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TOWNS OF SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY 1832 - 1968

By Robert Angermeier

The many towns which have, through the years, been founded in the area we now know as San Joaquin County, reflect a fascinating panorama of the fame, fortunes, and in some cases the disappointments, of the venturesome pioneers who braved Indians, floods, drought, bears and lawlessness to prepare the land for those of us who now enjoy their legacy.

The towns listed in this paper are those which are shown on various maps issued by County and other official bodies. The locations are in most cases verified by old advertisements, directories and other evidence. The dates given for the founding and abandonment of listed sites were arrived at by evaluating the various sources of information and choosing the dates which seem to be the most logical for each site. Many old dates are not indicators of the true age of a town as such. One of the reasons for this is that many towns thrived for years before their names appear officially, and in other cases the towns were platted and subdivided years before the promoters could induce their first customer to trade hard earned money for a parcel of land in the "most progressive town in the valley". Furthermore, some sites were deserted for years before their names were deleted from maps and directories.

The "MAP OF A PORTION OF THE VALLEY OF THE SAN JOAQUIN INCLUDING STOCKTON & IT'S ENVIRONS" made for Charles M. Weber, by Richard P. Hammond in June, 1849, is one of the earliest and shows Stockton, Castoria, San Joaquin City and Stanislaus City as well as Doak's Ferry, on the San Joaquin River, and four named ranches. All of these very early towns, as well as some of more recent date, were located by the various rivers, most of which were navigable until hydraulic mining in the gold belt silted them. These river towns include - Bouldin Island - Venice Landing - Roberts Landing - Turners Landing - Stewarton - Wakefield - St. Catherine's and San Joaquin City on the San Joaquin River. Terminus, Brack's Landing, New Hope Landing and Mokelumne City on the Mokelumne River. Stockton, Wicklund, Fish Camp, Middle River, Stanislaus City, French Camp and Holt on various other waterways.

The coming of the railroads proved to be a bonanza for the local political figures and town planners as well as a much needed contact with the outside world for the farmer. At least two towns moved to new locations so as to benefit from the commerce and convenience of rail service. Ellis was deserted when the residents moved "bag, baggage and buildings" to Tracy when it was learned that the

latter was to become a terminal for the Central Pacific Railroad. The town of Liberty moved a mile or so West of the original location to enjoy the services of the same railroad.

The location of the former town of Waverly appears on the map to be located in an area without a road to it. Actually - it was located on the former "Stockton and Copperopolis Railroad."

The railroads - past and present - and the towns which shared their alignment are as follows:

"San Joaquin and Sierra Nevada Railroad" - originated at Brack's Landing and thence to Woodbridge, Lodi, Lockeford, Clements and points East.

"Stockton and Copperopolis Railroad" - originated at Stockton and thence to Charleston, Walthall, Holden, Peters, Waverly and points East - and Farmington, Trigo and Cometa on the Oakdale Branch of this line.

"Alameda and San Joaquin Railroad" - served Carnegie, Lathrop, French Camp and Stockton.

"Central Pacific Railroad" ran through the County and included Ellis, Tracy, Banta, Lathrop, French Camp, Stockton, Rand, Castle, Armstrong, Lodi, Urgan, Acampo, Forest Lake and Liberty.

"Sante Fe Railroad" - also runs through the County and includes the sites of Middle River, Holt, St. Catherines, Stockton, Burnham, Avena, Escalon and Huntley along it's route.

"Southern Pacific Railroad" - ran through Bethany Station, Bethany, Tracy, Yarmouth and Vernalis and also included the former Central Pacific route.

"Western Pacific Railroad" - includes Thornton, Stockton and Carbona.

The size of many of the former towns throughout the county is difficult to determine. The progressive ones who believed in advertising in County Directories and periodicals have left a wealth of information for future historians. As an example - the town of Undine on Union Island proclaimed to one and all the excellence of their hotel accomodations and of the speed and luxury of their stage-lines.

Many of the towns, especially some of the short lived ones along the railroad lines, undoubtedly consisted of only a few houses, a shed or two, a store and perhaps a livery stable and restaurant.

The publication "A Century of California Post Offices, 1848 - 1954," compiled by Walter N. Frickstad, lists almost 80 post office names for San Joaquin County. This book is most informative and gives many dates not available from other sources. A study of the various locations discloses that the early settlers and the postal service used ferries, ranches and way-stations - as well as towns - for purposes of collecting and distributing mail. There are also many names in this list - for example - "Locust Shade" - "Merry Oaks" - "Eagle Tree", etc., which defy this student's feeble attempts at locating or classifying. My guess is that they were way-stations which were known by these names.

