

**Monday, 23 March 1846**

The weather pleasant, Some changes made to-day, Five marines from this ship to the Constitution and five from that ship in return, The sick of this ship was transferred to the Constitution, Dr Duval moved on board to day, Midshipman Herron detached and ordered to the Levant, Mr. [John] Parrot [Parrott] the Consul gave a dinner party to-day. It is said that there was sixty gallons of Rum punch, independent of the large quantity of wines, brandies and Gin drank at the Ball given on saturday night.--

**Tuesday, 24 March 1846**

The weather mild, blowing fresh all day, went on board the savannah to-day, Drew one Musket and a set of accountrements from Capt Marston, Lt Schenck was surveyed by a medical survey to-day. Midshipman Johnson suspended from duty a day or two ago, this is the second within a month.--I do not know whether it is all deserved or not, but this much I do know that he is a very mutinous man.

**Wednesday, 25 March 1846**

The weather pleasant, blowing fresh, Another murder committed on shore to-day, this makes the seventh, since we have been here, These assassinations appeared to be committed, with impunity, and the lawless blackguards is rewarded for these inhuman acts of chivalry by being entered into the mexican service, and this by the by is the only if punishment it can be called that they are subject to. Lt. Schenck was not condemned by the medical survey held to-day. Vigorous exertions are being made to prepare the shark for sea immediately, all the Carpenters of the squadron are at work on her. The Commodore has been quite indisposed for some days.

**Thursday, 26 March 1846**

The weather pleasant, wind very high and swell heavy, Quite a sensation was produced this morning. Lt Hunter of this ship immediately after Breakfast took the whale boat pulling five oars, intending to land on an island on the N. E. side of the bay for the purpose of hunting when about half a mile or perhaps less from the shore had to across a bar, the breakers were running very high over this bar, but believing that there was no danger to be apprehended in the whale boat he ventured over, just as he was about half way over the bar, a tremendous [wave] rolled in upon him, turning the boat end over end, throwing him from the stern struts of boats near twenty yards into the water, the boat rolled over & over several times. It [was] quickly perceived by the ships and some dozen of Boats were dispatched to their assistance. Capt Percival in his barge was first on the spot and by the coolness displayed in giving his orders, and the presence of mind which never forsook either Hunter or the unfortunate boat crew, all were saved, and suffered no other injury than a wet Jacket, There was one man in the boat

who could not swim, but hung onto the boat and notwithstanding that the boat turned over several times he kept himself out of water sufficiently to prevent strangling, and was saved, the boat was a good deal broken and injured. Lt Hunter lost his gun and shot bag and powder flask, the cushions of the boat were lost, &c. It was a narrow escape for independent of the imminent peril attending the upsetting of the boat, in so heavy a surf, there was much danger to be apprehended from sharks, which are very numerous at all times in this bay. Capt Montgomery while going up the constitution side to-day by some accident or other dislocated his shoulder, fortunately Dr. [Daniel C.] McCloud [McLeod] was present and adjusted the injury almost instantly, consequently the Capt suffer very [much] from it, And was unable to attend to some guests whom he had invited to-dine with [him] to-day. A Hamburg brig came in and anchored to day, 165 days from Hamburg. The Dutch and German houses seem to be doing a very large and profitable business at this place. A schooner off this evening. It is reported that an express has arrived in town to day from Mexico, but we have not yet heard what it brought. More fighting among the citizens and soldiers on shore. Unhappy people, their evils seem to be growing.

Friday, 27 March 1846

The weather pleasant. Considerable commotion and ill feeling seems to exist between the Mexican soldiers and sailors on shore, a good many street broils and some serious [injury] given and received by the belligerent parties, both the service and the community at large suffers. An express from Mexico and a Mail from Durango.

Saturday, 28 March 1846

The weather pleasant. At half past eight A. M. the commodore made signal for all commanders. It seems that the Mails last night contained matters of moment, connected with our difficulties with Mexico. It is said that the American Squadron in the Gulf of Mexico have instituted a vigorous blockade of the Mexican ports on the other side, and that our army in Texas had taken possession of the Town of Metomoras it is also reported that two thousand American troops had retired before the Mexican Army. All this is as yet uncertain. And it is believed that the reports are gotten up by the House of Mott Talbot & Co. for commerical purposes, As by means of a blockade on this side, they would be enabled to sell all the goods they have on hand and it would also enable them to smuggle goods into the country and spicie out of it with the greater ease. But notwithstanding this garbled and uncertain report as to truth, the Commodore has issued orders interdicting all communication with the shore except such as are official and necessary for the immediate wants of the squadron. Today it was reported that the Mexican soldiers were carrying some twenty-four powder cannon, to a [place] which commands the Bay and shipping, but it was not so, All the troops and most of the effective artillery was removed from town to-day on their way to a little town in the interior called San

Sebastian. It is said that quite a large arrival of troops is looked for to night or to-morrow morning, what the result may be no one can tell, As we are so situated that but little reliance can be placed in the news that we receive. I conceive that Com. Sloat has committed himself most grossly in not having a ship at Panama, in order to bring him regular mails from the U. States, and more particularly at this time when we are momentarily expecting difficulties with Mexico. It is said if difficulties should break out, that California will be the first object of our attack.

**Sunday, 29 March 1846**

The weather pleasant. Had service as usual. Found this morning that all but one small Brigantine that was under Mexican colors of which there was last quite a large number last night at anchor near the mould had disappeared during [the night], and that all the troops ordinance military stores, and other public property had been removed into the interior, in anticipation of [the] blockade this morning from our forces. About one third of the inhabitants had vacated the town and large numbers of the remaining people were preparing to and are making rapid movements for leaving the City. The Governor having issued a proclamation on yesterday stating that the place would be blockaded and the town perhaps sacked to day at twelve o'clock--The Mail arrived bringing news from the city of Mexico as late as the 14th inst. and a new Orleans paper as late as the 25 or the 26th of Feb. We learn that the mexican government had refused to receive Mr. Slidell, and that Metamoras and Tampico were in a state of rigorous blockade and that five sail of men of war were off Verra Cruz, and that some collission had taken place between our troops and the Mexican forces at or near Metamoras, Also that the troop had left the City of Mexico for the Texas frontier and that hostility was or would be general in few days. The new Orleans paper states the passage of the Resolutions dissolving treaty stipulation of the joint occupation of the Oregon territory with Great Brittain by a very large majority in the house of Representatives. The short sighted course of Commodore Sloat is at this time pointed, for every reason which common sense could dictate he should have had a vessel at Panama to bring dispatches as soon as they may arrive, for at this juncture late official information is of the greatest moment.

**Monday, 30 March 1846**

[No journal entry]

**Tuesday, 31 March 1846**

The breeze light. Cloudy and pleasant. A very heavy swell setting from the Westward, Two Mexican Schooners came and anchored, but seem uneasy, The inhabitants on shore are still making arrangements for leaving and many are hourly moving off. An express arrived from Durango, but we have not yet heard what intelligence it brings,

The Schooner Shark leaves to-morrow for the sandwich islands, it is rumored. The officers of the squadron seem [to] take the quarantine very impatiently, and are somewhat lavish in their condemnation of Commodore Sloat, some few however of the officers think that the Commodore is acting correctly, The importance of a Panama Mail is becoming more and more apparent, still the Commodore does not dispatch a vessel for one, some further changes have been made in the squadron. Midshipmen [George E.] Morgan & [Alonzo C.] Jackson, have been ordered to the Savannah from the Shark. Midshipman [John G.] Whitaker of the Levant has been ordered to the Shark and Midshipman, [Hunter] Davidson of the Erie has been ordered to the Shark. And I hear that Lt. Rockendorff is to be ordered to the Erie. The troops that were sent off a few nights ago during the first panic of fear removed some few [miles] into the interior to a small town, where the officers of these men turned the peaceable and unoffending inhabitants into the streets of the village and took possession of the houses as quarters for the troops;--The Governor of Mazatlan keeps a horse always saddled and led through the streets where ever he goes, in order that he may make his escape upon the fire of the first gun from our squadron, This conduct of the Governor, has confirmed the fears of the inhabitants, and is producing all the evil that such injudicious conduct is calculated to produce, And instead of trying to give stability to the Government and confidence to the people, he is doing all he can to convince them of the instability of the country and his own pusillimity. Commerce is unnecessarily interferred with, trade is through unjustified broken up, and the people driven to a helpless state of excitement through the cowardice and indiscretion of their Governor, For not a word has been uttered not a movement made nor any thing at all calculated to produce either fear or apprehended hostilities has been shown in the deportment, intercourse or action of the Commodore or any of his officers, to justify the extraordinary conduct of the Governor, on the contrary, the intercourse with the inhabitants has been of the most friendly and courteous manner possible.

Wednesday, 1 April 1846

The weather pleasant, The American Brigantine "Hanna" arrived last night from Monterey, By her we learn that Captain [John C.] Fremont [Fremont] of the U.S. Engineer Corps, and a party of Two Lieutenants and sixty men were within twenty miles of Monterey and that the Mexican authorities of that place, had dispatched a force to drive him out of the country.\* I am inclined to think that an officer of

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\*Captain John C. Fremont, whose official purpose was to chart the headwaters of the Arkansas and Red Rivers, instead led his party of U.S. Topographical Engineers westward in search of a usable wagon route to California. Arriving at Sutter's Fort in January 1846 and being short of supplies, he received permission from General Jose Castro, commandant and acting governor of Northern California, to refit his force at Monterey. As Fremont neared Monterey, local

Freemont standing, and a company of sixty well drilled riflemen, are not so easily to be driven, Capt Freemonts expedition is I believe purely scientific but I cannot pretend to think that even the valuable information which his scientific investigation will give to the public, will justify his intrusion into a foreign territory, without leave of the government to which said territory belongs, If the U. States are going to seize upon the California's to indemnify our people for the losses which they have sustained through the treachery and bad faith of the Mexican Government, then it is all well. But if on the other hand they mean [to] treat Mexico pacifically and settle all existing difficulties in the spirit of compromise and equity then it is all wrong, however whatever the Government may decide, I will acquiesce in. At 9 A. M. the Commodore made signal for the Capt of this ship, he went on board and returned in few moments with grateful news that we were going this day to sea, consequently all was excitement and hurry, to get clothes from the wash, mess stores &c. I had sent this morning some clothes on shore to be washed, but fortunately got there before they were wet. The boats were constantly coming and going, the officers of the other ships to bid us good bye, and our boats were running on ships duty, The schooner sharke left for the islands at four o'clock this evening. Pass Mid: [Tenant] McClenahan [McLanahan] was ordered from the Erie to the Shark, Acting Lieut J[ohnston]. B. Carter was ordered from the Savannah to the Erie, At 4 P. M. unmoored ship, Sent my returns for the 3rd & 4th and the 1st quarters 1845 & 46 on board the Savannah to sent home, and also a letter No. 23rd to Mrs. W.--English brig--went to sea this evening bound to London, A Mexican brig came in, anchored, a Mexican schooner went to sea this evening, I learned that this ship was going to California and the North West coast. At 8. P. M. the Capt came from the commodore, where he had gone a few moments before when all hands was called to up anchor, in half an hour we were under way, and stood out under the stern of the flag ship. The Com. Band playing "should old acquaintance be forgot" In a few minutes all was out of hearing, and the Flag Ship and the harbor, was lost in the distance, We are all delighted at going to sea, and those we left in port, fondly anticipating the hour of their departure for home.

Thursday, 2 April 1846

The weather delightful, breeze light, and variable, made the schooner Shark this morning a little on the lee beam, she left Port yesterday some five or six hours before us, but the Portsmouth is at her old tricks, and seems really delighted at being loose from the long and tedious mooring where she had [been] chained so long, bent quite a new suit of sails to-day. Exercised the first and second division of small arm men this evening. There is very real benefit resulting to the men from this service in exercising, one there is no uniform

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authorities became alarmed and ordered him to leave California; Fremont refused.

principle of manouvres, and even the word of command is coined to suit the instructor who is an old English soldier, but worn out, and to which may be added worthless, The arms used used is jink's carbine, a very pretty gun to look at. But for sailors's every way objectionable, but particularly so in their loading, which requires care, and precission, the sailor's are instructed in squads of 18 or 20, which is both new and novel to a mititary man or even an humble soldier,

Friday, 3 April 1846

The weather cloudy and cool, The breeze fresh and ahead, with some swell, Commenced a regular monthly issue, of clothing to the Guard, drew one pair of shoes for myself;--I after some reflection, made an advance towards a reconciliation with our purser, a man of many good traits, and some very disagreeable and erronious traits of character, A difficulty arose between [us] in relation to some Marine accounts, I had followed the directions of the Captain, in all that I did, the Purser differed in opinion and without any reflection, he made some remark which called [for] an initating answer from me, in consequence some days passed without our speaking;--A difficulty had existed between us some months ago, to terminate which he made advances requesting a reconciliation, I have therefore deemed it proper to make the advance in this instance consequently I wrote the following note, To wit. "At Sea, April 2nd 1846, Sir: I feel compelled by a sense of propreity and a wish to live on terms of peace and harmony, to make this step towards an amicable adjustment of any and all difficulties which may exist between us, Believing that we have both acted hastily and under the influence of excited and irritated feelings, I conceive it but proper that we should terminate the affair by a reciprocal interchange of friendly concessions, and permit it to drop. Should such be your views, and disposition, I shall be happy to meet you on terms of friendly intercourse, But should this however not meet your views and feelings you will please to return it.["] He express[ed] his readiness to accept the proposition, when accordingly the affair ended. The two bow guns were brought aft and lashed on either side of the main mast, in order to make the motion of the ship more easy. Served some purser slops to the Guard to-day on requisition,--

Saturday, 4 April 1846

The weather cool & cloudy, the breeze light. Made and passed near the islands of Benedictine, Sucorro and Perdita [Revilla Gigedo Islands], We found by observation that these islands were laid down on the chart incorrectly. We found sixty miles farther to the Southward than they should have been, they were correctly laid down on charts after taking very accurate observations, These inaccuracies in our charts is the cause of a good deal of uneasiness. I am therefore inclined to think that our government is extremely remiss in not causing a surveying expedition throughout the Pacific.

Exercised the Divissions at big gun exercises, and found that they had [become] quite rusty from lying so long in port.

**Sunday, 5 April 1846**

The breeze, variable, the weather cool, & cloudy. Had service at the usual hour, & mustered the crew at the usual hour, Nothing new or interesting. I devote my time just to reading Murphy's Tacitus, or the Annals of Rome,--I cannot as yet place on paper the impressions which I derived for their pursal, The sympathy and compassion illicited for many is swallowed up by the Horrid and bloody tragidies enacted by her heroes or Emperors, and the sycophancy Duplicity and ambition of her ministers, and the submissive adulation passive obedience and cringing sevility of her senators, creates and indignation not to be relieved by the horrid and bloody murder committed upon her citizens to gratify her venal and corrupt Emperors. The feelings are brought to the highest pitch of excitement in viewing the depravity, the degrading devices and the cold and inhuman murders committed to gratify female revenge and female pride and ambition.

**Monday, 6 April 1846**

The weather pleasant, & cloudy. Exercised the Marines at the manual of arms. The crew were exercised in the big gun exercises and the divissions is small arm's, Private [John] Richardson on the sick list nothing seriously [the] matter;--I had some head acke, to-day caused by indigestion. This day twelve [months] ago we arrive[d] in the Pacific, and we are 17 months in commission, and consequently we have seen the largest half of our cruise, (that is if we have not a war to keep us out.--) The up hill part of a cruise is almost always fatiguing, but the down hill part generally passes off more pleasantly as every day counts very sensibly, and the end of a month is remarked with peculiar gratification.

**Tuesday, 7 April 1846**

The weather pleasant and a little cool, light breeze and Cloudy. Exercised the Marines. There was divisional exercises. Some Albatross were seen flying about the ship or rather in the vicinity of the ship to-day.

**Wednesday, 8 April 1846**

The weather cool, & Cloudy, the breeze light and ahead. I had run 580 balls for the marine musket, 200 to be made into cartridges, and 350 for practice,--

**Thursday, 9 April 1846**

The weather pleasant & cloudy, breeze light and ahead. Capt. Montgomery & Midshipmen [Edward C.] Grafton dined in the ward room

with us to-day. We had for dinner soup--A fine Smithfield Ham, A Turkey, pair of Ducks, and a piece of boiled corned Beef, Vegetables Tomatoes, squash & stewed apples, Pickles, Desert Apple pies peach pies, tart, sweet meat pies, preserves pears from the E Indies and preserved fruit pies, There was ten gentlemen at Table and was not the half of an ordinary sized decanter of wine drank. Every thing went off quietly. We had general quarters this evening. The first Lieut. was taken ill and the Capt took charge of exercises, It was commenced in confusion, and was conducted in a very unseaman-like and confused manner.--That a vast improvement might be made I have no doubt, but what it is and where it should take place, I do not take upon me to say. There is no doubt but that the first Lieut. has both Theoretical knowledge and industry, men may differ about practical evolutions, that is, Theory is specious but practice doubtful. A quarter gunner was taken sick also while at quarters, both his [Andrew Smith I] and Lt. M. was faintness and sickness at the stomach.--

#### Friday, 10 April 1846

The weather cool & cloudy, breeze light and ahead. One of the Hammocks fell over board this morning, lowered a boat and picked it up. The first Lt: much better to-day, the quarter gunner is still quite sick. Exercised the marines this forenoon at the manual of arms, had 200 ball cartridge made and filled to-day, quite a large number of Albatross to be seen this evening. It required five pounds of powder to fill two hundred cartridges, The allowance for one cartridge is 5 1/3 drams or three cartridges to the ounce. One fifth (1/5) of a [dram] is added in making buckshot cartridges--

#### Saturday, 11 April 1846

The weather cool & cloudy, wind fresh and ahead, bent the main spencer, took in and furled the fore & mizen Top gallant sails, The first Lt: much better to-day, the old man Smith still quite unwell, Considerable sea on this evening. Capt Montgomery thinks it bad policy to stand off so far to the westward and from the land in order to get a fair wind, he says that he would prefer standing along the shore, which unless there should be a more favorable change in the wind to-morrow morning, he intends standing in for the land, and beat up along the shore. We have had a continuation of Northerly and North West winds ever since we sailed from Mazatlan. We bid fair to have a long passage.

#### Sunday, 12 April 1846

The weather cool & cloudy, breeze fresh the ship heading up much better than heretofore. The 1st Lt. not so well, had Muster at 10 o'clock but no service. This is the first muster we have had this year. Midshipmen Johnson & Bell dined in the ward room to-day. A very heavy bank of cloud to windward, and looks quite windy, furled the main top-gallant sail and took one reef in the topsails--



**Monday, 13 April 1846**

The weather cool & cloudy, breeze fresh and ahead. The weather sufficiently cool to make pea Jackets or overcoats comfortable, considerable amusement is anticipated by most of the officers, on our arrival at Monterey in hunting, they however feel some jealousy or fear of one of those masters of the forest called a Bear, and being what is called a grisly Bear, he is believed to be the most formidable and ferocious animal of his species; and the only one in this country which is calculated to be any impediment to their sports.

**Tuesday, 14 April 1846**

The weather cool, cloudy and some little rain in squalls. The breeze fresh and ahead; Exercised the Marines in manual of arms. Made a bet with Lt. B. about the time of the launching of this ship, the bet is a hat, he bets that she was launched in 1843. I bet that it was 1844.--Took one reef in topsails at sun set, furled the fore and mizen top gallant sails.

**Wednesday, 15 April 1846**

The weather cool & cloudy. Breeze light & variable.--Exercised the Guard at the manual of arms, There are divisional exercises at the big Guns every day. Made several tacks during the day, but the wind seem to be most stationary at N. E. consequently we cannot do better than N. W. by W. The first Lieut much better, very few on the sick list, and Crew generally well.

**Thursday, 16 April 1846**

The weather cool, cloudy & a little rain. The breeze fresh and ahead. A general overhauling of the Crew bags and clothing, Had a list of Marine clothes taken, nothing new, a few Albatross, hanging or flying around the ship.

**Friday, 17 April 1846**

The weather quite cool, Cloudy and some rain. Made a requisition for some flannels for the Guard, and served to the Guard the said flannels so required. Some of the Crew complained to day that the tobacco served out to them was not good, The Capt asked my opinion of it. I examined it, and found it to be partially decayed, having a good deal of grit in it, quite musty, and although not rotten; in my opinion not fit for use, it produces neausea, at the stomach and sore mouth, The price is ... cents a pound, much too much for so indifferent an article.--Drew two Flannel shirts (red) for myself to-day price 88 cents apiece. The wind to-day has been light, but still ahead, Music [James H.] Crocken excused from night watch, In consideration of his delicate health and in consideration of his writing the ships log for the master. Served two blankets to-day,

one to Private [John D.] D'Arey and one to Private [Ezekial D.] Walker.

**Saturday, 18 April 1846**

The weather cool, cloudy and some rain. The wind very fresh in squalls, took a reef in the topsails, furlled top gallant sails, and sent down royal yards, considerable sea on, has the appearance of blowing a gale.

**Sunday, 19 April 1846**

The weather very cool. This has been one of the or in fact the most uncomfortable day which we had since we doubled Cape Horn. It has been blowing a gale of wind all day and in puffs almost a hurricane. It has rained in squalls and there has been some hail during the day. The Thermometer in the open air has been down to 53. In fact we have had to keep in bed pretty much all day, in order to keep warm, and those on deck has called in requisition all the pea Jackets and overcoats which they could get hold of--The decks of the ship are beginning to leak very badly, they want caulking, During the night last night the ship was very injudiciously pressed with canvass. The Capt seems to think that so long as the masts and spars last or stand, sail should not be reduced, the consequence is that the timbers and water ways of the ship are overst[r]ained [and] the oakcum pressed out, and the decks leaking very badly, besides the water getting in among the ships timbers causes them to rot, and hence one cause of the early and rapid decay of our ships in [the] navy, greater by one hundred percent than it is in the merchant marine. In consequence of the very heavy sea, and wind, there was no service to-day, took three reefs in the main topsail and close reefed the fore and Mizzen, together with a single reef in the main sail, after which the ship although she labored very much yet she was much more comfortable. The ship is very wet.

**Monday, 20 April 1846**

The weather very cool, still blowing a fresh gale. The ship is laboring a good deal from the heavy head sea, considerable hail to-day, and we find some difficulty in keeping warm.--

**Tuesday, 21 April 1846**

The weather still very cool, the gale somewhat abated except in squalls, which are mostly rain squalls. One of the apprentice Boys by the name of Marshall died this morning about six o'clock. This was a very sudden death, as yesterday he was attending to his duty on deck, late in the evening he went to the Doctor, and complained of not being able to void his urine, he has had frequent attacks of this disease, arising from a stricture. The necessary medical treatment was immediately rendered and he was enabled to pass the water. But it seems that his system had receive a shock from these

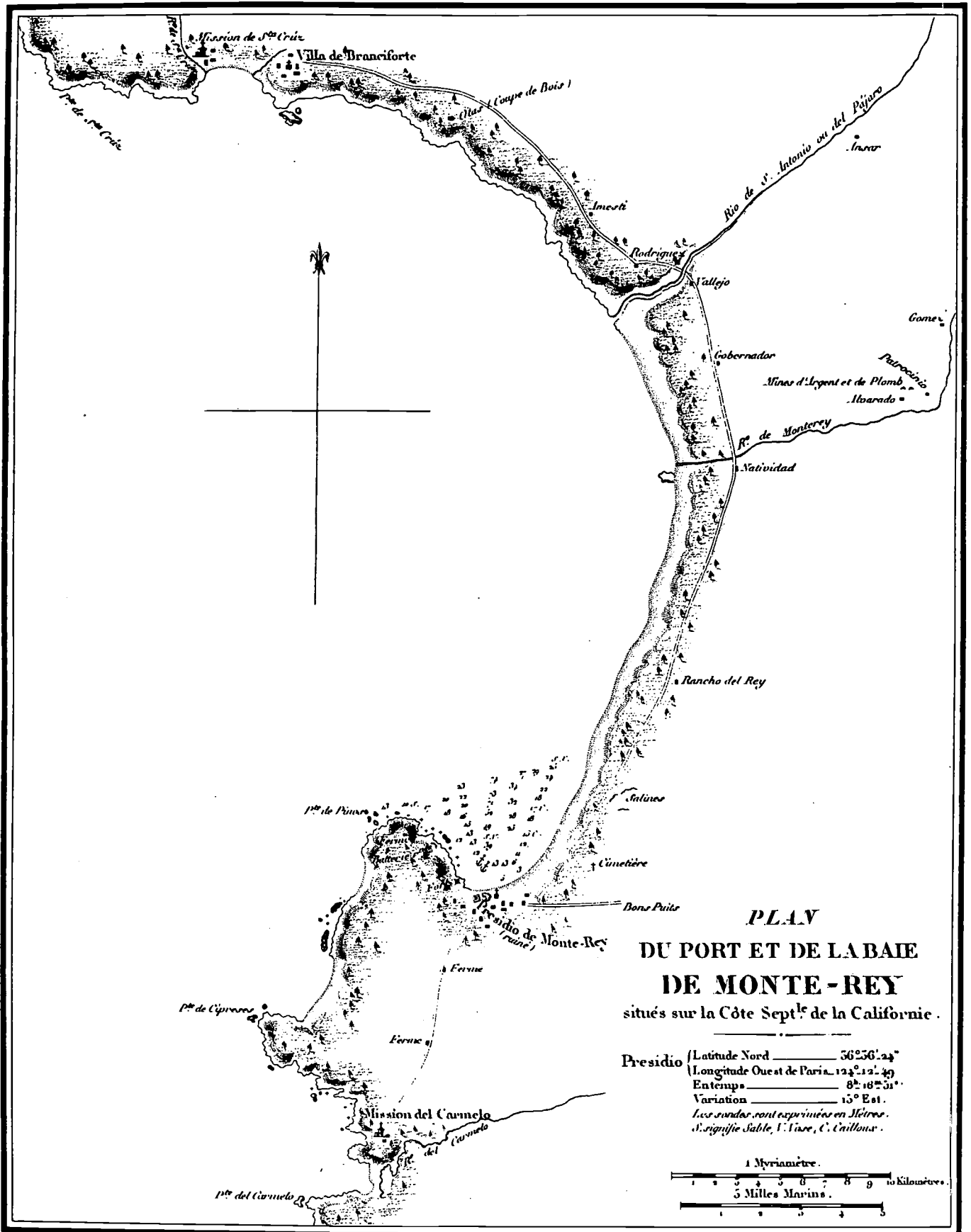
repeated attacks which the last proved it was unable to bear. The medical officers thought that he would recover but stated that his situation was very critical indeed so sudden was his death, that most of his [friends] heard of his death before they knew that he was sick, Proving literally that in midst of life we are in death. Marshall was a promising boy, of a mild and even disposition, temperate in his habits and obedient and vigilant in the discharge of his duties of a sound and enquiring mind, he had made considerable advancement in mathematics and navigation, and was persevering in his endeavors to qualify himself for a more useful pursuit, than that of an ordinary sailor. He maintained (that which is ever difficult to-do among officers,) a very fair reputation indeed I may say, that all expressed the deepest sympathy for his early loss, and a mird of praise as to his general character. The wind has considerably abated and the sea has gone down, so that we have made sail and expect to be in port to-morrow--

Wednesday, 22 April 1846

Very cool, but clear and a fine breeze. At 9 A. M. made the land, spent the day pretty much on deck, The fine Forest and verdant country around was a very grateful relief to the sameness of the Ocean wave. We came in finely and anchored about six o'clock P. M. We learned that the Cyane sailed from her on Sunday last, she was twenty-eight days from the islands having had very disagreeable weather during her cruise. We learned also that Lt. [Archibald H.] Gillespie was in California, on some specal service from Gov. Lt Fremont and his company had been in the territory, by permission of this Government, that is, he obtained permission to visit the territory with a portion of his party, he however brought all his party and gave outrage to the government by pitching his camp and hoisting the american flag. The Gov. of this place, ordered him to leave the province, he F. said no, the governor then at the head of a detachment of 200 men went out to drive freemont away, but he was not to be driven, but informed the governor that he would leave at a suitable time, which he did by moving his camp to the Sacramenta in upper California. Thus ended an affair which clearly shows the rashness of Lt F. and the bombass of the Governor.--Every thing seems quiet in California. Emigrants from the U. States are coming over by the thousands, and the territory bids fair to be early settled by these hardy sons of the land of freedom, who bring with them also the firm and fixed principles of Republican liberty. Our passage is regarded or said to be the most extraordinary that has ever been made from Mazatlan. We went to 135<sup>o</sup> west longitude, making the passage in 21 days.

