

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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Noisy Carrier's

Rockwell Dennis Hunt, writer, historian, lecturer and teacher, is to be honored by his alma mater, the College of the Pacific at Stockton. In December, the California History Foundation of the college has announced the formation of a state-wide committee to establish the Rockwell Dennis Hunt Chair of California History.

Dr. Hunt is Dean Emeritus of the Graduate School of U. S. S., and director of California History Foundation at the College of the Pacific. His hobby has always been the history of his native state. He is the author of "California the Golden," "California's State Hall of Fame," "California Vignettes" and a "Short History of California," in which he collaborated with Nellie Van de Grift Sanchez, and many others histories and pamphlets. Dr. Hunt was born in Sacramento in 1868. He graduated from Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore where he received his Ph.D in 1895, when his thesis was "The Genesis of California's First Constitution (1846-49)."

The plan to establish the chair named in Dr. Hunt's honor, was conceived by Dr. G.A. Werner of the College of the Pacific, and the committee headed jointly by N.M. Parsons and Dr. Neil D. Warren of the University of Southern California, under the honorary chairmanship of Joseph R. Knowland. It is hoped that the chair will guarantee permanent specialized research and study in California history at the college.

Dr. Hunt, in writing to the Society of the honor says, "The creation of the chair I deem one of the finest compliments of my entire career" an academic career which, beginning at the college (the first in California to be chartered) at the turn of the century, is fittingly capped at the same locale.

Dr. Hunt has been a frequent visitor to the Peninsula where he is always greeted by many school friends and former students. He has been the speaker at several meetings of the Monterey History and Art Association in past years.

A letter from Mrs. Mary Trimmer Baldwin of Santa Cruz, a former resident of Pacific Grove, relates more of the story of Mother Goose in Boston. She writes that in her books and files she has a great deal about Mother

Goose and that her (Mrs. Baldwin's) mother's people lived in Boston and at times she did also.

When the old burial grounds and other historical places were open to the public she had visited many of them. One of these was the old Gramacy Burying Ground **[Granary Burial Ground]** where the Boston Mother Goose was buried. Mrs. Baldwin followed with a drawing of the type of grave stone erected to Mrs. Goose.

In a Knights Templar edition, "How to See Boston," published in 1895, Mrs. Baldwin found this item. "The Gramacy Burial Ground **[Granary Burial Ground]** has more distinguished inmates than any other in Boston, including seven governors, three signers of the Declaration of Independence, Paul Revere, the victims of the Boston Massacre, etc. Benjamin Franklin's parents have the most conspicuous monument, erected in 1827 by citizens to replace the one put there by the philosopher himself."

Because we recently wrote of the life in Monterey of Lieutenant George H. Derby, an actor at our California's First Theater, an officer in the Army stationed at the Presidio of Monterey before 1850, and one of the state's first humorists, we have been interested to read in an article on early book trade in California from 1856 to 1859, three references to George H. Derby. One item from the offices of the Wide West announced "Books for the People," including John Payne Collier's edition of Shakespeare, Michaud's "History of the Crusades," and George Derby's "Phoenixiana" as well as a large number of novels.

Kimball's firm known as the Noisy Carrier's Publishing Hall, listed in the Wide West, paid for many inches of space in the New Era, and in the daily papers. In the Bulletin of April 2, 1856, they listed books just received: Irving's "The Life of Washington", "The Confidential Correspondence of Napoleon", George Derby's "The Squibob Papers."

Each year during the 1850s the Society of California Pioneers published its annual oration, commemorating the admission of the state of the union. Among the books by Californians published in New York were: George Derby's "Phoenixiana" (1856), containing his Thurberish sketches from California periodicals, and now justifiably a collector's item.