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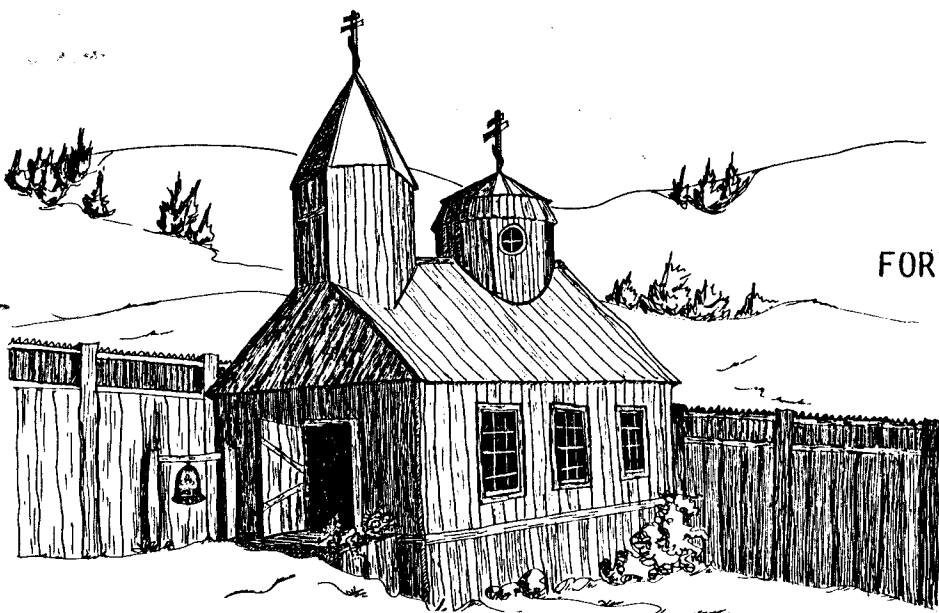
Fort Ross and Salt Point parks have benefited greatly from many dedicated volunteers and staff who have given generously to these parks. Board of directors from FRIA and FRC have fundraised, organized events, overseen volunteers, spearheaded interpretation and restoration projects, and offered substantial support to California State Parks across many decades.

These digitized newsletters capture the activities over the following historic periods:

- Fort Ross Interpretive Association (FRIA): 1976 - 2012
- Fort Ross Conservancy (FRC is the same legal entity as FRIA but the organization changed its name): 2012 - present

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FORT ROSS INTERPRETIVE ASSOCIATION  
NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER

1989

### THE GREAT DECEMBER WINDSTORM OF 1830

In a report of Baron Ferdinand von Wrangell, the Russian-American Company's General Manager in Sitka, sent to the Company's Main Office in St. Petersburg in April 1831, we find an interesting insertion relating to Fort Ross. Baron Wrangell writes as follows:

Mr. Kostromitinov reports, among other things, about the extraordinary storm at Fort Ross on December 12 of last year [December 23, 1830, New Style]. "Our old, run-down stockade," he says, "could not withstand the wind's force. In each of two locations about seventy feet [of palisade wall, i.e ten *sazhens*] were demolished, and in a few other places [the stockade] was damaged. The fans of the windmill were also smashed, and part of the rooftop of a cattle shed was torn off, which still caused some minor damage. Fortunately, all of these damages were successfully repaired within within a space of 48 hours. According to the testimony of some of the employees who have lived here since the beginning of the settlement, they had never chanced to see such powerful winds."

\* \* \* \* \*

This account confirms for us a number of interesting facts at the time. First, the eighteen-year-old fort was regarded as deteriorating by its manager at least several years before the well-known visit and report of Baron Wrangell in late 1833 (who described the lamentable structural conditions of the outpost). Moreover, the account confirms the fact that Peter Kostromitinov was indeed manager at Fort Ross as early as 1830 (as eyewitness to the storm). The preceding manager, Paul Shelikhov, according to the contents of Wrangell's report, was replaced by Kostromitinov at some point after the poor harvest of 1830.

We also see that the employees at Fort Ross lost no time in repairing the widespread damage done to the stockade walls, a testimony to the skills and responsiveness of both Manager Kostromitinov and his personnel. Lastly, we learn that certain Company employees had worked and resided at Fort Ross for the duration of its existence so far, over eighteen years. This indicates that the turnover of personnel was not as rapid as has often been assumed. Although some of the employees of this period (1830) are mentioned in earlier documents (as far back as 1820), we have, so far, no actual names of those who lived as "first settlers" at Fort Ross over its first 18 years.

Source: Russian-American Company Records, Correspondence of Governors General, Communications Sent: volume 8 (roll 33), pp. 162B - 163A. (Report No. 209, to the Main Office, dated April 30, 1831)

Submitted by Stephen Watrous



ANNUAL ELECTION

FORT ROSS INTERPRETIVE ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESENT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Gloria Frost\*  
Jay Harris  
John McKenzie  
Jeannette Rosson\*  
John Stafford  
William Walton  
Frieda Tomlin\*  
Betty MacKenzie\*  
Pat McAdam\*  
Elizabeth Sidorov\*  
Barbara Black  
Lynn Silva  
Robin Dressler

Board members whose name is followed by an \* have terms expiring this year. Three Board members have resigned--Lynn Silva, Robin Dressler and William Walton. Therefore there are nine seats to be filled this year.

