

Nevada Centennial Families 2004

PINSON RANCH

GOLCONDA, HUMBOLDT COUNTY

The Pinson Family has been associated with Humboldt County since at least 1875. In 1884, after working for a time as a miner, Paul Armand Pinson purchased a tract of land along the Humboldt River at Golconda and established one of the region's earliest ranches. The ranch that he and his wife, Mary J. Pinson, founded is still being worked today by his granddaughter, Jo Hibbs Christison, and by her family. In addition, several of its buildings date back to the nineteenth century, including the ranch house, which the family believes was constructed in 1884.

STEWART'S NINETY-SIX RANCH

PARADISE VALLEY, HUMBOLDT COUNTY

Fredrick William Stock emigrated from Germany to the United States in 1853. He settled in Ohio and learned the cooper's trade. A few years later, he was lured to California by legends of its wealth. After mining for a time, he became a freighter and hauled supplies to Silver City, Idaho. While making one of these trips, he traveled through Paradise Valley. In 1864, he returned to the region and homesteaded a section of ground on Martin Creek. From these humble beginnings, he developed one of Humboldt County's premier ranches. Today, Stock's operation is called the Ninety-Six Ranch, and it is still worked by members of his family: Leslie Stewart, his grandson; Leslie's wife, Marie; their son, Fred; and Fred's family.

CAPURRO-DURKEE RANCH

RENO, WASHOE COUNTY

B. L. Capurro, an Italian immigrant, founded the Durkee-Capurro Ranch in Washoe County in 1890. The ranch consisted of about 4,000 acres, and it originally functioned as a cattle operation. The Capurro Family also raised alfalfa hay on the ranch, and they operated a dairy. The family's land is owned and managed today by Marion Capurro Durkee, B. L. Capurro's granddaughter.

CALCUTTA RANCH

VYA, WASHOE COUNTY

George Birt Hapgood was born in Vermont in 1856, and he established the Calcutta Ranch in northern Washoe County in 1885. Over the years, the cattle operation passed first to his son, Jesse, and then, to his grandson, Hillard. Today the two-hundred head cattle operation is owned and managed by Hillard's widow, Norma Hapgood, and by Hillard and Norma's daughter, Bonnie Erquiaga.

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ANDERSEN HOME RANCH

CARSON CITY

Hans Marcus Andersen and Christina Andersen were of Danish descent. They established the Andersen Home Ranch in King's Canyon in the 1880s. Located just a short distance away from Nevada's capitol, the two-hundred-and-fifty head cattle operation is owned and managed today by Andersen Family Associates.

HEINZ RANCH

RENO, WASHOE COUNTY

Frank Heinz emigrated from Germany to the United States in 1865. He established the Heinz Ranch in Washoe County in 1885, and, working with his wife, Wilhelmina, he turned it into a profitable cow-and-calf operation. Located north of Reno along Highway 395, the ranch is still run today as a cattle operation, and it is still owned by the third and fourth generations of the Heinz Family. It is operated by Frank Heinz's great-grandson, Dennis Charley, and by his wife, Vicky. During roundups, brandings, and other labor-intensive tasks, the Charleys are assisted by their entire, extended family.

MACK LAND AND CATTLE

MINDEN, DOUGLAS COUNTY

During the 1860s, H. H. Springmeyer emigrated with his wife Wilamena from Germany and settled in the Carson Valley. They had ten children, each of whom he helped with a ranch of their own, but the Mack Ranch is the last one in the area remaining in the Springmeyer Family. His daughter Clare Mack and her husband Maurice acquired the ranch. Interestingly, the wrought-iron fence surrounding the yard was obtained by H. H. from the Carson City Mint after the mint ended operation. Over its lifetime, the ranch has produced onions, garlic, potatoes, Timothy hay, alfalfa, Shire horses, Angus and Hereford cattle. Many of the historic structures on the ranch were built approximately between 1870 and 1890.

HENNINGSEN FAMILY RANCH

GARDNERVILLE, DOUGLAS COUNTY

Carsten Henningsen came to Carson Valley from his native Denmark in the 1870s. After working on various ranches in the area using his carpentry skills, he was able to purchase 500 acres of his own in 1878. This was the beginning of a very successful dairy business. In 1893, he joined with other Carson Valley dairy farmers to create the Douglas County Creamery. Wagons used to line up for a ¼ mile waiting to unload their milk at the Douglas County Creamery, until the V & T Railroad came

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to Minden in 1914, and the Minden Butter Mfg. Creamery sprung into existence, quickly overtaking the dairy market. The Henningsen Ranch was divided between Carsten's two sons, Clarence and George. Clarence, and then his son John operated a dairy business there until 1992, almost 100 years after the founding of the Douglas County Creamery. Today, it is operated by John's daughter, Caroline, and her husband, Don Frensdorff, as a cattle and hay ranch. Several historic structures remain at the property, including a brick pump house.

HUSSMAN LAND AND LIVESTOCK

GARDNERVILLE, DOUGLAS COUNTY

German immigrant William Hussman arrived in this country in 1869, making his way to Nevada soon after. In 1872, he bought a ranch in Douglas County's Carson Valley, allowing his young wife, Johanna Heitman, to emigrate from Germany to join him in 1873. After the birth of two children, William was tragically killed while felling a tree, so the ranch was patented under Johanna's name. Johanna remarried to William's brother Fred and they had seven more children together. Originally, beef, lamb, potatoes, apples, and corn were raised at the Hussman ranch. Today, the ranch focuses on cattle operations.

