

Tulare lake was the scene of early stock raising in Tulare county. The earliest stock men to arrive in the county went to that area. These included the Murphy brothers and the Rhodes brothers of Santa Clara ~~county~~ valley. Both of these families arrived in California before gold was discovered and had been in the San Joaquin valley before the Mexican War. So had Juan Temple of Los Angeles and his brother, Francisco P.F. Temple.

These men were the first to put domesticated animals on the wild
grasses around Tulare lake.

Probably the earliest brand which remained permanently in the Tulare lake country was the "wine glass" of Charlie Wingfield. Wingfield was in the lake country by about 1850 and died there.

F.F. Latta, valley historian, writes as follows on the lake cattle industry:

"Among the first to put hogs and cattle on Tulare lake were Julius Orton, William Mayfield, Jack Gordon, John Fancher, Elisha Packwood, Thomas Baker, Joseph Harris, J.O. Rice, S.C. Brown, James Persian, Jasper Harrell, John B. Eshom, William Benware, Fielding Bacon, Henry Hartley, Nathan Dillon, Y.B. Stokes, Foster DeMasters, Richard Chatten and half a hundred others.....

Larry "Lowr ey and Coddington ran the # 'LC' brand and settled on Elk Bayou six miles southeast of Tulare. Jasper Harrell ran the 'shoe sole' brand on Tulare lake and later became a prominent citizen of the county. He built the Harrell building in Visalia, which still stands at the corner of Main Street and 1st Avenue.

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ad one early stock raising

"John Broder went to the southeast corner of Tulare lake at the mouth of Poso creek in 1855 with the '7S' brand. This was afterward sold to Henry Miller and taken to Oregon. Cox and Clark also used it on Tulare lake.

"L.R. Ketchman of the 'LK' brand built the Pioneer Ditch, first irrigation ditch out of the Tule river. Burchett Lawless ran the 'BL' and operated the first overland stage station south of Visalia. Henry Hartley ran the first 'Double H' brand in the San Joaquin. This was the brand later made famous by Henry Miller of Miller and Lux.

"In 1852 only one brand was registered in Tulare county, that of John Fancher, the 'JF'. In 1853, one more brand was added, that of Elisha Packwood, 'EP'. In 1855 six brands were registered. In 1856, there were 24 brands and in 1857, close to 100,.....

"Because so few brands were registered in Tulare county in the early 1850's does not mean there were few cattle men around Tulare lake. In those days, feed was plentiful, cattle were cheap and there was little difficulty over ownership.....

"By 1859, almost every imaginable design and combination of latter had been taken for brands. William C. Mann registered the 'Cross M', I.N. Turner, the 'bootjack', S.C. Brown, the 'ace of hearts', C.B. Majors the 'cross heart', C.F. Shipp the 'eye glass.'

"P.C. Dillon selected his own profile for a brand. I. Stone registered the 'hatchet', Wm W. Little, the 'ox yoke', W.H. Mills, the 'flying heart', D.W. Biggs, the 'house' and George Crossmore the ~~farm~~ 'cross C'.

"On February 10, 1857, Tulare county adopted as a brand a nameless concoction of lines and angles designed to defy rustlers. J.W. Homer recorded the 'andiron', Benjamin Mayfield the 'stirup', J.A. Samstag the 'rocking chair' A.M. Doke the ~~anvil~~ 'anvil' and Annie W. Lowrey the 'horse head.'

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ad two early stock raising

"The dry year of 1864 brought many outside stock men to Tulare lake. Among these was Henry Miller who the previous year had purchased his first holdings in the San Joaquin valley at Santa Rita, 12 miles east of the present Los Banos.

"Miller purchased Santa Rita from Hildreth and Dunphy and with it obtained the 'double H' brand which later branded more cattle than any other iron on the coast. In 1864, Miller brought his 'double H' cattle to Tulare lake.

"Henry Hartley had been using a 'double H' on Tulare lake as early as 1852. He registered it at Visalia July 9, 1857. When the Tulare lake rodeo was held at Buzzard's roost, near the present Waukena in the spring of ~~1858~~ 1865, great trouble was experienced in distinguishing between the Miller and Hartley cattle.

'The Hartley iron was much smaller than Miller's but if a cow carried anything that looked like a 'double H' Miller's Mexicans and Indian vaqueros would slap the big 'double H' on the calf.

"At least a week was spent in wrangling over the ownership of stock and in venting and rebranding. Jack Sutherland was acting as judge of the plains and Miller thought he was partial to Hartley. Perhaps he was. But the next year, in order to avoid future difficulties, Hartley added a crescent to his 'double H'.

