

Chatsworth Hills Homesteaders - Part 3

Chatsworth Hills Homesteaders Part 3

- This is Part 3 of a three part presentation, as we share the history of some of the 45 Chatsworth Homesteading Families. Topics we will cover tonight:
 - Homesteading Overview
 - Research Tools supporting this presentation
 - Homesteading History in California
 - Homesteading Requirements
 - Overview of Chatsworth Hills Homesteaders
 - Part 3 - Homesteader Families in the Simi Hills, south of Plummer, west of Valley Circle, and north of Roscoe. Includes Schweikhard, Domec, Woolsey and Dayton.

Online Research Tools used in this Presentation

- Online **Census Data**, and supplemental Genealogical Websites, i.e. Ancestry.com
- Online **Township Master Title Plats** from California Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
- Online **US Dept. of Interior BLM**, listing **Names and Doc numbers of Homesteaders**, and any other transfer/sale of public lands to private lands
- **Google Earth**, allowing us to plot Homesteader parcels as an overlay
- **Earth Point**, allowing an overlay of the Federal townships and sections on Google Earth.
- As a background, a **township** is 36 square miles (6 miles to each side). A township is divided into 36 **sections** of one square mile each (1 mile to each side). Each **section** is 640 acres, a quarter section is 160 acres.
- A special thanks to Rich Krugel and Ken Ditto, who helped us compile the Homestead Data

Research Tools and Homesteader Overlay

For those of you who are interested in the sources we used for this presentation, email us at

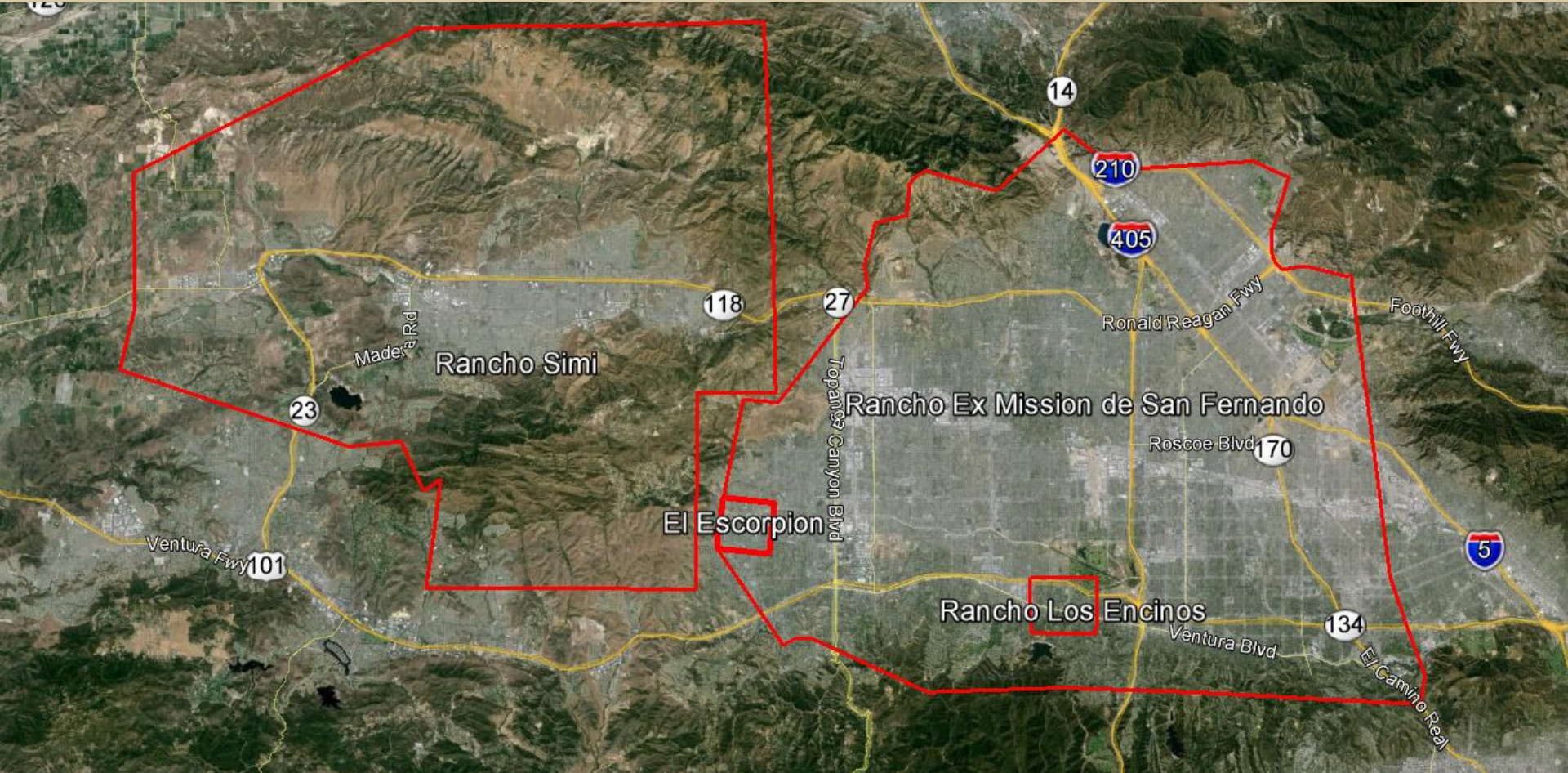
chatsworthhistory@gmail.com

We will email you the online links, plus a Chatsworth Hills Homesteader file that you can open up as an overlay on Google Earth.

Homesteading History in California

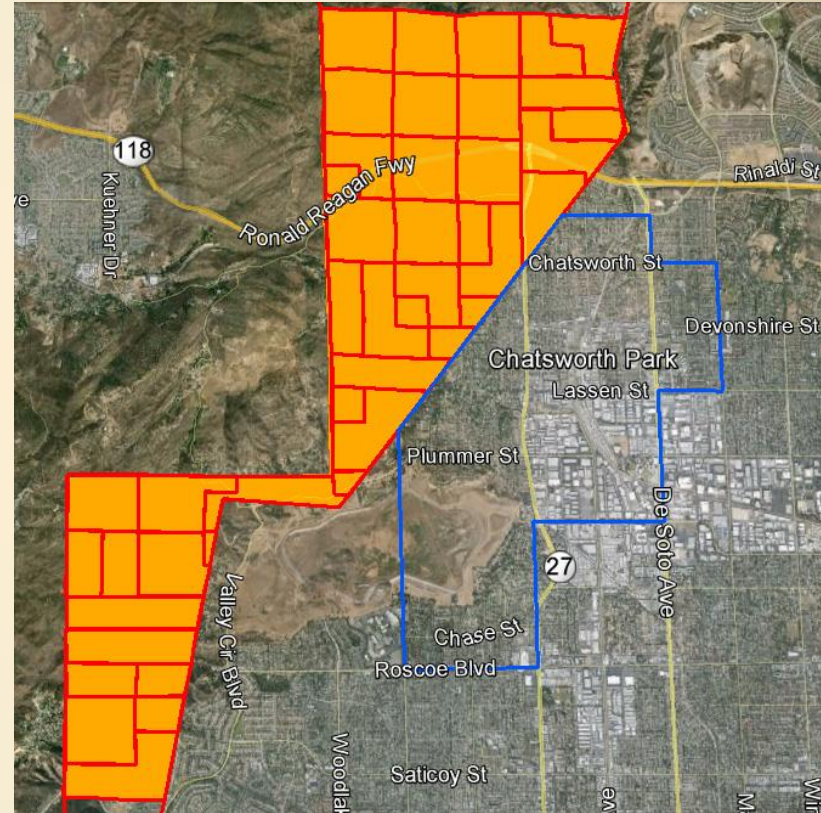
- Spanish Rule 1542-1821
 - 1542 - Cabrillo anchors his ships off the shore of Santa Monica.
 - 1769 - Spanish Colonization and the Mission Period begins.
 - 1781 – Pueblo de Los Angeles is founded. **Spanish pioneer colonists are given land grants after five years.**
 - 1795 – Rancho Simi and Rancho Encino established. In 1797, the San Fernando Mission is established, and Rancho Encino gives up much of its land for the use of the Mission.
- Mexican Rule 1821 – 1848
 - 1834 – The Mexican government dissolves the Missions, allowing Mission lands to be granted to individuals.
 - 1845 - Rancho Encino is regranted to three Tongva Native Americans, and El Escorpion is granted to three Chumash Native Americans. In 1846, Rancho Ex-Mission de San Fernando established.
 - 1848 – the Treaty ending the Mexican-American war **provides that land grants will be honored.**
- American Rule 1848 –
 - 1862 – The Homestead Act gave an applicant ownership of government land of up to 160 acres. Requirements were that the homesteader needed to live on the land for five years, and improve it by building a 12' x 14' dwelling and growing crops.