SCOSSA RANCH

GARDNERVILLE, DOUGLAS COUNTY

Born in 1841 in Switzerland, Alexander Scossa emigrated to Nevada in 1872. Along with his brothers, Alex purchased over 300 acres in Carson Valley. The ranch was increased to its current size, when Eugene Scossa, Sr. purchased an adjoining 180 acres in 1916, and then another 158 acres in 1945. The Scossa Family also maintains 120 acres of land in the Sierra Nevada high country in California, for summer grazing. The main products of the ranch have always been cattle and hay. Today, Alexander's great grandson Russell heads the Scossa Ranch. The Scossa Ranch has multiple structures that are over 50 years old and have been minimally modified.

CUSHMAN-CORKILL RANCH

FALLON, CHURCHILL COUNTY

Josiah J. Cushman was born in Maine and emigrated west with his parents first to Ohio, then Illinois and Iowa. J.J. then made his own way to California in 1859, at the age of 21. He then migrated to Carson City, and the following year (1860), purchased the 1,700-acre ranch on the Carson Sink, settling for good in what is now known as Fallon. Cushman was known for his high-quality cattle and a "fine bearing orchard," and eventually served as the County Clerk, 1872-1874. After the Newlands Reclamation Project of 1904, production of alfalfa, corn, potatoes, sudan, and small grains was made possible by irrigation. The Cushman-Corkill Ranch still has one of Nevada's rare subterranean, brush and mud-roofed potato cellars.

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PRUNTY FAMILY RANCH

MOUNTAIN CITY, ELKO COUNTY

Known for their horse breeding skills in their native Virginias, the Pruntys moved west during the Civil War. Pinkard R. Prunty arrived in Nevada in **1894**, settling in Charleston Valley with his wife, Caroline, and their five children. Beginning in the area's lumber industry, Prunty raised cattle, sheep, and of course, horses, as well as working the Charleston Mine until his death in 1938. The next generations of Pruntys were renowned for their love of horses as well. Pinkard's grandson Earl, who took over the ranch in 1916, once said that he only raised cattle to support his horses. Currently the ranch is run by the heirs of Pinkard's great-grandson, who produce Black Angus cattle, Quarter horses and pintos.

OVERLAND LAND AND LIVESTOCK

RUBY VALLEY, ELKO COUNTY

Born to American parents in Indiana, Leonard Wines moved to Nevada in 1860 and to Elko County in 1863. Wines was a superintendent of the Overland Stage Company, developed the Overland Co. Ranch to supply the freight line, and became a partner in the Elko-Cope express freight company and the Elko-Hamilton line. Len Wines is cited as selecting the original Elko townsite as a proposed station for the Central Pacific Railroad. He and his brother Ira purchased the Overland Ranch in **1873**—they raised wheat for flour to ship to Fort Ruby and Eureka. Today, the bottom half of the stage station hotel and portions of the flour mill remain at the Overland Land and Livestock Ranch. Len's great-nephew Gary Wines and his wife Candace, along with Gary's parents Leonard and Ruth, presently operate the Overland Ranch, raising cattle.

BUCKLE D RANCH

RUBY VALLEY, ELKO COUNTY

Ira D. Wines purchase this ranch in **1889** from Col. Moore, who was a Civil War veteran posted as commander at Fort Ruby. Wines was reportedly a Pony Express rider during its short life; later he was a driver for the Overland Stage Company. Ira then settled in Ruby Valley, operated a ranch, a general store, and with his brother Len, a freight company and flour mill for freighting. Today, the ranch is approximately 4200 acres, where Ira's great-great grandson Ira J. and his wife, Micki, grow native hay and run 325 head of cattle. Several historic structures remain at the Buckle D Ranch, including a native stone barn and a two-story brick house with Italianate features.

DALTON RANCH

CLOVER VALLEY, ELKO COUNTY

The Bradish Family arrived in Clover Valley in 1876, homesteading the land adjacent to the present Dalton Ranch. Melinda Bradish Winchell married her third husband, Dillon Roberts, in **1892**, the

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same year he purchased the Dalton Ranch. Two of Melinda's four offspring, James H. Bradish and Frank Winchell Sr., took over the family ranch in 1912. In 1927, James and his wife Ella moved into the two-story brick house, the second residence built at the ranch (the first wooden-frame house burned in a fire prior to 1902). This brick house was also destroyed by fire, in 1954. James and Ella's daughter Joanne Bradish married Vernon Dalton and they obtained the ranch in 1955. Currently, the Dalton Ranch operates as a cow-calf enterprise, utilizing a method that results in a low mortality rate during calving. Recently, the Dalton Ranch has been expanded to include two alfalfa farms and more grazing land so that a quadrupled herd size has resulted. The ranch still has several historic structures, including an elaborate Victorian-style outhouse.

GLASER LAND AND LIVESTOCK

HALLECK, ELKO COUNTY

Mattias Glaser emigrated from Heidelberg out west during the Gold Rush days in the mid-nineteenth century, and realized early on that freighting was a very lucrative business. After the opening of the Central Pacific Railroad in northern Nevada in 1869, Matt Glaser returned to a place he remembered from his journey west near the junction of the North Fork and Humboldt rivers. The current Glaser Land and Livestock Ranch is based on land that Matt purchased from the Central Pacific Railroad in 1883, but he purchased land through various avenues: purchasing state lands through contracts, purchase outright from the railroad, purchase of land deed and title, and acquisition of other individual contract interests. Matt Glaser was so busy with acquiring land that he didn't have any children until after the age of 60! Matthias' great grandchildren and great-great grandchildren operate the ranch today. The ranch has several historic structures, including a meat house, and barns made from railroad ties.