

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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Designer of Monterey's Seal

What is the matter with Monterey's City Seal? It has been used effectively for more than 109 years, so why try to change it in 1959. We read a notation in the report of the city council meeting held last week, that some redesigning might be done to this historic seal, one of the oldest in the state, if not the oldest in the state.

"Arms of the City of Monterey" is the title of an article which appeared in the Alta Californian on June 6, 1870, and in addition to recalling the gay celebration which marked Monterey's 100th birthday, it relates how the city seal was designed and adopted. The issue of the paper in which the article appeared is in the files of the California State Library.

The reporter of 1870 wrote: "In designing the arms, credited to Lieut. Alfred Sully, a member of Col. J. D. Stevenson's regiment, it was sought to observe heraldic devices with such lights in that obscure science as we then possessed, and to avoid all such incongruities as landscapes, cornucopias, railroad cars, canal boats, steamboats, etc., and yet avoiding fabulous monsters, as dragons and griffins.

"The shield of Monterey is a field vert, as the environs of the town are always green, with a bar sinister in or showing a streak with a somewhat irregular birth, not being a portion of the ancient domain of the United States.

"The field is charged with an anchor and sheaf proper, showing how hopeful we were to be able to see in the future a large commerce and production: the supporters, a horse and bull rampant, were at the time very important items in the wealth of the country. The crest was the rising sun in, or expressing our hopes, at least, that we were a rising town.

"The motto 'Anda,' caused some objection at the time on the part of scholars; they said it should have been 'Adelante' forward: that 'Anda' being the imperative of the word 'Andar,' to go on, to move on, was a homely expression, only used to drive cattle, and to urge aborigines to move along; but as there was a wide latitude in the choice of mottoes, from 'Excelsior' down to 'Strive and thrive' notwithstanding their learned and

undoubtedly correct remonstrance, 'Anda' was retained."

Lt. Sully, who later became Gen. Sully, designed the city seal, painted it on a banner to head a parade at the first July 4th celebration of the holiday after the adoption of the state constitution. Sully had come to Monterey with Stevenson's Company F of the 3rd Regiment in 1847, and was among the first players at Monterey's First Theater. He married a descendant of one of "California's first families." His bride was Manuelita Jimeno, granddaughter of Don Jose de La Guerra of Santa Barbara and daughter of Donna Manuel Jimeno of Monterey.

The Monterey Argus on Saturday, June 18, 1887, published this item: "After much scrubbing and polishing, assisted by the use of acids and other 'cleansers' known to the printers' craft, the dirt and grease which had accumulated and almost grown into the old city seal during its many years of idleness, has been removed, and the word 'Anda' stands out in clear cut letters as the motto of the town.

"It is sincerely hoped that now that this seal, with its motto 'stand out of the way,' has, as it were, been taken from its long rest, the old town may, as the old seal has done, cast off old rust and the motto may be the watchword of all citizens having the welfare of the city at heart."

Lt. Sully, later Gen. Sully, followed up his own father's footsteps, and was interested in painting. During his stay in Monterey he made historical drawings and paintings of this region. He made a series of drawings of western forts in addition to the picture of the Army's headquarters in Monterey.

In the California Pictorial, published by the University of California Press, there is reproduced a "Street in Monterey, 1847," a view taken from the old fort on the hill within the present Presidio property. The original of this drawing 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 1850, thus making Monterey the capital, for a short time, of California.

Sully was the son of a famous artist, or portrait painter, Thomas Sully. The senior Sully was born in England in 1783. He lived in the United States from early childhood

and studied with Gilbert Stuart. He established himself in Philadelphia as a portrait painter.

He later returned to England to paint a portrait of Queen Victoria for the Society of the Sons of St George in Philadelphia. A study of that head, painted from life and very charming, is in the Metropolitan Museum of Art.