

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!



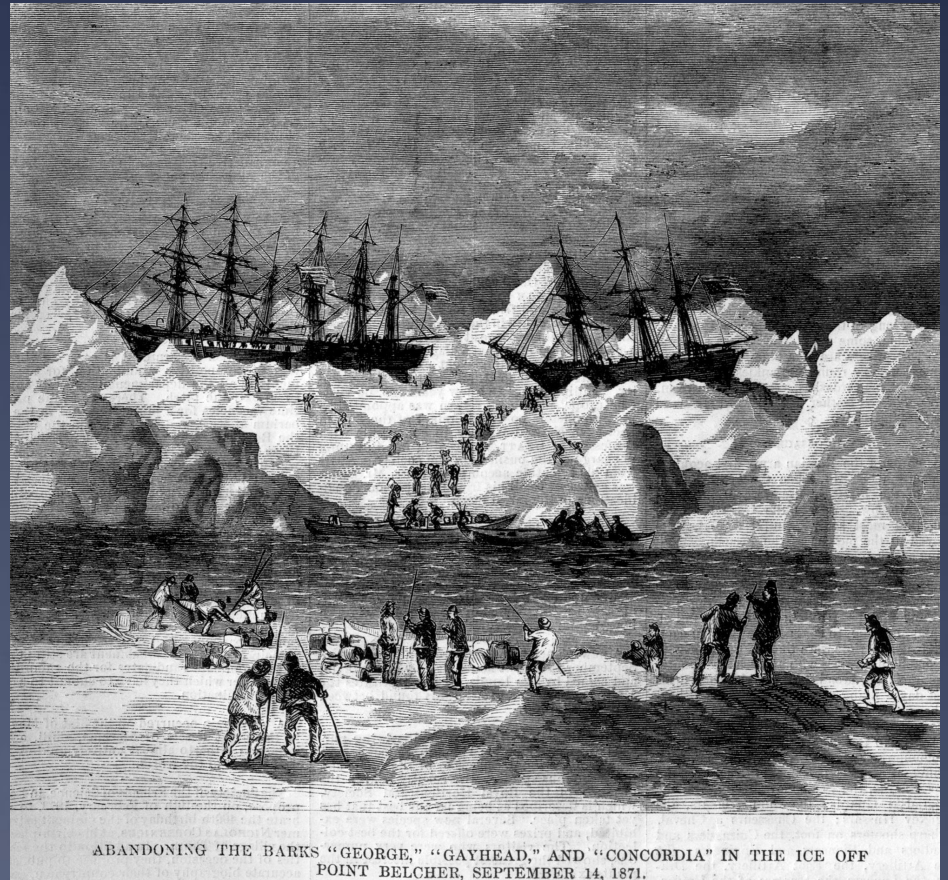


Alaska is Discovered!

