

Nellie McQueen, Harriet Jessee, and the early history of the post offices of Palomar Mountain

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The first and continuing post office on Palomar Mountain (which was called Smith Mountain at the time), as well as its postmark, was named “Nellie” from 1883 to 1920... who was Nellie? The second post office on Palomar Mountain was named “Jessee” and functioned from 1896 to 1904... who was Jessee?

The Nellie post office story begins with **Angus McQueen**, the father of Nellie.... Nellie McQueen.

Ancestry.com trees say Angus McQueen was born in 1813 in Ontario, Canada, whereas his obituary in a San Diego newspaper says he was born in 1812 [9,12]. The 1860 U.S. Census lists Angus McQueen at age 46, which puts his birth year as 1812 [1]. Angus McQueen’s obituary said he was awarded the rank of Captain in Canada at an early age [12].

His wife **Mary Ann McGlashan** was born in 1822 in North Pelham, Ontario, Canada, and died April 7, 1907, in Thorold, Ontario, Canada [9]. They had four children:

Mary (Minnie) McQueen, born September 28, 1846, in Trafalgar, Ontario, Canada, and died August 23, 1912, in Canada. She was married July 10, 1866, in Ontario, Canada, to William Sutherland (1839-1906), and their children were Angus (1870-), William T. (1871-1943), Benjamin (1875-), Norval Orlando (1882-), and Mildred (1891-) [1,9,19]

John Thawborn McQueen, born 1840 or more likely 1846 in North Pelham, Ontario, Canada, and died January 9 or 10, 1930, in Richvale, California [9,15,16]. [Two ancestry.com genealogies give his birth in December 1846; two newspaper death notices for John T. McQueen give his age, backdating his birth year to 1840 or 1846 [9,15,16]. The 1861 Census of Canada lists John McQueen, age 15, living with his uncle Alexander McGlashen, which backdates his birth year to 1846 [1]. So 1846 appears to be his birth year. His sister Mary (Minnie) McQueen was born September 28, 1846, so perhaps they were twins. The newspaper death notices give his name a middle initial of “T”, not a middle name of “Edward” as do the two genealogies [9,15,16]. His middle name was Thawborn according to Butte County, California voter registers where he lived for many years later in life [1].]

Ellen (Nellie) McQueen, born 1850 in North Pelham, Ontario, Canada, and died after the 1920 U.S. Census [1,9]. Ellen (Nellie) McQueen is the Nellie of the first post office on Palomar Mountain;

Eliza Lavilla McQueen, born June 9, 1854 in North Pelham, Ontario, Canada, and died November 14, 1914, in Portland, Oregon [9,11]. Eliza was married March 22, 1880, to Ambrose Seely Seburn (1860-1938), and they had a daughter Cordelia M. “Cora” Seburn (1883-1954) [1,9]. Eliza Lavilla McQueen figures in Palomar Mountain history as well.

ANGUS MCQUEEN MOVES TO CALIFORNIA IN 1852, LEAVING FAMILY BEHIND

According to his personal diary, Angus McQueen travelled from Ontario, Canada to California starting April 5, 1852; his diary is incomplete so his arrival date in California is not known [70].

Angus McQueen's obituary in a San Diego newspaper says Angus came to California as a 49er in 1849 [12]. Marion Beckler wrote that Angus McQueen led a wagon train west during the Gold Rush [14]. The source for this is probably an interview of Winbert C. Fink by John Davidson in 1937; Fink erroneously refers to Angus McQueen as Peter McQueen in that interview as does Beckler in her book [14,59]. In that 1937 interview, Fink erroneously says that McQueen came to California with his two daughters in a covered wagon train, of which McQueen became captain [59].

After leaving home in Canada, Angus McQueen travelled on foot, by train, by wagon, and by steamer to Chicago, Illinois and then to Saint Joseph, Missouri, where he bought mules, wagon, and provisions from April 29 to May 1, 1852 [70]. Saint Joseph, Missouri was a starting point for emigration to Oregon and California. Angus McQueen's incomplete diary ends on May 23, 1852, as he passed by Fort Kearney, Nebraska, about 290 miles west of Saint Joseph, Missouri [70].

Angus McQueen writes in his diary about his travel west [70]:

Mon 5 Apl 1852

Left Home passing by the Suspension Bridge to Manchester thence by the Cars to Buffalo
Snowed heavily in the afternoon

6

Take the cars from Buffalo to Erie Pa, where we expect to get a Steamer but find Much to our annoyance the Harbour closed with ice, and after remaining over the Seventh without a prospect of getting out we determine to proceed by land Wrote from Erie to Mr Wm Bigges

Apl 8 – 1852

On Foot to Conneaut pass thr beautiful Village of Girrard – Stop all Night at Greenfield

9

No Boat at Conneaut hire a wagon to Astabula 15 Miles or 45 Miles from Erie take
Passage on the little Steamer Bell for Toledo – Several returning Californians on board –
Several families emigrating to Calafornia

10

Arrive at Toledo in the evening = 11th 1852 Stop at Toledo where I write My dear Wife

Mon 12 Apl 1852

Take the South Mich. rail Road to Chicago where we arrive after dark – 13th
Take the Cars to Cherry Valley near Rockford Ill. thence Stage to Galena

Fri 16 Apl 1852

at Galena where I write My dear May again

Sat – 17 –

on Board the Steamer Danube for Hanibal

Sun 18 Apl

pass the Town of Nauvoo once occupied by the Mormon arrive at Hanibal at dark

Mon 19 Apl 1852

Sherborn Mattock and Myself Start by land for St Joseph on the Missouri river while McCraney and Walbrook take the rivers for the Same place the reason for our separation was on account of Walbrook being so unwell from an attack of diarreah as not to be able to proceed by land, the distance between Hanibal on the Mississippi and St Joseph on the Missouri is considered 220 Miles, about 100 Miles from Hanibal the country is well Settle, the land rolling and Mostly timbered appears of good quality their staple production has been Hemp and Tobacco but Many farmers are now turning their attention to the raesing of cattle which is likely to be a greater Source of wealth, The remainder of the way lay more through a prairie country and thinly Settled on My way through I wrote one letter home

Wed 28 Apl 1852

This day we arrive at St Joseph a Small town Situated on the flatts of the Missouri river and surrounded by high Bluffs its present importance is chiefly attributable to its locality as a starting point for the Oregon and Cal. Emigration, and having a rich farming country around it fast settling it will in time be an important river town

Th. F. Sat. Apl 29. 30. May 1st

We have begun buying our Mules Waggon provisions and various other requisites for the Journey and drive out of town about ½ a Mile on Sat. evening

Mon 3 May

Crossed at the ferry about 5 miles above town – had a heavy rain through the night with Much thunder and Lightning

Tues May 4 – 1852

the boys go back for some things we Still require, and return in the evening We had again violent thunder storm commencing shortly after dark, during one of its paroxisms while the rain fell in torrents, and the vivid electric flashes, and loud peals of thunder, was truely terrific Matlock who was on guard at the time stepped for a few Minutes under the Shelter of the tent, in that fearful Moment a rascally Indian Stold one our horses, cutting the rope that tied it he made good his escape before we detected the theft

Wed 5 May 1852

This Morning we started on the open plains, the road from the recent rains is bad and we find it verry fatiguing on our Mules

Wed 12 May

For the past week it has rained almost every day More or less the roads are exceedingly bad and we have not been able to average More than 8 Miles per day, McCraney who has been verry sick for two or three days past we find out today has the measles, he is unable to ride and consequently has to be taken in the wagon Making so much of an addition to our already heavy load The country through which we passed up to today has been verry destitute of timber rolling or rather hilly, but of an excellent quality of Soil, Wolf Creek was the only Stream of importance we passed on it the Iowa Indians have constructed a rude bridge on which they collect a tool of ,50 cts per wagon & team and a dime per riding horse This Morning we passed the Big Wimmehaw a stream at its preasant stage of water about 3 rods wide and up to the axle of the wagon flowing with a strong current While at the crossing of this Stream 5 Men came up with us drawing a hand-cart on Which they had their provisions and other requisites for a journey of 2000 Miles, I need Scarce Say this looked like Madness they Must either Starve on the road or live on the charity of their better provided neighbours – Two others had their all packed on one Small Mule – and one soletary Dutchman rolled

out on a Wheelbarrow – as this day was fine, and the roads beginning to dry we have made a better journey reaching 15 or 18 Miles A delightful grove of Hickory with a fine Spring of Water afforded a desirable Camping place for the Night, the country around us was Somewhat broken, the view More picturesque than is commonly Met with in plains traveling, to the north and West lay a wide extent of prairie, undulating or streatching off into broad vallies while handsome groves of timber clad the hill Sides or traced the defiles that lay to the South and East of us – and the Scene was enlivened by the heards of cattle and white covered waggons that appeared as if floating on the wide Sea of Prairie around us Shortly after camping this evening the two young Men who had a mule packed between them the same we passed at the Wimmehau came up and camped beside us, the eldest Calvin Brandin of Tenn. about 35 years of age the other Anson Hewett formerly of N, York, but lately of Oswego Co Ia. was a young man about 19 years of age – I conversed some with the latter while on guard through the night, he seamed not the least disheartened but rather hopeful of success Notwithstanding the difficulties I pointed out to him as being to Contend with on So long a journey The next day not long after we Started Hewett the younger of the two complained of Illness as he seamed unable to walk we let him have a riding horse, In the afternoon he Said he was unable to ride any further I however left a Saddle Mule with him, telling his comrade if he should get Some better to bring him on to where we Should camp We proceeded about 4 Miles to where we got some verry bad water and a little brush and campd – Shortly after Brandon came with the Mule Saying the young Man was too ill to travel He returned to the Sick Man Saying if he was able they would be on early in the Morning

Friday 14 May 1852

Scarcely had the Sun glanced over the eatern horizon When Brandon came to us with the Sad intelligence that poor Hewitt was no more, having breathed his last about 11 o'clock the previous night – I understood he Made no particular request altho' aparently aware death was near – he left a little cloth[es] and \$26,00 in Money Brandon gave me his Bible in charge in it were his Name and Birth register with that of the death of Several of his relatives In it was a card on one Side of which was a vine with leaves and roses encircling the words “I go but to return” below was represented a little boat in which Sat a Cupid in the act of leaving at the stearn was the word “Farewell” and on the back was written in pencil “A token of love to you I give that you May remember Me as long as you live” and Signede – “Jane Leflar” There was no other writings he was from Oswego Co Indiana

Sun May 23 – 1852

passed Fort Kearney, where I Mailed a letter for home We are now about 300 Miles from St Joseph, the roads have been better Since we Struck the little Blue – They are rather Soft on the bottoms of the Platte about the Fort

After Angus McQueen's 1852 journey west, he probably travelled back to Canada in 1853 to unsuccessfully talk his wife with their children into moving to California; he sired his fourth child Eliza Lavilla McQueen in October 1853, and she was born June 9, 1854 [9].

