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Title: Diary of the Journey which the Undersigned took together with the Lord Commissioner of the Empire, Dr. don Agustín Fernández de San Vicente to the Establishment of Ross situated in 38° 47' north latitude.

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[Diary of the Journey which the Undersigned took together with the Lord Commissioner of the Empire, Dr. don Agustín Fernández de San Vicente to the Establishment of Ross situated in 38° 47' north latitude.

October 11-13, 1822

We left the mission of San Carlos to travel a little less than two leagues to the Presidio of Monterey, under the guidance of our sovereign Archangel, Rafael¹, and after having joined up with the Lord Commissioner² and eight citizens³, four Hispanicized and four natives, we began our journey in an easterly direction at 3 o'clock in the afternoon. After going five leagues we arrived at the Rancho San Pedro, alias Hacienda Nacional, at nightfall. We spent the night there and the only item of note was that our natives were robbed of a few things. We left the ranch at dawn on the 12th in a northeasterly direction and passed through the Cañada de la Natividad. We arrived about 11 a.m. at the Mission of San Juan Bautista. We rested there on the 13th to attend Mass as it was Sunday. Here we were joined by don Luis Antonio Argüello, commandant of the Presidio of San Francisco.⁴

At daybreak on the 14th we began to travel to the northeast toward the ranch of Mr. Mariano Castro, three leagues from San Juan Bautista. So as to make our journey easier the Father Prebend and I rode in a flimsy

¹ Payeras was fond of ecclesiastical alliteration. This reference is to the role played by the Archangel Raphael when he took a human form and accompanied Tobias on a journey to collect a debt owed to the elder Tobias. Hugo Hoever, *Lives of the Saints*. (New York: Catholic Book Publishing Company, 1959.), 417. In this case Payeras appears to be invoking Saint Raphael to help them in their journey to remove the Russians from Fort Ross and retrieve the territory occupied by them for the recently established Mexican Imperial government.

² Kiril Khlebnikov provides a thumbnail description of Canon Fernández de San Vicente: "He...was born in Guadalajara, Mexico, and is a Creole [Spaniard born in the New World]. Educated in Europe, he is a canon by rank. He wears a small calotte, a blue frock coat and a three-cornered hat, and he is addressed by the title of 'your Honor.' He is polite, but grimaces with each word, as if to indicate that he finds being polite repulsive. As he has taken up a political career, he probably has read Machiavelli and regards the Creator's work with disdain." Kiril T. Khlebnikov, *The Khlebnikov Archive: Unpublished Journal (1800-1837) and Travel Notes (1820, 1822, and 1824)*. Leonid Shur, ed., John Bisk, trans. (Anchorage: University of Alaska Press, 1990.), 108.

³ The Plan de Iguala and Mexican independence abolished the caste system and all persons previously subjects, were citizens, Indians as well as those who were culturally European (*gente de razón*). Shortly before this journey, on October 8, 1822, Payeras met with other ecclesiastical and civil authorities of California in Monterey, and at that time Canon Agustín Fernández de San Vicente expressed the principal that the Indians were now citizens as stipulated in the Plan de Iguala. Payeras, *op.cit.*, 327.

⁴ Additional members of the expedition named by Carl Schmidt in his report to Khlebnikov were José Bolcoff, interpreter; Antonio del Valle, Lieutenant of the San Blas Infantry Regiment; and José Joaquin Estudillo, a cadet officer accompanied Luis Argüello on the 1821 expedition. Khlebnikov, *op.cit.*, 110.

carriage⁵. Due to the rather heavy weight of the two of us, the axles broke simultaneously and the two of us were thrown to the ground on our backs, each on his own side. With a few contusions and a certain amount of confusion due to the many spectators, but having recovered from our fright, we continued our journey as far as Laguna Seca, where we ate. In the afternoon, we continued our journey and sent through the pueblo of San José de Guadalupe after sunset, a league from Mission Santa Clara. We arrived at the mission when it was already dark, having traveled 16 leagues from San Juan.

