

NOTICIAS del PUERTO de MONTEREY

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Squadron At Anchor Monterey Bay, California

MEXICAN WAR 1846 – 1848



Mrs. Frank M. Moore, widow of the distinguished artist, presented several magnificent paintings by her husband to the Monterey History and Art Association this spring. The above photograph is of one of the collection. It was originally painted for the Marine Corps Headquarters, Department of the Pacific, later loaned to the California Historical Society, and now by gift will be part of our permanent collection in the Allen Knight Maritime Museum.

U. S. 44- GUN FRIGATE SAVANNAH

The second U.S. Naval vessel to be named SAVANNAH was a wooden sailing frigate of 44-guns laid down at the New York Navy Yard in 1820. The ship was one of nine frigates built from a prototype design by naval architect William Doughty. All were named after American rivers: Brandywine, Columbia, Cumberland, Potomac, Raritan, Sabine, St. Lawrence, Santee and Savannah. Although authorized by Congress in 1820 construction was delayed by lack of appropriations and alterations in design so that some were not launched until years later — the Savannah in 1842, Raritan in 1843, and the Santee not until 1855.

Alterations to the SAVANNAH included a rounding of her stern, upper head rails changed to straight rails, and the sheer reduced at bow and stern. She remained in the stocks until launched on May 5, 1842, and completed the following year, having a length between perpendiculars of 175 feet, speed of 13 knots, and a complement of 467 officers and men.

The SAVANNAH joined the Pacific Squadron in 1844 as its Flagship. As rumors of war with Mexico became more eminent the Pacific Squadron moved into position off the coast of Monterey, California, prepared for eventualities. Subsequently, the squadron under Commodore John Drake Slat took possession of California on July 7, 1846 by raising the American flag at the Custom House without firing a shot. At that time the squadron consisted of the Frigate SAVANNAH and the two Ship-Sloops CYANE and LEVANT. The Sloop PORTSMOUTH sailed on to take possession of and raise the American flag at Yerba Buena (San Francisco) on July 9.

Although Texas, the twenty-eighth State, had been admitted to the Union on July 4, 1846, this fact was unknown at Monterey. The American flag raised at the Custom House displayed twenty-seven stars — three rows of seven stars each and one row (the 2nd) of six stars. The twenty-seven star flag was carried generally by the military forces throughout the conquest of California.

The Frigate CONGRESS with Commodore Stockton and Chaplain Walter Colton aboard arrived at Monterey on July 15, 1846. Sloat turned over his command to Stockton on July 23rd, transferred his pennant to the Sloop LEVANT and sailed for home on July 29th. The Sloop WARREN and Storeship ERIE arrived at Monterey shortly after. Colton was to become the first American Alcalde (Administrator) to the Monterey District.

The SAVANNAH returned to New York for repairs on Sept. 8, 1847 then again served as Flagship of the Pacific Squadron during the years 1849–1852. On August 9, 1853, the SAVANNAH sailed out of Norfolk for a three year cruise off the Brazil Station and was then placed out of commission at New York on Nov. 17, 1856. She served as Flagship of the Home Squadron until Nov. 1860. Recommissioned on June 27, 1861 she performed blockade duty off Savannah, Georgia, and shared in the capture of two Confederate prizes, the schooner E.J. WATERMAN and the ship CHESTER off that port. The Frigate then served as an instruction ship from 1862 to 1866, then was laid up for repairs. Her last cruise was made to England and France as an instruction ship for midshipmen, then was placed “in ordinary” at Norfolk until sold Sept. 27, 1883.

Charles B. Richmond

Ref: Div. of Naval History, Ships' History Sec., Navy Dept.; "The History of the American Sailing Navy", by Howard I. Chapelle; "Life of the Late Rear Admiral John Drake Slat", by Major Edwin A. Sherman

HARTWEG — MONTEREY — 1846

We continue herewith excerpts from Journal of a Mission to California in search of Plants by Karl Theodore Hartweg written in the 1846–8 period. Hartweg went to the Santa Cruz area for a short period, and returned to Monterey in time to be present at the change of flag.

