



## **Ashland Creek Ranch – Ownership and Area History**

Back in 1848, the Doe family ran a millworks operation in the Northeast and sent a shipload of doors and windows out to San Francisco. No payment ever arrived for the shipment so one of the sons (Bartlett Doe) was dispatched to see what happened. Three months sailing later he arrives to find the ship rafted up next to hundreds of others, abandoned in the bay with all the cargo onboard and no sign of the crew.

He heads upcountry to find his men, and in the process of dragging them away from the diggings sees all the timber up in the Sierras and asks why are they shipping wood products from the Atlantic coast?! Two of his brothers join him in California, and by the turn of the century the town of Caldor is up and running and processing 60,000 board feet of lumber a day from the tens of thousands of acres of forest land they bought. Just about every door, window, and piece of molding in old San Francisco came out of that mill and was built by the California Door Company in Oakland.

By the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, it was no longer possible for family to use the company lands around Caldor. They looked for something familiar, but just a little closer to the new commercial center of the family – fruit farming in the Sacramento River Delta. So, in the mid 60's the owner's Grandparents bought 600+ contiguous acres in the Volcano/Pioneer area. A cabin was built on the western portion near Sutter Creek, and the land used for timber, grazing, and recreation - but the Eastern parcel containing a big chunk of the Ashland Creek canyon remained undeveloped except for a few necessary logging roads. Occasional logging, hunting and not much else happened on that land over the next few decades.

In 1994, both ranches were placed in the first conservation easement ever supervised by the Amador (now "Mother Lode") land trust. This made sure that her Grandfather's vision of minimally developed, forestry, agricultural and recreational land was retained in perpetuity, and property taxes remained affordable.

In the early 2000's, some forestry thinning and pine planting operations were conducted on both sides of Ashland Creek, and a road easement off Alicia Drive negotiated with the neighbors. In 2021 the current generation took control of the partnership and land ownership.