Basic Detail Report

RICHARD HALL GILMAN

Richard Hall Gilman was born in Hopkinton, New Hampenhre, October 17, 1845. As a child he indulged his adventurous spirit by going as far as he dared. In his sixteenth year, after a bout with the measles which left him in a delicate condition, his doctor prescribed a sea voyage—much to the thrill of this youth. In early October, 1862, Dick, rank of boy on the clipper "Wild Rover", sailed before the mast from Boston. He passed his seventeenth birthday on the high seas, rounded the Horn, and landed in San Francisco some time in February 1863. Because he was underage, and therefore under the jurisdiction of the captain, Dick hid out—forcing the captain to sail home without him.

There now being nothing to stop Richard Hall Gilman, his zest led him into a full life. He secured a job with a tennery, and later went into the tanning business for himself. After that he purchased land near Healdsburg, where he soon attracted the attention of a number of leading middle-aged businessmen. They were forming a company to invest in land in southern California and invited young Mr. Gilman to join them, making him an equal stockholder. He, in turn, was to take the responsibility of investing their capital and developing the land.

So in 1872 Mr. Gilman, age 26, came south and bought 110 acres at 317.50 per acre, where Cal State Fullerton now stunds. Here, as superintendent, he developed The Southern California Semi-Tropical Fruit Company. Later shortened to The Placentia Fruit Company. In 1880, on this same land, he planted California's first, valencia orange orchard to which a marker was dedicated by Grace Parlor No. 242, Native Daughters of the Golden Weet, in 1934.

Biography of Richard Hall Gilman

Date

1940-1949

Medium

Paper and ink

Description

Two typed pages on the life of Richard Hall Gilman (1845-1942), who planted first Valencia orchard in Placentia.