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Title: Fort Ross Interpretive Association / Fort Ross Conservancy Newsletter

Author(s): Fort Ross Interpretive Association / Fort Ross Conservancy

Published by: Fort Ross Conservancy Library

URL: www.fortross.org

Fort Ross and Salt Point parks have benefited greatly from many dedicated volunteers and staff who have given generously to these parks. Board of directors from FRIA and FRC have fundraised, organized events, overseen volunteers, spearheaded interpretation and restoration projects, and offered substantial support to California State Parks across many decades.

These digitized newsletters capture the activities over the following historic periods:

- Fort Ross Interpretive Association (FRIA): 1976 - 2012
- Fort Ross Conservancy (FRC is the same legal entity as FRIA but the organization changed its name): 2012 - present

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Fort Ross Conservancy, a 501(c)(3) and California State Park cooperating association, connects people to the history and beauty of Fort Ross and Salt Point State Parks. © Fort Ross Conservancy, 19005 Coast Highway One, Jenner, CA 95450, [707-847-3437](tel:707-847-3437) www.fortross.org



**FORT ROSS
INTERPRETIVE ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER
MARCH - APRIL, 1994**

MARCH IS MEMBERSHIP MONTH!

Many of you will notice that the expiration date on your newsletter address label is MARCH, 1994.

We need and appreciate your support; please renew your membership promptly.

You can also help the Fort Ross Interpretive Association increase its membership. If every member would bring in one new member, it would be a big help in supporting FRIA's educational and interpretive mission at Fort Ross. Encourage a friend to join, or give that friend a gift subscription to FRIA!

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name _____ Phone _____
Address _____ City _____ State ____ Zip _____
_____ \$5.00 Regular _____ \$7.50 Family
_____ \$25.00 Organizational _____ Donation \$ _____

Make Checks payable to:

*Fort Ross Interpretive Association
1905 Coast Highway 1
Jenner, CA 95450*

I/We would like to volunteer our time to assist the Association. In what capacity? _____

Thank You!

Notes from the Meeting of the Board

The regular business meeting of the new F.R.I.A. Board convened in the Visitors Center on February 12, 1994, chaired by President Nancy Scheiber Walton and with all but one of the Directors present. After approval of agenda and past minutes, the floor was opened to announcements.

Sherry Madrone announced new policy whereby anyone volunteering work to State Parks for minimally two hundred hours will be given complementary day use passes.

Wendy Platt briefed all on current fiscal status of F.R.I.A., emphasizing that while income is not what it was several years ago, we have been showing a healthy profit in the bookstore for the past four months, reflecting a difference from the sales slump of Fall, 1992.

Discussion turned to the balance maintained in the F.R.I.A. treasury, with concerns voiced over how much is a comfortable amount to keep as a cushion. It was resolved that the question be researched, with answers hopefully presented at the April business meeting when the Budget is discussed.

Ranger Michael Stephenson, presented copies of the state's "wish list" for projects which F.R.I.A. might pursue. He then gave a reiteration of the state's view of cooperative association relationship and responsibility to Department of Parks and Recreation, strongly noting the importance of proper liability coverage.

Lyn Kalani noted that the Bookstore is doing well, and that while the margin of profit is up, actual funds taken in are not as great as in the past. The Board allocated funds to repair the computer database programming.

Jeannette Rosson updated the Board on the Call House renovation project, noting that the Ranch Committee and the state have finalized plans for the foundation work, and that work shall begin soon, weather permitting. Volunteer involvement in this project has been approved by the state, and it is definitely needed.

Violet Chappell updated the Board on the proposed herb garden, noting that there has been a concern for picking a site harmonious to both garden and other aspects of the park. She welcomes increased numbers of young people who are becoming involved with traditional herbal lore.

John Middleton notes that, for lack of funds, little has recently been accomplished by the Russian Committee, but that the state has items on its "wish list" which may be appropriate for Board attention. The next Russian Committee meeting shall be scheduled for a date in March.

The Trails Committee continues to complete its survey of proposed trails, on a plan developed from the notes left by Kaye Tomlin.

The Costume Committee notes improvements, with increasing historical accuracy noted and stressed. There has unfortunately been costly costume loss, usually occurring after Living History Day. The Board accepted the proposal that a fee be charged for borrowed costumes, to hopefully offset losses and to encourage regular event participants to develop their own costumes.

The Publications Committee announced an updated versions of *Outpost of an Empire*, and *Walking Tour of Fort Ross*, and that *The Caretakers* - information about the Ranch Era - is now available.

The Curatorial Committee is now chaired by Lee Kosso, who brings to F.R.I.A. much experience in archival procedure. The fact that library and artifacts at Fort Ross are increasingly well catalogued opens the possibility of room for more.

