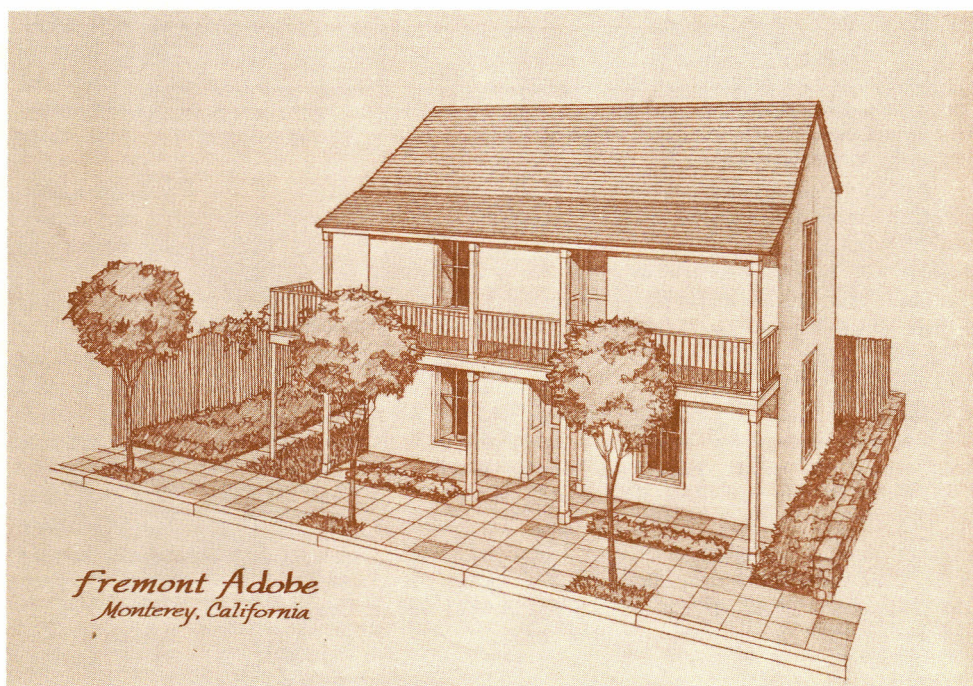


NOTICIAS del PUERTO de MONTEREY

A Quarterly Bulletin of Historic Monterey Issued by
The Monterey History and Art Association

Vol. V, Number 1

MARCH, 1961



Drawing courtesy of Gordon Hall

The Fremont Adobe: It Must Be Preserved

The charming building pictured above will be hard for the present-day passer-by along Hartnell Street to recognize. Today he sees only a seedy, undistinguished clapboard house and never suspects that the flimsy wooden siding masks a sturdy little two-story adobe whose walls are thick, sound and veined for strength with the straw and flowery grasses of pre-American Monterey.

Dedicated as the Monterey History and Art Association is to the preservation of the historic adobes of the Old Pacific Capital, the vision of what can be done

to restore the Fremont Headquarters has led it to a decisive step: it has made the acquisition and preservation of this old dwelling its project for the year.

And none too soon. As the alternative to each effort to rescue an irreplaceable relic of California's stirring past, stands the ready bulldozer. If the Fremont Adobe is not saved by the Association, within the space of one day it will be smashed into a pile of dusty rubble. And in that rubble will lie buried the memory of the dashing Captain John Charles Fremont who rode into Monterey at the head of his cavalcade of wild frontiersmen that fateful day in 1846 when California fell to the United States.

At the urging of the Association, the federal government, which intends to enlarge the postoffice adjacent to the Fremont Adobe, has consented to sell to the City of Monterey the 32 x 49 foot plot upon which the venerable building stands. By law, Washington cannot sell it to a private organization, but fortunately for California history, Mayor Shedo Russo and the City Council have agreed to act as middlemen, buy the property and then, in exchange for the purchase price demanded by the government, grant the Monterey History and Art Association an unrestricted permanent deed to the land and building.

