

THE RECORDS OF THE RUSSIAN-AMERICAN COMPANY AS A SOURCE FOR THE ETHNOHISTORY OF THE NUSHAGAK RIVER REGION, ALASKA

BY

WINSTON L. SARAFIAN AND JAMES W. VAN STONE

INTRODUCTION

The *Records of the Russian-American Company*, 1802-1867, particularly the correspondence of the governors general, merit the attention of anthropologists concerned with culture change among the Eskimos, Indians, and Aleuts of Alaska. These scarcely-used documents are the largest extant source of primary information on the Russian administration of Alaskan peoples as well as on the Russian-American Company, a fur-trading and hunting association chartered by the Russian government in 1799. By virtue of the provisions of its charter, the company governed Alaska's native population in the name of the tsar from 1799 until sale of the territory to the United States in 1867.

Written in nineteenth century Russian, the records were transferred to the United States government in accordance with the treaty of cession and are now in the National Archives. Copies are available on 77 microfilm reels, the contents of which are as follows: reels 1-25, letters received by the governors general, 1802-1866; reels 25-65, letters sent by the governors general, 1802-1867; reels 66-76, logs of company ships, 1850-1867; reel 77, journals of exploring expeditions, 1842-1864. Almost all of the records are legible, although the handwriting is sometimes difficult to decipher and a few pages are damaged or blotched with ink.

The Russian-American Company records have been used by historians, particularly economic historians concerned with company political and economic policies in the nineteenth century, but they are only beginning to be appreciated for the important anthropological information they contain. The

purpose of this paper is to indicate the ethnohistorical data on the Nushagak River region available in the records. It is hoped that this presentation will not only be useful for future anthropologists interested in southwestern Alaska, but also will serve to call attention to an important source and its potential value to northern specialists whose research is historically oriented and falls within those areas of Alaska administered by the Russian-American Company.

The Nushagak River, the main feature of the area under discussion, has its source in the Nushagak Hills and flows generally southward until it reaches tidewater at Nushagak Bay, one of the arms of Bristol Bay, the first great indentation of the coast line north of the Alaska Peninsula. The three major tributaries of the river, the Mulchatna, Nuyakuk, and Wood rivers drain the impressive array of Wood River and Tikchik lakes to the west, and the southern foothills of the Alaska Range to the east. The area has been occupied in historic times by a coastal population combining fishing with sea mammal hunting, and an interior population emphasizing fishing and land hunting with frequent trips to the coast, particularly during the summer months.

The Nushagak River area is particularly suitable for the study of nineteenth century culture change. The region was penetrated by the Russians early in that century, and the mouth of the river was the site of Aleksanrovskii Redoubt, the first Russian trading post north of the Alaska Peninsula. Constructed in 1818, this redoubt was the base from which the Russians explored the interior of southwestern Alaska and opened the area to the fur trade. The explorer Ivan F. Vasiliev and mixed-blood traders Fedor Kolmakov and Semen Lukin figured prominently in these explorations. A mission of the Russian Orthodox Church was established at Aleksandrovskii Redoubt in 1842 and thereafter a priest or other clergyman traveled extensively throughout the region visiting Eskimo villages and converting the inhabitants.

The activities of these agents of contact and their relations with the Eskimos are the subject of an ethnohistorical study by VanStone (1967) which draws heavily on information in the Russian-American Company records. The reader is referred to

this study for maps and details concerning the explorations and other activities mentioned in the citations listed below.

The company's treatment of mixed-blood and native employees has been detailed by Sarafian (1970). His study is largely based upon information gleaned from the records.

On the basis of his historical research, VanStone prepared an annotated ethnohistorical bibliography for the Nushagak River region (1968a), but it includes no references to the records which are the subject of this paper. The present compilation has been prepared to fill this gap.

The Russian-American Company records are particularly valuable for the specific details they provide about Russian activities in the Nushagak River region. For example, with reference to explorations, the broad outlines can usually be obtained from published sources (see particularly Zagoskin, 1967; Tikhmenev, 1939-40), but specific dates, routes and instructions are for the most part available only in the records. Similarly, with regard to mission activity, the records are particularly specific concerning relations between the mission and the company. This subject is touched on only briefly in the major published source on the Orthodox Church in the Nushagak area, the writings of Bishop Veniaminov (Barsukov, 1886-88; 1897-1901).

Perhaps the most important data in the records concern the mechanics of the fur trade. That is, the internal organization of the trading post, the manner in which decisions to expand activities were made, the way in which traders dealt with the Eskimos for furs, and relations between Eskimos and the post. Of peripheral, but related, interest is the extent to which the records reveal relationships between the general managers at Sitka and their subordinates at Aleksandrovskii Redoubt. Information on these subjects is virtually absent from published sources.

Other subjects on which useful information is provided by the records are the relations that existed between the Kiatagmiut and Aglegmiut, the two Eskimo groups occupying the Nushagak River region, and population movements in the area during the early historic period. This information is particularly important because the presence of a Russian post had more influence on contemporary settlement patterns there

than in most other parts of Alaska. There are also detailed references to epidemics and their effects on the population as well as specific comments concerning the introduction of certain material items to the people of the area. In this regard, the attitudes of the company toward the use of firearms and metal traps by the Eskimos is of particular interest.

As might be expected, the records of the Russian-American Company are not an ideal source. There are a number of unexplained omissions that frustrate and disappoint the research worker. The various communications, for example, often mention the inclusion of maps, journals, and lists of trade goods, but these are almost never present and apparently became separated from the main body of records some time prior to their transfer to the United States government.

