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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
MAY - JUNE, 1992



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Before moving on, I want to add to the tribute given Kaye Tomlin in the last Newsletter.

For 35 years I watched and participated as Kaye moved over the land and shore of Fort Ross. He moved as slightly through the woods as he did over the rocks and sea. When he was first on the Advisory Committee he caught the fever of THE FLOW OF HISTORY. Soon he was moving and learning all aspects of the Park. He moved as gracefully from era to era as he did on the dance floor. As work in the Park unfolds, people will realize the importance of this beautiful concept -- THE FLOW OF HISTORY, KAYE'S DREAM.

THE FLOW OF HISTORY builds a trail that links all of our pasts to the future.

Frieda Tomlin

THANK YOU -- A warm thank you to all of you who gave care and support to Kaye and myself during this most difficult of life's transitions. Frieda Tomlin

ATTIRES OF THE CALIFORNIA INDIANS IN THE FIRST
QUARTER OF 19TH CENTURY
(A RUSSIAN VIEW)

In this connection I will share some information which I have found in archives. The documents preserved until now, were written by the participants of the voyage around the world on the sloop Kamchatka 1817 - 1819, under the command of Captain Commander V. M. Golovnin. These are the diaries of F. P. Litke, a Russian navigator and geographer, and of F. F. Matiushkin, a Russian officer and a friend of poet A. S. Pushkin. Litke writes that the California Indians walk around completely naked, although some of them have blankets from Spaniards and Russians, which they remake into some sort of shirts. This is a very important fact that clarifies my version. Litke also noted a short cloak made from the seagulls' skin, barely covering a half of their backs. The women's dresses, according to his description, were made from the wild sheepskins, tied around their waists and hanging below the knees. About the features of Indian women, Litke says that they are very attractive. Their round faces have pleasant features, small noses and mouths, and they have expressive and lively eyes.

On September 21, 1818, Matiushkin notes in his diary of a trip to the shore, at a distance of two versts from the ship's anchorage, where he found a group of New-Albionians who have noticed him. Knowing their peaceful nature and a friendly attitude toward Russians, he approached them without fear and soon noted among them the painter Tikhanov. He was surrounded by the Indians, joked with them, laughed together and made sketches. The Indians were amazed when they recognized themselves in the sketches on paper. Matiushkin also mentioned that Tikhanov made two compositions in California. One depicted the interior of a hut, where a shaman performs the healing ceremony on a sick person by tying straps across his belly. Another watercolor shows a daily life of Californians. In these works by Tikhanov, Indians indeed are shown naked. Both works of Tikhanov are preserved till our days and were shown during the exhibit Russian America: The Forgotten Frontier. Matiushkin also writes that these people receive from nature everything they need without much effort. Born in a pleasant and moderate climate, they walk completely naked, while women cover themselves with the furs of coyotes. From the above memoirs it can be concluded that the majority of local males had not used any attires. However, exactly in the first quarter of the 19th century, after the contacts with Spanish, Russians and others were established, they started gradually to cover their bodies. It can be stated quite definitely that in contacts with Russians, the Indians must have been dressed at least with the minimum, because Russian etiquette considered nakedness as indecent.

My point of view is that the works of M. Tikhanov deserve full confidence because he was at that time a member of Golovnin's crew. Before the departure a painter received clear and precise instructions from the president of the Academy of Arts, A. N. Olenin, in which the painter was obliged to accurately record everything observed in nature, without changing or adding anything. Tikhanov followed this rule in all his works, we know this from his letters to Olenin. In those days, when photography or movies were non-existent, the painter had an important role of the recorder of material encountered during the voyage... See also "M. T. Tikhanov (1789-1862), Artist-Traveler" in Russian America: The Forgotten Frontier by the same author.

