

MS 4/
Box 1B
9-a

Kashevaroff, Andrew Petrovich

Correspondence between Father Kashevaroff and Archie Shiels regarding biography of L. A. Zagoskin and treatment of Aleuts by the Spanish at Fort Ross, California around 1814.

9) typewritten.

1. 11-10-34 from Archie W. Shiels, South Bellingham, Washington, enclosing Lt. Yanofsky's report of the Russians in California.
2. 24-10-34 from Kashevaroff to Shiels.
3. 5-9-35 from Shiels, with information about Zagoskin.
4. 21-9-35 from R. N. Waring to Kashevaroff.
5. 21-10-35 from Kashevaroff to Shiels.

MS 4/
Box 13
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PACIFIC AMERICAN FISHERIES, INC.

PACKERS OF CANNED SALMON - PUGET SOUND AND ALASKA

SOUTH BELLINGHAM, WASHINGTON

October 11, 1934.



Father A. P. Kashevaroff,

P O Box 1373,
Juneau, Alaska.

Dear Kashevaroff:

What can you tell me about the attached extract from the story of the Russian settlement at Ross? Have you ever seen the full story going into all of the details, or do you know where we could get it? You will notice that this article says the details are so harrowing that they do not care to put it in this report. I would like to see the complete report and would certainly appreciate it if you would advise me to whom we might write or try to get it from.

Kind personal regards,

Yours sincerely,

AWS:MPM

MS 149
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(In the library of the Russian Mission at Sitka, Alaska, we came across a very interesting account of the Russians in California; and in it we saw the following story. We produce it as it appears in the account of Lieutenant Yanofsky's report)

A MARTYR FOR ORTHODOXY
ALEUT PETER.

The Russian possessions in Alaska and the Aleutian Island could never have been self supporting, so the Russian American Company was obliged to procure provisions and other necessary articles from Russia, from Siberia, from California and even South America.

To avoid this, inconvenience, the Company at last founded a colony at Fort Ross, not far from San Francisco, where the climate was suitable for farming and for cattle raising. This post was to produce enough food stuff to sustain the colonies in the far North. To do the work a number of Russians and Aleuts were sent there from the Northern possessions.

This new Russian colony situated so near the boundary line of California, then in possession of Spain, raised a suspicion in the minds of the Spanish Government as to the intention of the Russian American Company. Fearing that the Russians intended eventually to take possession of San Francisco, the Spanish Government demanded that the Russians abandon their settlement at Fort Ross, going so far as to put all obstacles in the way of the progress of the work. This went along so far that in 1815, or three years after the foundation of the colony, the Spaniards arrested several scores of Russians and Aleuts. Some of these people were kept in San Francisco and some were sent to other places for detention. They were all made to do work for the Spaniards, and the treatment accorded them was not gentle.

Amongst others there were 14 Aleuts, members of the Orthodox Church. These were put in jail at San Francisco. By some act of providence the poor Aleuts fell into the hands of the Jesuits. These Jesuits Fathers offered the Aleuts a chance to change their religion and become the member of the Roman-Catholic Church. The Aleuts rejected this offer declaring that they were already christians and in support of their statement showed them their crosses which they wore upon their necks. Simple minded and as children in soul, they imagined that through the evidence of the holy cross their uninvited enlighteners would bring no more argument - they thought that the only question was as to their belief in Christ. The question was not of the belief in christianity but of the old historical hate of Rome for all Orthodox believers, - the historical love for the aspiration of supremacy, "to rule all and in all". "You are heretics, schismatics" said the Jesuits when the cross was shown them and insisted that the Aleuts become the adherents to the Pope.

The Aleuts were just as firm in their conviction and did not yield to persuasions. Then the Jesuit missionaries passed on to menace and threatened that they will torment them if they did not give up their religion. Then the prisoners were locked up in the jail, two in a room, with the admonition to "think well" over the matter.

In the evening a whole procession of Jesuit Fathers came into one of the rooms, bearing lanterns and candles, and the threat was put into execution. Once again the Orthodox Aleuts were invited to embrace Romanism, and once more the Aleuts, being sustained by the grace of God, firmly declared that they will not change their faith, and then - that which for years remained as the unblotable bloody stain upon the Roman history - the inquisitorial tortures were applied to the poor Aleuts, that inquisition which the Roman Church from early times introduced into their missionary practice and in which rivers of human blood was spilt.

