

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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### Fling Biography

John (**Guy**) Freeman Fling, the builder of Capitular Hall adobe at the corner of Pacific and Franklin streets, arrived for the first time in Monterey in 1826. Shortly after he traveled to the Sandwich Islands and returned in 1831 to settle permanently at the age of 34 years.

He succeeded in securing a carta from Gov. Victoria, and in 1832 joined the compania etranjero (aliens) which was organized Jan. 24 of that year for the defense of Monterey. The company was not to be required to leave town under any circumstances. Such men as had to leave for their work for military service were to receive 50 cents a day. W.E.P. Hartnell was elected their leader.

From that date on, Fling's name appears on Larkin's books and other records. He worked at his trade as blacksmith at Monterey and in 1886 (**1826**) he was living at Buena Vista Rancho, being then only 26 year of age, according to the pardon. In 1840 he had a blacksmith shop at Natividad, and is credited by tradition with having refused to remove irons from the foreign exiles when they were taken from prison and loaded on ships. John Chamberlain says this was not so, as Fling was absent at the time.

There appears to be no trace of him during the years 1841 to 1847, but he was probably engaged in hunting, as he is said to have been with George Yount in Napa Valley, and to have spent much of his time among the Indians. He lived in Sonoma for some years and went to Napa about 1850 and died in the county infirmary there in 1870, at the reputed age of 80 years. (Source: Hubert Howe Bancroft, Vol. III)

There are a number of new historical books on California published in time for the Christmas trade. Probably the most important one of interest to Monterey is "First and Last Consul" the story of Thomas Oliver Larkin and the Americanization of California, a selection of letters edited by John A. Hawgood, and published by the Huntington Library, San Marino. Hawgood was in Monterey recently and the Division of Beaches and Parks and Mrs. Alice Larkin Toulmin received him in the Larkin House.

"Time's Wondrous Changes San Francisco Architecture, 1776-1915," is another fascinating new book by Joseph Armstrong Baird Jr. Curator of art, California Historical Society, with a forward by Susanna Bryant Dakin.

Illustrated with 44 black and white plates, two maps and numerous special drawings, this book gives a new perspective to San Francisco's architectural fashions or "styles," from founding to fair (1915). It is a special publication of 1,000 copies, designed and printed by Lawton Kennedy. Price is \$5 to non members of the society and \$4 for members.

"William Brown Ide, Bear Flagger" by Fred Blackburn Rogers, is a compelling study. These are Ide's writings to his relatives in the East, his correspondence for the Sangano Journal from Illinois to California in 1845, writings to his daughter, Sarah, and his important service to the Bear Flag Revolt. The book is published by John Howell—Books, 434 Post St., San Francisco 2, and is priced at \$12.50.

David Magee Book Shop lists two new books: "California and Overland Diaries of Count Leonetto Cipriani from 1853 through 1871" is one. This bit of Californiana contains an account of his cattle drive from Missouri to California in 1853; a visit to Brigham Young in Salt Lake City; the assembling of his elegant prefabricated home in Belmont, the first of consequences on the San Francisco peninsula, later to become the Ralston Mansion. The book is edited and translated by Ernest Falbo, designed and printed by Lawton Kennedy in an edition of 750 copies. Price \$10.

The second listed by Magee's is "John Doble's Journal and Letters from the Mines" -- Mokelumne Hill, Jackson, Volcano and San Francisco. Charles L. Camp edited the publication. It is published by The Old West Publishing Co., Denver Colo. Priced at \$22.50.

The 50th anniversary of the Book Club of California will be celebrated Dec. 8, at a dinner to be held at the Palace of the Legion of Honor in San Francisco. There will be an exhibition preceding the 7 p.m. dinner.