

# NOTICIAS del PUERTO de MONTEREY

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Mission San Carlos in decay and ruin. From the period of secularization in 1834 until 1884 the buildings suffered from vandals and the elements. Cattle strayed within the roofless sanctuary. The Indian population had already dwindled to 381 by 1823, and with the end of the mission life they were scattered. Some obtained land only to lose it; others became servants in homes on ranches and in towns; many drifted aimlessly, unable to cope with the changes in social structure.

## CARMEL VALLEY LAND TO MISSION INDIANS

The original regulations of Spain for the establishment of the missions in Mexico and California envisioned the time when the Indians could be trained to be self supporting, and the agricultural lands and stock of each mission would be distributed to the Indians of that mission. No steps were taken to implement this change during the Spanish period, but with the Mexican flag the first step was taken when Governor Echeanadia published on January 6, 1831 a proclamation whereby secularization was to start. Two years later a sweeping decree was passed in Mexico. The lands were to be distributed



and the stock. The mission buildings would become the center of a new pueblo and the church would have parish priests.

Unfortunately there were many factors that prevented an orderly process of change. Robert Glass Cleland in *The Cattle on a Thousand Hills* has written: "Ostensibly, the Secularization Act was designed to benefit the Indians and make them a self-sustaining people. Actually, it led to the rapid disintegration of the mission-controlled communities, scattered the partly civilized neophytes like sheep without a shepherd, ushered in a half century's tragic aftermath of wretchedness and poverty, brought about the virtual extinction of the mission system in the province, and by throwing open millions of acres to private denouncement, revolutionized the departmental land system and made the rancho the dominant economic and social institution of California."

When the decree of 1833 was first received in California the then Governor Jose Figueroa attempted to make the secularization process as orderly as possible. The first major piece of printing undertaken by California's first printer, Agustin Zamorano, was a Reglamento prepared by Figueroa. The missions were to be converted into pueblos; the friars to be relieved of temporal duties; each head of a family to be given a lot one hundred to four hundred varas square; ejidos (common public lands) to be set aside for the pueblos; half of the livestock, chattels, seeds, etc., to be distributed pro rata; government to be in the hands of ayuntamientos (municipal government); mission libraries and church goods to remain in charge of priests. It was the intent that the half of livestock and chattels not distributed would be administered by men appointed to help the new community and use the income for schools and other welfare requirements.

This sweeping change was doomed from its start. The Governor was surprised to find that many Indians did not want to leave the only home that many of them had ever known. They were not sufficiently trained to take over the management of their own land and to compete with the large rancheros. We have often wondered if any part of the original plan had actually been implemented locally whereby the Indians of Mission San Carlos received land or stock from the Mission holdings after 1834. Recently we have found several deeds regarding land in the Carmel Valley area which had been distributed to at least a few Indian families.

Maria Guadalupe, a native Indian of the San Carlos Mission, on May 15, 1839 presented to the Prefect of the First District a request for confirmation of land. She stated that she was the owner of twenty one milk cows of dairy stock, including three and a half yoke of oxen, and had a family of two sons, two daughters and two grand daughters. Her husband had deserted her three years before. She had been maintaining herself under the protection of her son-in-law Jose Tiburcio, who assisted her in taking care of her limited property and cultivated the land. There had already been stolen from her seven head of cows and an ox. She applied for a tract of land about half a league in order "that I may be able to have my property secure and in this way to meet the necessities of myfamily."

Marie Guadalupe, signed the petition by making a cross. The Prefect Jose Castros duly read and approved. A marginal notation was made on the petition—"Place petitioner in possession of the land she solicits". The charges of about \$3.00 were paid. And finally on May 17th Marcelino Escobar, Justice of the Peace of the *Pueblo of San Carlos* wrote.."I....do by these presents confirm the farming land unto the native Maria Guadalupe, which is situate on the edge of the River-on the South, near the point of the hill of las Virgenes, in compliance with the order..from the Prefect of the First District..and I place her in possession of the land...from the farming lands commencing at a canon that comes out to the place called 'El Rodeo de las Animas' from North to South; thence Westwardly to the boundaries of Frutorso which are of the lands named El Potrero, that land having in circumference about half a league; and having informed the interested party to place its land marks in the presence of the adjoining owners, and of the assistants, I sign this in the *town of San Carlos* on the 17th day of May 1839". Note the use of the term *Pueblo* and *town of San Carlos*. This indicates that at least in 1839 there was some compliance with the decree to create a town around the Mission (on paper only—we are sure).

