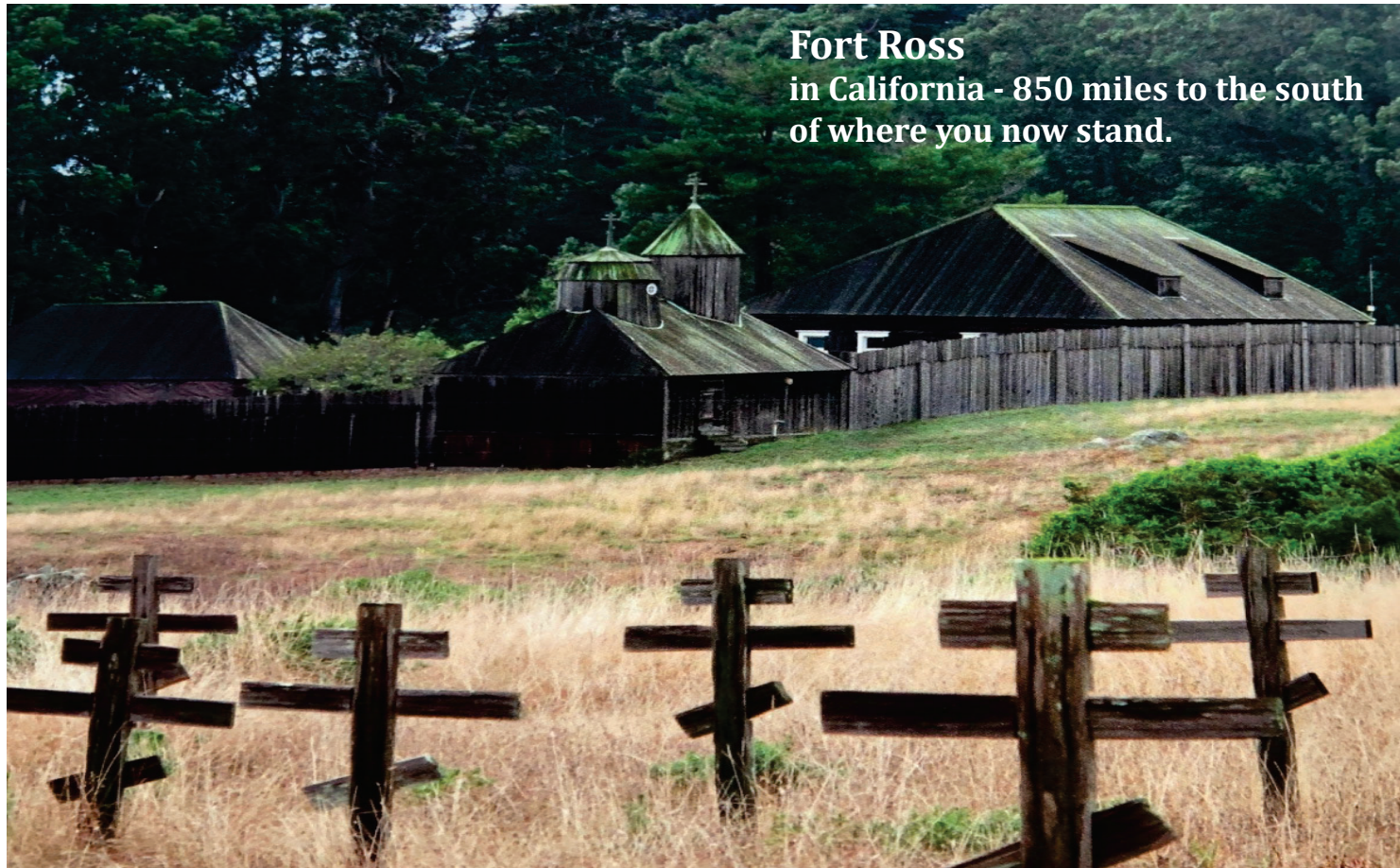


RUSSIAN HUNTERS

History

In 1741 Danish Vitus Bering and a Russian Alexei Chirikov sailed to Alaska. Separated, Bering's ship was wrecked and he died, but sailors who escaped returned with sea-otter pelts. Russia, like England (with the Northwest and Hudson's Bay Companies) allowed private companies' charters to explore and rule land. It is the Russian-American Company flag that flies above you. As the trips from Asiatic Russia to America became longer expeditions (lasting two to four years or more), the crews established trading posts. Rather than hunting the marine life, the Russians forced the Aleuts to do the work for them, often by taking hostage family members in exchange for hunted seal furs. Eighty-five percent of the Aleut population died from Russian occupation.



Fort Ross
in California - 850 miles to the south
of where you now stand.

