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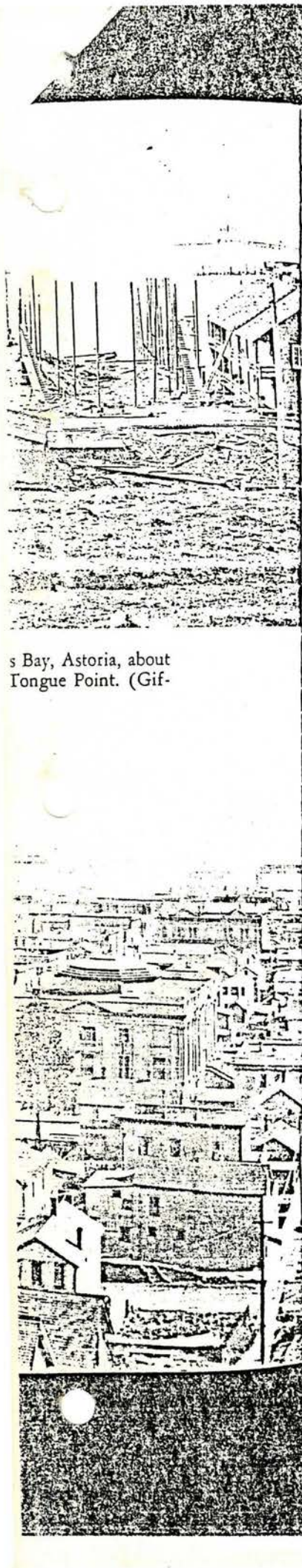
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Tongue Point. (Gif-

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COVER: Canyon City, Oregon,
celebrates July 4, 1886.
(Hazeltine Collection.)

Russian America in 1821

THE AUTHOR of the following translation was almost certainly Kirill Timofeyevich Khlebnikov (1785-1838), one of the most able employees of the Russian-American Company and one of the most knowledgeable authorities on the colonies of that commercial monopoly. Not surprisingly, his writings, which range from letters about Kamchatka¹ to memoirs on Mexican California,² constitute a first-rate source on the ethnography, geography, and history of the far North Pacific rim in the first third of the 19th century.³ It is not without reason that he has come to be known as the "chronicler of Russian America."

Khlebnikov was born about 1780 in the small commercial and industrial town of Kungur on the western edge of the Ural Mountains astride the main route between European and Asiatic Russia. Kirill had seven brothers and sisters. Lacking formal schooling, he learned to read and write at home. He especially liked books on geography. He was fascinated, too, by the stories of the travels of his two oldest brothers, who journeyed widely

1. [Kirill T. Khlebnikov], "Pisma o Kamchatke" ["Letters on Kamchatka"], Saltykov-Shchedrin State Public Library, Manuscript Division, F. IV, No. 815.

2. [Kirill T.] Khlebnikov, "Zapiski o Kalifornii" ["Notes on California"], *Synotechestva i severny arkhiiv*, vol. 2, (1829), pp. 208-27, 276-88, 336-47, 400-10 and vol. 3 (1829), pp. 25-35. This article has been translated and published by Anatole G. Mazour as "Memoirs of California," *Pacific Historical Review*, Vol. IX (September, 1940), pp. 307-36.

3. Khlebnikov's best-known work is his *Zhizneopisanie Aleksandra Andreyevicha Baranova*... [Biography of Alexander Andreyevich Baranov...] (St. Petersburg, 1835). This book has been translated by Colin Bearne and published by Richard Pierce as *Baranov* (Kingston, 1973). Khlebnikov's best work, however, is his comprehensive and detailed "Zapiski o Koloniyakh Rossiisko-Amerikanskoy Kompanii" ["Notes on the Colonies of the Russian-American Company"], Archive of the Russian Geographical Society, raz. 99, op. 1, no. 112. This splendid source, only part of which has ever been published, exists in a couple of variants and fragments. [The Oregon Historical Society is presently preparing the first English translation of this six-part work (*Materials for a History of Russian Settlements along the Shores of the Eastern Ocean: Kirill Khlebnikov's Notes on America*, translated and annotated by Basil Dmytryshyn and E. A. P. Crownhart-Vaughan). Volume I, now in press, includes New Archangel (Sitka) and Fort Ross, with additional archival materials as appendixes. Volume II is in preparation.]

on business to support the family after their father's death, which occurred when Kirill was ten years old. Kungur was frequently visited by traders, whose tales further excited the boy's imagination. Being thus raised in an atmosphere of commercial enterprise and exotic travel, he grew eager to see the world and make his fortune.

