

FORT ROSS - SALT POINT NEWSLETTER

PUBLISHED BY THE FORT ROSS INTERPRETIVE ASSOCIATION

A CALIFORNIA STATE PARK COOPERATING ASSOCIATION

WINTER 2009

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Retiring Directors, Tom Fujiyoshi and Kent Lightfoot will be greatly missed on the Board. We are fortunate that both expect to continue their involvement with Fort Ross, and that we will continue to have the benefit of their considerable expertise and enthusiasm. We are fortunate also for the addition of Glenn Farris and Tom Wright to the FRIA Board. Welcome!

MESSAGE FROM THE INCOMING FRIA PRESIDENT

FRIA has had a great run these past few years, with successful grant writing, exciting international collaboration, an active FRIA board, and an evolving, world-class book store/visitor center serving the public 363 days a year. I would like to thank the many people, both volunteers and staff alike, who make all this happen.

When Fort Ross became California's earliest state historic park in 1906, the state succeeded admirably in protecting the land and securing the historical value of this place. The tradeoff, however, was that we lost the center of the old Fort Ross community — its school, post office, hotel, and yes, its saloon. We know that Fort Ross is a travelers' destination, welcoming some 180,000 visitors and school kids each year. But I am glad to see that Fort Ross is also a place where the local community can come together, and work together. It is a privilege to serve another term as FRIA's president.

- Sarah Sweedler

ROTCHEV HOUSE EXHIBITS FUNDED BY FEDERAL GRANTS

The Fort Ross Interpretive Association and Fort Ross State Historic Park are honored to have received funding for the creation of exhibits in the Rotchev House from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (Museums for America) and from the National Endowment for the Humanities (Interpreting America's Historic Places). The National Endowment commented: ". . . *Your project has been designated an Interpreting America's Historic Places project as part of the Endowment's We the People Initiative. . . . With respect to your proposal, reviewers gave it the highest possible ratings. For them, it brought together excellence in humanities scholarship, historic preservation, and site interpretation. One panelist commented that the Rotchev House Museum is a 'rare place among this country's historic sites' adding that in 'illuminating the Russian interest in the area,' the project brings a piece of U.S. history that many Americans do not know to a wide public audience. Another noted that the grounding of the project in recent research from the Russian archives was 'among the most exciting aspects of the plan.' Furthermore, the involvement of the 'exceptional team' of scholars with Russian and American history and culture gave panelists confidence that the ambitious work plan would be completed successfully. The Endowment shares the panelists' enthusiasm for this project, which makes accessible to the public a little-known, but significant story in American history.*"

Exhibit preparation began in November of 2008 when advisors, consultants and staff gathered for four days of meetings. FRIA member Kathy Henschel generously donated her ocean-front home in Timber Cove for this planning conference. The California and Alaska advisors and the park, FRIA, and grant staff were honored to be joined by international project advisors. Igor Medvedev and his associate, Elena Klimkova, traveled from Moscow. Igor is the project architect, and professor at the Institute of Architectural Restoration, Moscow, and Chief Architectural Restorer, Vologda Region, Russia. Alexei Istomin, Head of the Department of American Studies, Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology, Russian Academy of Sciences, also traveled from Moscow. He and James R. Gibson, specialist in the historical geography of Russia from York University, Toronto, provided historical perspective of Fort Ross and the Rotchev family within the larger context of the Pacific Rim and colonial California.

At the meeting a list of exhibits, exhibit furnishings, and objects was finalized. There was review of environmental conditions and object care. Historic background guiding the exhibits, and the exhibit catalog and web tour, was established. It was decided that the catalog, interpretive panels, and web tour would be in English and Russian, and that the historical background would contain numerous quotations from primary sources. Igor Medvedev and Elena Klimkova remained in California for two weeks and completed preliminary drawings of the exhibits. Detailed plans of the furnishings to be constructed are nearly completed. Once these are done, museum restoration departments and other sources here and abroad will be contracted with to build the pieces and ship them to Fort Ross by the fall of 2009. Meanwhile an interpretive panel explaining exhibit preparation has been prepared. Work on the exhibit catalog is also underway. Exhibits are scheduled to open by the summer of 2010. More information can be found at www.fortrossinterpretive.org.

