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Title: **Flora Named as a Result of Russian American Activities**

Author(s): **Various**

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Chamisso's Species

(Plants collected and named by him alone, with a co-author)

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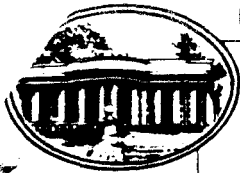
Family

*in italics*

Common Name

Bayberry	Myrica californica	California wax-myrtle
Borage	Allocarya chorisiana	Forget-me-not
Buckwheat	Polygonum paronychia	Sand jointweed
Figwort	Scrophularia californica	California bee plant
Frankenia	Frankenia grandifolia	Frankenia
Hornwort	Ceratophyllum demersum	Hornwort
Mint	Stachys ajugoides	Hedge-nettle
	Stachys chamissonis	Chamisso's hedge nettle
	Satureja chamissonis	Yerba buena
Mustard	Erysimum franciscanum	Wall-flower
Orobanche	Orobanche californica	California broom-rape
Pondweed	Potamogeton americanus	Pondweed
Poppy	Eschscholzia californica	California poppy
Rose	Fragaria californica	Wood-strawberry
	Potentilla californica	Silverweed
	Rosa californica	California rose
	Rubus ursinus	California blackberry
	Rubus vitifolius	Grape-leaf blackberry
St. John's Wort	Hypericum anagalloides	Marsh-St. John's wort
Sunflower	Agoseris apargioides	California dandelion
	Ambrosia chamissonis	Chamisso's beachbur
	Artemisia californica	California sagebrush
	Artemisia pycnocephala	Dune sagebrush
	Erigeron glaucus	Seaside daisy
	Eriophyllum artemisiaefolium	Lizard-leaf
	Haplopappus ericoides	Mock-heather
	Helenium puberulum	Sneezeweed
	Jaumea carnosa	Jaumea
	Lessingia germanorum	Lessingia
	Tanacetum camphoratum	Dune-tansy
Waterleaf	Phacelia californica	California phacelia
	Phacelia malvaefolia	Mallow-leafed phacelia
Arrow-grass	Triglochin maritima	Arrow-grass
Buckwheat	Rumex salicifolius	Willow-leafed dock
	Polygonum punctatum	Water smartweed
Dogwood	Cornus californica	Creek dogwood
Figwort	Veronica americana	Speedwell
	Diplacus aurantiacus	Sticky monkey-flower
	Castilleja latifolia	Indian paintbrush
Hazel	Corylus californica	Hazelnut
Oak	Quercus agrifolia	Coast live oak
Najas	Najas guadalupensis	Water-plant
Parsley	Hydrocotyle ranunculoides	Marsh pennywort
Pea	Trifolium wormskjoldii	Cow clover
	Lotus scoparius	Deerweed
	Lotus eriophorus	Lotus
	Astragalus gambellianus	Locoweed
	Vicia gigantea	Giant vetch

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## Family

Pink  
 Plantain  
 Rose

Sunflower

Violet  
 Water-Milfoil

Silene verecunda  
 Plantago maritima  
 Potentilla pacifica  
 Fragaria chiloensis  
 Photinia arbutifolia  
 Baccharis pilularis  
 Baccharis douglasii  
 Achillea borealis  
 Anaphalis margaritacea  
 Gnaphalium palustre  
 G. californicum  
 G. chilense  
 Grindelia maritima  
 Solidago spathulata  
 Solidago occidentalis  
 Solidago elongata  
 Solidago californica  
 Wyethia angustifolia  
 Viola adunca  
 Myriophyllum exalbescens

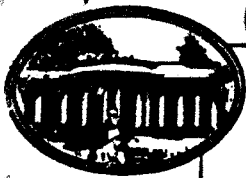
## Common Name

Silene  
 Seaside plantain  
 Silverweed  
 Beach strawberry  
 Toyon  
 Coyote-brush  
 Saltmarsh coyote-brush  
 Yarrow  
 Pearly-everlasting  
 Cudweed  
 Cudweed  
 Cudweed (hybrid)  
 Seaside gumplant  
 Golden-rod  
 Golden-rod  
 Golden-rod  
 California golden-rod  
 Wyethia  
 Blue violet  
 Myriophyllum

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September 4, 1984

Mr. Kaye Tomlin, Chairman  
Advisory Committee of Fort Ross  
2259 Cobblehill Place  
San Mateo, CA 94402

Dear Kaye:

In response to your letter, "Flora and Founa," named for Russians who were active and visited Russian-America and California, I want to add many more names. This time I will strictly adhere to the botanical collections of Eschscholtz and Chamisso who both visited California at the beginning of the 19th century. Both were members of Russian scientific expeditions. They accompanied Captain Kotzbu during his voyages aboard the ships Rurik and Enterprising.

Kotzebue

Enterprise

Both scientists, Eschscholtz and Chamisso, collected a total of 82 California plants, many of which were near the Presidio of San Francisco. Some were found by Eschscholtz in the vicinity of Fort Ross in October 1824.

Chamisso, a Frenchman by birth, is well known as a poet and writer, and when he was 34 years old, he selected his second career--botany. He was a self-taught botanist. Chamisso's French family migrated to Germany during the French revolution. Johann Friedrich Eschscholtz was a professor at Dorpat University, Estonia, Russia.

Chamisso, after his first trip on the Rurik, returned to Germany and became the head of Herbarium in Berlin.

J. F. Eschscholtz (he was called Ivan Fredrikhovich by Russian sailors) made a second trip (1823-1826), visiting California with the Russian Expedition under Captain Kotzebu. He visited Fort Ross for four to six days while studying local flora and fauna.

Kotzebue

On the first Russian Expedition (1815-1826), 69 species were gathered and identified. On the second expedition, Eschscholtz named 13 species. According to Alice Eastwood's article, "Botanical Collection of Chamisso and Eschscholtz in California," the following species were collected by Eschscholtz.

1815

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Mr. Kaye Tomlin  
Page Two  
September 4, 1984

Eschscholtz's Species:

- |                 |                        |                        |
|-----------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Buckthorn    | Ceanothus thyrsiflorus | California lilac       |
| 2. Buckwheat    | Rhamnus californica    | California coffeeberry |
| 3. Buckwheat    | Eriogonum latifolium   | Buckwheat              |
| 4. Four o'clock | Abronia latifolia      | Yellow sand-verbena    |
| 5. Frankenia    | Frankenia grandifolia  | Frankenia              |
| 6. Honeysuckle  | Lonicera ledebourii ←  | Twinberry              |
| 7. Nightshade   | Solanum umbelliferum   | Nightshade             |
| 8. Phlox        | Gilia chamissonis      | Chamisso's gilia       |
| 9.              | Navarretia squarrosa   | Skunkweed              |
| 10. Pea         | Lupinus chamissonis    | Chamisso's sand-lupine |
| 11.             | Lupinus arboreus       | Yellow bush-lupine     |
| 12. Saxifrage   | Ribes malvaceum        | Wild currant           |
| 13. Spurge      | Croton californicus    | Sand-croton            |

Eschscholtzia californica

Our California golden poppy (Eschscholtz California)--a state flower--was named by Chamisso in honor of his colleague, Eschscholtz.

The activities of Prof. Eschscholtz as a tireless collector of botanical plant species left a huge collection in St. Petersburg's Academy and the Dorpat University which was very highly valued by his contemporaries. As I have mentioned before, Chamisso named the California poppy in his honor and also other species:

- Claytonia ~~Eschscholtzii~~ Cham.
- Hippuris ~~Eschscholtzii~~ Cham.
- Listera ~~Eschscholtzii~~ Cham.
- Saxifraga ~~Eschscholtzii~~ Cham.

Also other botanists in Eschscholtz' honor named a dozen new species of plants:

- Aphragmus ~~Eschscholtzii~~ Andriz.
- Arabis ~~Eschscholtzii~~ Andr.
- Ranunculus ~~Eschscholtzii~~ Schlecht.
- Stellaria ~~Eschscholtzii~~ Fzl.

This was certified by Dr. Tatiana Lukina, a member of the Institute of Natural Sciences, Academy of the U.S.S.R.

Eschscholtz dedicated two species in honor of his teacher (Lonigera Ledeburii) and in honor of his colleague Chamisso (Lupinus Chamissonis) in his botanical discovery. It is interesting to point out that when he sailed on the Rurik with artist Ludwig Choris, he immortalized and named the orchid (Habenaria Horislane) in his honor.

*different spelling*

A  
"ch"?

Mr. Kaye Tomlin  
Page Three  
September 4, 1984

Collected plants by Eschscholtz in North America, Kamchatka, Alaska and shores of Bering Strait were classified by Chamisso in Berlin, by Professor Mayer in St. Petersburg, and also by three other botanists from Dorpat University Estonia. In total Eschscholtz collected 15,000 plants, many acquired by the St. Petersburg botanical gardens.