There were other grants made to Indians, but many Indians drifted off the land after they lost their stock by theft or slaughter; and others sold.

With the influx of Americans in the 1840s there were those who saw the fine bottom lands of Carmel Valley and offered to purchase. In the spring of 1848 a Bernard McKenzie and his friend James Doyle obtained two tracts of lands from former Mission Indians. Sebastian and Manuela, his wife, sold a tract on the "Southwest side of River Carmelo, said land given us by Gil Sanchez, the Steward of ex-Mission San Carlos, by order of the Admimistrator, in 1838". Isable, the Indian wife of Cupertino, sold at the same time to McKenzie and Doyle, her tract of land which adjoined that of Sebastian and Manuela.

The sum offered and accepted for each tract was \$50.00. That amount was probably more money that either Indian family had ever seen at one time. It was a fair price for the period, but the discovery of gold at Coloma that same spring was to change all values. We fear that the \$50.00 each received probably was spent within a few months.

Other deeds of the decade mention the Town of San Carlos; the flat that lies between the road, the river and the old orchard of the former Mission, etc. The Indian Jose de la Huerta sold to the Mexican citizen Lazaro Soto as early as 1844 "because he has no means to cultivate it" a tract 100 varas square.

Thus we have indications that there was an attempt to distribute the lands and stock of the former Mission to the local Indians, but it was a plan doomed to failure.



## THE SATISFACTIONS OF SLEUTHING

By Hazel Berrien

Do you love to ferret out the absolutely vital clue in a Roger-Ackroyd type of detective story? Do you rise happily to the challenge of a brain-racking Sunday *Times* cross-word? Then perhaps it will intrigue you to join me in the search for just one small missing piece in a gigantic, historical jig-saw puzzle I've been working on for over two years.

The central figure of our puzzle is a man born on a wind swept island 9 miles off the shores of France when it was seething with Revolution and ready to boil over into the Reign of Terror; he died over 80 years later, peacefully, in his home some 6000 miles away. A vigorous citizen successively of England, America, Mexico, United States, he was international trader, sea-captain, dealer in sea-otter furs, Monterey hides, Sonoma lumber, and assorted Oriental treasures. In short, our own Captain John Rogers Cooper, one of the very earliest of permanent Anglo settlers in Monterey and more familiarly known up and down our North and South American coasts as Don Juan Bautista Cooper. Along with two or three other early Pacific personalities, Captain C. has been astonishingly neglected by contemporary writers and scholars who are much inclined merely to rehash their capsule careers as given in Bancroft's *Pioneer Register*.

My attempt to track down the many elusive pieces of the captain's private life and public pursuits started with ransacking every library in Monterey County. Further afield to San Francisco, the California Historical Society, the Society of California Pioneers. Off to Berkeley and the Bancroft Library and the huge University of California Library. Sharpwitted experts everywhere help me gather up hundreds of pieces, sort them out, fit them together. Various members of *Los Californianos* generously fill in some important gaps. And so do Monterenos of our History and Art Association and Department of Parks. Slowly...slowly...slowly--but hearteningly surely--invaluable bits are retrieved. Among hundreds of pieces still not found, though, is one curious little item: over and over again the records give the year of Cooper's birth as 1792 on Alderney of the Channel Islands. Yet nowhere but nowhere have I found the day or month. Nor even, come to think of it, any real proof that Alderney was the place. There are also additional tantalizing questions unanswered about those earliest years.

So another exploring finger must reach out and try to pin down original Alderney sources. Who can we write to there? German occupation in World War II has swept away not only the famous cream-rich Alderney cows (remember A.A. Milne and "The King's Breakfast"?) but much of the old population, buildings, and records. Our local library search for anything resembling an antiquarian or historical society in the Channel Islands is a blank. Comes a brainstorm: one of the *National Geographic's* unbeatable articles on "Britain's 'French' Channel Islands" could give us a lead. A wealth of fascinating facts--did you know, for instance, that Channel Islanders are blessed with a delicacy called the "ormer" and that said ormer is a univalve related

to the California abalone? But alas, out of sundry people and groups mentioned in the article, none seems a very logical source for the particular information we want. So we're left with little to do but take a bold step and Approach A Personage!