The Monterey Foundation has stepped forward and offered to donate a third of the \$9,500 price, leaving about \$6,000 to be raised by subscription and Association efforts. The directors have already taxed themselves \$10 each, and in addition, several members have responded with a \$100 donation. Contributions of \$10, \$25, \$50, \$100 and \$500 will receive handsome certificates of participation in the campaign to preserve historic Monterey, a choice collector's item from celebrated Grabhorn Press.

Although of special interest to Monterey, the salvation of the Fremont Adobe is of prime importance to all the people of California and gifts from any source will be gladly accepted. Besides the initial cost, it will take about \$2,500 to restore the building to the original form illustrated by the sketch.

Once the adobe is in the Association's hands and the work is done, there is a firm offer from a reputable group to rent it at a substantial sum monthly on a long-term lease. Maintenance and care will not, therefore, be a problem, but on the contrary, such a practical use will demonstrate the adaptability of the old dwellings to modern purposes without loss of identity.

But the money must be raised first, and now is the time. The end in view is well worth the effort. Senators Thomas Kuchel and Clair Engle, and Congressman Charles Teague have interceded with the General Services Administration of the United States (which controls the property) on behalf of the Monterey History and Art Association. City Clerk Al Coons and City Attorney Russ Zaches have done mountains of paperwork arranging the transaction, and Harry Downie, the famed restorer of Carmel, Soledad and other missions, has volunteered to act as advisor in the rehabilitation work.

President Col. Allen Griffin, who has conferred on the matter with government officials in San Francisco, has appointed Allen Knight as chairman of the Fremont Adobe Committee with Fritz Wurzman, the project's originator, Mrs. W. R. Holman, Mrs. L. J. Hudson, Mrs. W. M. O'Donnell, Admiral Lucius Chappell and Donald Craig as his staff.

As this article goes to press, word comes from Allen Knight that Mr. Witmer, the General Services Administration architect, has talked with him concerning the problems attendant on drawing up the contractor's specifications for clearing the property. He has been very cooperative about protecting the old house until the negotiations for the transfer of title are finally settled, but the cue has been given for the Association to get to work in earnest and restore the Fremont Adobe.

The President's Report For 1960

At the annual meeting in January, our clubroom at the Casa Serrano was crowded to capacity. Although it had been planned to have a guest speaker, a conflict of dates made this impossible, and the members proceeded to enliven the occasion with talks by Carmel Martin, Sr., Fritz Wurzmman, Mrs. W. R. Holman, and Mrs. W. M. O'Donnell.

It was an evening gay with laughter and reminiscence and the members apparently hugely enjoyed the informal atmosphere. Mr. and Mrs. George Applegarth presented the association with a beautiful, specially printed *Book of Memories* in honor of Mrs. Applegarth's mother, Laura Bride Powers, the originator of the idea of a Monterey History and Art Association and first curator of the Old Customs House. Mr. Antonio Diezinfantes, instructor at the Monterey Peninsula College and a descendent of an early California official, spoke on the importance of gathering more historical material from the Spanish-speaking Californians.

As usual, the evening ended in a festive fashion around the punchbowl and refreshment table, but not before the following very satisfactory summary of the year's activities had been read by out-going President Allen Knight:

"The year 1960 has been a most interesting and successful one for the Monterey History and Art Association. We have ended the year with 669 paid up members. The board of directors has met the first Monday in each month with an average attendance of 20 members out of 30 directors.

"There has been much activity around the Casa Serrano, although the restoration has not been completed by any means. We have not incurred any debts to finish the refurbishing; that will come gradually with the help of our members and friends. A budget was prepared during 1960 and we have endeavored to stay within the amount allotted in each case.

"The Association has sponsored several worthwhile projects during the year. In April Mr. Faw arranged for two tours of historical interest in Monterey and around the peninsula for the National Retail Furniture Dealers (with a profit to the Association of \$112.00), and another for the Pacific Coast Steel Fabricators which realized \$120.00.

"The very successful Malaspina Exhibit, which was held in Casa Serrano with Mrs. Amelie Kneass as chairman, cost the association \$500 for the showing. \$468.25 was realized through admissions and the sale of the book telling the history of the Expedition in 1791. There was a loss of \$31.75 to the association, but the board of directors feel that that small amount was money well spent, as it gave much pleasure to many and was a true history of the expedition which spent ten days in Monterey at that early date. The hanging committee for the drawings, maps, etc. was composed of members of the American Federation of Artists of the peninsula.