The following listing of towns is indexed according to guide lines shown on the current San Joaquin County Department of Public Works road map, of which a reduced copy is attached to this paper.

Name	Date	Map Index
ACAMPO	1872 - ----	9 - T
ARMSTRONG	1900 - 1910	15 - T
ATLANTA	1868 - 1915	34 - L
AVENA	1900 - 1910	32 - I
BANTA (BANTAS)	1870 - ----	38 - Y
BELLOTA	1860 - 1918	18 - F
BETHANY	1879 - ----	36 - HH
BETHANY STATION	1880 - 1890	35 - II
BOULDIN LANDING	1878 - 1918	15 - JJ
BRACKS LANDING	1880 - 1900	10 - FF
BURNHAM	1895 - 1910	29 - M
CARBONA	1926 - 1927	42 - BB
CARNEGIE	1880 - 1906	46 - GG
CASTLE	1900 - 1910	18 - T
CHARLESTON (EVERGREEN)	1888 - 1910	23 - P
CLEMENTS	1882 - ----	18 - J
COLLEGEVILLE	1866 - ----	27 - M
COMETA	1892 - (only)	31 - B
ELLIOTT	1863 - 1901	5 - O
ELLIS	1871 - 1880	40 - DD
ESCALON	1894 - ----	35 - E
FARMINGTON	1858 - ----	26 - E
FISH CAMP	1890 - 1900	29 - DD
FIVE MILE HOUSE	1880 - 1890	19 - W
FORESTLLAKE	1890 - 1903	6 - U
FRENCH CAMP (CASTORIA)	1832 - ----	29 - T
HOLDEN	1871 - 1910	23 - K
HOLT	1900 - ----	25 - BB
HUNTLEY	1905 - 1910	38 - B
LANGFORD	1911 - 1912	9 - R
LATHROP	1868 - ----	33 - T
LIBERTY (LIBERTY CITY)	1852 - 1890	5-T - 5-U
LINDEN (15 MILE HOUSE)	1862 - ----	20 - I
LODI (MOKELUMNE)	1869 - ----	12 - T
LOCKEFORD	1859 - ----	10 - M
MANTECA	1905 - ----	34 - Q
MIDDLE RIVER	1900 - 1944	25 - HH
MOKELUMNE CITY	1854 - 1878	3 - CC
MORENO	1905 - 1910	36 - O
NEW HOPE (STANISLAUS CITY)	1846 - 1849	44 - R
NEW HOPE LANDING	1880 - 1910	5 - EE
PETERS	1871 - ----	23 - G
RAND	1900 - 1905	22 - T
RIPON	1874 - ----	39 - L
ROBERTS LANDING	1877 - 1881	19 - EE
SAN JOAQUIN CITY	1850 - 1910	44 - T
ST. CATHERINES	1880 - 1890	25 - X
STEWARTON (BLACKS LANDING)	1880 - 1910	22 - BB
STOCKTON (TULEBURG)	1844 - ----	24 - U

TERMINOUS	1895 - ----	13 - FF
THIRTEEN MILE HOUSE	1860 - 1875	30 - I
THORNTON (NEW HOPE)	1870 - ----	5 - BB
TRACY	1878 - ----	39 - BB
TRIGO	1868 - 1910	29 - D
TURNERS LANDING	1890 - 1910	21 - CC
UNDINE	1881 - 1906	32 - AA
UPGOR	1900 - 1910	11 - S
VENICE LANDING	1880 - 1900	18 - GG
VERNALIS	1888 - ----	46 - U
VICTOR	1910 - ----	12 - P
WAKEFIELD (WAKEFIELD LANDING)	1880 - 1891	23 - Z
WALTHALL	1900 - 1910	23 - L
WATERLOO	1863 - ----	19 - O
WAVERLY	1890 - 1910	21 - C
WICKLUND	1868 - 1869	35 - GG
WOODBIDGE (WOODS FERRY)	1859 - ----	11 - U
YARMOUTH	1905 - 1915	43 - X

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ORGANIZATION

San Joaquin County Historical Society meets on the fourth Monday of each month, except July and August, 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. Contributions to the Society are deductible for income tax purposes.

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