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### Hit and Run History: The Columbia Expedition



Past Preservers is pleased to announce it is now the official media representative for the documentary *Hit and Run History: The Columbia Expedition*

Gumshoe Historian **Andrew Buckley** takes us on a journey following the tracks of John Kendrick and the Columbia Expedition.

The first American circumnavigation of the globe was prompted by desperate Boston merchants following the Revolution, and commanded by former privateer John Kendrick. Returning to Boston three years later, it was a commercial failure and the commander was missing in China.

Describing Kendrick's life, Buckley says, "It's not just the American *Heart of Darkness* -- it precedes Conrad's novel by a hundred years. It could well be **the original Heart of Darkness**." Kendrick's explorations, travels and business on the Columbia Expedition are the focus of our story.

Buckley tells it in a gritty, let's-get-our-hands-dirty style. This approach owes much to Anthony Bourdain, the devil-may-care host of Travel Channel's culinary adventure program "No Reservations." Buckley brings the viewer directly to the scenes of historical events by visiting the sites as they are today. He tells the story here and now, himself -- and his film crew.

Past Preservers was founded by archaeologist

**Nigel J.**

**Hetherington** in 2005 to provide historical and archaeological consultancy and professional support to the media industry.

Past Preservers provides expert opinion and counsel throughout the creative process, from conception to product delivery.

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This is as much about this scrappy band of New England commercial fishermen-turned-filmmakers as it is about the Columbia Expedition. When Buckley pulls out of his narration of the lead-up *Columbia's* departure from Boston in 1787, cutting to a critique of himself in a previous clip with assistant director Matt Griffin, it underscores the keenness that host and crew share for the subject and the making of this film.



From Kendrick's involvement in the Boston Tea Party, his seizing of British ships in the Revolution, his explorations and trade in the Pacific, and being the first American to visit Japan, this was a life of adventure and real American spirit.

Abandoned in the East, Kendrick amassed a greater and greater stock of trade goods across the Pacific, getting a stranglehold on the Northwest fur trade by cultivating good relations with the natives, trading Western clothes and weapons, and adopting their dress and language. While the empires of the day were vying for the new frontier of the Pacific, *Columbia* left Boston on a second voyage, armed with new captain and an agent to find Kendrick.

Buckley sees the Columbia Expedition as the connection between the voyages of Captain James Cook (the inspiration for *Star Trek*) in the 1770's and the Lewis & Clark mission (the first road trip and buddy story) in the early 1800's. But as a private trading venture, it was bound by nothing aside from profit. Very young men were equipped with the most modern weaponry and vessels and told to go to the other end of the earth and make a profit.

Rife with riches and unbridled sensuality, with no law but their own, the Pacific voyage offered unparalleled adventure. As a chapter of lost history, the story of the Columbia Expedition does not reside in one place, but is scattered across the globe. Author and Master Mariner Andrew Buckley has been researching and writing on the Columbia Expedition for 14 years. Work on his historical novel, *The Bostoner*, has made him one of a handful of experts worldwide, with contacts in every location.

#### **Locations will include-**

Cape Cod, Boston, Newport, Nova Scotia, English Channel, Thames River, Cape Verde, Falkland Islands, Juan Fernandes, Oregon coast, Neah Bay, Vancouver Island, Queen Charlotte Islands, Hawaii, Macao, Guangzhou, Kashinoura, Japan, Vigan, Philippines.

More information @ <http://www.hitandrunhistory.com>