Diliara Safaralievna
Supervisor of Graphic Section
Scientific Research Museum
of the Academy of Arts
Saint Petersburg
(Translated by Oleg Terichow)



"Inhabitant of Rumiantsev Bay"
Watercolor by Mikhail T. Tikhanov, 1818

CALL HOUSE RESTORATION PROJECT



The 1976 General Plan for Fort Ross State Historic Park envisioned a "Flow of History" as the essential "statement" of the park. The flow theme is first picked up with the pre-contact native American Pomo. It continues with the twenty-nine year period of Russian/Aleut adventure which resulted in Kolonia Ross - Fort Ross as we know it. Less known is the era following Sutter's purchase of, and the Russian's abandonment of, Fort Ross. It includes well known California names, like Bidwell, Fairfax, Livermore, Dixon, and Burbank. The name of George Call hasn't yet taken on the luster of these contemporaries - perhaps because of the inaccessibility and isolation of this region. Nonetheless, G.W. and his wife Mercedes were extraordinary persons. Their lives and the lives of their progeny at Fort Ross from 1873 to 1972 constitute the main part of the so-called Ranch Era. The era included unique and remarkable contributions to California's history.

The development of this part of the "Flow of History" concept must depend on a house museum of ranch era life - and no finer basis for such a museum can be found than the 1878 Call House. Visitors walking past the even now interesting house see, first, a NOT OPEN TO PUBLIC sign. They see the beginnings of a pretty and historically appropriate garden, and they see a curious but intriguing shutter-less house in need of paint and certain architectural details. Visitors don't often go around the house to see the north end, but, if they did they would see clear evidence of neglect.

What visitors don't see are missing shingles on the main roof, extensive earth-wood contact in the rear portion of the house. They don't see non-closable doors, jambed windows, dry rot, and sloping floors.

Work has been done! Two years ago State Parks re-founded the main house at a cost of \$36,000. Earlier, FRIA ran fund-raising Ranch Days with great success. The garden has been the object of many volunteer hours and loving care.

A great deal needs to be done. The re-foundationing of the rear of the house is imperative. Painting is again needed. Re-roofing, shuttering, sprinkler-system installation, baseboard heater work, and many details - are all urgent. FRIA and the Ranch Committee have prioritized this list. First in importance is the completion of the foundation. This work, until the present, has been held up by the good possibility that the necessary excavation would uncover important Russian-period archaeological evidence. Permits and the cost of appropriate professional archeological control were beyond our reach. Happily that hurdle is behind us: Park's and State's archaeologists have accepted my credentials as sufficient (up to a significant "find"). Together with two archy students, Tim Johnson and Kyle Rohr from SRJC, we are doing the controlled excavation. A great bonus to this work is the super professional assistance (PhD, Arch., UC Santa Barbara) of Sandy Hoffman.

The rest of the list can be best addressed in the context of a grant application which has recently been made under the authorship of Jeanette Rosson to the Sonoma County Historical Landmarks Commission. The application requests \$23062 in grant monies - to be matched by an equal amount from FRIA. The matching funds will be comprised of direct dollars and donated labor equivalents over the span of the project. About 40% of our needs for matching funds is to be serviced from last years FRIA budget - monies already committed to the restoration project.

The grant application lists: foundation replacement, north-end; roof re-shingling and repair; shutters; baseboard heaters; and sprinkler system. In addition it addresses stabilization of the dairy barn foundation.

This, then, is what's happening at the Call House. As archaeologists we yearn for the big find. As foundation repairers we dread such an event since it would halt our work and require careful, costly scrutiny by Park's and State's archaeologists. So far, we keep ourselves at least congenial by shouting our discoveries: " - - a rubber bead" (a short chunk of rubber hose), or, " - - a fragment of aluminum lamé fabric - Mercedes'?" (strange, unfamiliar embossed foil). The work has been generally unexciting so far, but we are ever ambivalently hopeful.



