

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

February 16, 1968

Records of Thomas Larkin

The collection of historical records of the Monterey History and Art Association, Ltd., became richer when Dr. Boyd F. Huff, a research assistant of the Giannini Foundation at University of California, presented the association with a photostat negative of an original order from Thomas O. Larkin, first and only American Consul to Monterey, for furniture for the Larkin House and clothing for himself.

Omitted from the copy is the name of the firm from which Mr. Larkin ordered, but the list of objects and the price he wished to pay is as follows:

Four dozen chairs, with arm and rocking chairs, \$35 to \$40.

One pair of sofas, 6 1/2 or 7 feet long, \$90-\$100.

One pair of sofas that can be used as beds, \$90-\$100.

Two lady's worktables, \$15-\$20.

Two wash hand stands \$10-\$15.

One pair large dining tables for a hall, \$35-\$45.

One pair heavy round tables, \$35-\$45.

Two pair of mirrors, each different pattern, per pair, \$40-\$50. Some other furniture to match, about \$100.

Four large National pictures, handsome frames, each \$15 to \$20.

Four pair large candlesticks of different patterns with large glass shades.

Dated April 30, 1844

In another order Mr. Larkin listed:

Two large walking sticks with handsome black tassels, and a rim of gold around each for the names. If the heads can be covered with gold at an extra expense of \$6 to \$8 each, I want them so covered.

One cane marked "General M. Micheltozero de Tomas O. Larkin" (M. R. Put this in Spanish yourself.) One cane marked: Thomas O. Larkin, Monterey, California, Jan. 1, 1845. The canes to be of wood that will last and of a

good quality and of a kind not before seen here if possible.

Signed THOMAS O.LARKIN,

April 20, 1844.

From Consul Larkin's office there went another order the same day for clothing that would befit his new position in Monterey:

A fine first rate made coat for a United States consul, as for decoration of the department, see "Instruction to Consul," lining to be of white satin if such is now used. Two vests and two pair of pantaloons, all of stiff cashmere between white and yellow. One gross finest navy buttons for coats. One gross finest navy buttons for vests. One piece 10- or 15-yards buff cashmere fine, one piece, 10 or 15 yards navy blue broadcloth, worth in Boston \$8 to \$9 a yard. One pair of Epaulets for a Consul. One sword and belt for a United States Consul. In choosing these articles it will be of importance to have them of the proper style, color and quality as a small mistake may unfit them for use.

Signed THOMAS O. LARKIN, Monterey.

April 20, 1844.