14th Day.⁶ We visited the holy church and other places and at 1 p.m. took the road to the northwest. After five leagues we passed through San Francisquito, a sheep ranch of the last mission [Santa Clara] and after eight leagues through Las Pulgas, a cattle ranch of the Presidio of San Francisco, and after 10 leagues we found ourselves in San Mateo, a ranch of field crops and sheep belonging to the Mission of our Father San Francisco. Here there are houses and storage bins for what the place produces in the way of grains⁷. At dawn on the 15th we traveled on to the northwest in a heavy fog. After going five leagues, at the place called Portezuelo, the officers of the Presidio as well as the Father Minister Fray José Altimira, came out to meet us. Traveling together we arrived at the Mission of Our Father San Francisco at about 10 o'clock in the morning, six leagues from where we had slept and 16 leagues from Santa Clara. We rested there on the 16th, 17th and 18th. We gathered supplies, we carried out our ministerial duties, and the horses were taken over to the other side of the Port of Our Father San Francisco so that we could depart the following day.

Your Lordship.⁸

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⁵ This was clearly not a wooden-wheeled *carreta* widely used in California. In other correspondence Payeras mentioned increasing use of two and four horse carriages by missionary fathers as a luxury that was getting out of hand, but perhaps necessary in some cases given the age and infirmity of many missionaries. Payeras, *op.cit.*, 269, 274, 323.

⁶ A discrepancy appears regarding the dates 14-18.

⁷ One of the few images of a mission era granary available is that at Rancho San Mateo made by William H. Dougal in 1850. William H. Dougal, *Off for California; The Letters, Log and Sketches of William H. Dougal, Gold Rush Artist*. Frank M. Stanger, ed. (Oakland: Biobooks, 1949.), 18.

⁸ Santa Barbara Mission Archive/Library, Santa Barbara, California. Diaries. Oct. 29, 1822. Diary of Payeras concerning his expedition to Fort Ross, Oct. 19-29, 1822.; California Mission Documents, 898. Oct. 15. Fray José Altimira to Payeras. Also notes of Payeras used for the formation of his diary concerning Fort Ross. Published as: W. Michael Mathes, "El Comisionado del Imperio Mexicano visita la Frontera Ruso-Mexicana, octubre de 1822," *Calafia* VI:6 (enero 1989), 7-11.

Diary that the said expedition, that was undertaken from the mission of Our Father San Francisco to the Russian establishment of Ross, alias Coscoff [Kuskov]⁹, by the Sir Commissioner of the Mexican Empire for both Californias, Sir Prebend don Agustín Fernández de San Vicente¹⁰, compiled by he who accompanied him, Fray Mariano Payeras¹¹, is as follows:

October 19th.

At 7 a.m. we left said mission for the Presidio of the same name, one league distant, and after greeting the officers we were joined by the Captain and Commandant of that Presidio of San Francisco, don Luis Argüello¹², and by the Infantry Lieutenant Antonio del Valle¹³, and by some soldiers and servants. At about 10 we embarked in the launch at the port of the same name. By following its estuaries toward the northeast, and by rowing alone, because of a lack of wind, we arrived at 3 in the afternoon at the Asistencia of San Rafael, seven leagues from the aforementioned port.

At said Asistencia we were received with a great ringing of bells and extraordinary joy by its Reverend Father Minister Juan Amorós¹⁴, together with the sergeant who accompanies him and by the neophyte settlement. We spent the night there.

The 20th.

⁹ A frequently used Spanish term for Ross, the name of the founder, Kuskov.

¹⁰ Canon of the Cathedral of Durango commissioned by Agustín de Iturbide to secure imperial government in the Californias, later Vicar of Santa Fe, New Mexico.

