

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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### **Old Maps and McCormicks**

Jackson street is probably one of the shortest streets in Monterey. It runs from Calle Principal west to Van Buren street and is also very narrow from Pacific to Calle Principal, but it has an interesting history.

One Monday morning in April of 1889 there was quite a little excitement, caused when Mr. Towle, agent for the steamship company, and Mr. Frasier, a leading contractor and builder, chopped down a new fence that had been lately erected across what was supposed to be public thoroughfare, known as Jackson street. A fence had ornamented this street for several years until the previous Friday night, when someone chopped it down and threw it aside. The fence was immediately rebuilt by persons claiming the property, and was just as promptly torn down by Messrs. Towle and Frasier, whose homes faced upon this street.

It looked for a time on though a squatters match was being carried on in no small scale. Several old citizens were interviewed by a reporter of that day and all were unanimous in their belief that the property upon which the fences were destroyed was a public thoroughfare.

A pioneer remarked: "I came to Monterey in 1843, though there were houses and streets – or places left for streets, they were unnamed and the streets remained without names, until after the hoisting of the American flag, when Rev. Walter Colton became first Alcalde of Monterey. The land was surveyed by Jacob R. Snyder, a quarter master. He made maps of the city and wood-lots bordering the town. The map of the wood-lots still exists, but the other map has disappeared. The oldest map of the town under American rule now existing was made by Pedro Narvez, formerly captain of the Port of Monterey in 1850."

Continuing with his discussion of early Monterey, the pioneer of '43 related to his interviewer: "In some cases the names of the streets were altered. Under the Mexican system, the largest streets ran north and south and were measured in varas being 22 varas wide, not yards, which made a difference of 3 inches in the surveys. The narrow streets ran east and west and were 16 varas wide. The houses then built on what are not Alvarado and Main (Calle Principal) were detached from one another and mostly used as business places."

Decatur street was not opened until 1847 when Thomas Larkin gave part of his lot near the Custom House to open it and gave his property more frontage. Scott street, the old timer said, was opened in 1845 but was not named until 1847 when it was named for Jas. Scott.

"Jackson street" the speaker said, "was opened by Colton in 1847, but has been of little use except to quarrel over"

In the Monterey Cypress, published March 9, 1889, there was published in great detail the news of the wedding of Cyrus Hall McCormick and Miss Harriett Bradley Hammond of Illinois. The wedding took place in St. Mary's-by-the-Sea in Pacific Grove. McCormick was the son of Cyrus McCormick, millionaire reaper manufacturer.

The bride-to-be had been a guest at Hotel Del Monte for more than a month before the nuptials and had attended St. Mary's, "located among the majestic pines of Pacific Grove, so she selected it as a temple wherein the solemn vows between her future husband and herself should be pronounced. With her own hands she embroidered and painted a beautiful altar cloth of white silk and richly trimmed with gold floss. This cloth was presented to the church. Two kneeling cushions also of white silk and embroidered with the initials of the bride and groom were also made by her and placed in charge of the paster."

The groom and his party arrived in a parlor car from Chicago accompanied by his parents, as well as numerous friends, including the pastor, Rev. Dr. Vibbert. "The bridal party presented a nice picture as they stood on the platform and around their palace car while photographer C.W. Johnson took pictures of them," it was reported.

Seven years later Mr. and Mrs. McCormick returned to Del Monte Hotel and revisited the little church in Pacific Grove, and there laid upon the altar the money for seven different gifts in token of the seven happy years they lived together. They designated as to what these gifts were to be: La Farge opalescent glass for all the windows except the altar window; a basement excavated under the church; the grading of Twelfth street where it bordered on church property, the repainting of the church, a furnace in the basement, new prayer books and hymnals for all the pews, electric lights for the church, parish house and rectory.

In September, 1915, Mr. and Mrs. McCormick made a third visit to St. Mary's church. They left a donation of over \$1,600, which was to be used to lay cement walks on and in front of the church property on Twelfth street and for putting a new roof and other improvements on the rectory and Parish House.

In the spring of 1921 Mr. McCormick came alone to St. Mary's. Mrs. McCormick had passed away. This time he furnished funds for the repainting of the church property and later he sent the Harriett McCormick Memorial window from Tiffany's in New York, and a reproduction of the white altar hangings which had been used at the wedding in 1889.