

Notes on the History of Williams Mill and Williams Landing in Bonny Doon, California

By Paul Tutwiler



MILL AND LANDING OF THE SANTA CRUZ
LUMBER COMPANY.

Mill and Landing of the Santa Cruz Lumber Company - Image from E.S. Harrison's "History of Santa Cruz County"

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Preface 2000

This monograph was written by Paul Tutwiler, who, with his wife and collaborator, Miriam Beames, lives on a plot of land in Bonny Doon, an unincorporated area northwest of Santa Cruz, California. We live five miles up the mountainside from the seacoast where there was a place called Williams Landing and one and a half miles up from a place where the Williams brothers had a sawmill. Learning about the Brothers, James, Squire, and Isaac Williams, from Marion Dale Pokriots, a local historical researcher, we set about discovering how they acquired the land, what they did with it, and what happened to it in the decades immediately after their death.

Among the fascinating items we uncovered was the fact that James Williams and his business partners were the first American claimants to the very piece of land where we live.

We have been careful to document the information which we have put into this manuscript so that those who read it can trust it and so that those who would like to do further research in the topic have dependable sources to work from.

Preface 2012

Twelve years after it was written for the public domain and a few copies were placed in Santa Cruz libraries, this slice of Bonny Doon history is being made available to a larger public through its inclusion among the local history files of the Santa Cruz Public Library's website. The authors have since moved from the Santa Cruz area, but they are glad to be able to leave behind this token of their love for it. They are especially grateful to the Santa Cruz Public Library for its role in making the monograph available to the public. Nothing has been added or subtracted from the original, although there are some new or revised explanations, and the format has been adjusted to match the style of the library website.

Rancho Arroyo de la Laguna

In 1841 a tract of land named Rancho Arroyo de la Laguna was granted by the Mexican Governor, Juan Bautista Alvarado, to a certain Gil Sanchez on June 12. (Sanchez had filed his petition for the land on October 14, 1836.) Lying about ten miles northwest of Santa Cruz along the coast, this land extended up the side of what is now called Ben Lomond Mountain in the area that is now called Bonny Doon. The boundaries of the tract are described as

On the South by the Pacific Ocean East by a line running from a stake about twenty yards from the mouth of a stream known as the Arroyo de la Laguna Northerly along the said stream to the Mountains, Northerly by the mountains and Westerly by the Arroyo

de San Vicente and containing in the said boundaries one league of land as aforesaid. ...
The quantity of land included in said grant is one league.

(This is, of course, a legua, or Spanish (i.e. Mexican) league, which as a measure of length is 2.604 miles. A square legua is thus 6.78 square miles, or 4,336 acres.)

A map or "diseno" of the Rancho had to be filed with the Mexican government. It shows the two boundary creeks and names them, and it shows one creek almost exactly between them, naming it Arroyo de los Lobos. It shows trees along the banks of all three creeks, and it clearly indicates the lagoon of Laguna Creek. At the top of the diseno, which is indicated to be north, is drawn a line of mountains with one, and only one, tree drawn on them. Upside down along the top are words which seem to be "Sierra y Lomerio," or "mountains and hills." The diseno foreshortens the distance from the sea to the mountains, and at its bottom is a scale, which seems to be of one and one-half leagues, which would be 3.9 miles. The measure of length is also given as 7,900 varas, which would be 4.1 miles because a Mexican league contained 5,000 varas. In reality the distance between the mouths of the two creeks is about three miles, but perhaps it seemed farther to the author of the diseno.

Three miles apart at their mouths, Laguna Creek and San Vicente Creek lead away from the coast at right angles to it and nearly parallel with each other for more than two miles. Thus the rancho was a rough rectangle extending inward from the sea about 2.3 miles. The upper edge of it, the edge of the "mountains," lies about 1,000 feet above sea level. Above this, both defining creeks surge down from the true summit of the mountain, which is a ridge running about 2,500 feet in elevation (2,642 at its highest point). From subsequent transactions (see following sections) we learn that the lower hillsides of the rancho were not forested, but that redwood and oak did cover its upper slopes and its stream valleys. Limestone outcroppings (as testified below) were found in the upper reaches of the property.

Gil Sanchez did not live on this land, but he built a house and corral on it, brought in two or three hundred cattle and two bands of horses, and had his workmen live there. He himself visited it often. In 1847 a party of "Indians" raided the land, killed one of Sanchez's workmen, and made off with his horses. He then sold the Rancho for \$300 to one James G. F. Dunleavy on July 30, 1847. Dunleavy in turn sold it for \$800 to James and Squire Williams on August 28, 1847.

According to testimony taken for the U. S. Land Commission in 1855, "Soon after they [the Williamses] bought it they went on the land and built a house and sawmill and enclosed a portion which they cultivated and have continued to live on the land ever since." Also: "It was occupied by Mr. James Williams. Gil Sanchez sold it to Williams in 1847 immediately after which Williams went into possession and built one large house a small one and a saw mill."

The Williamses filed claim to the Rancho under the American government on February 17, 1852, and the U. S. Land Commission confirmed their claim by a decision made on July 10, 1855 and signed and sealed on November 21 of that year. In 1872, however, the Williams heirs went to the U. S. Northern District of California Court for a resolution of claims concerning the rancho. Not receiving a satisfactory verdict, the plaintiffs appealed to the U. S. Supreme Court in 1874, and the case was scheduled to be heard there in the session beginning October, 1875. The history of the Rancho Arroyo de la Laguna up to 1875, including the Diseno, is contained in the docket of Case 345, Northern District of the U. S. Land Commission, and a copy of the docket is maintained in the Bancroft Library of the University of California under the title Transcript of the proceedings in case no. 42 James & Squire Williams claimants vs. the United States, defendant, for the place named Arroyo de la Laguna. The Index of the Spanish-Mexican Private Land Grant Records and Cases of California, by J. H. Bowman, is also in the Bancroft Library and is an indispensable aid in finding the docket. Unfortunately, the Index states that Gov. Alvarado made the grant to Sanchez on February 20, 1839, but this is contradicted by the text.

