For Mrs Beaham

Prepared by Ynez
Bolados Davis
Los Penos, Calif.

Abrego

Part I

It has long been my intention to write a record of the history of our family in early California, as told to me by my maternal grandmother, Dona Josefa Abrego, in the quaint old family Casa at Monterey, while it is still clear and vivid in my memory, so that my children may know of that early California in which their forefathers lived.

I had the absorbing love of stories which is the inheritance of lonely and fanciful children, and I would bring my little chair and sit at my grandmother's feet begging for stories of her childhood; of "Los dias de antes" "Y los dias del placer"-meaning the days of yore, and the days of happiness. The latter name was given to the mines, Las Minas del Placer" or Placer Mines, which brought so much prosperity to California- gold to the Americans, but to the Spanish Californians the loss of their homelands, which they so dearly loved.

My grand mother was born at the Presidio I8I4, in the Cuartel where the officers and their families resided. She was brought up by her maternal grandmother whom she fondly called "Mi Nana Antonia" and whom she loved as her own mother. This is the tale my grandmother told me.

Many years before a young Spanish officer, Ignacio Vicente Ferrer Vallejo was invited to be the godfather of a little girl-daughter of an intimate friend. He declined, requesting instead the honor of her hand in marriage, which I understand he could not have done had he been her godfather. This little girl's name was Maria Antonia Isabel de Lugo. Her sister married Don Jose de la Guerra. They were married in I79I in Santa Barbara and then came to Monterey where they established one of the most distinguished families in California. They had thirteen children. Among them were General Mariano Guadalupe Vallejo who married Francisca Carrillo; Salvador who married Maria de la luz Carrillo; Encarnation, who married Captain John Cooper (half-brother of Thomas O. Larkin, our only United States Consul to Mexico). Thomas O.Larkin arrived on the "New Castle"in I832, and on the same vessel came Mrs. Rachel Holmes whom he married in I833. My grandmother was godmother to two of their children,-Carolina who married Sampson Tams, and Alfred , whose daughter now lives in the lovely old Larkin home, "La Casa de Cuatro Vientos". Rosalia married Jacob Leese; Maria Magdalen married del Valle and was the grandmother of Mrs. Clay Miller of Sausalito; and Maria Josefa Antonia, our great-grandmother married Jose F.Alvarado, son of Juan B.Alvarado, who was a soldier of Portola's expedition in I769. She was left a widow at eighteen and then married Jose Estrada. Her two elder children (Juan Bautista Alvarado, later governor of California, and my grandmother, were brought up by their grandmother, Maria Antonia Vallejo), so that the generations were very close to each other when girls married at fourteen and sixteen. After the death of Antonia Vallejo, my grandmother made her home with her brother,

who was then Governor of Los Californias- Alta Y Baja- as they were then called under the rule of the Viceroys of Mexico. He was a few years older than my grandmother, who idolized him. Her hero,-almost a god in her eyes - incidentally in mine,- when she would tell me of him, I can faintly remember him as a courtly old gentleman with blue eyes, dignified and austere, quite different in manner from his uncle, General Vallejo, whose arrival at my grandmother's home in Monterey was a gala event. Adored by every one, he insisted on kissing everything feminine from six to sixty amid peals of laughter and fun.

Governor Alvarado's position was unique, a dictator, almost an absolute monarch. He administered justice, held court,settled disputes and had malefactors imprisoned or executed. In I829 he saw the portrait of a beauriful young girl with whom he fell violently in love. Her name was Martina, daughter of Francisco Maria Castro, grantee of the San Pablo Rancho, El Sobrante, Mare Island, and Yerba Buena Island, whose father Joaquin Isidro de Castro, with his wife and nine children arrived in I775 with Anza's Expedition. As the Governor was unable to leave Monterey he sent a request for her hand by his younger half-brother, Jose Antonio Estrada, with a permit from the church to marry her by proxy. Should the answer be favorable, to bring her to Monterey, a beautiful horse with silver trappings was sent to alternate with the atroccious carreta de pais, a cart with wooden wheels, usually drawn by oxen. Of course such a marriage was not to be refused and the poor little bride jolted along for a couple of days till she arrived in Monterey on a lovely afternoon riding the white palfrey. The Governor had been ill and my grandmother helped him into his wedding finery as he went forth to meet the bride. She noticed a look of tragic disappointment on his face, for altho she was young and lovely she was not the lady of his dreams. In a moment he had recovered himself and no one but his little sister ever knew of his disillusion, least of all, the bride. Like many marriages of convenience it turned out very happily. When their first child,Delfina, was baptised a carpet of fl flowers was strewn from the Governor's residence and small pieces of gold were strewn to the poor. They were called "bolos" and were especially coined for this purpose being 25¢ to $I.oo in value. There were four children by this marriage. Delfina married Carrick; Adelina married Truksbury; Judge Henry Alvarado married ----------; and Juan B.Alvarado married Miss Bolton, and from this later marriage there was one son, Juan B.Alvarado of San Francisco. Governor Alvarado left his office a poorer man than when he entered it, after granting thousands of acres to any one who desired to colonize. These deeds read, "so many leagues a little more or less (poco mas o menos). He often asked my grandfather, Don Jose A'brigo, to take over some of this land, but my grandfather's reply was always the same, "I accept nothing from my wife's family". They were made of stern stuff, these Spanish Californians and I well remember my grandmothers ideals, integrity plain living, and high thinking,- for certainly the body had little pampering. Luxuries were an unknown quantity and Holy Church a severe task master, yet interspersed with that gayety of soul and joy of living which goes hand in hand in the Spanish character.

My grandmother married Don Jose A'brigo in I836 at Mon-

terey. He came from Mexico with the Hijar Expedition in 1834. He was a man of integrity and vision and held various public offices. He owned a large tract of land called "La Huerta del Rey", (Orchard of the King) of which Del Monte was originally a part, and also a general merchandise store. The family home consisted of a square block, built of adobe, around two large patios, one of flowers and trees of surpassing loveliness, the perfume of which still lingers in my memory, and a second patio o of orchards and a run for chickens and ducks. The old casa had twenty windows and doors down the front, ending in a large store house and the merchandise store, of which I have already spoken. Only a small portion of the house survives and was purchased by Mrs. Black an artist, who has restored it most carefully and lovingly, keeping all its old world charm.