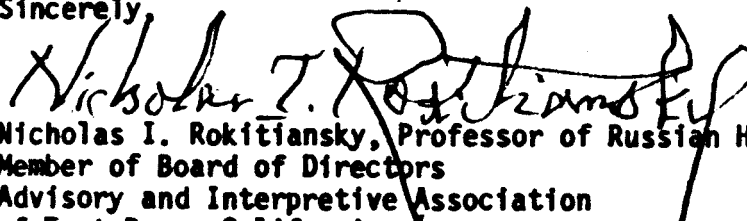
J. F. Eschscholtz, who participated in two Russian expeditions as a scientist, had a short life; born in 1793 and died in 1831. During his 38 years, he devoted 16 years to science. He spent six years on two voyages and the remaining ten years was devoted to interpretation of collected materials. By education he was a Doctor of Medicine and literally in the same year he completed his M.D., he began his voyage. He delivered rich zoological and botanical materials and did succeed in collecting more than others doing similar work. He also observed the life of enslaved black people in Brazil and enslaved California Indians. During his voyage to the islands of the Pacific, he demonstrated to the natives useful agricultural plants to be used for food. During his second voyage he observed and also collected about 2,400 varieties of animals.

The state of California manuals do not give due respect to the Imperial Russian scientific expedition in California at the beginning of the 19th century. J. F. Eschscholtz and Chamisso under the Russian flag and with the financial support of the expedition by Count Nikolay Rumintsov ~~could not get proper recognition to the flora and fauna of California and to the world in general.~~

Nikolai  
Rumiantsev

I am familiar with your flora and fauna list. I found the name of the Bombardier beetle--*Brachinus tschernikki*--very interesting and new to me. I think it was named in honor of a famous Russian agronomist, Chernykh, who lived at Fort Ross and vicinity for ten years. He is the one who first established a meteorological station at Fort Ross, recording daily temperatures from 1837-1840. This data and barometrical pressures exist today and are valuable for climatologists as the first data before the American annexation of California.

Sincerely,

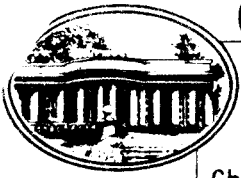
  
Nicholas I. Rokitiansky, Professor of Russian History (Emeritus)  
Member of Board of Directors  
Advisory and Interpretive Association  
of Fort Ross, California

wpc

P.S. I have no sources from your letter.  
Please see enclosure on Chamisso's Species.

References:

1. Eastwood, Alice, 1944. "The Botanical Collections of Chamisso and Eschscholtz in California. Leaflets of Western Botany, Volume IV, pp. 17-32.
2. Fremontia, January 1979. Chamisso, Eschscholtz and the Plants of the Presidio by I. Geary.
3. Howell, John Thomas, Peter H. Raven, Peter Rubtzoff, 1958. A Flora of San Francisco. Journal of Biology, 16:1-157.
4. Lukina, Tatiana A., 1974. Iogann Fredrikh Esholtz, Nauka, Leningrad, 175 p.



## Chamisso's Species

(Plants collected and named by him alone, with a co-author)

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### Family

### Common Name

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Figwort	Scrophularia californica	California bee plant
Frankenia	Frankenia grandifolia	Frankenia
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	Stachys chamissonis	Chamisso's hedge nettle
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Poppy	Eschscholzia californica	California poppy
Rose	Fragaria californica	Wood-strawberry
	Potentilla californica	Silverweed
	Rosa californica	California rose
	Rubus ursinus	California blackberry
	Rubus vitifolius	Grape-leaf blackberry
St. John's Wort	Hypericum anagalloides	Marsh-St. John's wort
Sunflower	Agoseris apargioides	California dandelion
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	Artemisia pycnocephala	Dune sagebrush
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	Eriophyllum artemisiaefolium	Lizard-leaf
	Haplopappus ericoides	Mock-heather
	Helenium puberulum	Sneezeweed
	Jaumea carnosia	Jaumea
	Lessingia germanorum	Lessingia
	Tanacetum camphoratum	Dune-tansy
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Oak	Quercus agrifolia	Coast live oak
Najas	Najas guadalupensis	Water-plant
Parsley	Hydrocotyle ranunculoides	Marsh pennywort
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	Astragalus gambellianus	Locoweed
	Vicia gigantea	Giant vetch





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Family

Common Name

Pink	Silene verecunda	Silene
Plantain	Plantago maritima	Seaside plantain
Rose	Potentilla pacifica	Silverweed
	Fragaria chiloensis	Beach strawberry
	Photinia arbutifolia	Toyon
Sunflower	Baccharis pilularis	Coyote-brush
	Baccharis douglasii	Saltmarsh coyote-brush
	Achillea borealis	Yarrow
	Anaphalis margaritacea	Pearly-everlasting
	Gnaphalium palustre	Cudweed
	G. californicum	Cudweed
	G. chilense	Cudweed (hybrid)
	Grindelia maritima	Seaside gumplant
	Solidago spathulata	Golden-rod
	Solidago occidentalis	Golden-rod
	Solidago elongata	Golden-rod
	Solidago californica	California golden-rod
	Wyethia angustifolia	Wyethia
Violet	Viola adunca	Blue violet
Water-Milfoil	Myriophyllum exalbescens	Myriophyllum

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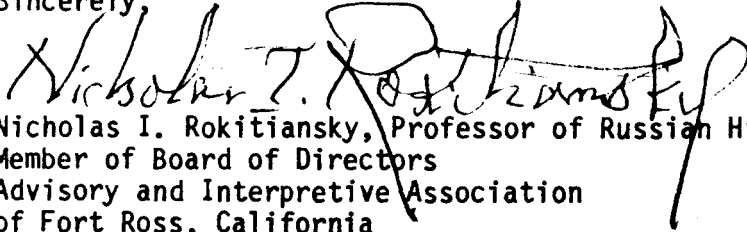
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Sincerely,

  
Nicholas I. Rokitiensky, Professor of Russian History (Emeritus)  
Member of Board of Directors  
Advisory and Interpretive Association  
of Fort Ross, California

wpc

P.S. I have no sources from your letter.  
Please see enclosure on Chamisso's Species.

Subject: Flora and fauna named after Russians or their employees as a result of activities in Russian America.

From: Kaye Tomlin

Date: August 1984  
(updated subsequently)

1. California poppy -- *Eschscholtzia californica* [d]
2. Tiger beetle -- *Omus californicus eschscholtzi*
3. Monterey salamander -- *Ensatina eschscholtzi eschscholtzi*\*
4. Steller sea cow -- *Hydrodamalis gigas*† [k]
5. Steller sea lion -- *Eumetopias stelleri*
6. Steller jay -- *Cyanocitta stelleri* [n]
7. Gumboot chiton -- *Cryptochiton stelleri* [m]
8. Yellow-faced bumble bee -- *Bombus vosnesenskii*
9. Isopod -- *Idotea vosnesenskii*‡ [l]
10. Live oak cluster beetle -- *Cibdelis blaschkei*\*\*
11. Bombardier beetle -- *Brachinus tschernikhi*
12. Baby-eyes\*\*\* -- *Romanzoffia californica* [a]
13. Silver beach weed -- *Ambrosia chamissonis*\*\*\*\* [b]
14. Lupine -- *Lupinus chamissonis* [c]

---

\* The group of salamanders is named *Ensatina eschscholtzi*.

† Extinct.

‡ Also, in the same superfamily (*Idotheidae* or *Valvifera*), *Pentidotea vosnesenskii*.

\*\* Probably named for Dr. Edward L. Blaschke, physician with the Russian American Company at New Archangel (Sitka) in the last half of the 1830s; he was "an ardent collector of beetles in Sitka and California".

\*\*\* Waterleaf family (Mist-Maidens).

\*\*\*\* Named after Adelbert von Chamisso, naturalist with Kozobue.

15. Phlox -- *Gilia capitata* var. *chamissonis* [e]
16. Forget-me-not -- *Allocarya chorisiana*\* [o]
17. Aster -- *Aster Chamissonis*

\* Probably named for Ludwig Choris, artist on the 1815-1818 voyage with Kotzebue, Eschscholtz, von Chamisso, et al.

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Note: These only include those that were named after the indicated individuals; those named by individuals have yet to be addressed, but in a recent publication I have reason to believe the following were named by the indicated person:

- a. Goosefoot -- *Atriplex patula obtusa* (von Chamisso) [f]
- b. Waterleaf -- *Phacelia californica* (von Chamisso) [g]
- c. Sand verbena -- *Abronia latifolia* (Eschscholtz) [h]
- d. Buckwheat -- *Polygonum paronychia* (von Chamisso) [i]
- e. Skunkweed -- *Navarretia squarrosa* (Eschscholtz) [k]

Of course, *Eschscholtzia californica* was named by von Chamisso.

