



Fort Ross - Salt Point Newsletter

Published by the Fort Ross Interpretive Association—a California State Park Cooperating Association
Spring, 2006

The new FRIA website www.fortrossinterpretive.org features access to the Fort Ross library and archives, historic photos, the museum bookstore, and the cultural and natural history of Fort Ross and Salt Point.

Fort Ross & Salt Point Spring Volunteer Trainings

CALL HOUSE TRAINING Saturday, March 4, 2006 at 9:30 AM. Fort Ross State Historic Park will host a training session for people interested in leading tours of the Call House. Learn the history of the Call Family and the Ranching Era (1873-1973), then volunteer three hours per month leading tours through the Call House and Garden. Contact Ranger Heidi Horvitz at (707) 847-3286 or email heidih@mcn.org for more information.

SALT POINT VOLUNTEER TRAINING Saturday, March 25 (time to be announced) at Salt Point State Park. This training will provide a general knowledge of the park's natural and cultural resources. The training will enable volunteers to share their knowledge with the park visitor through involvement in park interpretive activities such as working in the visitor center or leading guided walks. Please contact Ranger Karen Broderick at (707) 847-3221 or email karen@mcn.org for more information.

FORT ROSS MUSEUM BOOKSTORE VOLUNTEERS are always encouraged. Volunteers are needed for the summer season. Learn and share the fascinating natural and cultural history of Fort Ross. Training is ongoing. Contact fria@mcn.org or (707) 847-3437 for details.

LIBRARY & ARCHIVE VOLUNTEERS - Delve into the extensive collection of reference and archival materials in the library and help with ongoing cataloging. Contact fria@mcn.org or (707) 847-3437 for details.

MARCH CULTURAL HERITAGE EVENT is March 11. Celebrate Maslenitsa and attend a wheat weaving training/demonstration. We will make a corn goddess and a god's eye in a hanging frame, all from wheat. Knowledgeable members of the California Wheat Weavers Guild will be on hand to teach at our March 11 Heritage Day. We have discussed doing a full size goddess in July, so if you wish to be a part of this group project please attend the training in March. Contact Sarah Gould at frsarah@mcn.org for more information.

Sonoma Coast & Armstrong Reserve Docent Orientations

Presented by California State Parks in Cooperation with Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods.
(707) 869-9177 or email volparks@mcn.org.
www.stewardsofthecoastandredwoods.org

SONOMA COAST STATE BEACH - Volunteers are needed for marine debris monitoring and beach clean-ups monthly at Salmon Creek. Our newly expanded Sonoma Coast Citizen Action Team will be working on trails and restoration projects, and conducting water quality monitoring in the Willow Creek watershed. (Training is ongoing)

WILLOW CREEK WATERSHED EDUCATION PROGRAM AND DOCENT-LED HIKES - Docents help with educating students in an exciting watershed field study program and also lead hikes throughout the Willow Creek watershed. (Training Saturday, March 4, 2006)

TIDEPOL PROGRAM - Receive training and lead school groups on a tidepool exploration experience. Educate park visitors about the amazing life in the intertidal zone. (Training Saturday, March 25, 2006)

JENNER VISITOR CENTER - Docents staff the Jenner Visitor Center. Learn about the history of Jenner and the Russian River. The Center is open on weekends March - October. (Training Saturday, February 25, 2006)

ARMSTRONG STATE RESERVE VISITOR CENTER & TOUR GUIDES - Volunteer to help staff the visitor center and answer questions about this unique redwood grove and/or lead nature walks. (General Orientation April 1, 2006; Interpretation with Children - Friday, April 7, 2006; Additional training - April 25, 2006)

Trainings for **WHALE WATCH** (at Bodega Head on weekends, January to May) and **SEAL WATCH** (at the mouth of the Russian River during the pupping season, March to Labor Day) have already been held. Call for information.

