

19005 Coast Highway One, Jenner, CA 95450 ■ 707.847.3437 ■ info@fortross.org ■ www.fortross.org

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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
INTERPRETIVE ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER
SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER, 1993**

***VISIT OF HIS HOLINESS
PATRIARCH ALEKSY II***

On Wednesday, September 22, 1993, His Holiness Aleksy II, Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia will visit Fort Ross. The Patriarch will arrive from San Francisco at around 10:30 A.M. and will hold a special service of prayer at the Fort Ross Chapel. Services should begin at 10:45 and continue until 11:45. Many members of the Russian Orthodox community will be here. The Patriarch would especially like to see children and people in costume, so find costumes for your family, pack a picnic lunch, and come to Fort Ross for this momentous occasion. Children's activities such as basketmaking, historical scavenger hunts, and nature walks are being planned for 12:45 to 2:30, so the kids can have fun too. Call Caerleon or Robin at the fort if you would be interested in helping out with the kids at the event.



His Holiness Patriarch Alexis II,
Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia

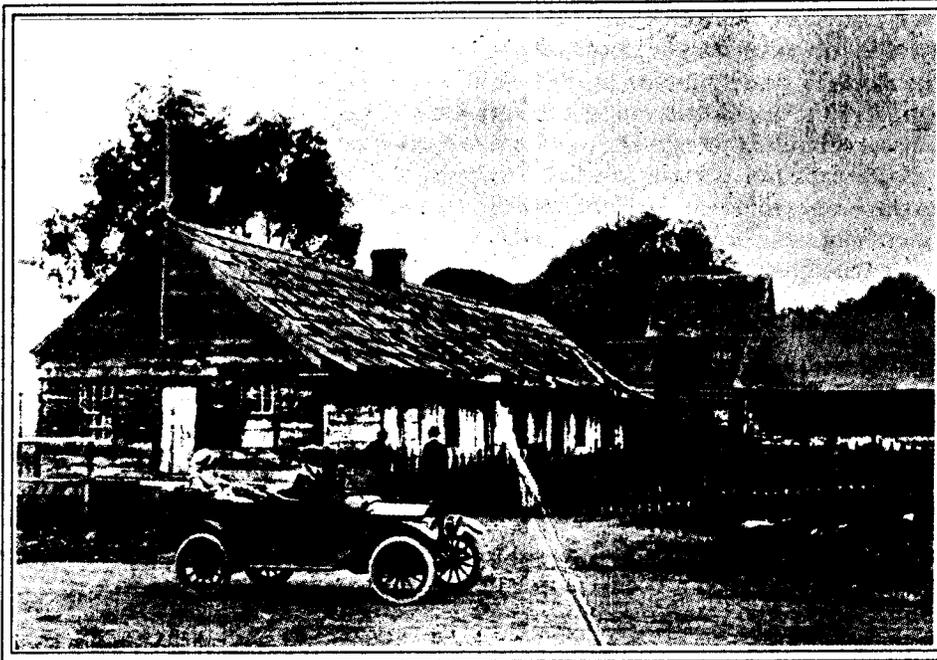
AN UPDATE ON THE FORT ROSS CEMETERY PROJECT

by
Lynne Goldstein

On August 21, 1993, we held the final reburial ceremony for those individuals who were buried in the Fort Ross Cemetery during the Russian period. The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee conducted the cemetery excavations during the summers of 1990, 1991, and 1992. Since 1991, we have reburied the remains as the osteological analysis has proceeded. The reburial ceremonies have been conducted by clergy from the Russian Orthodox Church, and the reburials have been unusual in that each individual was reburied in their original grave (in most other reburial cases, remains are reburied in a different place or in a joint grave). We excavated a total of nearly 150 graves, and although preservation was not very good, Douglas Owsley from the Smithsonian Institution was able to determine age and/or sex for 88 of these individuals. The preliminary tally is as follows: There were 20 individuals under the age of 10, 12 between the ages of 10 and 19, and 56 individuals over the age of 20. Owsley was able to ascertain that at least 18 of these people were male and 31 were female. Sex could not be determined for 39 individuals. The data indicate that the cemetery included people of Russian, Alaska native, and creole descent. The project has had the cooperation and assistance of many groups, and the analysis proceeds. A monograph describing the archival, osteological, archaeological, and geological work is planned.