THE ROTCHEV HOUSE PRESERVATION

The Rotchev House at Fort Ross State Historic Park was built circa 1836. This National Landmark building is the only original structure remaining from Russia's thriving settlement on California's north coast between 1812 and 1841. During the American ranching era after the Russians left, a two-story addition was added to the Rotchev House and the structure was used as a home by successive owners of Fort Ross. It later became the Fort Ross Hotel. The building was abandoned and fell into disrepair in the early 1900s. The Rotchev House was first restored in 1925 by California State Parks, and the two-story post-Russian addition was removed. Joinery details were exposed and preserved during the course of a second restoration in 1947. After a fire in 1971 the roof was replaced, but the original walls, floor, ceiling, and window and door frames were retained. By 2000 the building had again fallen into disrepair, original structural elements had decayed and were crumbling, and the interior was still empty and unfinished. In 2002 State Parks requested the assistance of the Fort Ross Interpretive Association to accomplish preservation and furnishing. FRIA worked with the State of California and experts on Russian American history and the restoration of wooden buildings to establish a furnishing plan. Generous grants to preserve this unique structure have been received:

- The Sonoma County Landmarks Commission funded the initial conference of Russian wooden building and furnishing experts, the preparation of a furnishing plan, and the replacement of all doors and windows.
- California State Parks Cultural Stewardship Grant funds were allocated for analysis, preservation, and conservation of original elements and finishes, and additional necessary restoration.
- California Cultural and Historical Endowment funded the preservation necessary before furnishing, the installation of security and environmental measures, and the construction of interior doors and finishes.

EXHIBITS & FURNISHING DETAILS

The Rotchev House was the home and office of the last administrator of Fort Ross, Alexander Rotchev. He was an intelligent well-traveled person and a poet. His wife, Princess Elena, was a descendant of the titled nobility. Both were conversant in several languages. Yet the family lived on a moderate middle class Russian-American Company income. Accounts indicate that the Rotchev home was a refined and properly furnished residence. The library, French wines, and piano forte, as well as the hospitality of the Rotchevs were highly regarded. The Rotchev household was busy with three young children as well.

The original Rotchev House furnishings were removed when the family left in 1841. For this reason the knowledge of experts in early nineteenth century Russian and Russian American architecture, furnishing, culture and history was necessary to authentically restore the interior of the building and to create exhibits. New research taken from first-hand accounts of Russian voyages to colonial California has guided the preparation of the exhibit message and materials. Advisors and Russian museum curators provide details of original pieces so that exhibit display materials are exact copies of early nineteenth century originals. Several complex threads closely interwoven with Russian-American Company and Fort Ross history are involved in the preparation of the exhibits:

- First-hand accounts, illustrations, and paintings from the 1830s depicting homes of members of the Decembrist uprising imprisoned in Siberia are guides for exhibits in the Rotchev House, reflecting the similar time period and institutional style of Russian-American Company architecture, as well as the similar living standards and liberal outlook of the Company administrators in California. (The Decembrist revolt of 1825 attempted to establish a constitutional monarchy in Russia. It failed, but many of the conspirators visited Russian California prior to the revolt, and subsequent Company administrators, including Alexander Rotchev, remained faithful to their liberal ideals.)
- The Bishop's House in Sitka, Alaska is an original structure built by the Russian-American Company in the first half of the nineteenth century. It has been restored by National Parks. It contains many original furnishings and details which serve as a model for the Rotchev House exhibits. Curators at Sitka National Historical Park have provided innumerable resources and contacts.
- The Biedermeier style became synonymous with the furniture designs, fabric patterns and drapery favored by the European bourgeoisie from 1815 to 1848, and came to embody the classical elegance of wealthy middle-class living, and the lifestyle of Russian-American Company managers. Exhibit material reflects the Biedermeier style as well as the Russian and cosmopolitan background of the Rotchev family.
- The Rotchev House continued to have a rich history during the American ranching era after the Russians sold the colony to Captain John Sutter in the Sacramento Valley, and left California in 1841. Historic photographs from the Fort Ross archives show this flow of history.

