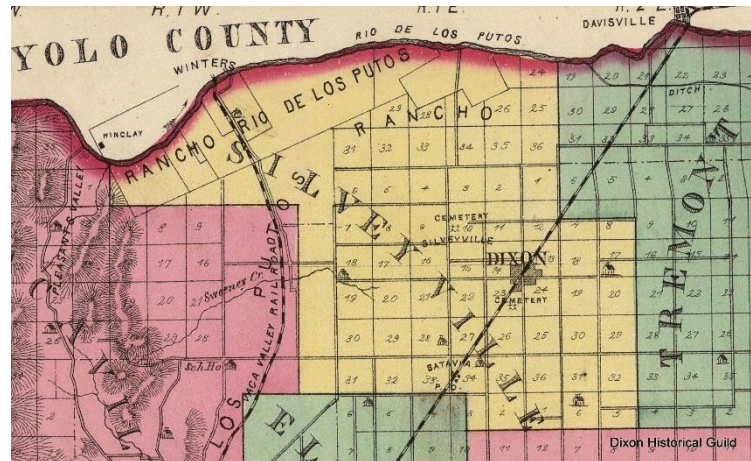


Dixon Tribune of 03 January 1885.

SILVEYVILLE TOWNSHIP.

Silveyville Township occupies a central and northern position in Solano County, and embraces a territory of about 56,640 acres. The Township was first created in June, 1866. In 1872. The boundary line between Silveyville and Vacaville townships was changed to conform with



the present boundaries, which are as follows: Beginning at the South East corner of section number 5, Township 6N, R2E, thence West to the southwest corner of section number 1, Township 6N, R. 1W, thence North to the corner of sections number 1, 2, 11, and 12, in township number 7N. R.1W. Mount Diablo Meridian; thence west 5 miles to the line between ranges 1 and 2 W.; thence north 1 mile more or less to Putah Creek; thence easterly down said Creek, to the line between ranges 1 and 2 E.; thence South on said line to the north-west corner of section 7, Township 7N, R2E; thence south to the place of beginning.

The Township was named after Elijah Step Silvey, a pioneer, who was also the founder of the old town of Silveyville, and who built a house and stock corral there in 1852, for the accommodations of travelers, all of whom, en route between San Francisco and Sacramento, passed by way of Silveyville. It is related that in those days, the trail was not very well defined, and the belated traveler was guided to Silveyville by means of an immense red light which Mr. Silvey was accustomed to keep out at night.

Mr. Silvey was accidentally killed by falling from a porch, in November of 1869. The old town of Silveyville has since passed away, but the Township still bears his name. The widow of the hardy pioneer still survives him, and resides on the old homestead.

There are five sons, one of whom resides in Oregon, one in San Francisco, one in Sacramento County, one in Colusa County, and one on the old farm at Silveyville. There are also three daughters living, and all of them are married. Mrs. Furnish lives in Sacramento County, Miss Goeffert in Dixon, and Mrs. Greene in San Francisco.

The Township can boast of the first white settler in Solano County, and he is yet hale and hearty, with a promise of many more years of life. We refer to John R. Wolfskill, who came to the county in 1842, with a band of cattle, and settled on a tract of land one league by four in extent, that had been acquired from the Mexican government by his brother, William Wolfskill. For

nearly 10 years, Mr. Wolfskill lived almost in solitude, so far as white settlers were concerned. Mr. Wolfskill is now about 80 years of age, and there is no doubt that he is better acquainted with the history and pioneer incidents of the county, than any man now living. A mention of the circumstances of the first settlement in Silveyville Township, would be incomplete, without more than a passing notice of this hardy pioneer, who paved the way for all civilization and prosperity of Northern Solano.

The Chroniclers of the county relate that Mr. Wolfskills first night in Solano was passed in the fork of a tree, out of the reach of wild beasts that in early days infested this section. He at once began the erection of a humble hut, in which he resided while watching his herds, in the meantime, foraging among wild bears and other smaller game for food. His encounters with grizzlies were frequent and often of a sanguinary character, he having dispatched five in one afternoon, while traveling a distance of a mile and 1/2 along Putah Creek. In this way, Mr. Wolfskill laid the foundation for the very comfortable fortune. He has since enjoyed in a life of comfort and ease that is in strong contrast with his early experiences.

