

REV. A. P. KASHEVAROFF
JUNEAU, ALASKA

April 12, 1934

Dearest Mary:

In two days you will have a name Day- the 14, which is the first in our calendar and the feast day of St. Mary of Egypt. My great desire was to send you two pots of Easter Lillies. Upon due reflection I find it not so good as you do not come to Sitka so very often, and I am afraid that before you get the lillies they will fade. So instead of the lillies I am enclosing something that will be more useful. My greetings to you -"S Angelom"- May you have many happy returns of the day.

I hope you liked the Kulich that I built. We liked it very much ourselves. We had Peter Victors knead it for us.

We spent the Russian Easter gloriously. I was very happy on that day. Everything went off as if by magic. The services in the church passed off very smoothly and wonderfully. Great crowd of people and the singing was quite good. Not a hitch anywhere. Well, I worked hard enough with the choir. During the day I made a number of visits and in the evening Legia and I went to Tulintsev's where there were about 40 guests. It was very wonderful party. Everybody seemed to act natural. There was the usual fine lunch, and then all began to sing all kinds of songs. First we, Russians, sang the easter songs and then the American people began singing their own songs. There was also dancing and all kinds of pleasant fun. It was really the best party I saw at Tulintsev's. I came home shortly after two o'clock while Legia, Helen Smith and few other young women remained till after three. I don't remember when I enjoyed myself so thoroughly as I did at this party. Every^{one} was so friendly and at ease. there was no stiff-ness at any time. I think the party was such a success because they had no hard liquor there. Just wine and later a little liqueur.

Did Jack hear from the Guggenheim foundation? and what was the verdict? O, I do hope he was successful. They turned Lavrischeff down.

Very shortly Natasha will have her first birthday. Will you send the Bank book here once more? Perhaps something might be added to the fund.

Well, Ritch has published his first number of the Arrowhead. I hope he will be successful with this venture. Though I doubt it very much. There is so much work with the darn thing and very little pay. He ought stick to his own kind of work. Newspapers in Sitka were never a success. I had a little misunderstanding with the Bishop about a young man I recommended to him. He seems to resent this, the darn fool. This young man is the son of Father Donskoy. A nice fellow, with a good church voice and knows how to sing all the church songs. What there was to be offended at I cant see. Well he can go where all the fools go, as far as I am concerned.

Nadja will get her compensation very soon and the two girls will be home very soon. Everybody well. How did you like my picture in the Alaska Steamship Co.'s folder?

Much love to you all and many hugs to Natasha

Father

REV. A. P. KASHEVAROFF
JUNEAU, ALASKA

Jann. 7, 1937

Dearest Mary:

Notice the date. This is Russian Christmas and I am back here for the afternoon. Mrs. White is on her vacation. I had Legia here this morning taking care of the Office. The services last night came off quite well as also this morning. There was a big attendance at both services. On account of the Estebeth being late I almost had a nervous spell. I ordered some greens from Sitka and they did not come until the morning of the 6th. However, the choir girls and men got busy and they had the church decorated before the evening service. Everything went off pretty well.

I dont feel like working but I have to stay here. I am sorry the Northland came in late at night and I did not have a chance to see the Pickens before they left. I wanted to see them very much. I am sorry that they are gone. They were such a fine pair. Now what can Henry Bahrt do as a marshal? I dont see where Henry gets the pull.

Steve did not do any high class salemanship with me. He never does. I generally pick out what I want and let it go at that. You said the coat would cost about ten dollars and so I sent what you wanted. Thats all there is to that.

Our house looks like any ordinary day. I dont like this very much but dont say anything. Nadja has been acting quite snippy lately and so I dont say anything. She barely talks to me. I am getting quite fed up with all this. I suppose she thinks I ought to be more polite to her boy friend. Well, I simply cant stand him and so do not pay any attention to him. I can wait until I am ready to go for good. I am saving up religiously and will have a little mony when I leave Juneau.

After service to day I took the choir down to the Government hospital, as is our regular custom on Christmas and Easter Sunday. The big girls in the tubercular ward were quite overcome as most of them were crying. The nurses were pleased so much that they asked me to sing more. One of them said that I had the best choir in Juneau. I suppose the best trained choir. I work hard enough with it. I have two practises each week and drill them on certain things. So when I am leading the choir myself the singing is good. It is not so good when one of the men is leading.

