

Brush Creek

“Brush Creek was located about 6 miles up the road from Berry Creek and seemed to get its name from the creek in that neighborhood. Brush Creek was another stopping place for travelers and teamsters. It was also a place for the miners who came to get supplies which they packed back into their claims. Many of them also had their mail sent to this office.

The first Brush Creek post office was located on what was known as the Eb Martin Place. His father D.G. Martin was the postmaster.

In the 1860's it was moved a few miles up the road to “Mt. Cottage” where William Lattimore was postmaster. Then about 1905 it was moved about a quarter of a mile back to Brush Creek, when George W. Simpson was appointed postmaster, an office he held until the post office was discontinued.

In 1864 Lattimore and Spencer conducted the main general merchandise store. In an old register of 1880 the list of names shows that Brush Creek was quite a settlement. John N. Douglas conducted a hotel. Charles F. Mueller and John L. Romer were merchants in their respective establishments. Benjamin Billingsley was the wagon maker; while Henry Mardon was the blacksmith.

Dow Day of Brush Creek was another of the early day stage drivers on this road. He started in when but 18 years of age. He stated that at one time it was necessary to put snowshoes on the horses at Hart's Hill. The snow at Brush Creek at that time was 7 to 8 feet deep. One of the horse snowshoes is now among the treasured relics in the Native Sons and Daughters relic building in Oroville.

During the summer months wagons loaded with fresh fruits, vegetables and meat made their way up the Old Quincy Road. On the return trip they were usually loaded with “ferkens” of butter for the valley towns.

Some of these “traveling merchants” were Pat Donnelly, who had a team of four horses and a spring wagon, and lived in Palmetto; my uncle, Scott Whipple of Wyandotte; Walker Bell, George Simpson, another uncle Daniel Zink, Charles Romer and Will Yetter. These men had their regular days over the route, and their approach was heralded with glee by the children who watched for the clouds of dust as the teams made their way up the road.

Many of the small settlements have been lost even in memory. Just below Bidwell's Bar was a settlement known as “Dobie Town”. George H. Rucker, formerly of Bangor, and who came to Bidwell's Bar in 1852 when but four years of age remembered the town. The Sailor and Union claims were worked in this district in 1853 and 1854. Another small settlement on the river was Hubbard's Bar.

Progress along the road was slow, so it was necessary to find eating places for each stop. A short distance above Bidwell's Bar was the “Clinton” place. A few trees that formed the family orchard are still standing to mark the place.

The next stopping place was the "Foreman" place. I remember the large two story house with the flower gardens and the immense barn to take care of the stock. William Foreman came to California from Ohio in 1849. He first came to Bidwell's Bar, then settled at Berry Creek. In 1858 he married Miss Rose Carroll who came to California via the Isthmus of Panama in 1850.

William Foreman kept a hotel and also a large blacksmith shop which was so necessary along this road. His ranch consisted of six hundred and forty acres of land. He had several acres planted to family orchard and a small vineyard. He developed his own irrigation system from the several springs on his property. Mr. Foreman was also a sheep man. He became a wealthy man and was also known for his public spirit and great interest in anything that pointed toward progress for the county." *Florence D. Boyle, California Places, Volume 4, Florence Styles Room, Paradise Genealogical Library*