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"A general merchandising store was established by Thomas McCarter in 1856. He sold to John Wasley and Rynerson in 1857, and in 1860, the store was sold to Edward Case and J. S. Smith, who later sold to Prather and Aull who operated it for several years.

"By 1861 Foreman's Ranch had a hotel, three stores, a post office, blacksmith and wagon shop, schoolhouse, church, flour mill, Masonic, Oddfellows and Temperance lodges.

"This same year the town of Linden was surveyed by the county surveyor, George Drew. The block had six streets. The Mokelumne Hill Road was the main street and the farthest south. The east-west streets, north of the Mokelumne Hill Road, were Union and Foreman. North-south streets were Mill, Market and Hunter.

"The boundaries of Douglas Township, in which Linden is located, were established August 26, 1864. The township was named after General David F. Douglas, who came to California in 1848. He established a ranch on the Mokelumne Hill Road, which, according to Bill Patterson, who has made an extensive historical study of the area, became the site of the former Douglas School and the Shelley Ranch on Shelton Road. Douglas built an oak shake house 12' x 18', common size for that type of building. The oak shakes were split from logs cut on the property and tied to a pole frame by rawhide thongs cut from the hides of animals, probably killed nearby. Douglas owned freight teams and wagons which were routed between Stockton and Mokelumne Hill. In 1855 he represented San Joaquin County in the State Legislature and from 1855 to 1857 was Secretary of State". Written by Margaret F. Cuneo\*

EARLY SCHOOLS. "The first school in the district was on the Thomas Hayden Ranch and was known as the Moore School. In 1858 the Jefferson School District was formed and a school established in Linden. The building was destroyed by fire in 1864, and was replaced by a much better building. Subsequently four other school buildings were erected on the same site as the first". \*\*

FIRST CHURCHES. "The first religious service in the Linden area was held in the Moore School house in 1855 by the Rev. Thomas Barton, a minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church South. Two years later a \$2,000 house of worship was erected". \*\*

"The oldest church in the Linden area is the Community Methodist Church, which was originally established more than 100 years ago....The church is on Maine street in Linden." Photo caption \*

"In '50 Years of Methodism' it is recorded that "Not many new charges are found in the lists of appointments this year of 1863. Linden is one of the most interesting and important. It is a village located in the midst of a most excellent farming country. A church was dedicated here July 7, 1864, under the pastoral oversight of W. B. Priddy". Quoted by Leta Thurston \*

"Catholics had an organization and edifice in Linden. They dedicated a new church in 1884". \*\*

LINDEN CEMETERY. "At the north end of Cady Lane is the Linden Cemetery which has been in existence for over 100 years. The business of the cemetery is handled by a board of directors.

"The Linden Cemetery was first started in 1852 and was known as the Linden Grove Cemetery. In 1877 on March 10 the Linden Cemetery Association was incorporated for fifty years and since that period of time has been operated de facto.

"The trustees named on the original papers were: David Harrison, W. A. Davenport, W. H. Russell, George Klinger, and W. G. Prather....Great pride is taken by the lot owners of this small cemetery and much has been done and is being done to keep it as green and well cared for as possible". by Louise Lemmon \*

FIRST ALMOND ORCHARD. "Henry Ortman settled on the corner of the Linden and Jack Tone Road in 1853. It was known as Ortman Corner and was an overnight stopping place for the twelve-horse freight wagons going to and from the Mother Lode mines.

"His son, Charles L. Ortman, about 1899 planted the first almond orchard in San Joaquin County. This 50 acre almond orchard was located eight miles from Stockton at the cross roads of Linden and Jack Tone Roads. He entered into the venture of almond growing against his friends' discouraging advice.... He went ahead with his project and made a success of it". \*

LINDEN POST OFFICE. "Very little is known of the United States Postal Service to Linden prior to 1855. It is known that the first post office in Stockton was in 1849 and that Colonel Allen was the first U. S. Mail Agent on the Pacific Coast to establish mail routes.

"A freight line to the mines went over the old Mokelumne Hill Road, now Linden Road and State Highway 8, going past the Fifteen Mile House, later Foreman's Ranch, and in 1862 changed to Linden.

"It can be concluded that mail for early settlers came out to the Fifteen Mile House by freight line or was picked up in Stockton by whoever happened to be going there.

"According to Post Office records the Post Office at Linden was established at Foreman's Ranch on January 3, 1855." by Myrtle L. Seymour \*

\* Quoted by permission from Linden Herald, April 27, 1963.

\*\* History of San Joaquin County, by George Tinkham, 1923.

#### SOCIETY NEWS

San Joaquin County Historical Society meets on the fourth Monday of each month at Micke County Park, at 8 p.m. Visitors are always welcome.

The Society is organized to discover, preserve, and spread the knowledge of historical records and events, particularly those involving the history of San Joaquin County and the State of California. Anyone interested in the activities of the Society is invited to join. Dues are \$3.00 per year.

On April 22, Society members went on a bus tour to San Rafael to see the Pony Express Museum established by Waddell Smith, great-grandson of one of the founders of the Pony Express. They also toured the Presidio of San Francisco.

There will be a Woods School Recognition Dinner on April 30, at 5 p.m., at Lodi High School West Campus. Historical material and early pictures of the school, one of the earliest in the county, will be on display. The public is invited.