From: Kaye Tomlin  
May 1984

1. California poppy -- *Eschscholtzia californica*
2. Baby-eyes\* -- *Romanzoffia californica*
3. Bombardier beetle -- *Brachinus tschernikhi*
4. Tiger beetle -- *Omus californicus eschscholtzi*
5. Live oak cluster beetle -- *Cibdelis blaschkei* †
6. Monterey salamander -- *Ensatina eschscholtzi eschscholtzi* ‡
7. Yellow-faced bumble bee -- *Bombus vosnesenskii*
8. Steller Sea Lion --
9. ~~Steller Sea Cow (extinct) -- *Hydrodamalis gigas*~~

Note As yet undetermined, the following botanical species are candidates for having been named for Adelbert von Chamisso:

*Chamissoa knuth*  
*Chamissomneia knutze*  
*Chamissonia raimann*  
*Chamissoniophila A. brand*

And, what about the steller jay? (stellar?)

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\* Waterleaf family (Mist-Maidens).

† Probably named for Dr. Edward L. Blaschke, physician with the Russian American Company at New Archangel in the last half of the 1830s; he was "an ardent collector of beetles in Sitka and California."

‡ The group of salamanders is named *Ensatina eschscholtzi*.

[a] Wild Flowers of California, Mary Elizabeth Parsons (1897) 1930,  
pg. 32.

*Romanzoffia Californica* (Baby-eyes or Waterleaf Family -- Mist-Maidens): "The genus was named in honor of Nicholas Romanzoff, a Russian nobleman, who, by his munificence, enabled some noted botanists to visit this coast early in the last century."

[b] Coastal Ecology, Bodega Head, Michael G. Barbour, Robert B. Craig, Frank R. Drysdale, and Michael T. Ghiselin, University of California Press, Berkeley, California, 1973, pg. 258.

[c] Ibid., pg. 263.

[d] Ibid., pg. 265.

[e] Ibid., pg. 266.

[f] Ibid., pg. 257.

[g] Ibid., pg. 262.

[h] Ibid., pg. 265.

[i] Ibid., pg. 266.

[j] Ibid., pg. 267.

[k] The short, unhappy saga of Steller's sea cow, Robert McNally, *Sea Frontiers*, Volume 30, Number 3, May-June 1984 (International Oceanographic Society, Miami, Florida), pp. 168-172.

[l] Seashore Animals of the Pacific Coast, Myrtle Elizabeth Johnson and Harry James Snook, Dover Publications, Inc., New York, 1927, pg. 290.

[m] Ibid., pp. 566-567.

[n] Sierra Nevada Natural History, Tracy I. Storer and Robert L. Usinger, University of California Press, Berkeley, California, 1963, pg. 287

[o] Letter, Nicholas I. Rokitiensky to Kaye Tomlin, 4 September 1984, in the files of the Fort Loss Citizens Advisory Committee.

From: The Wild Flowers of California; Mary Elizabeth Parsons; Cunningham, Curtis, and Welch; San Francisco; 1912

- *Romanzoffia californica* (Mist-Maidens), Green. pg. 32
- *Rhamnus californica*, Esch.\* pg. 60-6
- *Cascara sagrada* (California Coffee), Buckthorn Family, Esch.\* pg. 60-62
- *Physocapus capitatus* (Meadow-Sweet. Spiraea), (Pursh) Ktze.\* pg. 87
- *Spiranthes Romanzoffiana* (Ladies' Tresses), Orchis Family, Cham.\* pg. 94
- *Eschscholtzia californica* (Copa de Oro. California Poppy), Cham.\* pg. 118
- *Abronia latifolia* (Yellow Sand Verbena), Four-o'clock Family, Esch.\* pg. 150
- *Lysichiton Kamtschatcensis* (Skunk-Cabbage), Arum Family, Schott.\* pg. 174
- *Hypericum anagalloides* (False Pimpernel), St. John's-wort Family, Cham.\* and Schlecht. pg. 179
- *Dodecatheon Meadia* (Shooting-Stars. Wild Cyclamen. Mad Violets), L. Primrose Family, *D. Hendersoni* (Gray), Ktze.\* pg. 210
- *Rosa californica* (Common Wild Rose), Rose Family, Cham.\* and Schlecht. pg. 240
- *Lessingia leptoclada* (*Lessingia*), Gray. -- Composite Family -- L. germanorium, Cham.\* pg. 258
- *Solanum Xanti* (Violet Nightshade), Gray. -- Nightshade Family -- *S. umbelliferum, Esch.\** pg. 274

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\* Full name not provided.

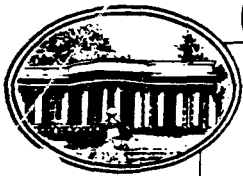


- *Ceanothus thyrsiflorus* (California Lilac. Blue Myrtle. Blue-Blossom), Buckthorn Family, Esch.\* pg. 280
- *Aster chamissonis* (Common Aster), Gray -- Composite Family -- pg. 338
- *Scrophularia californica* (California Figwort. California Bee-Plant), Figwort Family, Cham.\* pg. 348

Chamisso (schamißo), Adelbert von (eigtl. Louis Charles Adelaide de Ch.), romantischer Dichter und Naturforscher, geb. 30.1.1781 Boncourt (Champagne), gest. 21.8.1838 Berlin. Aus frz. Emigrantenfamilie, ab 1796 in Berlin, preuß. Offizier, nahm als Naturforscher an einer russ. Weltumsegelung teil, die er in 'Bemerkungen und Ansichten auf einer Entdeckungsreise' (1821) schilderte. Berühmt durch die symbol. Novelle vom verkauften Schatten: 'Peter Schlemihls wundersame Geschichte' (14), und volkstüml. 'Gedichte' (31), u.a. 'Der Frauen Lieb und Leben'.

Aus: Der Große Knaur, Band 1 (A-E)

*Chamisso, Adelbert von (actual Louis Charles Adelaide de Chamisso), romantic poet and naturalist, born 1.30.1781 in Boncourt (Champagne, France), died 8.21.1838 in Berlin (Germany). He was member of a French emigrant-family, lived in Berlin since 1796, was a Prussian officer and took part in a Russian sailing trip around the world, which he described in 'Remarks and Views on an Expedition' (1821). Chamisso is famous for the novel of the sold shadow 'Peter Schlemihl's wondrous Story' (1814), his national 'Poems' (1831) and 'Life and Love of Women'.*



# California History Center

## CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM OF FORT ROSS VISITOR CENTER EXHIBIT; ITS ERRORS, HISTORICAL MISCONCEPTIONS IN TEXT AND GRAPHICS.

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In many ways, the Visitor Center Exhibit does not give a clear picture of the Russian Period of Fort Ross and the important role it played in California history. James R. Gibson, a geographer who seems to be the historical authority most respected by the Department of Interpretive Services in Sacramento, states that in 1817, Baranov had been instructed that Fort Ross be "in such a condition that the Spanish have no reason to think that it is anything more than a hunting place, only; but meanwhile under this pretense to increase grain cultivation, cattle raising, poultry raising, vegetable and fruit growing, and plantations, augmenting the settlement itself with the necessary buildings." Most quotes used in the exhibit seem to come from his book, Imperial Russia in Frontier America, but they were taken out of context and sometimes even contradict historical facts stated in his book. For instance, Luetke's quote about the Company's only reason for coming to California contradicts Baranov's directives to Kuskov because it was Luetke's own personal opinion, speculation, written in German. An Imperial Naval officer, he despised Baranov as a representative of a merchant class and did not respect his authority. Translated from German, the quote is confusing and should be taken out of the exhibit.

Russian American Company records clearly state that Baranov instructed Kuskov to establish an agricultural settlement and supplement its income by hunting sea animals. At 42, Kuskov hoped to establish his own lucrative colony at Fort Ross but failed as Fort Ross was not "an ideal site" for agriculture or fur hunting.

Why not emphasize the truth about Fort Ross? Americans came to Baranov proposing a joint fur trapping venture along the California coast and eventually succeeded on their own while Russian American Company attempts, from its base at Fort Ross, failed. When Kuskov returned to the California coast in 1811 to establish Fort Ross, he wrote Baranov that there were few sea otter to be seen. According to Kiril Khlebnikov, only 714 prime sea otters were caught from 1812-1815 although thousands of fur seal skins were obtained from the base on the Farallons. Yankee ingenuity, courage and enterprise is more responsible for the decline of the sea otter, not "Russian fur hunters." Why neglect the fact that the Spanish killed approximately 10,000 sea otters between 1760-1790 and shipped them to Manila, trading them to the Chinese? American pioneers such as George Yount (Yountville) were shooting sea otter by the hundreds from small boats (bull boats) near the Channel Islands off the southern coast of California during the 1830's, using Hawaiians as retrievers while the Hudson Bay Company was systematically slaughtering California beavers to discourage Americans from moving into the Pacific Northwest. These facts are neglected in the

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exhibit, thereby giving a false, distorted picture of the relationship between Fort Ross, the Russian American Company and the decline of the California sea otter.

