

NOTICIAS del PUERTO de MONTEREY

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The Monterey History and Art Association

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Allen Knight Maritime Museum



photo courtesy Roger W. Fremier

Monterey's new museum located at 550 Calle Principal houses a remarkable collection covering the ships that sail the seas and the ports they enter, with particular emphasis on the west coast early sailing ships.

PREVIEW

Members of the Monterey History and Art Association will have an opportunity to visit the Allen Knight Maritime Museum Sunday afternoon, October 4th, following the annual membership meeting.

Admiral Earl E. Stone is leading a group of dedicated volunteers who may be found almost every day working in the new museum quarters at 550 Calle Principal, Monterey. President Ted Durein appears almost daily to lend encouragement, and of course Mrs. Knight is often present to advise and approve. We particularly want to acknowledge the work of Mr. William Concolino, Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Dick and their daughter, Patricia. Patricia also is the association part time secretary. Col. Charles B. Richmond is arranging the ship models and Mr. Malcom Steel is choosing the first group of pictures, photographs and maps to be displayed. Professor G. R. Giet and Lieut. Rex Bowser have been very helpful. Mr. Joseph de Simone arranged the lighting and Mr. Max Plapp is restoring three of the fine ship models. We have also been fortunate in obtaining the services of a fine craftsman, carpenter Harold Quentel, who is now building a full size Captain's quarters in the back room.

The preparation of cases and bases for the exhibit items; the careful sorting, comparing and selection; the slow hand cleaning of brass and bronze; all these take hours of labor before any museum can be opened. Your association acknowledges with thanks the work of these members and friends.

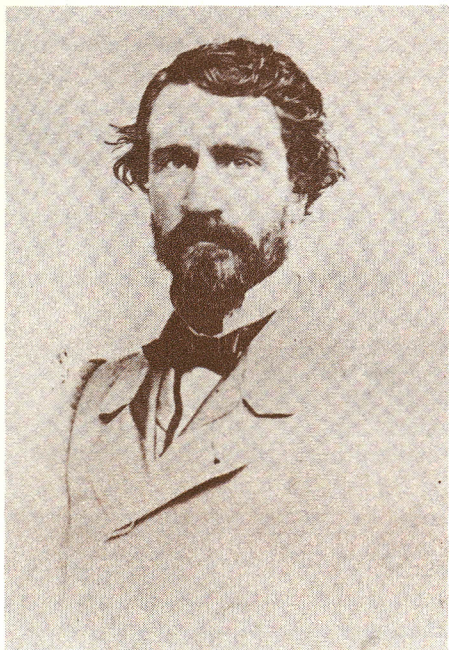
It is hoped to emphasize the history of the Monterey fishing industry in this Maritime Museum. Gifts of photographs, records, etc. concerning the industry will be welcomed. Mr. Peter Ferrante has already donated several fine models of the fishing boats.

CORRECTION

The "Savannah" article in the June issue carries an error. It states that Texas was admitted to the Union on July 4, 1846. Texas was admitted on December 29, 1845. A star was added to the flag for each state admitted to the Union on the first July 4th following admittance. Thus the 28th star was placed on our flag (for Texas) as of July 4, 1846.

JOSEPH BOSTON . . . MERCHANT OF MONTEREY

The spring of 1849 marked the arrival in California of Brig. Gen. Bennett Riley to assume the office of civil governor of California. With him, on several transports, came companies of the first artillery and the second infantry; U.S. stores to supply these troops; and the needed sutlers and other civilian employees. On April 13th Riley reported by letter from Monterey to the Adjutant General in Washington "I



arrived here last evening after a passage of 56 days from Valparaiso — all well. . . . The 'Rome' arrived here six days before me."

The ship "Rome" built at Bath, Maine, burden slightly over 673 tons, had come from New York with companies D and H of the second infantry under the command of Major Heintzelam, and U.S. Commissary stores shipped by the U.S. government. She had made two stops on the way, at Rio de Janeiro and at Valparaiso. At Valparaiso a young assistant to the sutler purchased on his own account 45 sacks of Chilian Flour, and declared them at Monterey on arrival.

Joseph Boston, future merchant of Monterey and Santa Cruz, had been born in Philadelphia but spent most of his youth in New York where his father was

in the drug and chemist business. Upon the death of his father he traveled to England where his mother's family lived, studied French, obtained an above average education, and became a clerk in the drug firm of Isaac Lomen of New York. The contacts he made with various business firms helped him establish a good credit for large stocks of goods on long term when he bought out his employer and established his own store here.