The records of the District Court process of 1872-1874 can be found in the U.S. Archives Pacific - Sierra Region, Bureau of Land Management Record Group 49, on microfilm roll 90 of the 118 rolls of the T-910 series, Docket 538 of California Private Land Claims Dockets. In this docket is the map of a U.S. Survey entitled Rancho Arroyo de la Laguna dated 1867 and 1870. The 4,466 acre plat described in this survey coincides partly - far from entirely - with the 4,418 acre plat of the 1878 survey that is mentioned below. It appears that concern for the true description of the Rancho was the reason or one of the reasons for the litigation in the district court.

The records of the Supreme Court, maintained on microfilm in The National Archives - Pacific Sierra Region in San Bruno, California, state that on January 24, 1876 the Supreme Court upheld the decision of the District Court. In 1878 the land was surveyed definitively under instructions from the U. S. Surveyer General, and it was determined to contain 4,418 acres, or about 6.9 square miles. Finally the U. S. Patent granting original title to the land was issued to James and Squire on February 21, 1881. A copy of the patent is in Volume 4 of the Book of Patents of Santa Cruz County, pages 179-193. It was not recorded there until March 14, 1913.

A note on some of the Spanish words of the map: A Mexican legua or league was 4,190 meters, whereas a Spanish legua was 5,572.7 meters. A Mexican vara, besides being one five-thousandths of a Mexican legua, was 838 millimeters, or 33 inches. Lobos or lobos marinos can be either seals or sea lions. Lomerio is a derivative of loma, hill that indicates a range of hills. Lomerio was the form in use in Mexico, whereas lomaje was used in Chile, and lomada in Argentina, Paraguay, and Uruguay. Lometa is a usage of modern Spanish.

A note on "Spanish Acre:" Concerning the word "acre," the Spanish Dictionaries consulted agree in defining it as an English measurement of area and do not speak of any Spanish measurement which goes by the same name.

(Dictionaries consulted for information on Spanish terms are Diccionario de la Lengua Espanola, 20 ed., Real Academia Espanola: Madrid, 1984; Diccionario Anaya de la Lengua: Madrid, 1991; Diccionario del Espanol Moderno, Martin Alonso, Aguilar: Madrid, 1966; Americanismos diccionario ilustrado sopena, Ramon Sopena: Barcelona, 1982; Diccionario general de Americanismos, Francisco J. Santamaria, Editorial Pedro Robredo: Mejico D.F., 1942; The Oxford Spanish Dictionary: Oxford University Press, 1998.)

Modern identification of Arroyo de los Lobos: There are not one, but two narrow and deep stream valleys which lead down to the ocean between Laguna Creek and San Vicente Creek and which are about a mile apart from each other at the coast. The mouth of the stream in the one that is now called Yellow Bank Creek, is about one mile from Laguna Creek, and the mouth of the stream in the other, which is now known as Liddell Creek, is about a mile from San Vicente Creek. Both intermediate creeks rise close to the upper edge of the rancho, but there is a great difference between the two, inasmuch as one branch of Liddell Creek originates from a copious, year-round spring, but its other branches and Yellow Bank Creek carry much less water. (This is the case now, and was also in 1955 according to the U. S. Geological Survey Map for Davenport. Furthermore, Liddell Creek East Branch was one of the creeks, along with Laguna Creek and Majors Creek, which became Santa Cruz City's water source in the late 19th century, as attested by many sources.) Thus even before the arrival of the Williamses Liddell Creek would have been the more important of the two as a water source. Finally, the lower valley of Liddell Creek is wider than that of Yellow Bank Creek. For these reasons Liddell Creek would have merited more than Yellow Bank Creek to be drawn on the diseno. Another branch of Liddell Creek also furnished a convenient route for a road to the limestone outcroppings on the rancho and, above this, to a suitable mill site on another stream, Williams Mill Creek, a tributary of San Vicente Creek. From the appended maps we see that it was at the mouth of Liddell Creek that James Williams built his landing, and that his mill was reached by a road parallel to this same creek. We infer from the location of James's operations and from the barking of sea lions near his house (see below) that the house was located near the mouth of the same creek. As to the name "Liddell Creek," see below about George Liddell.

James Williams and his Rancho

The information in this section, exceptions noted, is from typed transcriptions of the Williams Family Correspondence which go under the name of the "Cape Girardeau Letters." The original spelling and punctuation are retained here. The excerpts from the Letters are included with the kind permission of Dan Williams, a descendant of Isaac Williams, and Wallace Williams, a descendant of James Williams.

1843

The four brothers, John, James, Isaac, and Squire Williams arrived in John Sutter's projected New Helvetia settlement on November 10, 1843 from Cape Girardeau County, Missouri. (Letter of James Williams, March 22, 1844)

1845

By this year James was selling lumber and having it shipped from Santa Cruz to Monterey for Thomas O. Larkin of Monterey. (George P. Hammond, *The Larkin Papers*, Vol. I, University of California Press, 1951)

1847

James and Squire have moved to Santa Cruz and are growing potatoes, as well as shipping lumber to Monterey for Thomas Larkin. With proceeds from the lumber traffic they have bought the Rancho de la Laguna [as stated above, the purchase date of the property is August 28, 1847]:

... we have bought a ranch four & half miles square of land lying immediately on the pacific ocean there is immense quantity of all cinds of timber redwood pine & live oak there is oak that is on our place that is 60 or 70 feet without A limb or not that is the pine & redwood it is of little or no youse to undertake to tell about the highth of it for it growes so high that we can hadly look high enough to see the top of it and we will if we have no bad luck have a saw mill up and a sawing by the first of march next about Three miles from the sea shore. (Letter of John and James Williams, November 15, 1847)

1848

James and Squire Williams staked a claim for gold on the Yuba River, "where they found ample gold." On August 24 Squire Williams died there of a fever. (Marion Dale Pokriots, *California Bound... The Hitchcock-Patterson Saga*, Scotts Valley, California: publ. by author, 1994, pages 17-18)

1849

John Williams dies, leaving only James and Isaac of the original adventurous four brothers from Missouri. (death mentioned in Docket of Case 345, Northern District of the U. S. Land Commission. See section 1 for further information about this docket.)