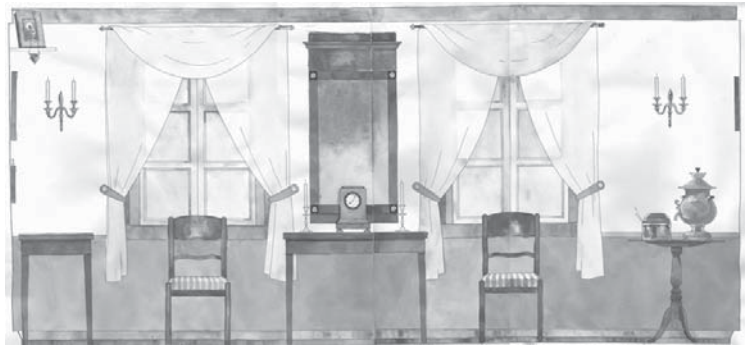
ENTRY/DINING AREA AND SLEEPING QUARTERS

Once the exhibits are installed the historic structure will be a house museum, and visitors will view “showcase” rooms by walking through the entry/dining room and a corridor of bedrooms. These rooms will be minimally furnished to give the impression of activity and the family life of the Rotchevs, but the walls, ceiling and windows are left unfinished to show the Russian construction details and the evolution of the structure over time. The entry area has a large dining table, six chairs, and a sideboard to match the furnishings in the rest of the house. The rooms in the back of the home were traditionally the family sleeping quarters. The servant or governess bedroom is simply furnished with a bed and a trunk. Alexander Rotchev’s bedroom looks in to his study and contains a bed and an armoire. The bedroom of Elena Rotchev and her children (pictured) has an armoire, bed, cradle, two small beds, a student’s desk, toys, chamberpots, and a screen room divider.



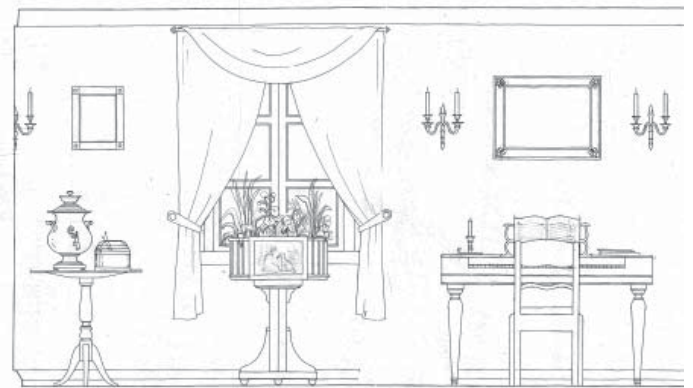
ALEXANDER ROTCHEV’S STUDY

This room showcases the business and personal life of the last manager of Fort Ross. Items and furnishings portray his office as well as his travels and literary interests. In addition to two chairs, an armchair, and Rotchev’s desk and desk accessories, this room has bookcases and many books in different languages. Miniature paintings and sketches from traveling artists decorate the walls, along with framed pictures reflecting Rotchev’s travels in India and the Orient, and an icon with lampada. Small period rugs of Oriental, Arabic, or East Indian theme also reflect Rotchev’s travels.



THE FAMILY PARLOR

Daily life and leisure in the home of Alexander and Elena Rotchev and their three young children is portrayed in detail in the parlor (reception) room. Visitors look into a room furnished with the elegant, yet simple French Empire/Biedermeier style furniture common in rural aristocratic Russian homes. These furnishings convey the family’s social position and the level of culture which they brought to California. A corner faux stove of Russian design faces the parlor. Items in this room reflect the family’s daily and social life - a piano forte with chair, a sofa (next to the stove) and an assortment of chairs and tables suitable for entertaining, a small table for people coming in (with top hat & gloves), a rectangular or square table below a vertical mirror between the windows, an armchair and three chairs near doors, a game table (with chess set), a round pedestal table (with sewing basket). Small paintings on the walls with varnished wood frames decorate the walls. An icon corner in the academic style of the time, sheer curtains, small Oriental or Persian rugs, and a samovar, tea set, and a liquor set all reflect life in the Rotchev home.



Architectural plans prepared by Elena Klimkova and Igor Medvedev, and watercolors by John Middleton illustrate the exhibits.

Grants from the NEH and IMLS fund the preparation of the Rotchev House exhibit, including construction of furnishings. The funding does not cover the purchase of exhibit collections such as the samovar and other objects described in this article. All of these essential items are being funded by the generosity of private donors. Thank you!

A LETTER FROM ALEXANDER ROTCHEV AND YELENA ROTCHEVA [GAGARINA] TO DIRECTOR KIRIL KHLBNIKOV

[Translated by James R. Gibson from a letter he found in April 2008 in the State Archive of Perm Oblast while conducting research for the ongoing FRIA/NEH funded project: “*The Coast of Colonial California Through the Eyes of Russian Mariners*”. This letter will be included in the Rotchev House Museum Catalog.]

