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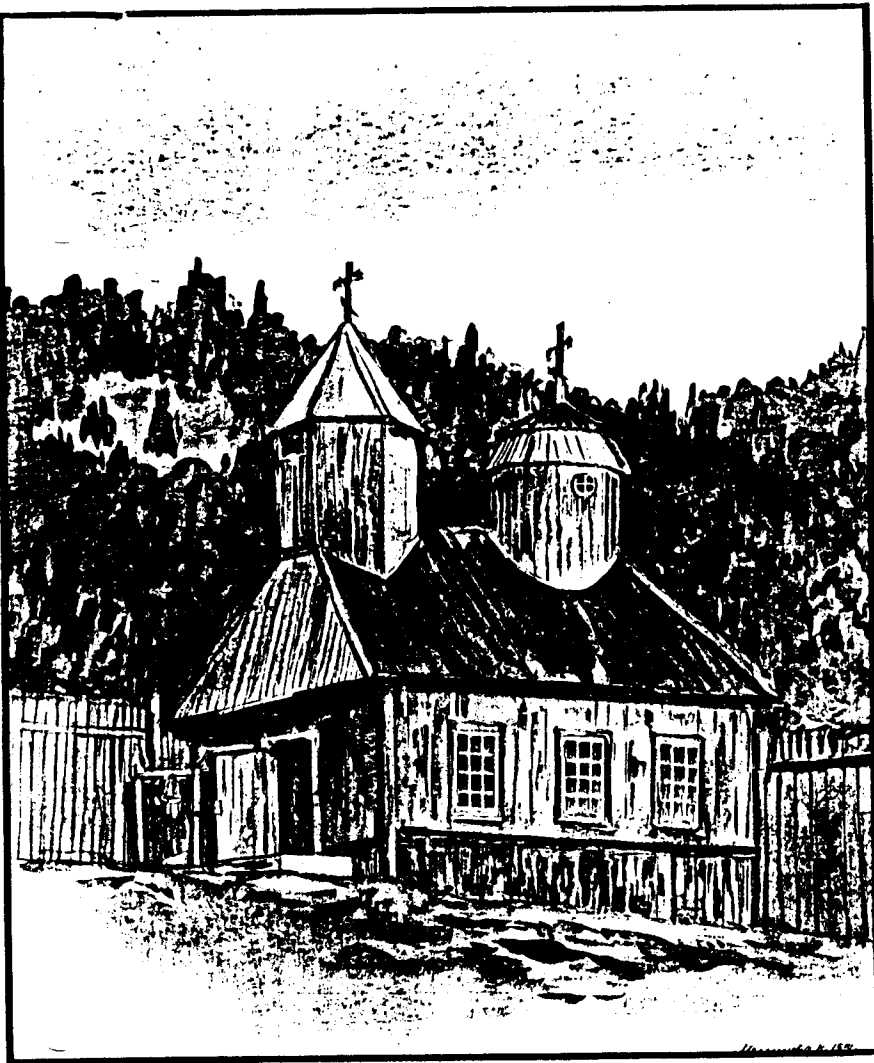
Fort Ross and Salt Point parks have benefited greatly from many dedicated volunteers and staff who have given generously to these parks. Board of directors from FRIA and FRC have fundraised, organized events, overseen volunteers, spearheaded interpretation and restoration projects, and offered substantial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



**FORT ROSS
INTERPRETIVE ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER
NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 1992**

**DATE TO REMEMBER !
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12
FRIA BOARD AND GENERAL
MEMBERSHIP MEETING 10:00 A.M.
POTLUCK HOLIDAY LUNCH 1:00 P.M.
ALL FRIA MEMBERS INVITED!**

WILLIAM PENN MOTT JR.

DEAR MEMBERS OF FRIA:

On Wednesday, September 23, 1992 the news commentator's voice intruded on my rambling thoughts with the words "William Penn Mott Jr." I didn't hear the news item, so I impatiently waited for the next news broadcast time. Finally, Bill was going to let us in on some of his enthusiastic plans for his new challenge, the San Francisco Presidio! I knew his plans would be unique and was eager to hear the details. I could comment on them when I wrote the letter I was planning to keep him abreast of the progress of the project I was involved with on restoring the Call Ranch House. Usually I just phoned him, but this time I felt I should express my gratitude in writing for the supportive letter he wrote for me to the Sonoma County Landmark Commission. It really did help, and I knew he would be genuinely pleased. Then the news bulletin was repeated, "William Penn Mott Jr. died yesterday in his home in Orinda."