Homesteaders Overview – Spanish Land Grants in 1848



45 Homesteaders pioneer the Santa Susana and Simi Hills

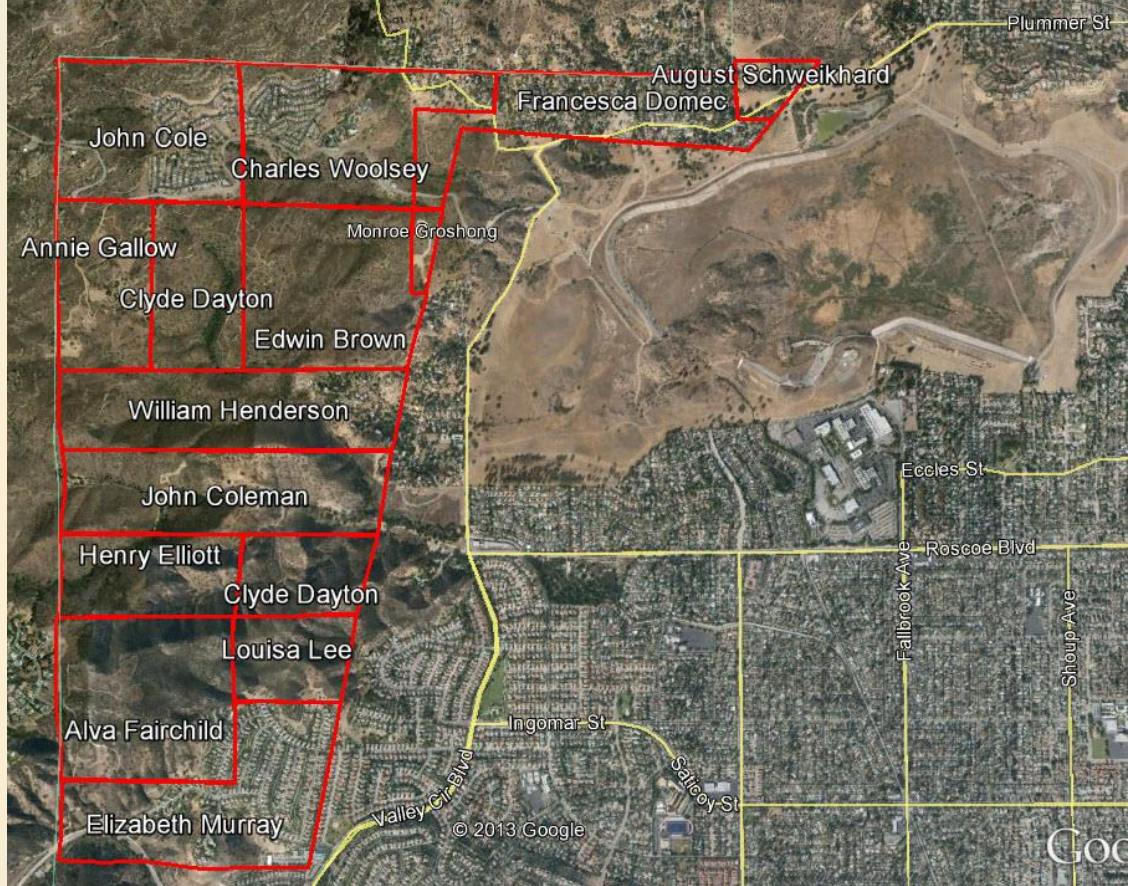
- The orange section is the area between Rancho Simi and Rancho Ex-Mission de San Fernando, that became federal land after the Mexican American war in 1848.
- Some Homesteaders arrived as early as the 1860's and 1870's, although most did not file for their homesteads until the mid 1890's
- Chatsworth Park (in blue) was originally a part of Rancho Ex-Mission de San Fernando. It was founded in 1888, about the same time as many homesteaders settled in the area. The railroad came in 1893.
- Notice that Chatsworth Park was bordered by Andora, the Mission Road (Rinaldi), Mason and DeSoto, Roscoe, and Fallbrook.



Homesteaders South of Plummer and north of Roscoe

Names and dates of arrival:

- **Francesca Domec 1854 (born)**
- ** Edwin Brown 1896
- ** Elizabeth Murray 1896
- **August Schweikhard 1897**
- ** John Coleman 1898
- **Charles Woolsey 1899**
- **Clyde Dayton 1902**
- ** Annie Gallow 1911
- ** William Henderson 1911
- ** John Cole 1912
- ** Monroe Groshong 1914 (purchase)
- ** Louisa Lee 1914 (purchase)
- ** Alva Fairchild 1914
- ** Henry Elliott 1916 (purchase)



** limited records and information on these people

August Schweikhard

- Katherine and August Schweikhard arrived in Chatsworth in 1897 or earlier. They had 4 children, Rosa, Emma, George and Stella.
- They homesteaded 37 acres at Valley Circle Blvd. just east of today's Chatsworth Lake Manor.
- In 1912 August and Katherine sold their homestead to the City of Los Angeles for the Chatsworth Reservoir and moved into town.



Today, the three acre Chatsworth Oaks Park, located at 9301 Valley Circle Blvd., is on the Schweikhard parcel. The DWP still owns all 37 acres.

August Schweikhard

- An article in our archives tells a fun and fascinating story about the Schweikhard family. It is a story told by August's son George, and reprinted from an article regarding "Misinformation that is Current in Southern California" by Don Meadows.
- In 1897, a drought caused the family to find extra forage for the stock. They noticed that the pigs liked the acorns under the oak trees, so August suggested that the horses would eat them too if the shells were broken. They tried it out and it worked just fine.
- Then Dad got the idea that a feeding basin of rock would work just fine for a feeding trough, so with a dull hatchet we cut out a nice big trough in the horse corral.
- We kids would gather up acorns in buckets and put them in the trough and mash them up for the stock.

A True Tale of Chatsworth

Jean Bruce Poole, Senior Curator at "El Pueblo State Park" received the following information from Robert Scherrer. It is in the Park at the northern end of Olvera St. that a stone trough was placed many years ago.

The bronze marker formerly read:
WATER TROUGH HEWN BY THE MISSION INDIANS IN THE YEAR EIGHTEEN HUNDRED AND TWENTY. PRESENTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND POWER OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES. 1930.
The true story is:

Some years ago historian Don Meadows published an article regarding "Misinformation that is Current in Southern California." This is what the article said:

"One night on the Colorado Desert while a group of week-end desert rats were gathered around a camp fire of mesquite roots the subject of Olvera Street in Los Angeles was mentioned, and George Schweikhard, who was born in San Fernando Valley more than seventy years ago, chuckled and said he had helped make that street picturesque. Of course, we wanted to know why, and he told the following yarn.

"When I was a kid of ten or twelve, it was in 1897 I think, the rains played one of their frequent tricks and only showed up in a casual sort of way. My father was raising stock in the San Fernando Valley, over on the west end where the Chatsworth reservoir now covers the ground, and we had a hard time to find forage for them. Dad took up a homestead out there in the late eighties. Well, we knew the pigs liked acorns because we would see them under the oak trees enjoying themselves, so Dad had the idea that the horses would eat them too if the shells were broken. We tried out the idea and it worked fine. Then Dad got the idea that a feeding basin of rock would be the easiest way to break up the acorns so we found a big hunk of sandstone--there's lots of it out there--and with a dull hatchet we cut out a nice big trough in the horse corral. We kids would gather up the acorns in buckets and put them in the trough and mash them up for the stock.