The Great 1906 Earthquake 100-year Anniversary April 18, 2006

“It’s Not My Fault”
Walk the Fault with Ranger Walton
April 16, 2006 at 1:00 PM
Easter Sunday

Walk the fault at Fort Ross with Ranger Bill Walton. Meet at the flag pole in front of the Fort Ross Visitor Center at 1 PM and carpool south to the first viewing site, the edge of the tectonic plates. From there we will travel north to see a fence offset in the 1906 event, and then to the Fort Ross orchard where we will view several fault surface features — damaged redwood trees, sag ponds and escarpments. See these features that are hidden like the Easter eggs which might also be found in the orchard that day. This tour will take at least three hours. Bring a jacket and water.

The San Andreas Fault, California’s major earthquake rift zone, passes through San Francisco and comes ashore two miles south of Fort Ross, then runs north and through the orchard. The fault is the result of the boundaries of the Pacific and North American plates passing by each other. On this portion of the fault the movement tends to be in sudden large events, and it is thought that this section of the San Andreas Fault moves significantly only every few hundred years. California’s 1906 earthquake was the result of such sudden motion. The fort itself lies on marine sediments to the seaward side of the fault. These sediments were deposited underwater on the Pacific plate forty to sixty million years ago, and have moved from the south about three hundred miles up the California coast. In 1906 the land at Fort Ross shifted 12.6 feet along a narrow well-defined area above the plate movement. The resulting surface features can still be seen today. Offset creeks, sag ponds (depressions along the fault which often become filled with water in winter), escarpments, shifted fences, and damaged trees are lasting evidence of the quake. A video slide show showing these features and featuring historic photographs of earthquake damage in the Fort Ross vicinity will be shown in the Visitor Center Auditorium beginning April 15. See it on our website as well.

More information about the 1906 Earthquake can be found on the USGS website:

<http://quake.wr.usgs.gov/info/1906/>.

The San Andreas Fault Zone
One Hundred Years Later
By Nicholas Lee

California has long been known as the land of rock and roll. A hundred years ago Northern California really lived up to that image. On April 18, 1906, a large earthquake shook the countryside and inflicted heavy damage on population centers, as well as remote country areas.

At 5:13 AM on that fateful morning, people were tossed from bed as the ground shook, buildings swayed, toppled and collapsed, livestock was terrified, and the terrain was changed forever, in some places more so than others. The great San Francisco Earthquake as it became known, severely impacted that city, as well as other towns in the 200-mile stretch between San Juan Bautista and Point Arena. Despite the large size of the “event”, only twenty percent of San Francisco’s destruction was directly earthquake related. The remainder was due to the large fire ignited by the earthquake, and to back-fires and dynamited buildings razed in attempts to create firebreaks.

The theory of Global Tectonics helps to explain how earthquakes occur. Also known as Continental Drift Theory, the concept explains that the earth’s surface is composed of various continental plates “floating” or “rafting” on a “fluid” medium. This medium, the earth’s upper mantle, is in constant slow motion, driven by convection-flows produced by the earth’s inner heat. When the material of two convection cells meet, one side is sometimes forced beneath another much like in a pan of slowly cooking thick soup. The crust on top is brought below as on a conveyor belt. This is called a subduction zone. The descending material gets hotter with depth, melting and resulting in liquid magma which percolates to the surface in the form of volcanism, resulting in deep earthquake activity such as in the Andes Mountains. The Pacific Ocean is surrounded by activity of this sort, resulting in the colloquialism “The Rim of Fire” and its attending seismicity. But not all this activity is vertical. Horizontal movement of “plates” is typified by the San Andreas Fault which is named after San Andreas Lake in the Crystal Springs area south of San Francisco, and located in the fault zone there. This large surface fissure extends from San Felipe in the Gulf of California, north through the state of California, to a point offshore Point Arena – Eureka. This is the famous fault which is visually prominent through the Carrizo



Plains area in the south, through the Crystal Springs, Daly City/San Francisco Bay Area, thence through Tomales Bay to Bodega Bay, Fort Ross, and along the Gualala and Garcia Rivers. It is more than 600 miles long and 20 plus miles deep. The San Andreas Fault Zone is a linear geologic feature composed of many parallel faults whose activities through the centuries have resulted in a distinctive linear trace through the landscape. This rift valley is sometimes narrow, other times three to five miles wide.

