

apparent to those around him. During one of the family conversations, his little son, somewhat over a year old, came up to him. Father John took him up in his arms. "My child," said he, "where will your feet soon be a-walking." Now only was it that his family surmised at what had happened; they fell upon him with tears and wailings, begging him to alter his decision. But he remained steadfast. They commenced to prepare for the long, strange journey.

On the 7th of May, 1823, Father John left Irkoutsk with his family, which then consisted of his old mother, his wife, a son a year old, and a brother.

First of all he went to his home, in rural Anginskoe, and from there, having offered a prayer-service, took a barge going down the river Lena to Yakoutsck.

The Lena is the largest river in Siberia and flows into the Arctic Ocean.

From Yakoutsck Father John had to ride to Ohotsk, a city in Eastern Siberia, on the shore of the Sea of Ohotsk. The distance between Yakoutsck and Ohotsk is one thousand versts, or about 700 miles, and he made all that way with his family, on horseback. The road was a difficult one; now he would ride by narrow trails through dense forests, then he would make his way over such marshy land, that a horse would sink into it to its belly, and at other times he must climb along a slope, or a steep, rocky mountain and move along its slippery back covered with snow. Yet with God's help Father John patiently overcame all these hardships. At last the travelers heard the dull roar of sea waves breaking against the high cliffs on the coast. The masts of vessels on the Ohotsk River gradually appeared to them, and then the city of Ohotsk itself. From Ohotsk to the Island of Ounalashka Father John made the voyage in a sailing vessel. On the 29th of July, 1824, he safely arrived at the place of his appointment.