Thursday, 23 April 1846

The weather cool, but clear and pleasant. Saluted the Mexican Flag with 21 guns which was promptly returned, Mr. [Thomas O.] Larkin our Consul visited the ship this morning and was saluted with 9 guns. The Boy Marshall who died on the 21st while at sea was buried on



**PLAN**  
**DU PORT ET DE LA BAYE**  
**DE MONTE-REY**  
 situés sur la Côte Sept<sup>le</sup> de la Californie.

Presidio (Latitude Nord \_\_\_\_\_ 36° 56' 24"  
 Longitude Ouest de Paris \_\_\_\_\_ 124° 12' 49"  
 Temps \_\_\_\_\_ 8<sup>h</sup> 18<sup>m</sup> 51<sup>s</sup>  
 Variation \_\_\_\_\_ 15° Est.  
*Les sondes sont exprimées en Mètres.  
 S. signifie Sable, V. Vase, C. Cailloux.*



shore this evening, having been kept much longer than usual for the purpose of burying him on shore. I have never known a Corps which changed so little in his complexion and features as he did. It is said that he died from the effect of the remedies administered to him, while I say that I have the utmost confidence in the medical officers of the ship, I confess that I should like a surgeon who was older and more experienced, than is the assistant surgeon now on board. Went on shore this morning and took a stroll thro the woods, in fact we went out about four miles Lt Revere & myself, he had his gun, we visited two large lagoons which we found filled with numerous quantities of Duck, we visited also the house of a California settler, this man is a Mexican and has a league square of land, with a small stream running through it, he was very profuse in his praise of the Americans, and expressed great solicitation that the U. States should take possession of the country, he also stated that all californians were of the same opinion, I have never seen in no part of the world such truly magnificent shade trees, they are live oak, in some instances giving a shade the diameter of which could not have been less than one hundred feet--the country is a rolling land, covered with the most luxuriant growth of sheep sorrel wild clover and infinite variety of wild flowers. I ascended to the top of a hill and I think that I do not exaggerate when I state that five hundred thousand head of cattle may be pastured with ease and have the greatest abundance of food in the valley to the east of Monterey. I do not pretend to define the extent of this valley, but judging from the view which I had from the hill it is five miles in length and varies from three to six miles in breadth, we saw several heads of cattle, they are very large, and in fine order, all of them would make excellent beef. I was astonished to find so few sheep but I am told that [they] are rapidly increasing, we strolled about until four o'clock and returned. Called and paid my respects [to] Mrs. Larkin our consuls lady, found her to be a very quit Lady unpretending and affable in her manners, was invited to tea, but having dined so late I declined and took my leave.

Friday, 24 April 1846

The weather very cool but clear & pleasant. Went on shore and took a stroll over the plains and thro the woods. Dr. Duval & Purser Watmaugh fired at a target with the purser['s] rifle, made some most excellent in fact it was all good. We returned and partook of a Dinner of hard boiled eggs and bread & butter, spent the evening at the Consuls, bought some powder and shot. Mr [Talbot H.] Green the partner of the consul made me a present of a fox skin of which I had a shot bag made.

Saturday, 25 April 1846

Rose this morning at 4 A. M. (having made arrangements previously for the excursion) took a cup of coffee & some bread & meat, the first Lieut. did the same, after which we landed and went to the

lagoons in search of Ducks, we found immense quantities, but they were extremely wild. The first Lt was sick on starting and after exercising for awhile become so faint that he was compelled to rest several times. We took Marine [Samuel] Sample with us and between us all we killed two Ducks & Coote and a Snipe. We saw one fox, two Deer, three Hens, several Rabbits and a number of Quail. We returned to the ship about nine o'clock A. M. At ten A. M. went on shore, and the purser & myself took a walk over the hills. Dined at the Consuls, and spent most of the evening at the Consuls--The wind was as is usual here high in the afternoon, Came on board at sunset.

#### Sunday, 26 April 1846

The weather cool & cloudy, and quite windy--The Consul, Mr Mellish, & Dr. [John] Townsend with Mrs T. and Mrs. [William D. M.] Howard came on board to church. We [had] quarters at ten o'clock as usual and service, after service, we had a lunch in the ward room of which the Capt. and the above company partook with us. Went on shore and dine with consul and family, after dinner Dr. T. Lt B. Mrs. T. Mrs H. and myself took a long walk over the hills and picked some strawberries which are just getting ripe, they grow wild. We returned and took supper, previous to supper we had some music on the guitar & some waltzing by Mrs H. & Lt Revere. After supper having been previously invited, we attended a small dance at an american gentlemen by the name of Tooms, during the dancing it was rather dusty, but it passed off very pleasantly. While I do not sanction this mode of spending the sabbath evening, I must say that it seems suited [to] the spanish or Mexican character. At ten P. M. the party broke up and we went home.

#### Monday, 27 April 1846

The weather cool but clear & pleasant. We are giving the men liberty consequently we have considerable confusion & noise. Went on shore and took a very pleasant stroll in company with Mrs Townsend and Mrs Howard, Dr T. Lt. B. Purser W. and myself we had with us also one of the consul little daughters she fell to my charge, and although she could not speak english, and was no more than 3 years old, I was very considerably amused by her innocent prattle, and judicious selection of all the prettiest wild flowers, of which she gathered quite a bunch. I had to carry her in my arms the most of the way, and the fatigue which was caused by it, was relieved by the gratitude which the little thing exhibited for it. We returned from the walk, and I came on board to dinner. Went on shore at 3 P. M. spent the afternoon with the Consul family & took tea at the consuls, and came on board at sunset in order to make arrangements for a trip to the quick silver mines in the interior. I shall take notes and transfer to my journal all the little incidents that may arise--

Tuesday, 28 April 1846

About two hours after we had left this morning, the Gov sent for the Consul to say that he did not wish us to go. But he knew that we were gone and consequently wanted to say something about it, he did not [say] what. For had he objected before we left, it would have done no good for we should [have] paid but little attention to his commands, as he has no authority over strangers, it being vested in Gen [Pio] Pico at the Puebla below.

April 28th. Preparation for the start, Guide, Horses, equipage-- The valley of the Salinas and the River, Seignor Don [Jose Joaquin] Gomas [Gomez], his hospitality, appearance of the Country between the Salinas and the St John valley. Seignor Don [Angel] Castro, his difficulty with two Freemont men, The valley of St John's, Mustard field, Antelope herds of cattle St John Mission, Arrival at Don Augustine Pacheco Rancho.

Preparation for the start,--We were called at four A. M. took breakfast at 5, and packed our knapsack, with a small ham, paper of ground coffee, some tea and sugar, and some ships biscuit, Examined our pistols and took our side Arms with us. My companion Lt Barlette, under took the caterership of the expedition, as he spoke spanish,--We went on shore to the Consuls, from which place we started at 9 A. M.--Guide Our Guide was an Englishman by the name of Thomas Cole, he was very attentive, respectfully and spared no effort to serve us on the trip, Horses. The California horses are small, but extremely fleet and can endure very great fatigue. The[y] never have any grain to eat and subsist entirely on grass and wild oats, We had a caveardo [caballada, or drove of horses] of nine horses, three we rode and six were driven ahead, by the Guide. I had anticipated that they would be troublesome, but was agreeably surprised to find them not only very tractable but by going ahead, a strong incentive for the horses which we rode to keep up. One of the horses we used as pack horse. The gate of these horses is either a lope or a walk, they will go ten miles the hour on the lope, for 5 and 6 hours without much apparent fatigue. Our Equipage was in the legitimate Spanish or Mexican style, with Armor, holsters, and Serappa, After riding some five leagues, through a sandy and gradual rising country, we came to the valley of the Salinas, This valley is about 150 miles long by fifteen wide, covered with a species of Timothy Grass wild clover and oats, The Mirage on this valley is the most magnificent I have ever seen. The soil is extremely fertile, and I saw several large wheat fields, which bid fair to yield the richest harvest, We saw several herds of cattle feeding upon this plane, and also a herd of sheep, attended directed and defended by four large shepherd dogs, The river salinus runs lengthwise through the valley it is a small stream and in the dry season its waters run very sluggish along its channel, but in what is called the rainy season, it frequently overflows its banks and inundates a large tract of country, at which time its current is so rapid as to render the crossing of it extremely difficulty. There are many

large farms in this valley, principally producing wheat & vegetables. The river is skirted on either bank by a very luxuriant growth of willow--and the valley has a beautiful growth of oak growing all around it, truly beautiful. Seignor Don Gomas. This gentleman has a delightful country seat [Rancho Los Vergeles], his farm or rather his lands cover a space of ten leagues square, embracing every variety of soil, both hill & dale. This old gentleman has been immensely wealthy, but his great propensity for gambling, has been the means of robbing him of all his property with the exception of his lands, and a few horses and cattle, We were most kindly received and hospitably entertained by this Gentleman, he is extremely partial to the Americans and earnestly desires that the U.S. Government would extend its protection over the country. We spent about one hour at this place. The ridge of hills which separate the salinas from the St John's, is intersected by many deep and romantic ravines, while the more elevated parts were covered by a respectable growth of white oak. The soil is good and covered by a rich growth of wild oats, There are millions of quail and hundreds of deer, together with bears, foxes &c. This whole country is one vast flower Garden, but my time was too limited to make in minute examination of them, We called at the ranch of Seignor Don Castro the Uncle of the Commandant General--his residence is one of the most beautiful and picturesque I have ever seen. When Capt F. was passing through the country, two of his party had procured a bottle of rum, and [stopped] at this house to obtain water, while there they offered to the Don and his family some of their liquor, they all partook, when the men having drank rather more than was good for them, they took some liberty with the females of the house, The worthy Don made complaint to Freemont, who assured him that the men should be punished, This was not satisfactory, he wanted to be remunerated for the insult, he was asked what he wished, he said five dollars would satisfy him, Freemont gave him ten, and punished the men agreeably to military discipline, Leaving this place we entered the magnificent valley of St John's. I did not learn the extent of this valley. The valley is one entire mustard field, The mustard was introduced first by the Missionaries and from that has spread itself all over the valley. It grows about three feet high, growing among this, is clover and wild oats upon which the cattle & Antelope feed, we saw quite a number of Antelope, they are a beautiful animal, marked with white and yellow spots, they were very wild, but are easily attracted by a red handkerchief, which is frequently done by hunters in order to shoot them. We saw the decayed and delapidated walls of the old Mission buildings, which served formerly as residence for the Indians which were wild in these woods, without the least knowledge of civilization, or rational enjoyment. After crossing a gentle rising ground, we descended into the valley of St Joseph and in sight of the Ranch of Seignor Don Augustine Pacheco, by whom we were most kindly received. We were accompanied from Monterey to this place by a young American by the name of [Moses] Shellenberger [Schallenberger], who I believe was courting one of



the daughters of Pacheco.\* Having ridden fifty miles we stopped for the night considerable fatigued.

Wednesday, 29 April 1846

The politeness and hospitality of Seinor Don Pacheco, His family, his Buildings, his herds of Cattle, Sheep, Horses and swine;--A ride and hunt over the mountains, The ascent to the top of the Pacheco, view of the Rattle snake valley, Magnificent view of the Tulara valley, the St. Guaquin [Joaquin] River and the snow covered mountains or California mountains. Wild Horses, Deer and Grizzly Bears, Mountain lake, Birds, The Descent, its abruptness and the nervous effect which it produced upon us, The ease with which the California horses climb and descend mountains, The Potash stone, the lie of which is used making soap, Dinner, Music, Don Pacheco's admiration of the American Government, his wish for California to be annexed to the U. States.

Don Pacheco, received us at his house in the genuine spirit of cordial hospitality, we had letters of introduction, but he said that the Uniform of an American Officer was always sufficient introduction for him, The best that his house afforded, was immediately procured for us, And all restraint was thrown off by the ease and familiarity with which we were received and entertained by this worthy gentleman and his family. His lady is in manners and habits very similar to the ladies of the farmer in our own country, His daughters, three in number, were very pretty in the style of Mexican beauty, and reared to habits of Frugality and industry, his son Don Juan is quite a handsome young man of very stirring and industrious habits, he devoted his whole time to us, while we [were] there, His buildings are constructed of adobes, but are very comfortable, there are about 15 buildings beside the main dwelling these are occupied by his Indian laborers,--This gentleman owns Nine thousand head of cattle, which we saw feeding in the plain around his residence, There were two thousand head of sheep feeding also on the plain, solely attended by some half dozen shepherds dogs, He has also one thousand horses, and about Fifteen hundred head of Hogs. He is very extensively engaged in the manufacture of soap, Tallow, &c. He also puts up immense quantities of jerked Beef, and disposes of about two thousand raw hides annually. His receipts of wool is used in domestic manufactures, I could not learn the utility of so great a number of horses, these animals are however very likely to be stolen, by the wild Indians, This gentleman owns about twenty leagues square of land, he produces large quantities of wheat, corn and vegetables. I saw the olive bush growing in his yard, he is also devoting considerable attention to the cultivation of Fruit trees, The proceeds of his dairy is immense, but I could not learn how much, But it is many a day since I revelled in such perfect

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\*Moses Schallenberger was a clerk in the retail business of Thomas Larkin and Talbot Green.

luxury, as I did here upon the richest milk, butter cheese and in fact every thing that even the most fastidious taste could appreciate or desires. Having rested ourselves and had a nights sleep, we thought of pursuing our journey towards the mine, But the worthy Don, insisted that we should take a ride over the mountains and view the Tulara valley, He also placed his carrillo [corralillo] of horses at our service. We were easily prevailed upon to stay and to accept his offer, as our horses would be in a better condition for travelling the next day, We mounted about ten A. M. in company with young Mr. Pacheco and Mr. Shellenberger, both of whom carried their rifles. We rode th[r]ough a portion of the plane, and took a view of the large wheat fields, which was just heading and was beautiful beyond description, we wound round the hills and up the ravines amid large groves of oak, towards the summit of the Pecacho. We saw immense quantities of Deer but they were very wild, just as we were rising a gentle eminence on one of the hills, we perceived an old she bear and two cubs. Our companions endeavored to approach them, but our horses having discovered them by smell, which started the horses, and alarmed the bears, so that they ran off, and we were unable to get a shot a them. We stopped at a little mountain stream and got some water, which was as pure and limpid as I ever beheld, extremely soft and well tasted. As we were winding around the mountains we discovered a troop of wild [horses] feeding on a small table land situated between two mountains, but they soon dicovered us and disappeared among the almost impassible cliffs and ravines, These horses were large, neatly formed and moved with all the elasticity of blooded animals. Having ascended about three thousand feet, and winding round the hill, looking at the deer as they bounded over the hills, we were suddenly arrest by a narrow pass around a projecting cliff rocks. We had no sooner passed this, than one of the most sublimely beautiful and picturesque views burst upon our view, We were about upon a level with the side of hills opposite to us, and between us and those hills, there was one of the most lovely valleys that was ever seen, from the cliff where we were, the descent was almost perpendicular to the valley below, consequently we had a fine view of it, It was skirted all around by a majestic growth of oak and nature had placed (far superior to art) the groves of oak through, in a most beautiful order, the meanderings of the rippling stream which passed through its centre and the rich velvet gloss of the luxurient growth of wild oats which covered, was more beautiful than any thing I have ever beheld before, This valley is called the Rattle snake valley, it is 20 miles long by five wide. It could be made a perfect paradise on earth.

After admiring this lovely sight of this still more beautiful valley, we pursued our course up the hill, just here our companion's had two shots at some deer but at too great a distance for effect, We soon reached the summit, From this eminence (which is about four thousand feet above the level of the sea,) There is perhaps the most beautiful view that was ever beheld by man, The snow covered mountains of California rising thousands of feet to the east reflected on by the receding rays of the sun in her western course was

truly beautiful. The vast plain of the Tulara looking like a vast inland Ocean, with the curling smoke of the Indian fires, from [illegible] the majestic forest of oaks which cover its surface was beautiful beyond description. And to heighten its beauty the silvery surface of the St Gauquin river was just perceptible. In this vast plain said to be the largest in California, There is estimated to be about sixty thousand Indians (in all their native wildness,) and about 120,000 wild horses. On or near the summit of the Pecacho there is a mountain lake covered with bull rushes, we stopped some minutes to contemplate the scene, and was charmed with the delightful warbling of the mountain lark, and sparrow, we saw many beautiful birds, particularly a small bird which was a jet black with a red spot on each wing resembling very much a full blown rose, The richness of the colors and the velvet gloss of the whole plumage surpassed any thing I have ever seen. Our ascent in many places was truly frightful from its exceeding steepness. And I confess that my nervous system was considerably disturbed by the horses who in bracing themselves while on the descent, started many large and massive stones, that rolled with a resistless fury for hundred of feet below us. Fortunately these California horses are so well trained that [they] ascend and descend the mountains with the most perfect security and ease. Near the residence of Don Pacheco there is a stone found, which seems to be composed almost entirely of shells or coral, from which an excellent quality of lie is extracted the stone is placed in a kiln and burnt for two days and nights, after it becomes cool it [is] placed in tubs or troughs and water poured over, when it dissolves and resembles ashes very much, The lie thus produced is very strong & is used in making soap, The stone should be burnt until the smoke of it becomes white. We returned to the worthy Dons about 5 P. M. considerably fatigued had an excellent dinner, after which the young ladies gave us some delightful Music on the harp and guitar. The worthy Don, was extravagantly lavish in his praise of the Americans and the American Government. He said it was a model for all Governments, and that its institutions, were the best & wisest and its people the happiest in the world. And that he earnestly desired to see California made one of the American states, and that he hoped to live long enough to see it, in which we concurred.

Thursday, 30 April 1846

Breakfast and our leave of the worthy don & his family, Ride through St. Joseph valley, The fields of wild oats, Arrival at Martin's his family, Gilroy's ranch, Lassoing Cattle, Cruelty of the Spaniards, Arrival at Murphy's his family, Our lunch, The beautiful position of the farm, The river Kiota [Coyote] Arrival at Donna Senora Bernalli, her hospitality, and the beautiful location of the residence, and splendid grove of oaks. Ride over the hills, The valley of St Phillip, Arrival at the quick silver mine and kind reception of us by the proprietor Mr. Chard, The log cabins and their pleasant situation, the running stream, supper & conversation upon the subject of the mine.

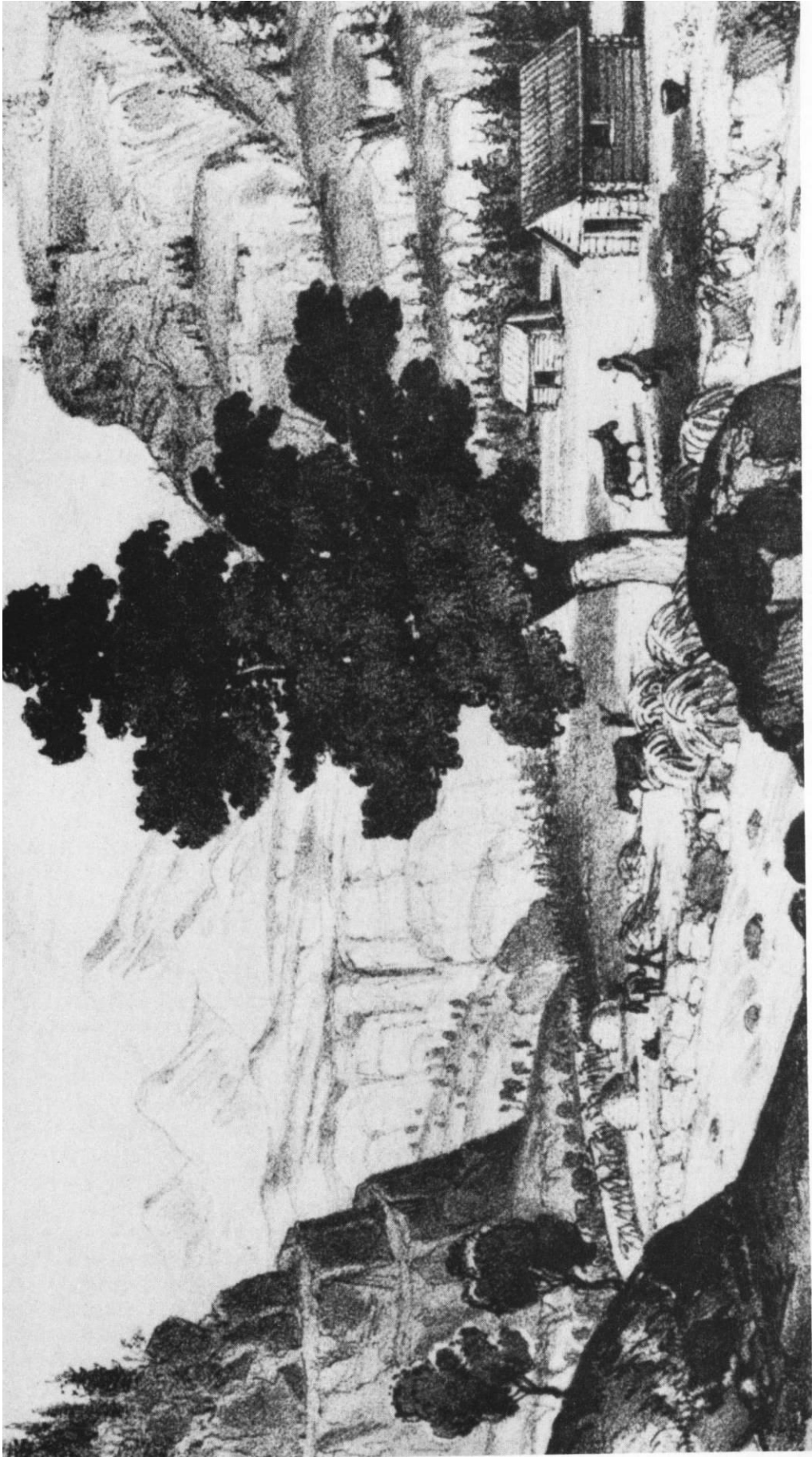
We rose quite early in order to make an early start, intending to ride some eighteen miles to Breakfast, But we found our worthy host and his family up and breakfast ready for us, We eat Breakfast and took our leave, offering to remunerate the Don for his attention, this he declined, so we thanked him sincerely and rode off, Our road lay through the beautiful valley of St Joseph, which has several magnificent lakes, in it, with groves of oak and one continuous field of wild oats, These oats are about two feet high and very thick. We arrived at the house of Mr. Martin, This man crossed the rocky mountains some three years ago, with his family, that is his wife & three children, Martin is a native of North Carolina and Stokes county, he is I believe a mill right, and bids fair to do well, his children are healthy fine looking youngsters, and his wife quite an amiable and intelligent woman she is native of Tennessee, After spending a few moments at this place, we rode on, and came to Gilroy's rancho. [John] Gilroy is an old Scotchman, has a large farm and a large quantity of stock. His men were selecting out young cattle for sale, among them was a young heifer, which was a little wild, her drivers soon became irritated with [her] when one of them running his horse at full speed, threw his lasso over her horns and threw her down breaking her leg, in that condition the animal was from pain and fear still more unruly, she was again thrown by her inhuman drivers and her other fore leg broken, then because the animal could not travel threw the lasso over her head, & putting spurs to their horse tortured the poor animal to death, After witnessing this scene of cruelty we rode on, and on a ridge [of] hills which separates the St Joseph from the Tulara valley, we [saw] a very large troop of wild horses. The loftiest side of these hills or mountains is covered with wild oats. About noon we arrived at the farm of Mr. Murphy. This gentleman came over the mountains last year & has but just move[d] upon his farm, it nevertheless is in a fine state of improvement, We [were] greeted with utmost cordiality and good feeling by the old man and his daughter, who appeared in perfect ecstasies at seeing us, we dined at this place, And learned that this old gentleman and his children had come to this country for their health, It appeared that they had resided in Missouri for a number of years, where they were in very comfortable circumstances, but the old man lost [his] wife and says that his children were always sick, so he determined to sacrifice his property, for he could not get its value and go to some country where they might [regain their] health, I believe they have found it. Miss Murphy is a fine buxsome looking lass, and looks as though she might be the mother of a hardy race of pioneers yet, On our departure we offer[ed] to pay them for our entertainment, but they promptly rejected it, and the young lady made us take a fine roll of fresh butter in our pack, after exchanging hearty greetings for our mutual welfare we took our leave. The farm is beautifully situated, and watered by the Cayote [the word "Kiota" has been crossed out] river, After riding about two leagues we came to the splendid location of Madam Bernalli's which is surrounded by several large and beautiful groves of oak, This lady expressed great happiness at seeing us



*California vaquero lassoing cattle*

and insisting upon preparing some collation for us which was quickly done, I must here remark that I have not seen in all California, so much order neatness and comfort, as I saw at this house, we partook of her hospitably, and took our [leave] first promising if we returned that way to give her a call, Madam Bernalli is a sensible woman, but most grossly deceived in relation to America, she supposed that if America took possession of California, that they would take all her stock and lands and leave her poor if indeed they did not make her a slave, we found that this principle infamous as it is, is instilled into the minds of the native Californians by Mexican authority, we however proved to her that such was not our character, but that her property and her rights would be preserved to her, then says she take the country as soon as you please, leaving here we rode over [the] side of [the] hills, and descended into the beautiful little valley of St Phillip, This is an extremely beautiful and fertile valley, There are but one or two farms as yet in this valley, but there has been several farms laid out, and will be soon brought under active cultivation, On the west side of this valley, There is quite a beautiful & fine stream of water. Just here we crossed the river, and pursued our course about two miles up the west bank when we arrived at the house of Mr. Chard near the quick silver mine, the object of our visit, Mr. Chard has a most delightful location situated on the west bank of the river, It is a small valley covering about thirty acres of land, with a large fine growth of oak button wood, and a species of Elm, his house is built of logs, about two feet in diameter but, we enjoyed the scene and the comforts of this log cabin in the forest of California, as we were much fatigued. Mr. Chard is a native of New York, Hudson county, he has been some twelve or fifteen years in the country, has married in the country & has quite a large family of children, we had not the pleasure of seeing his lady or children;--chard is a hard working shrewd and intelligent yankee,--He received us in the genuine spirit of an american, his address was affable and easy, and after a few excuses about the roughness of his house and coarseness of his fair, he extended so much kindness that we felt quite at home, And he proceeded to have some supper prepared for us, which [was] both good wholesome and refreshing. I was pleased to find that he did not drink strong liquors or keep it in his house, while supper was preparing we washed and took a look around his premises, the first object that attracted our attention was a large pile of Glittering ore, we commence an examination, but owing to my profound ignorance of mineralogy, I had to content myself with observation of others, in a measure;--The process of extracting the silver is somewhat antiquated, and attended with much difficulty. He first builds an oven (the fustrum [fenestra?] of a cave) under the ground of tile strongly cemented together, and raise or built up above the surface a few inches, over the top of this oven, there is large bars of Iron placed in the form of a grate,--at the bottom there is a wooden trough about four feet long, one foot wide & six inches deep, into which there is a constant stream of water of cool water constantly running, which is brought by means of a ditch three hundred & eighty paces long on a parallel line with the river. On





*Quicksilver mines*

the top of this grate, [he] places the ore, after it is broken into small pieces, over which he places a common whalesmen kettle buttom upwards. (this is an iron kettle and will hold probably fifty gallons) This is cemented down air tight, & over this kettle he builds a brisk fire, which generates steam on the inside. This descends into the cool stream below by which means the quick silver is obtained, the ore yields with this imperfect apparatus about thirty per cent and the virmillion or clay about seventeen per cent. After satisfying our curiosity, and expatiating upon the immense value of the mine, we were called to supper, to which we did full justice, Mr. Chard has but a few hands as yet, these are all indians except a Scotch blacksmith, and has only worked out about four hundred pounds of the mettle; we retired very soon after supper, when everything become still, the consoling and soothing ripple of the creek, in its passage over its pebbely bottom, is beyond all description, it resembled much the falling of rain on the roof [of] a house. I soon fell asleep delighted with the murmuring music of this beautiful mountain stream.

Friday, 1 May 1846

Ascent to the mine, description of the same, descent from the mine, breakfast and our leave. Capt Cook's rancho--his lady, Arrival at the peubla, Mr. his hospitality. Description of the village. American settles. Earnest soliciation on all sides for the U. States to take California, Mission of Santa Clara, Mrs. Bennett, Our leave.

We arose quite early, and found horses ready saddled, we mounted and had a most lovely view, when we reached the summit of the rising sun, and also start[l]ed several deer from the place where they had rested, from the house to the mine, by the road it is about one mile. The preproietors own two thousand yards square, which probably does not cover more than the two thousandth part of the mine. There are four owners Chard, Castleness, Gen. Castro, and the priest of Santa Clara, so far as we can learn, We reached the first shaft and alighted. It appears that the Indians have for a long series of years resorted to this spot, to obtain the vermillion to paint their persons, and for other purposes, to which they applied it, when it was discovered, there was a cave about forty [feet] deep running horizontal into the mountain, whether this cave existed from the creation of the mountain or was the work of the Indians I could not ascertain, but it is believed to be the work of the Indians, On the surface at the mouth of this cave, and in fact all over it, we saw glittering mettle reflected by the rays of the sun, as it lay imbeded in the red soil & rock--Apprehending that it would not be safe to work in this cave, Mr. Chard opened a new shaft sixteen feet long by four wide, it is now about three feet deep, from this shaft he has obtained all the ore that has as yet been worked, The soil covering this strata of ore & vermillion is not more than three inches deep, covered with a growth of wild oats, and some scrub bushes--After plying the pick and spade and



obtaining by our own hands some specimen of the ore, we took a survey of the mountain in order to ascertain the extent of the mountain but this we found impossible, as the west side or view presented the appearance that this was but the rising ground to a still more higher side, hence we may infer that that this mine is inexhaustable, there is every convenience which nature could give, towards working the mine, such as wood water and an easy access to the ore, Mr. Chard has about four hundred pounds worked out, & has sent samples of it to Mexico. After gratifying ourselves with some views from the mountain and speculations as to the extent of the mine, we descended took Breakfast, and bid our kind host farewell, After a ride of some five leagues following the meanderings of the river, we came to the residence of Capt Cook. I regret that he was not at home, we stopped a few [moments] and made our respects to his beautiful and interesting lady, There are no females in the world that can compare with the enterprising genius of our countrywoman, Mrs Cook is about 20 years old, apparantly contented, and living with no companion but her husband in a wild and dense forest, where the whistling of the quail the bark of the Kiota, the bounding leap of the deer, and the low dull noise of the grizzly Bear may [be] heard and seen at all hours,--Leaving here we soon entered the lovely [valley] of Santa Clara and reach the Peubla, where we were most kindly received at the house of Mr. by his clerk, a young man by the name of Davis a native of New York. Dinner was soon prepared, we Dined, and retired to our room, shaved and changed our linen. Our worthy host had gone out with a party in pursuit of some indian horse thieves who had stolen the night previous about two hundred head from the neighborhood, they succeeded in finding the horses, but [the] Indians escaped. He returned early in the evening and expressed great delight and pleasure at seeing us, bid us welcome to his house, As might be expected our arrival caused some little excitement in this inland village, It [was] soon known that two American officers with servant and caveorda had arrived, and as matter of course our friends store as soon crowded with both sexes, having gratified their curiosity they retired to make for another class of visitors, These were Americans and it really seemed as though we were in a yankee village. The conversation ran almost entirely upon the probability of the U. States taking possession of California. We did all we could to encourage them, at same time advising them to be united & to act in concert, which I am convinced they are, and the day is not distant when yankee enterprise will plant another standard on the mountains & plains of California and like Texas, knock at the doors of the doors of the national legislature for admission into our glorious confederacy. Our worthy friends house was a complete armory [of] the most modern and improved arms, he is a german by birth but a naturalized citizen of the U. States, and devoted to her laws & institutions, he seems to be a sort of leader among the Americans at this place. A short distance from here is the ruins of the old Mission of St Clara now dilapidated and hardy tenable, connected with this is a small village, where resides one of our fair countrywomen Mrs Bennett, whose height size & pujelistic powers has completely paralyzed the passive

Mexicans authorities and she rules without the knowledge of a superior. Mrs. Bennett is one of those instable restless beings, who adds all the phlegm of an instable disposition to the most continuing energy and perseverance. I am informed that she frequently has business with [the] Alcalde of the Puebla, and either by argument or force always obtains a judgement in her favor, she boasts that if she had fifty Kentucky woman she would take California, and it is certain if [they] were all like her, & she none but Mexican troops to fight, that she would succeed. After a good night's rest we took our leave, promising if ever we were in the vicinity again that we would call.

