

Mayo Hayes O'Donnell Peninsula Diary

June 18, 1962

### **Notes On The Dickinson Family**

A few weeks ago I received a communication from Mr. and Mrs. Hal C. Statler of Los Gatos asking for information on Gallant Duncan Dickinson, the builder of the First Brick House on Decatur Street, now the home of Mrs. Juan Garcia. Dickinson was the great-great-grandfather of Mrs. Statler.

Amos G. Lawrey, who did the actual brick laying, and presumably furnished the knowhow for the brick yard, was a great-grandfather.

The Statler's have turned up the reminiscences of all of Dickinson's six children, a daughter-in-law and a granddaughter, and a lengthy obituary on Dickinson. They all mention the first brick house, some give just a little more on the construction of the house, but there is little else about the approximately 16 months that the family spent in Monterey. Possibly Monterey was too peaceful an interlude between the hardships of the trip across the plains and the mountains in 1846 and the gathering of gold in 1848 and 1849, Mr. Statler wrote of in his letter.

The family states that Dickinson's children were, in order of birth: James Johnson, William LeGrand, Margaret Elizabeth, Lucy Jane, Samuel Francis, and George Winchester. The only "Ed" the family has heard of was Mrs. Statler's grandfather, Francis Edward Lawrey, son of Margaret Elizabeth and Amos Giles Lawrey, and grandson of Gallant Duncan.

Margaret Elizabeth Dickinson and Amos Giles Lawrey were married in Stockton Oct. 29, 1849, the first marriage ever performed in that city. Much later, Margaret, widowed, returned to the Monterey Peninsula to live with her daughter, Lola, from 1887 until her death on Dec. 19, 1918.

Here is another bit of history that should be recorded in the records before it gets lost, also coming from the Statlers: "There are two houses on Grove street in Pacific Grove that are old-time pre-fabs. They came around the Horn, and were bolted together on arrival. You can stand on the sidewalk and see the bolts at the corners; 588 Grove St. is the number of one, the other being right next door, on the corner of 16th and Grove. Margaret Elizabeth owned these houses for some years, also five adjoining ones."