David M. Locke and Silas M. Locke, brothers from New Hampshire, arrived in California. Encountering James Williams, they went to Santa Cruz to help him construct the sawmill he had hoped to complete in 1847.

Being expert with tools he [David Locke] found ready employment until his younger brother, Silas M., arrived a little later, having come around Cape Horn in a sailing vessel. The two then set out for the mines, but finding that success required extremely arduous and trying labor they concluded that better chances lay in business enterprise at San Francisco.

In their return trip [in August or September, 1849], while passing through Livermore Valley, the younger brother closed an agreement to go build a mill for Captain Williams, with whom he traveled to Williams' Landing a few miles above Santa Cruz on the coast, where the Captain owned an extensive rancho (obituary of David M. Locke, Santa Cruz Morning Sentinel of Oct. 28, 1908)

And, according to another source,

Thence the brothers journeyed to Sullivan's Creek in Tuolumne County. Here they mined three weeks, but owing to the scarcity of water failed to realize money enough to compensate them for their labor. So they started for Stockton on foot, and there with a companion named Fleck purchased provisions. With these packed on their backs they spent the next five days in walking to San Jose. Here they met one Williams who had been to the mines. He hired them to go to the landing called after him to finish a saw mill.

In November David with Isaac E. Davis [sailed] in a schooner to Santa Cruz in search of lime deposits. Having settled up with Williams Silas walked to Santa Cruz, and at 4 P.M. camped on a ranch where his brother was. (from the files of the Society of California Pioneers, regarding Silas Merrill Locke. Both these items about the Locke Brothers are by courtesy of Marion Dale Pokriots.)

1850

On January 11 Isaac and his wife Lydia write that James has another son, Isaac, who is about a year old. [Note that James married Mary Patterson in 1845.] (Marion Dale Pokriots, California Bound, p. 13) James and Mary's first son, Jonathan, was born "about 1847 ." (Pokriots, p. 20)

Isaac adds that James has been to the gold mines and made \$30,000 there, but he was plagued with bad health while at the mines. James has returned to live on his Rancho with his family and Isaac. Isaac continues,

... we are building a saw mill on his land. We have two mill wrights Employed at Sixteen dollars pr day and Fore Carpenters at From Five to Seven dollars pr day. We also have fifteen dayly workmen employed at from five to Six Dollars pr day. Theas expenses perhaps may Leave you to Consider the building of one Saw mill Cost 11. or 12. Thousand dollars. Our head Millwright Calculates on Sawing From six to 8 Thousand Feet of Timber evry Twenty Fore hours at that rate She will Clar at least 8 hundrd or one Thousand dollar pr day.

On December 15 James writes,

We have been engaged in building a Saw Mill for some time past and in consequence of being imposed upon by quack Millrights (Yankus) have spent some Twenty Thousand dollars and have got no Mill yet but we are of the opinion in the course of a few days we (through the ingenuity of Brother Isaac) will get our Mill into successful operation and if we do succeed I believe we will make Money.... We are running a vessel from our Ranch to Sanfrancisco Shipping timber as yet we have made little or nothing at that having had Yankus employed as agents at Sanfrancisco not suspecting then we did not watch them as closely as we should have done and we will Manage differently in future.

1851

James Williams writes on May 18 that his wife died giving birth to twin sons, James Andrew and Andrew James, [both of whom died before they were a year old (Pokriots, p. 22)], and

my Mother in law and two Sisters in law are living with me and assisting me in the care of my children Brother Isaac is living at the Mission of Santa Cruz two miles distant [ten miles?] his wife is frequently with us. From the fact that the price of lumber had fallen, A heavy pressure in the Money Market combined with the deepest schemes of intrigue by Yankus in whom I had reposed confidence to transact business for me I found myself somewhat involved about Christmas, I then concluded to turn my attention to farming Brother Isaac and myself with the assistance of A.G. English and Brother Y.E. Miller have planted about 70 acres of Potatos, we had made an arrangement for a crop of Onions but the seed we procured proved worthless we consequently planted our ground all in potatos... [It is not clear if they grew the potatoes on the ranch or on their property near the Mission.] Early this spring we found Gold on our land about on mile from our Mill we will finish planting our crop in about a week we intend then to make a thorough search for gold...

In her book, *California, In-doors and out; or How we Farm, Mine, and Live generally in the Golden State*. New York, Dix, Edwards & Co., 1856, on page 216, Eliza Farnham narrates a trip she and friends made by horseback from Santa Cruz north along the coast in the spring of 1851. She writes:

Ten miles up the coast, we passed the last habitation for forty miles. We called, and were treated to a pitcher of delicious milk - what New Yorkers would call cream - and

some excellent radishes and turnips, some of which were added to our camp-stores. After a chat of half an hour, in which Mr. W-- related to us an adventure he had recently had with a grizzly bear, in the hills near his house, and described the method of capturing and killing the seals and sea-lions that were tumbling and bellowing on the rocks, not fifty rods distant, we again rode on....

On November 4 Isaac Williams writes that he, James, and Squire held their property "here" in common, and

during my absence James & Squire Made Some several trades and among the Rest they purchased One Olad [old?] Spanish Ranch of Grant of land lying immediately On the Cast of the Pacific Ocean, fronting about Four Miles On Said Coast, and Running Back to the tops of the Mountains, and Some Two or three lotts, of land lying near the Old Mission of Santacruz, Containing about Fifty or Sixty Spanish acres, which was all paid for with Our Joint property, as far as have Been paid, there still Remains unpaid On said lands about \$1000, with Interest, which as a matter of Corse each were entitled to the One third. At the death of Brother Squire there was some partnership Stock On hand which Did But little Good, how much has Been made out of the stock I am unable to tell Exactly, though But little, as the most of them Ran of Or was stolen.

