

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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### **From Alvarado's Library**

The interest which is being taken in Monterey and California history is really phenomenal.

The History and Art Assn. owns another interesting collection of rare books and early Monterey items on which it is almost impossible to place a value. In this collection are books and items from the library of Don Juan B. Alvarado, first governor of California, sent by his grandson, the late John B. Alvarado, as a present to the Monterey History and Art Assn., Ltd.

When Mr. Alvarado gave the collection in 1950, he wrote: "I originally had intended placing this material with the Society of California Pioneers, but finally decided that your organization in Monterey would be the proper one. Sort of old hometown gesture, as it were.

"The books originally were the property of my grandfather, Gov. Juan B. Alvarado. Some of the material was found in a group of personal memoranda which went from Monterey to the Alvarado home at San Pablo and thence to a storage warehouse in San Francisco.

"There is a large photographic shield and a translation which belonged to the Alvarado family. The shield is water-colored; on the first quadrant is shown a green cross on a background of gold, and five greedy cakes, and in the second quadrant, four fleur-de-lis, in a row at the top and three waves underneath, all in silver in a field of gold. This corresponds to Catalina Gutierrez Gudiner, wife of Pedro Palacios. The fourth quadrant, which corresponds to the fourth grandfather, Don Garcia de Hoyo, is shown on a field of blue ribbon with dragons of gold, surrounded by eight black ermine in a field of silver.

"This shield above noted is a faithful and legitimate copy of the original, located in Folio 375 of the Book of Heraldry, and is a copy of what antecedes and follows and corresponds to this place here referred.

"Signed and sealed in Santa Cruz de Tenerife 6th March, 1785."

Mr. Alvarado further states that "(1) Pedro Palacio Alvarado was the father, of the great-great-grandmother of Francisco Palacios Miranda, (2) Catalina

Gutierrez Gudiner was the great-great-grandmother of Francisco Palacios Miranda, (3) Garcia de Hoyo was the grandfather of the great-great-grandmother of Francisco Palacios Miranda - all of which, written in Latin, accompanies the shield in another photograph of the original."

With these gifts came several old billheads and receipts made out to Francisco P. de Miranda at Monterey in 1862; another to F. Palacios dated 1865; one to Don Francisco Palacios de Miranda, 1862; and two interesting billheads from the schooner "Faraway" to Francisco Palacio on July 17, 1861 and signed by C. G. Josselyn: Mr. Josselyn lived in Monterey and had a store on Pearl Street. Josselyn Canyon was named for him.

In an envelope alone, and showing the great care it has had throughout the years as a cherished possession, is the calling card of Dona Encarnacion Vallejo de Cooper. The small, beautifully engraved card is bordered in black with a tiny line of brown ink inside the wider border. In the right-hand corner is engraved "Monterey, California," as though it had been written by hand.

There are seven books in the Alvarado collection, all written in Spanish and bound in leather. A set of three volumes is the story of "Rob Roy" by Sir Walter Scott, printed in 1828; "Dios es el Amor Mas Puro," a religious book printed in 1831; "Obras Escogidas de Miguel de Cervantes," printed in Madrid in 1829; "Memories para Servir a La Historia del Jacobinismo." dated 1827, and the oldest book of all, dated 1821 and entitled "Historia del Reinado del Emperador Carlos Quinto." Each of the books is marked "From the Library or the home of Don John B. Alvarado, governor of California." These gift books may be a part of the libraries about which Bancroft has written in his "California Pastoral".