"In 1912 the City of Los Angeles bought our ranch for the site of the Chatsworth reservoir, and we all moved into town. Roy Tucker--that's my brother-in-law--was working for the City on the reservoir and one day a truck came up to the construction camp and the driver wanted to know where the old Indian watering trough was located. Roy didn't know anything about a watering trough but he did steer the crew to our old feed rock. The boys in the truck said that was what they were looking for, and with a lot of trouble they got the rock loaded to carry away. Roy asked what was going to be done with the rock, and they said they had orders to take it into town because it was of historical importance. Roy told them what the thing was, but they said it didn't make any difference, they had been told to get it, and that was all there was to it. Next thing any of us knew we saw our old feeding trough at the north end of Olvera Street with a sign on it saying it had been made by the Indians more than a hundred years ago. I've been called a lot of things, but never an Indian before. Of course, if people get a kick out of looking at the thing and thinking how wonderful the aborigines could work in stone, it's O.K. with me. I guess I did do a pretty good job on it, but maybe I ought to get some credit for the sweat I put out. You can't always believe in signs.

Back in civilization we went over to Olvera Street to see how good a job George had done. The trough was there all right, cut out of a yellow sandstone rock that weighed perhaps a couple of tons. George had nothing to be ashamed of, but the persons who were responsible for the fable in bronze should feel rather embarrassed when they learn the truth.

Today the bronze marker truthfully reads:
SANDSTONE TROUGH USED FOR FEEDING ACORNS TO LIVESTOCK, HEWN IN 1897, BY THE SCHWEIKHARD FAMILY ON THEIR SAN FERNANDO VALLEY RANCH. PRESENTED IN 1930 BY THE DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND POWER OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES.

August Schweikhard

- After 1912, when the City bought the ranch for the Reservoir, a truck came up to the ranch looking for the old Indian water trough. August's son-in-law, Roy, didn't know anything about a water trough, but he did steer the crew to the old feed rock. The boys in the truck said that was what they were looking for, and with a lot of trouble they got the rock loaded to carry away.
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August Schweikhard

- Today, the bronze marker reads:
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FOR FEEDING LIVESTOCK,
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SCHWEIKAND FAMILY ON
THEIR SAN FERNANDO VALLEY
RANCH. PRESENTED IN 1930
BY THE DEPARTMENT OF
WATER AND POWER OF THE
CITY OF LOS ANGELES.
- The sandstone trough still exists
today, at the north end of Olvera
Street.



August Schweikhard

- Today, the Department of Water owns the entire 37 acre parcel, and Chatsworth Oaks Park is on three of those acres.



Francesca Domec

- Francesca Domec, eldest daughter of Pierre Domec, was granted a 148 acre homestead in 1901 in what is now Chatsworth Lake Manor.
- There is a three part backstory to this homestead:
 - Francesca's mother, Maria Dolores, was the daughter of Odón Chihuya, a Chumash Native American who was a grantee of **Rancho El Escorpion**.
 - Francesca's father, **Pierre Domec**, an industrious 1844 French immigrant, was a cooper in 1850, a lime-burner in 1860, and a stock raiser in 1870.
 - Pierre Domec's **1865 homestead claim** for 160 acres conflicted with the final boundaries of Ex Mission de San Fernando in 1871. He built a second adobe on government land, which would become Francesca's eventual homestead.



Pierre Domec and wife Maria,
from the Leonis Adobe archives

Rancho El Escorpion

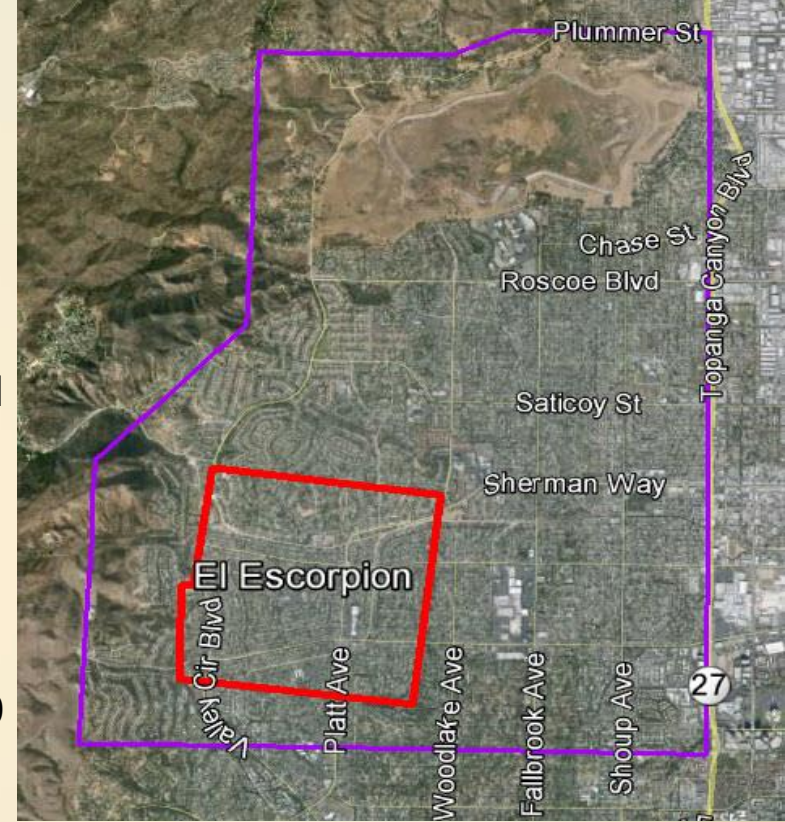
- In 1797, The San Fernando Mission is established. That same year, a Chumash Native American, **Odón Chihuya**, is born. He marries Eusabia, and they have four children. Two of their daughters, Maria Dolores and Espiritu, will marry two Frenchmen, Pierre Domec and Miguel Leonis.
- In 1836, Odón moves to Rancho El Escorpion property at the mouth of **Bell Canyon**, and the site of the Chumash village known as **Huwam**.
- In 1839, at the age of 42, Odón receives his Decree of Emancipation from the San Fernando Mission.
- By 1843, Urbano and Urbano's son Manuel join Odón at El Escorpion.



El Escorpion today is known as Castle Peak, located at Vanowen and Valley Circle Blvd, just south of Bell Canyon.
There is a 3 acre El Escorpion Park at the site.

Rancho El Escorpion

- In 1845, the three **Chumash** Native Americans, Odón, Urbano, and Manuel petition Governor Pio Pico for two leagues of land, close to 9,000 acres.
- In that year, Governor Pico makes the grant for one half of a square league. Juan Sepulveda, the Second Alcalde (mayor) of Los Angeles, surveys off a parcel that was actually only a quarter of a league (1,110 acres), even though it was ratified as half a square league. It was accepted by Odón and Urbano.
- Up to 1870, Odón and future partners of El Escorpion dispute the boundaries, occupying and using all 9,000 acres of land at various times.