On October 15, 1856, Angus McQueen became a naturalized US citizen in Calaveras County, California, which is adjacent to San Joaquin County [1,9].

In the 1860 U.S. Census, Angus McQueen (age 46, farmer), resided by himself in the Elkhorn Township, Woodbridge post office, San Joaquin County, California [1]. Woodbridge is a town in the Elkhorn Township in San Joaquin County. In that 1860 Census, Schedule 4, Production of Agriculture in Elkhorn Township in the County of San Joaquin in the Post Office Woodbridge, Angus McQueen is listed as owning 50 acres of improved land and 30 acres of unimproved land, with a cash value of \$500, along with two asses or mules [1].

Note that the 1860 U.S. Census records Angus McQueen as living alone, with no listing for wife and children. From various records over the years, it appears that Angus' wife Mary Ann McGlashan McQueen did not move to California at any point.

Angus McQueen's family was living in Canada with or near relatives in 1861. The 1861 Census of Canada for the Pelham Township, Welland County, Ontario, lists Alexander McGlashen (age 50), living with his wife Ellen McGlashen (age 30), and Alice B. McGlashen (age 3), **habel A. McGlashen (age 1), **John McQueen** (age 15), and **Eliza Lavilla McQueen** (age 9), and Matilda *** (age 15) -- asterix are illegible written letters; handwritten McGlashen spelled out as McGlashan [1]. So John Thawborn McQueen was living in Canada at age 15, and was not in California at the age of six.

Angus' wife **Mary Ann McQueen** (age 37) is listed in that 1861 Census as living with the neighboring family of William and Mary Thompson; there seems to be no 1861 census record for two of their children, **Ellen (Nellie) McQueen** (age 11) and **Mary (Minnie) McQueen** (age 15) [1]. It's possible they were overlooked in that census.

The Stockton Independent newspaper on September 19, 1864, covered a rally of the Union Party of San Joaquin, and among the party leaders in attendance was Captain McQueen, one of the party's vice presidents [39].

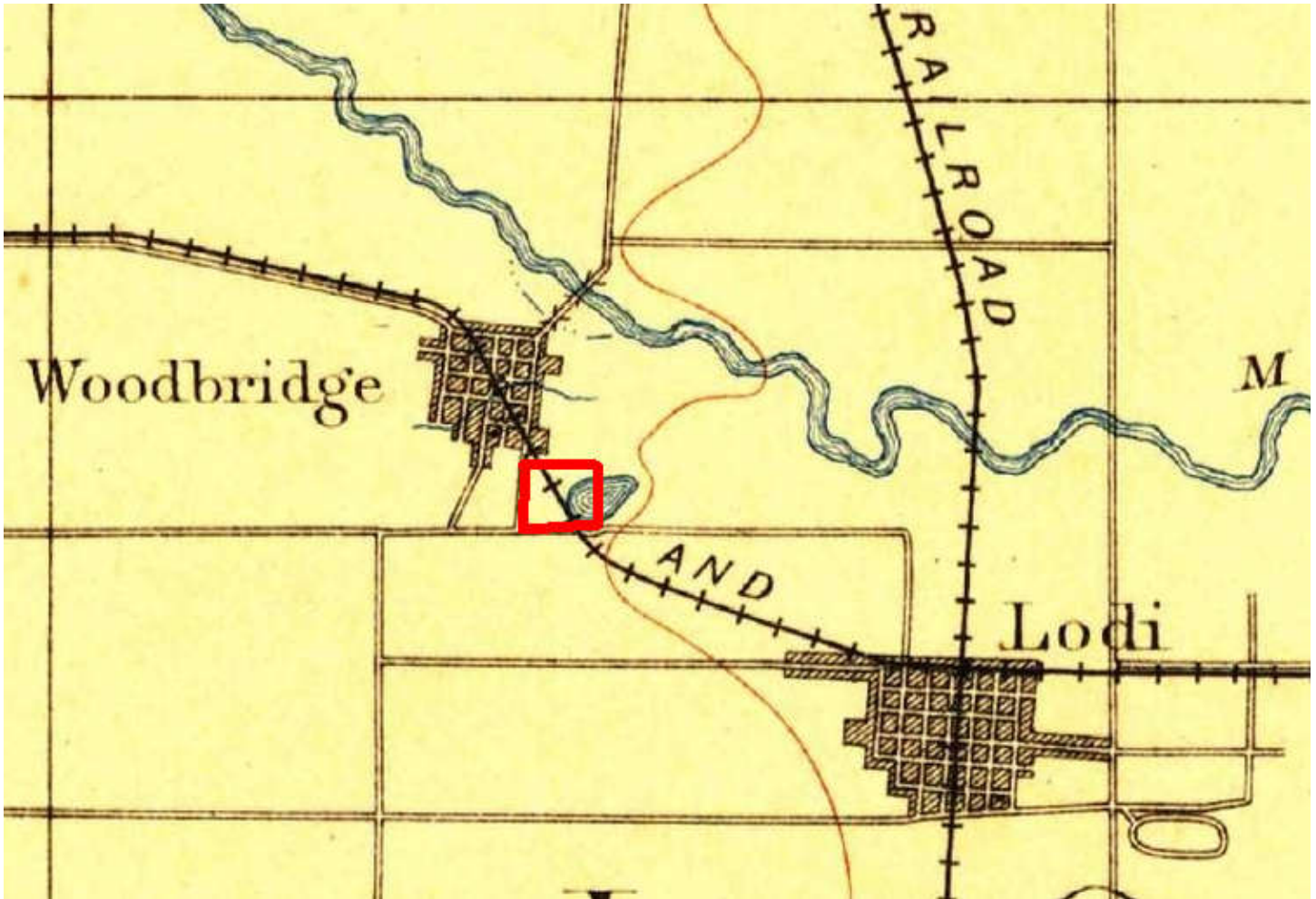
Angus McQueen was listed in a May 1865 tax accessor's register as a "conviyancer" living in Woodbridge, San Joaquin County [1]. A conveyancer is a person whose job is to manage the legal process of moving land or property from one owner to another.

The Sacramento Daily Union on February 1, 1866, published a news item on flooding at McQueen's place [40]:

WATER AT WOODBRIDGE. --- The Stockton *Independent* has the following about the flood in the vicinity of Woodbridge: We learn that at Woodbridge the water in the Mokelumne attained quite a high point on Monday, January 29th, causing the slough between Rankin's mill and Major Davis' to fill to the depth of three feet, and running over the river bank at Captain McQueen's. The levee near the first bridge across the bottom land was hard pressed for a time, and began washing rapidly away, but faithful work on the part of citizens, in throwing in brush and dirt, saved the whole levee. By next day, however, the water had so far receded as to be confined within the banks of the river.

On August 2, 1866, Angus McQueen (age 54, farmer, living in Elkhorn, California, born in Canada and a naturalized citizen) was registered as a voter in the Great Register, San Joaquin County [1].

On June 1, 1867, Angus McQueen was granted 39.9 acres he had homesteaded in Woodbridge, laying near a bend in the Mokelumne River [7].



Angus McQueen's land in Woodbridge, outlined on an 1894 map of Lodi

Currently McQueen's land is northwest of Lodi and is partially submerged in Lodi Lake, located largely between that lake's western shore and the North Lower Sacramento Road, and above the West Turner Road.

The Sacramento Daily Union of February 19, 1868, published this item on Angus McQueen's location [41]:

LEVEE. --- The Woodbridge *Messenger* of February 15th, says that the levee to prevent the overflow of the Mokelumne river near Captain McQueen's ranch will be completed in about ten days.

Angus McQueen seems to have escaped the 1870 census and is listed with the same information as above in the Great Register of San Joaquin County for 1873 (except his age is listed as 51), for 1875, and for 1876 [1].

SON JOHN MCQUEEN JOINS FATHER ANGUS IN CALIFORNIA BY 1867, & THEN JOHN MCQUEEN MOVES TO BUTTE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA BY 1871

Perhaps John Thawborn McQueen came to California in 1862 at the age of sixteen, with his death notice confusing six for sixteen, or perhaps later [15]. By 1867 at age 21, John Thawborn McQueen was definitely living in California.

On June 18, 1867, John McQueen (age 21, farmer, living in Elkhorn, California, born in Canada) was registered as a voter in the Great Register, San Joaquin County, so John McQueen was living with or near his father Angus by 1867 and had come to California by ship by way of the Isthmus of Panama [1,15]. John McQueen is listed with the same voter information in the Great Register of San Joaquin County for 1871 and seems to have escaped the 1870 Census [1].

On September 4, 1871, John McQueen (age 25, born in Canada, farmer at Biggs Station, who was a minor when his father became a naturalized citizen) was registered as a voter in the Great Register, Butte County [1]. John Thawborn McQueen had left Elkhorn, California around 1871, and moved north to Biggs Station in Butte County, California.

John McQueen or John Thawborn McQueen or John T. McQueen appears in subsequent Butte County, California voter registers for 1879 (age 29, March 29, 1879), 1886 (age 34, registered September 6, 1884), 1888 (age 34, registered September 6, 1884), 1890 (age 34, registered September 6, 1884), 1892 (age 42, registered August 20, 1892), 1894 (age 42, registered August 20, 1892), 1896 (age 46, registered July 27, 1896) [1].

A death notice for John T. McQueen, age 84, says he died January 9, 1930 (and was thus born in 1846, subtracting 84 from 1930), and was born in Trafalgar, Ontario, Canada, a son of Captain Angus McQueen [15]. The newspaper notice says he came to California by way of the Isthmus of Panama at the age of six (and thus in 1852) and that the McQueen family settled in Woodbridge, California [the newspaper locates it incorrectly as being in Butte County] [15]. The obituary says John T. McQueen died on the family ranch near Richvale, Butte County, and had lived in the district about forty-five years [15].

Another death notice for John T. McQueen in a local newspaper, said he died January 10, 1930, at age 90 (and was thus born in 1840, subtracting 90 from 1930), and was a Biggs-Richvale (Butte County, California) farmer for about forty-five years [16].

