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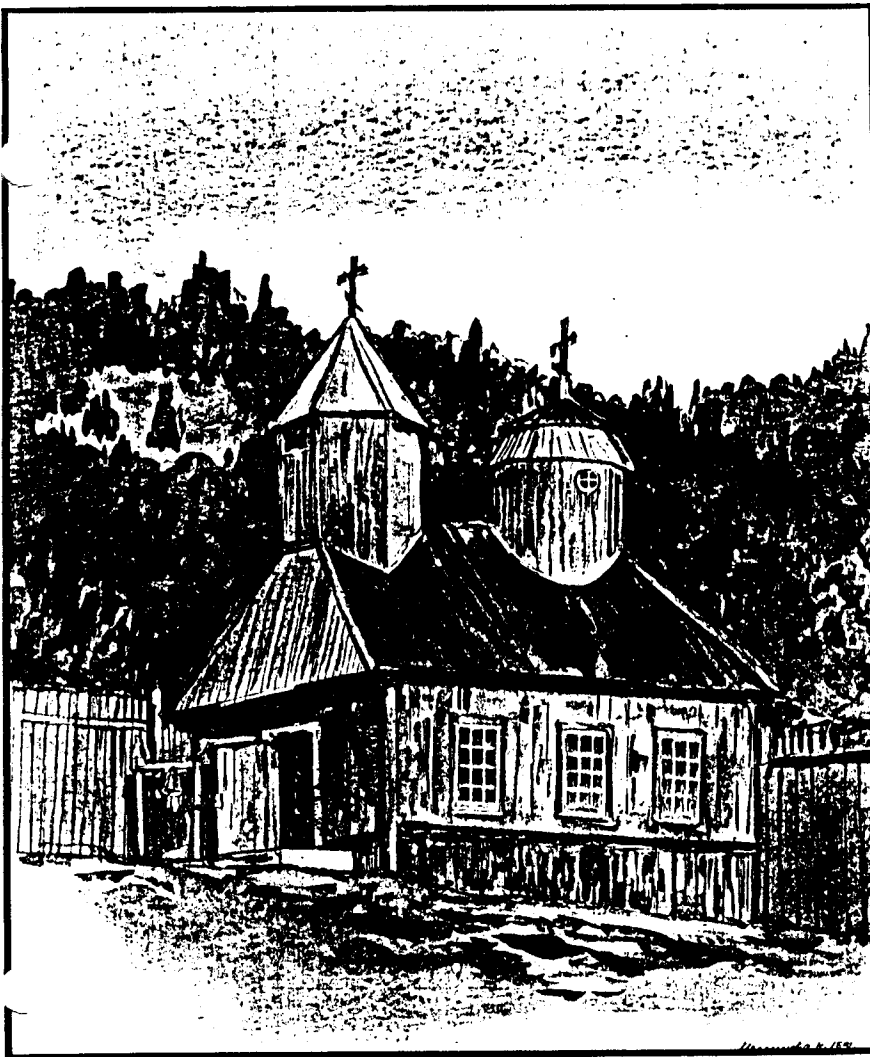
Fort Ross and Salt Point parks have benefited greatly from many dedicated volunteers and staff who have given generously to these parks. Board of directors from FRIA and FRC have fundraised, organized events, overseen volunteers, spearheaded interpretation and restoration projects, and offered substantial 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:7078473437) www.fortross.org



FORT ROSS
INTERPRETIVE ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER
JULY - AUGUST, 1991

FRIA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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JOHN SPERRY
FRIEDA TOMLIN, Vice Chairman
DAVID WILLSON, Corresponding Secretary
ELIZABETH SIDOROV
NANCY WALTON, Recording Secretary