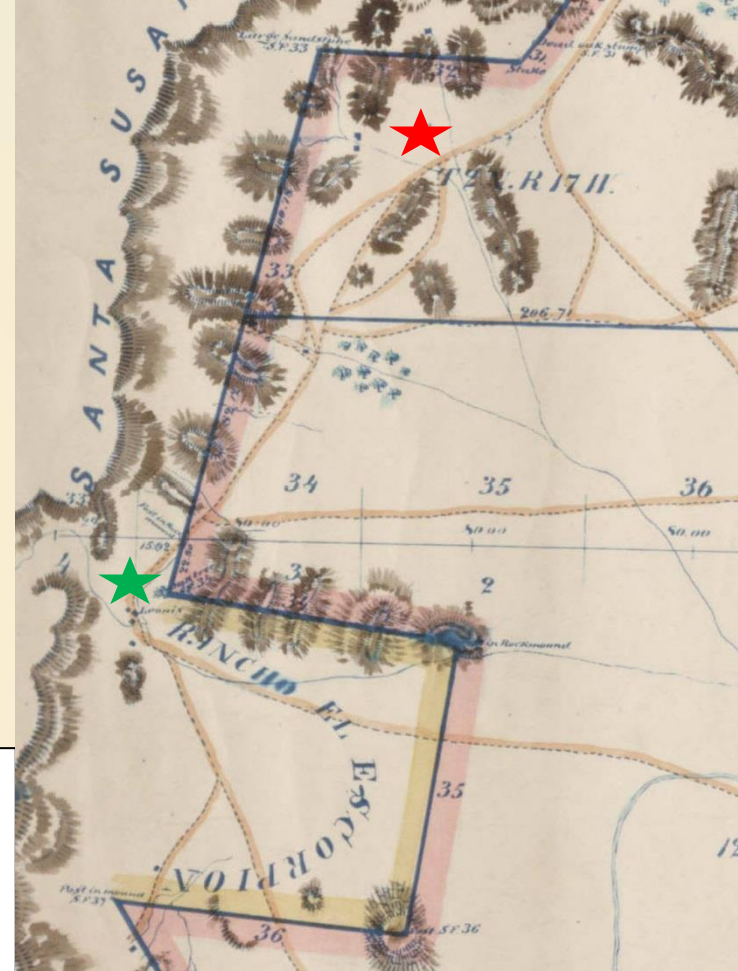
To the right, El Escorpion of 1,100 acres is outlined in red. The purple outline is representative of the 9,000 acres of land used by the grantees of El Escorpion, reaching north to include the Chatsworth Reservoir, and east to Topanga Canyon.

Rancho El Escorpion

- The area to the south was known as Escorpion Viejo. The area to the north was known as El Escorpion de las Salinas (salt marshes), later known as Chatsworth Reservoir/Nature Preserve.
- Chief Odón's daughters marry two Frenchmen.
 - By 1849 - Pierre Domec marries? Maria Dolores Odón, and lives north of El Escorpion in today's Chatsworth Nature Preserve. (red star)
 - 1859 - Miguel Leonis enters into a common-law marriage with Espiritu Odón and lives at El Escorpion ranch headquarters. (green star)

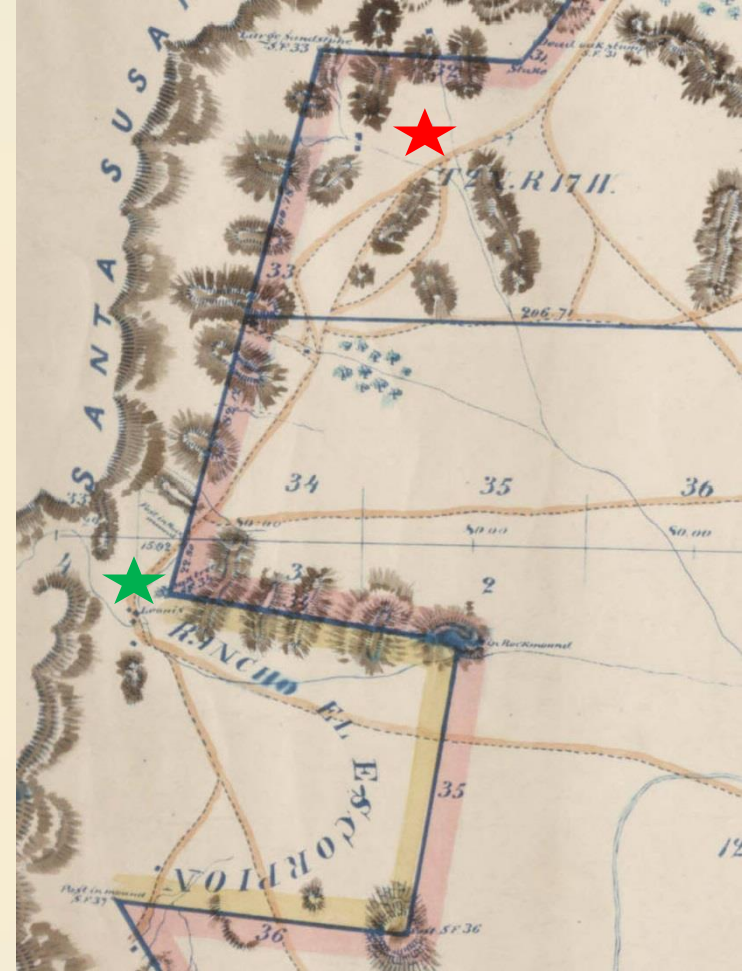
To the right is a portion of the 1871 Plat of the Ex Mission de San Fernando finally confirmed to Eulogio de Celis, courtesy of the Huntington Digital Library.

The horizontal line on the map was the 1869 dividing line of Ex Mission lands, later to become Roscoe Blvd.



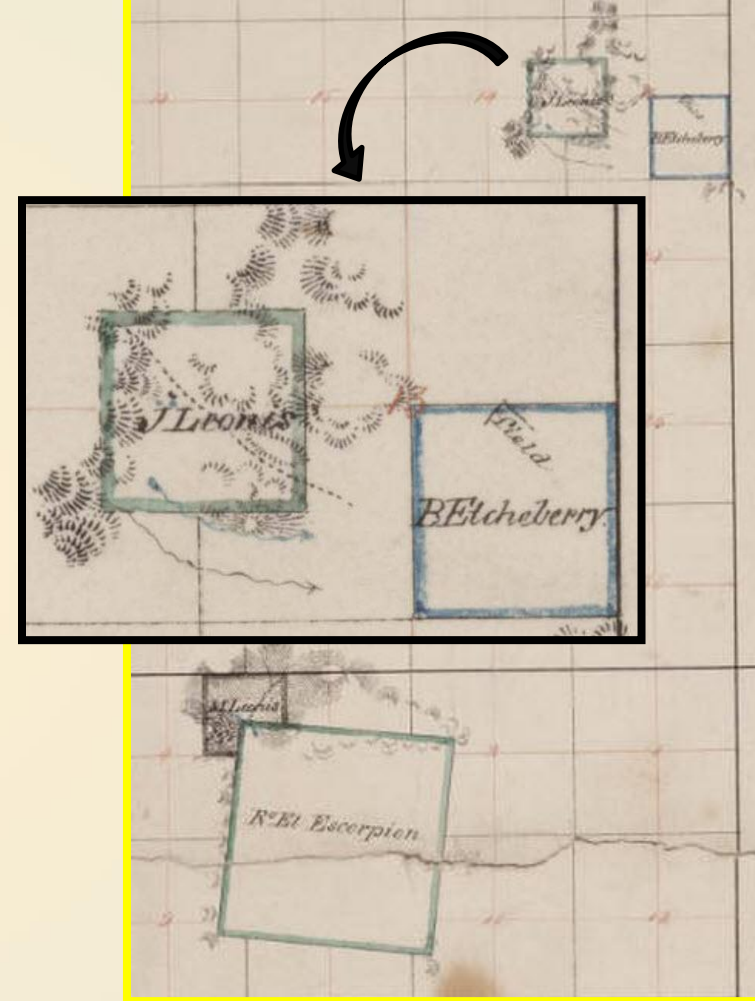
Rancho El Escorpion

- Pierre Domec arrives in Los Angeles in 1844 at the age of 24. He works as a cooper, and is in charge of the wine cellars of his compatriot Jean Louis Vignes.
 - By 1849, 29-year old Pierre has established a lime-burning operation at El Escorpion. More on Pierre Domec later.....
- Miguel Leonis was a Basque sheepherder born in the French Pyrenees, arrives in Los Angeles in 1854.
 - By 1859, 35-year old Miguel begins sheepherding operations at El Escorpion ranch headquarters. Miguel leases El Escorpion Viejo from Odón and Urbano for grazing and farming for 10 years at \$40 per year.
 - In 1880 Leonis moves to Calabasas where he becomes a wealthy rancher and land owner.