Such an opportunity arose in 1800, when a recruiting agent for the Russian-American Company came to Kungur seeking bold and energetic men for the company's service. Kirill Khlebnikov and two friends readily signed contracts. They were assigned to Kamchatka, a scenic but backward peninsula on Siberia's eastern coast synonymous with remoteness and godforsakenness. In December Khlebnikov left his native "Siberian town" for the distant wilds of the Russian Far East. Here he spent the next 14 years of his life as a company "commissioner" (agent). The hard work and raw climate made him rheumatic, and his failing health prompted him to return to Kungur in 1815.

His leave was brief, however. Soon after reaching his home town Khlebnikov was summoned to St. Petersburg by the Russian-American Company's head office. There he learned that he was being held accountable for numerous debts owing the company by people whom Khlebnikov had trusted in Kamchatka. To meet these debts he agreed to serve in Russian America as the manager of the New Archangel (Sitka) counter or business office. On Sept. 6, 1816, he left the imperial capital aboard the *Kutuzov* under the command of Lt.-Capt. L. A. Hagemeister.

A voyage of 14½ months via Cape Horn brought Khlebnikov to the colonial capital of New Archangel at the end of 1817. Hagemeister succeeded Alexander Baranov as governor of the colonies, and he appointed Khlebnikov his assistant in charge of commercial matters. These moves were part of a shake-up of colonial affairs. Other measures included the opening of regular trade in provisions with Alta California (thanks to Hagemeister's personal efforts), the paying of company employees a regular salary (in money and kind) instead of uncertain shares, the replacement of veteran merchants with more subservient naval officers as colonial governors, the founding of new trading posts northward and inland from the Gulf of Alaska, and the taking of a firmer stand against Yankee poachers and smugglers.

Khlebnikov spent 15 years in Russian America. He traveled widely on inspection tours and business calls, particularly in California, where he almost annually negotiated vital purchases of foodstuffs. He became a valued and trusted employee, as well as an expert on Russian America. Besides observing and recording for his writings, he collected minerals, insects, plants, and animals, in addition to ethnographical items, which he shipped to museums in Russia. In 1825 he was promoted to the rank of commercial councillor. After prolonging his stay a couple of times at the company's request, Khlebnikov finally left the colonies on Nov. 20, 1832, on the *America*.

Upon reaching St. Petersburg in 1833 Khlebnikov took up residence there. First he became business manager of the company and then (1835) one of its directors. In the meantime he continued to write and publish on Russian America. His work earned him a corresponding membership in the Academy of Sciences in 1837. The following year on April 15, at the age of 58, he died (probably of heart failure) at the St. Petersburg home of his friend and colleague Baron Ferdinand Wrangel, who had been governor of Russian America (1830-1835) during Khlebnikov's last years there. Khlebnikov willed his books (875 volumes) and papers (including more than 2,000 letters) to his native Kungur, where a public library was opened in 1840 on the basis of this endowment. It was eventually named the Khlebnikov Library. His papers were deposited in the nearby Perm Oblast Archive.⁴

At his death not only had Kirill Khlebnikov achieved his boyhood dream of adventure and travel⁵ but he also left an enduring legacy in the form of the most reliable and detailed writings of his day on Russian America. These include several unpublished manuscripts. One of them has recently been uncovered in the Central State Archive of the Navy in Leningrad,⁶ and it is here translated for the first time.⁷ It presents a general survey of the

4. For a description of this collection, see L. S. Kashikhin, "Obzor fonda K. T. Khlebnikova" ["A Survey of the Fund of K. T. Khlebnikov"], *Sovetskie arkhivy*, no. 4 (1974), pp. 85-89.

5. Khlebnikov vividly recalls his extensive travels and interesting experiences in "Vzglyad na polevka moyey zhizni" ["A Glance at A Half-Century of My Life"], *Syn otechestva*, pt. 175 (1836), pp. 299-324, 345-73, 413-28.

6. Central State Archive of the Navy, f. 28, op. 1, d. 144.

colonies in 1821, just after their general reorganization in the last years of the Russian-American Company's first 20-year charter (1799-1819).⁸

THE COLONIES OF THE RUSSIAN-AMERICAN COMPANY

[by K. T. Khlebnikov]

The colonies of the Russian-American Company are under the direct supervision of the governor, and for business purposes they are grouped into five subdivisions. These counters, which are administered by subordinates [managers], consist of the following (in descending order of commercial importance):

- (1) New Archangel Counter;
- (2) Kodiak Counter;
- (3) Unalaska Counter;
- (4) Ross Counter;
- (5) Northern Islands District.

