Laketown

In 1741, Vitus Bering “discovered” a patch of land in North America that would be named Alaska. Over the next one hundred years, there would be over 60 Russian Voyages to Alaska. One such vessel was the моя женщина or Zhenshchina moy, meaning “My woman.” The Zhenshchina was a Russian exploration vessel whose main goal was to learn more about the geography of Bristol Bay. The Russian vessel became fascinated by the Kvichak River with its blue green waters and rich mammal and aquatic species.

Circa 1838, the Zhenshchina sailed up the Kvichak to Lake Iliamna. There the crew was met by a formidable east wind that slammed the boat into turtle rocks killing the Captain near present day Igiugig. Survivors evacuated and washed ashore to make camp and survive in what later would be referred to as Laketown or (Old Site). The land was rich. There were Yup’ik people, who knew the land and had been living here for a thousand years or more. They would all meet at Laketown. Who be you?

Your task: Create a character that would have been alive in 1838. This can be a character from the Zhenshchina or from Old Igiugig. Remember, there are many different people on board a Russian exploration vessel. (Vitus Bering himself was a Dane!). Talk amongst yourselves, but be careful who you make friends with as resources and politics run scarce on the last frontier. Potential characters include, but not limited to: Shipbuilder, Navigator, Sailor, Cartographer, Deckhand, Prisoner, Naturalist, Botanist, Doctor, Nurse, Priest, Trapper, Furrier, Hunter Gatherer, Shaman, Medicine Woman, Translator, Astrologer, Castaway, Stowaway, Wooly Lousewort.

Laketown will begin Friday, May 6th at 7 PM. The traders’ market will be held at the central firepit. Trade goods limited to items that would have existed in 1838.

Important dates:

**1741** - Alexei Chirikof, with Bering expedition, sights land on July 15

**1743** - Concentrated hunting of sea otter by Russia begins.

**1784** - Grigorii Shelikov establishes first white settlement at Three Saints Bay, Kodiak.

**1792** - Catherine II grants a monopoly of furs in Alaska to Grigorii Shelikov.

**1794** - Baranov builds first vessel in America at Voskres-senski on Kenai.

**1795** - The first Russian Orthodox Church established in Kodiak.

**1799** - Alexander Baranov establishes Russian post known today as Old Sitka

**1802** - Russian fort at Old Sitka destroyed by Tlingits.

**1804** - Russians return to Sitka and attack Indian River. Baronov re-establishes trading post.

**1824** - Russians explore mainland-discovery of Nushagak, Kuskokwim, Yukon Rivers.

**1838 -** Zhenschina moy shipwreck near Igiugig.

**1853** - Russian explorer-trappers find oil seeps in Cook Inlet.

**1857** - Coal mining begins at Coal Harbor on the Kenai Peninsula.

**1867** - Russia sells Alaska to the United States for $7.2 million, or 2 cents/acre.

SS Standards. 08.02.01.02, 08.02.02.02, 08.02.03.02, 08.02.04.02

MA Standards(Fort Building). 04.MD.B.4,

SC Standards. 00.01.01.02, 00.01.02.02, 00.02.01.02, 01.01.01.02, 01.01.02.02, 02.01.01.02, 02.01.02.02, 02.02.01.02, 03.01.01.02, 03.01.02.02, 03.02.01.02, 04.01.01.02, 04.01.02.02, 04.02.01.02, 05.01.01.02, 05.01.02.02, 05.02.01.02, 06.01.01.02, 06.01.02.02, 06.02.01.02, 07.01.01.02, 08.01.01.02, 09.01.01.02, 10.01.01.02, 11.01.01.02, 00.11.01.02, 00.14.01.02, 00.16.01.02, 01.11.01.02, 01.14.01.02, 01.17.01.02, 02.11.01.02, 02.14.01.02, 02.16.01.02, 03.11.01.02, 03.14.01.02, 03.16.01.02, 20.000000.00000?