His immense landed estates have been materially curtailed by sales, and by gifts to his children, but he still owns a very large farm, on which he lives, surrounded by a splendid orchard of every variety of fruit trees, including oranges, olives, figs, grapes, almonds, apricots, pears, peaches, prunes, in fact every variety possible to be produced in a soil of great richness and a climate of remarkable salubrity. The surface configuration of the Township, is nearly uniformly level. A small area lies in the foot-hills, and the land adjacent is slightly rolling, but the great bulk of the land is a level plain, with an almost imperceptible slope towards the Sacramento River. There are seasons of the year, when to the Eastern traveler, the scene would present a striking similarity to the west prairies of some of the Middle States.

The soil of the Township is very, perhaps more than that of any other section in the county, but the greater part of it is of an alluvial formation and character--a sandy loam, and it has long enjoyed the distinction of being the great wheat belt of the county. The wonderful fertility and apparently inexhaustible resources of the soil can be best understood when we say that there are fields in the Township that have been cropped with wheat regularly, for 20 years, and yet there is no apparent falling off in the yield. There is a narrow belt of Adobe land near the western boundary, and strips are to be found on the eastern and southern boundaries. The soil near the foothills, is gravelly, and has a reddish tinge. It is regarded as light, but at the same time is good grainland, and will produce very early vegetables. It is perhaps the only soil in the Township that can be benefited by irrigation. It is equally as fertile as that upon which the colony of Riverside is located, and with equal water facilities, could be transformed into just such a paradise of fruit, flowers, and vines. The conformation of the land is very favorable to artesian

water, and many are strong in the belief that Wells might be bored from which the flow of water would be bountiful, but the experiment has never been tried.

A sample of the soil from the south bank of Putah Creek was recently sent to the State University for analysis, and it was found to be a clay loam or light Adobe, the lumps being barely capable of being crushed between the fingers. On wetting it softens slowly but completely. It is classed as a strong soil, with a high percent of potash, and longtime, and a fair one of phosphoric acid and humus. If Deeply and thoroughly tilled, it is well adapted to most fruit.

The following is the result of the analysis: Insoluble Matter 56.78 Soluble Matter 17.59 74.87 Potash 0.88 Soda 0.17 Lime 0.86 Magnesia 3.05 Br. Oxide of Manganese 0.07 Peroxide of Iron 4.46 Alumina 10.81 Phosphoric Acid 0.09 Sulfuric Acid 0.02 Water and Organic matter 5.21 Total 99.99 Humus 0.85 Available Inorganic 0.43 hygroskop Moisture 7.31 Absorbed at 12°. C.

Notwithstanding the fact that the face of the country is unusually level, it possesses topographical charms, especially during the winter and spring months, when no pen or pencil has yet adequately described. From Putah Creek, the northern boundary away east and south, almost as far as vision extends, is a fertile plain, a perfect carpet of green, an almost unbroken field of wheat and barley.

On the west are the great, well-rounded foothills, abounding in graceful slopes, sequestered nooks and more pretentious valleys. To be sure, there is nothing startling or sensational about such scenery, but to the quiet student of nature, who sees beauty in the green fields, and the rolling landscapes, pictured against the background of somber, irregular hills, the scene is inviting. Perhaps the effect is heightened by the wonderful azure of our skies, and the marvelous temperateness of our climate, that renders the day bright and breezy and the nights cool and restful. The man is utterly lost to a sense of the beautiful, who cannot appreciate such a wealth of Nature.

The climate of the Township differs very materially from that of the southern part of the county. We enjoy the same sea breezes in Tradewinds that prevail at Vallejo, Benicia and Suisun, but before they reach us, they are shorn of the chill and dampness, that are there distinguishing feature near the river and bays. It is these Tradewinds that temper the climate and make it the most equitable in the world, for withstanding the fact that we are in the same latitude with other sections that are disturbed by cyclones and blizzards, and where everything is snowed in for three months in the year, in the dead of winter, the trees are budding and the green grass is growing in every nook and glade. It is true that some fault is found with our north winds, but these occur only at long intervals, and besides, are necessary to preserve the healthy condition of the country, as they are a very acceptable substitute for the thunderstorms. Only such persons find fault with them as

expect to find things perfect on this earth. The absence of fogs, damp wins and frosts, is an additional inducement for those who are in search of an invigorating, helpful climate, free from malarial poisons, to settle in this section.

