

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

January 2, 1953

### **Off to Georgetown**

The two sons of Dona Angustias Jimeno, Antonio and Porfirio, mentioned in "Glances at California" by William Rich Hutton, accompanied Capt. (later Gen.) William T. Sherman to the East Coast in January of 1850 and entered Georgetown College. Hutton wrote in his diary, while stationed at Monterey, that Dona Angustias thanked his (Hutton's) mother for offering to care for the boys.

In the "Memoirs of General W.T. Sherman, Written by Himself," and published in 1875 by D. Appleton and Co., the famous general wrote: "About Christmas ... an order came for me to deliver dispatches in person to Gen. Winfield Scott, in New York City. Of course, I was ready, and others in our set were going home by the same conveyance, viz. Rucker, Ord, A.J. Smith – some under orders and others on leave.

"Wanting to see my old friends in Monterey, I arranged for my passage in the steamer of Jan. 1, 1850, paying six hundred dollars for passage to New York, and went down to Monterey by land, Rucker accompanying me. The weather was unusually rainy, and all the plain about Santa Clara was under water; but we reached Monterey in time. I again was welcomed by my friends, Dona Angustias, Manuelita, and the family, and it was resolved that I should take two of the boys home with me and put them at Georgetown College for education, viz. Antonio and Porfirio, 13 and 11 years old. The Dona gave me a bag of gold dust to pay for their passage and to deposit at the college. On the second day of January the steamer Oregon punctually appeared. We were soon on board and off for home."

Now to return to Alfred Sully, the son of the famous portrait artist, Thomas Sully. Young Sully married Manuelita Jimeno in Monterey at a secret wedding about which we have already written. He was born in 1820 and graduated from the U.S. Military Academy in 1841. As a second lieutenant he was engaged in major battles of the Mexican War. From 1848 to 1852 he was on duty at Monterey where he very soon began to show his artistic ability and the drawings and paintings he made while here are valuable historical items. Some historians report that Sully was only here in 1846-47, but we find the former dates most often used.

Sully served with distinction during the Civil War and in 1865 was placed in command of an expedition against hostile Indians in the Northwest. He painted a series of pictures of western forts in addition to the picture of the army's headquarters in Monterey.

In California Pictorial, published by the University of California Press, there is reproduced a "Street Scene in Monterey, 1847," a view taken from the old fort on the hill. The original of this painting is now in the Bland Galleries in New York City. The most prominent building in the street scene is El Cuartel, where Col. Richard B. Mason established his headquarters soon after California was admitted as a state in September, 1850, thus making it the first American capitol in California.

The water color of Sully's brush shows El Cuartel with an outside stairway which led directly to Mason's office on the second floor, a convenience built by the Americans. The south end of the huge building, with a view of a bridge on Munras street, was picked by Sully for his picture.

William Rich Hutton, who was in Monterey at the Presidio at the same time that Lt. Sully was here and William T. Sherman was a resident and making a name for himself, also made accurate and artistic contemporary drawings of scenes in California from the time of the American conquest to the gold rush. There are 15 drawings which he made in Monterey in 1847 in "California, 1847-1852," reproduced from the originals in the Huntington Library and published in book form by the library.

One of the drawings, "Monterey, 1847," from the old fort on the hill, served as a valuable guide when the location of the original flag pole at the Old Custom House was being sought in 1946 – the drawing showing the pole on the ground at the northeast end of the building.