

Butte County Land Grants: First Settlements

In the early years of the decade between 1840 and 1850 the actual settlement of the territory known as Butte County by men of the white race was started. During these years there were a number of grants of large tracts of land made by the Mexican Government to various persons. A number of these grants were located in the territory that now comprises our county. It may be of interest to enumerate these grants :

The Boga-Larkin Grant was founded upon a Mexican grant to Charles W. Flugge which was made in 1844 by Governor Micheltorena. The grant contained five square leagues or 22,184.66 acres. The land covered by this grant extended along the Feather River from the Ord Ranch south to Sutter County and out into the valley between two and three miles.

The Farwell Grant was founded upon a Mexican grant to Edward A. Farwell, also made in 1844 by Governor Micheltorena. It contained 22,193.93 acres. The land covered by this grant extended along the Sacramento River south from Chico Creek about four or five miles. A great portion of the city of Chico is located on a portion of this grant.

The Arroyo Chico Grant was founded on a grant made to William Dickey in 1844 by Governor Micheltorena, and contained 22,214.47 acres. The land covered by the grant extended east from the Sacramento River along Chico Creek to the north end of the Bidwell Park and northerly from Chico Creek a distance of two or three miles. The Bidwell subdivisions, including Chico Vecino, are on this grant, as is the famous Hooker Oak and the Bidwell mansion.

The Esquon Grant was founded on a grant made to Samuel Neal in 1844. It contained 22,193.78 acres and covered the land along Big Butte Creek from the Durham State Colony on the north to the town of Nelson on the south.

The Bosquejo Grant was made to Peter Lassen in December, 1844. It comprised 22,206.67 acres. A portion of this grant lies in Butte and a part in Tehama County.

The Aguas Frias or Pratt Grant was founded on a grant made to Salvador Osio in 1844. It comprised 26,761.40 acres. The land covered by this grant extended from a point just south of the town of Durham to a point in Glenn County west of Butte Creek.

The Llano Secor, or Parrott Grant, was founded upon a Mexican grant to Sebastian Kauser made in 1845 by Governor Pio Pico. It comprised 17,767.17 acres. The land covered by this grant extended along the Sacramento River for about four miles to the Aguas Frias Rancho.

The Fernandez Grant was founded upon a grant made by Governor Pio Pico in 1846 to two sons of Senor Fernandez, alcalde of Monterey in 1841 and 1842. It comprised 17,805.84 acres. The land covered by this grant extended from a point immediately north of the Oroville bridge across the Feather River south along the Feather River to what is now known as the Ord Ranch, and out into the valley west of the Feather River about two miles. Thermalito and Rio Bonito are located upon this grant.

Pages 5 & 6

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