The products of the Township are varied and prolific. The cereals are wheat and barley, of which the yield is usually very large. The soil is also well adapted to fruits of all kinds, such as oranges, figs, dates, lemons, pears, and olives. In fact, the north-western portions of the Township is a continuation of the Vacaville fruit belt, and it disputes the claim of Vacaville, to the first fruit and vegetable shipped to the San Francisco market. It is in this section that the semi-Tropic fruits flourish most luxuriantly. Oranges ripen earlier than they do in Los Angeles county, and all of trees of every variety, from the aristocratic Japanese to the delicious Tennessee, will thrive with ordinary attention. A date palm tree was planted on the Wolfskill farm, and it attained a height of 20 feet. This tree, which was said to be the only one in the State, was sent to New Orleans in full foliage, and is now on exhibition at the World's Fair. Mr. Wolfskill also sent for exhibition, a sample of olive oil made by himself, and two mammoth, sweet potatoes, the product of his own garden, weighing respectfully, 25 and 35 pounds.

There is scarcely a foot of land in the Township that is not well adapted to the successful culture of the vine. Practical test and close observations has settled the fact beyond dispute, that no better land for this industry can be found on the Pacific Coast. The Township for many years was devoted almost exclusively to the production of wheat and barley. It is only of late years, since the necessity of diversified farming has become apparent, that viticulture has come to be regarded with so much favor.

The adaptability of the soil is testified to by Prof. Hilgard who says: "in the country lying southward of the bay, the soil formed by the eruptive and volcanic rocks, assume increasing importance, and constitutes the leading features of the grape-growing region of Sonoma, Napa, Solano, and Yolo counties. Here, the lower portions of the mountainsides are frequently constituted of the heavy tertiary and Cretaceous material which form Adobe, while the upper portion consists of igneous rocks yielding lighter soils, often deeply colored with iron, and more especially adapted to fruit-culture. The Valley soils are, of course, a mixture of both, and it is on such comp positive soil that enormous yields of from 12 to 14 tons of grapes per acre are sometimes obtained." It is claimed, that grapes produced in Northern Solano, contain qualities not to be found elsewhere. It has been demonstrated to the entire satisfaction of scientific men, that grapes produced without irrigation are better for every purpose, than when produced by either surface or underground irrigation. The growth is quicker and the berry may possibly attain a larger size in Fresno County, but the soil is irrigated, and hence the grapes contain fully 30% less saccharin matter than those produced on on

irrigated lands; besides, grapes in this section. Mature early, because they are free from frosts, and spring and summer fogs, that prevail in the Coast counties. Other advantages are, we do not have to smoke are vines to prevent frost blight, or prune them up high to prevent mildew. The latter is an advantage not to be overestimated, as experienced viticulturalists say the best grapes grow on the lowest vines. For raisin-curing, the climate cannot be surpassed. It is warm and dry, and there being no mildew or damp winds, the process of curing is unimpeded.

A regular range of heat and a comparatively dry atmosphere are essential to successful raisin-curing, and these conditions, Silveyville Township possesses in an eminent degree. It will be observed that notwithstanding the growth of the vine is prolific in the bay counties, raisin-curing is rarely attempted, on account of the almost constant humidity of the atmosphere. From these considerations, we conclude that this section is a favorite spot for raisin-curing, first because the grapes are better, being produced without irrigation, and second, because the climatic conditions for the curing process are superior to those of almost all other sections. Dr. W. H. Wells is the pioneer in the business of raisin-curing in this township. His shipments are very large, considering the number of his vines, and his raisins are the equal in every respect to the Malaga raisins of Spain.

The Township can boast of but one living stream of water, and that is the southern boundary. To many his might appear to be a great disadvantage, but is really of no consequence, as water is found very near the surface and can be lifted at a trifling expense. None is needed except for stock and domestic purposes, as the bulk of the land does not need irrigation.