To this home my grandmother came as a bride. She was idolized by her husband who showered her with all the lovliest things that could be purchased from incoming sailing vessels that arrived in Monterey from the Orient,- China, Japan, and Manila. My grandfather came on the French sloop of war "Natalia", which was the vessel that took Napoleon to Elba, and was wrecked in the bay of Monterey. Being a great admirer of Napoleon, he had planks from this vessel used in building the ceiling of his ballroom, which was frequently the scene of balls and receptions in which American uniforms added no small part to the beauty and elegance of the scene - for early California Donas dressed most sumptuously in their Spanish lace mantillas, mantons de Manila, high Spanish combs of shell or gold . General Sherman, Halleck, and Fremont were most welcome visitors at my grandfathers home. Both Governor Alvarado and my grandfather were men of vision and thought the future of California was with the United States,- for which, I believe, the Governor was at one time much criticised. My grandfather's home had the only large ball room and the first piano to land in California. Being most hospitable, their home was open to all visitors. With the coming of the Americans many romances were the result. Among the most beautiful and brilliant visitors were Dona Angustias de la Guerra who married Doctor Ord U.S.A., brother of General Ord, Georgiana Ord, who married Samuel Holladay, and the family of Thomas O. Larkin.

General Sherman was the hero of a romance which though only a legend has left its imprint on the history of old Monterey. Senorita Maria Ignacia Bonifacio was the name of the lady who was said to have been in love with General Sherman, who planted a rose bush in her garden and sailed away, never to return. But the real history is, she was engaged to one of my grandmothers younger brothers but was not allowed to marry him for some family reason. Neither of them ever married. General Sherman did plant the rose bush in her garden and the dear old lady has basked in the beautiful romance, which has been woven around her youth.

A lovely young girl who was a frequent visitor at my grandmother's home wrote the following poem:

The Belle of Monterey

I

"In the old and time worn casa
With its white adobe walls
The court with its wild grown flowers
And the stone paved halls.

II

She lives, the slim dark woman
With pale madonna face
And the brown hands ever weaving
Fold in fold of cobweb lace.

III

From the town of San Francisco
To the shores of Carmel Bay
She was known as Dona Maria
As the Belle of Monterey.

IV

The man whose youth had left him
The boy with fresh fair face
And the dark browed Hidalgo
Strove to find in her heart, his place.

V

But tho' her lovers were legion
There was one apart from the rest
And of all the gay throng 'round her
She loved that man the best.

VI

But his name was not in the west land
And his heart was with his home
So Dona Maria in her casa
Lives year after year alone.

VII

And yesterday we found her
With her inborn Spanish grace
She showed us her flower garden
And the quaint old foreign place.

VIII

She brought out all her treasures
And from wrappings yellow/~~with~~ by time
There came the aroma of romance
Born only of Spains sunny clime.

IX

The rebosas, the old mantillas,
Furs, jewels, and rare fine lace
Told more of the past and its memories
Than that calm passionless face.

X
To those treasured mementos
She clings , the last of her race
And will die, where she has passed her girlhood
Of her story leaving no trace.

XI
She waved us a last adios
From the casa's open door
Round which the tall grim cactus
Stood like sentinals of war.

XII
And her words like vespers linger
With the spell that about her lay
Sweet courtly Dona Maria,
The once Belle of Monterey.

Written by Enid Tucker Miller.

I wish I could paint a picture of that early Monterey which I so clearly visualize as a child of six or seven. It was made up entirely of white adobes, with red tiled roofs, clustered closely together, looking like white doves. The Calle Principal, now Main Street, had these lovely symetrical adobe houses down as far as the old Custom House and the waters edge, some with over-hanging balconies on which the senoritas mingled with the flowers in the cool of the evening. The gardens were in the patios, and only the severe white fronts of the houses with lovely window boxes faced the streets. Of course there was no traffic or street cars, and only a few carriages. At noon time the chickens roosted down the streets and the men sat in their shirt-sleeves at the "cantinas" discussing the news of the day, but as late afternoon came on, the street assumed a different aspect as the young gallants on their mounts came out to caracole around the houses of their inamoratas. I remember how they champed at their bits and cavorted around, but were perfectly quiet and would stand without hitching while their masters called on some senorita. Like all Latin towns Monterey came to life in the late afternoon. My grandmother's carriage would be ordered out and we would drive down Calle Principal to the beach, "La Playa", a lovely unspoiled strech of sand, streching as far as the forest which covered all that territory from the Presidio to Point Lobos, so dense one could hardly see daylight when driving thru narrow roads. Then I remember the day when a cannon was bought and one by one a whole block of adobes were demolished on Alvarado Street. I can still see them shuddering and then falling, to make way for progress.

The Californians were happy, trusting, easy-going children, basking in the sunshine of life until the Americanos came. Do you wonder that we who cling to the old traditions and romances still weep at the desecration and destruction of all the beauty, poetry, and romance that was our heritage. Even the house of the Sherman Rose has not escaped.

My grandmother gave birth to eighteen children, but all merciful providence intervened and only nine reached the age of maturity. She survived all but two. There were six boys and three girls. My mother, the eldest, married Don Joaquin Bolado of Santander, Spain. Eloisa married Judge William Webb of Alabama. On her death he married her younger sister Angustias. The old casa at Monterey was left to the youngest son Abdel, but was badly damaged during the earthquake of 1906, and some of it was pulled down in an effort to find a treasure, which my grandmother often told me had been buried under the old dining room. There being no banks in those early days, the gold ~~was~~/brought from the placer mines was buried in small kegs. My grandfather buried thirteen, but could only locate twelve when he came to dig them up, so posterity has kept on endeavoring to locate the treasure. On my last visit to Mrs. Black one of the maids told me of a "Louis d'Or" found in the garden.

