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September 11, 2013

Summary

VPA 313

Introduction: Storied Land

"California began in Monterey", ~~this~~ is how the author John Walton chooses to begin telling the historical occurrences of the Monterey peninsula. The introduction to Storied Land immediately allows the reader to obtain a historical perspective of Monterey. The history of Monterey is somewhat turbulent; ~~I say this because~~ it has undergone many changes of possession. The first change of possession came after 1602 when the Spanish claimed the newly acquired Monterey Bay as a port of entry on behalf of the Spanish crown. The author informs the lector that for the next on 168 years Monterey as an establishment is controlled by the native Indians, not in the form of a centralized city, but as decentralized local villages, it would again change control in 1770 and again in 1846 when the United States would remain as the undisputed patron until present day Monterey, claiming the Monterey port as a prize, after its entry into the Mexican-American war.

The true centralization of Monterey as a city came as a result of the Spaniards sacred expedition which ventured north from Baja California under the command of Captain Gaspar de Portola and Father Junipero Serra. In 1770, the port of Monterey was proclaimed once again under the Spanish crown. In the years after, Father Junipero Serra would make his mark on the

coastal town; he would achieve immortality through his most acclaimed accomplishment, the Franciscan missionary system.

The introduction goes on and gives a vivid description of the environment and the Spanish footprints that could still be found in and around the Monterey area. Father Junipero Serra was very impactful on Monterey and the coastal towns surrounding it, we are able to conceptualize this through the establishment of churches. Undoubtedly, we see the introduction of Christianity upon arrival of Father Serra. We also have a plethora of remnant historical information left behind by the transient populations that have inhabited the area from its earliest beginnings dating back to the Native Americans. Monterey without a doubt has and will continue to have a prosperous future simply because it is a place of historical value when it is seen within the context of the west coast expansion.