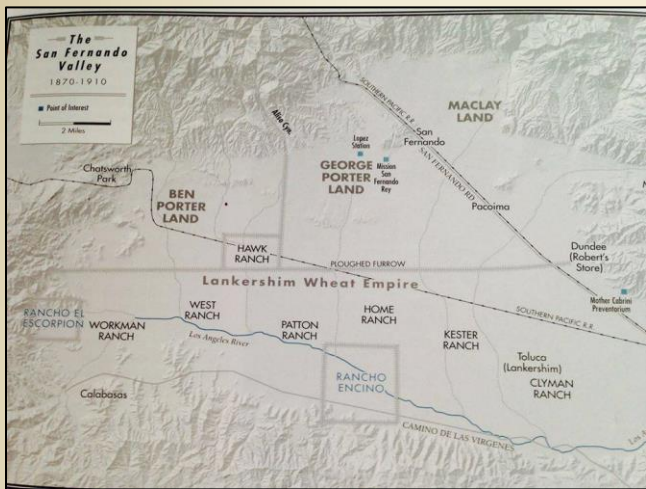
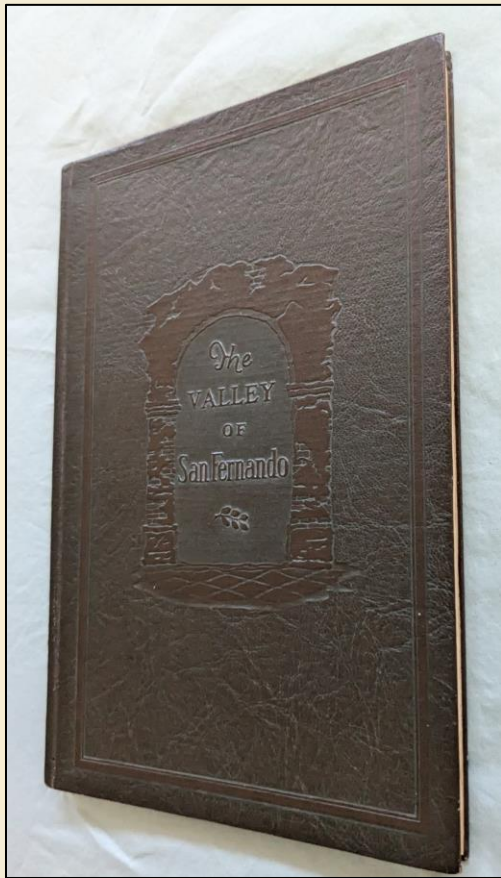


Wheat Farming & the Williams Family in Chatsworth



"Lankershim Wheat Empire"
The San Fernando Valley
1870-1910

1924 The Valley of San Fernando
by the San Fernando Valley Chapter
Daughters of the American Revolution



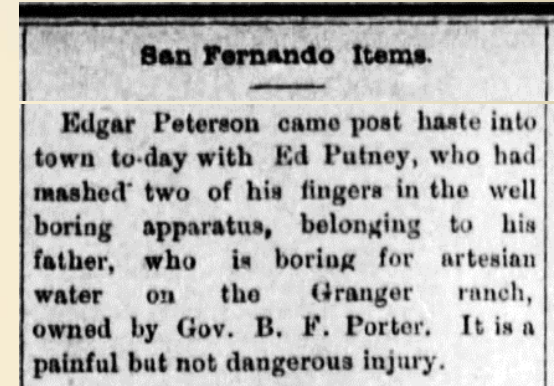
1900 - Harvesting Wheat in Chatsworth
Man at right is
Homesteader James R Williams
Williams photo 1964-11

Overview

Before Chatsworth was founded in 1888, it was known as the Granger Ranch, owned by Benjamin Porter. Dry wheat farming was the main crop, and homesteader James Williams ran the harvesting crew.

Sources:

1. Quote from the 1924 book, *The Valley of San Fernando*, pgs 65-67, "The chief ranches of the Valley were... (mentions many), ...the West Ranch, now Reseda; the Clyman Ranch, now Lankershim; the Workman Ranch, now Owensmouth; **the Granger Ranch, now Chatsworth.**"
2. The other documented historical mention of the Granger Ranch is from the 1883 article at right from the *Los Angeles Herald*, mentioning an injury at the Granger Ranch, while someone was boring for artesian water on the Granger Ranch, owned by B.F. Porter.
3. James R Williams (1853-1931) came to the Chatsworth Hills and homesteaded 160 acres in the early 1880's -- he filed for his homestead in 1884. He was a farmer in Kansas in 1880, as were his father and brothers. He documented his involvement in wheat harvesting with professional photographs, taken around 1890 to 1900, which is a large part of this presentation. James was the supervisor/roustabout for the Hubbard & Wright harvesting crew.



1883-06-14 LA Herald

Introduction

Dry Wheat Farming was a huge crop in the San Fernando Valley from the 1870's to 1900's. Erosion of the surrounding mountains over thousands of years created a flat valley, 8 miles in width by 12 in length. Seasonal creeks from the foothills created a source of groundwater for crops. (Note: LA Aqueduct from Owens Valley opens 1913, Chatsworth Reservoir was completed in 1918)

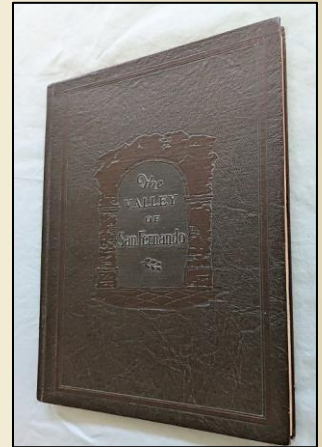
This presentation will be divided into 4 parts:

- 1869 - Sale of the south half of the San Fernando Valley to Lankershim and Van Nuys for grazing lands; dry wheat harvesting begins in 1874. Sale of the north half to Charles Maclay, Ben F. Porter and George K. Porter in 1873/74.
- 1880's - James R Williams - Homesteads 160 acres in Chatsworth, harvesting wheat for Hubbard and Wright. Hubbard is Ben Porter's brother-in-law.
- 1870-71 Alfred Workman is on the map of Ex-Mission de San Fernando, working out of a 22-acre ranch at Lassen and Shoup at the Stagecoach Trail. He became wealthy operating the Workman Wheat Ranch and built his home at Shadow Ranch in West Hills, LA Historic-Cultural Monument #9.
- The Granger Ranch - was not named after William P. Granger, who was a surveyor/engineer working for Charles Maclay.
- Appendices - Workman biography, WP Granger Papers, Maclay and Porter family ancestry, Hubbard & Wright, 1880 and 1883 newspaper articles describing wheat harvesting in the San Fernando Valley.

This presentation will be posted at our website, chatsworthhistory.com, Digital Archives, Presentations.

Sources

- The Williams Family were early Homesteaders before Chatsworth was founded, and remained and were active in the community for many years. JR Williams (James Richard 1853-1931) harvested wheat for the Hubbard and Wright Farming Operation. The Williams family gave the first pictures to start the Chatsworth Historical Society's Collection in 1964. The quality of the professional photographs are exceptional, most of them taken around 1890 to 1900.
- The book, ***The Valley of San Fernando*** was written one-hundred years ago in 1924 by the San Fernando Valley Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR)
 - In preparing for our program on Wheat Farming and the Williams Homestead family, this book turned out to be an amazing resource. We are fortunate to have recently obtained an original leatherbound copy in our library. Thanks to today's technology, the full text including some great photos can be read, downloaded, and searched on [Google Books](#). This history was written by members of the DAR, who were also members of the San Fernando Womens Club and were the direct descendants of the founding families of the north half of the San Fernando Valley, the Maclay and Porter families.
 - The stories in this book are fascinating as they include first-hand memories of what life was like 150 years ago, as the San Fernando Valley was purchased and populated by early pioneers, settling first in the townsite of San Fernando in 1874. Chatsworth would follow in 1888.
 - An article on the book, the Maclay and Porter families, and a few of the interesting stories is in our [September 2024 issue of the Smoke Signal](#).
- Newspaper articles, available at Newspapers.com, Ancestry records, available at Ancestry.com
- Other references which are mentioned in our presentation.



Background: Wheat Farming in the San Fernando Valley

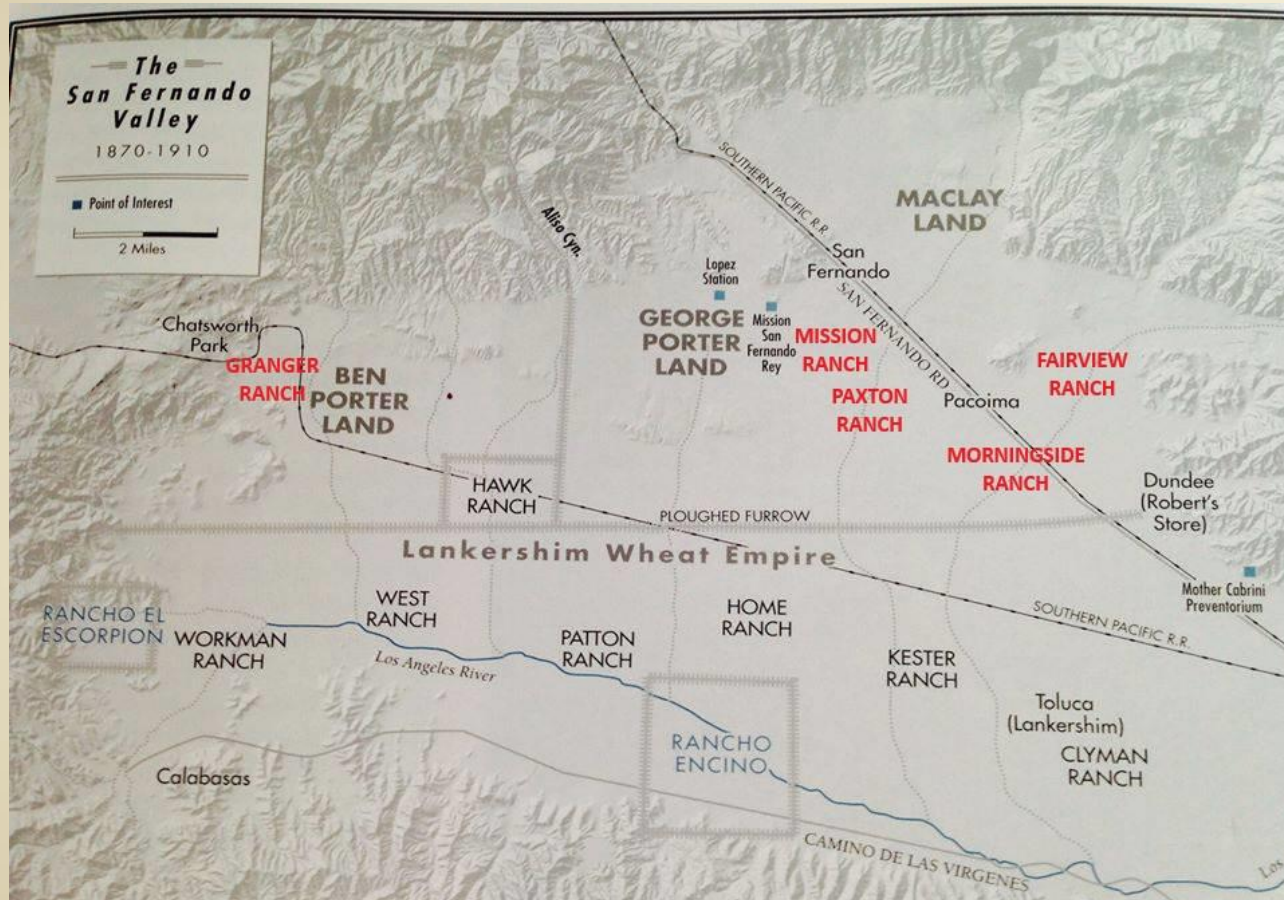
During the period of railroad construction around San Fernando, I. N. Van Nuys was busy with his experimentation in wheat culture in the lower part of the valley. His first venture in 1874 on several hundred acres was not very satisfactory, but, undaunted, Van Nuys planted three thousand acres the following year and secured a crop that opened the eyes of his associates and all other valley land owners. Three ship loads of wheat were exported to Liverpool from his operations that season, establishing a record for Southern California.

That old enemy of the valley, drought, came back in 1877 to show its power for destructiveness, bringing a failure of crop in Van Nuys' wheat fields, causing a loss of 40,000 or more sheep by starvation to the sheep company and other herders, and requiring the removal of remaining herds to the well watered plains of Inyo county, which were to become the future source of water supply for Los Angeles and this valley. This disastrous experience, coupled with Van Nuys' successful demonstration that wheat could be produced here in a profitable way under normal conditions, resulted in a pooling of the Lankershim and Van Nuys interests in a united wheat growing campaign on the entire lower part of the valley. The San Fernando Sheep Company was reorganized in 1880 and renamed the Los Angeles Farm and Milling Company. For twenty-two years this company operated without a single crop failure, building up large fortunes for all the principals, most of which was re-invested in Los Angeles in such notable structures as the Van Nuys and Lankershim Hotels and the large office buildings bearing the same names. The largest crop recorded for any year was harvested in 1888, when 510,000 bushels of wheat was secured from these lands.

1934, The History of the San Fernando Valley,
Frank Keffer, pg 52

- 1869 - The Los Angeles & San Pedro Railroad, Southern California's first railroad, begins operations in October
- 1869 - Isaac Lankershim and Isaac Van Nuys buy the southern half of the Valley as grazing land and begin raising stock, principally sheep. Their story at left.
- 1872 - Southern Pacific Railroad begins construction of a railroad connecting Los Angeles to San Fernando, completed in 1874.
- 1873/74 - Charles Maclay and the Porter cousins purchase the north half of the Valley.
- 1875 - Hubbard and Wright are raising wheat south of San Fernando Mission.
- 1876 - the San Fernando Tunnel connects Los Angeles to San Francisco by rail.
- 1880 - the San Fernando Sheep Company was renamed the Los Angeles Farm and Milling Company, devoted almost exclusively to wheat and some barley.

Background: Wheat Farming in the San Fernando Valley



Written in historical texts: "The San Fernando Valley was divided into thirteen ranches, seven of which were located in the southern half of the valley and six in the northern half. The Granger Ranch, owned by Benjamin F. Porter, became Chatsworth Park."

The 1924 book "The Valley of San Fernando", and "1962 Memoirs of Catherine Hubbard Dace" discuss **the ranches north of Roscoe, they have been added to the map at left in red.**

Hubbard and Wright were at the 1,100 acre Hawk Ranch, that became Zelzah in 1910.

Note: The Home Ranch was the Isaac Van Nuys' farmhouse, where Isaac and Susannah (Lankershim) raised three kids and a million bushels of wheat. Isaac moved to LA in 1871, they married in 1880. ([Water & Power Museum](#))

Background: Wheat Farming in the San Fernando Valley

1897 Van Nuys Hotel, N/W corner of Main and 4th Streets. The building is still standing as the Hotel Barclay ([contemporary view](#)) ([Water & Power Museum](#))

- In February 1880, Isaac Van Nuys married Susanna Lankershim, Isaac Lankershim's daughter.
- In the June 1880 Census, the Van Nuys and Lankershim Families are living together at 253 Spring St. in Downtown Los Angeles. Isaac Van Nuys (44) and Isaac Lankershim (63) are listed as Farmers. Lankershim's son James is a wool grower. They have a cook and a house servant.
- Isaac Lankershim died in 1883.



James Boon Lankershim would build the 1905 Hotel Lankershim at Broadway and Seventh.

Family Name	W	F	Age	Relationship	Occupation	Origin
Isaac Van Nuys	44	M	44	Head	Farmer	New York
Susanna Lankershim	39	F	39	Wife	Keeping house	Massachusetts
Isaac Lankershim	63	M	63	Boarder	Farmer	Prussia
James Lankershim	30	M	30	Son	Wool grower	England
James Lankershim	13	M	13	Son	Wool grower	Missouri
James Lankershim	10	M	10	Son	Wool grower	China
James Lankershim	8	M	8	Son	Wool grower	China
James Lankershim	5	M	5	Son	Wool grower	China
James Lankershim	3	M	3	Son	Wool grower	China
James Lankershim	1	M	1	Son	Wool grower	China
James Lankershim	1	M	1	Son	Wool grower	China

1880 US Census, Los Angeles

Background: Wheat Farming in the San Fernando Valley

rections of the compass. To get at a fair idea of the vast extent of the grain fields of San Fernando, we may generally say that an area averaging five miles in width by twelve in length would represent the full extent of the wheat belt of that valley this year. In detail, the number of acres put in and now being harvested is as follows:

	Acres.
J. B. Lankershim.....	10,000
J. N. Van Nuys.....	5,000
Smith & Patton.....	4,000
Alfred Workman.....	4,000
Perry B. Smith (on El Escorpion)...	500
Miguel Leonis.....	800
B. F. Porter.....	1,600
John M. Jennifer.....	2,200
Hubbard & Wright.....	2,000
C. H. Porter.....	1,800
T. M. Loop.....	250
Valentine Lopez.....	600
L. J. Beckett.....	600
Thomas Wright.....	600
Ezra May and J. H. Cross.....	400
Jacob Parsons.....	500
Slaughter & MacLay.....	1,000
McLelland & Haskell.....	300
Contreras Bros.....	250
Pastor Garcia.....	150
Schaiser Bros.....	50
John Glinn.....	60
Peter Domec.....	200
M. Brown.....	50
Total acres.....	36,910
There are other small patches	

ABOUT RENTING WHEAT LANDS.

Mr. B. F. Porter told us that he found great difficulty in leasing land in the valley to farmers who have been in the habit of leasing lands up-country. He owns a considerable area of wheat land in Salinas valley, and he finds no difficulty there in leasing farms, taking one-third the crop net for the rent. He offered some of these same parties to rent them San Fernando lands for one-third the crop, and to furnish the seed, the machinery and the work-stock besides; but they said "No; it was too far south, and they didn't want to go there." With the splendid results of this year's crop he thinks these same men will hereafter beg to rent farms in San Fernando valley, and on far less reasonable terms than those offered this year.

1880-07-10 Los Angeles Evening Express, entire article in the Appendix

- The article excerpt at far left describes the wheat belt in the valley as five miles in width by twelve in length. And lists the number of acres in wheat for 1880, in descending order of acres here:

Acres of Wheat

Lankershim	10,000
Van Nuys	5,000
Smith & Patton	4,000
Alfred Workman	4,000
John M. Jennifer	2,200
Hubbard & Wright	2,000
C.H. Porter	1,800
Others	<u>7,910</u>
Total	36,910 (~25% of the valley)

(note: Miguel Leonis and Peter (Pierre) Domec of Lake Manor are also listed)

- The article excerpt just left describes Ben Porter renting wheat lands for one-third the crop, and to furnish the seed, machinery and the work-stock besides.

Background: Wheat Farming in the San Fernando Valley

San Fernando Items.

Thinking an account of the number of sacks of wheat raised in the San Fernando Valley the present season will be of interest to the readers of the HERALD. I send you the list as follows:

John Clyman	27,550
Kester Rancho.....	38,500
I. N. Van Nuys.....	22,650
A. G. Patten.....	15,500
Alfred Workman.....	17,655
Jennifer & Barnett.....	11,160
Gov. B. F. Porter	21,680
Jno. Glin & H. D. Tower.....	1,000
Hubbard & Wright	15,500
Geo. K. Porter.....	16,000
Parsons & Williams.....	3,800
Jesus Rivara	1,100
Valentine Lopez.....	4,185
N. Contreras.....	1,000
Romulo Pico.....	3,600
Ramon Cañas	1,200
Juan Calderon.....	1,208
John T. Carpenter.....	860
Senator Maclay.....	11,750
El. Hammond.....	1,000
Total.....	216,307

Col. Nap Brokaw, an old '49er, drives the boss team for Hubbard & Wright; fourteen horses and one hundred and sixty-five sacks of wheat to the load.

Sorby & De Tapp finished threshing to-day. Next to our own Hubbard & Barnett, they are the boss threshers, and give good satisfaction.

Times are lively at the depot. Judge Griswold and his efficient assistant, M. Miguel Lopez, are kept busy; twelve to fourteen cars loaded with the golden grain, are dispatched daily, besides the grapes by Mr. Jeromino Lopez, Mr. C. R. Rinaldi, and Captain J. W. Hammond, — and car loads of lime by Mr. C. N. Wilson.

Hubbard, Barnett & Porter will finish the last stack to thresh Tuesday next, and then a grand harvest feast will be given by the granges, to their friends here and in Los Angeles.

J. Villalobos has opened a shoemaker shop and does good work. Yours,
VETO.

San Fernando, Sept. 28th.

1883-09-29 LA Herald

- The article at left discusses the wheat producers in 1883, the top 10 listed in descending order of sacks here:

Sacks of Wheat

Kester Rancho	38,500 (Lankershim)
John Clyman	27,550 (Lankershim)
I.N. Van Nuys	22,650
Ben Porter	21,680
Alfred Workman	17,655
George Porter	16,000
Hubbard & Wright	15,500
A.G. Patton	15,500
Senator Maclay	11,759
Jennifer & Barnett	11,160

- Col. Nap Brokaw, an old '49er, drives the boss team for Hubbard & Wright
- Times are lively at the San Fernando depot... 12 to 14 cars of golden grain are loaded daily.
- Hubbard, Barnett & Porter will finish the last stack to thresh Tuesday next, and then a grand harvest feast will be given by the **granger**, to their friends here and in Los Angeles.
Note: A granger is a grain farmer.

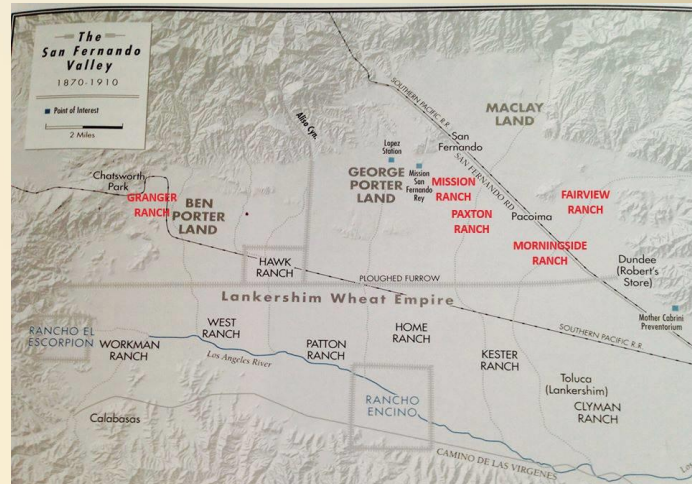
1883-05-15 How they Farm LA Herald

In May 1883, Al Workman gave a personal tour of the San Fernando Valley wheat ranches to the editor of the Los Angeles Herald Newspaper (see appendix). The ranches included were the Clyman, Kester, Van Nuys (Home), Patton and Workman.

