

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

June 8, 1966

A Eulogy For Francis Doud

Major Edwin A. Sherman wrote a letter to the Cypress, Monterey newspaper, on June 10th, 1911 in which he recalls the recent death of Francis Doud of this city and mentions what a great loss it was not only to this community but to the State of California at large.

His record was a eulogy with a biographical sketch of value to this commonwealth, and the military honors paid to him by Colonel Charles W. Mason, U.S.A. of the Eighth Infantry, and his command of the Presidio of Monterey, were well deserved.

Mr. Doud was a cherished and faithful member of the Associated Veterans of the Mexican War and at their request Colonel Mason provided the military escort at his military funeral, attending himself with Captain F.L. Knudsen of his staff, with other officers.

The Society of California Pioneers of which Mr. Doud was a vice-president unanimously passed to vote a resolution in his honor.

"That society in the main was made up by veterans of the Mexican War in August, 1850, and its membership reached up to the thousands in numbers while other pioneer societies of forty-niners, as well as Veterans of the Mexican War of California Society in San Francisco, scarcely 200 now remain on the roll and the Sons of Pioneers will soon take their place and assume the control.

"Of the regular Army on the rolls there were but twenty-two, of which eight landed at Monterey, January 23rd, 1874. Company F., Third Artillery, of which were Lieutenants E.O.S. Ward and William Sherman, officers, who, in the Civil War exchanged their bars for multiplied stars.

"The fifer of that company in after years became an efficient officer, Col. Fred E. Tittle, commanding a regiment of the National Guard of California and an owner of considerable and valuable real estate in San Francisco.

"There were 58 naval officers and men who belonged to the Pioneers. Of the Fremont Battalion, sixty-one joined the society, and of Col. Jonathan D. Stevenson's regiment, the First New York Volunteers, there were eighty-four borne on the rolls of that society, besides

eighty others who were volunteers from other states, and veterans from the Mexican war, making 305 in all.

"By the death of Francis Doud, Edwin A Sherman was the only one left in 1911, of the Veterans of the Mexican War, as a member of the Society of Pioneers. But the records have been made and printed and preserved in the archives of the nation and the state, beginning and ending in Monterey, bound in granite in the Sloat Monument overlooking the beautiful bay and harbor, an eagle on guard and emblazed upon the regiment of standards of the troops that are and will continuously be garrisoned at the presidio for its protection."

Major Sherman ends his letter to the Cypress with this paragraph: "The peaceful Church Milliant, with all its branches, rules at Pacific Grove, with a post of the Grand Army of the Republic, with its auxiliaries to keep peace, beyond 'Baxter's Saints' Rest,' at Murray's but it requires the services of Michael the Archangel to service as justice of the peace at Monterey, and to tie the hard matrimonial knots to be severed in Salinas, or when death holds his court at the ancient capital of California, the City of Monterey, the home of Cypress, where I trust it will ever flourish."