¹¹ Payeras (1769-1823) was born in Mallorca and left for New Spain in 1793. He arrived in San Francisco and was assigned to San Carlos Borromeo. He served in Soledad from 1798 to 1803, in San Diego from 1803 to 1804, and was named president of the missions in 1815. He was in poor health during his trip to Ross, and he died on April 28, 1823. Geiger, *Franciscan Missionaries*, 184-189.

¹² Luis Antonio Argüello (1784-1830), a native of San Francisco, entered the company of San Francisco as a cadet in 1799, was promoted to ensign in 1800, lieutenant and commandant in 1806, and captain in 1818. He served as interim governor from November 1822 to November 1825 and was considered an officer of absolute honesty and efficiency. Bancroft, *Pioneer Register*, 41-42.

¹³ Valle, lieutenant of the San Blas infantry posted in San Francisco, in 1823 was named commandant of infantry in Monterey. In 1834-1835 he was commissioner in San Fernando where he died in 1841. Bancroft, *Pioneer Register*, 263.

¹⁴ Amorós (1773-1832) was a native of Cataluña and embarked for New Spain in 1803. He was assigned to San Carlos Borromeo in 1804, and served there until 1819 when he was transferred to San Rafael where he served until his death. Geiger, *Franciscan Missionaries*, 11-13.

Since today was Sunday, everyone arose early and all who were accompanying the expedition heard the Mass celebrated in honor of the Sovereign Archangel, Patron of the Asistencia and of our expedition, to pray for its most fortunate outcome. Once finished, the aforementioned set out in the name of God in a direction north as far as the place of Santa Lucia de Onompali,¹⁵ five leagues distant. From there we turned to the northwest heading for the Arroyo de San Antonio¹⁶ and we rested in its meadow,¹⁷ two leagues from Onompali. After both of us fathers prayed the divine offices, we continued our trek leaving the arroyo to our left and penetrating in the same direction into some difficult, grass-covered hills, but extraordinarily short of water and wood. Finally at sunset, having traveled six leagues, we found two water pools in the crossing of a watercourse that we called San Vicente.¹⁸ After those who were following with us with great difficulty brought in some wood, we spent the night without incident.

Without incident we awoke on the 21st.

And continuing in the same direction, after having gone across two points of the Estero del Americano and going up and down high hills with great difficulty, at about 11 we sighted the Port of Bodega to the south of our route. We turned toward the said area of the desired port, descending from the mountains toward the beach. At a distance of one league from the said mountains, and eleven from San Vicente, we found the mentioned port. In it there was one Russian launch taken care of by two Kodiak Indians under order of the Russians. On the very edge of the water this port has two springs of good water and two redwood houses built by the said Russians who brought the lumber for them by sea from Ross.- From 12 Noon, the hour we arrived at this place, until 3 we rested, and having climbed with great difficulty the very steep embankment that forms the west side of the said port, we mounted on horseback and descended to the opposite shore of the bay and we followed it directly north for about a league, and we immediately ascended the embankment again and changed direction to the northwest. After traveling for four leagues from Bodega, we arrived after sunset at the Arroyo Verde.¹⁹ The Lord Commissioner gave it that name because of the green vomit he threw up there from the total upset to his person caused by the difficult ascent caused by the steepness of the said embankment of Bodega, as well as by the Paso del Diablo, a large muddy ravine where, when his horse jumped with extraordinary spirit, it threw His Lordship from the saddle and if he had not held on in time, he would have fallen to the ground. In this place where there is only water in pools we spent the night. And, the sun coming up on the 22nd.

¹⁵ Olompali, an important Miwok ranchería, later a ranch of Mission San Rafael on the main route to Sonoma.

¹⁶ San Antonio Creek.

¹⁷ Two Rock.

¹⁸ Coleman Valley.

¹⁹ Russian Glen.