The San Andreas Fault is by no means the only active potentially dangerous earthquake fault in the San Francisco Bay Area. Others known include the Hayward Fault, Calaveras Fault, and the Rodgers Creek Fault. All have active histories. The Rodgers Creek – Healdsburg Fault is particularly hazardous to Santa Rosa and adjacent towns. This is because they sit on a deep bed of unconsolidated alluvial deposits which are prone to movement and liquefaction, a process where foundation materials exhibit qualities of liquid when subject to tremors.

There are two kinds of faulting, vertical and horizontal, plus a combination of these two called thrust faulting where one block rides obliquely up over another. In the Andes and Himalayas movement is mostly vertical. Here on the San Andreas it is horizontal. Lateral movement is called strike-slip. Up and down motion is termed dip-slip. Fault activity is characterized by relative movement. Thus right-lateral movement means the earth's surface shifts to the right with respect to the position one is standing in. The San Andreas Fault is right-lateral. Thus to someone standing on the east side of the fault, the Pacific Plate to the west moved to the right, or north, in the big earthquake. Gradual movement in the form of small earthquakes is good, as it relieves accumulated stress and strain. Unfortunately, the Fort Ross area does not move, so stress accumulates. One day it will snap. The probability of a large event within the next

thirty years is about one in five.

Over the years, it has been determined that rock of certain characteristics which occurs in Southern California on the eastern side of the San Andreas Fault, matches similar rock on the west side of the fault, except that has moved northwards more than 300 miles in the last 150 million years. The average movement is about two inches a year. 35 to 40 million years ago rocks in the Point Arena area were in the vicinity of Santa Barbara and Bakersfield. In 1906 the greatest lateral movement was about 20 feet at the head of Tomales Bay, with two to three feet of vertical component. At the moment, the Pacific Plate moves northwards with respect to the North American Plate which is relatively stable.

The theory of rock dilatancy helps explain how earthquakes happen. When rock is "dry", it swells and hardens up with stress, preventing medium quakes. Large accumulation of strain will of course overcome this. Small quakes are normal, associated with regular pressure. When cracks in the rock open up, strength increases temporarily and the rock resists fracturing. Eventually however ground water seeps into these cracks and is absorbed, making the rock more breakable as it loses its resistance to fracturing. "Wet" rock cannot accumulate the strain as "dry" rock does, and then an earthquake results.

Several scales have been developed to describe earthquakes. Two well known ones are the Mercalli Scale and the Richter Scale. The Modified Mercalli Scale describes zones of damage intensity produced by an event surrounding the epicenter, the point on the earth's surface directly above the focus of the earthquake. The scale is from I to XII, from zero to all-encompassing damage, with XII being the most extreme. Studies have indicated that the area from Fort Ross to Mendocino suffered the largest maximum intensity in 1906, and has the most capacity for further damage in California in the future.

Another scale, of which more people are aware, is the Richter Scale. This measures the magnitude of an event. It was developed by a well-known seismologist, Dr. Charles Richter, in 1935. It is a logarithmic scale, meaning it is open-ended. It cannot be used to estimate damage. In this measurement, from one whole number to the next higher number, 39.5 times more energy is released. From M4 to M5 then, ground motion is 10 times greater. From Magnitude 4 to M8, 1,000,000 times more energy is released. The Richter Scale was developed in Southern California and was tailored to earthquakes of M3 to M6.