Please read the information about each candidate on the reverse of this page. The following slate of candidates for election to the Board of Directors of the Fort Ross Interpretive Association for 1990 has been approved by the present Board and is hereby submitted to the membership in advance of the election.

The annual election for the FRIA Board of Directors will be held at the December 9, 1989 Board Meeting.

CUT HERE



BALLOT

Instructions: Vote for no more than nine (9)  
Place ballot in envelope marked "BALLOT"  
Do not put your name or any identification on the ballot  
or ballot envelope  
Put ballot envelope in envelope addressed to FRIA, put on your  
address, stamp and mail  
Or you may bring your ballot envelope to the December 9, 1989  
FRIA Board meeting

- |                      |                       |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| ( ) DONALD CLENDENEN | ( ) GLORIA FROST      |
| ( ) MIKE HENDERSON   | ( ) VANA LAWSON       |
| ( ) KENT LIGHTFOOT   | ( ) BETTY MAC KENZIE  |
| ( ) PAT McADAM       | ( ) JOHN MIDDLETON    |
| ( ) JEANNETTE ROSSON | ( ) ELIZABETH SIDOROV |
| ( ) FRIEDA TOMLIN    | ( ) DAVID WILSON      |

## CANDIDATES FOR FRIA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DONALD CLENDENEN resides in Berkeley. He has been employed as a City Police Officer in Berkeley for over twenty years. He owns and operates a woodcarving business which places special emphasis on refurbishing and replicating historical wooden artifacts such as furniture and handmade tools. He is an active member of the "Company" at Fort Ross and provides many volunteer hours of maintenance and upkeep on current displays of the Russian Era, and intends to provide new items of furniture for the Fort.

GLORIA FROST, incumbent, resides on the North Coast at Ocean Cove. She enthusiastically does the big job of Membership Chairman. She is actively working on cataloguing the Fort Ross Library and she maintains the Call Garden.

MIKE HENDERSON resides on the North Coast. He has operated the Anchor Bay Campground for 13 years and is active in the local community. His interest is to educate the public about their coast: its weather, geology, plants, animals and history. The preservation of all these elements is vital to him.

VANA LAWSON is a resident of Santa Rosa. She is Kashaya Pomo and is active in the Indian community. She is a member of the Fort Ross Advisory Board, Sonoma County Indian Health Board and the Statewide California Rural Indian Health Board. She is one of the authors of Kashaya Pomo Plants. She has worked for State Parks as a seasonal employee at Fort Ross.

KENT LIGHTFOOT resides in the Bay Area. He grew up in Santa Rosa and has spent much time at Fort Ross since he was a child. In 1987 he was hired by the University of California, Berkeley to direct a program in California archaeology. He has chosen Fort Ross as the region to develop this project. Over the last two summers, in collaboration with Breck Parkman, Glenn Farris and David Fredrickson, he has directed survey and excavation work on Native American sites in the near hinterland of the garrison. Kent would like to see, and is currently working on, an interpretive archaeological trail at Fort Ross.

BETTY MAC KENZIE, incumbent, resides on the North Coast in Manchester. She has been the Recording Secretary since she was elected to the Board in 1986. She is a long time active volunteer in the Fort Ross Bookshop.

PAT McADAM, incumbent, resides in Gualala. She is a professional librarian and has assumed the task of cataloguing the Fort Ross Library. She is also Corresponding Secretary and volunteers in the Fort Ross Bookstore.

JOHN MIDDLETON resides in Monterey. He has been studying Russian military, traditional and peasant culture for fifteen years. He is the recipient of a research grant from FRIA to travel to the Soviet Union this fall to conduct research relating to Fort Ross. He is an active Living History Day participant, a member of the "Company" and has taught a class at Fort Ross on 19th Century Russian Clothing.

JEANNETTE ROSSON, incumbent, resides on the North Coast at Timber Cove. She has been a member of the Fort Ross Advisory Committee and the FRIA Board since their inception, and acts as a liaison person between the two. She also acts as a resource person for past Board actions.

ELIZABETH SIDOROV, incumbent, resides in Forestville. She was born in Russia, but has lived in the United States since 1937. She is fluent in both languages and on several occasions has acted as interpreter for Soviet visitors. She has been on the FRIA Board for approximately 10 years and is the current Vice President. She is presently writing a Fort Ross cookbook.

FRIEDA TOMLIN, incumbent, resides in San Mateo. She recently retired from nursery school teaching and now works part time in the Staff Activities Office of SRI International (formerly Stanford Research Institute). She has been attending Advisory Committee and FRIA meetings since the mid-1970s and has done much volunteer work around the Fort. She is an active Living History Day participant. She is a member of the Call family and has access to much historical information about the Ranch Era.

DAVID WILSON resides on the North Coast at Timber Cove. He is a carpenter and a member of the Timber Cove Fire Department. He has a wide interest in local history and the diversity and richness of the different cultures that lived here before us. He has been a participant in Living History Day for the past three years, and is an active member of the Fort Ross Militia.