"The loss to San Joaquin valley stock men during the dry year 1864 was beyond calculation.

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ad three early stock raising

"Outside of the lake and slough country almost every head of stock in the valley perished. No rodeos were held in 1864 so the rodeos of 1865 had to do the work of two years.

"The lake and slough country was hard to rodeo. Cattle had gone half wild and had hidden in the tules and hundreds of yearlings and calves were missed. According to pioneer stock men, it was this situation which contributed in a big way to the success of Pat Murray of Porterville. Murray gathered together a crew of Indian vaqueros who were used to working in the tules and made a second rodeo. It is estimated by competent judges who had knowledge of Murray's resources that he branded no less than 3000 extra yearlings and calves around Tulare lake during the summer of 1865.

"The dry year of 1877 created a similar situation but then the stockmen at all had their eyes open and the tules were thoroughly rodeoed.

"Settlers, 'squatters' and 'land lappers' were the most disturbing elements in the lives of the stock men. For 15 years they had the range to themselves. Then came the settlers in flocks and droves. They squatted here and there and the cattle ate them out. According to the law at that time they had to fence out the other man's stock.

"This situation did not please the 'land lappers.' It cost ~~\$2240~~ more to fence the land than the purchase price had been. The result was the controversial 'fence' or 'no fence' issue.

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ad four early stock

"The question was settled by Tulare county citizens who sent Assemblyman Tipton Lindsey to Sacramento where he was instrumental in obtaining the passage of the No Fence Law which required stock men to prevent their stock from trespassing upon the land of others and held them liable for damages.

"Many were the gun battles that waged and the killings that resulted from the controversy of 'fence' or 'no fence.' The most noted action took place in an angle of the 'Zeke' Kellison fence south of the present Woodsville when a group of squatters killed about 300 head of cattle.....

"For a week prior to the slaughter, squatters had been purchasing ammunition of all kinds. First one man came in and bought some powder and lead. He said the coyotes were getting bad. Next, a squatter was having trouble with hawks, another wanted to kill ~~skunk~~ skunks, another had an old horse to kill and bought a pound of powder and three pounds of lead to do the killing. Everyone had an excuse for buying ammunition.....

"Many of the slaughtered cattle belonged to Mentz and Murray of Porterville. William and Noble Blankenship lost a few but it ended the trouble at Woodsville and spurred on action in favor of the no fence law."

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A community enterprise that attracted national interest had its inception in Tulare county in 1886. This was the Kaweah Cooperative Commonwealth, which in spite of certain failures in foresight and incompetence and possibly some dishonesty in management flourished until 1891 when it met the same heart-breaking dissolution that had been the fate of its predecessors.

There seems to be little doubt that the colonists were treated unfairly by the federal government which with treatment undoubtedly resulted in the failure of the project.

J.J. Martin and B.F. Haskell of San Francisco and C.F. Keller of Traver were the chief promoters of the plan. Martin and Haskell in 1885 were prominent leaders in different unions or workers' societies. Haskell was attorney for one of these. He was the advocate of improved conditions for the working man and had assisted in organizing the California Land Purchase and Colonization association and the Fish Rock Terra Cotta Cooperative company. Keller was a member of several socialistic societies in San Francisco and conducted a small store in Traver.

In October, 1885, Martin informed members of the two associations referred to and also others that their agent had found a large body of splendid timber land in Tulare county and that an association would be formed to acquire it. The first plans were vague but seemed to be in the nature of a mutual company to get possession of this tract and hold it for speculative purposes.

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a d one Kaweah colony

Between 40 and 50 applications at once were filed on lands lying along the north fork of the Kaweah river, eastward across the Marble fork and including what is now part of Giant Forest. The government price for these lands was \$2.50 an acre and as but few of the applicants were possessed of the necessary \$400 to complete the purchase of a quarter section, a plan was devised to raise part of the money by hypothecating lands to which title had been obtained. This, of course, would be an evasion of the law but was considered justifiable.

Half of the proceeds of the ~~sales~~ first sales of timber were to be devoted to publicity and promotion, it was agreed by the applicants.

The Tulare Valley and Giant Forest railroad company was organized and its stockholders assessed \$60 each for the cost of a preliminary survey. Many were unable to pay this small sum, but the difficulty was met by other contributing more liberally. It is to be noted that the project was handicapped at the very start by lack of adequate financing.

Then another difficulty arose. Land Commissioner ~~Applegate~~ Sparks became suspicious of the large number of entries made within three days for lands lying in one body, especially as seven of them gave their residence as one San Francisco lodging house. ~~Applegate~~ Sparks therefore suspended the lands from entry pending an investigation. Upon this action, each applicant tendered to the receiver of the Visalia land office the sum of \$2.50 an acre, which of course was rejected. This money was obtained by using the same sum over and over again.