Isaac proposes to give Squire's heirs, the relatives in Missouri, all the property to which he and James have title in Missouri and \$500 in cash if the same heirs in Missouri cede to them their claims to Squire's estate in California.

1854

James Williams writes on May 22,

... in July I expect to leave the Ranch and Go about 100 miles distant to the East of St Johns Mission and Settle on a piece of Government land for the purpose of Stock Raising and mineing: as I was in that Country about 9 [number said not to be clear in original] months Since: and found Some very Rich mineral: Silver and quicksilver Said to be By the best judges I have had to test it: at this time I have a vessel loading at the ranch with lumber and I Expect in about 10 days to Start off with the Cargo to St.P????: lumber at this time is verry low, at Sanfrancisco it is at times sold for freight.

I sold my Mill property and a small interest in my Portion for the Ranch for the sum of 70990[footnote to typed transcription says the first digit may have been a 2] dollars there is a Ballance of payment to be maid during this Season of 15000\$ the proceeds of which I Expect to Expend in Buying young Cattle.

James Williams dies in Santa Cruz on October 9.

Land Transactions Involving or Related to the Rancho Before the Death of James Williams

All the information in this section unless otherwise noted is from the *Santa Cruz County Register of Deeds*, volumes 1-3.

1850

James Williams and Mary, his wife, sell for \$7,500 to Isaac and Elizabeth Patterson (Mary's brother and her mother) that part of the Rancho contained in an area from the mouth of Laguna Creek 1/2 mile north on a line parallel with the coast 100 yards north of the creek

... immediately north of the house in which the said James Williams now resides the said creek generally known as the creek or gulch of the seals thence a Westerly direction on a paralel [sic] line with the said creek one half mile to the sea cost [sic] thence a southerly direction running with the said sea coast to the beginning.

It is not easy to interpret this description of the tract. Making allowances for the use of directions in this text (the "southerly direction running with the said sea coast," for instance is, in reality east by southeast), and remembering that the "gulch of the seals" of that time was later named "Liddell Creek," we interpret it to mean that the tract in question is roughly a square mile of land lying in the southeast quadrant of James's Rancho, that is, a quadrangle of land extending from Laguna Creek to Liddell Creek and a half mile in from the coast.

In the same transaction James and Mary sell to Isaac and Elizabeth

... Also one tract or parcel of land described as follows to include or embrace a saw mill Buildded [sic] or reared by the said James Williams embracing one mile in a Northwesterly direction from saw mill one mile in a Southwesterly direction one half mile in a southerly direction and one half mile in a Northeasterly direction from saw mill that is to say the saw tract or parcel of land is intended to embrace two miles in length running from North West to the South East and one mile in width from the North East to the South West so as to place the aforesaid Mill in the center of the said tract or parcel of land also extending Guaranteeing [sic] and securing to the aforesaid Isaac Patterson and Elizabeth Patterson the right Privilege and advantage of the road leading from said Mill to the present shipping point on the sea coast also grazing their stock...

This is clearly a two square mile tract lying along the northeast border of the Rancho and centered on the saw mill, which was, indeed, about a half mile upgrade from the ranch boundary. Although the mill had not yet been completed, the road running up along Liddell Creek from the landing to it was already in (private) use. The Santa Cruz County Deed Registers do not record the transaction by which James came into possession of this land, and although the tract is similar to the "mill tract" which James acquired in 1853 by a school land warrant and both tracts center on the mill, the school land warrant property is only 320 acres, one half of a

square mile. See below for the school land warrants purchased by James alone or in partnership. A map of this school land warrant is appended.

1852

On April 8 Isaac and Elizabeth Patterson sell to James Williams for \$7,500 an undivided half part of the tracts they had bought from him and Mary in 1850.

On April 28 Isaac Williams, James's brother, sells for \$3,000 to James his interest in "the Rancho de la Lobo granted by the Mexican Government to Gil Sanchez." The description makes it clear that this is the Rancho Arroyo de la Laguna. Although James and Squire had acquired the land in their names, it can be seen from the letter of Isaac dated November 4, 1851, that he had put up a third of the purchase money. About this time Isaac and his family left Santa Cruz for the Yuba mining area. After spending a while there, they migrated to the Pajaro River Valley, where they took up residence. (For this information and the subsequent history of Isaac see Pokriots, p. 22)

On November 7 and 15: George R. Gluyas and Joseph C. Coult buy from James Williams the right to erect a steam saw mill "in the vicinity of the timberland owned and [text not clear]ed by said Williams" and to log for it. Each, including James, owns 1/3 of the mill. Gluyas and Coult have a right to build buildings and a railroad or railroads "from the mill to the Sea Coast" until the timber is exhausted. The "lumber in the ravines" separate from the tableland is excepted, and James retains the right to continue operating the present saw mill and to cut timber for wagon wheel spokes, fencing, and farming purposes. James keeps 1/10 of the lime production from the three quarries on the property and shares equally (1/3) in the rest of the production. The property in question went "back to a certain raing [sic] of Sand hills about north east from a saw mill erected by the said Williams... and from hence ranging with the said sand hills in about west to the said Blass [San Vicente] creek."

In addition to the above, James sells for \$20,000 to Gluyas and Coult the right to log and ship lumber. The area involved includes nine school land warrants and 11/18 undivided interest in the Rancho proper. Nevertheless, "any of the Lands or timber along the valley through which the main or south branch of the creek runs that runs by said Williams house anywhere from its source to its outlet in the Bay shall be expressly reserved to said Williams...."

These school land warrants did not come legally into James's possession until the following January.

School land warrants were titles to tracts of land given by the Federal Government to the states so that the latter could sell them and apply the revenue to the founding and upkeep of public schools. By an act of 1852 the California legislature authorized the Govenor to sell 500,000 acres in school land warrants. Warrant number 87 is one of the first in Santa Cruz County and one of very few there not to be described in terms of sections, towns, and ranges. The following information is from the register entitled School Land Warrants of Santa Cruz County, which is kept in the County Recorder's office.