We continued our difficult trip in the same direction, with the Bodega mountains to the right and the sea of the same name to the left. After two leagues we found the river which our noble companion, the aforementioned Captain Argüello, called the San Ignacio²⁰ when he discovered it 13 leagues upstream during his expedition of 1821.²¹ In the dry season its mouth is closed and open, and when the water is high it can only be crossed by raft or by canoe because in addition to its own water, it receives the tides from the ocean.- At about a league and a half from this river at the end of the Bodega mountains and at the foot of those of Ross, we crossed the arroyo named María,²² which has along its stream bed some trees and a small stream of water.- Continuing our route always in the same direction, without losing sight of the sea we began to ascend the Ross mountains, inaccessible because of their heights and precipitous canyons. The climb is difficult but not dangerous and is more than two leagues. Everything is covered with redwood, spruce, live oak, oak, laurels and madrone.- On descending then from these high mountains about one league, bearing somewhat to the west, after having traveled six and one half leagues from Arroyo Verde, we found the object of our trek...the Russian fort or establishment, which we called Coscoff [Kuskov] after its founding commandant, and which its inhabitants today call Ross after the little town or ranchería²³ of wild Indians which used to be there and from whose captain, we were told by the commandant of the said settlement, don Carlos Smit [Carl Schmidt]²⁴ and confirmed by the Indians of Bodega, his company which they call the Russian-American had bought the property of the place.

Upon our arrival there at about 11, the said commandant along with four of his subordinates came out to welcome us, and at the same time they greeted us with four cannon salvos from the two bastions located in the north and south corners of the square of the settlement.

Note M

That regarding Ross follows.

²⁰ Russian River.

²¹ The expedition to the north of San Francisco proceeded inland from the coast in search of a reported settlement on the Columbia River. After reaching the area of Mount Shasta and Mount Lassen, Argüello returned to San Francisco. Luis Antonio Argüello, *The Diary of Captain Luis Antonio Argüello, October 17-November 17, 1821*. Vivian C. Fisher, trans. and ed. Keepsake Number 40. (Berkeley: The Bancroft Library, 1992.)

²² Russian Gulch.

²³ Site of the ranchería of Métini.

²⁴ Carl Schmidt, successor to Kuskov, manager/commandant at Ross from 1821 to 1826. He reported the Mexican visit to Khlebnikov. Khlebnikov, *op.cit.*, 109-110.

One league before we arrived there, on instructions from the Lord Commissioner, Captain don Luis sent a cadet and a corporal to announce the coming of His Lordship and his retinue to deal with matters of the government of the Empire (even though they already knew it through a Kodiak, one of the two men whom we met at Bodega and who had gone ahead of us by sea; however they did not believe it), and they soon returned with the reply that we should proceed and that we would be received with pleasure. As it happened, on seeing us at the foot of the mountains, the Commandant don Carlos Smit [Carl Schmidt], a young man of 23 years of age, came out from the quadrangle of the presidio. He placed a white parliamentary flag to the west on a commanding site 200 paces from the fort, and the green and blue Russian commercial flag in front of the commandancy. He and all his subordinates, and other people, received us at the foot of the fort hill with 4 salvos and with the greatest graciousness possible. Following greetings and amenities in his three-story, well arranged eight-room house, we went out in the company of those gentlemen to see everything in that settlement. Its location is on a plateau surrounded by ravines which end in the sea. It is encircled by redwood planks (there is no other kind of lumber in that entire structure which is all pure palisade construction) four varas high, joined together and at the top fitted into a beam with five sharpened stakes to prevent assault.²⁵ It has three gates, to the northwest and southeast part, and no attached house. Rather, at a short distance from the said enclosure or wall, in the square, is the commandancy, two storehouses for cloth and utensils, a storehouse for foodstuffs, barracks, and three houses for officers, two bastions, one in the northern corner with five cannon on two floors and in that of the south there is another with seven guns. In the other two corners there are sentry boxes for the sentries who ring the bell and the hours. Also within the fort they have four mobile cannons with their gun carriages.