Newer calibrations have resulted in more accurate scales. More commonly used now is the Moment Magnitude Scale, which has resulted in older earthquakes being reclassified. For instance, the 1906 San Francisco Earthquake was originally classified as a M8.2 event, but is now rated at 7.8, and the Alaskan earthquake of 1964 which was measured as an M8.4 event is now pegged at M9.2.

Earthquake damage is affected by the type of rock or soil in the area, the distance from the epicenter, and the depth of the event. More damage results from shallow depth earthquakes than those of the same intensity occurring at great depth. While earthquake prediction remains an inexact science, it is safe to say that another large event is due, and despite preparation and retrofitting of existing structures, damage will be major, due to the development, population density, and complex infrastructure in California.

The affects of that great earthquake long ago in 1906 are now largely unseen. The Fort Ross Chapel, tossed off its foundation along with other buildings and structures, is long ago repaired. But here and there, signs remain to be seen by the observant bystander. Giant redwoods split and torn, but now grown back together, tortured rock formations, old landslides, the unnaturally straight stream-beds of the Gualala and Garcia Rivers and a plethora of "sag ponds", now largely overgrown, remain to mark the fault zone. Meanwhile, life goes on until another large event in our area wrecks asunder our careful, ordered lives.

Be sure to see **"After the Ruins, 1906 and 2006: Re-photographing the San Francisco Earthquake and Fire"** a photographic exhibit at the San Francisco Legion of Honor prepared by Mark Klett with Michael Lundgren. Mark Klett has paired historical photos taken after the Great San Francisco Earthquake with his own contemporary photos taken from the same perspective. This technique reveals remarkable changes in the landscape.

Notes on the Last Fort Ross Hotel Register, 1895-1905

submitted by Lynn Rudy

The G. W. Call family leased out the Rotchev House as a tourist hotel almost from the beginning of their settlement at the fort. Alluring colored advertising posters appeared as early as 1878, promoted by managers Cushman and Leonard.



Eugene Lewis and his wife managed the place in 1880 with a 17-year-old housemaid, Henny Smith. The most well known managers were the Morgan brothers of the 1880s - George, who brought his large family to help fill the Fort Ross School, and the bachelor William, who as Uncle Billy, stayed on as store-keeper, jeweler, postmaster and beloved character until his death in 1915. The hotel proprietor in 1895, when this register begins, was J. Murray; how long he stayed is not known. The only other named managers were two women from Valley Ford in 1905, who evidently left under a cloud: a terse note from G. W. Call himself is scribbled on the page.

This register, for the last ten years of the hotel's existence, was kept by Call daughter Mary Addie Charles and later by her daughter Barbara. It is valuable not only as a rare relic of the ranch era, but as a social document. The hotel visitors came from all over the state, the country and even from abroad. Most sought the sea air, walks along the shore, fishing, hearty home-cooked meals, dances and camaraderie: a week in the country.

They came down the hill on the Fort Ross “stage”, having taken several stages and a ferry from Oakland or San Francisco. (After 1886, they travelled the Petaluma-Cazadero section by train.) Some may have arrived by schooner. A few hardy hikers and naturalists arrived “afoot” from Duncans Mills or Cazadero. In the 1890s, young dandies sometimes rode their bicycles the ten miles from the Cazadero train depot.

The hotel had but a few rooms at first, but after the Calls built their farm house in 1878, the two story “Benitz addition” to the Rotchev house also became available. Still, there were rarely more than a dozen guests at a time. There were a few permanent residents: single laborers, hotel workers, local teachers. Some of those who signed the register were not overnight guests, but made day trips from resorts in Cazadero down to the coast, and ate lunch at the hotel.

Others who stayed - overnight or for meals - were locals driving cattle to market from the north, farmers shipping or receiving goods on “schooner day”, a few schooner captains. At least two groups were sailing to the Klondyke for the Gold Rush. Several professors of botany stayed; the Sonoma County Superintendent of Schools and wife came twice. Whenever there was a celebration picnic or dance - Decoration Day, July 4, St. Patrick’s Day - the local inhabitants signed the guest book, letting historians a century later know they were here. And the local “young people” (mostly in their twenties) also rushed to sign the guest register, often with their best efforts at humorous aliases and hometowns. The Call children also participated in these antics, perhaps because they had not been allowed near the hotel when they were small.

