

Library

The Monterey Library Association was organized in 1849, and is believed to be the first public library established in California. A greater part of the books were purchased in New York, and consisted of American and Spanish works, and were much valued at the time. Milton Little was president of the association in 1853.

Rev. S. H. Willey in his "Thirty Years in Cal" says: "Before I got to be too busy otherwise, I proposed the plan of a library to the people. They entered into it heartily, and subscribed at once some fifteen hundred dollars, with which to buy books. I had a good supply of New York publishers' catalogues along with me, and so, with the assistance of others, I made out a very choice list of books. In due time they all came in good order, and as on the list of California public libraries, that in Monterey ranks as the one established first."

Local History of Monterey County - Elliott & Inose -
San Francisco, 1881 - p. 120.