[Received] 7 September 1836. A Letter from Alexander Rotchev and Yelena Rotcheva [Gagarina] to Director Kiril Khlebnikov about Their Voyage from Cronstadt and Their Desire to Serve at Fort Ross.¹ No number. Sitka. 27 April 1836.

Dear Sir, Kirilo Timeofeyevich!

I will refrain from apologizing to you for my silence during our passage [on the *Amerika*] from Europe: it would be complaining tritely. There was nothing to write to you about work, but my head and heart were not harmonized with my pen; however, I apologize to you, and at the same time I assure you that I remember you very well. I fulfilled your commission to buy [precious] stones at Rio de Janeiro, and I am sending the merchant's receipt; Mr. [Captain] Shants² took the stones for you as well as those that I bought. You will find his gift in a sealed box. What is there to say to you about the cruise itself? It is not to delight in the beauty of nature, the sea, climes, a storm, calms, and so on in a letter. I re-read your notes³ in half an hour; they were very satisfactory. It is possible to say one thing: our voyage could not have been more successful throughout. It was just a stroll — long, sometimes boring, but a stroll nevertheless. The children accomplished the journey without great difficulty and were noticeably healthy at sea; at first it was more difficult for my wife to become accustomed [to it], but then she also adapted to the sea; our trip showed me that man is indeed a creature of habit. Since arriving at Sitka I still do not know my future appointment; by the first clause of my service contract I was to occupy the position of manager of Ross Counter; the second clause was auxiliary, and I only mention it because you could not have appointed me directly and officially in the first place, but it was your intention to intercede particularly with the governor at Sitka to place me at Ross. I explained to you then, too, dear sir, that only my family persuaded me to prefer Ross

1 GAPO, f. 445, op. 1, d. 320, fols. 1-2v. Original. First publication. Draft.

2 Ivan Ivanovich fon Shants [Johan Eberhard von Schantz] (1802-79), a Swedo-Finn, entered the Russian navy in 1821 after having served as a volunteer on a Russian merchant vessel and passed the midshipman's examination. He rose steadily through the ranks in first the Baltic and then the Black Sea fleet, and in 1836-38 as a captain-lieutenant he commanded the round-the-world voyage of the transport *Amerika*. He was promoted to the rank of admiral in 1866.

3 It is unlikely that Rotchev is referring here to Khlebnikov's “Zapiski” about Russian America, as they were too voluminous (two volumes in English translation) to be read in half an hour. It is more likely that he is referring to personal memoranda from

to Sitka. For myself to serve is all the same, but the warm climate, abundant nature, and clear sky would buttress my wife's health and strengthen my children and could even have a salutary effect on me, whereas living constantly at Sitka — but there is no escaping what you know so well, so perfectly. If there is a possibility of arranging this matter, I earnestly beg your intercession; it will comfort my wife and convince me of your sincere favor. Permit me to resort to you with a request: in a letter to Mr. Mundt,⁴ about whom you may have learned from Nikolay Ivanovich Prokofyev,⁵ my wife has given a commission to redeem several articles necessary for household use; order the issuance of five hundred rubles to Mr. Mundt, and he will furnish you with the purchases for dispatch at the first convenient opportunity to Sitka. Your previous favor and good will have given me the right to bother you with this request. In ending my letter I wish you all the best in life and assure you of my absolute respect, with which I have the honor to be your humble servant,

Rotchev

P. S. I most humbly beg you to distribute the enclosed letters according to their addresses.

Most esteemed Kirilo Timofeyevich!

I am writing to you from the very first apartment of the Rozenbergs,⁶ and I cannot gaze to my heart's content at the views of Sitka; I find that nature here is so grand and at the same time sad. [Mount] Edgecumbe is so beautiful that scarcely a sugar loaf . . . surpasses it in beauty; nevertheless, I would not want to live here a long time. Move us to Ross, especially as you know that with a large family five thousand [rubles in salary] is not very much in Sitka, and it is easier to throw oneself into the sea from the first mountain than to condemn oneself to a long life at it. The children and I endured our long voyage so well, and God gave me a daughter six weeks before reaching Sitka, so I recommend my little Kolosh [Tlingit] girl to you; I have seen some of the local beauties with labrets [*kolodki*]. How can man form such a notion of beauty for himself?