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

THURSDAY, JULY 4 * RUSSIAN ORTHODOX SERVICES IN THE FORT ROSS CHAPEL
TUESDAY, JULY 9 * ARCHAEOLOGY PRESS DAY
WEDNESDAY, JULY 10 * FOLK DANCE TROUPE PRACTICE 6:00 PM
FRIDAY, JULY 12 * MILITIA REHERSAL 5:30 PM
WEDNESDAY, JULY 24 * FOLK DANCE TROUPE PRACTICE 6:00 PM
WEDNESDAY, JULY 24 * MILITIA DRESS REHERSAL 4:00 PM
FRIDAY, JULY 26 * FOLK DANCE TROUPE PRACTICE 7:00 PM
SATURDAY, JULY 27 * LIVING HISTORY DAY
SATURDAY, AUGUST 3 * ARCHAEOLOGY SEMINAR 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7 * ARCHAEOLOGY PRESS DAY
SATURDAY, AUGUST 10 * FRIA BOARD MEETING 10:30 AM to 2:00 PM
SATURDAY, AUGUST 10 * ARCHAEOLOGY SEMINAR 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM



TA CONSULTING STAFF

WENDY PLATT, Treasurer
LYN KALANI, Bookstore manager, Newsletter Editor, Administration
LAKE PERRY, Bookstore Sales

10 NOVEMBER 1832

The Manager of the Office reports also that at the end of April of the current year Spanish soldiers arrived to the Ross with a report that half of the Indians in the Mission of San Rafael had incited the working Indians, during the day when the soldiers were absent; they attacked the Mission, robbed it and departed to mountains. The Missionary Padre Juan Amoroz escaped to Port of San Francisco to request the help. In the mean time, the soldiers together with other half of Indians pursued the rebels and opened the rifle fire while rebels were shooting the arrows and threw stones, and both sides suffered in dead and wounded.

Although steps were taken subsequently to pursue the rebels, the efforts of the soldiers and Mission's Indians were in vain--because the rebels combined with other Indians in one location collected over 1000 Indians. All the threats of poorly armed soldiers were met with ridicule.

Pretty soon the news of this event spread through all areas and made an impression on our Indians. They say that if Spaniards could make them no harm, the Russians are even less capable, presuming that the meek treatment of them is cowardice.

Many of the escaped converted Spanish-Indians started to visit Indians living close to the settlement Ross telling them that they want to assemble a large number and once more to rob both Missions on this side and to kill all living there and then to try their luck and to do the same to Russians.

One morning Mr. Kostromitinov was informed that an Indian who was standing guard in the field, brother of the wife of one of our "promyshlenik", was killed, and after the inspection it was determined that he was killed by an axe blow on the head.