The Township is almost wholly without timber, which, in view of the high price of wood, is a serious consideration. The farmers in the western part usually depend upon the foothills for a supply of fuel, while those in the middle and eastern portions, in the main, are supplied by dealers who ship it by rail from points in Napa and Colusa counties. The cost of transportation brings the price of wood up to about \$7.50 per cord. In this connection, we renew our suggestion that every farmer set apart a small lot of land implanted with blue gums. This tree is hardy and grows rapidly and by figures heretofore given, it has been fully demonstrated that it is the cheapest and most convenient method of supplying fuel, besides, it possesses more health-giving qualities than any other tree that flourishes in this climate. If some experiment of this kind is not tried, the day will soon come when the question of fuel will be a serious matter.

The health of the Township is most excellent. In fact, according to the report of the State Board of Health, this section was at one time classed as the healthiest locality in the State, a distinction. It did not lose until visited by that dreadful scourge, diphtheria.

The school facilities of the township are first-class. There are no less than six school districts, outside of Dixon, and all of them are well provided with necessary buildings, grounds, library, and apparatus. The schools of Dixon will be spoken of under another head. The population of the Township, from the most reliable estimates to be obtained, is about 2,600. The increase has been gradual and healthy among all classes except the farmers. Among the tillers of the soil, there has been no perceptible increase during the past year, owing to the fact that there are so many land-holders, who not only holdfast all they have, but are persistent in their efforts to accumulate more. This policy is the one great danger that overshadows the material wealth, prosperity, and population of one of the fairest spots in California.

Silveyville is a very wealthy township, the taxable property amounting to \$2,009,714, upon which the taxes are \$27,561.58. The number of citizens who pay taxes on \$5,000 and upwards, is quite large, as the following, taken from the Assessor's books will show: H. Aylsworth, \$7144; F. Anderson, \$16,953; William Baker, \$31,421; S. K. Baker, \$32,357; Jenny Bonney, \$80,500; Briggs Brothers, \$19,247; S. Benninghof, \$5977; L. Wilson, \$3000; George Barrett, \$9,851; J. D. Bloom, \$6,190; J. S. Mayes, \$131,349; J. M. Bell, \$5110; J. Brinkerhoff, \$55,796; Mrs. M. Buck, \$9,872; Union Savings Bank, \$9,694; Mrs. L. Cooper, \$7,360; Mrs. M. Church, \$7,498; Julia A. Currey, \$38,695; M. S. Currey, \$88,337; R. J. Currey, \$59,976; Jonathan Currey, \$129,770; bank of Dixon, \$84,161; Jasper church, \$5,000; George Cadman, \$11,209; H. F. Culver, \$7640; in. B. S. Coleman, \$32,336; George Cooper, \$5,750; Eppinger and Co., \$34,818; W. R. Ferguson \$8690; J. M. Dudley, \$27,749; William Dittmar, \$10,556; D. Dalton, \$10,605; Mrs. H. Ellis, \$33,493; J. Einstein, \$8120; C. Elbe, \$5527; A. J. Englehart, \$6,100; P. Fox, \$5,995; S. Goodman, \$6,370; Humboldt S & L Society, \$7,112; Sol Fountain, \$7,110; B. Ford, \$9,530; R. Hall, \$13,520; L. Goodyear, \$81,273; Grangers Business Association, \$6,125; Charles Parkinson, \$20,800; H. D. Hadenfeldt, \$5,100; Mary J. Hanke, \$40,500; Mrs. M. A. Jones, \$11,869; Brinkerhoff & King, \$8235; Laralier & Nithen, \$9,296; Joseph Kline, \$14,217; Henry Peterson, \$78,699; Charles Pearson, \$24,000; L. W. Morehouse, \$9,313; D. Mack, \$7823; Samuel McBride, \$31,380; H. Reddick, \$13,000; B. Madden, \$7549; Mrs. A. Manning, \$6385; C. H. McMaster, \$11,527; McMahan estate, \$238,800; William McCully, \$10,613; J. W. McFadyen, \$37,109; J. H. McCune, \$9164; Peter Peters, \$9755; J. D. Parish, \$6488; Joseph Pfister, \$6870; James Porter, \$56,583; R. E. & W. E. Briggs, \$8850; H. Reddick, \$23,996; D. W. Robbin, \$49,930; HansRohwer, \$15,927; Bank of Suisun, \$6010; Henry Peters, \$76,064; D. S. Stewart, \$9820; A. G. Summers, \$57,015; Mrs. S. Silvey, \$15,769; Jochim Schroeder, \$19,002; Timothy Paige, \$29,212; Security Savings Bank, \$19,600; A. Montgomery, \$30,240; Charles McGlaughlin, \$5988; O. R. Taylor, \$8032; Peter Timm, \$13,479; Mrs. C. Udell, \$33,308; Ralph Udell, \$5170; J. H. Wilson, \$10,544; J. R. Wolfskill, \$84,955; E.