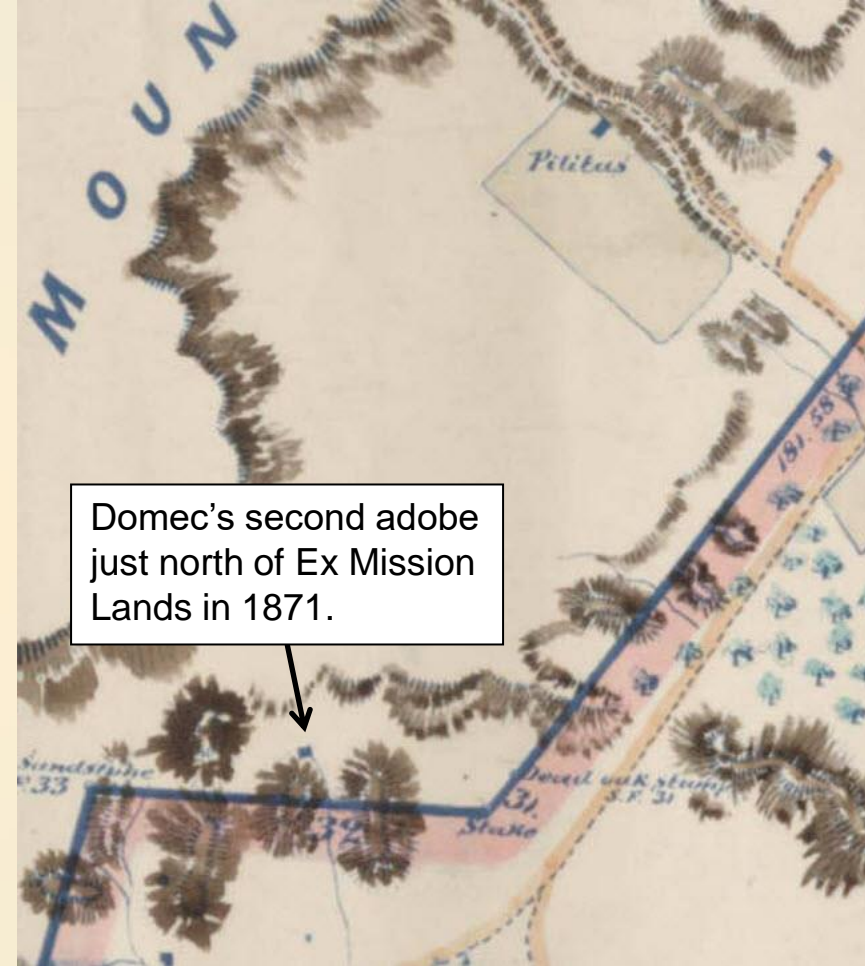
Las Pilitas

- Miguel Leonis was a sheepherder and an opportunistic man. In 1862, he surveyed two 160 acre parcels 4 miles north (as the crow flies) of his home in Bell Canyon, just 1 year after the Stagecoach Trail road was completed.
- The parcel marked J. Leonis (Juan, Miguel's brother) is historically significant. It included the old Indian landmark Las Pilitas (the Fountains), which would be a **natural place to make a trail going west over the Simi Hills to Simi Valley**. It once served as a sheep camp for Mission San Fernando.
- Juan Menendez, Miguel Leonis' stepson, stated in his 1917 interview with JP Harrington that he spent part of his childhood at Las Pilitas.



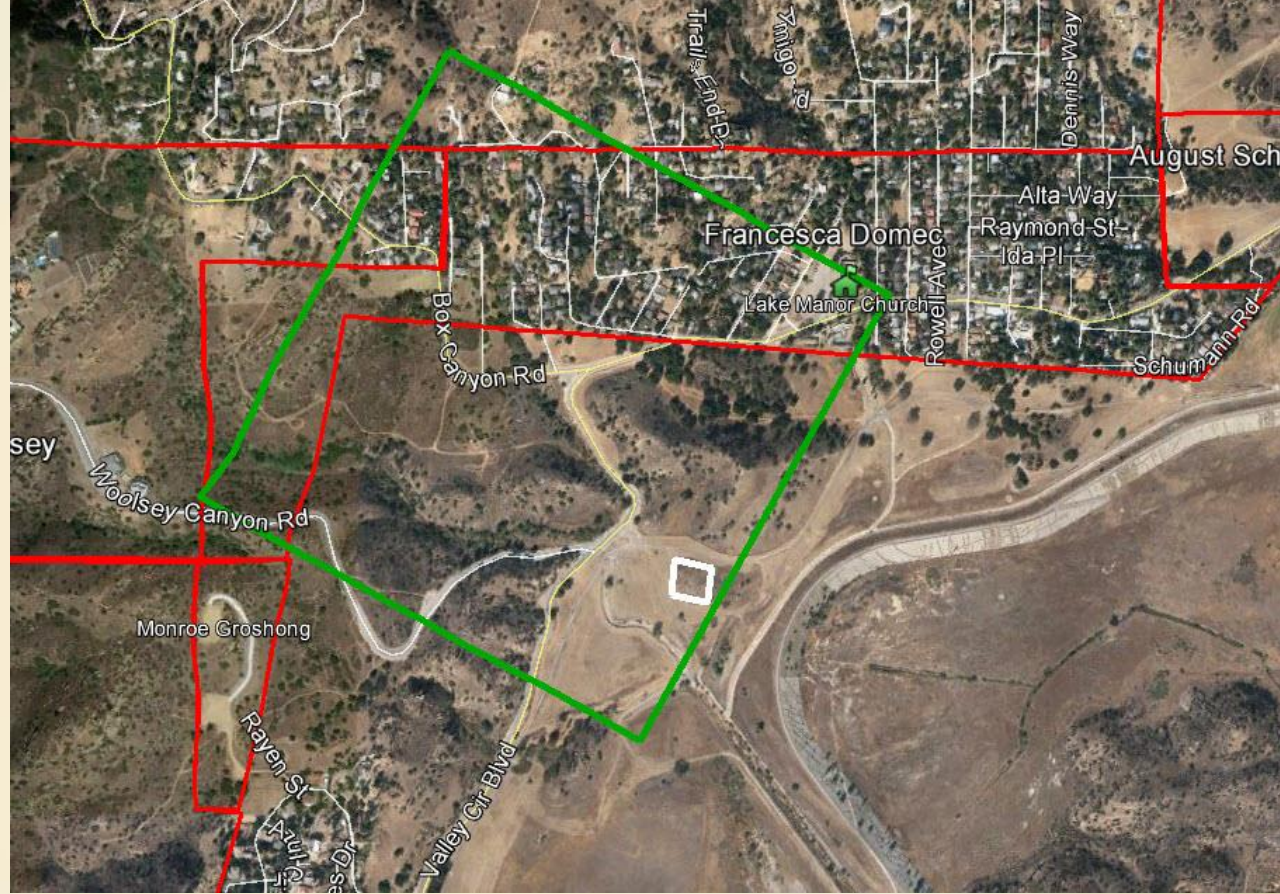
Las Pilitas

- The Pilitas area is identified to the right on the 1871 Plat of Ex Mission de San Fernando finally confirmed to Eulogio de Celis.
- Those fountains/springs became two cisterns that were a part of the 1861 stagecoach swing station, and were later expanded by Bannon in 1893 as a part of the Chatsworth Park Quarry.
- During the 1899-1904 Southern Pacific tunneling project to the Simi Valley, the aquifer that fed the wells and springs of the area was pierced, to the point that water needed to be trucked up to Box Canyon residents. Perhaps as a result, the springs at Las Pilitas are no longer active.
- The two cisterns still exist today in the Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park.



Pierre Domec

- The map at right puts in perspective where Pierre Domec lived from around 1854 to 1869.
- The red section is Chatsworth Lake Manor, and identifies Francesca Domec's 148 acre 1901 homestead.
- The green section is Pierre Domec's 160 acre 1861 parcel map. The white section is the Chatsworth Limekiln.



