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Montrey County #46  
 La Granjia  
 The Field Residence ask in should  
 Andersen, Anna, Sub. In Museum Home

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Gift of Maria Antonia Field to U.C. pasted

Story of La Granjia  
 Centenary Souvenir  
 2 illus. 14 pp.

Personal card in front of book.  
 [Miss Maria Antonia Field.]  
 Thought this little story of my home might be of interest to you as it is a California landmark

Written for the centenary of the home,  
 1824, 1924.

[4.] Illus. P. 13 Patio of La Granjia.  
 La Granjia -

Lovers of California landmarks will rejoice to hear that interest is strongly revived in the historic household of old Montrey, which will carry on their romantic story for many years to come.

5 Among these is the home of Miss Maria Antonia Field, built by Miss Field's great grandfather, Don Esteban Murras in 1824.



For one hundred years Don Esteban  
Munoz and his descendants under  
the same parent roof have enjoyed  
the sweet tones of the Missions bells  
that come on the still morning and  
evening air from the neighborhood  
of San Carlos Church.

During all of this time, regardless of  
political or economic changes, the  
Church has stood faithful to its  
mission. For a hundred years the  
Angelus has never failed the evening  
hour, or to vibrate the hope and  
aspiration of the Church; and the  
spirit of that message, caught in  
the Munoz home, has made that  
home to typify the loyal world at  
peace outside of the Presidio walls.

The old Spanish Presidio was  
situated in front of the residence,  
embracing also what are now  
Fremont, Figueroa and Webster  
Streets. Miss Maria Antonia  
Field, talented society girl, in-  
fused not only by family tradition,  
but by her interest long manifested  
in Spanish Colonial history, and  
the restoration of the Spanish  
missions and other landmarks of



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California belonging to the regime  
 has never made the past meet the  
 present in preserving the old tra-  
 ditions of <sup>her</sup> home, which makes its  
 atmosphere delightful.

p. 6 The home is in Miss Field's name,  
 but in it she lives with her charming  
 parents, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Field, and  
 her brother Stephen (which is the  
 English for Esteban), other valu-  
 able members of the family having  
 passed to the Great Beyond, some  
 of them within recent years.

The writer of this sketch has been a  
 frequent visitor in this home  
 for over forty years. Through her  
 own knowledge extending over this  
 period, and supplemented by  
 the traditional knowledge obtained  
 from her own family, she feels  
 competent to cover the subject  
 in a reliable and accurate manner.  
 As has been said before, the



Munras house was built in 1824. The builder, Don Esteban Munras, was born in Barcelona, Spain, in 1700. He was a man of finished education and artistic ability: members of his family had been in the Spanish diplomatic service, and in his early manhood left his native Spain for Lima, Peru, in the employ of the Spanish government. In 1820 he came to Monterey to engage in trading operations, after a two years' residence, he married Catalina Mangarelli, who came of a distinguished Spanish family. Her mother, Maria Casilda Ponce de Leon, was a member of the illustrious Ponce de Leon family of Spain.

Don Esteban Munras wooed and won the charming Catalina in California, as she had come here earlier with her mother, sister and step-father, Don Manuel Quijano, who was third and last surgeon of the old Royal Spanish Presidio in Monterey, holding the rank of Captain



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in the Spanish Army. Don Estéban and Doña Catalina were married in 1822 in Mission Nuestra Señora de la Soledad, by Padre Juan Cabot.

Nine children were born to this union, three sons and six daughters. One of the daughters, Maria Antonia, married Professor Rafael Danglada, a native of San Sebastian, Spain, who came to California in 1850, and was one of California's first professional musicians. To this union was born Catalina Danglada, who married Thomas Field, a native of Scott County Indiana, and descendant of a distinguished English family. To this latter union were born two children, a son Stephen and a daughter Maria Antonia, referred to in the beginning of this sketch.

p. 8

Don Estéban was the first to



to build a pretentious home in Monterey. It was, from the trail it was built, a two-story house with tiled roof, and large, inviting rooms, satisfying fully the modern developments of building.

p 8 Following the custom of the early padres and Spanish pioneers, who dedicated to some saint all their discoveries and the missions they established, Don Esteban had this house blessed, and placed under the protecting care of the Immaculate Conception, the Patroness of Spain. (The Catholic American Hierarchy, also chose the Blessed Virgin Mary, under the title of the Immaculate Conception, as Patroness of the United States.)

In this house was constructed what is probably one of the first fire places in California, and the original andirons are still preserved in two of the fire places of the house.



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p8 cont'd.

San Carlos Church which is seen to the east of this home, is situated at what were the eastern limits of the old Spanish Presidio. The Minerva home, being just outside of the Presidio, was situated near its southwestern corner.

p9.

Don Esteban, whose ambition and purpose in his settlement in Monterey was trade, rapidly developed in this respect, and in the course of a few years established an extensive and lucrative business with the foreign vessels that called at the port of Monterey, and with the Missions of Central California, doing all the trading for the Missions of this portion of the State.

The vision of the future was clear to him, and in that distant day, he saw the accomplishment and development of the present, and sought to gain for himself and his posterity some of the fertile



fields that lay unclaimed in virgin  
richness. As a result, he became  
grantee of the Laguna Seca Rancho,  
but first he purchased the San  
Francisquito Rancho, which he later  
traded for the San Vicente Rancho,  
each a veritable principality in  
extent. The Laguna Seca and San-  
Vicente are still in the possession of  
his descendants.