ANGUS MCQUEEN MOVES TO BOX SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA BY 1874



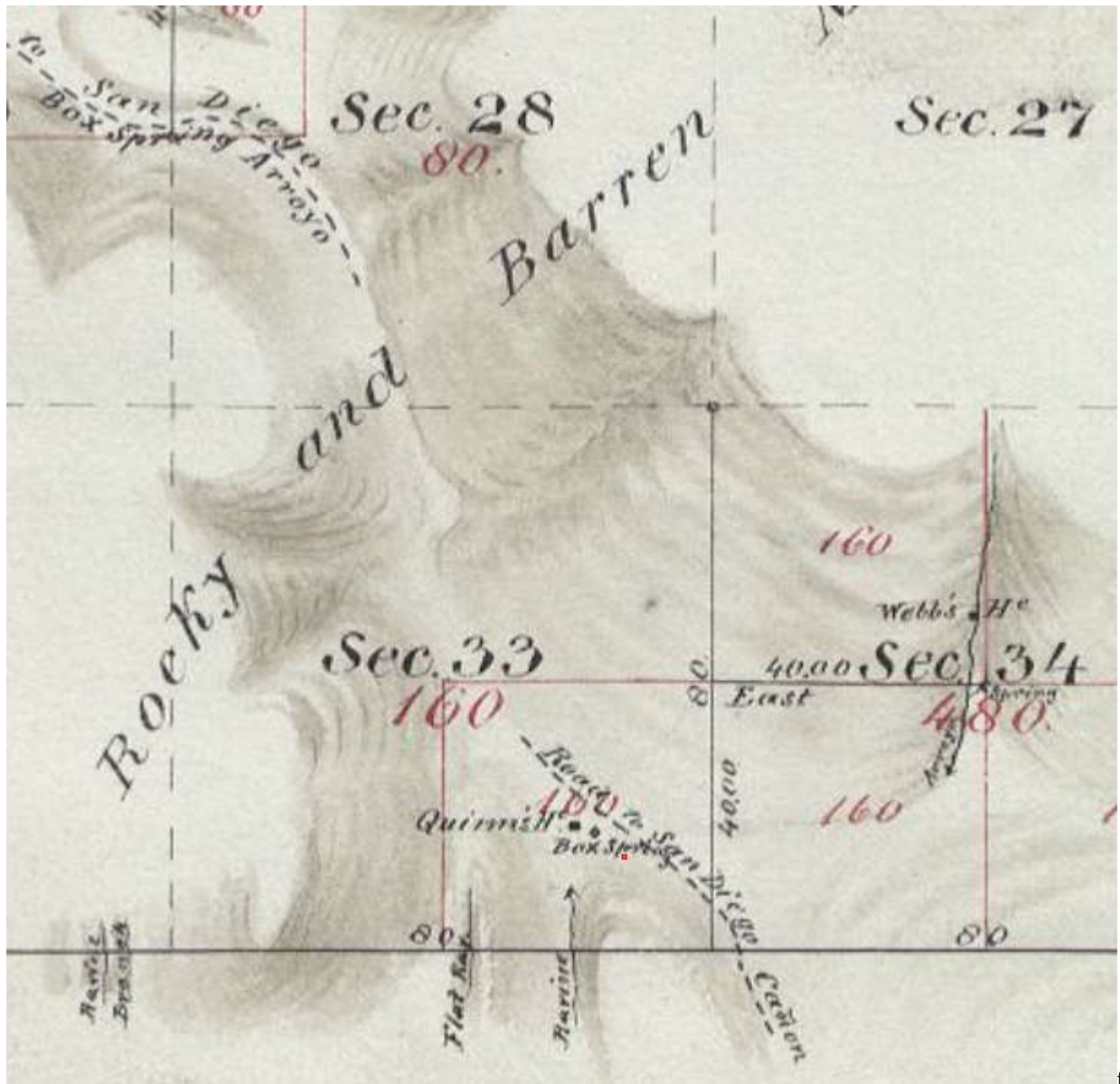
Angus McQueen's house at Box Springs at lower right, misspelled Quinn's. Crop of September 20, 1877, survey map of Township 2S, Range 4W, San Bernardino Meridian, showing Box Springs Grade running diagonally from upper left to lower right. [7]

By 1874, Angus McQueen had left Elkhorn, California and moved south near Riverside, California [21,70]. Marion Becker wrote that Angus McQueen and his daughter Nellie ran a hotel, livery stable and store on the **Box Springs Grade**, which was a road between Riverside and Temecula, and located along what is now Interstate 215 above March Air Reserve Base [14,37]. Angus McQueen homesteaded twenty acres there [37].

Sub-roads of the Sonora Road to San Bernardino came through Box Springs, and it was an important water source, the springs there having been boxed-in, likely by John Brown, Senior of San Bernardino [37]. A 1915 report measured the spring's flow at three gallons per minute [66]. In the 1870s, it was a stage road known as the San Bernardino and Temecula Road [38].

Nellie McQueen had probably been living with her father Angus McQueen before his move south to Riverside. Nellie McQueen probably had come west with her brother John Thawborn McQueen by ship and lived with their father Angus McQueen at Elkhorn Township, Woodbridge post office, San Joaquin County, California.

The two other McQueen children, Mary and Eliza, stayed in Canada, according to various records [1].



Angus McQueen's house at lower middle of image, misspelled Quinn's
crop of September 20, 1877 survey map of Township 2S, Range 4W, San Bernardino Meridian [7]

On September 16, 1874, the San Diego Daily Union ran an article mentioning Angus McQueen at Box Springs [21]:

VISIT TO SAN JACINTO MOUNTAIN

About four P.M on a pleasant afternoon in August a party of five gentlemen started from Riverside for a visit to the San Jacinto mountain region. ... It was nearly dark when they reached Box Springs and camped for the night. An old man named McQueen has built a house and corral here, and further has entertainment for man and beast very cheap and good; quite an advantage of the traveling public, as previously there was no place to stop between Temecula and Riverside – forty-five miles. ...

Starting January 8, 1875, Angus McQueen contributed news items to the Riverside Weekly News about travelers through Box Springs [38].

On November 4 and 6, 1876, the Santa Barbara Weekly Press published a story on a trip from San Diego to San Bernardino, where the writer had met Angus McQueen at Box Springs [17]:

BOX SPRINGS

We are now at the northern extremity of the San Jacinto plains, 14 miles from San Bernardino, wither we shall drive to-day. ... These springs are kept by an old Canadian, who has a sort of wayside stopping place, and food for horses. He keeps bees, and says he is making a good living and a little money here. He hauls his firewood 20 miles. ...

ON WHEELS

May be I should give a more definite idea about the locality of Box Springs, not that it is likely any one will ever make a special pilgrimage to that classic place, but to satisfy the minds of some who have doubts of the existence of that celestial spot on this terrestrial sphere. Box Springs is at the northern extremity of the San Jacinto plain, just before entering the hills to descend into the San Bernardino valley, about fifteen miles southwesterly from San Bernardino, and near the border line between San Bernardino and San Diego counties. The place has not yet been platted and laid off into town lots, consequently there is no difficulty regarding conflicting surveys. At present its chief annual productions are a few pounds of good honey and numerous scant meals of bacon, bread and coffee, which are served to travelers at fifty cents each. The proprietor makes a respectable living and is a kind hearted, hospitable old gentleman, who has been a justice of the peace in this State, and at one time "wrote leading articles for the principal political journal in San Juan."

On November 7, 1876, Angus McQueen (age 63, farmer, living in Riverside, California, born in Canada and a naturalized citizen) was registered as a voter in the Great Register, San Bernardino County [1].

On September 14, 1878, Angus McQueen appeared in another newspaper item [18]:

Capt. McQueen brought to town an Austrian Pole who had a "desert experience" between San Jacinto and Box Springs. It seems he left the sheep camps near the foot of the mountain with a canteen of water and food. He lost his way (he was pointing for Riverside) and wandered two days and a night before reaching the Box Spring Pass. His canteen gave out some hours before he reached Webb's grove, and when he reached their house he was barely able to articulate the one word, "water," his tongue being black and swelled. He is all right now.

On July 24, 1880, Angus McQueen (age 67, farmer, living in Riverside, California, born in Canada and a naturalized citizen) was registered as a voter in the Great Register, San Bernardino County [1].

In July 1881, a Riverside newspaper reported on the drowning of H. C. Lyle at Laguna Canyon (Laguna Beach) at which Angus McQueen was present [42]:

Dr. Lyle, the Santa Ana dentist who was drowned at Laguna on the 3d instant, it is said came to his death by taking a cramp instead of by suicidal intent, as reported las week. On this question there appears to be a difference of opinion. Capt. McQueen of Box Springs, who was there at the time, informs us that there was no suicide in the case at al; that he went into the water early in the day with members of his family who were present; that his wife urged him to come out as it was getting too chilly; that he desired to go out and take one more swim before coming ashore; that he did so and that when out a little way from shore he sank and was under water about five minutes before being rescued.

In April 1881, a Riverside newspaper reported that a woman in an insane condition started from Riverside ...

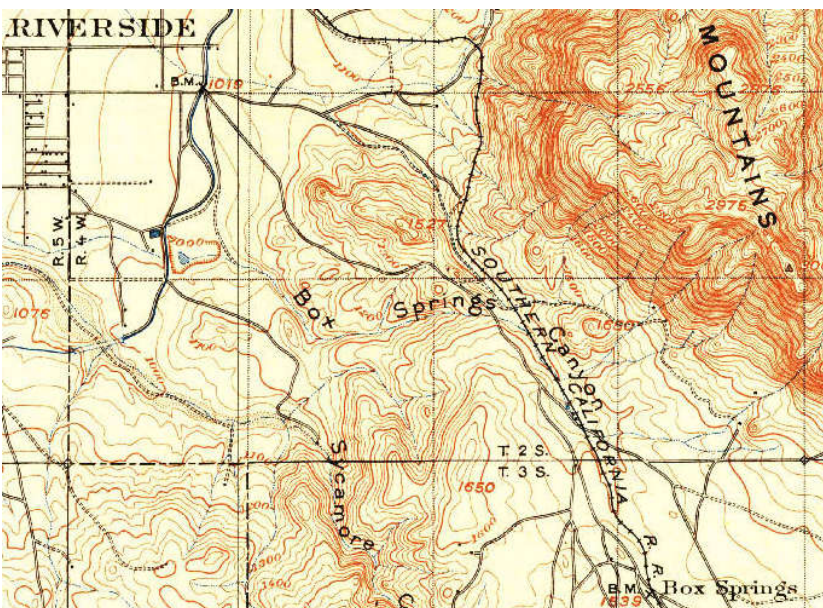
“... on foot, and walked to Box Springs, where she got dinner at Capt. McQueens and then started on foot and walked to San Jacinto arriving at the post office, thirty miles from Riverside at three o'clock Tuesday morning, walking all night. ...” [19]



**Angus McQueen's house at Box Springs (misspelled Quinn's)
on crop of April 26, 1880 survey map of Township 2S, Range 4W, San Bernardino Meridian [7]**

In 1881 and 1882, the California Southern Railroad Company constructed a railroad route from Temecula to San Bernardino via Box Springs (now BNSF Railway) [20,21]. The San Diego Union of January 11, 1882, noted in Local Brevities noted that [35]:

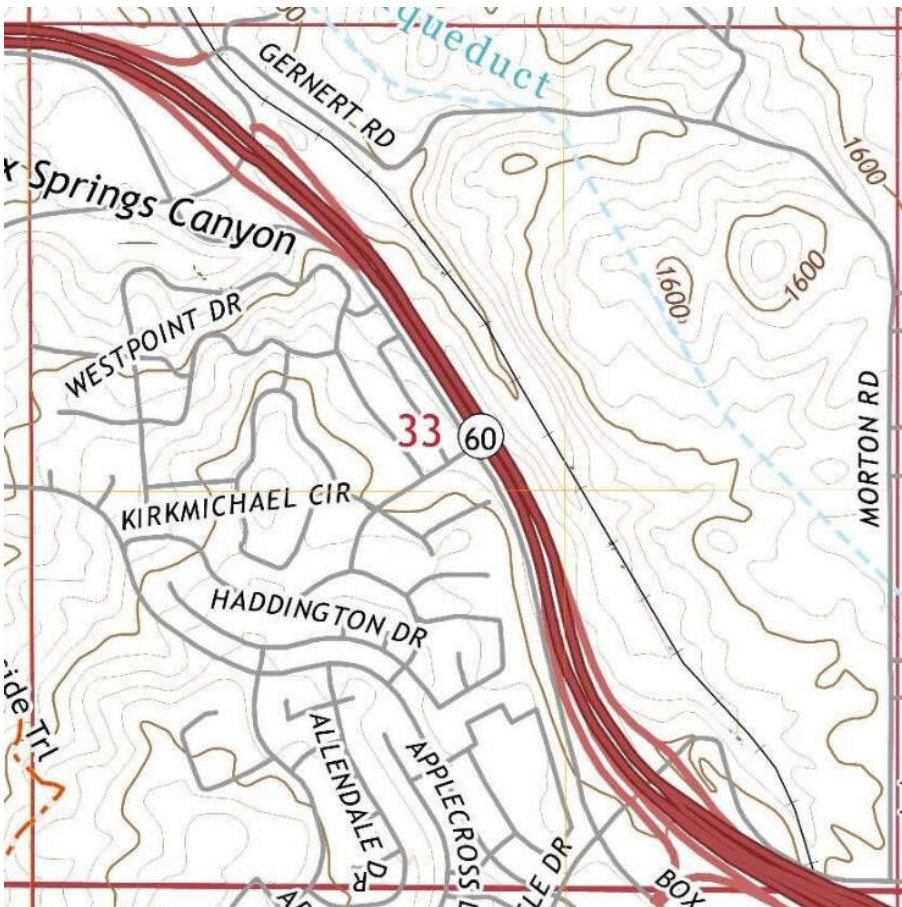
The Riverside Press informs us that Captain McQueen has sold his ranch in Box Spring to the California Southern Railroad Company, and will move at once to Smith Mountain in this county, with postoffice address at Temecula.



**portion of 1901 USGS Riverside map
showing railroad line via Box Springs,
southeast of Riverside [22]**



**Angus McQueen's (Quinn's) Box
Springs house in 1880, at lower
right, on map of Township 2S,
Range 4W, Section 33**



**McQueen's Box Springs location
in 2022, on Township 2S, Range
4W, Section 33 map**

DAUGHTER ELIZA MCQUEEN GETS MARRIED IN CANADA

Daughter Eliza Lavilla McQueen had continued living in Canada with mother and family. On March 22, 1880, at St. Catherine's, Lincoln County, Ontario, Canada, Eliza Lavilla McQueen (age 26; residence North Pelham, Ontario; parents Angus and Mary A. McQueen) married Ambrose Seely Seburn (age 23; carriage maker; residence Lowbanks, Ontario; parents Benjamin and Cordelia Seburn; Seburn is misspelled Seeburn in the record) [1]. Eliza Lavilla McQueen and her husband Ambrose Seely Seburn appear later on Palomar Mountain, joining her father Angus and sister Nellie.

Ambrose C. Seburn immigrated to the U.S. in 1881, according to the 1930 U.S. Census records, and his wife Eliza would have accompanied him [1].

ANGUS MCQUEEN MOVES TO PALOMAR MOUNTAIN IN 1882

The San Diego Union of January 11, 1882, noted in Local Brevities noted that [35]:

The Riverside Press informs us that Captain McQueen has sold his ranch in Box Spring to the California Southern Railroad Company, and will move at once to Smith Mountain in this county, with postoffice address at Temecula.

In a 1937 interview of Winbert C. Fink by John Davidson, Fink describes Angus McQueen's settlement on Palomar Mountain [59]:

He chose a place with abundant timber for building purposes and in a few years had a log house and stable and many acres fenced with post-rail-and-split picket fence. The picket fence was necessary to keep out the wild pigs, jackrabbits and other small varmints as well as livestock.

On December 5, 1883, Angus McQueen, age 70, farmer, living on Smith Mountain, was listed in the Great Register of San Diego County for 1886; his entry said he was a naturalized citizen October 15, 1856, in Calaveras County, California [1].

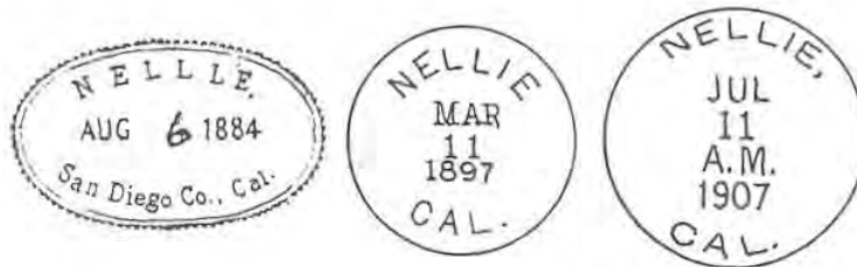
Nellie McQueen's postal contract on Palomar Mountain started April 2, 1883 [14]. Marian Beckler writes [14]:

Nellie McQueen was "tough as raw-hide, wiry, real good looking." As she and her aging father drive up into Dyche Valley, ... choosing the lush meadow to the south of the Dyche home -- where twenty years before Joseph Smith had been murdered. The McQueens built their cabin under those towering Trees of Heaven, sprung from seed brought from China by the mountain's first settler.

During those strenuous 1870s, when Smith Mountain pioneers were clearing their land, building their cabins, planting their apple orchards, they were having a long drive to Warner's Station and Store for supplies and mail. Whoever happened to be going, got the mail for everyone. So Miss Nellie saw the opportunity to start a post office. She wrote to the office of Post Master General, asking for the post office, offering her name as postmaster. For the name of the post office she suggested "Fern Glen." According to the National Archives, Nellie McQueen got her contract on April 2, 1883. But the postal department turned down the double name, "Fern Glen." They gave the post office her name: "Nellie."

200	San Diego County, California				201	California			
John Boyd	23 Jan 81	Discontinued	29 Jan 81		Lenna P. Reynolds	20 Dec 81	Dis. P.O. P.O. Aug 9 87		
John Boyd	23 Jan 81	Dis. P.O. P.O. Aug 26 87							
John Boyd	23 Jan 81	Discontinued	21 Aug 82		George L. Jorick	15 Jan 81	Dis. P.O. Chocomaug 23 May 81		
John Boyd	23 Jan 81	Discontinued	14 June 88						
John Boyd	23 Jan 81	Discontinued	19 June 81		Ruben Lohoffin	25 July 81	Aug 11 81	12 Feb 81	Enclitas 20 23 87
John Boyd	23 Jan 81	Discontinued	27 Dec 82		Dis. Mail to Chocomaug 15 June 81				
John Boyd	23 Jan 81	Discontinued	13 Nov 80						
John Boyd	23 Jan 81	Discontinued	14 Apr 83		to the Long	5 Dec 80			
John Boyd	23 Jan 81	Discontinued	5 Feb 83		Marion Blackie	13 Nov 81	10 May 81	Katty & Kelly 17 87	
John Boyd	23 Jan 81	Discontinued	76 May 83		John P. Quinn	14 Apr 83	10 May 81	10 May 81	
John Boyd	23 Jan 81	Discontinued	14 July 87		Frederick P. Bailey	14 Apr 83	10 May 81	10 May 81	

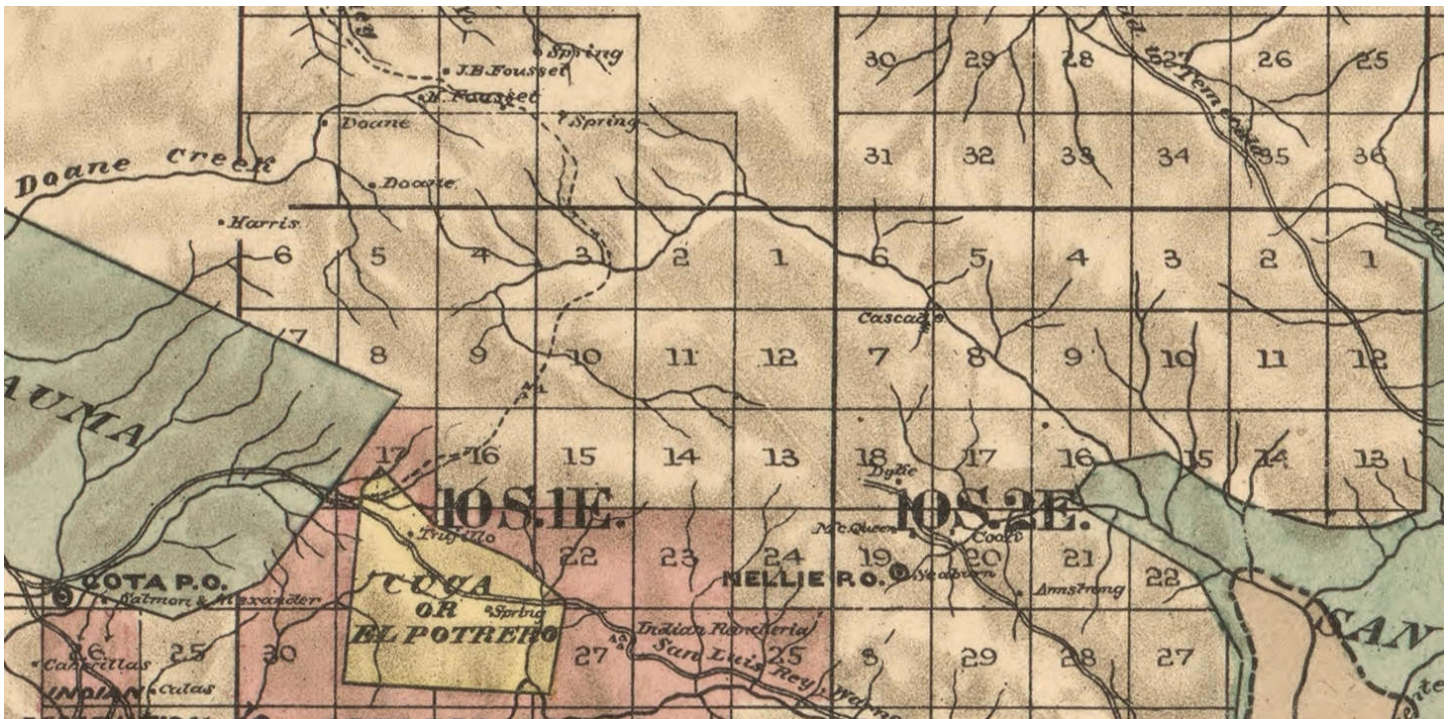
Nellie McQueen assigned the Nellie post office listed at left bottom in U.S. Post Office Department record of appointment of postmasters [1]



Nellie postmarks [64]

Catherine Wood writes [13]

... Nellie, established in April, 1883, was named after the postmaster, Nellie McQueen, much to her chagrin. The name requested in the application for the post office was Fern Glen, but the officials in Washington named it Nellie. They said they did not want a double name, and besides the name Fern Glen was somewhat similar to the name of another post office. Miss McQueen was unsuccessful in her efforts to have the name changed. ... The Nellie office was first located on the edge of Dyche Valley, west of the George Cook residence ...