Wolfskill, \$82,939; S. C. Wolfskill, \$40,998; W. H. Wells, \$12,167; West estate, \$7805; McCune & Garnet, \$279,612; H. A. Ross, \$16,757; H. C. Silver, \$25,728; Jonathan Sweeney, \$21,421; Mrs. E. D. Duke, \$6726; D. Donaho, \$5200; N. P. Walker, \$12,722; Gilbert Wright, \$24,841. Silveyville was the name of the first post-office as well as the first town est. in the Township.

With the coming of the railroad, the old town began to disappear, but it has left a memory of many stirring scenes enacted within its limits. In the zenith of its prosperity, it even boasted a newspaper, but the enterprise was short-lived, owing to the fact that its editor W. J. Pearce, during the heat of a political discussion, shot, Dr. J. C. Ogburn, and for safety, fled the country.

Dixon was founded by W. R. Ferguson, in 1868, and Batavia came next. The latter is now a post office, a railroad, telegraph, and express station and a shipping point of considerable importance. Dixon is the principal town in northern Solano, and contains a population of about 1200. It derives its name from Thomas Dickson, a pioneer who still resides within its limits. The town was incorporated in 1878, by a special act of the Legislature. It reincorporated under the general laws of the state, in 1884.

The principal business part of the town was destroyed by fire on 19 November 1883, but it has been rebuilt with a much more substantial class of building, and is now considered in a more prosperous condition than ever.

The location is advantageous, the surroundings are desirable, the government is good, and the country upon which it depends, is unsurpassed in agricultural wealth. It is not surprising then, that its growth has been steady and healthy, and that its future is very promising.

Every branch of trade is well represented. The business houses are: General merchandise, Eppinger & Co., Goodman, & Co. And J. Einstein; dry goods, etc., J. Dugan and A. H. Miller; groceries, Roberts Brothers, W. Vansant and R. H. Brown; drugs, E. J. McBride and W. A. Trafton; hardware, W. R. Ferguson and C. Shirmer; Cigar factory, Adolph Newman; livery stables, J. P. Lyon; milliners. Mrs. J. W. Cotten and Ms. M. D. Stone; barbers, A., A. J. Wagner and J. Grove; butchers, Wright Bros and James Rochford; bakery, W. Vansant; Taylor's, M. Stenge and R. Kerr; harness maker's, J. P. Kirsch and H. Goeffert; blacksmiths, M. Carpenter, W. Hemphill, George Cadman; cabinetmaker, J. E. Apperson; Painters, oh. L. Bishop and J. E. Apperson; brewery, Schomer & Oberholser; real estate, J. W. Cotten and S. G. Little; jewelers, S. N. Davidson, W. D. Haynes; flouring mill, Duncan, Brothers; hotels, City, N Thodt proprietor, Arcade, ill. Kumle proprietor; restaurant, Mrs. Ed Brinkerhoff; shoemakers, A. Geisecke, S. F. Shaw and J. Pritzburg; lumber, S. T. Mowder & Co.; warehouses, Grangers Business Association and Eppinger & Co. The professions are well represented. The physicians are G. H. Evans, eight. Gordon and A. E. Trafton. The dentists are, F. F. Upham and M. O. Wyatt. The legal fraternity has only one representative, Albert Manning, who is also Town Clerk. The notaries are, J. W. Cotten, J. H.

