

THE ALPINE SUN SHOPPER – March 4, 2010
Tattered Tidbits: Alpine Historical Society

SOME OF ALPINE'S PIONEER FAMILIES

Captain Adam A. Beaty came from Fort Gibson, Arkansas. He fought in the Mexican War. That is why they called him Captain.

During the war he became partially blind in his right eye. He and his wife, Caroline came to Alpine in 1869. They homesteaded 160 acres of land at Rancho del Sequan located off Tavern Road.

He had heard about John Harbison's bees and was interested in becoming a beekeeper. He bought 170 hives and made a small income from the honey. In 1890 a fire destroyed all of his hives.

After the fire he planted an olive orchard. You can still find some of those olive trees today in the neighborhoods around Balentine Drive and Camino del Sequan.

Capt. Beaty built a two story house in 1899. It was located next to the old Tavern Road. To find the "old" Tavern Road take Tavern Road south from Alpine Boulevard, turn left on Balentine Drive and go about 440 feet. You will see two eucalyptus trees. Look left — the old Tavern Road ran along the left side of those trees. The Beaty house was located about 400 feet north of those trees.

Although he and his wife never had children Capt. Beaty served on the school board in 1888. By then Alpine had a school house, post office, general store and a blacksmith shop. It was on its way to becoming an established town.

In 1997, new homes were going to be built where the Beaty house was located. Local residents and developer, Ted and Donna Christensen, saved the Beaty house from being torn down. They knew the house was historic, so they gave it to the Alpine Historical Society. They also paid for the house to be moved on to the museum property site. Today it is one of the museum buildings located at 2116 Tavern Road. Have you visited the museum yet?

Nick and Lucy Overmier settled in what is now downtown Alpine in 1872. He took over maintenance of the toll road with his eight-mule team. The first Alpine store, post office and stage station was built at the edge of their ranch.

According to Albert Simonson, *"The site of Alpine's first house is located behind the present post office (Arnold Way and Olivewood Lane.) It was built by Texan Joe Harden in 1871. The house is no longer there but if you would like to find the location, do this. Pace off 420 feet from Arnold Way along the fence line between the post office and next to the apartment complex. Where you end up is close to where the house stood."*

Edward Alanson Foss lived in Massachusetts. He also heard about how successful John Harbison was with his bee hives. It sounded like something he would like to do so he headed west with his wife and their two young sons. They arrived in Alpine in February 1875.

He took over a bee farm from a man that was tired of raising bees. They purchased "Tule Springs" from Adam Beaty who had squatter's rights to the property. He paid him \$1200 for 160 acres. They moved into an old cabin that was on the property. The Tule Springs sign is still located on the corner of Foss Road and South Grade.

Within 12 years the Foss family owned 240 acres. Foss Road and many streets in Alpine are named after the pioneers who settled in Alpine.

By Carlette Anderson