Nellie Post Office location on Palomar Mountain, lower middle crop from 1890 Official Map of San Diego County, California

Winbert C. Fink, in his 1937 interview by John Davidson, gives a different story for naming the post office after Nellie McQueen, saying that an assembly of Palomar neighbors proposed Nellie as the name of the post office [59].

In February 1884, the San Diego Union reported [61]:

Congress has established a mail route from Pala by Rincon, Nellie (Palomar), Mesa Grande, to Julian City.

Marian Beckler writes [14]:

Once a week, Miss Nellie, (as the old timers called her) saddled her horse, rode down the mountain, up through Mesa Grande to Ramona, returning next day with the mail. George Cook sometimes assisted as carrier.

In November 1884, the San Diego Union reported, with Nuevo being an earlier name for Ramona [62]:

Service by the new mail from Nuevo, via Mesa Grande, to Nellie postoffice on Smith's mountain, was commenced on the 1st inst.

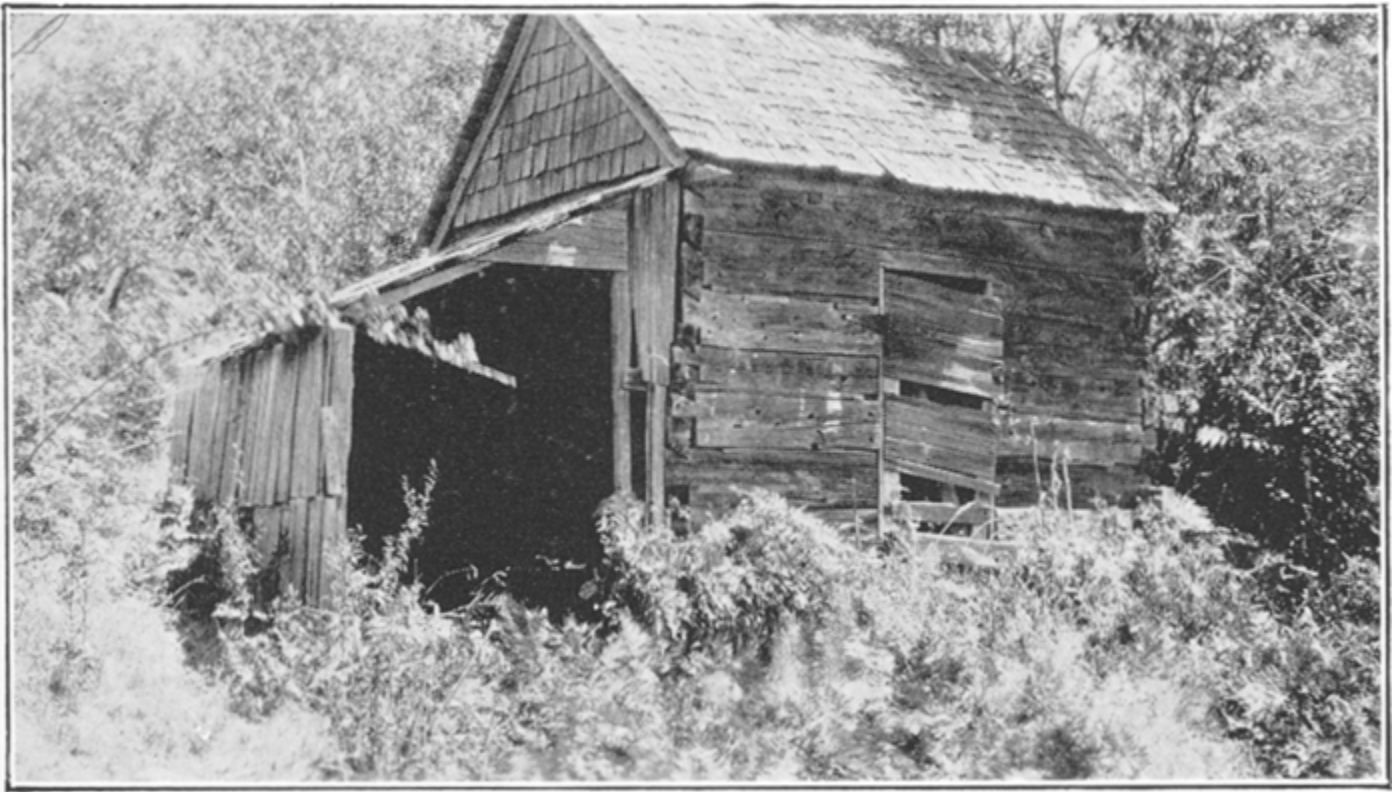
In April 1885, the San Diego Union reported [60]:

Postmaster-General Vilas has ordered a mail route and service twice a week from Pala via Agua Tibia and Vida to Nellie, on Smith Mountain.

In July 1885, the San Diego Union reported [63]:

The mail route between Pala and Nellie is running on a sort of "go as you please" basis.

Winbert Fink, who lived near the Nellie post office, said that mail came up from Pala to the Nellie post office every Saturday by one o'clock by an American Indian carrier [59].



abandoned Nellie post office, c1937 Catherine Wood photo

Marian Beckler writes [14]:

Soon after the coming of the McQueens, the Seburns -- Miss Nellie's sister's family -- took up land south of them and planted their forty acre apple orchard [PB: Beckler misspells Seburn as Seiberns].

One land patent granted 160 acres in 1892, to Eliza L. Seburn and Nellie McQueen [as Nellie Nicolson; she married John Nicholson in 1891] [7]. Angus McQueen is listed on that land patent with them, but curiously his name doesn't appear on the land patent document itself. That land began occupation by them at least five years earlier, according to homesteading practice.

Ambrose Seburn, the husband of Eliza L. Seburn, is on an adjacent land patent for 160 acres, granted in 1889 [7]. That land began occupation by them at least five years earlier, according to homesteading practice.

Ambrose Seburn and Eliza Lavilla McQueen Seburn had a daughter Cordelia M. "Cora" Seburn, born on December 10, 1883 [9]. However the 1930 U.S. Census records the widowed Ambrose C. Seburn living with his divorced daughter Cora M. Culp, age 47, which backdates her birth year to 1887 [1]. Cordelia M. Seburn (age 21, born in California, parents Ambrose Seburn and Eliza McQueen) married Charles Elston Culp (age 23, farmer, born in Ontario) in the county of Essex, Ontario, Canada on August 2, 1904 [1]. Backdating Cordelia's marriage year by twenty-one years makes her birth year 1883, and she was likely born on or near Palomar Mountain.

A. Seaborn [sic] of Smith Mountain was an agricultural entry in the 1885 San Diego County Fair in Class 9, Flour and Grain, for "corn in ear" [34]. Ambrose Seburn became a U.S. citizen on September 20, 1886 [1].



McQueen and Seburn land patents, south of George Dyche and west of the Cooks

overlaid on 1890 Official Map of San Diego County, California [7]

In January 1884, the San Diego County School Superintendent published a list of school trustees, which included Angus McQueen as trustee and clerk of the Malava School District [69]. The San Diego Union ran this letter from Angus McQueen in June 1885 [67]:

EDITOR UNION: Some of the readers of THE UNION may take a partial interest in a few lines from those whose homes are in the little glens and gentle slopes, among the wild defiles and rocky peaks, dimly outlined in the distance from your fair city. I, at this time, only speak of the moderate endeavor we are making to follow the example in educational progress, for which our young State is becoming noted in the family of States. Our school here in the Malava District closed last Friday, 12th instant, and on that occasion there was a pleasant gathering of parents and guardians, with their bright little ones, in a grove near the school house. It was late when I arrived and the school exercises were over, but I was informed by those present that they were alike creditable to teacher and pupil. As I came on the ground D. B. McGinness, our teacher, was addressing his juvenile charge pointing out the beauty of a life of purity and goodness, and giving commendable advice to both young and old. It was pleasant to see the little upturned faces, with a glow of energy in their healthful countenances, as if they had already determined to reach for the prize that their teacher pointed out to them had been so often won by energy and persistence in a country where none were precluded from the highest honors. I was much pleased at seeing the pleasant relationship between teacher and pupil, as if a confidence existed that was alike beneficial to both. After the exercises and address, a table was constructed beneath the oaks, and bounteously covered with good things from the liberal baskets of teacher and patrons, from which all partook with a geniality most commendable. A. McQUEEN.

In October 1885, the San Diego Union ran a notice of an upcoming Malava School District bond election to build and furnish a schoolhouse, submitted by district school trustees Angus McQueen and William Cook [68].

ANGUS MCQUEEN DIES IN 1886

Angus McQueen of Palomar Mountain died no later than May 16, 1886, with daughter Nellie McQueen becoming executrix of his estate [10,12]. Angus McQueen's obituary said this about him [12]:

Captain Angus McQueen

By the death of the late Angus McQueen of Smith or Palomas mountain, the ranks of the '49ers lost a valuable comrade. The Captain was born in the historical year of 1812, near Hamilton, Canada. He was created Captain at an early age under Her Majesty in Canada. Coming to California in 1849 he held various offices in the northern part of the State. Later, he settled at Box springs, in San Bernardino county, but advancing age and the wearisomeness of public service, led him to desire a quiet pastoral life, and he came to Palomas mountain four years ago, where he lived beloved and revered by all for his blameless life. Gifted with rare conversational powers, and possessed of a varied fund of information, he was a delightful fireside companion. Any community would mourn the loss of so good and loyal a denizen, and Palomas mountain has sustained an irreparable loss by the removal by death of their faithful friend and sincere adviser, Captain McQueen. He sleeps his last sleep on his beloved mountain, in requiem sung by the great choir of pines.

