

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

January 9, 1963

Trio In Monterey

In the year 1847 in the City of New York, at 430 Bowery St., a pledge was made between three young men who later became prominent citizens of Monterey in California. The pledge was written out and signed by the three friends as follows:

"We, the undersigned, to do hereby pledge ourselves and agree as follows: that in case either of the subscribers contracts marriage the first party so contracting do by those present find himself to give to each and every one of the remaining parties a suit of clothes to be the value of not less than the sum of fifty dollars lawful money of the United States.

"The said suits to be given on or before sixty days after the marriage day of the party contracting such marriage upon the delivery of this agreement without alteration or erasure.

"Given in triplicate this Fourteenth day of August, Anno Domini, One thousand eight hundred and forty - seven (1847), in the City of New York, at 430. Bowery.

"Witness our hands and seals.

Edmund Jones

Edward L. Williams

Joseph-Boston."

After each name a drop of red sealing wax with a near triangular piece of white paper covering it, as the initials of Boston and Williams but Edmund Jones evidently had a seal ring for, although the finger cannot be identified, it is his mark.

On the back of the beautifully handwritten agreement, Mr. Williams wrote in later years: "For Helen, a foolish agreement between three boys." Helen was the daughter of the late Mrs. Charles Pioda of Salinas.

Joseph Boston came to Monterey before the gold rush and was a storekeeper in the building now known as Casa de Oro at Olivier and Scott streets. He married Eliza C. Bull in 1862 and their daughter, the late Mrs. Agnes Burge, lived in Santa Cruz until her death a few years ago. The family resided there after leaving Monterey. Mrs. Burge gave many family historical items to the Monterey History and Art Assn., many of which are now on display in the Old Custom House.

Edward Williams married Narcisa Watson on July 7, 1856, and they became the parents of 11 children.

In the fall of 1852, Williams, his cousin, Joseph Boston and Edmund Jones, the three who made the pact about the clothes, opened a branch of Boston's Monterey store in Santa Cruz. He was Monterey County clerk and deputy from 1854 until 1859.

Edmund Jones had joined his two friends in Monterey from his home in New York. He was engaged to marry Boston's sister, Helen. After a few years she started her trip to the West Coast and all was happiness and excitement as the schooner upon which she had taken passage came within sight of those on the pier in San Francisco - the most excited being the future bridegroom, Edmund Jones. When the ship's captain arrived on shore, he had the sad duty to inform Jones that his sweetheart had passed away as they entered the Golden Gate. Her body now rests beneath a huge cypress tree in the Santa Cruz cemetery. After several years of mourning, Edmund Jones married a very fine woman and had a family but proof of the fact that he never forgot his first love, Helen Boston, was a dainty linen handkerchief, upon which her name was embroidered, found in his coat pocket when he passed away years later.