A few well-known visitors stayed at the hotel. Perhaps the best known was the writer Gertrude Atherton, who came before this register began. As a single, independent woman with a somewhat scandalous reputation, she was considered rather loose by Call Pater: He did not allow his children anywhere near her. (Perhaps this was unfortunate: some of the Call daughters did have literary ambitions.) Those “celebrities” who came from 1895 to 1905 included:

Luther Burbank, the well known Santa Rosa plant developer, a friend of Mrs. Mercedes Call, with whom he shared horticultural knowledge. He stayed June 9, 1900.

Charles F. Lummis, an editor at the Los Angeles Times, and a well known historian of early California. He stayed in Room 1 May 4, 1898, representing Harper’s Magazine. While here, he took the photograph of the loading chute in the rocky cove which was destroyed seven months later in a storm.

Mrs. Josephine Benitz, former doyenne of Fort Ross and the Muniz Rancho, visited from Argentina in 1899. She stayed at the hotel twice with her two granddaughters, Hattie and Katie, and wrote a nice farewell note on the register page (April 12 and June 15).

Two Russian priests from San Francisco wrote paragraphs in Russian. Seb. Dobovich, April 12, 1897, was translated. Another, February 23, 1905, has not been translated.

William A. Setchell, a well known marine botanist, was one of those who arrived “afoot”, twice, in 1897.

The hotel closed around 1905. George W. Call was in poor health; his experience with bad management may have made it not seem worthwhile. The Earthquake of April 18, 1906 was the final blow. Visitors would continue to come to Fort Ross for vacations, many of them camping on the Sandy Beach, but there would no longer be a hotel as the central attraction.

January 4, 2006:

This Register has been generously donated to FRIA by Barbara Charles Black, a Call granddaughter, local rancher and former FRIA board member.

The Fort Ross Hotel Register will soon be on exhibit in the Fort Ross Visitor Center.



The Fort Ross Hotel, 1880

Saint Peter the Aleut

Strange Tale of Saint Peter the Aleut: A Russian Orthodox Martyr on the California Frontier by Glenn Farris

(Presented at "The Spanish Missions and California Indians"
Symposium, D-Q University, Davis, CA, March 3, 1990.)

ABSTRACT

In 1815 near the Alta California port of San Pedro, a party of Kodiak Islanders out hunting sea otter under the command of Russian Boris Tarasov was captured by the Spanish authorities. During their captivity at Santa Barbara, a zealous cleric is said to have insisted on their renouncing their Orthodox faith in favor of Catholicism. Two of the Aleuts refused. One of these, named Chunagnak, was subsequently tortured to death and the other (Kykhilai) only saved by a last-minute reprieve by a higher authority. He eventually made it back to Sitka to tell his tale. The story behind this strange happening involves the interplay of European political and economic interests as well as varying notions of dogmatic religious allegiance.

The interaction of the numerous Alaskan native peoples brought to California by the Russians with the local California Indians and the Mission system are described in a number of little-known, but intriguing incidents. Contemporaneous with the martyrdom of Chunagnak, a man known as José Bolcoff, born in Petropavlovsk on the Kamchatka peninsula jumped ship on arrival in Spanish California. He had his Russian Orthodox baptism "regularized" to become a Catholic and eventually rose to the position of *alcalde* of Santa Cruz.

Perhaps the most famous example of this interaction of Kodiaks and native Californians relates to the lone woman of San Nicolas Island. This woman was apparently a survivor of the murderous confrontation between the Kodiak natives left on the island to hunt sea mammals and the remaining Nicoleño Indians. In other examples taken from the area of Russian colonies of Bodega Bay and Fort Ross, we are reminded of the experience of Native Americans caught up in Christianity's internecine disputes.