Excerpts from the May 15th editorial below:

...On each of these farms, there are from seventy-five to one hundred and seventy-five heads of horses and mules; and in truth, they are needed to carry on such gigantic agricultural operations. During the height of the harvest season from fifty to one hundred men are employed, according to the size of the ranch. The plowing, for instance, is done with gang-plows, drawn by from six to ten horses. Each of these teams turns up from eight to ten acres a day.

On Al Workman's ranch, for example, nine of these large teams are kept busy during the sowing season, while Kester runs thirteen and Van Nuys fourteen teams. Harvesting operations are conducted on a similar scale of grandeur. Twelve and sixteen-foot headers are used. The former are drawn by six and the latter by twelve horses or mules. To show the magnitude of the San Fernando valley farming we may mention that, on the Kester ranch, in the harvest season, of headers, four twelve foot, one fourteen foot and one sixteen foot, are in daily use. A sixteen-foot header has the capacity of cutting forty acres of grain a day. Threshing is done in the fields by the aid of steam, supplied by engines running from twenty-four horsepower upwards. These threshers turn out from six hundred to fifteen hundred bushels a day, according to size.

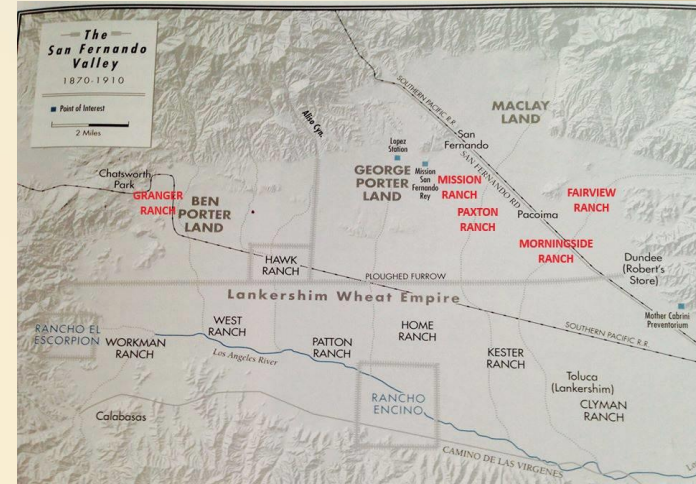


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Excerpts from the May 15th editorial below, continued:

In the San Fernando Valley, barns that would meet the admiring appreciation of a Lancaster county (Pennsylvania) Dutchman abound on every hand. They dot the valley on all sides, and they range from 80 to 120 feet, on the Kester ranch, to scarcely smaller edifices on the other ranches.



Not only are there several ranchos provided with these prodigious barns, but they have likewise granaries on a corresponding scale. In addition, they have, in other buildings, harness rooms and other conveniences.

Each farm is provided with a big well or wells, capable of pumping several hundred thousand gallons of water daily, run by horse power. In addition, a blacksmith, a carpenter and a professional harness-maker are as much incidents of the farming operations of the San Fernando Valley as is the ordinary gang plow. Everything is run on a scale positively Cyclopean.

Short Movie

Up Next:

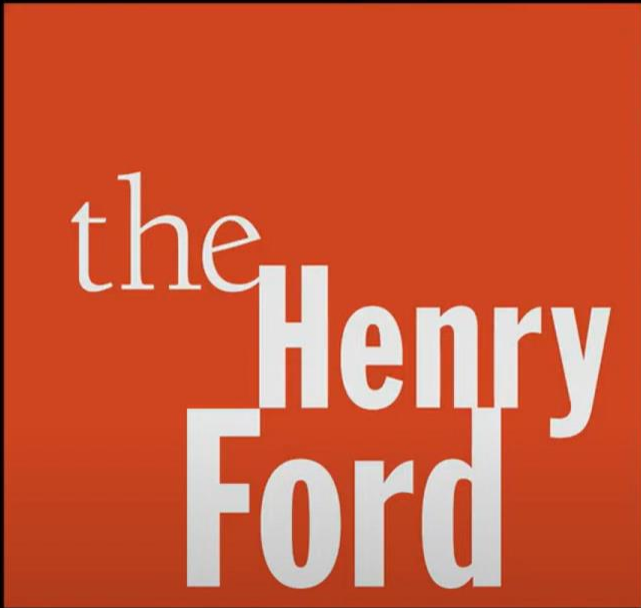
How Farmers Harvested and Threshed Wheat in the 1880s

From HenryFord.org

Two minutes

Also available on YouTube at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lcMnldjcX04&t=0s>



Dry Wheat Farming 101

How was wheat dry-farmed in the 1870's-1910?

Step 1 - Plowing the field - turning over the soil (usually after the first rain on October 15th)

Step 2 - Harrowing the field before planting - breaking up and smoothing out the surface of the soil, creating an even seedbed. (Williams photo 1964-06)

Step 3 - Planting. Perhaps using a Bickford & Huffman Grain Drill circa 1890

Step 4 - Reaping, cutting the wheat with a reciprocating blade, invented in 1833

Step 5 - Gathering the wheat into sheaves, to dry prior to threshing. By the 1890-1900's step 4 and 5 are combined, modifications include loading the cut wheat via a conveyor belt onto a wagon, to be taken to the thresher. (Williams photos 1964-12 and 1964-02)

Step 6 - Threshing and Separating - Powered by a steam engine in Williams photos, it was pitchfork-fed into the machine with conveyor belts, a heavy cylinder "threshes" the grain, separating the seed-heads from the seed covering and stalks.



"Harrowing ground, WSF Valley"
Notice pipe at end of harrow to smooth out the soil.
Williams photo 1964-06

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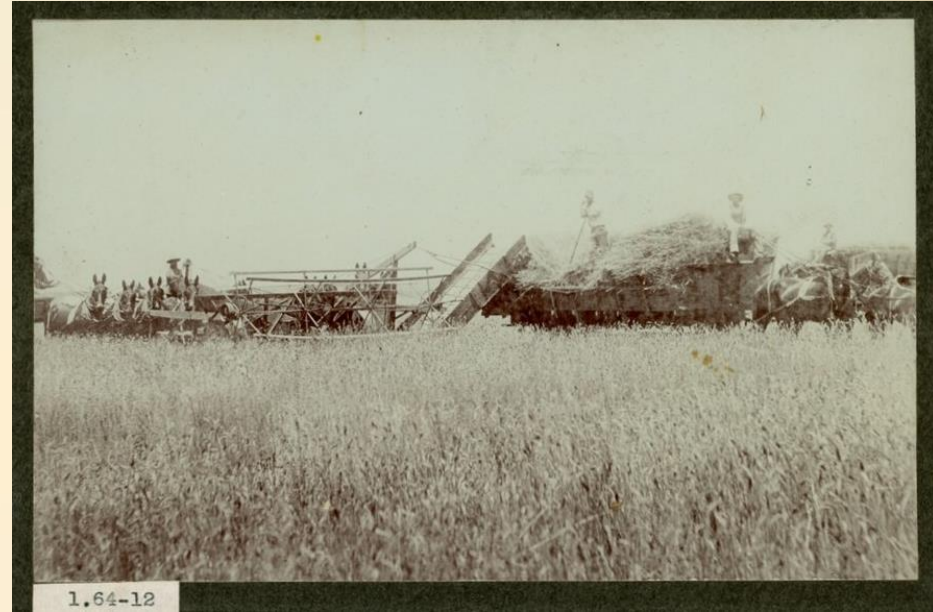
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A mowing machine, also called a "header".
The horizontal blades gather the cut grain, and it is loaded onto a wagon traveling next to the team via a conveyor belt.

Williams photo 1964-12

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A mowing machine, also called a "header". The machine rolls over the wheat, cutting the heads off with a reciprocating blade at the front. The horizontal blades gather the cut grain and push it onto a conveyor belt. The team "pulls" the mowing machine from behind.

Williams photo 1964-02

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A wagon is unloaded using a huge net, and grain is pitchforked to a conveyor belt on a steam driven thresher and separator. Steam engine is out of picture at left, turning the conveyor belt in foreground. Sacks filled with grain are stacked at far right.

Williams photo 1964-17

Dry Wheat Farming 101

Hubbard and Wright Farming Crew
The Entire Threshing Crew with Horses

JR Williams is at the lower right
Circa 1900

Williams photo 1964-01

Below enlargement, JR Williams
roustabout (supervisor)



Dry Wheat Farming 101

Hubbard and Wright Farming Crew Entire Threshing Crew and Horses

JR -- JR Williams, roustabout, on his horse

H -- Headers, or Mowing machines, which include a conveyor belt to load a wagon pulled next to the mowing machine.

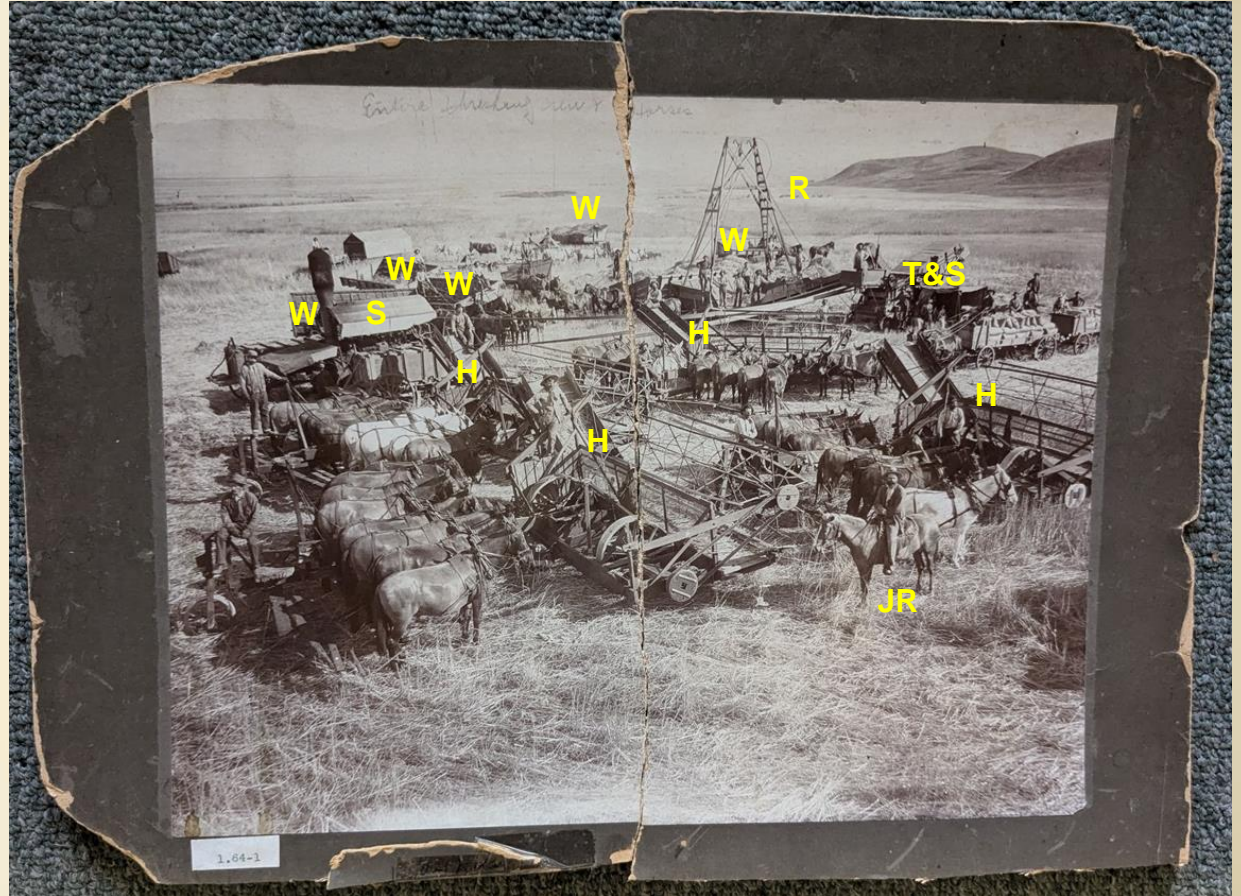
S -- Steam Engine running a conveyor belt that is connected to

T&S -- Threshing and Separating machine.

R -- Rigging to unload wagons, wheat is pitchforked on a conveyor belt to the Threshing and Separating machine.

W -- Wagons with rigging ready to be loaded with wheat from the Headers.

Williams photo 1964-01



Williams Wheat Harvesting Photo

The Williams photo at right shows 9 or more harrowing teams, some wagons and a few horses in the vast and empty San Fernando Valley.

We asked Dennis Liff, Chatsworth Movie historian, if he could identify the skyline and direction of the photo.

The JR Williams farm crew abt. 1900

Williams photo 1964-23



Williams Wheat Harvesting Photo

He replied that the blue highlighted section at right is “the Kestrel,” or Gavilán, the Hawk, which is a name he derived from a conversation with Al Knight.

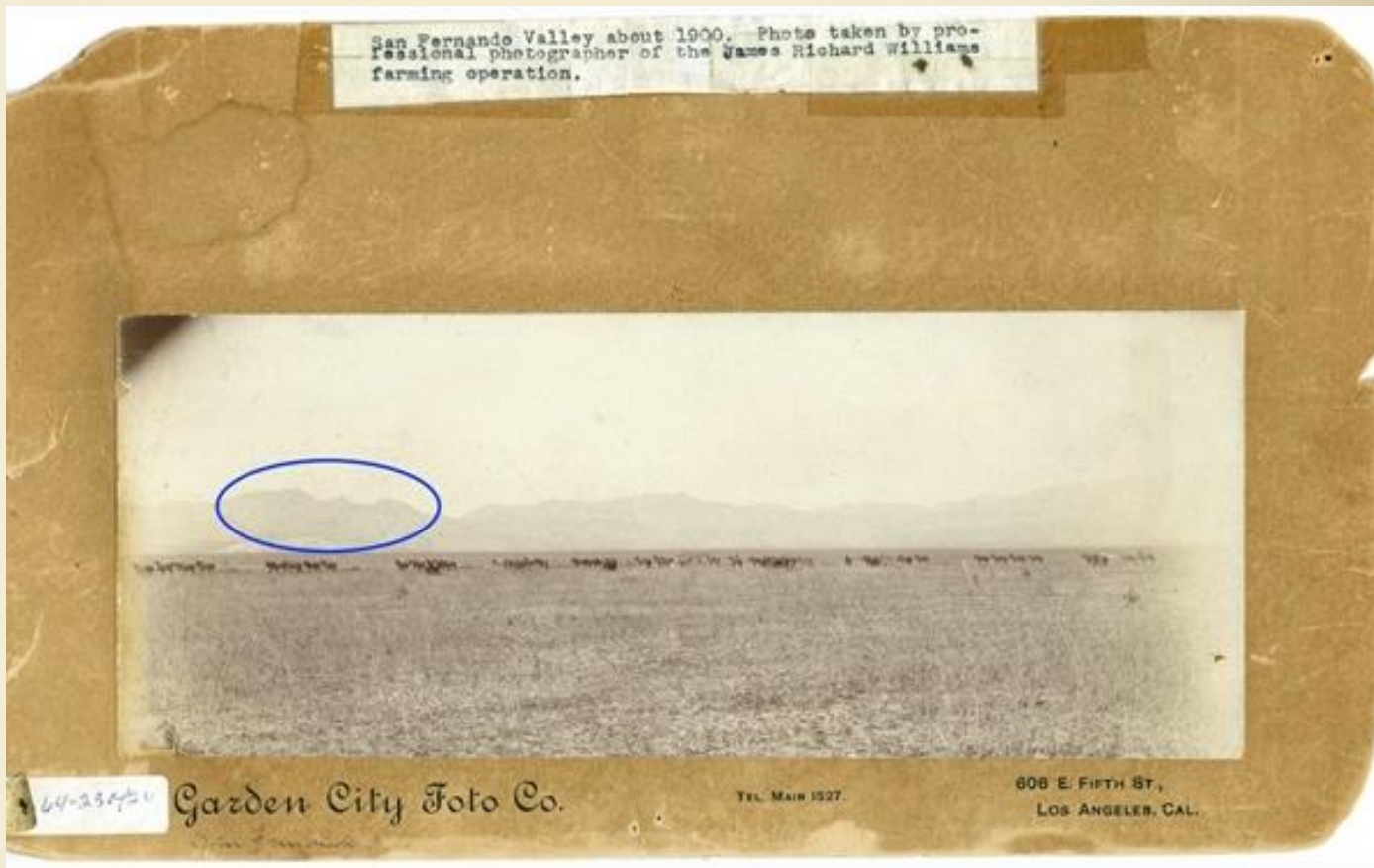
The view would be looking west towards the foothills.

He noted that both the Native Americans and the Spanish settlers identified the formation and likened it to a bird.

We wrote an article about the Gavilán (The Hawk in the Hills), A Native American Story, in our [2019-11 Newsletter](#).

The JR Williams farm
crew abt. 1900

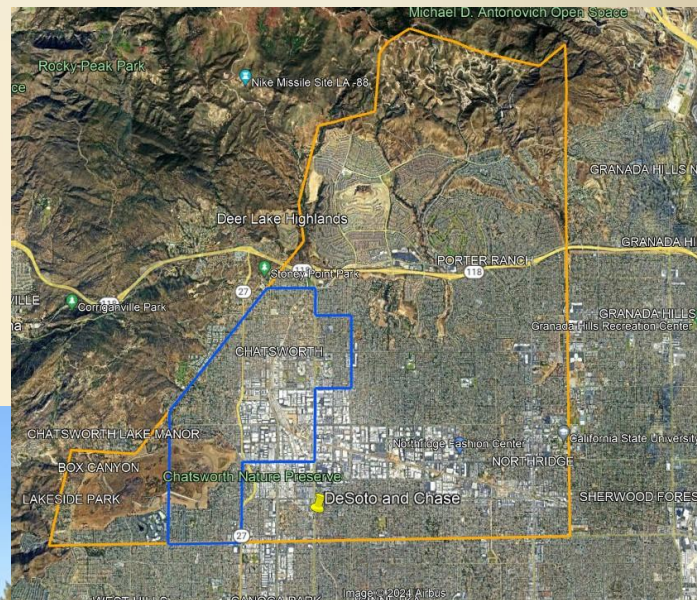
Williams photo 1964-23



Williams Wheat Harvesting Photo

Dennis sent me a Google street view looking west from De Soto where the Browns Canyon Wash crosses it (below), just south of Chase Street. It looks pretty close.

The map at right has a yellow pin at De Soto and Chase. It shows that the land is on Ben Porter land (outlined in orange), and just outside or near the border of Chatsworth, outlined in blue)



The JR Williams farm
crew abt. 1900

Williams photo 1964-23

Williams Family

The J.R. Williams family came from Kansas to Los Angeles and settled in the area around what was then Westlake Park (MacArthur Park today). Los Angeles was still rural in the early 1880's, but Mr. Williams said he needed more room for his cattle and so he moved to the Santa Susana Pass and homesteaded 160 acres.

James and Carrie were recorded in the 1880 Census in Kansas, and had two young boys, Elisha and Alfred.

James was born in Indiana in 1853. By 1870, his family had moved to Kansas. His father, James Arthur Williams, was a farmer and homesteader in Yates Center, Kansas, per the family scrapbook. His homestead was 81.04 acres granted in 1876 (see appendix)

Caroline Wagman, "Carrie" was born in Sweden in 1854. She immigrated to America alone in 1870, living with friends in a large Swedish farming community in Holdredge, Nebraska. James and Carrie were married in 1876.



James Arthur Williams at his homestead in Yates Center, Kansas

The 1984 book "Quiet on the Set", pgs. 36-38, tells the story of Carrie moving to Nebraska, and meeting James. The story is told by Carrie's sister Augusta, who homesteaded the 160 acres that adjoined the William's family.

Augusta met Carl Iverson, and that homestead became the Iverson Movie Ranch.

The story is also told in a 2011 article written by Virginia Watson, "[A Tale of Three Sisters in Old Chatsworth](#)", The three sisters from Sweden being Caroline, Augusta, and Emma.

Emma was Betty Berkemeyer Summer's (1925-2021) grandmother. Betty was a long-time member of the Chatsworth Historical Society and one of the docents at the Chatsworth Historical Society museum.

Williams Family

In 1884 James applied for a homestead patent on 160 acres. Twenty acres of cultivated land was used to raise hay and grow potatoes, with the remainder set aside for grazing cattle and apiaries.

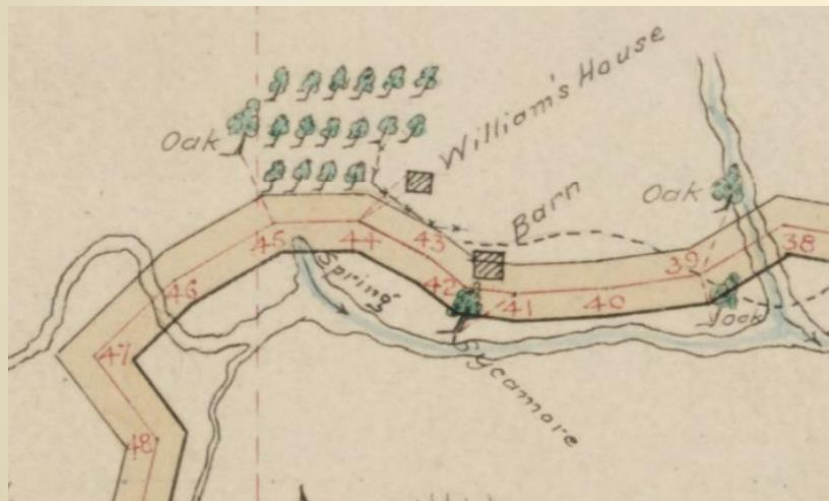
He and his wife Carrie, along with their two small children, lived in a 4-room 24'x 24' "wood-board house," with a 12' x 16' barn, honey house, a small orchard, and a half-mile of fencing nearby. (source: [Santa Susana Pass SHP - General Plan, Historic](#))



Google Earth overlay of the Williams and Iverson Homesteads

Williams Family

In 1893 a new road was built north of the Stagecoach Trail, the "Map of the New Santa Susanna Pass Road through William's Cañon", commonly referred to as the Chatsworth Grade road, and named "El Camino Nuevo" in the Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park. The map is available at the [Huntington Digital Archives](#), and is also discussed in our [Feb 2020 newsletter](#). A screenshot of the 1893 map identifying the William's House, Barn, and spring is below. That area became the infamous 1968-1969 Spahn Ranch as told in the [Spahn Ranch](#) article on our website. A 1912 Postcard of the area can also be found at our [Chatsworth Postcards 1912](#) presentation.



