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K84

Enumeration of Sitka, Alaska Territory, October 24, 1870

- No. 267 Amelia Kostranistoff Female Age 38 Born at Sitka Midwife Residence No. 58, Capable of Self Support, no aid needed - House clean; apparently live well; have a good many dances.
- No. 268 Sirega Kostranistoff Male Age 16 Born at Kodiak Clerk at Troman's, Residence No. 58.
- No. 269 Nadezda Kostranistoff Female Age 13 Born at Kodiak Residence No. 58
- No. 270 Pedro Kostranistoff Male Age 11 Born at Kodiak Residence No. 58

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Census of Sitka, Alaska, Feb. 1, 1881

- Kostrometinoff, Annie Female Age 50 Widow Midwife
- Kostrometinoff, George Male Age 26 Single Clerk
- Kostrometinoff, Peter Male Age 21 Single Clerk

INVENTORY OF THE ALASKA HISTORICAL LIBRARY  
 JUNE 1957

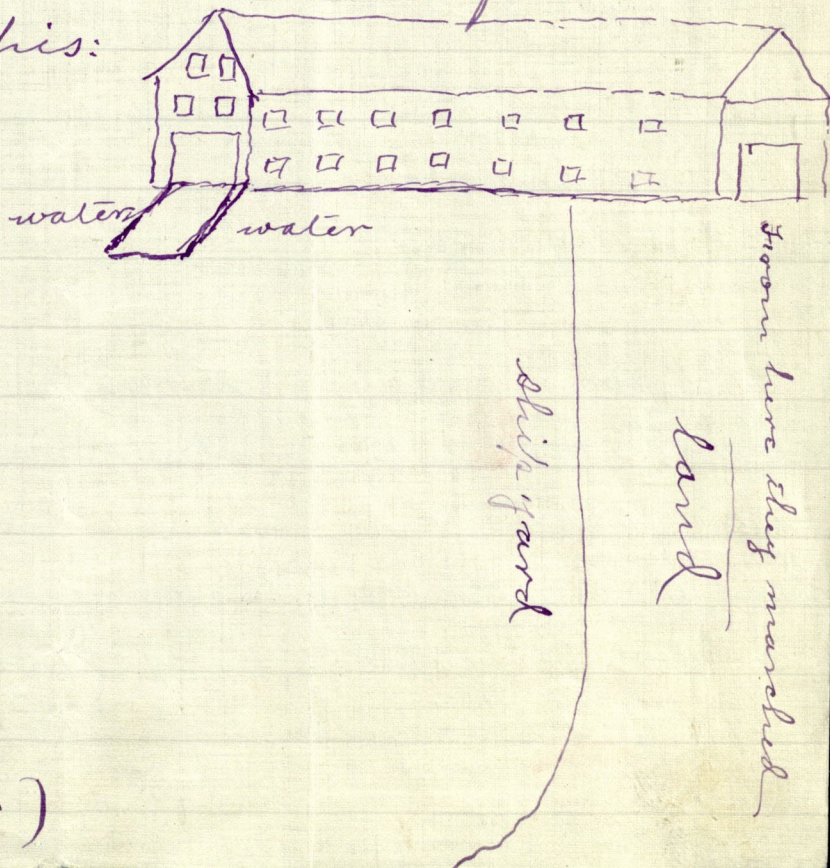


1.  
Seattle, Wash.  
11 N. Duane St.  
March 11<sup>th</sup> 1927.

My dear Father Andrew:-

As I feel better to-day, I will proceed with my story.

The American troops landed about 3 o'clock P.M. on the 18<sup>th</sup> of October 1867; for some reason they didn't land on the wharf, they landed in the warehouse, where Russians kept ship supplies, where Boots cold storage is now. It was built like this:



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(Over.)



and from there the American soldiers marched to the Castle Hill. I marched along side of them as far as Castle gate.

Russians had high fence in panels, with heavy double gate, about 8 or 9 feet in height from the Custom House to Russian barracks, just before you come to Castle steps. I couldn't go no farther than Castle steps - so I went home, and got on the roof, the house was two story high, and it was about 150 or 200 feet from the Castle Hill, and saw the whole business. A company of Russian soldiers were also marched to the Castle Hill. The ceremony began about half past 3 o'clock by lowering the Russian flag. But the ceremony was interrupted by catching of the Russian flag in the ropes attached to the flag pole. A sailor was then sent up to untie the flag - but he went up only about half way, and got tired out, so couldn't go any farther. The flag staff was about 100 feet in height. Then soldier was pulled up on boatswing chair. The orders were to come down with the flag - the soldier must of misunderstood the order, when he untied the flag, he threw it down, & the flag fell on the Russian soldiers bayonets.



Castle Hill during the transfer - some things.  
I think you must be tired reading my letter, so  
I must stop. Sincerely yours P. J. Stearns

and good many of the Russian ladies  
cried. Then the United States flag was hoisted  
up. Then Russian Commander transferred to  
the United States the Territory of Alaska, and  
the ceremony was ended. Of course, there was  
a salute from United States ships, and from  
the Russian batteries.

During the Russian time the Castle Hill  
looked much different than at present. there  
was a large platform on the southeastern  
side. with a flagstaff on the middle, and there  
was a picket fence on the southern side, the  
pickets were square about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inch, and about  
5 feet in height, and went through the 2x4. The  
eastern side was fortified with heavy logs -  
and there were small cannons on the  
platform. and on the northwestern side,  
there was a pigeon coop, and flower garden. it  
looked quite nice.

By the way - the old brass or copper coin  
which I gave you to the museum has a small  
story to it. During the Russian time, they  
had a long pole on the parade ground, on



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4.

the end of the pole they had a bell, and when it was time to go to work they ring it, and when it was time to quit, they ring it again. The working men were allowed a drink before their meals, so at noon time they all marched to the drinking place. The liquor was kept in the storeroom on the northeastern side - near our house. They used to put a stand near the door, and a man would call out: first, second, third and so on, and the men stepped up to the stand, by four persons and had their drink, out of that kind of a cup, straight with out water. When they had a drink - I was there to sell hot peroskey, fish or meat at 5¢ in response. I was a regular Russian boy - dressed just like a Russian - had red shirt with a belt, and the pants in side of the boots. When I think - what a good time we had during Russian time, it makes me feel blue. The time will never come back. I am the only one left who have seen the transfer. (I think the United States ought to give me a pension) There might be some Indians who have seen the transfer. if there are, surely they could not see very much from such a long distance - as they were not allowed in town with out permission althow, there were some Indians on the (over.)