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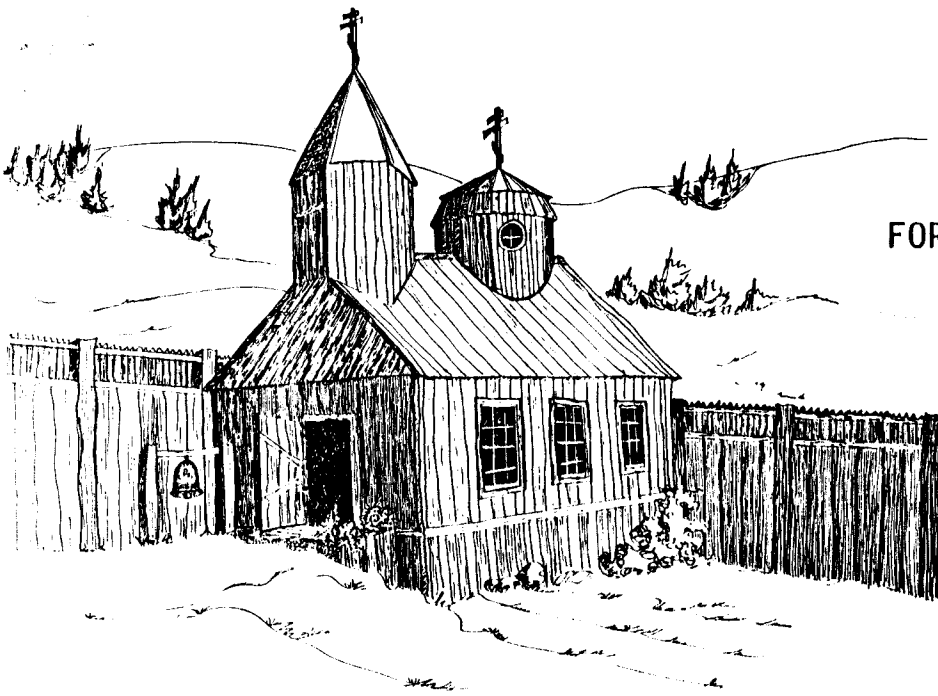
Fort Ross and Salt Point parks have benefited greatly from many dedicated volunteers and staff who have given generously to these parks. Board of directors from FRIA and FRC have fundraised, organized events, overseen volunteers, spearheaded interpretation and restoration projects, and offered substantial 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 Conservancy, a 501(c)(3) and California State Park cooperating association, connects people to the history and beauty of Fort Ross and Salt Point State Parks. © Fort Ross Conservancy, 19005 Coast Highway One, Jenner, CA 95450, [707-847-3437](tel:707-847-3437) [www.fortross.org](http://www.fortross.org)



FORT ROSS INTERPRETIVE ASSOCIATION  
NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER  
1989

LIVING HISTORY DAY

"This year's Living History Day was the best ever." Eighty people plus the Slavyanka Choir volunteered their time to make it happen! An estimated 2,000 people visited Fort Ross that day (525 cars paid day use at the gate).

New this year the Nikolaied Folk Ensemble pictured on the right added Russian folk music and dancing.



JOHN MCKENZIE DAY

The first annual John McKenzie Day took place this year on August 13. This year's event coincided with John's 80th birthday and there was a celebration in the Call picnic area at Fort Ross. It was a beautiful day and the event was well attended. John's birthday cake was decorated with a picture of the Fort Ross Chapel. John sang his dragon song for his many friends.

John McKenzie came to Fort Ross in 1947. He was the Ranger-Curator until 1963 when he went to La Purisima Mission State Historic Park. He returned to Fort Ross in 1972 and was the Ranger here until he retired in December 1979 as a Ranger II. His research greatly enhanced the historic authenticity of Fort Ross restorations.



