

## DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

P.O. BOX 2390

SACRAMENTO 95811

(916) 322-8582



July 25, 1980

Mr. James Gerstle  
160 Farm Road  
Woodside, California 94062

Dear Mr. Gerstle:

I am preparing a report on the history of Salt Point State Park, on the Sonoma Coast, for our Department's use in the management of the park unit. In the course of my research, I have found that Mr. Lewis Gerstle was an owner/partner of the Funcke & Wasserman (later Funcke & Co.) tannery of San Francisco, which once owned the property. I am writing to you at the suggestion of Ms. Ruth Rafael and Mr. Frank Sloss of the Western Jewish History Center. They have nothing on file that would add to our knowledge of Salt Point's history, but they thought you may be able to help me or to refer me to another source of information.

Some of the specifics I have found so far include:

- San Francisco directories begin listing "Funcke (Frederick) & Wasserman (A) tannery" in 1867. The company became "Funcke & Co. (Frederick Funcke and Louis Sloss)" a few years later.
- Sonoma County Recorder's Office has deeds for the transfer of the property November 1, 1870, Sam. and Alex. Duncan sold the land to F. Funcke and Lewis Gerstle.  
January 20, 1872. Funcke and Gerstle leased timber rights to W.R. Miller.  
July 30, 1881. Lewis Gerstle and F. Funcke (deceased) sold the land to W.J. Walsh.
- Funcke & Co.'s period of ownership, 1870-1881, was the most active period of the property's history. The owners surveyed and recorded a plat for the town of Louisville, named the cove for Mr. Gerstle, and named the streets for themselves and family members. The company engaged in tan oak peeling, and shipped the bark to San Francisco. A village grew up in support of the bark trade and Miller's lumber business. Funcke & Co. had an agent on site who ran the general store. There were also a hotel, butcher shop, offices, and several dwellings, plus a horse tramway and two chutes for shipping bark and lumber. The town has long since disappeared, leaving few artifactual remains.

Mr. James Gerstle

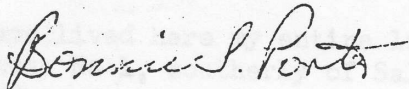
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So far, all of my sources have been indirect and nonspecific. It would be most helpful if we could find Funcke & Co. records that describe their use of the property, with specific information on the size, location and appearance of buildings and other facilities; the employees; the bark-peeling operation; and the relation of the bark-peeling to the tannery operation in San Francisco. There is also one reference in a shipping report, that in 1874, 700 hides were shipped from Salt Point, destination not given. I would like to know if the tannery regularly engaged in cattle raising for hides.

I would appreciate any assistance you can give me on this project. Enclosed is a copy of the Plat of Louisville for your information.

Sincerely,



Bonnie S. Porter  
Park Interpretive Specialist

BSP:sl

Encl.

Sincerely,

(signed) G. A. Call

Mr. Tucker - who is with Albertson Travel Service in San Francisco, has called and added the following points.

A man named William Miller did most of the logging in the area and shipped from the cove to San Francisco until about 1876.

Funck and Co., may possibly have something to do with the naming of the cove.

Land is now owned by a descendant of a man named Walsh, who bought the area with cash and tried to establish a town named Louisville. Town plats are on file in Santa Rosa County Records office, and the name "Gerstle" may be listed as a proposed street name. A Mr. Walker is now resident caretaker for the property.



Transcript of letter from Carlos A. Call  
19149 Coast Hwy at Fort Ross  
Jenner P.O. California  
Telephone Fort Ross No. 1

Fort Ross Cal, Aug 26, 1962

Mr. D. W. Forsberg  
San Francisco, California

Dear Sir:

Your letter addressed to P.M. Fort Ross, regarding Gerstles Cove has been handed to me.

I formerly was P.M. (Postmaster) at Fort Ross, the office has been discontinued and we are now served from the P.O. at Jenner Cal. via a Star Route.

I have lived here my entire lifetime, being born here in 1880 and we are 7 miles via State Highway No 1, southerly of Salt Pt. or Gerstles Cove, it is locally called Salt Point.

We have a Govt. Publication, the Pacific Coast Pilot, Edition of 1869 and the landing is called Salt Point. We have a later edition 1889 and it is called Gerstles Cove or Salt Pt. Landing.

It appears from this that the name Gerstles Cove may have been given it after 1869, a search of records in Santa Rosa would probably show when and if the Gerstle family owned it.

Lumber and other forest products as well as building stone were shipped in early days from this point to the San Francisco Bay Area.

The cove is now used for recreation and is privately owned, but I understand that the State Division of Beaches and Parks is planning on acquiring it.

I am forwarding your letter with a copy of this letter to Mr. Richard Tooker, 26 O'Farrell St. Suite 806, San Francisco 8, who has been doing an excellent job of collecting data on the early landings along this coast, with the thought that he may have something further to add.

Sincerely,

(signed) C. A. Call

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