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ad two kaweah colony

The colonists, undeterred by these difficulties, proceeded with their plans. As to the action of the government, they believed that the report of the special agent sent to investigate would be favorable, that he would approve their claims and bear witness to their good faith so they could claim sound title. As to finances, a cooperative plan was devised by which some capital for immediate use could be obtained through membership fees of non-residents and by the labor of those on the ground.

The Kaweah Cooperative Commonwealth Colony was organized. Plans in great detail were worked out. There were to be three divisions under the control of managers; these were to be subdivided into 13 departments under superintendents and these again into 58 ~~new~~ bureaus under chiefs and the last into sections under foremen.

The grand divisions were those of production, distribution and commonweal, and in their ramifications these included almost every activity, whether mental or bodily, known to man. The purposes of the association, it was set forth, were to insure its members against want, to provide comfortable homes, to educate and maintain harmony. It was the intention to place within the reach of all "a cultured, a scientific, an artistic life."

The membership fee in the colony was \$500, \$100 payable in cash and the remainder, if desired in labor or material. C.F. Keller was named general manager; J.J. Martin, secretary; J. Wright, purchasing agent, and B.F. Haskell, legal adviser. Besides these, J.H. Redstone, P.W. Kuss and H.T. Taylor were among the first on the ground.

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ad three kaweah colony

In 1886, work was commenced on a wagon road to the forest and on March 1, 1887, articles of incorporation of the Giant Forest Wagon and Toll Road were filed. The plan was to pay the men in time checks at the rate of 30 cents an hour, or \$2.40 a day redeemable in such supplies or materials as the association had or in labor at the same rate.

It was pointed out that, while nominally working for a low wage, the workers, on account of sharing in the wealth created by the labor of all, would, in reality, be paying up fortunes. For example, the material for a house valued in the outside world at \$1000 could be obtained for time checks equal to the hours that had been consumed in felling the trees and sawing and hauling the timbers, which would not amount ~~to~~ at the 30-cent rate to more than \$200.

Plans of the project were distributed throughout the country and many persons became members of the colony. Some of these were working men while others were socialists and men of wealth, culture and refinement.

On the north fork of the Kaweah, about three and a half miles above Three Rivers, a town was started which grew until it boasted more than 100 dwellings. There were a company store, a blacksmith shop, a planing mill, a box factory, a postoffice and a newspaper. Work on the road was prosecuted and a survey was made for the projected railroad.

Homes were built on the level land by the river, crops were sown, pastures fenced, orchards planted and barns built. Troubles, however, soon started.

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ad four kaweah colony

The workers were not supplied adequately with food, their diet at times being confined to flour, beans and coffee. There was a lack of clothing and supplies of all kinds at the company store. Dissension naturally arose and there was general dissatisfaction with the management. Some of the most common necessities of life were obtained in return for the time checks which were exchanged at a r idiculous figure.

Dissatisfied members demanded that they be shown the books, including the membership rolls, but officials in charge refused the demand. The disaffected members believed this was because they feared exposure to the non-resident members. Martin was an executive of ability and his honesty was questioned by few. Haskell, however, generally was regarded with distrust.

In spite of these difficulties, the road had been completed by 1890 to a point about 20 miles from the townsite of Kaweah and at an elevation of 5400 feet had entered the pine belt. Here a small saw mill was constructed and a small quantity of lumber was cut. This road, passing through a difficult mountain region, had been solidly constructed at a good grade and had cost about \$100,000. Modern tools were not available and powder was used sparingly.

Meanwhile, land patents still were withheld, although B.F. Allen, the special agent, had reported favorably. As late as 1891, Land Commissioner Groff recommended that the colonists should not be deprived of their lands, stating that they had complied with the law faithfully under which they had made filings; that they had expended more than \$100,000 in improvements and for five years had guarded the giant trees, saving them from damage or destruction by fire, quoting details from Allen's report.

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ad five Kaweah colony

However, the congress of 1890 had created the Sequoia National Park, which included these lands, and Secretary of the Interior Noble denied all claims of the colonists but expressed the opinion the settlers should be paid for the improvements they had made.

In addition to the internal troubles cited, the officers quarreled among themselves and factions took sides in a row between Haskell and Martin. The former was accused of misappropriation of colony funds and in 1891 was arrested on a charge of embezzlement. The greater number of the colonists saw that the doom of the project was at hand and disbanding started.