Bill Walton, John McKenzie, Dan Murley



**Call Family Reunion**  
(July 30, 1989)

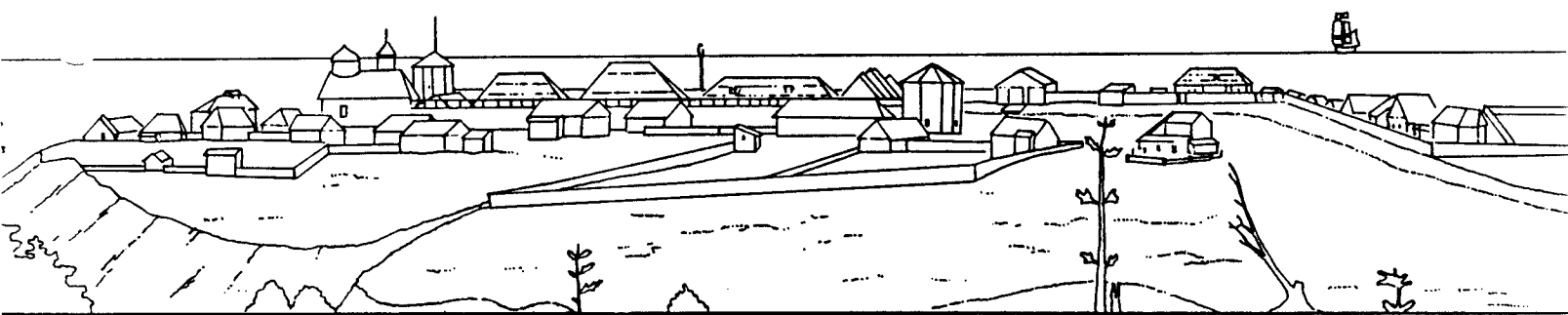
The first George Washington/Mercedes Call family reunion was held at Fort Ross on July 30<sup>th</sup>, with a good number of descendants, their families, and friends in attendance.

28 descendants were able to make it, some coming from as far away as Virginia and Ohio. During the process of getting the reunion together, it was determined that, as of the date of the reunion, there have been five generations of descendants that include 99 people, of which 74 are still living; the last of the first generation Calls (the children of George and Mercedes) passed away in 1978, but all other generations were represented at the reunion.

The three surviving members of the second generation were all in attendance--Barbara Black of Jenner, Laurie Horn of Occidental, and George Kaye of La Honda. The husbands of two others of the second generation also attended--John Stafford of Santa Rosa (husband of Mercedes Stafford) and John A. Tomlin of Mountain View (husband of Viva Tomlin).



FORT ROSS FIELD SEMINARS  
FALL 1989, WINTER 1990



FORT ROSS ARCHAEOLOGY

Sunday, Oct. 1  
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

The class will outline the recent findings of archaeological research conducted in the hinterland of Fort Ross. A slide presentation and field walk to nearby sites will be included.

KENT LIGHTFOOT

Fee: \$20.00

ALEUT/KONIAG ARGHAEOLGY

Sunday, Oct. 1  
2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

A slide illustrated lecture on North Pacific Peoples in general, with focus on the archaeology, ethnography and history of the Aleuts and Koniag Eskimos.

ARON CROWELL

Fee: \$10:00

TIDEPPOOL LIFE

Sunday, Oct. 15  
2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

This class is a general introduction into the ecology and organisms in the intertidal community in the Fort Ross Cove.

DANIEL E. WICKHAM

Fee: \$20.00

IVAN KUSKOV: FOUNDER OF FORT ROSS

Saturday, Oct. 28  
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Meet the Russian-American Company official who built Fort Ross and administered it for its first ten years. Through narrative, slides and the writings of Kuskov and his contemporaries, we can experience Kuskov's early life and Alaska years, his reconnaissance trips to California, his economic activities and construction of the Fort, his relations with Indians and Spanish, and his retirement and return to Russia.

STEPHEN WATROUS

Fee: \$25.00

RUSSIA TODAY

Saturday, Nov. 4  
11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Slide show and update on the U.S.S.R. by Judy Thomas. John Middleton and Robin Joy will share their impressions and research done in the Soviet Union this summer.

JUDY THOMAS, JOHN MIDDLETON, ROBIN JOY

Fee: \$10.00, NO FEE FOR FRIA MEMBERS

MUSHROOM IDENTIFICATION AND USES

Saturday, Nov. 11  
11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Learn local mushrooms and their uses as you walk up into the hills behind Fort Ross. There will also be classroom time to examine a variety of mushrooms and learn how to identify them. Class will be held rain or shine!

JESSE LONGACRE

Fee: \$25.00

SURVEY OF CALIFORNIA INDIAN BASKETRY

Saturday, Jan. 20 and  
Sunday, Jan. 21  
10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The class is a survey of Northern and Central California basketry including collection and preparation of materials and demonstration of techniques. Students will learn and practice techniques on the instructor's model baskets, as well as make their own plain twined willow basket. The class includes an excellent slide show on basketry plants and old and contemporary California Indian baskets and their makers. There is a \$15.00 materials fee payable to the instructor on the day of the class.