1893 William's House: source: "Map of the New Santa Susanna Pass Road through William's Cañon"

Notice the vertical section line on the map above which helped us orient where the house (yellow square) was on the map at right....



Google Earth overlay of the 24'x24' William's House identified by the yellow square. At today's Rocky Peak Church Baseball field at 23000 Santa Susana Pass Rd

Williams Family

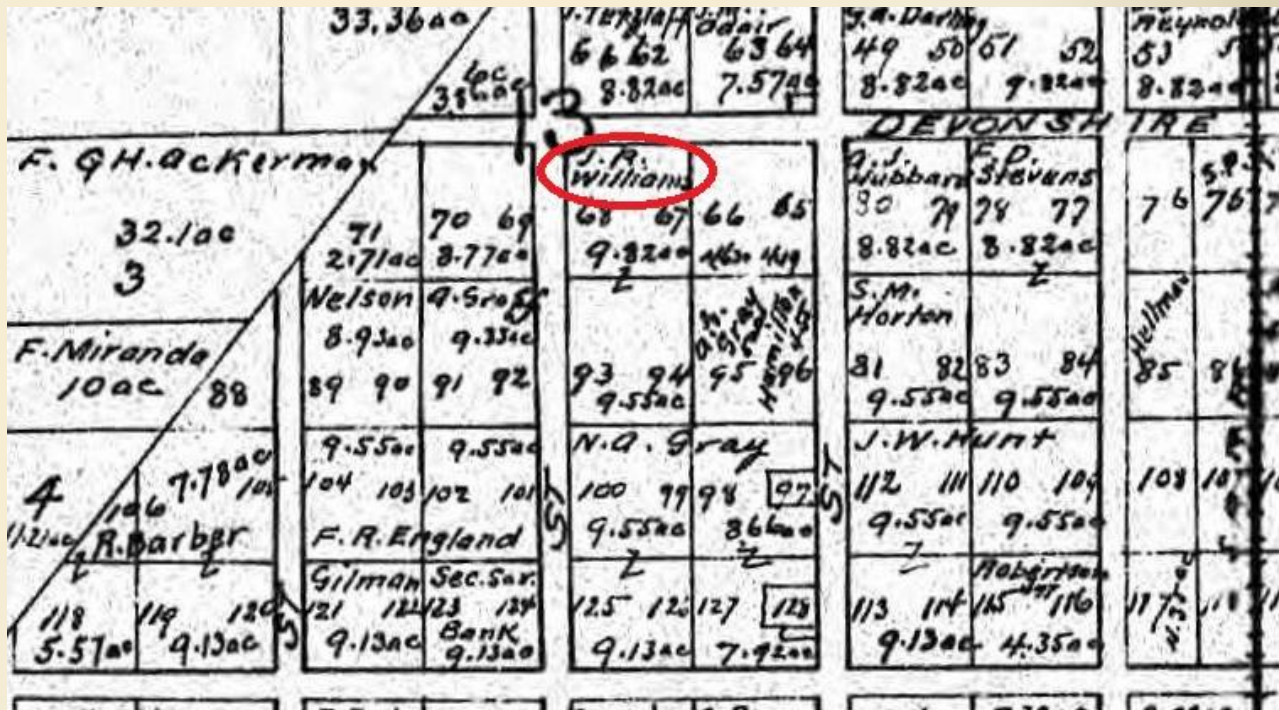
In 1897 their homestead was granted, and by 1900 they had purchased two 10-acre sections from Nelson Gray, and they built a new house just south of the school at 22152 Devonshire, the southeast corner of Farralone and Devonshire.

At right, a crop of the [1903 Property Tax Ownership map](#), 10-acre sections

In 1893, Nelson Gray purchased the 80-acre parcel bounded by Devonshire, Topanga, Lassen and Farralone

James Williams purchased the northwest 20 acres in 1900 or before, and built his house at the southeast corner of Farralone and Devonshire

A side note, the Williams still owned their homestead in 1903 per the Property Tax records.



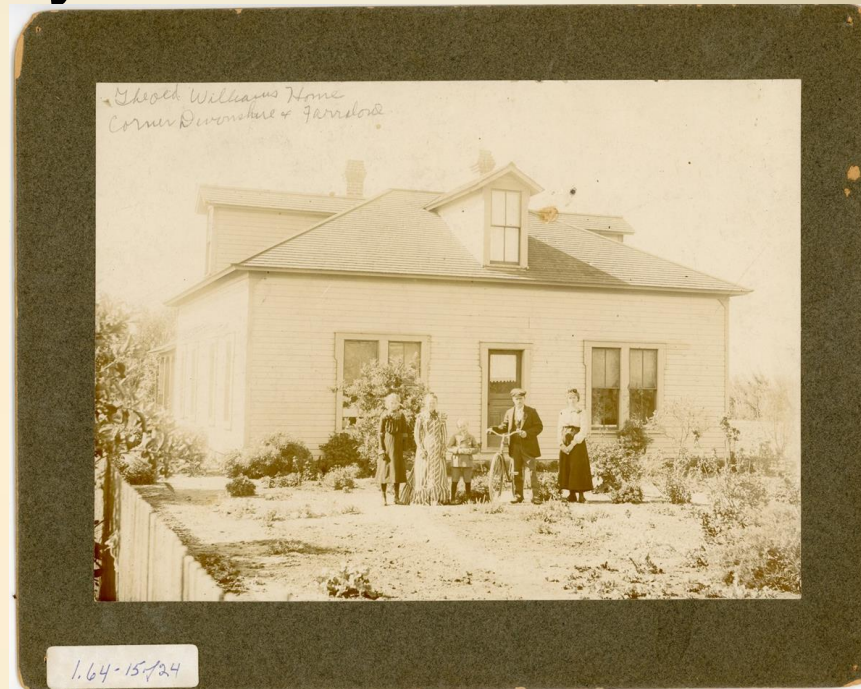
Williams Family 1900

The Old Williams Home, 22152 Devonshire.

Southeast corner of Devonshire and Farralone. About 1900.

Left to right Ida (11), Carrie (44), James R Jr. "Dick" (6), Elisha M "Shorty" (23), and Mae (14)

Not in Picture: James R Williams Sr (46) and Alfred (21)



Williams photo 1964-15

Williams Family 1930

The family always kept the name J.R. or James Richard and so at one time there were three of them in Chatsworth. James Richard Williams Jr. became "Dick" to his friends as he grew up attending Chatsworth Park School until the 8th grade, and then drove a buggy to San Fernando Union High School.

Per Dick's obituary (1893-1968), a former principal of the high school noted that Dick traveled 22,000 miles by horse and buggy during the four years of high school and was never late once.

Dick's June 5th, 1917 WWI Draft registration card listed him as a single farmer working for Carl Iverson 2 miles south of Chatsworth. The registrar signing the card was Rueben A. Ahlstrom.

Dick joined the Navy was a sailor in San Pedro. On December 26, 1917, he married Nellie Sweat, per the January 11, 1918 Owensmouth Gazette.



1918-01-11 Marriage Dick Williams and Nellie Sweat
Owensmouth Gazette

CHATSWORTH

ANNA M. GRAVES, Reporter

Last Week's News

Mrs. C. W. Johnson had as a guest, Friday and Saturday, Mrs. E. Barzen, of Pasadena.

Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Graves entertained on Christmas day Mr. and Mrs. Granger of Hollywood.

Mr. N. C. Johnson was hurt while driving some loose horses along the road. The horse he was riding fell and both he and the horse sustained bruises, but were not seriously hurt.

Mrs. Proctor, Mrs. Ann Johnson and Mrs. McDonald, entertained on Christmas Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Bliss of Monrovia, Mr. and Mrs. O. E. Johnson of Van Nuys, Mr. Elton Proctor and son, Ivan, of Imperial.

Mr. Richard Williams, a sailor of San Pedro, formerly of Chatsworth, and Miss Nellie Sweat of Sacramento, were united in marriage on December 26, 1917. The community wish them much happiness and joy.

Another large fire spread over the hills west of Chatsworth. Several men fought very willingly to save the home of Mrs. Hill and also the middle tunnel. Chatsworth is having fires this winter instead of "rain." We all hope there will be rain from now on and no more fires.

Williams Family 1930

In the 1930 Census Dick and Nellie are living at 10423 Santa Susana, with their son JR "Jim" Williams III (9) and daughter Marilyn (10 mos.).

The house was just north of Chatsworth Park Elementary, and was owned per the tax records in 1903 by Levi Lovelock, who was the [postmaster](#) from 1895 until 1898 at that location.

On the back of the photo of the house, donated by the Williams family, they explain that it was once a family home on one side, and the US post office on the other side.

Photo at right shows JR Williams with his son JR Junior in a buggy. In 1964 the house was still standing, north of the schoolhouse.

1895 Lovelock Post Office and House building
10423 Santa Susana (today's Topanga)
Photo taken circa 1930, view is west, taken from
Topanga.

Directly north of Chatsworth Park Elementary
NW corner of Hiawatha and Topanga
Williams 1964-14

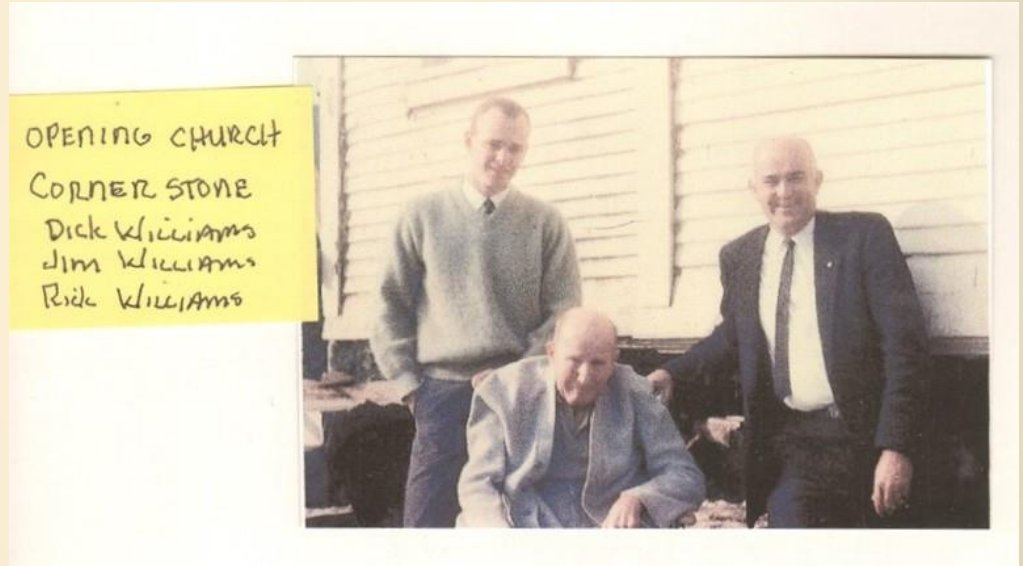


Williams Family

The family remained in the area and Dick Williams was able to be present in 1965 when the cornerstone of the Pioneer Church was opened just before it was moved from Topanga Canyon Boulevard up to Oakwood Memorial Park. Three generations of JR Williams are in the photo, Dick, his son Jim, and grandson Rick.

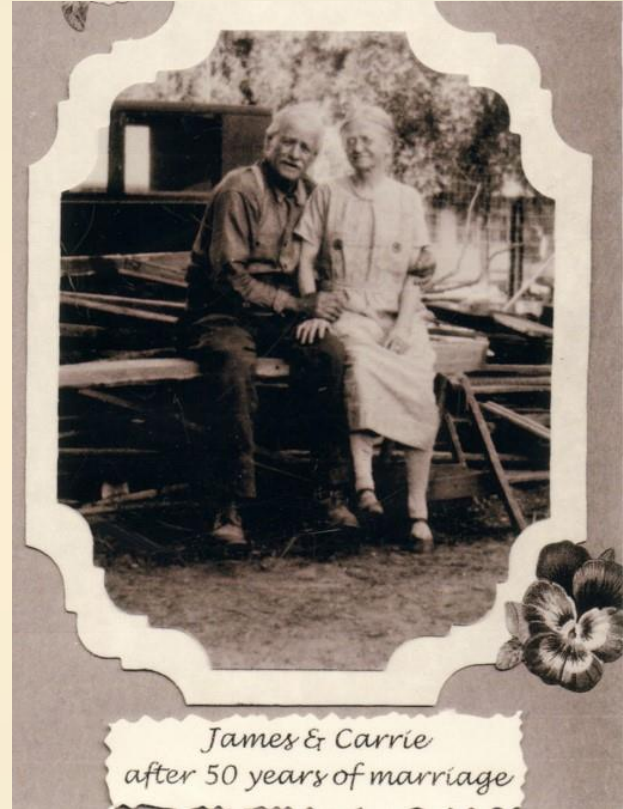
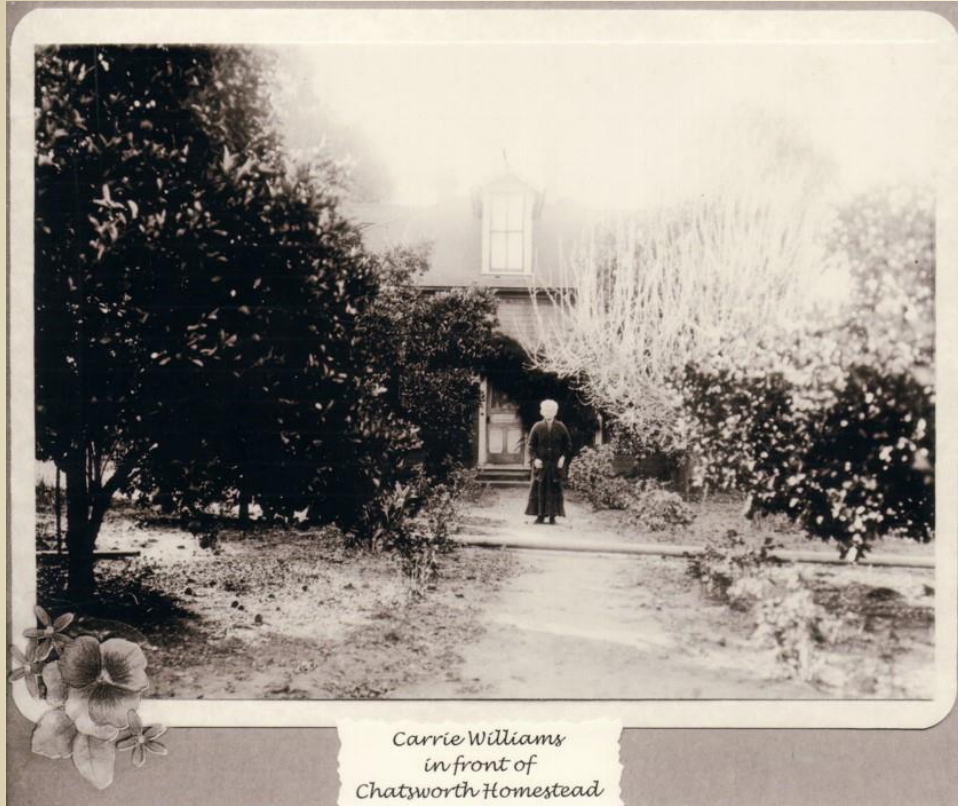
Mrs. Nell Williams, Dick's wife, gave the first pictures to start the Chatsworth Historical Society's Collection. They were all professionally mounted photographs, most of them of 1900 wheat harvesting, but others of their 1900 home on Devonshire at Farralone, the 1903 Depot on Marilla, and the 1895 Lovelock post office house in 1930 just north of the Elementary School.

Later in the 2000's the family donated to us a scrapbook documenting all of the generations, back to the Homesteader JR Williams father, James Arthur Williams (1825-1902), who was a homesteader in Yates Center, Kansas.



1965 Opening the Pioneer Church Cornerstone
Clockwise from left, with ages, 3 generations of James Richard Williams
Rick (21), Jim (44), Dick (71)

Other Williams Photos



Photos from the family scrapbook

Williams & Iverson Cousins

Top Row, left to right, Aaron Iverson (16), Mae Williams (22),
Elisha Williams (31)

Middle Row, Carl and Anna Iverson (twins 19), Ida Williams (20)

Bottom Row, Sena Iverson (12), Dick Williams (15), unknown

Missing - Alfred Williams (29), Joe Iverson (12)

From the Williams Scrapbook
Circa 1908



Other Williams Photos

The 1893 Depot was north of Marilla and the tracks, and south of the Chatsworth Hotel. East of Santa Susana (today's Topanga Canyon)



Enlargement of photo shows:
Sign on roof: Chatsworth Park to San Francisco 494 miles
Sign on post: Western Union Telegraph Office



1893 Railroad Depot abt 1900
Williams 1964-16

Other Williams Photos

Chatsworth Park Class of the early
1900's, abt. 1905.

Teachers were Miss Noyes and Mr.
Maltby.

Richard Williams is small, barefooted
boy lower right-hand corner with light
hat (and x on left foot)

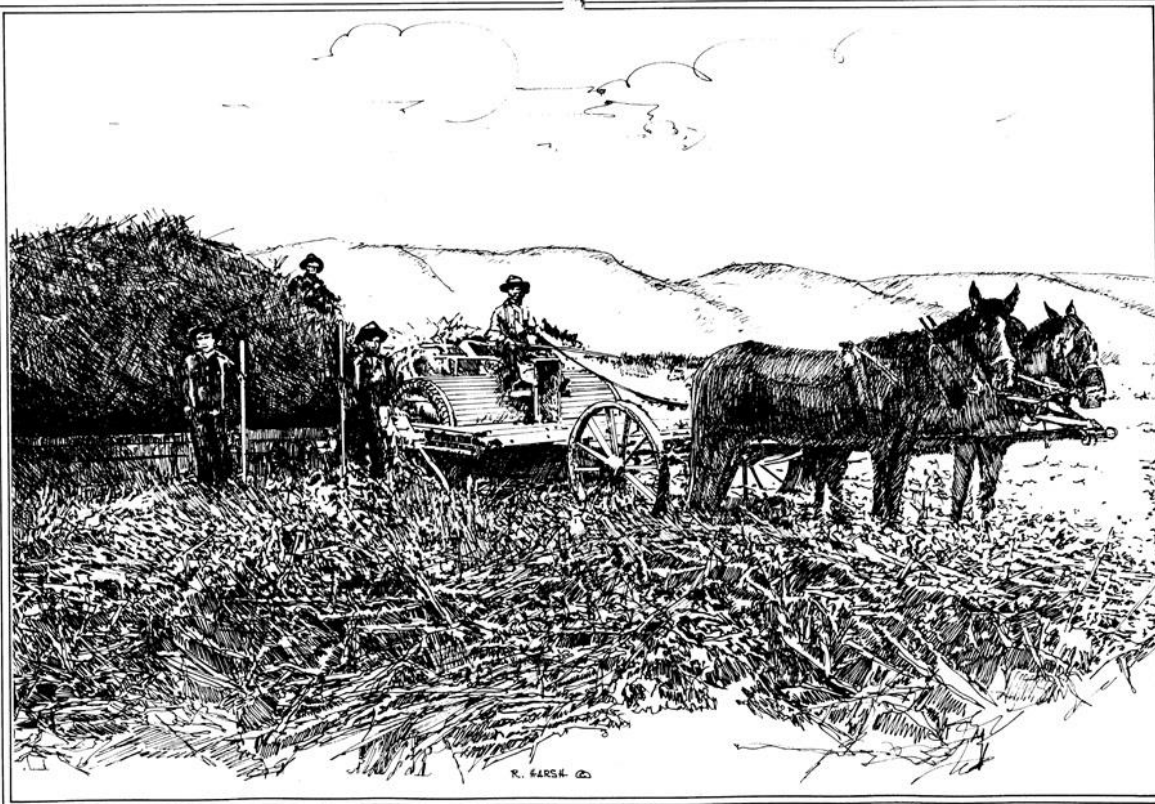
Miranda girls believed to be the two
girls in calico on either side of Miss
Noyes.

Note: In 1902, the school's name was
changed from Santa Susana School to
Chatsworth Park School to avoid
confusion with the new
1902 Santa Susana School
built in Simi Valley.

1905 Chatsworth Park School
Williams 1964-21



Other Williams Photos



Horses and mules pulled the farm machinery to cultivate, plant and harvest the wheat and other crops grown in Chatsworth and the San Fernando Valley. Pioneer J. R. Williams, who came to Chatsworth in the late 1870's headed the crew from the west Valley and worked for the Hubbard-Wright farming operation. Crew would work at first one farm and then another until each job was completed.

1982 Chatsworth Historical Society
Calendar

Horses and mules pulled the farm machinery to cultivate, plant and harvest the wheat and other crops grown in Chatsworth and the San Fernando Valley. Pioneer J.R. Williams, who came to Chatsworth in the early 1880's and headed the crew from the west Valley and worked for the Hubbard-Wright farming operation. Crew would work at first one farm and then another until each job was completed.

Alfred Workman

Alfred Workman was a dry land wheat farmer who made his fortune at Shadow Ranch in West Hills, today's Historic-Cultural Monument #9.