As was usual for the period the trade in liquor was alway brisk, even while he still was the sutler's assistant. We found a letter of the March-April 1849 period as follows: (addressed to the Alcalde of Monterey) "Sir: I have sold all the liquors at wholesale. I will tomorrow or next day furnish you with a list of the purchases and the number of bbls sold in order that you may collect the excise duty from them as they will sell it off in small quantities. Respectfully Jos. Boston for Alex Libby, Sutler 2 Regt Infy U.S.A."

Boston established a general merchandising store in a small adobe building on the south west corner of Scott and Olivier — now known as the Casa del Oro, or Boston Store. Just when he started we do not know, but on April 30th he signed a lease with

Jose Abrego for a period of five years, commencing October 12, 1850 at \$600 a year — the property is described as being "now occupied by said Boston as a Store." Thus he opened sometime between April 1849 and April 1850.

To help him in the business he gathered around him several other young men of ability. On Dec. 26, 1849 his cousin E. L. Williams arrived from New York. Williams had also been raised in New York and at the age of 10 had started to work in a store. From a clerkship he worked up to bookkeeper for Tracy-Irwin & Co. where he was employed when he received a letter from Monterey asking that he join Boston. Boston had sent by the hand of a major in the army a package of 30 ounces of gold dust from the mines of California. With this Williams paid certain accounts and purchased a passage for Monterey. Boston had also ordered some gold dust to be made into a ring with the motto of the Boston family engraved therein — "God will Provide." This ring he gave to his sister Anna.

The next month, January 1850, there came to Monterey a young Scot who was destined to become the great land owner of Monterey county — David Jacks. Miss Margaret Jacks, daughter of David, informed us that when her father came to Monterey his first job was working for a Mr. Boston in the store. He also boarded for a while in the Boston home. Jacks soon went into business for himself, one of his early ventures being that of raising potatoes in Carmel valley, with hired eastern farmers and Carmel Valley Indians for a labor force.

The third young man to be connected with Boston in the store was John Morrison. In the 1850 census of Monterey he is listed as a Clerk, born Scotland, aged 22, and living in the same household with E. L. Williams. We wonder if the two young clerks slept in the small room above the store, and perhaps boarded at the Pacific Hotel — now known as the Pacific Building.

Morrison was in San Francisco when he became very ill, made out his will, and died the following day September 12, 1854. Witnesses to the will were Joseph Boston and Aimée Donzell (Boston's brother-in-law). Morrison left "to my well beloved friend David Jacks . . . all my worldly goods . . . including my interest as general partner in the firm of Joseph Boston & Co. doing business in Monterey City." Jacks received in all a total of \$3,500.00 from the administrator, Captain Briscoe G. Baldwin. As he had promised the dying Morrison he used this to support Morrison's mother in Scotland. Miss Margaret Jacks told us that the elder Mrs. Morrison lived for a long time; the funds finally were exhausted; but David Jacks continued to send the old lady \$30 a month until her death.

In 1852 Boston opened a branch store in Santa Cruz and E. L. Williams was stationed there for several years. It was built in the summer of 1852 at a cost of \$900. The lot had cost \$600. Heavy credit business to the "potato diggers" at Pajaro and the bursting of the potato boom brought about the closing of this Boston and Williams store. Williams returned to Monterey and was deputy clerk and county clerk for five years, later studied law with Judge Peckham, was admitted to the bar, and in 1862 went back to Santa Cruz where he held many public offices and became a prominent citizen in the abstract and real estate fields.

Another young man associated with Boston was Edmund Jones, a friend from his childhood and a suitor for the hand of one of Boston's sisters. When the mother of Boston, his sister, his aunt, Mrs. Williams, and others arrived in San Francisco Edmund Jones met the ship to welcome his fiancée only to learn that she had died on the last few days of the journey and her coffin was carried down the gangplank before his horrified eyes.

We have no local record as to whether Edmund Jones was connected with the store in Monterey, but he may have been at the same time as John Morrison. He definitely was a partner in the Boston & Williams store in Santa Cruz, and also in the tannery business with Boston in Santa Cruz.