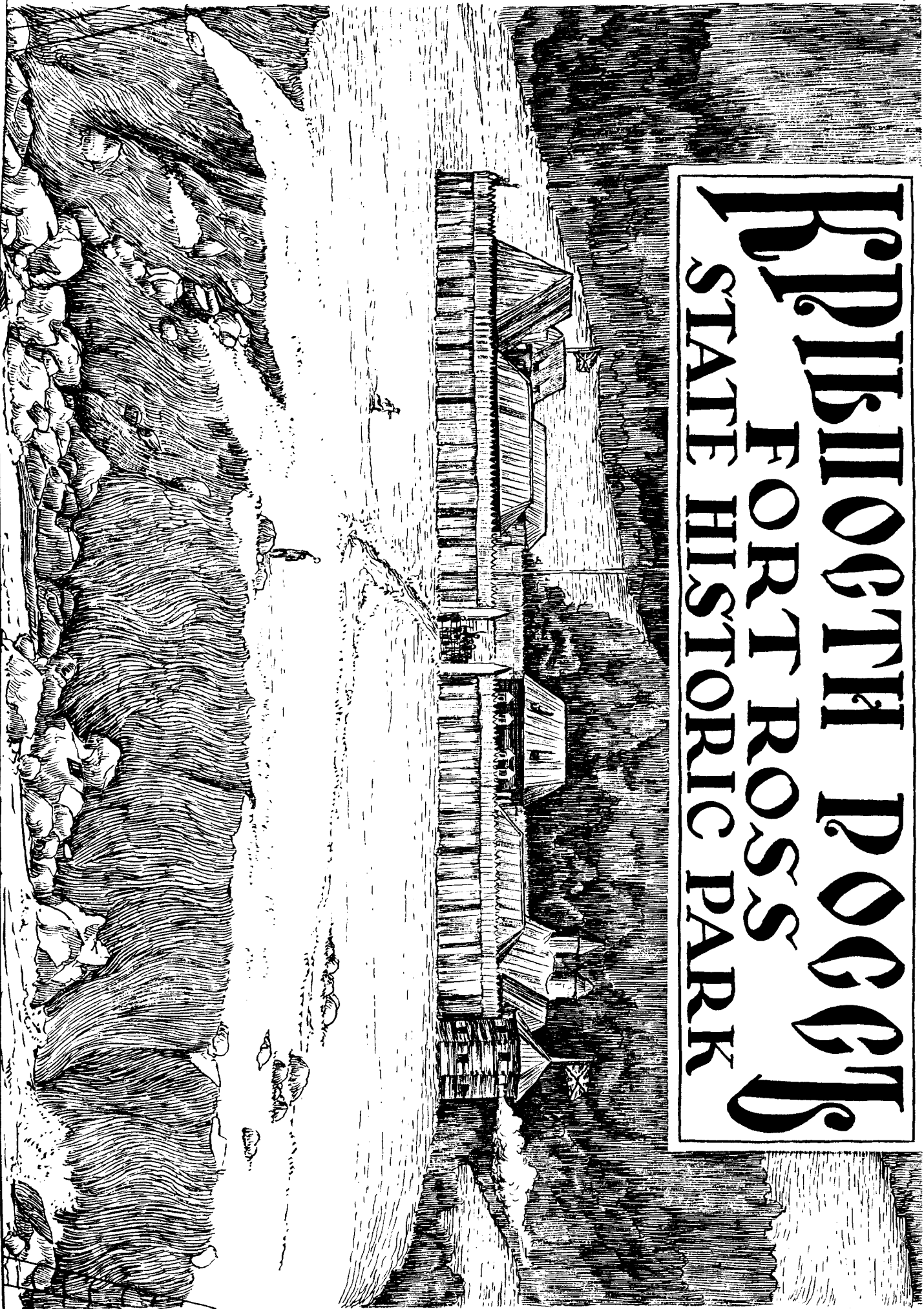
To conduct the investigation, all Indians living in the vicinity of this place were assembled but they declared that they know nothing and heard no screams during the night. Because the killed Indian had a wife which could not be found anywhere, it was assumed that she was participating with the murderers. Nevertheless, Mr. Kostromitinov continue search to discover the perpetrators. After some time, an Aleut standing the guard in the field, while collecting the wood from the creek, found the body of the woman, also killed by an axe, and according to the testimony she was wife of the killed Indian. The body was already decomposed and was found far from the site of the first murder.

Suspected are one or two Indians living here, including an Aleut, but the real culprits are not yet discovered, although the Office continues to conduct secret investigations.

As a result of these unpleasant events the relatives of the killed woman, learning that an Aleut is involved, started to shoot our horses which were in the hills at a distance of more than 20 verst from the settlement, killed and wounded were 18 horses. One man was already captured, was punished and is in the settlement's jail. In this case involved is a Toyon; there is hope to capture him also, which will terminate all troubles, according to Mr. Kostromitinov.

Russian American Company correspondence. Letters sent by the Governors-General 1812-1867. Reel 34, Document 538. Translated by Oleg Terichow, submitted by Sannie Osborn.

REBUILT DOGGETT FORT ROS STATE HISTORIC PARK



LIVING HISTORY DAY JULY 27, 1991 10-5

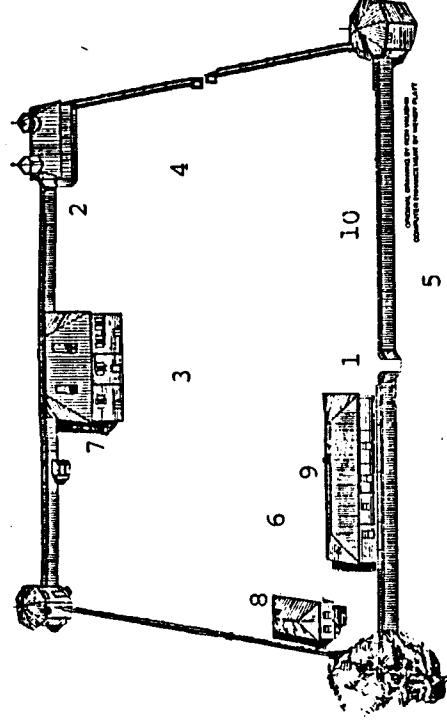
WELCOME TO FORT ROSS

You are stepping back in time to the 1830's when Alexander Rotchev was manager of Fort Ross. The various crafts and demonstrations you will see today are typical of the everyday lives of the 19th century Russian community.