"A letter of appreciation was sent by the association and the city of Monterey to the Naval Museum in Madrid, Spain, thanking the museum directors there for permitting the valuable collection of drawings and manuscripts to be exhibited in California.

"On June 4th, 1960, our association again sponsored the annual Merienda in Memory Garden, celebrating the 190th birthday of the City of Monterey. Henry Jones was the overall chairman, assisted by dozens of the members. The affair, not intended to be a money maker when first started in the early 1930's, realized over \$750.00 after all the expenses were paid.

"The annual observance of Com. John Drake Sloat's landing to claim California for the United States and to raise the Stars and Stripes at the Monterey Custom House was observed on July 7th, with Allen Knight, your president, as chairman, and the Navy League and City of Monterey acting as co-sponsors of the historical re-enactment.

"The annual Adobe House Tour on July 9th, under the capable management for the second time, of Mrs. C. Tod Singleton, was again a delightful occasion. Eleven homes were open for inspection and a substantial sum added to the treasury. Thank you letters were sent to all the home owners thanking them for their hospitality. Again many members came to the forefront and assisted as hostesses and cookie makers and other necessary jobs.

"The proposed garden at the Casa Serrano Adobe was officially named "Memorial Garden," in memory of Mrs. Ella Hill Fitch, the widow of Col. Roger S. Fitch, first president of the association, and other members who have passed away since the founding of the association in 1930.

"The sum of \$30 was donated by individual members of the Board of Directors and by Mrs. George Applegarth, daughter of Mrs. Laura Bride Powers, the originator of the Monterey History and Art Association and first curator of the Old Customs House. This sum was sent to Petra on the Island of Mallorca, Spain, to buy a chair for the museum at Father Serra's birthplace, in the name of the Monterey History and Art Association.

"Mrs. Mary L. Greene gave a talk and showed color slides of her year's travels in Europe and Mexico to a meeting of the membership. There was standing room only on this occasion.

"The December meeting of the Board of Directors was held in Casa de la Torre, the law offices of Thomson J. Hudson, with Mrs. Hudson, and his mother, Mrs. L. J. Hudson, acting as hostesses. The visit was made a demonstration that Monterey adobes have not outlived their functional usefulness to be fit only for museums.

"Expression of appreciation has been sent to the Monterey Foundation for the cancelling of a loan of \$2000 extended to the Monterey History and Art Association when Casa Serrano was purchased.

"The *Noticias del Puerto de Monterey* is now starting Vol. V under the editorship of Donald M. Craig, Mrs. W. Kneass and Miss Ethel Solldiday. The numbers are printed quarterly, all containing historical items, items of interest to the membership, lists of new members, gifts received and coming events of importance. Each paid up member should receive a copy four times during the year.

"Copies of the Association's Constitution and By-Laws, list of membership as of December 1960, history of the Association and names of officers and directors, are ready for distribution."

Carried Off In Chains:

JAMES MEADOWS STORY

It is frequently over-looked that the Bear Flag Revolt was largely the result of fear on the part of the American settlers in northern California that the Mexican government meant to exile them and seize their holdings. Some of the men who rode under the make-shift banner with its ill-drawn emblem had actually suffered just such a deportation a scant five years before, and the memories of the indignities heaped upon them had not dimmed in the interval.

Although James Meadows of the Carmel Valley took no part in the revolt, he too had a clear recollection of the bitter road of the exile, for he had been one of the forty-seven sent in chains to Mexico in 1840. His account of the trip

is the clearest that we have, and thanks to the Bancroft Library of the University of California and Mr. Walter Collision, a Meadows descendent, we have permission to publish this most interesting document for the first time.

DONALD M. CRAIG

—o—

All foreigners living in the country, were summoned to come in on a given day to get their passports. The men that were in the redwoods all came in on the Sunday morning to receive their passports as they supposed; all were taken into the church under pretense of its being a large room, when there the door was shut, soldiers surrounded the building, and then foreigners were made to come out one by one - all were tied, put on horses and sent into Monterey as prisoners.