School land warrant number 87 was acquired in November, 1852 by Francis Kittridge and transferred from him to James Williams as surveyed and located on January 21, 1853 and recorded on February 25, 1853. The land consisted of 320 acres and was situated north of Williams's Rancho, "being the mill tract of said Williams beginning at a stake by a blazed pine SE of the point where the Road leading from the Beach enters the Redwood."

A map accompanies the text. It is difficult to reconcile directions given on it with the points of the compass, but the landmarks shown on it are clearly recognizable. It shows the sawmill at the confluence of an unnamed creek [identified as Williams Mill Creek on the 1878 map in the Appendix; otherwise known simply as Mill Creek] and the tributary that enters it from the east at the point where Mill Creek changes direction from north-south to east-west. It shows other tributaries upstream, one of which originates in a "senega." This term appears to be a corruption of the Spanish cienega, "swamp." The accent of Cienega on the second syllable. See Diccionario de la Lengua Espanola cited above. Annotations on the map note that about 3/4 of the land is in redwood and oak, but some of the eastern part of it is "Prarie"[sic] in addition to the swamp. It shows the "Road from the mill," which, according to a U. S. Survey map of 1881, "Map of Fractional Township No 10 South, Range No 3 West, Mount Diablo Meridian", as, in its upper tract, closer to Mill Creek than the present road.

1853

In 1853 James Williams, together with Gluyas and Coult, acquired 2,400 acres in school land warrants which were described in terms of the U.S. Land Survey. Some of this land appears to coincide with school land warrant 87, and the rest lies in the upper watershed of SanVicente Creek and its tributary (Williams) Mill Creek, except for one parcel, which is in the upper watershed of Laguna Creek. The parcels were close to one another, and some were contiguous with others. Almost all this land was in timber.

The 2,400 acres in school land warrants are all in Town 10 South, Range 3 West from the Mount Diablo Meridian, are numbered and described as:

633	the southeast quarter of section 27	160 acres
247	the south half of section 26	320 acres
629	the northeast quarter of section 26	160 acres
628	the southwest quarter of section 23	160 acres
637	the southeast quarter of section 22	160 acres
253	the south half of section 14	320 acres
254	the north half of section 14	320 acres
631	the southwest quarter of section 13	160 acres
630	the southwest quarter of section 12	160 acres
255	the east half of section 11	320
632	the southeast quarter of section 2	160
	Total	2,400 acres

The school land warrant lands changed hands legally between James and his partners more than once before his death in 1858, but at the time of his death all of them except number 87 were listed as James's assets to be sold in the Sheriff's sale. In 1861 Gluyas, apparently the only remaining party with an interest in them, "floated" all of them but number 247, which lay between the Rancho and the mill tract and which contained limestone quarries. (By "floating" them Gluyas relinquished title to them. Gluyas states that they had never been "sectionalized" and that others were laying claim to them.)

1854

A certain Edward L. Williams sells his interest in the Rancho to James Williams for \$900. According to information on the Williams family furnished by local historian Marion Dale Pokriots, Edward Williams was not a relative of James and his brothers.

1856

In partnership with Tully R. Wise, James buys back from Gluyas an undivided part interest in the Rancho and 2,400 acres northeast of it in school land warrants. Coult is no longer involved, although it is not clear from the registry of deeds why this is so.

1857

According to the tax rolls published in the Pacific Sentinel, Santa Cruz, December 19, 1857 Tully R. Wise and James Williams are responsible for taxes on

... a portion of the rancho de la Laguna, containing 1000 acres bounded as follows: commencing at Blass creek [San Vicente Creek], commencing at its mouth, running up said creek to the boundary line, far enough to include all the limestone quarries, thence running along the bluffs, far enough to include all the lime rock, to a natural break in a divide, about one mile north east of the dwelling house of said Williams, thence running to the township line, crossing the creek which leads by said William's house and high bluff west of the creek, thence in a south east direction to the head of a small ravine, thence south half east, leaving several small ravines on the w and s w until the line strikes the creek, leading by Williams' house at the beach, at the shipping point on the bay of Monterey, from thence following along the beach of said bay to Blass creek, the point of beginning and also school land warrant, located by Geo K. [sic] Gluyas & J. C. Coult, warrants No. 217 for 320 acres of land on a half of sec. 26, township 10 of first base line, range 3 w, first principal meridian and also n e 1/4th of sec. 27, township 2, range as above, No. 633 for 160 acres and also n e 1/4th of sec. 22, township and range as above, No. 637 for 160 acres and also on n e 1/4th of section 26, township and range as above, No. 629 for 160 acres and

No. 630 for 160 acres on the s w quarter sec. 12 town and range as above and also 1/4th of sec. 2 of township and range as above, N. 632 for 160 acres, also school land warrant No. 27 for 320 acres of land lying n of of [sic] said Williams' rancho, being the mill tract of said Williams, in all 3400 acres of land.

The part of the Rancho involved in this seems to be all of it lying between San Vicente Creek and Liddell Creek, which is roughly a thousand acres. The seven school land warrants mentioned total 1,440 acres, although there were in fact 2,400 acres of land warrants owned by James and his partners, and the 2,400 are needed to justify the total of 3,400.

Note that James's school land warrant properties according to the tax rolls of 1857 do not entirely correspond to the ones given above. There are other uncertainties, also, such as, what happened to number 87? Some of these uncertainties seem to relate to the boundaries of the Rancho, which, as noted above, were not definitively fixed until 1878.

1858

From the *Pacific Sentinel* Santa Cruz, July 31, 1858:

Sheriff's Sale.

