

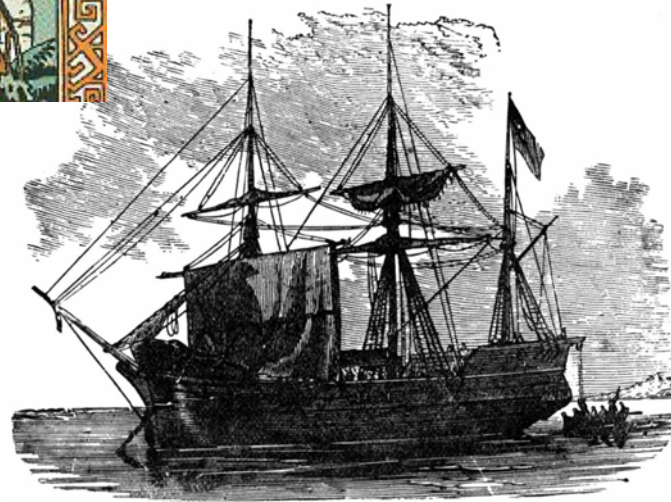


The Kremlin, Moscow, w. bastion walls

TZAR PETER OF
RUSSIA, Emperor & Man.

Quote from Alexei Tolstoy's biography of the Tzar, Peter the First, Signet, 1961, trans. By Tatiana Shebunina.

Peter I of Russia is ritely calld The Great. He was responsible almost single-handedly for bringing his barbaric empire into frendly contact with western Europe, to the great advantage of both. He has been calld a despot. But the men around him wer far mor inclined to be despotic & violent than he was.



One incident shows how quickly he cud change from a deemon to a warm-harted penitent. His frend Yakov told the story. "I had an argument with Peter Alexeyevitch. I told him the bastion was too lo; in ruf wether the waves wud swomp the guns. I sed it shud be raisd another 3½ feet. So he gave me a taste of his stik. In the morning he sent for me. 'U'r rite, Yakov,' he sed, 'And I'm rong' And he offerd me a glass of vodka & a cake. We made it up." P. 625.



Wy ar we talking about this man? Becaus the saga of his inglish descendants is the saga of my family, & it is a fassinating story. To this day we his decendants look russian, we hav the russian sychic power, the russian carisma, the intense stormy emotions, the religius depth, the fisical strength, the impulsivness, the stubborn loyalty & the changeability that make dealing with russians such a dificult yet intreeging challenge for those of other nations.

I hav shown a ship to memorialize the period in Peter's life during wich he studdyd shipbilding, mainly in Holland but also for 2 years in England, at the shipyards in Greenwich. He stayd with a shipbilder thare, by whose dauter Peter had 3 children, who took the surname Cozens: Alexander, Peter & Richard. Their hybrid inglish-russian decendants hav kept the frendly link between the nations, at a hy level of diplomacy, trade, responsibility & godliness.