Each counter, which manages local affairs, has specific occupations of different kinds: the hunting of sea and land animals, the stocking of fish, shipbuilding, gardening, some cultivation, stockbreeding, and other activities.

In accordance with the above sequence of subdivisions the following is a description of the counters in economic, mercantile, and other terms.

New Archangel Counter. Baranov Island. A Company establishment was founded here in 1799 with—as is generally known in the counter—the agreement of the [native] inhabitants (for a fixed sum was paid in goods for the cession of the site). A small fort was built to the west of the present one; in 1802 it was taken by the Koloshes [Tlingits], who annihilated the Russians and Aleuts there.

Subsequently the site was reoccupied with the help of the ship *Neva* under the command of Captain [Yury] Lisiansky in 1804, and since then it has existed without interruption [Fig. 1].

7. Much of this document has been utilized, however, in Svetlana G. Fedorova, *The Russian Population in Alaska and California, Late 18th Century-1867*, trans. and ed. by Richard A. Pierce and Alton S. Donnelly (Kingston, 1973), pp. 198-203.

8. For another survey of the colonies a dozen years later by Khlebnikov, see James R. Gibson, "Russian America in 1833: The Survey of Kirill Khlebnikov," *Pacific Northwest Quarterly*, vol. 63 (January, 1972), pp. 1-13.

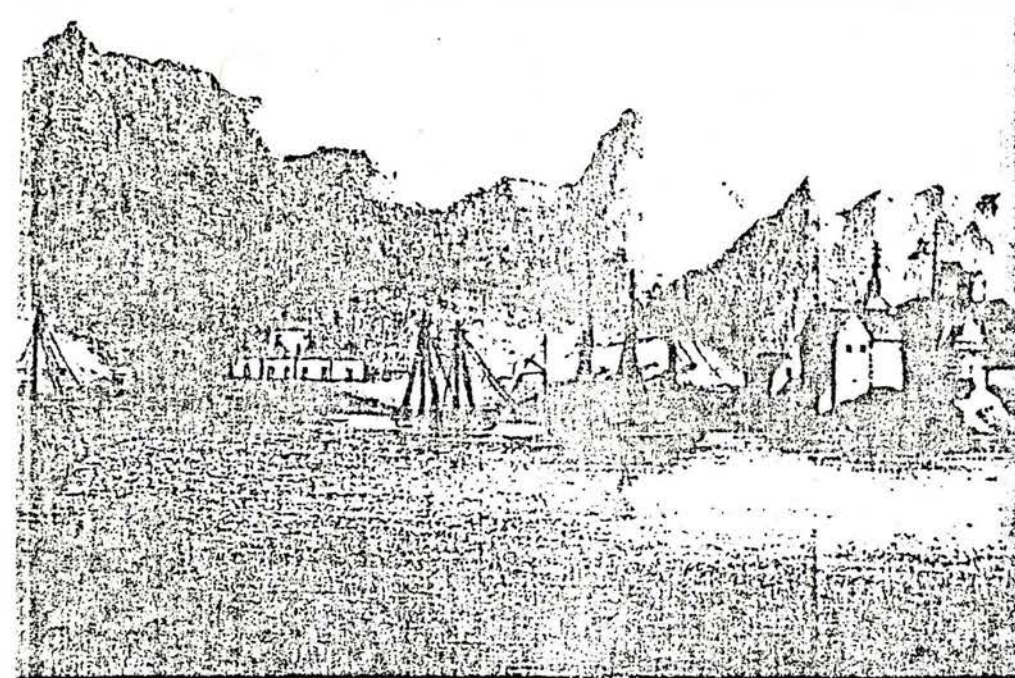


Fig. 1. New Archangel about 1820. (From Russian journal article published in 1830s, author's collection.)

Here are found the quarters of the governor, who manages the counter. All Company buildings, goods, ships, Russian employees, and Aleut hunters are under the jurisdiction of this counter. Furs are brought here from various places, and on the governor's orders they are sent to Russia [by ship] around the world or via Okhotsk [across Siberia]. From here all Russian and foreign goods, supplies, materials, etc. needed for the settlements are distributed to the other counters and districts. On January 1 [12], 1821 New Archangel comprised the following:

Russian male adults (officials, civilian employees, and hunters)	235
Russian wives and children	92
Creole [métis] male adults (Company apprentices in various trades and in seamanship)	76
Creole wives and children	22
School pupils	30
Aleut hunters	155
Aleut wives and children	83

Total 639
[sic: 693]

