



*Cummings Valley Protective Association
cordially invites you to*

A Victorian Afternoon

A tour of the historic Elijah Stowell House

1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, June 2, 1991

Bob and Patty Souza have generously offered to open their 103 year old Victorian farm house to visitors. You are invited to tour their house which is being restored and wander the lovely grounds. Tea and homemade refreshments will be provided by the C.V.P.A. We hope you will join us for a relaxing and very special afternoon.

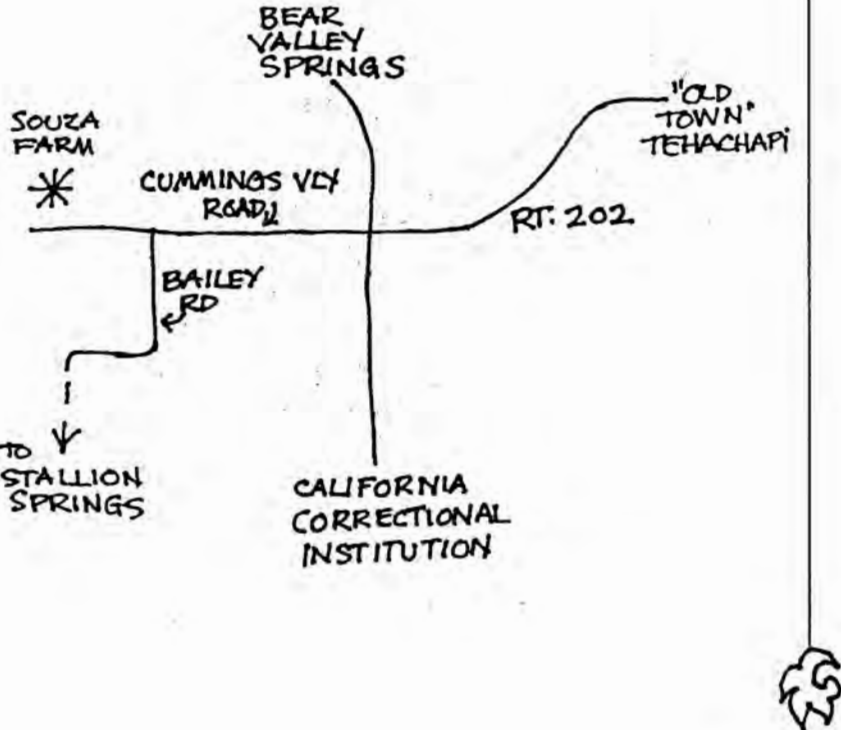
The Souza farm is located at 26689 Cummings Valley Road, just 3/4 mile west of the intersection of Bear Valley Road and Cummings Valley Road.

*Please R.S.V.P. 821-1904 Casual Attire
Donation \$10.00 per person - \$20.00 per family
(Profits will fund a University Grant for a long
range plan for the Cummings Valley.)*



C.V.P.A.
18835 Old Ranch Road
Tehachapi, CA 93561

BULK RATE
POSTAGE
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PERMIT #10
Tehachapi, CA



THE STOWELL HOUSE

Elijah Augustus Stowell was born in Ohio, June 13, 1857. His family moved to El Monte, Ca. His father was also named Elijah, he was born Dec.1835 and Died Jan. 1859. His mother was Drusilla Bell.

Chloe Brite Stowell was born in Tehachapi on Jan 17, 1871. Her father was John Moore Brite, born Aug.9, 1822. Her mother was Amanda Duty Brite. She and John were married Nov. 22,1849. Chloe was one of 13 children.

Elijah A. Stowell asked John M. Brite for the hand of Chloe in Marriage. The answer was yes, with the conditions that Elijah build her a house. This is the House that Elijah built for Chloe in 1888. They were married before the house was completed on Jan. 17, 1887, and they had 3 children.

- 1.Nellie Brite Stowell b.7/25/1890 d.1981 (91 years)
- 2.Gertrude Brite Stowell b.11/6/1896 d.1986 (93 years)
- 3.Elijah Walter Stowell b.7/5/1901 d.1966 (65 years)

Elijah A. Stowell died Nov.23,1918. Chloe died Jan.20,1964. They are both buried at Union Cemetery in Bakersfield as are their three children.

The records give us many interesting stories of both the Stowell and the Brite families. The Stowell family records go back to the year 1066, in England. Their home was bequeathed to them by a Saxon King. (The year 1066 is the date of the famous Battle of Hastings. It marks the end of the reign of Edward the Confessor and the beginning of the reign of William the Conqueror.)

The family name at this time was Estawella-(meaning East Spring). Later the "E" was dropped and the name became Stawell. Still later the "a" was changed to "o" for Stowell. The home was called Cothelstone Manor. Behind it was the family church, bearing the family Coat of Arms. This was located near a community named Quantock in Somerset County. The location is about 50 miles west of Stonehenge and 6 miles east of Bristol Channel. It was near the burial site of King Arthur.

From Judy Barras book "The Long Road to Tehachapi", we find numerous interesting stories of the Brite Family migration 1853 to 1854 from Texas to California in a covered wagon. Vance Brite told the story of Amanda preparing the evening meal. A large band of Indians had come into the Brite campground. Amanda lifted the lid to check the bisquits baking in an iron pot and an Indian woman took a bisquit. This angered Amanda and she struck the Indian woman. The entire band of Indians became angry and were ready to retaliate. John Brite quickly took his wife over his knee and spanked her. This satisfied the Indians and trouble was avoided. The Brite family moved to Tehachapi soon after arriving in El Monte, CA in 1854.

In the records, Elijah A. Stowell is listed as a farmer, stockman and a government Census Officer. He was responsible for advancing Agriculture in Tehachapi by the purchase of a reaper- thresher, known as the McCormack Combine. He paid \$1500.00 for the combine. He also planted an orchard of Pear Trees on his property. This Victorian house he built is one of the oldest and sturdiest in Tehachapi.