PEGG MATHEWSON

Fee: \$45.00

SEMINAR REGISTRATION FORM

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE ENROLL ME IN THE FOLLOWING CLASSES:

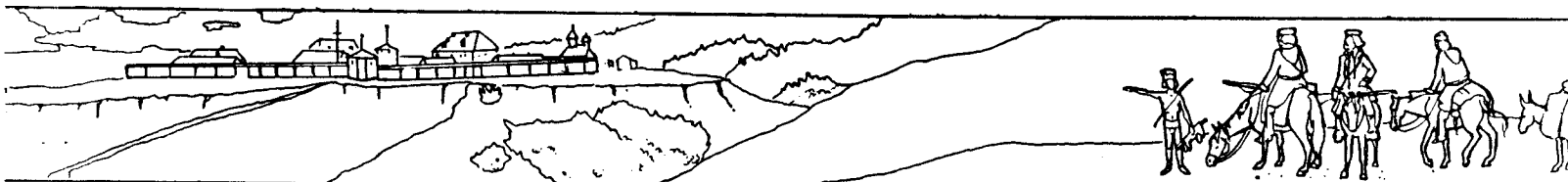
- \_\_\_\_ FORT ROSS ARCHAEOLOGY, \$20.00
- \_\_\_\_ ALEUT/KONIAG ARCHAEOLOGY, \$10.00
- \_\_\_\_ IVAN KUSKOV: FOUNDER OF FORT ROSS, \$25.00
- \_\_\_\_ RUSSIA TODAY, \$10.00, NO FEE FOR FRIA MEMBERS
- \_\_\_\_ MUSHROOM IDENTIFICATION AND USES, \$25.00
- \_\_\_\_ SURVEY OF CALIFORNIA INDIAN BASKETRY, \$45.00
- \_\_\_\_ TIDEPOOL LIFE, \$20.00

Enclosed is my check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ in full payment of class fees.

I am a member of the Fort Ross Interpretive Association \_\_\_\_\_.  
(There is a 10% discount on class fees for FRIA members.)

I would like to join Fort Ross Interpretive Association \_\_\_\_\_.  
(\$5.00 regular, \$7.50 family--Please include a separate check for membership fee.)

CHECKS PAYABLE TO FORT ROSS INTERPRETIVE ASSOCIATION  
19005 Coast Highway 1, Jenner, California 95450



ABOUT THE INSTRUCTORS

DR. KENT LIGHTFOOT teaches at the University of California Berkeley in the Anthropology Department. This summer he taught the U. C. Berkeley Archaeology Field School at Fort Ross for five weeks. The Field School completed the archaeological survey of Fort Ross, did preliminary investigation of the Aleut village site to the south of the Fort and continued the investigation of the site at the Fort Ross Cove. Kent is currently pursuing the idea of an archaeological trail for visitors around the hinterlands of Fort Ross. Kent attended Santa Rosa High School, earned his B.A. at Stanford University, and his M.A. and Ph.D. at Arizona State University. He has done archaeological field work in the American Southwest, New England and California.

ARON CROWELL has done archaeological research in Alaska, Canada and at Fort Ross. He worked on the joint U.S./U.S.S.R. exhibit of North Pacific Cultures at the Smithsonian (Crossroads of Continents) and is one of the authors of the book Crossroads of Continents. He is currently in the Ph.D. program at the University of California Berkeley in the Anthropology Department.

DR. DANIEL WICKHAM teaches Marine Ecology, Problems in Marine Biology and Invertebrate Zoology at U. C. Bodega Marine Laboratory. He has fifteen years experience as a professional Marine Ecologist in Northern California. He earned his B.S. in Biology at the University of Miami, his M.S. in Biology at Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan, and his Ph.D. in Zoology at U.C. Berkeley.

DR. STEPHEN WATROUS teaches in the History Department at Sonoma State University. He is involved in ongoing research on the history of Fort Ross, and has taught short courses here since 1975.

JUDY THOMAS has traveled to the U.S.S.R. eight times since 1983. She has an extensive collection of high quality slides taken on her trips. She will share the best of these with us, along with some insights gained from friends made in the Soviet Union and from hosting many visiting Soviets in Sonoma County.