In addition to Smith Mountain, Palomas was an early name for Palomar Mountain. In a 1937 interview, Winbert C. Fink said Angus McQueen “was buried in the cemetery on the east side of his place [59].”

On July 15, 1889, Mrs. Eliza Seburn, Nellie's sister, took over as Nellie postmaster from Nellie McQueen, which is shown on the 1890 map above (newspaper misspelled Seburn as Zeburn) [1,5].

200		San Diego County California		201		California	
Asst. Sup.	John Boyd	23 June 81	Discontinued, 27 Jan 84	Comm. S. Reynolds	20 Dec 81	Dis. Pto. Pecos Aug 87	
Asst. Sup.	W. J. Carey	25 Jan 82	Dis. Pto. Pecos Sep 87				
Asst. Sup.	Walter Brooks	6 Mar 82	Discontinued, 21 Aug 82	Herp. S. Smith	15 Jan 83	Dis. Pto. Pecos Aug 87	
Asst. Sup.	Isaac Thompson	23 Mar 83	Dis. National City 16 June 85				
Asst. Sup.	James A. Jones	3 Apr 84	Dis. Pto. Pecos 14 June 84	Reuben Schoffin	25 July 84	Eugene B. Smith	12 Feb 86
Asst. Sup.	Wm. T. Kirk	26 Apr 84	Dis. Pto. Pecos 27 Dec 84				
Asst. Sup.	John A. Frazer	9 Apr 85	Dis. Pto. Pecos 13 Nov 86				
Asst. Sup.	Louis L. Williams	1 May 85	Dis. Pto. Pecos 24 Apr 83	to the City	5 Dec 80		
Asst. Sup.	S. Bullis	8 Jan 83	Dis. Pto. Pecos 5 Feb 83	Marcus Mackale	18 Apr 85	Dis. Pto. Pecos 10 Mar 86	Dis. Pto. Pecos 10 Mar 86
Asst. Sup.	Edwin C. Knecht	20 Feb 83					
Asst. Sup.	N. Austin	15 Jan 83	Dis. Pto. Pecos 24 May 83				
Asst. Sup.	Stellie	2 Apr 83	Dis. Pto. Pecos 14 July 87				

Mrs. Eliza Seburn assigned the Nellie post office listed at middle bottom in U.S. Post Office Department record of appointment of postmasters [1]

Eliza Seburn's husband Ambrose Seburn is listed twice in the Great Register of San Diego County for 1890, registering to vote on July 5, 1890, and October 4, 1890, as a farmer and fruit grower [1].

People living on the east side of Palomar Mountain desired a post office in their area, and after several years, Harriet Louise Jessee was appointed the postmaster of the new Jessee post office on November 6, 1896 [1,47]. The Jessee post office story continues after finishing Nellie McQueen's story.

NELLIE MCQUEEN GETS MARRIED & LEAVES PALOMAR MOUNTAIN

A marriage license was issued on May 29, 1891, to **Nellie McQueen**, a native of Canada, aged 40, now resident of Smith Mountain, and **John Nicholson**, a native of Scotland, aged 53, a resident of Winchester [8]. Winchester is in Riverside County, southwest of Hemet, and located adjacent to what is now Diamond Valley Lake. John Nicholson homesteaded in Diamond Valley, on 160 acres which is now largely underwater at the Diamond Valley Lake; he was granted the land on January 18, 1888, so he began occupying it at least five years earlier in 1883 [7]. John Nicholson had probably met Nellie McQueen when she was living at Box Springs with her father, which is northwest of Diamond Valley en route to Riverside; John Nicholson would have travelled via the Box Springs Grade going to Riverside from Diamond Valley.

Numerous newspaper sources have John Nicholson's last name spelled with or without an 'h'. U.S. land patents to him in Riverside County spell it Nicolson without an 'h.' Nellie Nicholson (with or without an 'h') was the married name of Nellie McQueen.

Nellie McQueen Nicholson moved off Palomar Mountain shortly after her marriage to John Nicholson and lived with her husband on his Glen Margaret ranch in Diamond Valley in Riverside County [4]. John Nicholson (spelled Nicolson) was an election judge for the Diamond Precinct for a special San Diego county election on January 25, 1892 for a highway bond issue [32]. John Nicholson (spelled Nicolson) was among five beekeepers calling for a meeting of all beekeepers of Riverside County to convene in Winchester on November 22, 1893, to select inspectors for the foulbrood bacterial disease infecting honeybee hives [33]. A September 1894 article in the Press and Horticulturist newspaper of Riverside, California, noted that John Nicholson was among the shareholders for a creamery to be built in Diamond Valley [31]. In the Riverside Daily Press and Tribune of September 30, 1897, it was noted that Mr. and Mrs. John Nicholson of Diamond valley had rented their Glen Margaret ranch and were moving to Riverside, and later noted that they moved back to their Diamond valley ranch two years later [26,27].

In the 1900 U.S. Census, John Nicholson (spelled Nicolson, born March 1836) was living with his wife Nellie M. Nicholson (spelled Nicolson, born December 1846) in Diamond Township, Riverside County [1]. A 1901 newspaper item noted John Nicholson had "ordered a separator to use on his dairy [30]." A 1903 newspaper item noted John Nicholson was "one of the prosperous bee men of Diamond valley" and a 1904 newspaper item noted his grain lands [24].

When John Nicholson sold the Glen Margaret ranch to Angelo Domenigoni in 1909, it was noted that it "contains 160 acres of excellent farming land and is considered one of the best ranches in Diamond valley [27]."

DIAMOND VALLEY WOMAN SENT TO PATTON ASYLUM

• Mrs. Nellie Nicholson, wife of John Nicholson of Diamond valley, was examined as to her sanity yesterday before Judge Densmore and was ordered committed to the asylum at Patton. Dr. C. S. Dickson and Dr. A. S. Parker were the examining physicians, and upon their recommendation the commitment was made. Mrs. Nicholson is 61 years of age. Her husband testified at the examination that her mind began to fail three years ago and that her condition has steadily been growing worse since that time.

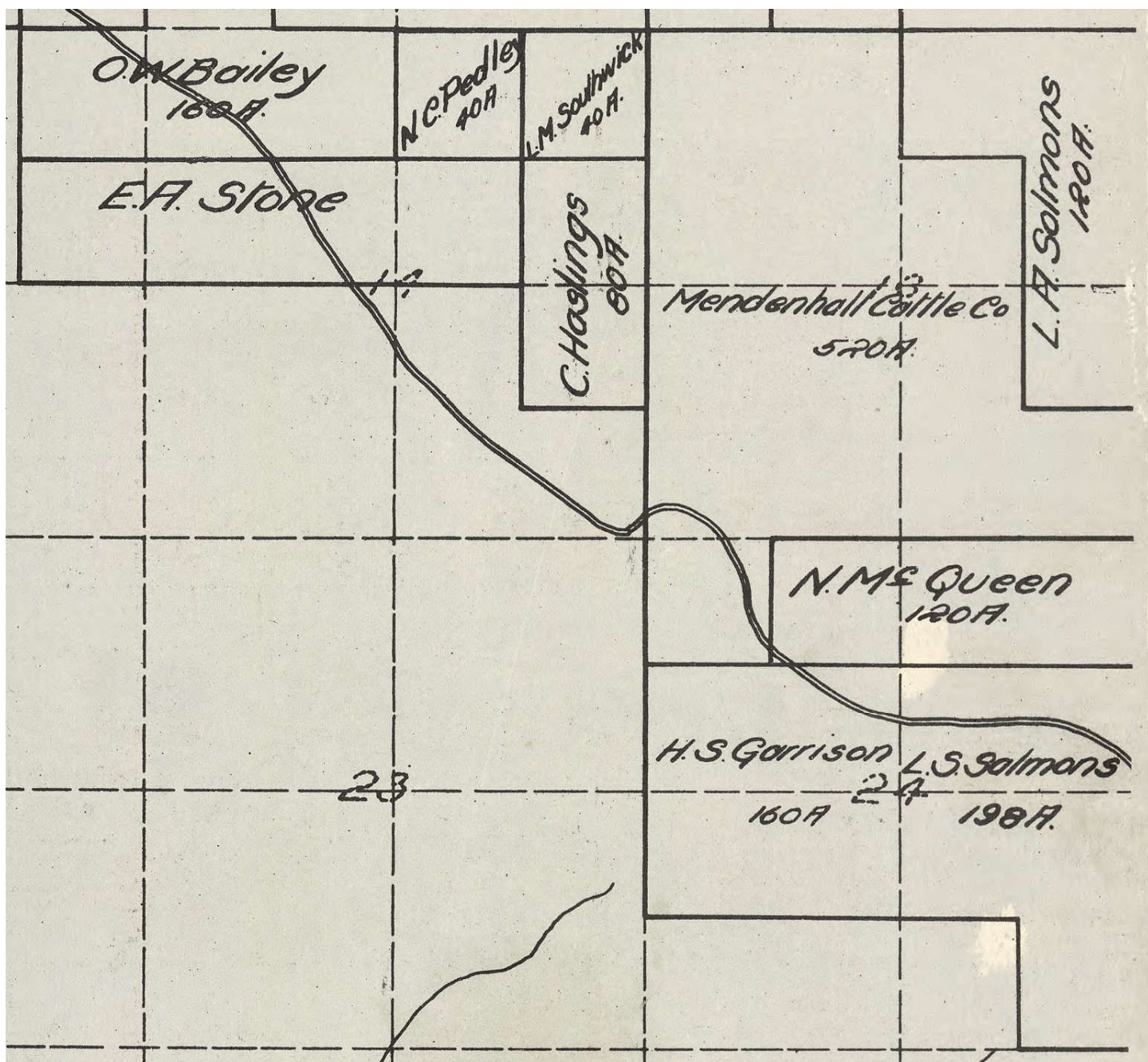
Nellie McQueen Nicholson became demented and was committed to the Southern California State Hospital at Patton in April 1908 [3].

John and Nellie McQueen Nicholson continued to own property on Palomar Mountain after their departure to Diamond Valley; an October 1908 newspaper item noted that "John Nicholson took a trip to Smith's mountain last week. He went to look after his property interests there [25]."

Nellie McQueen's husband John Nicholson died on December 9, 1911 [2].

The Escondido Times-Advocate reported on September 25, 1918, that Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Cree, of Riverside, purchased the eighty acres known as the Nellie McQueen place and will build on it, expecting to make their home on Palomar during vacation [28].

