

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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### **Meadows, the English Sailor**

Another land grant which is of interest to the Peninsula is the Meadows tract in the Carmel Valley. The date of this grant was 1840. It was made in the name of A. Romero, but the United States land commissioners confirmed the patent to James Meadows to 4,591 acres in 1859.

The land in this grant included a large portion of the fertile Carmel Valley and if intact at this date would be worth well over a million dollars, we have been told. Meadows was an English sailor who deserted his ship in Monterey harbor about 1837 to stay in California. To get away from the officers of the ship he hid with an Indian family in the Carmel Valley until they were well out of the Monterey Bay.

Meadows later married one of the Indian girls and had a large family. Many of his descendants are still residents of the Valley and the Peninsula. Meadows was a member of Issac Graham's riflemen, who overthrew the government in Monterey and put J.F. Alvarado in as governor, the details of which we have published in earlier issues of the Diary. He was sent in exile to Mexico with others. On his return he started lumber mills in the redwoods in the upper Carmel Valley and most of the lumber used in Monterey in joists and scantling in the adobes were made by him.

Vicente Cantua was granted 6,633 acres in 1839 known as Nacional. This grant takes in the City of Salinas and runs from Hilltown, along the Salinas River to Blanco or the Cocks tract. The name came from the fact that all this land had been designated as the king's pasture when Spain owned this country, because of the rich feed in the Salinas Valley. Most of the stock from the Carmel Mission were pastured here. After the attack on Monterey in 1881 by the pirate Hippolite Bouchard, under the revolutionary flag of the Argentina, all of the inhabitants with their stock were brought to Salinas.

After it was safe to return to Monterey, the commandante of the Presidio wanted to move the town to Salinas because he said the soil was so much better, that there was plenty of water and the people could make a better living than in Monterey

After Mexico took over California from Spain in November 1822, naturally they did not want any names

that had any connection with a king so when the grant was made it was called "national" meaning national.

Soon after the Americans started looking over the lands in the Salinas Valley for farming purposes, 500 acres of the immediate section around Salinas was sold for a yoke of oxen and a wagon.

Another old land grant on the immediate Peninsula is the El Pescadero Rancho, which was granted to F. Barretto in 1836 and contained 1,695 acres. This rancho includes that section of the Peninsula around Pebble Beach. It was named after a fishing village which was situated on the beach below where the lodge is now located. The Indians from as far inland as Tulare Lake used to come in the summer to catch fish and abalones there.

El Sur is also a familiar name and location for Peninsula residents. Originally this ranch contained 8,949 acres and was granted to Juan B. Alvarado in 1834 but was confirmed to J.B.R. Cooper by the United States in 1859. The entire section below Monterey along the coast derives its name from this grant, the name for which means south. A portion of this vast well-known ranch is still owned by a decedent of J.B.R. Cooper, Miss Frances Molera.

Cooper was a sea captain who came to Monterey on a trading vessel in 1823. He was a native of England and a half-brother of Thomas Oliver Larkin. He also owned the Moro Cojo Ranch and large grants of land in Sonoma County.