

## VOYAGE OF THE EAST INDIAMAN *PHOENIX*

Judge F. W. Howay has given a very interesting compilation of early voyages to the Northwest Coast of America, in his List of Trading Vessels in Maritime Fur Trade, 1785-1794, published in the Transactions of the Royal Society of Canada, Third Series, Volume XXIV, Section II, 1930.

In this List Judge Howay mentions the presence on the coast of a British Barque from Bengal, named the *Phoenix*, commanded by Hugh Moore, during the year 1792, and that she returned in 1794. He says that "Fleeting glimpses are caught here and there but, at present, it is impossible to recreate her story."

Alexander Andreevich Baranof, the Chief Manager of the Russian American Company, mentions in a letter written July 24th, 1793, that in May, 1792, he went into the Chugach Gulf (Prince William Sound), and says:

"I saw there an English ship, which was from East India, was in Canton, in Manila, and in America, stopping near Nootka. It followed along the shore to Chugach, trading with different natives, and gathered many furs. On the way, in a storm it was dismasted and in Chugach was repaired. She was named the *Phoenix* and from here intended to return direct to Canton. She was 75 feet (long) and two masted.

"The Captain, or Commander, was English from Ireland of the family of Moore, he began to be frightened by my bidarka fleet but afterward came to be very friendly. On the fifth day he had me on the ship nearly without leaving, and I had table, conversed about many different things, and although we badly understood each other because we had to use the German tongue, which I well understood in my youth, but had forgotten nearly entirely.

"He gave me an Indian, who served me in Winter, and in Summer in the work of seaman, knows English well and is being taught in Russian. I to him give nearly nothing to dress except a fox or best work kamlei and some trifles of the unbelievers."

Doubtless it was from this ship that Baranof derived the name that he gave to the first ship that was built on the coast of Alaska, at Resurrection Bay, near the present town of Seward, in 1794, which he christened the *Phoenix*, and which was lost with all on board in 1799 on a return trip from Okhotsk.

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