The news brought feelings of great sadness and loss. We had been friends for 20 years plus. In the spring of 1972 my husband, Marvin, and I invited the Director of State Parks and Recreation to come to Fort Ross to visit and discuss the future of the quiet little drive through park at Fort Ross with the hope interest could be aroused for the very special 100 year old Call Ranch that had been so influential in the development of the coast. We also invited as many of the early families who were still living in the area to meet with him and discuss the

CONTINUED ON REVERSE

value of keeping this period as an important part of the historic park. Mr. Mott enthusiastically embraced our suggestions and there was born the "Flow of History" concept perfect for unique Fort Ross - people passing over that isolated land, each with their own values and ways. Unless we could tell their story for them, the austerity of the land and the elements would erase them totally. That day Mr. Mott appointed the Fort Ross Citizens Advisory Committee, and we were off and running. His interest and enthusiasm for Fort Ross never faltered and he followed our progress intimately even when his horizons exploded to National Parks. As President of California State Park Foundation he orchestrated the fund raising Gala to accelerate our development, and I felt honored he asked me to be on that special committee. When our smaller dream of a Visitor's Center became a reality he was here to speak to us. He was so enraged when I phoned to tell him the Advisory Committee was being dissolved. He felt it had been so instrumental in keeping the quality of Fort Ross and making the dream of the "Flow of History" a reality. Yes, I had lost a dear friend, but even more, so had Fort Ross. I have tried here to point out that William Penn Mott Jr., a true giant in the history of our parks, was a very warm, sincere, enthusiastic, gentle man. He had true appreciation and sensitivity to the wonderful beauties our land is blessed with, and had the visions and drive to make each even better for his having looked its way. We should all feel sadness at his leaving us, but take solace knowing he is busy improving our unearthly "parks". As Ambassador L. W. "Bill" Lane said at the very moving farewell services for our own "Bill", "let each of us dedicate to continue Bill's dream."

If forms of the word enthusiasm appear frequently in the above, it is because to me William Penn Mott Jr. was the embodiment of enthusiasms. That was his shining quality, followed by sincerity and sensitivity.

Jeannette Platé Rosson



FORT ROSS LANDINGS

1858 The rocky, contracted, and unsafe anchorage off this place is NW 3/4 No. from Los Reyes; distance 32 miles, and 15 miles from Bodega Head. The large white buildings of the Russians on the rising ground and about 100 feet above the sea, are the only marks for marking it, and the shore is so steep and guarded by rocks and reefs as to render approach dangerous. No trade is now carried on here. Davidson, George. Directory for the Pacific Coast of the United States. P. 63

1869 The rocky, contracted, and unsafe anchorage off this place is northwest three quarters north from Los Reyes, distance thirty-two miles, and fifteen miles from Bodega Head. ...A little trade is now carried on here. The shore between Bodega Head and Fort Ross curves slightly to the eastward of the line joining the two places...Nine and a half miles from the head the Slavianka of the Russians empties into the sea, breaking through the coast hills that here reach an elevation of two thousand two hundred feet. During the summer months a dry bar forms completely across the mouth of the river, so that the travel along the coast passes over it. It required heavy rains to break through it, and forms again after a few weeks of dry weather. ...During the summer the bed is dry above Healdsburg, thirty miles from the mouth, and can be forded in several places in that distance. Before breaking through the coast hills it comes from the northward through a broad, fertile valley. The arroyos and streams opening into the Russian River near the coast are filled with a very dense growth of heavy redwood; and in 1860 a tram road was being graded along the coast to the lagoon inside of Bodega Head to carry the lumber from the mill on the river. ... Between Fort Ross and Point Arena are a number of small coves upon whose shores saw mills have been erected, giving a large summer trade to numerous small coasters. These anchorages are Timber Cove, Stillwater, Salt Point, Fisk's Mill, Stewart's Point, Wallala River, Bowen's Landing, Havens Anchorage, and Arena Cove. Davidson, George. Pacific Coast. Coast Pilot of California, Oregon, and Washington Territory, Wash. Gov't. Pr. Office, 1869 P.88-90

