

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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A Rose Canton Tea Set

The Monterey History and Art Assn, is proud to announce the acquisition at a number of interesting and valuable articles for display at Casa Serrano, the recently established headquarters for this important group dedicated to the preservation of the history of Monterey and California.

At the November regular monthly meeting of the board of directors an antique Rose Canton tea set was displayed as a gift from Mrs. Kate C. Woods of Carmel; and a handsome brown silk dress given by Col. Charles R. Blood of Pacific Grove. The gown had been the Wedding dress of his mother, Minerva Reader Blood, when she became the bride of Daniel Needham Blood February 16, 1876. She last wore the dress on her golden wedding anniversary February 16, 1926, which was celebrated in Los Gatos.

Col. Blood also gave the association an old iron muffin utensil which had been used by his mother for many years to bake muffins for the family each morning. It is in remarkably good condition and will probably be placed in the kitchen at the Stevenson House, one of the rooms which is most admired by visitors to this old adobe.

The Canton Tea Set had been the property of the late Misses Mary and Anne Grant whose home for 20 years was on Hatton Road, a part of old Carmel. They had treasured the set highly for it was made to order for their father who was interested in the China trade when that was an important part of life on the West Coast. His initials "J.G." are in a medallion on the rim of various pieces. The set consists of a teapot, cream pitcher, sugar bowl, seven plates, four cups and saucers, two cake plates, a waste bowl and an odd plate and bowl.

The Grant family home was on Jackson street in Oakland when that location was the fashionable part of town. There were four daughters in the family, Frances, Mary, Anne, and Alice, who grew up in affluence and were unprepared to be self-supporting when Mr. Grant died and there was little left with which to carry on. Frances married and Alice died when she was a young girl.

Mary and Anne Grant became governesses in San Francisco. Mary to the numerous Carrigan children and

Anne to the family of J. O'B. Gunn. Anne had always wished to be an architect and when the Gunn children no longer needed her she went to New York to study in any classes she could find open to women, for at that time women were not eligible to the schools of architecture. She became the supervisor in the office of Gov. Atterbury, one of New York's leading architects and was there until the two sisters retired and came to Carmel to live. In 1948 Mary died leaving Anne alone. It was then that Mrs. Woods, her "precious child," was sent for and came to make plans for her former governess' future. She lived for six more years, the last three in a nursing home near Los Gatos where she died at the age of 94 years.

Miss Anne Grant's greatest interest was All Saints Episcopal church in Carmel to which she left most of her money. A new Sunday school is about to be built there with one section to be called Grant's Hall as a memorial to the sisters.

Recently the church, gave Mrs. Wood's the tea set in recognition of what she had done for Miss Grant, and she in turn has given it to the Monterey History and Art Assn, in recognition of what she knew would be the wish of the Grant sisters.