

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

March 18, 1968

Vasquez Adobe

The Vasquez adobe on Dutra Street, the property of the City of Monterey under whose supervision it was restored a number of years ago, is now occupied by city officers. A transition of a very old document once the property of the late Thomas Norris, past president of the Monterey History and Art Association, should be of interest to historians and all who appreciate the past history of Monterey.

The letter quoted was written to Jose Maria de Echeandia, with marginal instructions in his own handwriting, with autograph, on a document written by Tiburcio Vasquez, grandfather of the famous bandit. Dated at Monterey, October 3rd, 1827.

Vasquez, former treasurer of the Pueblo de San Jose, on his death bed begs the governor permission to hand over his unfinished accounts to present treasurer, so that the latter may settle them. He fears for his Children about to be left orphans.

Encheandia, in his marginal note, instructs the "Ayuntamiento" of the pueblo to carry out the wishes of the dying man.

Another letter in the original owned by Mr. Norris and concerning Antonio Vasquez (an uncle of the notorious bandit) reads: Dated Monterey, May 31, 1822, to Pablo Vicente de Sola: "The Invalido Antonio Vasquez need not be called upon to do guard duty, due to his advanced age.

Sola was the military and political governor of California at that time.

In September of 1924 there was published in the newspapers an article concerning the late Dr. Henry Mead Bland, professor at the San Jose Normal School and later poet laureate of California, I believe, and the late Edwin Markham, author of the "Man with Hoe" and also a former resident of San Jose. Edwin Markham wrote to De. Bland expressing his appreciation of the former's recently published "Stevenson's California", and his joy over the good news of the literary prosperity of Dr. Bland, whose poems were at that time in demand for literary anthologists.

Mr. Markham tells of his plan to bring out an anthology of his own the next year, as none of the volumes on the library shelves exactly satisfy him. He asks permission to include in it two poems by Dr. Bland—lines to Robert Louis Stevenson and a poem on the flying geese of the far west.

We wonder if there is anyone who owns either of these books who would like to give it to the library at the Stevenson House. The History and Art Association has provided the bookcase and the curator, would appreciate gifts of books on Stevenson or on early California history.

A very old and very rusty Spanish bayonet was presented in 1950 to the Monterey History and Art Association by Theo K. Romaine of Fresno. "The bayonet was found by the donor as he worked on the property which formerly belonged to San Carlos church and now is occupied by the USO building. As the lot was being leveled Mr. Romaine discovered the bayonet and saved it. When he visited the Custom House museum, he decided that he would, return it to Monterey, that visitors to the historic buildings here might enjoy seeing it.

A book entitled "Dances of Early California Days: has been written by Lucille K. Czarnowski associate of physical education for women at the University of California. Previous to the publication of this book of dances, no published records have described the dances in sufficient detail to reproduce them.

By going directly to the old timers who still remembered the dances of their early California youth with a wire recorder, and extensive knowledge of early California dances garnished from scattered archives, the book has made an important contribution to the field of folk dancing and California folklore.

Complete with musical score are: La Varsouvianna with variants from Pacific Grove, San Juan Capistrano and Monterey; La Paloma, Versions 1 and 2 from Monterey; La Cachucha from Monterey; La Contradanza from Monterey and Santa Barbara.