1879 The anchorage at Fort Ross marked on the Coast Survey charts is a pretty good one and considered by some, one of the best of the northwest shelters on the coast. Though rather contracted, there is room enough for small coasters. This place is about seven miles above Russian River and has a chute for loading vessels. It used to be a trading post of the Russians, and they built a fort there. Vessels entering the roadstead go close to the northern point and come to between the buoy and chute. A sunken rock there is marked by a buoy. Schooners carry from here wood, tan-bark, redwood posts and dairy and other products. This place was the first one opened north of San Francisco, the chute belongs to G. W. Call. Yale, George C. Pacific Coast Harbors

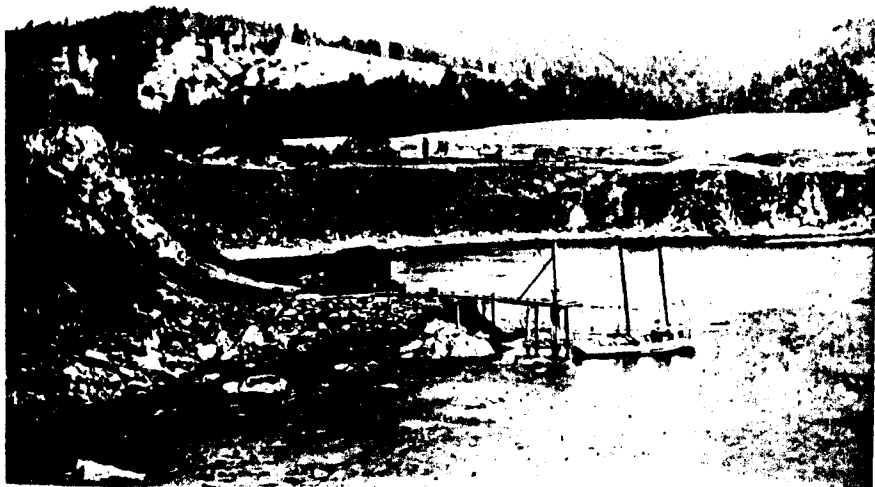
1880 The Russians constructed a wharf at the northern side of the little cove and graded a road down the steep ocean shore to it. The grade is still to be seen, as it passed much of the way through solid rock. This wharf was made fast to the rocks on which it was constructed with long iron bolts. All that remains of the wharf now is a few of the bolts driven into the rocks. P.369
...its harbor is the best in the vicinity, being perfectly secure from northers. Its landings are kept in the best of order, and loading and discharging vessels is easily accomplished. There is a large amount of excellent timber tributary to the place, which will someday make it quite important. ...There is at present one hotel, one saloon, one blacksmith shop, one store, one meat market, post and telegraph offices. ...At the landing there is a chute which is one hundred and eighty feet long, to which there is a swinging apron one hundred feet in length. The loading of vessels with this is a very easy process, and rapid withal. The cordwood tan-bark, railroad ties, fence posts are dumped into the head of the chute by the cart load, and by the time they reach the deck of the vessel they have acquired a fearful velocity. Quite large quantities of the above-named articles are exported from this point annually, while more or less dairy products are also shipped. The schooner "Euphemia", thirty-eight tons register, now runs

regularly in this trade. She is owned by Captain Henry Botcher. This schooner was run in the Bodega trade by Captain Botcher from 1866 to 1877. Captain Christ ran the schooner "Eden" to this place in 1874 and 1875. Captain C. Schmalling ran the schooner "Mare Zepher" here from 1875 to 1877. The "Eden" was afterwards capsized off Point Reyes, but no lives were lost. P. 377-378, Munro-Fraser, J. P. History of Sonoma County

1917 ...The holding ground is poor and the anchorage contracted by a rock awash in the middle of the cove and a sunken rock about 50 yards northward of it with but 14 feet over it. The cove is divided into two bights, the western one being slightly the larger. A landing chute extends eastward from the western point with 16 feet at its outer end. Some lumber and dairy produce are shipped and general merchandise received. Communication by wagon road and telephone may be had with the interior. This anchorage is suitable for small vessels only and if used by strangers should be entered with caution as no directions can be given that would be of value. Department of Commerce, U.S.C.&G. Survey. U.S. Coast Pilot. Pacific Coast. California, Oregon and Washington. P. 108