Saturday, 2 May 1846

Our ride over the Santa Cruz mountains, saw Mountain lake, Lunch, The forest, the red wood tree. Arrival at Mr. Majors, Mr. Hitchcock, retiring to rest. The alarm, Indian horse theives. The American settlers and the annoyance which they give the ruling authorities

On leaving the Puebla we crossed a small stream, on which there is a fine griss and flouring mill, The enterprise of a French emigrant, On almost every farm there is [a] mill, worked by horses. The Puebla is situated near the centre of the valley, and contains about five hundred inhabitants, chiefly American and other foreign settles, From the Puebla to the foot of the Santa Cruz mountains, the road runs North West through the Santa Clara valley, which is covered by a thick and Luxuriant growth of wild oats, with large herds of cattle feeding throughout this there is a majestic growth of oak, scattered in some places very sparse in others quite thick, furnishing a most delightful protection to the cattle from the heat of the sun. We commenced the ascent of the mountains, which was very gradual, and exceedingly beautiful;--we passed two ranchs in [the] first table lands, which seemed to be well worked, and in a flourishing condition, About five leagues from the river which washes the West side of the Santa Clara valley we ascended to an emminence about two thousand feet above the valley, from which we had a most beutifull view of the Bay of San Francisco, Wood Island and the immense plains which extend on either bank for hundred of miles. From this point to the summit of the mountains we passed by hill & dale on every side, The ravines were of various depths and size all or nearly all covered with a dense growth of heavy timber & under brush, and all washed by a pure mountain stream of spring water, we reached about noon, a small table land in the mountains, with a most beautiful lake, surrounded by a number of the most splendid oaks, here we halted and lunched, resting about one hour, we continued our journey. Our route lying through a dense forest of oak, saw wood, pine and red trees, The ground seemed literally covered with strawberry and raspberry vines in full blossom. I noticed also Camamile, sweet basil mint and catnip, with many other herbs, I noticed also, the chesnut, the olive and the lemon tree. The Red Wood tree is something between the Cypress and Cedar tree

of the U. States, resembling the cedar much in the growth [of] its branches and foilage, and the Cypress in its height size and smoothness of its bark. Near the residence of Capt Graham at Santa Cruz there is one of these growing, which [is] twenty-four feet in diameter, they are of immense height, frequently reaching four hundred feet, This tree seems [to] grow altogether from deep ravines of the mountains, showing that it like Cypress requires a wet or moist soil to grow in, several of these trees has been [sawed] down which measured two hundred feet clear of limbs, and I am told upon unquestionable authority, that a single tree, sawed into plank made one hundred and thirteen thousand feet of lumber, the grain is coarse and splits with ease, post made of this timber have been found perfectly sound after remaining planted in the ground for twenty years. The great depth of the ravines in which they grow is a great protection, both from the violence of the wind and the axe of the woodman, nearly every tree has its top broken off by the winds, We saw a large number of Deer feeding on the hills and came across repeated signs of the grizzly Bear, After enjoying the magnificence of this luxurious growth of timber, and feasting our eyes with the beauty and grandier of countless varieties of flowers, birds and other objects of beauty, we descended into the valley of Santa Cruz and arrived about five P. M. At the residence of Mr. Major's who received us with every mark of kindness and hospitality. Majors is a native of stokes county North Carolina, but has been in California about fourteen years, has married and has quite a large family of children. I met here an old gentleman by the name of Hitchcock, a native of Guilford County N. Carolina, this old man has thrice crossed the rocky mountains, he is now sixty-seven years old. He first settled in Oregon, but his children, being anxious to remove to California, he came with them, and even now at his advanced age moves with as much elasticity and handles his rifle with all the ease of a boy of nineteen, he speaks of recrossing the maintains on a visit to his friends and relatives in the U. States, says that he was at the battle of Baltimore and helped to drive the English off, & that he can now help to plant the stripes & stars on the verdant hills of California. There being quite a number of persons at the house of our host we had to sleep in the large Hall, we were very comfortable, About eleven o'clock we were awakened by a tremendous yell of the dogs and a knocking at the door, we were soon informed that it was a party in pursuit of the Indian horse theives who had stolen quite a number of horses that night, some of the persons in the employ of Major, went in company with this party, they succeeded in getting back the horses, but the Indian escaped. In and about Santa Cruz there are quite a number of American settles, engaged in the lumber and mill business, many of them are large farmers, while others pay their whole attention to raising stock, they are an industrious, hardy and intelligent people, among whom there are many mechanics. They are prosperous & appear to be accumulating wealth, Having been and raised in the pure atmosphere of liberity it is but natural that they should still have a partiality to freedom and equal rights and they sometimes speak in the plain and unsophisticated language of truth, their feelings and sentiments, these

fall upon the ears of the ruling authority of the country, with such effect that they shrink back and tremble for the result. There is no doubt judging from the perfect unanimity of the Americans, and the confidence with which they publicly proclaim their intention of remodding the government, that they will have possession of California in a very short time, We arose very early and taking leave of our friends, started on our journey--

Sunday, 3 May 1846

Our ride to the Mission, Mr. White, Diner. The large trees, strong denunciation of [General Jose] Castro, impressment of the young Californians into service, ride to Monterey.

We had a very pleasant ride over some tolerably elevated hills which border the sea to the Mission of Santa Cruz, the building as in other places of the kind are now in ruins, the elegant gardens, and beautiful fruit orchards are now trampled upon by the ox the horse and the pig, totally neglected, and at the very door of the sanctuery the butcher slaughters his animals and the rank winds choke up the avenue to the vestibule, leaving Santa Cruz we had a pleasant [ride] over hill & dale for about eighteen leagues to the residence of Mr. White, who received us kindly and prepared us a very handsome dinner. We remained here some three quarters of an hour, about one hundred yards from the house of White there stands one of those red wood trees, which we ascertained by measurement to be fourteen feet in diameter, I omitted to mention another of these trees near the residence of Mr. Majors that is nineteen feet in diameter. On our arrival at White's we heard that Castro was impressing people into service for the purpose of raising an army to keep off the Americans, Boys fifteen years were taken from their parents and home just at this the busiest season of the year, the Californians were uttering the most bitter imprecations against this man, and swearing vengeance. From [what] I could gather I infer that if Castro should attempt to embody these people in an army, that a large portion of them would revolt, and it is even intimated that Castro would be very fortunate to escape with his head. Leaving our friend White's we rode on through this delightful country of hill & dale, until we reached the Salinus valley. It had been blowing quite a heavy N. W. gale all day but the high hilly country through which we past protected us, but as soon as we reached the valley it burst upon us with resistless fury, and from this [place] to Monterey our ride was quite disagreeable. We arrived at the American Consulates in Monterey just after sunset, after an absence of six days, having rode three hundred miles, we were considerably fatigued but amply rewarded for our labor and fatigue and highly gratified in the pleasing reflection of the kindness and hospitality of the worthy people among whom we had been.

## Conclusion--

We have travelled over three hundred miles, through the most beautiful country I have ever [seen]. From the highest summit of the Pacacho to the deepest ravine, the whole country is one vast field of grain and it may be said in fact that no country in the world furnishes so rich a pasture, The climate mild and equitable perfectly healthy, We had scenery suited [to] the calm & tranquil walk of life. We have had it suited to the liveliest of the imagination, fit abodes for either romance or tragedy. We had it suited to the bold and reckless disposition of the backwoodsmen. We have had rich in subjects for the pen or the pencil, and we have had it, in all the magnificence and luxuriance of natural beauty yes the age patriarch might bath his silvery locks in gentle sun or mist of the mountain top, and in all the serenity and calmness of soul, when viewing the scene, he could lift up his hands & exclaim O lord how wonderful are thy works, and how beautiful is thy creation, we thank the lord, for it is beautiful beyond description.----On discovery of California the Catholic church sent Missionaries among the indians to improve and ameliorate their condition. Large buildings were erected at suitable distances apart and of sufficient extent to give a comfortable home to Indians. The indians were wild but mild and tractable in their disposition, they were easily collected by the Missionaries to these different establishments where they [were] clothed & fed and their every comfort attended to, most of them became christian Indians. They were instructed in Mechanics, in manufactures, and in agriculture, they were under the guidance of the Missionaries, a sober industrious and peaceful race, enjoying their lands and its produce, revelling in all the luxury of their fine & salubrious climate content with their state and at peace with the world. The Mexican Government as if jealous of their happiness, and a rapacity as base as it is sacriligious, ordered these missions to be broken up, took from the Indians all their lands ostraised their treachers destroyed the temple of their hopes, and the very firesides where they have loved and lived and had their being. This unfortunate people who from long disuse had almost forgotten the use of the bow, were again driven to seek shelter amid the defiles of the mountains and to gain a livelyhood by the bow. Thus treated and harrassed they have become a band of the most daring and expert theives. They steal principally horses, as they can more readily make their escape with these, and are very fond of the flesh of the horse. White men now captured them and work them as slaves or pursue them and shoot [them] as wild beast of the forest. Surely if there be retributive justice in heaven this degraded people must be revenged. As I hope they may.

Monday, 4 May 1846

A strong North West wind, quite cool, feel quite sore, and fatigued from my late trip. Call[ed] upon the Capt. gave him a piece of the silver ore, he thanked me, and expressed himself well pleased that we had made the excursion--Went on shore this evening with the

first Lieut. and took a stroll over the hills, The first Lt. somewhat unwell.--

**Tuesday, 5 May 1846**

The breeze light from the south east, the weather mild. Commandant General, Castro & suit visited the ship to-day at 11 o'clock. They were received with military honors, walked through the ship, and partook of a very handsome colation given by Com. Montgomery, They left the ship in about one hour and were saluted with 15 guns. Went on shore this evening took a walk, paid my respects to the Consul & family. There was quite a little party at the Consuls, we had some fine spanish music, and some dancing bien--

**Wednesday, 6 May 1846**

The weather cool & windy,--cloudy & considerable rain, remained on board during the morning engaged in writing, went on shore at three o'clock and took a walk with Lt Revere, Call[ed] on Mrs., Dr Townsend and took tea with her & the Doctor. Doctor T. is a Pennsylvanian by birth, Mrs T. is a Swiss by birth but was raised in the U. States, They both appear to be very amiable and good people. Mrs T. has a good deal rusticity in her manner's, and the Doctor seems to be very awk[w]ard and withal very ignorant for a professional man, There may be a jewel hid beneath a rough exterior, I learned a striking instance of the injustice which is shown towards the indians by a [man] professing to be christian, Dr T. has an Indian girl in his family about 18 years old, It seems that a party of Americans and other foreigners about twelve months since, went out on the Sacramenta to punish the Indians for stealing their Horses, they killed a good many, and took some prisoners, These prisoners were principally females, they were naked, and the Captors gave them a coarse wrapper, and then sold them [to] pay for it, Sutter bought this girl, and sold her to Dr. T.--That is bought her clothes and sold her clothes, hence they evade the law & keep the poor Indian in perpetual bondage. This girl belong[ed] to a tribe which lives in the California mountains. Went by invitation to a little dance at Mr. Artnells, there was quite a collection of youths and many very pretty children among [them], the dance was given as a kind of Birth party to one of Artnell son's. I staid about one hour and then came on board ship.--

**Thursday, 7 May 1846**

The weather cool, and the wind high,--Served out a quantity of Marine clothing, Went on shore but a very short time, came off with Capt Montgomery, took Dinner and occupied myself in writing during the evening, Dr. Duval made me a present of three Handkfs.

Friday, 8 May 1846

The weather cool, clear & pleasant, The American trading ship Barnstable, from Boston came in and anchored on yesterday, 130 days from Boston to St Barbara;--Went on shore this evening. Called and spent some time with Mrs. Larkin, The Bishop of upper California died a few days since, at St Barbara, The Governor has the Capt & officers to a picnic to-morrow, several have accepted, myself among the rest,--

Saturday, 9 May 1846

The weather mild & pleasant, went on shore at half past eight, about nine we mounted our horses, and left for the valley of Carmell, Many of the ladies having preceded us by half an hour, After a ride of ten miles we reached a delightful spot on the Carmelle river. There was thirty ladies and about Forty gentlemen, Generals [Jose] Castro and Viago [Mariano Guadalupe Vallejo?] were very attentive and polite, General castro had made ample arrangements as to horses, About 1 P. M. a very sumptuous and substantial repast was spread under a large green arber, which had been provided for the occasion, we all eat heartily, and every body seemed pleased, in fact the expressions of kind feelings on the part of the General and his suit, and particularly the ladies, who hold the Americans in very high esteem, was made with great apparent sincerity. I am informed that the females of California prefer by large odds the Americans for husbands, they say that the Mexicans, are very well to a play the guitar and Dance, and ride horses, but they are too lazy and are general[ly] jealous and cruel, but the Americans love to work, they have good houses and plenty to live on and make [a] kind husband, It was remarked by Gen. Viago that a Mexican or Californian stood no chance with the girls when an American was by, he expressed himself pleased with their sound discretion & judgement, It is by this means if no other, that the country will change hands, for the very rulers themselves are becoming every connected with Americans by intermarriage. And the interest of the Americans is every day becoming more & more the interest of the Californians, hence the inevitable result will be that California must be an integral part of the U. States. About two o'clock P. M. The General ordered the horses saddled, and we started all highly delighted with our entertainment, we rode through Carmell valley, down to the mission of Mount Carmelle on the sea shore here we halted and viewed the melancholy ruins of the building and grounds of this once the asylum of the Indians, we then pursued our course over a side hills from the summit of which the views were truly beautiful, just on the out skirts of Monterey we halted until all the party came, when being preceded by a small troop of lancers, we made our entree into the village, proceded to the wharf, and from thence to the American consulates, where we separated, after an interchange of friendly expressions & compliments, We the officers took tea at the Consuls, and dressed for the ball which was coming off at the Consuls. About eight o'clock the party assembled, among whom there were many very

pretty young ladies, soon all were absorbed in the giddy [illegible] of the waltz quadrille and country dance. At eleven o'clock I left together with many of the officers after partaking of a colation prepared by Mrs. Larkin, the lady of our esteemed Consul, and all of us highly delighted with the amusements and enjoyments of the day. General Don Jose Castro, is a man about forty years of age, about six feet high very stout & robust, black hair whiskers and mustach, large but dull yellowish colored eyes, and without a single exterior sign of intelligence. I believe he is quite illiterate and totally unacquainted with political or civil liberty or government, he is much disliked by the Californians, and seems to be celebrated more for his libertine propensities than any thing else. General Viago is about five, six, not more than thirty-five, large & robust, with a keen penetrating black eye, fine face and very intelligent countenance, a sincere admirer of republican liberty institutions and government, he is the wealthiest man in California, very partial to the U. States and her people, he is held in high esteem by the Californians, and he sincerely desires to see some charge for the better in the country. It is said that he is much in favor of the American Government taking possession of the country. I hope it is so.

#### Sunday, 10 May 1846

The weather pleasant, we muster at ten o'clock A. M. after which the rules & articles of war were read, and the Capt had service which was very long and fatiguing. Mr. Green, Mr Tooms & Mr. Dias American residents at this place dined on board with us to-day. I went on shore after Dinner, but came off at sunset, There is currently going the rounds, that Capt Freemont is on his return to this place, which causes much annoyance to the authorities. I do not believe he is coming back just yet

#### Monday, 11 May 1846

The weather mild & pleasant, Went on shore at three P. M. & took a walk, The Capt. gave a dinner party to-day. I was invited at the 11th hour but did not accept

#### Tuesday, 12 May 1846

The [weather] pleasant, some fog. A party has been suggested and agreed too, to be given by the ward room officers, Went on shore and obtained from the Consul a list of names, The ladies suggest that it is better to give [the party] on shore as going on board will be attended with considerable inconvenience and they apprehend that most of them would be sea sick, came on board at sun set. The idea of giving a party on shore at first not relished by the officers, but finally agreed upon--





*Thomas O. Larkin, American Consul at Monterey*

Wednesday, 13 May 1846

The weather pleasant, Mornings & evenings very Foggy, spent the day on shore, had some little of the dirt removed from the floors of the rooms where we propose to give a little dance, Had all the Tickets distributed, and did all that could be done to-day, I Met Capt [Isaac] Graham, a most uncouth looking man, which I believe is his character, laying aside the roughness of his dress, which was certainly no detriment to him, he may be thus described. Six feet high rather stout, about Forty-five years old, Grey eyes, (small) small red nose, small mouth, high cheek bones somewhat weather beaten, (fair complexion once) but very Florid now, quick spoken, considerably inflated with self large head with long thick shaggy hair. Armed to the teeth.--My friend [Marine] Lt [Henry W.] Queen sold this man a pair of pistols some twelve or eighteen months ago, and he Graham was to leave the money (\$20) with an American gentleman, (Mr Green) a merchant in Monterey. Mr. Queen gave me an order on green requesting me to collect the money for him, Graham declines paying the money, and says that he will return the [pistols] which he has done. The pistols have evidently been damaged, but knowing that friend would decline a conflict of any kind with a man of his character, I was induced to take the pistols and say no more about it--

Thursday, 14 May 1846

The weather pleasant, Went on shore immediately after quarters; The task of decorating the rooms for the party had been assigned to me, I accordingly about 10 o'clock A. M. I commenced operations, and by 5 o'clock P. M. I succeeded in getting the flags all arrayed. I represented all the nations that there was likely to be any people from who might be either resident or accidentally in the place. I covered the walls entirely with Flags, in festoons, in each festoon I placed a bunch with roses and wild flowers with some ever greens. Over the door leading to the ladies room I placed the Mexican flag, with a small arch and wreath of roses, supported by the Russian & American flags. Over the door leading to the gentlemans room, I placed the American flag, supported by the English & French flags. I then displayed the Unions of the Hawaiian, Peruvian, Chilian, Bolivian, Brazilian, Columbian, Spanish, Portuguese, Danish Swedish, &c. in different parts of the room which together with the various Bouquet, wreaths and single roses made quite a modest and beautiful display, that is the ladies said so and consequently it must be so. My candlesticks were made of wood, and [illegible] all round the rooms. My chandeliers were formed of bayonetes fastened on a hoop. I had curtained off with canvass both the front and back corridor which made a most beautiful promenade. The dancing hall had sixty lights and the other twenty-five each which made them quite brilliant,--I then spread my tables for supper, it being the custom in California, to have the tables spread before the balls commence, so that the party eat during the evening as they are inclined. The liquors were placed under the charge of

Mr. Watmaugh, having made all the necessary arrangements for the convenience of both ladies & gentleman, and prepared the saloons for lighting, I came on board and dressed in full uniform, & returned on shore as soon as possible in order to receive the company. The company were invited to meet at eight o'clock. I lighted up the rooms precisely at eight and the party commenced assembling at half past eight and the dancing at nine o'clock. There were between eighty and ninety ladies, and upwards of a hundred gentlemen. Our music consisted of a violin two guitars and a piano. The dancing was kept up with but little intermission until four o'clock A. M. of Friday Morning, literally fulfilling the old song which runs, "W'll dance all night, till broad day light. And go home with the gals in the morning." All the elite or respectable portion of the inhabitants of Monterey were asked and all or nearly all attended, the most perfect harmony cordiality & good feeling prevailed during the party. The California Ladies dress with becoming beauty & grace, they are very graceful dancers of which amusement they are passionately fond. And if they do not boast of any very exquisite beauties among them, yet they may rest assured that there were none of them, what is termed homely. I would call them very pretty, modest & captivating, The authorities accompanied by Gen. Castro made their appearance at an early hour and remained until after two o'clock, expressed themselves highly delighted and thanked us repeatedly for the entertainment. The whole passed off with great eclat and satisfaction, & we were informed that it was the largest and most brilliant party that had ever been given in Monterey. The California Ladies say that the American gentlemen are for the most part very indifferent waltzers, but they make up for that defect in their gentlemary department, kind attention and respectful demeanor towards all and towards the ladies particularly, there was quite a number of American ladies & gentlemen in the room. The whole affair as I said before went off in the most satisfactory and pleasing manner.

Friday, 15 May 1846

Came on board the ship about seven o'clock & quite fatigued & sleepy, The morning was calm & lovely, took Breakfast and turned in, slept until two o'clock, got up quite refreshed, Sent some men and took down all the decorations of the ball, and returned every thing in proper order.--It is said to be certain that Capt Fremont is on his return to this place, I can hardly think that he is returning without orders, these he may possibly have received. Gen Castro appears to be somewhat alarmed for the safety of California but he may not [be] assured that California is too thoroughly yankee to belong to Mexico much longer, for the American troops take the country or no, the Americans themselves will do so, in spite of him.

Saturday, 16 May 1846

The weather pleasant, went on shore and made some calls, the ladies all very loud in praise of the American ball as they are pleased to call it. They are quite lavish in praise of the Officers, and the

gentlemen are full [of] compliments. Several of the officers went on a hunting expedition to-day, returned on board at three o'clock,--blowing very fresh from the S. E.--anxiously looking for the Congress.

**Sunday, 17 May 1846**

The weather pleasant. Considerably rain during the night, the wind from the Southward, Had Quarters at ten o'clock & the Capt inspected the Crew & ship, as usual. At half past ten had service, which by the by is getting to be rather tiresome in consequence of the very long Presbyterian sermons which the Capt reads every Sunday. Went on shore at three o'clock in company with Lt Revere, we took a long walk through the woods culled some flowers and picked some flowers, When we returned we called and paid our respects to Mrs. Larkins. Revere remained on shore and I came on board at sun set. At supper the conversation turned upon fruits. Many maintained that the fruits of the North were the largest and most delicious in the country. But I differed. For I have now been in all the most favored fruit portions of the world and I have never met with any that were superior and few so good as the fruits of North Carolina. I am convinced that the good people of N. C. do not appreciate the many rich and delicious productions of their Native state, I have never met in all peregrinations through life, and surely not in the far famed fruit fields of the Mediterranean or the Pacific such fruits as I have in N. C. The Apples are as various in kinds and many vastly superior in N. C. than any I have ever seen elsewhere. The peaches are only equalled, but no where excelled, The pear are I believe unequalled, The plumbs are superior to all the all the world beside particularly the wild plum. The cherries are as various and as fine as can be produced. In fact the Quincies Apricots, Figs &c. will vie with the richest productions of the world, The Locust is superior to any I have ever tasted,--In nuts Carolina is extremely rich. The Walnut, Hickory nut, hazel nut and chusnut are as fine as was ever seen. In native berries and wild fruits North Carlina may with confidence challenge the world. In grapes she may boast as delicious and as fine as any country,--In a word whether we look for health for rich fruits for all the delightful productions either native or exotic, we fine in this noble state every thing to please the fancy, to gratify the taste, to invigorate the constitution or to render man happy, most lavishly displayed and invitingly presented to gratify the wish, and consummate the earthly bliss of man.

**Monday, 18 May 1846**

The weather clear and mild, Went in search of shells to-day with Mr Hugunin & the first Lt. found a very great quantity of the Patilla, and the Haliotis, move [made] several very beautiful selections, Scrubbed hammocks this morning Some of the marines want to go hunting in the morning, so I have determined to go with them,--

Tuesday, 19 May 1846

The weather fair but cool, the dew this morning was very heavy, equal to a rain of several hours, Got up at four o'clock and went on shore at four o'clock, in order to go duck hunting, took three of the Marines with me, We found an abundance of Ducks, but they have been shot so much lately that they are extremely wild, and the water being unusually high in the ponds this morning we [were] unable to get even all that were killed. The men finding but little sport in Duck shooting, went in quest of Hares & rabbits, I left then and returned, following the high ridge which skirts the sea shore. I found a number of Hares, but was unable to kill any, they being very wild. In one of the ponds, where the water is brackish, there are a large number of Tarepin, which are exceedingly delicious. I picked up a small one and bought it to the ship in my shot bag. The Marines returned at sun set, but had not been very successful. On Saturday last, three of the officers accompanied by a guide went out some fifteen or twenty miles deer hunting, and have not yet returned, but we have news from them up to to-day, They have killed ten deer and a grizzly Bear. There is quite an adventure it seems as relates to the Bear. Bears are frequently attracted to the camp of hunting parties, by the smell of the dead animals which have been killed by the hunters, and not unfrequently the hunters skin many of their deer and throw the carcass of the animal away, placing it but a short distance from their encampment, This seems to have been the case in the present instance. As the bear was attracted to the spot by the carcass of a deer which had been thrown away. The bear devoured a portion of the animal, and removed the remainder to some distance from the camp, for the [intent] of burying it and while in the act of doing so, he was discovered by the hunters, It appears that the gentleman were just commencing the morning hunt, when winding around the mountains by the narrow foot paths, they on turning a sudden or projecting point of the mountain, they came suddenly upon the bear, The guide was ahead, Mr Hunter was next and close behind him, Mr Watmaugh was some distance in the rear. The Bear thus suddenly surprised, Made fight, and was just in the act of pulling the guide off of his horse, when Mr. Hunter, quick as lightning, took good aim and fired, killing the bear instantaneously. A moment hesitation would have been fatal to the guide. And the instant death of the animal must be regarded as one of those fortunate circumstances, which sometimes relieved men when in the most trying and eminent perils. The Grizzly bear of all animals is the most tenacious of life, instances are related of them having been shot through the heart, and even then chasing their enemies for miles or effecting their escape. The aim must be good, the nerve steady and the piece sure fire of the man that kills a bear with a single ball, or even with two balls. The rich green and luxuriant look of the country, which was to be seen on all sides is rapidly disappearing and the grass and other vegetation is assuming the yellow or brownish mantle of decay, the earth is exceedingly dry, and vegetation only flourishes where irrigation is kept up by hand. I find that the farmers as they are called, have made no

provision for the support of their stock after the hills and vallies shall cease to furnish food. But permit their stock to become mere skin and bones, subsisting only on such twigs, the bows of the undergrowth and dry herbage that they may be able to find. This to me appears to be the very worst of policy, It would be impossible to give any thing like an idea of immense number of tons of hay that might be put up, with the simple labor of mowing and stacking, and I am sure that there might be cut from the wild oats which cover nearly every spot of this immense country, sufficient to winter and summer one hundred thousand times as many more cattle, horses, sheep and other stock, as there at present in California. Notwithstanding this profuse provision of thy Creator, The indolent habits of the people, and the advantage resulting from a provision for their stock, will not permit or stimulate them to make this provision, but they live on in idleness, loosing numbers of their stock from carelessness, and the want of making the necessary provision for their maintainance. California I am persuaded, is ill suited to any thing else but grazing. Most of the country is too uneven and hilly for cultivation, and the plains, would produce but little for the want of irrigation, and even if it would produce, the scarcity of Timber would be a great impediment to a successful argicultural investment. Those districts which are heavily timbered are mountainous, and inaccessible, And although there are many streams of water traversing the territory in every direction, I apprehend that the labor and expense of irrigation would be found too much for a successful prosectuion of agricultural avocations. But with a more intelligent enterprising and industrious population, much might be improved which now lies idle from the want of industry and many new sources of wealth and enjoyment might be developed, which now lie dormant, The present population of California for the most part have been born and reared in idleness, and will require the favor of a great many fortuitous circumstances and the example of a persevering and hardy race of husbandmen, to arouse them from their lethergy, and indolent habits to any thing like energetic or industrious pursuits. But it may be asked, if they are just as well off. For they appear contented, their wants appear few and they are bountiously supplied by the hand of providence. They delight in the chase and the bold and reckless pursuit of wild and ferocious, in which their woods abound. They are happy in their huts of mud walls and thached roofs. Consequently I opine that any change in their situation would be irksome & disagreeable.