Pierre Domec

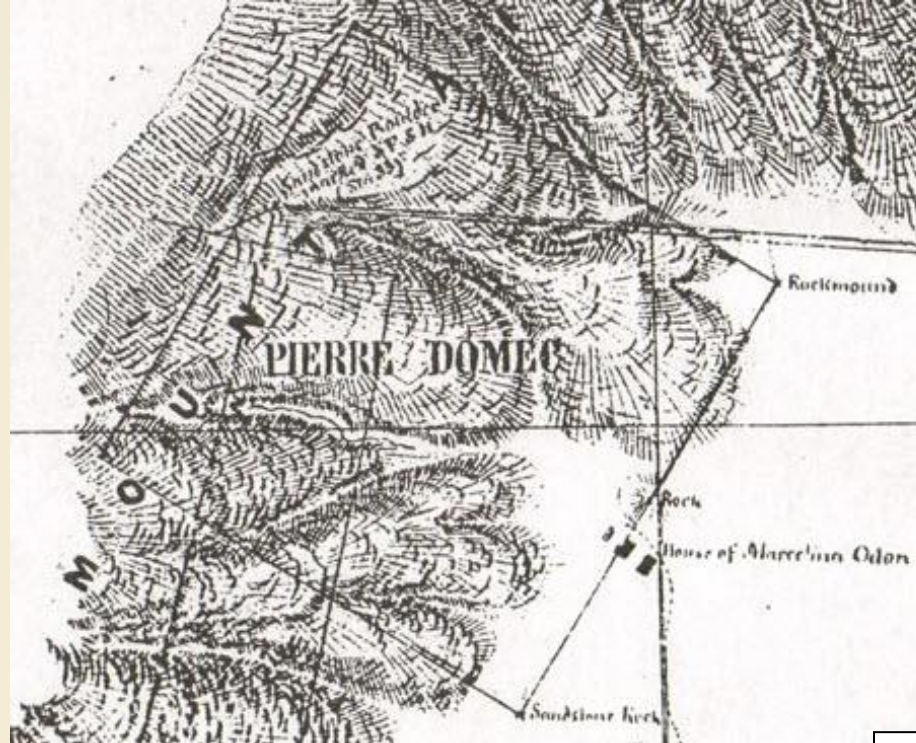
- Pierre Domec and other Frenchmen operated limekilns at El Escorpion. Lime had a ready market in Los Angeles, for mortar in brick construction, for the process of tanning cowhides, and in sanitation.
- In 1860, Domec's partner sued him for breach of contract. Leboubon had been Domec's partner for a full year, making lime. Domec refused to show the account books, and he gave no money to Leboubon. The jury awarded damages against Domec of \$2,250.
- Also in 1860 (and 1861, 2, 3 & 4), Andres Pico (who was managing Ex Mission lands for Eugenio de Celis) filed suit against Domec for rent of lands at \$300 per year.



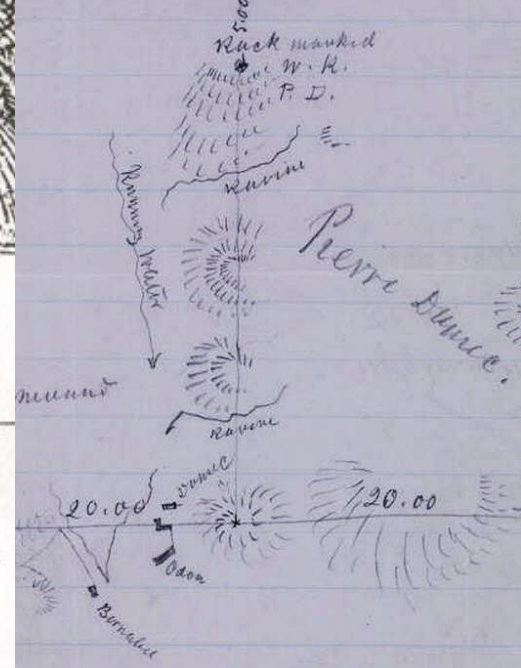
An 1861 sketch of a parcel map for Pierre Domec courtesy of the Huntington Library. The area is just south of Chatsworth Lake Manor and includes the limekiln near Woolsey Canyon.

Pierre Domec

- A formal survey of the parcel sketch was completed in 1865. It is rotated 45 degrees from the sketch to align to north/south.



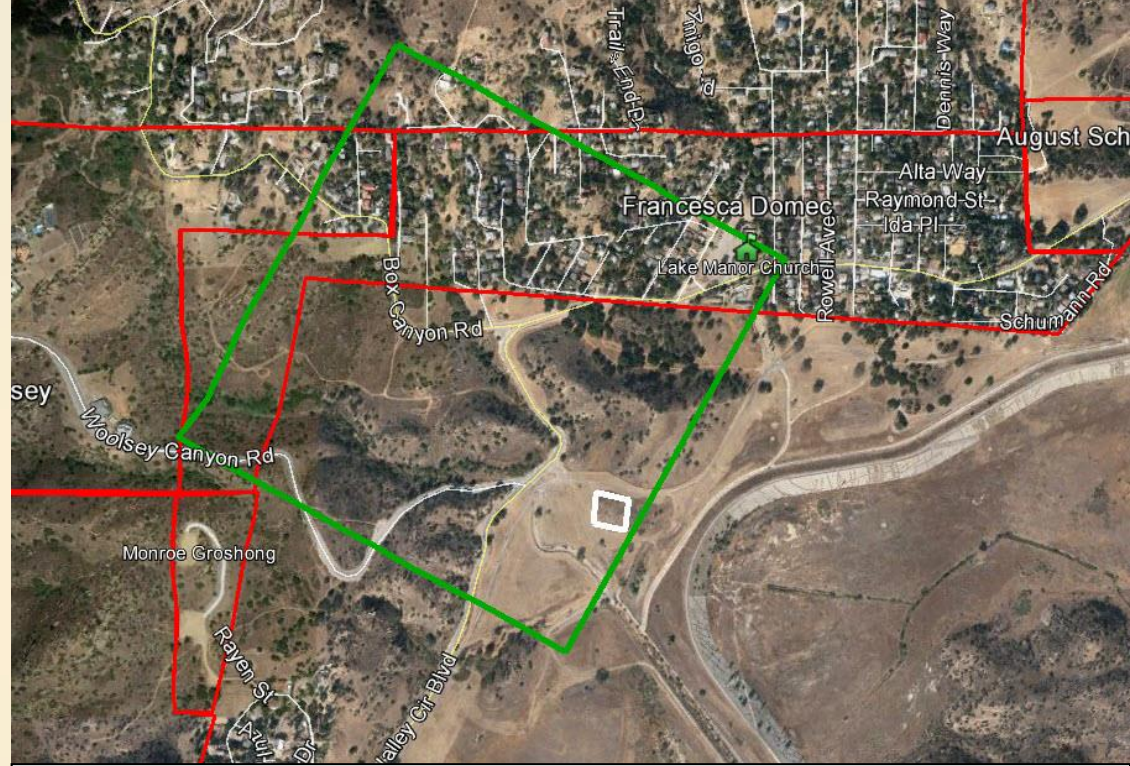
The above 1865 formal survey by Frank Lecouvreur, Deputy County Surveyor of Los Angeles County, was for 160 acres. Unfortunately, in 1871, much of it was determined to fall on Ex Mission San Fernando lands.



1861 sketch – notice Domec, Odón and Bernabel adobes. Marcelina Odón and Bernabel were Odón's children.

Pierre Domec

- When the 1871 Plat of the Ex Mission de San Fernando was published, the Domec, Odón and Bernabel adobes were not on the map.
- A new house/adobe was marked on the 1871 map, located on government land, to the west of the creek at the site of today's Chatsworth Lake Manor Church.
- It appears that Domec built a new adobe by 1871 on government land.



The green lines mark Domec's 1861/65 parcel. The white lines mark the limekiln. The portion of the green parcel southeast of the red lines was on Rancho Ex Mission lands.

Pierre Domec Adobe

- This 1935 photo from the Autry museum is identified as a photograph of the ruins of “Pierre Domec Adobe, Chatsworth Lake.”
- We are not certain of the exact location of this adobe, but it may be one of several that were near the limekiln, identified on his 1861 sketch map.