LARGE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CROSS IN THE FOREGROUND MARKS THE SITE OF THE OLD RUSSIAN CEMETERY - Photo by Daniel F. Murley



Fort Ross, 1911, Official's Barracks in the foreground

THE RANCH ERA AT FORT ROSS

by

Kaye Tomlin

This article was completed by Kaye Tomlin shortly before he passed away in February of 1992. The entire text will be printed in the newsletter in this and succeeding issues. It will also soon be available in the booklet Fort Ross State Historic Park After the Russian-American Company: The Ranchers and The Caretakers. The book will include many historic photos from the Fort Ross archives. It will be sold in the bookstore for \$3.50

THE SUTTER PERIOD, 1841-1845

The official contract for the sale of Fort Ross assets to Johann (John) Augustus Sutter was agreed upon at Bodega Bay in September 1841 and was signed in San Francisco on December 13th of that year. The contract stipulated that Sutter pay the Russian-American Company the equivalent of \$30,000, in installments of both produce and cash. After the agreement, as Sutter put it, "Champagne flowed freely; we drank the health of the Russian Emperor, and I was toasted as the new owner of Ross and Bodega."

Why John Sutter contracted to buy Ross is not fully clear, even in the hindsight of history. But the "frank, prepossessing" entrepreneur was delighted when the Russians offered him the opportunity. Sutter, whose name would become synonymous with the discovery of gold in California and its pre-territorial political and military events, had established a ranch near the confluence of the Sacramento and American Rivers in mid-July 1839, intent on becoming, as he told the Mexican Governor Juan Bautista Alvarado, "an *empresario* on the northern California frontier by settling colonists on the Sacramento." But progress had been slow, and the chance to add equipment and stock to his holdings in one transaction may have been too appealing for the dynamic Sutter to ignore. He was not one to shy away from opportunity.

Born of Swiss-German parents in Kandern, Grand Duchy of Baden (Germany), in 1803, Sutter grew up in Switzerland, working first as an apprentice in printing, publishing, and bookselling. Later he worked as a grocery clerk, and finally ran a dry goods and drapery shop. The workaday routine of these occupations he combined with service as a First Under-Lieutenant in the Swiss volunteer military reserve. In 1826, he married Annette Dübeld, daughter of an old and prominent family in Burgdorf, Switzerland, where the newlyweds settled and their five children were born. For all of his endeavors, Sutter incurred more debt than success, and in 1834 he sailed alone for the United States to seek his fortune. It would be nearly twenty years before his wife and surviving children joined him.

In the United States, Sutter set out from New York for Ohio, and then Missouri, which had become the jumping off place for those drawn to the opportunities in the opening West. From Missouri, Sutter made several trips to New Mexico, trying his hand at the Santa Fe trade but with meager results. In 1838, he traveled with a fur trading party across the Rockies on the Oregon Trail to the British outpost at Fort Vancouver on the Columbia River. He hoped to go on to California, but no boats were bound there, and he was warned that winter travel over the Siskiyou Mountains to the south was too dangerous. So he sailed on a Hudson's Bay Company ship to Hawaii, hoping to get passage from there to California. Again, no ships were set to sail for California directly, but he was able to get a berth as an unpaid supercargo aboard a chartered merchant vessel sailing for Sitka, Alaska. During his short stay in Sitka, Sutter was entertained by Russian officials at the headquarters of the Russian-American Company, and from them he learned more about California to pique his interest. His persistence was at last rewarded, and he resumed his voyaging, arriving at Yerba Buena (San Francisco) after a rough trip on 1 July 1839.

Once in California, Sutter immediately went down the coast to Monterey to present his plan of settlement and his credentials to Governor Alvarado. With the way now clear for him to settle in California's great central valley, Sutter returned north, first paying the customary courtesy calls on two influential men who were soon to be his neighbors, General Mariano Guadalupe Vallejo at Sonoma, near the north end of San Francisco Bay, and Alexander G. Rotchev, the Russian manager at Fort Ross. Then he chartered a trio of small vessels and sailed up the Sacramento and American Rivers, choosing a site near today's downtown Sacramento, known to visitors then and now as Sutter's Fort. Sutter became a citizen of Mexico in 1840 and received a land grant of over 45,000 acres from Governor Alvarado in 1841, naming it New Helvetia (New Switzerland).

