

vehicles being driven up or down the ten-mile road. The steep grade was sometimes called "Beast Killer." The modern Tollhouse Road largely follows its course. The small town of Academy on the road is named for a private secondary school established there in 1872; the place is marked by an E Clampus Vitus plaque. Pine Ridge and Swanson Meadow were important early lumber centers.

Fresno is one of seven counties in the state in which the *Sequoia gigantea* is found. A small stand of magnificent trees is contained in the General Grant Grove section of Kings Canyon National Park on the southern boundary of the county. The southern portion of the park is in northern Tulare County. The General Grant, 264 feet in height and more than 40 feet in diameter at its base, for which the grove is named, is one of the most noted of its trees. General Grant National Park was created in 1890 to preserve the grove and was ab-

sorbed by Kings Canyon National Park when that was created in 1940. There are seven smaller groves in Fresno County, besides the Evans Grove, east of Hume Lake, which contains 500 trees.

What surely saved these redwoods is the fact that, unlike their cousins on the Pacific Coast, their lumber is almost useless for commercial purposes. Before this was known, massive logging operations cleared out thousands of sequoias in the Converse Basin, said by some to have been finer than those of the Giant Forest in Sequoia National Park in Tulare County. In the Converse Mountain Grove, one monarch survives. This is the Boole Tree, a close competitor of the General Sherman as the largest of all the Big Trees. It was saved by Frank Boole, foreman, for whom it is named. An estimate made in 1985 declared that about two-thirds of the Sierra *Sequoia gigantea* still stood in primeval conditions, while some 90 percent of the coast redwoods had been logged.

Glenn County

Glenn County, named after Dr. Hugh James Glenn, was organized in 1891, when it was separated from Colusa County. Willows is the county seat.

THE SWIFT ADOBE

The adobe home built by Granville P. Swift stood for many years on Hambright Creek, about a mile north of Orland. This pioneer settler crossed the plains in 1841 and entered California from Oregon with the Kellogg party. He served in Sutter's campaign in 1845, participated in the Bear Flag Revolt, and in 1846-47 served

as captain in Frémont's California Battalion. Subsequently he settled near the confluence of Hambright and Stony Creeks and made his adobe the headquarters for cattle operations extending as far south as the present Woodland. In 1849, in partnership with his brother-in-law, Frank Sears, he purchased from John S. Williams the cattle and brand of the Larkin Children's Grant. Swift soon had vast droves of cattle, herded annually by Indian vaqueros, and extensive rodeos were held at the adobe on Hambright Creek and at a corral, no longer existing, on what later became the Murdock Ranch west of Willows. Swift also is credited

with planting the first barley in the northern Sacramento Valley.

When John Bidwell discovered gold at Bidwell Bar, Swift amassed a fortune, it is claimed, by working large numbers of Stony Creek Indians on the Feather River. Legend has it that he buried his gold dust about his adobe; many have dug in the area over the years, but no fortune has yet been found.

Swift moved to Sonoma County in 1854, but his name is perpetuated in Glenn County in Swift's Point, near Hamilton City, a place on the Sacramento River once fordable at low water. The river road from Red Bluff and Shasta City crossed here to points east of the Sacramento.

The site of Swift's long-vanished adobe (SRL 345) is on the south bank of Hambright Creek about a hundred yards east of the railway north of Orland; the marker is on SR 99-W one mile north of Orland.

MONROEVILLE

Monroeville, at the mouth of Stony Creek (formerly called Capay River) in what is now northeastern Glenn County, was situated on the Capay Rancho, a grant made to María Josefa Soto, later the wife of Dr. James Stokes of Monterey. Out of this estate Mrs. Stokes gave a portion at the mouth of Stony Creek to a man named McGee in return for his aid in making the grant official. The first settler on the land, in 1846, was a man known only to history as Mr. Bryant, who also built the first house there.

After the discovery of gold in 1848 other settlers located there, among them Uriah P. Monroe, whose ranch and hotel became a popular stopping place on the old River Road. The hotel, which was to double as courthouse, was largely built from the remains of the *California*, one of the first steamers to ascend the Sacramento River. It was wrecked at the right-angle turn in the river on Monroeville Island, about a mile above the mouth of Stony Creek.

The Colusa County boundary had scarcely been defined when a quarrel began over the location of the county seat, a phenomenon seen elsewhere in California and the West. Monroe, an ambitious, aggressive man, was determined that the county seat should be established on his land and named for him. Colusa, however, also wanted to be the county seat. Monroe presented a petition to Moses Bean, a judge in Butte County, requesting that the county seat be organized and that Monroe's Ranch be designated as the only polling place

for the election of county officers. Bean complied, though he had no lawful authority to act, and this high-handed procedure seemingly carried the day. Monroeville assumed the role of the first county seat of Colusa County, as it was originally called, in 1851.