Wednesday, 20 May 1846

The weather cool. Quite an excitement was gotten up to-day by a rumor which was going the rounds, "that an American Frigate and Corvette was in offing." The good people of Monterey was alarmed to the utmost extent, implicitly believing many of them that their property would be burnt, or they would be made prisoners; We did all we could to assure them that no violence would be offered to their persons, nor no injury done to their property. Several persons very soon after the rumor reached the town, mounted their horses

and rode to the point, armed with spy glasses in order to determine if possible what these formidable vessels were. With keen and intense anxiety they scanned the horizon, but was unable to discover any thing, so they returned and reported accordingly, which somewhat allayed the fears and quieted the nerves of the worthy Don's, and amiable Senoras and the hysterical apprehensions of the Senoretta's. All seemed to be wonder and amazement at the mysterious disappearance of these still more mysterious visitor's.--I hear it stated to-day that Gen. Castro, the governor of California has issued his proclamation for the convening of a Congress of California representatives, it is said that his object is to declare the independence of California of Mexico. Believing as he says, that that is the only course by which he can possibly prevent the American's from taken possession of it. Foolish man, if [he] does not he ought to know that such a course will lead to the sure and inevitable result of the country falling into the hands of American emigrants and finally becoming an integral part of the great American Union. Took tea & supper at the Consuls, It is the custom in this country to take tea about five or six o'clock P. M. and supper at eight P. M. The first is simply Tea with Bread & Butter, the latter is equally as substantial a meal as their dinner is, There is a German by the name of [Charles] Flugge, staying temporarily in this place, he is a cabinet maker by trade and appears to be a shrewed as well as a very respectable mechanic, and has also the happy faculty of turning every four pence into a dollar with a celerity truly surprising. It seems that while he was at the sandwich islands recently, recently he came across a number of Panoramic views, which he purchased very cheaply, and is now exhibiting them thro the country at half dollar admission. This being the first exhibition of the kind ever brought to California, it takes remarkably well, and the whole mass of the population turns out to see, I accompanied the Consul and his family to see it this evening, There are sixteen views all tolerably good, and no doubt were very superior before they became defaced. However views of Viena, Amsterdam, Windsor, the great English bridge across an arm of the sea, and the exchange of St. Petersburg, were truly admirable, and well worth the time and money devoted to looking at them, After several persons had assembled, a dance was gotten up and the relief between dancing and looking at the views was very agreeable, I remained until half past nine, & retired. There is but little doubt that Mr. Flugge will clear not only the original cost and his expenses but make something handsome, by affording this gratification even to the sparse population of Monterey. I have never been more forcibly impressed with the remarked, that a rolling snow Ball grows larger the more you roll it, and that rumors gather additions at every repeatal, as I have been in relation to the famous Bear story which will be found on a preceding page. The return of the party (which was out hunting,) this evening, has given quite a different version to the affair, The Bear was attracted to the place as before stated, and the hunters came upon him as is there stated, But the actors in the scene are all changed except the poor fellow who was in such emminent peril. The party had been out hunting all the morning,

and their horses had become very fatigued and jaded by climbing and descending the mountains in search of game when they encountered this lord of the Forest, A Mexican or rather Californian who had joined the party out there was next [to] the guide when the Bear sprang upon him; The first moment that this man (who was familiar with the character of the animal) got he shot the animal through body when it retreated. The guide and this man then dismounted and shot the animal four times before they succeeded in killing him. Mr Hunter the hero as heretofore reported was some miles distant when the encounter took place, and Mr. Watmaugh who was near, confesses that he was considerably alarmed, but was prepared to fire at him, if he saw a favorable opportunity. They say that the guide must have been lost, but for his extreme coolness and composure.--The party was absent five days, and killed some thirty deers and the bear. They saw quite a number of Bears, and Mr. Watmaugh shot one but did not stop to see [the] effect of his ball. They brought in nothing but the skins of the deer, which I think was carrying their sport to a very prodigal and injurious extent. For although the deer are very abundant, yet I think that they should not be thus wastefully destroyed to gratify the desire of men who only take delight in shooting; There are a number of poor families who subsist almost entirely on wild meat, and hence the deer to them is of the utmost value. But they are most servicable and valuable to the poor and persecuted Indians, who have little of any thing else to feed upon, and who never kill them except for food. The gentlemen however say that they had a delightful time, and found encamping in the woods very pleasant, they were much sun burnt, and I should judge were very glad to get back.--Came on board ship at ten P. M. with the Capt. the officer of the Deck N. B. H. having neglected to send the usual ten o'clock Boat, although there were several officers on shore, he said that he had forgotten the Boat. Went to bed, but could not sleep, suffered a good deal with a disordered stomach, cause by eating some green peas for supper, which soured and caused considerable flatulency. Got up and went forward to the [illegible] feeling much uneasiness in the bowels, but in a short [time] was relieved [illegible] after which I slept very comfortably and feel very well this morning--

Thursday, 21 May 1846

The weather cool & cloudy, the breeze fresh from the N. West. Went on board the merchant trading ship Barnstable. The[y] have quite a handsome store room fitted up on board and the shelves contain all the notions of a regular Boston retail store, The supercargo Mr. Millis is a shrewd yankee and a very clever fellow, sells his goods at one hundred percent profit, over the cost and duties. Bought this Book of him, in the U. States it would have cost me fifty or seventy five cents, here it cost two dollars. The ordinary cotton domestics which we buy at home at from six to ten cents, here sells for seventy-five and eighty cents, this exorbitant rate of prices is brought about by the exceedingly high Tariff which is so injudiciously imposed by the Mexican government. Went on shore and took



a walk, purchased some shells, and came on board at one o'clock. After dinner employed myself in cleansing a shell of the conch species, a very beautiful one which I procured at Mazatlan. Mr Hugunin gave me three pair of very beautiful shells, and Mr Missroon gave me several valuable shells. Had some shells placed in sand in order to destroy the fishy smell. Nothing new from Gen. Castro['s] head Quarters to-day. Much apparent dissatisfaction to be observed among the people, and some fears expressed as to the course the foreigners may take in the present posture of affairs. A short time will either make matters much better and give greater stability to the government or else this now lawless and unhappy country will be doubly vicious and ungovernable.

Friday, 22 May 1846

The weather cool & Cloudy, After quarters went ashore and took and long walk along the beach looking for shells, found some which I was anxious to get. The American Merchant Bark Tasso, went to sea this morning. Saw a weasel this morning and tried to buy it but the lad who had [it] asked a good deal more than I could afford to pay for it. From the tip of the nose to the end of the tail, it is about seven inches long. It is of a bright yellowish color. The hairs of the tail stand straight out, at right angles while those of the body lie smooth and close to the skin. It was beautifully marked with white under [the] ears, which are very short, and a white streak down the face, with small black eyes and a very animated look and quick movement, it is very courageous and bites very severely, It has small, but very muscular legs with very sharp claws. The body is disproportionably long but round and very beautiful. Came off at one o'clock. Mr. Flugge dined with us to-day. Very cool and disagreeable this evening, some little rain this evening. Occupied myself this evening in washing some shells, and selecting the various colors together, I regret that I have not been able to read lately, but the excitement of the place induced by the attractions for rural walks having gradually subsided, I hope to be able to bring my attentions to it again.

Saturday, 23 May 1846

The weather cool & Cloudy, Mr. Martin, The gentleman mentioned in my notes of the trip to the mine, called on board to-day and staid some time. In the course of conversation he said that he would greatly prefer being back in N. Carolina again, but that he had spent all that he had in coming here, and he was barely able to obtain a support. He is a valuable mechanic in this country being a mill wright, and has as much work as he can do, but there is but little money in californnia, and consequently he is compelled to take the produce of the soil in payment, I am inclined to believe from what I have seen, that the great obstacle in Martin's road to easy and comfortable circumstances is his great fondness for liquor. And I made bold to tell him that unless he let liquor alone, he would leave his wife & children pennyles, or even if he survived,

his children would grown up around him in profligacy and ignorance. I gave him the president's message and wished him success. It is rumored here to-day that an American by the name of [Charles M.] Webber [Weber] and an Englishman by the name of [James] Stokes had assembled a body of two hundred men, all foreigners, and intended revolutionizing California, throwing off Mexican yoke, suppressing the present California authorities and establishing a free and liberal government, and at the same time applying to the government of the U. States for annexation. I think the movement rather premature, it however wants Confirmation. The American merchant ship "Vandalia" Capt Everett came in this morning in fine style and anchored, she [came] from San Francisco but last from Santa Cruz. A seaman by the name of Brown, a notoriously bad fellow was punished with one dozen with the cats from smuggling liquor and being drunk on duty. The Capt had his two servants punished with one dozen each for giving liquor to some of the crew. Dr Duvall made me present of two pairs of very pretty shells to-day. One pair of Marine shells called the "harp shell" and the other pair are land shells, what they are called I have not yet learned. This if my recollection is correct is the birth day of my second child Henry [Lyndall], dear little boy I pray that it is a happy one to him, and that he has health and comfort. None but those who belong to the Navy and are in the habit of going to sea can possibly conceive the anxiety and poignancy of a man when absent from his family. The imagination at all times is ever ready to picture in the darkest colors, the fate the welfare and happiness of those he loves most. It would be unsupportable if fortitude were not assisted by novelty.

Sunday, 24 May 1846

The weather unusually mild & pleasant, Had Quarters at 10 o'clock. The following persons came on board to service, Mr. Larkin & Mrs Larkin, Mr. & Mrs. Howard, Dr & Mrs Townsend, and Mr. Little, There were three other persons in company whose names I did not learn, Had service at Half past 10 o'clock, which was as usual very long and tiresome, At three P. M. went on shore and took a long walk through the woods, Called on Mrs Larkin and Mrs Townsend. Went [with] Mrs T. and Dr T. to the Panarama and from there to Mr. Hartnell an english gentleman at whose house there was a dance, which is customary in this country every Sunday evening, there was quite a collection of young people who enjoyed themselves seemingly very much. I contrary to my usual habit danced one country dance with Mrs T. Left at 10 P. M. and came on board ship--

Monday, 25 May 1846

The weather Foggy & very disagreeable, devoted the morning to superintending the making of a shell box, Went on shore at three o'clock, called at Dr. Townsend, found some of the officers, Dr T. & Mrs T. firing with a pistol at a mark. Mrs T. made some astonishing shots. Called on Mrs Nunez the daughter of Mr. Pechaco, who entertained so kindly when we were in the country. This lady has

been seriously indisposed for a long time, she has moved into town in order to be near her physician, Dr. Townsend. Mr. Pechaco was very profuse in his messages of eternal friendship and affection, earnestly soliciting that we will come out and stay with him at his farm. He sent us a present of beef tongues, and his Lady made a cake for us but unfortunately her servant spoiled it in baking, the good intention of the old lady was gratifying indeed, for they were unbounded in their kindness to me when I was there, and this was rendered double valuable, as it was called forth not from any merit or attraction in me, but from the high estimation and good feeling which they entertain towards the country in whose service I have the honor to be I reciprocated the expressions of kindness and good wishes of the worthy old Don and his family, and took leave of the convalescent lady his daughter, wishes a speedy recovery and a long life of happiness and contentment. The news to-day from the upper Peubla seems portentous as to the fate of the Comdt. General Castro. As near as I can learn, the case is this Castro has been confirmed by the government of Mexico as Comdt. Gen. of California, and invested by the said authority with the whole of the revenues of the country. Seinor Don pio pico was made civil governor of California by the same authority, but no provission was made for his support;--The revenues it appears amounts to from two to three hundred thousand dollars per annum. The defences of the country are totally neglected, the people and their property are wholly unprotected, and all the revenues seem to be or are actually squandered upon and by Castro and his small band [of] courtiers in Monterey. The people have [been] dissatisfied with the profligate manner in which the public moneys are squandered, suffering much from losses, by the Indian horse theives, disgusted with the indolence of Castro, his impolitic course as to foreigners, his unjust imprisonments recently attempted, and the heavy pressure of Taxes which the exorbitant duties imposed on imports produces, debarring them almost from the necesseries and all the luxuries of life. [The people] have been looking round for some time for a suitable person to amend their condition, this person seems to have presented himself in the person of Pio Pico of San Pedro in Lower California, who it seems is now about to decide the question whether Castro, shall usurp all the revenues of the country or whether they shall be expended for the good of [the] people to whom it properly belongs;--strengthening his cause very much by profession of friendship for foreigners, and desiring the incoming of emigrants, the granting land to emigrants &c. The report of this evening, is that the Peublaians above have declared for the Peublaians and Pio Pico below and against Castro, stating their determination to prevent the collection of any more duties at the Port of Monterey. Castro is posted at the Mission of St. John's, with about "Forty" men, being all the men that he is able to raise. There seems to be no doubt of the success of the Pio Picoians. Came on board at sun set, and from a very heavy swell setting in from the Westward, The contents of the "Lucky Bag" was brought up to the mast to-day. I was much pleased to find that there was but one Marine who had any thing in it, which was an India

Rubber Hat, that got in the lucky Bag while he was on shore on liberty.\* However averse I may be to notice things that are ridiculous or the brazen rudeness of females. Yet I must notice a case which occurred. In the room where I was this evening, there were two beds in the room. Some persons came in and one of the ladies present took a seat on the bed in order to make room, her back was towards me, and without the least ceremony she took up the tail of her [dress] and shoved herself round by throwing herself round on her butt as she sat by lifting her feet and legs up and with some effort changing her position, in the movement showing those private parts which modest women are always studious to conceal. But what struck me as most objectionable was the dingy and apparently unclean condition of her under linen;--Neither the rudeness nor the dirt was excusable in the lady, for she has had opportunities of knowing much better, and withal she is a woman of strong natural sense, pleasing conversation and petty general information and moves with considerable eclat in the best classes of Monterey. But as I have heard it said, there is many an Asp hidden beneath the verdant foliage of a lovely vale, I hope it is not applicable in the present case.

Tuesday, 26 May 1846

The weather is unusually fine and pleasant to-day. A good deal of dissatisfaction expressed by the mess generally, as to the unnecessary and exorbitant mess expenses, A change is about to be proposed. Went on shore at three P. M. spent a very pleasant afternoon at Dr Townsend. Came off at sunset. No news as to the reported revolution that is about to take.

Wednesday, 27 May 1846

The weather mild and pleasant, Went in company with Lt. Hunter on a hunting expedition. We walked something like twenty miles during the day over hill and vale hoping that we might see some Deer which were said to use [illegible] the head of a large lagoon, but we saw nothing of them. We saw a large number of Hare some rabbits and a quantity of Quail, I killed a Hare, Hunter killed Rabbit, and we caught about sixty Tarepin in the lagoon. We had two of the apprentice Boys with [us] who undertook to bring the Tarepins in, but were unable to do so, consequently they tied them up in a Bag and hid them away, we will send for them to-morrow--We returned about sunset a good deal fatigued--The rumored revolution which [is] said to have broken out a few days ago at the Peubla seems to have settled down into this, that the people have talked very loudly about the mal-administration of government and threatened a revolt. There however is no doubt entertained by the knowing ones of Monterey, about the inevitable result, which will be a change in the present

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\*The Lucky Bag was a receptacle on board ship for articles found adrift.

government. An Apprentice Boy by the name of [Thomas] Currey, went out with Mr Hunter the day before yesterday a hunting, and took into his head to abscond, he is about sixteen years old and has acted very foolishly. He has not yet been caught, but will doubtless be caught in day or two--

**Thursday, 28 May 1846**

The [weather] clear and quite warm;--The merchant ship "Vandalia" went to sea to-day, bound for San Pedro. Mr. & Mrs Howard went down in her. Mr. H. is supercargo. The Boy Currey who ran a day or two ago, was apprehended last night and brought on board. Engaged myself all day in fixing my shells in a Box. Nothing new stirring in the California troubles.

**Friday 29 May 1846**

The [weather] clear and very warm, A thick fog set in this evening which rendered it very uncomfortable. Owing to considerable dissatisfaction among the members of the Mess, a change was indispensable. This disaffection arose from the enormous expeditures which had been made and apparently without anything to show for it. The Caterer was broken, but he gave up his place very reluctantly, The birth of Caterer is under the most favorable circumstances a tiresome and thankless birth, and having had a trial of it I was very much averse to taking it. Yet I was prevailed upon to do so, under the circumstances of the case, & I found the mess really destitute of every thing in the eating line, & at this place every [thing] selling at three hundred per cent over the original cost. But I must do the best I can. Our stewart is a worthless fellow and is not honest so that I can [get] but the little support from that quarter.

**Saturday, 30 May 1846**

The weather mild clear & pleasant, busily engaged all day procuring Mess stores. Nothing new.

**Sunday, 31 May 1846**

The weather very fine. Had service this morning and as usual the Capt spun it out to a great length; Went on shore at three o'clock The merchant ship Barnstable went to sea this evening, came on board at sun set.

**Monday, 1 June 1846**

The weather pleasant, A courier from Lt: Gillespie, he had over taken Capt Freemont, They that is Capt F: & Lt: G. had had two fights with the Indians, a considerable number was killed. It had [been] determined some days ago to sail to-day for San Francisco, consequently we got underway about eleven o'clock, and over took the

Barnstable about two o'clock she having been becalm during the night, A Thick fog is over hanging the land to night,

**Tuesday, 2 June 1846**

The weather mild, winds light, leaving the Barnstable considerably astern, she sails well but too slow to sail with the Portsmouth, Made the Mouth of the Bay about seven o'clock, but too late for running in. Consequently the ship was placed under reduced sail and hove too for the night. During the night the Barnstable came up, the wind being very light during the night.

**Wednesday, 3 June 1846**

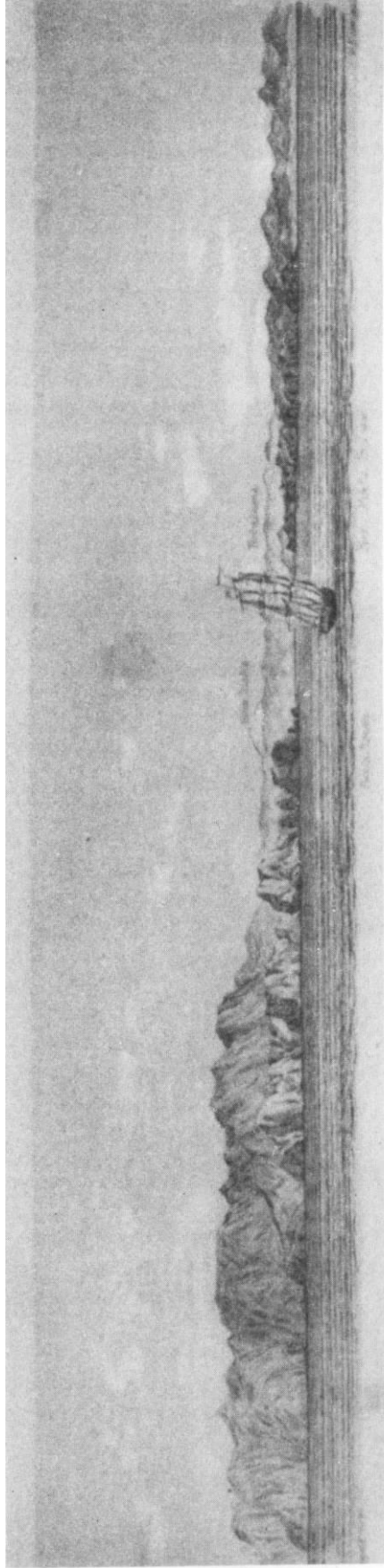
The weather pleasant, breeze light. Made sail and stood into the Bay of San Francisco. The Barnstable just behind us. The entrance into the Bay is very narrow, between two high promontories of Land projecting out into the sea. On the eastern bank of the Bay is the ruins of an old Mexican fort. This situation is one of the most beautiful and eligible situations I have ever seen, Commanding perfectly the entrance of the Bay. These two promontories might be so fortified as to prevent the entrance of any fleet which the united world can or ever will be able to create. The Bay is filled by a number of islands, mostly barren. The island de Los Angeles is a very large one, offering one of the most eligible and beautiful sites for a city that I have ever seen. The sound washing on one side, and on all other sides there is sufficient water for the largest ships, This Bay is not very dissimilar to that of N. York. But posses advantages which N. York never had. In the boldness of its shores and easy Navigation. We anchored at what is called Sau Salito about six miles from the Yerba Buena at which place the B. went.--Capt [William A.] Richardson owns a large rancho at [the] place Where we anchored, and is the only house there is at it from him that we obtained all our supplies, which is a very good business--The Vice Consul visited the ship to-day.

**Thursday, 4 June 1846**

The weather mild, wind fresh. Went in search of muscules this morning and found a great many. Lt Hunter shot a deer to day, and the officers generally making arrangements for hunting expeditions.

**Friday, 5 June 1846**

The [weather] mild and pleasant. Lt. Revere & Purser Watma[u]gh went on an expedition to-day to be gone several days. Dr. Duval & myself went on shore to-day, and took a walk and also fired at a target, but both shot badly. The Capt of the Port visited the ship to-day, this man is an American by the name of [William S.] Hinckly [Hinckley]: a very coarse man, and just Brains enough to make himself inimical to his countrymen, without being any service to the Mexican Government. The Capt & 1st Lt. went across the bay to-day to gather



*Entrance to San Francisco Bay*

strawberries. The[y] got quite a quantity, the Capt sent a large plate full so that we had strawberries and milk for dinner. The Capt shot a very large large fur seal, he intends preserving the skin. The 1st Lt shot a Walruss but did not get him.--The wind very high every evening, with considerable fog, the nights cool and some what disagreeable--

Saturday, 6 June 1846

The [weather] mild and clear;-- There has been a very general expression of dissatisfaction with [the] manner in which the late Caterer, Lt. Bartlett expended the Mess Monies. Having expended from the 18th of March to the 30th of May, \$455.55 cents, and besides contracted debts to the amount of \$20 on board the ship which remains to be paid, And notwithstanding this immense outlay of money, we found upon examination, that we had not mess stores on hand sufficient to last more than one week, Consequently this day was devoted to the examination of his accounts. The developments were just as confirmed, most of the mess in the opinion that much had been wasted. For in his succeeding to the Caterership the mess was amply supplied with groceries which if they had been taken care of, and seasonably replenished at suitable intervals would have lasted us six months, which was the time of the contemplated cruise. He accounted for a large portion of the money as spent in market without furnishing the items procured, which it is usual to do in all such cases. Hence he avoids the proof of direct dishonesty. Nor do I think that he applied any of the money to his o[w]n use, but was led into error by the steward, Yet the mess are so strong in the opinion that he is guilty of deceit that he is damned in their estimation as an honest man. He has a great propensity for peddling, and will take the advantage of either man or woman, For instance he recently sold a chinese shawl, to Mrs. Howard at Monterey, He gave but seven dollars for it. But sold it to this lady for ten dollars, besides smuggled it on shore, And with all charity, I believe him to be both dishonest and dishonorably and to give a blacker die to his actions, he does all under the garb of religion, he says he is a member of the Episcopal, but I think that I may righteously judge, that he is no christian, And he is completely damned in the estimation of the mess.

Sunday, 7 June 1846

The weather clear but cold and very windy. Had service as usual,-- We had quite a large and at the same time unexpected party to-day to dinner, fortunately I had enough. Lt Gillespie arrived to day from Capt Freemont's camp having left him seven days ago. I can learn nothing from Gillespie all his movements as well as those of Freemont seem involved in mystery--Gillespie has had one or two very narrow escapes from the Indians. He says that he shall return in a day or two to freemont's camp--



**Monday, 8 June 1846**

The weather mild and pleasant.

**Tuesday, 9 June 1846**

The weather unusually fine, considerable stir in the ship, about the preparations which are making for a trip to Freemont's Camp. Quite a lot of clothing, Provisions and munitions of War, being got ready for sending up to Freemont. The Purser anxiously look[ed] for in order to obtain a supply of funds. The boat to leave tomorrow if the Purser arrives. Gillespie remains on, all night. I obtained some insight into the object of [his] mission although he studiously keeps very involved in the most profound mystery,--

**Wednesday, 10 June 1846**

The weather warm and pleasant, nothing new, all hands engaged in setting up the rigging and tearing it down, The Purser arrives this morning highly delighted with his trip. All hands busy getting the Freemont party ready for a start, The officers in a high state of indignant excitement against General Castro, for his libellous proclamation in relation to Freemont, retribution is waiting this villian Castro very impatiently, For it is known that there are more than one hundred American rifles ready, only waiting the first alarm, to give him a very fatal and indigestible load of Lead. (which he however escaped by leaving the country,)

**Thursday, 11 June 1846**

The weather fine. The preparations having all been made last night and every thing necessary placed and stored away in the launch, the party left at eight o'clock this morning. A. H. Gillespie secret Agent of the Gov. and Servant, Mr [William H.] Russel [Russell] third officer of Freemonts party, A Pilot and a private of Freemonts party, took passage in the Boat, Dr. Duvall and Purser Watmaugh, with thirteen men also went up. The whole in charge and under the direction of Lt Hunter, Who [has] orders to return without delay. The starboard watch of the men were sent on shore to-day to air their bedding and wash their clothing. Lt. Revere returned to-day from his trip up the country highly delighted with [the] country and very much pleased with the hospitality of the people.

**Friday, 12 June 1846**

The weather very pleasant a little warm,--Nothing of importance doing to-day.

**Saturday, 13 June 1846**

The weather very pleasant, Practiced the Marines & small armed men at target firing to-day. The[y] was very excellent. The target

was 15 inches square, and the bulls eye three inches in diameter, The marines fired ninety-one shots, putting 20 in the target and one in the Bulls eye. Private [Henry] Coolridge [Coolidge] making the best shot, they were all excellent line shots.--There were two divisions of small armed men using Jenk's carbines.\* They fired two hundred and seventeen shots, putting thirty two in the Target and two in the bulls eye. Ordinary Seamen [Joseph T.] Downey was the best shot. Distance of the target sixty yards. The carbine snapped very frequently and would in consequence be attended with fatal inconviene in an action. They cannot be used at night at all.

Sunday, 14 June 1846

The weather very pleasant, Had service at ten A.M. as usual. By an arrival this morning we heard from Lt Hunter and his party, they were near Freemont's Camp, all well. We learn also that serious trouble are breaking out. Gen. Castro had ordered a party of soldier's to drive from one of the Missions (San Raphael) a number of Horses, to which he had laid claim for the government, among those horses were many belonging to private individuals, whose rights Castro was not disposed to respect. Just as they were leaving the Mission A party of twelve mounted americans armed with rifles, stopped the soldiers of Castro, some 15 or twenty and ordered them to lay down their arms and surrender the horses, which they did without a moments hesitation, for they have learned to respect the yankee rifle. The Americans having accomplished their object in recovering their horses, returned the soldiers their arms and gave them a horse a piece [and] ordered them to leave the district which they did without asking any questions. There has been some fighting up in Sonoma, but we [have] no accurate account. Castro is in great danger and I shall not be surprised to hear at any moment that he has been shot. It is satisfactorily established that he has attempted to bribe the indians to massecr all the foreign inhabitants. The Indians and foreigners have had a fight near New Helvetia, in which the Indians suffered a most total overthrow. Castro is prowling about with his band of hirelings committing acts of violence and thieving--

Monday, 15 June 1846

The weather pleasant. Excerised the men firing at target this morning, they fired remarkably well,--War and rumors of Wars. I mentioned on yesterday, that there had been some difficulty between a party of Castro's men and some twelve Americans. By an arrival this morning from Sonoma we have further intelligence,--It appears

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\*Jenks .54 caliber breech-loading percussion carbines, weighing six pounds, were issued to the Navy in 1839. The "mule-ear" side-hammer action of the weapon eliminated the chance of injury from flying parts of the percussion cap and being without protuberances, it could not become entangled in clothing, accoutrements, or rigging.

that the party of Americans are about eighty strong commanded by one Capt. [Ezekiel] Merrick [Merritt]. After the recovery of the horses, they made a rapid movement to Sonoma, and carried the place by assault, making Gen. [Mariano G.] Vallejo, Lt Col [Victor] Prudon and Capt. [Salvador] Vallejo prisoners, took possession of the Cannon and all other munitions of War at the place. No violence however was offered to females of these men's family. Myrick [Merritt] is said to be a man of very bad character. (I however must say that but little credit is to be placed in what is said by the people here about one another, for I have never been in a place where the vice of detraction was more fully established) that his band consist of a set of hardy hunters, men famed for daring exploits and hazardous engagements, It is said that when they attacked Vallejo, that the following conversation took place. Myrick to Gen. Vallejo. Sir you are my prisoner, Vallejo. to Whom.--To Capt Myrick, Vallejo. What is the object of your outbreak, and who are you, and by what authority do you act. Myrick. My object is the independence of California. We are Americans, we act under the authority of injured men,--Vallejo do you not know that by acting as you are doing that you become outlaws, Myrick this we take the responsibility. Vallejo. You must be aware that so respectable a government as the one you professed to represent, will not only deny your authority but punish you as outlaws, Myrick I have told you that we take the responsibility, and to cut matters short you are my prisoner and must go with me, Myrick then took Vallejo's cavalcade [caballada] of horses, eighty in number, however before leaving he detailed a guard of twenty-five men, whom he left in charge of the cannon, he then took Vallejo, Prudon & Vallejo with whom he left stating that he was going to join Capt Fremont, but such is not the case. Private revenge seems to have brought about this movement. No deaths have as yet been committed, so far as I know but if Castro should presume to attack them, the consequence cannot [be] predicted, but will no doubt be of the most serious and heartrending character, Capt Vallejo it is said, some months ago, at the head of a very large party of men, attack[ed] the ranch of Myrick, tied him stripped him, and [illegible] him in the most shocking manner, and also shot a negro who was in the employ of Myrick, and the recent order of Castro, ordering all foreigners out of the territory, and his threat to have them all assassinated and prevent any more from coming in the country, has no doubt brought about this result. The death of Vallejo is put down as certain as also that of Castro, and no doubt but it will end in a total overthrow of the present authorities. Myrick and his party, represents themselves as acting under the authority of Capt Fremont, but that is false, and I fear the representation that they make, may be prejudicial to Capt Fremont--

Tuesday, 16 June 1846

The weather pleasant. Exercised the starboard watch of Marines in the manual of arms and firing at a Target. They are improving in their firing. More news from the seat of War. A verbal messenger, who said he was sent by Gen Vallejo, to ask the interposition of



*Mariano Guadalupe Vallejo, Commandante General of Northern California*

Capt montgomery, with the revolutionist, in order that private property, and defenseless women and children might be protected, arrived on yesterday morning. This messenger was a Mexican and by no means as I learn any very reputable one, however as he was recognized by the Capt officially, we must permit him to pass. Capt Montgomery on the ex-parte statement [of] this man, writes a letter to Gen. Vallejo disclaiming on part of himself, Capt Freemont and the American government, any knowledge of this revolution, and farther stating that neither of them would give countenance to it, Saying that the revolution was confined to California, and must be settled among themselves. This letter was dispatched this morning and Lt Missroon sent to hold a conference with the revolutionists--A messenger also arrived from Col [William B.] Ide, the commander of the revolutionists forces now in possession of sonoma, with a plain and candid statement of this affair, the ultimate object, and determined resolution of the revolutionists. The paper is directed to Commodore Stockton. It is a dignified moderate and determined document, ably penned, and breaths neither violence or reckless movements. Col Ide states, "That an order has been issued by the present officers of California, ordering all the foreigners to leave the country in forty days, and prohibiting their taking with [them] any of their effects or property, and issuing a threat that if this order was not complied with within the above time, that they (the foreigners) would be proceeded against and suffer martial law,[" or in other words that they would be assassinated wherever found. Col Ide farther states that this order was issued after it was known that the emmigration to the U States had left some weeks [ago] as also the party for Oregon, and further that it was known to the authorities that the season was now too far advanced for them to leave this year. Under these circumstances, and knowing that singly they were unable to defend themselves that some forty of them had associated to enable them to defend their families and property against an attack [by] these very unwise impolitic and inhuman authorities, pledging themselves to each other, to sink or swim by the result. They at first assembled only for self defence but believing the cause just and their strength sufficient they are determined to strike for liberty. The Col closes his very able and respectable communication, by saying that he sincerely hopes that he will prove successful, and that ere long they may be able to attach this the country of their adoption to the beloved country of their birth. The whole document breathes a pure and patriotic devotion to liberty, and I have no doubt if unanimity prevails among the Americans that they will accomplish their ends most gloriously. I humbly pray that such will be the result. I learn this evening that Gen Castro had or was to be arrested by order of the civil Governor of California, and the extreme passiveness of Gen. Vallejo would seem to predict a collusion between these men and the revolutionists. It is thought that there could possibly be raised one hundred persons in california who will exert themselves to maintain the mexican authorities, but these will scarce afford the shrewed and well drilled yankee riflemen a morning amusement. God in his mercy protect this band of patriots and crown their endeavor to

spread the area of freedom, with signal and complete success. So far they have been successful, and have respected the property and families of their enemies. We hear to-day of the arrival of the Congress bearing the broad pennant of Com. Stockton at the Sandwich islands. We expect him very soon, his presence is most important on this coast just at this time, as we are in the dark and know not how to act in the very important troubles that now exist in California, as by a judicious movement the most valuable and beneficial results may be secured for the honor and advantage of our country. And I confess that I look with serious concern on the anti republican moves of our present amiable and pacific commander, by one indecisive move, these gallant men may be sacrificed, but by one decisive move, California is safe.