Alfred was born in England in 1843, in 1855 at the age of 12 he left England and traveled to the United States. He had no money for passage so he shipped as a sailor via Cape Horn and stopped for a time in Chile, arriving by steamship to San Francisco in 1857 at the age of 14. He worked for a while with the steamship company and in livery stables, in 1865 tried mining in Montana, and came to Los Angeles in 1868 at the age of 25. *(source: 1926 California and Californians, Bio of Alfred Workman, see appendix)*

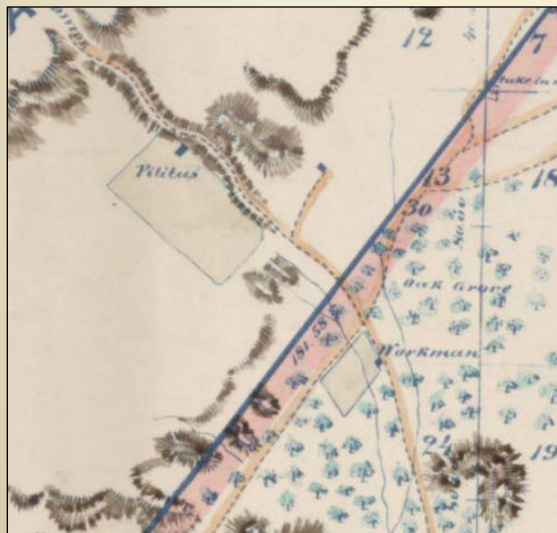


Shadow Ranch House and Park
a 13-acre parcel
22633 Vanowen Street, West Hills, Los Angeles

Alfred Workman

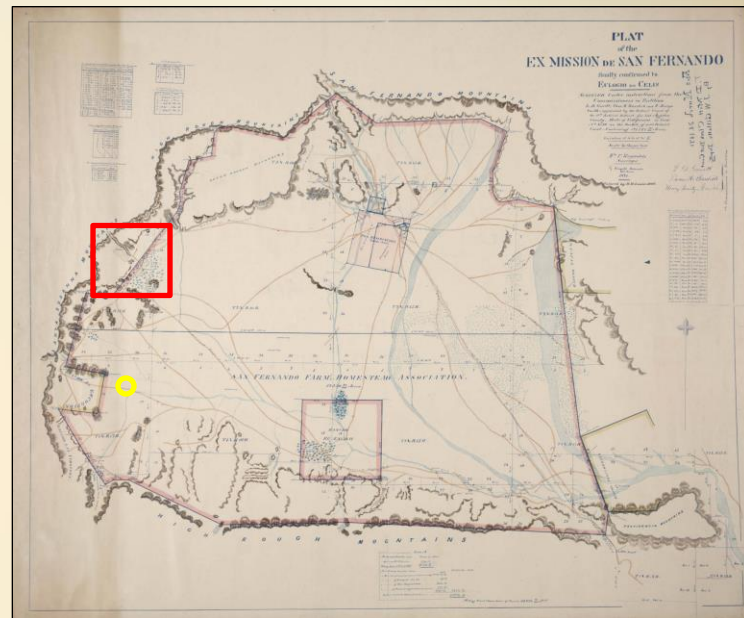
In the 1870 census he was in Chatsworth, his neighbors were Fabricio de la Ossa at the Stagecoach Swing Station (at Pilitas on the map below), and Gabriel and Ignacio Miranda of the Miranda Adobe (before homesteaders Francisco and Antonia Miranda).

In 1871 Workman's name is on the Ex Mission map at right, enlargement below, on the Stagecoach trail, just below Pilitas (translated as the fountains). He would establish his ranch soon at Shadow Ranch (the yellow circle on the map at right), just below Bell Creek.



Section of map at right highlighted in red is enlarged at left.

In 1871 Workman is identified on the "Plat of the Ex Mission de San Fernando finally confirmed to Eulogio de Celis", at today's Lassen and Shoup, on the Stagecoach Trail



[1871 Plat of the Ex Mission de San Fernando finally confirmed to Eulogio de Celis](#),
Huntington Library Digital Archives

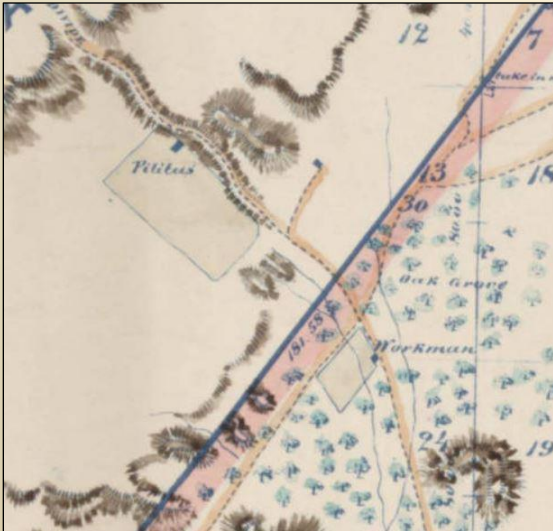
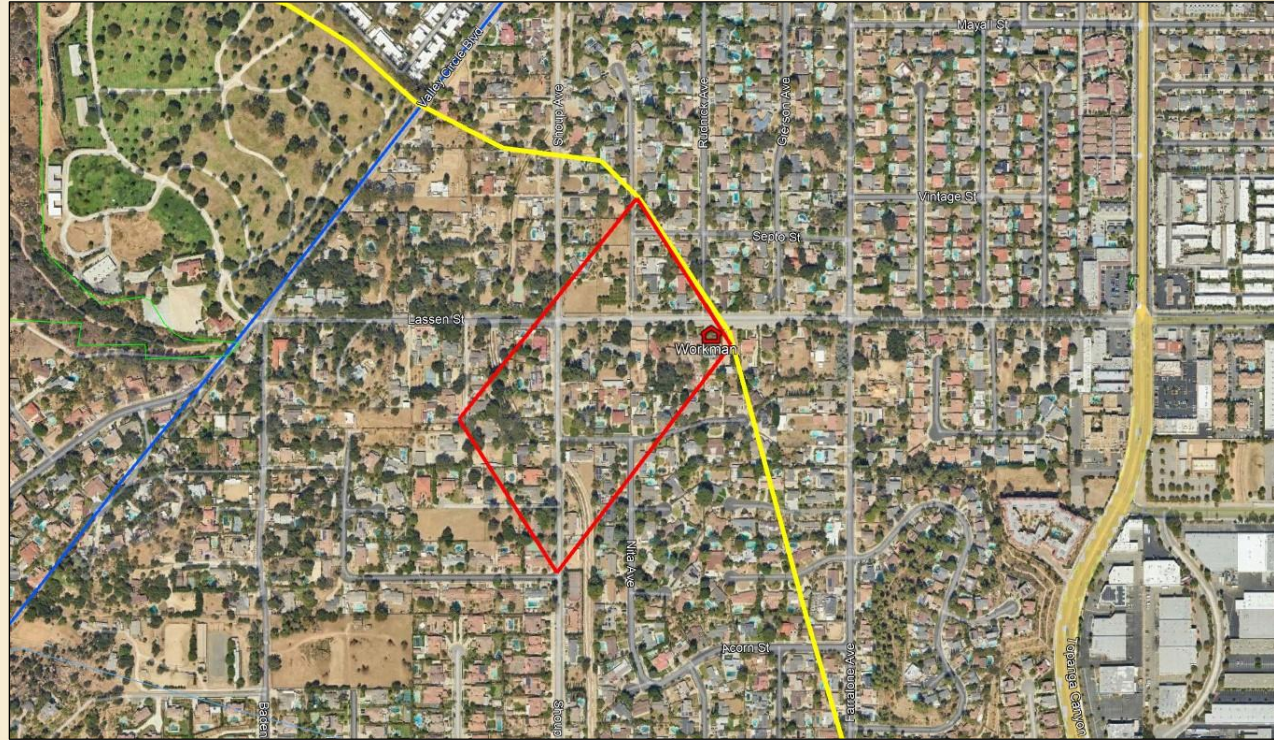
The lower half of the valley is identified as "San Fernando Farm Homestead Association", sold to Lankershim and Van Nuys in 1869

Alfred Workman

At right, an overlay on today's Google Earth of the Workman ranch identified on the 1871 map below.

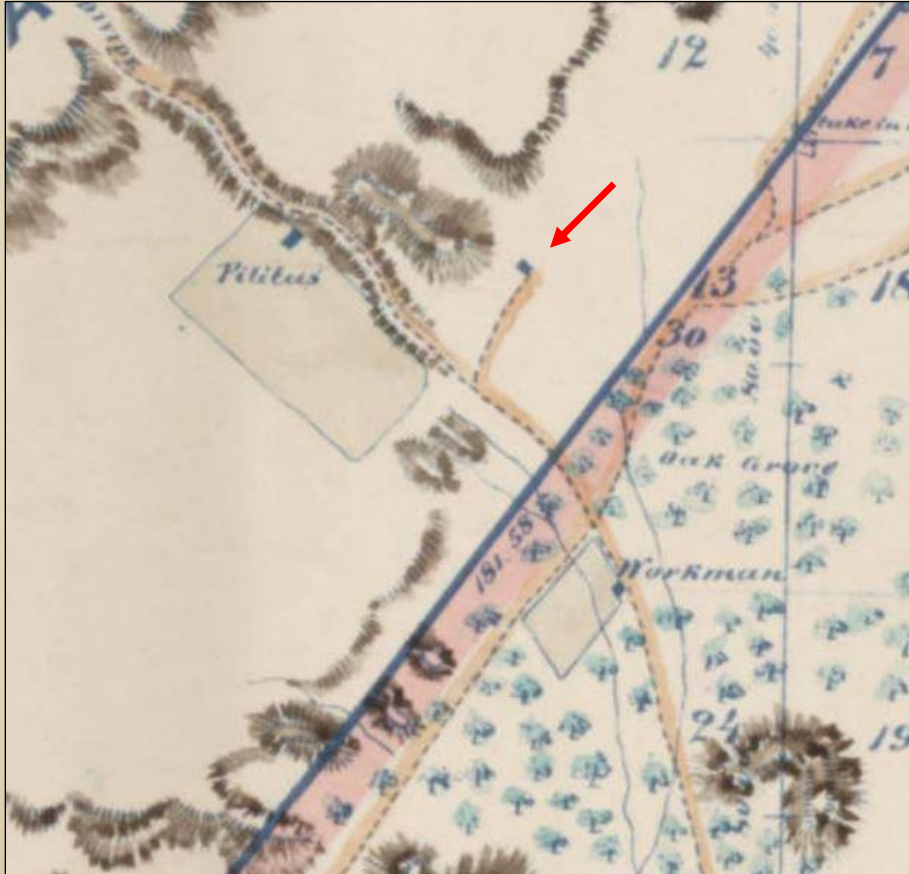
The 22-acre ranch (as measured by Google Earth) is outlined in red, the Stagecoach road is yellow.

The grant line (today's Valley Circle/Andora) is blue.



In 1871 Workman is identified on the "Plat of the Ex Mission de San Fernando finally confirmed to Eulogio de Celis", at today's Lassen and Shoup, on the Stagecoach Trail

Alfred Workman



By the way, looking at the overlay on Google Earth, the house with the red arrow at left is at the location of today's Minnie Hill Palmer homestead cottage.

A story from Minnie mentions that her parents took over a claim in 1886. We don't know who held that claim in 1871 that corresponds with this map.

In 1871 Workman is identified on the "Plat of the Ex Mission de San Fernando finally confirmed to Eulogio de Celis", at today's Lassen and Shoup, on the Stagecoach Trail

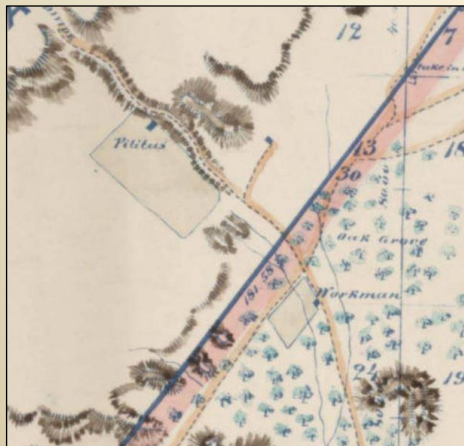
Alfred Workman

No one has ever documented what Workman was doing at the 22-acre Lassen/Shoup location on the 1871 map below.

Workman's biography mentions that he was an experienced teamster (driving a team of mules or horses). Laura B. Gaye mentions that Alfred was hired by Van Nuys to haul lumber (see appendix - 1975 Land of the West Valley - Laura B. Gaye). The location may have been a temporary headquarters for Workman to haul wood and supplies from Los Angeles to the new ranches that would be established in the southern part of the valley.

And the location, which is along the Santa Susana Creek, would have provided an established source of water for his mule teams, on a reliable road, the Stagecoach Trail to Encino and Los Angeles.

A side note, the Los Angeles & San Pedro Railroad, Southern California's first railroad, began operations in October 1869. Which meant that redwood lumber from northern forests would have been available in Los Angeles, as ocean steam freighters were shipping goods from San Francisco.



The 1870 Los Angeles and San Pedro Railroad schedule at right lists two trains running daily:


from Wilmington 8am and 1pm
from Los Angeles 10am and 4pm

Except on days of steamer arrival from San Francisco, when trains will run to connect with the steamer.

1870-05-12 Los Angeles Daily News

Lines of Travel.

LOS ANGELES & SAN PEDRO RAILROAD.



On and after March 8th, 1870, trains will run as follows, leaving

WILMINGTON—8 A. M. and 1 P. M.
LOS ANGELES—10 A. M. and 4 P. M.

Except on days of steamer arrival from San Francisco, when trains will run to connect with steamer.

Passengers for San Francisco will leave Los Angeles by the 10 A. M. train, connecting at Wilmington with the Company's new steamers

FARE

Between Los Angeles and Wilmington	.. \$1 00
" " " and Anchorage 250
" Wilmington " 1 50
From Los Angeles to Gravel Pit 25
" " Compton 50
" " Doninguez 75
" " Cerritos Cross'g 75
" Wilmington to Cerritos Crossing 25
" " Compton 50
" " Gravel Pit 75

Sunday excursion tickets between Los Angeles and Wilmington, for round trip, \$1
Commutation tickets between Los Angeles and Wilmington, \$7.50 per month.
A first-class passenger car will run regularly.

Alfred Workman

In 1877, Al (34) married Henrietta Smith (28) of the Los Feliz Rancho, which includes the Los Feliz area and today's Griffith Park.

Henrietta's mother was Maria de Los Angeles Feliz, born in Pueblo de los Angeles in 1827.

In the 1924 book [The Valley of San Fernando](#), the story of the wedding party at Shadow Ranch is on page 67. Invited guests got lost in a wind storm that swept across the valley, many people not arriving until midnight.

Shadow Ranch began as a 3-room adobe. Workman built a U-shaped house around the existing adobe, using 14-inch wide by twenty-six feet long boards. The two-story house was built over a large cellar and had a porch around two sides.

Downstairs were two large parlors, a dining room for the family and a very large dining room where the ranch hands were fed (source: 1975 "Land of the West", Laura B. Gaye, see appendix)

The Feliz Adobe is in Griffith Park, Historic-Cultural Monument #401, and is not open to the public.

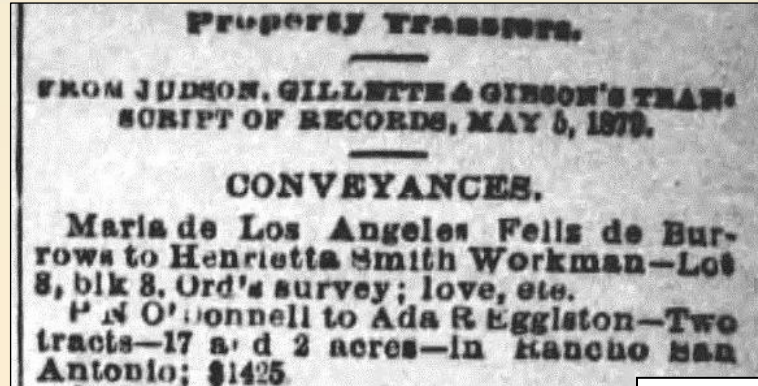


Alfred Workman

In the 1880 Census, Alfred and Henrietta Smith are living at Shadow Ranch with their one-year-old daughter.

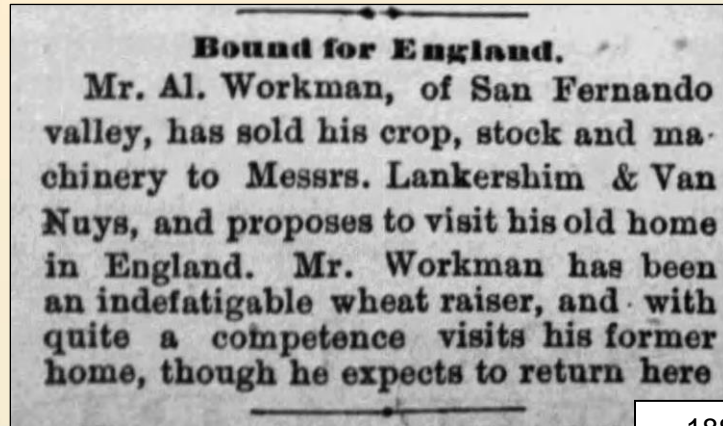
There are 17 farm hands at their ranch, and Top Wong from China is the cook.

At right, Henrietta's mother, Maria de Los Angeles Feliz, gifted some land to Henrietta in May 1879, for "love, etc."



1879-05-06 LA Herald

In October 1883, at the age of 40, Al Workman has made his fortune. He sells his crop, stock and machinery to Lankershim & Van Nuys, and visits England.



1883-10-02 LA Times

Alfred Workman

Less than a year later, in 1884, Al is building a mansion at the top of Boyle Heights, downtown Los Angeles.

He has an orange orchard on the bluff, with an ornamental carriage house and stable.

The ground floor is 3,550 sqft and 30 ft high, with an octagonal central tower and observatory, with a view of nearly all of the city, taking in a sweep of the plains to the ocean and of the foothill and mountain ranges.

It includes a basement; parlors, drawing and dining rooms on the first floor; sleeping parlors on the second floor; and on the third floor is a billiard hall, with smoking rooms in the minarets from each corner of the building.

A later article mentions the cost of the building at \$14,000.

1884-09-25 LA Herald

At the office of Mr. John Hall, architect, are the plans of some very beautiful houses that will soon ornament our city with their lines of beauty, symmetry of proportions and tints of color. One of the most conspicuous of these is that of Mr. Al. Workman on Boyle Heights. Mr. Workman has a fine orange grove on the bluff, on Boyle avenue, in line with the beautiful villas of Mr. J. E. Hollenbeck, Joseph Workman and Wm. H. Workman, which form a most delightful avenue, lined with fruits, flowers and homes of beauty and elegance. Mr. Workman has already erected an ornamental carriage-house and stable and has excavated the earth for the foundation and basement of his spacious mansion, which will command a view of nearly all of the city and takes in a sweep of the plains to the ocean and of the foothills and mountain ranges.

The edifice will be of wood, built in a most unique style of the Eclectic-Gothic architecture. The size on the ground floor will be 50x71 feet and 30 feet high, with an octagonal central tower and observatory reaching to a height of fifty feet, with an ornamental minaret over each front corner.

There will be a large basement, and a second and third story. The basement will contain the laundry and store-room; the parlors, drawing and dining rooms will be on the first floor, the sleeping parlors will be on the second floor, while on the third floor there will be an elegant billiard hall, 23x25 feet with smoking rooms in the minarets which arise on each corner over the bay windows, which project from each corner of the front of the building, giving a view in every direction. The conception is very happy, and as Mr. Workman, in his recent visit to England furnished the HERALD office with a specimen of the English fireside recreation, he will probably here reproduce in his beautiful new home, all the peculiar enjoyments of his native land. When completed, the residence of Mr. Workman will probably be the most ornamental in the country, but of that proposition there may be grave doubts and objections that will require a committee to report upon at the next Agricultural Fair.

Mr. Workman is to be congratulated upon his most conspicuous location, and his admirable plan that will display all the peculiar beauties of his charming building. May he live long to enjoy his beautiful home.

Alfred Workman

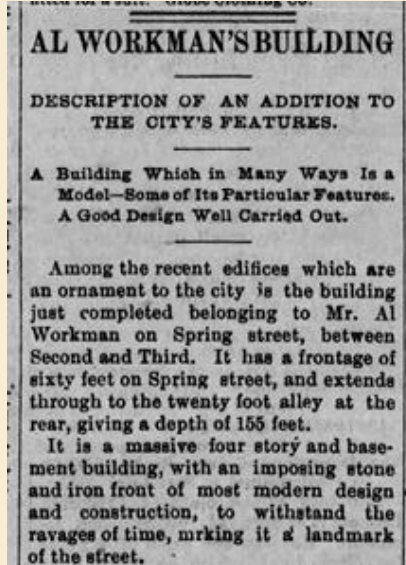
In 1891, Al has just completed an office building on Spring Street, between Second and Third.

It has a footprint of 9,300 sqft, a four story and basement building.

The first story is a large double and single story room.

The upper two stories have a large and airy hall twenty feet wide and 116 feet long, extending two stories and covered by an iron and glass skylight, the largest in the city.

There are twenty-two large sized office rooms on each floor, each containing a fireplace and gas service. Each room is furnished with a marble stationary washstand. There are two lavatories on each floor, on the rear porches.



1891-08-30 LAHerald

The first story is divided into a large double and a single store room, with lofty ceilings lighted from above through ceiling lights of embossed glass from a large skylight described further on. In the rear light comes by windows covering the entire ends, and together with the large plate glasses of the front, which are the admiration of all the passers-by, make the store rooms the best lighted and most desirable in the city. Among the other conveniences of the store rooms is a deep basement extending under the sidewalk, where it is lighted by large dead lights, and at the rear end, by a ten-foot area in which run two freight elevators for the handling of goods direct from the alley, and thereby obviating the necessity of blockading the street with goods.

The upper stories are a departure from the ordinary plan of buildings of this character, and one is struck by the large size and airy appearance of the hall, which is twenty feet wide and 116 feet long, extending through two stories and covered full size by an iron and glass skylight, the largest in the city.

There are twenty-two large-sized office rooms upon each floor, or a total of forty-four rooms, averaging fifteen feet by nineteen feet each, containing a fireplace and each supplied with separate gas service, making forty-four of the largest, airiest and best-ventilated office rooms in California.

Mr. Workman did not fall into the common error of trying to crowd as many rooms as possible into a given space, but upon inspection of all the buildings in the city, and seeing the number of small, illy-lighted rooms without tenants, he decided upon a course of action, and to reverse the common rule which seems to hold away here, of giving the least possible rooms, decided to give the largest and best for the money, and time will prove the wisdom of his choice.