All the foreigners at the Pulgas Redwoods were captured with the same tale. *1

Nearly all the arrests were made at the same time. What few men were not taken at the first haul, were gradually picked up one by one as they could find them — most of them by treachery.

I will now proceed to describe how we were conveyed from the prison to the ship. We were marched in heaps guarded on all sides with all the armed men they could muster or raise in the country around. They placed us in an old house, where the Custom House stands - it was the same building - they had only one boat to carry us on board. The boat would come to the rocks, and as many as the boat could carry (abt 8 or 10) men sent at each trip, the boat also carrying two or three soldiers with muskets. On arriving on board they put us down in the hold in irons. I am sorry to say that one of my countrymen put us in irons, John Chamberlain - after another blacksmith (an American named Freeman Fling) had refused to do it saying that he would rather go with us - he was drunk, laid down and was rowed over. There was another man drunk with him at the time, a Welchman named Jim Rogers.

We were all on board that evening and put to sea. Two men were ironed together with the single irons that they had - when these gave out they put us in long bars, six to each bar. Those at long bars were placed all along the side of the ship and across the fore end - those in single irons in the centre.

That night, after we got out, the sea was very rough, and a heavy gale blew from the N.W. A quantity of cord wood that was piled up at the fore end of the ship fell upon the prisoners that were there, & buried them all up. They cried out for the wood to be uncovered, but their cries were unheeded. They were told it made no difference as they were to die anyhow. Next day the Capt. of the ship had the wood uncovered; the soldiers would not do it.

There was a sentry in the middle of the hold, one on each side of the hatchway, and a corporal's guard on the deck all the time. The guard of soldiers on the



Courtesy Monterey Public Library
GENERAL JOSE CASTRO, 1810?-1860

*1. The first reference to the "redwoods" apparently concerns those in the Santa Cruz area; the Pulgas rancho was in central San Mateo County and included the site of Redwood City, etc.

ship consisted of abt 24 men besides Capt. Jose Castro, & the other officers Rafæl Pinto, Juaqn de la Torre, Ignacio Soto & one or two more.

The day after we were shipped off we got some boiled beans or rice, I don't remember which, & some boiled jerked beef. It was handed round in a cook's slush tub with a strap to it.

We sat in rows with sufficient distance betw. them to enable one of the prisoners to drag the tub - two or three soldiers accompanying him with their musket & bayonets. The tub was dragged rapidly & each prisoner dipped both his hands or only one, according to circumstances, and pulled out as much of the grub as he could hold, and then laid it on the timber deck that had been laid in the hold - the same place where the prisoner sat, spat &c - and it is very likely that the same tub was passed around to be used for a privy - the tub so passed was of the same shape, description &c as the one that was used for food.

I had forgotten to mention that the first two or three days we were in the prison in Monterey, we were furnished no food, and no outsider was allowed to bring us any. Finally Thomas O. Larkin furnished us two meals a day of boiled beans & boiled jerked beef - no bread & nothing else. Sometimes we were allowed a small drink of water, and at other times not one drop. We suffered more from thirst than from hunger. We were not allowed to wash ourselves from the time we were put in prison to the day we arrived in San Blas - something like 3 weeks.

On arrival in San Blas José Castro ordered us all to be washed & shaved - all washed themselves but could not shave.

From Monterey we went to Santa Barba, were landed and confined in the old mission of that name, in one of the old granaries. We were kept abt 10 or 12 days, during which time Castro kept up a correspondence with the Gov.r at Monterey. This arose from a conversation he had with José Ant.o Aguirre, Capt. José de la Guerra, Noriega & other Spaniards, who asked Castro what he was going to do with us. It seems that their first calculation was to land us at the Sandwich Islands, but the old Spaniards told Castro he would not be allowed to land us there, and if he succeeded our Consuls would take charge of us, and there would be trouble. He then asked what a Consul was or what he had to do in the matter. He was finally made to understand that he could not land us in a foreign country - that he had better let us go loose - otherwise he would have to land us somewhere in Mexico. The Governor (Alvarado) would not consent to release us for fear that we would make a revolution (after the harsh treatment we had received) and kill them all - that as Castro had undertaken to carry us away, he must do it.

