

NAMES OF PLACES AROUND SAN ANDREAS

LATIMER GULCH: The gulch that crosses the highway near the old North Branch Store and enters the Calaveras River near the Railroad Bridge. Latimer kept the store at North Branch in the early days.

GOLD HILL: The hill that you ascend going up Highway 12 from North Branch, westerly. The Ellingwood house is on Gold Hill.

CENTRAL HILL: The hill northeast of North Branch. The Jackson home is on Central Hill. Much mining was done on this hill. The Lloyd Union Shaft, Union Shaft Extension, and Barker Claims are on this hill.

JORDAN HILL: A hill south of Central Hill, and it is supposed to have the Central Hill Channel extending through it.

NORTH BRANCH: The old town of North Branch was located on the south side of the North Fork of the Calaveras River on Highway No. 12 about two miles west of San Andreas and almost across the road from the old Pioneer Cemetery. The site of the town was later mined and the post office moved to Latimer's Store on Latimer's Gulch. D. Latimer had the store on Latimer's Gulch. The Dragomanovich family was the last to occupy the old store and post office.

SECOND CROSSING: This is the crossing on the North Fork of the Calaveras River about two miles west of San Andreas. It was called this because it was the second crossing of the Calaveras River between Stockton and Murphys. Near this bridge was located the Iowa Log Cabin, and for many years the Mining District was called Iowa Log Cabin District. Lake's Store was also near the bridge. It may be that Lake's Store was at the old town of North Branch. At this crossing was established the first toll bridge in the County of Calaveras in 1850. The right to erect a bridge and

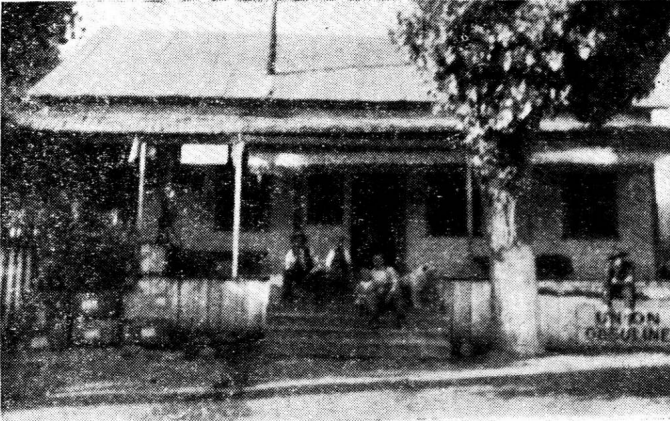
collect a toll was first granted to Stevenson and Perie. Stevenson acquired the interest of Perie and it was called Stevenson's Bridge for many years. In 1867, Stevenson and his wife sold the bridge to a man named James Gorman. Gorman conducted the bridge until he was killed in an argument with Chinese over the tolls. The bridge then became the property of Charles McGurk. Later, P. H. McGurk secured the bridge and it was known as McGurk's Bridge until sold to the County of Calaveras.

THIRD CROSSING: The Third Crossing was where the Kentucky House stood. It was the headquarters of miners on the South Fork of the Calaveras. The property is now owned by the Calaveras Cement Company and they still call their club house the "Kentucky House." Third Crossing was the name of the first post office in this section of Calaveras County. The post office was established at Third Crossing on December 16, 1852. J. A. Tate was the first postmaster. The post office was moved to the town of San Andreas on November 14, 1854, and H. Austin became the first San Andreas postmaster.

THE ALABAMA HOUSE: This old stopping place and trading center was located on Calaveritas Creek about three-eighths of a mile above the Kentucky House. It is said the people that built it came from the State of Alabama. I have been told that the Schroebel family had the place in early days. Two graves are located near where the old Alabama House stood on the Guttinger Ranch.

YAQUI CAMP: This place is on Willow Creek about one-half mile from where it empties into the Calaveritas Creek, and about two and one-half miles south of San Andreas. At one time it was headquarters for Joaquin Murietta and his gang. The Yaqui Indians that were in Calaveras County at an early date came from Mexico.

WILLOW CREEK: The creek that empties into Calaveritas Creek just about where the bridge across Highway 49 is



NORTH BRANCH STORE — This early-day building, torn down a number of years ago, was long a landmark on the road between San Andreas and Valley Springs, where it served as the trading center for the Central Hill Mining District. It was last operated, as a post office, bar, store and "way station," by the late Milan G. Dragomanovich, in the period from 1910 to 1925. — Photo courtesy of Mrs. Milan G. Dragomanovich.

located. It is quite a long creek, having its head about one mile from the town of Mountain Ranch or El Dorado.