Sorry about Natasha's wagon. It should have been in Sitka on the 22nd. I hope you will eventually get it.

Much joy and happiness to you all for the NewYear and much blessing. With love to all

Father

Rev. A. P. Kashevaroff

P.O. Box 1373

JUNEAU, ALASKA

February 28, 1938

Dearest Mary:

Just received your letter and of course was very glad to hear from you. I did not get the picture of the Vinokouroff grave, which I am waiting for very patiently. Now I have another request, which is not for me. This party can pay well. I want to get a picture of the old U.S.S. Ship Jamestown. Peter Kostrometinoff has two oil paintings of it. I would like Jack to see him and get him to let you take a photograph of the painting. I am writing to him so he will know. He was kind of jealous of the picture. You must tell him that the picture I want is not for commercial purposes but simply for our files and for scientific reason and history.

You are right I was very busy. I explained this in my last letter. I was also under the weather with the pain in my rib. I am much better now but I still feel the pain so often. I think I must have cracked it. If I did not I should have had it mended long ago.

I understand what you are up against with the frozen water. In the early days we had this experience. I wonder if you remember it? I used to go to the Indian River with a dog and bring a keg-ful every day. For washing we used the water from the well by Bolshanin's house. I think you must remember this well. We used to carry water from there every day. Perhaps you remember when Mrs. Fagg's child was drowned in it. Do you recollect the circumstances of this accident? It seems this little fellow only 3 years old was playing in front of the Bolshanin house and then wondered down to the well, which was just a barrel stuck into the ground. He must have fallen in head first and was drowned before any one came around.

This year in spite of the very long cold weather the main did not freeze. There was about three or four inches of snow on the ground. Then came the rain and now we are having the most beautiful warm weather. The temperature went to 57 yesterday and that beats all the previous records for a high temperature in February. It must be very beautiful now at Sitka.

Why are you afraid that there will be ^{no} tourists this ^{year}? We hear that there will be more than ever. The steamship companies are putting extra boats on the run. We think there will be a big number of tourists this summer.

I sent you Xenia's letter. I did not have any word from Tal for a long time. I don't suppose they are doing so well in California. Much love to you all. I may come in March.

Father

Rev. A. P. Kashevaroff

P.O. Box 1373
JUNEAU, ALASKA

April 11, 1938

Dearest Mary:

Many thanks for looking over the manuscript for me. I think it covers enough data to make a good description of the church and with the beautiful photographs that Jack made it will be very attractive. It ought sell well, provided, of course, they get a sensible person to sell them. You must impress Nick that they cant permit that dumb girl who stands by the door with Julia to handle them. Get some who has a little sense.

Also many thaks for the inscription on the icon by St. Michaels Icon. I want the other one under the ivory icon. I think the person who donated the icon was Chernikh and his family. I particularly want the dates. Please send them at once as the printer has the copy now. Perhaps you will be able to send them by the return Northland or the Estebeth.

We are making great improvement in the house: New wall paper, painting the wood work, New floor, and new cupboards in the kitchen. Everything is upset in the house. We hope to have it finished for Russian Easter.

Your name's day will be on the 1/14 of April, So I send my greetings to you:- C

Cr Anrenov!

Will try and make a visit in May, if I can get away. It is not so easy to get away now. But will try to manage it in May.

Much love to you all

Father

Rev. A. P. Kashevaroff

P.O. Box 1373

JUNEAU, ALASKA

April 27, 1938

Dearest Mary:

Now the easter services are over and I am beginning to come to my normal self gradually. Besides getting myself so very tired I contracted a cold which does not make me feel so peppy. Yesterday I felt so tired and rotten I had to go to bed. Today I am so much better that I came back to the office. However I still dont feel too well. You see I do too much during the last week of lent and I forget that I am not so young as I was some years back. I am sure that I cant go through the same thing next year. If it wasnt for the fact that I had the house re-papered and repainted inside with so many new things for the Kitchen I would leave for Sitka at once and take a rest. Another thing that stops me is the fact that Bishop Alezy is there and I certainly dont want to be bothered by him and old Zlobin. When I came for a rest I want rest, and not lot of empty talk and foolish examples of incompetency. I will try to get to Sitka in May when the Bishop will leave. I must get new strngth for the tourist season.

