS A TENUIOUS HOLD ALONG THE PACIFIC COAST OF NORTH AMERICA

Spain had clearest title to Nueva Galicia (the west coast) south of (Alaska)  
from [1513] to 1779 a total of fifteen expeditions had been sent north from San Blas, New Spain

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<sup>32</sup> Antonio Sanchez, Essay 5682, HistoryLink.org, April 14, 2004.

After the expedition of Ignacio Arteaga and Juan Francisco de la Bodega Y Quadra  
all of Spain's energies were directed toward arming for defense against British intrusions  
*Princesa* and *Favorita* were sent to the Philippines to protect Spain's claim there  
only one ship, the *Aranzazu*, remained on the West Coast  
assigned to supply the missions of California  
(for the next ten years no further Spanish explorations were undertaken  
along Nueva Galicia [the west coast])

In spite of their best efforts Spain's empire, although they did not yet know it, was in decline  
Spain still had no knowledge of English Captain James Cook's [1778]-1779 expedition  
Spain continued to keep secret their maps and ships' logs of previous Spanish explorers  
Spain began to lose its influence in Nueva Galicia as a flood of fur traders entered the region

#### GENERAL GEORGE WASHINGTON ENTERS WINTER CAMP AT MORRISTOWN, NEW JERSEY

General Washington chose to establish winter camp at Morristown, New Jersey because of its location  
just thirty-one miles from New York City he could provide a defense against the British  
if they attacked either the Hudson Highlands or Philadelphia -- 1779-1780  
at the same time his army was protected from attack from the south by the Watchung Mountains,  
swamplands guarded to the east and the Ramapo Hills provided protection to the north  
this country was densely forested and there were very few roads in the area

Winter of 1779-1780 was the coldest recorded in American History

moral fell even farther when Washington was forced to reprimand traitor General Benedict Arnold  
Arnold's plot to surrender Fortress West Point in New York to the British  
caused great psychological damage among the soldiers

Washington's army shrank to about a thousand men as enlistments expired  
and deserters fled the hardships