On the bank of the arroyo²⁶ and at the foot of the cliff there is the forge and sweathouse, and in two houses, also of wood (because in no cases do they use stone, adobe or lime for their houses) the forge and sweathouse. When I say temescal it should not be thought to be like those of our native people. Inside, in a corner of their wooden houses they put their rectangular stone ovens where they stoke the fire. Raised up about one and a quarter varas high they have an iron grate on top, and on this a number of stones similar to those which our natives use to cook their acorn atole,²⁷ and which they heat until they become glowing. At this point they sprinkle them with water, and the steam that comes out of both openings of the two mentioned levels is so much that in a little while they sweat oceans.²⁸ The men lie naked and stretched out on a plank alongside the oven [and refresh themselves with scented branches].

²⁵ These would have been 11 feet high; in the final inventory the walls are stated to be about 14 feet high. Glenn J. Farris, "Fathoming Fort Ross." *Historical Archaeology* 17:2 (1983), 93-99.

²⁶ Fort Ross Creek.

²⁷ Stone boiling was a common California Indian method of heating foods, such as acorn gruel, in tightly woven baskets.

²⁸ More appropriately a northern European sauna, compared here with a northern California Indian temescal or sweat lodge.

I wanted to see it actually being used in the one they have in Bodega.²⁹ It was ordered that the fire be stoked and sprinkled with water. It made me so lightheaded that I opened some windows. Just by the oven they have a room for sweating and then they throw water on themselves.

Further up the same fertile arroyo, and in all the nearby spots there are their little plots for planting gardens,³⁰ and in the nearby hills they also planted wheat which yields little and of poor quality because of the extraordinary cold and continuous fog.

[DESCRIPTION OF FORT ROSS]

To the northeast about the distance of a cannon shot, they have their cemetery, still without a fence.
[here it seems something should follow, but it was not found]

Among the burials there are notable distinctions. For the three distinguished Founders³¹ facing each other they placed their mausoleum on a sepulcher of three squared levels from larger to smaller, and on these a pyramid of two varas, over this a sphere as a top and on a cross, all painted in white and black in such a way that when one descends from the mountains it was what most attracts attention. Over another European they put only a sort of large box,³² and over the Kodiaks, a cross. The same was placed over he who they buried in

²⁹ Khlebnikov commented on October 1/12, 1822 that the bathhouse at Bodega had been recently built by orders of Schmidt: "The bath consisted of two rooms, one for the officers and one for the men. Thus, after the voyage, everyone could take a bath and could also use the building to take shelter, to store their things, and to relax. Two Aleuts lived here and prepared hot water for the crew." Khlebnikov, *op.cit.*, 95.

³⁰ These were in the bottomlands of Fort Ross Creek, shown clearly on an 1817 map. Svetlana G. Fedorova, *The Russian Population in Alaska and California, Late 18th Century-1867*. R.A. Pierce, ed., Alton S. Donnelly, trans. (Kingston, Ontario: The Limestone Press, 1973.), Map 13.

³¹ The founding saints of the Russian Orthodox Church, Basil, Gregory, and John.

³² European is used in the cultural sense (*gente de razón*), not geographical. Such a box over a grave is common in Russian cemeteries. Sannie Osborne, "Death in the Daily Life of the Ross Colony." Ph.D. dissertation, Anthropology. Milwaukee: University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, 1997.

the embankment at Bodega.³³ All of the crosses we saw are Patriarchal: a small cross above, the main cross a short way down, like arms, and further down is placed a diagonal wooden branch that we thought to be our INRI.