His report almost ignores the political events except in so far as they make it difficult for him to obtain horses for his forays into the countryside. The numbers he gives after each specimen are those he assigned when shipping them back to his employers in the London Horticultural Society.

On July the 2nd I returned to Monterey on board of an American bark, after a passage of four hours, and found that Commodore Sloat had arrived in the 'Savannah,' accompanied by two sloops of war. In consequence of a rupture between the United States' forces and the Mexicans, near Matamoros, wherein the latter were defeated, the American Commodore, on the 7th, landed a party of marines and seamen, and hoisted the American flag without opposition.

The few days of absence produced a great change even in the vegetation; the fields and wood, which before were covered with flowers, are now gradually drying up from the total absence of rain during the summer months; even the bulbous plants had, during that time, shed their flowers and ripened their seeds.

As yet I have not succeeded in procuring horses, Castro having taken all the available horses away, in order to mount the militia, with which he intended to have marched against the Americans. Under these circumstances I cannot venture far away from Monterey, nor is it advisable that I should do so, as I might fall in with a party of country people, who could not be persuaded that a person would come all the way from London to look after weeds, which in their opinion are not worth picking up, but might suppose that I have some political object in view; I, therefore, confine my excursions within a few miles of the town.

Crossing the wooded heights near Monterey I arrived at Carmel Bay, after an easy walk of two hours, here I found Diervilla, No. 47; Cupressus macrocarpa, No. 143, attaining the height of 60 feet, and a stem of 9 feet in circumference, with far-spreading branches, flat at the top like a full-grown cedar of Lebanon, which it closely resembles at a distance; Eschscholtzia crocea, E. californica, Platstemon californicum, a scarlet Castilleja, a Mesembryanthemum, resembling M. rubrocintum; Cheiranthus, No. 94; Stenactis speciosa, an Echeveria, Abronia rosea, and A. mellifera. These two species, the former with pink and the latter with orange flowers, are spreading on the sands near the seashore, and delightfully scent the air with their perfume towards evening.

Another excursion, which I made to the Rancho de Tularcitos, led over the mission of Carmel. This, like all other missions in California since their breaking up in 1836, is in a sad state of neglect; the buildings are fast falling to ruin, and the lands nearly in the same wilderness as the first settlers found them. The Indians, who were employed by the friars as labourers, and held in a state of slavery, were then thrown upon their own means for subsistence. The greater part went to the Tietar valley, from whence they commit their depredations upon the property of the white settlers, chiefly carrying off herds of horses, which form their principal food.

Following up the narrow valley of the Carmel river I entered a beautiful wood of alders, willows, and plane-trees, some of the latter attaining the height of 80 feet, and 12 in circumference. Of herbaceous plants I observed two species of *Solidago*, Nos. 118 and 119; *Mimulus cardinalis*; *Labiata*, No. 122; *Asclepias*, Nos. 127, 117; an annual, No. 120, with an extremely powerful smell, which, if inhaled in excess produces bleeding at the nose. Of shrubs, a half-climbing *Caprifolium*, with small dingy flowers; *Clematis*, No. 121; *Cercocarpus* sp.; and on rocky ground, a patch of *Berberis aquifolium*. The sides of the mountains, which attain no great elevation, are thinly covered with oaks.

The higher parts, near the Rancho de Tularcitos, are occupied by *Pinus macrocarpa*, which rise to the height of 80 to 100 feet, with a stem of 6 to 8 feet in circumference. The larger trees had not yet ripened their cones, but the smaller ones, of twenty to thirty years growth, ripen theirs at different periods, and furnished me with a few cones. On my return thence, over El Toro, a high mountain destitute of trees or shrubs, but thickly covered with wild oats (*Avenae* species), I found, on the north side, in a ravine, a few small trees of *Pinus Sabiniana*, the highest of them not exceeding 30 feet. In this situation they appear to produce their cones when yet very young. Some trees, measuring from 8 to 10 feet in height, and of as many years' growth, had cones on them, which, like the foregoing species, seem to ripen about November.