The approach to the upper stories is near the center of the building, and constitutes a principal feature of the front elevation, which bears the name of Al Workman, the founder. The stairway will be of hardwood, broad and easy, wainscotted at the sides in the same wood, and all finished in the natural wood.

The building will be amply provided against accident in case of fire, there being fire hydrants situated upon the second and third floors, and a ten-foot porch at the rear of each floor, over the ally, with stairways leading to the ground and roof. The building will be well supplied with modern conveniences, each room being furnished with a marble stationary washstand. Two lavatories are upon each floor, upon the rear porches. The architect of this fine edifice was S. I. Haas.

THE IRON WORK.

Llewellyn Brothers, proprietors of the Columbia Iron foundry, furnished all the iron work on this magnificent structure, and so well was it done that the firm was very highly complimented by Mr. Workman, who pronounced it one of the best executed jobs he had ever seen. This enterprising firm has handled some of the largest contracts ever let in Southern California, and their work is always highly commended. They manufacture everything in the iron line. They make a specialty of mining and power machinery and architectural castings.

Alfred Workman

Alfred & Henrietta had 5 children. Three died within their first year.

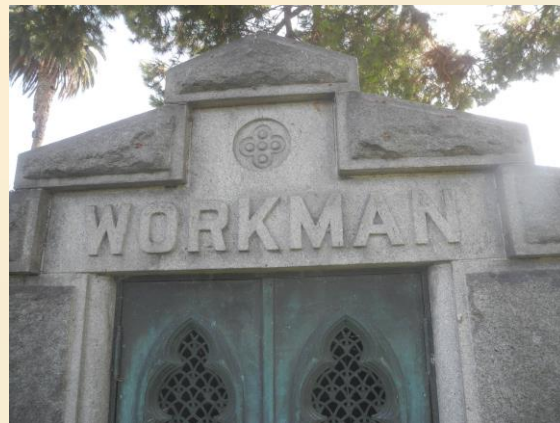
Their daughter Mary died in 1893 when she was 14.

Their son William was thrown from a horse in 1897 when he was 16, and never fully recovered. In 1908 he died from a heart attack at the age of 27.

Henrietta died in 1930 at the age of 77.

Alfred died 5 months later in 1931 at the age of 88.

The family is buried in the Workman private vault in Inglewood Park Cemetery.



PIONEER DIES
LOS ANGELES, Jan. 4. (LP)—
Mrs. Henrietta Workman, one of the oldest native born Angelenos, died here yesterday. She was born 77 years ago on the old Los Feliz ranch, now a part of the city.

1930-01-04 Henrietta Workman
Obit Riverside Daily Press

Alfred Workman Pioneer Citizen, Buried Today

Last rites for Alfred Workman, 87 years of age, resident of California for seventy years, will be conducted at 10 a.m. today from Bresee Brothers chapel, 855 South Figueroa street. Interment will follow in Inglewood Park Cemetery.

Mr. Workman died at his home, 1013 South Alvarado street, last Wednesday from injuries received two months ago when he fell and fractured a hip.

Born in Gloucester, Eng., he came to California when a boy. He prospected for gold in Nevada and moved to Los Angeles where he owned and operated the first stage line between Los Angeles and Santa Monica. He was a member of the Los Angeles County Pioneers and of the Historical Society of Southern California.

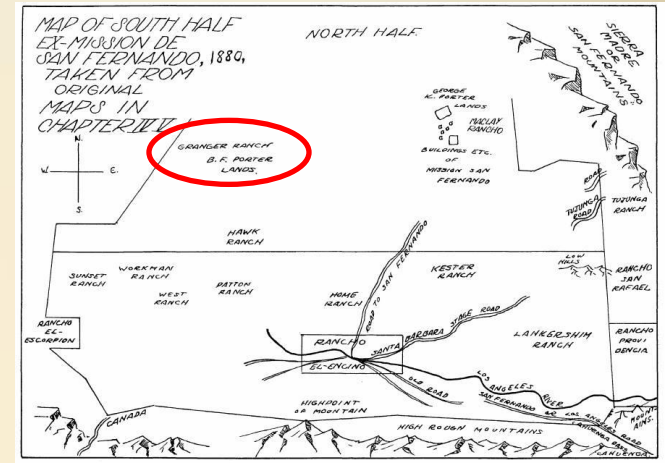
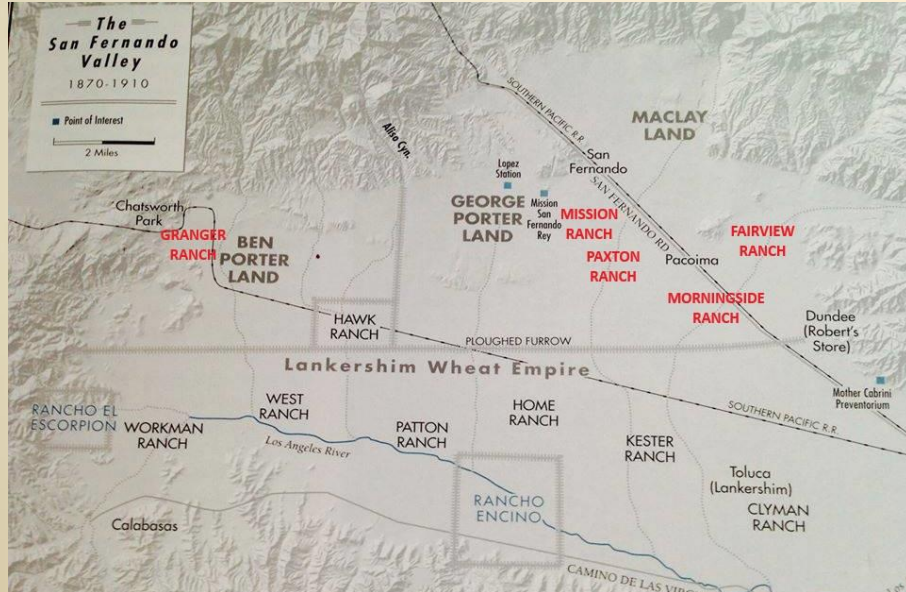
Mr. Workman leaves no immediate family, his wife and five children having died.

1931-06-11 Alfred Workman
Obituary LATimes

The Granger Ranch

Written in historical texts: "The San Fernando Valley was divided into thirteen ranches, seven of which were located in the southern half of the valley and six in the northern half. **The Granger Ranch**, owned by Benjamin F. Porter, became Chatsworth Park."

The 1924 book "The Valley of San Fernando", and "1962 Memoirs of Catherine Hubbard Dace" discuss the ranches north of Roscoe, they have been added to the map below in red:



The only published map that includes the Granger Ranch (circled in red above), USC Archives 1930 CM Smith Thesis source: Rich Krugel facebook

1870-1910 Wheat Ranches in the San Fernando Valley.
Six ranches north of Roscoe (ploughed furrow on the map), owned by Maclay and the Porter Cousins
Seven ranches south of Roscoe owned by Lankershim and Van Nuys

William P. Granger - not affiliated with the Granger Ranch

The land adjoining this on the south was laid out at the same time in a town and named Pacoima. The first survey was made by a civil engineer by the name of Harding, but in June, 1887, the Maclay Colony requested Mr. Hood, chief engineer of the Southern Pacific Railroad, to recommend a civil engineer. Mr. William P. Granger, then in their employ and on a tour through the State from San Francisco to San Diego to locate a Coast route, was the man chosen by Mr. Hood.

Mr. Granger was a man of national reputation, having played a most important part in the development of the railway systems in the United States. His greatest achievement was the building of the Hoosac Tunnel in Massachusetts, one of the colossal engineering feats of that time, being the second longest tunnel in the world.

It was Mr. Granger who discovered in the winter of 1867 and 1868, while engaged in building the tunnel, that the explosive, nitro-glycerin, could be safely transported if frozen. Up to the time of this discovery by Mr. Granger all current literature on this explosive distinctly asserted that when congealed the slightest touch or jar was sufficient to explode it. Professor George M. Mowbray, the inventor of nitro-glycerin, in recounting this incident in his book, "Tri-Nitro-Glycerin," makes the following statement: "From that day I have never transported nitro-glycerin except in a frozen condition, and to that lesson we are indebted for the safe transmission of more than two hundred and fifty thousand pounds of this explosive over the roughest road of New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, New York and the coal and oil regions of Pennsylvania, in spring wagons, with our own teams."

Because of the inducements offered, Mr. Granger accepted the position proffered by the Maclay Colony and immediately assumed charge of the work. He re-surveyed the whole twenty thousand acres and his map of the survey was filed with the County Recorder in Los Angeles.

After completing the survey for the Maclay Colony in the San Fernando Valley, Mr. Granger retired from active business and devoted himself to his home, which he had built in San Fernando, bringing here his wife and daughter. Notwithstanding his great achievements, he was a very modest and retiring man with a gentle, sympathetic nature, loving his fellow beings.

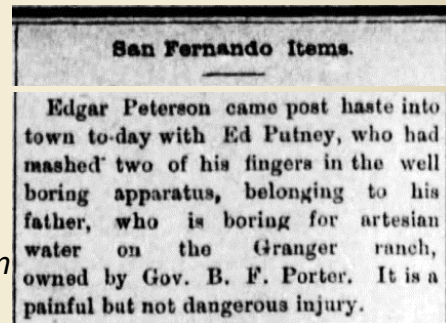
It has been misreported, beginning in the 1960's, that The Granger Ranch, later to become Chatsworth in 1888, was named after WP Granger.

At left is the excerpt from The Valley of San Fernando on William P. Granger, a **surveyor / civil engineer** who became involved with the Maclay Colony in 1887. The book was written in part by Maclay descendants, specifically Isabella Rice Granger Maclay, W.P. Granger's daughter. It mentions that Mr. Granger resurveyed the whole 20,000 acres of the Maclay colony.

The William P. Granger Papers at UCLA have no mention of a Granger Ranch, but include maps and papers related to the Maclay Colony and Maclay Rancho, consistent with the 1924 excerpt at left.

The 1883 article at right mentions boring an artesian well on the Granger ranch, owned by Ben Porter. This article was written 4 years before William P. Granger arrived in San Fernando.

(Note: The word "grange" is from Latin *granum* or "grain". A granger is a grain farmer.)



1883-06-14 LA Herald

1924 The Valley of San Fernando - DAR pg 77

William P. Granger Papers at UCLA

Ann & Ray Vincent reviewed the Granger Papers at the UCLA archives in June 2024.

Many of the papers related to William's engineering and surveying activities in Massachusetts.

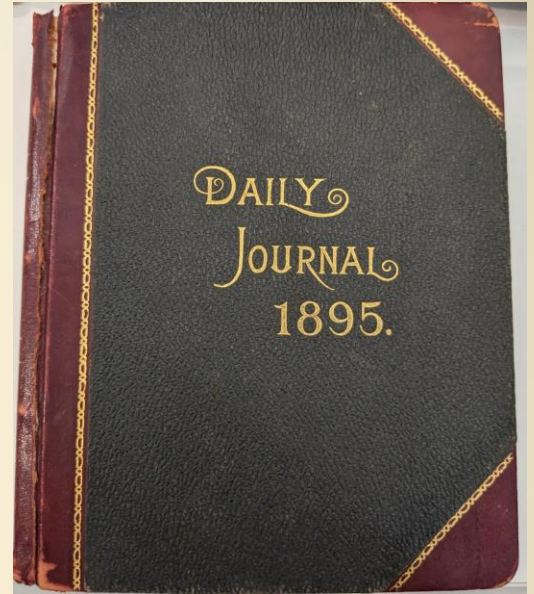
Papers also included his work and maps laying out the San Fernando Valley tract, and work concerning the Maclay Rancho in San Fernando, California and the San Fernando Land and Water Company.

It included an 1895 daily diary from his daughter, Isabella Rice Granger, before she was married to John Charles Maclay in San Fernando in 1900.

There were no items in the Granger Papers discussing or regarding the "Granger Ranch owned by Ben Porter that became Chatsworth Park in 1888" (source: the 1924 book, "[The Valley of San Fernando](#)", page 67).

(Note: The word "grange" is from Latin *granum* or "grain". A granger is a grain farmer.)

See photographs and descriptions of the WP Granger Papers in the Appendix



Daily Journal
Isabella Rice Granger
(San Fernando, 1895).

William P. Granger

W.P. Granger (1834-1903) was born in Massachusetts, was a civil engineer, and surveyed the route for the Hoosac Tunnel. Later he went to Oregon and built the second largest sawmill on the Pacific Coast, became an engineer with the Southern Pacific Railway, then resigned to lay out the City of San Fernando Valley Tract for the town of San Fernando in 1887. His family lived in San Fernando.

In 1900, Granger's daughter, Isabella (1871-1930), married Charles Maclay's nephew, John Charles Maclay (1860-1936).

When San Fernando was incorporated in 1911, John became its first mayor, serving until 1915. In 1930 he became mayor once more, serving until 1934.



The Hoosac Tunnel is a 4.75-mile active railroad tunnel in western Massachusetts that passes through the Hoosac Range, an extension of Vermont's Green Mountains. It opened in 1875.

Early Survey 'Chain' Found at San Fernando

SAN FERNANDO, Dec. 17—City Engineer Harry Waite has discovered some unusual mementos of San Fernando's early-day surveying tools—used by Engineer W. P. Granger, who laid out the city for Sen. Charles Maclay in 1884.



They have been in an old box here for more than 60 years, Waite explained. He is preserving them as a nucleus for this city's first museum, to be established when the proposed San Fernando Civic Center is constructed.

Among the relics are two iron-link chains, which, Waite explained, have 100 links each, the standard measuring unit of that time. A link is 7.92 inches, a chain of 100 links is four rods or 22 yards, and 80 chains equal one mile.

Early Maps Found

There are two early maps used in laying out San Fernando. One is of the Maclay Rancho, and bears the name Henry Harding, who preceded Granger.

The other is signed L. H. Carver and dated 1887. It was of the Porter Land and Water Co., and shows the Cerro Gordo Freight and Storage Building, which only old-timers remember now. Waite, who grew up in San Fernando, recalls that citrus fruit was packed near there where the Blue Goose Packing Co. is now. Varieties of oranges produced here then were St. Michaels, Mediterranean Sweet

William P. Granger

The article at left discusses links of chain used by surveyor/civil engineer W.P. Granger, who laid out the city of San Fernando for Senator Charles Maclay in 1887.

(ed. note: *The Valley of San Fernando* pg.77, written in part by WP Granger's daughter, identifies the date as June 1887 vs. the article at left stating 1884).

1950-12-18 LATimes

MEMENTO—Harry Waite, San Fernando City Engineer, examines links of old-time surveyor's chain used in survey of the city in 1884.

Times photo

and Washington Navels.

Waite said that the Maclay Rancho was to the east of the Southern Pacific Railroad tracks, and that the land west of the tracks belonged to the Porter Land and Water Co. The city as laid out by Sen. Maclay was bounded by the tracks, Harding St., 4th St. and McFarland St. (now Brand Blvd.) The city was incorporated in 1911.

Pencils Still in Use

Waite is still using pencils from Granger's supply, manufactured in the 1880's. They are harder and of finer quality than those available now, he commented. He also uses a 65-year-old 4-foot steel straight-edge.

"Those early surveyors did a surprisingly good job," he added.

They were in an old box and will be preserved for the city museum.

Among the relics are two iron-link chains which have 100 links each, the standard measuring unit of that time. A link is 7.02 inches, a chain of 100 links is four rods or 22 yards, and 80 chains equal one mile.

The earliest maps of the town of San Fernando and of the Maclay San Fernando Ranch were in 1874, and bear the name Henry Harding, who preceded Granger.

Henry Waite, San Fernando City Engineer, is still using pencils from Granger's supply, manufactured in the 1880's. They are harder and of finer quality than those available now.

Sources and Acknowledgements

References:

- 1924, [The Valley of San Fernando](#), Daughters of the American Revolution
- 1926, [California and Californians Vol IV](#), Alfred Workman Bio on pages 194-196
- 1934, The History of the San Fernando Valley, Frank Keffer
- 1962, Southern California Quarterly September pp. 219-267 - [JSTOR](#) - Early San Fernando: Memoirs of Mrs. Catherine Hubbard Dace (\$16)
- 2015, Southern California Quarterly Spring - [JSTOR](#) - Three Pioneer Women's Memories of the San Fernando Valley, 1860s–1930s Catherine Hubbard Dace, Anna Margaret (“Queenie”) Billings, and Jessie Grey Murphy (\$16)
- 2020, [Wheat Farming in the San Fernando Valley](#), Facebook, Keith Hart, San Fernando Valley Then and Now
- 2017, [Granger Ranch Chatsworth](#), Facebook, Rich Krugel, SFV Area History Research
- Chatsworth Historical Society photographs and collections
- [Circa 1907 rare map](#), Plat of Lands of BF Hubbard Estate, mentions Hubbard & Wright at Zelzah, which was Hawk Ranch
- Prepared by Ann & Ray Vincent in October 2024

Appendices

- Alfred Workman biography and excerpts about the Workman Ranch from 1975 Land of the West Valley - Laura B. Gaye
- WP Granger Papers at UCLA Library
- Maclay and Porter families Ancestry - Key Player Relationships
- Hubbard & Wright - excerpts from 1924-The Valley of San Fernando-DAR and 1934-The History of the San Fernando Valley-Keefer , 1910 Census notes Wright living in Chatsworth
- 1880-07-10 SFV Wheat Acres Planted, Renting Wheat Lands - Editorial from the Los Angeles Evening Express
- 1883-05-15 SFV Wheat - Editorial from the Los Angeles Herald Examiner
- 1883-05-16 SFV Wheat - Al Workman, Hubbard & Wright - Editorial from the Los Angeles Herald Examiner
- 1883-05-17 SFV Wheat - The Crop Outlook - Editorial from the Los Angeles Herald Examiner
- 1883-05-17 SFV Wheat - NC Johnson Ranch - Editorial from the Los Angeles Herald Examiner



Randolph Headers
Mowing Machines, Horse
Rakes, Wagons
1883-05-15 LA Herald pg4

Appendix - Alfred Workman

California and Californians

Edited by

ROCKWELL D. HUNT, A. M., Ph. D.

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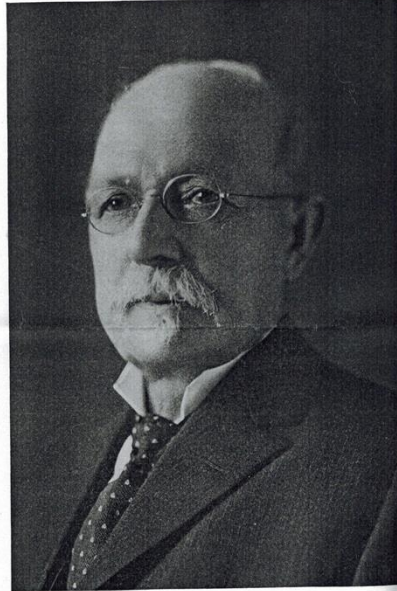


ISSUED IN FIVE VOLUMES

VOL. IV

ILLUSTRATED

THE LEWIS PUBLISHING COMPANY
CHICAGO
SAN FRANCISCO NEW YORK LOS ANGELES
1926



Alfred Workman

CALIFORNIA AND CALIFORNIANS

195

collapsed and for three months was in an English hospital suffering a nervous breakdown. Since the war he has remained in England.

The other son, Hubert Augustine Boisvert, is a graduate of the Los Angeles High School, attended the Preparatory Department of the University of Southern California, and is now engaged in the real estate business in Los Angeles.

ALFRED WORKMAN. Forced to commence to support himself when still not much more than a child, Alfred Workman, one of the retired business men of Los Angeles, is a splendid type of the truly self-made men of his times, and an actual pioneer of his home city. He was born at Gloucester, England, April 23, 1843, a son of William and Rachel Workman. They were people of very moderate means, the father being what was called a gauger, or foreman. Of the four sons and three daughters born to his parents, Alfred Workman is the only survivor, and he has here no relatives, outside of his wife, but he has several nieces and nephews in England. One brother did come to this country, and Mr. Workman offered to buy a ranch for him if he would only remain in California, but he did not feel contented, and so started back home, but was lost at sea. During the forty-eight years Mr. Workman has lived in this country he has made two trips to England, but has always been glad to return to the land of his adoption.

When only seven years old, almost impossible as it seems to people of today and this country, he began working at a weekly wage of thirty-six cents, and consequently he never had a chance to attend school, but he has learned much from contact with people and varied experiences. At the age of twelve years he left home for South America, with the intention of finally reaching the United States. He had no money to pay his passage so had to ship as a sailor. The vessel came by way of Cape Horn, and when Chile was reached he stopped for a time, running away from the vessel to do so, as the conditions on the vessel were too bad for him to stand. When he was able to do so he shipped on a steamship for San Francisco, but it was between two and three years after he set out for the "land of promise" before he finally reached the Golden Gate to it. After landing he worked for a time in the employ of the steamship company and in livery stables, in fact at whatever work he could find to do. Saving his money, he never was without a little money, and kept in mind all the while his ambition to have something of his own. When war broke out between the states he tried to enlist, but was refused.

In 1868 Mr. Workman came to Los Angeles, driving overland from Montana, where he had lived for nearly three years, and brought eight passengers with him. While in Montana he was engaged in mining at Helena, but did not find in that work nor locality what he was looking for. When he reached Los Angeles he was satisfied, and from then until today this locality has continued his home, and no one here is prouder of the great progress that has been made than he. In earlier days he had two sixteen-mule teams and did considerable teaming and freighting, and he was for years extensively interested in ranching. His freighting operations took him into Nevada, as well as Montana, and he made considerable money in this work. The magnificent Workman Ranch of 8,000 acres in San Fernando Valley was long his home ranch, but he later sold it, together with his stock and machinery, to the San Fernando Farm & Milling Company, but his name is retained. All of

196

CALIFORNIA AND CALIFORNIANS

the buildings on the ranch were erected by him, and it was his pride to keep everything in first-class condition, and never let a building or piece of machinery run down. After selling that ranch he bought another one at Verdugo, and that too was sold at a good price. Mr. Workman built the Workman Block at South Los Angeles and Third streets, which he still owns. He also built the block on South Spring Street, between Second and Third streets, that he later sold for \$175,000 cash.

