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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)
Living History Days have been held for two years at Fort Ross and by now have clearly defined objectives and procedures. It has progressed from our good old dress up day to a serious representation with lots of authentic costumes, activity, food and performances. Participants apply, take training and are accepted for participation. Visitors get a quality experience, players have a ball. Come every time, and soak up the atmosphere. They're special.

People in the news

Stanichkov, visitor visitor from Austin attended the December meeting, and the play back has been overwhelming. With Patrov, he is doing research in St. Petersburg on Vosnesenskaya. There are several sections he is seeking for us to exhibit in the Russian Museum Visitors Center. Vosnesenskaya, you remember, made the painting during Russian presence in the 1830's, that we will print of today. At the Hermitage Museum there is an authentic Russian American for Co. flag. Stanichkov seeks to copy for Fort Ross. Good luck, new friend.

Rona Tatische receives a certificate of credit for the years she's chaired the Book and Gift Shop. She may be moving on to other things as husband Joe moves up the road to bigger things. Bon voyage, you two—come back often.

Wally Ackerman hopes to travel too in this year of his retirement as Chairman of F.R.I.A. He's done a yeoman's job and I sure hope he'll still spend those days at the sales counter where he serves the visitors in his own inimitable style.

Progress Report

In 1976 Water Resources was allotted $10,000 to build a replica of Fort Ross and at the December meeting it was granted to the Fort Ross Interpretive Association.

Orchard — The cattle, deer, and sheep proof (people, too?) fence surrounds the five acres. "Washington Birthday's Tree Plant" was a winner. Many people, many shovels, many trees, and the job by two-thirty, Saturday. The cuttings were done from the old trees, two years ago. Black Elderberry, Black Walnut, Osage Orange, and mystery pears were four to six feet tall. There are still a few left for sale at $10.00 each. They should be planted NOW! Wouldn't you like to have the only Elderberry apple on the block? Contact a staff member to get it from the barn for you. Dollars go to F.R.I.A.!

More Roots than on apple and pear trees

John Stafford, active in recalling our events for years comes up with amazing connections to the past! James Ohio Pattis, in 1837, came up the coast of California giving small-pox vaccinations to Mission Indians and Californios. He came to Fort Ross where the Commander of the Colony, Shachtov, paid Pattis 100 rubles and a fine house for his services. One hundred and forty seven years later John Stafford found out this first public health officer in California is a direct ancestor of his. We find it fascinating and hope that he and John Mckines will talk more on Ranch Day. John M told us all about the Pattis story and, says some years ago.

"Pattison's Fort Ross" is a fun play on words you can understand if you order a copy of Glenn Farria's article by the name. It is easy reading and a fascinating short length description of the problems of historical discovery of an ancestor's letters, and how far is this wall really from that wall? He will send a copy if you ask — Glenn Farria, State Archeologist I, Cultural Resources Management Unit, D.P.R., 2575 Fort St., West Sacramento 95691. Tel (916) 322-1506

He also tells us they've discovered in new excavation in the Russian Orchard evidence of what may be the only brick structure of the Russian period.
This drawing of a bronze or copper disc was found during the Cabrillo College excavations of the Fur Warehouse in 1977. So far it is an enigma although it may have been a large decorative button. The reverse side has a negative impression of the design on the front and may have once had a backing. If you know what it is — share your knowledge with us.

Yesterday, March 8, many, many whales were cavorting off the shore. This is their migration north. Make your spring visit now, sit among the iris, buy a tree, and spot a whale.

You could even see Cindy Hughes, wife of John Hughes, ranger, and tell her you'd like to get training and work at the sales counter.

It's a great year to join the action.

Flash! Ranch Day Raffle — send $5.00 for 6 or $1.00 for one, today, with the enclosed tickets. Put your name and phone number on the half you return. There will be a brown tipped fleece, battery kitchen clock with a rooster picture, wall hanging, a Fort Ross apple tree and much more! Proceeds go to the Call House where the living room is getting a new floor. Money goes with dues, to Betty Musser.

Kaye Tomlin will speak at Ranch Day to add some historical and current park development notes. See you there — June 3 —

Memberships are due April 1st
$3.00 for individual $5.00 for family
Check payable to Fort Ross Interpretive Association, Inc.
Mail to: Betty Musser, 9532 Clint Court, Cazadero, Ca. 95421

Your dues are due ___ Your dues are paid ___

Eve and Abe Crittenden
Betty and George Musser