As you walk through the Fort, feel free to converse with the Russians, Mexicans, or any Hudson Bay Company traders you may encounter. You might also like to participate in some of the crafts and demonstrations. In the ARTS AND CRAFTS AREA see and experience candlemaking, blacksmithing, woodworking and basketry. In the OFFICIALS QUARTERS the Russian American Company baker will be making traditional Russian black bread, tea will be prepared in the samovar, and the tinsmith will be working in his shop. Within and near the ROTCHEV HOUSE you will find spinning, weaving and the telling of folktales. In the KUSKOV HOUSE is an agricultural display downstairs, and an official of the Russian American Company will be in the trade room to answer questions. Upstairs meet Ilia Voznesenski, Russian scientist, artist, and friend of the Rotchevs. The Slavianska Choir will sing folksongs upstairs in the afternoon. We hope your experience today will be most enjoyable and satisfying.

PROGRAM

- | | | |
|----------|-----|--|
| 10:00 AM | (1) | GATES OPEN A guard at the gate will greet you and tell you what activities are taking place. |
| 10:45 AM | (2) | SLAVIANKA CHOIR Performance of Russian Liturgical songs. |
| 11:30 AM | (3) | MEXICAN OFFICIALS ARRIVE These officials demand that the Russians abandon the Fort. They are greeted by Alexander Rotchev, Manager of Fort Ross. |
| 11:45 AM | (4) | MUSKET DRILL No battles were ever fought at the Fort, but militia was always ready. |
| 12:00 PM | (5) | TRADING WITH THE HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY |
| 12:30 PM | (6) | RUSSIAN FOLK DANCING |
| 1:15 PM | (7) | SLAVIANKA CHOIR Performance of folksongs in the Kuskov. |
| 2:00 PM | (3) | MEXICAN OFFICIALS ARRIVE |
| 2:15 PM | (4) | MUSKET DRILL |
| 2:30 PM | (5) | TRADING WITH HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY |
| 3:30 PM | (6) | RUSSIAN FOLK DANCING |
| 4:30 PM | | CLOSING CEREMONIES Cannons and muskets are fired as an end to the day's activities. |
| 5:00 PM | (1) | GATES CLOSE |



MAP KEY

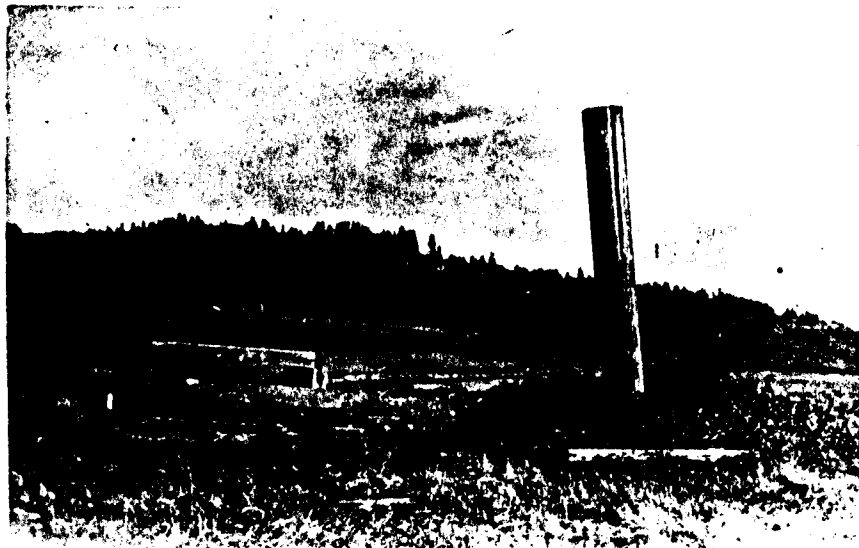
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|------|--------------------------------------|
| (1) | MAIN GATES |
| (2) | CHAPEL |
| (3) | REENACTMENT AREA |
| (4) | MUSKET AND CANNON DEMONSTRATION AREA |
| | PLEASE STAND BACK!!! |
| (5) | HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY ENCAMPMENT |
| (6) | FOLKDANCING AREA |
| (7) | KUSKOV HOUSE |
| (8) | ROTCHEV HOUSE |
| (9) | OFFICIALS QUARTERS |
| (10) | ARTS AND CRAFTS AREA |

