

Annie L. Morrison and John H Haydon, 1917, *History of San Luis Obispo County and environs, California, with biographical sketches of the leading men and women of the county and environs who have been identified with the growth and development of the section from the early days to the present* (Los Angeles: Historic Record Company) p. 811-812

PATRICK O'DONOVAN.—When it comes to knowing something about Creston, its early days and its first school house, then Patrick O'Donovan will surely tell you, for he is now the oldest settler there, having come when there were only two other settlers in this entire neighborhood. In County Kilkenny, in the beautiful Emerald Isle, he was born, far back in 1840, the son of William O'Donovan, a farmer. Brought up on the home farm, he attended the national schools. In 1865, he came to the United States, and worked for a while in the marble quarries at Tuckahoe, N. Y.

Two years later, young O'Donovan came to California and took up his residence, for six months, in Solano county, where he worked in a nursery. He then hired himself out to farm at San Jose, and - while there married Miss Bridget Taylor, a native of County Wexford, Ireland, after which he came to San Benito county, where he farmed for four years.

In 1874, he moved still farther, taking up his present place in San Luis Obispo County. The land was then claimed by the railroad company, but he located and built upon it, and when it reverted to the government, he homesteaded and finally proved up on what he wanted. He dug a well, built his comfortable house—hauling the lumber necessary from Pismo—and also erected a barn. Then he began in dead earnest to raise stock, grain and hay and, as might be expected, he had proportionately good luck. His ranch is located on the north fork of the Huer-Huero and is well watered with springs, and he raises Durham cattle and hogs successfully. He bought other land adjoining, and now owns over eighteen hundred acres, all improved and fenced, situated five miles southeast of Creston. For some three or four years he rented out his own ranch, and followed the raising of grain on Carissa Plains.

As a result of the marriage referred to, Mr. and Mrs. Patrick O'Donovan have live children—four boys and one girl. William, Edward and Ambrose are successfully operating together a large ranch, a part of the Ambrose tract, while John is a farmer on his own ranch at Creston. The daughter, Mary, has become Mrs. John J. Ryan, of Creston. Mr. O'Donovan was one of the original stockholders in the Farmers Alliance Business Association, was a director in the company and, with the late Andrew Nelson, paid in the first money to secure the lot for the present warehouses, which meant much to the grain growers, as it reduced the storage charges.

A true-blue Republican who has been a member of the county central committee, Mr. O'Donovan has served upon the grand jury, and was deputy assessor under Charles King. He has also been a school trustee of the Huer-Huero district nearly all the time since the district was formed, and part of this time the clerk of the board. This reminds one that when he built the first school house it was at his own expense. It was constructed of logs to the eaves, and the balance of shakes and boards. It was but 14x24 feet in size, and the benches and desks were made at the same time. The schoolhouse stood only about half a mile from his place, and Patrick O'Donovan was among the first to build a road through the

section. He is well read and keens abreast of the times, and having a retentive memory with his genial and witty disposition, is an interesting talker and. with his estimable wife, is very kind hearted and hospitable.