The store in Monterey, started in late 1849, prospered with the clerks Williams and Morrison. Boston became interested in the development of Monterey. At the first meeting of the Ayuntamiento in January 1850 he is listed as a member of the city council under Mayor Phillip A. Roach, and was secretary protem of that meeting. In July a communication was read from Boston resigning his position as "President and Alderman of the Common Council." A resolution was passed expressing appreciation of his services etc. "A farewell communication was then given by President Boston he being about to proceed to the U. States."

Boston went back to New York and, according to one biography, brought back a stock of goods valued at \$60,000. This seems rather large for the period, but he did use part of it to open the Santa Cruz store, and we found in the assessment rolls of Monterey County that the assessed value of his "stock in trade" jumped from \$1,500 to \$10,000 from 1850 to 1852.

About this same time his mother, his aunt, and at least one sister came to Monterey. The family had a home on present-day van Buren street, and they were prominent in the establishment of the first Episcopal services in Monterey.

Alice Anna Boston was married here January 12, 1853 to Aimée Donzell. She was confirmed by Bishop Kip on July 30, 1854 at Colton Hall, and the same day her first child, David Aimee Donzell, was baptised by the bishop.

An aunt of Boston, Anna Maria Wells, unmarried, joined the family in May of 1854, arriving in Monterey on the Pacific steamer. She devoted herself to church work and her family, teaching the Sunday school supported by English speaking residents, and raising a flower garden. She wrote several letters to the Protestant Churchman paper in New York reporting on conditions in Monterey. We previously have published three of these letters.

By 1858 we believe the family was moved to Santa Cruz, as a sister of E. L. Williams was married that year in Santa Cruz. The three sisters, Mrs. Joseph Boston Sr., Mrs. Williams Sr., and Anna M. Wells lived out the rest of their lives in Santa Cruz. They were active in the church as the Bostons gave the land for the Episcopal church there; they sent east for special seeds; planted various trees around their homes; they were interested in literature and art; and they maintained a bit of gentility in a pioneer period.

In the meantime Boston announced in the Monterey Sentinel in July 1855 the dissolution of co-partnership with John Morrison by settlement with the Executor of that estate. In the same issues — in both English and Spanish — is the announcement of the formation of a co-partnership between Boston and Thomas W. Day. Day's wife was a member of prominent early families of Monterey. Her father had been Rafael Gomez, the first attorney general of the Mexican government. Her mother was one of the prominent Estrada family, and her stepfather was Captain Charles Wolter, owner of his own ships, and landholder of Toro rancho.

During the years Day managed the store he wrote many letters to Joseph Boston who had established a commission office in San Francisco from whence he purchased for several stores, the tannery business, and acted as commission agent. From Monterey the Boston firm shipped to San Francisco cheese and farm produce from Carmel Valley, wool and cowhides from outlying ranchos, whale oil from the first whaling company, and abalone shells from the first Chinese colony.

One letter of October 15, 1856 ties the store in with the stories of it being a "Casa del Oro." Day wrote "The lock of our safe is out of order and we cannot lock it — we think it is worn out inside, and as we have a considerable amount of funds on hand a safe is indispensable. If you can borrow a small Hennings safe until we can send you the door of ours up, please do so per first opportunity — the safe is perfectly useless as it is, and we had to put the county money in a Mexican bank." Day was then an assistant County treasurer and collecting the local taxes.

The safe mentioned in that letter of 1856 is now again in the little adobe due to the generosity of Miss Margaret Jacks and the good care of Jack Hilbert. It was in the building (according to Miss Jacks) when David Jacks bought the property. He took it to his home, later sold it to a Mr. Zimmerman. Jack Hilbert bought it when he acquired the Zimmerman shoe store, kept it when he in turn retired from business, and allowed Miss Jacks to obtain it and return it as a gift to the adobe.

Miss Jacks told us she was informed the adobe was called "Casa del Oro," "Mint" or "Bank" from the fact that the miners deposited their dust there for safe keeping. The fine dust was kept in Condor quills.

By the late 1850s business had moved with the population from Monterey and sometime between 1858 and 1862 the store closed. David Jacks purchased the property from Jose Abrego in 1862, and that deed describes it as "formerly occupied by Joseph Boston & Co."

With the closing of the Monterey store Boston concentrated his interest in Santa Cruz. He married in 1862 to Eliza Bull who had come to California the previous year and joined her brother Thomas who had lime kilns in the Santa Cruz region. They had several children born. The only son was killed in a tragic accident when one of the large tannery teams ran over him. Boston was so grief stricken his wife feared for his life, and she suggested a sea voyage. The family travelled to England, Ireland, France, etc. and he seemed to recover his good spirits.

