

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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### **Commemorate Great Seal**

If plans of the San Francisco Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy are carried to completion the Friendly Plaza in front of Colton Hall will have a marker placed there in honor of Maj. Robert Selden Garnett, the designer of the "Great Seal of the State California."

Mrs. Harold Webb, chairman of the Memorial Markers Committee of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, has written a letter to the Mayor of Monterey asking the approval of the city to place the marker on the Colton Hall grounds as Maj. Garnett's design was accepted by the Constitutional Convention held in the hall in 1849.

It is fitting, according to the letter, to have the State Seal at the top of the plaque and probably the following text:

"The Great Seal of the State of California designed by Major Robert Seldon Garnett, U. S. Army, and approved by the Constitutional Convention at Monterey, September 29, 1849. Major Garnett was commissioned a Brigadier General in the Confederate States Army and was killed on Sept. 13, 1861, in advance of the first Battle of Bull Run. He was the first general officer to die in the War Between the States.

"Erected by the California Division United Daughters of the Confederacy. May 12. 1957."

From the above date we learn that the presentation and dedication of the plaque will not take place until next year.

The 1956 Western Museums Conference will be held in San Francisco on Friday and Saturday, Oct. 5 and 6. The headquarters will be the California Academy of Sciences, with several Bay Area museums participating in the program.

The Monterey History and Art Association is a member of this Western Museums Conference and will have representatives in attendance.

Activity is at a feverish pitch on Jamestown Island and vicinity, as it has been for many months. This year-long celebration, in 1957, of the 350th anniversary of the founding of the first permanent English colony in America in 1607 is expected to attract unprecedented

thongs to Virginia, and particularly to the Jamestown – Williamsburg - Yorktown area.

"The Iron Worker," a magazine published by Lynchburg Foundry Company of Lynchburg, Va., has been sent to the Peninsula Diary because it contains an article entitled "The Story of Iron at Jamestown, Virginia—Where Iron Objects were Wrought by Englishmen Almost 350 Years Ago." -The author of this fascinating story is. J. Paul Hudson, Museum Curator for the National Park Service at Jamestown.

Hudson has been connected with the National Park Service since he received his M.A degree from Stanford University in 1933. Starting as a museum assistant in Yosemite National Park, he has worked in Muir Woods National Monument and other historic areas in the East.

Remote as the colonial period may seem today, the surprising fact is that, as of 1957, it comprises exactly half of our 350-year history. The United States was recognized as a sovereign nation by provisional agreement of Paris in 1782; thus the first 175 years beginning in 1607 were those of colonization while the past 175 years since 1782 represent the growth of America as a sovereign nation. Nineteen fifty-seven will therefore be an anniversary of double significance.

"The story of Iron at Jamestown, Virginia tells the story of many of the aspects of the first settlers' way of life, with a brief description of a few of the thousands of iron objects which have been unearthed at Jamestown Island.

We have seen the very fine collection of iron and porcelains in the historical museum at Jamestown, but there are literally thousands of well-preserved specimens in the study collection in the large storage rooms there according to Hudson's article. He also states that the iron collection is unique in many respects and is probably the largest assemblage of English seventeenth-century iron objects in existence.

The first mention of forge work at Jamestown was the making of chisels. Captain John Smith, writing in the month of Sept. 1607, four months after the establishment of Jamestown, makes mention as follows: "As yet we have no houses to cover us, our tents were rotten, and our cabins worse than naught: our best commoditie was Iron which we made into little chisels."