

CAST OF CHARACTERS

SEAGOING PARTY

Captain of the *Tonquin*

CAPTAIN JONATHAN THORN—age thirty-one. U.S. naval hero whom Astor hired to captain the *Tonquin* on the voyage around Cape Horn to the West Coast and then to China.

Partners Aboard the *Tonquin*

ALEXANDER MCKAY—age forty at the time he joined. Highly respected for his experience as explorer, trader, and friend of the Indians in many years' service in Canada with the North West Company, he was a shareholding partner and trader with Astor's enterprise, sailing aboard the *Tonquin*.

DUNCAN MCDOUGALL—age unknown. Scottish fur trader from Canada and former North West Company employee appointed by Astor to be second in command for his "emporium" on the West Coast and to lead it whenever Wilson Price Hunt was absent.

DAVID STUART—age forty-five. One of the oldest members of the Astor enterprise, the Scottish emigrant had lived some years in Canada, probably in the fur trade, before going out aboard the *Tonquin* as shareholding partner and fur trader.

ROBERT STUART—age twenty-five. The younger Stuart, also Scottish-born, worked briefly as a clerk for the North West Company in Canada before joining Astor's company with his uncle David, and also held a small number of shares.

Notable Clerks Aboard the *Tonquin*

GABRIEL FRANCHÈRE—age twenty-four. A French Canadian born in Montreal to a merchant family. Franchère sailed aboard the *Tonquin* as a clerk and kept his own journal account of the expedition.

ALEXANDER ROSS—age twenty-seven. Scottish-born. Ross worked as a schoolteacher in Canada before seeking his fortune by joining Astor's Pacific enterprise as a clerk, sailing aboard the *Tonquin* but staying at Astoria when she sailed on. He also kept his own journal.

JAMES LEWIS—clerk from New York who sailed aboard the *Tonquin*.

THOMAS MCKAY—son of Alexander McKay (above) who stayed at Astoria when the *Tonquin* sailed onward.

The Seagoing Party also included seven additional clerks, about fifteen French-Canadian voyageurs, and about five craftsmen such as blacksmiths and carpenters.

Crew of the *Tonquin*

In addition, the *Tonquin* carried officers and crew, totaling about twenty-three people, and, after stopping at Hawaii, Hawaiians numbering about twenty-four individuals.

THE OVERLAND PARTY

Leader

WILSON PRICE HUNT—age twenty-seven. The young New Jersey-born businessman, who had worked as a fur trade supplier in St. Louis, was appointed by Astor to lead the Overland Party across the continent and head Astor's West Coast operations.

Partners

DONALD MACKENZIE—age twenty-six. Scottish fur trader from Canada and former employee of the North West Company (NWC) who possessed con-

siderable wilderness experience and great physical energy. Unhappy with the NWC, he joined Astor's enterprise, initially helping Hunt to co-lead the Overland Party.

RAMSAY CROOKS—age twenty-three. Scottish-born Canadian fur trader who had worked in the American fur trade along the Missouri River, befriending Hunt in St. Louis and eventually joining the Overland Party as partner in Astor's West Coast enterprise.

ROBERT McCLELLAN—age forty. Born in Pennsylvania to parents of Scottish descent, McClellan had fought in Ohio Valley Indian wars and eventually worked as a fur trader along the Missouri, for a time in a partnership with Ramsay Crooks. Joined Hunt's Overland Party as a partner at St. Louis, given two and a half shares, compared to most partners' five shares.

JOSEPH MILLER—age thirty, approximately. Member of a respected family in Baltimore, Miller had quit the military to come west as a fur trader, and joined the Overland Party in St. Louis, also holding two and a half shares.

Clerk with Overland Party

JOHN REED—An Irishman, Reed joined the Overland Party at Montreal or Mackinac Island and served as clerk as Hunt's party made its way west.

Other Notable Members of Overland Party

JOHN DAY—forty-year-old Virginian who joined the Overland Party as a hunter.

MARIE DORION—Iowa Indian woman with two toddlers and married to Pierre Dorion, interpreter for Hunt's Overland Party.

PIERRE DORION—half-Sioux interpreter for Hunt's Overland Party and son of Old Dorion, interpreter for Lewis and Clark.

In addition, the Overland Party included nearly forty French-Canadian voyageurs, several other American hunters, and several trappers met on the Missouri.

Notable Clerks Aboard the *Beaver*

ROSS COX—age nineteen. The Dublin-born Cox emigrated to New York and joined Astor's enterprise as clerk with the hope of making his fortune. He kept a journal of his experiences.

ALFRED SETON—A young New Yorker of good family that was down on its luck. Seton dropped out of Columbia to join Astor's enterprise as clerk. He also kept a journal of his own.

JOHN CLARKE—age twenty-nine. From Montreal, and a former employee of the North West Company, Clarke may have been related to Astor through his mother. He sailed to the West Coast aboard the *Beaver*, and may have been made a shareholding partner.

Captain and Crew of the *Beaver*

CAPTAIN CORNELIUS SOWLE—age forty-two. A native of New England, Sowle had sailed on Pacific and Far East trading voyages for a number of years previous to joining Astor.

The *Beaver* also carried other Astor clerks, craftsmen, voyageurs, and Indians, in addition to the captain and his crew.