At Santa Barbara they fed us on boiled beans & jerked beef, brought into the granary in a large copper kettle, which was set in the middle of the room - each man dipped his hands in and got out his ration - we were allowed no knives, forks, spoons, sticks or anything. One day, as if for enjoyment, Castro and all the high-toned folks of all nations (no females) came to see us. Farnham was among them. *2 They happened to come as we were served our grub in the copper kettle. Joaquín de la Torre, as a good joke in his estimation, had put one Indian breech-clout, taken off the Indian cook's body, into the kettle to boil with the beans. The thing was overdone, for the beans were brought in so hot that we could not get our hands in without burning them. Some one took a stick and began to stir the beans, as if to cool them, when he struck upon the breech-clout & pulled it out & held it up just as the "nobility and gentry" of Santa Barba

*2. Thomas Jefferson Farnham, a traveller in the West Coast in 1839-40, who made the exiles' cause his special project and followed them to Mexico in order to intercede for them with the authorities. He was extremely prejudiced against Mexicans.

came in to look at us being fed. Farnham asked Castro what he meant by treating us in such a manner. Castro called the Indian cook, and upon being threatened with a flogging, declared that a soldier had pulled off the clout & put it into the beans. The soldier was summoned and he declared that La Torre had made him do it.

After all this was over, Castro having been admonished by Farnham to treat us well, he asked a number of us if they were sick - such as said that they were, he turned loose, and released them. There was only one man that was really sick, but abt a dozen said they were, and in this way got their liberty. The others who were not aware of Castro's intention, said nothing & were kept as prisoners. In Sta Barbara they added to our number five white men and two negroes brought from Los Angeles.

(To be continued)



COSAS DE INTERES PARA LOS SOCIOS

NEW MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION SINCE JANUARY 1, 1961:

General and Mrs. W. E. Covell	Mr. and Mrs. R. Asmus	Mr. and Mrs. Louis Goldstein
Mr. and Mrs. N. T. Mortenson	Miss Dorothy M. Bergquist	Mr. and Mrs. John L. Garcia
Mr. and Mrs. Royal Miller	Mr. and Mrs. Donald E. Durfey	Mr. and Mrs. Jerome J. Werner
Mr. and Mrs. Hans Zantman	Miss Joan Peacock	Mr. and Mrs. Walter J. Fremier
Mrs. J. F. Mac Kenzie	Mrs. Louise Husted	Mr. and Mrs. Shedo Russo
Mr. and Mrs. Dudley Nix	Dr. C. L. Fagan	Mr. Allan Fraser Aldwell

SUSTAINING MEMBERS SINCE JANUARY 1, 1961:

Mrs. H. Dalzell Wilson	Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Gauer	Mr. and Mrs. Robert McKeever, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Henry Jones	Mr. and Mrs. George Applegarth	Bay Rapid Transit Co.
Mrs. W. M. O'Donnell	Mr. and Mrs. Pilar Robinson	

LIFE MEMBERS:

Miss Margaret Jacks	Mr. and Mrs. W. E. van Loben Sels	Col. Allen Griffin
---------------------	--------------------------------------	--------------------

JUNIOR MEMBERS SINCE JANUARY 1, 1961:

Debbie Tanous; Martha, Michael and Timme Taaffe; Alex Pratt; Wanda, Lensi and John Short Jr.; Dammon, Christopher and James Campbell; Alex Robison; Dian Dorsey; John Krotcher; Wanda, John III, and Lince Short; Mary Alice Cerrito; Yvonne Castagna; Peter Eaton; Patrick Church; Kathryn Ragsdale; Judith, Elizabeth and Page van Loben Sels; John and Mimi Doud; Seth and Anthony Bates; Peter Delfino, Jr.



IN MEMORIAM: Mrs. Lucy Ord Beebe, Mrs. Lottie Porter and Mrs. N. Wither.