LEMON SYRUP GULCH: This gulch parallels Highway 49 for some distance, flows north and then empties into Calaveritas Creek near where Highway 49 crosses Calaveritas Creek. This gulch is on the Guttinger property until near the Calaveritas Creek. It is on the south side of Calaveritas Creek.

SCRATCH GULCH: It is a short gulch that enters Calaveritas Creek about one-half mile above the bridge across Calaveritas Creek on Highway 49. It is on the north side of Calaveritas Creek.

TUNNEL RIDGE: The high ridge between Old Woman's Gulch and Chili Gulch on the road from San Andreas to Mokelumne Hill. The old road left Old Woman's Gulch and ran west until it intersected Chili Gulch. Later, the road in 1859 was changed by Mr. Garland and built over Tunnel Ridge. The new road avoids the frequent crossing of Chili Gulch and joins the old road a short distance below the present McSorley place.

OLD WOMAN'S GULCH: The gulch that crosses Highway 49 just below the Lombardi place. It empties into the North Fork of the Calaveras River.

THE DONNALLAN RANCH: It is located on the North Fork of the Calaveras River about three miles north of San Andreas and it was originally called Bay State Ranch. In early days there was a toll bridge crossing the Calaveras at this place and the owners of the ranch conducted the toll bridge. It now belongs to John and Walter Huberty.

FOURTH CROSSING: This place was first known as Foreman's Upper Ranch. He had another ranch in San Joaquin County where the town of Linden now stands. It's the fourth crossing of the Calaveras River on the road from Stockton to Murphys. It was the home of John B. Reddick, a Lieutenant-Governor of the State of California.

MOON LIGHT FLAT: It is on the Guttinger Ranch about one-half mile from Fourth Crossing. This is the place where the Gatewood-Goodwin duel was fought in 1859.

SAN ANDREAS GULCH: This is the gulch that passes through the town of San Andreas. The branch that enters it from the County Hospital is called Five Dollar Gulch.

BRANDY FLAT: This is a mining claim on the San Andreas-Calaveritas road, 40 acres adjoining the Virgil Airola Ranch, which was originally the Cloyd Ranch. The early day miners cared nothing for the good pasture lands and were interested only in the gold which was found in the gulches. At one time, in the 1880's, there was an International Colony here, living in seven or eight cabins. The foundations and fireplace chimneys still are evident. It was composed of one Swiss, one Italian, one Austrian, one Mexican, one Basque and three Frenchmen. It is easy to understand how the place got its name. Brandy Flat is mentioned in a book on the Mother Lode by a Catholic Priest, who gained his information from Mr. Fricot.

DAKINS HILL: It is located beyond the Fellowcraft Mine north of San Andreas and is now the property of C. J. Tiscornia and David Filippini. It derived its name from Tommy Dakins, an early day miner.

SHOWALTER HILL: This place is between the eastern part of San Andreas and the Forestry Station, and is now the property of Getneg Cavagnaro. It was the short cut from town to the Race Track, a mile from town. This hill was mined extensively by shafts which were plentiful and was named for John Showalter who had his cabin near the top of the hill in a grove of live oak trees. The early day Race Track was located on the John Sceffard property, near the cement plant road. It is now the property of C. J. Tiscornia.

JAMES H. CARSON

Sergeant James H. Carson died in Stockton, California, in the winter of 1853. At the time of his death he was a member of the California State Assembly from Calaveras County. Sergeant Carson was one of the early and successful pioneers in the California mines. He discovered the rich diggings of Carson Creek which he worked as early as the fall of 1848. The creek and the hill where the large amount of gold was afterwards found still bear his name.

Carson was a Second Sergeant in Company F, 3rd. Reg. U. S. Artillery on its arrival at Monterey on January 27, 1847. (The Stevenson Regiment).

Mr. Carson was a brave and good man, whose natural qualities are embellished by a highly educated mind. He did considerable writing, describing the scenes and events that passed before his eyes.

OLD FERRY ON THE STANISLAUS RIVER

On June 14, 1851, McLean Jeffry & Co., made a claim to a ferry on the banks of the Stanislaus River, Calaveras County, which included about 600 yards of land beginning at a large oak tree opposite Jackass Gulch and running up the river to the first fall. They claimed that they had been in possession of the ferry for upward of two years.