On August the 23rd I embarked on board the bark 'Joven Guipuzcoana,' whose owner, Don José Antonio Aguirre, invited me to take a trip with him up to the Bay of San Francisco. I gladly accepted this invitation; the more so, as I intended to visit the valley of the Sacramento river, where I possibly might procure horses, and return thence by land to Monterey. On the following day we anchored off Santa Cruz, where the ship was to remain a day or two. I took advantage of this delay, and made an excursion to the mountains, in a different direction from that visited before. Passing through a copse wood, composed chiefly of *Pavia californica*, *Quercus californica*, *Ceanothus thyrsiflorus*, *Corylus* No. 85, *Rhus viride*, called 'Yedra,' and justly dreaded by the inhabitants for its poisonous properties, I entered a beautiful pine-wood. The leaves of this species of pine stand in threes; are longer than the cones, usually 11 inches in length, cones 5 inches long by 2½ at the broadest part, of a reddish brown, the centre of the scales terminating in a small sharp point, bent downwards. The trees rise to the height of 100 feet, with a stem 3 to 4 feet in diameter, producing the cones in clusters of three to four, which ripen towards September, or in about eight months from the time of flowering. This handsome species of pine, which appears to be new, I have named in compliment to the late Secretary of the Society, George Bentham, Esq., *Pinus Benthamiana*.

Another kind of pine that I found within a few hundred yards of the foregoing species, is, probably, the doubtful and little known *Pinus californica*; the trees seem to be of slow growth, and do not attain any great height, seldom more than 25 feet by 8 inches in diameter. The leaves are in bundles of three, 4½ inches long; cones, 5 to 5½ inches long by 2 broad, the outer surface curved, the inner straight, scales on the outer surface more developed, enclosing two small, flat, winged seeds. The cones are only produced on the main stem; when ripe, they are of a light-brown colour, and stand off at nearly a right angle; when old, of a silvery grey, pressing firmly upon the stem, and remain on the trees for a series of years without opening or shedding their seeds.

On August the 28th, the bark got under weigh for Yerba Buena. On the afternoon of the same day we encountered a strong north-west gale, which tore some sails and obliged us to put back to repair damages. On the 30th we sailed again, and having to contend against headwinds and a strong current, kept close in shore. The whole of the coast is destitute of trees or shrubs, with the exception of Point Año Nuevo, where some pines or cyresses seem to grow.

On September the 2nd, we were opposite the narrow but safe entrance to the bay of San Francisco; a large inland sea, divided into several branches, forming not only the principal port in California, but the largest and safest on the whole western coast of America. About noon we anchored off Yerba Buena, a small town, rising rapidly in importance.

Two Wardian cases, which were furnished by the Society for preserving such plants and seeds as will not carry otherwise, gave me some trouble in clearing them at the Customhouse. They were shipped in London for the Sandwich Islands, and thence to Yerba Buena, where they arrived under the Mexican government, without it being exactly known what they contained, nor who the owner was. Some miscreant, thinking he might profit by the occasion, denounced them as containing contraband goods; they were accordingly taken to the customhouse, where, upon examination, instead of silk stockings and printed calicos, they found "two small greenhouses," some kitchen-garden seeds, nails, etc. Soon after, by the change of government, they fell into the hands of the Americans, and having no papers to show that I was the owner, I had to send in a petition to the captain of the port, prove the property before the magistrate, and after a good deal of running to and fro, I finally received them from the commander of the place, in whose charge they were.

The vegetation about Yerba Buena is poor; the sand-hills that surround the town, and which extend for several miles into the interior, are but thinly covered with brushwood of oak (*Quercus californica*, *Ceanothus thyrsiflorus*, *Rhus*, "Toyon," *Prunus* No. 102, and *Baccharis* No. 123).

