

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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### **Historical Association Roster**

"Notes from the California Historical Society" published an interesting and informative article in the January issue concerning the founding and history of that very important group of historically minded men and women. The headquarters of the society are at 456 McAllister street in San Francisco and have for their neighbors the Society of California Pioneers, who are also their landlords. Mrs. Edna Martin Parratt, a part-time resident of Carmel Highlands where she owns a home, is the managing director and editor of the "Notes."

There are so many residents of the Monterey Peninsula who take an active interest in the California Historical Society that we thought a list of those members who are mentioned in every California Historical Quarterly might be of interest. Aubrey Drury is the president. Both Mr. Drury and Mrs. Parratt are members of the Monterey History and Art Association. Miss Frances M. Molera is a member of the committee on rooms and arrangements. Miss Molera is the owner of the Cooper adobe at the south end of Alvarado Street.

Thomas W. Norris, President of the Monterey History and Art Association, is a member of the committee on library and gifts. Another member of that committee is Edward Porter Pfingst of Watsonville. Mr. Pfingst's mother, Mrs. Florence Porter Pfingst, was born on Christmas Day, 1863, in Monterey's Old Custom House. She was the daughter of the late John P. Porter, early day collector of the Port of Monterey. She was also the sister of the late Warren H. Porter, former lieutenant governor of California.

Mrs. Pfingst was a member of the first board of trustees of the Old Custom House, at the time when each community had such a committee appointed. This was prior to the appointment of the park commission to take charge of all such holdings, when they were owned by the federal government and leased to the state. Many gifts were given to the Custom House for exhibit by Mrs. Pfingst. Among these were framed portraits of her father and mother, the copy of her father's appointment signed by Abraham Lincoln, and part of a set of dishes formerly belonging to Marie Ignacia Bonifacio. All of these gifts may be seen at the Custom House museum.

Mrs. Pfingst's nephew, John E. Porter, also of Watsonville, is a sustaining member of the society.

Mrs. Henry Potter Russell, president of the Monterey Foundation and a part time resident of Carmel Valley, where she owns extensive acreage; and her brother, William Crocker of Pebble Beach and San Francisco, are in the patron list.

In the sustaining membership list, we find the names of Mrs. John Payson Adams and Allen Griffin, Bruce Church of Salinas and Mrs. Richard Y. Dakin. Mrs. Adams was Miss Muriel Vanderbilt before her marriage. She has been interested in real estate on the Peninsula having formerly owned the old Del Monte ranch in the Carmel Valley. She has been active in all phases of the American Red Cross work and has recently signified her intention to open disaster relief headquarters on Franklin Street in Monterey.

Allen Griffin is the publisher of the Monterey Peninsula Herald and is a director of the Monterey Foundation. Mrs. Dakin, although living in Southern California, is a frequent visitor to Monterey and is the author of "The Lives of W.E.P. Hartnell."

Others included in this list are Miss Molera, S.F.B. Morse, and Mrs. Harry S. Toulmin. Miss Molera is the granddaughter of Capt. John B. Cooper, trader and skipper, who arrived in Monterey in 1822, and built the adobe soon after at the corner of Munras and Polk streets. Mr. Morse is the president of the board of directors of the Del Monte Properties Company and is a director of the foundation and life member of the Monterey History and Art Association. Mrs. Toulmin is the owner of the Larkin House at the corner of Valle Principal and Jefferson streets. She is the granddaughter of Thomas Oliver Larkin, the builder of the house, who was a prominent merchant in the early days and the first and only American Consul to Monterey. She is also an active member of Monterey's historical groups.

Miss Margaret Jacks is named in the patron list. Miss Jacks is the daughter of the late David Jacks. She is the owner of the old Pacific building in Monterey and her adobe home near the Del Monte Fairways tract, which was Castro's headquarters in the early days. Miss Jacks has been most generous in her gifts of land to the City of Monterey – Don Davi Park and Iris Canyon being among these donations to the citizens of the community. Casa de Oro, the present headquarters of the district superintendent of the State Parks

Commission, was given by Miss Jacks to the State of California. She was also among the generous subscribers when the Old Custom House reservation was purchased by the state.

So the Monterey Peninsula plays a large part in the program of the California Historical Society in San Francisco.