Mr. Workman married Miss Henrietta Smith, a native daughter of California, born at Los Angeles. Her father, Henry Smith, was a pioneer winemaker, and one of the first of German birth to locate in this region. Her mother, Augusta (Fliz) Smith, was descended from one of the old and aristocratic Spanish families of California, and she was the last person to be buried in the old San Fernando Mission graveyard at San Fernando. Both she and her mother were native daughters of California. Mr. and Mrs. Workman had four sons and one daughter born to them, but all are deceased. They were married on Spring Street, Los Angeles, and for twenty-two years have lived at their present address, 1013 South Alvarado Street. Living in contented prosperity, surrounded by every comfort they can desire, they have made provision for their burial, and have a beautiful mausoleum in Inglewood Cemetery, where their children now rest, and there they, too, in the course of time will repose.

Mr. Workman is a republican in politics. He belongs to the Los Angeles Pioneer Society, and is the oldest subscriber in Los Angeles to the Los Angeles Times, which he has taken since the first issue of that newspaper. In everything he has undertaken Mr. Workman has been thorough, no halfway methods will do for him. He has always been very kind and charitable to those in need, many of his good deeds never having been made public. If someone needs help Mr. Workman sees that he gets it, and then forgets all about his benefaction. During the period when he was operating his big ranch it was a rule of his that his men should not swear at the mules or ill treat them or any dumb animals. They as well as the human beings had to be treated with kindness and consideration, and it must be remembered that this took place in a time when most men were rough and very profane. He had one mule that would begin to kick as soon as anyone swore at him, otherwise he was peaceful. No one could ever make Mr. Workman believe that animals do not respond to and understand kindness. It has been granted to Mr. Workman to see Los Angeles grow from a frontier town of a few houses to a beautiful city of more than 1,000,000 population, and he feels that he has been privileged in being spared to enjoy these advantages. A hobby of his is the making and polishing of canes, and he has a most remarkable collection of them, all of his own handwork. His home is a fine, large one, and his lawn is one of the most beautiful on his street. His record is one worthy of special notice. Granted that in the days of his youth there were more opportunities for rapid advancement, how few of the pioneers profited permanently by such advantages. Many came to this region, but only a very few acquired honorably and fairly a fortune. Mr. Workman was one of these few, and his money has been accumulated through the hardest of work, constant thrift, and wise investments. He is very proud of Los Angeles, but Los Angeles is just as proud of its sturdy old pioneer, who is a splendid example of American citizenship and western prosperity.

1926 California and Californians - Alfred Workman Biography

Appendix - Alfred Workman

trees, some of them still growing up toward the sky along Sherman Way to this day.

These too, are giving way to the modernization of highways. With a firm supply of water planting of trees and lovely grounds around dwellings improved the general atmosphere, bring a one time desert like community into an attractive town. All this change helped to a great extent to vanish the dry windswept climate to one more reasonable for living, with the intense heat and terrible sand storms having been abated to some extent, made it a pretty good place to live in!

0 0 0 0

WORKMAN RANCH

Workman Ranch which was on Vanowen Street was one of the big five, having belonged to the Indians in the seventeen hundreds. Vast acres extended from the Ventura County line on the west, over to where Corbin Avenue crosses north and south.

Isaac Newton Van Nuys one of the owners of San Fernando Farm Homestead Association employed a young mule skinner named Al Workman, an Englishman who had come to California by ship from England to Australia, then from there around the Horn to the West Coast. He started as a mule driver, acquired a team of his own, slowly adding more mules until at one time he owned over a hundred mules, and developed a great trucking business between the new town of Los Angeles and the thriving communities to the north. On his return trips he brought lumber down from the mountains to the relatively barren southland where adobe houses were slowly giving way to wooden structures.

Van Nuys who had first employed young Workman for the very purpose of bringing lumber to Los Angeles, later hired him as superintendent of the large company ranch which took in most of the northwestern end of the valley. The company was now known as the Los Angeles Farm and Milling Company, and dominated the Los Angeles market as well as the farmers within the West Valley. Workman lived on the ranch in a three room adobe building which was supposedly to have been built by an Indian agent years before.

Having proved himself a successful superintendent, Workman went to Van Nuys with a personal proposition. Al told Mr. Van Nuys that he was courting one of the girls of the Feliz family, and felt he would stand a better chance of her family's approval if he had a good house to which he might take his bride. Van Nuys gave his permission to build a house.

Workman started his string of mules bringing in lumber from the northern redwood forests, beautiful fourteen inch wide by twenty-six feet long boards. After riding about the ranch in all types of weather looking for the best location for a home, he decided on a strip where the draft from the sea came up Topanga Canyon and was drawn through to the Santa Susana Pass. No matter how hot it was, by early afternoon a cool breeze started to blow. He discovered this was the exact spot of the three room adobe in which he was living.

Workman decided to build a U-shaped house of wood around the existing adobe, which would serve as his office. The two story house was built over a large cellar and had a porch around two sides. Downstairs there were two large parlors, a dining room for the family and a very large dining room where the ranch hands were fed. Kitchens

were generally detached as this was the custom of most California buildings at that time. Upstairs were many bedrooms even if they were small; some of them mere passageways from one room to another. Those toward the northwest were to be occupied by the foreman of the workers and cook. Those to the south and east were reserved for the Workman family.

Upon the completion of the house, Workman held a house warming which was remembered for many years. It was an all day journey for many of the invited guests due to the bad roads and the house being so far out. Most guests arrived on horseback or by wagon, remaining until daylight so they could find their way home again.

It is told that Van Nuys had not seen the house before the party. According to witnesses, he took a look at the length and breadth of the building with its many panes of glass, its three chimneys and wide porches then said, "I told you that you could build a house, not a palace." However, he must have given his approval, as Van Nuys and Workman continued a good business association for many years.

The ranch took on the name of its superintendent, and it was at one time said to include as many as seventeen thousand acres. In its "hey-day" there were seventy barns and employed over a hundred ranch hands. Some of the land was worthless as it lay on dry hills, but there was enough fertile soil on the level areas to make it the vast wheat empire it was in the 1880's. After the wheat was harvested and milled, it was hauled by long wagon trains to Los Angeles to be marketed and shipped by boat to other cities throughout the country.

William P. Granger Papers at UCLA

Summary Description of the Documents at UCLA:

[Identification of item], William P. Granger Papers (Collection 766). Department of Special Collections, Charles E. Young Research Library, University of California, Los Angeles.

UCLA Catalog Record ID: 4233094

Biography

Granger was born on September 20, 1834; grew up in Hoosac Tunnel, Massachusetts; became a civil engineer, and went south as a member of the Engineering Corps of the Nashville and Northwestern Railroad in Tennessee; was chief engineer of that road when the Civil War began; returned north to build a railroad on Cape Cod, and surveyed the route for the line at Hoosac Tunnel; also became chief engineer with the Boston, Concord, and Montreal Railroad at the White Mountains; practiced at Worcester, Massachusetts; built part of the Boston and Maine Railroad, and was chief engineer of the Massachusetts Central Railway; in 1884 he went to Oregon and built the second largest saw mill on the Pacific Coast; became an engineer with the Southern Pacific Railway, then resigned to lay out the San Fernando Valley tract; established his home in San Fernando, California; he died at Hoosac Tunnel, Massachusetts on September 30, 1903.

Scope and Content

Collection consists of correspondence, manuscripts, diaries, photographs, and clippings of civil engineer William P. Granger, concerning the Maclay Rancho in San Fernando, California, the San Fernando Land and Water Company, the construction of the Hoosac Tunnel (Massachusetts), and the Nashville and Northwestern Railroad. Includes letters to Granger from Robert M. Widney and a diary of Isabella Rice Granger Maclay (San Fernando, 1895).

William P. Granger Papers at UCLA

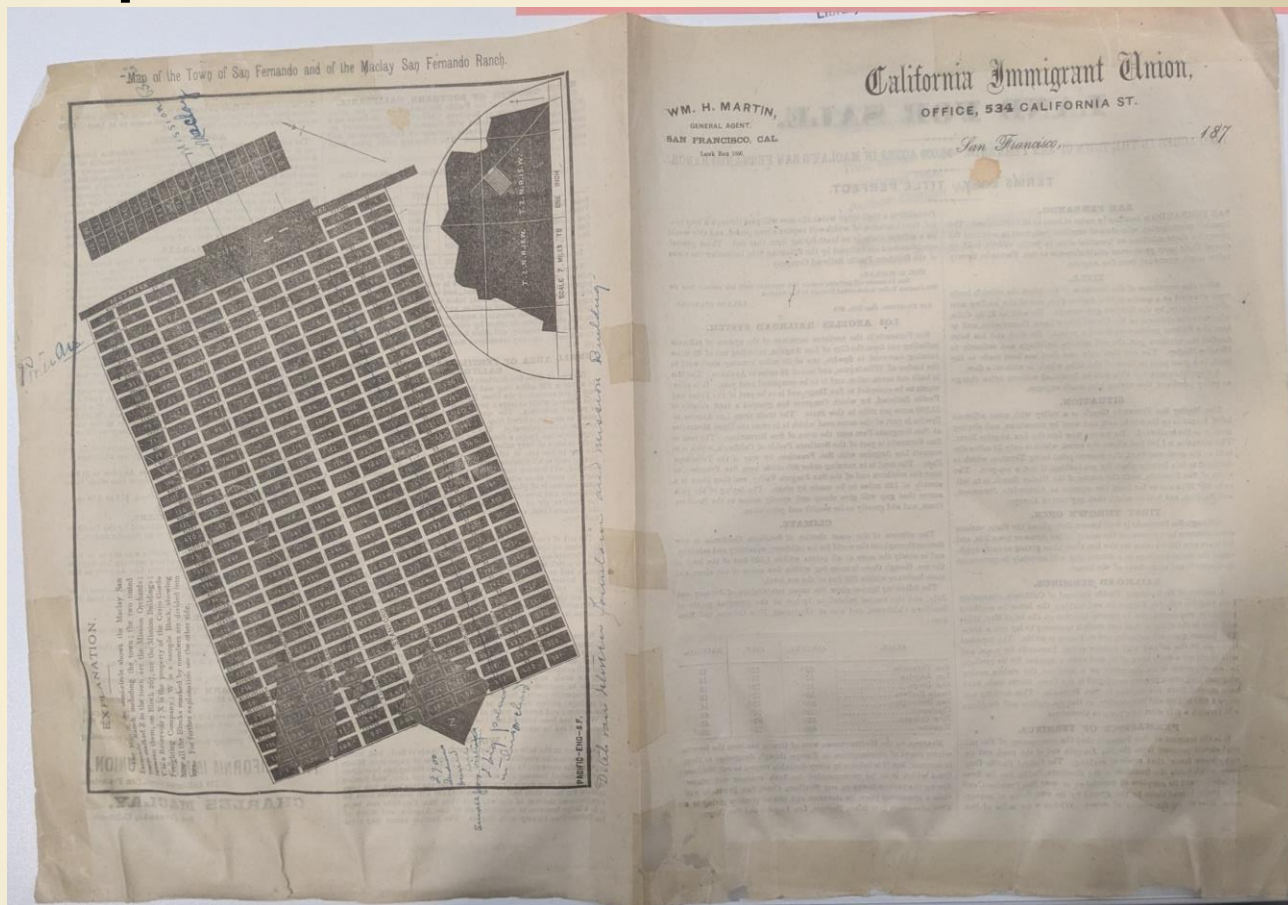
A photograph of the outside of a 17x11 folded handout, circa 1874

One page shows the Map of the Town of San Fernando, and the Maclay San Fernando Ranch (upper right)

The second page is blank except for the header:

California Immigrant Union, office 536
California St.
San Francisco _____ 187

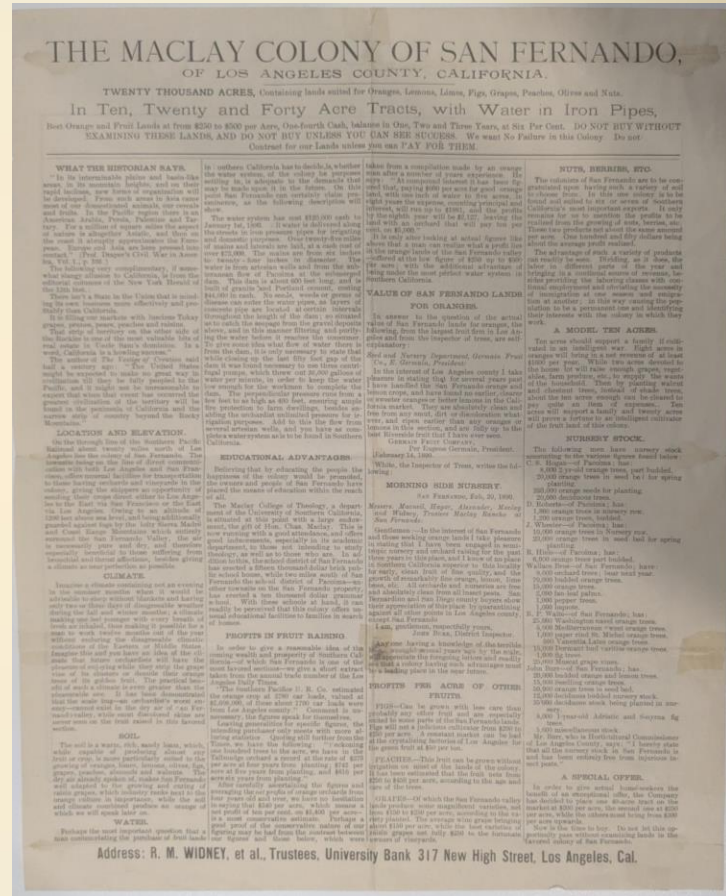
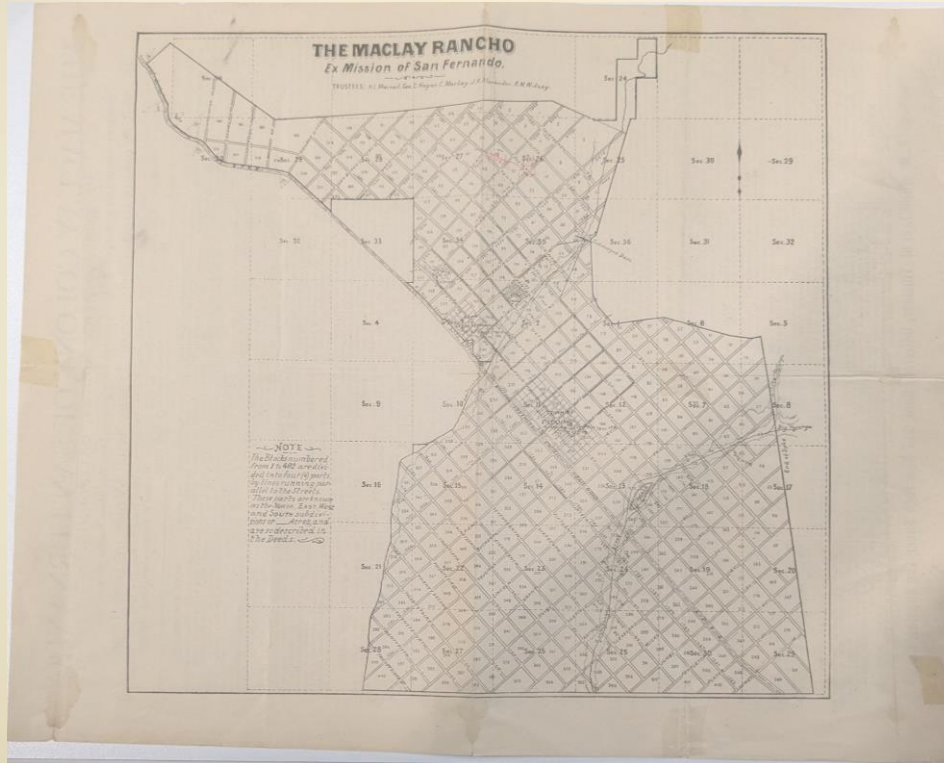
WM. H. Martin,
General Agent
San Francisco, Cal
Lock Box 1550



William P. Granger Papers at UCLA

Side one a map of the Maclay Rancho,

Side two a description of The Maclay Colony, 20,000 acres

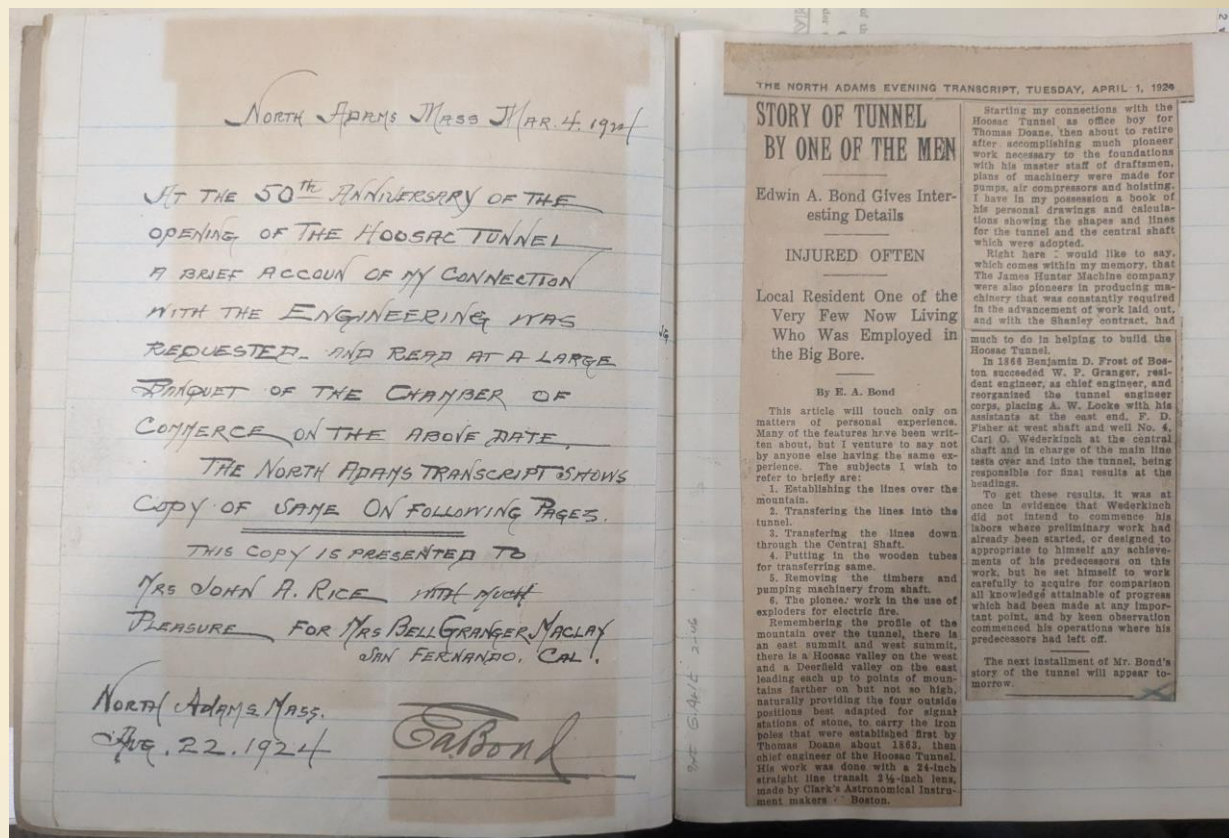


William P. Granger Papers at UCLA

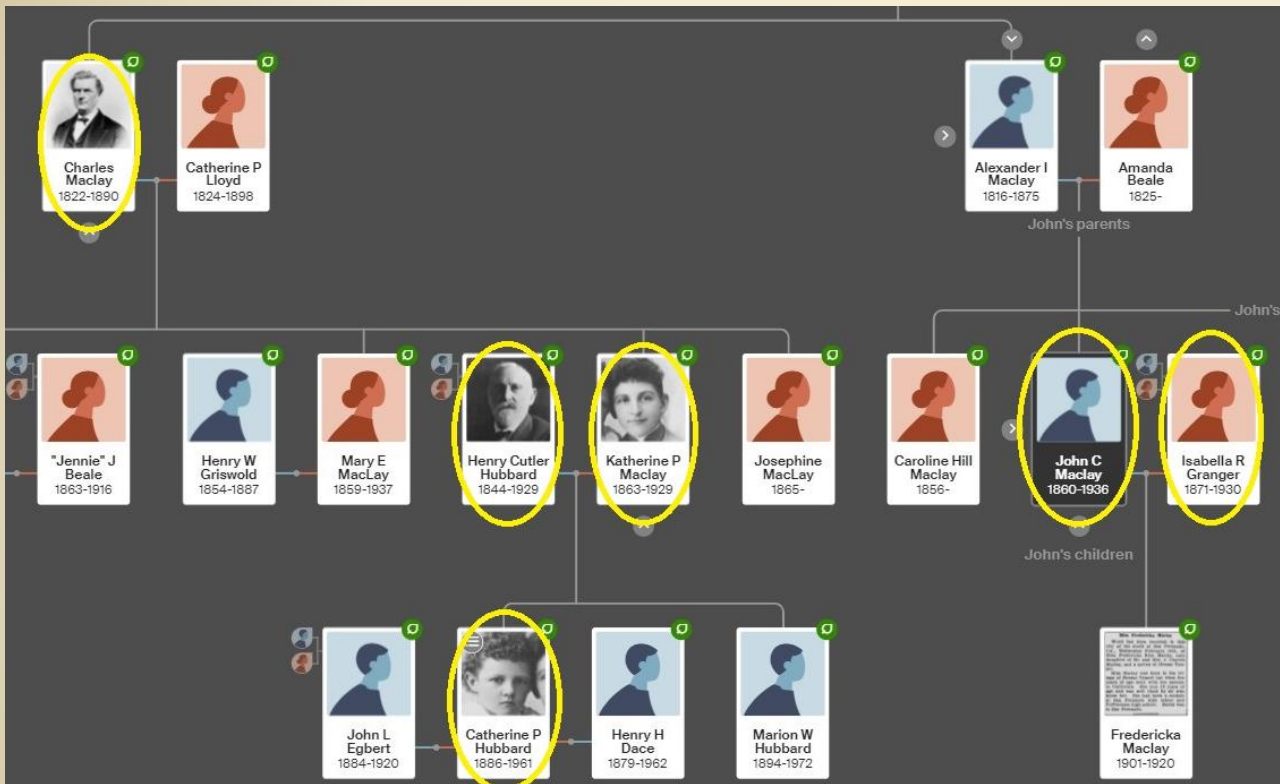
A 1924 copy of a newspaper article about the Hoosac Tunnel,

presented to
Mrs. Bell Granger Maclay
San Fernando, Cal.

