

"When I left the Custom House there was among the records there a small bound book with

copies of letters sent from the Custom House in the 1850s. It is entitled Custom House Letter Book. It contains the copies of correspondence went to various officials, etc regarding Customs matters and also the Lighthouse.

On November 17th, 1855 Charles H. Johnson, Inspector of Customs for the Dist of Monterey wrote to the Hon James Guthrie, Sec. of the Treasury informing the Secretary that Isaac B. Wall Collector of Custom for the District had been assassinated on the morning of the 9th inst, etc. - and then Johnson stayed on in Monterey acting as Acting Deputy Collector until a new appointment could be made.

On Nov. 29th 1855 he wrote a letter to Thornton A. Jenkins, Sec. of the Light House Board Treas. Dept, Wash, D.C.- stating

"It is my painful duty to inform you, that Chs. Layton, principal Keeper of the Light at Point Pinos died on the 19th Inst. from wounds received whilst acting as one of a Sheriff's posse, in an attempt to arrest the supposed murderers of Isaac B. Wall, the late Collector of this Dist. By this dispensation of providence, his widow, Charlotte A. Layton & four children have been left entirely destitute. I authorized her to continue at the post occupied by her late husband, & she is now discharging all the duties of principal keeper of the Lights at Point Pinos.

"I take much pleasure in recommending her for the place of principal Keeper: she is a person eminently qualified for the position: she is industrious and bears an unblemished reputation.

"The friends of Mrs Layton have address the enclosed memorial to the Hon. Secretary of the Treasury earnestly requesting her appointment.

"Your will have the goodness to present the memorial to the Hon. Secretary of the Treasury and urge the confirmation of the appointment; "

In 1966 the Monterey History and art Association received from Mrs Hazel Burr Sorley the original copy of the notification to Mrs Charlotte A. Layton of her appointment as "keep of the Lighthouse at Point Pinos, California the duties of which office you will perform until further notice, at a salary of one thousand dollars per annum, taking the place of Charles Layton, deceased.".. the original was signed by the Sec. of Treasury

This notification came as a gift from the granddaughter of Mrs. Layton, and Mrs Sorley in her own letter wrote that her grandmother came to Monterey in January 1847 making the trip on the ship "ERIE". She was a native of Beaufort, N.C. She came with her first husband, Charles H. Layton, ordnance sergeant third regiment, U.S. artillery Mrs. Sorley also wrote that Charlotte Layton Harris died Dec 14th, 1890 in Monterey. "he had three sons and one daughter, Caroline Layton Burr, my mother". Mrs. Sorley, the granddaughter of the Layton's was living in Honolulu in 1966, age 75.

In the Monterey Sentinel newspaper of November 24, 1855 I found the notice of the death of Charles Layton-stating he died of his wounds on the 19th..age about 38..in Monterey sir 1847, came on ship that brought 1st American troops. Sefgt of Co. F. 3rd U.S. Artillery under Capt. then Lieut E.O.C.Ord, made Ordnance sergeant which he filled until his enlistment expired. In 1854 appointed Keeper of Point Pinos lighthouse, native of Banbury, Oxfordshire, England.

In the Pioda family scrapbook I found a number of articles written by E.L. Williams who was a local official in Monterey in the 1850s, a partner with Boston (his cousin) in what is now called the Casa de Oro, etc. The news articles were unfortunately not dated when clipped - but were I know written for both Santa Cruz and Salinas papers in the later 1800s.

In one article Williams mentions ~~the~~ Charles Layton was Ordnance Serg of Co. F. 3rd Artillery & honorably discharged in 1848 at Monterey when his term of enlistment expired. He had served in the British Army. He was lighthouse keeper at the time of his death..wounded in body above hip, inflammation caused his death 10 days later., etc.

About 20 years ago when I interviewed Millie Birks she told me about Charlotte Layton Harris whom she remembered as a friend of her own aunt's. She said a widow, Mrs Layton, whose 1st husband had been killed, married George Harris. Harris & Wise had a saloon in the old Bull and Bear Pit. Mr and Mrs Harris lived on Tyler street. They had no children of their own. She had two sons by her 1st husband and a daughter, Carrie, who married a Mr Burr. She believed the sons died in their 40s but she did not know much about them,

Of course you know that Bancroft lists Layton as Ord.Serg. Co.F. 3rd Artillery, native of England, had served British Army; in the mines 49-62; later lighthouse keeper Point Pinos his widow, nee Charlotte Wade, & married in 43, was in 78 wife of Geo.C.Harris at S.F. where a daughter Mrs Amos Burr also lived. One son was a sailor & another lived in N.South Wales. Bancroft was quoting information received from John Swan.

In the first assessment book of Monterey County in the County Court House, Salinas, I found the Sergt Layton was assessed for 1 lot Parkin St 100 feet by 100, 1 log House on same, 1 lot Spence St 12 y x 50, and another lot on Spence 127 x 50- and Layton signed this list on August 3, 1850. I found this from the original list prepared by Hartnell - the originals are in Bancroft library 35:B, pt 2, page 488 Vallejo documents. The summary is in the County 1st book, in Salinas.

After Layton died, in 1856, the county assessment records show that Mrs Layton was assessed for 1 lot on the west side of Cass 60x42, near the old brick kiln - valued at 40.00

In the Curtis and Conover Day Books owned by the Monterey History and Art Association I found that Mrs. C. Layton has an account at their store from at least Aug 1, 1859 to March 29, 1860. I also found in another book of the store that Charles Layton had had an account starting May 31, 1853. It was small, but he paid by cash nearly each month.

*Typed in hurry -  
but I did want to get this  
to you*