An equally puzzling and frustrating situation concerns the virtual absence of information on the Nushagak River region in the Communications Received. The only documents in this section dealing with the area are from the Company's main office in St. Petersburg. Whatever may be the reason for this unfortunate situation, whether the relevant communications were never filed or were removed for some purpose and never returned, the absence of all letters from Fedor Kolmakov and other managers at Aleksandrovskii Redoubt to the general managers at Sitka means that virtually an entire dimension to our understanding of events at the post is missing.

Since nearly all the communications annotated below are from the general manager, the chief colonial official in Alaska, it is worthwhile to list the individuals who held this position and the dates of their tenures so that the reader will know who issued the orders and directives.

Aleksandr Baranov	1790 to 11 January 1818
Leontii Gagemeister	11 January 1818 to 24 October 1818
Semen Ianovskii (Acting General Manager)	24 October 1818 to 15 September 1820
Matvei Muraviev	15 September 1820 to 22 October 1825
Petr Chistiakov	22 October 1825 to 5 October 1830
Baron Ferdinand Wrangell	5 October 1830 to 29 October 1835

Ivan Kupreianov	29 October 1835 to 1 June 1840
Adolf Etolin	1 June 1840 to 6 July 1845
Mikhail Tebenkov	6 July 1845 to 14 October 1850
Nikolai Rozenberg	14 October 1850 to 31 March 1853
Aleksandr Rudakov	31 March 1853 to 22 April 1854
Stepan Voevodskii	22 April 1854 to 22 June 1859
Ivan Furugelm	22 June 1859 to 17 May 1864
Prince Dmitrii Maksutov	17 May 1864 to 18 October 1867

It will be noted that following the reduction of Alekandrovskaia Redoubt to an *odinochka* in 1846, the number of references in the records to the Nushagak River region diminishes rapidly. Thereafter, the center of economic activity in southwestern Alaska shifts to the Kuskokwim and Yukon Rivers with Kolmakovskii and Mikhailovskii redoubts taking the place of Aleksandrovskaia as important administrative and trading centers.

It is characteristic of the records that many communications contain repetitious information and an attempt has been made to eliminate many of these and to select a single course which presents any given data in the most detail. The following terms used in the annotations require some explanation:

baidarshchik the manager of a trading post; literally, the owner of a small skin boat.

odinochka a small trading post of less administrative significance than a redoubt; literally, a place where one man dwells.

prikashchik a clerk or minor administrative official in the employ of the Russian-American Company.

toyon or *toen* a Yakut term meaning tribal elder. Used by the Russian-American Company to refer to individuals in native villages who were

representatives of the company and were responsible for maintaining satisfactory trade relations.

All dates in the text are given according to the Julian calendar (old style) which was 12 days behind the western Gregorian calendar (new style) in the nineteenth century. Since Alaska is east of the International Date Line, old style dates in Alaska became 13 days behind new style dates.

ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY OF RUSSIAN-AMERICAN COMPANY RECORDS CONCERNING THE NUSHAGAK RIVER REGION

Records of the Russian-American Company, 1802-1866: Correspondence of the Governors General, Communications Received
(1) Vol. 2, no. 171, folios 174-77, March 15, 1821 — main office to General Manager Muraviev.

Aleksandrovskii Redoubt is not to be moved from its original location on the Nushagak River to the mouth of the Kuskokwim River.

(2) Vol. 4, no. 164, folios 52-53, March 5, 1824 — main office to General Manager Muraviev.

Muraviev is to instruct Fedor Kolmakov, the manager of Aleksandrovskii Redoubt, on how to deal with the outbreak of hostilities between the Aglegmiut, Kiatagmiut, and Kuskowagamiut living in the vicinity of Aleksandrovskii Redoubt.

(3) Vol. 6, no. 346, folios 101-104, April 13, 1828 — main office to General Manager Chistiakov.

Chistiakov is informed of the strategic reasons for establishing a settlement on the Kuskokwim River and about previous reports indicating that the Nushagak, Kuskokwim and Yukon rivers are rich in furs.

(4) Vol. 9, no. 284, folios 11-12, March 30, 1834 — main office to General Manager Wrangell.

In evaluating Wrangell's report of October, 1832, on activity at Aleksandrovskii Redoubt, the main office notes the advantages of maintaining friendly relations with the Aglegmiut

and advises him to ensure that Kolmakov keeps their good will by treating them kindly and honestly.

(5) *Vol. 13, no. 82, folio 82, April 9, 1840 – main office to General Manager Kupreianov.*

Refers to clerk Afanasii Klimovskii's vaccination of the inhabitants of Aleksandrovskii Redoubt against smallpox and his teaching them to vaccinate themselves.

Records of the Russian-American Company, 1802-1867: Correspondence of the Governors General, Communications Sent.

(1) *Vol. 1, no. 289, folios 138-40, December 5, 1818 – to the Kodiak office.*

A number of Aleuts and ten Russians are being sent for eventual settlement at Aleksandrovskii Redoubt.

(2) *Vol. 2, no. 60, folios 16-17, April 15, 1820 – to the main office.*

Fedor Kolmakov is appointed *baidarshchik* at "New-Aleksandrovskii," the proposed post on Hagemeister Island, because he won the friendship of the Aglegmiut and Kuskowagamiut and manages employees well.

(3) *Vol. 2, no. 19, folios 160-61, January 17, 1821 – to the main office.*

General Manager Muraviev reports his intention to move the newly established post at the mouth of the Nushagak River to Hagemeister Island, listing the advantages of this new location.

(4) *Vol. 2, no. 27, folios 169-72, January 18, 1821 – to the main office.*

An additional note concerning the proposed transfer of Aleksandrovskii Redoubt at the mouth of the Nushagak River to Hagemeister Island. The schooner *Baranov* commanded by A. K. Etolin is to assist this undertaking.