The Mission, Goals, and Priorities Committee notes that initial progress has been made toward its mandate, and that the special January Board Meeting gave the directors opportunity to build strengthened working relationships. David Kenly voiced opinion that consensus should be reached on how F.R.I.A. defines historical time lines before priorities can be set, especially in light of the differing historical viewpoints of the standing historical committees.

The Board received Gloria Frost's notice of her possible resignation as chair of the Membership Committee; John Sperry volunteered to assume that position.

Committees soon to take on responsibilities will be the Book and Giftstore Committee and the Bylaws Committee.

- David S. Kenly, Recording Secretary

THE SUTTER TITLE TO BODEGA

From Newspaper Article dated July 14, 1860

Submitted by Paul Shebalin

The San Francisco Telegram publishes the subjoined document as a literal copy of the bill of conveyance made to Sutter, of all the property owned by the Russians at Bodega and Ross in 1841. The Telegram claims that it is a translation of the original document, which is in French, and says the original is within its reach.

If this be indeed the genuine conveyance which passed from the Russian Company to Sutter, and under which the latter claims the land for three leagues back from the coast, extending from Cape Mendocino to Point Reyes, it shows that a barefaced swindle has been attempted, unparalleled in the corrupt history of fraudulent land claims in this country. According to the very first conditions of the bargain as specified below, the lands upon which the establishments stood are exempted from sale. That no sale of lands was made by the Russians when they parted with their establishments to Sutter, we have long felt convinced, and our convictions have been recently expressed on the subject in this paper. We were not aware of the existence of the following document, however, and know not by what means the Telegram has obtained access to the original conveyance, as it states it has. But for this assertion it might appear possible that our cotemporary had been imposed upon through the evidence of genuineness on the face of the instrument are almost too strong to be gainsayed. The Telegram says: "The document was translated from the original bill of sale, by Messrs. Nye and Tilghman. Three of the parties whose names are attached to the document are now living, viz: P. Kostromitinoff, J. A. Sutter, and J. P. Leese:

We, the undersigned, Pierre Kostromitinoff, Agent of the Russian American Company, a citizen of Upper California, being duly authorized as Government Agent on the banks of the Sacramento River, and Captain J. A. Sutter, in accordance with a previous understanding, have signed the following articles of agreement:

Article 1. It is agreed that the Russian American Company in evacuating Ross, with the full consent of His Majesty the Emperor of All the Russians, cedes to M. de Sutter all the establishments) that exist on the coast of New Albion at the port of Bodega, and to the northward of the said port at Ross excepting the land, according to the inventory duly signed by the two persons above mentioned.

Article 2. It is agreed that the price of all these (establishments) ceded by the Russian American Company shall be thirty thousand dollars, to be paid by Mr. Sutter within four years, reckoning or commencing from the year 1842.

Article 3. It is agreed that the payment of the said sum shall be made in country produce for the first three years, to wit: \$5,000 each for the first and second years, and \$10,000 for the third year, and for the last, i.e., the fourth year, \$10,000 in cash.

Article 4. It is agreed that Mr. Sutter will have ready, and on hand, in the time specified in Article 2, during the two (2) first years, country produce in the quantities below mentioned:

1600 fan. of wheat at \$2.....	\$3,200
100 fan. of peas at 2 1/2.....	250
25 fan. of beans at 3.....	75
20 quints soap at 14.....	700
200 arros lard at 2.....	400
240 arros tallow at 1 1/2.....	375
	<u>\$5,000</u>

The third year this quantity shall be doubled, so as to make up the sum of \$10,000.

It is agreed that all these commodities shall be of the best quality; the wheat and peas shall be fresh, the soap dry, the tallow and lard fresh and clean. 5 1/2 Spanish arros shall constitute one fanega.

Article 5. It is agreed that Mr. Sutter shall have the country produce in readiness for three years, commencing from the 1st of September, 1842, this being the specified time for the arrival of the Company's ships at San Francisco.

Article 6. It is agreed that the Russian American Company shall send their ships to the port of San Francisco to receive the provisions during the term specified in Article 5th; and that, upon the arrival of one of their vessels, Mr. Sutter shall take the necessary steps to ship the produce as soon as possible, on his own account, so as not to detain the vessel.

Article 7. It is agreed that, if the cargo of provisions shall not be ready upon the arrival of the Company's ships at the specified time, and that the said ships shall be obliged to return to Sitka without having received anything, Mr. Sutter binds himself, without recourse, to pay all expenses that the ships shall have incurred from Sitka to the port of San Francisco--that is to say, the wages of the crew and the freight money; or, instead of country produce, the amount due for that year, as mentioned in Article 4th, shall be paid in cash.

