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.”
"April, May and June - these months can be called blossoming ones: At this time all the fields and mountains are adorned with luxuriant flowers and form an inimitable picture. Especially at this time is the heart imbued with a reverent feeling toward the Perpetrator of Life."

Yegor Chernykh wrote the above from the Ross Settlement in 1856. And he goes on to write:

"There are two prominent winds; northwestern and southern; the former is most usual and blows almost constantly from May to October, always bringing clear weather; from time to time there occur rainy south winds."

Ah, Chernykh, how well you observed 140 years ago. This week, three fishing vessels sheltered in the Cove, waiting for that northwestern wind to abate so they could fish. But, while they sheltered, four fisherman rowed ashore and visited Fort Ross, and related whale stories and otter tales to the Sales! Counter Forces' delight.

The whales with their young are more fun going North as they are doing now, spring 1978. They take more time to feed and show their young the inlets and the coves so they can find their own way in future years?

This reminds one of " Rogging Day" - an old American custom on "Rogation Day". The land-owners took a Sunday to walk their property lines; mothers carried sweets to reward the children when bumped into a tree or water hole - which father had selected as a "spot to remember". That was in New England where you could walk your lines in a day. In California, there were "spreads"; no one could walk those lines in a day. Kashayas walked not the property lines but seasonal food trails. This bounteous time of the year led them coastward for the sea food, lettuce, abalone and other shell fish that they favored. They too thanked the Perpetrator of Life.

May 29 Monday (Memorial Day) Traditional Russian Church Service at Fort Ross: The Russian Orthodox Church in Exile

July 4 Tuesday - Traditional Russian Church Service at Fort Ross: The Russian Orthodox Church in North America

Our State Park Officials suggest that they may add an occasion of their own to be grateful for - a ground breaking ceremony for the Officials Barracks. We hope that it may happen soon.

Summer days at Fort Ross seem to come alive and wear a different guise from the quiet outpost atmosphere of winter: the humming-birds and people increase in numbers.

See page 2 of this Newsletter - for more news of Fort Ross
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Notes from the Association's Annual Meeting April 21, 1978

Your Officers for this year are:
Chairman: Florrie Milligan  Vice Chairman: Marina Illyin
Corresponding Sec'y: Jeannette Rosson;
Recording Sec'y: Richard Tooker; Treasurer: Moses Hallett
Other Board Members are as follows:
Mercedes Stafford;  Paul Shebalin;  Lida Schneider
Walt Schenk;  Nick Rokitiansky;  John McKenzie
Dimitri Illyin;  Jackie Hallett;  Eve Crittenden

Book and Sales Counter: Took in $19,000 last year! It has
committed every penny. A re-publishing of the Fort Ross Settlement
book in more attractive form is now being prepared. Of interest too,
a new item for sale is a fine reproduction of a five kopek piece.

A very fine movie of 1926-27 was shown and then given to the
Fort Ross Interpretive Association by Mrs. Regina Reeves of Sebastopol.
It showed a Russian Church group from San Francisco coming to Fort
Ross for a religious service—beautifully filmed. The generous gift
from Mrs. Reeves is already reproduced on new film and saved for
future showings. We believe a film festival made be in the making.
Otis Parrish showed five different films of the Kashaya. Edna Guerrero
showed us 'The Acorn Story.' Mercedes Stafford the Call family films.

We think all these might be gathered together with some
other films for a festival of Fort Ross films. What do you think?

Where should we have it? The Visitor Center seems to fade away
in what seems to be a quarrel between innovative design and traditional
park dept. concepts. Who can get them off dead center? Please use
your citizen power if you have convictions. Funding of the Visitor
Center is required to go back to the Legislature because of the
three year lapse.

Other projects: Perhaps renovation of the Call barn will be an
objective for the near future? Estimates and construction priorities
have been made by State Parks.

Emmy Denten suggests that a membership in Fort Ross Interpretive
Association can make a nice birthday gift, or a contribution can
be made as a memorial for or even "in honor of" some dear relative
or friend. Such donations to the association will certainly be
a tangible expression of your interest.

Membership in this association runs March 31 to March 31 each year.
$3.00 for an Individual Membership; $5.00 for a Family Membership

You are paid up

You are not paid up please

Payable to: Betty Musser
9532 Clint Court
Star Route
Cazadero, Calif. 95421

Make checks payable to order of
Fort Ross Interpretive Association, please.

That steady northwest wind (of which Chernykh wrote,) has dropped for
a few days but the whales are still going north with their young
while over-head northward fly Bonapart gulls, ducks, and geese.

Come and see for yourself — at Fort Ross.

Sincerely from  The Mussers and the Crittendens
Co-editors of the Newsletter