(5) *Vol. 2, no. 37, folios 109-111, April 27, 1821 – to the baidarshchik of Aleksandrovskii Redoubt, Fedor Kolmakov.*

Kolmakov is to go to Hagemesister Island to prepare for the establishment of the new post.

(6) *Vol. 2, no. 69, folio 216, May 3, 1821 — to Captain Etolin.*

Etolin is given orders concerning explorations in the Goodnews Bay area, collecting information about the Kuskowagamiut and meeting with V. S. Khromchenko, Captain of the *Golovnin*.

(7) *Vol. 3, no. 74, folios 13-14, April 11, 1822 — to Khromchenko.*

Khromchenko is to obtain a report from Kolmakov about Hagemeister Island and determine the advisability of his remaining there.

(8) *Vol. 3, no. 164, folios 269-71, May 4, 1823 — to the main office.*

Reports the movements of people in the Nushagak River region resulting from Aglegmiut warfare with the Kuskowagmiut and Kiatagmiut and the Aglegmiut settlement of the region around Aleksandrovskii Redoubt.

(9) *Vol. 3, no. 223, folios 309-310, May 18, 1823 — to the manager of New-Aleksandrovskii Redoubt, Fedor Kolmakov.*

Kolmakov is to reconcile the Aglegmiut with their enemies, the Kiatagmiut and Kuskowagamiut and persuade the Aglegmiut to hunt fur seal for the company on the Pribilof Islands.

(10) *Vol. 6, no. 114, folios 81-82, May 5, 1828 — to the main office.*

Four thousand furs are ready for shipment from Aleksandrovskii Redoubt in February, 1828.

(11) *Vol. 6, no. 243, folios 476-78, September 25, 1829 — to the manager of Aleksandrovskii Redoubt, Kolmakov.*

I. F. Vasiliev is to be provided with reliable guides so that his second attempt to penetrate the interior of southwestern Alaska by way of the upper Nushagak River will be more successful than his first attempt in the summer of 1829.

(12) *Vol. 6, no. 244, folios 478-82, September 25, 1829 — to Ensign I. F. Vasiliev.*

Briefly describes Vasiliev's first expedition into the interior in the summer of 1829 during which he explored Tikchik Lake, Lake Chauekuktuli and probably visited the now abandoned village of Tikchik (see VanStone, 1968b).

(13) *Vol. 6, no. 245, folios 482-83, September 25, 1829 – to the manager of the Kodiak office, Nikiforov.*

The Kodiak manager is informed that Vasiliev intends to winter at Kodiak before attempting a second time to penetrate the interior of southwestern Alaska during the summer of 1830.

(14) *Vol. 7, no. 24, folios 12-13, March 11, 1830 – to Ensign Vasiliev.*

Vasiliev is to renew the exploration of the interior of Alaska in the summer of 1830.

(15) *Vol. 7, no. 112, folio 136, May 13, 1830 – to the manager of Aleksandrovskii Redoubt.*

Vasiliev is ordered to winter at Aleksandrovskii following his explorations undertaken in the summer of 1830.

(16) *Vol. 7, no. 141, folios 172-75, May 26, 1830 – to the main office.*

Reports the findings of Vasiliev's second expedition in the late summer of 1829 during which he ascended the Wood River and explored one or more of the Wood River Lakes.

(17) *Vol. 7, no. 229, folios 245-57, September 27, 1830 – to Ensign Vasiliev.*

The general manager congratulates Vasiliev on the completion of his third expedition during the summer of 1830 and gives him permission to return to Sitka because of ill health. A monetary reward for Semen Lukin, Vasiliev's interpreter, is approved.

(18) *Vol. 7, no. 257, folios 268-73, October 5, 1830 – to the main office.*

The general manager describes in detail Vasiliev's successful trip to the Kuskokwim River during the summer of 1830, includes short excerpts from the latter's diary, estimates the value of Vasiliev's explorations and suggests ways to bring the Eskimos of the interior within the sphere of influence of Aleksandrovskii Redoubt.

(19) *Vol. 8, no. 50, folios 28-29, February 17, 1831 – to the manager of Aleksandrovskii Redoubt, Kolmakov.*

The general manager commends Kolmakov for successfully establishing friendly relations with the Aglegmiut who live in the vicinity of the redoubt, noting that these people have been

mistreated by other tribes and are still somewhat suspicious of the Russians.

(20) *Vol. 8, no. 191, folios 139-41, April 30, 1831 — to the main office.*

General Manager Wrangell comments on Vasiliev's failure to reach the Yukon River but notes that the presence of many beavers and other fur bearing animals in the interior was proved by the expedition. With this in mind, Wrangell proposes to establish a redoubt on Stuart Island, near the mouth of the Yukon to provide better access to the interior than could be achieved by way of Aleksandrovsii Redoubt.

(21) *Vol. 8, no. 193, folios 141-42, April 30, 1831 — to the main office.*

The general manager points out the significance of the information obtained by Vasiliev for the future of the fur trade in southwestern Alaska and announces that a redoubt is being established on Stuart Island.

(22) *Vol. 8, no. 299, folios 230-31, May 7, 1831 — to Ensign Vasiliev.*

The general manager congratulates the explorer for his achievements, acknowledges receipt of his journal and maps, and lists the rewards for those who accompanied him.

(23) *Vol. 8, no. 321, folios 246-47, May 23, 1831 — to the manager of Aleksandrovsii Redoubt, Kolmakovs,*

Kolmakov is officially informed of the death of his son, Ivan, who drowned while en route from Kodiak to Aleksandrovsii in February, 1831. The general manager refuses Kolmakov's request that his oldest son, Petr, be transferred to the Kodiak office as a bookkeeper.