The easter services passed very nicely. I forgot to say that I had choir practises twice a week for four weeks. This also helped to get me tired. However, the singing was fine and not a break in the whole midnight services or the liturgy at ten in the morning. I dont have the two services combined as they do in Sitka. There was a large congregation both in the night service and in the morning.

I just wonder at myself when I think of the services ten or fifteen years back, when I had to do most of the singing and what I have now. I do no singing at all now, as the choir does the whole thing and with out a break or hesitation. Each mamber has a book compiled by myself and reads the services perfectly. Then I ask myself does it pay? I think so even if I get very tired doing all this. The consolation is so great that it repays me for the trouble.

How did you enjoy your easter? I suppose many still have open house. No one here does anything like this, except some of the slavonsians. I do not visit any of them. It means nothing to me. I dont want to eat and I certainly dont want to drink their terrible liquors. So I keep away. What they think of me I dont care.

The cuts for the booklet will amount to what I think is exhorbitant amount, but if we want a good booklet we must have the good cuts. Yet I think we can keep the price down to 50 or 60 cents.

Much love to all of you. Please write.

Father

REV. A. P. KASHEVAROFF
JUNEAU, ALASKA

March 16, 1937

Dear Jack:

I am sending some nice salt herring with Sam Hopkins for you and Mary. I hope you will get it safely.

I would suggest that you soak the whole for a day and half then bone and put them in oil. This will be the best way to preserve them. Putting them in brine does not work. Get a jar and cover the fish with sweet oil.

How about the prints?

Instead of ordering my paper and envelopes in Juneau I would like you to print the letter heads for me. Make them just about the same as this. If it is not too much trouble and the cost will not be high, will you make the name and address in raised letters like you did for the Christmas letter paper? ⁽⁵⁾ I would like 250 letter sheets and that many envelopes. Make the envelopes the same as I have.

The legislature cut my secretary out and gave me an assistant for ten months in the year. Which means I am to be bothered with Mrs. White for the next two years, This is Frank Boyles work. He did this to me. Why they insist that Mrs. White should have this job I cannot tell you. She certainly has the pull. It amounts to a fat pension for her.

Much love to all

Father

⊕ Use the best paper.

A.P.K.

Juneau, Alaska Feb. 29/36

Dear Justice:

I had your second letter some time, but owing to lack of time could not answer before this. I suppose you understand that during the end and the beginning of the year there is always so much to do to straighten out reports and various other things. I was particularly busy in editing a new descriptive booklet for the Museum: this took so long and required much study and research. Of course I could have gone on without consulting authorities, but as the Booklet goes all over United States and many places in Europe I could not take the chance of being criticized for certain statements. Besides I am supposed to be the authority on all native races in Alaska, their customs, traditions and beliefs. This alone made me take particular care about stating just the right thing. You understand that in the scientific world there is always some one who will check you up and tell you about it.

When the Booklet will be released I shall send a copy with my autograph.

My other work consists in answering letters received from scholars, scientists, teachers and other people wanting information on Alaskan history, ethnology and many other subjects. Then of course I have my regular work in the Museum and Library.

I was very glad to hear from you and get your picture. I did not get it until I mailed my answer. The second class mail does not come out until all the first Class mail has been distributed.

I am very pleased that you take such an interest in your education and I wish you all the luck in your endeavor to become somebody worth while. Our family is separated to a great extent.

Mary Calvin is in Sitka, Legia is in Carmel, Cali and Xenia is in Los Angeles. I have two daughters here: Nadja and Natalia.

Natalia is living with me, keeping the house for me and Nadja is working in one of the Government Offices and lives in an apartment.

I hope to hear from you again when you have the desire and the opportunity to write. I still did not hear from your Father and am waiting for a letter.

We had such a long spell of very frosty weather and today for the first time in a month it began to rain. And at that our temperature was much higher than in the middle States. They certainly had a terrible time of it in Illinois and all other middle States with temperature below zero. We had but one day when the temperature went a few degrees below zero. And then the people from the States imagine we live in snow and ice.

