

daughter of the Clatsop chief found them, and in the usual dramatic way of tradition succeeded in saving their lives. She married the leader of the party, whom the Indians called Kunupi (probably a corruption of a Spanish name). This tradition is so clear that the actions of the men, their personal appearance and the character of the wreckage are definitely described. According to the legend, they were all bearded men, and as they were first discovered in the act of popping corn on the beach, it is to be assumed that the vessel was from Mexico and the sailors were Spanish.

"They remained at the mouth of the Columbia a few years, building their house in a place which became known as kunupi, as it is still called by the native survivors of the region. Then they went up the river, presumably in an effort to reach the Atlantic coast by an overland journey.

"Thus far the tradition is recited by the two sole survivors of the Chinook, sisters who claim decent from Kunupi. Just at this point the story of an old Cascade woman seems to fit in perfectly. Two bearded white men she says, suddenly appeared in the populous villages of the Cascades of the Columbia. Because of the ornamental bits of brass which one of them, whom she calls Soto (another Spanish name manufactured,) the Indians received them kindly, gave them lodging, food and wives. There the white men lived for some years, when they departed eastward, and no further trace of them exists in history or in Indian tradition. No doubt they were killed by the Snakes or other mountain tribes, who were at all times hostile to the river tribes. The narrator of this tradition exhibits some of the brass ornaments made by Soto and inherited from her father, the Cascade chief, who was hanged in the war of 1856.

"That these traditions are authentic there can be no doubt. Alexander Henry in 1813 was surprised to meet at the mouth of the Columbia a man about 30 years of age, who has extraordinarily dark red hair, and is the supposed offspring of a ship that was wrecked within a few miles of the entrance of this river many years ago.' Again, in 1811, Franchere met at the Cascades an old man who said that he was the son of a Spaniard, one of four survivors of a wreck at the mouth of the Columbia. These unknown Spaniards were probably the first white men to behold the Columbia.

"Now to return to the two sculptured heads. They were found within about 30 miles of the place where Soto, and after him his half-blood son, lived in the Cascade village, and it does not seem impossible that some Indian artist carved them in an effort to depict the strange visitors. Indian priests were apt to fashion from wood, bone or stone figures representing creatures whom they associated with the supernatural.