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

Fort Ross Conservancy (FRC) asks that you acknowledge FRC as the source of the content; if you use material from FRC online, we request that you link directly to the URL provided. If you use the content offline, we ask that you credit the source as follows: “Courtesy of Fort Ross Conservancy, www.fortross.org.”
LAST NIGHT, FEBRUARY 24, YOUR FORT ROSS INTERPRETIVE ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS MET AND ELECTED THEIR OFFICERS FOR THE COMING YEAR. "CATCH 22": TWO OF THEM HAVE EXPIRING TERMS, THIS MARCH, FROM THE BOARD WHEN YOU, THE MEMBERSHIP ELECT THE NEW BOARD MEMBERS. IF YOU DON'T ELECT THOSE TWO TO THE BOARD, THEY CANNOT SERVE AS OFFICERS; SO YOU HAVE THE LAST SAY, FOR SURE.

THE OFFICERS OF THE BOARD JUST ELECTED ARE:

CHAIRMAN: FLORRIE MILLIGAN (MRS. BILL)
VICE CHAIRMAN: MARINA ILYIN
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY: JEANETTE ROSSOW (MRS. MARVIN)
RECORDING SECRETARY: RICHARD TOOKER
TREASURER: MOSES HALLETT

THE TWO NEWLY ELECTED OFFICERS WHOSE BOARD TERMS EXPIRE IN MARCH AND WHO MUST BE ELECTED TO THE BOARD IF THEY ARE TO SERVE AS OFFICERS ARE: FLORRIE MILLIGAN, CHAIRMAN, AND RICHARD TOOKER, RECORDING SECRETARY.

THERE WILL BE SEVEN VACANCIES TO FILL ON THE 13-MEMBER BOARD. IF YOU FEEL CONFUSED, IT MAY STEM FROM THE BY-LAW PROVISION THAT OFFICERS ARE TO BE ELECTED AT THE BOARD MEETING JUST PRECEDING THE ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING (WHICH ELECTS THE BOARD). THE REASON FOR THAT WRITING IN THE BY-LAWS WAS SO THAT WE WOULD HAVE EXPERIENCED OFFICERS. FLORRIE MILLIGAN AND RICHARD TOOKER CERTAINLY QUALIFY.

FLORRIE MILLIGAN: WAS THE ONE WHO ORIGINATED OUR FORT ROSS DOCUMENT TRAINING AND HISTORY COURSES. SHE HAS BEEN A MEMBER SINCE OUR INCORPORATION AND IS WELL KNOWN TO THE VOLUNTEERS WHO DO THE JOB IN THE SITE AT FORT ROSS.

RICHARD TOOKER HAS ALSO BEEN ON THE BOARD, WRITES WITH AFFECTION, AND HAS ACCEPTED THE DIFFICULT POSITION OF RECORDING SECRETARY FOR THE COMING YEAR. HE IS A MEMBER OF THE CALIFORNIA 'TROOPER SOCIETY; COASTAL DIVERS CLUB; IS A MARITIME HISTORY BUFF; AND PROVIDES THE CALM VOICE OF PROBLEM SOLVER OF OUR VOLATILE GROUP.

MEMBER: YOU MAY VOTE FOR SEVEN (7) PEOPLE FOR THE BOARD. EACH OF THE ELEVEN (11) CANDIDATES IS WELL QUALIFIED TO SERVE YOU. IT WILL BE DIFFICULT TO CHOOSE FROM THE FOLLOWING:

- FLORRIE MILLIGAN (SEE ABOVE)
- RICHARD TOOKER (SEE ABOVE)
- JACKIE HALLETT: JUST FINISHED HER TERM AS TREASURER; PIONEERED BOOK-SHOP SALES-COUNTER; COAST RESIDENT; VOLUNTEER EXTRAORDINARY.
- ED VON DER PORTEN: FIRST CHAIRMAN OF THIS ASSOCIATION, LIVES IN SANTA ROSA WHERE HE TEACHES HISTORY AND MUSEUM SCIENCE.
- ANGELA LEBEDEFF: PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANT IN SAN FRANCISCO; ORGANIZER OF SPECIAL FUNCTIONS (RUSSIAN) AT FORT ROSS; ATTENDS REGULARLY AT ASSOCIATION MEETINGS.
- LIDA SCHNEIDER: RESIDENT OF JENNER; MEMBER OF ORIGINAL DOCENT CLASS; GENEROUS VOLUNTEER AT BOOK AND GIFT SHOP.
- VIRGIL (BUG:LUCKEY: PARK RANGER WORKING AND LIVING AT FORT ROSS. HE WAS Nominated BY THE VOLUNTEER DOCENTS WHO WOULD LIKE TO SEE HIM ON THE ASSOCIATION BOARD. HE IS AN ENTHUSIASTIC FORT ROSS HISTORIAN.
- EVE CRITTENDEN: COAST RESIDENT; MEMBER OF ORIGINAL BOARD; VOLUNTEER; PAST BOARD MEMBER; CHAIRMAN OF SPECIAL EVENTS.
- MERCEDES STAFFORD: SANTA ROSA RESIDENT; PAST CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD; CALL FAMILY HISTORIAN.
- JOYCE CONSTANT: COAST RESIDENT; ACTIVE MEMBER BOOK AND SALES-COUNTER VOLUNTEERS; HAS DONE MANY HELPFUL PROJECTS IN THE COMMUNITY.
- PAUL SHEBALIN: WILD-LIFE BUFF; COAST-GUARD; FREQUENT VISITOR AT FORT ROSS.