The details in the original are so harrowing that we spare the reader the full description. However, the Aleuts remained steadfast and true to their faith. One of them died from the effects of the persuasion.

On the next morning the missionaries were ready to continue the tortures upon the rest of the prisoners, but God was merciful to His true servants. The same night an order from Monterey, the capital city, arrived, commanding that all prisoners, Russians as well as Aleuts, be sent to the capital, so the next morning all who remained were sent under a strong guard from San Francisco to Monterey.

The above, to the shame of Rome, was made public by one of the companions of the martyred one, an Aleut, who was able after some time to make his escape from captivity. From his statement made to Kuskoff, the manager of the settlement of Fort Ross, the latter wrote a full account of it to St. Petersburg. And also the chief director of the Russian American Company, lieutenant S. Yanofsky, told this story to Herman, the monk missionary at Kodiak.

It is worthy of note, that when Lieutenant Yanofsky was telling this to Father Herman, the old missionary asked him, what was the name of the tortured Aleut? Yanofsky said that his first name was Peter, but that he could not recall his second name. Father Herman turned toward the holy Icon, and making the sign of the cross, with deep reverence said: "Pray for us, Peter, thou new holy martyr".

October 24, 1934

Mr. Archie W. Shiels,
South Bellingham, Wash.

Dear Mr. Shiels:

Answering your query about Lieut. Simeon Ivanovich Janovskys Report on the story of "A Martyr for Orthodoxy-Aleut Peter", also had I ever seen the full story with all the harrowing details etc. This appears in the book called: "The 100th Jubilee of the Orthodox Faith in America, 1794-1894", edited by Valaam Monastery, - St. Petersburg, - 1894.

This particular volume of 292 pages goes into details of the activities and services of the first Missionaries in Alaska and particularly into the life of Father Herman. On page 61 this story appears in a conversation between Lieut. Yanovsky and Father Herman, and then on page 143 of the appendix No.3 in a letter written by Lieut Yanovsky to Abbot Hamaskin of the Valaam Monastery of the Valaam Monastery, dated Nov. 22, 1865. In this letter Lieut Yanovsky eulogizes Father Haerman for his piety, sincerity and holy life and then recites this story as told by him to the Father. In both instances the harrowing details of the torture are recited, thus:

" They, (the Jesuits) tortured one of them and the other was the witness. First they cut off one joint of each finger on the hands, then the second joint, - he endured the suffering, always repeating: ' I am a christian. Then they chopped off the balls of the feet and finally finally the wrists of the hands, - the blood flowed. He endured all to the end with unflinching faith and died from loss of blood."

The rest of your paper is as in the original. However, the writer of the article you sent incorporated his own opinion of the Roman church to suit his fancy.

The other question - " Where I could get a complete report" I dont know. You can try Libreria, Otto Lange, Firenze, Via Ferdinando Ciolini, 15. Italy.

With the hope that this will meet with your desire and with best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours

Curator



PACIFIC AMERICAN FISHERIES, INC.

PACKERS OF CANNED SALMON - PUGET SOUND AND ALASKA

SOUTH BELLINGHAM, WASHINGTON

September 5, 1935.

Rev. A. P. Kashevaroff,

Curator, Library & Museum,
Box 1373,
Juneau, Alaska.

Dear Father Kashevaroff:

Arrived home yesterday and in accordance with my promise to you I am sending you the dope that Mr. Hubbell got from Washington on our friend Zagoskin, from which you will learn that his full name was Lawrence Alexis. I have not had time yet to look up the question of the early Russian documents but will do so in the near future and advise you. I did talk to the Governor, as promised. I am afraid there is not much doing.

With kind personal regards,

Yours sincerely,

(ARCHIE W. SHIELS)

AWS:MPM
Enc.

LAWRENCE ALEXIS ZAGOSKIN, 1807 - 1859.