Nellie (McQueen) Nicholson was listed in the 1920 U.S. Census as an inmate, age 72, at the Southern California State Hospital at Patton, and she died sometime thereafter [1].



Nellie McQueen property on Palomar Mountain in 1912, at middle right

Plat book of San Diego County, California. William E. Alexander. Los Angeles: Pacific Plat Book Co., [1912?] [29]

Nellie's sister Eliza and her husband Ambrose Seburn left Palomar Mountain some time after the newly married Nellie had left. J.O. Bailey had taken over as Nellie postmaster from Eliza Seburn on February 19, 1891, and Nellie McQueen was issued a marriage license on May 29, 1891 [6,8]. The Palomar Mountain land patent of Eliza L. Seburn and Nellie McQueen Nicolson proved up on May 11, 1892, so the Seburns departed some time after that [7]. In the 1901 Census of Canada, Ambrose Seburn (age 40, born May 1, 1860, profession wagonmaker) is living with his wife Eliza Seburn (age 40, born June 9, 1860), daughter Cora Seburn (age 17, born December 10, 1883) and Eliza's widowed mother Mary McQueen (age 69, born June 18, 1831) in St. Catharines, Ontario province, Canada [1]. Mother Mary McQueen died April 7, 1907, in Thorold, Ontario, Canada [9].

Nellie McQueen's sister Eliza L. Seburn died November 14, 1914, in Gresham, Oregon, and is buried at Wilhelm's Portland Memorial Mausoleum in Portland, Oregon alongside her husband Ambrose C. Seburn, who died August 16, 1938 [1,11,23]. Her death certificate erroneously says her father is August McQueen [1]. The 1920 U.S. Census records the widowed Ambrose C. Seburn (age 63, widowed, age 25 when married, 1881 immigration year) living as a lodger

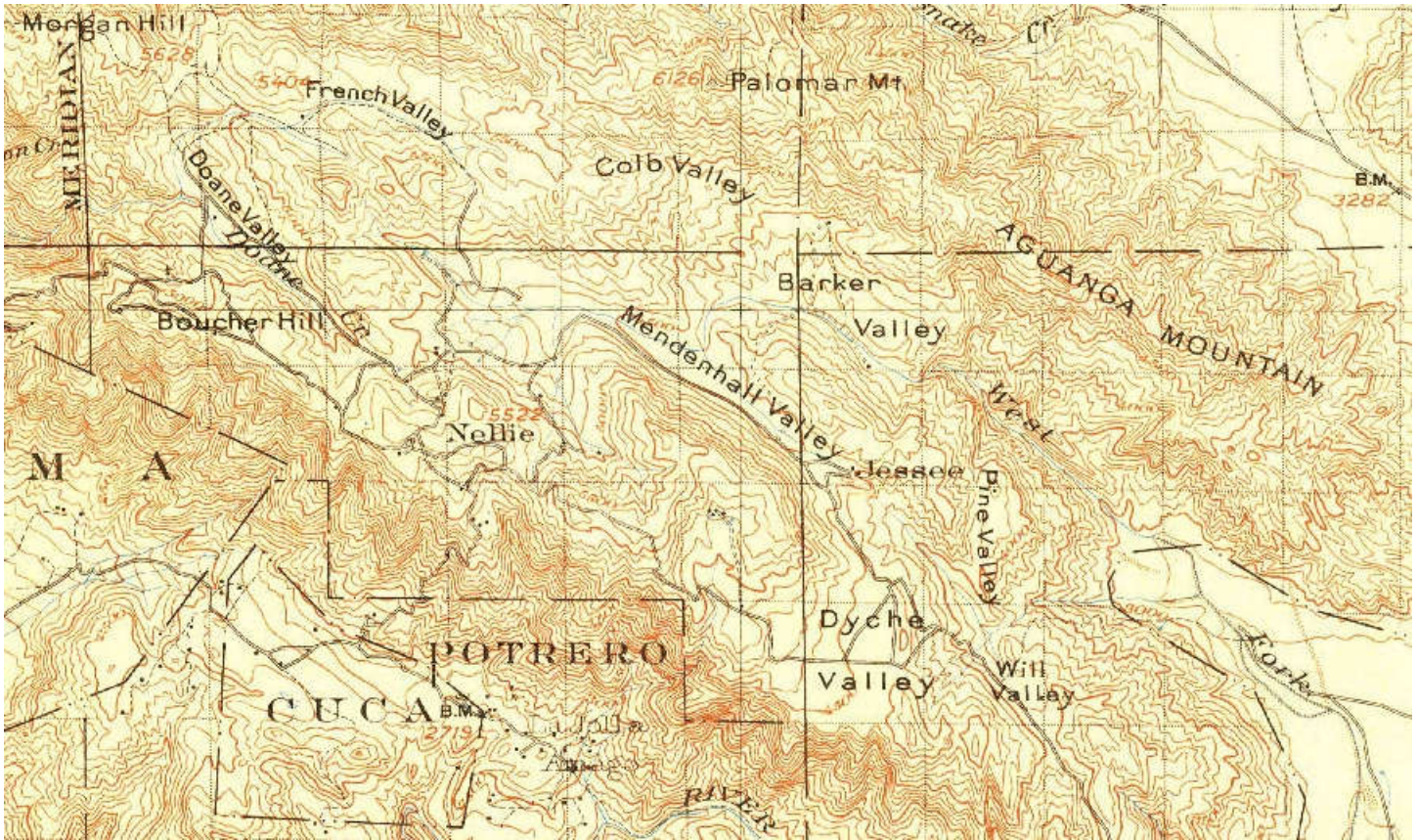
in Grays Harbor, Washington, and then the 1930 U.S. Census records Ambrose C. Seburn (age 73, widowed, age 25 when married, 1881 immigration year) residing in Portland, Oregon with their daughter Cora M. Culp (age 47, divorced, age 22 when married) [1].



Almost six years after the Nellie post office moved to Bailey's, the Jessee post office on the east end of Palomar Mountain was established, with Harriet Louise Jessee appointed as postmaster on November 6, 1896 [1,47].

Harriet L. Jessee assigned the Jessee post office listed at bottom in U.S. Post Office Department record of appointment of postmasters [1]

Jessee was the name of the post office and of the school district, located north of Dyche Valley on Palomar Mountain [13,45].



Jessee postoffice located in right middle --- Nellie postoffice located in left middle at Bailey's
crop of 1903 U.S. Geological Survey Ramona Quadrangle map

Harriet Louise Seals Jessee was married to **William W. Jessee** [1]. Harriet Louise Seals Jessee was born April, May, or June 1864 at Downham, Norfolk County, England, to James Seals (1843-1921) and Harriet Kemp (1845-1923); her brother George Seals was born three years later, and the family emigrated to the USA in 1870 [1]. Harriet Louise Seals was living with her parents in Houston Township, Kansas in 1880 [1]. William W. Jessee was born February 1862, at Holston River, Scott County, Virginia, to Archibald David Jessee (1830-1911) and Mary Ann Purcell (1833-1873); he was living with his parents in Ozark, Webster County, Missouri in 1870 [1]. William and Harriet married, and their son William Franklin Jessee was born in Holton, Kansas on September 25, 1887 [1]. William W. Jessee was a minister in the evangelical Holiness movement within Methodism [14,43,49].

Winbert C. Fink said this about Jessee in 1937 [45]:

When the Nellie postoffice moved over to Bailey's place, settlers on the east side of Smith Mountain found that the distance was too great for them to travel for their mail. They petitioned for a new postoffice at the William W. Jessee place. ... Mrs. Jessee was appointed postmaster, W.C. Fink assistant postmaster, and James Frazier mail carrier. ... William W. Jessee was the pioneer at this place. His wife's name was Harriet L. Jessee. They had one son, Willie, who is dead. Some of the patrons were the George Cook family, Hiram Cook family, William Whitlock family, James Frazier family, and the Misses Lizzie and Maria Frazier. For the first 18 months the mail was carried at their expense. This was until the contract was let for a star route. The mail came up by way of Santa Ysabel at first, but later came by way of Nellie postoffice. It came from San Diego by way of Escondido, Valley Center, Rincon de Diablo, and then the horseback rider climbed the mountain through the Trujillo trail to Nellie. I was the mail carrier for that first 18 months. I would

ride down to Santa Ysabel and back – 34 miles – in one day. I had to get up pretty early in the morning. This was my job twice a week. Frequently we would get our groceries at the Santa Ysabel store and carry them back in the sack with the mail. The store keeper there was D.L. Hoover and he was also postmaster and it was convenient to slip the packages into the mail sack to accommodate the folks at Jessee. There was never any complaint about this arrangement. Some parts of the trail down the mountain were so steep that it was much more convenient to walk and lead the horse. Coming back, you just held on and let him dig his way up.

A 1920 San Diego Union article on Palomar Mountain postoffices and mail delivery said the following [49]:

The Jessee postoffice was established near the Frazier place, about six miles from the original site of the Nellie office, through the efforts of William Jessee, for whom it was named, and was secured because Jessee desired to establish a haven of rest for people of the Holiness faith, which at one time had a considerable following.

The Jessee post office started on November 6, 1896, about three years after the arrival of William Jessee on Palomar Mountain (and also after the Nellie information in that 1897 directory was gathered) [1,47].



Jessie postmark [64]

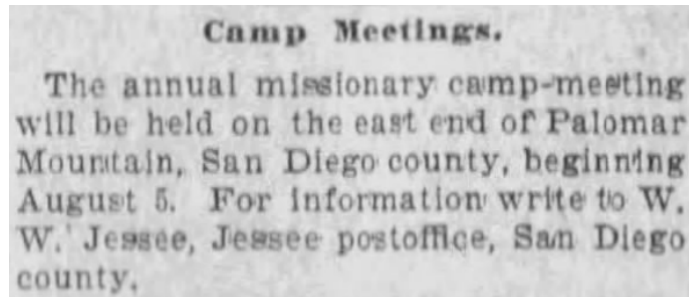
Catherine Wood writes about William W. Jessee [13]:

The Jessee post office was started by a preacher William W. Jessee who was a good talker and held Camp Meetings during the summer on the mountain, under the auspices of a religious group in Los Angeles. These Camp Meetings evidently had more than local fame, as at least one person is known to have come from the Mid West to attend. The mountain residents enjoyed them too, as they still tell how the small preacher had difficulty in baptizing a large woman, and how the organ was once nearly lost from the back of the wagon when the horses started backing down the hill. William W. Jessee began soliciting funds for an Orphans' Home, which he started on Palomar, but his followers lost interest in contributing when they found that the only orphans he had were several elderly men and women.

The San Diego Union and Daily Bee had this item on July 4, 1897 [57]:

The annual missionary camp meeting will be held on the east end of Smith mountain joining Cook Bros.' apple orchard, beginning Aug. 5. The ground is a beautiful place to camp. There is a cold spring of water on the camp ground, and a splendid pasture. Good milk and butter will be in abundance. The ground is ready for campers now.

