

HISTORICAL SKETCH OF RAPLEY

Bt Archie Willis

The first man that ever settled in this community was Mr. Johnathan R. Owings. Mr. Owings, in 1857, settled in a primeval forest near the centre of what is now Rapley. He lived here two years and then, in 1859, moved to Georgia, selling his place to Mr. F. R. Owings who, in 1856, built a small ginhouse and operated a small gin by horse power till a few years later when he purchased a small engine, the first one ever used in this part of the county. Mr. Owings operated his gin a few years with this small engine and then purchased a larger one. In 1871, Messrs. F. R. Owings and L. Abercrombie built a store house and commenced the mercantile business. They did business for about two years and then Mr. Owings bought Mr. Abercrombie's interest and conducted the business alone, till 1887. In 1887 Mr. Owings built a large concrete store house, and he and Mr. W. J. Hunter formed a partnership and did business until they were burned out in 1889.

In 1888 the railroad was built through our town, and in 1889 Mr. F. R. Owings, in order to get a station at his store, built a depot, graded a side track, laid the crossties and donated them to the railroad company. The same year Mr. J. W. DuPree built his residence, the second one. In 1890 Mr. F. R. Owings rebuilt his concrete store house.

In 1891 Mr. B. R. White and family, of Greenville, moved into our then little station and went into the mercantile business in Mr. F. R. Owings new store.

The same year, the people of this community built a large concrete school house.

In 1892, Mr. John S. Dial built his residence, and in 1893 built and opened up a general mercantile store.

In 1894, a Mr. Kemp built and opened a jewelry shop and until the fall of 1896, when he sold it to Mr. S. R. Moore. Mr. Moore afterwards sold it to Mr. R. L. Gray of Gray Court.

In the fall of 1895, Mr. W. H. Godfrey opened a grocery store, and in 1896, Messrs. J. W. DuPree and R. J. Stoddard went into business with Mr. Godfrey, under the firm name of Godfrey & Co.

In 1895 Messrs. C. A. Power and E. Owings went into the mercantile business in Mr. J. S. Dial's store-room, under the firm name of Power and Owings. Mr. Dial had, a short time before, closed his store, after selling out his stock goods.

In April, 1897, the stores of Godfrey, DuPree & Co., Power & Owings, and the store room of Mr. R. L. Gray, which was empty, were burned.

In 1897, Mr. F. R. Owings built a fine cotton ginnery, and now gins over one thousand bales every year.

In 1897, Mr. J. W. DuPree built a fine, large brick store house and the firm of Godfrey, DuPree & Co. once more resumed business.

In the same year, M. E. Owings built a large store house and filled it with goods, but did not run the business long, and after renting the house to several parties he sold it to Godfrey, DuPree & Co. In 1898, Mr. W. H. Godfrey sold his interest in the store of Godfrey, DuPree & Co., and moved to Laurens. Mr. R. M. Bryson bought Mr. Godfrey's interest, and the firm now bears the name of DuPree, Stoddard & Co.

In 1898, Messrs. J. T. Owings and R. L. Henry each built a nice residence, but Mr. Owings sold his to Mr. B. Putnam, in the fall of that year, and moved back to his farm.

Mr. R. J. Stoddard and family also moved into our town in 1898.

In 1899, Mrs. H. L. White built a new store house and moved her stock of goods from Mr. F. R. Owings's store room into it.

In 1900 Messrs. F. R. Owings & Son went into the mercantile business in Mr. Owings's old stand, formerly occupied by Mrs. H. L. White.

And thus our town has been built. We now have four stores, a good school, a good cotton ginnery, thirteen residences, and almost a hundred inhabitants.

Bapley = Dwings

RECORDS OF THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20250

On the 1st day of August 1964, the following land was surveyed and located in the State of California, County of Santa Clara, and the same is hereby recorded for the purpose of establishing the same as a part of the public domain of the United States of America.

The land is situated in the Township of ... and the Range of ... and is more particularly described as follows:

Section 1, Township 12N, Range 12E, ...

Section 2, Township 12N, Range 12E, ...

Section 3, Township 12N, Range 12E, ...

Section 4, Township 12N, Range 12E, ...

Section 5, Township 12N, Range 12E, ...

Section 6, Township 12N, Range 12E, ...

Section 7, Township 12N, Range 12E, ...

Section 8, Township 12N, Range 12E, ...

Section 9, Township 12N, Range 12E, ...

Section 10, Township 12N, Range 12E, ...

Section 11, Township 12N, Range 12E, ...

Section 12, Township 12N, Range 12E, ...

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