In every respect the Company's capital is concentrated in this counter. It checks the accounts of the other counters and submits them to the governor and the Head Office [in St. Petersburg]. In 1820 the working capital under the jurisdiction of this counter totalled 3,257,212 rubles, 52 kopecks. On January 1 [12], 1821 the counter's personal and material capital amounted to 2,572,269 rubles, 16 kopecks, including the following items:

Cash (foreign coins and bills)	11,270 r., 58 k.
Products (furs and other output)	281,198 50
Russian and foreign goods, materials, provisions, etc.	1,395,477 62
Firearms and other ordnance and ammunition in the fort and the arsenal	90,628 25
Sailing and rowing vessels with armament	359,226 89
Debts of officials, employees, and Aleuts	229,880 83
Church plate (except donated items) provided by the Company to the Church of St. Michael the Archangel	11,789 73
House property in buildings (including various furniture in the library, etc.)	86,481 53
Various capital at Ozyorsk Redoubt under the jurisdiction of the counter	6,046 66
Entrusted to the agent for trade in California and other turnover	100,568 93
Total	2,572,269 r., 16 k.
[sic: 2,572,569 r., 52 k.]	

By its own reckoning New Archangel Counter's debts of various persons amounted to 54,496 rubles, 22 kopecks.

There are eight sailing vessels in operation and two disused ones in port. Ships in need of repair are timbered at this port, supplied with enough rigging and a regular allowance of sea rations for a certain period,* and ordered to sea for three to five months (such is the arrangement obtaining now). With the coming of fall all ships return to port.

Within New Archangel Counter Aleuts hunt sea otters under cover of one or two well-armed sailing vessels and 3 or 4 row-boats. The number of baidarkas [kayaks] sent to hunt totalled up to 80 in 1818, 1819, and 1820 and 100 now [1821].† From 250

*Sea rations for a sailor consist of 1¼ lbs. of biscuit and ½ lb. of dried California beef per day and 7¼ lbs. of groats, 7¼ lbs. of peas, 4½ lbs. of fat, and 1¼ pints of rum per month, plus vinegar and salt as needed.

†Formerly parties of up to 300 baidarkas were sent from Kodiak to hunt, but such a number is no longer possible because of the dispersal and decrease of the Aleuts.

to 400 sea otters of various grades were bagged in the last three years; the current catch is unknown.

At the fort various goods are traded to the Koloshes for furs. From this trade up to 50 sea otters, 100 beavers, 150 land otters, and some other pelts are obtained, but this amount is very slight and not equal to the present expenses of trade with the Koloshes.

The officials, employees, and hunters are salaried under conditions with the Head Office or the counters. They receive their salaries from the counters by the month either—on request—in money or in kind. At each shop they buy what goods and provisions they need at prices set by the Company.** Many Creoles and other apprentices hold positions and receive salaries but all Creoles learning trades and all sailors are paid a salary of 60 to 150 rubles per year and 36 pounds of flour per month, plus a suit of clothes and a pair of shoes; and now an increase is forthcoming.

For hunting sea otters the Aleuts are furnished with rawhide for baidarkas and kamleikas [rainproof skin capes] by the Company without charge. For hunting the Company pays one-fifth of their [pelts'] value, according to the recently instituted colonial reform.* In the hunting season and at the port, in case of a shortage of food, the Company does its utmost in accordance with local conditions to supply the Aleuts with fish, sea lion meat, and sometimes berries and roots and, when these items are scarce, even peas, groats, or beans. For work that the Aleuts sometimes do at the port the Company pays from 50 to 70 kopecks per day, as was the case last winter [1820-1821], and often, when work begins at noon, 25 kopecks, regardless of difficulty. With the money earned by them the Aleuts have the right to buy at the shops all goods and supplies that are not appreciably scarce.

Moreover, all hunters who receive 36 pounds of flour per

**According to the mandatory regulations of the Head Office, 30 percent [is exacted] on goods shipped around the world from St. Petersburg and 10 percent on goods bought en route. These mark-ups sometimes equal the transport costs of the goods.

*The statutory prices are as follows: full-grown sea otters—50 rubles, half-grown sea otters—20 rubles, sea otter pups—4 rubles, large beavers—6 rubles, large land otters—8 rubles, gray foxes—5 rubles, silver foxes—15 rubles, fur seals—2 rubles, and walrus teeth—12 rubles [each or per pood (36 lbs.)?], all being sorted by quality and size.

month from the Company have the right to buy at the shops a certain amount of flour, groats, and peas. This amount reaches 23½ pounds for bachelors and 43½ pounds for married men because of their families. A similar allowance in clothing is extended to Creole and Aleut employees.

