

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

October 30, 1967

### **Gift of the Doud House**

We are quite sure that all lovers of Old Monterey and its historic old adobe houses, which have been saved by the Monterey History & Art Association and the continued interest of the historically minded residents of this old town, are rejoicing in the recent announcement that those in charge of urban renewal are giving the Francis Doud house, at the end of Van Buren street, to the Monterey History and Art Association.

It will be restored completely both inside and outside as soon as possible by the association. The house is not an old adobe but it is one of the first houses built after the American occupation, and was erected by Francis Doud, a pioneer of 1849, and a Mexican War veteran.

Mr. Doud was a native of Ireland who at the age of 16 left his native land to come to New York.

He entered the Mexican War in 1846; was wounded at the siege of Vera Cruz and later at Cerro, in consequence of which he was honorably discharged in 1847. A bronze medal was presented to Doud by the Mexican Veterans Association for his gallant and meritorious service

After the close of the Mexican War, Doud became a private citizen and came to Monterey in 1847. He died in 1910 at his home on Van Buren street and left valuable property in the Salinas Valley. His wife, Anna Doud, continued to reside in the Van Buren street house until her death. They had seven children whose descendants still live on the Peninsula.

There is another charming Doud house on Cass street near Munras avenue which Francis Doud did not build, but he bought it and presented it to his daughter, Nellie Doud, upon her marriage to Samuel Pardee. Mrs. Pardee did not enjoy living in the "country", so her father gave her another house on Calle Principal near the site of the first convent in California.

The Cass street house then became the home of Mr. and Mrs. Doud and they lived there the rest of their lives. That property is still owned by the family.

Francis Doud, aside from being the sergeant-at-arms at Colton Hall during the Constitutional Convention in 1849, drove the ox team that took the records to San

Jose when, as he said, "they stole the capital from us and took it to the Garden City."

In September I wrote a few paragraphs about the handsome, large stamps used on mail from Tonga, in the Friendly Islands, in honor of the coronation on the Fourth of July, 1967. The envelope was addressed to me and on the back was written "gift from Edwardo Vigo Mestres."

So naturally Mr. Mestres must be traveling. I called all his acquaintances who know much more about his whereabouts, but I could not find anyone who had seen him recently.

He heard about my interest as to where he was. A few days later he appeared at my door and the mystery was solved. He had not been away from his Sand City home and spend his days wandering around on the sand dunes there and enjoying leisure life in general.

He had once given an 1877 document of "Declaration of Homestead" to a friend to read and then send it on to me. His friend was B. Rudolph, who was in the Tonga.