The fur trade dominated international commerce during the 18th and 19th centuries, bringing the Russians to Alaska and the British, Spanish and Americans to the Pacific Northwest. Although the Russians overhunted Alaskan waters, they are not responsible for the decline of the California sea otter and the exhibit irresponsibly perpetuates this misconception to the visitors.

On the panel "An Ideal Site," the title is a poor choice. The site was not considered an ideal site by Kuskov, it was the best he could find.

The quote attributed to Rezanov is an inaccurate, poor translation from Rezanov's letter to the Minister of Commerce, Nikolai Rumiantsey. Rezanov wrote of California: "even now there still is left an unoccupied intervening territory fully as rich and of much importance to us, and if we allow it to slip through our fingers, what will succeeding generations say? I, at least, will not be arraigned before them in judgement." If Rezanov is to be quoted, his own words must be respected. The quote must be changed if it is to be left in the exhibit.

A panel titled "Garden Vegetables" is not a correct translation. The vegetable referred to as a "horseradish" is called a "radish" in Golovnin's account.

Throughout the exhibit, the managers of Fort Ross are incorrectly referred to as "commandants." This title is not Russian. "Pravitel" translates as manager or director. The managers of Fort Ross were not military officers, did not hold military ranks and were not commandants. "Commandant" is a Spanish title, taken from Spanish accounts as the Spanish settlements were under military control and it is incorrect when used in reference to Russian American Company managers of Settlement Ross (Selenie Ross)--a commercial venture, not a military stronghold.

The photo of a frontiersman under David Rickman's drawing of FORT ROSS CIRCA 1840 is not a Russian and has no place in the exhibit. His posture, attire and physiognomy is non-Russian.

The 1828 quote attributed to the Head Office of the Russian American Company was taken out of context in reference to ALASKA and does not apply to the coast of California. The "Company Rules" refer to the Aleuts and Eskimos in ALASKA and did not specifically apply to Fort Ross where most Aleuts were farmers. This should be indicated on the panel or the panel should be replaced with information about Fort Ross, such as a display about the Golden Poppy and scientists at Fort Ross.

On the panel "Changing Fortunes," it states that Fort Ross was purchased by the California Historical Landmark League in 1903. This is incorrect. William Randolph Hearst raised the funds and an attorney, J. J. Lermen, a prominent member of the Landmarks League purchased Fort Ross and immediately deeded it to Hearst. (On Sunday, July 26, 1903, this event made front page news in San Francisco.)

The exhibit should emphasize interesting aspects of Fort Ross's California "firsts" such as the first piano, the first shipyard and the first meteorological station. An exhibit or panel must be added to give credit to Johan Eschscholtz, Ludvig Choris, Egor Chernykh, Ilya Vosnesensky and Adelbert Chamisso for their scientific and artistic contributions. A separate panel should be added to inform visitors that California's State Flower, the Golden Poppy, was classified by a member of the Russian Expedition and named after a Russian scientist. Visitors are more intrigued with interesting bits of history than the "flow of history" and they usually only look at the pictures.

These are the most obvious mistakes in the exhibit which need correction. There are mistakes in the byword and in displays inside buildings around the fort which must be corrected. There is even a caption in the blockhouse that refers to the "Russian-American Fur Company! Nearby, a badly-painted display states that Fort Ross was sold in 1842 and Sutter's middle name is misspelled. Information in different areas of the park should not contradict historical information in the Visitor Center.

Nicholas I. Rokitiensky, Emeritus  
Professor of Russian History, Member of Advisory and Interpretive  
Association of Fort Ross

Diane Von *Renselaar*  
Vice President of Friends of Fort Ross and member of Interpretive  
Association of Fort Ross

Professor Victor P. Petrov  
Member of Interpretive Association, Chairman of Russian American  
Historical Society, Washington D. C.

# California History Center

SPEECH PRESENTED BY PROFESSOR NICHOLAS I. ROKITIANSKY  
at the dedication of opening Fort Ross Visitor Center July 20, 1985

**FINALLY! FINALLY!** After all these years of hard work, FORT ROSS finally has a VISITOR CENTER!

I've walked through the exhibits and, although it is well-presented, it is NOT complete. The true story of FORT ROSS has YET to be told.

When the RUSSIAN AMERICAN COMPANY settled this land in 1812, they came PEACEFULLY, to plant field and orchards to supply the ALASKA colonies with food.

1. An historic treaty was made with the Indians; the first and ONLY treaty made with native Americans which was NEVER BROKEN.
2. Ivan Kuskov, the builder and first manager of FORT ROSS established California's first shipyard.
3. Our State Flower, the Golden Poppy, was collected and classified by a member of one of 13 Russian scientific expeditions. Johan (Ivan Ivanovich) Eschscholtz, the Russian Naturalist and Botanist for whom our flower is named, visited FORT ROSS in 1824.

4. The name of another Russian scientist, the agronomist Ygor Chernykh who lived at Fort Ross for ten years and established California's first meteorological research station. His first records are the earliest record of our CALIFORNIA weather and climate.

5. We also have Chernykh to thank for Sonoma County's first vineyards! 2000 grape vines were planted.

6. It was a Russian artist, Ludwig Choris, Tikhonov, Mikhailov, whose drawings give us a glimpse of California Indians in their environment at the beginning of the 19th century. It was also a member of the Russian Expedition, a poet and naturalist, Adelbert Chamisso, who collected and classified many of our most common coastal plants and animals.

Contrary to popular belief, the RUSSIAN AMERICAN COMPANY did NOT "exterminate" our California sea otters. When Ivan Kuskov built FORT ROSS, the sea otters had already been over-hunted by the Spanish, and the Americans. FORT ROSS was never very important as a sea otter hunting base. It was more of a farm, a trading post and a center of light industry.

To understand why the Russian American Company came here, you must know a little Russian history.

In 1580, Russian pioneers crossed the Ural Mountains at about the same time English settlers landed in Virginia at Roanoke.

Fifty years later, Russians had reached the Pacific while Americans were settling the Appalachian Mountains. In 1741, Russia discovered Alaska - we were a British colony.

In 1775, during our WAR OF INDEPENDENCE, Catherine the Great of Russia rejected King George III's request to send 20,000 soldiers to fight the American rebels. Instead, she opposed Great Britain and proclaimed Armed Neutrality in 1780. Russia and America became allies. Catherine the Great requested George Washington's assistance in preparation of a universal dictionary to include language of American Indians.

By 1784, Russians had settled Alaska, America was free, and San Francisco was an established Spanish settlement. In 1810 more than 200 ships flying American flags called at Russian Ports, Riga, St. Petersburg, Archeangel and Revel.

In 1806, NIKOLAI REZANOV visited this settlement, the PRESIDIO. He traded with the Spanish and he secured food for the Alaska colonies, and he also became engaged to 15 year-old CONCEPCION ARGUELLO, daughter of the Commander of the PRESIDIO. The sad tale of their love and disappointment is CALIFORNIA's oldest and most tragic love story. Reznov died on his way to seek permission for their marriage and CONCEPCION became CALIFORNIA's first Dominican nun.

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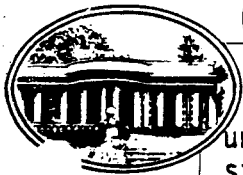
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Fort Ross was REZANOV's DREAM - an agricultural settlement on the unclaimed CALIFORNIA coast. Years later, during the Mexican independence struggle, when few supply ships came to California, the Spanish settlers of San Francisco were eager to trade with the Russians at FORT ROSS.

After California became part of Mexico, the relationship between the Russians and Mexicans was one of detente. The population of Fort Ross was greater than that of the Presidio, San Francisco and a brisk and mutually beneficial trade took place between the COMPANY and the Californios.

But, FORT ROSS was not very profitable, Farming was unsuccessful because of coastal fog, climate and a shortage of labor and there had never been many sea otter to hunt. After almost thirty years, the settlement was sold by Russian American Company to Mr. Sutter, the Mexican citizen.

When the RUSSIAN AMERICAN COMPANY left in 1841, FORT ROSS remained, a testament to RUSSIAN ingenuity, courage, and tenacity. It was the strongest fort in California at that time with thirty cannons.