IOWA LOG CABINS

(Written by MAUD S. WASHBURN, June 6, 1899)

Early in October, 1849, a party of miners from the State of Iowa located for the winter and built log cabins about 300 yards west of the bridge where the Stockton Road crosses the North Fork of the Calaveras River, not far from San Andreas, now the county seat of Calaveras County.

This party consisted of A. R. Wheat, Joe Wheat, A. and Thomas Nash, D. Miller, George and Joseph Rasman, N. Murphy, J. Bacer and Christ Meyers.

This little colony was known as the "Iowa Log Cabins" and here the first miners meeting in the county was held. Rules and mining laws for the district were framed and by Christmas, 1849, a camp of 150 miners had settled there.

Camping a few miles from the Iowa Cabins was a company of Chilanos, and about this time a difficulty arose between the two factions regarding mining matters. This feud grew and strengthened until the Chilanos, who were the more powerful in number, made an attack upon their American neighbors and a furious encounter was the result.

In the affray two of the miners, one man named Starr and the other Ellecute, were brutally beaten, and ten more of the miners were taken prisoners by their assailants. These prisoners were bound from wrist to elbow, arms behind them, and with eleven of their captors as guards were forced to walk from camp as far as the Alabama House on O'Neil's Creek, then by a circuitous route back within a few miles of their starting place, having in their journey waded O'Neil's Creek and the Calaveras River and with dripping clothes and chilled from exposure they were headed for Stockton.

When within ten miles of Stockton they arrived at a large tent, known as the O'Neil Tent and kept as a wayside inn. Two young men, George and Enoch Enoch, brothers from Philadelphia on their way to the mines, had stopped at the tent for a short rest. When the captives arrived directly in front of the tent, they made a desperate rush from their guards and ran inside. The Enoch brothers, taking in the situation, at once cut the cords that bound the helpless men and with the combined efforts of the brothers and the other men about the tent they succeeded in overpowering the Chilanos and in turn made them captive, and binding their arms in the same manner, marched them back to the scene of the riot.

In the meantime the miners for miles around, being enraged at the dastardly crime, arose in arms and formed in a body to prosecute the guilty Chilanos. At that time Calaveras County afforded no laws of justice, consequently it had no need of a Courthouse nor officers of the law. Therefore, a number of Mokelumne Hill's bright men assembled and organized a court pro-tem.

The Chilanos were put upon trial for the murder of the miners and upon examination nearly all turned States' evidence and centered the guilt upon three of their number. These men were taken to the east base of Golden Gate Peak, or Calaveras Butte, and on New Year's Day, 1850, they were shot to death by a committee of Americans. The remaining eight were severely horse-whipped and forced to leave the diggings.

The two men, Starr and Ellecute, who were murdered, were buried near their cabins. One of the victims left a wife and six children and the other a wife and nine children in the State of New York.

A few years ago a son of one of these men came to Calaveras County in search of his father's grave. After a fruitless search and untiring inquiries which proved to no avail in locating his father's grave, he went away. Mr. Wheat did not learn of this until the man had gone, or he could have taken him to the direct spot where his father was buried. Of the many miners who then inhabited that lively camp Mr. Wheat was the only one left to relate the story of the murder and to point to the spot where the two men lay side by side.

After this trouble had been settled, the miners decided that a Courthouse and laws of justice were essential things for the good of the people, and so they set about to establish the same. A man named Dudley had settled at Double Springs in 1849 and had pitched a tent in which he kept a tavern and a store for the miners. Having considerable enterprise in 1850, he had a frame house in panel form made in China and shipped to Double Springs ready to be erected. He had three of these houses. One was occupied as the Courthouse, as the first county seat of Calaveras County was located at Double Springs.

DEDICATION OF RAIL ROAD FLAT MONUMENT

The Rail Road Flat monument dedication was held on August 4, 1957, with State of California Registered Landmark No. 286 being placed. The plaque read:

"RAIL ROAD FLAT"

"This historic mining town, elevation 2600 feet, was founded in 1849 and named after primitive mule-drawn ore cars used here. The center of rich placer and quartz mining, its largest producer was the Petticoat Mine. As a result of Black Fever, the town's population was decimated in 1880. The post office established in 1857, the Edwin Taylor store built in 1867, and the site of an Indian Council House are among present-day attractions.

Registered Landmark No. 286

Plaque placed by California State Park Commission, in cooperation with Rail Road Flat Community Club, August 4, 1957."

