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lindsay edition with early visalia or early county

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Orange groves in solid formation and stretching miles in all directions approach to and extend from the city which once was ~~the~~ a rolling prairie where hundreds of cattle grazed. After the railroad came into the valley, thousands of acres were sown to ~~wheat~~ grain, and later, when deep-well irrigation was a demonstrated success, the citrus industry, which is still the leading farm endeavor of the community, came into its own.

In 1859, when the overland stage line to St. Louis was established, a station called the Eighteen Mile House was located a short distance south and west of the present Lindsay town site on the old Porterville road.

For many years, this was the only house between Outside creek near Farmersville and Porterville, sitting in the midst of a dreary hog-wallow waste which was considered worthless except for spring feed.

As cattel raising developed into a more important industry, ranches and ranges were taken up in the foot hill districts where ample water~~x~~ was always available from ~~the~~ springs or ~~near~~ creeks. Here the herds grazed until spring time when abundant feed developed on the planes and the animals were removed to the lowlands, where temporary camps were established.

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come into favor in the vicinity of the Eighteen Mile House.
When a few good crops had demonstrated the profits to be made,
enterprising men leased large tracts, few of them owning the
property, and planted huge acreages.

Among these early big planters were J.J. Cairns, G.S. Berry,
William Mehrten, W.S. Berry and the Keeley brothers.

The production of wheat, however, was no inducement to settlement
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The East Side branch of the Southern Pacific railroad was
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the district and obtained large acreages for agricultural development,
offered to give 51 per cent off the acreage for a town site,
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The future city was given a siding but no depot was
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Meanwhile, Hutchinson and Cairns were experimenting with orange culture and John Tuohy, on his Lewis creek ranch, demonstrated that the soil and climate were suitable for the cultivation of citrus trees. Early in 1890, Hutchinson set out five acres of trees and at practically the same time Cairns planted a small acreage on his ranch two miles west of town.

Development of this new industry could be assured only through a dependable system of irrigation and Hutchinson, accordingly, went about organizing a company to bring water from the Kaweah river. Cairns, before this plan materialized, put down a well at his place, ~~xxxxxxxxxxx~~ This well was bored 300 feet deep with hand tools and was 10 inches in diameter. It was first planned to put down a well in each corner of the property but when a second was completed and it was found that that it lowered the water level of the other, the plan for four was given up.

This first pumping plant was operated by steam engine until electric power was available several years later.

Irrigation from underground sources now appeared practical and the project for carrying water from the Kaweah was abandoned. By 1891, it was believed the citrus industry was assured and Hutchinson placed 2500 acres of land on the market. Among the first outsiders w ho later became leading citizens of the community were C.J. H Carle and Thomas E. Johnson.

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The residents of Lindsay voted their first municipal improvement in 1911, providing for the purchase of a water works at a cost of \$60,000 and the installation of a sewer system which cost \$70,000. Previously, the Mt. Whitney Power company had provided the first city water, conveying it through red wood pipes. The first system later was taken over by the Lindsay Water and Gas company which operated it for about two years before selling to the city in 1911.

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Lemon Cove, once called Lime Kiln, is situated 18 miles east of Visalia in the foot hill slope to the north and south of the Kaweah river. In its peculiar location, at an angle, the town forms a sheltered vale. The name Lime Kiln originated from the discovery of lime in the vicinity by William C. Zens.

J.W.C. ~~Pogues~~ Pogue, one of the earliest settlers, was the ~~xxx~~ founder of the town and the father of the huge development in citrus culture that has taken place in recent years. The ~~xxxxx~~ ~~successful~~ growth of the earliest orange and lemon trees led him to plant new areas and to become a whole-hearted booster for the section.

In the early 1890's a considerable acreage was planted to citrus fruits, mostly lemons. In addition to many small tracts, the large groves of the Kaweah Lemon company and the Ohion Lemon company were set. Lemon Cove is one of the ~~xxxx~~ best areas in the county in relation to frost protection.

Lemon Cove is the outer gateway to the Sierras and of the Kaweah watershed and enjoys a considerable tourist trade. Citrus picking and packing ~~xxx~~ cause much activity during the season.