He was descended from an old noble family; reared and educated in a naval academy. May 17, 1823, was given the rank of marine guard. In 1826 he sailed to the coast of England on the Frigate Provornie and after this journey was made a midshipman. He was later transferred to the port of Astrakhan, where he served for five years in the Caspian fleet. After this he was made adjutant to the commander of the Port, and soon after was promoted to lieutenant.

From 1833 to 1835 he commanded the Araks, which was destroyed by fire in 1835. In consequence of this, he was tried and reduced to the rank of a common sailor; his title of nobility however was not taken from him.

The finding of the court was confirmed by his Imperial Majesty, the Czar. In a short time he was restored to his former rank in the navy.

On April 6th, of the same year, he was sent to Cronstadt, where he served more than three years.

8 In 1839 he took service with the Russian American Company and made a voyage from Okhotsk to New Archangel, commanding the Brig Baikal and the ship Elena. He supervised the shore expeditions that explored the rivers Bukland and Kvikpak and the coast of that part of North America from Fort Michael.

In 1847 he was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Commander, and in 1848 was removed from the service.

After that he remained in retirement until his death in the State of Riazan.

His reports are printed in the records of the Hydrographic Department under the head "Fort St. Michael in the Southern Part of the Bay of Neptone". They also appear in a separate issue under the title "Explorations on foot 1842 to 1844 of the Russian Possessions in America". Further, in the Journal "Son of the Fatherland" for the year 1836 is to be found his "Recollections of Caspie". Also in the book "Old Russia" for December, he writes of the Naval Academy 1822 to 1826 - defends the honor of that Institution with its traditions. These Memoirs consist of unimportant episodes but shows the high character of the Institution and of the author as well. In these writings he discusses the rules and regulations and the whole scheme of life in this little nook, with its patriarchal manners and customs before the abolition of selfdom. He cherishes all these memories. To him they are sacred.

REFERENCES:

Russian Book of Genealogy by Count A.B.Lobanof-Rostofsky

Book of Genealogy of Dukes and Courtiers, published
by Novikof

Genealogy of Members of the Imperial Court of the
State of Tver, by M. Cherniavsky

General Naval Census part 10, page 156, published in 1898.

Russian Encyclopedic-Dictionary by Berezin.

Encyclopedic-Dictionary by Granata.

36 Church Street,
Manasquan, New Jersey,
September 21, 1935.

Mr. A. P. Kashevaroff,
Librarian and Curator, Alaska Historical
Library and Museum, Juneau, Alaska.

My dear Mr. Kashevaroff:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your welcome letter of August 30, and to express my thanks for the trouble you took to search through available Russian and English books in your library in an effort to ascertain the full name of lieutenant Zagoskin, who in 1842 discovered the Yukon River.

Following up your suggestion as to possibility of old Russian archives at Sitka having been taken to Washington, D. C., I interested the National Geographic Society in the subject, and through them now learn that the discoverer's full name was Laurenti Alexief Zagoskin, who made his exploration under a commission from the Russian American Company. Of this exploration he published an account, in Russian, in two volumes, at St. Petersburg, 1847-1848. An account of it, and also an extract from Zagoskin's diary, accompanied by a map, was published by S. I. Zelanie in the Journal of the Russian Geographic Society, 1849, Vol. i, pp. 211-266. See also Bulletin No. 299 of the United States Geological Survey, under "Geographic Dictionary of Alaska," page 76.

A copy of this communication has been forwarded to Hon. John W. Troy, Governor of Alaska, in order that he may be apprised of your very kindly interest in connection with my communication of August 12, referred by him to you.

Cordially yours,

R. N. Waring
(R. N. Waring)

October 21, 1935

Mr. Archie W. Shiels,
South Bellingham
Wash.

My dear Mr. Shiels:

After returning from my vacation trip to Kodiak I found your letter with the biography of Lieutenant Zagoskin, which I am very glad to get. At the same time I received a letter from R.N. Waring of Manasquan, New Jersey giving me the full name of Lieut Zagaskin. He found the information through the National Geographic Society.

Many thanks for your courtesy in getting me the biography.

With kindest wishes to Mrs. Shiels and you, I am

Very sincerely yours

Curator