

# Russian Explorers of North America

# Russian Exploration

- Tsar Peter the Great
  - Ruled Russia from 1689-1725
  - Known for expanding the Russian Empire and creating a major European power
  - By 1725 had conquered lands from Baltic Sea to Pacific Ocean, and, from the Arctic Ocean to India and China



## ST9 RUSSIA 1725



- Peter the Great's Goal= find out if Asia and North America were separate continents

# Russian Exploration cont.

- 1725 Vitus Bering (Danish, but joined Russia's Navy) was commissioned to sail from Kamchatka
- Sailed through "Bering" Strait and into the Chuckchi Sea
- This voyage took 5 years!



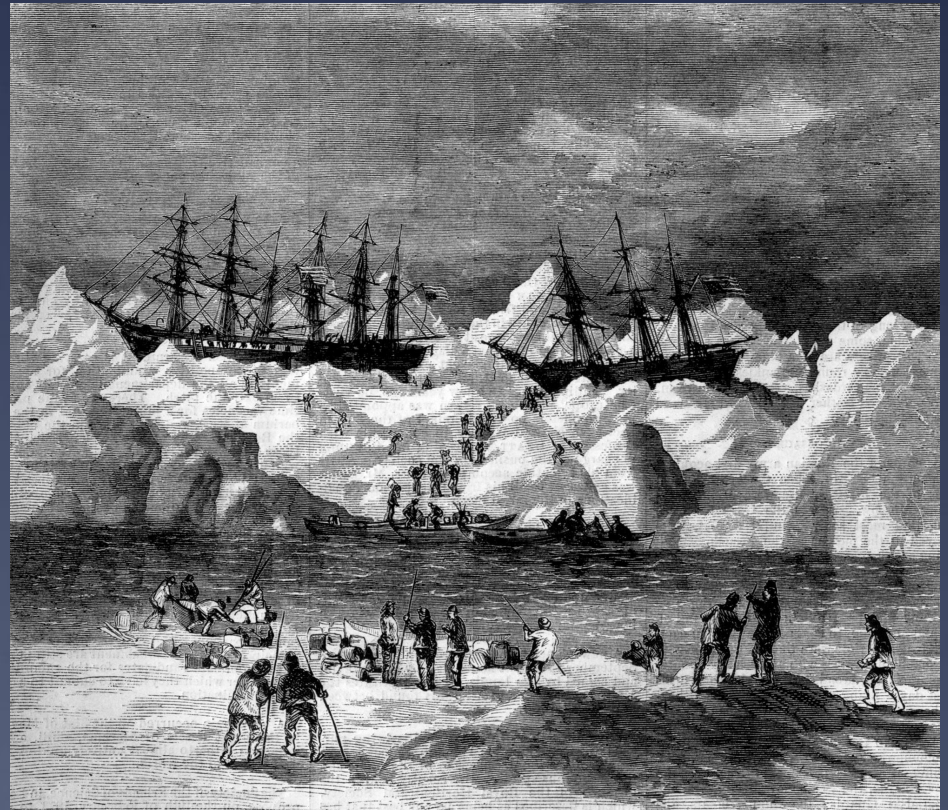


# Alaska is Discovered!

□ “Officially discovered” in 1741



□ It is almost one fifth of the territory of the United States



ABANDONING THE BARKS "GEORGE," "GAYHEAD," AND "CONCORDIA" IN THE ICE OFF POINT BELCHER, SEPTEMBER 14, 1871.

# Impact of Exploration

- Fur hunters rushed to Alaska in 1743
  - Furs in demand in China
- 1741-1867 Russia completed over 60 voyages to “Russian America”
  - Recorded geography, data about Natives, animals and plants, climate, resources, ebb and flow of ice pack
  - Hunted furbearers