PART II

The Last of the Dons, was the title of the obituary written on the death of my father Don Joaquin Bolado, and I know of none more appropriate; for with him passed the old regime, the courtly Haciendados, gentlemen land owners, whose homes were always open to passing guests and whose unfailing hospitality and courtesy is still remembered with appreciation and affection by those who knew him.

My father was born in Santander, Spain, which is the Province of Old Castile, March 3rd, 1882. His father was an officer in the Spanish army at the time of Napoleon's invasion of Spain. He retired after the war and married, of this union were born two sons and three daughters. My father was destined for the Church, as they were not able to afford the education of two sons in a profession. Valentine, the younger was sent to Madrid to study law, at which he was most sucessful. He married a distant cousin and they had five children.

Pilar, who married Enrique Inclan, stepson of Admiral Topete who was with Cervera at Cuba, they have two sons, one in the Army and one a physician.

Milagros married the younger son of the Marques of Quintana- two daughters and a son in the army. Consuelo the youngest and loveliest married Enreque Ejeria, a successful business man. They reside in the old Bolado homestead, where my father was born, and when last in Spain we dined at the same stone table under a spreading oak where he had sat as a little child. He was placed under the tutelage of a very well educated priest and it was from him he derived his love of books, and poetry, and his wide knowledge of the classics, which were an endless source of pleasure during his entire life. He was an excellent Latin scholar and to my delight would say mass for me and my dolls, until my mother, who was intensely religious, felt it a sacrilege and we had to give up this source of amusement. At eighteen my father decided he was utterly unfitted for a religious life, being unable to persuade his family to allow

him to take up a profession, one day he boarded one of the many sailing from the port of Santander, for the new world, and did not return to Spain until 1864, after he had made a fortune and brought with him, my mother, a radiant young bride. The Bolado family had a cousin in the City of Mexico and to them my father went - he remained in Mexico until he had accumulated sufficient money to come to California, where the gold rush had started in 1849 and men were flocking from all parts of the world. He hired a crew of men to work in the mines, paying their passage to Monterey, on their arrival they contended that a contract made in Mexico was not valid in California, and he had to give up his cherished plan of going directly to work in the mines. Instead he opened a store of general merchandise near the mines with the small capital he had left. In a short time was able to purchase an interest in a ranch owned by some young Spaniards at San Luis Obispo. This proved a successful venture and in a few years they arrived at Monterey, then the capital.

My grandmother's home was always the social center, as they had a ball room, and the first piano to arrive in california. She always had a bevy of young girls visiting her, and "bailes" two or three times a week, to which the young Espanoles were a welcome addition. They were excellent dancers and accomplished horsemen. Their favorite out-of-door sport was bear baiting which consisted of rounding up a bear in the dense forest back of Monterey - and driving it down to the beach where they would lasso it by the feet and then finish it. This was a sport for moonlight nights. My father rode his horse in the old St. Cyr manner, man and horse being as one, up to a few weeks before his death, his horsemanship was a thing to marvel at, and his dancing of his native Castilian dances equally graceful. When he went a courting at my Grandmothers home he was supposed to be epris of a relative, Panchila Alvarado by name, and no one thought of my mother a child of fourteen being the real attraction, least of all my mother herself. She had heard her parents discuss the desirability of a marriage between Panchila and Bolado and when the request came for her hand it was a complete surprise. my grandmother said she was too young, and they must wait at least six months. Having been brought up with five brothers, a real little tom boy, she had never been allowed any of the privileges our modern little girls enjoy, so that on this never to be forgotten day, she was allowed to sit at the table with the grown-ups, given a silk dress and danced at the "bailes"- suddenly life had become enchanting but from time to time she would don her old clothes and rush out for a romp with her brothers.

Always an excellent musician even at the age of twelve she had been given every advantage that could be procured. In front of the lovely mirror which now hangs in my hallway, they were married six months later, and this was also the "First" long mirror to come from the City of Mexico.

As was the custom in early California my father sent the trousseau from the City of Paris, our first large store. By mistake, a huge doll was also sent, which was the delight of my mother's life and in which she was much more interested than in her clothes.

They remained a few years ~~in~~ Monterey, having rented the end rooms of my grandmothers house, and then they moved to San Francisco. They rented a house on Stockton Street, near the beautiful old home of William Baron on the site of the present New York Life Insurance Building. It was the first of San Francisco's palatial homes and Mr. Baron was noted for the magnificence of his balls and receptions. His brother ~~married~~ Don Pepe married Miss Walkinshaw, whose mother was from Chili, she was one of four beautiful sisters and always acted as hostess in Mr. Baron's home,- Don Guillermo, as he was called by his intimate friends. After Don Pepe's death Mrs, Baron and her children went to Pau to live and died there only a short time ago. Their lovely old home was purchased by Antoine Borel, who married a cousin of Walkinshaws,- one of the sweetest and most beloved women in San Francisco. George Whittell, then a clerk in Murphy and Grant's was also a suitor for this same lady, but the family objected,-later he married a daughter of Nicolas Luning. The home of Baron's was the milieu of all the social life of San Francisco in the sixty's and my mother ,alittle girl of seventeen suddenly brought into all this elegance and brilliancy was fairly dazzled and I would sit for hours when I was a little girl listening to her descriptions of her first ball in San Francisco,- of her first beautiful ball gown, and how she walked into a long mirror at a ball, not recognizing herself.

Among the many I have heard her speak of at these balls were the Hagins, the Teris's, the three Mac's, Ella Maxwell, Mollie McMullen, and Ella McNulty. Don Camilo Martin, the Beau Brummel who married Miss Fanny Hyde- he was the Spanish Consul for many years,- his daughter is Mrs. William Palmer Home.

In 1864 Mr. Baron invited my father and mother to be his guest on a trip to Europe. Chartering a vessel, they went by way of Panama and Aspinwal, crossed the Isthmus where another vessel was waiting to take them to Liverpool. The party consisted of all the Baron and Walkinshaw connections,- twenty-four in all.