When the 38-year-old Swiss agreed to purchase the assets of the Russian-American Company at Ross (which did not include the land), his first act was to begin transferring all movable items to New Helvetia. In the fall of 1841, Sutter placed Robert Livermore in charge of driving about 2,000 of the approximate 3,500 head of formerly Russian-owned stock to Sutter's Hock Farm near present-day Marysville. Then, in late October, he appointed Robert T. Ridley his first manager at Fort Ross, giving him the task of removing most of the remainder of the stock, equipment, supplies, some buildings, and small boats to New Helvetia via a schooner he had obtained from the Russians, which he renamed the *Sacramento*.

Ridley, an English Cockney, was described by one historian as having "a limitless capacity for liquor" and being one of "the most facile, artistic, and bare-faced liars in the Californias. But Sutter liked him. Beside, he played a good game of whist." Ridley served as manager until the spring of 1842, about which time Sutter encountered him at the annual strawberry festival in Yerba Buena indulging his fondness for drink and celebration. This encounter, and Sutter's subsequent replacement of him with twenty-two-year-old John Bidwell, may not have been a coincidence.

Born in 1819 in Chautauqua County, New York, the young Bidwell had moved with his family to Ohio in 1834. At seventeen, he had hiked 300 miles to enroll in the Kingsville Academy, and by the next year, owing to his remarkable progress, he was made its principal. After a stint of teaching, which he found "monstrously tedious," he decided on a trip to the frontier. In May 1841, he joined the John Bartleson party, the first emigrant wagon train leaving Missouri for the far west. The trip was rough and dangerous, and after great hardship, including the loss of their wagons, members of the party finally reached their California destination in early November. Several of the men, Bidwell among them, soon found their way to Sutter's Fort. Sutter quickly recognized the ability of the tall, imposing Bidwell and offered him a job as clerk, marking the beginning of a lifelong friendship between the expansive but erratic Swiss and the retiring but astute young Easterner.

Bidwell remained as manager at Fort Ross for fourteen months, during which time he completed the moving task, presiding over the removal of "... lumber, iron, and other equipment. Even large circular threshing floors in which the Russians tramped out their wheat with bands of wild horses were torn to pieces and removed." Catching the wild livestock for the trip to New Helvetia became a challenge. Mexican vaqueros were hired to lasso them, but in ten day's time "... they lassoed nine grizzly bears, one black bear, many elk, antelope and deer—but they only caught five of the wild horses."

After Bidwell left Fort Ross, he returned to work for his employer at Sutter's Fort and at the Hock Farm. In 1846, he joined in the Bear Flag Revolt, the initial move to free California from Mexico, as a major in Lieutenant Colonel John Charles Frémont's California Battalion, and he wrote a declaration of independence for the Bear Flag Republic. He then struck out on his own, ultimately leaving his own stamp on California history. In 1848, he discovered gold on the Feather River, and soon thereafter began to develop the renowned 28,000-acre Rancho del Arroyo Chico that had been granted him under Mexican rule, and founded the town of Chico. In the ferment that characterized early California, Bidwell found a ready response in various political circles to his principles and farsighted ideas, and as a result he held a number of state offices, was elected to the U.S. Congress, ran for Governor of California, and was a nominee for the Presidency on the Prohibition Party ticket. In 1863, as Civil War reached across the country, Governor Leland Stanford named him Brigadier General in the California militia. At the age of forty eight, Bidwell fell in love with Annie Elliot Kennedy, the daughter of the Superintendent of the U.S. Census in Washington, D.C., and in 1868 they were married. They made their home in a handsome mansion at Rancho del Arroyo Chico, devoting their energies to social reform and educational causes, and garnering the respect of all who knew them. The mansion survives today as a state historical park.

Several others followed Bidwell as manager at Fort Ross, including **Samuel Smith** and the last Sutter manager, **Wilhelm (William) Otto Benitz**, who was named to the post in the fall of 1843.

