

July 20, 1950

Dona Dolores Osio

It has been 22 years since Dons Dolores Osio passed away in Monterey. She had a few days before passed her 102nd birthday in the home where she had lived for many years, the upper floor of the building to the north of the old adobe which is now Hermann's Inn. On her birthday she had received the felicitations of her friends with old-time Spanish graciousness. She remembered the stirring days when Alta California became the territory of the United States and when the first Constitutional Convention was held.

She actually witnessed the signing of the Constitution for it was in her brother-in-law's home that the California Constitution was signed by members of the convention which drafted it. The home was that of Don Jacinto Rodriguez, the adobe which is now known as the Osio house on Alvarado street. Members of the convention went to the Rodriguez home to enjoy the hospitality of Don Jacinto and the affair became so gay that the members of the convention, it is said, were unable to return to Colton Hall to sign the document. It was finally brought to the Rodriguez home and signed there. Dona Dolores Osio assisted her sister, Dona Rodriguez, in entertaining the group and it was thus that she witnessed the signing. She had lived under three flags in Monterey, the Spanish, the Mexican and the United States.

Dona Dolores was born in Santa Cruz on January 20, 1826. Her maiden name was Dolores Pinto. When she was 7 years old she came to Monterey and lived with her family in an adobe home at the corner of Pacific and Jefferson Streets, where the office of Dr. Winton Swengel now stands. She married Charles Osio, an educated young Spanish don, and the couple made their home in a very fine old adobe structure where the State Theater now stands. The Bonifacio adobe was next door. There the couple raised three sons – the late Albert; Antonio, who died in 1931, and Manuel, who was killed in a train accident.

For many years Mrs. Osio treasured the table upon which the constitution was signed. It later came into the possession of the Misses L., M. and V. Jacks, and they presented it several years ago to the City of Monterey. For a time it found a place in the council chambers. When the city museum board was appointed and

Colton Hall was restored, the table was moved to the upper floor of Colton Hall, where it rightfully belongs, and is now an object of interest to all who visit the historic building where the California Constitution was framed in 1849.

The building now known as the Osio adobe was erected by Don Jacinto Rodriguez, one of the delegates to the convention and one of the signers of the Constitution. It was a two-story adobe, built originally with a balcony overhanging the sidewalk, with much the same appearance "My Attic" formerly had. Later the property was acquired by Rodriguez's brother-in-law, Don Antonio Maria Osio, a collector of the port under Governor Alvarado, who had married a sister-in-law of Rodriguez. The structure now bears little resemblance to the former home – a new front having been added, the character of which is completely foreign to the old Monterey-Colonial architecture which has made this part of the world nationally famous in the past.

Rodriguez was born in the Pajaro Valley in 1815 and moved to Monterey shortly after the death of his father, Don Sebastian Rodriguez. He soon became prominent in the affairs of the city. He became a lieutenant under Alvarado, and in 1839 was elected as alferes. In 1849 he was appointed alcalde. Don Jacinto Rodriguez dies in 1880.

Don Antonio Maria Osio, was a native of lower California, and said to be of a family that was somewhat famous in very early times in connection with the Gulf pearl fisheries. He was in charge of the Monterey Custom House, 1828-1830. Under Alvarado he was put in charge of revenues at Monterey, 1836-42.

Dona Dolores Osio was an aunt of Miss Ignacia Maria Bonifacio, for whom Bonifacio Place was named and whose home, the Sherman House adobe, stood where the First National Bank now stands. Miss Ignacia Maria Sanchez, the daughter of the first recorded owner of the Sanchez, or "My Attic" adobe, was also a niece of Mrs. Osio. Miss Sanchez, after her father's death became the owner of the adobe.