(Bell's father was W.P. Granger, and she married the nephew of Charles Maclay in 1900)

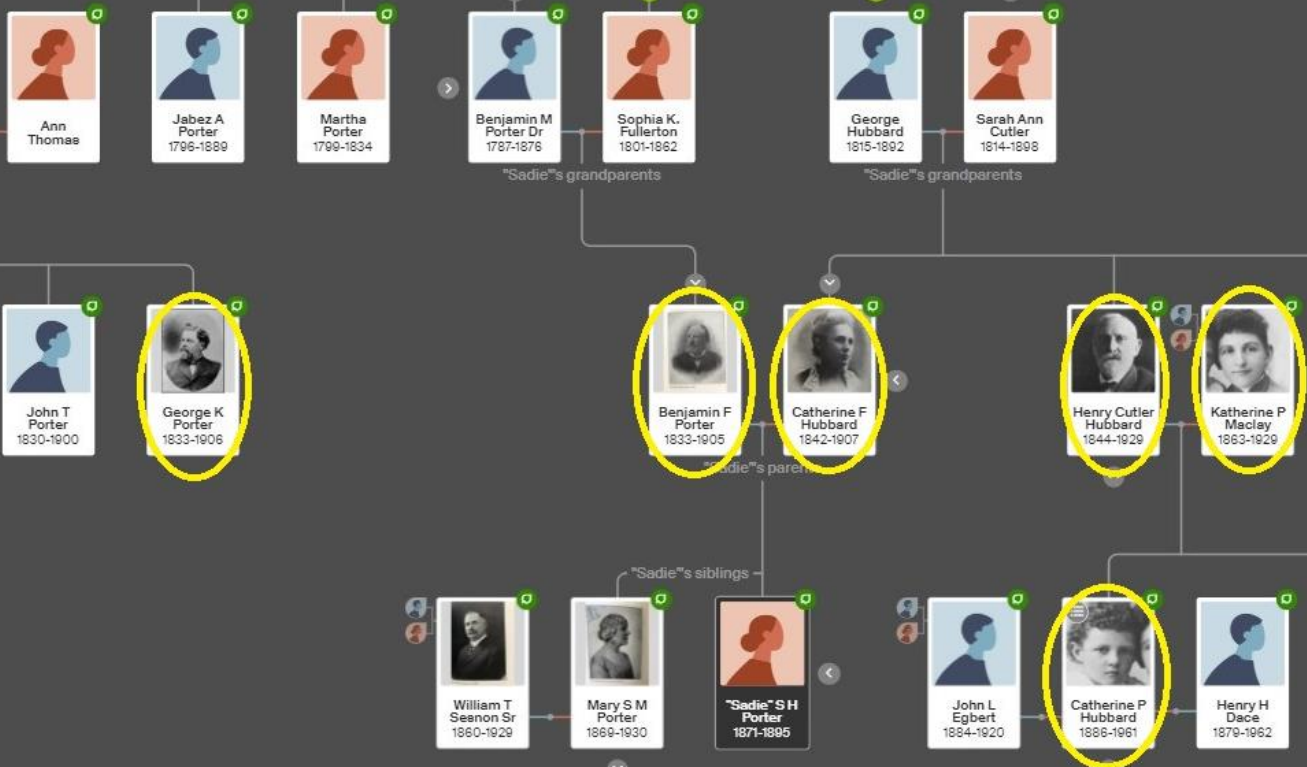


Key Player relationships - The Maclay family



- 1874 - Charles Maclay, George & Ben Porter purchase the northern half of the valley. They founded the townsite of San Fernando in the same year.
- 1885 - Henry Hubbard of "Hubbard & Wright" wheat harvesting marries one of Maclay's daughters.
- 1960 - Henry's daughter Catherine Porter Hubbard Dace provides an audio interview of her memories.
- 1900 - John Maclay marries Isabella Granger, daughter of W.P. Granger, the Civil Engineer/surveyor who laid out the city of San Fernando for Senator Charles Maclay in 1887.
- 1911 - John Maclay, nephew of Charles Maclay, becomes first mayor of San Fernando when it is incorporated.

Key Player relationships - The Porter family



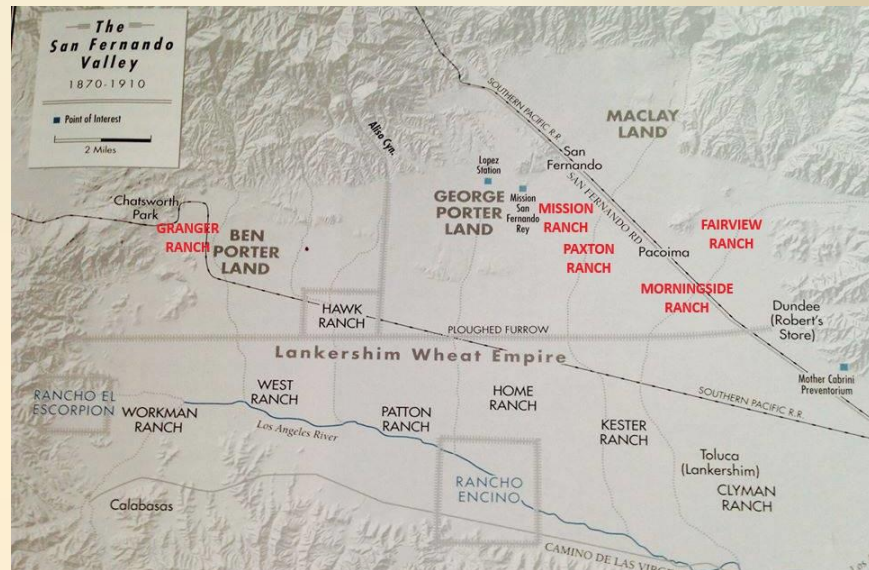
- George and Ben Porter are cousins; George is a State Senator along with Charles Maclay, and Ben is in banking and real estate.
- 1867 - Ben Porter travels to New Hampshire to marry Kate Hubbard, but she would not come back to California unless her beloved sickly brother Henry came too. They lived near Santa Cruz on a ranch.
- Ben Porter had a man working for him on his ranch named FM Wright; Hubbard and Wright became best friends, and they headed "Hubbard & Wright" wheat harvesting.
- 1874 - Charles Maclay and cousins George & Ben Porter purchase the northern half of the San Fernando valley.

The stories above are from Catherine Porter Hubbard Dace's 1960 memoirs.

Hubbard & Wright

H. C. Hubbard, brother-in-law of B. F. Porter, came to the Valley in March of 1875, and F. M. Wright, his partner, came in October of the same year. Their first ranch was called the Home Stake, situated one and one-half miles south of the Mission. While they were living on this ranch they decided to put down a well, as they had to bring all their water from the town of San Fernando, three miles away, in a tank wagon. When the well was half completed, Mr. Wright, because of cave-ins, refused to go down into the well. Hubbard said there wasn't a particle of danger and, to prove it, went down. Wright's team, in the meantime, ran away, and he went after it, leaving Hubbard in the well. As predicted, there was a slide of earth. Hubbard called again and again for the rope. No one answered. When Wright finally returned he looked down into the well, and saw from the greeting below that something must be wrong. When Hubbard stopped for breath, Wright told him he wouldn't send the bucket down until he cooled off. The well was never completed.

In 1880 Hubbard and Wright leased the Paxton Ranch from Maclay, where they remained until 1887, when they purchased the Hawk Ranch, consisting of 1,100 acres. This they owned until 1910, when it was sold to be divided into the town of Zelzah. F. M. Wright married Emily Vose on May 4, 1880, and H. C. Hubbard married Kate Paxton Maclay, daughter of Senator and Mrs. Charles Maclay, on November 27, 1884. These two men were partners over forty-six years. During this time they held a common purse. Their checks were all issued in the name of Hubbard & Wright, and never did they have any partnership papers drawn up between them; their unbounded friendship and faith in each other was sufficient.



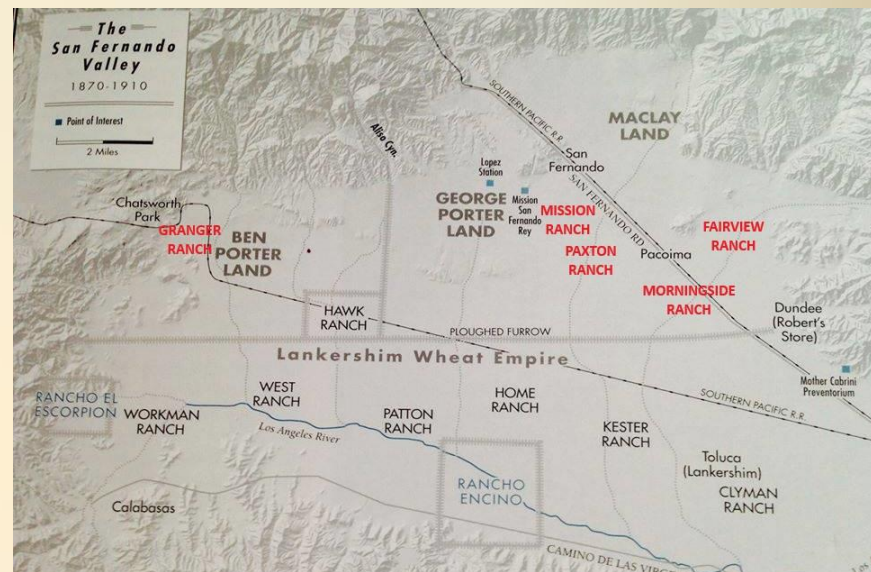
1924 The Valley of San Fernando pg 65

Hubbard & Wright

Success of the large operations in the valley wheat fields was proving attractive to many practical farmers who began to seek locations here to establish smaller ranches. Among these were H. C. Hubbard, a brother-in-law of B. F. Porter, and his partner, F. M. Wright. This team of go-getters arrived in 1875 and purchased from George K. Porter a ranch, one and one-half miles south of the mission, which they named the Homestake. After developing this property to a paying point, they leased more land from Charles Maclay in 1880 which they also brought to a high degree of cultivation and which became known as the Paxton ranch.

Then came their big venture, when in 1887 they purchased eleven hundred acres forming the Hawk ranch from B. F. Porter and entered into grain farming on an extensive scale. Ever progressive, Colonel Hubbard and "Bud" Wright, as they became familiarly known throughout the valley, brought in the first combination harvesters and by their success with these machines brought about changes in methods, resulting in increased efficiency and profits for all the valley grain growers. The Hawk ranch was owned by these men until 1910, when they sold it to a syndicate for subdivision. A new town, Zelzah, now North Los Angeles, was platted and small acreage farms were placed on the market.

As successful farmers, Hubbard and Wright built up a widespread reputation, but it is the close relationship between these two men that will ever live as a saga of valley history. No closer friendship, no greater mutual trust, no higher loyalty to one another's interests ever existed than was shown in the forty-six years' association of these valley pioneers. H. C. Hubbard, who married Kate Paxton Maclay in 1884, has passed away, but F. M. Wright, now over ninety years of age, still lives on the old Homestake ranch where he finds peace and contentment in the pride of constructive accomplishment for the valley by himself and his departed partner.



1934, The History of the San Fernando Valley,
Frank Keffer, pg 57

Hubbard & Wright - 1910 Census Notes

1910 Census, Chatsworth Park Township --

Notes related to grain farming:

Sheet6a&b - Tetzlaff, **JR Williams**, Fred Graves, Lovell Hill, Miranda -- Devonshire area

Sheet7a - Paulson, Schweickhard, Glasscock, Dayton -- Valley Circle

Sheet7b - **Francis Wright** (68) living in Chatsworth Park Township with wife Emily (54) and Nephew John (33). On "San Fernando Chatsworth Road". near hired men/boarders grain farmers/hay ranches (reservoir area?)

Sheet8a - West Ranch; Patton Ranch; SP Section House/main line; Chatsworth Road Norman/Bertha/Fay Johnson

Sheet8b - Back of Chatsworth Tunnel Johnson & Iverson; Ben Porter Ave (Chatsworth St) grain camp; Mountain Road Hay-outfit hired men/boarders.

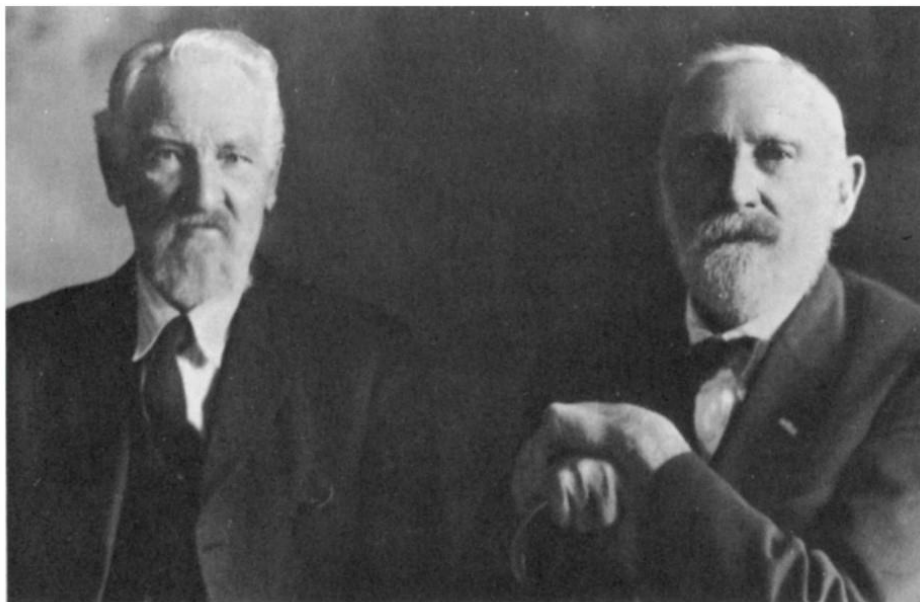


Photo courtesy of Mr. Wright Hubbard and Mr. H. C. Dace
F. M. Wright and H. C. Hubbard, partners in Wright and Hubbard Ranch, San Fernando.

Francis M Wright (1841-1937), Henry C Hubbard (1844-1929)

Source: 1962 - Early San Fernando Memoirs of
Mrs. Catherine Porter Hubbard Dace - Dixon

Appendix - 1880-07-10 SFV Acres Planted, Renting Wheat Lands

THE EVENING EXPRESS

SATURDAY, JULY 10, 1880.

COUNTY OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER.

The Evening Express has very much the largest circulation of any newspaper in Southern California.

WHEAT JOB LISTING.

The express office is now prepared to do all the shipping and receiving of wheat. We have one of the most complete job printing establishments on the coast, and give the most perfect satisfaction to our customers. Our prices have been marked down to the San Francisco rate.

A QUARANTY OF LOS ANGELES.

In company with ex-Governor Downey we visited the wheat fields of San Fernando valley yesterday. Judge A. H. McMill and Mr. H. F. Porter drove us into the fields, and we examined in rather a large amount of interesting data relative to the tremendous crop of wheat now being harvested in that valley. Before starting out from the village we encountered Senator Macley, who was greatly elated at the exceptionally fine wheat year they are having. He said that the grain is not only far denser in the stand this year than ever before, but that the yield is much greater to the acre and weighs 145 pounds to the sack. This gives the fine average of 47½ bushels to the acre. There are not more than 5,000 acres of barley sown this year in the valley, and that will hardly supply the feed and seed needed by the farmers. The great ranch, as is well known, is divided between the Messrs. Macley & Porter, and the Messrs. Lankershim & Van Noy, who represent the San Fernando Agricultural and Milling Company. The line of division is run through the centre of the valley, the former having the north-east side, and the latter the south-west side. The quality of a great deal of the land on the latter side is very superior, and the crop is a shade better on that side than on the other. There is some little rust in the lower part of the valley and an occasional blight in the main part, but the harvesters consider it very trifling.

IN THE WHEAT FIELDS.

Soon after leaving the town, we entered the wheat field, and before us to the right and left for miles and miles was one vast sea of grain. Roads are opened through the fields, so that one is enabled to travel in the midst of this immense crop and note the character of the grain on either side. The work of harvesting has progressed much more slowly than was anticipated on account of the difficulty in securing machinery. Headers and threshers were not to be had in San Francisco, and Mr. B. F. Porter was putting a new threshing machine which he had just received from Buffalo, New York. The manufacturers of agricultural machinery in the United States have not been able to keep pace with the increasing demand of the great farming districts that are coming into prominence in the new Territories and on this coast. Indeed, the demand for machinery for Los Angeles county created great astonishment in the agricultural warehouses of San Francisco, and some of the leading firms were disposed to treat their advisers from here about the importation of this year with incredulity. Mr. Porter gave it as his belief, from his own knowledge of the crop all over the county, that there are not one-half the headers and threshers here that are required.

A CENTRAL PORTION.

After passing the farming headquarters of Mr. B. F. Porter, we drove through miles of grain to the farm-house of Mr. Van Noy, where we found that gentleman had just engaged at a forge on the premises. This house occupies a central position in the wheat tract. From this point there are six miles of wheat in the four cardinal directions. To get at a fair idea of the vast extent of the grain fields of San Fernando, we may generally say that an area averaging five miles in width by twelve in length would represent the full extent of the wheat belt of that valley this year. In detail, the number of acres put in and now being harvested is as follows:

J. B. Lankershim	4000
J. N. Van Noy	5000
Smith & Patton	4000
Alford Workman	4000
Ferry B. Smith (on leasehold)	500
Miguel Leones	800
John M. Jennings	2000
Richard & Wright	2000
C. B. Porter	1500
W. L. Loop	200
Thomas Wright	400
E. J. Beckett	400
Edwin Farnes	400
E. W. May	400
Harvey Farnes	400
Manchester & Masley	1000
McClendon & Haskell	300
Coopers Bros.	250
Patent Garces	150
Scholar Bros.	50
John Olms	50
Four Domes	50
M. Brown	50
Total acres	36700

There are other small patches not enumerated above which would probably bring the entire crop of wheat in the valley up to 40,000 in round figures. It is believed that the average yield of the upper valley will reach twelve sacks to the acre, the sacks weighing 135 pounds each. This would give a total

yield for the entire area of 684,000 cents. But something must be deducted from this grand estimate for the latest sown wheat, which will come up to the average, and for the wheat in the lower part of the valley, some proportion of which is rusted, and nearly all of which has come up pinched and in scattered stands. The best judges in the valley estimate the entire crop at 400,000 cents, and this is probably well within the mark.

ODESSA WHEAT.

Mr. B. F. Porter has planted an 80-acre field to Odessa wheat. This is his first experiment with that variety, and as his object was merely to determine its power of resisting rust, he has been unable to come to anything satisfactory in regard to account of the general absence of rust in all the other varieties. He says he made one mistake in sowing it. He used only 20 pounds of seed to the acre, and yet it turns out to have been planted too thick. In growing other varieties 45 pounds of seed are sown to the acre. Mr. Porter, however, recently paid a visit to the ranches near Spadra, and there saw fields of Australian and other wheat completely blighted by rust, while alongside of them fields of Odessa had grown to maturity, giving no signs of whatever. The Odessa sown by Porter is in better form than Sonoma wheat sown at the same time. It is good for 15 sacks to the acre. Although it is a little off in color, being darker than the other varieties, Mr. Deming, of the Capitol Mills, says it makes a good quality of flour and is strong in all the essentials.

Mr. Porter assured us that he could farm cheaper in Los Angeles county than in any other part of the State. The climate is better for work and the stock gives more satisfaction. He estimates that his crop has only cost him at the rate of \$1.50 per acre planted, including all expenses. TWO SUCCESSFUL BOY FARMERS. The two sons of Hon. Charles Macley have set a fine example to the young men of the county. They rented a tract of land from him east of the railroad, and south of the town. The tract forms a sort of inside valley hugging the foothills, and extending some distance lengthwise with the road. They plowed and put in themselves two hundred acres of wheat, which now presents as fine a stand of grain throughout as there is in the whole valley. The boys have done all the work themselves, and will, when their crop is harvested, realize for it a net return of about \$25,000 each. The old gentleman is justly proud of his boys, and achievement of his boys, and pointed out their field to us with much satisfaction. We must say that their field and the Haskell field adjoining and running clear to the road, presented as fine a stand of grain as we ever laid eyes upon. We saw nothing superior to it, even in the best parts of the valley we had before visited.

THE DEPTH OF SOIL. We have now given our readers as clear an idea as possible of the immense wheat crop of San Fernando valley. It will be seen that it demonstrates the great adaptability of that valley to the profitable growth of this cereal. There is a very large area of good land as far west as the valley, but that we may look for a still further extension of the wheat-growing belt in that valley. The soil is very deep. At a broken point of the San Fernando creek its depth can be plainly discerned and it runs all the way from eight to twelve feet. The ground is easily worked, and if it were necessary a crop could be always assured by summer-fallowing. But the farmers consider this superfluous. With careful plowing and harrowing, and taking advantage of the season in sowing early, a good crop of wheat may be relied upon every year almost. In the last ten years there was but one season in which less than twelve inches of rain fell at San Fernando, and that much rain is enough to raise a wheat crop in that valley if the farmer will work his ground well and sow at the proper time.

The Southern Pacific Railroad Company have established a switch at a point between the Palcoyma and Trujana washes, which will give an outlet to 10,000 acres of good farming land. A crop of about 5,000 acres of wheat will be hauled to this station the present harvest. It has been called Macley's station, and is located about three miles southwest of the town.

ABOUT RENTING WHEAT LANDS.

Mr. B. F. Porter told us that he found great difficulty in leasing land in the valley to farmers who have been in the habit of leasing lands up-country. He owns a considerable area of wheat land in Salinas valley, and he finds no difficulty there in leasing farms, taking one-third the crop net for the rent. He offered some of these same parties to rent them San Fernando lands for one-third the crop, and to furnish the seed, the machinery and the work-stocks; but they said "No; it was too far south, and they didn't want to go there." With the splendid results of this year's crop he thinks these same men will hereafter begin to rent farms in San Fernando valley, and on far less reasonable terms than those offered this year.

1880-07-10 SFV Acres Planted, Renting Wheat Lands Los Angeles Evening Express

Appendix - 1883-05-15 Workman Tour, How they Farm

LOCAL NOTES--NO. 6.