FORT ROSS ARCHEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION. SUMMER 1991

The California Department of Parks and Recreation, in cooperation with the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, and the University of California, Berkeley, is currently conducting archeological investigations at Fort Ross State Historic Park in Sonoma County. In order to share the results of the project with the news media, July 9 and August 7, 1991 have been designated official Press Days. The news media is encouraged to make use of the Press Days as State Park Rangers, Interpreters, and project Archeologists will be on-site to answer questions, give tours of the project area, and to provide photo-opportunities of the crew at work and their significant finds.

Fort Ross was an outpost of the Russian-American Company from 1812-1841. In addition to a contingent of Russians, Fort Ross was occupied by a large work-force of Native Alaskans, mostly Koniag men from Kodiak Island, Alaska, brought to California by the Russians to assist them in their hunting ventures. Present also were Pomo and Coast Miwok Indian workers from the local area. The park was established in 1906 in order to preserve Fort Ross for the enjoyment of future generations. Over 200,000 people visit the park each year.

The University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, is assisting the Department of Parks and Recreation in a project aimed at restoring the historic Russian cemetery at Fort Ross to its former appearance. The first of two summers of excavation was begun in 1990, under the direction of Dr. Lynne Goldstein, Professor of Anthropology, and Sannie Osborn, Doctoral Candidate, at the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee. Prior to the 1990 excavations, the exact location of the cemetery was unknown. The purpose of the excavation is to locate and identify the individual burials, after which the remains will be reinterred and given the "last rites" by priests of the Russian Orthodox Church, and the gravesites marked with appropriate grave markers. Over fifty individuals of Russian, and possibly Native Alaskan, ancestry are known to have been buried in the cemetery. The project has been approved by the Russian Orthodox Church, The Orthodox Church in America, and the Kodiak

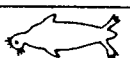
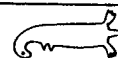
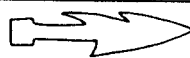
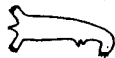
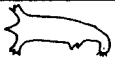


CEMETERY SITE AT FORT ROSS IN 1898. THIS IS THE EARLIEST KNOWN PHOTO.

(Alaska) Area Native Association, and has been conducted under the auspices of the Sonoma County Coroner's Office. The Native American Heritage Commission has also been consulted, and has offered advice concerning the project. Dr. Goldstein and Ms. Osborn are directing this summer's archeological investigation which will begin June 24 and will continue until July 10, 1991. In conjunction with the Milwaukee project, Dr. Doug Owsley, a forensic anthropologist from the Smithsonian Institution, will be leading a Smithsonian Research Expedition at Fort Ross from July 7-14. By analyzing the excavated skeletal remains, Dr. Owsley hopes to determine the age, health habits, and cause of death of specific individuals.

The University of California, Berkeley, is assisting the Department of Parks and Recreation in a project aimed at better understanding life in the Native Alaskan village at Fort Ross. This summer will be the third season of this project, which is being conducted under the direction of Dr. Kent Lightfoot, Professor of Anthropology at the University of California, Berkeley. Although it is as yet uncertain whether they will be at Fort Ross this summer, Dr. Lightfoot is being assisted in his investigation by members of the Kodiak (Alaska) Area Native Association, and the archeological staff of the Sakhalin (USSR) Regional Museum. Dr. Lightfoot's investigation begins July 22 and continues until August 14, 1991. In addition to conducting excavations within the Native Alaskan village site, he and his class will be surveying the park for previously unrecorded archeological sites.