To the north of the square at a distance of three musket shots,³⁴ there is a good windmill that grinds perfectly. All of it, from its foundation up is made of wood. To the north-northwest there is a beautiful, long barn. In it we saw the wheat gathered with all of its straw, and since the humidity from the atmosphere is so great there, they have a stove to pre-dry what they want to winnow.- To the exact northwest is a natural pile of stones in which is set up the white flag that I noted before.³⁵ Finally, to the west at a musket shot distance is a long gallery of two sections like the houses we call doubles, the two doors of which and the rear look out on the square. In the middle of each side there is a door that opens on each side to go out on its respective direction which has a beautiful corral enclosed like the rest with upright boards. That to the northwest is for sheep and that to the south for cattle. Of the latter it seems there would be about 100 to 200, and of sheep, I heard that there were 2,000. When it rains or is very cold, they go inside and when the weather is good they go outside; and since that soil is of poor quality, in order to make it productive they have fertilized it from those corrals from the beginning, and they keep the straw from the winnowing for the domestic animals. It is said that they make good cheeses and butters, and the meats seemed delicious to us. To the south of those corrals are the houses for those who are European, minus Russians, for Kodiaks, and even for wild Indians of the surrounding area, proportionately, according to their customs. All the houses and the mill are generally square of boards placed one above the other. The roofs are of boards with a great slant, with a wooden strip that joins them above and their gutters to prevent the entry of water.³⁶ Since redwood is so readily at hand, splits easily, and is so soft, in a short time they work it a great deal and they solidly build a great deal. Since this wood does not rot at its center and is pleasing to the eye, so also is the appearance of all of the establishment, the houses of which are almost all very comfortable because of the good and well-fitted glass of their windows.

³³ Struck through in the original. Archaeological excavations in 1962 located a coffin burial on the hillside above Campbell Cove, site of the Russian-American Company buildings. Although uncertain that this was that described by Payeras, the skeletal remains were identified as an individual of mixed European and Indian ancestry. David A. Fredrickson, "Archaeological Investigations within Construction Site Area of Unit No. 1 of Pacific Gas and Electric Company's Atomic Park, Sonoma County, California." (Report prepared for Western Heritage, Inc., 1962.), 24-25.

³⁴ 180 yards.

³⁵ Some 200 paces from the stockade.

³⁶ The gutters are lengthwise channels cut into the roof boards that overlie one another in an offset pattern allowing water that slips under the upper board to be channeled off by the underlying board.

It is said that in the eastern sentry box³⁷ there is a bell that they ring at the time that we ring the Ave Marías, but I understood that it was for calling people to and from work. In the living room of the commandant in one corner there was a painting on canvas of two tercias of Saint Peter and Saint Paul and another very small one below it of Saint Nicholas, et templum non vide in ea,³⁸ nor anything of a church or oratory in the entire place, nor much less a priest. Who, then, administers the sacraments there in their rite? I will tell you: On the occasion of the delay of the wedding of a Russian mixed blood who lives with us and due to doubts about the validity of his baptism, and because of other points concerning our spiritual conquest in that area,³⁹ I wanted to learn desperately of their matters relating to baptism and marriage, and having been introduced for this matter to don Teodoro [Fyodor] Svinin,⁴⁰ the quartermaster of the establishment, a mature and apparently educated, I learned from him that in all the Russian domains baptisms are legitimate, and in confirmation of it, he gave me proof in my presence: That authorized by the Bishop who resides in Kodiak, he baptizes in his establishment as an emergency minister, and under the same he marries people until a priest comes to do the rest.⁴¹ He notifies his commandant of one and the other acts, and in addition to noting it (don Carlos confirms this to us) he reports it to the governor at Sitka.-

The treatment that the commandant gave to us from the most to the least important of us who were there was unsurpassable considering the facilities of the place, and the attention, respect, and affability were superior. The first night that we stayed there, there were fireworks and afterwards a full orchestra of the Russian style, which entertained us more because of its strangeness than because of its pleasantness or consonance. Having dealt with the political and other affairs of the superior commission that my noble companion carries on Tuesday and Wednesday, we thought of leaving on Thursday despite the still very poor

³⁷ Apparently the bell tower shown in the corner of the stockade where the chapel was subsequently built in 1825.