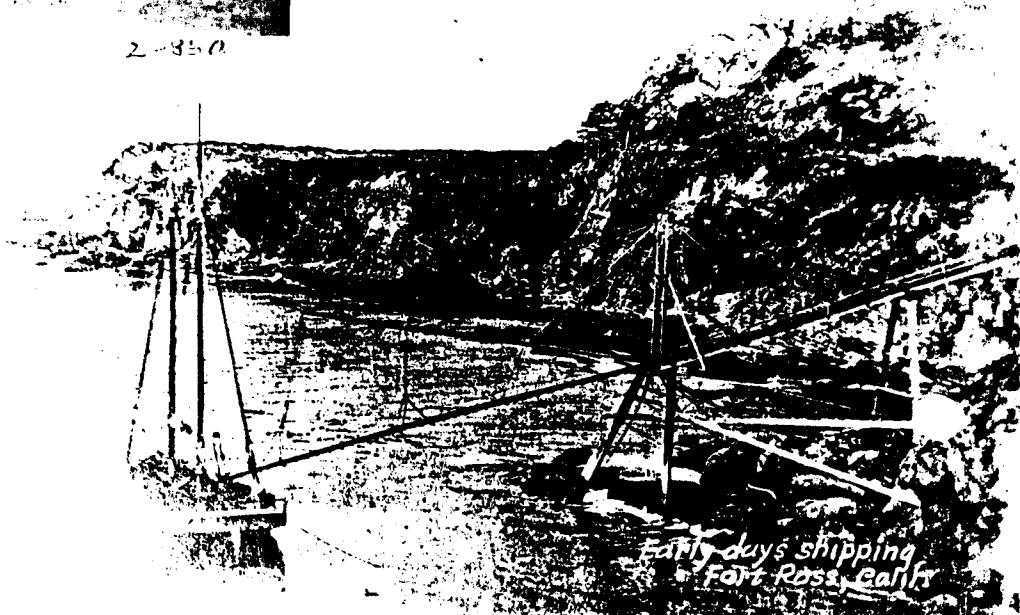
1926 ...There is no commerce here now and the landing facilities have been abandoned. Department of Commerce, U.S.C.&G. Survey. U.S. Coast Pilot. Pacific Coast. California, Oregon and Washington. P. 108

All the information above is from index cards compiled by Patricia Bauer for the preparation of her thesis History of Lumbering and Tanning in Sonoma County, California Since 1812, both on file in the Fort Ross Library. Lynn Rudy found this information in her search for materials on the history of this area.



2-350

FORT ROSS LANDING 1898



Early days shipping
Fort Ross, Calif.

ACCOUNT OF A VISIT TO BODEGA BAY AND FORT ROSS, SEPTEMBER 1818

EXCERPTS FROM FRIEDRICH LUETKE'S DIARY
FROM A VOYAGE ON THE SLOOP KAMCHATKA
TRANSLATED BY S. WATROUS, SEPTEMBER 1992

F.P.LITKE. [Kaliforniia, 4-28 Sentabria 1818 g.], from Dnevnik, vedennei vo vremia krugosvetnogo plavanaia na shliupe "Kamchatka" (California, September 8-28, 1818, from Diary written during the round-the-world voyage of the sloop "Kamchatka"), in L.A. Shur, K beregam novogo sveta (To the Shores of the New World). Moscow: Nauka, 1975. pp.135-38, 152-63.

[September] 4. At this time the overcast skies began to clear up a bit, and at 1:30 we saw directly in front of us on shore a few puffs of smoke and the flag of the Russian-American Company. Seeing it made us quite happy. We fired two cannon to announce our arrival to our compatriots, and after a short while we fired a few more rounds. We soon saw three baidarkas coming toward us from shore, and so we lay to under the main top-sail. By two o'clock the baidarkas were alongside us, and in one of them we detected the settlement's commandant [nachal'nika], Commerce Councillor Kuskov. As soon as he recognized who we were, he sent his baidarkas ashore to bring us fresh provisions; we continued to tack about, off the settlement at a distance of no more than three cables' length from shore [3/10 of a nautical mile]. During this time we fired our cannon a few times to hurry along those who had gone to get fresh provisions. They showed up no earlier than 8 o'clock, notwithstanding. They brought us two steers, with about 44 poods of meat on them [over 1500 lbs.], four large rams, as well as potatoes and cabbage. In return for all of this, they took nothing, of course, Kuskov even declared his regrets that he could not supply us with melons and watermelons, for this year he had none; they had done poorly, in contrast to the usual.

