

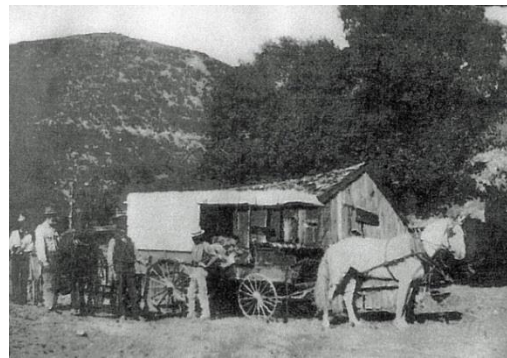
## An Alpine History Mystery:

### Who Built the Toll Road from Alpine to Julian?

July, 2014

Oh, you didn't know about the toll road leading to Julian? Well, in 1871, when the Alpine area was known as Valle de las Viejas y Mesa del Arroz, a drifter of sorts was granted a charter to build a toll road from here to there. Now, "drifter" might be too strong of a word to describe our road builder. He did move around a lot in those days, but not without a purpose or plan. In 1849, he moved his family from Georgia to California in search of gold, and he had some success as a prospector. But whenever he filed a claim on a mine, he would sell it instead of working it. I guess that made him more of a speculator than a miner. In Nevada City he was a prospector, in French Corral, CA, he owned a hotel, and on some town registers where he lived they listed his profession as a trader.

From 1850 to 1880, he moved with his wife, Jane, and their seven children at least nine times. The year 1869 found him in an area later to be named Julian where he was known as a road builder. In Julian he entered a partnership with three others to build the Julian to Banner Toll Road. When this road was completed in 1871, he already had another project in mind – a toll road from Valle de las Viejas to Julian to provide easy access to the gold at Stonewall Mine. In September of '71, he was awarded a charter from San Diego County to build his Toll Road and he got started right away. The San Diego Union newspaper reported that his gang of 18 strong and able men worked all through the winter of 1871-72 to build the road up the "horrible Valle de las Viejas hill", but added "From thence on to Julian the work was comparatively easy."



Banner Grade Toll House

It was in 1872 that our road builder moved his family to an area called Oak Grove, where Shadow Hills Elementary School is located today. Here he established a homestead and called it "Alpine Ranch".

In addition to building the road to Julian, this mystery man left his mark on our home town in many ways, even though he only lived here about five years. Do you know the name of this pioneer road builder? The man from Georgia who was named after our first US President? The man who left an everlasting mark on our community? Well, that is our Alpine History Mystery question: Who built the toll road from Alpine to Julian?

If you know the answer, send us a note to [mystery@alpinehistory.org](mailto:mystery@alpinehistory.org). Need help solving this one? Come visit us at the museum open house from 2 to 4 pm on Saturday, July 26 or Sunday July 27, where docents will be on hand to help you solve this mystery. And for just \$10 you can purchase a T-shirt boasting: "I Solved the Alpine History Mystery". The museum is located at 2116 Tavern Road in Alpine.

*Alpine History Mysteries are created and edited by Tom & Judy Myers from stories, collections, and archives maintained by the Alpine Historical Society.*