(24) *Vol. 8, no. 322, folio 247, May 23, 1831 — to the manager of Aleksandrovsii Redoubt, Kolmakov.*

Kolmakov is to distribute silver medals only to the most important and powerful leaders in the Eskimo villages and to keep careful record of the medals he awards.

(25) *Vol. 9, no. 125, folios 97-98, May 6, 1832 — to the main office.*

Since in many of the villages visited by Vasiliev the people were unfriendly to members of his expedition, the general

manager has decided against sending Vasiliev to such villages in the future.

(26) *Vol. 9, no. 126, folios 99-100, May 6, 1832 – to the main office.*

Wrangell indicates the desirability of establishing a trading post in the interior, especially since the Kuskowagamiut cannot be expected to come to Aleksandrovskii Redoubt with their furs. He also mentions his intention of visiting the redoubt during the coming summer.

(27) *Vol. 9, no. 177, folios 152-53, May 6, 1832 – to the main office.*

Kolmakov reports a small fish run in the Nushagak River in 1831, fearing that there will be starvation in the villages along the river.

(28) *Vol. 9, no. 135, folios 472-73, July 10, 1832 – to the manager of Aleksandrovskii Redoubt, Kolmakov.*

The general manager instructs Kolmakov to build new buildings at the redoubt and asks him to find one or more local Eskimos who can act as pilots for ships navigating the treacherous area of Nushagak Bay between Cape Constantine and the Redoubt.

(29) *Vol. 9, no. 318, folios 478-79, July 10, 1832 – to the manager of Aleksandrovskii Redoubt, Kolmakov.*

Kolmakov receives instructions on bartering furs, preparing furs for shipment and allocating expenses for entertaining Eskimos who trade at the redoubt.

(30) *Vol. 9, no. 319, folios 479-81, July 10, 1832 – to the manager of Aleksandrovskii Redoubt, Kolmakov.*

Kolmakov's assistant shall be left in charge of the redoubt while Kolmakov goes to the Kuskokwim and Khulitna (Holitna) rivers to barter for furs.

(31) *Vol. 9, no. 321, folios 482-87, July 10, 1832 – to the manager of Aleksandrovskii Redoubt, Kolmakov.*

General Manager Wrangell orders Kolmakov to explore the Kuskokwim River, beginning in the fall of 1832, and barter for beaver furs in the villages of the Kuskowagamiut. At the same time, Kolmakov is instructed to find a suitable place for the construction of an *odinochka*.

(32) *Vol. 9, no. 322, folio 487, July 10, 1832 – to the manager of Aleksandrovskii Redoubt, Kolmakov.*

The general manager cancels the debts of those Aglemiut who formerly worked for the company but have been discharged or have died.

(33) *Vol. 9, no. 388, folios 281-83, September 16, 1832 – to the Kodiak Office.*

Wrangell reports his arrangements with Kolmakov for a trip to the Kuskokwim River basin beginning in the fall of 1832.

(34) *Vol. 9, no. 460, folios 345-51, October 31, 1832 – to the main office.*

Wrangell reports the condition of Aleksandrovskii Redoubt at the time of his visit there during the summer of 1832. He recommends the sending of a hunting detachment into the interior (see nos. 26, 30, 33) in order to increase the trade for beaver pelts. The report also contains an evaluation of the usefulness of the Aglegmiut living near the redoubt to the company and a favorable appraisal of the influence of Father Veniaminov's preaching at Aleksandrovskii. Veniaminov, who accompanied Wrangell, was making his second visit to the redoubt.

(35) *Vol. 9, no. 555, folio 444, November 16, 1832 – to the main office.*

On August 29 Kolmakov began his journey to the Kuskokwim drainage.

(36) *Vol. 10, no. 184, folios 102-103, May 9, 1833 – to the captain of the vessel going to Nushagak.*

Instructions are given concerning the channel of Nushagak Bay and the necessity of obtaining an Aglegmiut guide at the village of Ekuk. A map of the bay was apparently included with this communication but is now missing.

(37) *Vol. 10, no. 185, folio 104, May 9, 1833 – to the manager of Aleksandrovskii Redoubt, Kolmakov.*

The general manager requests Kolmakov to report in detail about his trip to the Kuskokwim River in 1832-1833 and include an account of the pelts bartered.

(38) *Vol. 11, no. 27, folios 18-19, March 11, 1834 – to the Kodiak office.*

Wrangell lists the prize money awarded to Kolmakov and the members of his expedition to the Kuskokwim River and refers to a second expedition which Kolmakov led to the same area in 1833-1834.

(39) *Vol. 11, no. 58, folios 35-43, April 10, 1834 – to the main office.*

Wrangell defends his decision to send Kolmakov on two trips to the Kuskokwim River basin and points out that these expeditions were more useful to the company than those of Vasiliev.

(40) *Vol. 11, no. 72, folios 92-95, April 10, 1834 – to the main office.*

Wrangell reports concerning Kolmakov's journeys to the Kuskokwim in 1832-1834, gives an account of the furs bartered, assesses the value of future expeditions to the area, and discusses the advisability of establishing an *odinochka* on the Kuskokwim.

(41) *Vol. 11, no. 73, folios 95-97, April 10, 1834 – to the main office.*

A fairly detailed account of Kolmakov's second expedition to the Kuskokwim River basin in 1833-1834, including a report of furs bartered and a reference to a bad flood at Aleksandrovskii Redoubt in October, 1833.

(42) *Vol. 11, no. 74, folios 97-98, April 10, 1834 – to the main office.*

Wrangell recommends that wolf and wolverine pelts be sent to Aleksandrovskii Redoubt because Kolmakov reports that they are of value for bartering with Kuskokwim River people for beavers.