When it got completely dark, we were treated to a very entertaining spectacle: everything was on fire along a certain stretch of land not far from the settlement. The Indians who live in these parts eat a certain type of wild plant similar to rye, which our settlers call rozhnitsa [wild-rye]. After the Indians gather up this wild-rye, they usually burn all of the remaining plant. As a result, the wild-rye is all the bigger and tastier the next year around. They undertook such a burning this very night. At 8:30 we bade farewell to Kuskov, who had been so kind to us, and we set out to sea. At this time Fort Ross was about 50 northeast of us, at a distance of three Italian miles away. According to our figures, its location was at 38 32' N. Latitude, and 122 51' 00" W. Longitude.

The settlement of Ross, or Slaviansk, is built on a level site on a mountain side, at a distance of about a [quarter mile] from the sea shore. With respect to maritime considerations one could hardly find a place less suitable. The shoreline is completely straight, without the smallest bay or even inlet that might provide some shelter. Thus the usual oared craft can rarely pull up close to Ross settlement without danger; and with moderate gusts of wind from the south, southwest, west, or northwest, the waves can be so strong that it's even impossible for baidaras as well. Nor is the depth very favorable for an anchorage. About a mile from shore it is over 200 feet deep and increases regularly as you go out to sea; three miles off shore it's over 550 feet deep. The bottom is silty everywhere, but this can hardly be determined without the urgent need of staying anchored, especially during daylight hours, and even under the most favorable circumstances.

Moreover, there is absolutely no fresh water near the settlement. Above all, there is nothing conspicuous about this place. Without taking observations for a few days, and in foggy weather too, it's very hard to find it right away. On a clear day a few white rocks, which lie along the shoreline somewhat north of the settlement can serve as a fairly good marker. Moreover, there is less forest around the settlement than elsewhere, so that it seems as though it lies on a sandy plain. With an error in latitude of over ten minutes these factors become almost totally worthless. Only necessity or complete ignorance could have forced one to choose this site as the settlement of a maritime trading company.

We learned from Mr. Kuskov that the Kutuzov had been anchored in Bodega Bay for some time prior to this, and is now in Monterey. Thus, our captain [Vasily Golovnin] decided to go there directly. ...

[September 22] At 2:00 a.m. we sailed by a southwest wind. At dawn we turned about (at a depth of 550 feet [80 sazhen], the sea floor was a thin silt) and came directly upon Bodega. At 7:45 p.m. we approached the shoreline, hove to, and sent our Aleuts straight off to Ross settlement to announce our presence to Mr. Kuskov. We lay to the southeast so as to sail around the shallows, which extended out from the island that lay in front of the entrance to the bay. At 9:00 we raised the flag, accompanied by gunfire, and at 9:30, we laid anchor at a depth of six fathoms on a sandy bottom.