In London my parents left the Baron party and went on to France Germany, and then to Spain to see my father's relatives, his father had died,- but his dear little old mother lived to see her son once more. When I visited my fathers family in 1912, I found his two old sisters still alive, in their nineties, and they told me how they admired my mother and how lovely she was, and where she sat, and where she slept, and brought it all so near to me.

They spent two years in Europe and on my fathers return he f found that California had been indulging in a terrible drought, all his cattle dead, and he had to begin all over again. He was able to sell his interest in the ranch he then owned, "El Arroyo Seco", and built two charming houses on Sutter Street, where I was born and married,- and where my mother died.

He also purchased in 1864 with Joaquin and Jose Arques of San Jose, the Santa Ana y Quien Sabe Rancho of which this ranch which he named Santa Anita, is a part. These ranches consisted of 48,000 acres. The old stage driver of San Juan,- Mark Regan,- has often told me how he drove my father from Monterey to San Juan, armed to the teeth, and carrying six bags of gold, to pay the six heirs of

the Larios family, from whom he purchased this property and of which Mark Regan always added, there was not a cent left at the end of two years. This purchase was consumated in the office of the Plaza Hotel. Large tracts of these ranches were sold by my father and the Arques Brothers.

In I874 my father sold this ranch to Stanislaus Hernandez,- taking a mortgage which was never paid, and the ranch returned to my father - for which I have always been most grateful. For to me it is "La tierra adorada" and the love of it is deeply rooted in my heart- a legacy which I hope will be handed down from my children to their children's children. This love of the mother earth was an inheritance from my father. My mother loved her home in San Francisco and never wanted to live on the ranch, which was a very lonely place in those days.

The early days of San Francisco were so full of color and c charm, it was still a very European mode of life, they walked with a statlier tread - in their pleasure as well as their business, very different from our present age of rush and hurry.

There was quite a colony of French and Spanish families; each had a reception day and friends came together with delightful formal informality to indulge in nothing more exciting than the lost art of conversation. All trace of this European influence in society as well as in architecture was obliterated in the earthquake and fire of I906 (The lost City of my love and my desire).

My mother died after a long illness in I892, leaving a heart-broken husband and daughter.

PART III

Golden memories indeed those early days of my childhood at the dear old home on Sutter Street. I had neither brothers nor sister, they having died when they were babies, and I must have been a very lonely child, but this I did not realize, for every one about me, Father, Mother, and my dear old nurse Bridget Fitzpatrick adored me and did everything to amuse me - so I entered into the closest companionship with my mother - she used to amuse me by the hour with tales of her childhood in Monterey, her playmates, brothersand sisters her marriage, her arrival in San Francisco, her first ball and her youthful experiences in the social world where she was so much admired - until I seemed to have led two lives, hers and mine. I knew all those people of the early sixties and treasured their photographs more than she did. When I was five my father again lost large sums of money through having sold the Santa Anita Ranch to Stanislaus Hernandez on a mortgage and having to take it back two years later, with all the losses it entailed after the drought of I875 and I876. My mother then decided it was her duty to rent the San Francisco home and move to the ranch to help my father recoup his fallen fortunes. Once more he began again full of hope and ambition - though not so young. The heavens were propitious and the rain came down in torrents those winters of I877 and I878 - and in two years he had regained all his losses. They were the two most joyous years of my childhood for to me who had never seen a green field it was a veritable land of enchantment,-the hills, the trees, the clouds, were part of myself.

I had a number of pets and a pony, but alas was not allowed to ride, for a neighbors little girl was thrown and killed a few months before and my mother , who had lost two babies, could not let her ewe lamb run into any dander. My father made me his constant companion, and they were never to be forgotten days, then came the long interminable winter when it rained in torrents and the days were so long for my mother though she occupied herself diligentlyypracticing hours every day studying French, making all her clothes and mine and reading and teaching me an hour each day - but to me those winter days were a joy and the culmination came one Christmas when it snowed, and the ground and the trees were white and beautiful beyond belief - but alas the two years drew to a close and we returned to San Francisco and I was sent to Madam Zitkas School for girls. She was a tyrant and ruled with an iron rod - there I remained for two unhappy years - when my mother was told of a charming French lady who was opening a school for little girls and there I went to my intense delight. We were taught very little as far as schools go,- but as I look back, I know she gave us culture and the love of books, of art, and of history and laid a foundation for reading which has been one of the greatest pleasures and solaces of my life in French as well as English. I remainedin this school till my mother's long illness began - she died in 1892 - after a long and heart-rending illness of four years. Up to that time my life had been so joyous and happy - though most methodical and carefully ordered, every hour was planned, its pleasures as well as its studies. I was taken to the theatre very often and saw the best of actors, for San Francisco was then the center of the finest acting - I don't think I quite knew what it was all about - and much preferred Billy Emerson. Then there was a marvelously enchanting place called Woodwards Gardens full of statuary, birds, animals, and a boat in a lake of lilies - was it all as beautiful as it seemed to my childish eyes? I often wonder. The statues were copies of "Canova" and in the picture gallery was a Francesca and Paola, anda Toby Rosenthal which I know were good. And there were two beer halls the Vienna and the Winter Garden where we went in the evening to hear music. The Spanish students were one of the attractions. The Vienna was the old home of Dr. Bowie's family and really in a garden. Then most divine eveof all came Adelina Patti in the glorious old opera house - and I was allowed to go to that perfect "first night" performance - I can never forget the thrills - and yet they say children of seven or eight are too young to appreciate beauty. It is all a wonderful dream of delight - till the sad awakening came of my adored mother's long illness, and childhood was over.

Geronimo Vallejo married Antonia Gomez

Ignacio Vicente Ferrer Vallejo born I748 at Guadalajara, Mexico, married Maria Antonia Isabel de Lugo at Santa Barbara, February I8th, I79I and died in Monterey I83I.

The Vallejo family came to California with Ortega in I774.

