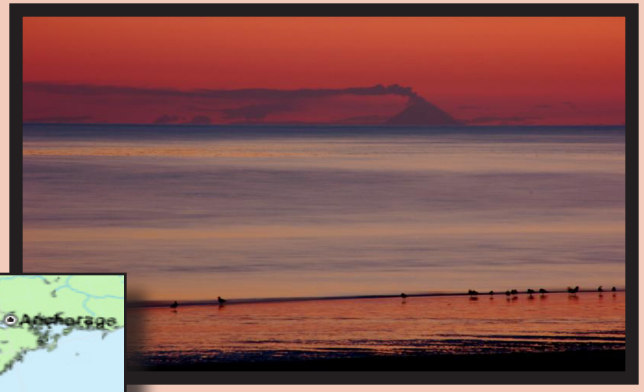
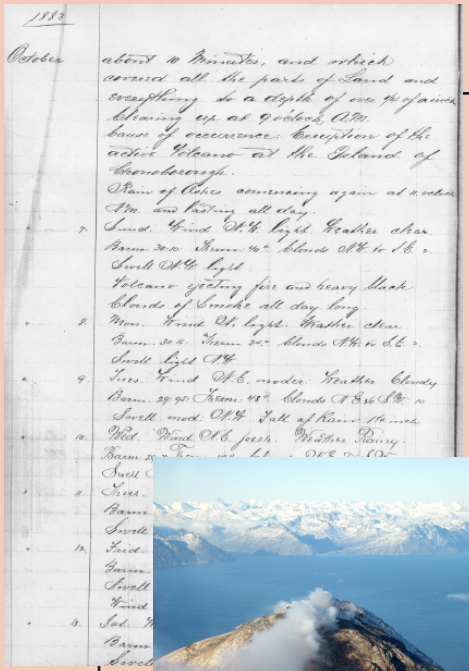
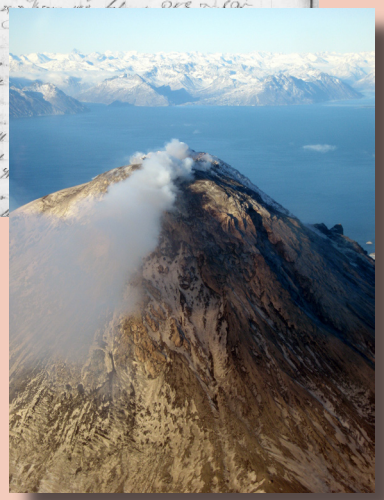
A TSUNAMI IN HISTORY



AUGUSTINE VOLCANO
06 OCTOBER 1883





Once called Ostrov Chernabura, Russian for black/brown island, this volcano was re-named Mount St. Augustine, upon its discovery by Captain James Cook on May 26th, 1778, St. Augustine's Day. Located within the lower Cook Inlet, Augustine Volcano is considered the most active volcano in the eastern Aleutians.

Augustine voiced it's extreme eruptive potential with a loud boom heard near 8AM, on the morning of October 6th, 1883.

"When the heavy explosion was heard vast and dense volumes of smoke were seen rolling out of the summit of St. Augustine…"

As the volcano erupted, volumes of volcanic debris rushed down the slope of the volcano into the waters of the Cook Inlet, generating a local tsunami.

"At about twenty-five minutes past eight A.M., or twenty-five minutes after the great eruption, a great 'earthquake wave,' estimated as from twenty-five to thirty feet high, came upon Port Graham like a wall of water. It carried off all the fishing-boats from the point, and deluged the houses."
(Commercial Company English Bay log book, October 6th, 1883)

Now, when volcanic activity at Augustine becomes elevated, the Alaska Volcano Observatory and the West Coast and Alaska Tsunami Warning Center work closely together to keep the public informed and ensure your safety. Remember, part of being prepared lies in being aware.

http://wcatwc.arh.noaa.gov/web_tsus/18831006/narrative2.htm

Photos courtesy of Tom Harnish and the English Bay log book, Photos and map courtesy of AVO USGS