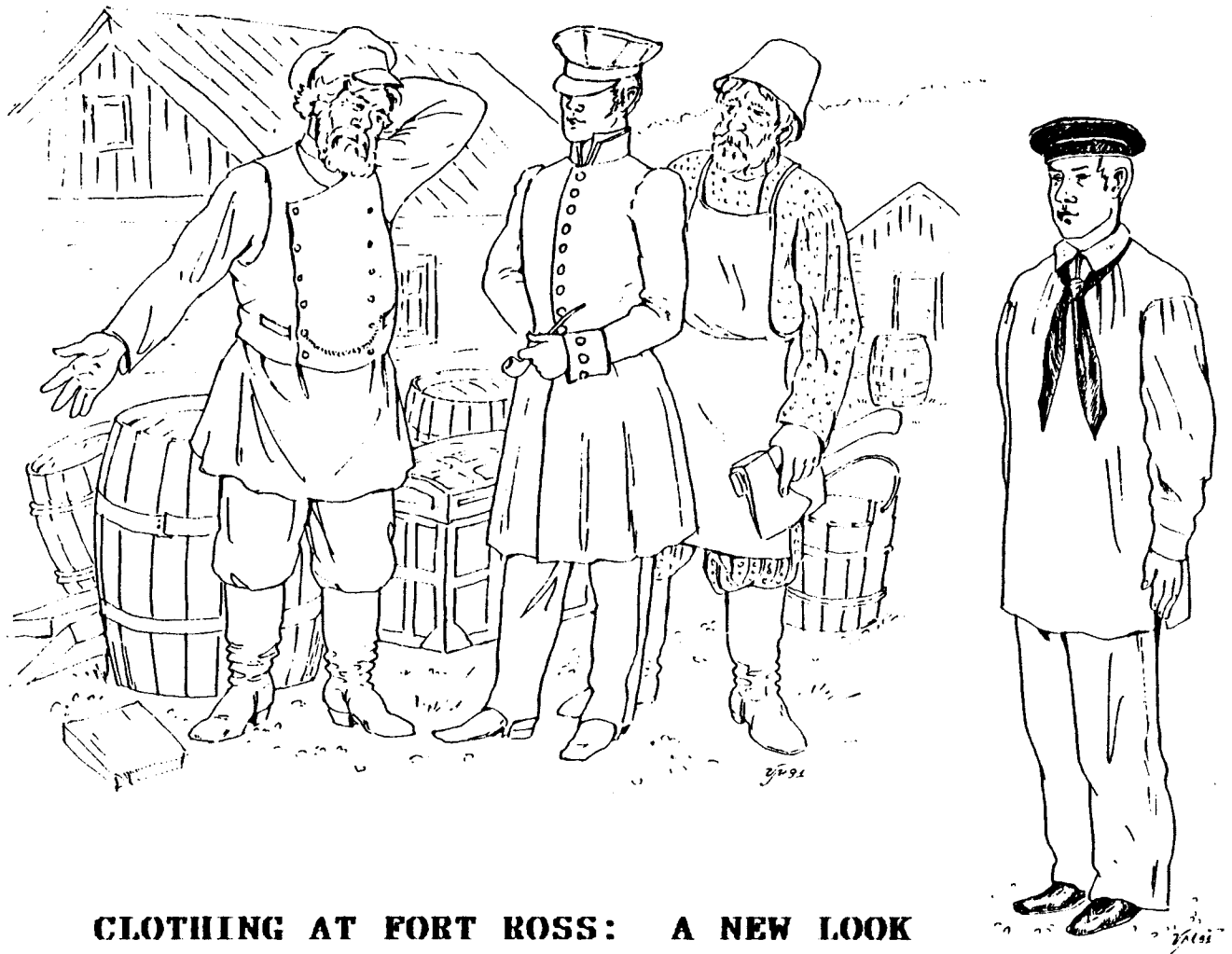
Our first concern was, of course, the very reason we had come here: to get water. Thus we wasted no time in loading empty barrels, as many as would fit, into two rowboats and sent them ashore. Meanwhile, we began to lower the longboat, which we always used afterward.

Toward evening we were glad to witness the unexpected arrival of Ivan Kuskov. We had not anticipated this at all, for the Aleuts we had sent off could not have reached him so quickly that he would have arrived here so soon. However, they had met him halfway to Bodega, off on his own business.

[September] 22 We went ashore and visited an Indian settlement located some distance to the north. I think it is hard to find a people which has attained less political development than have these Indians. Their housing looks more like beehives or anthills than the homes of human beings. Dwellings are made out of twigs driven into the ground in a semi-circle and joined together about 3 1/2 feet above the ground, and then they are covered by dry weeds or wooden branches. They provide no protection from rain or any bad weather, which, in the land where these people live fortunately occurs very rarely. Here they drag out their miserable existence, which does not provide them, apparently, with any satisfactions except those in common with cattle. They remain completely indifferent to matters they are not used to. Our arrival did not attract their attention in the least; and out of all their number not more than two or three visited our sailors, who were loading water and washing clothes along the shoreline.

When we dropped anchor, they then began to observe for the first time the objects around us. At the same time two Indians happened to go beyond the dunes to the shoreline. We followed them with our telescopes until they disappeared inland, and not one of them even looked around toward our ship. It seemed that our ship attracted their attention as much as did the shrubs through which they were walking. When we reached their village, not one of them left his own business or even his own spot to come look at us. And even when we began to speak with them, they did not glance our way.