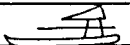
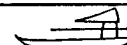
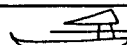
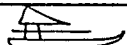
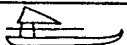
The California Department of Parks and Recreation has designated July 9th and August 7th as official Press Days for the Milwaukee and Berkeley projects, respectively. Press Day hours are 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM. For additional information concerning the projects and designated Press Days, contact State Archeologist Breck Parkman at (707) 576-2185 or Chief Ranger Brian Hickey at (707) 865-2391.



FORT ROSS ARCHAEOLOGY SEMINARS

Recent Fort Ross archaeological investigations will be discussed by Kent Lightfoot, Sannie Osborn, Breck Parkman and Glenn Farris. There will be a slide show and a presentation of pertinent artifacts, followed by a tour of the local archaeological sites. There is NO FEE for this class. Please send us the attached form to register.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 3, 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM and SATURDAY, AUGUST 10, 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM



SEMINAR REGISTRATION FORM

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

PLEASE ENROLL ME IN ARCHAEOLOGY SEMINAR SATURDAY, AUGUST 3 _____

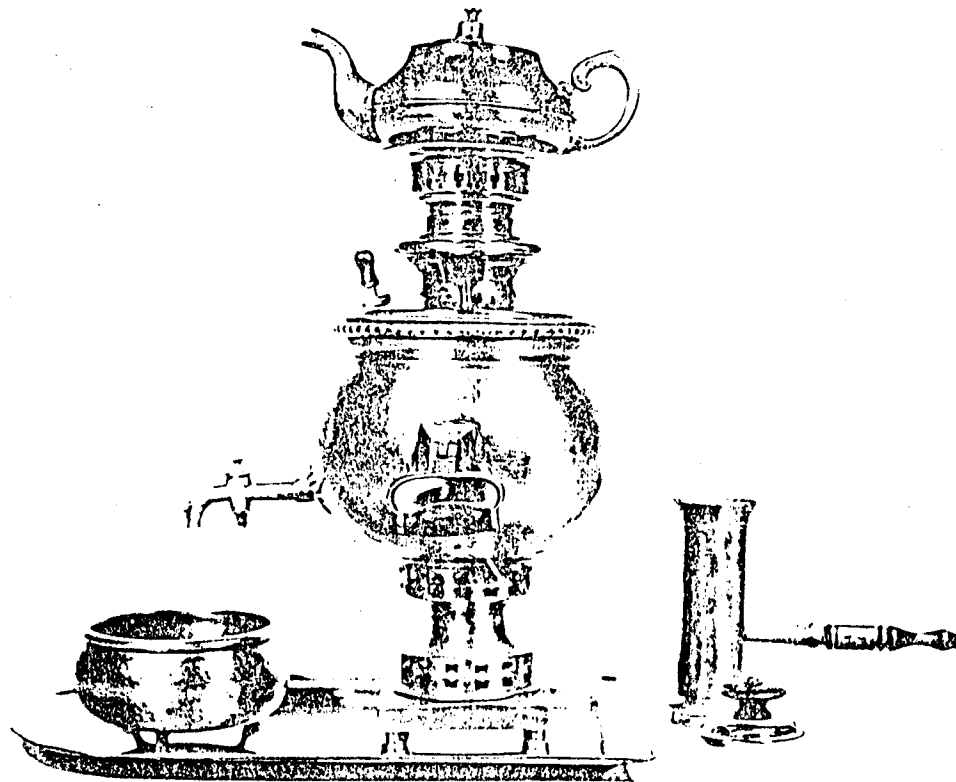
PLEASE ENROLL ME IN ARCHAEOLOGY SEMINAR SATURDAY, AUGUST 10 _____

SEND REGISTRATION TO: FORT ROSS INTERPRETIVE ASSOCIATION
19005 COAST HIGHWAY 1
JENNER, CALIFORNIA 95450
(707) 847-3437

COLLECTION CORNER - THE SAMOVAR IN ALASKA

Pictured here is a complete Russian samovar outfit collected in Alaska. The samovar itself is a water boiler with a tubular charcoal stove running through the center, its top cover can be lifted off. Above the top is a hollow crown piece to hold the teakettle. A drip bowl with claw feet catches any leakage from the spout. At the right are two other accessories. One is a chimney extension, with wooden handle, to aid starting the charcoal fire. It is then lifted off and the crown piece put on. The small cap with top knob is placed in the chimney to extinguish the fire. The brass tray protected the furniture and made the whole outfit portable.

