

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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Wedding Journey

The March issue of "Bancroftiana" which is published occasionally by the Friends of the Bancroft Library, University of California at Berkeley, is exceptionally interesting and informative. The issue shows the great interest being taken in California history and in the preservation and restoration of early documents by the library and its friends.

The annual meeting of the Friends will be held on April 23 in the Bancroft Library, Berkeley Campus. Mr. O. Cort Majors (UC '21), chairman, will call the meeting to order at 3 p.m. There will be a special exhibit and some surprising, pleasant announcements made.

Mrs. Susanna Bryant Dakin (Mrs. Richard Y.) author of numerous books and articles on California history including - "The Lives of William Hartnell," will be the speaker. Her topic "Rose, or Rose Thorne," is intriguing, especially since it will deal with California women. "We can read widely in California history," says Mrs. Dakin, "without detecting the presence of women of the earlier period. In fact, we learn of them only by inference, when second and third generations - sons and grandsons - troop after the earliest settlers in Bancroft's Pioneer Register."

Mrs. Dakin is well known on the Monterey Peninsula where she has many friends and admirers. She lived for many years in Southern California before establishing a home with her family in Marin County.

The Grabhorn Press, printers of some of the finest Western Americana, is to design and print the annual keepsake which is sent each year to members of the Friends of the Bancroft Library. "The Ralston-Fry Wedding Journey to Yosemite, 1858." Francis P. Farquhar, first chairman of the Friends and noted Sierra author, has edited the volume and written the introduction. It will be distributed soon to all members in good standing.

A residential district in the eastern part of San Jose is known as Naglee Park and we remember a home which was pointed out to us many years ago as the Naglee home and told that Mr. Naglee had been a prominent citizen in this early day California city. It was interesting to read in Bancroftiana that the Naglee Papers had been presented to the Bancroft Library by two of his

descendants - his daughter, Mrs. Marie R. Robins of Philadelphia, and a niece, Mrs. Antoinette Naglee Spruyt of Greenfield, Mass. Dr. J. S. Holliday of the library staff is pictured with six large boxes of the family papers - which is only a small part of the generous gift.

General Henry M. Naglee came to California in 1847 with Stevenson's Regiment to fight in the Mexican War. After the discovery of gold, the next year and the end of the war, he became a Californian, acquired land, and took part in the development of the new "paradise."

Naglee, himself, wounded in the war, later moved to San Jose, where he built a house and where Naglee Park is named in his honor.

This is a moral. Early this year, the Bancroft Library announces, that in order to make the information available to scholars, Mrs. L. F. Butterfield of Los Altos very kindly permitted the Bancroft Library to film the original report of her father's trip to examine a Pancho Villa copper mine in Sonora Desert of Northern Mexico. As requested, the library promptly returned the original to her.

About two months later the library director received the following note from the distracted Mrs. Butterfield: "You have no idea how grateful I am for the permanent record of my father's (Mr. G. G. Kidder) interesting trip to examine Pancho Villa's copper mine. You see, the day I received the original record, it became mixed in with some old newspapers and was burned. So, I shall be very happy to know how this record was preserved."

The Bancroft Library is also happy that the record was preserved, but their joy is blended with grief that the original was inadvertently destroyed.