Their children were as follows;

I.-Maria Isadora --------born I79I, married Mariano Soberanes.

2.-Maria Josefa --------born I793, married Francisco Alvarado after his death married Jose Estrada

3.-Jose Ignacio ---------born I795, no mention of marriage

4.-Juana Maria ---------born I797, no mention of marriage

5.-Jose de Jesus --------born I799, married Soledad Sanchez

6.- Maria Magdalena -----born I803, married Valle Blacknen.

7.-Prudencia ----------born I805, married Jose Amesti.

8.-Mariano Guadalupe ----born I808, married Francisca Carrillo

9.-Encarnation----------born I809, married Juan Cooper.

IO.-Rosalia ----------born I8II, married Jacob Leese.

II.-Salvador----------born I8I3, married Maria de la Luz Carrillo

I2.-Maria de Jesus-------born I8I5, no mention of marriage.

I3.-Juan Bautista ----------born I8I7,no mentio of marriage.

4/11/38

Berk Lib
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C547

Monterey
Old Astorga House Museum
Ship Natalia. - Abrigo House

Clark, Sydney A. Golden Tapestry of California
New York - McBride 1937.
315 pp. index, map. illus.

p193.

There are many ingredients of Monterey romance and out of them at least constitutes a surprise. In 1833 a trading ship named the Natalia went ashore on the beach just below the Old Custom House. Relics of it are now displayed in the little museum located in the Custom House and a notice attached to them declares that the house at the corner of Webster and Abrigo Street, built by Don José Abrigo, Street, built by Don José Abrigo, was constructed from the very timbers of the wreck. If this is true it is something to quicken the pulse, for the Natalia had been, some twenty years prior to its sudden demise, a French ship of war, named the Inconstant, and on it Napoleon fled from Elba for his crowning adventure the Hundred Days. This fact has been definitely authenticated.

adobe with timber

11/11/38 B.E.S.

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Monterey County
Adobe and Timber-
"Abrego Adobe"

Garrison, Myrtle Romance and
History of California
Ranchos.

206 pages. index. illus.
San Francisco Harr Wagner
Pub. Co. 1935.

2 typ. mss.

p57.

While Don Jose was a ranchero, although he kept a mayordomo to look after his vaqueros, he maintained a residence in Monterey the history of which is interesting. It was called Casa de Abrego. The timber used in constructing the house, combined with the adobe, was taken from an old ship, La Natalie, which is supposed to be the ship used by Napoleon to make his escape from the Isle of Elba.

The story goes that La Natalie was the former French ship Inconstant, and that the name was changed after Napoleon made his escape on it to France to participate in the One Hundred Days War, which ended in the Battle of Waterloo, and following

which Napoleon was sent to St. Helena.
The ship was used by smugglers
on the Pacific Coast, and Abrego
purchased it from them, after
it was wrecked on the shore
at Monterey during the Mexican
regime.

The four ranchos were confirmed
to Abrego by the United States
Land Board, and later went to
his heirs, but, like most of the
ranchos, eventually passed into
American hands.

Abrego —

California's First Pianos.

"An inquiry into the movements of both Commodore Jones and Captain Stephen Smith reveals that the American naval officer was at Monterey in October 1842 and that while Smith in the American Brigantine George Henry was on the coast in 1841, it was in 1843 that he brought the three pianos Bancroft mentions. ... During the visit 1841, he arranged to bring back a steam sawmill. This he did in 1843, likewise the three pianos Bancroft mentions. The saw mill was set up in Bodega, the first steam mill. . . Capt. Smith did well with his piano speculation, selling his entire stock, and for that which Don José Maria Abrego bought, the former Mexican latter, who had come to Calif. with the Padres-Hijar colony in 1834 paid $600.00. Concerning the piano sold by Smith to Don Eulogio Celis we have no record but both the Vallejo and the Abrego pianos have left their mark, the latter being in existence today in possession of Don Abe's granddaughter.

Young, energetic

and provided with some capital, Abrego upon his arrival embarked as a merchant at Monterey, where he prospered both financially and politically. In 1834 he married Josefa Estrada the half sister of the then Governor Juan B. Alvarado, and when building his new home incorporated into his sala, or ball room, timbers from the brig Natalia which had been wrecked at Monterey and in which he had arrived in California.

11/11/38 B.E.S.

(1)

Ref Cal
[979.4
SW 26]

Monterey
United States Flag.
"Casa Abrego"

Taken before WPA started. When taken women only

Swasey, W. F.

The Early Days and Men of California.
San Francisco, Pacific Press.
406 pp. 1891.

4 pp. Mss.

Table of Contents Index to Pioneers - The Argonauts.

pp. 55-58

State of California
County of Santa Clara } ss

John M. Murphy, Moses Schallenberger and W. F. Swasey being by me duly sworn each severally deposes and says: That he is a resident and freeholder in the State of California: that he has resided in said State since 1844 and 1845 respectively; that in the winter of 1846 General Jose Castro, Military Commandant of California, issued and published a bando (proclamation) ordering the American settlers in the northern part of California to leave the Territory forthwith, that said Moses Schallenberger and said Swasey.

(2)

affiants hereto, saw and read said
bando posted up in a public house
kept by Don José Abrigo, in the town
of Monterey, in the spring of 1846;
that said affiant Murphy
depose that the fact publicly
proclamation being issued was
a notorious and accepted fact
among the people of San José,
which never been disputed until
very recent years. John M. Murphy.
M. Schallenberger;
W. F. Swasey.

Sworn and subscribed to before
me this twenty-fourth day
of January, 1891. J. H. Russell
Notary Public.

1/11/38 B.E.S.