How Chukagnak became Saint Peter the Aleut by Stephen Little Bear

The story of Saint Peter the Aleut is one of faith, personal integrity, and honor. It's the story not just of one man but of two, Kyglaya and Chukagnak (Ivan and Pyotr, or Peter in English). This is what we know. Both men were from Kodiak, Alaska. Chukagnak was from the village Kaguiak, and both were baptized Orthodox Christians.

In January of 1814 a hunting and trading expedition on board the brig *Ilmena* was sent from Novo-Arkhangel'sk (Sitka, Alaska) to the coast of California. In the summer of 1815 the *Ilmena* left Fort Ross for the hunting waters off Southern California. Two of the Kodiak hunters on board were Peter Chukagnak and Ivan Kyglaya. The ship cruised along the coastline and in the area of the Channel Islands and dropped off detachments of hunters in baidarkas along with their Russian overseers to go after sea otter. Things did not go well that fall. Two of the ship's hunting parties were taken captive by the Spanish. Within a few years most of these men were released. A few of the Aleuts chose to remain and work for the Spaniards. Life goes on, and the *Ilmena* had work to do. It would be four years before the ship would return to these waters.

In the spring of 1819 the brig *Ilmena* was sent on a search mission to find an American ship named the *Cossack*. The *Cossack* had left the Sandwich Islands (Hawaii) in October 1817 with two Russians and 38 Kodiak men and woman on board. The ship was months overdue and feared lost. It was while searching near Ilmena Island (possibly the Russian name for San Nicolas Island), for possible survivors that Kyglaya was found, and he had a story to tell. After four long years Kyglaya was once again on his way to Fort Ross aboard the *Ilmena*.

During these years, Ivan Kuskov, the manager of Fort Ross, had maintained a somewhat cordial yet diplomatic relationship with the Franciscan priest of Mission San Francisco de Asís (Mission Dolores), the commanders of the Presidio San Francisco and Presidio Monterey, as well as the Spanish Governor Don Pablo Vicente de Sola. Kuskov had been active in acquiring the release of many of the Russian and Aleut prisoners. It was sometime around the end of the summer of 1819 that Kyglaya, with his most unusual tale, was taken before the manager of Fort Ross. For Kuskov, it was troubling to hear. So much so that Kuskov called the officers of the company together, as well as the toion (headmen) elders of the Kodiak natives at Fort Ross, and with a translator asked Kyglaya to tell his story again, in front of these witnesses. And he did.

This is the crux of Kyglaya's testimony. On or about September 17 near San Pedro Bay the baidara of Boris Tarasov, the Russian foreman of the hunting party, sprung a leak. (A baidara is a large open rowboat covered with walrus skin and having a crew of sometimes up to 15 paddlers.) The entire group of 24 hunters and Tarasov put ashore while the baidara was repaired. The next day a Spanish soldier came up to Tarasov and informed him that in exchange for some gifts, he would bring to him two of the Kodiak men who were separated from another hunting party and were presently at the nearby mission. The soldier left, and although the weather was good and the repairs had been made, the idea that these two men might be friends or family persuaded everyone to wait. On the fourth day some 20 Spanish

soldiers on horseback attacked the group and a big fight broke out. Soon everyone in the hunting group was tied up and Chukagnak had been wounded in the head by a saber. All of the prisoners were taken to Mission San Pedro.

(Note: As there was no Mission San Pedro, Kyglaya in all probability is naming the Mission San Gabriel Archangel. Several facts would indicate this as being so. One: in the early 1800s there had been an unfortunate incident where a soldier had killed a native chief and this had sparked a general uprising against the mission by the local natives. In order to quell the revolt additional troops had to be sent from Mexico. So there had been some bad blood between the soldiers, the Mission San Gabriel Archangel, and the local indigenous people. Two: the Mission had a larger than normal garrison of soldiers for its protection. And three: Mission San Gabriel maintained a jail for wayward Indians.)