Today, all that remains of the original settlement is the house of the last manager, ALEKSANDR GAVRILOVICH ROTCHEV. When he brought his lovely young wife, Helena, to FORT ROSS, he also brought her piano-CALIFORNIA'S FIRST PIANO!

But what we see of FORT ROSS, today has been carefully, lovingly restored. Because of the dedication of many groups and individuals, FORT ROSS exists, for everyone to visit and enjoy. We have these people to thank. We give special thanks to WILLIAM RANDOLPH HEARST for raising the funds to save FORT ROSS and to SENATOR JOSEPH KNOWLAND for making it a STATE HISTORICAL PARK.

We must thank the FORT ROSS INTERPRETIVE ASSOCIATION, under the leadership of Mrs. Jeannette Rosson, who has dedicated so much of her life to making FORT ROSS the best state historic park... Mr. Wally Aksinov, our former chairperson, who continues to devote many hours of his time to FORT ROSS. Without the fund-raising efforts of the ASSOCIATION, FORT ROSS would not be what it is today!

We have George Trewtiakoff to thank for the recast bell which now hangs outside our chapel and we have the RUSSIAN AMERICAN colony in San Francisco to thank for their fund-raising efforts to rebuild the chapel, the first Eastern Orthodox church in CALIFORNIA. The Russian American colony in California was active from early 1920.

Without the expertise of Mr. John Smith, we would not have a restored RUSSIAN orchard and Mr. John McKenzie deserves a special thanks for his many years of interest in the restoration of the fort, Professor V. P. Petrov of Washington D. C., Dr. V. V. Ushanov, Laguna Beach, CA, Mrs. Mercedes Stafford, Mr. Moses Hallet, Elizabeth Sidorov, Bob Anderson and Professor Richard Pierce, California History Center, De Anza College and California Heritage Council.

We also have Mr. WILLIAM PENN MOTT Jr. to thank for his interest in our park. Now, he will be in Washington D.C. but I hope he remembers FORT ROSS! He is truly a friend of FORT ROSS.

I wish I could personally thank everyone who has worked so hard to make FORT ROSS what it is, today, but there are SO MANY OF YOU...private citizens and local state park personnel, too. So now, I thank each and every one of you. You know who you are and what you've accomplished.

THANK YOU!!!!!!!!!! WELL DONE.

*Prof. Nicholas I. Rokhman*  
Professor Nicholas I Rokhman (Emeritus)  
Member of Board of Directors  
Interpretive and Advisory Association of  
Fort Ross, California

WPC/jw

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# RUSSIAN AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY



FORTRESS ROSS  
 THE PERIOD OF RESTORATION: OCTOBER 5, 1970-1985  
 (Translated from Russian  
 as it appeared in RUSSIAN LIFE DAILY, April 4, 1985)  
 by George Tretiakoff

In this short account, I will not review the entire history of Fort Ross, but I will tell of what transpired since that sad day, when fire totally destroyed the Fort Ross chapel.

In those days, in 1970, State Highway 1 cut through the center of the fort. This road had been laid by the last private owner of these vast coastal holdings on which Fortress Ross stood. Because of this road, all buildings inside the fort were unprotected and unsecured, left for long periods of time without a watchful eye. A single state employee, (watchman-guide-museum curator) only one man, with days off and no one to relieve him, was inadequate for the safety of the wooden structures. On October 5, 1970, someone broke into the chapel cellar and started the fire that destroyed the chapel.

The original chapel bell, cast in St. Petersburg and given to Settlement and Fortress Ross by merchant Mikhail Stukolkin, perished, melting in the raging inferno. The chapel chandelier which hung from the cupola over the altar was also destroyed.

Again, because of the road, there was another fire in the only original Russian structure, built by the last manager of Settlement Ross, Aleksandr Gavrilovitch Rotchev. (The chapel had been rebuilt several times.) After this fire, traces of flammable liquid were found. Thank God, the damage was confined to the roof but original artifacts, remnants of the Russian presence in California, had been stored in the attic and were destroyed.

Immediately after the fire, Russian-Americans and other Americans joined forces to raise the funds needed for the restoration of the chapel. Mention must be made of the many generous donations of not only money but time-donated to this noble cause.

In April of 1972, William Penn Mott, Jr., Director of the Department of Parks, established the Fort Ross Citizens' Advisory Committee, a group of concerned private citizens, interested in the history of Fort Ross and dedicated to its restoration. In the beginning, there were 24 members but after a few years, the number dwindled to a mere 15. Appointed by Mr. Mott, I have participated in the Committee since its inception. Before my appointment, I participated in the fund-raising for the restoration of the chapel and after, I initiated the restoration of the bell.

The workings of this committee were not always smooth. Many valuable members left because of bureaucratic squabbles, delays and conflicts. Projects and plans, generously offered as a donation, were subjected to unreasonably prolonged scrutiny before being approved by the various offices of the Department of Parks. This situation caused members to resign and discouraged prospective new members, needed for their authority and expertise. Local Russian-American academia has taken little interest in the restoration of Fort Ross because of this existing situation. The few exceptions were the late Alexander Dolgoplov, Professor Victor P. Petrov and my fellow Committee member, the irreplaceable, tireless researcher and true patriot Professor Nicholai Ivanovich Rokitiatsky. In addition, mention must be made of Vadim V. Krassovsky, Vladimir Schenk and Marina Ilyin. A valuable contribution was also made by George B. Lebedeff, former committee chairman who resigned under protest because of the stubborn and unreasonable attitude of Department of Park





# RUSSIAN AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Page Two  
George Tretiakoff

officials, unwilling to accept the proper interpretation of the history of Fort Ross. Frustrated and discouraged, George Lebedeff simply burned out.

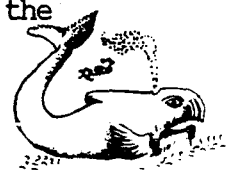
Initially, the Committee functioned smoothly under the auspices of William Penn Mott Jr. who was recently appointed Director of the National Park System by President Reagan. The first conflicts arose during the restoration of the chapel when state architects attempted to impose non-existent details upon the chapel design. With great difficulty, Russian-American committee members were able to have these inaccurate details deleted; a "porch" over the chapel door and a barrier railing in front of the altar which would have made it difficult to conduct services, forcing the priest to walk around the railing to reach the altar. This barrier was actually installed in the completed chapel and several committee members cut a passage.

State architects stubbornly refused to install a cross over the cupola, despite all our advice and pleas, including recommendations made by the late Father Roman Sturmer, a committee member. None of this advice was taken and instead of a traditional cross, the architects chose to install a spire, topped with a brass ball. So, with a cross over the belltower and a spire over the cupola, the chapel was to be presented by the state to the public on June 8, 1974, the day of its solemn dedication- an insult to Orthodox Christians.

A week before the dedication, I called Park Ranger John McKenzie who informed me that a cross over the main cupola had not and would not be installed, despite the promises made by state architects to George Lebedeff and me after our special meeting in Santa Rosa several weeks earlier. I immediately contacted Constantine Chekene, a structural engineer who drew up the blueprint for a cross, using the dimensions I gave him. I wanted it to match the belltower cross to avoid any criticism. With this print, I went to the late Valentin N. Koolkin, master builder and carpenter who constructed the redwood cross. On the morning of the dedication, June 8, 1974, I arrived at Fort Ross with the cross. With the help of Russian scouts and George Lebedeff, I attached the cross to the spire over the cupola. The cross remains, to this day. For the past eleven years, the Department of Parks has chosen to ignore the issue despite the continuous appeals of Russian-American committee members.

The Department of Parks has also refused other appeals from the Committee to consult with us concerning matters of religion, culture, customs and history before printing brochures, books and pamphlets, making press releases and constructing park exhibits. Consequently, park publications usually contain gross mistakes and errors in history and in language, including ridiculous statements concerning Russian customs and traditions. One example is a pamphlet, prepared for Fort Ross Living History Days entitled, "Zdrbstbuitye"-literally, with four mistakes! Settlement Ross was referred to as "Colony Ross" and Emperor Alexander 1 was called "His Imperial Highness". Why not ask any ordinary Russian-American or a student of the Russian language?

On October 22, 1979, Archpriest Vadim Pogrebniak, George Lebedeff and I went to Fort Ross to give instructions to the current ranger and his staff concerning Russian Orthodox Church rituals and sacraments. Our trip was initiated by the



# RUSSIAN AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Page Three  
George Tretiakoff

complaints of a lady who told us of a ranger who entered the chapel without removing his hat or requiring visitors to remove theirs. He also allowed visitors to smoke in the chapel. This is the explanation he gave concerning the small door beside the altar.