Benitz, like Sutter, was born in the Grand Duchy of Baden (Germany). In 1832, at seventeen, Benitz left his birthplace of Endingen for the United States, shipping as an ordinary seaman on a merchant vessel. His ship was wrecked off the coast of Mexico, and he was one of only a few survivors. He stayed in Mexico until 1841, when he started his journey to Upper California, ultimately taking on work at Sutter's Hock Farm. Benitz served as manager at Fort Ross for nearly a year and a half. During Benitz's tenure as manager, the question of the title to the Fort Ross lands was settled when the Mexican authorities took action to officially reject Sutter's claim to the ownership of the former Russian landholdings. They divided the land into two grants: the Bodega Rancho (August 1844), consisting of 35,487 acres between Bodega Bay and the Russian River, which was granted to Captain **Stephen Smith**, and the **Muñiz Rancho** (December 1845), totaling about 17,760 acres of land between the Russian River and Timber Cove, which was awarded to **Manuel Torres**.

Manuel Torres, who never lived on his **Muñiz Rancho**, was born into an aristocratic family in the northern Peruvian city of Piura in 1824. He arrived in California at the age of seventeen on the ship carrying Captain Smith and the Captain's bride, **Manuela Torres**, Manuel's 15-year-old sister. In 1848, Torres married **Mariana Richardson**, the daughter of **William Antonio Richardson** of Sausalito, and together they had six children. Torres served in the California Assembly as a representative from Marin County, and later farmed in the Bodega area and owned a tavern in San Francisco. He died in Alameda, California, in 1910 at the age of eighty-six.

Eight months before Torres received his **Muñiz** grant, Benitz had signed an agreement with Sutter to lease the Fort Ross property and operate it as a ranch with his partner, **Ernest Rufus**. Rufus, another German immigrant, from Wurtemberg, came to the United States in 1836 at the age of twenty six, eventually making his way to California and Sutter's New Helvetia in 1842 with a party of trappers. During his stay, he served as a lieutenant in the Mexican Army, under Governor **Manuel Micheltorena**, commanding the Nueva Helvetia company of some one hundred Indian soldiers. He also participated in the Bear Flag Revolt in 1846 as a major of militia. Benitz and Rufus ranched on the **Muñiz** grant until 1849, presumably under an arrangement with Manuel Torres. The partnership also acquired land up the coast from Fort Ross—the **German Rancho**, which was granted to Rufus in 1846. In 1849, Rufus left the partnership and moved to Sonoma where he resided the remainder of his life, except for short forays to Southern California and Europe. He died in Sonoma in 1887.

With the loss of any claim to the Fort Ross property in 1845, Sutter's association with the former Russian settlement ended, but not his role in the history of California. His influence was widespread—he was involved in the Bear Flag Revolt, he participated in the great gold discovery of 1848, and was a member of the state constitutional convention. Generous and hospitable, he could also be truculent and obstinate, traits that contributed to the loss of his extensive holdings after the Gold Rush. Disillusioned, Sutter left California for the East in 1865. Here, he spent the rest of his life trying to persuade the U.S. Government to restore his title to the lands awarded him by Mexico and later overrun by squatters after California was ceded to the United States following the Mexican-American War. After years of fruitless effort, he died in Washington, D.C. in 1880.



Rotchev House with two story Benitz addition, ca. 1900

THE BENITZ PERIOD, 1845-1867

After Rufus moved to Sonoma, Benitz took on a new partner, **Charles Theodor Meyer**, and they jointly made an official agreement with Manuel Torres in 1851 to purchase the Muñiz Rancho for \$5,000 (although the land was not deeded to Benitz until 1857, and the land patent was not granted to Torres by the U.S. Government until 1860).

Benitz moved his young wife into the quarters of the last Russian manager and established it as the family residence. The new owner of Ross had married eighteen-year-old **Josephine Kohlmer** (Kolmer) in 1846. Her family, who were also from Emdingen, had emigrated from Germany to the United States in 1831. In 1845, they joined the **John Grigsby/William Brown Ide** wagon train bound for California, and went on to the Fort Ross area late that year. Ten children were born to William and Josephine at Ross, with seven surviving to adulthood. As the family grew, Benitz expanded the Rotchev House to meet their needs, including the building of a two-story addition. Here the family collected an extensive library, installed a reed organ, and hired a private tutor to educate the children in the German, Spanish, and English languages, among other subjects.