131

Ref Cal
979.4
Sw-26

Monterey
United States Flag
"Casa Abrigo"

Swasey, W.F. The Early Days and Men of California.

p 57 -
cont'd

In the meantime affairs had been progressing rapidly in Monterey. The American Colony was on the qui vive, watching every movement; human wolf rifle the yoke of the Mexican Government, and seek protection under the flag of some strong foreign power; the dominant sentiment among the Californians was strongly in favor of the English Government. In the latter part of March or early in April, 1846 a junta, composed of the leading Californians and citizens of alien birth, met at the house of Mr. Larkin. Among those attending that meeting the author recalls the names of General M. G. Vallejo, Don Pablo de la Guerra, General José Castro, Don Jose Abrigo, W. E. P. Hartnell, an Englishman, and David Spence, a Scotchman

The meeting took place in a room adjoining one occupied by the aptness, who, being anxious to know what was going on, listened attentively to their proceedings, from which he gathered distinctly that the main subject of their discussion was the suggestion, or the formation, of throwing off the trammels of the Mexican Government, and seeking protection from some foreign Power. Several speeches were made, mostly in favor of England; but the matter finally wound up with a speech made by General Vallejo, the purport of which was that when the time arrived when it should become necessary for the well-being of the Californians to change their allegiance from their mother country, he would be most earnestly and emphatically in favor of applying to the United States, as he frequently termed it in his speech, "La Grand Republica del Norte" upon which the meeting broke up or adjourned

11/11/38 BGS.

5

Ref Cal
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Monterey
United States Flag.
"Casa Abrego"
Livasey, N.Y.

without taking definite action.
Mr. Bancroft denies that any such
meeting was ever held or that such
speeches were ever made, and
pronounces the meeting a myth,
and General Vallejo's speech
the creation of his own
imagination. The author is
in receipt of a letter from
General Vallejo in which he
denounces Mr. Bancroft's
language and assertions in
most vigorous and justly
indignant terms, and alludes
to the author, as the only
survivor of those present,
as above stated.

On the afternoon of July 2, 1846,
Commodore Sloat, on board
the frigate Savannah, entered
the Bay of Monterey; the
sloops of war Levant and
Cyane had been lying

at anchor three some days.

1-11-38. H.T.
Monterey.

C
919.4
B221.V.II.
Bank.

Bancroft, Hubert Howe
History of California
San Francisco, 1886.

Bank. 786 pp.

Abrego Sent to Mazatlan

pp 401-02. At the beginning of the new year Micheltorena issued a decree carrying into effect the economical measures decided upon by the Junta of October 1843.

By this reform a saving of about $40,000 was effected in the estimated expenses of the year, chiefly in the civil budget; while by a system of half-pay reductions in the Military branch, a further saving of about $12,000 was promised; and the total sum to be required of the treasury for 1844 was reduced approximately to $120,000, or $10,000 per month. The remaining problem was where to obtain the $120,000. By the California, the government schooner leaving Monterey in December, Abrego, Andrés Pico, and Larkin had hailed for

Jan. 1. 1844, Micheltorena, Bando Económico M.S.
Hist Cal., Vol IV. 26.

C
979.4
B221
V. IV

1-11-38. H.T.

Monterrey

Arrego Seat to Mazatlan.

Off 401-02. Mazatlan, the beginning of the former two, and probably of the last as well, being to obtain funds on Michaltorena's orders drawn for the amount of $8,000 that had been assigned him on his departure from Mexico. There is no record of their negotiations or of definite results.

1-11-1938. H.

Monterey.

C
979.4
D299
Bancr. Lib.

Davis William Heath.
Seventy five Years in California
San Francisco. 1929.

Bancr. 42:3/p

Abrego (Doña) Josefa.

p. 333. A Native California lady named Señora Doña Josefa Estrada Abrego, half-sister of Governor Alvarado, resided at Monterey in 1842 (still living here — 1889.) at the time Commodore Jones raised the American flag over that city. She was one of the most beautiful and intelligent of her sex. Like all her people, she felt deep chagrin that the fortunes of war should bring about a change which would compel her to submit to the new order of things.

Commodore Jones as a gentleman, aside from his official rank was an acceptable visitor in the families of the Native Californians, where he was treated with courtesy, which he reciprocated in kind, as one who fully appreciated the situation, and would not

V.T 1-11-38 (2)

Monterey.

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979.4
A299
Bancr. Lib

Abrego (Doña) Josefa

p 333. permit Livery to be out done in gallantry.
One day he called at the Abrego Mansion, and
alluded to the fine appearance of the assembled
Children — especially extolling the manly bearing
of the boys. Acknowledging the compliments with
a smile and grateful obeisance, la Señora said
good naturedly, but with ill-concealed warmth:
"I am only sorry, Commodore, my sons were
not old enough to offer resistance when you
captured our city." To which Commodor Jones
replied; "The sentiment does you honor, Madame.
At lovers of their country, it would certainly
have been their duty to do so." Señora Abrego,
it may be remarked, is at this writing (Oct, 1888,)
74 years of age and in a remarkable state
of Mental and physical preservation.

1. 7. 38. V. T.

Ref Cal
9.7.94
T 212
Bank Life

Taylor Bayard
Eldorado
New York, 1864.

Montrey

Cara Abrego

pp 142-44.

The Ladies of Señor Sovranes and Señor Abrego were also much visited by Americans. The former gentleman served as a Captain in Mexico during the War, but since then has subsided into a good American citizen. Señor Abrego, who is of Mexican origin was the most industrious Californian I saw in the country. Within a few years he had amassed a large fortune, which was in no danger of decreasing. I attended an evening party at his home, which was as lively and agreeable as any occasion of the kind could well be. There was a tolerable piano in his little parlor, on which a lady from Sydney, Australia, played "Non Piu Mesta" with a good deal of taste. Two American gentlemen gave us a few choice flute duetts, and the entertainment closed by a quadrille and a polka, in which a little son of Señor Abrego figured to the general admiration.

(1)

3 pp ms

1/3/37 BEB.

#46

Monterey County.

"Casa Abrego"

" Amesti."

Hunt Rockwell D. Editor. Index 562 ff. California and Californians V.1. Lewis Pub. Co. 1926.

Bk Lib. [Ref. C. 979.4 H 918]

p 463 From a social viewpoint all early writers place Monterey at the head of all the towns of California. Don José Arnaz and educated Spaniard, noted that there was greater learning in Monterey. . . . . Ships of all nations, especially war vessels, came often to the port, and their distinguished officers served as models in deportment.