On September the 10th I went across the bay to Sausalito, in company with Don Antonio O ——— and Captain C ———, who were proceeding to their farms on the north side of the bay. Early the following morning we were joined at the mission of San Rafael by General Vallejo.

After enjoying hospitable board of General Vallejo for three days, I left my companions and proceeded with F ———, an Englishman, to his farm at San Miguel, distant thirty miles, where he is established with two of his countrymen in raising grain and rearing horses and cattle. My new friend had formerly been in the navy, and had seen some service; he held the rank of a boatswain of an English 74-gun ship. Now, though he is above sixty years of age, he is as vigorous and healthy as a man of forty: being an expert horseman, he occupies his time chiefly in breaking in horses.

The face of the country about Sonoma and San Miguel is perfectly level towards the bay, and capable of great agricultural improvements. Several species of oak (*Quercus*, Nos. 139, 140, and 141) thrive well in the fine black vegetation mould, and are disposed into large irregular clumps, giving the country the appearance of an immense park; enlivened by numerous herds of elks and antelopes. (to be continued)

WE EXPRESS OUR THANKS

A report submitted to the Board of Directors at the March meeting listed contributions of labor and material to the restoration of the Doud House and the Mayo Hayes O'Donnell library. We print herewith that report for the information of the membership. These firms and individuals are indeed good friends of the association! Tynan Lumber Company — redwood siding; Central Supply Company — cement for foundation and some concrete block; Knapp Mill Company — materials for church windows; Big Sur Redwood Company — molding for church; Day Electrical Company — rewiring Doud House fixtures; Mr. and Mrs. Frank Mohler — carpet for church; H & H Lumber Company — concrete block; Ross Roofing Company — material & equipment at cost and labor; Charles Henderson — painting labor; Sherwin-Williams — paint for church; Carpenters Union — help on fence; Mr. Ed Wienneay — two weeks labor on fine interior cabinet work and built fence; Chet's Locksmith — rework all locks for Doud House and Library; Al Yeager Plumbing & Heating — antique toilet seats and many extras; Mr. M.E. Larkin — masonry work & pumped concrete into block foundation; Mr. C.M. Ferris — installed underground cable necessary to hook up utilities; Mr. Peter Aldrete (Monterey Park System) trimmed the trees; Mr. Art Lloyd — making copy of table at Pacific Building and finials for fence posts; Major Arnot — found young men at the DLI who would donate labor; and a special thanks to Mr. Harvey Kraftzeck who was instrumental in obtaining concrete for foundation, redwood siding; roofers, and who gave of his own time and equipment, and served as advisor and consultant on both Doud House and Library.

Monetary Donations have been received as follows (up to March):

DOUD HOUSE: Mrs. Myron A. Oliver, Monterey Insurance Agency, Miss Eloise Ewing, Mr. & Mrs. Robert O'McMahan, Mr. & Mrs. Monte Harrington, Mr. & Mrs. J.P. Woodard, Miss Zena M. Sella, Mr. & Mrs. Charles E. French, Mrs. William J. Lyttle, Jr. (Doud descendant).

MARITIME MUSEUM: Mr. Stuart Haldorn, Col. Charles B. Richmond, Mr. & Mrs. Charles E. French, Mr. Vincent R. Bliss, Mr. & Mrs. J. O. Tostevina, Miss Zena M. Sella, Professor & Mrs. G. R. Geit, Mr. & Mrs. J. P. Woodward, Mr. & Mrs. Irvin Francscioni, Mr. & Mrs. Robert O'McMahan, Monterey Insurance Agency, Mrs. Gail M. Szafran.

MAYO HAYES O'DONNELL LIBRARY: Saucito Land Company (Work Family) The Church Women of Saint James Parish, W. C. McGowan family (descendants of J. S. McGowan) Mrs. E. LaGrindeur, Mrs. Frances Hobgood, Mrs. Agnes B. Porter, Mrs. Permelia M. Roeber, The Children's Choir of Church of Wayfarer, Women's Society of Christian Service of Church of Wayfarer, Mr. & Mrs. Phillip C. Brown, Mr. & Mrs. Irvin Francscioni, Mrs. William Sebenius, Mrs. Myron Oliver.