In the school at the fort they learn to read and write and the rudiments of arithmetic. On January 1 [12], 1821 there were up to 30 pupils, who are given winter and summer clothing, proper underwear, and breadstuffs by the Company, as well as a regular allowance by the governor of the colonies, Fleet Lieutenant-Captain and Cavalier Matvey Ivanovich Muravyov [1820-1825].

The hospital at the fort is provided with quite enough clothing, linen, and utensils. By order of the governor the sick are now maintained on rations fixed by the colonial doctor.

Being dilapidated, the buildings do not permit the maintenance of comfortable and clean rooms for either staff quarters or barracks. The governor has already issued orders for appropriate measures in this matter.

Manufacturing at this port includes a windmill for grain. During shortages soap is boiled from fat. There is a spinning frame for rigging. In addition, there are the following trades: blacksmith, locksmith, boilermaker in copper and bronze, founder, sailmaker, caulker, glazier, roofer, sawyer, carpenter, tailor, shoemaker, turner, furrier, painter, and clock repairman.

Districts Belonging to New Archangel Counter. Ozyorsk Redoubt is under the supervision of a baidarshchik [leader of a work gang or hunting party] with 13 Russians and 4 salaried Aleuts. Here they hunt in pairs and prepare salted and dried fish for the port. At the redoubt there is a water mill for grain and a fair tannery for the dressing of shoe and other leather. In the vicinity of the redoubt they quarry milling stone. There is also a sulfur spring, which is used throughout the year by Russians and Aleuts from the fort. Ozyorsk Redoubt contains a stockade, barracks, an office, a storehouse, a barn, etc. At the hot spring there are two small cabins.

Kodiak Counter on Kodiak Island. The Distinguished Citizen [Grigory] Shelikhov founded a colony here in 1784. It was transferred by him to the [Russian-] American Company. At present it is a counter for the management of all places within its juris-

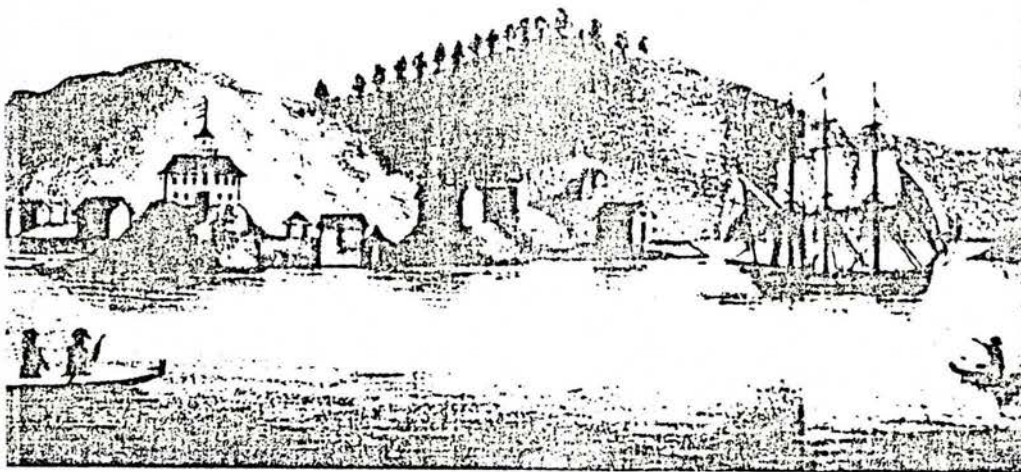


Fig. 2. St. Paul's Harbor about 1820.

diction and for trade. At St. Paul's Harbor there are a church, a manager's office, barracks, storehouses, a shop, and tradesmen's and various private outbuildings (which are dilapidated, according to the latest information) [Fig. 2]. In 1821 the population comprised:

Russians on duty and at work	33
Creoles and Aleuts on salary	23
Kayuras [forced laborers] and Aleuts of both sexes	32

According to the latest enumeration there are 1,176 male and 1,429 female Aleuts on Kodiak Island for a total of 2,605 and 183 Kayuras of both sexes in all occupations. The Company's capital in circulation in 1820 amounted to 625,925 rubles; this year [1821] it totals 405,386 rubles, 58 kopecks, including office property, various goods, furs, livestock, and houses.

In Kodiak Counter the Aleuts hunt sea otters at sea and foxes, land otters, beavers, martens, bears, wolves, etc. on the island and the mainland. These furs are collected in Kodiak Counter, whence they are shipped to New Archangel.

