



HISTORY

The upper Napa Valley was once the home of indigenous people, the Wappo tribe. The name Wappo is an Americanization of the Spanish term *guapo*, which means, among other things, “brave.” They were known as brave for their stubborn resistance to Mexican domination, particularly their resistance to all military attempts from General Vallejo and his enlisted allies. In 1836 the warring parties signed a peace treaty.

When Mexicans arrived to colonize California, Wappo villages existed near the present-day towns of Yountville, St. Helena and Calistoga. With abundant oak trees providing acorns as a food staple and the natural hot springs as a healing ground Calistoga was the site of several villages. Following Mexican independence, mission properties were secularized and disposed of by the Mexican government with much of the Napa Valley being partitioned into large ranchos in the 1830’s and 1840’s. In 1841 Rancho Humana Carne – a portion of which is now Kenefick Ranch - was granted to Edward Turner Bale (E.T. to his friends).

Bale had sailed from England to California in the 1830s and settled in Monterey where he was named surgeon-in chief of the Mexican Army by General Mariano Vallejo. In 1839 he married Vallejo’s niece, Maria Soberanes, and in 1841 was granted a large rancho in the upper Napa Valley. Cattle were raised for hides and tallow while wheat was planted along the river in this valley. Bale constructed a gristmill at his site to process the locally grown grain. He also built a saw mill on his rancho where logs were cut for the area’s early frame buildings. He died in 1849 at the age of 38, leaving behind his wife and six young children. Rancho Humana Carne, 17,962 acres, was patented to the heirs of Edward A. Bale in 1879.

By the early 1900’s the land was obtained through use of base-script application to the Federal Government where it remained as vacant Federal Land until the early 1950’s. An inspection and appraisal was made by an independent appraiser on April 8, 1954 who valued the land at \$5.00 per acre. The state’s application to select the land was accepted by the bureau of Land Management and sold 205 acres in 1956 to Jess Manuel at \$5.00 per acre.

In 1981, Dr. Kenefick acquired the 205 acre parcel at the foothills of the Palisades Mountains in Calistoga. In 1982 he acquired an additional 35 acres (contiguous with the 210 acres) from Dr. Tenny. Both sales were jointly conducted by real estate agents Jean Phillips (Screaming Eagle) and Ren Harris (Paradigm). An additional 10 acres (Dr. K’s current residence) was acquired in 1989.