Serving as our interpreter was a Kodiak Aleut who had defected when Mr. Kuskov first sent a hunting party into San Francisco Bay. He lived among the Indians for almost a year, and then when a subsequent party arrived to hunt, he appeared and began to hunt sea otter side by side with the others. From his stories one can conclude that the Indians are of a cantankerous but not mean disposition. He said that they often quarrel among themselves and even harass each other, but him they never touched. TO BE CONTINUED IN FUTURE ISSUES OF THE NEWSLETTER



CLOTHING AT FORT ROSS: A NEW LOOK

INTRODUCTION

Two recent museum exhibitions, translations of unpublished journals, several magazine articles on Fort Ross, the cemetery restoration project, and the opening of Russian archives over the last three years have done much to add to our understanding of life at this Russian colony. The information, while adding to and in many cases supporting vague accounts already known, alters and discredits other ideas we have held as true. The purpose of this "new look" is to supply the reader with information based on these new accounts, and illustrate the descriptions with original works or studies rather than re-drawn illustrations that may lose some slight detail that is necessary to understanding.

The question of costumes that are historically accurate for Fort Ross is a difficult one. In contrast to other historic sites that are well documented, illustrated with contemporary works, and may indeed have original examples of period clothing, Fort Ross has virtually nothing. There are a few drawings, two or three by I.G. Voznesenski of inhabitants of California which may be Russians (or not), one by Duflot de Mofras of a Russian in the doorway of his house, and several fine watercolors by M. Tikhanov depicting the native peoples near the settlement. These works, combined with the few artifacts in poor condition from archaeological finds in the fort and vicinity, provide the little information required to reconstruct clothing for an entire colony which included Russians (Finns, Balts, Ukrainians, and Cossacks) Asiatic Siberians, Pacific Islanders, Alaskans and California Natives, and Creoles, the children of Russian men and native North American women.

Russian costume was very stratified according to class. This study has been divided into five basic groups, roughly corresponding to the class (estate) structure of Imperial Russian administration. The first group, **GENTLEMEN AND LADIES**, will include managers, assistants, and clerks in the administration of the colony. Merchants, although technically not included in this class, are included because the first manager of this colony was of this class, as was A.A. Baranov, who was later elevated to the gentry in his last years. **TOWNSMEN AND CREOLES** are the second group, **LABORERS AND ALEUTS** group three, **NATIVES** group four, and **NAVY AND MERCHANT SHIPPERS** group five. This last group will contain a cross section of all class members, with officers, petty officers and seamen, corresponding to gentry, townsmen and peasant class.

A series of drawings by Viktor N. Malyshev, which were completed as part of his internship at Fort Ross in 1991 are included. They represent reconstructions of costume mentioned in the literature. As Conservator of Collections in the State Artillery History Museum, St. Petersburg, Russia, and consultant to the State Museum of Ethnography, St. Petersburg, Viktor systematically measured, recorded, and illustrated details of civil and military costumes, concentrating on the periods of Aleksandr I and Nikolai I (1801-1855). Viktor's research represents clothing particularly available in the colonies, and clearly records the differences in class hierarchy.

Additional sections of the "new look" will include a dictionary of cloth types, illustrations of original fabric samples from Russian Museums, citations mentioned in the text reproduced in full, and a bibliography of source material. People wishing to make or furnish themselves with a costume from this information will find a section dealing with sources and catalogues. Finally, the additional updated information will include the costumes of the Hudson's Bay Company and Mexican California.

Submitted by John Middleton

Illustrations in this section by Viktor N. Malyshev

TO BE CONTINUED: Chapters on the five groups outlined above will appear in future issues of this newsletter.



**ANNUAL ELECTION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
FORT ROSS INTERPRETIVE ASSOCIATION**

CURRENT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

VIOLET CHAPPELL
GLORIA FROST *
DAVID KENLY
MOLLY LEE
NICHOLAS LEE *
KENT LIGHTFOOT *
JOHN MIDDLETON

JEANNETTE ROSSON
JOHN SPERRY *
FRIEDA TOMLIN
DAVID WILLSON
ELIZABETH SIDOROV *
NANCY WALTON

BOARD MEMBERS WHOSE NAME IS FOLLOWED BY AN * HAVE TERMS EXPIRING THIS YEAR. THERE ARE FIVE SEATS TO BE FILLED IN THIS YEAR'S ELECTION.

PLEASE READ THE INFORMATION ABOUT EACH CANDIDATE. THE FOLLOWING SLATE OF CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE FORT ROSS INTERPRETIVE ASSOCIATION FOR 1993 HAS BEEN APPROVED BY THE PRESENT BOARD, AND IS HEREBY SUBMITTED TO THE MEMBERSHIP IN ADVANCE OF THE ELECTION.