OF THE ABOVE ARE ACTIVE PAID-UP MEMBERS OF THIS ASSOCIATION.


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Fort Ross Newsletter (continued) Page 2 Feb. 25, 1978

MEMBERS: ANNUAL MEETING
FOR ALL MEMBERS OF THE FORT ROSS INTERPRETIVE ASSOCIATION
MARCH 17, 1978 7:30 P.M. 415 STEELE LANE, SANTA ROSA, CALIF.
COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTER

LOCATION: IT IS EAST OF FREEWAY #101; TAKE STEELE LANE EXIT; THEN TURN EAST ON STEELE LANE AND FOLLOW EAST ABOUT ONE-HALF MILE. THE BUILDING IS ON THE NORTH SIDE OF STEELE LANE AND THERE IS PARKING ALL AROUND THE BUILDING (WHICH LOOKS LIKE A CHURCH BECAUSE IT ONCE WAS).

INTRODUCTION OF EACH CANDIDATE FOR ELECTION TO THE BOARD.
WRITTEN BALLOT ELECTION OF SEVEN CANDIDATES FOR THE BOARD.
INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS AND NEW BOARD MEMBERS.
MOVIES: "THE RUSSIANS COME TO FORT ROSS IN 1927" (DON'T MISS IT) AND "CARLOS AND HIS SHEEP" (A RETURN BY POPULAR DEMAND.
DOUBLE FEATURE.

Fort Ross Interpretive Association: This organization is for anyone interested in Fort Ross. It is a membership organization. Now, as a member, you get to vote for the Board members who will carry out the business of helping the volunteers do their thing, putting on special events, raising money to help interpret the three cultures in the flow of history (Indian, Russian, and American) and to generally help the State Park System at Fort Ross State Historic Park. This is a project-oriented association, chartered as a corporation by the State of California. It is governed by its own by-laws.

Membership dues are for the year: April 1 to March 31:
$3.00 single; $5.00 family

Make checks for membership payable to:
Fort Ross Interpretive Association Inc.
Mail to or give it to her at the Annual Meeting
Betty Mussers, 2332 Clint Court, Sausalito, Calif., 94965

Contributions from our Readers: One of our members is Richard A. Pierce, author and teacher at Queen's University, Ontario, Canada. He has sent to the Editors of the Newsletter some information of real interest. We hope others will follow his example. We will print other items when space permits.

You all know the name of Rotchew who presided over the liquidation of Fort Ross in 1841. But, did you know he helped Captain Sutter establish his settlement in Sacramento in 1839? And what happened to Aleksandr Gavrilovich Rotchew after Fort Ross? Now comes a quote from Mr. Pierce:

"RETURNING TO EUROPE IN 1843, ROTCHEV LIVED IN RETIREMENT UNTIL 1850, THEN TRAVELED. FROM NOVEMBER 1851 TO MARCH 1852 HE WAS BACK IN CALIFORNIA, AT SAN FRANCISCO AND AT MURDERER'S BAR ON THE YUBA RIVER TRYING TO PERFECT A GOLD WASHING MACHINE. IN RUSSIA ONCE MORE, HE WORKED AS A MINOR OFFICIAL, AND AS A JOURNALIST WITH THE NEWS-PAPERS." (1853). COVINGTON, "THE RUSSIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE," 205.

CHOOSEING: HE WAS A MAN; AND AS A MAN, HE MADE MISTAKES." ALTHOUGH EDUCATED AND A WRITER OF SOME TALENT, HE HAD FAILED AT MOST OF THE THINGS HE HAD UNDERTAKEN. HIS PRINCESS LEFT HIM SOME TIME AFTER THEIR NORTH AMERICAN EXPERIENCE. IN THE 1850S, SHE WAS SUPERINTENDENT OF A SCHOOL IN IRKUTSK, SIBERIA, AND PUBLISHED A BOOK FOR CHILDREN."

When we stand rain or shine, in their house at Fort Ross, which includes our book and gift counter, these long-distance goings and comings are something to ponder. Maybe we can find a copy of Princess Helena's book to exhibit there.

We can dream. They did!

The Editors
MUSSERS AND CRITTENDENS