(43) *Vol. 11, no. 272, folios 251-54, May 9, 1834 – to the manager of Aleksandrovskii Redoubt, Kolmakov.*

The general manager congratulates Kolmakov on the success of his first expedition to the Holitna and Kuskokwim rivers and informs him of the prize money he, Lukin, and other members of the party have been awarded.

(44) *Vol. 11, no. 273, folios 254-57, May 9, 1834 – to the manager of Aleksandrovskii Redoubt, Kolmakov.*

Wrangell writes to Kolmakov about the possibility of shipping furs from the upper Kuskokwim River to Aleksandrovskii Redoubt by way of the mouth of the river and discusses the possibility of establishing an *odinochka* at Goodnews Bay. Meanwhile, Kolmakov is urged to proceed with plans for staffing the *odinochka* near the mouth of the Holitna River and urge more Aglegmiut to work for the company.

(45) *Vol. 12, no. 188, folios 177-79, April 30, 1835 – to the main office.*

Wrangell notes that Kolmakov has sent his assistant to the Kuskokwim and is himself staying at the redoubt.

(46) *Vol. 12, no. 256, folios 151-53, April 30, 1835 – to the main office.*

Wrangell doubts the usefulness of trips into the interior from Aleksandrovskii Redoubt, since this results in fewer pelts traded at the post itself. The number of beaver pelts taken between 1827 and 1830 are given and it is noted that an *odinochka* has been established on the Nushagak near the mouth of the Nuyakuk and on the Kuskokwim at the village of Kwigmpainagmiut.

(47) *Vol. 12, no. 266, folios 249-50, May 11, 1835 – to the manager of Aleksandrovskii Redoubt, Kolmakov.*

The general manager complains that the most recent trip to the Kuskokwim River was not as profitable to the company as it should have been, but that the same amounts of prize money as before is being awarded. Kolmakov is urged on to greater efforts.

(48) *Vol. 12, no. 267, folios 250-52, May 11, 1835 – to the manager of Aleksandrovskii Redoubt, Kolmakov.*

Having received Kolmakov's reports of September, 1834 and February, 1835, the general manager congratulates him on the success of his hunting expeditions and his diligent work at the redoubt. Kolmakov is further informed of the decision not to establish an *odinochka* at Goodnews Bay and to allow the "iliamnins" (Tanaina Indians of Iliamna Lake) to hunt in the Nushagak area.

(49) *Vol. 12, no. 321, folio 296, September 30, 1835 – to the manager of Aleksandrovskii Redoubt, Kolmakov.*

Kolmakov's report of July, 1835 is acknowledged and he is encouraged to promote more successful beaver hunts and to extend the Kuskokwim *odinochka's* activities further into the interior.

(50) *Vol. 12, no 327, folios 309-12, October 5, 1835 – to the main office.*

The general manager reports the condition of the buildings at Aleksandrovskii Redoubt, the construction of new ones, and the repairs necessitated because of floods.

(51) *Vol. 13, no. 357, folios 234-39, May 23, 1836 – to the manager of Aleksandrovskii Redoubt, Kolmakov.*

Kolmakov is to increase trade with people living near the Kuskokwim *odinochka*, and also with those at the headwaters of the river and further inland. The general manager also wants more information from Kolmakov concerning the advisability of establishing an *odinochka* at Goodnews Bay.

(52) *Vol. 14, no. 199, folios 228-30, May 3, 1837 – to the main office.*

General Manager Kupreianov reports the activities at Aleksandrovskii Redoubt and the efforts of Lukin to visit peoples of the upper Kuskokwim and bring them into the fur trade.

(53) *Vol. 14, no. 234, folios 261-66, May 10, 1837 – to Captain A. F. Kashevarov.*

Kashevarov is to report on conditions at Aleksandrovskii Redoubt and not to send ashore the redoubt's supply of rum until all business is completed and he is about to depart. Also, an order concerning the method of accounting for furs received from the redoubt is given.

(54) *Vol. 14, no. 242, folios 272-73, May 10, 1837 – to the manager of Aleksandrovskii Redoubt, Kolmakov.*

The general manager acknowledges Kolmakov's reports for 1836 and 1837 and praises him, urging even greater efforts for the company's benefit. Kolmakov is to report to Captain Kashevarov when the latter arrives at the redoubt.

(55) *Vol. 14, no. 243, folios 273-74, May 10, 1837 — to the manager of Aleksandrovskaia Redoubt, Kolmakov.*

Kolmakov is given instructions concerning the shipment of beaver castor, the medals given to *toyons*, and the necessity of practicing economy in the expenditure of redoubt supplies.

(56) *Vol. 14, no. 244, folios 274-75, May 10, 1837 — to the manager of Aleksandrovskaia Redoubt, Kolmakov.*

Kolmakov is to send a list of Eskimos baptized by him since Father Veniaminov's visit in 1832, as well as to continue sending ethnographic and natural history specimens.

(57) *Vol. 15, no. 455, folios 17-20, November 5, 1837 — to the manager of Aleksandrovskaia Redoubt, Kolmakov.*

Kolmakov's son is rewarded for a successful trip to the Kuskokwim River and is ordered to make a second trip to the same area.

(58) *Vol. 15, no. 456, folios 20-21, November 5, 1837 — to the manager of Aleksandrovskaia Redoubt, Kolmakov.*

Kolmakov's son, Petr, is to prepare a more accurate map of his second journey.

(59) *Vol. 15, no. 244, folios 314-15, May 1, 1838 — to the main office.*

Prikashchik Klimovskii on a trip (from Kodiak?) to Mikhailovskii Redoubt vaccinated people in various villages including Aleksandrovskaia Redoubt against smallpox and also taught the people how to vaccinate themselves.