Little interest was shown in becoming an officeholder in the new county. The mines were too attractive and the opportunity to acquire princely farmlands was too great to tempt anyone to give his time to the irksome and unremunerative task of running the government. There was one notable exception, however: William B. Ide, primary leader of the Bear Flag Revolt in 1846. For a time, Ide performed the duties of judge, county clerk, auditor, treasurer, coroner, and surveyor. Death cut short his useful life on December 20, 1852; a victim of smallpox, Ide died at Monroeville and was buried in the local cemetery. The only remnant of Monroeville, the cemetery was beautifully restored in 1998. A stone monument has been put up in Ide's memory on SR 45 five miles south of Hamilton City, near the rice field and orchards that were once the site of Monroeville.

In 1853, Colusa won the fight to be named county seat, and Monroeville was soon deserted, even by its founder. South of Monroeville, equally ambitious contemporary "paper cities" arose, among them Placer City, about three-quarters of a mile north of Jacinto, and Butte, on the east bank of the Sacramento and formerly in Butte County. All traces of Placer City have long been obliterated, but Butte City is now an agricultural center for that portion of Glenn County east of the river.

WILLOWS

Standing out in bold relief from a vast expanse of treeless plains, a clump of willows bordering on a large water hole fed by several springs was the only landmark in early days between the settlements on the river and those in the western foothills. Travelers guided their course by "the Willows." The Native Daughters of the Golden West have placed a marker on SR 162 one mile east of the city of Willows at the site of the water hole, which has since been filled in. This place on Willow Creek, the only live watering place between Cache Creek in Yolo County to the south and Stony Creek to the north, was taken over in the late 1840s by Granville Swift and was used by all the cattlemen of the area for a fee.

When the Central Pacific pushed its rail lines northward to Oregon in the late 1870s, the town of Willows

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Glenn County Courthouse, Willows

was formed, about a mile west of the old landmark. The post office was known as "Willow" from 1876 until the terminal *s* was officially added in 1916. Willows became the shipping point for many large wheat and barley ranches, and when Glenn County was formed in 1891 from the northern half of Colusa County, Willows became the county seat. The Willows post office, in the majestic turn-of-the-century Federal style, is on the National Register of Historic Places.

Five miles east of Willows the Beehive Bend gas fields were discovered in the 1930s, the largest in the northern part of the state. The fields are scattered over a large area. To the north and extending into Colusa County is the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge, the largest of several wildlife refuges in the valley and one of many in California.

JACINTO AND DR. HUGH GLENN

Now little more than a wide space in the River Road (SR 45), which runs from Hamilton City to Colusa, Jacinto was once the busiest river town in the upper Sacramento Valley. This was at the time Dr. Hugh J. Glenn, for whom Glenn County was named, farmed 35,000 acres of wheat land in all directions except eastward from his headquarters at Jacinto.

Glenn, a Missouri physician, came to California in 1849 and worked for a time on a gold claim he had taken up at Murderer's Bar on the American River. He made a number of trips across the plains driving herds of cattle, horses, and mules from Missouri, but finally returned to settle permanently in California. After a few years spent farming in Yolo County, he purchased land in what is now Glenn County in 1867, to which he moved his family in 1869.

Dr. Glenn began the cultivation of wheat on a large

scale in the 1870s, purchasing large tracts of land in Rancho Jacinto (so named for the original grantee, Jacinto Rodríguez, who obtained the land from the Mexican government in 1844), Rancho Capay, and the Larkin Children's Grant. The town of Jacinto, twenty-seven miles above Colusa, was the supply center for the huge Glenn operations and the residence of the two to three hundred men he employed. In the 1880s it included a hotel, a large general store, several blacksmith shops, a butcher shop, a post office (1858-1910), and several immense grain warehouses. The first school in the present county was established there. The Glenn home stood for years in a tangle of trees and shrubbery until it was torn down about 1960. The site of Jacinto is twelve miles south of Hamilton City at the junction of SR 45 and Bayliss Road (County Road 39).