Wednesday, 17 June 1846

The weather pleasant. Took the larboard watch on shore and exercised them in mar[c]hing and firing at a target, They are improving in their firing but are exceedingly awkward in their marchings. I however hope that with a little practice, they will soon become tolerable fair soldiers. Lt. Missroon returned this evening from Sonoma; He says that [there] are but twenty-five men in the quartill of sonoma, But that he has never met a body of men among whom so much perfect order, and unanimity prevailed, and gives it as his firm conviction that it will require just four times their number to dislodge them from sonoma, and even these cannot do it without the aid of Cannon. Col Ide, he says is a plain backwoodsman of very strong natural sense, and every way qualified to carry out the undertaking which he has so handsomely commenced. He has this [day] issued a proclamation; assuring the people of California, that all who are not found in arms against them that they shall be protected in their lives liberty and property, exorts them to remain quietly at home and not to interfere in the matter at all. Col Ide also gave a pledge to Lieut Missroon that Gen. Vallejo should not be harmed, that he held him also as a hostage to deter the opposite party from any cruel acts or violence towards the American settlers. The Flag which they have hoisted is a white field, with a grizzly bear and one star in the centre, and one red stripe on the lower edge, by which they are determined to rise or fall, sink or swim, live or die. They speak with confidence that they shall have an increase to their numbers of a least one hundred men in [a] very few days. God Grant them success. Capt Montgomery received a courier from Gen Castro this evening. In which the scoundrell charges Capt Freemont with having entered the territory of California in a hostile manner, and in violation of the personal and political of the country, that the said Freemont had taken possession of Sonoma (a dam lye) And calling upon Capt M. to inform him why Freemont has done so, stating that he shall be happy to receive any communications from Capt M. which he Capt M. may be disposed to make. If I had to answer his insolence it should be in many stabbs, or with powder and ball. This insufferable villian has had the audacious insolence to pronounce Capt F. in a public proclamation, a marauder the Com-

mander of a body of robbers, and thieves, and to make his character still blacker, he has pronounce Capt F. a coward. It can hardly be possible that the government of the U. States will permit so daring an insult to her honor, and such black defamation of one of her public officers to pass unredressed, when Twenty-five well disciplined troops can march from one end of California to the other. I am very poor and am extremely anxious to see my family but I would give all my pay and my humble and feeble aid personally to help this band of patriots to the accomplishment of their object. I know that it is wrong to wish the death of any fellow being, however abject sower he may be, but I do most sincerely hope that Castro may be one of the first that is sacrificed to the cause of liberty, and rights of this people.

**Thursday, 18 June 1846**

The weather mild, but very windy, exercised the starboard watch of marines in marching and firing at a target. A very considerable improvement in both. The Movements of the revolutionary [forces] is most falsely represented, in every particular. It is however confidently asserted by Men of character and standing that there cannot be the slightest [doubt] of their ultimate success. And they also assert with the strongest assurance that they will be speedily joined by at least from two to three hundred of their country[men]--The feeling of liberty seems to be rapidly spreading, and success gives hope confidence.

**Friday, 19 June 1846**

The weather very mild. Exercised the men on shore. The news from Sonoma is that the patriot forces are rapidly increasing. We also hear that one hundred patriots are assembled at Sutter's forts. It is thought that the patriot forces will soon meet and form a conjunction or united body. Whence they will soon quit all opposition, and proceed to form a permanent gov.

**Saturday, 20 June 1846**

The weather mild and pleasant. Exercised a part of the guard in squad drill, manual of arms and firing at a target. A very considerable improvement in all these movements, particularly in firing in which they were particularly deficient--The boat expedition which a left a few days since, to carry Lieut Gillespie and some stores up to freemonts camp returned this evening, all well, but much fatigued. They [say] Capt F. and party well, and securily encamped on the American fork of the Sacramanta river. They say that the patriot forces have taken or that they have been joined by Capt Sutter, and that [they] have about one hundred and fifty men, all trappers well armed in the fort, where they have also confined the Prisoners taken in sonoma, they say also that the patriots seem united and speak confidently of success. The Prisoners which were taken at sonoma, were conveyed to Capt Freemont Camp in the first



*John C. Fremont, with members of his expedition, rode into California in December 1845*



place, but he declined receiving them or having any thing to do with them, Gen. Vallejo was however very anxious for Capt F. to hold him prisoner, remarking that he regretted that he Vallejo had not his sword to present to him, insisting that this outbreak was caused by Fremont,--Capt F. however understanding the efforts which had been made to charge upon [him] the revolt which had taken [place], and having also seen the numerous proclamations of Castro charging him with being a robber and an enemy. Informed Gen Vallejo that he had nothing to do with the revolution, or with them, and therefore they must leave his camp, they did so immediately. The officers who have just come down, think that a Col. Prudon, and Capt Vallejo will most probably be put to death upon the slightest provocation, as also a notorious American swindler and the thief by the name of Reiss [Jacob P. Leese?], who is the brothering law of Vallejo. Capt Montgomery received another courier from Gen. Castro this evening, denouncing Capt Fremont in the grossest and most vituperative manner.--The American Vice Consul has also informed Capt M. that this public scoundral Castro is at the Mission of St Johns a few miles distant from the Yerba Buena, and that the sub-prefect of Monterey is on his march for that place at the head of two hundred men intended for the recapture of sonoma, but that they can never do, and it is intimated that Castro will attempt it, & further that he has not more than forty men at most, but that he is all wind. I would advise him if he values either his military reputation or his life not to go any where within reach of Fremont Camp, if he does he is an used up hombre. It is said that the Patriots are in force at sonoma, and that they will shortly take up their march to the south, should they do so it is confidently asserted that Castro, will fly before with all the rapidity which whip and spur can possibly produce. I learn this evening that he has been so exceedingly indiscreet as to intercept a courier from our Consul at Monterey to Capt M. this may as I hope it will produce some action on our part which will favor the patriot cause.

Sunday, 21 June 1846

The weather pleasant. Had Quarters at 10 o'clock and service at half past ten. Received an express from Monterey, announcing the arrival of the Sloop of War Cyane Capt Mervine, thirty-one days from Mazatlan. We learn no news from her as yet. A party of theiring villians who represent themselves as the partizans of Gen. Castro, are committing depredations upon the peaceable farmers on the Northern side of the bay. Information is being conveyed to the patriot forces at Sonoma, and it is confidently expected that they very soon [will] drive them off, and recapture the stolen property, and I hope chastise the mauraders.

Monday, 22 June 1846

The weather pleasant. Exercised a part of the Marines on shore in squad drill, manuel of arms and firing at Target. We have nothing important from the Head Quarters of the Patriot army. Gen Castro

leader of the opposite forces has issued two proclamations, one address to the Mexican portion of the population and announcing to them that he is a Mexican soldier and calling upon them to join him at the head quarters in Santa Clara, when he will lead them triumphantly against the rebel forces. The other is addressed to the American farmers settled in California vaunting in pompous strains his admiration of the farmers & telling them how commendable their pursuits, advising them to remain quietly at home, and pursue their agricultural labors, and not to join in the rebel revolution and that he will protect them. Plausible scoundral he knows that he cannot protect himself and conceals the most malignant hatred under this too thin veil of agricultural eulogium. It is no go Castro, there is no fight in you, so you had as well give up--

**Tuesday, 23 June 1846**

The weather very fine. Lt Revere and Dr [Andrew A.] Henderson left this morning for Capt Freemont Camp on the sacramento, Capt F having expressed a wish that Capt Montgomery would keep a communication with him. Unmoored ship this morning, and got under way about three o'clock and [moved] over to Yerba buena or "mint village" a very appropriate name, for the people here are excessively addicted to drinking and for aught I know mint juleps. The object of our going over to this place, as I was [to] understand was to give protection to the American vice Consul, (a coarse blustering fellow) during the pendency of the troubles that now convulse the country. But I opine we shall find that he is not anxious for protection as he is to make a few hundred dollars out of the ship--no news to day from the scenes of war.

**Wednesday, 24 June 1846**

The morning calm and pleasant, the evening blowing a gale of wind and very disagreeable. Went on shore this morning but did not stay long, found the shore very uninteresting, some dozen or two of men left to-day to join Castro at Santa Clara. We had a report today which is believed to be true, that Capt. [Joaquin de la] La Toure [Torre] had crossed the bay with seventy men intending to attack the revolutionary party stationed at sonoma.

**Thursday, 25 June 1846**

The morning pleasant. But blowing a gale of wind this evening, A French transport bark anchored at the Sau Salitus, Some time in the night last night, a party of foreigners who intended joining the revolutionists took some boats left the place eluding the watchful vigilance of one of the vicist blackguards that ever lived, a man by the name of [William S.] Hinckly [Hinckley] who says that he is an American, but I think it very doubtful, he is connected with the custom house at this place in some way. La Toure and his seventy crossed the bay as had been reported on yesterday, shortly after crossing they fell in with an attack[ed] a scouting party of Amer-

icans consisting of fifteen men, La Toure and his seventy men were repulsed and driven back by these fifteen, with a loss of two killed and two wounded. If the Mexicans do not fight better than this, they are certainly whipt,

Friday, 26 June 1846

The weather as usual. Mornings pleasant & evenings disagreeable and blowing a gale of wind, The vessel which came in on yesterday was not a French bark but the American ship Moscow [Captain William D. Phelps], by her we received some news from the U. States. Our difficulties with England settled, but our affair with Mexico look squally indeed no doubt is entertained at this time as to the actual existence of war, We also learn that there are large military preparations making in the U. States, but for what purpose I cannot divine, certainly not to whip the Mexicans, for poor devils they seem to be determined to whip themselves, however Uncle Sam seems disposed to be playing an important [role] in this worlds affairs just about now.

Saturday, 27 June 1846

The weather as usual. Lieut Barlette left this morning for the Sacramento in order to communicate with Capt Freemont. Lieut Gillespie arrived this evening and announced the most astounding intelligence. Lieut Freemont has united his forces with the revolutionists, They have sixty men stationed at Sutter's fort sixty at sonoma, and Forty at San Rapheal. Capt. Fremont left his camp intending to resist his Castro's insults which have been of the grossest, abusive and at variance with all the principles of gentleman[l]y propriety or national courtesy. Fremont by rapid marches had reached San Raphael without being expected believing that La Toure and his party was there, he march[ed] upon the town prepared to carry it by assault, just before reaching the town they encountered three men, among [them] was Emanuel Castro, cousin or brother of Gen Castro, they were shot upon the spot, this course was dictated it seems, by the improper murder of two Americans that were taken by La Toure party on yesterday.\* Fremont intercepted a letter by which he learned the position and intentions of La Toure, and intended attacking tomorrow morning at day break--

Sunday, 28 June 1846

The weather milder and pleasanter than it has been for several days. We hear that Castro has moved from Santa Clara towards the Sacramento with it is said three hundred men, but if he does not know it I

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\*The three men were Francisco and Ramon de Haro and their uncle, Jose de los Reyes Berryesa. It was asserted, and later disputed, that one carried a message from Castro to de la Torre ordering the slaughter of all foreigners.

can tell him that he is a used hombre. Lt Gillespie left this morning for San Raphael in [one] of our boats Lieut Hunter in charge of the boat. It is really frightful to look calmly at the sums of blood that are brewing & really a war of extermination seems to be on foot. We had service as usual to day. The Consul expresses some apprehension as to his safety this evening, lies on generally.

Monday, 29 June 1846

The weather very mild and pleasant, Went on shore this morning this, remained but a short time, A party of Castro men seized at the Sau Salito a boat said to be American property, and made sail up the Bay, they are supposed to be La Toure party retreating before Freemont, It is also reported that they had fired at a boat belonging to the American bark Moscow. There is nothing definite from either party, and the flying reports are so contradictory that but little reliance can be placed in them,--A man by the name of Hinckly, (an American by birth and a native of Boston) but who held some appointment connected with the Captaincy of the Port at this place, Died very suddenly to-day. It is said that it was caused by excessive intemperance. This man had rendered himself particularly odious to the American settlers in this part of the country, by his illiberal conduct by the annoyances which his office enabled him to impose and by the inhuman and brutal advise which he recommended to the authorities to persue in relation to the foreigners, He advised and said that he would assist to execute the most diabolical act of cutting the throat of every American in the country, and burn their property, not even sparing the women & children, consequently Brandy has only hastened an event which would inevitable have befallen him had [he] ever fallen into the hands of the Americans. Much of the insult and injury which has been heaped upon the foreigners, has been it is said at his instigation. He was a pitiable blackguard while living and has been stricken down, amid all his reckless dissipation and bloody projects, by the hand of death.--I sympathize with his wife, whom I am told is an amiable and excellent person, but I rejoice with the community at their happy deliverance from so foul an incubus. A man by the name of [John] Clark (a seaman) belonging to this ship who was sent ashore on duty, obtained liquor by some means with which he got drunk, and while in that state broke into a house and stole some clothes, in the scuffle which ensued with the owner of the house Clark was cut in several places about the face. (not seriously however) Clark is (apart from liquor) one of the very best men in his situation that I have ever seen, a thorough seaman viligant in the discharge of all his duties, subordinate and respectful, Yet it must be confessed that all these excellent qualities are destroyed by the demon liquor. The bone from which springs two evils and misery of mankind. Thus this day has shown the consequences of dram drinking, one prematurely sent to his [illegible] have another, to be brought to the gangway, and have his back lacerated by that hateful torturer the catonine tails. Hinckly was respectably connected in Boston, and by these connexions placed in a profitable and lucrative business, won the affections

and married a lady calculated to make him happy and his home a paradise, blessed by providence with a large frame and robust constitution, with a good understanding and an intellect qualified for wise and noble ends, he may have [been] an useful, honorable and happy man. But dram drinking lost him the confidence of his kind patrons, dram drinking ruined and bruised the heart and affections of his wife, his home by dram drinking was made the abode of lewdness obscenity and misery, by dram drinking he destroyed his constitution his intellect and ruined all his better qualities, and by dram drinking he caused his own death. Oh what an awful reflection, what an awful state to meet an angry and injured God, whose mercy he had slighted and whose kindness he had abused. Ungrateful man, thou hast thy reward. The seaman Clark is a (Russian) by birth, but has resided in and been connected with commercial and Naval marine of the U. States for many years. He is a man of liberal education was for a long time Mate of [the] Packet from New York to liverpool, has held several responsible stations as a petty in the service, was a general favorite with both officers & men, and so unexceptionable was his conduct that he was selected on this occasion, to perform some particular duty on shore, and has always been regarded as one of the main stays of the ship, but his early prospects in life was blighted, by the effects of dram drinking, and now his manly frame is to be disgraced and all poignancy of a pulic laceration from the still baneful effects of dram drinking. Unfortunate man I pity his preculier case, but I morn more deeply for the degradation of human nature. From an honest man, he has been made a rogue, by dram drinking, but enough, it is pitiable and disgusting--A Boy by the [name of] [William H.] Kennedy, who ran from the ship while we were lying at the sau salito, was Apprehended and brought back to the ship to-day, he too has to pay for his tenacity by exposing his youthful back to the lash. I would that some mode of punishment equally as effective could be devised for certainly there never was more revolting and sickening exhibition than the baring [of] the naked back of a man and lashing it till the blood clogs in the gashes made by the hard twisted throngs of the cat o nine tails, & I would notwithstanding the reckless character of sailors yet have the punishment more formally inflicted, indeed I think there are cases when it could with propriety be despensed with.

Tuesday, 30 June 1846

The weather Cloudy cool and disagreeable, No news from the seat of War, It is reported that the Castronian's are still collecting Boats on the boot, but for what object we cannot devise. No news from Freemont. But most likely we shall have some in the course of a few hours.

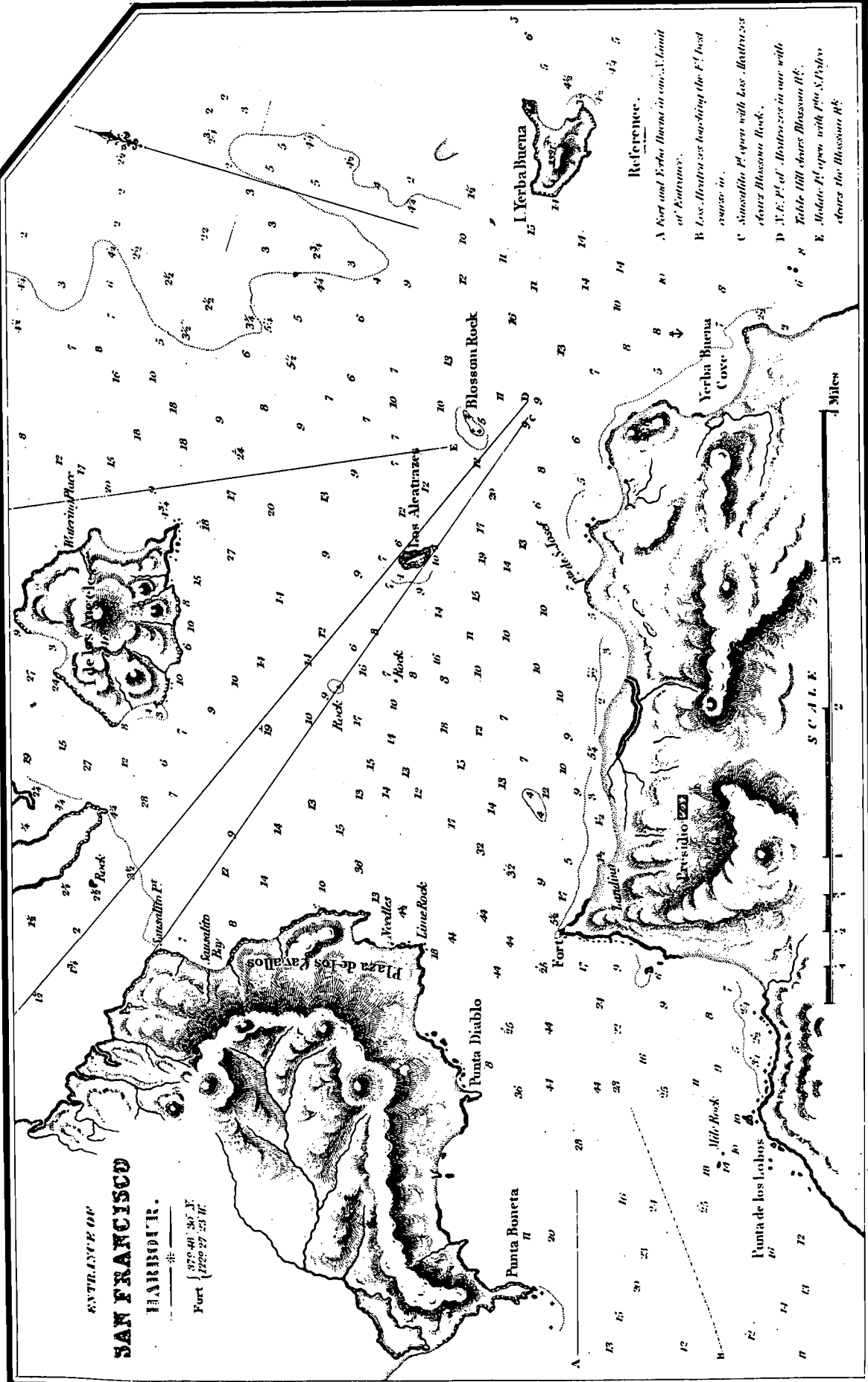
Wednesday, 1 July 1846

The weather cool and blowing a gale of wind. It is a little remarkable that opposite sides of the Bay should be so extremely opposite

in temperature. For instance, at this place the wind blows a gale for sixteen out of the twenty-four hours and Sau Salito on the opposite side, a distance of about eight miles, It is almost a perfect calm and very mild. This difference arises from the different elevations of the Lands. The [talk] is big with news from the seat of war; As had been anticipated some days ago, La Toure so soon as he learned the fact that Fremont was in close pursuit of him, immediately and by rapid marches making a circuitous route gained Fremont rear, and retreated under whip and spur, seizing the launch of Capt Richardson effected their escape to the opposite side of the Bay, and gained the Camp of Castro. Fremont reached the Sau Salito this morning, and Castro retreated from his position at the white island, and took post at San Leandro [Leandro], why he made this movement it is difficult to determine as Fremont is without Boats and consequently cannot cross the Bay until he can procure them, hence Castro is secure until F. get Boats which will most likely be to night. Fremont crossed the Bay with a few men and spiked all the cannon in the Fort, among them some very beautiful Brass eighteen pounders. Fremont will receive some time to-morrow large reinforcements from the Sacramento so soon as they arrive he will cross the bay and either Bring Castro to an engagement or drive him out of the country. The latter will most probably take place. His men seem anxious for the fray. Upon the person of one of the men which was shot a few days ago there was found an order written by Castro ordering the commander of the forces on sonoma side, to murder every foreigner that fell into his hands and I regret that this order will be executed upon him and his deluded troops by his pursuing enemy. I trust for the sakes of humanity that Capt Fremont will permit his resentment to relent and so temper the fortunes of war and curb the over exasperated feelings of his soldiers, as not to shed blood unnecessarily, or commit murder out of mere personal revenge. Honorable warfare forbids that these treacherous villians although treacherous, should be murdered after they cease all opposition which they will certainly do so soon as they come within sound of the rifle. One of Fremont men a poor fellow by the [name of] [George W.] Brewer, a native of long island, on yesterday after mounting his horse, took hold of his rifle by the musel which was leaning against the side of a house, and was in the act of lifting up on the horse, when by some accident it went of, completely tearing out the sinews of the left wrist and arm, making a most serious and it is feared mortal [wound], none of the bones are injured. But he had lost so much blood to-day when the Doctor reached him, that he fears it will be impossible to save him and should [he] be able to do that, he greatly fears that the reaction will render amputation indispensable to save his life. This young [man] was removed from the shore to the ship to-day and every exertion will be made to save him, besides all his little comforts and necessities will be attended. We are informed that Capt Mervine of the Cyane now at Monterey, had landed his marines and taken possession of the place. It is also reported that Castro is retreating still farther into the country. We learn that there is an Army of foreigners forming in his rear, which it is thought will intercept him before he goes

**ENTRANCE OF  
SAN FRANCISCO  
HARBOR.**

Port { 37° 49' 30" N.  
122° 27' 33" W.



**Reference.**

- A Fort and Yerba Buena in con. United at Entrance.
- B Low Batteries bounding the F. Coast course in.
- C Sanadillo Pt. open with Low Batteries about Blossom Rock.
- D Y.E. Pt. of Batteries in con. with Table Hill above Blossom Rk.
- E Molate Pt. open with Pto. S. Pedro above the Blossom Rk.

very far. From all I can learn I think that Mr. Castro reign is a very short one, and the sooner that he makes terms the better, however a very few days will determine all.

Thursday, 2 July 1846

The weather cool and windy. War news is not very interesting. Capt Freemont move[d] up the Bay to-day in order to effect a crossing. He left ten of his men behind, who landed in the Yerba Buena to-day and made one prisoner by the name of [Robert] Ridley a dissipated and worthless fellow, and it is reported that they [are] on the look out for a man by the name of [Francisco] Sanches [Sanchez]. Mr. Webber left this evening for Monterey to stir up the forces in that quarter, consequently Castro will have an army in his front and in his rear, poor fellow I pity him, for he is certain of being cut to pieces and I fear unexpectedly.

Friday, 3 July 1846

The weather cool and windy. The Launch under charge of acting Master [Napoleon B.] Harrison left this morning for Monterey, we hope to receive on her return some positive instructions, which will enable us to further the patriotic efforts of the Americans in establishing their independence. Castro has retreated from San Leando up to the mission. Mr. [William A.] Ludsdoff [Leidesdorff] has given all the officers an invitation to dine with him to-morrow. I am not going, as my disposition ill suits for such fete.

Saturday, 4 July 1846

The weather cool, Foggy, windy and disagreeable. In consequence of the very high wind we were unable to dress the ship with Flags. But there was a national Flag hoisted at each mast head, and a salute fired a twelve o'clock of twenty-eight guns. There was but four members of the Mess on board, we had a very excellent dinner and enjoyed it very quietly and pleasantly. The vice Consul had a dinner on shore to which some of the Officers went and I believe spent a very agreeable time. It appears that a small party of Mexican troops has been prowling about the vicinity of the place, intending (as is supposed) to make an attack on the foreign settlers at this place. And as the American vice consul has rendered himself particularly obnoxious (as he says) to this party, He expressed much alarm and apprehension for his safety. The weather being very thick and hazy, it was thought they choose this as a favorable opportunity for putting their contemplated attack into execution. The Consul represented the danger and the inevitable destruction of the American property, in so strong and pathetic a manner as to induce Capt Montgomery to order the guard on shore. We went on shore at nine o'clock and remained until four o'clock this morning (5th). I posted one sentinal as a look out, and the remainder of the men laid down with their muskets beside them ready for any emergency. They placed us in a large Hall, and the men were accomodated on the floor, (and



a very dirty floor it was). I was up all night, and from what I had been told I confidently expected to be attacked. I am now convinced that this report was simply gotten up to impress Capt Montgomery with the absolute necessity of his remaining at this place. For he has expressed himself very anxious to get away from here, and most of the officers express the same wish. This desire to leave this place arises, first from the absence of all society at this place, second, there being no opportunity for sporting or exercising on shore, and lastly, it blows a gale of wind all the time, foggy and cool, and altogether a most disagreeable place under all circumstances. Hence it requires all the arts and devices as well as all the fancied alarms and rumors in order to keep the ship over here, that he (the Consul) who is a merchant may make a few hundred dollars out of the ship. This man Ludsdoff, is a foreigner, and it is doubtful if he is even a naturalized citizen of the U. States, he holds a vice consular appointment, (an office totally unknown to our laws,) conferred upon him by the Consul at Monterey Mr. Larkin, purely for the benefits resulting from it in commercial operations. He is a coarse vulgar man, fond of brandy and very boisterous, and altogether he is a most disgusting and egotistical character, and one that I hope I may not under any circumstances be brought in contact, For neither Ludsdoff nor Larkin are worthy to represent the country, ignorant and presumtuous they are always involved in petty squabbles with the imbicile and miserable authorities of this unfortunate country, and I hope they may be both of them soon dispenced with. For by such men our country is almost invariably brought into contempt, her institutions falsely represented, and her distressed subjects only befriended and looked out for in proportion to the amount of money they have to give these grasping and parsimonious traders, who puffed up with the importance of their office, yankee and depress all that they can, that does not serve their interest. Lieut Revere returned from Sutter's fort after an absence of twelve days, much fatigued and the men a good deal worn out by exposure in the open boat and want of proper rest and refreshment.