"...that the door to the side of the altar, I was led to believe, was used initially for the corpses coming into the church for requiem services and then out to the cemetery. I have been told today that I was totally incorrect. This door was for the use of Indians to enter and depart from the chapel, since they were not allowed through the front entrance."

These words came from a Department of Parks official, William Pritchard. Of course, both explanations are wrong. There is no evidence of this type of small door in the original fortress but it may have been installed, later, for the caretakers' convenience. All Orthodox Christians have equal access to their churches, regardless of their color or race and the dead are afforded the utmost reverence and respect. They are carried into the church and taken out through the main door. This official didn't even think of consulting an Orthodox priest, a Russian-American Advisory Committee member or any Orthodox Christian before he made these ridiculous statements. On the same day, we gave the ranger detailed information and informed him that the chapel is a Christian church and, being a Christian, he should know how to properly conduct himself in a temple of Christ. We also firmly impressed upon him the need to abstain from heresy and unsubstantiated assumptions, especially in the field of religion. I wrote a five-page letter to the Department of Parks, explaining these misconceptions and urged them to consult before making unfounded statements.

Another landmark in the history of the park was the poorly organized and badly planned dedication of the rebuilt home of Ivan Aleksandrovich Kuskov, first manager and founder of Fortress Ross. Reconstructed by the Department of Parks, with the assistance of several Russian-American members of the Fort Ross Citizens' Advisory Committee, the authentic restoration would not have been successful without the valuable contributions of the most recent historical information provided by Professor Nicholas Ivanovich Rokitiensky. In August of 1983, the dedication ceremonies quietly took place at the park with few visitors to witness such an important milestone in the history of the restoration of Fort Ross. Lack of advance publicity on the part of the Department of Parks and their exclusion of Advisory Committee members from the planning process was to blame. By contrast, the dedication of the chapel in 1974 drew over three thousand people, from San Diego, Los Angeles, Portland, Oregon, Seattle, Washington and other American cities. There were even Orthodox Christian Aleuts from Alaska in attendance. This successful event was planned and organized by members of Russian-American committees in San Francisco and in Los Angeles.

At the Kuskov House dedication, Professor Rokitiensky discovered that an Orthodox Christian priest had not even been invited to consecrate the new building, so he made last-minute arrangements with Father Derugin to perform the ritual and paid him out of his own pocket.

3651 ORTEGA STREET, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94122



# RUSSIAN AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Page Four  
George Tretiakoff

One of the few guests at this dedication was a Soviet citizen, a certain Starikov. Presenting himself as an expert in Russian-American history, he wormed his way into the confidence of employees of the Office of Interpretive Services at the Department of Parks in Sacramento, creating much grief for us by giving the Department false guidance and information. Department employees rejoiced at such a find. A real historian and scientist from THE Soviet Union! Now, they wouldn't have to consult those meddling and bothersome Russian-American advisors from California. So, they took his advice and allowed him to play a crude practical joke on all of us. While at Fort Ross, he labeled several barrels, in Russian, in a display on the second floor within the newly-completed Kuskov House. Now, among the commodities in the Chief Clerk's Room, where the settlement's most valuable merchandise was kept, is a barrel of "Smola" (LIQUID TAR, generally used to lubricate axels) placed next to a barrel of "Patoka" (MOLASSES)! (Other barrels are labeled "rum", "honey", "vinegar" and "coconut oil"-all edible.) Why did he chose to put tar among edibles? Probably to discredit Russian-American Advisory Committee members who all know you don't place tar next to molasses. (Strong-smelling tar is always kept outside, in utility buildings, with other such materials.) This prank was immediately called to the attention of the State Parks Area Manager, Robert Robles. Several letters were even written concerning the issue but the barrel of tar remains and has since been moved to the most prominent place in the room, next to a barrel of vinegar and coconut oil!

Mr. Starikov was chaffeured, at State expense, to Sacramento and to Fort Ross, "wined and dined" and may even have been compensated for his "services". Until this day, the State remains in contact with Starikov, who has promised them objects of antiquity, documents, drawings and photographs and even an authentic Russian American Company flag, with a double eagle. None of these articles can be legally sent or received. After his return to the Soviet Union, Starikov misrepresented himself as an associate of our friend, Professor Victor P. Petrov and even claimed to be engaged in a joint research project with him on the works of the scholar and scientist, Ilia G. Voznesensky. Professor Petrov categorically denied any such collaboration or association and I have since learned that Starikov was not a professor but simply an employee of the Soviet Academy of Science who was dismissed and is even a "persona non grata" among Russian historians. Perhaps this liason between Starikov and the Department of Parks may be responsible for the difficulties experienced by state employees during their preparation of the text for the Fort Ross Visitor Center and for the gross historical errors in the exhibits at the park and in the newly-built visitor center. Since October of 1983, Professor Rokitiensky and I have continuously called these errors to the attention of the Department of Parks, correcting them and insisting upon historical integrity. The Department has been slowly and reluctantly accepting our recommendations but even after two years, their staff has been unable to adequately resolve this situation.

On May 10, 1982, a "Storyline Guide", written by Marvin Brienens, was presented to the Advisory Committee. Full of historical errors and misconceptions, it was biased, prejudiced and derogatory. For example, he referred to a painting of an





Page Five  
George Tretiakoff

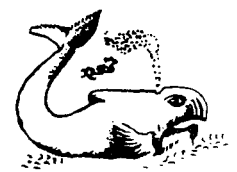
eighteenth-century Russian landlord trading his serfs for hunting dogs. This painting is well-known but has no relationship to Russian-American history. In his "guide", Russians were falsely accused of "exterminating" the California sea otter and of cruel mistreatment of California Indians. Russia was presented as an adversary of the United States when, in fact, it was its strongest and most reliable ally! In addition, a distorted view of Russian history, customs and ethnography was presented. A text for the visitor center exhibit was written, using this guide.

On October 12, 1983, this text was presented to the Advisory Committee. I wrote the Department of Parks, informing them of the historical inaccuracy of the text and of the many mistakes. For example, there was an exhibit title: OTTERS EXTERMINATED! Ethnic Cossacks, Russia's free people, were referred to as "fierce, former soldiers" and "dikiye" (wild people) was mistranslated as "savages". Forty-five pages, containing similar mistakes, were carefully scrutinized and corrected. Sources of information were also provided to the writer.

On July 24, 1984, another defective text was presented by the Department of Parks. Again, Professor Rokitiensky and I carefully reviewed and corrected it. Three months later, a partially revised text was issued. This historically inaccurate information is now on display in the exhibit at the Fort Ross Visitor Center, for all the world to see.

Fort Ross is a unique monument on the coast of California, a reminder of the Russian presence in California, a little bit of Russia, for us. This is the site of the first Orthodox church in America (outside of Alaska), the only place on earth where the white, blue and red flag with a double eagle flies. Fort Ross is dear to all Russians, former subjects of the Russian empire-Baltics, Russo-Finns, Ukrainians, Tatars, Kalmiks, Siberians and so on. It is also dear to all Russian Christians, Orthodox, Lutherans, Catholics and Christians of other creeds. People of these faiths have all visited Fort Ross and there are those who rest in the cemetery across the ravine from the chapel. Fort Ross belongs to everyone and cannot be a source of discord among us. Let's unite around this glorious and wonderful place!

I have written many letters to our civic leaders, church leaders, state senators and representatives, seeking justice. In these past two years, we have not presented this issue to the mass media or to the State Senate or Assembly. If Fort Ross had been founded by Jews, African Americans or any other oppressed minority, this issue would have been swiftly resolved and rectified. Personally, I will continue to pursue this matter, even if it takes me into a court of law.



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September 14, 1984

Mr. Kaye Tomlin, Chairman  
Advisory Committee of Fort Ross  
2259 Cobblehill Place  
San Mateo, CA 94402

Dear Kaye,

I am sending you these nine pages of my research relating to the Visitors Center at Fort Ross. The original copy was sent to Pritchard several months ago.

You will notice reference to the California Poppy in addition to the information I sent to you in detail (six pages) on September 4, 1984.

I hope you appreciate the efforts of my research which I am contributing toward the history of the Russian settlement of Fort Ross as a member of the board of directors of both the Advisory and the Interpretive Associations.

Cordially yours,

*Nicholas R.*  
Nicholas Rokitiarsky

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*М. А. Лукина*

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ИОГАНН ФРИДРИХ  
ЭШШОЛЬЦ

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September 4, 1984

Mr. Kaye Tomlin, Chairman  
Advisory Committee of Fort Ross  
2259 Cobblehill Place  
San Mateo, CA 94402

Dear Kaye:

In response to your letter, "Flora and Fauna," named for Russians who were active and visited Russian-America and California, I want to add many more names. This time I will strictly adhere to the botanical collections of Eschscholtz and Chamisso who both visited California at the beginning of the 19th century. Both were members of Russian scientific expeditions. They accompanied Captain Kotzebue during his voyages aboard the ships Rurik and Enterprising.