Following ancient custom, the Channel Islands are governed by bailiffs, and Alderney along with Sark, Herm, and Jethou are administratively--says the *Geographic*--part of the Bailiwick of Guernsey. Bailiff of Guernsey is Sir William Arnold, at St. Peter Port, the island capital. Writing to the Bailiff, one gathers, is equivalent to addressing a Governor General. However, if you're taught at your father's knee that it's far better to start at the top and maybe end up a few rungs down the ladder in preference to starting at the bottom and possibly being stuck right there--well, obviously you go right ahead and make your enquiries of the Bailiff himself in this case.

Three exhausting days of toil over that letter! We have to remember that the British are in general more formal in their correspondence than the casual Americans. And we must give credentials to show our scholarly intent, making it clear this isn't merely an idle, frivolous enquiry. Sufficient background information must be included to help in any Alderney search; such things as the names of Cooper's father and mother, for example. These are obviously important items in any birthrecord tracing, but more especially so here, for until about twenty years ago, French was the primary language on these Islands, which were part of William of Normandy's feoff before ever he conquered England. Names can undergo strange and wonderful sea-changes as they go back and forth from one language to another. Another principle keeps us drafting and redrafting and that is brevity, which is not just the soul of wit but also the essence of courtesy. If you're begging a tremendous favor, least you can do is not be any more long-winded than you can help. As I recall, it was A. Lincoln who wrote, "Forgive the length of this letter. I have not time to make it shorter."

Finally we air-mail a letter that's complete, concise, courteous. Now who knows how long it may be before a reply? We try not to hold our breath with suspense, meanwhile occupying ourselves with our daughters, our cats, our two jobs, and other angles of research. But, *mirabile dictu*, an airletter comes practically by return mail from *The Bailiff's Chambers, Royal Court House, Guernsey*: "I am directed by the Bailiff to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 9th March about the Rogers and Cooper families and to say that he has sent it to the Clerk of the States of Alderney for attention." We bless Sir William and his Secretary and send off an immediate note of thanks.

We settle down to wait, this time not quite so patiently; the first reply has been so prompt we simply can't help counting the days now. And count them we certainly have to, for they come and go and there's not a word. The weeks come and go and tension increases. Has my forwarded letter accidentally slipped into some forgotten file? Have the kind officials of Alderney been unable to find any answers for me--and perhaps neglected to tell me so? Just how many months should we wait before it's permissible to



send a diplomatic reminder? At long last the answer comes, the great delay explained by the fact it was sent via slow surface mail because of bulky enclosures. Well worth all the waiting indeed it is. From the official church records of marriages and baptisms, Alderney Parish, translated from the original French:

Anne daughter of William Rogers and of  
Martha Rogers his wife English by  
nationality was baptised 11 August 1771--  
Godfather Jacques Bot, Godmothers Elizabeth  
Shade wife of (illegible in original)  
and Marie Maion of the island of Guernsey.

Thomas Cooper and Anne Rogers married 26  
December 1790 by license. Thomas Cooper  
son of Thomas Cooper of Christchurch,  
England.

John Rodgers Cooper baptised 11 September  
1791.

DO YOU SEE WHAT I SEE? There's the month and day we wanted--but look at the year! 1791! Not the long-accepted 1792. We have in our hot little hands what's known as a truly original piece of documentary research. Very intriguing, even if unlikely to change the destinies of nations. What became of that errant year? Well, we can figure out where Mr. Bancroft for one probably got the 1792 date. Among the Vallejo papers is Captain C's American "protection paper," issued in Boston in 1816 and stating he's "about 24." That would be absolutely accurate for it was issued in January and we now know Cooper's 25th birthday would not come along till September. But what of the date of 1793 that Cooper himself apparently gave as one of the founding fathers of the Society of California Pioneers? A slight clerical error? Or might we guess the Captain was human enough, even as you and I, to have a touch a vanity about his still-youthful appearance and vigor as he entered his sixties? Most curious of all, perhaps, is the fact that the death notice inserted in the newspapers in February of 1872 by Cooper's own family gives his age as 79. Which takes us back to the old 1792 date once more.

The simplest solution, of course, may merely be the most obvious. Before the world became inundated with bureaucratic forms of meticulous requirements, most people really didn't have to bother themselves unduly over such details. Modern historical researchers on the other hand, have to document every possible moment. Therefore our most grateful thanks once more to the Bailiff of Guernsey and Arthur T. Mahy, to Mr. P.W. Radice and Reverend P.H. Shaw of Alderney. An important piece is now beautifully fitted into our puzzle.--Hazel Berrien

Ed. Note: Hazel Berrien, author of the above article, is known by us as Hazel Dittmer of Monterey. She formerly was with Hearst magazines, on the staff of Vogue, and has had published numbers of articles. Presently she is the mother of three daughters, works part time as park aid in our State Monuments, interviews for market research organizations, and is assembling all possible information about Captain John R.R.Cooper.

## FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUM

The Board of Directors of the Monterey History and Art Association in July 1971 authorized the formation of FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUM — composed of men and women interested in helping to support the Maritime Museum financially. The first campaign was conducted in the Fall of 1971 and was successful in raising practically one-half of the money needed for current Museum operations. The remainder of required money is provided by the Association. It is desirable to operate the Museum on as financially an independent basis as possible in order to free the limited Association funds for other worthwhile purposes. There are currently about seventy-five active Museum Volunteers. Their contribution of necessary work and watchstanding reduces Museum operating costs to the minimum. Museum costs include a very nominal rental to the City of Monterey for about 5000 square feet of floor space, which permits three large display rooms, plus necessary work, storage and office space. Other costs are for heat, light, telephone, janitorial services, refuse collection, office supplies, and essential repair services.

Currently, all who contribute money *or services* are listed as FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUM. Several individuals have contributed both money and their services as Volunteer Workers or Watchstanders. There are more than 350 persons posted in the Museum list as FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUM-1972.

It is desired to continue the present Museum operating arrangements. Accordingly, a second fund-raising campaign is now getting underway to raise as large a part of Museum costs for 1973 as possible. All individuals or couples who contribute \$5.00 or more will be given a FRIENDS membership (receipt) card-dated and signed by the Museum Director, and will be listed as FRIENDS, as will all who contribute their services, on a tablet displayed in the Museum - with out any indication of amount or nature of contribution.

Anyone wishing to volunteer for Watchstanding or to do other work for the Museum, please call the Museum office, 375-2553, and leave your name and telephone number. Contributions by check should be made payable to the "Monterey History and Art Association (for Museum)", P.O. Box 805, Monterey, California 93940. Your generous response is needed to insure the continuing operation and improvement of the Maritime Museum.

EARL E. STONE,  
R.Adm., U.S.N.-Retietired,  
Museum Director.

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**MAIL TO: Monterey History and Art Association (for museum)**

P.O. Box 805

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## COSAS DE INTERES PARA LOS SOCIOS

**GIFTS:** Mrs. Clara Lea of Bozeman, Montana, made a trip to Monterey in June to present a magnificent mantilla from her family. It has been preserved through the years in beautiful condition—a full length pure white rose point lace mantilla. Several generations of brides in the family have worn it. The first bride was the grandmother of the donor. Bertha Lea came from Virginia to California to marry Charles Low in the 1860s. Charles was a nephew of the Governor of California, and was in later years appointed the first attorney-general of the Philippines. Charles and his bride lived for a while in Monterey. Their granddaughter, Mrs Clara Lea, was a welcome member at our Merienda in June.

Mrs. Bert L. Richards of Carmel has donated fine pillow shams and a dresser scarf that was lovingly made in 1815.

**ROBERT LITTLEFIELD:** President Ted Durein wrote to Bob Littlefield some weeks ago as follows: "You had my personal thanks following the Adobe Tour, not only for what you had done personally for the Tour, but for the Association in general. But, at our last meeting, the Board officially voted that a letter be sent to you, thanking you for keeping our membership rolls and records. We all know that this is a large order and that you are out time and money in doing this for us. But we don't know how we would do without your service we are deeply grateful." This excerpt from the letter is reprinted here in order that the membership in general will know of the help of Bob Littlefield.

**NEW MEMBERS:** Mr. John R Dold, Major Dorothy Childers, Mr. & Mrs. B. J. Lattner, Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Brantley, Mr. & Mrs. George Nelson, Mr. & Mrs. Leslie Wieslander, Mr. & Mrs. Charles Spangenberg, Mrs. Karl Hisgen, Mr. Ken W. Hansen, Mr. & Mrs. Wm. C. Marsh, Mr. & Mrs. H. J. McLean, Mrs. Kathleen H. Andrus, Mrs. Earle W. Mills, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Arenz, Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Mercant, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Hamacher, General & Mrs. Paul Freeman Jr., Mr. & Mrs. Galyn C. Hammond, Maria Elena Klahn, Anne Foster, Mr. & Mrs. Don Jacobs, Miss Lurana S. Lord, Mr. & Mrs. Robert L. Grate, Mr. & Mrs. Ted Taylor, Mr. & Mrs. Arthur D. Hale, Mr. & Mrs. Stanley S. Hawley.