# Russian Empire 1866

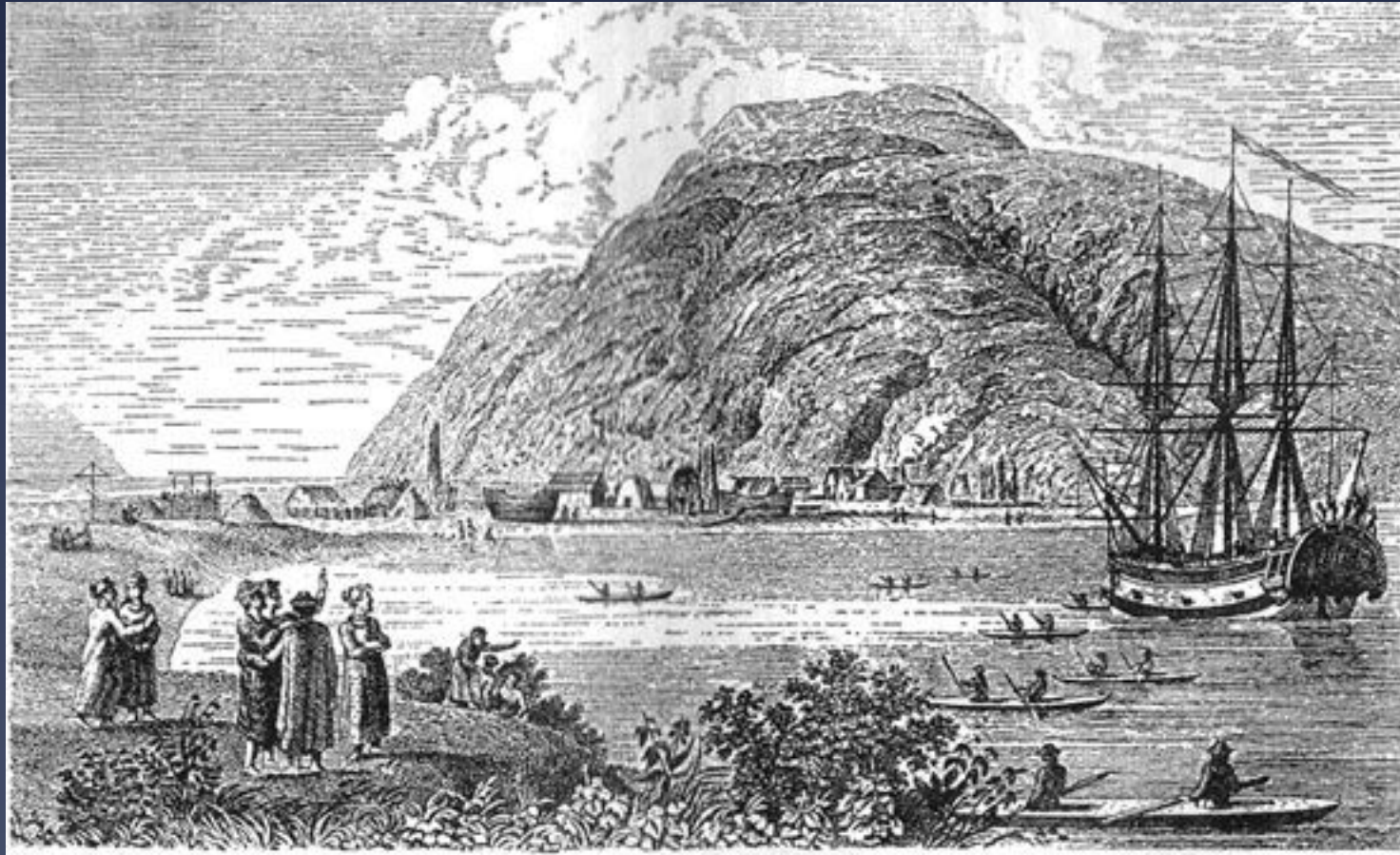




# Three Saints Bay

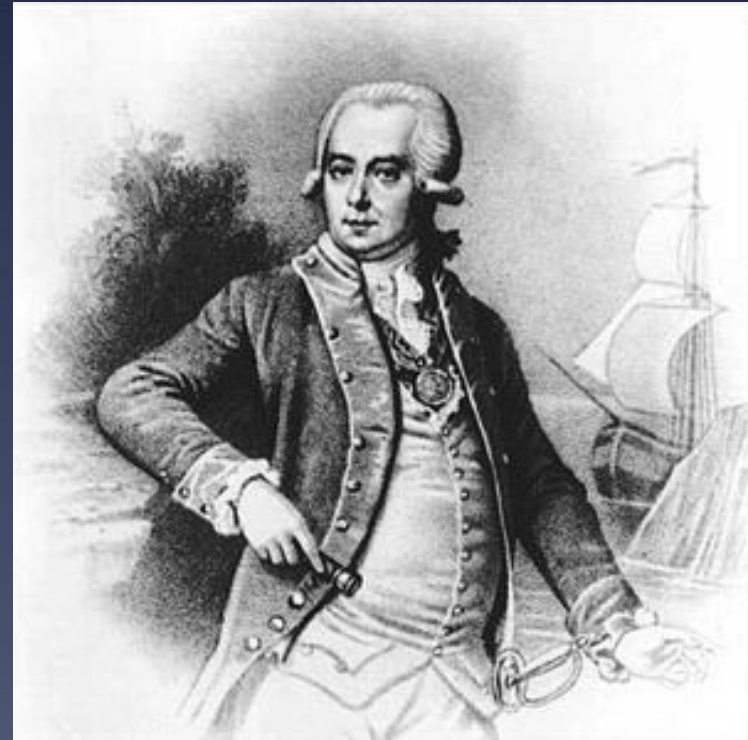
- The settlement was founded in 1784 by Grigory Shelikhov, but the main settlement was moved to now the city of Kodiak, in 1792.
- The Three Saints Bay Site was declared a National Historic Landmark in 1978.