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It appears that Stapleford who hailed from Stockton had in the latter town, in order to defraud his creditors, deeded his property, said to amount to \$30,000 or \$40,000, to his uncle, William C. Deputy.

Deputy had handled this property for some time, selling and reinvesting, and, as he claimed, repaying to Stapleford such sums from time to time as to cancel the indetdedness. Deputy, however, remained possessed of much property and Stapleford demanded of his uncle that he deed all his property to him, claiming that the old score remained unsettled. Deputy refused and Stapleford offered a reward of \$1000 to anyone who would ~~compel~~ compel ~~anyone~~ him to sign an instrument to that effect.

There being no takers for the offer, Stapleford caused Deputy's arrest on a charge of swindling, and he was confined in the old wooden jail and court house and chained to a ring-bolt, fastened in the floor. Apparently fearing that some attempt at the use of violence might be committed against the prisoner, Sheriff Poindexter placed two men, Ed Reynolds and Frank Warren, on guard to protect the aged man.

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On ~~July~~ July 28, a mob headed by Morris, who was a lawyer and notary, broke into the jail, took Deputy to the outskirts of town, swung him to a tree by a ~~rope~~ noose around his neck until he was nearly strangled, let him down, and then requested him to sign a deed that had been prepared.

Upon his refusal, Deputy again was swung up and lashed with Morris with a blacksnake until he was almost unconscious. ~~Stapleford~~ He then consented to sign but, after being taken back to jail, showed signs of renewed stubbornness. However, after being chained again to the ring-bolt and threatened again with the lash, he did sign a deed by which he transferred to Stapleford any and all real estate of which he might be possessed in the state of California.

This property included that upon which the Visalia Milling company now stands, a tract east of town and a hotel and ranch property in San Bernardino. The property immediately was retransferred to a supposedly innocent third party and when Deputy brought suit to recover, the supreme court held that there was no law empowering it to reinstate Deputy in possession.

Stapleford, Morris and four others of the principals composing the mob that had committed the outrage later were arrested and Morris was convicted and sentenced to pay a fine of \$500 and serve six months in jail.

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In 1888, when the East Side branch of the Southern Pacific company passed through Dinuba to the south, the proposed route for the extension passed through the half section belonging to John W. Firebaugh, one of the big grain farmers of the district.

The heart of his wheat field was approved as favorable for a future town site and negotiations were completed for the purchase of a quarter section by the Pacific Improvement company.

Thus was started the city of Exeter, the name of which is credited to an early English settler in the area, who selected the name in memory of Exeter, England, his native city.

The town soon was platted and the sale of lots was announced. Sale of lots was slow, however, and it was a considerable period before Exeter was more than a tiny village. Practically all buildings were on the west side of the railroad track, which ever has been the dividing line in Exeter.

George W. Markham was the first storekeeper, opening a general merchandise store; John Hamilton started a hotel; George Olds operated a blacksmith shop, and John Poe opened a saloon.

A. V. eritt and Jones, who had been in business in Solidad, Monterey county, came to Exeter in 1892 and opened the first store on the east side of the railroad track. They first occupied temporary quarters and later moved into the first brick building in town.

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By 1900, when those first oranges came into bearing, the residents of Exeter realized for the first time the value of the land surrounding the community. Citrus plantings occupied the attention of farmers for a number of years.

In about 1905, table grape growing was believed suitable for the locality and tracts were set out by A.C. Dungan and Alf Pruner. H.R. Stevens, A.G. Wishon, C.H. Holley and J.H. Snodgrass, at about the same time, improved 80 acres east of the town site.

Today, the whole landscape has been developed into well-kept and productive citrus fruits, grapes and other crops.

Two unsuccessful attempts were made to incorporate Exeter as a city of the sixth class, the opposition being against the proposed inclusion of much farm property in the proposed corporate limits but the issue finally was approved on March 2nd 1911, and the following officers were elected: board of trustees, George E. Waddell, W.P. Ballard, J.F. Dungan, James Kirk and W.A. Waterman; city marshal, C.E. Mackey; city treasurer, E.H. Miles, and city recorder, W.B. Moore.

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