Article 8. It is agreed that the ships of the Russian American Company which come in search of the provisions mentioned in Article 4th, shall enter without paying the harbor or tonnage dues, it being understood that Mr. Sutter will make the proper arrangements with the Custom House, and will pay all necessary harbor or tonnage dues according to the size of the ship.

Article 9. It is agreed that although the Russian American Company are fully convinced of punctual payment on the part of Mr. Sutter, nevertheless, to guard against unforeseen circumstances and insure the payment of the sum mentioned, his establishment on the Sacramento River, called "New Helvetia", located with the consent and according to the lawful acts of the Government of California with all the goods movable and immovable, which thereunto belong, shall be considered as a guarantee; also, that all the establishments that exist at the port of Bodega, and at the Ranchos of Chelebinkoff and Tschernick, which Mr. Sutter intends to leave intact and in his own possession, shall also be considered as a guarantee, so that in case Mr. Sutter does not fulfill his engagement, we can lawfully enter into possession of port Bodega and Ross. This agreement extends to and binds the heirs of Mr. Sutter in case of his death, if this accident should happen before the formal execution of the contract, and if the payment specified in Article 4th should have been refused.

Article 10. It is agreed that if in case of war between Russian and other nations the Mexican Republic should unite with the enemies of the Russian Empire, and that on that account ships cannot be sent to receive the product at the time above specified, that the sanctity of this contract shall be inviolable, and that as soon as peace shall be re-established it shall remain in full force.

Article 11. It is agreed that the Russian-American Company, desiring to lend every assistance to Mr. de Sutter, is ready to transport to the Bodega de Ross all the immovable goods, the transport of which may not be too troublesome, as for example, window, doors, and other little things which can be carried in our hide boats and in our large launch. The transportation will commence at once, and it will endure until the arrival of the ship from Port Nouvell Arch Angel, at Bodega or San Francisco, and then the men who have remained here shall be shipped without delay, and Mr. Sutter will take possession of everything, and at his own expense will continue the transportation. In order to give full force and value to this contract we sign our names and affix our seals. In accordance with the original. Kostromitinoff, [Seal.]

[Sign.] Kostromitinoff,
J. A. Sutter

Francisco Guerro, Justice of the Peace of this demarkation: These presented themselves before me, Don Pedro Kostromitinoff and Don J. A. Sutter, to sign a copy of a written contract, in French, which both executed for the personal property and interest of the estate of Ross and I hereby certify in good faith that they ratify the same.

[Signed]
Francisco Guerro.
[Witness], Y.Y. Vioget,
Jacob P. Lese

TALE OF AN ACADEMIC BROKER IN IRKUTSK

*Submitted by Dale M. Heckman, Ph.D.
(FRIA member, and independent consultant/writer
on higher education in Siberia and Russian Far East)*

During my first research visit to Irkutsk State University in 1986, a university librarian made an absurd appeal which set me on the track of a simple and useful project. When completed, this little project will put Irkutian students and scholars in touch with important parts of their "Russian American Company" legacy. Here is the story of this serendipitous new connection between Irkutsk and California.

To begin our interview on an October evening, the university rector had arranged for a prepared talk by a library staff member about the rare documents collection of their library. This enthusiastic scholar, her fact-filled presentation, and the collection itself really did impress me; only later did I learn that she had prepared the talk for a visit by (U.S.) Ambassador Hartman two weeks earlier.

Before concluding, the librarian asked whether I knew anything about the "Yudin Collection". No, I had never heard of it. So with great fervor she informed me that Mr. Yudin, a Siberian merchant in the 19th century, had amassed an immense collection of Russian publications, especially Siberian publications and unpublished writings. But, she said, somehow the Czar had sold this collection to help finance his wars (this detail proved inaccurate), and the Collection now resides in the U. S. Library of Congress (this proved accurate). So, she wanted to know, *could I somehow help Irkutsk to recover this Yudin Collection, get it back to Siberia where it belongs?*

After confessing that I had neither wealth nor special influence except that of an American citizen, I offered her a personal promise to at least contact the Library of Congress to find out more about the current status and extent of this historic collection. Our brief encounter was fun, and I admired her zeal and directness.

A year or so later a staff member of the Library of Congress was nonplussed by the timing of my inquiry. Yes, he said, the Yudin Collection purchased around the turn of the century still forms the heart of the Russian language collection here at L.C. The eerie timing of my inquiry lay in the fact that the Library had just completed microfilming the original Yudin catalog cards, and that practically no one outside the L.C. even knew this yet! The entire catalog -- now on 13 reels of microfilm! -- could at last be purchased at \$30 per reel for sharing with other libraries. I immediately put in the first order for Reel #1.