Write to us, esteemed Kirilo Timofeyevich; you know from experience whether or not it is pleasant to receive news from the fatherland! How strongly we feel the truth of the words of Homer, who said that “the smoke of the fatherland is sweet and agreeable to us.”

Yours faithfully,

Yelena Rotcheva

4 Unidentified.

5 Unidentified; possibly a son of the Moscow merchant Ivan Vasilyevich Prokofyev, a longtime company director.

6 Nikolay Yakovlevich Rozenberg (1809-1857) was a naval officer of Baltic German origin who entered the company's service at the end of 1829 as a midshipman and served aboard company ships until 1839. He and his wife, Aleksandra Aleksandrovna, had four children (all sons) at New Archangel. In 1850 he returned to Russian America as governor, but he was relieved in 1853 on account of failing health.

A RUSSIAN COLLECTION OF CALIFORNIA PLANTS BY JOHN THOMAS HOWELL (APRIL 1937)

[From the Fort Ross reference library. No graphics accompanied the original article, though we have pictured a few local plants in this newsletter reprint.]

For a collection of herbarium specimens to encircle the earth in order to be named is a rare occurrence, and yet such a collection recently came to me for study. The much-traveled specimens would be noteworthy if only because of their extended journeying; but this particular collection holds a special interest for us who live in California because the plants were collected by the Russians in 1840 and 1841 immediately before they abandoned their California colony not far north of San Francisco. Until recently the existence of this unnamed collection in the herbarium of the great Russian Academy of Sciences in Leningrad was not generally known, and indeed it would seem likely that the memory and knowledge of these early Californian specimens had passed even from the minds of Russian botanists. More recently, the bundles were rediscovered, and, together with other American collections, were sent for determination to Dr. Ivan M. Johnston at the Arnold Arboretum. Recognizing the particular interest that would be attached to this set of plants by Californians, Dr. Johnston inquired if I would like to see and name the collection. The opportunity to examine these early Californian specimens was eagerly and gratefully accepted; and so it happened that the specimens after encircling the earth came to be named less than 100 miles from where they were collected nearly 100 years ago and where their descendants still flourish on the maritime bluffs and mesas or in the interior hills and valleys.¹

An interesting chapter in Californian history is recalled by this collection². Early in the winter of 1841, after twenty-nine years of occupation, the Russian colonists left Ross on the Sonoma coast of California³. The attempt to establish a permanent colony in California had failed because the enterprise had not proved profitable to the Russian American Company . . . After the decision of the company in the spring of 1839 to dispose of its Californian holdings, a purchaser had been sought in the Mexican pueblos of Sonoma and Yerba Buena, but finally the property was sold to Capt. John A. Sutter of New Helvetia (Sacramento).

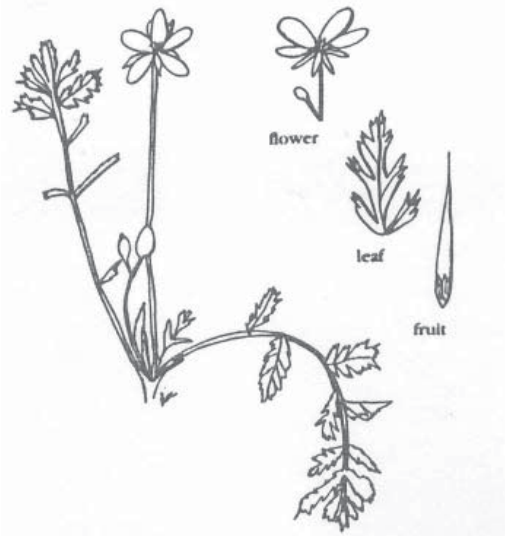
1 The specimens were originally sent to St. Petersburg via Alaska and Siberia. On their return to California, they crossed western Europe, the Atlantic Ocean, and North America. After the specimens were determined, all were returned to Leningrad except a few duplicates, which are now in the Herbarium of the California Academy of Sciences.

2 For the historical data in this account, I am chiefly indebted to the very interesting number of the California Historical Society Quarterly which dealt with the Russians in California, vol. 12, no 3., pp. 189-276, 1934.

3 Ross was known to the Spanish-Californians as Fort Ross, the name by which it is generally known today. It should not be confused with Ross, Marin County, a modern residential district that is situated between Mt. Tamalpais and San Rafael.