³⁸ And I did not see a church in it

³⁹ José Antonio Bolcoff [Osip Volkov], betrothed to Cándida Castro, married her in late November or early December 1822 after Fray Vicente Francisco Sarría of Mission San Carlos Borromeo was satisfied that his Orthodox Baptism was valid. Marion Pokriots, "Don José Antonio Bolcoff: Branciforte's Russian Alcalde." *Santa Cruz County History Journal, Branciforte Issue*, (1997), 97-107; Khlebnikov, *op.cit.*, 114. Increasing Russian

and Aleut desertions into Spanish and Mexican California led Payeras and Sarría to be concerned over validity of Russian Orthodox sacraments.

⁴⁰ Fyodor Svin'in, a *prikazchik*, Russian-American Company employee in charge of warehouses who served many years at Ross and died there in 1832. Possibly the grave of a uniformed individual found at Fort Ross during excavations in 1991 may be his. (Khlebnikov, *op. cit.*, 58, 203; Osborn, *op.cit.*, 239-240; Lynne Goldstein, "Fort Ross Clothing: New Data from Old Sources". In *Clothing in Colonial Russian America: A New Look*. (Kingston, Ontario: The Limestone Press, 1996.), 114.

⁴¹ Russian Orthodox priests only made two visits to Fort Ross, in 1832 and 1836. Osborn, *op.cit.*, 189-190.

condition of our horses. When don Carlos learned of this he gallantly offered us his 15-oar launch and a pilot to Bodega. The only difficulty in accepting the offer was that although it was large enough, the launch was made of nothing but pure sea lion skins braced in the same manner as the Kodiak kayaks, with hazelnut rods instead of wooden beams;⁴² but since the aforementioned don Carlos assured us of its safety and that we would be in Bodega, thirty miles distant by sea, in three hours, and since both of us were also desirous of examining the coast and the port also by sea, on the 24th at about 8:30 in the morning, the Lord Commissioner and I along with some escorts embarked at the foot of the sandbar where the water of the described arroyo empties. As a last courtesy our officers said goodbye to all the Russians, who saluting us with 4 cannon salvos, hat waving and gestures, shouted out to us three times, Urrá, Urrá, which means the same as our Adios according to the interpreter.

The sea was calm but without wind and for lack of it we traveled solely by use of oars. For this reason, and the currents or the undertow of the waters of the Bodega slough, the sea became somewhat rough which made me throw up everything three times until empty, while my Lord Commissioner, accustomed to sailing, remained calm, but he did have more than moderate concern over the shadow of the water that shone through because of the transparency of the skins despite their grease and oil. Upon arriving at the parallel of Bodega, a fresh northwest wind began to blow for us, which, with the help of the sail, made us come up around the point and arrive at about 3 in the afternoon at the desired port so often mentioned, now seen from the east and from the west or, that is, from sea and from land which was our intent. The officers and our other companions with the horses arrived here shortly on the opposite side of the port. According to what we have been informed only small vessels can anchor in it. We all ate together at the houses mentioned on the 21st, and having re-embarked as night fell we crossed the port and disembarked so as to be able to cross it on the strip of land formed by its channel.

Note what happened to us there on the 22nd and 23rd, omitted now. Remember here.

From Kuskov⁴³ to Bodega, ten leagues. Here we ate and shortly we crossed to the other side passing over the 300 feet of channel. We slept at the point, although there is no water in that entire area, not even for the horses.

The 25th.

⁴² A baidarka (umiak) a large open vessel used for local transit between Fort Ross, Port Rumiantsev, and the Farallon Islands.

⁴³ The Spaniards and Mexicans frequently referred to Russian locations by the names of their founders or other persons, such as the Kostromitinov Ranch on the Russian River being called Munin (later Muniz) Ranch, a corruption of the name of its overseer, Yefim Munin, and the Vasily Khlebnikov Ranch called Rancho de Basily. Glenn J. Farris, "How the Muniz Rancho got its Name." *Fort Ross Interpretive Association Newsletter* (July-August 1996), 4.