Little is known about Benitz' partner, Charles Meyer. It is known that he was a bag merchant who was born in Prussia in 1827, and he arrived in San Francisco in 1851. He had an interest with Benitz and others of German origin in other property along the Sonoma coast during and after his partnership with Benitz. There is also some indication that he married a Kashaya Pomo Indian woman. He died in 1893.

In 1848, one hundred and sixty-two Kashaya Pomo Indians still lived outside the Fort, including sixty-three men, fifty-two women, and forty-seven children. Some of them worked for Benitz and Meyer and received board and lodging and were paid \$8 a month, a wage decreed by the Government. The work included ploughing, harrowing, planting, harvesting, herding, helping in the kitchen, milking the cows, and taming the horses. In turn, the Indians looked to Benitz for protection from marauding ranchers who were in the habit of raiding Indian villages for slaves. Following a raid on Fort Ross in August 1845, Benitz complained to the local authorities. An inquiry was held in which the leaders of the raid were publicly identified, and from that time on no further known attempts were made to run off any Indians from Fort Ross.

In addition to the Indians, Benitz and Meyer hired others, particularly for jobs such as hunting, surveying, carpentering, and blacksmithing. These non-Indian workers received variously between \$35 and \$60 per month for their labor.

The two partners undertook a number of successful commercial farming enterprises. Starting with a few remaining head of the Russian livestock and adding stock of their own, they increased the herds until they numbered over one thousand head of cattle, one thousand sheep, one hundred and fifty horses, and a large number of swine. In 1852, Benitz wrote that they had sold 400,000 pounds of potatoes for 5¢ a pound, and by 1856 there were seventy acres of oats, thirty of barley, and twenty of peas and other vegetables under cultivation. The trees in the Russian orchard bore apples and other fruit, and shortly after 1858 Benitz planted another apple orchard of nearly seventeen hundred trees. Even without the New Orchard, as it came to be called, Benitz sold 20,000 pounds of apples in 1856 at 12¢ a pound.

About a mile up the coast from Ross, at Timber Cove, tenants of Benitz built a sawmill and a chute for loading and unloading cargo on the schooners that called at the cove. These vessels traded up and down the coast and rivers, supplying lumber, piling, potatoes, grain, building stones, deer hides, eggs, butter, apples, live ducks and pigeons, and other items to be sold in Sonoma, Sacramento, and San Francisco. In 1856, Benitz declared that he intended to build a 12-mile road across his "camp", and in 1857 he was authorized to operate a ferryboat across the Russian River, near today's bridge by the town of Jenner, as another step in opening up travel along the coast by means other than by sea. He also made arrangements with a group of Italian fishermen from San Francisco to establish a fishery at Fort Ross, which provided another avenue of direct communication with the Bay Area on a weekly basis. Moreover, Benitz paid \$50 a year to Captain Smith, who lived at the site of the old Khlebnikov Rancho near Bodega, to make the 18-hour journey to Sonoma to pick up the mail, and sent a man on the 24-mile trip from Ross to Smith's ranch once a week to collect the mail from Smith.

By 1855, Benitz had made enough money to buy out Meyer for \$22,500. Early in their partnership there were good profits to be made from their enterprises, particularly during the Gold Rush, but now lower farm prices and the scarcity of labor drastically cut profits. Even so, in 1858, Benitz was rated as the fourth richest man in Sonoma County. In 1859, Benitz began to lease rights to his lands, allowing various individuals to log and mill timber, mine coal and minerals, and prospect for petroleum. However, he realized little money from these leases, and because he felt he and his family were being discriminated against because they were German, Benitz started selling portions of his land. By 1867, he had sold all of his Fort Ross holdings and had moved his family to Oakland, California. In 1874, the family emigrated to Argentina where they established a successful ranching business, at their *estancia*, La California, which members of the Benitz family continue to operate today. William died there in 1876. Josephine made one return visit to California in 1899 and continued to correspond with the new owners at Ross for a number of years.

