



THEY MADE THEIR WAY TO MENIFEE

Henry Akin - by Covered Wagon



Desolate and dry was the first impression that Henry W. Akin, originally from Iowa, and his wife “Mattie Lee” Akin from Los Angeles, had of Perris Valley. Nevertheless, the warm, dry weather proved to be good for Mr. Akin’s health.

In 1883, they were one of the first three families to set down roots in Menifee Valley arriving by covered wagon with their young son Henry, Jr. and Mattie’s sister.

They homesteaded a 160-acre quarter section at the northwest corner of Murrieta Road and Newport Road where today's Stater Bros. market is. Planning on dry farming grain, Henry tirelessly worked his farm a success. In 1891, After a several years of failed crops, he moved his family to the new town of Perris. His true passion was working in the mines, but after he was injured, he opened a combined jewelry and bicycle shop.

Martha Lee Akin, known as Mattie, wrote for the Riverside Daily Press and Perris Progress newspapers for many years.

In 1901 Henry Akin, a civic-minded businessman started Riverside County's first library in the town of Perris, which became a city 10 years later in 1911.



William, Wesley, Baby Vernon, Martha (mother), Rena and Elmer. (Henry not shown) c.1893