Both scientists, Eschscholtz and Chamisso, collected a total of 82 California plants, many of which were near the Presidio of San Francisco. Some were found by Eschscholtz in the vicinity of Fort Ross in October 1824.

Chamisso, a Frenchman by birth, is well known as a poet and writer, and when he was 34 years old, he selected his second career--botany. He was a self-taught botanist. Chamisso's French family migrated to Germany during the French revolution. Johann Friedrich Eschscholtz was a professor at Dorpat University, Estonia, Russia.

Chamisso, after his first trip on the Rurik, returned to Germany and became the head of Herbarium in Berlin.

J. F. Eschscholtz (he was called Ivan Fredrikhovich by Russian sailors) made a second trip (1823-1826), visiting California with the Russian Expedition under Captain Kotzebue. He visited Fort Ross for four to six days while studying local flora and fauna.

On the first Russian Expedition (1815-1826), 69 species were gathered and identified. On the second expedition, Eschscholtz named 13 species. According to Alice Eastwood's article, "Botanical Collection of Chamisso and Eschscholtz in California," the following species were collected by Eschscholtz.

*Nicholas Rokhitiarsky*

24910 La Loma Court

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Mr. Kaye Tomlin  
Page Two  
September 4, 1984

*Nicholas Robitiansky  
24910 La Loma Court  
Los Altos Hills, Calif. 94022*

Eschscholtz's Species:

1. Buckthorn	Ceanothus thyrsiflorus	California lilac
2. Buckwheat	Rhamnus californica	California coffeeberry
3. Four o'clock	Eriogonum latifolium	Buckwheat
4. Frankenia	Abronia latifolia	Yellow sand-verbena
5. Honeysuckle	Frankenia grandifolia	Frankenia
6. Nightshade	Lonicera ledebourii	Twinberry
7. Phlox	Solanum umbelliferum	Nightshade
8. Pea	Gilia chamissonis	Chamisso's gilia
9. Saxifrage	Navarretia squarrosa	Skunkweed
10. Spurge	Lupinus chamissonis	Chamisso's sand-lupine
	Lupinus arboreus	Yellow bush-lupine
	Ribes malvaceum	Wild currant
	Croton californicus	Sand-croton

Our California golden poppy (Eschscholtz California)--a state flower--was named by Chamisso in honor of his colleague, Eschscholtz.

The activities of Prof. Eschscholtz as a tireless collector of botanical plant species left a huge collection in St. Petersburg's Academy and the Dorpat University which was very highly valued by his contemporaries. As I have mentioned before, Chamisso named the California poppy in his honor and also other species:

Claytonia Eschscholtzii Cham.  
Hippuris Eschscholtzii Cham.  
Listera Eschscholtzii Cham.  
Saxifraga Eschscholtzii Cham.

Also other botanists in Eschscholtz' honor named a dozen new species of plants:

Aphragmus Eschscholtzii Andriz.  
Arabis Eschscholtzii Andr.  
Ranunculus Eschscholtzii Schlecht.  
Stellaria Eschscholtzii Fzl.

This was certified by Dr. Tatiana Lukina, a member of the Institute of Natural Sciences, Academy of the U.S.S.R.

Eschscholtz dedicated two species in honor of his teacher (Lonigera Ledeburii) and in honor of his colleague Chamisso (Lupenus Chamissonis) in his botanical discovery. It is interesting to point out that when he sailed on the Rurik with artist Ludwig Choris, he immortalized and named the orchid (Habenaria Horisiane) in his honor.



Mr. Kaye Tomlin  
Page Three  
September 4, 1984

Collected plants by Eschscholtz in North America, Kamchatka, Alaska and shores of Bering Strait were classified by Chamisso in Berlin, by Professor Mayer in St. Petersburg, and also by three other botanists from Dorpat University Estonia. In total Eschscholtz collected 15,000 plants, many acquired by the St. Petersburg botanical gardens.

J. F. Eschscholtz, who participated in two Russian expeditions as a scientist, had a short life; born in 1793 and died in 1831. During his 38 years, he devoted 16 years to science. He spent six years on two voyages and the remaining ten years was devoted to interpretation of collected materials. By education he was a Doctor of Medicine and literally in the same year he completed his M.D., he began his voyage. He delivered rich zoological and botanical materials and did succeed in collecting more than others doing similar work. He also observed the life of enslaved black people in Brazil and enslaved California Indians. During his voyage to the islands of the Pacific, he demonstrated to the natives useful agricultural plants to be used for food. During his second voyage he observed and also collected about 2,400 varieties of animals.

The state of California manuals do not give due respect to the Imperial Russian scientific expedition in California at the beginning of the 19th century. J. F. Eschscholtz and Chamisso under the Russian flag and with the financial support of the expedition by Count Nikolay Rumintsov could not get proper recognition to the flora and fauna of California and to the world in general.

I am familiar with your flora and fauna list. I found the name of the Bombardier beetle--*Brachinus tschernikki*--very interesting and new to me. I think it was named in honor of a famous Russian agronomist, Chernykh, who lived at Fort Ross and vicinity for ten years. He is the one who first established a meteorological station at Fort Ross, recording daily temperatures from 1837-1840. This data and barometrical pressures exist today and are valuable for climatologists as the first data before the American annexation of California.

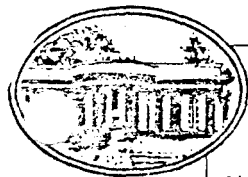
Sincerely,

Nicholas I. Rokitiensky, Professor of Russian History (Emeritus)  
Member of Board of Directors  
Advisory and Interpretive Association  
of Fort Ross, California

wpc

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# California History Center

*Nikolai Rebitskiy  
24910 La Loma Court  
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## Chamisso's Species

(Plants collected and named by him alone, with a co-author)

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<u>Family</u>		<u>Common Name</u>
Bayberry	Myrica californica	California wax-myrtle
Borage	Allocarya chorisiana	Forget-me-not
Buckwheat	Polygonum paronychia	Sand jointweed
Figwort	Scrophularia californica	California bee plant
Frankenia	Frankenia grandifolia	Frankenia
Hornwort	Ceratophyllum demersum	Hornwort
Mint	Stachys ajugoides	Hedge-nettle
	Stachys chamissonis	Chamisso's hedge nettle
	Satureja chamissonis	Yerba buena
Mustard	Erysimum franciscanum	Wall-flower
Orobanche	Orobanche californica	California broom-rape
Pondweed	Potamogeton americanus	Pondweed
Poppy	Eschscholzia californica	California poppy
Rose	Fragaria californica	Wood-strawberry
	Potentilla californica	Silverweed
	Rosa californica	California rose
	Rubus ursinus	California blackberry
	Rubus vitifolius	Grape-leaf blackberry
St. John's Wort	Hypericum anagalloides	Marsh-St. John's wort
Sunflower	Agoseris apargioides	California dandelion
	Ambrosia chamissonis	Chamisso's beachbur
	Artemisia californica	California sagebrush
	Artemisia pycnocephala	Dune sagebrush
	Erigeron glaucus	Seaside daisy
	Eriophyllum artemisiaefolium	Lizard-leaf
	Haplopappus ericoides	Mock-heather
	Helenium puberulum	Sneezeweed
	Jaumea carnosa	Jaumea
	Lessingia germanorum	Lessingia
	Tanacetum camphoratum	Dune-tansy
Waterleaf	Phacelia californica	California phacelia
	Phacelia malvaefolia	Mallow-leaved phacelia
Arrow-grass	Triglochin maritima	Arrow-grass
Buckwheat	Rumex salicifolius	Willow-leaved dock
	Polygonum punctatum	Water smartweed
Dogwood	Cornus californica	Creek dogwood
Figwort	Veronica americana	Speedwell
	Diplacus aurantiacus	Sticky monkey-flower
	Castilleja latifolia	Indian paintbrush
Hazel	Corylus californica	Hazelnut
Oak	Quercus agrifolia	Coast live oak
Najas	Najas guadalupensis	Water-plant
Parsley	Hydrocotyle ranunculoides	Marsh pennywort
Pea	Trifolium wormskjoldii	Cow clover
	Lotus scoparius	Deerweed
	Lotus eriophorus	Lotus
	Astragalus gambellianus	Locoweed
	Vicia gigantea	Giant vetch