BY JOHN SPERRY

WINTERING GUESTS:
MONARCH BUTTERFLIES
ON ECHIUM FASTUOSUM
IN THE CALL GARDEN

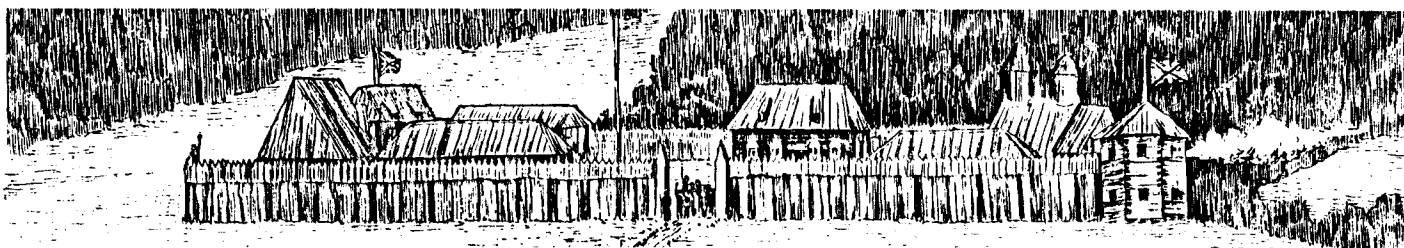
SERGUEI IA. SEROV

Fort Ross is fortunate to have as this year's first FRIA sponsored intern Dr. Serguei Ia. Serov from the Institute of Anthropology and Ethnography, Moscow. Dr. Serov will be spending his internship studying the social interaction between Russians, Creoles and Alaska and California Natives based on the rigid Imperial Russian class system and the Table of Ranks created by Peter I (The Great). This information should give us a clearer understanding of daily life on the Russian American frontier, of the problems of employer-employee relations, the Russian class structure as it applied to European and Native, and how this stratified society interacted within its system of clerks, team leaders, and work groups. The archives of the Bancroft Library, Berkeley, as well as Fort Ross' own original Russian language source material will provide the basis for this research.

Dr. Serov is well known among Russian American scholars for his work in the two recent exhibitions on Russian America: Crossroads of Continents (Smithsonian Institution and Museum of Anthropology, St. Petersburg) and Russian America: The Forgotten Frontier (Washington State Historical Society, Anchorage Museum of History and Art). The exhibition planned for the Lowie Museum, Berkeley, Encounters at the End of the World: The Colonization of the California Frontier, had Dr. Serov as Russian Co-ordinator.

Dr. Serov received his Ph.D. from the Institute of Ethnography, USSR Academy of Sciences in 1972. His areas of theoretical concentration are historical anthropology, folklore, religion, acculturation and colonialism. He is presently Senior Researcher at the Institute of Ethnography, USSR. He has done extensive anthropological and archaeological fieldwork in Russia, Ukraine, Siberia, Central Asia, Caucasus, and Cuba, and has authored numerous publications including "Guardians and Spirit-Masters of Siberia" in Crossroads of Continents. Dr. Serov has been invited to lecture (in English) at openings and symposia of Crossroads of Continents exhibitions, at the 6th Conference on Hunter-Gatherer Societies, University of Alaska, Fairbanks, at UC Berkeley on "Siberian Shamanism: Archaeological and Anthropological Dimensions", and at UC Davis on "Contemporary Soviet Folklore: an Historical Survey".

On May 23, Saturday, at 2:00 P.M. in the Fort Ross Visitor Center, SERGUEI IA. SEROV will present a lecture on the topic of his internship "SOCIAL INTERACTION AT ROSS BETWEEN RUSSIANS, CREOLES AND ALASKA AND CALIFORNIA NATIVES". Prior to the Seminar, there will be a pot luck lunch on the Visitor Center Patio to welcome Dr. Serov to Fort Ross. Lunch will begin at 12:00 P.M. There is NO FEE for this seminar.



SEMINAR REGISTRATION FORM

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

PLEASE ENROLL ME IN SERGUEI IA. SEROV'S "SOCIAL INTERACTION AT ROSS BETWEEN RUSSIANS, CREOLES AND ALASKA AND CALIFORNIA NATIVES" ON SATURDAY, MAY 23, AT 2:00 P.M.

I PLAN TO ATTEND LUNCH TO WELCOME DR. SEROV. YES NO

I WILL BRING _____

SEND SEMINAR REGISTRATION FORM TO: FORT ROSS INTERPRETIVE ASSOCIATION
(NO FEE) 19005 COAST HWY 1
JENNER, CA 95450
(707) 847-3437

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

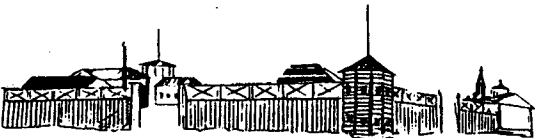
MAY 23, SATURDAY, 2:00 P.M. - LECTURE ON SOCIAL INTERACTION AT ROSS - SERGUEI IA. SEROV
MAY 25, MONDAY - MEMORIAL DAY RUSSIAN ORTHODOX SERVICES IN THE FORT ROSS CHAPEL
JUNE 13, SATURDAY, 10:00 A.M.- FRIA BOARD MEETING

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