He was a public-spirited  
man, and gave much of his valuable  
time to matters of public concern.  
His splendid record in this behalf,  
as well as a flawless private career,  
saved him from expulsion from  
this country under certain decrees  
and laws of Mexico passed in 1829,  
expelling Spaniards from  
California. Together with some  
of the Spanish missionaries,  
Spaniards and other foreigners,  
he formed the Sociedad Extran-  
jera (Society of Foreigners) as a  
protection to themselves and  
families from Mexican solitudes.  
The members of this society re-  
fused to take the oath of allegiance  
to Mexico, which the authorities  
of the new regime tried to extort



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from foreigners. The most tolerant Mexican authorities however, decided to leave them unmolested saying: "It will be better not to incense the people too much. Let the Spaniards and other foreigners remain in California. They may be of service to the country, provided if we cannot force our oath of allegiance on them" \*

(For in 1826, California passed from Spain to Mexico.)

In latter years, Don Esteban served as Alcalde of Monterey. United States Consul Thomas O. Larkin in his notes speaks of Don Esteban as "a man of propriety and character, a resident disgusted with Mexican politics and ready for a change of government, favoring the annexation of California to the United States."



111 101  
He died at the all too early age of  
sixty, on September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1850, in the  
house that prompted this sketch.

p 10

\* Foot note

As soon as California passed  
from Spanish to Mexican rule,  
Spaniards were considered foreigners,  
especially those who like Don  
Esteban Murran, remained true  
to the Crown of Spain.

p. 11. The home was built with a huge  
quadrangle or patio, with  
buildings to house the Indian  
servants and for the purpose of  
storing the goods of the wholesale  
mercantile establishment owned  
by Don Esteban. While the house  
has been left intact as to the  
residence part, its roof and huge  
quadrangle buildings were torn  
down recently - five years ago,  
when the exterior of the  
house was modernized, before the  
love for preserving the old was in  
vogue. The interior of the house  
remained the same, as the extremely  
thick walls bear witness, the north  
wall being four and a half feet.



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But two years ago the tile roof and quadrangle were rebuilt.

One of the unique features of the interior decoration is the frieze of the drawing room, which has been drawn from a Persian band belonging to an evening wrap owned by Miss Field's grandmother, Señora Maria Antoinette Murwin de Donaglada. On the frieze in the hall are painted Castilian roses, while on the frieze of the dining room is depicted the national fruit of Spain, the pomegranate, with its leaves and branches.

p. 11.

The form of architecture of the house is Spanish Romanesque, and the chimneys are Spanish Pyrenees, used in the northern part of Spain, and so far as is known are the only ones of their kind built in the United States at the present time. The entrance



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to the home is that of a typical Spanish country home, and with its tiled roof and arched corridors, the home is a veritable Grange, as the name "La Granja" implies.

p. 13

This home in its early days was the scene of festivities and retreat of distinguished guests, and often housed the Spanish missionaries when they came to Monterey from the various missions during the era of the secularization of the missions, for Don Esteban Murrieta intimately linked himself with the development of the missions.

The room occupied by the early Padres is shown intact on the western side of the house and is now used by Miss Field as her relic room, where many of her precious heirlooms and family relics are kept. Among those relics may be seen the manuscript compositions of music by Professor Rafael Pangloss, the grandfather of Miss Field. There are also interesting records



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which have been omitted by historians. Many heirloom pieces of mahogany and cedar are in evidence in the furnishings of this historic landmark.

p 14 Two lanterns which grace the entrance and two which decorate the Romanesque arched corridors, are made after sixteenth century Spanish lanterns.

In the patio are a fountain and two large millstones belonging to the old mill which was at "La Granja" since it was built in 1824.

Thus has the spirit of loyalty shown by Mrs. Field brought to the fore in charming freshness, one of the pioneer edifices of old Monterey, the greater number of which are tumbled ruins, or have totally



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disappeared; and by this work Miss Field has eloquently expressed a debt to the past, too prone to be overlooked and forgotten in the self-seeking, materialistic present.

With due respect for the present and proud of the stirring worth and flawless business activities of her father, she has never forgotten the worth and traditions of her mother's family, nor our debt to the past; she has always maintained that loyalty, broad-mindedness and sympathy are the best marks of good citizenship and perhaps the best insight to her character may be gleaned from her book, "Chimes of Mission Bells," in which she so admirably makes the "Past meet Present" in perfect harmony.

See Andersen, Anna Gil  
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Nunt Rockwell D. (ed.)  
History of California.  
San Francisco, 1926.

Book No. 569 pp.

p 551

Munras Home

The children of Estevan Munras, one of the original pioneers of Monterey, Spanish born and a man of property and character, intermarried with Americans, and one of his descendants, Dña Maria Antonia Field, still lives in the ancestral mansion at Monterey, surrounded by the relics of the old days.



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979.4 Ford, Jerry L.

Monterey.

775 Amongst the Dunes.

Book Lib San Francisco, 1926.

Munras Home.

p 221-22.

Probably the most interesting of all are the old Spanish houses with their red tiled roofs, weathered and moss grown, their flower tangled patios hidden behind high walls, on streets that follow at times the irregular course of century old bridle paths. There may still be seen the Munras home, the first pretentious dwelling in Monterey, built by Don Esteban Munras of Barcelona, Spain, and now presided over by a granddaughter of Don Esteban; the Obregón home, where the most prominent and distinguished visitors to Monterey were entertained; the Pacheco home, built by Don Francisco Ferris Pacheco, a wealthy land owner; the Amasti home, built by Don José Amasti, Spanish born, whose wife was a sister of General Vallejo. Sobranes home, built by General Vallejo's father, later coming into ownership of the Sobranes, a distinguished Spanish family.