Finally in the fall of 1992, the opportunity arrived for delivering this sample reel of the Yudin Collection Catalog to Irkutsk. A different university rector, a different librarian welcomed me this time, but they arranged a formal gathering for receiving my token gift, Reel #1. I briefly related to them my efforts leading up to this interesting moment, including my longtime interest in the Fort Ross - Irkutsk historical relationship. I added that, if Reel #1 proved to have not only symbolic, but also practical value for the

university (as I expected), I would find some way to procure for them the remaining 12 reels.

When the director of the library began her brief acceptance speech, it was with visible emotion. "This is truly a historical moment for me. For the first time it gives us direct connection with a very large part of our own history here in Eastern Siberia." Although it already had given me a good feeling to deliver this little gift, the way she put it in context was rather moving.

She went on and expressed her belief that the Yudin Collection contains, among other juicy items, the journals of Shelikhov; historians and students in Irkutsk now would have a way to locate many firsthand records of the Russian-American Company and its predecessor, firms that connect Irkutsk with the Fort Ross history. (Most readers of this newsletter probably know that the eastern "field headquarters" for that venture was in Irkutsk.)

Back home again, a couple of phone calls found that the Eugene, Oregon Irkutsk Sister City Association will provide funds for the remaining reels for the Irkutsk University Library -- a great buy for such a significant contribution. (This is also the regional research library.) But the course of this happy idea does not run smoothly. A year later (fall 1993) the remaining reels still had not been purchased. And, on checking carefully with the librarian, I learned that the university library does not have the kind of microfilm reader that can make hard copy (i.e. a print on paper) of what its screen shows. Since this capacity saves great chunks of time for a researcher or history student, I vowed to look into this, too, just as I had to the rare books librarian in 1986.

Does any reader of this newsletter know of funds that might be available for a microfilm reader-printer for the Irkutsk regional research library? This would provide significant help to writers and teachers of that large region (Eastern Siberia) in exploring the treasures and relations of their past. So simple, so concrete is the process of connecting students and scholars of Siberia with their own Fort Ross heritage!



DWELLING OF OFFICIALS AND CIVILIAN ADMINISTRATORS IN IRKUTSK, FIRST QUARTER NINETEENTH CENTURY
PHOTO FROM COLLECTION COMPILED BY OLEG BYCHKOV FOR PORT ROSS

DOCUMENT SIGNED BY IVAN KUSKOV

This document copy is a case demanding taxes from Siberian peasant Vasili Pervukhin who served in the Russian-American Company from 1800 to 1821. It was signed by Ivan Kuskov, October 4, 1817. Original documents preserved in Irkutsk Regional Government Archives dated 1825 (Case 68, Doc. 1905, 16 pages). A copy of this entire document (ten typed pages) was presented to Fort Ross by Oleg Bychkov in December, 1993. Would any reader of this newsletter like make an English translation for the Fort Ross Library?

КЪИТАМЦІЯ

Въ виду ЕГО ИМПЕРАТОРСКАГО ВЕЛИЧЕСТВА
ГЛАВА СІВЪ ИРКУТСКОЙ ГУБЕРНІИ КУРЕНСКАГО УЕЗДА КА-
РАКАНСКАЯ ВОЛОСТИ КАТСКАЯ СЕРЕЗКИ КРЕСТЬЯНИНА
ВАСИЛЬЯ ГРИГОРЬЕВА ПЕРВУХИНА, въ томъ что отъ
посла ВЫСОЧАЙШЕГО МАНИФЕСТА Состоившаго
Юль 23^{го} Дня 1815. года Россійской-американской
Компаніи въ Уналашкинскую Кантору рѣшилось
Сказка въ два ряда подана, въ которой показана му-
рская поля Доше 2. и хомея 4., въ члнхъ Свидетель-
ствуетъ октябрь 4^{го} Дня 1817. года

Иванъ Кусковъ

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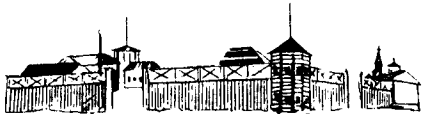
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

APRIL 10, SUNDAY
FRIA BOARD OF DIRECTORS
BUSINESS MEETING 10:30 A.M.

**ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION
WORKSHOPS TO RUSSIA**

Lynda Sayre, a Fort Ross Interpretive Association member, would like Newsletter readers to know about the trips which she is organizing to Irkutsk, Ulan Ude, the Altai Mountains and Novosibirsk for the summer of 1994. The trips are small - no more than 15 people. One of the purposes is to help the environmental organizations there and provide some income for the people in the community. Lynda has been leading trips to the former Soviet Union for six years, and in the last three has been organizing and leading environmental education workshops with teachers and students there. For information write to Common Origin Common Future, 12664 Wardell Court, Saratoga, CA 95070, or call (408) 867-3874.



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