(60) *Vol. 16, no. 365, folios 89-95, May 30, 1838 — to Captain Murashev.*

The captain is to report on activities at Aleksandrovskaia Redoubt and determine the accuracy of rumors concerning a smallpox epidemic in the area.

(61) *Vol. 16, no. 376, folios 104-105, May 30, 1838 — to the manager of Aleksandrovskaia Redoubt, Kolmakov.*

Kolmakov is to inform the Aglegmiut who live near the redoubt to prevent sexual relations between their daughters and Eskimos from distant places who come to the redoubt to trade.

(62) *Vol. 16, no. 377, folios 106-108, May 30, 1838 — to the manager of Aleksandrovskaia Redoubt, Kolmakov.*

Kolmakov is not to sell guns to the Eskimos, but to loan weapons to a few of the most trustworthy individuals.

(63) *Vol. 16, no. 379, folios 109-11, May 30, 1838 – to the manager of Aleksandrovskii Redoubt, Kolmakov.*

Children born illegitimately as a result of relations between redoubt employees and Eskimos should not be forced to leave their mothers, but should nevertheless be brought up among Russians whenever possible.

(64) *Vol. 16, no. 455, folios 170-71, October 31, 1838 – to the Kodiak office.*

Two Kenai (Tanaina) creoles are being sent to Aleksandrovskii Redoubt from Kodiak to act as interpreters.

(65) *Vol. 16, no. 462, folio 174, October 31, 1838 – to the Kodiak Office.*

Kolmakov and Lukin are rewarded with prize money for their services and Petr Kolmakov is designated an assistant in the management of the redoubt.

(66) *Vol. 16, no. 466, folios 175-77, October 31, 1838 – to the manager of Aleksandrovskii Redoubt, Kolmakov.*

General Manager Kuprejanov acknowledges the receipt of Kolmakov's report of July, 1838 and confirms the appointment of Petr Kolmakov as assistant to the manager. Konstantin Kolmakov is also authorized to begin instructing Eskimo boys in reading and writing, providing this does not interfere with their learning useful native occupations.

(67) *Vol. 16, no. 467, folios 177-79, October 31, 1838 – to the manager of Aleksandrovskii Redoubt, Kolmakov.*

Condolences are offered to Kolmakov for the many smallpox deaths that he reported. He is ordered to increase trade, if possible, and to encourage the Eskimos to practice conservation with regard to the taking of beavers. Orphans created by the smallpox epidemic are to be taken care of at the redoubt if necessary. The silver medals given to deceased *toyons* should be collected and redistributed to worthy Eskimos.

(68) *Vol. 16, no. 468, folios 179-81, October 31, 1838 – to the manager of Aleksandrovskii Redoubt, Kolmakov.*

Kolmakov is notified that Kenai (Tanaina) interpreters are being transferred to Aleksandrovskii Redoubt in order to

accompany Petr Kolmakov on a trip into the interior. The manager is urged to organize more hunting parties and is notified that five metal traps are being sent to him for use with these parties.

(69) *Vol. 16, no. 479, folios 184-89, November 4, 1838 — to the main office.*

Kupreianov transmits Kolmakov's report concerning deaths from smallpox at the redoubt and ponders the significance of this outbreak for the future of the fur trade in the area.

(70) *Vol. 17, no. 214, folios 192-93, April 29, 1839 — to the main office.*

Prikashchik Klimovskii is rewarded for vaccinating the Eskimos of Aleksandrovskii Redoubt against smallpox and for teaching them to vaccinate themselves.

(71) *Vol. 17, no. 386, folios 368-69, June 4, 1839 — to the manager of Aleksandrovskii Redoubt, Kolmakov.*

The manager is urged to deal sternly with any Kuskokwim Eskimos who come to the redoubt and cause trouble among those living peaceably there.

(72) *Vol. 17, no. 387, folios 369-71, June 4, 1839 — to the manager of Aleksandrovskii Redoubt, Kolmakov.*

Kolmakov, his son, and Lukin are congratulated on their work and urged to exert themselves even more for the company. The manager is also given instructions regarding silver medals and presents for *toyons*.

(73) *Vol. 17, no. 388, folios 371-72, June 4, 1839.*

A certificate awarded to a Kuskokwim *toyon*.

(74) *Vol. 17, no. 392, folios 372-73, June 4, 1839.*

A certificate awarded to an Aglegmiut *toyon*.

(75) *Vol. 17, no. 444, folios 424-26, September 6, 1839 — to the manager of Aleksandrovskii Redoubt, Kolmakov.*

Kupreianov asks for information concerning the smallpox epidemic and the delivery of furs to the redoubt.

(76) *Vol. 17, no. 447, folios 430-38, September 6, 1839 — to the Kodiak office.*

The Kenai (Tanaina) interpreters sent to Aleksandrovskii Redoubt do not know the language and the Kodiak office is

urged to send another interpreter, one who knows both Russian and the Kuskokwim dialect.

(77) *Vol. 17, no. 509, folios 493-97, October 24, 1839 – to the Kodiak office.*

The death of Fedor Kolmakov on August 20, 1839 is reported and his son Petr is appointed manager of the redoubt.

(78) *Vol. 17, no. 512, folios 498-502, October 24, 1839 – to Petr Kolmakov.*

Detailed instructions are given Petr Kolmakov concerning his new duties as manager of the redoubt. He is especially urged to be firm but just in his dealings with the Eskimos.

(79) *Vol. 17, no. 513, folios 504-505, October 24, 1839 – to the manager of Aleksandrovsii Redoubt, Kolmakov.*

A cash payment and flour allotment is made to Petr Kolmakov for the support of his deceased father's family. He is also warned to be particularly careful since guns have recently been given a few Kuskokwim *toyons* for hunting.

