

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

February 17, 1964

City Incorporated

Monterey became a duly incorporated town on April 30, 1851, by an act of the legislature. A petition had been drawn up on Saturday, February 2, signed by a large group of residents and sent to the state governing body. It is from the original document that this quote is reproduced:

“To the Honorable, the Senate and Assembly of the State of California.

The undersigned, Citizens of Monterey, respectfully petition that your honorable body grant them the Charter of Incorporation of the City of Monterey which was adopted by a meeting of the citizens held on Saturday, 2nd of February, in the Town Hall pursuant to public notice and which now accompanies this petition.

“It is believed by the undersigned that powers asked for in the plan of the charter, presented to your Honorable Body, are such as required by our position and are such as enjoyed by our sister cities in the oldest states.

“And they shall ever pray. (Signed.)”

The petition is signed by 206 men, many of whose names are still familiar both in history and in everyday life in Monterey. They include: Philip A. Roach, who was the last Alcalde and first mayor of Monterey; Jacinto Rodriques, one of the signers of the State Constitution; H. W. Halleck, a delegate and signer of the Constitution, who had also been a military aide to President Lincoln; William G. Macy, secretary of the Constitutional Convention; David Spence, prominent Scottish merchant of the old days, who was associated with William P. Hartnell; Dr. James L. Ord, who came to California in 1847, under contract with Co. F., 3rd U. S. Artillery, and later married Dona Angustias Jimeno, widow of Don Manuel Jimeno. She was the daughter of Don Jose de Guerra of Santa Barbara.

Other signers were: Thomas O. Larkin, first and only American consul to Monterey, whose home still bears his name and is a State Historical Monument; Josiah Merritt, James McKinlay, Salvador Munras, Juan Gutierrez, Jose Gutierrez, Jose Abrego, Antonio Soberanes, Salvador Oslo, Rafael Sanchez, and Feliciano Soberanes and F. Serrano, all associated with the old adobe homes still standing in Monterey; Jacob Leese and Job Dye, both of whom were partners of Thomas O.

Larkin at various times; Milton Little, pioneer merchant, and owner of most of the land that is now New Monterey; William Curtis, an early-day store owner; George Oliver, a soldier who became a coffin and church pew maker and married one of the Duarte sisters, and Jose de Amesti, a Spanish Basque, whose wife was Prudencia Vallejo.