Consequently the people of the better class in Monterey had finer manners than those of any other town, not even excepting Los Angeles, where there was a very select society.

The houses of Don Juan Cooper, Don José Amesti, and Don José Abrego were usually the centers of family reunions, and at one or another of them on days of fiesta there would be an informal dance in the afternoon or evening

p 464 . . . .

Trappers and hunters from over the Rockies with valuable skins

and furs were often entertained with amusements and dissipation would their money was gone and they were left to go back stripped of everything.

. - . - . - .

507, Thus came to an inglorious end the great Colonization scheme which had started so brilliantly: but despite its failure it left an appreciable impress upon the province, for those who chose to cast in their lot with the new land, nearly two hundred in all, devoted themselves to useful activities and established families whose names are among the most honorable in the records of the territory.

Prominent among them were Ignacio Coronel, well known Educatoo, Agustin Olvera, José Arrigo, Jesus Noé. & Lorenzo Serrano, José María Covarrubias; Victor Prudón, and many others whose names are still borne by descendants in the state.

Wal 2-

p 188 Perhaps none was more accomplished or better educated than P.N.

(31

Bonk Lib.
[Ref. C.
979.4
H918]

Monterey County #46
"Casa Abrego"

Hunt, Rockwell D California and Californians
V. 1. 1926.

de la Guerra, of Santa Barbara, who afterwards became a state senator. Carrillo was a pure Castilian, strong character, intelligent, and somewhat prejudiced against Americans. Antonio M. Pico's face was expressive of shrewdness and mistrust.

12/27/37 BAS.

v

Monterey County
"Abrego Adobe"

has been put in the north end of the house, which is being used as a studio. The distinguishing features about the place are the twelve foot ceilings with paneling in all the front rooms, and the three pair of teak wood doors.

The home was built by Don Jose Abrego, a Spanish merchant who came to Monterey from Mexico in 1834 with the Colonists under Don José María Híjar, on the vessel Natalia, which is said to have been the vessel on which Napoleon escaped from the Isle of Elba.

In 1835 the vessel was sold to smugglers who carried on their dishonest business for a few months. One night, while the men were on shore, a heavy northeast gale parted the anchor chains and it drifted ashore and was wrecked. Portions of the timbers of this historic vessel

12/27/37 Dup.

(11)

U.C. Lib
P. Stark
7856
S7
v. 26-27

"Monterey County
Casa Abrego."

Andresen, Anna [Gil]
"Monterey Landmark
Restored." in
Grizzly Bear
v. 27 + no. 157. 25 pages.
Los Angles, May. # 1920.

5 pages
MS.

p 24.

The Restoration of Landmarks, especially the California missions, is attracting considerable attention at the present time. Interest, however, is being taken not only in the restoration of the missions, but in private buildings as well. In the old historic town of Monterey three private adobe houses are being restored, among them the Abrego home, which has an interesting history.

This house has recently been purchased by Mrs. Esther Stevens Barney, an artist. No radical changes have been made in it; it has simply been cleaned up, equipped with modern plumbing, and made comfortable and livable. A new fireplace has been built in the sitting room, and a light

12/27/37

3

U.C. Lib
[P. Stacks
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@7
V. 26-27]

Monterey County

"Casa Abrego"

Andresen, Anna Gil
Grizzly Bear
V. 27. May -

p 24. Mrs said by Don José Abrego in building this house. In 1836 Señor Abrego married Josefa Estrada, a half sister of Governor Alvarado. and moved at once into a part of the house which he had built, and to which additions were afterward made.

In this house was one of the first Steel pianos ever brought to California. A paper on the inside of it, written by Don José had the following inscription: "In 1841 Captain Stephen Smith arrived with his Vessel in Monterey, and I engaged him to bring me a piano on his next trip to the Country. In March 1843 he returned to this City in a brigantine; he had Steel Pianos on board. I bought this one of him for $ 600.- He then Sailed for San Francisco; where General Vallejo purchased

another of the pianos. The third one was afterwards sold by Captain Smith to E. de Celis at Los Angles."

This piano is now in the possession of Mrs. Francis Davis, a granddaughter of Don José, at her ranch at Tres Pijios, near Hallister, San Benito County. The writer of this sketch remembers the piano, having often played on it in her childhood. The piano is a six-octave one, made by Bettf Hartel at Leipzig, and Bettkopt & by Braun & Hankom, sin Sorted Baltimore.

The Abrego home was the scene of many a social gathering, "Cascarone" parties, receptipins, etc., and up to the time of Mrs. Abrego's death, in the '90's the most prominent and distinguished visitors to Monterey were entertained in this historic house. Bayard Taylor, the poet, who visited Monterey in 1849, was entertained at this house, and in his "El Dorado" writes as follows:

"I attended an evening party at

12/27/37

(5)

U.C. Lib
[7856
C 7
v.26-27]
p 24.

Monterey County
"Casa Abrego"

Andriessen, Anna D. Grizzly Bear v.27-

the home of Senor Abrego, which was as lively and agreeable as any occasion of the kind could be. There were a piano in the parlor on which a lady from Sydney Australia, played with a good deal of taste. Two American gentleman gave us a few choice flute duets, and the entertainment closed with a Spanish quadrille, in which a little son of Senor Abrego figured to the general admiration.

5/10/38. EF.

Monterey

Bark Lib
C
979.4
G193

Garrison Myrtle
Tamanend's History of California Rancheros
San Francisco, 1935.

San José Alvrgo

p. 57.

a Rancho that was important in the old days and is still making history was Rancho Doche Buena.

In the lovely valley where cattle once grazed by the thousands, among the blue gum and pepper trees, stands Hotel Del Monte, within whose walls have feasted and danced, royalty, nobility and commoners whose social and financial fame are a power in America and on the European Continent today. Near it is Pacific Grove in its historical setting, built upon Punta Pinas Rancho. Both of these ranchos were grants to Don José Alvrgo, who was prominent in the political affairs of California both in the Spanish and Mexican days. He also granted Rancho Sausito and San Francesquito the four grants comprising seven square leagues.