A small sailing vessel is used to bring foodstuffs and pelts from the artels [hunting parties or work gangs]. At St. Paul's

Harbor itself horses, cattle, pigs, and poultry are kept. The hunters and Aleuts catch foxes. In summertime they are sent to hunt sea otters in parties, which comprise up to 100 baidarkas; sometimes they are divided into two groups, one for the southern part of the island and one for Kenai [Cook] Inlet and Chugash [Prince William] Sound. The fishing, which occurs at a certain time of the year, is good.

Kodiak Counter ships the following products, which are collected from various places, to New Archangel:

sea otters	150-200
beavers	3,000-4,000
land otters	300-500
martens	600-1,200
various foxes	600-1,000
lynxes	200
wolverines	60
black bears	100-200
castoreum	36-72 lbs.
musquash	500
whalebone	3,611 lbs.

Kodiak Counter contains the following livestock in various places:

cattle	300
horses	5
goats	5
pigs	100

Because of the ease of stocking food in the counter several Russians with some Aleuts fish, and in winter they hunt foxes. This counter consists of the following settlements:

Russian settlements on Kodiak Island. 1. Chiniat Artel. Two Russians live here, and the Company buildings include a barracks and storehouses. Up to 40 head of cattle are pastured here, and foxes are hunted, too.

2. Igak Artel contains 4 Russians, and there is a barracks for lodging and storehouses for freight. The Aleuts prepare yukola [dried fish] and hunt whales. In winter foxes are hunted. Up to 100 head of cattle and 60 pigs are pastured here.

3. Three Saints Artel contains 2 Russians, who have a barracks and storehouses. Here there are a few cattle, and they stock fish. They hunt foxes in winter and whales in summer.

4. Alitok Artel, with one Russian. Here they stock food, and in winter they hunt foxes.

5. Karluk Artel consists of 3 Russians. The buildings include a barracks, storehouses, etc. Up to 50 head of cattle are pastured here. They trap fish in summer and hunt foxes in winter.

Adjoining islands. 6. Afognak Artel. On Afognak Island there are 5 Russians with a house, a barracks, storehouses, a bathhouse, and other buildings. Here they hunt whales, stock fish, and catch foxes. Some cattle are also pastured.

7, 8, and 9. On the nearby islands of Dolgy, Lesnoy [Woody], and Yelovy [Spruce] there are also buildings where Russians are sent from time to time. Squirrels are hunted on Dolgy Island, and the monk Herman lives in seclusion on Yelovy Island.

Ukamok. 10. Ukamok Island contains one Russian with living quarters and storehouses. Squirrels are hunted here.

On Alaska [Peninsula]. 11. Katmai Artel. Here there are two Russians and fairly good buildings—a house, a barracks, a storehouse, a shop, barns, etc. There are more than 20 head of cattle, and some fish are stocked. Sea otters are hunted and beavers, foxes, deer, and bears are bought [from the natives]. The enumeration of 1818 listed 386 male and 451 female Aleuts for a total of 837 under the jurisdiction of the Company's artel.

Kenai Inlet. 12. Fort Nicholas has good buildings. Thirteen Russians and 4 Aleuts on salary live at the fort. There are up to 25 head of cattle under the jurisdiction of the manager of Fort Nicholas. The enumeration of 1818 listed 636 male and 1,054 female Kenais and 23 male and 40 female Chugaches for a total of 1,753. The manager of Fort Nicholas trades Russian goods to the Kenais for various land animals, principally beavers, land otters, martens, bears, lynxes, foxes, and castoreum. A small party leaves here to hunt sea otters.

On Nuchek [Hinchinbrook] Island in Prince William Sound. 13. Fort Constantine has good buildings. The fort contains 9 cannons, a house, a barracks, barns, etc. There are 15 Russians, 4 Aleut employees, and 15 Kayuras. The enumeration of 1820 listed 153 male and 164 female Chugaches, 328 male and 340 female inhabitants along the Copper River, 128 Kilchans, and 105 Ugalentsy for a total of 1,218. At Fort Constantine, as at Fort Nicholas, various land animals are bartered from the Chugaches. Parties are sent from the fort to hunt sea otters.

On the mainland in Chugash Inlet. 14. Voskresensk Arte.. Here there are one Russian, a small building, and some cattle. Within the jurisdiction of this district there are 133 Kenais and 162 Chugaches of both sexes for a total of 295 people.

Bristol Bay. 15. Fort Alexander on the Nushagak River was founded in 1820. It contains 12 Russians. Beavers are bartered from the surrounding natives, who are known as Aglegmyuts. Now it has been decided to move this settlement to Hagemeister Island, which lies off Cape Newenham.