JOHN MIDDLETON has been studying Russian military, traditional and peasant culture for fifteen years. The Fort Ross Interpretive Association is sponsoring his two month visit to the Soviet Union this fall where he will be conducting research relating to Fort Ross. John has taught for two years with the Monterey Museum of Arts Creative Response program. He did undergraduate work at the Academy of Art in San Francisco and studied art history at U.C. Santa Cruz. He had a two year course of study in art conservation at Cherkas Studios in Santa Monica.

ROBIN JOY has been an active volunteer for the last four years organizing the food program for Living History Day. This year FRIA will be one of the sponsors for her trip to the Soviet Union in August. She will be visiting many homes and gardens and she will bring back Russian vegetable seeds to grow in the Environmental Living Program garden at Fort Ross and authentic Russian recipes and cultural information to enhance next year's LHD program.

JESSE LONGACRE is a naturalist who specializes in the edible and medicinal uses of wild plants, seaweeds and mushrooms. He has a B.A. in Environmental Studies and has been teaching for twelve years at Santa Rosa Junior College, California School of Herbal Studies, California State Parks, and privately.

PEGG MATHEWSON received her M.A. in anthropology at U.C. Berkeley and is currently pursuing her Ph.D. there. Pegg has wide and varied teaching experience. She teaches Fiber Arts of Western North America at Malheur Field Station, Princeton, Oregon. She is currently a student of Craig Bates (Miwok/Paiute basketry), Mabel McKay (Pomo basket weaving) and Vivian Hailstone (Yurok/Karok/Hupa basketry).



80. "Portrait of Toyon (Chief) Katlian and his Wife" Mikhail Tikhanov, 1818: RIFSA 2116  
 Katlian (Kalyáan) was the military leader of the Kiks.ádi clan of the Tlingits in their battles with the Russians in 1802 and 1804. He wears a spruce root crest hat, Russian medal Athapaskan skin trousers, and a woven ceremonial blanket in the pre 19th century "geometric" style (see fig. 284). In the background are Golovnin's sloop *Kamchatka* and the fortress at Sitka.

### TEAM ROSS

Well, I'm back from the land of Shelikov Strait, Baranov Island and Veniaminov Volcano. My trip was truly one of "R and R"--Research and Recreation. On the research side, at the conference in Kodiak "Team Ross", as we called ourselves, gave our presentations about the Fort to an enthusiastic audience. In an interchange with native people, archaeologists and historians we gained new insight into the culture of the Native Alaskans who were brought to the Fort by the Russians from Kodiak Island.

In Sitka we were fortunate enough to wander into a small bookstore whose knowledgeable and enthusiastically helpful proprietor passed on many sources and valuable information on both the Fort and the Russian American Company. The eccentric bubbly bookstore lady in one of our marathon exchanges pulled out a 1879 naval report concerning the population of Sitka. In that dusty document were the names of four people born at Colony Ross during the 1800's. More research continues, thanks to Dee Longenbaugh of the Observatory Bookstore.

I also met many cooperative informative employees of the National Park System who are assisting in finding out more information on the cross pendant on display at the Russian Bishop's House in Sitka. This cruciform artifact is almost identical to the one found on a body exhumed during the re-routing of Highway One near Fort Ross--intriguing! Folks at the Sheldon Jackson Museum in Sitka were also very helpful.

On the recreation side, the scenery was awe inspiring, the wildlife wonderful, but I guess the research turned into a true recreation.

Dan Murley



The Russian fort of Novo Arkhangel'sk, situated on the island of Sitka on the Canadian shore of the Gulf of Alaska. The settlement was first founded in 1799 but was burned by the Tlingit Indians within 12 months. The fort was recaptured with the aid of Lisianski in the Neva in 1804 and was rebuilt to become the main settlement for the Russians on the American coast. Here was based the Russian-

American company trading in furs. The base had wharves and repair facilities for ships, but was described by a visiting Russian midshipman as a 'sorry place with a wretched climate--cruel winds, incessant rain. You can get practically nothing there, and even if you do, it's only for the highest price. No fresh food except fish, and precious little of that, during the winter.'

## A 1925 TRIP TO FORT ROSS

On reading the recent publication in the Independent Coast Observer that included a story about the time the Russian-Americans first travelled to Fort Ross in a group, I noted that what was printed was not exactly as I have been told over the years by various members of the Call family. So I approached George Kaye to find out from him what he remembered about the 'event'--George, a grandson of George and Mercedes Call, is the oldest living Call descendant (a distinction he finds a bit disturbing), and he was peripherally involved in what happened.