# Three Saints Bay



# Russian Settlements

- Shelikhov established posts in 1780s
- Kodiak and Sitka were Alaska's first towns, Sitka later is colonial capital
- Later, the Russian American Company ran all of the posts
- In 1799 there were 225 Russians in Alaska, in 1839 there were over 800 Russians in Alaska



Grigory Shelikhov

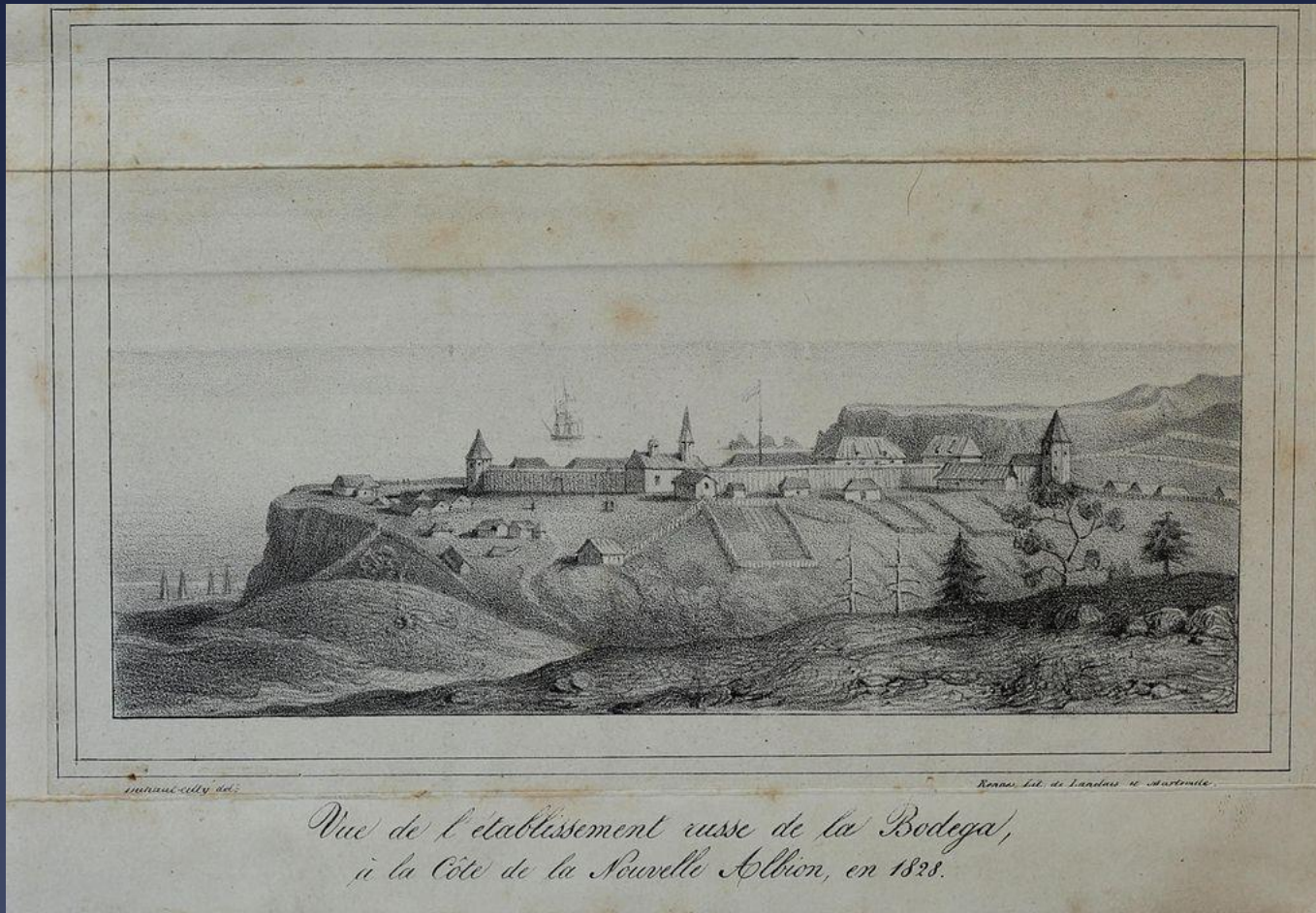
# Russian Settlements

- 1790 - Alexander Baranov became the first governor of “Russian America”
- Served until 1818
- Founded Pavlovskaya (Kodiak) and later New Archangel (Sitka)



Alexander Baranov

# A view of Fort Ross in 1828



- Established in 1812
- 1818 - a population of 128, consisting of 26 Russians and of 102 Native Americans.
- Maintained until 1841

# DECLINE

- Depletion of the population of bears, wolves, and foxes on land
- Russians sold Fort Ross in 1842,
- Russians sold in Alaska in 1867