Sunday, 5 July 1846

The weather cool and disagreeable, the theremometer on yesterday at twelve o'clock in the sun stood at seventy-one and in the shade at sixty-four, sixty-seven is about the average since we have been at this place. Came on board at four o'clock this morning, Sleepy, tired and much disgusted, found the fleas excessively annoying at Ludsdoffs, as well as the accommodations dirty and offensive to the smell. Had service at the usual hour. It required no small effort to pay that decency and respect which is at all times requisite externally, as I was both sleepy and out of temper. The news from the seat of war is not interesting except that the troops of Castro are or have nearly all of them deserted, treating their officers in some instances in the most unmilitary manner; as I am inform that they whipped them very severely, for having drumed them. Castro army was drawn together as follows: first by impressment, threatening

that if they did not go that they would be arrested and sent to Mexico for punishment, and that he Castro would have them confined a term of years, that is ten, secondly, by circulating false reports about the foreigners, that is they the foreigners, were murdering promiscuously every man, woman and child that fell into their hands, that they were burning all the houses, and that they intended to appropriate the Californians property to their own use. Lastly, he Castro drew a foreigners to his party by saying that the Americans would not permit any one to live in California unless he was a native born citizen of the U. States. In order to have the full benefit of these false representations he cut off all communication between the parties and the two sections of [the] country. But this state of things could not be of long duration. The Americans and other foreigners have intermarried extensively with the native Californians, consequently there is a community of interests existing between them all and by means of secret agents, they were enabled to communicate with each other, and so soon as the Californians found out what the Americans wanted to do, it being the establishment of a good government, they immediately joined them & left Castro.

Monday, 6 July 1846

The weather clear cool and blowing a gale of wind, altogether this is the most disagreeable hole I have ever seen. We have a rumor to-day that Pio Pico has joined Castro with five hundred Mexicans, and that Castro can now muster seven hundred men, (doubtful so doubtful that it is a lie). We have also [heard] that frequent and continued desertions are taking place almost every hour in the day from Castro's party. Lieut. Bartlette & Assistant Surgeon Henderson returned from their expedition to Fremont's camp. They found F at Sonoma. By them we learn that Fremont now has about two hundred and fifty men, and that he left Sonoma to-day on his way to the Sacramento in order to cross over on the opposite side in pursuit of Castro. On yesterday he made a speech to the revolutionary party, telling them that he had nothing to do with their revolution. That his business was to make Castro retract the insults and apologize for the proclamations which he has issued derogatory to his character and insulting to the U. States, and that as far as the accomplishment of this object will further their views he will be most happy to cooperate with them, At his suggestion the[y] formed themselves into companies, elected their officers and prepared themselves for a regular campaign. Capt. Fremont on yesterday liberated all the prisoners that were confined at Sonoma, who were taken since the commencement of hostilities, and it is his intention to liberate Brig Gen. Guadalupe Vallejo on reaching Sutter's Fort. This is a very good policy for it will have the divided effect of impressing the Californians with the fact that the revolutionists mean nothing but the establishment of their independence and that they are not pursuing private revenge. It is said that hundreds of Californians would join the revolutionists if they could comprehend their object which the American party are now endeavoring to let them know. The Californians are at present as bitter and as much opposed to the

government as are the Americans and would [be] united to change it if they could have a leader of sufficient character to lead them. Every feature of the Mexican government is odious to this people no less than to the Americans, and once they can be made familiar with a stable and equitable government they will become equally as good citizens as are our own people.

Tuesday, 7 July 1846

The weather cool. (Thermometer 64) Blowing fresh & disagreeable. It is too bad that we are thus punished merely to gratify the vanity and give the expenses of the ship to such a character as is the august personage the unauthorized vice Consul. He is a Foreigner with foreign feelings, and unfit, intellectually honestly and morally, for any place of profit or trust. The melancholy effects of the Revolutionary movement is now beginning to develop themselves. Two very respectable looking Spanish women came into the village this morning convulsed with tears and the most bitter apparent anguish of feelings, Begging that the vice consul would use his influence to preserve the lives of their children, they said that a Mexican officer who commands a small party of men in the vicinity had been to their house, and told them that Capt F. and the Americans would [be] in this neighborhood in a day or two, and that all the women and children would be put to death who might fall into their hands. They were assured by us that they would not be molested but on the contrary that they would be protected and treated kindly. And by assurances of this kind we calmed the fears and quieted their apprehensions of danger. The Mexican officer is named [Francisco] Sanchas [Sanchez]. Who after exciting these poor and defenceless creatures, (and blackened in the most malicious and false manner the character of the Americans,) in all the plenitude of his mercy, told these ladies that they could not afford them any protection, and that they (meaning the rabble whom he calls soldiers) should seek their safety in flight to the fastnesses of the mountain. And when appealed to by defenceless innocence, excites them almost to phrenzy and then leaves [them] to brood over all the worse conjectures incident to an intense feverish excitement. A poor fellow was brought on board to-day, who was shot in a Skirmish some days ago, this poor fellow says that he was forced by La Toure a Mexican officer to go and fight the Americans, that he did not want to go, but he was told by his officer that the Americans would kill him if they found [him] together with his wife and children, and consequently he thought that if he was to be killed that he might as well do his best to drive the Americans off. He says that not only himself, but most of the men that are now with Castro, have been driven to take up arms by such false representations and appeals to feelings, that they are now finding out that these things are all false and that they will all leave the first chance they get. This poor was shot while retreating or rather as he says running from Americans, through and through the body, the ball entered just below the shoulder blade passing through the lung and same through the breast. It is believed that he will recover, although the wound is

exceedingly dangerous.--He says that he wishes his countrymen could understand what the Americans was going to do, for he is certain that if they knew they would all go to their homes and leave this man Castro, to be punished as he justly deserves, when this first broke out it was said to be the foreigners. But Castro has dropped that name, and now calls them Americans, and is endeavoring by any means in his power to induce the foreign settlers from every other nation to believe that the Americans if successful will drive them all out of the country. His efforts were for a time successful, but they were soon discovered to be entirely false, consequently he lost all credit in that quarter. He is now engaged in concocting measures for his escape and flight in case the revolutionists should pen him up to close. I learn to-day that one hundred and fifty riflemen have arrived from Oregon, with this accession of strength to the revolutionists, they will march through California without the least difficulty, and the almost certain and positive intelligence of the war between the U. States and Mexico leaves no room to doubt that California will become a part and parcell of the U. States in a very short time, and I am convinced that until this is the case, there will be but little good for California and the hardy and adventurous son's of liberty and liberal government. Amid the continued excitement of the California troubles, I have over looked some little matters on board ship. Midshipman Gansevoort, a promising youth at one time, of fine intellect & a good deal of character, has become completely prostrated by the reckless gratification of his veneral passions, he has now been on the sick list for some six or eight months, and judging from his appearance, his disease seems to baffle all the skill of his very skilful and attentive physician. So much diseased is his whole system, and so reckless is he to his condition that even should his disease be eradicated the state of his system will be so far destroyed that serofula is almost certain to follow. I regret this much for I like G. very much, and if he had taken care of himself, he bid fair to be very useful and valuable man both to the service and country. Midshipman Johnson, who has fully realized the pleasure of being suspended during this cruise, and seems to be proof against admonition, and withall quite in-subordinate has been again suspended. Parents seem to reflect very little when they place their sons in many of the professions and avocations of life. I have quite a number of young men in the service who were totally unsuited for it, and in consequence become troublesome and depraved. For I hold it to be self evident, in a military life, that if a man is mutinous, boisterous disorderly and vicious, that in any of the walks of private life he will be a bad citizen, a dangerous member and a source much of much trouble to the state or community in which he may reside. I hope however that this rule has many very many exceptions. The Navy however is no place to correct the evil.

Wednesday, 8 July 1846

The weather cool and wind high. Castro has retreated as far as Saint Johns Mission, A courier arrived this evening from Monterey,

bringing dispatches from Commodore Sloat. War, Bloody War,--The long talked of Mexican War has at length broke with a most dreadful carnage. By advices received by the Commodore before leaving Mazatlan we learn that the Mexican troops under the command of [Major] General [Mariano] Arista crossed the Rio del norte and attack [Major] Gen [Zachary] Taylor with seven thousand men on the 8th and 9th of May. The battle is said to have been one of the most bloody that there is on record. Arista had seven thousand well armed and well disciplined troops. Taylor had two thousand three hundred men, in fine order and discipline and were eager for the fight.--The result was that Arista having by dividing his army into four divisions completely surrounded Taylor, who was encamped with only thirteen hundred men, he Arista by some unaccountable neglect or oversight permitted Taylor to get clear during the night by which Taylor was enabled to effect an union with the main body of his Army. After which he rested quietly until Arista attack[ed] him, there seems to have been but little damage done on the first day, as [the] two Armies separated about four miles apart, the morning of the 9th broke when Taylor's whole strength was put into motion, he found Arista ready, and then came the tug of war, by twelve o'clock fifteen hundred of Arista Army lay dead on the field and Taylor gained a complete victory, taking all the baggage, Artilery and other munitions of war. It is reported that four thousand men of Arista Army were killed, and the balance taken prisoner's. The report states that there was but fifteen hundred out of the seven thousand that could be mustered after the action. All the rest being either killed or wounded. Arista a few hours after the battle sent a courier to Mexico stating that all was lost, there were general officers killed on the day of Battle. The great mortality was produced by the great superior of the Americans Flying artilery over any force which could be brought against them. Of the American losses we are not in[formed], they were no doubt very great. The result of the Battle as to the mortality is unequalled by either ancient or modern History if we except the celebrated Battle of Cannae about two hundred and sixteen before the Christian era. I sincerely hope that this is blood enough for one war.--

Commodore Sloat on the morning of the 7th inst. formally took possession of Monterey and hoisted the American flag. Issued a proclamation to the American people in California & also the native Californians as well as all of the foreigners resident in California, that he came with a powerful force, among them that he desired them to consider him their friend and requested them to remain quietly on their farms and in their houses and pursue their various avocations without fear or molestation assuring them that they would receive protection and the advantages of a good government and have their interests promoted and cared for. So far as I can learn the Californians are well pleased with the change, there are some few foreigners who are displeased and a few mexican officers who have been supported in idleness and luxury at the expense of the farming interests of the count[r]y who are much displeased with the change, but that will [be] of short duration. The Commodore landed all the

Marine force to maintain order and protect the flag. The Savannah, Levant, and Cyane are all at Monterey.--

Thursday, 9 July 1846

The weather pleasant. Agreeably to arrangements made last night, The Marines small arms men and pike men\* I formed them in double column, when we displayed the flag, and proceeded with drum beating and fife playing yankee doodle, to the public square in the Yerba Buena, where the proclamation was read by the 1st Lieut. in English and in Spanish by the vice Consul, when we hoisted the flag, with three cheers from the troops and the American settlers present. I then took possession of the custom house and converted it into a garrison.\* After taking possession of the place, I proceeded to form a volunteer corps of the residents of the place, this was soon done, as they in obedience to the call assembled at Mr. Ludesdoff, the Consul, and enrolled themselves, elected their officers, and reported themselves ready for duty. I took up my residence on shore, a good portion of the time a guest of the Consuls. This day has many incidents that might be recorded, but in the multiplicity of duties which I was compelled to superintend, it is impossible to call them all to mind.

\*[Author's note] Landed opposite the ship. The Marines in full uniform and the sailors in their sunday mustering clothes, they made quite an imposing appearance.

[The following letter and list of volunteers is drawn from Lieutenant Watson's "military journal"]

Captain John Montgomery to Lieutenant Henry Watson

Sir:

Yerba Buena July 9th 1846

The Flag of the United States having been this day displayed in this place, and formal possession taken of it, so far as the Guns of the Ship will range, you will remain in military possession, as the Commander of the Marines and local Militia, subject to such orders from me or your superior officers, until such time, as

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\*One sergeant, one corporal, and fourteen privates accompanied Lieutenant Watson ashore: Sergeant George M. Miller; Corporal William Smith; and Privates Samuel L. Bartlett, Rufus Briggs, Erastus A. Burnham, Peter Burns, John L. B. Connolly (Hospital Steward), Michael Cunningham, John D'Arcey, Philip McGowen, Thomas Moulton, James O. Reamey, Samuel Sample, Henry Scott, William Scott, and Ezekial D. Walker. In August, Sergeant James M. Wiatt and Private Rufus Briggs were detailed to Santa Clara as non-commissioned officers for a company of mounted men, while Private John D'Arcey was sent to Bodega Bay.

the Commander in Chief shall either sanction this appointment, or annul it.

All the militia therefore, that are now, or may be organized for the protection of this place, will be required to repair to the appointed rendezvous upon such signal as you may designate, properly armed and equipped, and you will make requisition upon me for such arms and ammunition as may be required.

Should an attack be made upon this place, you will immediately, display a rocket and Blue light, as a signal to the Ship when reinforcements will be immediately dispatched to your assistance, and, in the meantime you will maintain your position and defend it to the utmost extremity.

You are hereby furnished with a list of the effective militia force, organized under their own proper officers for the defence of the place, and for the maintenance of the Flag of the United States.

Respectfully  
(signed) Jno B. Montgomery  
Commander of the U.S.S.  
Portsmouth

#### United States Volunteers

Agustus Andrews, Captain  
Charles Doernte, 1st Lieutenant  
Francis Hoen, 2nd           "  
Vardemon Bennett, 1st Sergeant  
Padro Schierbeck, 2nd       "  
S. B. Cooper, 1st Corporal  
John Thompson, 2nd         "

#### Privates

- |                       |                     |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Charles Meyer,     | 10. Thomas Harding  |
| 2. Agustus Deek,      | 11. R. C. Perkins   |
| 3. John Finch,        | 12. G. Denecke      |
| 4. Touvio Tamfarran,  | 13. Andrew Hoepener |
| 5. Francisco Ramirez, | 14. Jacob Dopkin    |
| 6. Carl Glein,        | 15. Joseph Yaten,   |
| 7. B. Nullner,        | 16. John Laman      |
| 8. Charles P. Briggs, | 17. Josiah Beldin,  |
| 9. John Penkston,     | 18. John Sullivan*  |

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\*The following agreement is included among Lieutenant Watson's papers:

#### United States Volunteers of the Yerba Buena.

We the undersigned do agree and pledge ourselves to each other that we will abide and follow the following Rules and bye laws for our Government, and the promotion of our efficiency, for the purpose of our mutual protection and the defence and honor of the Flag of the U. States.

- 
1. That we will obey the lawful commands of the officers whom we have elected to command and govern us.
  2. That whenever we are summoned to appear either for muster, or for the defence of ourselves our Flag or country, that we will repair to the appointed place of rendezvous with all possible despatch and alacity, armed and equipped according to the law, that now is in force in other portions of the United States.
  3. Any Officer, Non commissioned officer or private who shall sleep upon his watch, or otherwise neglect his duty, shall forfeit and pay for every such offense, (\$1) to be applied to the use of the company.
  4. Any person as aforesaid who shall not properly observe the orders of his commanding or superior officer, being in the execution of the duties of his office shall forfeit and pay for every such offence two dollars to be applied as aforesaid.
  5. Any person as aforesaid who shall be found intoxicated on duty, shall forfeit any pay for every such offence five dollars to be applied as aforesaid.
  6. That we will diligently and faithfully perform all the duties assigned us as a patrol and guard to the village of the Yerba Buena. That we will to the utmost of our power, protect and defend the flag of the United States, and the persons and property of the inhabitants of this village. And that we will truly and strictly observe the orders of all such officers as shall be appointed by the United States Government to command the Military during the present war. (Provided always) that we are not to be required to go beyond the limits of five miles square from the Yerba Buena, and that any one offending herein shall forfeit and pay the sum of three dollars, and be subject to such further punishment as a court martial composed of the officers non-commissioned officers and privates of our said company may direct. Provided that in no case shall the said court have power to inflict corporal punishment.
  7. That it shall be the duty of the captain or commanding officer to keep a regular roster of the company, and that he shall make a regular detail every day, of such guard as the public emergency shall require, beginning at the head of the list, and so on to the last man on it. And further that it shall be his duty, to so make the daily guard detail, that each and every man shall perform his regular and fair proportion of duty.
  8. That no member of this company shall employ a substitute or hire any other person to perform his share of the duty, except in case of sickness or other unavoidable engagements.
  9. That it shall be the duty of the Captain or commanding [officer] to appoint two regular times for drill in each week, and that it shall be the duty of each and every member of this company to appear at the appointed place, ready for drill & company exercises.
  10. That there shall be a treasurer elected, whose duty it shall be to collect all fines, and to receive all donations or contributions which may be made for the benefit of the company, and that he



Friday, 10 July 1846

The weather pleasant. But very windy. The place is quite deserted to-day. It is truly lamentable to find that men possessed of an ordinary understanding and attaining one spark of christian sentiment, should devote themselves to the infamous employment of adding to the horrors of war, and the constant excitement to which the female mind under such circumstances is avariably alive, by busily detracting from the character of a generous enemy, by depicting the fiend like propensity of blood rankles in his own bosom, and by adding to the foul breath of slander that deeper stigma of falsehood. A man by the name [Francisco] Geraro [Guerra], late subprefect of this place, has by lying and by all the arts of the most insidious imposition, visited every cottage and house not only in this place but the neighborhood, and told the defenseless women and helpless children, that the Americans were putting to death every body that they

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be, and he is hereby required to exhibit monthly a statement of all receipts and expenditures made on account of the company.

11. That there shall be a secretary elected, whose duty it shall be, to take charge of all papers and records which may belong to the company, and hold them subject to the inspection of the company at their regular meetings.

12. That on or before the first saturday in September, or as soon thereafter as practicable that we will each and every one of us provide ourselves with a Uniform.

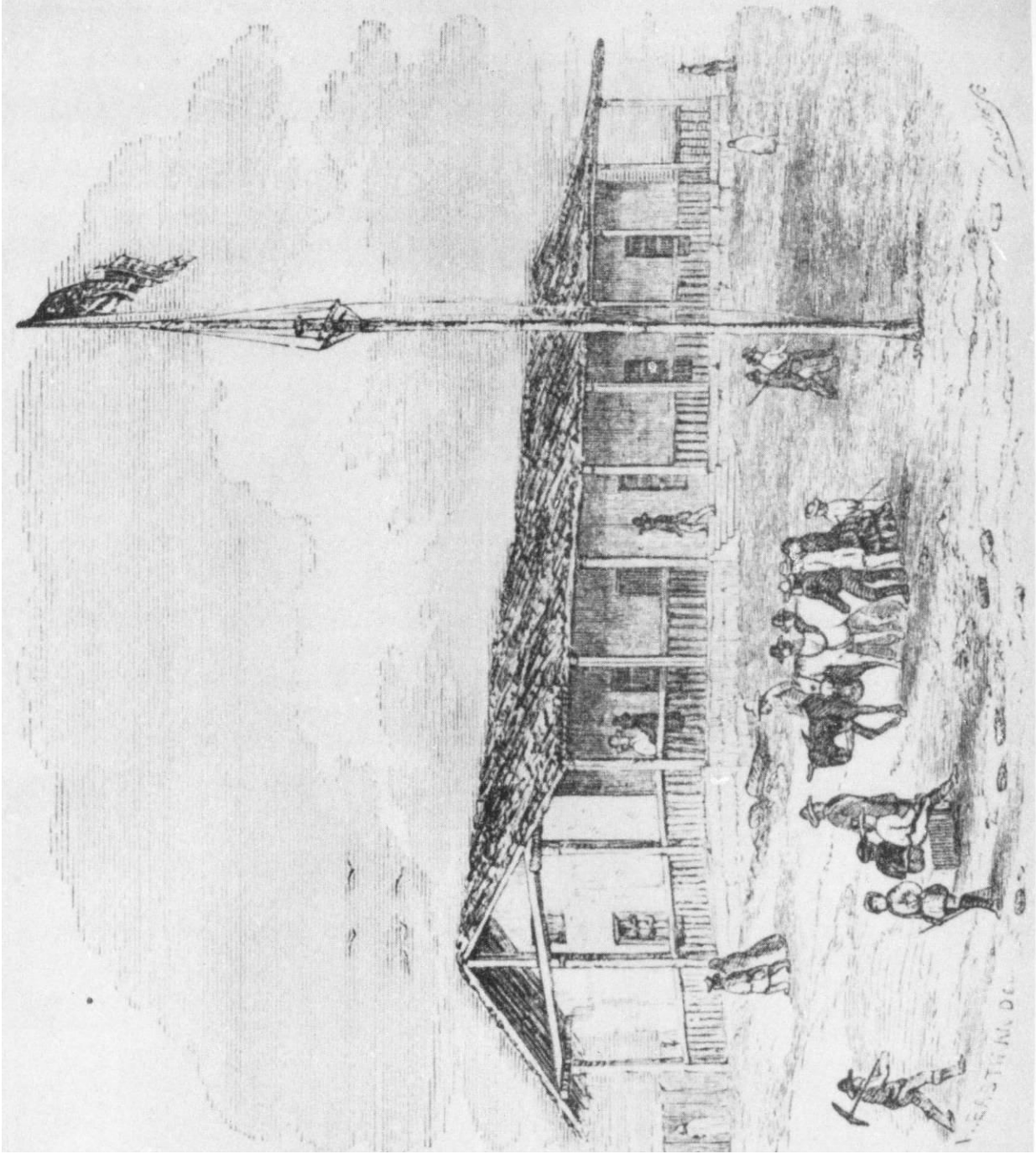
13. That these rules and bye laws shall at all times be subject to alteration and amendment, when ever a majority of the company shall think proper to alter or amend them.

14. That no member of this company shall on any pretence whatever absent himself from the company, or during the present impending danger leave the village of the Yerba Buena for a longer period than one day, without leave from the Captain or commanding officer of the company. Provided that in no case shall the Captain or commanding officer refuse permission, except in case of great and immediate danger.

15. That we will repair without delay to the appointed place of rendezvous, upon signal of an alarm or attack from the enemy, armed and equipped for active service, at any time [of] day or night during the present war, or so long as we are in danger of an attack.

16. For the strict and faithful performance of all the foregoing rules and bye laws, we do most solemnly pledge our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honor.

17. New members may be admitted into our company by vote, and the admission of a new member shall require a majority of the members present to vote in their favor.



*Yerba Buena Custom House, used by Lieutenant Watson as a headquarters and barracks for his men*

met, helpless infants, decrepied old age, and blushing innocence, he represented to be no screen from the blood thirsty americans, by these means he prevailed upon all ages and conditions to leave their homes and conceal themselves in the dense forest of the mountains. Some cases have been reported to me, they are heart rending indeed & man must be made of adamant who could quietly sit by and hear them, without feeling the mantling blush [of] indignation and the blood coursing every vein in maddened exertion and I humbly pray that the just vengeance of Almighty God will fall on this heartless character, at this point I am compelled to neglect from multiplicity of matters which present themselves, the minute detail of the daily occurances which take place. But I shall endeavor to store my mind with all the most important and with the aid of my military journal, I hope to continue my journal systematically.

Necessity impells me to give a general synopsis of the various events which have transpired since the 10th of July, I am however aware that it must be imperfect, in many small and interesting facts. In this synopsis, I shall embrace the time between the 10th of July and the 26th of November 1846.

[Lieutenant Watson did not produce a summary of his activities from 10 July to 26 November 1846, although he left six blank pages in his journal to do so. All daily reports, letters, and passports issued during the period 10 July to 22 November 1846 have been drawn from his "military journal" and inserted into the main journal at this point.]

Lieutenant Henry Watson to Captain John Montgomery

Sir: Marine Barracks, Yerba Buena, July 10th 1846  
There has not been the slightest indication of any hostility during the night, and every thing appears peaceable and quiet. I am sir [&c.]

H. B. Watson  
Comdg Marines & Militia,  
Yerba Buena

Lieutenant Henry Watson to Captain John Montgomery

Sir: Marine Barracks, Yerba Buena, July 10. 1846  
Hereunto annexed is a list of the articles found in the Custom House on yesterday. To wit:

Articles

3 Bedsteads,

Articles

1 Writting Desk

1 Mattress, 2 Pillows	1 Piggin 9 candlesticks
1 Grass Mat,	1/2 barrel of flour
2 Pitchers 3 silver Plates,	2 large Boxes
11 Tumblers, 1 Bucket	2 Boat Oars.
2 Mouse Traps 1 Ferrnal	1 Boat Sails & Masts
5 Paint Pots,	1 [illegible] & Hat
1 [illegible] 1 Tea Kettle	1 Trousers 1 Hanchfs.
1 Wash Basin	2 Pictures 2 Tables.
1 Pair of Boots 2 pr Shoes	2 snuffers 1 Basket.
1 pr Slippers	1 Box of corn
	1 Box of [illegible]

I am sir [&c.]

H. B. Watson  
Comdg M & Militia at the  
Yerba Buena

Lieutenant Henry Watson to Lieutenant John Missroon

Sir: Marine Barracks, Yerba Buena July 10th 1846  
I will thank you to loan me two swabs, and a scrubbing Broom as my decks are very dirty, and require a good deal of scrubbing in order to make them tenntable. I am [&c.]

H. B. Watson

Saturday, 11 July 1846

Lieutenant Henry Watson to Captain John Montgomery

Sir: Marine Barracks, Yerba Buena July 11th 1846  
The place has been perfectly quiet and peaceable during the past Twenty-four hours, and there has not been any indication of a hostile movement from any quarter within my knowledge or observation. The Patrol furnished by the volunteer Militia of this place, I found to be vary vigilant in the discharge of their duties during the night and also respectful and obedient to my orders. I am &c.

(Countersign)  
(California)

H. B. Watson  
Comdg M. & Militia at the  
Yerba Buena

Sunday, 12 July 1846

Lieutenant Henry Watson to Captain John Montgomery

Sir: Marine Barracks, Yerba Buena, July 12th 1846  
The place continues quiet and peaceable. Quite a number of persons of both sexes, visited the place on yesterday, they behaved with decorum & order, and appeared to be gaining confidence and becoming reconciled to the change which has been made. The volunteer

Patrol are vigilant and obey with alacrity all orders. I am Sir,  
&c.

(Countersign)  
(Taylor)

H. B. Watson  
Comdg M & Militia at the  
Yerba Buena

Monday, 13 July 1846

Lieutenant Henry Watson to Captain John Montgomery

Sir: Marine Barracks, Yerba Buena, July 13th 1846  
There has nothing occurred these twenty-four hours worthy of  
note, except a street encounter between some drunken Indians which  
was immediately suppressed by the Alcaldia. The place continues  
quiet and the guard and patrol are attentive and vigilant. I am  
Sir, &c.

Countersign Savannah,  
Sonoma.

H. B. Watson  
Comdg M & Militia,  
Yerba Buena

Lieutenant Henry Watson to Captain John Montgomery

Sir: Marine Barracks, Yerba Buena July 13th 1846  
Francisco Sanchez applied this evening for a passport to return  
to his farm, stating that he had some fears of being stopped should  
he meet or fall in with any Americans unless he could produce a  
pass. I hesitated at giving it, because I conceived that it should  
have been granted by you. But the Consul having suggested that it  
was too late in the evening for him to go on board and return in  
time to reach his farm this evening, I concluded that I might give  
him the desired pass. I enclose you a copy that it may meet your  
approbation. I am Sir, &c.

H. B. Watson  
Comdg M & Militia at the  
Yerba Buena

This is to certify that the bearer Francisco Sanchez has permission  
to pass to his farm without being molested, he having surrendered  
himself to Capt J. B. Montgomery, Comdg. U.S.S. Portsmouth.

Yerba Buena.)  
July 13th 1846}

H. B. Watson  
Comdg M. & Militia,  
Yerba Buena

Lieutenant Henry Watson to Captain John Montgomery

Sir: Marine Barracks, Yerba Buena, July 13th 1846  
I have confined in double Irons Private Phillip McGowen. The  
circumstances connected with his case are these. Yesterday afternoon  
he asked permission of me to walk about the square and around the  
Barracks. I granted his request, cautioning him not to go out of  
hailing distance. He disobeyed this order, went into a grog shop,  
became intoxicated, and then went to the House of an old milk women,

and by his blustering manner frightened the females of the house very much. I therefore request permission to give this man one dozen with the cats, as I am persuaded that it will have a good effect upon the future conduct of the Guard. This man is an old soldier and apart from his getting drunk is a very trusty man. I am Sir [&c.]

H. B. Watson  
Comdg M & Militia,  
Yerba Buena

**Tuesday, 14 July 1846**

Lieutenant Henry Watson to Captain John Montgomery

Sir: Marine Barracks, Yerba Buena July 14th 1846  
There has nothing new occurred since my last report, and the place continues quiet. I am Sir, [&c.]

Countersign  
Portsmouth

H. B. Watson  
Comdg M & Militia at the  
Yerba Buena

**Wednesday, 15 July 1846**

Lieutenant Henry Watson to Captain John Montgomery

Sir: Marine Barracks, Yerba Buena July 15th 1846  
There has nothing of note occurred since my last report. Several native Californians visited the place during yesterday for the first time since the change of the flags,

Agreeably to your order of yesterday. I have had Private Phillip McGowen punished with one dozen on his bare back with the cat of nine tails, and informed the females of his punishment, and assured them of their future protection. McGowen has been restored to duty. I am Sir, [&c.]

Countersign  
Savannah

H. B. Watson  
Comdg M & Militia &c.

Lieutenant Henry Watson to Captain John Montgomery

Sir: Marine Barracks, Yerba Buena July 15th 1846  
Two men, the one named Charles Brown and the other [William] Lumsdale, has just come into this place. These are the two men who betrayed Mr. Webber and the American at the Puebla a short time since. I am informed that a party of Americans are in pursuit of them, and that they are public enemies. One is an American, and the other an Englishman. The object of this note is to know whether I shall arrest these two men or permit them to pass. I am [&c.]