In June 1841 just a few months before Ross was finally evacuated and while negotiations for the disposal of the properties were assuming form, one of the chief accomplishments of the Russian sojourn was realized, the ascent and naming of Mt. St. Helena, the most conspicuous landmark in the Coast Ranges immediately north of San Francisco Bay. It seems probable that the one who initiated this undertaking and was responsible for its success was E. Voznesenski⁴, scientist-naturalist from the zoological museum of the Russian Academy in St. Petersburg. Voznesenski, 24 years of age when he came to California in 1840, was a trained entomologist and his collections of insects from various parts of central California have become classical; but only now, after all these years, is it known to us that he also collected plants, the same plants that came back to us in California to be identified.

The collection contained 346 specimens representing 214 species and varieties. The specimens were collected in 1840 and 1841, in general a fairly representative collection of specimens from the flora of present-day Sonoma County; a number obviously from the coastal hills and mesas in the immediate vicinity of Ross, and others from the interior, some certainly from Mt. St. Helena. But whether the specimens originated on the coast or in the interior, most of the labels accompanying the specimens carry only the printed data, "California boreal. Ross.—leg. Wossnesensky" and on only a few appear more definite designations of locality in script. Thus on a rare and unusual form of *Eriogonum vimineum* is the notation "Fl. Slavjana", that is, the Slav or Russian River; a specimen of *Anaphalix margaritacea* is labeled "Bodega"; and on yet another, *Erodium cicutarium*, is the note "Rio San Ignacio".



Erodium cicutarium (Filaree)

4 The orthography of this name varies in the literature on the Russian colony in California. The variant adopted here is the one accompanying the scientist's portrait, facing p. 120 in the publication of the Russian Academy of Sciences, "The Pacific, Russian Scientific Investigations", Leningrad, 1926.



Anagallis Arvensis

One of the most interesting of these special designations is “m. St. Helena et desertum St. Rose”, the mountain of St. Helen and the desert of St. Rose. In June 1841, in the heat of early summer, as Voznesenski and his party traversed the hot and desiccated country beyond Santa Rosa in his ascent of Mt. St. Helena, well might he have called it a desert. Those inhabitants of Sonoma County who now live between Santa Rosa and Mt. St. Helena would probably not be highly edified to hear their home district called the Santa Rosa Desert, but one can well imagine the feelings of Voznesenski and his companions as they traversed the brushy hills and mountains. The hardships endured and the difficulties surmounted can be vividly imagined by those who are acquainted with the region, and the label on these plants tells in one word, *desertum*, that the first ascent of Mt. St. Helena was not easily accomplished. It is to be regretted that no account by any member of the party who made the historic ascent is known. Among the specimens that carry this thought-provoking label are plants from the chaparral of the interior hills and mountains such as *Adenostoma fasciculatum*, *Pickeringia montana*, and *Eriodictyon californicum*, as well as such herbs as *Calochortus amabilis*, *Silene californica*, *Hypericum concinnum*, *Antirrhinum vagans*, *Antirrhinum virga*, and others.

Regarding the data on the labels, it only remains to be noted that while most of the specimens are credited to “Wossnesensky”, eight were collected by Kuprianov, governor of Russian America at the time Ross was abandoned. Some of the specimens are also accompanied by notations of specific date and locality in Russian script on small bits of paper, evidently clipped from the original papers in which the specimens were prepared.

Among the most interesting plants represented in the collection are the weeds. Although the weeds are not numerous, the few that there are furnish definite evidence of the occurrence of certain species even at so early a date. Two species of filaree which are now among the most abundant plants in the lowlands of California are in the collection, *Erodium cicutarium* and *E. moschatum*. *Poa annua*, *Silene gallica*, *Raphanus sativus*, *Malva* sp. (seedling), *Anagallis arvensis*, and *Physalis ixocarpa* are other widely naturalized weeds of today which are included in the collection. Other plants in the collection definitely of garden origin which have never become naturalized are *Pisum sativum*, *Ruta graveolens*, *Althea rosea*, *Borago officinalis*, and *Lycopersicon esculentum*. And it is of special interest to note those plants which are sometimes regarded as doubtfully indigenous to California: *Arabis glabra*, *Fragaria chiloensis*, *Geranium carolinianum*, *Oxalis corniculata*, *Apocynum cannabinum*, *Prunella vulgaris*, and *Solanum nigrum*.