In early July 1925, just before the Coast Highway was reopened in October by the State of California (it was originally built by Chinese laborers hired by George Washington Call in about 1874/75 but was not kept open after portions of the road slid in/out some time in the early- to mid-1880s), Russian-Americans from The Eastern Orthodox Church Society of San Francisco (located on Green Street) decided to take their first group pilgrimage to Fort Ross. To make the trip, they apparently called a number taxicabs to come and pick them up, and off they went--totally unprepared for the occasion.

The taxicab drivers apparently misunderstood what was going on, believing that they were taking the group to "Ross", the town in Marin County, for a picnic. I'm sure that it didn't take them too long to determine that something was wrong, however, and that they were in for a long and arduous journey. First, they would have had to have crossed from San Francisco to Marin County by ferry. Then they probably drove to Santa Rosa, and from there it is known that they went to Cazadero. Finally, they took the 13 mile trip to Fort Ross over what was then a very narrow, winding road, no doubt arriving quite tired.

Carlos Pearce (a grandson of George and Mercedes Call) was visiting Fort Ross and was on the spot when the the group arrived. He later related to George Kaye that, upon arrival, the taxicab's engines were so hot they were boiling, and one driver was so mad at what was happening that he got out of the cab, took his hat off, threw it on the ground, and jumped up and down on it--and he had a few choice words to go along with his actions.

The Russian-American group not only didn't have food, they were totally unprepared for the fact that there was no place to stay. Mercedes Call, as usual, rose to the occasion. She provided them with food and blankets and got them established on the The Sandy Beach, where they built fires to cook and to keep warm overnight. The priest, The Reverend V. Sakovich, visited with Mercedes in her home well into the evening, and it was guessed that he was hoping to get an invitation to stay the night; but no such luck, and he finally joined the others for a night on the beach. The next day, July 4<sup>th</sup>, Reverend Sakovich held services at the chapel, and then the group departed on their return adventure to San Francisco.

Several months later, Carlos and George were walking in San Francisco near the intersection of Golden Gate Avenue and Market Street when Carlos spotted a taxicab with one of the drivers who had been on the trip to Fort Ross. He and George walked over to the cab and Carlos jokingly said to the driver, "Let's go to Fort Ross." The cab driver turned to them and replied disgustedly, "Were you part of that mess?"--at which point he shut the door on his 'customers' and drove off.

THE EASTERN ORTHODOX CHURCH SOCIETY  
OF SAN FRANCISCO

F. Kaye Tomlin  
August 1989

1820 GREEN STREET  
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.  
July 17th 1925.

Mrs. M. L. Call,  
Fort Ross,  
Calif.

Dear Madam,

Permit me to express to you my earnest and sincere gratitude for the splendid reception given by you to my parishioners and other Russians, who visited and attended the service at Fort Ross on the 4th of July.

Your kindness created a deep and lasting impression in the hearts of one and all.

Please pardon my inability to express myself in terms fitting to the occasion but be assured, Madam, we appreciated your action very much indeed.

Very sincerely yours

*Rev. V. Sakovich*



William C. Morgan  
Fort Ross Store Proprietor,  
Postmaster, Watchmaker



*James W. Morgan, S. P.*



*J. Ross*

SANTA ROSA,  
CAL.

The Baxman Sisters

RANCH DAY is coming up SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1989 at Fort Ross State Park

Ranch Day is a day to celebrate life as it was in 1895. This year we would like to include more turn of the century ambiance. You are invited to join us in period costume. Activities we are developing thus far include cider pressing, spinning, horseshoes, an old time saw demonstration, embroidery and a blue-grass band. Come join us and bring your own old fashioned country picnic. If you would like to come in costume, and if you have any ideas regarding turn of the century life that you would like to see portrayed please call Fort Ross State Park Staff at 847-3286 or the Fort Ross Interpretive Association at 847-3437.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

RANCH DAY--September 24, Sunday

FIELD SEMINARS BEGIN--October 1, Sunday (See Schedule)

FRIA BOARD MEETING--October 14, Saturday

ENVIRONMENTAL LIVING PROGRAM WORKSHOP--October 14 and 15

SUBMISSIONS DUE FOR NOVEMBER - DECEMBER NEWSLETTER--November 4, Saturday  
PLEASE CONTRIBUTE! Note: A new drum has been ordered for the copier;  
there will be great improvement in the quality of the photographs in  
future issues.

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19005 Coast Highway 1  
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