Rice and John Gregory. The liquor and cigar dealers are, P. R. Willot, George Frahm, Newby, & Longmire, J. Mesfeldt, Hardy & Amos, F. A. Schnitzlein, C. Lunney, J. Berryessa, Henry Miller, John Rhemke and all the hotels.. The bank was organized in 1874, and is now in a flourishing condition. The officers are J. M. Dudley Pres. and J. H. Rice, cashier. The railroad, telegraph, and express offices are under the management of J. D. Grady. We also have telephone communication with the principal cities of California, and E. J. McBride is the operator.

There are five churches, the Baptist, Presbyterian, Lutheran, Catholic, and Methodist, and in each of the congregations are quite large. The pastors are, Rev. J. Herndon Garnet, Dr. Alexander, Rev. E. J. Hosto, father Crowley, and Rev. W. F. Warren, in the order named. The societies and fraternal orders are numerous, and the membership is strong. Silveyville Lodge, F. & A. M., Number 201, has a new Hall, and a membership of 50. Dixon Chapter, R. A. M., Has a membership of 50. Rebekah Degree Large as a membership of about 40. Montezuma Lodge, Number 172, R. O. O. F., Has a new Hall, and the membership of 90. Othello Large, Number 31, K. Of P., Has a new Hall, and the membership of 39. Dixon Lodge, number 50, A. O. U. W., Meets in Pythian Castle, and has a membership of 47. Solano Council Number 132, Order of Chosen Friends, meets at Pythian Castle with a membership of about 40. Myrtle Chapter O. E. S., meets in Masonic Hall, with a membership of 50. Dixon enjoys peculiar and advantageous facilities for the education of both sexes. The Academy is a very large and commodious building, capable of accommodating 200 pupils. It maintains a very creditable standard of scholarship and deserves liberal patronage. Messrs.. Wallace and Roberts are the Principals, and both of them are gentlemen of rare educational qualifications. California makes generous provisions for the maintenance of her public schools, and Dixon has availed herself of every advantage offered under our most complete and effective system. Our public schools are in a highly prosperous condition, and are gradually growing in efficiency and popularity. The buildings are roomy and well appointed, and the facilities are ample to accommodate 250 pupils. Prof. J. H. Simmons is the very efficient, principal, and he is ably assisted by such experienced and practical educators as Mrs. Lucy Haile, Carrie Apperson, Jenny Gillespie and Alice Merrill.

The Tribune is the only paper published in the town or the Township. It is very liberally patronized, the circulation is steadily increasing, but as to the ability with which it is managed, and the measure of success it deserves, these are questions that only our patrons are competent to pass upon.

The improvements of the past year have been of a substantial character, as the following partial list will show: I. O. O. F. Building, brick, cost \$13,000. W. R. Ferguson, store building, brick, \$12,000. J. S. Mayes, improvements on brick store, \$3000. F.A. Schnitzlein, frame building, \$2700.

W. Hemphill, blacksmith shop, \$600. Addition to Arcade Hotel, \$2800. Frank Trainor, Frame dwelling, \$1500. S. Goodman, frame dwelling, \$2000. Mrs. Early, frame dwelling, \$800. S. S. Holden, frame dwelling, \$1000. Mrs. L. P. Cooper, frame dwelling, \$2000. Dr. A. E. Trafton, residents, frame, \$3150. N. B. S. Coleman, brick store and improvements, \$3000. Charles Schirmer, brick store, \$3000. Masonic Hall, brick, \$10,000. Dr. F. F. Upham, brick building, \$1200. A. H. Leigh, brick building, \$1200. Brinkerhoff & King, to brick buildings, \$6400. H. A. Ross, Hall, and two stores, all brick, \$9000. Pythian Castle, brick, \$6000. M. O. Wyatt, brick building, \$1600. J. Misfeldt, brick building, \$2500. Eppinger & Company, brick store, \$16,000. Cook & Ewer, frame, skating rink, \$650. R. Hall, addition to Palace Hotel and brick building, \$11,000. Gus Swanson, frame building, \$800. W. H. Roberts, frame residence, \$3000.