

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

December 8, 1949

In addition to the copies and orders from Thomas O. Larkin for furnishing for the Larkin House and clothing suitable for a United States consul, recently presented to the History and Art Association by Dr. Boyd E. Huff of the University of California, is a photostat negative of a letter written on June 14<sup>th</sup>, 1846, concerning shipment from Monterey of hides and troubles of that day.

Henry Mellus is the writer of the letter, which follows:

**San Francisco, June 14, 1846, William Appleton & Co.**

Gentlemen:

Herewith please receive a copy of my letter via Mexico.

The ship Bainstable arrived in Monterey May 7<sup>th</sup> where I had no difficulty in entering the cargo: the duties amounted to \$19,258, payment in four months 1/3 cash and 2/3 in hides. I had a government debt of 11,000 which was deducted and I had no difficulty in arranging for the pay't of the balance. I now owe \$5,000 in cash, \$2,000 of which is at 2% monthly interest. I can pay my whole cash debts in three months. And the amount due on the hides was settled before I left Monterey.

The cargo of the B. is very good and I only regret the return cargos are so small as not to warrant a large invoice from home. The small amount more invested there gives so much more variety here, that the demand is much increased for the whole cargo.

We have now on hand six thousand hides and the season is good throughout the coast. There will be no difficulty in loading the Tasso by the 1<sup>st</sup> of March if this country is not too much troubled by the revolutions. This country is at present in a truly lamentable state, there are three native parties all striving for dominion and the one American party just coming into the field. The latter are not inclined to suffer any more outrage on their persons and property. A law has just been issued indicating an intention of again expelling them from the country, and not being inclined to go as amicably as formerly eighty of them have banded themselves and proceeding to Sonoma have taken possession of the person of the two Vallejos and Victor Prudin, a Frenchman, and Lieut. Col. In the Mexican army, saying if they are sent from this country they will not go alone. This same gang of lawless fellows have also lately seized on a fine band of five hundred horses belonging to

Gov't. All this must bring trouble and at present no one can force the end.

I think that in two mos. All San Francisco will be taken by them. They are about 500 able men in number and many more are daily expected. I am also informed that there is a large vessel entering Monterey with a large cargo. Who she is or where from we not yet been informed.

There is good demand for almost all kinds of goods and I shall sell as little as possible and only to those who hold land or cattle. This system of credit must be continued or there will be no chance of collecting a cargo. All follow it and as long as we continue the trade we must do the same. I am still of the opinion that a good business can be done on the coast and if you think it advisable to send a vessel in place of the Admitter I will accept the consignment. Very many valuable mines are being daily discovered and they must call many people to the country. In the jurisdiction of this place more than seventy have been opened in the last three months consisting of quicksilver, gold, silver, copper, iron, lead, saltpeter and one entire mountain of brimstone, coal is also to be had probably in any quantity.

All is well on board in the B. and the duties are carried on in fair style. Expecting soon to have another opportunity, I remain Respectfully,

**Henry Mellus**

Mrs. Lloyd Osborne, sister-in-law of Mrs. Isabel Field and niece of Mrs. Robert Louis Stevenson, visited the Stevenson House on Tuesday with the cousins of Mrs. Field, Mrs. A. F. Vahrenkamp and Colonel Edward Orr, and Mr. Vahrenkamp, all of Alameda. Mrs. Osborne is the widow of Lloyd Osborne, son of Mrs. Stevenson. She makes her home near Gilroy.

Colonel Orr and Mr. and Mrs. Vahrenkamp were in Mexico traveling at the time of the Stevenson House dedication in November and their visit here this week was to see the collection of Stevensonia recently presented by Mrs. Field and her son, Austin Strong.

Miss Lotte Lehmann and Dr. Frances Holden of Santa Barbara have been the guests of Noel Sullivan at Hollow Hills Farm in the Carmel Valley. Miss Lehmann, with Dr. Holden, motored down from San Francisco Sunday evening after her matinee performance in San Francisco.

The hours for the Monday Afternoon Club tea at the home of Mrs. Guy Curtis have been extended from 3 until 5 o'clock to 3 until 6 o'clock next Monday afternoon because of the interest among business women who would be unable to enjoy the affair before 5 o'clock.

The Monday Afternoon Club has planned the event because of its interest in the history of Monterey, which it has been studying for the past year. With the proceeds from the Silver Tea, the members will add a bit of antique furniture to the old adobe which is being restored by the Monterey Foundation as an example of a home during the Mexican period in California.