(80) *Vol. 18, no. 335, folios 314-17, May 25, 1840 – to the main office.*

A report is made concerning a trip into the interior by Petr Kolmakov in 1839, during which he apparently encountered some opposition from the Eskimos.

(81) *Vol. 18, no. 370, folios 348-50, May 31, 1840 – to Captain Kashevarov.*

Kashevarov is instructed to report on relations between the Eskimos and personnel of Aleksandrovsii Redoubt and whether there is any threat to the redoubt.

(82) *Vol. 18, no. 376, folios 354-56, May 31, 1840 – to Petr Kolmakov.*

Kolmakov is to accept orders from Lieutenant Kashevarov and to report to Etolin concerning reported unfriendly behavior on the part of the Eskimos who live in the vicinity of the redoubt.

(83) *Vol. 18, no. 378, folios 356-57, May 31, 1840 – to Petr Kolmakov.*

Kolmakov is to deal firmly but kindly with the Eskimos and to make every effort to increase trade.

(84) *Vol. 19, no. 147, folios 186-89, September 27, 1840 — to the main office.*

General Manager Etolin stresses the importance of the southwestern Alaska area to the fur trade, the necessity of spreading Christian influence throughout the entire area, and the need for a traveling priest to convert the Eskimos to Christianity.

(85) *Vol. 20, no. 43, folios 51-57, February 25, 1841 — to the manager of the Kodiak office, Kostromitinov.*

The Kodiak manager is to report on conditions at Aleksandrovskaia Redoubt, relieve Petr Kolmakov as manager, make adjustments in the prices paid for furs, try to establish better connections between Aleksandrovskaia and the *odinochkas* under its jurisdiction, convince the Eskimos that they should hunt beavers at a season of the year when the pelts are in better condition, and establish Kolmakovskaia Redoubt on the middle Kuskokwim River.

(86) *Vol. 20, no. 486, folios 403-404, October 15, 1841 — to the manager of the Kodiak office, Kostromitinov.*

Kostromitinov's report is acknowledged and certain administrative changes are ordered including the appointment of Lukin as *baidarshchik* at the newly established Kolmakovskaia Redoubt.

(87) *Vol. 21, no. 21, folios 20-21, January 30, 1842 — to the Most Reverend Innokentii, Bishop of Kamchatka, the Kuriles and Aleutian Islands.*

Etolin acknowledges a report from the bishop concerning the performing of baptisms and marriage ceremonies by laymen. The general manager notes that a mission has just been established at Aleksandrovskaia Redoubt.

(88) *Vol. 21, no. 28, folios 24-25, February 11, 1842 — to Captain Kashevarov.*

Kashevarov is to transport the newly named priest at Aleksandrovskaia, Ilia Petelin, Sexton Shishkin, and the new manager of the redoubt, Volkov, to the post.

(89) *Vol. 21, no. 35, folios 31-32, February 11, 1842 — to the Kodiak office.*

Etolin announces that he has appointed Volkov manager at Aleksandrovskaia with Petr Kolmakov as his assistant.

(90) *Vol. 21, no. 43, folios 40-41, February 11, 1842 – to the Kodiak office.*

A memorandum concerning the sending of two cannon to Aleksandrovskaia Redoubt and four light cannon to Kolmakovskaia Redoubt for fortification.

(91) *Vol. 21, no. 49, folios 48-49, February 11, 1842 – to Petr Kolmakov.*

Petr Kolmakov is notified that Volkov has been named to succeed him.

(92) *Vol. 21, no. 50, folios 49-50, February 11, 1842 – to Petr Kolmakov.*

Petr Kolmakov is informed of the appointment of Ilia Petelin as priest at Aleksandrovskaia, the financial arrangements being made by the church, and the assistance that is to be rendered by the company to the priest.

(93) *Vol. 21, no. 16, folios 16-18, February 28, 1842 – to the Most Reverend Innokentii.*

The prelate is informed of the arrangements for the arrival of Father Petelin at Aleksandrovskaia Redoubt.

(94) *Vol. 21, no. 304, folios 232-33, May 9, 1842 – to the main office.*

Etolin informs the main office of the reasons for his decision to appoint Volkov manager of Aleksandrovskaia Redoubt.

(95) *Vol. 23, no. 648, folios 492-93, October 11, 1844 – to the Kodiak office.*

Etolin has proposed the abolition of Aleksandrovskaia Redoubt and proposes that Kolmakovskaia Redoubt be placed under the jurisdiction of Mikhailovskaia Redoubt. He therefore requests a complete inventory of the property and people at Kolmakovskaia and a detailed list of the annual needs at this redoubt.

(96) *Vol. 23, no. 661, folios 497-99, October 11, 1844 – to the manager of the Kodiak office, Murgin.*

The general manager notes that he has informed Lukin, the *baidarshchik* of Kolmakovskaia, of the plan to reduce

Aleksandrovskii Redoubt to an *odinochka* and place it under the jurisdiction of Nilolaevskii Redoubt on Cook Inlet. Aleksandrovskii will then be supplied by way of Iliamna *odinochka* and the priest will be transferred to Nikolaevskii.

(97) Vol. 23, no. 703, folios 552-54, December 23, 1844 — to the Most Reverend Innokentii.

The prelate is informed about the impending reduction of Aleksandrovskii Redoubt to an *odinochka* and its transfer to the jurisdiction of Nikolaevskii Redoubt.

(98) Vol. 24, no. 60, folios 48-50, March 2, 1845 — to the Sitka office.

