

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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### **Little Girl's Wardrobe**

New exhibits go on and on at the various State Historical Monuments in Monterey. The Stevenson House on Houston Street holds particular interest at the present moment with a temporary exhibit of a little girl's wardrobe of the 1860s arranged in one of the bedrooms on the second floor, by Mrs. Anne R. Issler the curator of that historic building.

The gifts came from Mrs. Viola Hanson Harrison of Burlingame with all the little dresses, pinafores, etc., packed away in a small trunk where they had been lovingly stored all through the years since Oct 17, 1871 when the youthful owner died of a heart condition and was buried in Cypress Lawn cemetery in San Mateo County.

Lottie Hanson (Charlotte H.) was a cousin of Mrs. Harrison. She was born in Redwood City on Dec. 14, 1864. She had a governess, which most well-to-do children had at that time. She may have learned to sew, which was a requisite of that period for in the trunk was found a small unfinished pieced quilt of red and white material. There were parts of a school writing pad, apparently a lesson in learning to form letters, some earrings, a small parasol and several other articles which would be prized possessions of a small girl.

Charlotte's father was a wealthy lumber man. He had a mill in the mountains west of Redwood City, also a mill and logging interests in Tacoma, Wash., which is still in operation under the name of Tacoma Mill Co. He also owned five sailing vessels that sailed between San Francisco and Redwood City. Her cousin reports that she must have been a very pretty child with lovely brown eyes and dark hair, according to her picture.

Mrs. Howard Hawkins of Monterey added an item of interest to the History and Art Assn.'s collection at the Stevenson House, in the form of a shoulder cape, black silk faille, with embroidery and fringe of black jet. The cape was purchased in Salinas before 1880, by Estella Viola Simpson (Mrs. Alex Seeten) before her wedding. It was passed to her daughter, Mrs. Christian Sieghold, then to her grand-daughter, Mrs. Howard Hawkins.

Mrs. Marian Weygers of Carmel Valley visited the Stevenson House recently bringing with her a doll for the children's room which had once belonged to Letta

Browne Deery. The doll is 24 inches long, with bisque head and jointed kid body. Her wardrobe consists of a flannelette nightgown, slip, petticoat, panties, boned corset, undershirt, black hose, white embroidery hood, several extra pairs of hose and a red wool dress.

There are several Paisley shawls in the collection at the Stevenson House and recently a Cashmere coat made from a shawl was added by Mrs. Herbert M. Tolfree of Carmel. This beautiful coat was made by Mrs. Tolfree's great grandmother, Mrs. Francisca Necker, who was the lineal descendant of Madame de Stael, French writer of 1766.

We have learned that the very famous "Paisley Shawl" was made to copy the expensive and fashionable India Cashmere shawls. The India shawl was made by needlework process like embroidery. The Paisley shawl made in Scotland was a form of "harness" work of weaving. It cost about 20 pounds when new. A shawl was considered the perfect bridal gift. In Scotland it was the custom for the bride to own a Paisley shawl. Queen Victoria wore one to a royal christening. She owned at least 17 of the handsome shawls, we have read.