Unalaska Counter. The settlement called [Good] Harmony comprises a small number of little buildings on Unalaska Island in Captain's Harbor. Because of the lack of trees it is not possible to improve the settlement soon. According to the enumeration of 1818 there were 463 male and 559 female inhabitants on various islands under the jurisdiction of Unalaska Counter for a total of 1,022 people. At the settlement of [Good] Harmony there were about 10 Russians and some Kayuras for work.

The counter's working capital totalled 146,900 rubles, 83 kopecks in 1820 and 73,005 rubles, 79 kopecks by January 1 [12], 1821. Unalaska Counter sends parties to hunt sea otters throughout the islands and buys the pelts of land animals—mainly various kinds of foxes—from the Aleuts. The following amount of products collected in the counter is sent to New Archangel:

various kinds of sea otters	150
various kinds of foxes	1,500-2,000
walrus teeth	3,611 lbs.
whalebone	1,445 lbs.

In accordance with local circumstances this counter has buildings on various islands where Russians live for hunting, viz.:

Districts of Unalaska Counter on Unalaska Island. 1 and 2. Makushkin and Koshigin Artels, where there is one Russian for hunting foxes.

Sanak Island. 3. Sanak Artel is a Company establishment under the supervision of a Russian and produces sea otters and foxes.

Unga Island. 4. Unga Artel is under the supervision of one Russian and hunts walruses and deer.

Umnak Island. [5] Umnak Artel contains one Russian and hunts sea lions and sea otters.

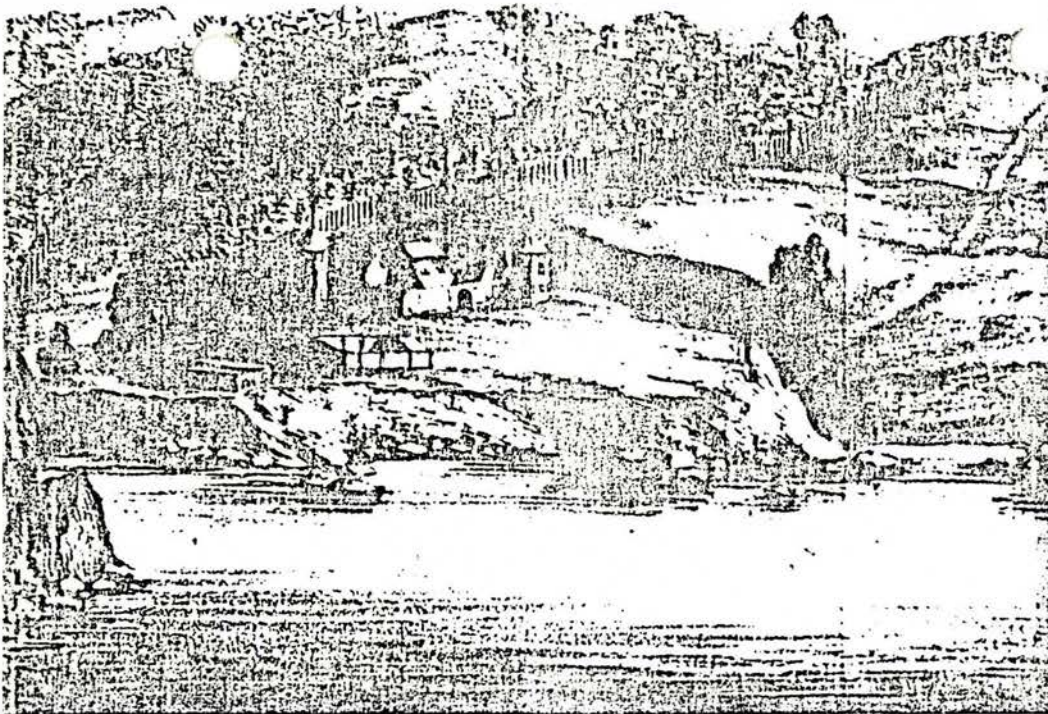


Fig. 3. Fort Ross about 1820.

Akun and Unimak Islands. 6 and 7. Akun and Unimak Ar-
tels each contain one Russian for hunting animals.

4. Ross Counter. With the permission of the [Russian]
higher authorities a settlement was founded in 1812 on the coast
of New Albion near Little Bodega Bay. It consists of a small
fort, a manager's house, a barracks, an office, and workshops,
plus a shed for storing timber and a windmill for grinding flour
[Fig. 3]. Here all garden vegetables grow well, and some fruit
trees have been planted. Experiments with grain cultivation have
not yet been very successful; the Company harvested $55\frac{3}{8}$ bush-
els of wheat and $48\frac{1}{2}$ bushels of barley in 1819 and $104\frac{1}{2}$ bush-
els of wheat and $8\frac{2}{3}$ bushels of barley in 1820. In addition, the
hunters have their own small fields and gardens.