Ordinarily very strong tea was brewed in the teapot and used to partly fill the



user's cup or glass, which was then filled with boiling water from the tank. On the frontier samovars were also used to heat water for washing and shaving.

Every Russian trading post had its samovar. Artist Frederick Whympers visited Sitka in 1865 and noted the the "samovar was in every household." When his party arrived at the inland Russian post of Nulato: "a few minutes later we were lunching at the 'bidarshik's' (trader's) table on raw salt-fish and bread. It need not be said that the 'samovar' had been prepared as soon as they sighted us in the distance. The poorest Russian never neglects the sacred rite of hospitality, and we pledged each other in massive cups of strong tea. Later in the day we had something stronger." He later mentioned drinking tea from a samovar at St. Michaels, an important post on the Lower Yukon.¹ In 1867 William Dall mentioned several times sitting around the steaming samovar with Russian traders at Unalaklik.² A report on conditions in Russian America in 1862 noted that all the Aleut natives had teapots, cups and glasses and many had samovars.³ Strangely enough, early Russian Colonial records show the sale of a few Russian brass samovars in California by Russian trading ships in the period 1818-1825.⁴

FROM MUSEUM OF THE FUR TRADE
QUARTERLY (VOL. 17, NO. 3)

NOTES

1. Frederick Wympers, *Travel and Adventure in the Territory of Alaska*. London 1861. 80, 167, 236.

2. William H. Dall, *Alaska and Its Resources*. Boston 1870. 131, 164.

3. Oregon Historical Society, *The End of Russian America, Captain P.N. Golovin's Last Report 1862*. Portland 1979. 24.

4. Oregon Historical Society, *Colonial Russian America, Captain Khlebnikov's Reports, 1817-1832*. Portland 1976. 63.

RANCH ERA NOTES

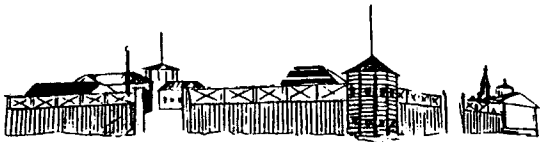
DEATH OF A PIONEER

This is the account of one of the old-timers that lived out in the hills on what is now known as the Gualala Ranch. He was a teamster and hauled ties, bark and wood to Fort Ross to be shipped to San Francisco. Pivers family are buried in the Seaview Cemetery.

Leroy Piver dies as the result of an accident. To many of the friends and acquaintances of Leroy Piver, the well-known Seaview pioneer, the news of his death will come as a surprise. He died on June 30 from the effects of a runaway accident. He was thrown from his wagon which collided with a tree near his home, and his skull was fractured. He lingered for a week after the accident and medical attention failed to save his life. He was 86 years old and lived in the Sea View section for over forty years. For years it was Mr. Piver's custom to pay periodical visits to the county seat where he had a number of old friends. He loved hunting and always had a good story on hand to entertain them.

As will be seen in another column of this paper, a petition has been filed in the Superior Court asking for letters of administration on his estate. It's value is given as a little less than \$4000. Mr. Pivers is known to have considerable pile of coins, but since his death the location of the treasure has not been ascertained, despite the fact that search has been made for it. It is believed that he buried it in some secluded spot and the unconsciousness that came on before his death prevented his divulging the secret of the hidden gold to the members of his family. His wife died several years ago and eight children survive.

FROM SONOMA DEMOCRAT
SUBMITTED BY BARBARA BLACK



FORT ROSS INTERPRETIVE ASSOCIATION, INC.
19005 Coast Highway 1 • Jenner, California 95450

