

History Of Silveyville Tells Interesting Story

To the township belongs the honor of having the first permanent white settler in Solano County. In 1842 Wm. Wolf-skill, then a resident of Los Angeles, secured a grant from the Mexican government for a tract of land one league in width and four leagues in length, lying on either side of the Rio Los Putos. Some time during the same year he sent his brother with a band of cattle to take possession of the new grant, according to law. From this time on, an occasional settler would locate somewhere on the Rio Los Putos until in 1852 there was quite a neighborhood with houses ranging from three to ten miles apart.

Upon the outbreak of the gold fever the most practicable road to the mines from San Francisco passed from Benicia to Sacramento, through this settlement. For the accommodation of these travelers, Elijah S. Silvey in 1852 built a house and stock corral. He at first called his home the "Halfway House." In those early days the trail was not very well defined, and the belated traveler was liable to lose his way and wander about the plains all night. To obviate this, Silvey used to hoist a red lantern high in the air every night so that it might serve as a beacon to the wanderer and guide him safely into the haven of Silvey's Hotel. The hardy pioneer Silvey came to an untimely death by accidentally falling from a porch. His wi-

dow still lives on the old site of those early scenes of the early life of California and of Solano County.

The next building at this point was a blacksmith shop built by Messrs. Wm. Dryden and Noble. On Christmas day 1856, Geo. A. Gillespie began the foundation of a store building. From this time on Silveyville began to assume quite goodly proportions, and reached its zenith about 1865 at which time there were, perhaps, 150 inhabitants in the town. Quite early a post office was established called Putah on June 17, 1854, with E. S. Silvey as postmaster. There was at one time a telegraph office there also. But all of this is now among the dead past, and another quarter of a century will banish all traces of the town, and only in legend and on these pages will any knowledge of it exist.

The history of Silveyville would remain incomplete without honorable mention being made of a newspaper being published at that place by Wm. J. Pierce. The type was set and the forms made up in Silveyville, but they were sent to Sacramento to be printed from. The paper was strongly Democratic and soon after the editor got into a political altercation with one Dr. J. C. Ogburn, a strong union man, in which Pierce shot the doctor, and was forced to flee the country.

(History of Solano County,
1879).