They returned to Santa Cruz in 1874 to find that his business had failed. Unable to face the thought of poverty he committed suicide, leaving his wife with several small

children and another child due to be born in a few months. Mrs. Boston salvaged some of the property, taught piano to the best families of Santa Cruz, raised her family, and was active on the local school board. Three of her children lived to adulthood, Mrs. C. H. Lymbery, Beatrice, and Agnes — who was the posthumous child.

COSAS DE INTERES PARA LOS SOCIOS

The Board voted at the June meeting to assist with the publication of "William Robert Garner's Letters from California 1846-47." This book edited by our late member Donald Craig is being published by the U.C. press (a non-profit company) and funds were needed to finance the illustrations and proof reading.

Mrs. Tod Singleton Jr. was welcomed as a new member of the Board of Directors at the July meeting. She replaces the term of Mr. Steven Sassoon.

A fire detection system is being installed in both the O'Donnell Library and the Doud House with a direct telephone line to the Fire Department board in Monterey.

The recent issue of the California Historian reports "To all the good people, hotel hosts, and everyone who helped in various ways to make this 1970 Annual Meeting (held in Monterey) one of the very best, we say 'Thank You' even to the weather man for perfect weather and to the local newspapers for their very fine coverage of the meeting." We also say it was a wonderful conference, and thanks to our own M. Boyd Mewborn who was chairman of all local arrangements.

GIFTS RECEIVED FOR Mayo Hayes O'Donnell Library: **Monetary:** Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Holman, Mrs. Winifred Beaumont, Mrs. Gladys Fox, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Stanton, Mr. Emmett McMenamin, Mrs. Robert Weems, Mrs. Charles Balzarini, Mr. and Mrs. Edward McCauley, Mrs. Alfred Elkinton, and Mrs. Frank La Cauza in memory of Mr. La Cauza, Mrs. Marie Gragg, and Mrs. David Muir. **Books and Furnishings:** Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Pickles, Mrs. Elmer Stoll, Mr. Thomsen Hudson, Miss Cherie Childs, Gen. and Mrs. Horace Lyon, and from Col. and Mrs. Wm. Chapman a fine Shirvan rug from Persia. **Labor and materials:** Forest Carpets, Roth Rug Cleaners.

NEW MEMBERS: Mr. and Mrs. Emilio Odello, Miss Mary Lyttle, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Bucquet, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Fisher, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Francis, Dr. and Mrs. John Rhoads, Mr. and Mrs. Percy H. Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Blackwelder, Mr. and Mrs. William Lyttle Jr., Mrs. Donald E. Knock, Mr. and Mrs. Max Panzer, Miss Kathleen A. Shield, Mrs. John Boit Morse, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Bunker, Mrs. Gordon Campbell, Mrs. Ella Jensen, Mr. and Mrs. John Robinson, Mrs. Gerald Fitzgerald, Mr. and Mrs. Bryon Beach, Carrie Beach, Bryndie Beach, Bryon Beach Jr., Mr. and Mrs. James B. Thompson, Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Sarbin, Mrs. Gladys M. Olivis, Mr. and Mrs. Francis J. Carr, Mr. John Roland, Mr. and Mrs. Daniel I. Anzini, Mr. and Mrs. James Markins, Mr. and Mrs. D. A. Green, Mr. E. R. Wyllie, Mr. and Mrs. Donald Boston, Mayor and Mrs. Louis N. Haddad, Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Williams, Mr. Harry Manning, Miss Eileen Brereton, Miss Rosemary Brereton, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Foltz, Mr. and Mrs. Walter McCloud, Mr. and Mrs. Edwin McCauley, Miss Pat Gregor, rs. Ruby Price Staton, Mary Dean Kier, Captain and Mrs. Robert N. Miller, Mr. and Mrs. William R. Coats, Mr. and Mrs. William G. Mackenzie, Mr. and Mrs. Winston Elstob, Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Sweet, Mr. and Mrs. David Fiscus, Mr. and Mrs. Lowell Sawyer, Mr. and Mrs. Byron Blout, Mrs. Nora Kering, Dr. and Mrs. Edward Wedlake, Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Radford, Dr. and Mrs. Ben N. Ahl, RADM and Mrs. Edwin T. Layton, General and Mrs. Robert Fergusson.

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