Sailing ships are built at the settlement. Under [Ivan] Kus-
kov, who has managed the settlement from the beginning until
the present, there are up to 25 Russians and 100 Kodiak Aleuts.
This counter has 340,000 rubles of capital at its disposal. By
January 1 [12], 1821 its capital amounted to 215,369 rubles, 3

kopecks. The Aleuts were placed here to hunt sea otters but the
latter soon left the coast, so there is no hunting nearby. Some-
times parties are sent northward along the coast but few sea
otters are bagged.

Various livestock are kept at the settlement of Ross. By Janu-
ary 1 [12], 1821 there were:

cattle of various ages	134
sheep	670
pigs	150
horses	20

Districts of Ross Counter. One Russian and several Aleuts
from this counter have been placed on the Farallone Islands,
which lie near Cape Drake. They hunt sea lions and fur seals,
annually bagging up to 1,000 of each.

5. Northern Islands District. The islands of St. Paul and St.
George are administered by a special individual accountable to
the New Archangel Counter. With the manager there are 6 Rus-
sians on St. Paul and 3 on St. George. According to the enumera-
tion of 1820, the number of Aleuts from the Fox chain who have
been temporarily placed here amounted to 105 males and 110
females on St. Paul and 77 males and 88 females on St. George
for a total of 371 [*sic*: 380] on both islands. The output of hunt-
ing of sea animals was as follows:

	ST. PAUL	ST. GEORGE
fur seals	40,000	12,000
blue foxes	100	700
white foxes	100	200
walrus teeth	2,889 lbs.	1,083 lbs.
whalebone	3,611 lbs.	542 lbs.

On St. George Island up to 2,000 sea lions were bagged. All of
the above skins are forwarded to New Archangel Counter. The
Aleuts who hunt seals receive 20 kopecks from the Company for
each one and one animal out of every hundred for skinning them.
The Russians salt the seal meat. The Aleuts catch cod and kill sea
lions, as well as gather many eggs from sea birds, kill the birds,
and dry their meat. All of these items are food for the inhabitants
of the islands. Every year some grain, goods, and everything
needed for the upkeep of the people are sent here from New
Archangel Counter.

Apart from these settlements under the jurisdiction of the

governor of the colonies, there are also the following within the jurisdiction of the Okhotsk Counter:

1. Commander or Bering Island. This artel comprises about 10 Russians and Aleuts from Atka Island. They hunt sea otters, land otters, and Arctic foxes, which are sent to Atka to the local manager, who oversees the artel.

2. Andreanof Islands. The manager of this party lives on Atka Island with about 30 Russians. The settlement is located on Korovin Bay. There are up to 330 natives [Aleuts] of both sexes on the Andreanof Islands. Throughout the islands they hunt sea otters, fur seals, and foxes of various kinds, which are sent to Okhotsk on a single ship. Sufficient cattle and poultry are reared on these islands.

WILFRED BROWN

Letter to the Editor

Taiwan, Rep. of China
March 11, 1976

Editor,
Oregon Historical Quarterly
Portland, Oregon

AS A NATIVE OREGONIAN who has had quite a bit to do with sheep, I much enjoyed the first installment of Leonard's "A Boyhood with Sheep on the Oregon Desert" in the December *Quarterly*, which arrived via a slow boat to China just a few days ago.

We always had "bummer" lambs, but I think there is a typographical error on page 356 which very likely has already been pointed out, and that the 2,000 head of ewes on a feed lot at Reno were "gummers" not "bummers."

At least that was what we called them. The term of course refers to the fact that the teeth of these elderly creatures had deteriorated to the extent that they could not graze or browse adequately, and ate mostly on their gums.

When I was 14, growing up at Camas Valley, my father permitted me to buy a small bunch of "gummers" at \$2.50 each. As I recall I fed them a little chopped grain to help them through the winter. All but one had fine lambs, though I don't believe there were any twins, and I got a pretty good wool clip the next spring. And, prices being somewhat up, I sold my "gummers" to a traveling buyer the next fall at \$4.00 each, and thought I did pretty well on the deal.

I understand that in recent years the Campbell Soup Company and the Gerber Baby Food Company have been principal purchasers of "gummers" for their final stops.

Sincerely,
W. B.