

Ref Cal
051
C. 129
V. II

Berks Lib

Monterey.
Clifford, Josephine, in
The Californian
San Francisco, July 1880.

7/29/37. J.S.

"Madame Monterey"

p. 80.

Site of Casa Benifacio

Quite a number of the wealthy prominent Americans, lately removed to Monterey, have bought some of the better preserved of the old adobe structures, and have converted them into desirable and attractive homesteads; for, no matter how indolent and non-progressive the Spanish population may have been, there is one element in this sleepy old town which never stood still—the plants and flowers of field and garden. They took no holiday, summer or winter, these thousands of roses, lilies, vines, and trees; they kept right on growing, growing, growing, till they have covered houses, fences, ruins, with a tangle of scarlet, gold and purple blossoms. In the garden of Madame Benifacio (I beg pardon for growing personal I do not know the lady, but I want other tourists to enjoy what I saw), there

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Monterey

(2)

"Madona Monterey"

Site of Casa Bonifacio.

p. 80. is a trellis over the walk, from the hall-door to the gate. The entire trellis is covered with a rose, yellowish in color, the size of a breakfast-saucer, and crowded with blossoms. The stem of this rose is a tree, as large around as the neck of an ordinary sized man. This must be seen to be believed, I know; but it's here.

1-7-38 V.P.

Ref Cel
920 Osborne Kathrine D. Monterey.
St 480 Robert Louis Stevenson in California
Book Club Chicago. 1911

p. 33.

Cara Bonifaccio.

Nearly four months Stevenson remained in Monterey. The first month of his time with Mrs Osborne, with her daughter and son and her sister, was occupying a picturesque old adobe on the main street, set deep in a garden having the famous rose tree which is pointed out to all visitors. It was the home of Signorita Bonifaccio, admired of General Sherman during his historic stay in the old Pacific capital.

1-13-38. J.T.

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N43
Book.

Newcomb Kelford
The old Missions and
Historic Houses of California.
Philadelphia, 1925

"The old Houses of Monterey"

Casa Benifacio

p. 338-39. The so-called "Sherman Rose-tree House", in the heart of the business section upon Alvarado Street,¹ was always a place of interest because of the romantic bit of lore that attaches to it, and indeed it was not without its claims as an interesting bit of old Hispanic architecture. The house was the home of Señarita María Ignacia Benifacio, and a popular story runs to the effect that Lieutenant William Tecumseh Sherman, who was detailed to Monterey in 1847, fell in love with the beautiful and popular Señarita. When he had been ordered east and was calling for the last time upon his lady-love, it is said that he gave

¹ Recently removed to make way for a new bank building

1-13-38 T.T. (2)

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"The old House of Monterey"

Casa Bonifacio

pp 338-39. He pursued the rose-tree with the promise that when it blossomed he would return to claim her as his bride. The later famous General never returned, the promise never was fulfilled and Señora Bonifacio spent her life unmarried. So far as any foundation in fact is concerned, it is quite certain that there was none, but the story, like many another, still clings to the memory of the distinguished General and the beautiful Señora, and made the old place, long used as a Spanish restaurant and tea garden, a profitable business venture for its owners.