

Berry Creek

“Berry Creek was a popular stopping place on the Oroville-Quincy Road, first settled in 1849 or 1850. I have not been able to determine just who the first settler was at this place or how it got its name, except that the settlement bordered along the stream of water known as Berry Creek.

A.S. Hart built the first hotel at this place. Russ Johnson kept the hotel for a number of years. Then his brother and wife, Mr. and Mrs. Dave Johnson kept the hotel. In later years Lee Bell was the proprietor of the hotel. One of the last owners was Mr. and Mrs. J.M. McClung, parents of Mrs. George Washington of Oroville. The Berry Creek hotel was always famous for its fine meals, and travelers never failed to stop.

Joel Meacham, early day stage driver was one of the early residents of Berry Creek. Mr. Meacham was born in 1829 at Kinsman, Ohio. When but a young man he sailed from New York for California in 1852, coming via the Nicaragua Route. At first he worked in the mines and in 1855 he came to Berry Creek where he worked as a teamster and also in the logging camps until 1860.

From 1860 ‘til 1879 he became the driver for the Oroville-Quincy Stage. He had many thrilling experiences during his lifetime, having been held up once by bandits, and shot at one time. Wells Fargo Express Co. recognized the bravery of this man and presented him with a gold watch duly engraved, which he carried for 70 years. In 1886, he went back to mining for about five years when he again took up teaming, until the motor trucks took over this type of transportation. Mr. Meacham then settled down on his ranch, passing away at the age of 91 years.”

Florence Boyle, California Places, Volume 3, Florence Styles Room, Paradise Genealogical Library