After a few days, Tarasov and all of the Kodiak hunters with the exception of Kyglaya and Chukagnak were transferred to the Presidio Santa Barbara. (The Presidio Commander, Lieutenant Jose de la Guerra, on October 5, 1815, sent a message to California Governor Sola acknowledging receiving 22 Kodiaks and Boris Terasof [*sic*].) Kyglaya and Chukagnak remained in custody at the mission. They were given the offer of accepting Catholicism, but they refused. As both men had become Orthodox Christians they would not be compelled to convert. They were then put in jail with the Indians that were being held. They were given no food or water for several days. One night they were again given the offer of accepting Catholicism, and again they refused. At dawn Kyglaya and Chukagnak were brought out of jail by a group of Indians and a clergyman. The Indians surrounded them, and yet again they were given the offer of accepting Catholicism, and again they refused. The clergyman ordered Chukagnak's fingers be chopped off, and then both hands. Then, the dying Chukagnak was disemboweled. At this point the clergyman was given some kind of paper, which he read, and then ordered Chukagnak's body be buried, and Kyglaya be returned to his cell.

A few days later Kyglaya was sent to the Presidio Santa Barbara. Tarasov and all of the Kodiak hunters had by this time been transferred to the Presidio Monterey where later they were released to Russian sea captains. Kyglaya, not wanting to remain in Santa Barbara, planned his escape. One night with a companion, he stole a boat and together they paddled out to the Channel Islands. Not too long after they made the safety of the islands Kyglaya's accomplice became ill and died. Kyglaya made his way to Ilmena Island where he hid for some time until picked up by the *Ilmena*. This testimony was sent with Kyglaya aboard the *Ilmena* to Sitka where the Chief Manager of the Russian American Trading Company, Fleet Lieutenant S. I. Ianovskii, was preparing to make a tour of the company's settlements in Alaska. S. I. Ianovskii then sent an official report to the main administration of the company in Saint Petersburg dated 15 February, 1820. The report states in part, "I enclose the original testimony of this Aleut taken by Mr. Kuskov. He (Kyglaya) has now been sent here on the brig *Ilmena* and tells me the same thing. He is not a type who could think up things."

Ianovskii then went aboard the *Ilmena* to inspect the company holdings in Alaska. When the ship arrived at Kodiak Island Ianovskii paid a visit to Monk Herman at his hermitage on Spruce Island. It is here that Monk Herman learned the fate of Peter. In that Monk Herman had come to Alaska in 1795, there is a very good chance that he knew Peter and had been present at his baptizing. Some 45 years later, in a letter regarding his memories of Monk Herman, Ianovskii recalled that upon finishing telling Herman of the events that had taken place in California, "Father German (Herman) asked me, 'What was the name of this tortured Aleut?' Petr, (Peter) I replied, but I cannot remember his other name (Chukagnak). Then the Elder stood before the icon, devoutly crossing himself and said, 'Holy newly-martyred Petr, pray to God for us'."

In 1970 the Orthodox Church of America declared Monk Herman a Saint. And in 1980 Chukagnak was canonized Saint Peter the Aleut. With the help of the Russian Orthodox Church of the Moscow Patriarchate, Saint Nicholas Cathedral of San Francisco, Saint Peter the Aleut is honored at Fort Ross twice a year. Once on the last Saturday of July at Cultural Heritage Day, and once on the 24th of September, Saint Peter the Aleut's Feast Day. A service is held in the fort's chapel, then Saint Peter's icon is carried in procession down to the cove for the Blessing of the Kayaks. Everyone is welcome to attend.

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Membership Application

NAME _____ PHONE _____

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_____ \$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 8, 2006 at 10 AM

FRIA Website: www.fortrossinterpretive.org

Fort Ross Park 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.

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