TO BE CONTINUED: THE DIXON/FAIRFAX PERIOD and THE CALL PERIOD

TALACANI
THE MAN WHO PURCHASED FORT ROSS

by
Glenn Farris

The purchase of Fort Ross by the Russians about 1811-1812 is a well known story. Most associate it with the account by Hubert Howe Bancroft (1886, ii, 297):

The native chiefs were made friends by the distribution of petty gifts, and there is not much doubt that they made, either now [1811] or the next year, some kind of a formal cession of territory to the newcomers. The price paid, according to the statement of the natives in later years, as Payeras tell us, was three blankets, three pairs of breeches, two axes, three hoes, and some beads.

Since Kuskov was the head of the expedition, the act of purchasing Fort Ross has been largely credited to him. However, when one takes the time to read Fr. Payeras' comment on the purchase in full, a few questions come to mind. Following Fr. Payeras' celebrated visit to Fort Ross in 1822, he prepared a diary of the events. Apparently he added to the diary account with some additional notes such as the one seen below. This single page document is found in the Santa Barbara Mission Archives (SBMA Doc 1842). Thanks to some dogged work at translation by historian Donald Cutter and Bellerophon Books Publishers of Santa Barbara, there will soon be available a full collection of the papers of Fr. Mariano Payeras. Cutter has provided a translation of the Nota as follows:

Notes for the Diary

The Christians of San Rafael, Vicente and Rufino of the Estero of San Juan Francisco Regis opposite Bodega, say that it is true that the commander of a Russian ship named Talacani first came and stopped at Ross, and bought that place from its chief, Panac:úccux, giving him in payment three blankets, three pair of trousers, beads, two hatchets, and three hoes. Afterwards he went down to La Bodega and bought it from its chief, Ióllo (he is already dead and his son Valli:ela is now chief) for an Italian-style cape, a coat, trousers, shirts, arms, three hatchets, five hoes, sugar, three files, and beads. This was not purchased, but rather it was like giving permission, and so the Indians would give them help. It is said that they did buy Ross, but only Ross, not the neighboring places (Cutter 1993).

The identity of Talicani has been a mystery over the years. First of all, it was difficult to determine if it was meant to be the name of the ship or the ship's captain. In either case, it seemed to lead nowhere because the ship that Ivan Kuskov arrived on was called the *Chirikov*.

On the other hand, we know that when Kuskov arrived in 1812 he joined up with a party of Aleut hunters being led by a Russian named Timofei Tarakanov (Pierce 1990:497-499). When the two names

are compared, Tarakanov and Talacani, it is evident that they are the same. The replacement of the "r" in Tarakanov by an "l" in Talacani is seen in other consonant replacements found in the Bodega Bay Miwok language (cf. Callaghan 1970:71, example of the Spanish work *interprete* becoming *télpíte* in Bodega Miwok). When asked about this interpretation, Callaghan (personal communication 1993) agreed that [my] conclusion that Bodega Miwok Indians heard Tarakanov as something like Talacani (perhaps *tallakáani*) is probably correct. There was no 'r,' 'f,' or 'v' in Bodega Miwok, and words frequently ended in 'i'."

The notion of a lower level official doing the negotiating for properties in California rather than the leader, Alexander Kuskov, may seem odd at first. However, when one considers that Timofei Tarakanov had had extensive experience dealing with Indians (cf. Owens and Donnelly 1985:39-65) and may have even learned some of the Miwok language in the months he had spent hunting sea otter in the area of Bodega Bay (Dmytryshyn et al. 1989:169-170) prior to Kuskov's first trip to the California coast in 1808, it makes more sense. The Bodega Miwok Indians quite reasonably would have considered him to be the *capitan* of the Russians, if he was acting as spokesman in these dealings. In other instances, particularly in Oregon and Hawaii (Owens and Donnelly 1985:34,84), Timofei Tarakanov was praised for his leadership, often undertaken in difficult situations.