- “Officially discovered” in 1741



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



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

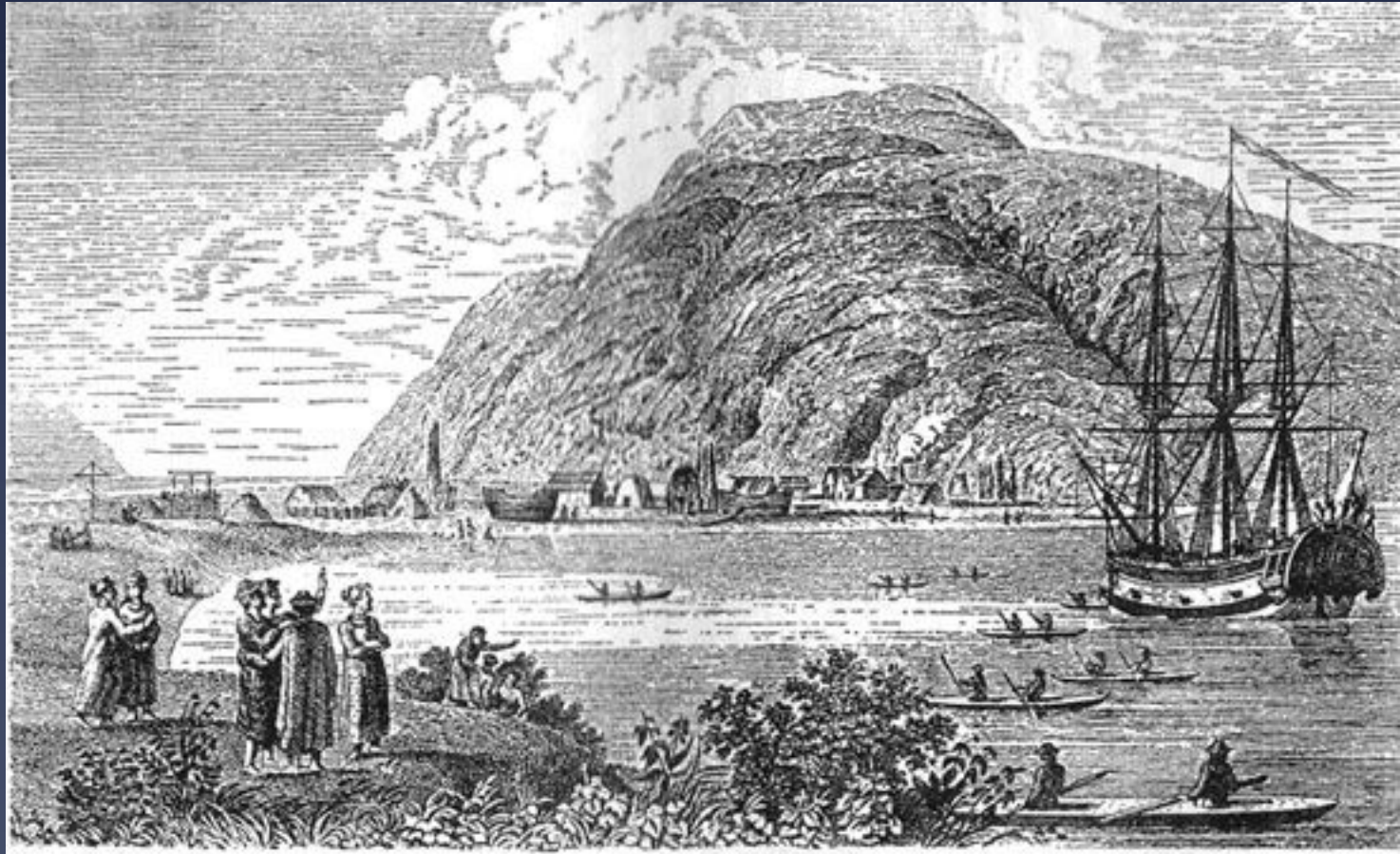
Russian Empire 1866



Three Saints Bay

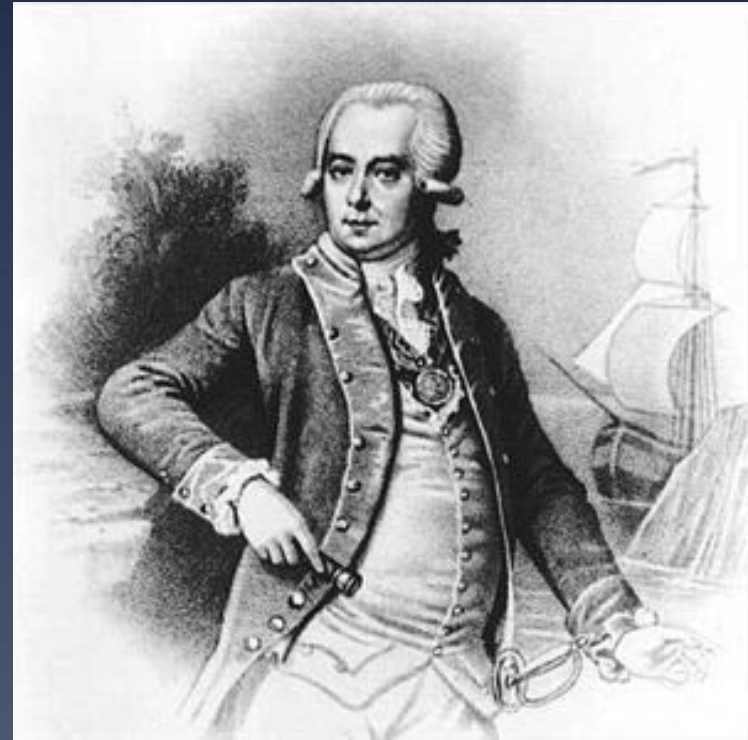
- The settlement was founded in 1784 by Grigory Shelikhov, but the main settlement was moved to now the city of Kodiak, in 1792.
- The Three Saints Bay Site was declared a National Historic Landmark in 1978.