We left at dawn traveling along the strip of land that surrounds the slough until we arrived at the coast. We climbed south along the beach to the high and ravine-filled hills. In one of the ravines the horse of His Lordship fell, and for as much as he tried to hold on, he finally fell to one side, not without an injury and to the fright of all the spectators. A league and a half further on we came to the mouth of the Estero del Americano which we had rounded on the 21st and it was closed by the sands and inlets of the sea. Continuing our route along the hills, without any other trail than that of the Indians, after one league we hit another slough which we called Herrera because upon fording it the Sergeant of that name had fallen into it.⁴⁴ At last we crossed it, but with water up to the saddle pads, and at two leagues beyond we came to a big slough that the natives call Tamales⁴⁵ for the ranchería that it has at its head, and the Europeans call it San Juan Francisco Régis.⁴⁶ This slough is eleven leagues long and about 600 varas wide and at its entrance we found a small ranchería of six wild Indians and nine wild Indians from the mountains of Bodega. On the left bank of this slough there are some small springs of water where the horses drank. From here, leaving that slough to the right, we took a southeasterly direction, and between hills and more hills, at three leagues from that slough we arrived at the two little springs of Father Juan,⁴⁷ which have good water with a few poplars. After taking a bite to eat, we continued in the same direction until we came to the source of the Arroyo de San Antonio that I mentioned on the 20th. We followed all the way along its rather wide, grassy meadow. It has only a few pools of water because it is the period of extreme dryness. After going six leagues we slept on the left bank of this arroyo.

Finally, the 26th.

We left the arroyo to the left and going in search of the Arroyo de Lobato,⁴⁸ crossing the Sierra de Santa Lucía,⁴⁹ going through the Lobato pass, after having gone eight leagues, we arrived happily at the Asistencia of San Rafael from whence we had left on the 20th. Then we rested the

27th because it was Sunday, and on Monday, the 28th, after the Mass of the Holy Apostles Saints Simon and Judas we embarked a half-league from San Rafael, crossing the points of San Pedro and San Pablo, entering the last of the three gulfs of the great Port of San Francisco, and heading southeast. After sailing about five

⁴⁴ San Antonio Slough. José Herrera, corporal of the presidio of San Francisco promoted to sergeant in 1811. Bancroft, *Pioneer Register*, 183.

⁴⁵ Tamales.

⁴⁶ Ranchería of San Rafael neophytes Vicente and Rufino who informed Payeras of the purchase of Fort Ross by one Talacani (Timofei Tarakanov).

⁴⁷ Laguna Lake.

⁴⁸ Novato Creek.

⁴⁹ Lucas Valley.

leagues we anchored and disembarked in the slough of San Pablo that is a quarter of a league away from the ranch of the same name where we spent the night. At three in the predawn we continued on the 29th, some on horseback and some by ordinary carriage. We made the trek of eleven leagues passing through the ranches of San Leandro and San Lorenzo, and arrived at Mission San José at about 3 in the afternoon. The 30th we heard to the desires of the neophyte Indians, who were not a few; we saw the mission and the 31st after Mass we left accompanied by the Father minister of Mission Santa Clara, Father José Viader,⁵⁰ in a cart headed for that mission five leagues to the west of Mission San José. In the afternoon the Lord Commissioner went to the aforementioned Pueblo de San José on the business of his commission. The 1st of November we had solemn church services both morning and evening. We received the very illustrious town council of the nearby town who came to visit us, and sleeping at the said place, on the 2nd we got up early, and in five hours arrived at the site of our fall. At 1 in the afternoon, we arrived to eat at San Juan Bautista.

⁵⁰ Born in Cataluña in 1765, he arrived in New Spain in 1795, and in 1796 was assigned to Santa Clara, where he served until 1833 when he returned to Spain. Geiger, *Franciscan Missionaries*, 263-265.