Pierre Domec Adobe

- Pierre Domec's second adobe, from the Los Angeles Public Library archives identified as taken in 1959.
- Skyline rock features of the 1959 and 2014 photos identify the adobe location very near today's Chatsworth Lake Manor church.

Top photo taken 1959.

Bottom photo taken 2014, standing in the vacant lot to the west of Chatsworth Lake Manor Church, looking north.



Pierre Domec Limekiln

The limekiln can be seen today looking east at the intersection of Woolsey Canyon and Valley Circle.



2014 photo of Limekiln, known as Chatsworth Calera Site, designated in 1975 as *L.A. Historic Cultural Monument 141*

Pierre Domec Obituary

Excerpts from a Google translation of a January 1883 article in L'Union Nouvelle, organe de la population française du sud de la Californie)

- M. Pierre Domec, who died last Monday at the age of 63 was a pioneer of Los Angeles when he arrived in 1844. He was soon given the direction of the cellars of his compatriot Jean Louis Vignes.
- Later he created lime furnaces and in 1863 he was appointed director of the liquidation of Don Abel Stearns, a position he held three years.
- Then he conceived a project to ship a convoy of 3,500 horses across the Rocky Mountains to Omaha where they were sold to the army of the United States. He then went to Texas where he bought 4,000 cattle to take back to California. His return was disastrous; he struggled against Indians and drought across unknown lands and deserts. In short, he lost in this campaign most of his fortune.
- Since that time P. Domec could not recover from this disaster and he succumbs to both moral and physical sufferings, but he is remembered as one of France's most enterprising citizens of this country.

PIERRE DOMECC

M. Pierre Domec, qui est décédé lundi dernier, à l'âge de 63 ans était un pionnier de Los Angeles. où il était arrivé en 1844. Venu de la contrée qui produit les fameux vins de Graves et tonnelier de profession il ne tarda à avoir la direction des caves de son compatriote Jean Louis Vignes à l'instigation duquel du reste il avait immigré ici. Plus tard il créa des fourneaux à chaux et en 1863 il était nommé administrateur de la liquidation de Don Abel Stearns, poste qu'il occupa trois années à la suite desquelles l'ordre était rétabli dans les affaires de ce marchand millionnaire. Après la mort de ce dernier, la fortune de Pierre Domec pouvait être estimée à près de \$100,000. C'est alors qu'il conçut le projet de son expédition aux Etats-Unis. Avec un convoi de 3,500 chevaux

Francesca Domec

- Pierre died in 1883, and his wife Maria Dolores died in 1884.
- Francesca and her sister Celedonia never married. The daughters filed a homestead claim in 1896, and in 1901, Francesca received the 148 acre homestead.
- By 1880, their younger sister Maria Antonia Domec had married Francisco Moore and they had a daughter Marie Irene Moore born in 1882.
- In the 1940 Chatsworth census, Marie Moore is living with her son Henry Acosta (20) at 23144 Smith Road in Chatsworth Lake Manor.
- In 1952 Henry dies, leaving a wife Frances and two children John (12) and Yolanda (2).
- A 1952 newspaper article has John Acosta in the 6th grade at Chatsworth Elementary and active in the Scout Pack from Chatsworth Lake.



Francesca (31?) and Celedonia (24?), 1885?
Leonis Adobe, unidentified pictures,
Domec Trunk collection

Francesca Domec

- By 1927, the P.D. Estate Company was formed, with shares distributed to sisters Francesca and Caledonia and their niece Maria Moore.
- Cabin sites were sold in the 20's and 30's, giving rise to the Chatsworth Lake Manor that we know today.

Cabin Sites

Chatsworth Lake View Place
"SKI-HI"
Chatsworth Highland Springs
CABIN and CLUB SITES
Total Cost \$25.00—\$35.00—\$50.00
WALTER G. BROOKS
 REALTOR
 Office: 60 Market St. Office Phone 65277
 Res: 1227 Alexandria Way VENICE, CAL. Phone: 63518 Venice

Handed to you by: **W. J. GARDNER**
 Phone: **TRACT MANAGER AND SALESMAN**
WE NEED A FEW MORE SALESMEN

Take the Family Up
"Where it's always cool"

Let them spend a day among the live oaks—big rocks, sloping mountains—dark canyons. Let them rest in the always cool mountain breezes.

CHATSWORTH LAKE VIEW PLACE
and
CHATSWORTH HIGHLAND SPRINGS

A 25x70 foot Cabin Site in this beautiful mountain tract with free water piped to the streets—a clear deed—a good title—a good view of the lake and valley is but Twenty-five Dollars.

Take your arrangements to go up before the best is picked, and see or yourself before buying. Just let the office know when you can go and some one will meet you on the property, or go up with you. It costs you nothing to investigate and very little if you purchase

Be Sure And Come Up Sunday
 Salesman on Tract Daily

BUY NOW, AHEAD OF DEVELOPMENT!

Come Up Early
 Plenty of Ice Cold Spring Water

Bring Your Lunch Stay All Day

A Natural, Beautiful Playground That You Will Enjoy

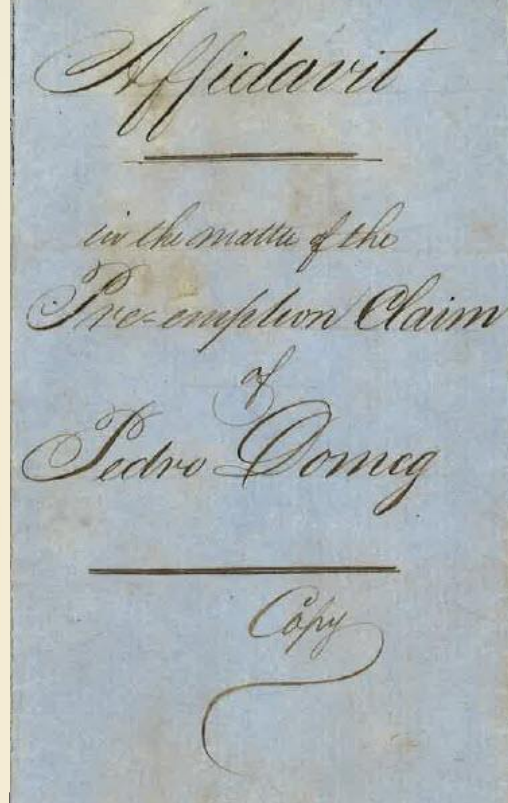
Pierre Domec Trunk Story

The Story below as remembered by Rayborn (Ray) Phillips, past president of the Leonis Adobe Association.

Around 1980, an antique dealer was driving down Melrose Ave. in Los Angeles and saw some old trunks sitting by the curb waiting for trash disposal; recognized them as mid-19th century Chinese painted trunks so popular in early California and “rescued” them. Apparently the last owner had died.

The dealer found them full of items relating to the Pierre Domec family; toys, books, photographs, documents, letters, etc. A man connected with our Adobe heard about them and recognized the fact that the Domec family was related to the Leonis family. He told me about them, and I obtained the trunks and almost everything except the toys, which he had sold off.

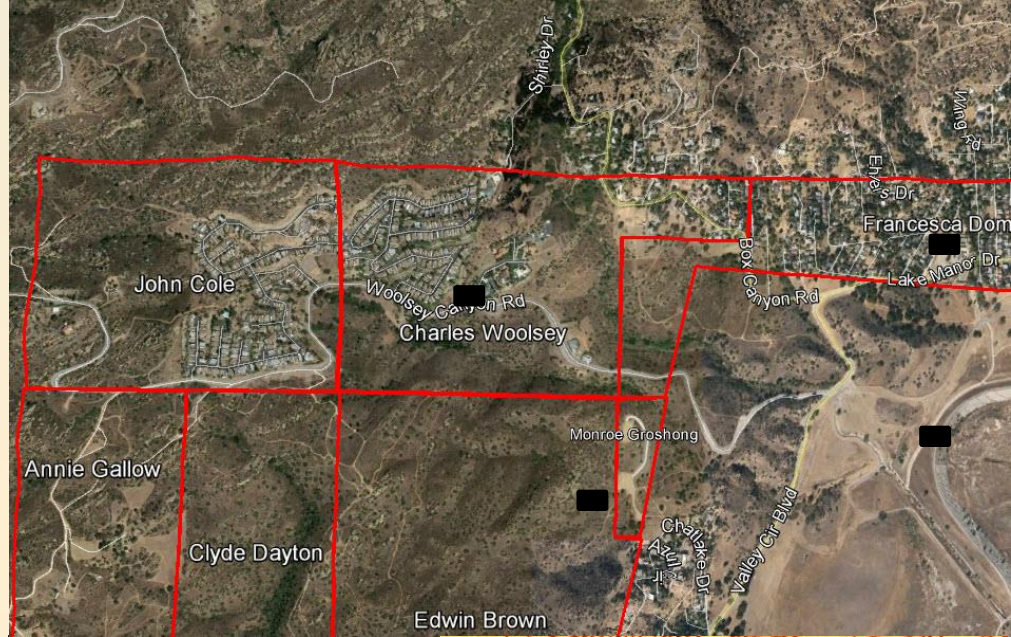
Ray paid just \$1,000 for the three trunks and their contents.