Bank Lib
C
979.4
G193

5/10/38. E.T.
Monterey

Garrison Byrtle
Romance & History of California Ranchos
San Francisco, 1935.

Casa de Abrego

pp 57-58. Don José was a ranchero, although he kept a Mayordomo to look after his vaqueros, he maintained a residence in Monterey the history of which is interesting.

It was called Casa de Abrego. The timber used in constructing the house, combined with the adobe, was taken from an old ship La Natalie, which is supposed to be the ship used by Napoleon to make his escape from the Isle of Elba. The story goes that La Natalie was the former French ship Inconstant and that the name was changed after Napoleon made his escape on it to France to participate in the One Hundred Days' War which ended in the Battle of Waterloo, and following which Napoleon was sent to St Helena. The ship was used by smugglers on the Pacific Coast, and Abrego purchased it from them, after it was wrecked on the shore at Monterey during the Mexican régime.

5/.6/38.T.
Monterey County

Bk Lib
Reading Room

Heldan E.D. in,
Fancy Express Courier
Placerville, 1938 (Jan)

"The first Piano in California"

San José Alcago

p.6.

San José Alcago was young, intelligent and with some capital and became a merchant in Monterey.
Being of good repute he soon became a prominent citizen, holding public offices until 1836. No one questioned his ability or integrity.
He held the office of sub-comisario, administrator of San Antonio Mission, Custom-house Officer, member of the assembly, substitute member of the tribunal, treasurer in charge of territorial finances from 1839 to 1846, possessing the confidance of all concerned.
In 1836, he married Josefa Estrada, sister of Governor Alvarado whose mother was a sister of General Vallejo.
San José revisited Mexico in 1843 and 1844. In

Dorothea
Reading Room

5/.6/38. S.F.
Monterey County

Walden E.L. in,
Fancy Express Courier
Placerville, 1938 (Jan)

"The first Piano in California"

p. 6.

Don José Abrego

1841 He was the grantee of the Saint Times ranchos at Monterey. He was a man of Vision, who believed with his brother-in-law, Governor Alvarado that the future of California was bound up with the United States of America. Governor Alvarado, acting on the King of Spain's order had the authority to make large grants of land to encourage Colonists, giving hundreds of grants which read "so many leagues a little more or less."

Don José was not a recipient of any of these grants.

He did not want them, he preferred to purchase large tracts of land, paying cash for them. He owned at one time the property now occupied by "Hotel del Monte." He named his ranchos "La Huerta del rey," which means the "Orchard of the King"

His Granddaughter, Mrs Dulce Bolado Davis

5/16/38. W.P. (3)

Monterey County

Bar Rule

Reading Room

Holden E. L. in
Fancy Express Courier
Placerville, 1938 (Jan)

"The first Piano in California"

Don José Abrego

p.6.

now lives on the "Santa Anita Rancho" in San Benito County sixty miles from Monterey. This ranch was purchased by her father from the Anzar family.

To day we find in old Monterey a street named "Abrego" Street to perpetuate the family name. Don José continued his business career at Monterey up to the time of his death in 1878, at the age of sixty-five.

~~Stevens~~ Stephen Smith was a trader, between Baltimore and Monterey and first came to Monterey in 1841. - - -

Abrego met Smith at Monterey and had requested him on his next return trip to bring him a piano, feeling that such an instrument in his home would add much to

5/1.6/38.V/.④

Monterey County

Bk. Talk
Reading Room

Walden E. D. in
Fang Express Courier
Placerville, 1938 Jan)

"The First Piano in California"

p. 6.

San Jose Abrego

the entertainment of his family and guests. In March, 1843 Smith came again to Monterey, as Master of the brigantine "George N. Henry" and had with three pianos. One was purchased by Don José Abrego for six hundred dollars.---
Mrs. Dulce Calado Davis full heir to her grandfather's piano and this instrument now graces her home at the Santa Anita Rancho, sixty-miles from Monterey, inland. These were the first pianos to come to California and were at that time called clavichords and were evolved from the harpischord. The makers name of this piano shown on its case is "Brell-Kopfe and Haertel," Leipzig, imported by Braun & Locke, Baltimore. The pedals are of brass and two brass candle-stick holders are on either side of the keyboard

5/.6/38. W.P. 5

Monterey County

Book Lib
Reading Room

Holden E.D. ms
Fancy Express Courier
Placerville, 1938 (Jan)

"The first piano in California"

D.6.

Don José Abrego

Miss Davis told me, "that the following inscription is written under the cover of the first piano that landed in Calyornia purchased by my grandfather, don José Abrego, a piano which I have in my house.

—"This is one of the first three pianos brought to Calyornia. Its history is as follows — in 1841 Captain Staven Smith arrived with his vessel in Monterey and I engaged him to bring me a piano, on his next trip to this country. In March 1843, he returned to this city in a brigantine, he had three pianos on board. I bought this one for $600.

He then sailed to San Francisco where General Vallejo purchased another of the pianos. The third piano was afterwards sold to Eulogio de Celis of Los Angeles"

5/16/38. G.F.
Monterey County

Bank Lib
Reading Room

Holden E. D. in,
Lamp Express Convier
Placerville, 1938. (Jan)

"The First Piano in California"

Casa Abrego

p. 6.

The Nigar Fadrus, colony was an emigration scheme.

Nigar had been appointed political chief and director of colonization for this colony consisting of some 250 persons at a salary of $3,000. The Colonists came from Malico. - - -

The personnel of the company was a class far superior to any that had come before as colonists.

Many were educated some had property, and all had a trade or profession.

The party came in 1834. A prominent member of this Company was a Spanish gentleman by the name of Don José Abrego. He came on the French sloop of War "Natalia" whose name had been changed from the "Inconstant" while in the Strait which Emperor Napoleon escaped from the Isle of Elba to France, before the battle