

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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Historic Street Names

Pioneer Street Names is the title of the program which the California Historical Society will present for its membership on Thursday, April 17, at 8 p.m., in the society's headquarters at 2090 Jackson St., San Francisco.

Did you know that pioneer Gough was delivering milk, while his friend Steiner was delivering water, and that Octavia street was named for Gough's sister? The author of San Francisco Pioneer Street Names was Harry C. Carlisle, consulting mining engineer, a graduate of Yale University and Columbia School of Mines. He has maintained an office in San Francisco for 35 years and has pursued his avocation of research on street names for the last 10 years. His booklet was published by the American Trust Company. The California Historical Society asks that reservations for the meeting be made by members before April 15.

The California Historical Society Notes informs us that a fairly complete thumbnail history of early San Francisco can be sketched by the mention or names of its streets. First came the early explorers who discovered the Bay of San Francisco, Portola, and Ortega. Then followed Anza, arriving at the Presidio in 1776, during the American revolutionary period. Among his soldiers and settlers were Moraga, Peralta, Pacheco, Castro and Bernal.

At about the same time the Mission Dolores was founded under the direction of Father Junipero Serra and Father Palou. The names of Spanish and Mexican governors and army commandants over the next 60 years have been used in streets named Arguello, Castro, Moraga, and Sanchez.

Gradually, starting in 1835 with Richardson and then Leese, the little town of Yerba Buena grew as did Monterey, and for about 10 years before the occupation by U. S. forces there were many substantial citizens such as Howard, Brannan, Bryant, Larkin, Leidesdorff, Russ, Davis and Richardson. Many of these men had been residents of Monterey.

On July 9, 1846, a new order started with the taking of Yerba Buena by Montgomery under Sloat; he also served under Stockton. Both Powell and Bartlett were on the Navy Ships then in the Bay, with Bartlett

changing the name from Yerba Buena to San Francisco in January 1847. The Army was equally active in the conquest with Kearney, Fremont and Folsom. A little later a temporary military government took charge under Mason, with Halleck an able assistant.

We feel that it is too bad that former city council members or some other non-historical group, felt obliged to change names in our Old Town Monterey; Van Buren street was once Spence street, Pacific street was once Calle Estrada, Tyler was Calle de Castro, and Washington was known as Calle de Montenegro.

Spence (David) was a native of Scotland, who lived many years in Lima, and came to California on the Pizarro to superintend the meat packing establishment of Begg & Co. at Monterey. In 1829 he married Adelaide, daughter of Mariano Estrada, taking an active part in the protection of Monterey during the Solis revolt. He was naturalized in 1830 and was grantee of Encinal y Buena Esperanza rancho. He was regarded by Larkin as being friendly to the United States, was a member of the council after the change of flag. He was a county supervisor from 1858 to '60. He died in 1875 at the age of 77.

Bancroft says that Don David was regarded as a man of excellent reputation among the pioneers of California, few exerting so wide and good an influence. His wife survived him but a month, and his only son, David, born in 1830 and educated in Honolulu, died in 1868, leaving three sons and a daughter, who inherited their grandfather's large estate.

Don Jose Estrada built the old adobe house at 336 Pacific St., now known as the Casa Soberanes and often as The House with the Blue Gate. Don Jose Estrada was a ranking officer at the Presidio of Monterey, and Calle Estrada was named for him. The house was sold to Don Feliciano Soberanes, whose family retained possession until 1922 when it passed into the hands of Mr. and Mrs. Reuban Serrano, and then to Mr. and Mrs. William M. O'Donnell.

Calle Castro was undoubtedly named for General Castro who came to California from Mexico and spent most of his life in Monterey. Castro's headquarters in Monterey entirely disappeared when the adobe building, and the bull and bear pit were made into a parking lot at the corner of Pearl and Tyler streets. General Castro's son-in-law, Manuel Diaz built an adobe house in 1845 on property owned by the general, which is still known as

Casa Castro, and is the home of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Work. It was in this house that Mrs. John Charles Fremont and her daughter made their home while General Fremont was in this part of California.

It seems logical that these men who helped to make history for Monterey should still be honored with street names at least.