Instructions given to Ivan Kuskov by Russian-American Company governor Alexander Baranov dated October 14 [25], 1808 (Dmytryshyn et al. 1989:165-174) state repeatedly information about sea otter hunting along the California coast, in particular around Bodega Bay, provided by Tarakanov. Tarakanov did not accompany Kuskov on the 1808 trip to California because he was attached to the ill fated exploration of the Oregon country aboard the *Sv. Nikolai* (Owens and Donnelly 1985), whose members were captured by the Indians. Tarakanov did not escape and return to New Archangel (Sitka) until 1810. However, shortly after his repatriation to the Russian-American Company Alaska headquarters, he was once again assigned to lead a troop of baidarkas to hunt along the California coast. Sailing on the *Isabella* sometime in June 1810, he arrived in California waters off the Farallones by July 8 [20], 1810 and in November was at Drake's Bay. At the end of February 1811, with the arrival of Kuskov at Bodega Bay, a party of baidarkas was sent to San Francisco Bay where they located Tarakanov with his 48 baidarkas. He then is believed to have stayed in California through the summer of 1811 before being taken back to Sitka.

The information that Tarakanov provided to Baranov for his letter of instructions to Kuskov in 1808 clearly had to be derived from a previous visit. On October 25, 1806, Baranov made a deal with an American sea captain, Oliver Kimball, to take 12 baidarkas on board his ship, the *Peacock*, to hunt along the California coast beginning at Trinidad harbor. Timofei Tarakanov was put in charge of the baidarkas. They were not to approach any Spanish settlements. After a successful voyage, Kimball returned to Sitka on August 3,

1807 (Pierce 1990:497-498). Although not explicitly stated, it is very likely that the group of otter hunters led by Tarakanov would have gone down as far as Bodega Bay since the Spanish had not really extended their presence beyond San Francisco Bay at that time.

Whether Tarakanov made his dealings with the Bodegan chief, Iólló, during the 1810-1811 visit or on the earlier trip in 1806-07, is not clear from the historical record (Pierce 1990:497-499), although it is interesting that the account by Fr. Payeras does state that he negotiated for the site of Fort Ross as well as rights to hunt in the area of Bodega Bay. Since by all accounts the Russians did not even investigate Fort Ross until the 1811 trip by Kuskov which resulted in the identification of the Indian site of Metini as a likely site for a fort, the later date would seem to be more likely.

In a statement about the relations with the Indians of California, Golovnin (1979:163) says:

According to established usage, the Russians had an absolute right to settle on this coast, whereas the Spanish want to drive them out on the basis of unfounded and trifling claims. The Russians established their settlement with the voluntary agreement and permission of the native inhabitants of this country [California], a people who do not recognize the rule of the Spanish and are in constant warfare with them. These people gave permission to select a place and settle on their shores for a specific sum given to them in various goods. The friendly relations of these people with the Russians, which continue to this day, clearly prove that the Russian promyshlenniks go hunting for wild goats [sic, mule deer] in the woods, frequently spend the night with the Indians, and return safely without being injured or accosted by them. In contrast, the Spaniards do not dare appear in small numbers or unarmed for fear of being killed. These Indians willingly give their daughters in marriage to the Russians and the Aleuts, and there are many Indian wives in Fort Ross. This establishes not only friendly but family ties.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 4, SATURDAY
10:30 A.M.
PLANNING MEETING
NEW PARTICIPANTS ENCOURAGED!
OCTOBER 9, SATURDAY
10:00 A.M.
FRIA BOARD MEETING

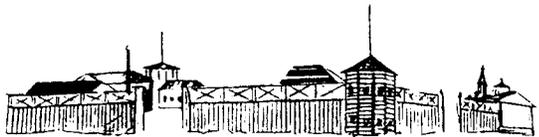
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME _____ PHONE _____
ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
_____ \$5.00 REGULAR _____ \$7.50 FAMILY
_____ \$25.00 ORGANIZATIONAL _____ DONATION \$ _____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: FORT ROSS INTERPRETIVE ASSOCIATION, INC.
19005 COAST HIGHWAY 1
JENNER, CA 95450

_____ I/WE WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER OUR TIME TO ASSIST THE
ASSOCIATION. IF YES, IN WHAT CAPACITY? _____

**PLEASE CHECK YOUR NEWSLETTER LABEL
TO DETERMINE MEMBERSHIP EXPIRATION DATE
MEMBERSHIPS NOW EXPIRE ONE YEAR AFTER RECEIPT OF DUES
THANK YOU!**



FORT ROSS INTERPRETIVE ASSOCIATION, INC.
19005 Coast Highway 1 • Jenner, California 95450