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

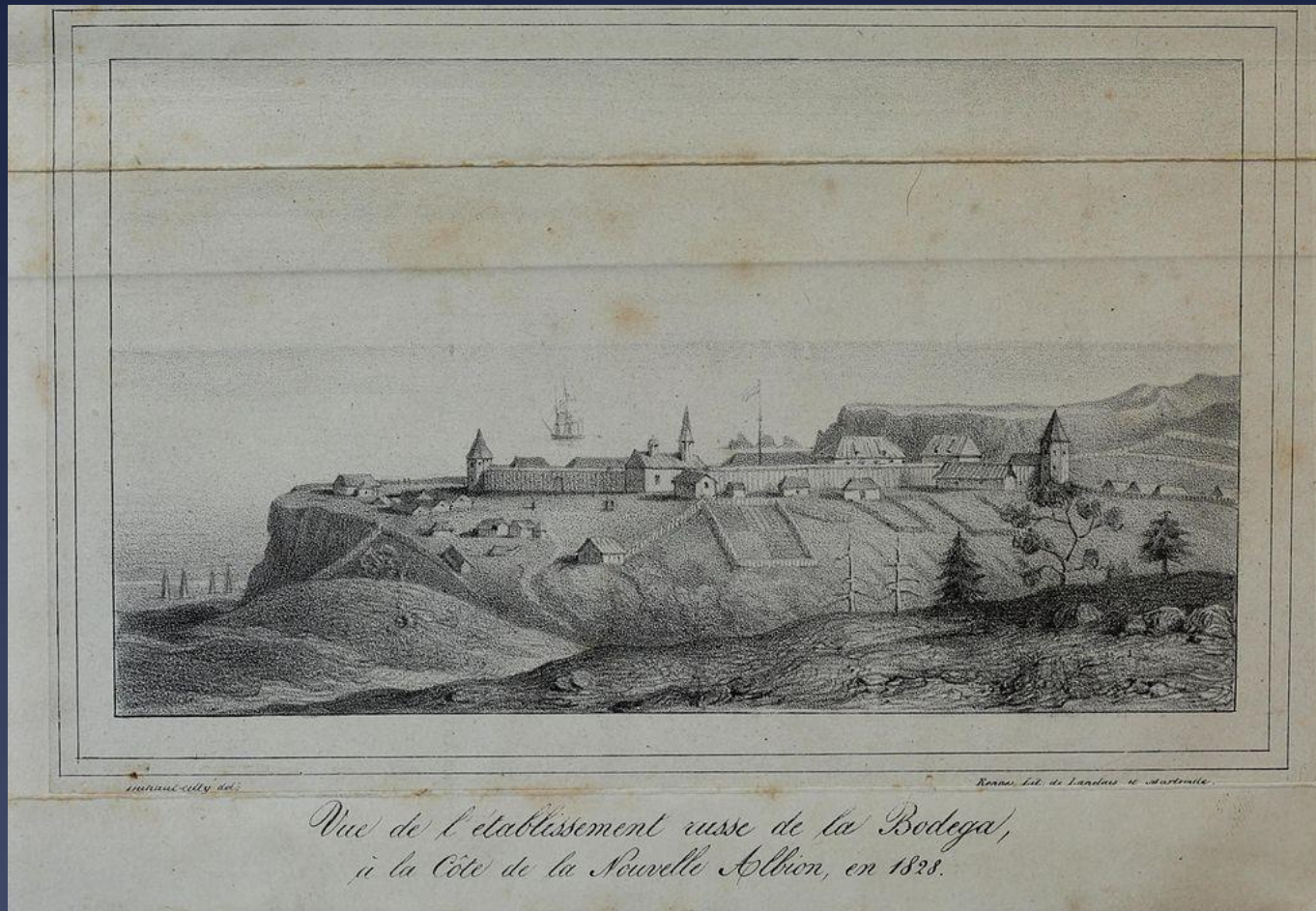
Russian Settlements

- 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