

# UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Before the ashes of Redoubt Saint Michael had cooled, it was clear the battle for Sitka Sound was far from over.

## ENGLISH INVOLVEMENT

Fearing capture by the Tlingits, some of the Russian-American Company survivors of the Battle of 1802 wandered the woods for several days. They eventually signaled the *Unicorn*, an English ship under the command of Henry Barber that sailed into Sitka Sound as the fort was burning. Barber collected these survivors and hid them below deck in hopes of collecting a ransom from Alexander Baranov.

to liberate them.—On the 2d, I went in the yawl, well manned and armed, and took one of the Americans along with me to the cove, where the late Russian Factory stood, and distant from the ship about six miles, I found the place entirely destroyed by fire, and the mangled bodies of about twenty men lying scattered amongst the ruins, a prey to the ravens and wild beasts of the forest, a sight as horrid and shocking as human beings could.

Extracted from Captain Henry Barber's journal of the ship *Unicorn* was published in *The Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser* on November 18, 1804.

## THE BUSINESS OF WAR

The Tlingits had taken many valuable pelts and some women and children from the fort. The Kiks.adi clan leader Shk'awulyeil and K'alyaan approached Barber's ship and he, in a probable double cross, took them hostage. Barber traded these Tlingit leaders for the captive women, children, and pelts. He then set sail for Kodiak Island where he demanded a 50,000-ruble ransom from Baranov, but settled for 10,000 rubles' worth of furs in exchange for the survivors.

*Shk'awulyeil*      *K'alyaan*

## BARANOV PLANS HIS RETURN

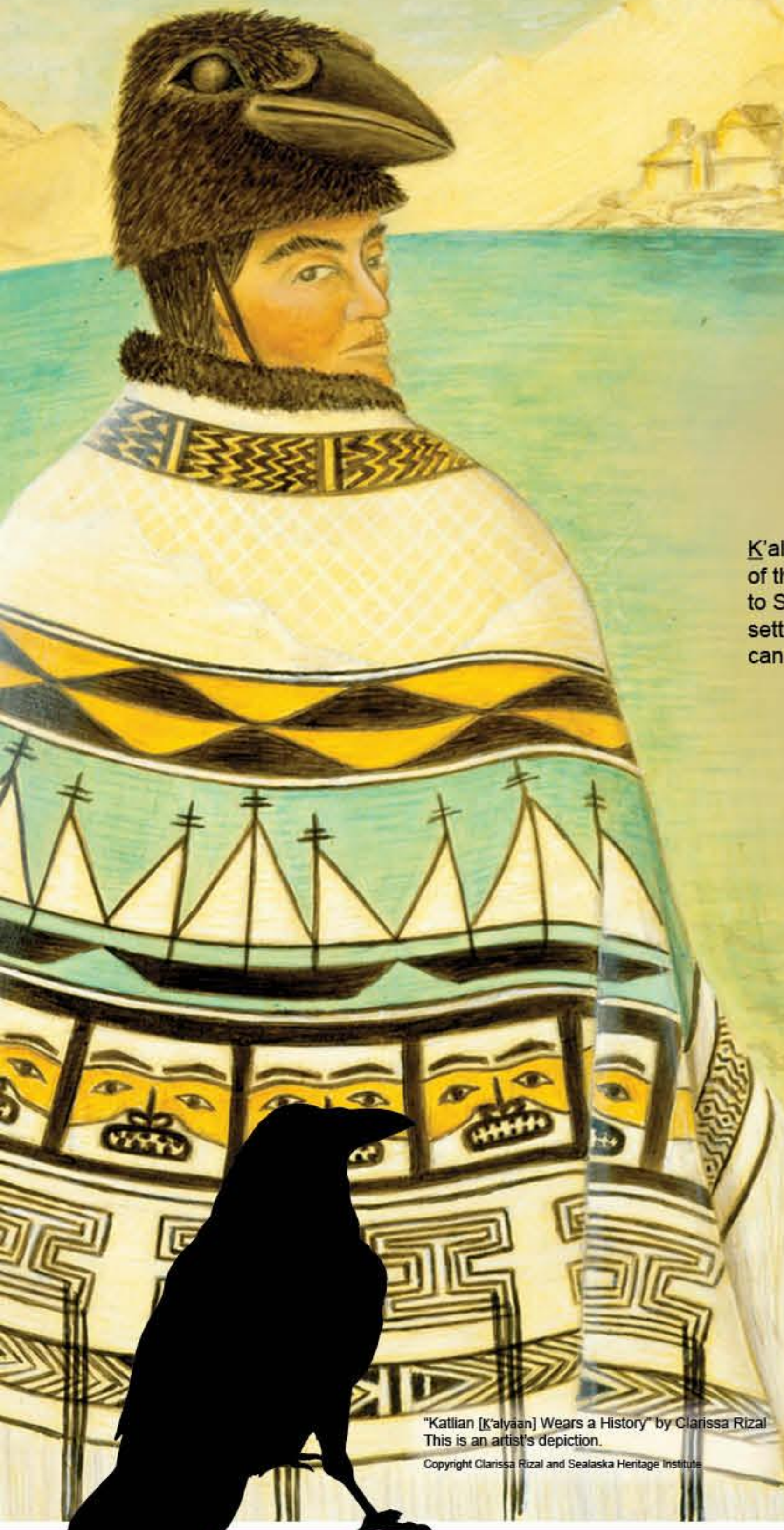
Baranov lost close friends in the attack and he felt that failing to avenge the death of his employees would earn him contempt in future relations with the Natives. Baranov set his sights on reoccupying Sitka and immediately started preparations for his return, which culminated in the 1804 Battle of Sitka commemorated at nearby Sitka National Historical Park.

### Pondering the Past

**The plot thickens:** Did Barber contribute to the Tlingits' efforts by trading guns, ammunition, and alcohol and encouraging them to get rid of the Russians—his main rivals in the region? Could the attack on Redoubt Saint Michael have been part of a multi-clan, anti-Russian alliance encompassing most of Southeast Alaska's coastline?



Alexander Andreyevich Baranov  
Courtesy of the Sitka Historical Society & Museum



K'alyaan awaited the inevitable return of the Russian American Company to Sitka Sound. The Kiks.adi Tlingit settlement on *Noow Tlein* (Castle Hill) can be seen across the water.

"K'alyaan Wears a History" by Clarissa Rizal  
This is an artist's depiction.  
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