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ALASKA HISTORICAL LIBRARY

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

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

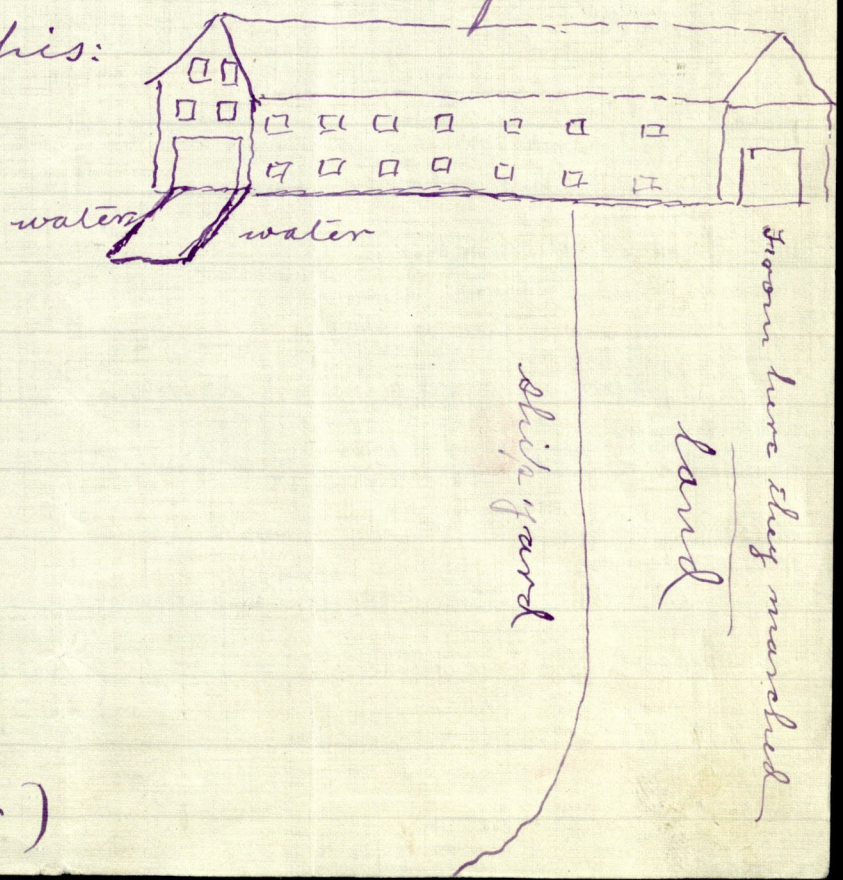
MS 149
FLDR 2

Seattle, Wash.
11 N. Dravus St.
March 11th 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 18th of October 1867; for some reason they didn't land on the wharf, they landed in the warehose, 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 fance in panels, with heavy double gate, about 8 or 9 feet in height from the Custum House to Russian barricks, 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 begon about half past 3 o'clock by lowering the Russian flag. But the ceremony was interupted 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 missunderstood 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 Chiefs.
I think you must be tired reading my letter, so I must stop. Sincerely Yours P.J. Kostromelinoff.

and good many of the Russian ladies cried. Then the United States flag was hoisted up. Then Russian Commander, transfered to the United States the Territory of Alaska. And the ceremoney was ended. Of course, there was a salute from United States ship, 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 fance on the southern side, the pickets were square about 1½ inch, and about 5 feet in hight, 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 cop which I gave you to the museum has a small story to it - During the Russian time, they had a long pole on the porade ground, on

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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 liquer was capt in the storeroom on the northeastern side - near our house. They used to put a stand near the door, and a man would coll 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¢ ~~mu~~ pore. 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 aught to give me a pension) There might be some Indans who have seen the transfer. if there are, surely they couldn't 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:)