

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

He wants to study Romanoffs

ROMANOFFS, From A1
they die.

Stanley says his documentary would look into both the historical Romanoff family and how its current members are doing. He will also delve into the past and present relationships between the United States and Russia.

Currently, Stanley is pitching the estimated \$1 million production to potential investors and producers. In the past, he has made films, such as "Thunderstruck," that were shown at a variety of places, including the Dedham Community Theatre.

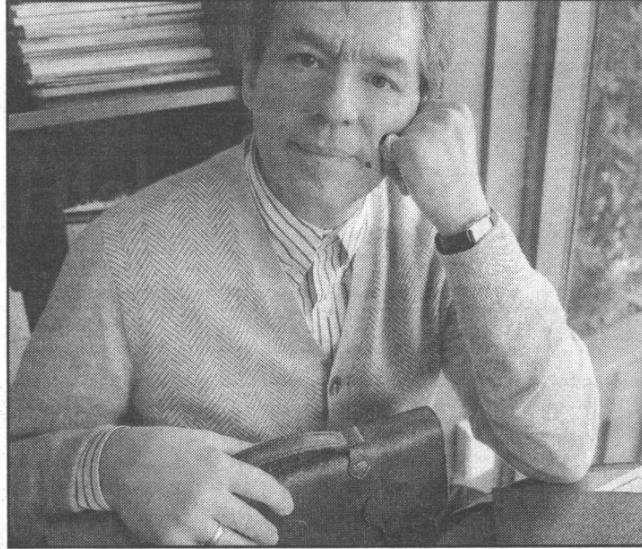
Bobrinskoy is one of the few remaining Romanoffs, the ruling family of Russia in 1917 when the Bolsheviks took over the country and replaced the autocracy with state communism.

Many Romanoff family members, including Czar Nicholas, his wife, Alexandra, and their children, were executed. Others fled into exile.

Stanley originally moved to Dedham from New York to attend the Berklee College of Music and later Harvard University, where he studied literature. Currently living in Wellesley and working for FNB Productions, an independent film studio, in that town. Stanley is planning a move back to the Endicott area.

For the documentary, Stanley will travel to Australia, England, Sweden, Denmark and Switzerland to meet with other Romanoffs to discuss both the history of the family and their own involvement in current world affairs. He will also make a "good will" trip to St. Petersburg in Russia to discuss foreign relations with diplomats in Russia's former seat of power.

The Romanoff family, said Stanley, is heavily involved in



DAILY NEWS PHOTO BY ERIN PRAWOKO

Filmmaker Steven Stanley, a former Dedham resident who lives in Wellesley now, talks about plans for his latest documentary, a study of Romanoff family today.

charity – most notably by serving to better the lives of 800,000 orphans in Russia and America.

Bobrinskoy, whose late husband was a Romanoff count, is the grande dame of the Sovereign Order of the Orthodox Knights Hospitaller of St. John of Jerusalem – the organization that will knight Stanley on Nov. 6 during a \$100,000 per plate fundraiser hosted by Prince Obolenski.

Stanley, of Hungarian noble blood himself, will also become the head of the Knight's new Hungarian Priory – a fundraising organization.

The Knights, said Bobrinskoy in an interview last week, have recently been involved in hurricane relief in Houston and New Orleans and have organized the first meeting commemorating the 200th anniversary of the Russian/American alliance signed by President Thomas Jefferson and Czar Alexander I.

Stanley met Bobrinskoy at

Belcourt Castle in Newport, R.I., during a Knights event. He said the two became friends and Stanley got the idea of shooting a documentary on the family after Bobrinskoy invited him to New York, where she lives, to witness a knighting ceremony.

The American public, Stanley believes, will be interested in the heraldry and "exotic" nature of the ancient royal bloodline that will soon be extinct.

"I think everyone is still interested in knights in shining armor," said Bobrinskoy.

While on location, he also plans on asking probing questions about American/Russian relations.

He said he would ask: "Is there more going on than we suspect" behind diplomacy between the United States and Russia?

Perhaps the answers, Stanley said, would help Americans better understand the Georgia situation and why Russia hasn't

been helpful in Iraq.

Members of the Romanoff family, he said, hold a variety of political opinions. For instance, they are supposedly against monarchy but certain family members, Stanley said, "might not believe that 1,000 percent."

Stanley said he plans on simply saying "roll" and letting the people he interviews talk about what they wish.

"We can always bleep it out later," he said, laughing.

Bobrinskoy is helping Stanley by sending letters to people he wishes to interview.

There's a "good chance," Stanley said, that the countess may be able to use her connections to allow Stanley to become the first person in history to photograph or film ancient relics – a piece of Christ's cross, the left hand of John the Baptist and the only known likeness painting of the Virgin Mary – in an Orthodox monastery in Montenegro.

Stanley said as soon as winter is over he'll "shotgun it," or, spend two to three days in each country interviewing.

By interviewing quickly and taking only a four-person crew, he plans on a fast turnaround and hopes to be in post-production by September of next year.

Stanley hopes for a wide release and has a meeting scheduled with a Public Broadcasting System representative upcoming. He said he'll also submit the documentary for entry in various film festivals, including Cannes.

State Rep. Paul McMurtry, D-Dedham, who owns the Dedham Community Theatre, is also planning a reception for Bobrinskoy at the State House. If that happens, Stanley said, he may be there to shoot it, explaining he's looking to tie New England into the documentary.