# California History Center



## Family

## Common Name

Pink	<i>Silene verecunda</i>	Silene
Plantain	<i>Plantago maritima</i>	Seaside plantain
Rose	<i>Potentilla pacifica</i>	Silverweed
	<i>Fragaria chiloensis</i>	Beach strawberry
	<i>Photinia arbutifolia</i>	Toyon
Sunflower	<i>Baccharis pilularis</i>	Coyote-brush
	<i>Baccharis douglasii</i>	Saltmarsh coyote-brush
	<i>Achillea borealis</i>	Yarrow
	<i>Anaphalis margaritacea</i>	Pearly-everlasting
	<i>Gnaphalium palustre</i>	Cudweed
	<i>G. californicum</i>	Cudweed
	<i>G. chilense</i>	Cudweed (hybrid)
	<i>Grindelia maritima</i>	Seaside gumplant
	<i>Solidago spathulata</i>	Golden-rod
	<i>Solidago occidentalis</i>	Golden-rod
	<i>Solidago elongata</i>	Golden-rod
	<i>Solidago californica</i>	California golden-rod
	<i>Wyethia angustifolia</i>	Wyethia
Violet	<i>Viola adunca</i>	Blue violet
Water-Milfoil	<i>Myriophyllum exalbescens</i>	Myriophyllum

*Nicholas Koltunsky*  
 24910 La Luna Court  
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March 27, 1986

Mr. Wayne Russell, Chairperson  
F.R.I.A.  
19005 Coast Highway 1  
Jenner, CA 95450

Dear Wayne,

At the last meeting we discussed special events at Fort Ross, Living History Day, Ranch Day and Indian Day. I brought to your attention the necessity of including the two Russian services--Memorial Day and Fourth of July.

In the past we had these two services automatically included in our events. Since we now have new members in our organization, I would like to give you the chronological order of how the Russian Orthodox Services were recorded in Fort Ross history.

- I. The Russian Chapel at Fort Ross was built circa 1823-1824. It is the first Russian Orthodox Church built south of Alaska. Even the icons were designated for Fort Ross, but their arrival was never recorded. In the Kuskov records we note that 20 icons were sent to him in 1815 for the use of settlers. Worship services probably were conducted by a sexton.
- II. The Fort Ross Chapel was very important because the first priest, Father Veneiaminov, who later became bishop of all Russia, came from Sitka to Fort Ross in 1836. He served marriages, baptisms and burial rites and Holy Communion. His record of serving in Russian-America was outstanding and he was considered the greatest bishop of the Russian Orthodox Church. In fact, there has been a movement to canonize him. According to Veneiaminov's record, he baptized 30 Indians at Fort Ross. The total population at that time was 260--154 men and 106 women: 120 Russians, 51 mixed marriages, 50 Aleuts and the rest were children.
- III. After Fort Ross was evacuated in 1841, the chapel was visited by the Bishop of Alaska Nikolai in 1897. To his dismay, it was used as a stable, etc.
- IV. Bishop Nikolai offered to purchase from Mr. Call the chapel, the adjacent house, orchard and cemetery, and the burial place of the first Russian settlers. This deal fell through.

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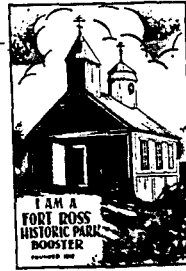
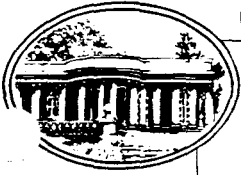
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Mr. Wayne Russell  
Page Two  
March 27, 1986

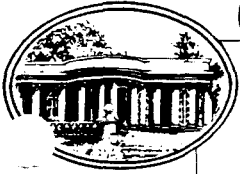
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- V. In 1905 another visitor, Bishop Tikhon of North America, later patriarch of all Russia, visited Fort Ross. This time he observed some changes in the chapel at Fort Ross. It was clean and no trace of stables, etc.
- VI. Both bishops, Nikolai in 1897 and Tikhon in 1905, performed services at the cemetery near Fort Ross.
- VII. As of today, I am involved in research, looking at the Russian Church Records of the Russian-American Company to find the names of 50 settlers buried there. We hope eventually to place brass plaques with the names of the people buried there. This is a future project.
- VIII. I am also checking the church record of the San Francisco Cathedral from 1905 to 1924 to see if the church service was performed at Fort Ross.
- IX. However, the article in the San Francisco Bulletin, July 8, 1925, vividly described the service performed by the Very Reverend Father V. Sakovich at Fort Ross. Here we see the picture of a close relative of Mercedes Stafford--Merceda L. Call who acted as hostess at this ceremony in July 1925. When I was a student in 1933, I met Reverend Sakovich in San Francisco. He encouraged me to pursue my higher education in spite of the difficult times of the Depression of the 1930s.
- X. It is no exaggeration that the most active period to visit Fort Ross and serving mass started with the Russians when a big wave of political refugees came to San Francisco after the Russian Revolution of 1917. The majority of these people came from Manchuria (Harbin City, northern part of China and its vicinity). They were military of all ranks, professors, doctors, dentists, engineers--all elite. Many Russians came to the University of California on student visas.
- XI. After WWII there came a new wave, mostly from Shanghai. Senator Knowland was responsible for bringing a large group of Russians to California. Once more, the Knowland family played an important role--the father negotiated to purchase Fort Ross, and his son helped to resettle the Russian refugees after WWII.
- XII. Today this tradition begun in 1836 by Reverend Veniaminov, is continued by the two San Francisco Russian Orthodox Bishops (Bishop Antonii and Bishop Boris), as well as Alaskan Bishop Gregory (Afonsky). It is interesting to point out that Bishop Gregory of Alaska brings to Fort Ross the gospel which



# California History Center

Mr. Wayne Russell  
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March 27, 1986

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had been presented to Fort Ross by Count Nikolai Rumiantsov during the early 19th century as a special gift to the chapel as a symbol of Russian Orthodoxy in California. This gospel is kept in Sitka and one may see the signature of Count Rumiantsov's presentation to Fort Ross.

XIII. Russian Orthodox services at Fort Ross (Memorial Day and the Fourth of July) attracts people of Eastern Orthodox faith from Alaska, New York, to Los Angeles, etc. The Russian San Francisco newspaper Russian Life always makes special announcements. Two Russian Orthodox Cathedrals provide a special bus service. The church services attract the most people to Fort Ross, as many as 3000 at one time. These people are very interested in our history, published literature and illustrative materials, and provide much money and donations to Fort Ross.

XIV. Any failure to support this very important Russian tradition will result in many complaints to our governor as well as our committees from the bishops and Russian communities all over the U.S.A. Therefore, this tradition must never be changed.

I have presented a very brief outline of Russian Orthodox activities at Fort Ross Chapel for your information and better understanding of this important traditional event.

Sincerely yours,

*Nicholas Rokitian sky*  
 Nicholas Rokitian sky, Emeritus  
 Professor Russian History  
 Member of Advisory and Interpretive Association

wpc



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Протоіерей о. АЛЕКСАНДР ВЯЧЕСЛАВОВ,  
(нынѣ умершій), Член Инициативной Группы по  
Форту Росс, член-учредитель и Член Правленія Рус-  
скаго Историческаго Общества в Америкѣ (США).





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# WHERE RUSSIANS RULED IN CALIFORNIA--THEN SAILED AWAY

of Fort Ross as it is today, topping the Sonoma cliffs looking out to sea. In 1841, when the Russians left California in 1841 were held Saturday. Below, closeup of the chapel, and Mrs. Mercedes Levia Call, hostess at the ceremony.



**CHURCHES FRIENDLY.**  
 On the pre-eminently historic Sonoma coast East met West first in the new world, after the parting between Rome and Constantinople 900 years before. The church was divided by pure schism, by the question of the supremacy of patriarchs, by the matter of rite, by the difference of language. From the original separation the division between Greek Orthodox and Roman Catholic widened with the passing ages. East drew more toward the Orient, West more toward the Occident; East held to the Greek, West to the Latin, in the church service. But, to the infinite credit of both Orthodox Russ and Catholic Spaniard, there was, as a whole, little but mutual friendliness shown when they met in the beautiful wilderness of California.

**HOSTESS.**  
 The final departure of the Russians in 1841 began the settlement of the territory by the Russians. The territory lying between the Russian river and the Pacific on the Marin coast was granted by the Mexican government in 1843 to Capt. Stephen W. Kuskof, who made Kuskof his home on the tract north of the town of Fort Ross, which includes Ross, was transferred in 1845, to Don Manuel de Guadalupe, brother of the captain's, who passed from his hands in 1873, it became the property of late George W. Call, who owned by his heirs. Mrs. Mercedes Levia Call, who is at the clam chowder house Saturday was the widow of George W. Call, who, by the circumstance in these days of taking a warm interest in the Spanish regime, is of Spanish descent, a member of a Spanish family, in which she was married to Mr. Call in

*Cholas Rokitiensky  
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