

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

February 13, 1951

### **Foolish Agreement**

"WE, the undersigned, do hereby pledge ourselves and agree as follows: that in case either contracts marriage the first party so contracting do by those present bind himself to give to each and everyone of the remaining parties a suit of clothes to be in value of not less than the sum of fifty dollars lawful money of the United States.

The said suits to be given on or before sixty days after the marriage day of the party contracting such marriage upon the delivery of this agreement without alteration or erasure.

"Given in triplicate this Fourteenth day of August, Anno Domini, one thousand eight hundred and forty seven (1847), in the City of New York, at No. 430 Bowery.

"Witness our hands and seals. Edmund Jones, Edward L. Williams, Joseph Boston."

After each name a drop of red sealing wax with a neat triangular piece of white paper covering it, has the initial of Boston and Williams but Edmund Jones evidently had a seal ring for, although the figure cannot be identified, it is his mark.

On the back of the beautifully hand written agreement, Mr. Williams wrote in later years; "For Helen, a foolish agreement between three boys." Helen was his daughter, the late Mrs. Charles Pioda of Salinas.

Joseph Boston came to Monterey before the gold rush and was a store keeper in the building now known as the Casa de Ora, Olivier and Scott Streets. He married Eliza C. Bull in 1862 and their daughter, Mrs. Agnes Burge, lives in Santa Cruz where the family resided after leaving Monterey.

Edward Williams married Narcisa Watson on July 7th, 1856, and they had eleven children. In the fall of 1852, Williams his cousin, Joseph Boston and Edmund Jones, the three who made the pact about clothes, opened a branch of Boston's Monterey store in Santa Cruz. He was Monterey Clerk and deputy from 1854 until 1859.

Edmund Jones had joined his two friends in Monterey from his home in New York. He was engaged to marry Boston's sister Helen. After a few years she started on

her trip to the west coast and all was happiness and excitement as the schooner upon which she had taken passage came within sight of those on the pier at San Francisco—the most excited being the future bridegroom, Edmond Jones. When the ship's captain arrived on shore he had the sad duty to inform Jones that his sweetheart had pass away as they entered the Golden Gate. Her body now rests beneath a huge cypress tree in the Santa Cruz cemetery. After several years of mourning, Edmund Jones married a very find woman and a family but proof of the fact that he never forgot his first love, Helen Boston, was a dainty linen handkerchief, upon which her name was embroidered, found in his coat pocket when he passed away years later.

All this romance does not tell the reader or the writer of the tale, who collected the suit of clothes. William was the first of the cousins to marry but there is no record available as to the date of the marriage of Edmund Jones.