

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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Mementoes of Gov. Alvarado

The interest which is being taken in Monterey and California history is really phenomenal. Today in the malls and by express has come another collection of early Monterey items on which one could not possibly place a value. In the collection are books and items from the library of Don Juan B. Alvarado, first governor of California, sent by his grandson John B. Alvarado, of 1900 Washington Street in San Francisco. They are presented to the Monterey History and Art Association, Ltd.

"I had originally intended," wrote Mr. Alvarado, "placing this material with the Society of California Pioneers, but finally decided that your organization in Monterey would be the proper one. Sort of old hometown gesture as it were.

"The books were formerly the property of my grandfather Gov. Juan B. Alvarado. Some of the material was found in a group of personal memoranda which went from Monterey to the Alvarado home at San Pablo and thence to a storage warehouse in San Francisco."

There is a large photographic copy of the family shield and a translation which appears here today. "This shield, water colored, on the other side, in the first quadrant, is shown a green first cross on a background of gold, and five greedy cakes, and in the second quadrant, four fleurs de lys, in a row at the top and three waves underneath, all of silver in a field of gold. Corresponds to Pedro Palacio Alvarado, the fifth grandfather of Francisco de La Poserion of the family of Palacios. The third quadrant checkered red and gold, corresponds to Catalina Gutierrez Gudiner, wife of the said Pedro Palacios. The fourth quadrant, which corresponds to the fourth grandfather, Don Garcia del Hoyo, is shown on a field of blue ribbon with dragons of gold, surrounded by eight black ermines in a field of silver.

"This shield above noted is a faithful and legitimate copy of the original, located in folio 375 of the book of Heraldry, and is a copy of what antecedes and follows and corresponds to this place here referred.

"Signed and sealed in Santa Cruz de Tenerife 8th, March 1785."

"Mr. Alvarado further states that "(1) Pedro Palacio Alvarado was the father of the great great grandmother of Francisco Palacio Miranda, (2) Katarina Gutierrez Gudiver was the great great grandmother of Francisco Palacio Miranda, (3) Garcia de Hoyo was the grandfather of the great great grandmother of Francisco Palacio Miranda—all of which written in Latin, accompanies the shield in another photograph of the original."

With these above gifts came several old billheads and receipts made out to Francisco P. de Miranda at Monterey in 1862; another to F. Palacio on July 17, 1861 and signed by C.G. Josselyn, Mr. Josselyn lived in Monterey and had a store on Pearl street, Josselyn Canyon was named for him.

In an envelope alone and showing the great care it has had through the years as a cherished possession, is the calling card of Dona Encarnacion Vallejo de Cooper. The small beautifully engraved card is bordered in black with a fine line of brown ink inside the wider border. In the right-hand corner is engraved Monterey, California, as though it had been written by hand.

There are seven books in the Alvarado collection all written in Spanish and bound in leather. A set of three volumes is the story of Rob Roy by Sir Walter Scott, printed in 1828; Dios es El Amor Mas Puro, a religious book printed in 1831; Obras Escogidas de Miguel de Cernates, printed in 1829; Memorias para server a La Historia del Jacobinismo, dated 1827; and the oldest book of all, dated 1821 and entitled Historia del Reinado del Emperador Carlos Quinto. Each of the books is marked "From the Library or the Home of Don Juan B. Alvarado, Governor of California." These gift books may be part of the Libraries about which Bancroft has written in his "California Pastoral"

(More Tomorrow)