The program began with prelude by Harold Watkins and Salute to the Flag. The "Star Spangled Banner" was rendered by Verne Hofeditz, accompanied by Mrs. Hofeditz.

Mrs. Ruby Taylor, chairman of the Rail Road Flat Historical Monument Committee, was Master of Ceremony. Judge J. A. Smith, president of the Calaveras County Historical Society, gave a talk on the early history of Rail Road Flat and Paul Lewis, chairman of the Calaveras County Historical Monument Committee, spoke on the monuments in Calaveras County.

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OFFICERS OF CALAVERAS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

San Andreas, California

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Las Calaveras is published quarterly by the Calaveras County Historical Society for the benefit of the members. Membership in the society is \$4.00 a year. Non-members may obtain copies of Las Calaveras for \$1.00 a copy. The historical material in this bulletin is not copyrighted and anyone is invited to use it. Mention of the source will be appreciated.

The Calaveras County Historical Society meets on the fourth Thursday of each month at the Courthouse in San Andreas. Dinner meetings are held each quarter at different places in the county.

EDITORIAL

Although there was no meeting of the Society during the month of August, there were several important events in which the Society participated. The dedication of the historical plaque at Rail Road Flat was an outstanding event, and Mrs. Ruby Taylor and the Rail Road Flat Community Club are to be congratulated on a job well done. A large crowd enjoyed the fine dedicatory talk by Judge Smith. The Society was proud to have a part in this historic occasion. We hope other local communities will take the initiative to mark their historical sites and call on the Calaveras Historical Society to assist them.

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For those who didn't attend—the dinner in the garden at Double Springs with Colonel Waddell Smith as the speaker was a very pleasant affair. Colonel Smith is a grand nephew of one of the operators of the Pony Express and is the owner of the Pony Express Retreat and Art Gallery in San Rafael. He discussed the plans of the Centennial Committee to observe the centennial of the Pony Express in 1960 by actually re-running the route.

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Most of the officers of the Society surprised our very efficient and loveable secretary, Sadie Hunt, at a birthday party in August. Our program for the evening was assembling the mimeographed sheets of the essays into the publication which you have received. It was a pleasant evening and we saved the Society about twenty-five dollars for labor. Mr. and Mrs. Dave Matthews, who did the mimeographing for us, helped put the publication together, also.

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We are continuing with names of places in LAS CALAVERAS this issue, and, as you can see, we have a very respectable list of places, many of them forgotten. This may eventually be compiled as a separate directory. Fifty years from now many people will be very thankful for the efforts and foresight of the Calaveras Historical Society in compiling this directory before much of the information was lost.

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Dr. Rockwell D. Hunt, Covert Martin, and your editor, all officers in the Conference of California Historical Societies, attended the third annual meeting of the Conference in San Diego in June. It was an outstanding meeting and all of the 225 delegates who attended from all parts of California were able to take home many ideas that would help them to make their societies more successful. Our secretary, Sadie Hunt, was re-elected as regional vice-president for the Conference for the Mother Lode area; Covert Martin was re-elected for the same office for the Valley area, and your editor was re-elected executive-secretary. The proceedings will be available in November for those who were not able to attend.

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For those of you who have not seen a copy of Dr. Hunt's latest book, "California Firsts", let me urge you to get acquainted with it. He has traced the beginning of 165 important and significant events, institutions and things in California history.

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Some of you may be interested in the telecourse in California history offered by the College of the Pacific over Channel 10, KBET, Sacramento, at 5:30 to 6:00 each Wednesday and Friday evenings. Your editor is the lecturer.

Unveiling of the monument was done by Mrs. Eva Taylor Guenard and Mrs. Minerva Reed. The introduction of the descendants of the Rail Road Flat pioneers was made by Mrs. Ruby Taylor.

Senator Stephen Teale spoke on the "Future of Rail Road Flat" and Dr. Richard Coke Wood, vice-president of Calaveras County Historical Society, gave some historical data.

The program closed with the community singing of "America, the Beautiful" led by Mr. Hofeditz.

(The bronze plaque to be used in this dedication was delayed due to strikes in the machinists factory but the ceremonies went on as planned. The permanent plaque was received and placed on the monument on Saturday, October 5, 1957.)

MURDER AT CAVE CITY

In 1862 a French storekeeper named Defontambert, who had for years been in business at Cave City, was murdered for \$1,500 in gold that he was carrying to San Andreas. This was the second time in two years that Mr. Defontambert's life was attempted by robbers.

He was a most estimable gentleman, highly educated and a member of a distinguished family.