

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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All-California Books

Several historical books have recently been published, all-California products from the authors down through the printers, which adds up to quite a compliment to the West and the appreciation of the reading public.

John Howell of San Francisco has announced the publication of "Montgomery And The Portsmouth" by Fred Blackburn Rogers. Here are the life stories, as they occurred in combination and separately, of Rear Adm. John Berrien Montgomery (1794-1873) and the U. S. Sloop of War Portsmouth (1844-1915). Emphasis is on the California scene, the Bear Flag Revolt and the Conquest of California. Much is added regarding the services of the officer and the ship elsewhere. Some of the special features include new light on: (missing text)

Montgomery's writings and his landing to raise the American Flag at Yerba Buena, his relations with Fremont, Gillespie, Sloat and Stockton: the organized use of Telegraph Hill as a signal station; the Mormon affiliation of William B. Ide, the loss of the Warren's launch with Montgomery's sons and the last days of the Portsmouth.

Of outstanding interest is the inclusion of reproductions of the four earliest Yerba Buena imprints, by Sam Brannan.

This is the third volume of the series on the U. S. Navy in Old California. The first two, edited by Colonel Rogers, are: "Filings from an Old Saw" and a "Navy Surgeon in California."

Lawton Kennedy designed and printed the latest book. The edition was limited to 750 copies, at \$10 each, plus tax.

"The Overland Diary of James A. Pritchard from Kentucky to California in 1849," with a biography of Capt. James A. Pritchard by Hugh Pritchard Williamson, has just been published by The Old West Publishing Co. Dale C. Morgan edited the edition, with an introduction, bibliography and a chart of travel by all known diarists west across South Pass in 1849 and Illustrated with a portrait and two unpublished maps of 1849 drawn by J. Goldsborough Bruff.

Pritchard, a Kentuckian who served in the Mexican War, later settled in Missouri, and was eventually killed

fighting for the Confederacy, was one of the first diarists to reach California overland. He reached Coloma in August of 1849.

The editor, Dale L. Morgan, of the Bancroft Library, an authority on Western history, has created a wholly original feat of scholarship. This edition, to be out in July, will consist of 204 pages in a limited edition of 1,250 copies. The price is \$15.

The Pictorial History of Southern Oregon and Northern California, by Jack Sutton, has been published by the Southern Oregon Historical society. This volume marks the first publishing adventure of the Southern Oregon Historical Society. It is designed to serve as both a tourist guide and a classroom aid for Oregon and California history. The 725 illustrations have been gathered from sources ranging from private collections to the National Archives at Washington D. C.