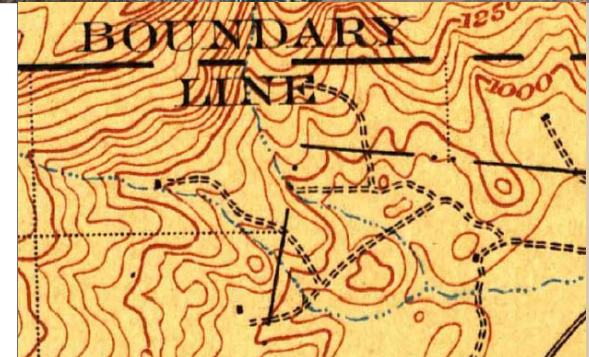
An 1855 Pre-emption claim, from the Domec Trunk Collection

Charles Woolsey

- Charles and Cora Woolsey recorded their homestead in 1904, but were not on the 1900 census. They were 35 and 34 years old in 1904, and never had children.
- Their house was north of the Woolsey Canyon creek near today's Rocky Mesa Place Road, just east of Mountain View Estates Mobile Home Park.
- In the 1910 Chatsworth census Charles is listed as a farmer, and their neighbor is Henry Egliston.
- By 1920, they have moved to La Crescenta. The 1930 census has them still in La Crescenta as chicken ranchers with partner Henry Egliston.



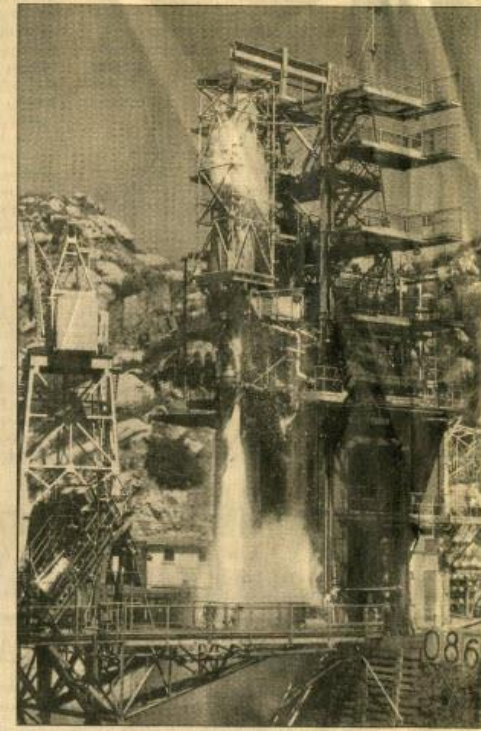
The black rectangles above identify houses on the 1903 topo map to the right. Domec, Woolsey, Brown, and the old Domec adobe behind the limekiln.



Charles Woolsey

Woolsey Canyon is the gateway to Burro Flats

- Prehistory – Chumash Rock Art
- 1937-54 – Movie set
- Mid-50's – Rocketdyne tests rocket engines and power systems.



A Rocketdyne test stand from the 1950s.

Clyde Dayton

- 1903 – Clyde Dayton homesteads 59 acres on the south edge of Dayton Canyon. He has 350 hives of bees, a bee house & apiary.
- 1905 – His wife Katie dies of tuberculosis.
- 1908 – Clyde Dayton is granted his patent on 59 acres. In the same year he purchases 80 acres “mostly valuable for stone building purposes” north near Woolsey Canyon.
- 1909 – Clyde marries Lulu Adkisson, also a Seventh Day Adventist. Clyde would write a weekly paper on health, and ads for his “red ripe” honey.



The Google Earth map above shows the two Dayton parcels. The 1903 topo insert below shows only one house (red circle) on Coleman property in Dayton Canyon.

Clyde Dayton

- “A familiar site in the early days was the Red Ripe Honey Man trundling his wheelbarrow through the town as he sold his honey and doubtless advised the residents on the proper foods to eat.”
- “Published in the 1917 Owensmouth Gazette, HOW HONEY HEALS “there is not any kind of food that is nutritious if it is white, unless it is combined by its molecules with red or green.” His theory was that vegetables, red honey and fruits were good for digestion.”
- “This prophet of health, C.W. Dayton, lived reclusively with his wife in the hills west of town, was regarded dubiously by some of the settlers, and came to a violent end”.

Excerpts above from Catherine Mulholland's
The Owensmouth Baby, pages 160 and 161)



Clyde Dayton

Clyde Dayton

- On April 17th, 1922, *Los Angeles Times* - **Charred Bodies of Two Found** – Double Murder or Murder and Suicide in Grim Cabin Ruins? – Visitors to Secluded Spot Stumble on Remains of Man and Wife
- Clyde was 60 and Lulu was 52 at the time of their deaths on April 12th. It was reported that Clyde was a miser and an eccentric, worth \$50,000, and had a large sum of money in his possession.
- A thick blanket of white ashes six inches deep over a square 10 by 12 feet, and a few bones and ribs were the only thing that remained from the inside of the corrugated tin shack.
- Persons who visited the place say that it was full of magazines and literature printed by the old hermit on a printing press operated by him in another building.

Clyde Dayton

- **Was it a Murder and Suicide?**
 - A Mrs. Thompson gave deputies a letter received from Lulu where she expressed fears for her life. Another witness said that Lulu had told him that Clyde was talking to himself, declaring: "I don't know what I am going to do with that woman unless I kill her."
 - Deputy sheriffs said that Dayton was evidently insane, his actions were unusual, and he lived mainly on red honey, cactus and green vegetables.
 - Witnesses said that the disagreement between Clyde and Lulu was a difference of opinion as to the division of property and the need for a new and more comfortable home. They had lived in a 10 by 12 foot corrugated metal shack for 13 years.

Clyde Dayton

- **Or was it a Double Murder?**

- Evidence indicates that gasoline or coal oil must have been spread about the cabin because of the intense heat.
- A blood bespattered trail, an empty five-gallon oil can, the remains of several pieces of firearms, and failure to find all valuables were additional clues.
- Half the community speculated that Dayton's neighbor, rancher Lon Gates, the son of Calabasas Constable William Gates, might have killed the couple for money or even revenge.

- 8 days after the deaths, the Ventura Daily Post reported: "The investigating officers concluded that Dayton killed his wife and then committed suicide, a comfortable theory always for the investigators in as much as it does away with the necessity for looking for the slayer"

Plummer Street was named for Juan (John) Plummer, who owned property in the San Fernando Valley, just west of San Fernando.

- Juan's father, Captain John Cornelius Plummer and his wife Dona Maria Cecelia Plummer had two sons, Juan (John) and Eugenio (Eugene).
- In 1874 they purchased 160 acres in Hollywood at Sunset and La Brea, and built a ranch house.
- Youngest son Eugenio was quite a storyteller, and in 1942 wrote the book, "**Señor Plummer**", one year before his death at age 91.
- In 1983 the Plummer Ranch House, State Historical Landmark No. 160, was moved to the grounds of the Leonis Adobe in Calabasas.



Eugene Plummer, age 90 (with hat)

Sources/Acknowledgements

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