

Astoria And Captain Bonneville Washington

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reproduction of the original the adventures of captain bonneville by washington irving

when captain james bonneville left for california in may of 1832 his motives were mixed officially the french born officer was on a two year leave of absence from the u s army but he carried orders to collect information on the geography geology and topography of the country within the limits of the territories belonging to the united states between our frontier and the pacific

the adventures of captain bonneville

the amount of fame that benjamin bonneville received during his lifetime is owed to this work presented and authored by washington irving in 1837 the biography of captain bonneville provides an amazing account during his expeditions and adventures as a captain of the united states army providing a grand historical account as he explored the uncharted regions of the rocky mountains and his encounters with not only the various native tribes in the country but famous historical figures as robert campbell and nez perce these adventures detail accounts of death hunger and the dangers of ambush but also depict the legends and tales of brave indians the strange mysteries of an unknown landscape we here learn of the wars between natives and the battles between trappers and hunters this volume is indeed a historical treasure

enjoy this biography recounting the adventures of explorer captain benjamin bonneville

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in a recent work we have given an account of the grand enterprise of mr john jacob astor to establish an american emporium for the fur trade at the mouth of the columbia or oregon river of the failure of that enterprise through the capture of astoria by the british in 1814 and of the way in which the control of the trade of the columbia and its dependencies fell into the hands of the northwest company we have stated likewise the unfortunate supineness of the american government in neglecting the application of mr astor for the protection of the american flag and a small military force to enable him to reinstate himself in the possession of astoria at the return of peace when the post was formally given up by the british government though still occupied by the northwest company by that supineness the sovereignty in the country has been virtually lost to the united states and it will cost both governments much trouble and difficulty to settle matters on that just and rightful footing on which they would readily have been placed had the proposition of mr astor been attended to we shall now state a few particulars of subsequent events so as to lead the reader up to the period of which we are about to treat and to prepare him for the circumstances of our narrative in consequence of the

apathy and neglect of the american government mr astor abandoned all thoughts of regaining astoria and made no further attempt to extend his enterprises beyond the rocky mountains and the northwest company considered themselves the lords of the country they did not long enjoy unmolested the sway which they had somewhat surreptitiously attained a fierce competition ensued between them and their old rivals the hudson s bay company which was carried on at great cost and sacrifice and occasionally with the loss of life it ended in the ruin of most of the partners of the northwest company and the merging of the relics of that establishment in 1821 in the rival association from that time the hudson s bay company enjoyed a monopoly of the indian trade from the coast of the pacific to the rocky mountains and for a considerable extent north and south they removed their emporium from astoria to fort vancouver a strong post on the left bank of the columbia river about sixty miles from its mouth whence they furnished their interior posts and sent forth their brigades of trappers the rocky mountains formed a vast barrier between them and the united states and their stern and awful defiles their rugged valleys and the great western plains watered by their rivers remained almost a terra incognita to the american trapper the difficulties experienced in 1808 by mr henry of the missouri company the first american who trapped upon the head waters of the columbia and the frightful hardships sustained by wilson p hunt ramsay crooks robert stuart and other intrepid astorians in their ill fated expeditions across the mountains appeared for a time to check all further enterprise in that direction the american traders contented themselves with following up the head branches of the missouri the yellowstone and other rivers and streams on the atlantic side of the mountains but forbore to attempt those great snow crowned sierras

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