

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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### **A Copy of Our A\C Current**

Dr. George P. Hammond, the editor of "The Larkin Papers," the publication of which has just been announced by the University of California, has been director of the Bancroft library and professor of history at the University since 1946. It was he who conceived the idea of putting the valuable historical letters and documents into book form, that the originals might be more permanently preserved.

"Such original sources are never exhausted," said Dr. Hammond, "no matter how often they are used. To one writer they serve one purpose; to another, still another. So it is that today these famous old manuscripts are being consulted by new generations. To them the records, old and hoary with tradition, are truly new discoveries. Indeed, that is how it will be a hundred or five hundred years from now. It is, therefore, our responsibility to make sure that they last that long." These documents, the authorities at the university say, are in constant use. They are often fragile and crumbling and so Dr. Hammond decided that a way had to be devised to preserve the originals – hence the publication of "The Larkin Papers". Through the interest of President Robert Gordon Sproul and the University of California Board of Regents, a grant was made with which to begin the project. The volumes will be published at the rate of two or three a year.

One of the letters contained in the first volume, written to Larkin at Monterey by John Paty will be amusing to our readers today:

*"Dear Sir I hope these will find you and yours well, and enjoying the best of heavens blessings. We had a good, and pleasant passage down, and the Boys were but a little sea sick. I saw your son here and delivered him the Box you sent. He looks well, and seems to be very well contented. They told him that his father had Come to take him back to Monterey which he did not like. He says his father is very good to him; and has plenty of money and takes good Care of it. He seems to be Just as well contented as though he was home. Your mule got here safe and I have sent him to the Rancho of Ortagos, until we are ready to take him on board – But Park does not like him very well.*

*"I wish you would send me a Copy of our a/c current, by the first opportunity – as I have forgotten what your Charges were, and consequently Cannot Balance your a/c on my Books, without going on Supposition for it. We have not any news of importance to write. The Alciop sailed on the first from this Place for St. Pedro and the Don Quixote sailed from here for St. Pedro on the 26<sup>th</sup> Septm and the California on the 27<sup>th</sup>. The Leonidas has not arrived here yet, but they say there is a Vessel in sight.*

*"I think you may look for one of us Back in Monterey in the Spring – with a few choice goods – an Shall Cry Pay Up"! Pay Up!!!! If you Should have an opportunity Please write us at Oahu. I am stoping at Mr. Burton's House, while Henry has gone to St. Pedro with the Bark. Trade is very dull here at present and is like to be so for some time. My respects to your wife, and family, and all friends. Yrs truly*

- John Paty aRubricoo

Young Oliver Larkin was sent to the Oahu School in Honolulu when he was six years of age, there being no schools in Monterey in that day. Captain Paty, the writer of the above letter, was in command of the famous brig, Don Quixote, and had on board five or six boys, ranging in age from eight to 11 years. They were all sons of influential Americans and friends of the Larkin family. Young Oliver Larkin traveled on another vessel, the Alciope, under Captain Clapp.