

Among the early Pioneers of Visalia,

in 1850 John Meadows and Margaret Meadows his wife, with their first Baby, Mary Ann, crossed the plains and mountains, through thousands of savage Indians, and many dangers from wild animals, bad water and dangers roads, hardships and what not, they nearly died from thirst at one time, but managed to find water before it was too late,

but they were strong and brave and full of courage there were quite a number of other families coming with them, all in covered wagons, each drawn by six strong oxen, the younger folk rode horses and drove cattle and horses. They parked their wagons at night in a circle with their stock inside with some of the men on picket duty.

So all made their way safely through to California. The Meadows Family settled here on the south side, of what we now call Huston ave, near where the R.R. crossing is now,

Their first Son was born there. They made two trips back east by boat, and came in covered wagons again, each time as before, bringing more cattle and horses and more friends to help settle this Valley, on their second trip out their fourth Child was born, in their covered wagon in Kansas. When she was two weeks old a wild Indian raised the curtain, took her up and started to run, the young Father heard the cry and ran after him and cut him around his naked body with his Ox whip, until the Indian fell and gave up the Baby, then as he lay there he shot the best oxen in the team with his bow and arrow, Mr Meadows then removed the dead animal and gave it to the Savages and they ate it raw while another ox was brought from the herd to fill the vacant place. This surely was the only wise thing to do, as there were thousands of red skins all around them ready for an attack only they feared the Gums of the Pale faced men, as their weapons were only bows and arrows and Tommyhocks, the white Folks knew their chances would be slim if a battle was started, for they were so greatly outnumbered, no doubt the travelers did have real pale faces and Prayerful hearts as they moved quickly on their way out of this grave danger. The Meadows family landed safely at Visalia, this they bought a ranch, on what is now called the Ivanhow Road, joining the old John Cuttler ranch on the south and the Fisher ranch on the north, and west,

Here Mr Meadows burned brick and made a house and other buildings, and planted two orchards and a vineyard, and raised stock,

The rest of their twelve Children were born in this house, the last one ~~arrived~~ in October 1874, and there was quite an earthquake at this time but their buildings did not fall, and the two big floods *around the* that followed only left their mark where the water stood, all the Meadows Children grew up to be strong healthy Women and men some of them were

six ft. and six inches tall, in 1870 Rhoda Kansas Meadows the one born in the covered wagon, was married here at this place to Abraham ~~McGinnis~~ *McGinnis* from Pennsylvania, he came by boat by way of the Isthmus of Panama

in 1852 and landed at San Francisco and went to dig for gold in the placer mines California. The largest nugget that he found weighed out \$75.00 there was plenty of Gold then, and he got his share. Then he found his

Bride, to this union was born twelve Children, three are still living, the youngest Son, Ivanhow McGinnis, a rancher, now living near Ivanhow Mrs Sadie Maybelle Connelly, Wife of E. Rufus Connelly, of Visalia,

and the writer, Mrs Minnie Katie Ropp, the rest of the McGinnis Family lived and died in and near Visalia, the late Grover A. McGinnis and Mrs Alice Margaret Reece, Wife of George L. Reece, *were the last to pass away* their eight Grand Children and ~~four~~ Grand Children, still live here of the first McGinnis Family,

Mrs. P. F. Ropp

Route 3 Box 11-B Visalia,

Concerns Grandparents of
Miss Ropp