Wishing all success and with much love to you and brothers and sister, I am

Affectionately yours

A. P. Kashwaroff

REV. A. P. KASHEVAROFF
JUNEAU, ALASKA

Feb. 8, 1937

Dear Justice:

I was greatly ^{favoured} today to receive your letter. I was anxiously waiting for it, so that I could get the proper address for sending you the copy of the Museum Booklet. I wanted to send it for Christmas but did not dare until I was sure of the address.

Is your father still working for the P. O. department? He has not written to me for such a long time. I was expecting a letter for Christmas and was sorely disappointed. Will you tell him that I still expect a letter from him?

Now that the strike is over we will resume our normal shipment of commodities. It was rather hard not to get fresh vegetables and other things that we need so badly here.

The winter up to Feb. 1, was very fine, not too cold. On Feb 1 a regular Taku wind struck us. When I say regular, it means that it blew up to 75 miles. I think your father can tell you what our Taku wind means. Well this year the wind came down in such force that it did great damage to the city. So many roofs were damaged, large plate glass windows were blown in or out as the wind acted. Pretty near all the chimney or smoke stacks were blown down. Even gables were demolished. For about eight or nine years Juneau was free from these terrible winds, and all at once it paid for the all the years that it passed us by. The night this wind was having its regular act, I doubt if any one had slept. Every one expected their house to go sliding into the bay. I laid awake all night, I expected the whole roof to come off. However, the next few days the weather was something fine. There was lots of sunshine and the temperature was about 20 above. No wind and every thing was so nice calm and beautiful. Last night and to day the snow kept piling on. I believe 12 inches fell during the night.

I am sure you will succeed in your studies. Don't worry and keep on studying. I am sure you will get by.

Much love to all your brothers and sister.

Write again when you have time. Always glad to hear from you. Tell me what you think of the booklet. I want to say that the information in it is absolutely authentic. You can, if you want to, give your class a lecture on Alaskan subject taken from the Booklet and I know all the students and the professors will be greatly interested in the subject.

Affectionately yours

A. P. Kashwaroff

I have such a bad cold, I can hardly see.

Juneau, Alaska July 8, 1920

Mr. John W. Frame,
Grand Historian Pioneers of Alaska.

Dear Sir;

In the June issue of the "Pathfinder", in the article entitled "A few facts about Seward, Alaska", on page 2 there is a paragraph which reads as follows: "The name, Resurrection Bay, was conferred by the explorer Shelihoff in honor of the Easter morning upon which he first beheld the beauties of that marvelous sheet of water upon the shore of which the town of Seward is located. On its Western shore near the present government reserve, he built the ships Olga and Dolphin, the first ships constructed on the Alaskan coast". This sounds very beautiful and poetic but it is not founded on historical facts.

Gregory Shelihoff, a Russian merchant, first reached the shores of Kodiak Island on the ship "Three Saints" on August 3 1784. He remained at Kodiak until the 22 of May 1786 when he sailed back to Siberia. During his stay at Kodiak of almost two years duration he had never taken any trips for exploration or trade. He preferred to remain at the new established trading post which he named the Three Saints, personally supervising the construction of house and Barracks for his employees. In that period he had sent parties to the mainland for the establishment of trade with the natives of Cook inlet. At Kodiak he was on the most friendly relations with the aboriginal inhabitants of the Island. After his return he had never again visited the shores of Alaska. He died at Irkoutsk on July 20 1795.

In 1792 Alexander Baranoff, the new director of the Russian American Company, selected the harbor of Resurrection Bay, which means Sunday Bay from the Russian Word Voskresenie, for the construction of the first ship to be built in Alaska. In 1794 he employed an English shipwright, James Shields, who, under the personal supervision of Baranoff build the first ship "Phoenix". It was 73 feet long, 23 feet beam and 13½ feet deep. It had a displacement of 180 tons burden.

The two ships, Dolphin and Olga, that you mention in your article, were built in 1795 by the same Englishman on Spruce Island, near the present town of Kodiak. They were both about 40 feet long.

I hope you will some day make a correction of these facts in some issue of the "Pathfinder" so that the Pioneers and the general public may have the true history of the building of the first ship in Alaska.

Very truly yours,

A. P. Kashinoff

Curator Alaska Historical library
and museum