COSAS DE INTERES PARA LOS SOCIOS

MARITIME MUSEUM: Admiral Earl E. Stone reports that renovation of the space at 550 Calle Principal is nearing completion. It is possible that the Allen Knight Museum will be opened in July in time to be enjoyed by the summer Bi-Centennial visitors. Our association secretary, Pat Dick, has already moved her office to Calle Principal. The carpets are down and it is hoped to start the exhibit arrangement soon. If you pass by 550 Calle Principal (just south of the House of the Four Winds) some morning you may peek in and see work in progress.

SLOAT LANDING CEREMONIES: Mark the date of July 4th for two programs commemorating the landing of forces under Commodore John D. Sloat in July of 1848. Col. K. M. Horne, Commandant of the D.L.I., Presidio of Monterey, will be the speaker at an 11:30 a.m. ceremony by the Sloat Monument on the Presidio grounds. Ambassador Fulton Freeman, President of the Monterey Institute of Foreign Studies will be the featured speaker in another ceremony at 2:30 p.m. on the lower level of the Monterey Plaza. At this time the United States flag will be raised over the Custom House, and saluted with salvos as was done in 1846. To add to the color and pagentry of the occasion chairman General Harry M. Lyon suggests that the military attend in full uniform, and the public wear appropriate costumes. There will be a reception for the military and invited guests of our association in Memory Garden from 3:30 to 5:30, following the Plaza ceremony.

LIBRARY: Chairman Martha Bentley is now requesting donations of library type furnishings; for example a locked case for exhibit of rare books, a large reading table, etc. Messages for her may be left at the association office — 372-2608.

DOUD HOUSE AND LIBRARY: The garden area of these new acquisitions is being developed with funds from the Carmel Martin Memorial.

MERIENDA TABLES: The association now owns seventy five tables made by the woodshop classes of Monterey High School.

FANTASTIC: Jan Gardner, Chairman of the 1970 adobe tour reports that over five hundred people worked for the tour, forty organizations donated or loaned items, etc. etc. As she reported "this outpouring of human energy and resources . . . and genuine commitment to historic preservation" resulted in a net profit to the Monterey History and Art Association of over \$10,000.00! It is this type of commitment that has helped the association save, restore, and preserve the historic structures from Monterey's past.

NEW MEMBERS: Mrs. Byron Josi, Mrs. Soodah Beh Hoffman, Mrs. Margaret F. Eliassen, Major Ellen Mastroianni, Dr. & Mrs. John Kistinger, Mr. & Mrs. Dana Gray, Mrs. Albert Perez, Mr. & Mrs. Phillip Coniglio, Mr. & Mrs. Allen Waldo, Mr. & Mrs. Tom R. Houston, Miss Lucille Thomas, Col. & Mrs. Karl Scherer, Mr. & Mrs. James A. Beck, Mr. & Mrs. Donald Downs, Mr. & Mrs. Richard A. O'Kane, Mr. Bill Fisher, Mr. & Mrs. William Sanderson, Mr. Peter Aldrete, Dr. & Mrs. Samuel J. Engholm, Jr., Prof. & Mrs. Robert E. Newton, Mr. & Mrs. Clifford Phelps, Mr. & Mrs. John T. Estes, Mr. & Mrs. Deen Rowe, Gen. & Mrs. Edwin H. J. Carns, Mr. & Mrs. John W. Keller, Mrs. Marion Tait Melsome, Mr. & Mrs. Donald Goodhue, Col. & Mrs. Robert Herman, Dr. & Mrs. John Gota, Dr. Jonathan Schoengrod, Mr. & Mrs. Golden Whitman, Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Green, Mr. & Mrs. T. Scott Moore, Mr. & Mrs. John J. Griffin, Mr. Reginald Faletti.

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