

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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### **An Old Map Of California**

Appearing on Page 20 of a catalogue of some 600 examples of the printing of Edwin and Robert Grabhorn of San Francisco is this announcement:

"Jackson's Map of California, with appendix and folding map, cloth 1936; G b. 258, 150 copies privately printed by Thos. W. Norris. The first in a series of Norris Christmas booklets. Scarce."

The late Thomas Wayne Norris was a resident of Carmel, coming from Livermore to make his home on the Peninsula in 1946.

He became a valuable member of the Monterey History and Art Assn, and later was the president of the association until his death in 1952.

In 1948, his distinguished Collection of books, pamphlets, maps and prints on California and the West, numbering 4,311 Items, was sold by the Holmes Book Co. from another catalogue printed by the Grabhorn Press.

In December of 1936 (Norris began to send historical Christmas greeting cards to his friends - historical ones, because he had printed each year a reproduction of one of the original documents in his collection of California. The first of the collection of which we have a copy is this Jackson's, map of California enclosed in a small booklet 6 Inches long and 5 1/2 inches wide, with stiff cover; and an appendix. In the Grabhorn catalogue it is priced at \$18.50.

In an introduction, Norris' states, "Several years ago I was fortunate to find a Jackson map of the mining district of California, 1850, in New York. No mention of this map appeared in any bibliographies. This year (1936) John Howell of San Francisco procured a map with an appendix, here reproduced in facsimile."

Another note, dated California, Dec. 1849, says:

"In publishing a Map of the Mining District of California, it was thought advisable to give a short description of the towns and their locations, also a general account of the mines - their importance - the mode of working pursued, and other general matter, interesting to those, who wish to seek out locations either for mining or trading.

"It is possible that some new towns have been laid out either in fact or on paper, since the commencing of this publication, which may not come to the publisher's notice."

There follow several pages of a list of the towns and mines which were important in those early days.

San Francisco is first: "The Empire City of this truly wonderful region, destined soon to be ranked among the Atlantic States of the Union, for its growing importance as a State possessed of commanding commercial advantages and extensive mineral wealth, is situated on the western side of the noble bay from which it derives its name."

After San Francisco there are descriptions of Benicia (New York of the Pacific), Sacramento City, Stockton, San Jose, Coloma (near Sutter's Mill), Natoma, Vernon, Fremont, Yuba City, Sutterville, Stanislaus, Sonarian Camp, James town, Wood's, the mines, and then general remarks, after which the map is folded into a size to fit the cover.

For San Jose, the writer of 1849 writes: "San Jose is the present seat of government under a state organization and is situated near the southern extremity of the Bay of San Francisco; it is a beautiful place, and respectably built. The surrounding country is well adapted for agricultural purposes and affords a good supply of excellent fruit and vegetables. The salubrity of its climate renders it a very desirable place for residence. Small steamers and boats can approach within seven or eight miles of the town."

Coloma (spelled "Calo-ma") . . . is located in the, immediate vicinity of Suttter's Mill, where the first discovery of gold was made. It presents quite a business appearance and contains more good buildings than any other town of its size in the state. Considerable lumber of good quality is furnished from its sawmills. Its hotels, and the ability of its traders to supply the miners, will secure to it a considerable trade."

Under general remarks we find these inserts: ...

"Wagons with provisions and machines can proceed to most of the principal points in traveling season. Transportation by them is from fifteen to twenty-five cents per pound for each 50 miles. During the summer season there is a line of stages running from Sacramento City to Culoma (Coloma), via Morman Island, fare twenty dollars.

“The operations in Morman Gulch and Dry Caniados have yielded rich returns. Wood’s Creek is a good location, and some have remained there to winter. On the Mercedes (Merced) and the Mariposa a great many persons were engaged during last summer, and the workings have yielded a rich harvest.”

“The enterprise of the new emigrants has also provided, on all roads to the mining and trading posts, tents or log cabins, where the traveler can obtain quarters for the night, or food for himself or mule.”