H. B. Watson  
Comdg M & Militia

Thursday, 16 July 1846

Lieutenant Henry Watson to Captain John Montgomery

Sir: Marine Barracks, Yerba Buena, July 16th 1846

There has nothing of important occurred since my last report. Several persons, and one family of women and children have moved in. The place remains quiet and peaceable although there was a report that some three or four armed horse men were seen in the bush, just in the vicinity, yesterday evening. But I could trace it to no authentic source, consequently I believe it to be untrue.

I am Sir, [&c.]

Countersign  
("Congress")

H. B. Watson  
Comdg M & Militia at the  
Yerba Buena

Friday, 17 July 1846

Lieutenant Henry Watson to Captain John Montgomery

Sir: Marine Barracks, Yerba Buena July 17th 1846

The place remains quiet and peaceable. A courier arrived from the Puebla de san jose on yesterday and left this place on his return this morning. Enclosed you will find the copy of a passport given by me to two men, Charles Brown & William Lumsdale to pass from this to the Peubla de san jose. I am Sir [&c.]

Countersign  
"Levant"

H. B. Watson  
Comdg. the Militia in  
Charge at the Yerba Buena

Passports.

This is to certify that the bearer William Lumsdale has permission to pass to the Peubla de san jose without molestation or hindrance, he having claimed the protection of the U. States Government.

Yerba Buena  
July 16th 1846

Lt. H.B. Watson  
Comdg. the Military in  
Charge at the Yerba Buena

This is to certify that the bearer Charles Brown has permission to pass to the Peubla de san jose without molestation or hindrance, he having claimed the protection of the U. States Government.

Yerba Buena  
July 16th 1846

Lt. H.B. Watson  
Comdg. the Military in  
Charge at the Yerba Buena

Lieutenant Henry Watson to Captain John Montgomery

Sir: Marine Barracks, Yerba Buena July 17th 1846

There is required for the Public Service at these Barracks, the following stationary:

Two quires of Foolscap paper

Two quires of Letter paper

I am Sir, [&c.]

Lt. H. B. Watson  
Comdg the Military in  
Charge at the Yerba Buena

Lieutenant Henry Watson to Captain John Montgomery

Sir: Marine Barracks, Yerba Buena July 17th 1846  
Mr. Ludsdoff [Leidesdorff] has applied for Five pictures, which were found in the Custom House when we took possession of it. He states that they are his private property and that he wishes to take them away. I have informed him that I would submit the case to you, as it is necessary for me to have orders from you, before delivering any thing found in the custom House. I will thank you for instructions in this case. I am Sir, [&c.]

H. B. Watson  
Comdg the Military in  
Charge at the Yerba Buena

Saturday, 18 July 1846

Lieutenant Henry Watson to Captain John Montgomery

Sir: Marine Barracks, Yerba Buena July 18th 1846  
Enclosed you will find the copy of a pass given on yesterday to Marian [Mariana] Duarte a Mexican residing in this place. Quite a number of persons have visited the place during the last twenty-four hours. A courier from Monterey arrived on yesterday evening and was sent on board the ship immediately. There was three or four persons riding in the outskirts of the place during the night, and between one & two o'clock a man on horse back came in to the Alcaldia's, there was a light in the Alcaldia house at the time. I have not yet been able to ascertain who this was. Mr. [Don Francisco] Guirero [Guierero] the man who came in with Lieut Bartlette stayed at the house of the Alcaldia last night. I regret that I [am] compelled to report that the Patrol Watch was not vigilant during the night. The place however continues quiet and peaceable. I am Sir, [&c.]

Countersign  
"Cyane"

Lt. H. B. Watson  
Comdg the Military in  
Charge at the Yerba Buena

Passport for Don Señor Marian Duarte,

This is to certify that the bearer Don Señor Marian Duarte, has permission to go to San Raphael, Sonoma and there vicinities in order to look for his family and to return to this place with his family as soon as convenient to himself or family without being molested or hindered, he and his family being under the protection of the U. States Government.

Yerba Buena  
July 17th 1846

Lieut H.B. Watson  
Comdg: the Military in  
Charge at the Yerba Buena



Sunday, 19 July 1846

Lieutenant Henry Watson to Captain John Montgomery

Sir: Marine Barracks, Yerba Buena July 19th 1846  
The place continues quiet. Some few persons have visited the place during the past twenty-four hours, but most of them have been individuals who came in for trading, or to bring hides. A courier arrived from Sonoma who was immediately sent on board the ship. The Guard and patrol have been vigilant during the night, and no suspicious persons have been seen about the place. The Volunteer company had a muster at this place yesterday evening when it was found that nearly every foreigner had withdrawn from them. They however Muster Twenty men, who pledge themselves to be ready at all times to maintain the peace and good order of the Place, and to protect and defend the Flag of the U. States against all her opposers. The fact seems clearly established upon authentic information that Mr. [James A.] Forbes, English Vice Consul, has advised all foreigners and particularly Englishmen to have nothing to do with the defence of the Flag or place. For a war is inevitable between England and the U. States in which case they would have cause to repent any assistance rendered to the U. States Government. Several of the persons who have withdrawn from the company, have been citizens of the U. States, and came from the U. States to this country. I am Sir, [&c.]

Countersign  
"Shark"

Lieut. H. B. Watson  
Comdg: the Military in  
Charge at the Yerba Buena

Passport for Don Seignor Telrusio Vasias,

This is to certify that the bearer Telrusio Vasias has permission to pass to his farm, without molestation and that both himself and family are not to be molested or disturbed in their persons or property whatever, they being under the protection of the Government of the U. States.

Yerba Buena)  
July 18th 1846}

Lieut H. B. Watson  
Comdg the Military in  
Charge at the Yerba Buena

Monday, 20 July 1846

Lieutenant Henry Watson to Captain John Montgomery

Sir: Marine Barracks, Yerba Buena, July 20th 1846  
The guard and patrol have been vigilant in the discharge of their duties during the last twenty-four hours, and several arrests have been made of persons who have violated the peace and good order of the place. A Mr. Smith who keeps a shoemakers establishment and grog shop, for fighting and having a disorderly house. Also Mr. Patterson and Elick both persons either partners or employed by Smith in his establishment. A sailor belonging to the Vandalia

Barnstable was concerned in the fight, this man can be identified by one of the witnesses present at the time. A sailor belonging to the Vandalia Barnstable was arrest[ed] in the night, being found by the watch Drunk and lying in the street. An Indian was arrested and confined yesterday evening for an assault and battery upon an Indian woman. The negro Alias confined in double Irons for insolence and drawing a knife on the Consul. I have reason to believe that both Midshipmen Johnson and Parish were persuaded to the house of this man Smith, by Smith himself, and they being under the influence of liquor, brought on the fight in a quarrel with this man. The shop of this man Smith is a very low and dirty concern to which I am informed sailor's generally resort, and that these rows and fights are very common. The Indians are furnished liquor from these public nuisances and the sabbath seems to be the day set apart by these ignorant beings for drinking carousing and fighting. There were several arrivals in the place yesterday, but most of them were temporary visits. There has been no hostile appearance or suspicious individuals in or about the place; and with the exception of the above internal disturbances the place remains quiet. I deem it improper for me to leave the Barracks this morning and consequently the reason of my not coming on board. I am Sir, [&c.]

Countersign

"Porter"

Lieut H. B. Watson  
Comdg the Military in  
Charge at the Yerba Buena

Lieutenant Henry Watson to Captain John Montgomery

Sir: Marine Barracks, Yerba Buena, July 20th 1846  
I have waited upon the Alcalda in company with the Consul and requested him to assist as one of the judges in the trial of the prisoners. He replies, "That he does not speak one word of English nor understand a single word, and he does not see what possible benefit he could be, that if he could be of any service, that he would assist with pleasure, but as he cannot, he wishes to be excused." I am Sir, [&c.]

Lieut H. B. Watson  
Comdg the Military in  
Charge at the Yerba Buena

P. S. There appears to be a mistake in my Report of this morning as to the ship these two sailor's belong to, I endeavored to find out, and was told that it was the Vandalia. But I find this morning that they both belong to the Barnstable. I am Sir, [&c.]

Lieut H. B. Watson  
Comdg the Military in  
Charge at the Yerba Buena

Tuesday, 21 July 1846

Lieutenant Henry Watson to Captain John Montgomery

Sir: Marine Barracks, Yerba Buena, July 21st 1846  
The place has been quiet for the last twenty-four hours, There was three arrivals in the place yesterday of Mexicans who have not been in before since the change in the government. The Prisoners, Smith, Elick and Patterson were permitted by the Court which assembled here on yesterday to go to their houses, they entered into surity for their appearance this morning at ten o'clock. Wm. A. Lundsdooff being surity. The sailor Charles Phillips from the Barnstable was permitted to return on board his ship, the master of said ship being responsible for his appearance this morning at ten o'clock. The Indian confined on the 19th was yesterday tried by the Court. He was dismissed yesterday evening with an admonition to do better for the future. The sailor Charles Cushing was also tried, admonished and released on yesterday. The Negro Elias was tried, but the Court not having come to a decision, the prisoner was remanded and placed in double irons. I am Sir, [&c.]

Coutersign  
"Perry"

Lieut H. B. Watson  
Comdg the Military in  
Charge at the Yerba Buena

Wednesday, 22 July 1846

Lieutenant Henry Watson to Captain John Montgomery

Sir: Marine Barracks, Yerba Buena, July 22nd 1846  
The place continues quiet and peaceable. I enclose you the copy of a passport given to Davis Gajiola and George Talavar two men which arrived at this place from Sonoma on the 20th. Don Francisco Sanchez staid in the village last night. The Prisoners Thomas Smith, John Elick, George Patterson and Charles Phillips were all brought before the Court on yesterday, when I received an order from the Court to discharge the prisoners, Francis Elias is still confined in double irons on bread and water. I am Sir, [&c.]

Courtersign  
"Sloat"

Lt. H. B. Watson  
Comdg the Military in  
Charge at the Yerba Buena

Passport to Davis Gajiola

The bearer Davis Gajiola has permission to pass to his farm at Saint Johns to proceed with his own business thereon without molestation.  
Yerba Buena  
July 21st 1846

H. B. Watson  
Comdg the Military in  
Charge at the Yerba Buena

Passport to George Talavar,

The bearer George Talavar has permission to pass to the farm of

Don Jose Amestes to proceed with his own business thereon without molestation.

Yerba Buena  
July 21st 1846

H. B. Watson  
Comdg the Military in  
Charge at the Yerba Buena

Lieutenant Henry Watson to Captain John Montgomery

Sir: Marine Barracks, Yerba Buena July 22nd 1846  
There is required to record the proceedings of the courts ordered to investigate charges brought against individuals which have been or may be taken up for a breach of peace, and other offenses against the peace and good order of the place.  
One Blank Book of three quires.

Lieut H. B. Watson  
Comdg: the Military in  
Charge at the Yerba Buena

Thursday, 23 July 1846

Lieutenant Henry Watson to Captain John Montgomery

Sir: Marine Barrack, Yerba Buena July 23rd 1846  
The place continues quiet and peaceable. There were two arrivals on yesterday from Napper [Napa] Valley, both Americans. I enclose herewith the copy of a passport given by me to Bruno Valencia and son. This man is a resident of the Yerba Buena and has gone into the country to superintend the harvesting of his grain. Both the Patrol and the guard were vigilant during the night.

Francis Elias, Negro is a prisoner confined in single Irons by night. I am Sir, [&c.]

Countersign  
"Polk"

Lt. H. B. Watson  
Comdg the Military in  
Charge at the Yerba Buena

Passport to Bruno Valencia & son

The bearer Bruno Valencia and his son has permission to pass to Santa Clara and the rancho of the Indian Indigo to attend to his own business without molestation.

Yerba Buena  
July 22nd 1846

Lieut. H. B. Watson  
Comdg: the Military in  
Charge at the Yerba Buena

Lieutenant Henry Watson to Captain John Montgomery

Sir: Marine Barracks, Yerba Buena, July 23rd 1846  
The case of William Tilton, a Negro, which I mentioned to you this morning, seems to be this. That he Tilton stole from a citizen of this place by the name of Spears, two shirts, a bed spread and serappa. Mr. Spears had him taken before the Alcaldia and tried upon the charge of stealing, he was found guilty, and I learn sen-

tenced to six months labor upon the public works, the night of the day on which his trial took place, he Tilton was lock up in the Calebouse, from which he effected his escape and was not again apprehended until the 8th of July 1846. Mr. Spears has recovered the two shirts and bed spread, but has neither recovered the serappa or the pay for it. He says that it was worth eighteen dollars. The man Tilton has been living with the Alcaldia ever since the date of his re-apprehension. I am Sir, [&c.]

Lieut H. B. Watson  
Comdg the Military in  
Charge at Y. Buena

Friday, 24 July 1846

Lieutenant Henry Watson to Captain John Montgomery

Sir: Marine Barracks, Yerba Buena, July 24th 1846  
The place continues quiet, and the people are returning to this place with much apparent confidence. There were several arrivals here on yesterday of persons who resided here previous to the commencement of hostilities on the part of the Americans. The Guard and Patrol have been vigilant during the night. The Prisoner Elias reported sick yesterday morning, I sent him down to the fort, but he was sent back, having seen the Surgeon of the ship, He reports this morning that he is too unwell to work. I am Sir, [&c.]

Countersign  
"Oregon,"

Lieut H. B. Watson  
Comdg the Military in  
Charge at Y. Buena

Saturday, 25 July 1846

Lieutenant Henry Watson to Captain John Montgomery

Sir: Marine Barracks, Yerba Buena, July 25th 1846  
There has nothing of importance transpired since my last report. Some few persons have visited the place during the past twenty-four hours, The guard and patrol have been vigilant, & every thing appears peaceable. The prisoner Francis Elias reports himself much better this morning, and says that he can go to work. I shall send him to the Fort immediately after Breakfast. I am Sir, [&c.]

Countersign  
"Texas"

Lieut. H. B. Watson  
Comdg: the Military in  
Charge at the Y. Buena

Sunday, 26 July 1846

Lieutenant Henry Watson to Captain John Montgomery

Sir: Marine Barracks, Yerba Buena July 26th 1846  
There has nothing of importance transpired since my last report. One Private of Marines taken sick and sent on board ship yesterday.

The Guard and patrol have been vigilant in the discharge of their duties, and the place remains quiet. I am Sir, [&c.]

Countersign  
Columbia

Lieut H. B. Watson  
Comdg the Military in  
Charge at the Y. Buena

**Monday, 27 July 1846**

Lieutenant Henry Watson to Captain John Montgomery

Sir: Marine Barracks, Yerba Buena July 27th 1846  
There has nothing of importance transpired during the past twenty-four hours. And there has no riotous or disorderly conduct come to my knowledge. I observed two or three persons in the streets yesterday who were under influence of Drink, but they were quiet and inoffensive. The Guard and patrol have been vigilant in the discharge of their duties. I am Sir, [&c.]

Countersign  
"Stockton"

Lieut H. B. Watson  
Comdg the Military in  
Charge at the Y. Buena

**Tuesday, 28 July 1846**

Lieutenant Henry Watson to Captain John Montgomery

Sir: Marine Barracks, Yerba Buena July 28th 1846  
There has nothing worthy of note transpired since my last report. The place remained quiet and orderly. The Guard and patrol are vigilant in the discharge of their duties. I am Sir, [&c.]

Countersign  
Washington

Lieut H. B. Watson  
Comdg the Military in  
Charge at the Yerba Buena

**Wednesday, 29 July 1846**

Lieutenant Henry Watson to Captain John Montgomery

Sir: Marine Barracks, Yerba Buena July 29th 1846  
There has nothing of importance transpired since my last report. The place continues quiet and the guard and patrol are vigilant in the discharge of their duties. I am Sir, [&c.]

Countersign  
"Adams"

Lieut H. B. Watson  
Comdg: the Military in  
Charge at the Yerba Buena

**Thursday, 30 July 1846**

Lieutenant Henry Watson to Captain John Montgomery

Sir: Marine Barracks, Yerba Buena July 30th 1846  
There has nothing new to transpired since my last report. There were a few arrivals in the place on yesterday, and a courier

from Monterey. The place continues quiet and the guard and Patrol are vigilant and attentive in the discharge of their duties. I am Sir, [&c.]

Countersign  
"Jefferson"

Lieut H. B. Watson  
Comdg the Military in  
Charge at the Yerba Buena

Received from the U.S.S. Portsmouth July 30th 1846, The following articles, all of which is damaged. To wit. Nine Lances with staves, eight Lances without staves, Twelve Lance staves, eight muskets stock and barrel, Forty six Bayonets, seven Locks, Two Carbines.

Friday, 31 July 1846

Lieutenant Henry Watson to Captain John Montgomery

Sir: Marine Barrack, Yerba Buena July 31st 1846  
There has been no change, and nothing of importance has transpired since my last report. A Courier arrived from Monterey last night and was sent immediately on board the ship. The Guard and patrol have been vigilant in the discharge of their duties. I am Sir, [&c.]

Countersign  
"Madison"

Lieut H. B. Watson  
Comdg the Military in  
Charge at the Yerba Buena

Saturday, 1 August 1846

Lieutenant Henry Watson to Captain John Montgomery

Sir: Marine Barracks, Yerba Buena August 1st 1846  
Every thing remains quiet and peaceable, and there has been no change or any occurrence of importance since my last report. The Guard and patrol have been vigilant in the discharge of their duties. I am Sir, [&c.]

Countersign  
"Monroe"

Lieut H. B. Watson  
Comdg the Military in  
Charge at the Yerba Buena

Lieutenant Henry Watson to Captain John Montgomery

Sir: Marine Barracks, Yerba Buena August 1st 1846  
It becomes my duty to report Corporal William Smith of the Marine guard for Drunkenness. I have observed him twice before this, since I have been on shore, under the influence of liquor, but in consequence of his age and the great length of time he has been in the service, I took no farther notice of it, than to restrict him to the Barracks and admonish him to be more prudent for the future. Yesterday evening, he left the Barracks without permission and returned very much intoxicated, so much so as to require to be carried to his bed, he was for guard last night, but in consequence

of his Drunkenness I was compelled to make a private, acting Corporal who discharged the duties under my personal superintendence. I would respectfully ask that Corporal Wm. Smith be reduced to the rank of a Private, for Drunkenness and unsoldierlike conduct, And that Private Erastus A Burnham be promoted to the rank of a Corporal. I am Sir, [&c.]

Lieut H. B. Watson  
Comdg the Military in  
Charge at the Yerba Buena

**Sunday, 2 August 1846**

Lieutenant Henry Watson to Captain John Montgomery

Sir: Marine Barrack, Yerba Buena August 2nd 1846  
There is no change, and every thing remains quiet and orderly. There were some arrivals on yesterday, and several persons came in from the surrounding country;--The Patrol did not go on Guard last night until after ten o'clock, I sent for the Commanding Officer, Capt Andrews, to enquire the cause. It seems that he had caused the persons whose duty it was to look for the men who formed the patrol for the night and who also had charge of the Patrol for las[t] night, to be notified that it was his night for guard. This man gave as an excuse that if he had been notified he had forgotten it. Both Capt Andrews and the person in charge of the patrol, expressed considerable mortification that this should have happened and assured me that it should not occur again. The guard have been vigilant in the discharge of their duties. I am &c.

Countersign  
"Jackson"

Lieut H. B. Watson  
Comdg the Military in  
Charge at the Y. Buena

**Monday, 3 August 1846**

Lieutenant Henry Watson to Captain John Montgomery

Sir: Marine Barracks, Yerba Buena August 3rd 1846  
There was no riotous or disorderly conduct in the town during the past twenty-four hours, and with the exception of the firing of pistols by a man by the name of [Samuel] Brannan, who I believe is the leader of the emmigrants which recently arrived at this place, there has been nothing occurred calculated to disturb the peace and quiet of the place.\* Mr. Brannan, was standing in the Consuls corridor and firing his pistols at the door of the necessary, in the yard of Mr. Ridley. I stopped him and told him of the impropriety of such conduct. He says that he was not aware, that it was against the regulations of the place, I am informed that this same man in

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\*Some 200 Mormons, under the guidance of Elder Samuel Brannan, arrived at Yerba Buena on board the ship Brooklyn on 1 August, intent on settling in California.



company with some officer from the ship rode out to the Mission yesterday evening & amused themselves by ringing the Church bells. I have not yet been able to find out who the officer was. The Guard and patrol have been vigilant in the discharge of their duties. I am Sir [&c.]

Countersign  
Calhoun

Lieut H. B. Watson  
Comdg the Military in  
Charge at the Yerba Buena

**Tuesday, 4 August 1846**

Lieutenant Henry Watson to Captain John Montgomery

Sir: Marine Barracks, Yerba Buena August 4th 1846  
There has been no change or any disturbance in the place since my last report, There were some arrivals yesterday. The Guard and patrol have been vigilant in the discharge of their duties. I am Sir &c.

Countersign  
"Clay"

Lieut H. B. Watson  
Comdg the Military in  
Charge at the Y. Buena

**Wednesday, 5 August 1846**

Lieutenant Henry Watson to Captain John Montgomery

Sir: Marine Barracks, Yerba Buena August 5th 1846  
The place remains quiet, and there has been no occurrence worthy of note during the past twenty-four hours. The Guard and patrol have been vigilant during the night. There were some few persons arrested in the first part of the night, but they were all inoffensive individuals mostly of the emmigrant party. They were warned not to be caught out again after hours and permitted to go home. I am Sir [&c.]

Countersign  
"Cass"

Lieut H. B. Watson  
Comdg the Military in  
Charge at the Y. Buena

**Thursday, 6 August 1846**

Lieutenant Henry Watson to Captain John Montgomery

Sir: Marine Barracks, Yerba Buena August 6th 1846  
There has been no change or occurrence worthy of note since my last report. A courier arrived from the Peubla san jose. The Guard and patrol have been vigilant in the discharge of their duties. I am Sir, [&c.]

Countersign  
"Webster"

Lieut H. B. Watson  
Comdg the Military in  
Charge at the Yerba Buena

Friday, 7 August 1846

Lieutenant Henry Watson to Captain John Montgomery

Sir: Marine Barracks, Yerba Buena August 7th 1846  
The detachment under the command of purser Watmaugh left yesterday morning for Santa Clara. A man by the name of Smith who came as a courier from Sonoma was arrested for violating the regulations of the place, by firing a pistol within the limits of the town, when arrested he was intoxicated. He was released upon your order after he became sober. An Indian was arrested yesterday upon the complaint of Mrs. [Sarah] Kettleman. The case is this, the Indian passing in the street near the residence of this Lady and near where she was at the time standing, he seized or snatched out of her hand a shawl with which he ran off. I had him pursued and arrested, he had the shawl in his hand when he was taken, he is now confined in double irons. Francis Elias who has been confined since the 19th of July was this morning set at liberty by your order. Pass Midshipman and acting Master Harrison of the Portsmouth, violated the regulation of the place on yesterday by firing a gun in one of the streets of the town. With the above exceptions, every thing remains quiet and peaceable. The Guard and patrol have been vigilant in the discharge of their duties. I am Sir, [&c.]

Countersign  
"Gaston"

Lieut H. B. Watson  
Comdg the Military in  
Charge at the Y. Buena

Saturday, 8 August 1846

Lieutenant Henry Watson to Captain John Montgomery

Sir: Marine Barracks, Yerba Buena August 8th 1846  
There has nothing worthy of note occurred since my last report. The court assembled at these Barracks on yesterday and proceeded to the trial of the Indian now in confinement. The Guard and patrol have been vigilant in the discharge of their duties. I am Sir, [&c.]

Countersign  
"Standley"

Lieut H. B. Watson  
Comdg the Military in  
Charge at the Y. Buena

Lieutenant Henry Watson to Captain John Montgomery

Sir: Marine Barracks, Yerba Buena August 8th 1846  
There is required for the use of the public service at the Marine Barracks, the following stationary.

Four quires of Foolscap paper  
Twelve quills  
One small vial of Ink

Very Respectfully, [&c.]

Lieut H. B. Watson  
Comdg the Military in  
Charge at the Y. Buena

Sunday, 9 August 1846

Lieutenant Henry Watson to Captain John Montgomery

Sir: Marine Barracks, Yerba Buena August 9th 1846  
There has been no change or any occurrence worthy of note since my last report. The small house near the beach and on the path to the landing used as a grog shop, was closed and all the liquors removed yesterday evening in compliance with your order. There were three Launches arrived last night, the first from Nappa, the 2nd from sonoma and the last from sacramento, by these different Boats there were a number of persons arrived in the place. The Guard and patrol have been vigilant during the night in the discharge of their duties. I am &c.

Countersign  
"Haywood"

Lieut H. B. Watson  
Comdg the Military in  
Charge at the Y. Buena

Monday, 10 August 1846

Lieutenant Henry Watson to Captain John Montgomery

Sir: Marine Barracks, Yerba Buena August 10th 1846  
The place has been quiet, and there has been no riotous or disorderly conduct within my knowledge during the past twenty-four hours. Enclosed you will find the Copy of a passport granted to Mr Josiah Beldin. There were four Indians arrested and brought to the Barracks last night. They were found on the beach by sentinel No. 3, about half past one o'clock, they were endeavoring to get on board of the schooner which came down from the sacramento on saturday evening. A man by the name of John Thomas who says that he is the Carpenter of the ship Brooklyn was found at half past twelve last night trying to launch a boat from the beach, he was taken prisoner and brought to the Barracks. These persons are still confined. The Guard and the patrol have been vigilant in the discharge of their duties. I am Sir [&c.]

Countersign  
"Macon"

Lieut H. B. Watson  
Comdg the Military in  
Charge at the Yerba Buena

Passport for Josiah Beldin

Permit the bearer Josiah Beldin with a Boat called the Don Quixotte and two men to pass to Sau Salito and to return to this place.

Yerba Buena  
August 9th 1846

H. B. Watson  
Comdg: the Military in  
Charge at the Yerba Buena

Tuesday, 11 August 1846

Lieutenant Henry Watson to Captain John Montgomery

Sir: Marine Barracks, Yerba Buena August 11th 1846  
There has nothing of importance occurred since my last report. Four Indians and John Thomas who were found at a late hour in the streets the night before last, were released yesterday morning by your order. Fernando Ferres the Indian recently convicted of Theft and sentenced to one dozen lashes, was yesterday punished and given one hour to leave the town. Two couriers arrived in the last twenty-four hours, both from the Puebla san jose. The Guard and patrol have been vigilant in the discharge of their duties. Enclosed you will find the copy of two passports granted yesterday to the persons therein named.

I am Sir [&c.]

Countersign  
"Saunders"

Lieut H. B. Watson  
Comdg the Military in  
Charge at the Y. Buena

Copy

Permit the bearer Edward Riely to pass to the Contra Coasta and the Puebla san jose without molestation.

Yerba Buena  
August 10th 1846

H. B. Watson  
Comdg the Military in  
Charge at the Yerba Buena

Copy

Permit the bearer Samuel Brannan with a whale Boat and three men to pass to the rancho of Victor Castro and to return, without molestation.

Yerba Buena  
August 10th 1846

H. B. Watson  
Comdg: the Military in  
Charge at the Y. Buena

Wednesday, 12 August 1846

Lieutenant Henry Watson to Captain John Montgomery

Sir: Marine Barracks, Yerba Buena August 12th 1846  
The place remains quiet and tranquil and there has nothing of importance transpired in the last twenty-four hours. About two o'clock last night a Mexican by the name of Antonia Desolder, was arrested near the Alcaldia residence, as near as I can learn his case seems to be this. Some time in the afternoon yesterday, he went into the country to carry some oxen, and when arrested was on his return to his house in this place. He has conducted himself with respectful subordination since he has been confined. This man is named John Alexander instead of Antonia Desolder. The Guard and patrol have been vigilant during the night. Enclosed you will find the copy of some passports granted yesterday. I am Sir [&c.]

Countersign  
"Raleigh"

Lieut H. B. Watson  
Comdg the Military, &c,  
&c.

Copy

Permit the bearer Wm. Lumsdale to pass to Santa Clara or the Puebla san jose without molestation.

Marine Barracks, Yerba Buena

August 11th 1846

H. B. Watson

Comdg: The Military &c.

Copy

Permit the bearer Wm. O'Connor to pass to Santa Clara and the Puebla san jose without molestation.

Marine Barracks, Yerba Buena

August 11th 1846

H. B. Watson

Comdg: The Military &c,  
&c.

Copy.

Permit the bearer Wm. H. Davis accompanied by his servant to pass to Santa Clara, Santa Cruz and Monterey without molestation.

Marine Barracks, Yerba Buena

August 11th 1846

H. B. Watson

Comdg the Military in  
Charge at the Y. Buena

Lieutenant Henry Watson to Captain John Montgomery

Sir: Marine Barracks, Yerba Buena August 12th 1846

A man by the name of Elisha Hyatt was this morning apprehended, brought to the Barracks and placed in confinement charged with having broken the lock of a Trunk; and afterwards of stealing the said Trunk, and also of taking a set of curtains from the store room of a house in which he was then staying, which was not his property, and taking the said curtains off with intent to steal them. It appears that the young lady Miss Eeger who is charged with a participation in the taking of the curtains, has had no other connection with the matter than to assist this man at his request in taking the curtains down and pinning them up around the bed of the said. His Hyatt's wife being very much indisposed. X I am Sir [&c.]

H. B. Watson

Comdg the Military &c.

X The above named Elisha Hyatt was arrested upon the information of Samuel Brannan.