By virtue of an execution issued out of the District Court, of the 3d Judicial District, in and for the county of Santa Cruz, State of California, and to me directed and delivered, for a judgment rendered in said Court on the 28th day of July A. D. 1858, in favor of Andrew Glassell, Plaintiff, and against James Williams, defendant, for the principal sum of nine thousand five hundred and eighty-five dollars (\$9,585), with interest thereon at the rate of two and one-half per cent. per month from the 7th day of July, A. D. 1858, until paid; and for the further sum of twelve dollars and 20/100 costs of suit; also accruing costs -- I have levied upon the following described property to wit: All the right, title and interest of James Williams, the defendant in the suit of Andrew Glassell vs. James Williams -- That portion of the old ranch called "Williams Ranch," situated being and lying in the county of Santa Cruz, in the State of California, discribed [sic] as follows, to wit: Commencing at Blass Creek at its mouth, where it empties into the Bay of Monterey, and running up said creek to the northern boundary line, far enough to take in and include all the lime stone quarries, so far as now discovered on said Ranch; thence, running along the bluffs far enough south to include the lime rock to a natural creek in a divide about one mile north-east from the dwelling house of James Williams; thence, running to the Township corner, crossing the creek which leads by the said Williams' house and a high bluff west of the creek; thence, in a south-easterly direction to the head of a small ravine; thence, south half-east; leaving several small ravines on the west and south-west, until the line strikes the said creek, leading by said Williams' house at the beach, including the said beach at the shipping point upon Monterey Bay; from thence, following along the beach and said Bay, to Blass Creek or the place of beginning. Also all that certain tract of timber and grazing land described as follows, to

wit: Two thousand four hundred acres of land adjoining the said "Williams Ranch," and lying to the north-east of it, upon which School Land Warrants were located by James Williams George K. [sic] Gluyas and Joseph C. Coult, which said warrants were numbered and contained the following quantity of land as follows: Numbers 254, 253, 247, and 255 -- each for 320 acres of land. Also numbers 630, 637, 628, 631, 632, 629 and 633 -- each for 160 acres of land, which said warrants are located and recorded in the said county of Santa Cruz, together with all the premises and appertenances [sic] thereto belonging, or in any wise appertaining.

Notice is hereby given, that on Wednesday the 25th day of August, A. D. 1858 I will sell at public sale, at the door of the Court House, in the town and County of Santa Cruz, between the hours of 9 o'clock A. M. and 5 o'clock P. M., to the highest bidder for cash in hand to satisfy said execution.

Santa Cruz July 31st, A. D. 1858

JOHN T. PORTER, Sheriff.

October 9, death of James Williams.

Land Uses and Transactions after the Death of James Williams

This section derives from many and varied sources, as noted.

1858

Andrew Glassell began operating lime kilns along the Williams Landing-Williams Mill Road. Later (year unknown) Grove Adams, who had been a partner of Glassell's, acquired sole possession of the lime kiln operation. (From Robert Piwarzyk, *The Laguna Limekilns*. Copyrighted, not published, in 1996, p. 27. A later publication, *Lime Kiln Legacies: The History of the Lime Industry in Santa Cruz County*. Santa Cruz: Museum of Art and History, 2007, agrees that Glassell acquired the kilns in 1858, but is not sure he began to operate them in the same year.)

1864

There was a "Glassell's Landing" in 1864, and from it were shipped 10,000 staves on July 9 and other shipments after that. *Bibliography of Early California Forestry*, Santa Cruz County, vol.3, part 4.

1867

"During the recent fire large quantities of tanbark were destroyed in the neighboring hills. On the San Lorenzo there were 470 cords and east of Williams Landing there were 950 cords destroyed. This may materially effect [sic] the tanning interest outside of the county, the Santa Cruz tanneries being supplied in part for the present. It is said that bark cannot be peeled [sic] for two years after a fire burns over a forest of chestnut oak. At Glassell's mill besides burning the mill over 20,000 feet of redwood fence posts were consumed." *San Francisco Evening Bulletin*, 1867, vol 24 no. 84 p 1 c 5, July 15. Also reported in the Santa Cruz Times, July 6. In *Bibliography of Early California Forestry*, Santa Cruz County, vol.2, part 2.

In a list of Santa Cruz sawmills: "Williams Landing - Jones - 2 saws, daily cap. 20,000, steam power, occupant Hatch & Co." Langley, Henry G., *Pacific Coast Business Directory*, Publisher Henry G. Langley, San Francisco, 1867. Bancroft Library, F851.a1 1867. *Bibliography of Early California Forestry*, Santa Cruz County, vol. 2, part 2.

1868

On March 11, 1868 John J.[sic] Williams sells for \$10,000 the Rancho and school land warrants to Grove Adams, Benjamin F. Lee, Peregrine Fitzhugh, William T. Glassell (1/5 each for these) and Charles Moss and Donald Beadle (1/10 each for these), and all these together sell it for \$1 to John I. [sic] Williams. (*Santa Cruz County Register of Deeds*, Vol. 10, page 422 and 424 (old 591 and 593))

On May 7, 1868 the transfer for debts of the Rancho and school land warrants to Andrew Glassell is confirmed. (*Santa Cruz County Register of Deeds*, Vol. 10, page 508 (old 717))

These two entries from the 1868 Register of Deeds are confusing, and they raise more questions than they answer. The following narrative paragraph, however, at least indicates the uses to which the land and facilities were put.

Recently Fitzhugh, Adams & Co. purchased the Glassell rancho and commenced the manufacture of lime on a larger scale than heretofore ... Abundance of timber is growing near the place, and as the proprietors have ... purchased 4,000 acres of land in addition to the Glassell rancho, they have sufficient land and timber facilities for all time to come.... (Bancroft Scraps. *California Manufacturing Industries: Santa Cruz*. Lime Kilns. 139 pp. Vol 48, p. 70 in Bancroft Library, call no. F851.7B2 v. 48; 1868. *Bibliography of Early California Forestry*, Santa Cruz County, vol.3, part 3.)

1872

Grove Adams sold possession of the lime kiln operation along the Williams Landing-Williams Mill Road to "two men who built a road to connect the limekilns with the wharf at Davenport so they could utilize that better, safer facility." (Piarzyk, *The Laguna Limekilns*, p. 27)

1875

There was one saw mill, Glassell's, on the Rancho and associated property, which had two saws, had a capacity of 8,000 ft/day, was steam powered, and cost \$10,000. (*Pacific Coast Business Directory for 1876-78*, published in San Francisco by Henry G. Langley, 1875.)