The Grainfield, Par Excellence, of Los Angeles County--What may be seen in the Superior San Fernando Valley--Wheat and Barley Till the Eye is Wearyed by its Luxuriance--Real Farms, With Perfect Farm Appointments.

[In the famous dry year of 1876-77 the editor of the Herald made a circuit of Los Angeles county with a view of showing that, even in such a season of comparative privation, this section abounded in various and valuable resources. He proposes now, in what will prove to be more than an average season, to go over the county from time to time, and to give, in this journal, the result of his observation.]

Friday morning last, at eight o'clock, we started, under the auspices of our general friend, Al Workman, of the San Fernando valley, to see something of the grain prospects of the county of Los Angeles. We regret--but very lukewarmly--that our narrative is destined to put out of joint the noses of those cold-blooded speculators who have prepared corners in grain and hay for our devoted people. We have done much, hitherto, to disconcert this Skylock programme. We shall do much more in the future, God and nature favoring us, as they are hourly doing, to retire a scheme of sordid speculation.

Mr. Workman selected the route

scheme of sordid speculation.

Mr. Workman selected the route through the Caluenga Pass as that best calculated to show what lies ahead for this county, irrespective of the San Fernando, from a grain standpoint. As a matter of fact, we found that even the main lands along this route are aligned by magnificent fields of grain, flourishing vineyards and promising orchards. Before one strikes the Caluenga Pass, one of the most promising looking agricultural regions of California is traversed, and, in the midst of it, Senator Cole's elegant suburban home is a notable landmark.

The ascent of the Caluenga Pass, until Donaldson's eight-mile house is reached, is gentle and gradual. Around the foothills are thrifty farms in which, where grain has been planted, it looks perfection, and in which fields set out to peas, beans and corn, are quite numerous. "Uncle" Jimmy Donaldson has hewed out for himself a splendid cologne of vantage, in the very gap of the mountain, in which he has supplanted his unrivaled mountain water, that is a treat to the wayfarer, by patches of truck gardening whose completeness would delight the heart of a German in the environs of Cincinnati or Pittsburgh.

As we ascended to the summit, our attention was attracted to the luxuriance of the wild oats which sprang from the mountain sides on every hand; whose swaying blades, in the sunshine, gave a kaleidoscopic variety to the otherwise rugged landscape. Mr. Workman pointed out to us cañons in which, he informed us, bee-keepers without number had established homes. In some of these were not a few settlers who added to their bees a goodly show of cattle.

A FARM OF ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND ACRES.

Having threaded this famous pass, a sight which one ordinarily does not see awaited us. The whole expanse of the now famous San Fernando valley burst at once upon our vision. The somewhat easy descent brought us at once upon the log ranch of the San Fernando Company. Numerous paddocks, big alfalfa fields and innumerable Berkshire hogs, were the things first encountered by us. By an easy transition we emerged upon the 2500 acre farm of John Clyman, who enjoys the reputation of being one of the best farmers on the Pacific Coast. Of this ample farm all but about six or seven hundred acres, which have been sown to barley, are in wheat. The man who thinks that Los Angeles county, during the current year, is to be destitute of hay and grain, would do well to go out and look at Clyman's splendid acreage. He would return with the idea thoroughly imbedded in his brain that the bulls in wheat and hay were destined to an immediate bankruptcy.

So prodigal will be Mr. Clyman's crop that it is a great pity that, this year, he has not been able to get in a larger area.

A SECTION OF THE VALLEY.

From Clyman's we passed to what is known as the "Kester" ranch. Here we were the recipient of courtesies from the Superintendent, Mr. Batchler. This ranch comprises some 7000 acres. It is nearly all in wheat, and it is looking very well indeed. At least two-thirds of an average crop will be harvested on the Kester ranch. This is saying a great deal, in a year in which, three weeks ago, it would have been a dangerous proposition to promise a third of a crop almost anywhere in this county, outside of irrigated lands.

The next ranch to the Kester is that of which Mr. Herbert Van Nuy is the Superintendent, consisting of between 7000 and 8000 acres. Of all the farms in the valley this was the most heavily visited by the late unwelcome wind, and we were informed that it is looking worst in those portions which surround the ranch house. We were here treated to a capital lunch and to a charming hospitality generally. Mr. Herbert Van Nuy has an elegant home and chickens galore. We should say that we counted at least three or four hundred in his henery. A thriving orchard of young fruit trees graces his ranch house. At the date of our visit a third of a crop would be a fair estimate for this ranch.

From the Van Nuy ranch we were driven to the Encino, formerly the property of Mr. Garnier, but which is now owned by Mr. Gaston Oxarnt. The Encino ranch house is famed for ele-

gance and completeness over all the ranch houses in Southern California. Attached to it is a sheep house, with a capacity of housing 2,000 of the fine imported sheep, which were a specialty of the Encino ranch under the Garzier regime, which is also without a parallel in this section of the State. A superb lake, or rather a mammoth cemented reservoir, is another quite conspicuous feature of this fine property.

From the Encino we passed to the ranch of Mr. A. G. Patton. Much of the grain on this place is very fine, although it is quite uneven, taking the ranch as a whole. There are portions of Mr. Patton's domain, skirting the roadside, which have yielded nearly three thousand pounds of wheat to the acre, in former days, and that on considerable areas. Mr. Patton farms this year four thousand acres, nearly all of it in wheat. Taking his ranch, rough and smooth, we risk nothing in assuming that he will have at least half a crop this year.

Skirting rapidly through a valley which seems practically to be endless, to him who investigates it in a wagon, we at last came to the place of our host and cicconi, Mr. Al Workman. But of that more anon.

MORE ANON.

SALIENT FEATURES OF THE SAN FERNANDO VALLEY.

Having skimmed a segment of the valley, we deem it right that we should halt here to describe something of what we saw, outside of the never-failing and refreshing sheen of the wheat and barley. Every one who has gone through the length and breadth of California cannot fail to have noted the miserable character of the farm houses and the frequent absence of anything like a barn. There is something chill and dreary about such a state of things. In the San Fernando Valley, on the other hand, barns that would meet the admiring appreciation of a Lancaster county (Pennsylvania) Dutchman abound on every hand. They dot the valley on all sides, and they range from 80 to 120 feet, on the Kester ranch, to scarcely smaller edifices on the other ranches.

Not only are the several ranches provided with these prodigious barns, but they have likewise granaries on a corresponding scale. In addition, they have, in other buildings, harness rooms and other conveniences. Each farm is provided with a big well or wells, capable of pumping several hundred thousand gallons of water daily, run by horse power. In addition, a blacksmith and carpenter shop are attached to each of these model farms. A blacksmith, a carpenter and a professional harness-maker are as much incidents of the farming operations of the San Fernando Valley as is the ordinary gang plough. Everything is run on a scale positively Cyclopean.

HOW THEY FARM.

It must be borne in mind that, on each of these farms, there are from seventy-five to one hundred and seventy-five heads of horses and mules; and, in truth, they are needed to carry on such gigantic agricultural operations. During the height of the harvest season from fifty to one hundred men are employed, according to the size of the ranch. The plowing, for instance, is done with gang-plows, drawn by from six to ten horses. Each of these teams turns up from eight to ten acres a day. On Al Workman's ranch, for example, nine of these large teams are kept busy during the sowing season, while Kester runs thirteen and Van Nuy fourteen teams. Harvesting operations are conducted on a similar scale of grandeur. Twelve and sixteen foot headers are used. The former are drawn by six and the latter by twelve horses or mules. To show the magnitude of this San Fernando valley farming we may mention that, on the Kester ranch, in the harvest season, of headers, four twelve foot, one fourteen foot and one sixteen foot, are in daily use. A sixteen foot header has the capacity of cutting forty acres of grain a day. Threshing is done in the fields by the aid of steam, supplied by engines running from twenty-four horse power upwards. These threshers turn out from six hundred to fifteen hundred bushels a day, according to size. To-morrow we shall resume our notes of a tour of this prolific valley, and supply our readers with details which will prove to be, we think, as surprising as they are interesting.

1883-05-15 - SFV Wheat - LA Herald Examiner

Appendix - 1883-05-16 Workman, Hubbard & Wright Tours

LOCAL NOTES--NO. 7.

More of the San Fernando Valley—Unlimited Grain—Pleasant Personal Experiences Mixed In With Diverse Incidents—Mulum in Parvo in the Descriptive Line.

[In the famous dry year of 1876-77 the editor of the HERALD made a circuit of Los Angeles county with a view of showing that, even in such a season of comparative privation, this section abounded in various and valuable resources. He proposes now, in what will prove to be more than an average season, to go over the county from time to time, and to give, in this journal, the result of his observation.]

The narrative of our experiences of the San Fernando Valley terminated yesterday with our arrival at the ranch of Al Workman. This gentleman, who has been a frontiersman, and who has lived all over the Pacific Coast, from Chile and Peru to Idaho and Montana, farms between fifty-five hundred and six thousand acres. He came down to Los Angeles county, originally, with a big team of mules and precious little money. He now possesses a positively elegant home, surrounded by a promising young orchard, and with barns, granaries and outbuildings of a magnitude sufficient to cover the site of half a dozen railway depots. He has a manada which embraces one hundred and seven horses and mules, he has fifteen cows, and the provision made for the comfort of his animals is nearly as elaborate as can be found in the Palo Alto stables of Gov. Stanford. Workman is an Englishman, who came to this country as a mere boy, and his career has illustrated the danger the HERALD incurred in saying that Los Angeles county is a rich man's county. Men of dauntless nerve and abundant resources, like Workman, can come here any day and give the lie to our favorite postulate.

We put in hours on Workman's place, driving through the grain. Being only responsible to himself, he of course had no hesitation in dashing with his spirited team right into the center of the splendid spreads of wheat and barley which will swell his bank account this year. He not only aimed to indoctrinate us into the actual condition of the crops on his ranch, but he also desired to take stock of them for his own information. Until the advent of the famous west wind, whose history has been chronicled with great minuteness by the Los Angeles press, Workman had every reason to suppose that he would harvest the largest crop which he had ever gathered in this section. Up until the May rains, on the contrary, he thought he would have no crop at all. On the Friday afternoon when he drove us over his ample ranch, slighting none of it, he reached the conclusion that he would have half of a good crop. The weather since has made this hope fruition. At the worst, Workman will have 15,000 sacks of wheat and barley, and the probabilities are that he will have over twenty thousand sacks. That he will make fully twice as much grain as last year, is a proposition now placed beyond a peradventure, and that in this so-called dry season.

SIX HOURS IN A DRIVING RAIN.

We left the Workman ranch at six o'clock Saturday morning, in a mist which promised to be a rain. Our experienced friend had laid in an oil cloth coat and one of his old frontier blanket overcoats, a precaution which proved to be a most admirable one; for, before we had been twenty minutes on our travels, a drenching rain began. Our course lay through the ranch of Mr. R. F. Porter and to the north side of the valley. The Jennifer and Porter ranches are in capital plight. Jennifer, a lessee of Porter, has three thousand acres in grain, mainly in wheat. Before the late rains it looked as if his crop had gone to the "demonium bow-wow." Now he has a splendid stand, with every promise of abundant shekels. Along our route, off to the north, there was a glorious spread of grain, belonging to the Messrs. Hubbard & Wright, which would not have made hay even but for the late rains, but which now promises to make those gentlemen rich, so luxuriant and thrifty does it appear.

Heavily as it rained, we were not prevented from making copious mental notes of the region through which we passed. When our team finally headed for the San Fernando station we soon found ourselves in a great spread of wheat, thin, but splendidly headed out, which had been sown by Romulo Pico. The old, and now almost dismanted Mission, inspired us with a profound regret that the ravages of time had been so complete and remorseless. Adjacent to the old Mission is the famous old olive orchard, which has suffered greatly from vandalism, and which, after that of the San Diego mission, is the oldest and most famous in California.

Darting past this venerable old ruin, we soon found found ourself in the young and bustling town of San Fernando. Here we encountered a host of genial spirits, *facile principes* amongst whom was Hon. A. B. Moffitt, a rising statesman whose genius has not yet attained its perihelion. Moffitt is as amiable as he is able; and, through his kindly efforts, (at least we supposed they were such) we soon made the acquaintance of the Messrs. Hubbard, Wright and other congenial spirits. Col. Hubbard, a tall son of Anak, and a most uncompromising Republican, volunteered to drive us over the northern portion of the valley.

WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT WHEAT.

We could not withhold our admiration from Col. Hubbard's team. The cabalistic letters "2.40" seemed to be emblazoned on their glossy coats. Skirting the railway, we dashed through

some of the most luxuriant fields of grain we have ever seen anywhere. The Messrs. Hubbard & Wright are farming some twenty-five hundred acres of the Maclay and Porter ranch. We should unquestionably have seen more of this portion of the valley, which abounds in prolific spreads of wheat and barley, had it not been for an incident which, being a Democrat, and having surrendered myself to Republican guidance, we cannot help regarding as the result of a conspiracy. In the driving rain we had plugged into a tremendous wheat field, and had become thoroughly imbedded in it. At this stage Col. Hubbard struck the near horse a smart blow; when, presto! the singletree broke, the pole slipped out of the neck-yoke, plunged into the earth and snapped in two, the uncontrollable horses broke the traces like whip-cords, dragging Col. Hubbard over the dashboard and making an intaglio in the soft and yielding earth with that gentleman's head and shoulders, the team executing a Mazeppa-like dash for the most distant point in the horizon. There we were, in a deep and friable soil, with wheat up to our armpits, and the rain coming down by the bucketful. Tramp back to San Fernando was the word; and, if anybody doubts the existence of grain, of most robust height, in the Maclay & Porter portion of the San Fernando Valley, we advise him to go out and duplicate our adventure. The height of the wheat thereabouts is only rivaled by the depth of the soil.

Notwithstanding our contretemps, we saw enough of the north side of the San Fernando Valley to satisfy us that the crop in that section will beat anything known elsewhere in Los Angeles county, irrigated or unirrigated.

THE PROBABLE YIELD OF THE VALLEY.

This famous wheat section will do very much better this year than last. As a result of painstaking inquiries, we should say that there are somewhere between forty-nine and fifty-three thousand acres in grain in the San Fernando, according to the different authorities, of which somewhat over five thousand acres are in barley. To recapitulate: John Clyman has 2500, Kester 7000, Van Nuys 8000, Patton 4000, Al Workman 6000, Jennifer & Porter 3000, Hubbard & Wright 2000—all on the south and southwest side of the valley. On the north and northeast side Hubbard & Wright have 2500 acres; Williams & Parsons 500, Jesus Rivara 100, Valentine Lopez 600, Maclay & Maclay 2000, Ben F. Porter 5000, George K. Porter 4500, Romulo Pico 1200, John T. Carpenter 350, Juan Calderon 350, and other rancheros enough to make up the largest figure named. It is perfectly safe to say that, at the worst, this whole territory will yield an average of three sacks to the acre, aggregating 150,000 sacks, while the probability is that it will go nearer five sacks, or a total of 265,000 sacks, or about 530,000 bushels. The weather is most propitious; and, every day, the fortunes of the San Fernando grangers are rising, like a cork in water or the mercury in the bulb near Yuma, in a mid-Summer's day.

1883-05-16 - SFV Wheat - Al Workman, Hubbard & Wright - LA Herald Examiner

Appendix - 1883-05-17 The Crop Outlook

The Crop Outlook.

The Editor of the HERALD has been over fully three-fourths of Los Angeles county, and he is now prepared to speak intelligently of the actual status of the crops. While it would be absurd to maintain that this is such a year as 1880, the fact must also be borne in mind that an immensely greater area has been sown to the cereals than was sown then. As a result, we shall have, this year, more grain and hay than was ever heretofore chronicled in our history as the output of our teeming fields. There is just one narrow strip of territory which has suffered irrecoverably as respects unirrigated grain, from the blighting effects of the late west wind, viz., that between Compton and Wilmington and extending down through Downey, Norwalk and into the Gospel Swamp. It is highly unfortunate that we have encountered this visitation, but the fact must be borne in mind that, in this section, there is much irrigated land which will be prolific in crops. As to the rest of the county, the outcome will be far greater than last year, which was accounted to be highly prosperous. While it is not possible to make an estimate as yet of the yield of grain in this county, we can venture on a minimum effort in that line. Taking Newhall, San Fernando, the Cabuenga, the country between Los Angeles and Santa Monica, the Verdugo, the Spadra and Pomona valleys, the Monte, Savannah, and the hundred and one moist farms of this county, alike independent of the rainfall and of irrigation, we believe that we shall have fully one million two hundred thousand bushels of grain from unirrigated lands. The weather is such as most surely indicates that this estimate will be increased by from three to four hundred thousand bushels. In addition, if the unirrigated wheat and barley had failed, to the last blade of hay and to the last kernel of wheat, the ample expanse of irrigated lands would have been quite sufficient to feed our own people. We should not have been obliged to import a single sack of wheat or barley.

This is the plain statement of the local situation, without a particle of exaggeration. Los Angeles county will this year produce, between her irrigated and unirrigated lands, fully two millions of bushels of wheat and barley, and this in the third of what have been unquestionably three dry years. What it will do in flush seasons we decline even to attempt to outline. This year this county, whose specialties have heretofore been semi-tropical fruits and wines and breads and corn, will yield at least six per cent. of all the grain raised by the fifty-two counties of California. This is a most significant circumstance, when the fact is borne in mind that, a few years ago, Los Angeles was graded as a cow county.

1883-05-17 - SFV Wheat - The Crop Outlook - LA Herald Examiner

Appendix - 1883-05-17 NC Johnson Ranch

An Example to be Imitated.

During our recent trip to the San Fernando Valley we encountered an experience which ought to have a good effect upon our Board of Supervisors, and is calculated to encourage those who are to build homes in our mountain nooks and cañons. Thinking that we had had enough of wheat and grain, Gen. Al. Workman, when we reached the old stage road through the Santa Susana Pass, told us that he proposed to treat us to a sight of the mountain home of Mr. M. C. Johnson, a Dane, at one time connected, as a teamster, with the San Fernando company. Mr. Johnson has established himself at the foot of the highest peaks of the San Fernando mountains. He is nineteen hundred feet higher than the plain, and his home is reached by a roadway whose construction is, of its kind, as great a miracle as was the transportation, by Hannibal and Napoleon, of their armies over the Alps into the plains of Lombardy. This man

into the plains of Lombardy. This man and his sons—both youngsters—have created roadways which represent more real labor than all the Boards of Supervisors of Los Angeles county have put on all the roads of this opulent county during the past ten years. We know what we are talking about, because we have been over them. Our ascent, in a driving rain, recalled to our recollection the refrain of the old song, "Up in a balloon, boys, up and up and up." Truly, it was an up-hill operation. But at last our labors were rewarded; and, right at the foot of one of the highest peaks of the San Fernando mountains, a charming scene burst upon our vision. On

ing scene burst upon our vision. On this elevated coigne of vantage Mr. Johnson has created a really ideal mountain home—a thing as perfect of its kind as Mr. L. J. Rose's Sunny Slope or Mr. Cogswell's Sierra Madre villa. Mr. Johnson has not, like those gentlemen, spent hundreds of thousands of dollars upon his place; but both of them, were they to visit this poetical mountain eyrie, would cheerfully admit that this energetic Dane, considering the difficulties he had to encounter, and the means at his disposal, has accomplished greater results than they. He has located one hundred and sixty acres of government land, seventy of which he has already put into grain and orchard. He has a positively elegant home, a hundred stand of bees, and appointments which are simply perfection, and whose existence demonstrates him to be possessed of a high order of mechanical ingenuity. Year by year he will go on subjugating the chapparal until nearly his whole hundred and sixty acres will be under a really elaborate state of cultivation. With a sublime knack of labor, in his search for water, he simply tunneled into the mountain's side, through the solid granite, being rewarded as richly as was the rod of Aaron, by a stream which runs fully fifteen thousand gallons a day. He has another stream of similar volume. He has constructed

reservoirs, which he has stocked with carp. This indomitable horticulturist sells his fruit and garden truck to the farmers of the valley, and is as prosperous as he is independent. He has accomplished simply wonderful things, and we avow for him an admiration which we experience for no other man in Los Angeles county. Other men, have shown what can be done in the foot hills. Johnson, by creating a perfect Paradise on the mountain's summit, has opened new possibilities to the settler in this section.

1883-05-17 - SFV Wheat - NC Johnson Ranch - LA Herald Examiner

Appendix - Williams Family

At right: The James A Williams Homestead Patent, from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

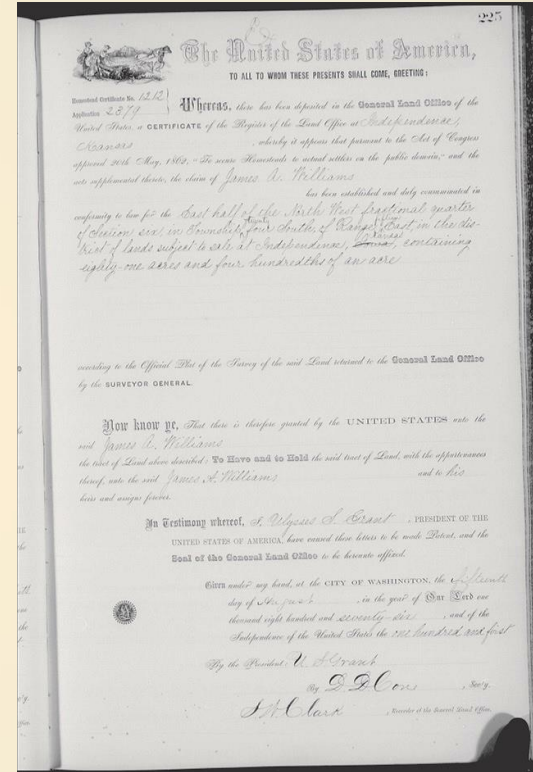
Granted August 15, 1876

81.04 acres in Yates Center, Kansas

Notes: In the 1880 Kansas Census, Liberty Township, Woodson County, James A Williams (54) was dwelling # 119, living with him were his wife Elizabeth (50), Martha (21), Jordan (13), Jacob (11), Arthur (7)

Living in dwelling #118 was George Williams (28), wife Charlotte (22), son John (1), and George's brother Abraham (24)

Living in in dwelling #97 was James R Williams (26), his wife Carrie (25), Elisha (3), Alfred (1), and James's brother Thomas (14).



1883-05-17 - SFV Wheat - NC Johnson Ranch - LA Herald Examiner

**Any
Comments,
Questions, Memories?**