Indian-Hemp

Apocynum cannabinum (Indian Hemp)



Prunella vulgaris (Heal-all)

While there is some botanical interest in the weeds of the collection, no extraordinary scientific interest is to be attached to the native species represented, most of which are not uncommon and can still be found in the hills and valleys of Sonoma County. But in passing it is interesting to note that, whereas the Russian collectors neglected to obtain a specimen of the glory of the northern California Coast Ranges, the Redwood, they did find several plants relatively rare, such as *Trifolium amoenum* Greene and *Antirrhinum virga* Gray, as well as the most robust specimen of *Orthocarpus pusillus* known to me, a plant more than 6 inches tall. But by and large, this set of plants offers a striking and impressive instance of what value accrues to a collection which is thoroughly studied and reported in botanical literature, and what happens if such studies are not made. Many plants in the collection were unknown in science when they were collected and if by a bit of diligent research they had been sought out and named, the collection would now rank with those obtained by Nuttall, Douglas, and Hartweg, and by the earlier Russian collectors, Langsdorff, Chamisso, and Eschscholtz. As it is today, Voznesenski's California collection is just another set of Sonoma County plants as far as scientific value is concerned; and what might have proved a classical collection of Californian plants is noted here as something of merely botanico-historical interest. If things botanical had been done differently in old St. Petersburg, I would not have had the interesting experience of working over these plants in San Francisco so near to their original home; and instead of going to the Gray Herbarium or to Kew to study rare and precious types of certain species, California botanists would be journeying to Leningrad to learn what certain types collected by Voznesenski are really like!

FRIA MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO BECOME STATE PARK VOLUNTEERS

THERE ARE MANY EXCITING PROGRAMS TO CHOOSE FROM.
PLEASE CONTACT THE FRIA STAFF AT 707 847-3437 OR FRIA@MCN.ORG IF YOU ARE
INTERESTED IN ACTIVITIES SUCH AS VOLUNTEERING IN
THE MUSEUM BOOKSTORE, THE FORT ROSS LIBRARY AND ARCHIVE,
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VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS ARE ONGOING IN THE FORT COMPOUND AS WELL. CALL
THE FORT ROSS INTERPRETIVE OFFICE AT 707 847-4777, THE RANGER OFFICE AT
847-3286, OR LOOK AT WWW.FORTROSSSTATEPARK.ORG FOR MORE INFORMATION.

REGULAR FRIA BOARD MEETINGS ARE SCHEDULED FOR THE SECOND SATURDAY OF
FEBRUARY, APRIL, JUNE, AUGUST, OCTOBER, AND DECEMBER..

Membership Application

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

_____ \$10.00 Senior/Student _____ \$15.00 Regular _____ \$20.00 Family _____ \$25.00 Organization \$_____ Donation

FRIA board meetings are scheduled for the second Saturday of every other month.

The next regularly scheduled meeting is Saturday, April 11, at 10:30 AM

FRIA website: www.fortrossinterpretive.org

Fort Ross State Park web site: www.fortrossstatepark.org



Mission Statement

The mission of the Fort Ross Interpretive Association, Incorporated, is to promote for the benefit of the public the interpretive and educational activities of the Russian River Sector of California State Parks at Fort Ross State Historic Park and Salt Point State Park.

To enhance and conserve the cultural and natural historic, interpretive and educational resources of Fort Ross and Salt Point State Parks.

To sponsor, publish, distribute, and sell appropriate items which increase visitor understanding and appreciation of this area.

To acquire materials and equipment to assist in the educational and interpretive programs at Fort Ross and Salt Point State Parks.

To develop and maintain a library.

To preserve and archive historical material associated with Fort Ross and Salt Point State Parks, and to provide and maintain adequate and secure storage facilities.

To sponsor, support, and assist scientific research and investigations relating to Fort Ross and Salt Point State Parks, and presentation of these studies to the public.

To promote interpretation that reflects current research.

To plan, organize, and implement fund raising programs to support interpretive and educational activities at Fort Ross and Salt Point.

Board of Directors:

Officers: Sarah Sweedler, President; Carolyn Coryelle, Vice President; Susan Rudy, Recording Secretary; Glenn Farris, Corresponding Secretary; Jim Allan, Treasurer; Directors: Ludmila Ershov; Konstantin Kudryavtsev; Marion MacDonald; Tom Wright. Director Emeritus: John Sperry.

Staff: Lyn Kalani, Executive Director; Sarjan Holt, Administrator; Lake Perry, Administrative Assistant; Susanna Barlow, Membership Secretary.

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