

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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The Great Seal of Monterey

"Arms of the City of Monterey" is the title of an article which appeared in the Alta Californian on June 6, 1870, and aside from telling about the gay celebration which marked Monterey's 100th incorporation birthday, it relates how the City Seal was designed and adopted. The issue of the paper in which the article appears is in the files of the California State Library. At the conclusion of the article there is a simple signature "Sefton," so we have no further information concerning our historian, who might be pleased to know that Monterey did celebrate again in 1946 and in 1949 and on June 3, 1950 will honor the 200th birthday of the city about which he wrote.

To continue with his article: "The festivities of the day, as a matter of course, wound up with a grand baile at Colton Hall: the quadrille, the waltz, the contra danza and the jarabe. In the rich dialect of one of the worthy old residents of Monterey, the dance was kept up 'till th' wee sma' hours ayant the twal' and by some, even until the rosy-fingered morn had drawn aside the curtains of the East."

"If anyone will take pains to examine the arms of the 13 original states, he will see at a glance there is a meaning and a propriety in them, and the rules of heraldry observed, which the escutcheon of the strong minded heathen lady, with a coal-scuttle on her head and her tame bear does not possess, and which tasteful design was made by the leonine sage of the Sale of Lyons.

"The shield of Monterey is a field vert, as the environs of the town are always green, with a bar sinister in or showing an auriferous streak with a somewhat irregular birth, not being a portion of the ancient domain of the United States.

"The field is charged with an anchor and sheaf proper, showing how hopeful we were to be able to see in the future a large commerce and production: the supporters, a horse and bull rampant, were at that time very important items in the wealth of the country. The crest was a rising sun in, or expressing our hopes, at least, that we were a rising town, whatever the facts might have been. The motto 'Anda,' caused some objections on the part of scholars; they said it should have been 'Adelante' forward; that 'Anda' being the

imperative of the word 'Andar,' to go on, to move on, was homely expression, only used to drive cattle, and to urge aborigines to move along; but as there is a wide latitude in the choice of mottoes, from 'Excelsior' down to 'Strive and Thrive' notwithstanding their learned and undoubtedly correct remonstrance, 'Anda' was retained.

"The knowledge of the Spanish language on the part of the Common Council in those days was extremely small – limited, perhaps, to such expressions as – youstay vamos akee manyana, yo vamos tambeen, star weener.

"It might not be out of place here to mention that the said Common Council voted General Riley on the eve of his departure a massive gold medal with the city arms thereon engraved, somewhat rudely fashioned and engraved. These civic dignitaries did not, however get as far as their venerable compeers, the city fathers of the rival commercial emporium and City of San Francisco, and vote themselves each a gold medal.

"But in spite of the rampant bull and the furious steed of the supporters, and the imperative character of the motto, Monterey would not 'Andar.' The children have grown up to be men and matrons; the young men's hair is now sprinkled with gray; their steps are not as springy and elastic as they were in those days, but the wind still sighs through the pines; the surf rattles and thunders on the beach, and to all appearances the old town of Monterey is still the same."

The late Lieutenant Derby referred to in the article came to Monterey in the fall of 1847 with Co. F., 3rd Regiment. He took part in the first production at the First Theatre and later became a writer of note using his own name and those of John Phoenix, Esq.,

General Sully was Lieut. Alfred Sully in 1850. He married Manuela Jimeno, whose mother was the daughter of Don Jose de la Guerra of Santa Barbara. When their son was born, both mother and child passed away and they were buried in the Monterey Catholic Cemetery. The lettering on the granite slab over her grave, translated from Spanish reads: To Dona Manuela Jimeno, dedicated by her husband, Don Alfred Sully, a lieutenant in the Army of the United States. This stone is a last tribute and a perpetual remembrance of his love and affection. Died the 28th day of March, 1851, aged 17 years and five months. And her son, Thomas Manuel Sully, who died the 15th day of April, 1851, at the age of 1 month.