The same Directory, in its list of places, their location, and the businesses in them, lists "HATCH TH & CO, dairymen" in "Rancho Arroyo de Laguna, Santa Cruz Co, PO address Santa Cruz, 9 miles of Santa Cruz."

1879

The owner of the Rancho as of February 26 was a "Mr. Brangen" according to the Docket of Case 345, Northern District of the U. S. Land Commission. (See section 1 for further information about this docket.)

1881

The 4,418 acres of the Rancho are shown to be the property of the German Savings and Loan Society. The map which conveys this information also shows buildings where the coast road crosses Laguna Creek and Yellow Bank Creek, but not where it crosses Liddell Creek. The map is the Wright-Bennett-Healey or Thomas W. Wright Map of Santa Cruz County in 64 sheets, dated 1881, and it can be found in the University of California-Santa Cruz Library Map Room.

1887

On April 30 there appeared in the Santa Cruz Daily Sentinel an anonymous article about the dairies along the coast north of Santa Cruz. Starting from R. H. Hall's Natural Bridges Dairy, which was within the city limits, the writer describes briefly each dairy he encounters, Moore's, Wilder's, Smith's, Baldwin's, and Scaroni's before coming to the dairies along the creeks along or in the Rancho Arroyo de la Laguna:

Eight miles from Santa Cruz and next in order [this appears to be along both banks of Laguna Creek], is the Eagle Glen Dairy ranch, comprising 1,300 acres of as fine land and premises for dairying purposes as can be found in the State. Upon the hills and table lands, during feeding hours, can be seen 200 head of cattle grazing in the sunshine and shade, among them part blooded Holstein stock. Of this number 140 cows are milked at the present time, and from this number is produced daily 350 pounds of cheese, eight men being employed in the work. Antone Silva, who leases 1,100 acres of the land on this ranch from Horace Gushee, reports the crops as looking fine, and speaks in glowing terms of the beautiful drives and scenery about the premises. A fine stream of water, stocked with mountain trout, flows through the land, and on the southern border of the ranch, is a gradually-sloping beach upon which mosses, shells and curiosities can be found, while inland numerous wild flowers and ferns await the picking by the joyful lover of the beautiful.

The Yellow Bank Dairy is also on this coast road, and then Laird's dairy is reached. Considerable has already been written concerning this dairy, yet it may be added that Mr. Laird has made it a point to work in thoroughbred short-horn stock in his drove, and some time ago purchased the handsome bull, "Second Duke of Alameda," a fine bred animal. The sire of the Duke took first premium at the Santa Clara County Fair in 1885. At the present time a large portion of his cows are one-half and three-quarter bred short-horns. The annual yield of this dairy from 200 cows is about 80,000 pounds of cheese, or about 400 pounds to the cow.

Fillipini's dairy adjoins Laird's dairy and is celebrated for the fine quality of butter produced there, a large portion of which is sold in Santa Cruz. Numerous other dairies are to be seen along the coast, but we have been unable to visit them, or hear from them, on account of the great distance from the city...

The writer does not know the exact locations of Laird's and Fillipini's dairies. At least one of them would have been on the Rancho.

1889

According to the 1889 map of Santa Cruz County by Andrew Jackson Hatch, a copy of which is in the Map Room of the University of California-Santa Cruz, the owner of the whole coastal portion of the rancho, but not of all the upper portion of it, was Jeremiah Respini, and the creek otherwise known as Yellow Bank Creek was called Respini Creek. There was a dairy near the

mouth of this creek, and the only dairy on the Rancho west of that was located on a very small arroyo between Liddell and San Vicente Creeks.

1892

On page 197, among descriptions of companies in the county, in Edward S. Harrison, History of Santa Cruz County, 1892 is:

SANTA CRUZ LUMBER COMPANY

This company is composed of W. F. March, President and Manager; George Olive, Vice President; A. A. Davis, Secretary; and F. L. French and F. S. March and the aforesaid gentlemen as Directors.

Their mill is located on Liddell Creek, several miles up the coast, and has a capacity of forty thousand feet of lumber daily. They manufacture and deal in all kinds of sawed and split lumber, moulding, brackets, window and door frames, etc.

The loading of lumber upon schooners is done by means of a cable. Shipments are made from the mill to Santa Cruz, and to branch yards at Cambria and Morro, San Luis Obispo County. A cut of their mill is herewith presented.

The cut shows a mill with two smokestacks and a valley (forested in the upper tracts) leading down in the background to the seashore, where, perched on the cliff, is a building with one smokestack and a cable leading down from it and to the left to a free standing two-masted schooner. This accurately depicts the view a bird would have looking down over the mill on Williams Mill Creek and over Liddell Creek to Williams Landing.

The same book, on page 154, includes Williams Landing in a list of current coastal landings.

A Note on George Liddell
And
Appendix: Maps to Accompany the Text

A Note on George Liddell

According to Edward Martin, *History of Santa Cruz County California with Biographical Sketches*, Los Angeles: Historic Record Co., 1911, George Liddell, a civil engineer and contractor, left his native England in 1850 for San Francisco. The next year:

Coming to the Santa Cruz Mountains at this time Mr. Liddell built a steam saw mill and also constructed a water mill and began taking out redwood lumber. The venture proved a complete success, prospering far beyond his expectations, and the creek on which his mills were located finally became known as Liddell's creek [sic]. This was the pioneer effort in lumbering in the redwood of Santa Cruz county, an enterprise which finally developed into a thriving industry. Receiving an injury in the mill which incapacitated him for active service Mr. Liddell retired from business and thereafter made his home in Santa Cruz, where his death occurred.

Granted that the name Liddell Creek bespeaks the presence of a Liddell, it is hard to imagine that George Liddell was as great a pioneer entrepreneur as Martin gives him credit for being. The land where he seems to have been belonged to James Williams, after whom there was a succession of owners – Liddell not among them – as named above.