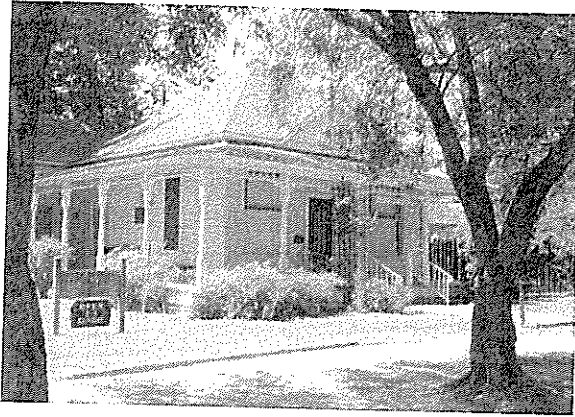
Glenn was nominated for governor of California by the New Constitution and Democratic Parties in 1879 but was defeated by George C. Perkins, a Republican. The man once called the world's "Wheat King" did not live to see the county named for him; he was shot to death on his Jacinto property by an employee on February 17, 1883. His great holdings have since been subdivided into small farms, now all under irrigation.

ELK CREEK

Located at the base of the steep Coast Range in an open valley bisected by Stony Creek is the mountain town of Elk Creek, established in the late 1860s as a trading center for the valleys drained by Stony Creek and its tributaries. The post office was opened in 1872, and the town was the stopping place for stages from Colusa, thirty-five miles to the southeast, to Newville, thirteen miles to the north. Elk Creek today is at the entrance to the far-flung Mendocino National Forest.

A conical hill of historical significance lies one mile east across Stony Creek from the little town. A large redwood monument has been placed on "Bidwell Hill" by the Willows chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution to mark the encampment of John Bidwell on July 4, 1844, while on an exploratory trip in search of a suitable land grant for the children of Thomas O. Larkin. The trip was unsuccessful, but a year later Bidwell located desirable lands bordering on the Sacramento River, south of the mouth of Stony Creek and north of Colusa.

W. C. Moon and Ezekiel Merritt, both of whom were members of the Bear Flag Party, and Peter Lassen quarried and manufactured a large number of grind-



Alta Schmidt House Museum, Orland

stones in 1845 on Grindstone Creek, a branch of Stony Creek several miles north of the town of Elk Creek, and packed them on mules over twenty miles to the Sacramento River. Here they loaded them into fragile canoes and drifted with them down the river, selling a number at Sutter's Fort and the rest in San Francisco. These grindstones, Bidwell concluded, were doubtless the first "civilized" manufacture in Colusa County, if not in the entire northern part of the state. On the Grindstone Indian reservation at the confluence of Grindstone and Stony Creeks may be seen an excellent example of an Indian roundhouse.

ORLAND

A child of the railroad, Orland was founded in the early 1870s and became one of the larger grain shipping points in northern California. Three pioneer settlers met to select a name for the town. One urged Comstock, another Leland, and the third Orland, "after a town in England," according to one version of the story. Unable to agree, they placed the names in a hat, and a child at the meeting drew out the slip marked Orland.

Just east of the city on SR 32, Orland College, a private school for students above the ninth grade, was founded in the 1880s. Professor J. B. Patch, who became its first president, solicited funds from wealthy farmers throughout Colusa County for the two-story building. One of the few institutions of higher learning in the North Valley, it closed in the 1890s, following the opening of the Northern Branch State Normal School, now California State University at Chico.

Orland is the center of the Orland Federal Irrigation Project, an area of 20,000 acres watered by East Park Reservoir (in Colusa County) behind East Park Dam on Little Stony Creek. Formed in 1906, it was the

first irrigation project in the West installed and operated entirely by the newly formed United States Reclamation Bureau. It was a pilot project for federal irrigation in the state and was the forerunner of the statewide Central Valley Project, which was developed in the 1930s and 1940s. Eight miles northwest of Orland on the main channel of Stony Creek is the \$13 million Black Butte Dam (in Tehama County), constructed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as a flood control project, and completed in 1963. Black Butte Lake (mostly in Glenn County) contains 150,000 acre-feet of water and is a popular recreational area.

Orland today is a major processing center for almonds, olives, and oranges. Haigh Field, now Orland's airport, was first used as an auxiliary training field in World War II. The ladino clover crop of the Orland area furnishes much of the seed used in the nation; it is processed at a plant in Artois, nine miles south of Orland on I-5. Artois was originally known as German-town; in 1918, after the United States declared war on Germany in the previous year, the name was changed to that of a battlefield region in France, an American ally during World War I.

ST. JOHN AND HAMILTON CITY

Hamilton City, Glenn County's newest town, might well be considered the legitimate descendant of the two pioneer towns that have passed into oblivion: Monroeville, about five miles south, and St. John.