Early in 1891, a troop of cavalry under Captain Dorst was commissioned to guard the park and the colonists were ejected from government land. In April, H.S. Hubbard, H.T. Taylor, J.J. Martin, B.F. Haskell and William Christie were tried in the United States district court in Los Angeles on a charge of cutting timber on government land and found guilty. On appeal, however, the case was dismissed.

A few of the remaining colonists leased, as a private enterprise, a quarter section of land on the Mineral King road from Isham Mullenix and started another saw mill. Work was stopped by the soldiers but when the interior department learned it was on deeded land they ~~at least~~ were allowed to proceed.

Some of the colonists remained in the vicinity of Kaweah, many having obtained other land or perfected entries made on land outside the park. Children of several now occupy comfortable homes in the area.

edition early dairying

It might well be said that the dairying industry started in Tulare county, ~~and~~ coincidentally with the arrival of the first family cow tied behind a prairie schooner, but it was not until the introduction of alfalfa and the realization of its adaptation to the climate and soil that there was any idea that dairying could be conducted as a separate and profitable business.

In its issue of February 4, 1860, the Visalia Weekly Delta, under the head of alfalfa, stated:

"Those desirous of trying the adaptation of this clover to the soil of the valley, can now have the opportunity of so doing by calling at McLane's drug store for the seed.

"There is no doubt it will be one of the most productive crops in the valley. When it becomes once rooted, the drought will never affect it in the least. In this light soil it will root 15 or 20 feet, at which depth water can always be found in abundance in every place in the valley in the dryest season. Farmers, try it."

The farmers did try it and much has been accomplished but frequent irrigations by power pumps are used to insure good and frequent crops.

It early became apparent that dairying would pay and so a number of farmers about Visalia formed a joint stock company and built a creamery. This was a two-story wooden building situated in the Visalia-Goshen railroad about a mile west of the city limits of Visalia. It was completed in 1890 and W.H. Blain was president and S.M. Gilliam, secretary.

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ad one early dairying

D.K. Zumwalt, shortly afterward, erected a cheese factory and creamery on the Tulare-Goshen railroad about midway between the two towns. Both of these early enterprises, strangely enough, were destined to be failures. Several occurrences contributed to this result, chief among them being the apathy of the farmers toward engaging in the business because of the extraordinary profit made from the early orchards, at this period just coming into bearing.

Dairying appeared much too slow. The business appeared to be one of tediously and arduously gathering nickels while fruit production appeared a leisurely, gentlemanly method of waiting for a shower of gold ~~pieces~~ pieces. Then came the panic of 1893 and the great railroad strike. The latter, especially, proved disastrous. Zumwalt at this time had 20,000 pounds of cheese on hand which he was unable to move. Much of this spoiled. The delay in getting the product converted into cash necessitated a stoppage of payments to farmers and caused them to become suspicious and uneasy and they were inclined to cease deliveries of milk. In addition to these factors, the markets were not good. Los Angeles produced nearly all it consumed. As a result, both enterprises were abandoned.

The Zumwalt and Visalia plants were leased in 1898 by W.B. Cartmill who operated them as skimming stations. In 1901, Thompson and Futrell commenced in Tulare the operation of a creamery of small capacity. The skimming stations were abandoned but in 1906 Cartmill was instrumental in launching the Tulare Co-operative Creamery, the capacity of which in its first years was about 1000 pounds daily.

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ad two early dairying

The real growth of the industry dates from the organization of the co-operative. By 1912, the industry ranked as one of the most important in the county and there was an annual production of 4,000,000 pounds of butter fat,
~~which was conservative at \$2,000,000~~

The Tulare Register of May, 1912 reflects the extent of the industry at that time:

"The creamery disbursements here today were \$97,191.26. The 15th of the month in this city is much like the regular monthly pay checks in factory districts....Business jammed at the local banks all through the day and it was simply a question of waiting one's turn at the windows ~~and~~ ^{of} paying ~~the~~ and receiving tellers.

"Nearly every horse-drawn vehicle which comes to this city will have cream cans somewhere about it. Even autos are used to convey the cream and milk."

Dairying in 1912 centered chiefly about Tulare, which included Tagus, Paige and Swall's station; about Porterville, ~~which included~~ Woodville, Tipton, and Poplar; and about Visalia, including Farmersville and Goshen and about Dinuba, ~~including~~ westerly and southerly to Traver.

There were in the county at that period about 1000 dairymen with herds aggregating between 20,000 and 25,000 animals. The Holstein was the favorite breed although there were few large herds; in fact only two in the county numbered as many as 300. The remainder ranged from five to 200. Another article on the modern scope of the dairying industry appears elsewhere in the Anniversary Edition.