

Baron Wrangell, chief manager of the Russian colonies, forwarded to the imperial government under date of January 1, 1825, a statement of the native population under his control, aggregating 8,481 of both sexes. In the year 1830 Veniaminof, the "apostle of Alaska", published a statement of the fluctuations of the population in the districts of Kadiak and the Aleutian islands between the years 1781 and 1830. According to this document the population of the Kadiak district had decreased within the period mentioned from 6,510 to 3,396, while in the Aleutian district the number of people had declined less rapidly, being given as 1,900 in 1781 and 1,460 in 1830. In 1831 a complete census of the inhabitants of the Aleutian islands was taken by the same priest, Veniaminof, giving a total of 1,515. 4 years later Veniaminof, who was then stationed at Sitka, made an estimate of the number of Thlingits, aggregating 5,850, which comes remarkably close to the total of our census to-day. In 1839 Veniaminof furnished for the first time a well considered estimate, including the total population of the country now called Alaska. This estimate was published in full in the Alaska volume of the Tenth Census, and furnishes a remarkable instance of close estimate, as well as reasoning, in every detail. His figures showing the strength of the various tribes and races are almost what we now know them to be, while his total of 39,813 was probably but little below the actual truth at the time of his writing. Though objections may be made to certain details of this estimate, the statement as a whole must convince us that Veniaminof then had a better conception of the population of Russian America in his day than was exhibited by the compilers of the numerous official reports furnished the imperial government by the Russian American Company during many succeeding years.

From this time forward no detailed population statistics of the Russian colonies were published, beyond the fictitious total of 56,000 reported in the brief biennial reports of the chief managers of the Russian American Company, until the year 1860. In that year the Holy Synod, the highest ecclesiastical tribunal of the Russian empire, published in the annual report a census of christians in Russian America as furnished by priests and missionaries stationed in the colonies. This report showed a total of 9,845 (5,127 males and 4,718 females), exclusive of Russian employes of the company.

RUSSIAN CENSUS OF 1860 (CIVILIZED PEOPLE OF RUSSIAN COLONIES).

[Taken from Report of Committee on Organization of Russian American Colonies, volume II.]

DISTRICTS.	AGGREGATE.			RUSSIANS.			CREOLES.			ALEUTS.			KENAITS.			KUSKOKWIM AND AGLEMIUT.			CHUGATZ AND COPPER RIVER.		
	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.
Total....	9,845	5,127	4,718	557	493	64	1,886	921	965	4,486	2,268	2,218	931	440	491	1,398	699	699	587	306	281
Sitka.....	1,021	609	352	453	339	68	505	249	256	64	31	33	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Kadiak.....	5,944	2,984	2,950	67	66	1	871	431	440	2,148	1,081	1,067	931	440	491	1,340	670	670	587	306	281
Unalaska.....	1,770	881	889	4	4	.....	255	125	130	1,511	752	759	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Atka.....	964	495	469	4	4	.....	197	87	110	763	404	359	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
St. Michael....	146	88	58	30	30	.....	58	29	29	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	58	29	29	.....	.....	.....

During the last few years of the occupation of Alaska by the Russian American Company much confusion seems to have entered into the returns made by various colonial and imperial inspecting officers. We have two returns dated January 1, 1862, showing the same total of 10,156, but differing very much in the details of distribution. One of these returns enumerates the people by race and tribe, the other by districts; both were printed in Tikhmenief's *Historical Review*. In the second volume of this work, published in 1863, a table appears under the heading of "Population statistics of inhabitants of Russian America dependent upon and actually counted by the Russian American Company". This statement covers the years from 1830 to 1863, inclusive, and varies but little in its totals. For the year 1830 we find 10,327. About the middle of the period mentioned, in the year 1845, we find the population at its lowest, 7,224, while the highest point was reached in 1837 with 11,022. For 1863 the total is given as 10,125.

We have still another count of the inhabitants of Alaska, taken under the auspices of the Russian government, in the report of a special inspector, Kostlivtzof. In this statement the total of inhabitants known and counted is given as 7,934 on January 1, 1863, 2,191 less than the company's report for the same year. To this total Kostlivtzof adds an exaggerated estimate of the Atna or Copper River Indians to the number of 2,500 and of Thlingits aggregating 20,000, making a total of 30,434, thus reaching by the wildest estimate an approximately truthful result as to the total. This completes the population statistics transmitted to us from Russian sources.

The first official table of population issued subsequent to the acquisition of Alaska by the United States formed part of the report of Major General H. W. Halleck, of the United States army. By means of unconscious duplication of tribes under similar names and the insertion of a few imaginary ones, added to the wildest exaggeration in estimating the number of Athapascans, this officer succeeded in footing up a total of 82,400 people in Alaska. In the same year, 1868, Rev. Vincent Collyer, in his report to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, reproduced General Halleck's table, and added a special estimate of the Thlingit tribes, furnished him by a trader named Mahoney. This estimate shows a total of 11,900 Thlingits.