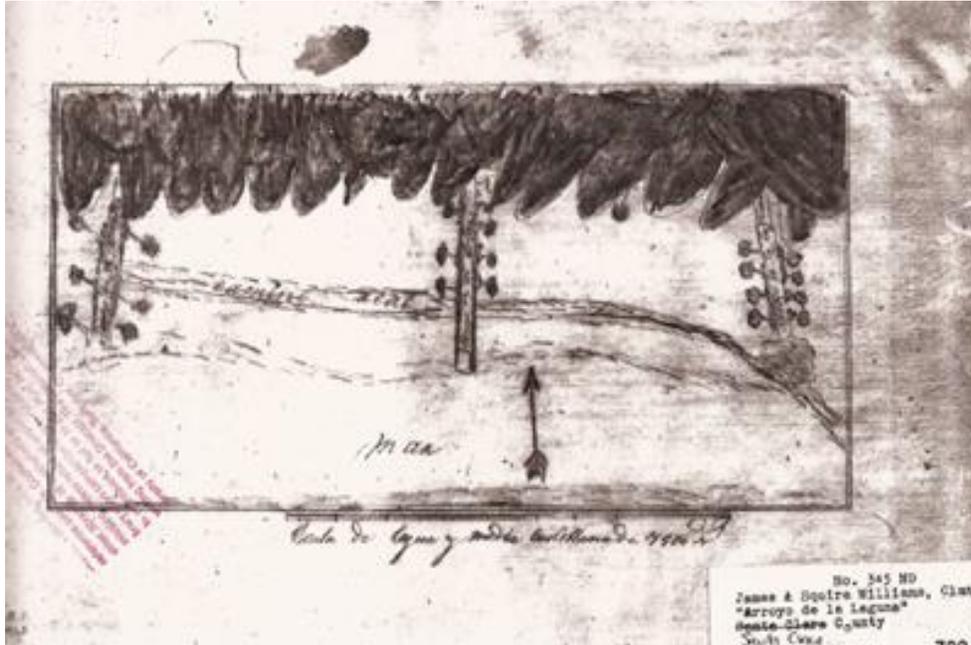
There was a George Liddell, born in Scotland, 54 years of age in 1860, a carpenter by trade, who lived somewhere in the northern part of Santa Cruz county with his wife and children according to the U.S. Census of 1860. It seems possible that George was a skilled employee of Gluyas and Coult in the 1850s.

The heads of the households enumerated immediately before and after Liddell's in the 1860 census were Samuel Myrick, a millwright; Hiram Imus, also a millwright; Samuel Hillman, a master carpenter; George Innskeep, a farmer; Nathaniel Hutchins, a day laborer; and John Perry, a master carpenter. It is not necessarily the case that all these people were neighbors because no addresses were given and it is hard to imagine that one or more census takers could have gone in a perfect geographic sequence to the 58 households, including Liddell's, reported for July 14, 1860. Nevertheless, there is some probability that they were neighbors, and if so, the clustering of the houses of these construction men may have reflected a project they were working on together, possibly on the Rancho for Andrew Glassell.

Appendix: Maps to Accompany the Text

Diseno of Rancho Arroyo de la Laguna

Courtesy of the Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley



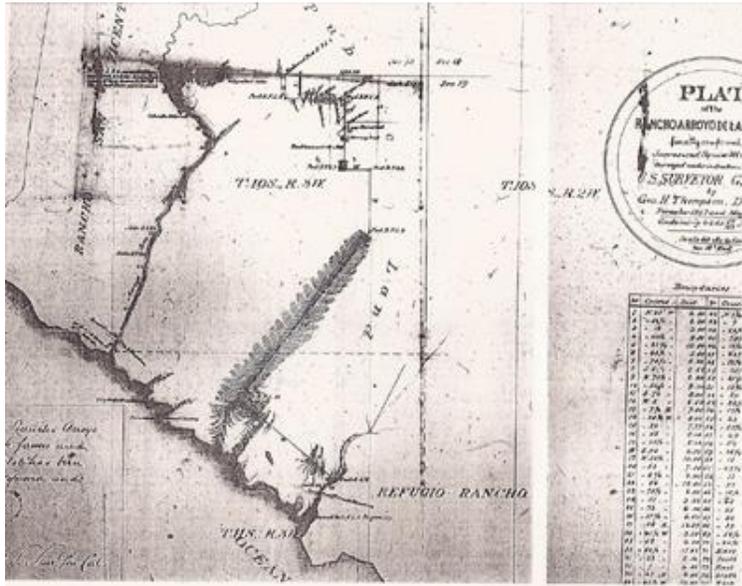
School Land Warrant number 87

From School Land Warrant Book of Santa Cruz County, Santa Cruz County Recorder's Office



1867 survey of (Rancho) Arroyo de la Laguna

From United States Archives, Pacific-Sierra Region, San Bruno, California



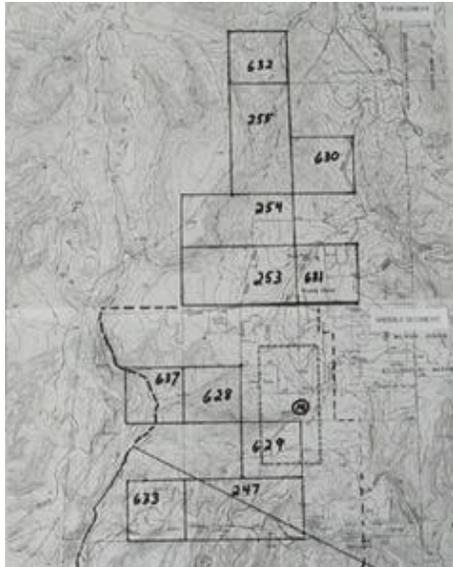
1878 survey of (Rancho) Arroyo de la Laguna

From Map Room, University of California, Santa Cruz



Map in three sections, showing the Rancho Arroyo de la Laguna and related school land warrants.

This map is plotted on excerpts from United States Geological Survey maps of Santa Cruz, 1994, and Davenport, 1991; scale 1:24,000.



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