Thursday, 13 August 1846

Lieutenant Henry Watson to Captain John Montgomery

Sir: Marine Barracks, Yerba Buena August 13th 1846

John Alexander who was arrested the night previous was released yesterday morning by your order. Gilman Hook a boy belonging to the Sloop of War Portsmouth, was arrested yesterday evening and confined, for violating the regulations of the place, by firing a gun in the town, with the above exception the place continues quiet and peaceable. Enclosed you will find the copies of several passports granted yesterday to the persons therein named. The Guard and

patrol have been vigilant in the discharge of their duties. I am  
Sir [&c.]

Countersign  
"Boston"

Lieut H. B. Watson  
Comdg: the Military in  
Charge at the Yerba Buena

Copy

Permit the bearer Jackson Bennett to pass to Santa Clara and  
Santa Cruz without molestation.

Marine Barracks  
Yerba Buena  
August 12th 1846

H. B. Watson  
Comdg the Military in  
Charge at the Yerba Buena

Copy.

Permit the bearer Michael Sullivan to pass to the ranch of Mr  
Murphy without molestation.

Marine Barracks  
Yerba Buena  
August 12th 1846

H. B. Watson  
Comdg the Military in  
Charge at the Y. Buena

Copy, Permit the bearer Wm. Lee & his wife to pass to the farm of  
Victor Castro without molestation.

Marine Barracks  
Yerba Buena  
August 12th 1846

H. B. Watson  
Comdg the Military in  
Charge at the Y. Buena

Copy

Permit the bearer T[homas]. Tompkins and his family consisting  
of four persons to pass to the farm of Victor Castro without moles-  
tation.

Marine Barracks  
Yerba Buena  
August 12th 1846

H. B. Watson  
Comdg the Military in  
Charge at the Yerba Buena

Friday, 14 August 1846\*

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\*Included among Lieutenant Watson's papers is a copy of a law  
concerning the sale of liquor at Yerba Buena:

A Law

Daily offenses against the peace and good order of the town of  
Yerba buena, resulting from the unrestricted, and intemperate use  
of Spirituous liquors furnished by retail venders of the same;  
demanding the adoption of effectual means of prevention: It is  
hereby ordered; that from & after this date no person within the  
town and environs of Yerba buena, shall vend or dispose of by retail;  
or in less quantity than one gallon; Alcoholic, or intoxicating  
drinks of any kind: And that all persons convicted of violating  
this Law shall be fined in a sum not exceeding ten dollars for each  
offense. The officer of the guard, will immediately proceed to  
give notice of this Law to the Keepers of grog shops, and stores in  
the town: The latter only, being permitted to keep for sale, and

Lieutenant Henry Watson to Captain John Montgomery

Sir: Marine Barracks, Yerba Buena August 14th 1846  
There were a number of persons on horseback seen in the immediate vicinity of the town last night in the first part of the night, and from their rapid movements, and appearance at different points, made it apparent that they were enemies. Sentinel No. 2 fired on a man whom he found near his post under suspicious circumstances. The man made his escape. Sentinel No. 3 fired upon a person whom he hailed and did not answer the summons. This man also escaped. By your order signal was made to the ship and a large reinforcement immediately sent on shore. The volunteers under Capt. Andrews as well as all male citizens repaired to the Barracks armed and equipped without delay. The necessary disposition was immediately made to prevent surprise and all the avenues leading into the town were properly secured and defended. The Prisoner Elisha Hyatt was permitted to go on board the ship Brooklin where his family is, Capt Richardson becoming responsible for his appearance. A sailor by the name of Dhu was found Drunk in the street last evening and brought to the Barracks and confined. A man by the name Fuller was arrested and confined last [night], he was Drunk and charged with abusing his wife. The above men were released this morning and the sailor sent on board the ship. A Detachment of nine men left this morning for Santa Clara. I am Sir [&c.]

Countersign  
"Ohio"

Lieut H. B. Watson  
Comdg the Military in  
Charge at the Y. Buena

Copy,  
Permit the bearer Leando Florres to pass to the Peubla san jose without molestation.

Marine Barracks  
Yerba Buena  
August 13th 1846

H. B. Watson  
Comdg the Military in  
Charge at the Yerba Buena

---

disposal intoxicating drinks in the manner herein prescribed and cause them to be closed forthwith.

Persons giving information to the officer of the guard against violation of this Law, shall receive one half of the fines recovered in such cases.

Given this 14th day of August in the year of our Lord 1846 By order of

Jno. B. Montgomery  
Commanding the U. S.  
Forces Bay of San  
Francisco &c. &c. &c.

Copy,

Permit the bearer Arno Maube to pass to the Peubla san jose without molestation accompanied by two Indians.

Marine Barracks  
Yerba Buena  
August 13th 1846

H. B. Watson  
Comdg the Military in  
Charge at the Yerba Buena

Copy

Permit the bearer Nicolas Lepage to pass to the Peubla san jose without molestation.

Marine Barracks  
Yerba Buena  
August 13th 1846

H. B. Watson  
Comdg the Military in  
Charge at the Yerba Buena

**Saturday, 15 August 1846**

Lieutenant Henry Watson to Captain John Montgomery

Sir: Marine Barracks, Yerba Buena August 15 1846

Every thing continues quiet and there has nothing occurred worthy of note during the past twenty-four hours. The guards & patrol were doubled last night, and two small field pieces placed in the most exposed parts of the town. Both the guards & patrol were vigilant in the discharge of their duties. A man by the name of John Alexander was arrested yesterday under a warrant issued by Mr. Bartlett one of the Alcaldas of the place, on the complaint of Francisco Cortes who charged the said John Alexander with feloniously taking a mare the property of the said Francisco Cortes. John Alexander is now in confinement. There were some few arrivals in the place on yesterday. I am Sir [&c.]

Countersign  
Baltimore

Lieut H. B. Watson  
Comdg: the Military in  
charge at Yerba buena

**Sunday, 16 August 1846**

Lieutenant Henry Watson to Captain John Montgomery

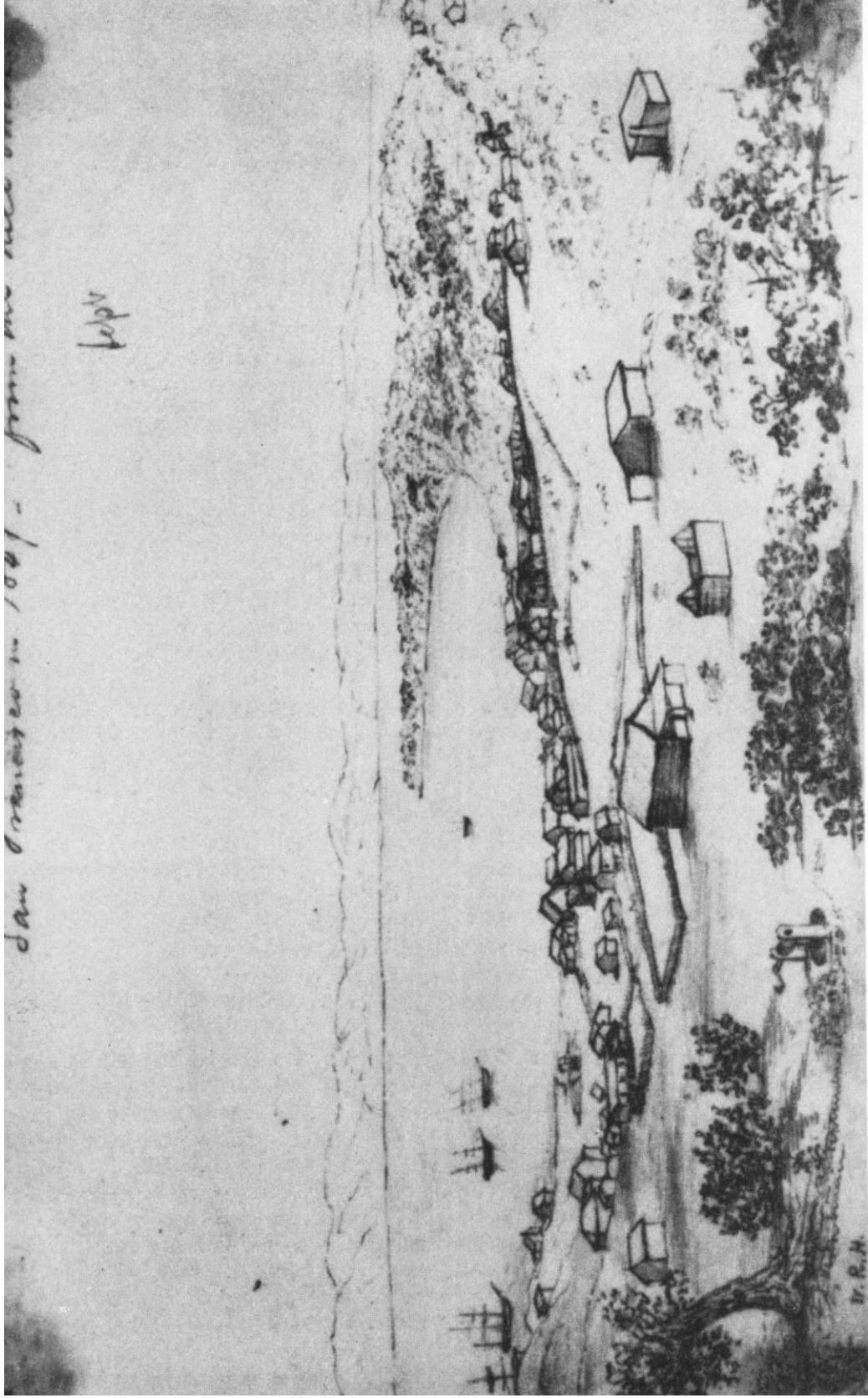
Sir: Marine Barracks, Yerba Buena August 16th 1846

The place remains quiet and nothing has transpired worthy of note during the past twenty-four hours. The Prisoners John Alexander and Gilman Hook were released by your order on yesterday, The law in relation to Boling Alleys and Billiard saloons has been published throughout the town, and been brought specially to the notice of the keepers of these different establishments. Enclosed you will find the copies of several passports granted yesterday to persons therein named. The Guard and patrols have been vigilant in the discharge of their duties. I am Sir [&c.]

Countersign  
"Potomac"

Lieut H. B. Watson  
Comdg the Military in  
charge at the Yerba Buena





"San Francisco from the hill back, September 1847," by William R. Hutton

Copy,

Permit the bearer James Duncan to pass to the Red woods and pursue his accustomed occupation without molestation.

Marine Barracks  
Yerba Buena  
August 15th 1846

H. B. Watson  
Comdg the Military in  
charge at the Yerba Buena

Copy Permit the bearer Samuel A. Grierson to pass to the Red woods and pursue his accustomed occupation without molestation.

Marine Barracks  
Yerba Buena  
August 15th 1846

H. B. Watson  
Comdg the Military in  
charge at the Y. Buena

Copy Permit the bearer John Lynch to pass to the Red Woods and pursue his accustomed occupation without molestation.

Marine Barracks  
Yerba Buena  
August 15th 1846

H. B. Watson  
Comdg the Military in  
charge at the y. Buena

(Copy) Permit the bearer Augustus Andrews and Robert Ridley to pass to the farm of Francisco Sanchez or its vicinity without molestation.

Marine Barracks  
Yerba Buena  
August 15th 1846

H. B. Watson  
Comdg the Military in  
charge at the y. Buena

Copy This certifies that the bearer Jesu Maria Castro has permission to pass from San Puebla to Sonoma and to return without molestation.

Marine Barracks  
Yerba Buena  
August 15th 1846

H. B. Watson  
Comdg the Military in  
charge at the y. Buena

Copy, Permit the bearer Guadalupe Macer to pass to Santa Clara without molestation.

Marine Barracks  
Yerba Buena  
August 15th 1846

H. B. Watson  
Comdg the Military in  
charge at the y. Buena

Copy Permit the bearer Edmund Sanchez to pass to Santa Clara without molestation.

Marine Barracks  
Yerba Buena  
August 15th 1846

H. B. Watson  
Comdg the Military in  
charge at the y. Buena

Monday, 17 August 1846

Lieutenant Henry Watson to Captain John Montgomery

Sir: Marine Barracks, Yerba Buena August 17th 1846  
The place remains quiet and there was no riotous or boistruous conduct come to my knowledge within the past twenty-four hours. A man by the name of [John B.] Cooper was arrested on yesterday for beating and maltreating his wife, he is still in confinement awaiting a hearing before the proper tribunal. Notwithstanding that a rigid police was kept up all day yesterday, I regret to inform you that there were some cases of inebriation. I detected one house in which they were selling liquor by the Glass, it was the house of Missrs. Smith, Elick & Couzens. These men have been permitted to go to their usual occupations this morning, on giving security for their appearance before the proper tribunal. The Guard and patrols have been vigilant during the night in the discharge of their duties. I am Sir [&c.]

Countersign  
Richmond

Lieut H. B. Watson  
Comdg: the Military in  
charge at the y. Buena

Tuesday, 18 August 1846

Lieutenant Henry Watson to Captain John Montgomery

Sir: Marine Barracks, Yerba Buena August 18th 1846  
The place continues perfectly quiet and tranquil. There were a few arrivals on yesterday. John Cooper who was confined for maltreating his wife was yesterday put at liberty by order of the Magistrate Court as there was no [one who] appeared against him. Enclosed you will find copies of two passports granted yesterday. The Guard and patrols have been vigilant in the discharge of their duties. I am Sir [&c.]

Countersign  
"Liberty"

Lieut H. B. Watson  
Comdg the Military in  
charge at the Yerba Buena

Copy, Permit the bearer Samuel Brannan with Men to pass and repass they being in search of lands upon which to locate themselves.

Marine Barracks  
Yerba Buena  
August 17th 1846

H. B. Watson  
Comdg the Military in  
charge at the Yerba Buena

Copy, Permit the bearer Doctor Edward Bale to pass to his farm in Nappa valley without molestation.

Marine Barracks  
Yerba Buena  
August 17th 1846

H. B. Watson  
Comdg: the Military in  
charge at the y. Buena

Wednesday, 19 August 1846

Lieutenant Henry Watson to Captain John Montgomery

Sir: Marine Barracks, Yerba Buena August 19th 1846  
There has been no change since my last report and the place continues quiet. A sailor by the name of George Benton was brought to the Barracks yesterday evening and confined by the direction of the Alcaldia before whom he was being examined, he is charged with refusing duty and mutinous words on board the Tasso. About one o'clock last night a considerable noise and confusion was heard in and about the premises of Mr. Ridley. The Corporal of the Guard immediately proceeded to the place and found the house had caught fire. It was extinguished with very little trouble. In consequence of the neglect of the officer whose duty it was to warn persons for patrol last night from the volunteer company organized in this place, there was none. Capt Andrews has assured me that a strict inquiry shall be had into the case, and such derelictions guarded against in future. The volunteer patrol from the emigrants was proposeful and vigilant in the discharge of their duties. The Guard have been strict and attentive to their duties. I am Sir [&c.]

Countersign  
"Columbia"

Lieut H. B. Watson  
Comdg the Military in  
charge at the y. Buena

Thursday, 20 August 1846

Lieutenant Henry Watson to Captain John Montgomery

Sir: Marine Barracks, Yerba Buena August 20th 1846  
There has nothing of note transpired since my last report. Several persons arrived during the day yesterday. Enclosed you will find copies of two passports granted yesterday to persons therein named. The Guard and patrols have been vigilant in the discharge of their duties. I am Sir [&c.]

Countersign  
"Mason"

Lieut H. B. Watson  
Comdg the Military in  
charge at the y. Buena

(Copy) Permit the bearer John Mackey to pass to Sau Salito without molestation.

Marine Barracks  
Yerba Buena  
August 19th 1846

H. B. Watson  
Comdg: the Military in  
charge at the y. Buena

(Copy) Permit the bearer Antonio Y'nozora to pass to the Puebla san jose without molestation.

Marine Barracks  
Yerba Buena  
August 19th 1846

H. B. Watson  
Comdg the Military in  
charge at the y. Buena

Friday, 21 August 1846

Lieutenant Henry Watson to Captain John Montgomery

Sir: Marine Barracks, Yerba Buena August 21st 1846  
The place continues quiet. There were some few arrivals yesterday. Enclosed you will find copies of two passports granted to the persons therein named. The Guard and patrols have been vigilant during the night. I am Sir [&c.]

Countersign  
Sonoma

Lieut H. B. Watson  
Comdg: the Military in  
charge at the y. Buena

(Copy)

Permit the bearer P. T. Scherreback to pass to the Red woods and to return to this place without molestation.

Marine Barracks  
Yerba Buena  
August 20th 1846

H. B. Watson  
Comdg: the Military in  
charge at the y. Buena

(Copy) Permit the bearer Bernard Nullner to pass to Santa Clara and the Peubla san jose and to return to this place without molestation.

Marine Barracks  
Yerba Buena  
August 20th 1846

H. B. Watson  
Comdg: the Military in  
charge at the y. Buena

Saturday, 22 August 1846

Lieutenant Henry Watson to Captain John Montgomery

Sir: Marine Barracks, Yerba Buena August 22nd 1846  
There has been no change since my last report. There were quite a number of arrivals on yesterday. Enclosed you will find the copy of a passport given to Theodosia Florries. The Guard and patrols have been vigilant in the discharge of their duties. I am Sir [&c.]

Countersign  
"Marion"

Lieut H. B. Watson  
Comdg: the Military in  
charge at the y. Buena

(Copy)

Permit the bearer Theodosia Florries to pass the Peubla san jose without molestation.

Marine Barracks  
Yerba Buena  
August 21st 1846

H. B. Watson  
Comdg the Military in  
charge at the y. Buena

Sunday, 23 August 1846

Lieutenant Henry Watson to Captain John Montgomery

Sir: Marine Barracks, Yerba Buena August 23rd 1846  
There has been no change since my last report and the place continues quiet. Enclosed you will find copies of two passports which were granted yesterday to persons therein named. The Guard and patrol have been vigilant in the discharge of their duties. I am Sir [&c.]

Countersign  
"Lee"

Lieut H. B. Watson  
Comdg the Military in  
charge at the y. Buena

(Copy)

Permit the bearer Herbert Petit to pass to the Peubla san jose and Santa Cruz without molestation.

Marine Barracks  
Yerba Buena  
August 22nd 1846

H. B. Watson  
Comdg the Military in  
charge at the Yerba Buena

Copy

Permit the bearer Issac Graham to pass to Santa Cruz without molestation.

Marine Barracks  
Yerba Buena  
August 22nd 1846

H. B. Watson  
Comdg the Military in  
charge at the Yerba Buena

Monday, 24 August 1846

Lieutenant Henry Watson to Captain John Montgomery

Sir: Marine Barracks, Yerba Buena August 24th 1846  
The place continues quiet and peaceable. There were several arrivals yesterday, from different parts of the country. Enclosed you will find copies of three passports granted during the past twenty-four hours. The Guard and patrols have been vigilant in the discharge of their duties. There is one prisoner still confined in the Barracks, a sailor by the name of George Benton belonging to the Merchant ship "Tasso" he was confined on the 18th inst for further examination before the Alcaldia. I would respectfully ask that he may be finally adjudged and disposed off as there is no room in the Barracks suitable or convenient for keeping prisoners securely for any length of time. And the room in which he is now kept, is the only one in which I can place the civil or volunteer patrols at night. I am Sir [&c.]

Countersign  
"Delaware"

Lieut H. B. Watson  
Comdg the Military in  
charge at the y. Buena

(Copy) Permit the bearer George W. Bellomy to pass to Santa Clara without molestation.

Marine Barracks  
Yerba Buena  
August 23rd 1846

H. B. Watson  
Comdg: the Military in  
charge at the Yerba Buena

(Copy) Permit the bearer John Coppinger to pass to his farm without molestation.

Marine Barracks  
Yerba Buena  
August 23rd 1846

H. B. Watson  
Comdg: the Military in  
charge at the y. Buena

(Copy)

This is to certify that the bearer Antonio Maria Pico and his servant, has permission to pass to Sau Salito, San Raphael and sonoma without molestation.

Marine Barracks  
Yerba Buena  
August 24th 1846

H. B. Watson  
Comdg: the Military in  
charge at the y. Buena

Lieutenant Henry Watson to Purser James Watmough

Sir: Marine Barracks, Yerba Buena August 24th 1846

I enclose you herewith the enlistment of four men. John Harrison is now sick, but will be sent up as soon as he is well enough. Isaiah Mathery, Capt. Montgomery intends keeping at this post. I will thank you to return me receipts for one muskets complete and the cartridges Boxes and belts, with eighteen rounds of ball cartridges in each box. I am [&c.]

To James H. Watmough  
Comdg: The Military Post  
at Santa Clara

H. B. Watson  
Comdg the Military in  
charge at the y. Buena

Tuesday, 25 August 1846

Lieutenant Henry Watson to Captain John Montgomery

Sir: Marine Barracks, Yerba Buena August 25th 1846

There were several persons arrested in the town yesterday for riotous and disorderly conduct. John Mackey and Basil Corvil was arrested for fighting. It appears that John Mackey had cut up some tobacco with which to fill his pipe and left it lying on the counter in a house kept by Thomas Smith & Co. Corvil took the said tobacco and filled his own pipe with it, when Mackey inquired who stold his tobacco, Carvil said he had taken it, and pulled a dollar out of his pocket and threw it down upon the counter, which he charges Mackey with taking, this led to the fight between them. Mackey was considerably under the influence of liquor and the other man had been drinking. Thomas Smith was arrested for having riotous and disorderly conduct in his house. After his arrest he threatened

me with a prosecution for having arrested him, and was extremely insolent.--Samuel Parker a sailor belonging to the Portsmouth was found drunk in the streets last night, he was brought to the Barracks and confined, he was very noisy and troublesome. Charles Middleton a sailor belonging to the ship "Tasso" was confined yesterday charged with Perjury. Private Phillip McGowen was brought to the Barracks, having overstaid his liberty, he was confined being drunk and mutinous. I respectfully request permission to give him one dozen with the cats, and to keep him on double duty for ten days. With the above exceptions the place has been quiet and orderly. There were several arrivals yesterday from different parts of the country. Two men were transferred to Santa Clara this morning with their arms and accoutrements. In compliance with your order, I this morning obtained a search warrent from the Alcalda and searched the premises of Thomas Smith & Co. I found a large quantity of empty bottles in which there had been various kinds of liquors, and one full jug of Gin which I took. Smith & Co. profess to keep a boarding house, which they have opened without permission so far as I can learn. There were a number of persons assembled in and about this house during the day yesterday, and although I have no positive evidence of there having been liquors disposed of there, yet I am convinced that there was as one of the proprietors whom I charged with it this morning, said I must not deal harshly with them, for he could not help it. This name is named Elick. The Guard and patrol have been vigilant in the discharge of their duties. I am Sir [&c.]

Countersign  
America

Lieut H. B. Watson  
Comdg the Military in  
charge at the y. Buena

(Copy) Permit the bearer Jesus Rodriques to pass to Santa Clara without molestation.

Marine Barracks  
Yerba Buena  
August 24th 1846

H. B. Watson  
Comdg the Military in  
charge at the y. Buena

Lieutenant Henry Watson to Lieutenant Washington Bartlett

Sir: Marine Barracks, Yerba Buena August 25th 1846

By the direction of the Comdr. in Chief of this district, I have to report the following cases, to wit.

Thomas Smith for having riotous and disorderly conduct in his house, and for threatening me with a prosecution for having arrested him, and for being disrespectful and insolent.

John Mackey for being Drunk, riotous and fighting. This man is also charged by Basil Corvil with stealing a dollar.

Basil Corvil for being riotous and fighting.

All the above offenses took places in the house of the said Thomas Smith, in the presence of Charles Brown, Wm. Swimburn and Wm. Lumsdale and others then and there present in the house of the said Smith.



They were arrested yesterday evening & placed in confinement, where they still are subject to your requisition. I am Sir [&c.]  
To Washington A. Bartlette                      Lieut H. B. Watson  
Alcalda of the Yerba Buena                      Comdg the Military in  
District of San Francisco                      charge at the y. Buena

Lieutenant Henry Watson to Captain John Montgomery

Sir:                      Marine Barracks, Yerba Buena Augt. 25 1846  
A man by the name of Thomas Smith has thrice been brought before the authorities of this place, within the past weeks, charged with violating the laws of the place, and keeping a disorderly house.-- The first occurance on the 20th of July, at which time, two Midshipmen were engaged in a row which took place in his Smiths house, and in which Smith himself was engaged. The second offence was committed on the 17th of Augt. when he the said Smith did violate the law published on the 15th of Aug. by selling intoxicating drinks by the glass.

The third offence was committed on yesterday in which he the said Smith did permit in his house riot disorder and fighting. And when arrested and brought to the Guard house yesterday evening he the said Smith questioned me in the most insolent maner and did ask me, by what authority I presumed to arrest him, and retain him at the Guard house, stating at the same time that he would prosecute me to the fullest extent of the law, and see whether I had Authority to detain him or not. These things he repeated among the men, and reiterated them again this morning in the hearing of one of the non-commissioned officers adding a threat in relation to me. In fact the only disturbance which has been in the town since I have been stationed here, has been either directly or individually attributable to him. He calls himself an Englishman, and permits no opportunity to pass of speaking disrespectfully of the Nation, and contemptuously of the Flag of the United States as I am informed. I am Sir [&c.]

Lt. H. B. Watson  
Comdg: the Military in  
charge at the Yerba Buena

Wednesday, 26 August 1846

Lieutenant Henry Watson to Captain John Montgomery

Sir:                      Marine Barracks, Yerba Buena August 26th 1846  
The Prisoners Smith, Corvil and Mackey were yesterday brought before the Alcalda. Smith and Corvil were released by him, on being fined and Mackey was returned to the Guard House to be confined and made to labor for thirty days. Samuel Parker a sailor was sent on board the Portsmouth--John Alexander who was arrested yesterday on the complaint of Pedro Chevaga second Alcalda of the Peubla san jose, was this morning released and given in charge to a man appointed by the Alcalda of this place to take the said Alexander to the Peubla san jose to answer charges brought against him by the

authorities of that place. John Murray was arrested in the streets on yesterday he being very drunk. Otherwise the place has been quiet and orderly. The Guards and patrol have been vigilant during the night in discharge of their duties. Enclosed you will find copies of two passports granted yesterday. I am Sir [&c.]

Countersign  
"Liberty"

Lt. H. B. Watson  
Comdg the Military  
charge at the y. Buena

(Copy) Permit the bearer Wm. Swimburn to pass to the Red woods without molestation.

Marine Barracks  
Yerba Buena  
August 25th 1846

H. B. Watson  
Comdg the Military in  
charge at the y. Buena

(Copy) Permit the bearer Russel C Perkins to pass to the Red woods without molestation.

Marine Barracks  
Yerba Buena  
August 25th 1846

H. B. Watson  
Comdg the Military  
charge at the y. Buena

Thursday, 27 August 1846

Lieutenant Henry Watson to Captain John Montgomery

Sir: Marine Barracks, Yerba Buena August 27th 1846

The place has been quiet and orderly during the past twenty-four hours, Private Phillip McGowen was punished with one dozen with the cats yesterday morning for being Drunk and overstaying his liberty, in compliance with your order. The Prisoners George Benton and Chas. Middleton were yesterday returned to the Barracks from the alcalda's office, the first sentenced "to be discharged from the Barque "Tasso" and to be imprisoned for sixty days and to perform any labor useful to be Public."

The latter "to be imprisoned for fifteen days and to labor on the public works." The Guard and patrol have been vigilant during the night. I am Sir [&c.]

Countersign  
"Victory"

Lieut H. B. Watson  
Comdg the Military in  
charge at the y. Buena

Friday, 28 August 1846

Lieutenant Henry Watson to Captain John Montgomery

Sir: Marine Barracks, Yerba Buena August 28th 1846

There has been no change and the place remains quiet and orderly. There were a number of arrivals during the day yesterday. Enclosed you will find copies of several passports granted to persons

therein named. The Guard and patrol have been vigilant in the discharge of their duties. I am Sir [&c.]

Countersign  
"Harrison"

Lieut H. B. Watson  
Comdg the Military in  
charge at the y. Buena

(Copy) Permit the bearer Oliver Magnent to pass to the Peubla san jose without molestation.

Marine Barracks  
Yerba Buena  
August 27th 1846

H. B. Watson  
Comdg the Military in  
charge at the y. Buena

(Copy) Permit the bearer Joseph Le Noir to pass to the Fort Sacramento without molestation.

Marine Barracks  
Yerba Buena  
August 27th 1846

H. B. Watson  
Comdg the Military in  
charge at the y. Buena

(Copy) Permit the bearer Issac Lee to pass to the farm of Victor Castro without molestation.

Marine Barracks  
Yerba Buena  
August 27th 1846

H. B. Watson  
Comdg the Military in  
charge at the y. Buena

(Copy) Permit the bearer G. K. Winner to pass to Bodega without molestation.

Marine Barracks  
Yerba Buena  
August 27th 1846

H. B. Watson  
Comdg the Military in  
charge at the y. Buena

(Copy) Permit the bearer Dennis Martin to pass to the Peubla de san jose, Red Woods without molestation.

Marine Barracks  
Yerba Buena  
August 27th 1846

H. B. Watson  
Comdg: the Military in  
charge at the y. Buena

(Copy) Permit the bearer Simeon Stevens to pass to the farm of Robert Livermore without molestation.

Marine Barracks  
Yerba Buena  
August 27th 1846

H. B. Watson  
Comdg. the Military in  
charge at the y. Buena

(Copy) Permit the bearer Joseph Hicks to pass to the farm of Robert Livermore without molestation.

Marine Barracks  
Yerba Buena  
August 27th 1846

H. B. Watson  
Comdg the Military in  
charge at the y. Buena