June 3rd, 1961 will be Monterey's 191st birthday. The association will hold its annual Merienda in Memory Garden that day in honor of the ceremonies here in 1770 by Don Gaspar de Portola, who claimed California for Spain, and Father Junipero Serra, who recited the first mass.

Henry Jones is chairman of the planning committee for the event and reports that preparations are now under way for a memorable fiesta.



The very popular annual Adobe House Tour is set for Saturday, June 24th, between the hours of 10 A.M. and 6 P.M. All the old favorites among Monterey's relics of the romantic past will be on view, as well as at least two adobes that have made a very graceful transition to modern business usages: Dr. Lusignan's office on Pierce Street and Thomson Hudson's law office in the De la Torre Adobe, once the first Federal courtroom in California.

(Continued on Page Eight)

THE EDITORS
MONTEREY HISTORY
AND ART ASSOCIATION

336 Pacific Street
Monterey, California

Non-Profit Organization
Bulk Rate
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 20
Monterey, Calif.

Ted K. Clark
850 Maple
Pacific Grove, Calif.

OFFICERS 1961

President: Col. Allen Griffin
Vice-President: Henry Jones
Secretary: Mrs. W. M. O'Donnell
Recording Secretary: Mrs. Jack Craft
Treasurer: Howard Reed

EDITORS

Donald M. Craig
Mrs. William E. Kneass
Miss Ethel Solliday

DIRECTORS: G. H. Burnette, Mrs. Jane Campbell, Rear Admiral (ret.) Lucius Chappell, Alfred Coons, Eldon Covell, Mrs. Jack Craft, Donald Craig, William Curtis, Harold Davis, Miss Anita Doud, Ted Durein, Claude Faw, Mrs. Robert Giet, Col. Allen Griffin, Mrs. Norman Hasselo, Henry Jones, Allen Knight, George Leutzinger, John Martin, Robert McKeever, Myron Oliver, Mrs. L. J. Hudson, Mrs. Orval Polk, Mrs. C. T. Singleton, Mrs. John Short, William Stahl, Fritz Wurzmann, Mrs. Helen Haber, Mrs. Frank La Cauza and Howard Reed.

—o—

COSAS DE INTERES PARA LOS SOCIOS

(Continued from page Seven)

Mrs. Henry Jones is in charge of this event and her committee plans to serve a luncheon for a small charge at the historic Mission Inn. There will be the usual tea at the Larkin House and at our club rooms at the Casa Serrano. It is also planned to issue again the very helpful and attractive brochure that was used for the past two years.

—o—

The anniversary of the landing of Commodore John Drake Sloat and the raising of the United States Flag at the Customs House will be observed on July 6th, the 115th year since that important historical event in California history. Allen Knight, junior past president of the association, is chairman of this event, which is sponsored by the association and the Monterey Peninsula Chapter of the Navy League of the United States. He states that three destroyers and two minesweepers, carrying many reservists on their annual training cruise, will be in the harbor, plus the Navy band from Treasure Island.

Mrs. C. Tod Singleton has been appointed to form a committee to arrange for the annual ball for the ships' officers.

—o—

At the annual meeting Mrs. George Applegarth presented the association with a handsome red leather Book of Memories, designed and printed by Lawton Kennedy, to be used to record the names of those who have been outstanding in their interest in our association, generous in gifts, and those who have been remembered with memorials. Mrs. Applegarth, daughter of Laura Bride Powers, first curator of the Customs House Museum and originator of the idea of a Monterey History and Art Association, has also given us a first edition of her mother's OLD MONTEREY and another valuable book, OLD CALIFORNIA. The latter is a collection of the color reproductions of 10 water colors by Rowena Meeks Abdy, the late well known artist of Monterey. It was printed in San Francisco in 1924 by the famous John Henry Nash.

—o—

The directors have requested that in negotiations by the City of Monterey with the State of California concerning the acquisition of Colton Hall as a museum by the latter, that a local board (specifically the Museum Board) be consulted and its approval gained for any contemplated architectural changes in the old building. It was also felt important to advise that some adequate fire protection sprinkler system be installed to protect this most vulnerable home of California's original constitution.