Legends & Lessons

Three miles up the English Grade Road (a railroad grade 100 years ago), remnants of a log house stood until the 1930s. Settlers called it the "Russian Trapper Cabin," then thought to be 70 years old. This is a replica that uses neither mortise & tenon nor nails.

In 1931 within feet of this old cabin, a farmer's plow turned up a skeleton in a shallow grave. The skull had a single bullet hole.

Russian trappers trekked up and down the Coast, all the way to San Francisco where Fort Ross was built in 1822 and to the west (forts existed in Hawaii). A plaque at the Peace Arch in Blaine commemorates the 1819 pact between Spain and the U.S.

after which trappers were given rights and directions to "trap all fur bearing animals to extinction." This trapping had 2 goals: the US goal was to eliminate the Russian trappers on the West Coast (being that there would be no furs left to take). The English (HBC) agreed, but their reason was to discourage American settlers from the East.

After the U.S. purchase of Alaska, Alaskan Russians were ethnically cleansed. Many Russians moved to the Fort Ross area, others moved to Oregon (where an Orthodox Church still exists in Woodburn), others scattered themselves up and down the West Coast. They could live in the "new land," but not in Alaska.

Ethnobotanical Gardens

Native plant "starts" from Bonhoeffer Gardens (to your SW, by the I-5) illustrate 99 foods and materials available to the American peoples who lived here 10,000 years without the need to develop agriculture. Planter boxes contain:

American Dogwood (42) Baldpate Rose (78) Beach Strawberry (122) Bitter Cherry (66) Bitter Root (41) Black Crowberry (30) Blackcap Raspberry (88) Blue Elderberry (86) Bracken Fern (69) Bristle Prickle Pear (52) Broad-Leaved Shooting Star (28) Buffalo Berry (90) Cactus (71) Cattail (95) Chokeberry (67) Clarkia (40) Coastal Black Gooseberry (74) Common Juniper (38) Cow Parsnip (36) Douglas Fir (68) Douglas Hawthorn (27) Englemann Spruce (58) European Huckleberry (96) False Lily-of-the-Valley (47) False Solonchik (11) Garden's Yampah (56) Giant Yucca (97) Golden Currant (72) Great Cane (19) Hairy Manzanilla (12) Harsh Indian Parsnips (21) Highbush Crowberry (88) Indian Plum (51) Indian Thistle (23) Kuskokwim (13) Lady Pine (16) Lewis' Mock Orange (17) Lichen (46) Luscious Fern (59) Low Oregon Grape (17) Madia (11) Madia Rose (79) Oregon Bush (53) Gullies (54) Pacific Columbine (7) Pacific Dogwood (26) Paper Birch (18) Nearly Everlasting (99) Pioneer Gooseberry (74) Raintree (62) Redwood Plant (61) Paper Birch (18) Quaking Aspen (65) Red Alder (97) Red Flowering Currant (77) Red Huckleberry (97) Red Stem Ceanothus (22) Red-Osier Dogwood (25) Salal (35) Salmonberry (82) Saskatoon Serviceberry (88) Scouring Rush (21) Shore Pine (66) Siberian Springbush (24) Sitsa Spruce (59) Small Cedar (20) Stawberry (91) Salt Rush (17) Spreading Snowberry (99) Swamp Larch (17) Sweet Birch (62) Tall Oregon Grape (61) (c) Thimbleberry (83) Tamarack (83) Tule (58) Twinflower (61) Yucca Leaf (51) Yucca Maple (51) Yucca Currant (72) Western Columbine (18) Western Dock (81) Western Huckleberry (94) Western Juniper (38) Western Madia (84) Western Red Cedar (93)

The Farm Museum and Garden's goal is to provide Washington State public school students a visual, non-text, introduction to NW History. Local Legends are stories our ancestors told (to us), their grandchildren, who are now 75 years of age. "History" (as compared to "lies perpetrated on the dead") is taken from Wikipedia under the Creative Commons Attribution Share-Alike Agreements until PLC can develop its unique limited prose. These efforts are now underway with assistance of local school districts and the Stillaguamish Tribe. Plant prose, QR Code Links, and photos are taken from: www.usda.gov (attribution: U.S. Dept. of Agriculture), Wikipedia, and the UoW's www.biology.burke.washington.edu/herbarium website under educational uses. URL Links provided by: USDA, NRCS, the PLANTS Database (http://plants.usda.gov) National Plant Data Center, Baton Rouge, LA 70874-4490 USA. Visitors enter under the Revised Codes of the State of Washington - RCW 4.24.200 & 4.24.210 allowing public recreational use, including nature study and viewing or enjoying scenic or scientific sites/waterways on private land. Museum and gardens are proposed uses that still require Snohomish County Planning approvals. At present buildings serve as auxiliary storage units for PLC's native plants, gardening equipment, and Christmas decorations.