Another directive outlining the reduction of Aleksandrovskii Redoubt to an *odinochka* and its subordination to Nikolaevskii Redoubt. The general manager requests that arrangements be made for supplying Kolmakovskii by way of Mikhailovskii Redoubt.

(99) Vol. 24, no. 72, folios 60-61, March 9, 1845 — to the Kodiak office.

Now that Aleksandrovskii Redoubt has been reduced in status, only necessary supplies are to be sent to it.

(100) Vol. 24, no. 78, folios 75-76, March 9, 1845 — to the manager of the Kodiak office, Murgin.

The Kodiak manager is ordered to visit Aleksandrovskii Redoubt to determine how many men should be left there when the post is reduced to an *odinochka*. The manager is to be removed and a creole appointed *baidarshchik*.

(101) Vol. 25, no. 287, folios 105-106, May 15, 1845 — to the main office.

Etolin reports in full to the main office concerning his decision to reduce Aleksandrovskii Redoubt to an *odinochka* and the arrangements made for administering and supplying it and the other company posts in southwestern Alaska.

(102) Vol. 26, no. 488, folios 381-82, May 12, 1846 — to the Kodiak office.

General Manager Tebenkov notifies the Kodiak office concerning the arrangements made by Bishop Innokentii for the continuation of the mission at Aleksandrovskii Redoubt after the post has been reduced to an *odinochka*.

(103) Vol. 27, no. 665, folio 83, October 4, 1846 – to the Kodiak office.

The manager of Aleksandrovskii Redoubt, Volkov, is ordered to depart for Sitka with the final accounts for the post.

(104) Vol. 27, no. 267, folios 386-87, May 12, 1847 – to the main office.

Tebekov reports the successful carrying out of his predecessor's proposals concerning the reduction in status of Aleksandrovskii Redoubt.

(105) Vol. 27, no. 325, folios 461-65, May 12, 1847 – to the main office.

Tebekov reports the departure of Volkov, former manager of Aleksandrovskii Redoubt, for Kodiak along with Father Petelin. The administration of the church is left to the missionary at Nikolaevskii Redoubt.

(106) Vol. 29, no. 113, folios 132-33, April 17, 1848 – to the Kodiak office.

Efim Orlov is named manager of Aleksandrovskii *odinochka*.

(107) Vol. 32, no. 278, folios 132-33, April 20, 1851 – to the Kodiak office.

Disobedience of the Aglegmuit in the vicinity of Aleksandrovskii *Odinochka* to *baidarshchik* Orlov is reported to the Kodiak office. The general manager says that he would abolish the *odinochka* were it not for the mission of the Orthodox Church located there. He suggests that the Aglegmuit be told that the general manager himself will come to the *odinochka* and drive them away from Russian protection, leaving them once more at the mercy of their enemies, the Kiatagmuit and the Kuskowagamiut.

(108) Vol. 34, no. 382, folio 130, June 6, 1853 – to the Kodiak office.

The “Nushagak *odinochka*” must continue to be maintained by the company because a priest is being sent there and also because of unnamed “circumstances in the north.”

(109) Vol. 34, no. 383, folios 130-31, June 6, 1853 – to the Kodiak office.

Hieromonk Theofil is being sent to Aleksandrovskii *Odinochka* and the general manager orders that a residence be provided for him.

(110) Vol. 23, no. 484, folio 168, June 19, 1853 — to the manager of Kilmakovskii Redoubt.

Lukin is encouraged to retain three Aglegmiut employees at the redoubt or to hire other “loyal Aglegmiut.”

(111) Vol. 34, no. 487, folio 169, June 19, 1853 — to the manager of Kolmakovskii Redoubt.

Lukin is to proceed as soon as convenient to Aleksandrovskii *Odinochka* to hire Aglegmiut for service at Kolmakovskii Redoubt.

(112) Vol. 37, no. 147, folio 65, April 9, 1856 — to the main office.

General Manager Voevodskii reports that the Eskimos living in the vicinity of Aleksandrovskii *odinochka* are complaining about the prices paid for furs, saying it is more profitable for them to trade at Katmai. The general manager proposes that a uniform rate of payment throughout the whole Kodiak division be instituted.

(113) Vol. 38, no. 115, folio 29, April 30, 1857 — to the Sitka office.

Voevodskii notes that he has raised the prices to be paid for furs at Aleksandrovskii *odinochka* so that they conform with prices paid throughout the Kodiak division.

(114) Vol. 38, no. 138, folio 35, May 1, 1857 — to the Kodiak office.

The Kodiak manager is to report on the condition of company buildings at Aleksandrovskii *odinochka* and whether arrangements have been made for repairing the walls of the fortress which have fallen into decay.

(115) Vol. 38, no. 219, folio 58, May 15, 1857 — to the main office.

The main office is informed of the order for the equalization of prices paid for furs at Aleksandrovskii *odinochka* and the reasons for this measure.

(116) Vol. 38, no. 266, folio 79, May 24, 1857 – to the manager of Mikhailovskii Redoubt, Andreianov.

The manager is informed of the increased prices paid for furs at Aleksandrovskii *odinochka* and ordered to raise his own payments gradually as soon as the people hear of the prices being paid at Aleksandrovskii. The manager is also ordered to try and increase the number of “fabrics” bartered for furs.

(117) Vol. 42, no. 53, folio 138, August 23, 1860 – to the manager of Aleksandrovskii *odinochka* Orlov.

Orlov is ordered to construct a new church and instructions are sent to him concerning the plan and materials.

(118) Vol. 47, no. 127, folio 42, May 4, 1865 – to Lieutenant Tebenkov.

The lieutenant, who is making a voyage to Aleksandrovskii *odinochka*, is ordered to survey the general area and report on its suitability for the establishment for facilities for salting fish.

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