

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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Routes Of Three Roses

"Rose, or Rose Thorn?" the story of three ladies of Spanish California, by Susanna Bryant Dakin, has just been published for the Friends of the Bancroft Library. The book is designed and printed by Lawton Kennedy and mailed to the "Friends" as a keepsake. The one and only picture in the 60-page book is of the Presidio de Monte Rey, 1791, drawn by one of the artists on the Malaspino expedition of that year.

From the foreword we have gleaned these historical facts, as written by Mrs. Dakin, who also wrote "The Lives of W. E. P. Hartnell," an excellent document on the history of Don William E.P. Hartnell, a prominent citizen of Monterey, an English merchant by trade and a man of liberal education, proficient as a linguist and astute in business matters.

Hartnell also was the text translator during the drafting of the first Constitutional Convention held in Monterey in 1849, and founder of Hartnell College near Salinas in 1834, the first school of higher education in California.

The three picked by Mrs. Dakin to tell their true-life stories as they lived them under Spanish rule in California are Dona Feliciana Arballo, Dona Eulalia Fages and Dona Concepcion Arguello.

Dona Eulalia arrived in Monterey in 1783, the wife of Gov. Pedro Fages. Dona Concepcion the daughter of Don Jose Dario Argufellb, entered the Dominican Convent of Catherine of Siena, Santa Catalina, in Monterey as the first novice to do so in Alta California. Bishop Alemany himself welcomed her on April 11, 1851, and gave her the name of Maria Dominica, a new name to begin her new life.

Dona Feliciana, as a poor young widow, accompanied Capt. Anza on the colonizing trek that he led from Sinaloa on the mainland of Mexico to San Francisco. During the fall, winter and spring, she met hardships with unflinching good spirits. At San Gabriel she experienced love at first sight and forever - deserting the expedition there, to the relief of Franciscan Father Font. To Anza's chaplain, Dona Feliciana always seemed more thorn than rose. "It is to his diary that I am indebted for primary source material, and to Anza's correspondence - all translated from Spanish by Herbert E. Bolton," writes Mrs. Dakin in her Introduction.

Mrs. Dakin also relates that it is from Warren Howell's (John Howell - Books in San Francisco), private collection the print of a drawing of the Malaspina expedition comes showing the Presidio de Monte Rey, 1791 at the very end of the Fages regime. Originals are in the Museo Naval, Madrid. Permission for use of this print was granted by the director, Don Jose Guillen. It was Don Jose's son, Lt. Julio Guillen of the museum staff who accompanied the set of oldest original drawings of California in the years 1791 and 1792.