THE BALLOTS FOR THE ANNUAL ELECTION FOR THE FRIA BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL BE COUNTED AT THE DECEMBER 12, 1992 MEETING. PLEASE MAIL YOUR BALLOTS IN TIME TO ARRIVE BEFORE THIS DATE, OR BRING THEM TO THE MEETING. FAMILY MEMBERSHIPS RECEIVE TWO VOTES.

STATEMENTS FROM THE CANDIDATES

GLORIA FROST Incumbent. I have been a member of FRIA for 11 years, and Membership Chairman on the Board of Directors for 8 years. I live in the local area, and volunteer in the Call Garden. I feel strongly about Fort Ross, and hope to remain an active member for many years.

LAURIE HORN I am 74 years old, and a native of California. I am involved in Fort Ross because my mother, Laura Call Carr, was born there. It was my second home all my life as long as the Call family lived there. My education was in Sebastopol, and I'm a proud graduate of Analy High School. I'm currently enrolled in writing school. I've done a few stories. After raising my family of six, I became busy with volunteer work and continue to work in that field. I feel I could be an asset to FRIA because of my knowledge locally. I'm proud of being a part of Fort Ross, and what it has become, and I want that to continue. I just want to help.

NICHOLAS LEE As an incumbent Board member, and presently the Recording Secretary, I would like to be considered for a second term. I am particularly interested in Russian American relations, especially within the context of Russian colonial history, and by extension, the maritime history and exploration of those days. I enjoy working for and accomplishing the goals of Fort Ross Interpretive Association and Fort Ross State Historic Park, and believe I can contribute to them, and to their successful outcome.

STATEMENTS CONTINUE ON REVERSE

STATEMENTS FROM THE CANDIDATES

LYNN HAY RUDY My interests in the area are mostly historical. In the past year I have made good progress on a history of the old Salt Point Township, of which Fort Ross has been a principal gathering place since well before there was a township or a sign of a Russian. I am hopeful that the "flow of history" will continue in positive ways, and that history's layers may be preserved and remembered wherever possible. Background: I have an A.B. from Stanford, and came to Stillwater Cove Ranch School for Boys in 1955 when I married one of the Rudy boys. Experience: Five years teaching (at Stillwater), thirty years as part-time marine illustrator/writer, University of Oregon. Now retired.

MARIA SAKOVICH My connection to Fort Ross goes back to 1925 when my grandfather, dean of Holy Trinity Cathedral, the Russian Orthodox church in San Francisco, held services in the chapel, the first since the Russian American Company left in 1841. This fourth of July tradition continues to this day. My own interest in Fort Ross stems not only from my (half) Russian roots, but from newer professional interests as well. From a background in public health I am making my way to a new career in public history. My research centers on twentieth century Russian immigration to California, a phenomenon which has brought periodic waves of various groups over the past 100 years. Last year I worked on the "Russian America" exhibit at the Oakland Museum, and was the curator for "California's Russian Communities." In addition to ethnic and professional interests in Fort Ross and its interpretation, I would bring valuable experience to the Board. I have worked with several voluntary and nonprofit groups and boards; I am currently on the Board of the Oakland/Nakhodka Sister City Association. For me, serving on the Board of the Fort Ross Interpretive Association would be both an opportunity to renew an old family connection, and to help ensure the vitality of the nearly 200 year old heritage of Fort Ross.

JOHN SPERRY Incumbent. The following is a brief biography: B.S. in Chemical Engineering, URI. U.S. Navy, WW II. Instructor of Engineering and Math at the University of Alaska. Archaeology Field Summer at Kotzebue and Kobuk River for University of Alaska's Arctic Institute. Principal Teacher, Alaska Native School, King Island. M.A. in Anthropology, Columbia University. Ph.D. requirements excepting dissertation, Columbia University (Eskimo Ethnology). Engineer for 20 years. Instructor of Engineering and Physics, Sierra College for 15 years. As a Board member I would hope to continue to contribute enthusiasm and energy to the continuing development of FRIA's goals. I am currently working on the restoration of the foundation of the Call House.

ELIZABETH SIDOROV Incumbent. In 1977 I became a member of Fort Ross. I meet a lot of Russians visiting Fort Ross; I meet a lot of Russians visiting in America. I was vice-president. Now I am the only Russian on the Board. I receive calls from people in Santa Rosa that ask me to help with Russian visitors. I hope I can continue.