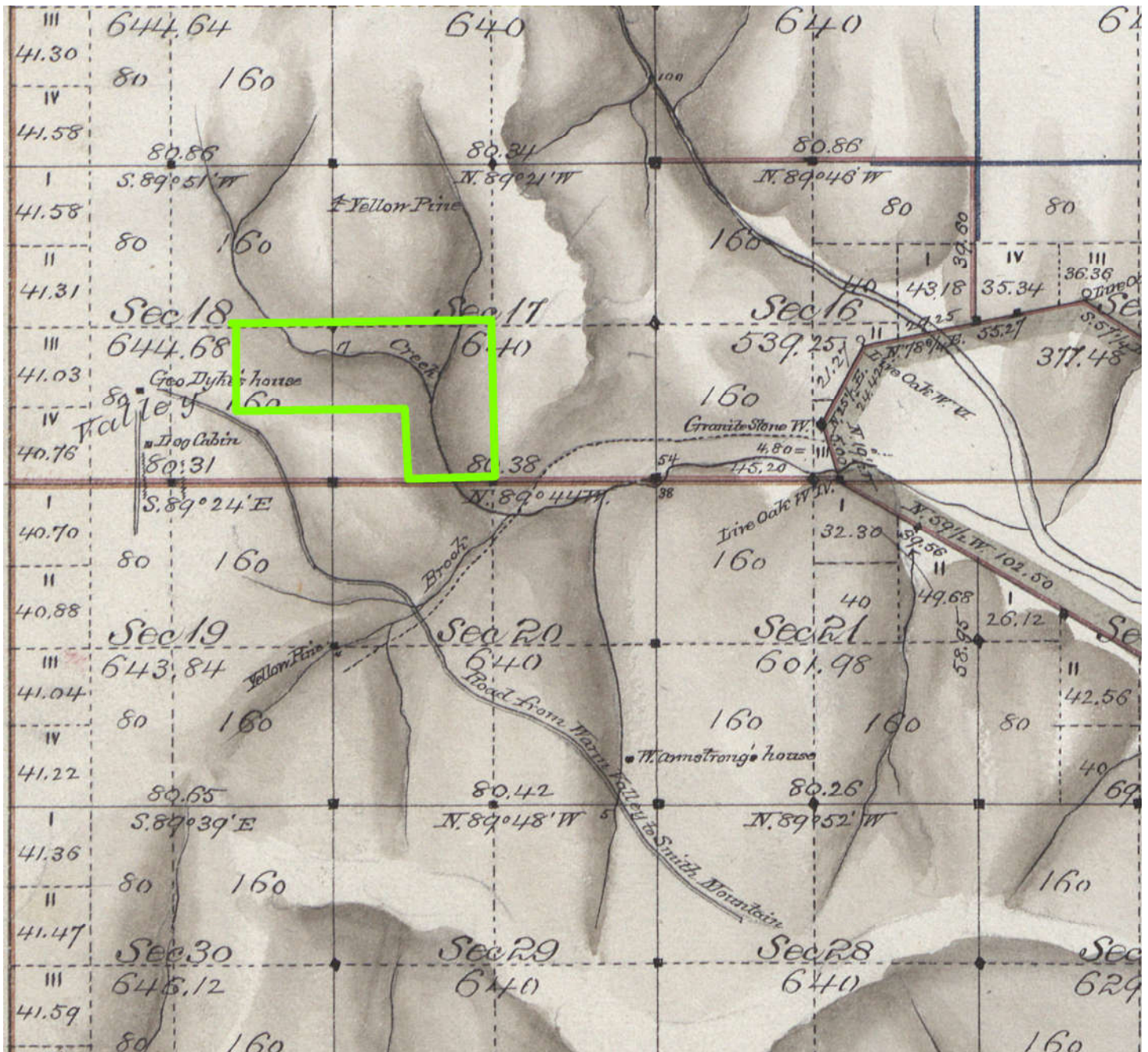
This item appeared in the Los Angeles Evening Express on July 17, 1897 [55]:



Marian Beckler writes about William W. Jessee [14]:

William W. Jessee had gained a wide reputation through the west and midwest for his summer camp meetings. He had built a pleasant camp and attracted many people to his "Holiness Meetings." But, though his preaching may have been good his practices seem not to have been so good. "At one of his summer camp meetings," says Mrs. Louis Salmons ... "Jessee raised funds to start an orphanage. When the camp meeting was over and his patrons had gone home he drove to San Diego with the funds. What he came home with wasn't hungry orphans but a nice load of potatoes."

William Jessee homesteaded 160 acres on Palomar Mountain, with the land granted April 6, 1898, so William Jessee entered that land at least five years earlier in 1893 [7].



Map outlining 160 acres homesteaded by William W. Jessee [7]

crop of map of Township No. 10 South, Range No. 2 East, San Bernardino Meridian. U.S. Surveyor General's Office, 1880

William W. Jessee is listed in the Directory of San Diego City and County for 1893-94, in the San Diego City and County Directory 1895, and in the Directory of San Diego City and County 1897 [54]. The Nellie section of that 1897 directory says "There are two schools and one church," and perhaps that is William Jessee's church [54].

Catherine Wood writes about William W. Jessee [13]:

Later it seems he was found selling too many veal calves in Los Angeles of the Hereford breed when he didn't raise Herefords on his ranch, so he was offered a price for his place with so many hours to get off the mountain, and the opportunity was not wasted.

Marian Beckler writes about William W. Jessee [14]:

Then it was learned that William Jessee was selling Hereford calves in Los Angeles. Jessee wasn't raising Herefords. Mendenhalls were. So Sylvester Mendenhall went to Jessee to ask him where he was getting them. "Herefords?" the preacher said, benignly, "The Lord is providing them." "He is not providing Mendenhall Herefords!" Mendenhall retorted. He called a meeting of the mountain residents. William Jessee was offered a price for his place and so many hours to leave.

George W. Cook was appointed the Jessee postmaster on November 16, 1897, with Harriet L. Jessee resigning [44]. Perhaps this was around the time of the Jessee family leaving Palomar Mountain. The sale of some of William W. Jessee's property to Sylvester J. Mendenhall was filed on November 9, 1898, and described as "se qr of sw qr of sec 17, tp 10 s, r 2 e, \$150" [50]. William Jessee is not listed in the San Diego City and County Directory for 1899-1900 [54].

Marian Beckler writes [14]:

George Cook had the [Jessee] mail contract in 1897 and James Frazier in 1898. By then the mail was coming from San Diego via Escondido to Rincon. From Rincon the carrier brought it on horseback up the Trujillo Trail [PB: a trail up the south side of Palomar Mountain preceding South Grade S6] ... Miss Maria [Frazier] began carrying the mail for the Jessee Post Office in 1898. She had the long, difficult ride up the Trujillo Trail. ... Eventually the Nellie and Jessee mails came up together to Nellie where the Jessee carrier picked it up. ... Later she had only the ride to Nellie.

James Frazier received the Jessee postal commission on April 30, 1898 [56]. Edward Davis writes [51]:

... Maria [Frazier] took a mail contract, carrying the mail from Nellie to Jessee, a distance of ten miles on Palomar. During four years, she rode horseback in all kinds of weather, through pouring rains, driving sleet and deep snows. She wore divided skirts and an oilskin slicker, often riding long after dark to reach home. At all places, she would dismount in the timber, evidently too modest to be seen riding astride.

David Charles Mendenhall writes [52]:

There were two post offices on the mountain then, Jessee and Nellie. The postal service delivered the mail to Jessee, near the east end of the mountain, and it was up to someone on the mountain to forward it to Nellie, a distance of eight or nine miles, so Mariah [Frazier] got the job. Early morning she mounted her mule, rode two miles to Jessee, got the mail there and went to Nellie, then took that mail back to Jessee, then home. She was paid \$1.00, which might have been adequate in summer, but during winter snow and blizzard you might wonder. She carried her own lunch, which was a can of beans.

Mariah Frazer is listed as a mail carrier for the year March 1901 to March 1902 in a San Diego county directory [53].

Catherine Wood writes about the Jessee postoffice ceasing service [13]:

It died a natural death with the later slump in population, being officially discontinued in July 1904.

On January 2, 1921, the San Diego Union published an article on the Palomar postoffice being renamed Palomar Mountain from Nellie, and in that article the establishment and demise of the Jessee post office was mentioned [65]:

The [Jessee] office was discontinued several years ago when it became difficult to find anyone willing to serve as postmaster for the small compensation realized from the cancellation of stamps. The Jessee office was a sort of sub-station of the Nellie office, from where the mail coming and going over the old Mendenhall trail [PB: Trujillo Trail] to and from Valley Center, was hauled.

After the Jessee's residence on Palomar Mountain, the Anaheim Gazette ran this item on October 24, 1901, about an upcoming revival meeting [48]:

Revs. Clark and Jessee of the Pentecost band were in town on Tuesday making arrangements for the opening of a mission where revival services will be held during the winter. They are thinking of renting the old Independent office and holding nightly exercises and twice on Sunday.

William and Harriet Jessee emigrated in 1902 to Ponoka, Strathcona District, Alberta Province, Canada, and were living there with their son William Franklin Jessee in 1906 [1]. William Franklin Jessee came back to the U.S. on February 4, 1907, and was then living in Santa Ana, California on March 26, 1915, according to an immigration record [1]. When registering for the U.S. World War I draft in 1918, William Franklin Jessee was a farmer living in Klamath Falls, Oregon [1]. William and Harriet Jessee moved to Kansas City, Kansas by 1908 or before, and were living there in the 1910, 1920, and 1930 U.S. Censuses [1,43]. In these censuses, William Jessee's occupation was listed as evangelist in faith worker industry as was Harriet Jessee's occupation (1910), then William was listed as superintendent of Pentacost Church Home (1920), and then listed as a minister (1930) [1]. A 1923 item in the Santa Ana Register mentions the evangelical work of William and Harriet Jessee [46]:

Dave Jessee received word of the arrival in Los Angeles of his brother and sister-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. William Jessee, who, together with other missionaries, are touring the country and conducting revival meetings. They held three meetings while en route here from Kansas City. ...

William Jessee died in 1933 in Kansas City, Wyandotte County, Kansas, and is buried at Mount Hope Cemetery, Kansas City, Kansas [1,11].

Harriet Jessee is listed in the 1940 and 1950 U.S. Censuses living in Kansas City, Kansas, and she died September 5, 1951; she is buried at Mount Hope Cemetery, Kansas City, Kansas [1,11,43]. Her obituary said she was a "member of the Holiness church" and a resident of Kansas City, Kansas for 43 years [43].



findagrave.com

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