

## EARLY HISTORY OF BOULDER CREEK

from the personal files of  
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The Mountain Echo

"From hearsay I must tell you that the settlement of the Boulder Creek area began in the middle sixties, for the reason that I did not arrive on the scene until May 1870 when just about half way through my 17th year, and only from this date can I testify first hand.....

I came to this locality through its back door, as it were, by hiking over a hunters' trail from where is now the Shiner's Park on the Pescadero Creek to where is now the well known Sequoia district. As we dropped down over a blind trail to the little valley known as Sequoia, I was so enraptured by the beautiful forest that then everywhere abounded, that I at once resolved to make this my future home and stayed and stayed until now you see me after that all too fleeting time of 70 years.

My former boyhood friends and neighbors welcomed me as gladly and kindly as if I were their own son. As to myself, I was happy over the momentous fact that I was now, at last, embarking on the journey of life for myself.

Now as to the name, Boulder Creek. Long before there was even a semblance of a town I heard this locality was spoken of by that name. When I was with my father on his ranch near La Honda, San Mateo Co., we had several bachelor neighbors who were inveterate hunters. Such men were more or less alluring to a boy and in my mingling with them, before coming here, many times I heard them speak of a place they called Boulder Creek. Among them was Alexander T. Dowd who discovered the Calaveras Grove of big trees while following the trail of a bear he had shot and wounded. Another was Christian Iverson who killed Capt. Harry Love who in the fifties led a posse that hunted down and killed the early California bandit, Joaquin Murietta. (The trail on which I entered the valley was known as the Iverson Trail.) Still another was Tilford G. Berry, after whom Berry Creek in the Big Basin was named. They always called this area Boulder Creek and blazed out hunting trails leading to it as well as to the Big Basin. Also there were several early settlers who came from our locality to locate land here.