St. John, two miles north of Monroeville, was founded by Aden C. St. John about 1856 on the banks of Stony Creek, about where it is crossed by the present SR 45. St. John was the home of the first large general merchandise store in Colusa County and boasted also a hotel and large warehouses and barns, built to handle the overnight oxen and mule traffic bound up the west side of the river to the mines at Shasta and Weaverville.

As Monroeville was superseded by St. John, so did St. John fade when Hamilton City was founded in 1905 as the site of a large sugar beet factory, no longer in operation. The place was named for J. G. Hamilton, president of the original sugar company.

Three and a half miles north of Hamilton City on the west bank of the Sacramento River, a marker (SRL 831) commemorates Will S. Green, guiding spirit of irrigation in the North Valley and for years editor of the *Colusa Sun*. On December 18, 1883, Green posted the first water notice in California on a nearby oak tree. The notice stated that 500,000 inches of river water

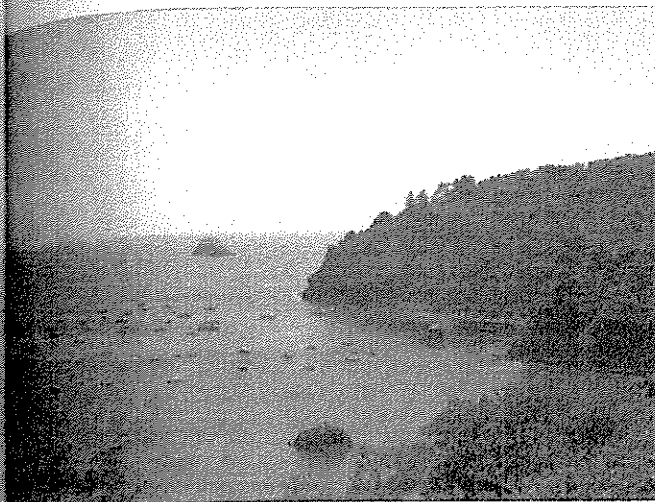
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were being diverted for irrigation of lands on the west side of the Sacramento Valley. The domination of northern California by the exploitative mining inter-

ests, with their appalling hydraulic mining that wasted soil and water alike, was coming to an end. The area's future would be with those who farmed the land.



Trinidad Harbor and Trinidad Head

Humboldt County

Humboldt County was organized in 1853, with Uniontown, now Arcata, as its county seat. Like Humboldt Bay, it was named for the famous German scientist and traveler, Baron Alexander von Humboldt, who however never set foot in this area. It was formerly a part of Trinity County, and what is now its northern third was included within Klamath County from 1851 to 1876. When Klamath County was disestablished in 1876, its territory was divided among Humboldt, Del Norte, and Siskiyou Counties.

CAPE MENDOCINO

Cape Mendocino, the westernmost point of California, has been for centuries a landmark for mariners along the Pacific Coast. The name appeared on a map drawn in 1587, when accurate geographical knowledge of the coast was still scarce. It may have been named in honor of the viceroy of New Spain, Antonio de Mendoza. The monumental rock may first have been seen in 1542 by Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo, the discoverer of Alta California, but few writers agree on the exact route of his voyage, and it is more generally believed that he went only as far as the Northwest Cape in what is now Sonoma County. The real discoverer may have been Alonso de Arellano, a deserter from the expedition commanded by Father Andrés de Urdaneta in 1565. Before taking his

vows as a monk, Father Urdaneta had been a noteworthy navigator, and his expertise was such that he was put in charge of this secular expedition.

In 1565 Urdaneta had opened up the route for the Manila galleon from Asia across the Pacific to New Spain, and in 1566 the galleon made its first trading voyage. For 250 years the Spaniards followed this route, sailing across the Pacific with rich cargoes of spices and other commodities from the Orient, and often sighting the coast of California as far north as Cape Mendocino.

Some of the explorers of the coast did sight Cape Mendocino and chart their course by it. Among them were Francis Drake in 1579, on his voyage around the world; Sebastián Rodríguez Cermeño, in 1595, while seeking a northern port for the Manila galleon; Sebastián Vizcaíno, during 1602-3, while exploring the coast from Cape San Lucas to Cape Mendocino; and George Vancouver, sent out by England in 1792 to investigate the extent of the Spanish possessions on the Pacific Coast. Each of these men, and perhaps others, passed by Cape Mendocino, or turned back southward from that point.

Cape Mendocino Lighthouse, no longer in service, was a forty-three-foot tower standing on the 422-foot high cliff, making its light one of the highest along the coast. In 1860, the steamer *Northerner*, one day out of San Francisco, struck a submerged rock off the cape