

THE HISTORY OF JULIAN



Julian was born following the Civil War, when displaced Confederate veterans headed West to seek their fortunes in a new, largely unsettled land. Among these were cousins Drue Bailey and Mike Julian, who found a lush meadow between Volcan Mountain and the



Cuyamacas to their liking. They stayed and were there in 1869, when cattleman Fred Coleman, a black man, found the first flecks of gold in a creek. So began San Diego County's first and only gold rush. By 1934, after over 60 years of mining, the total gold production for the Julian region was estimated at between \$4,000,000 and \$5,000,000.

The town was named Julian City, in honor of Mike, who later was elected San Diego County Assessor. Tent housing gave way to brick and wood buildings, many of which survive today. A walk in the downtown area reveals buildings dating back to the 1870's. The town was never big; at the most boasting a population of about 600, more than reside within the downtown, historic district today.



Following the gold rush, the pioneers began farming the rich land. While many crops were planted and animals pastured, Julian turned out to be a good place to grow apples. Julian apples took first prizes in competitions at the Chicago World's Fair in 1893 and The San Francisco World's Fair in 1915. Julian's apples also took top awards at the LA County Fair for 22 years. Apples continue to be cultivated in Julian. Their sweet fresh flavor lures thousands to the mountains each fall, when visitors will find fruit stands overflowing with crisp fruit, homemade cider, and other delicacies.



JULIAN, THE HISTORY OF....



OUR AFRICAN AMERICAN PIONEERS

The following are some of Julian's African American pioneers and their stories.

A. E. (FRED) COLEMAN

Late in 1869, he paused at a little creek to let his horse drink, when a glitter of gold in the stream caught his eye. Raising livestock in Julian since the early 1860's, Coleman, a 41-year-old native of Kentucky, had worked in the gold fields of northern California and knew what he saw. Wasting no time, he started panning with the skillet he had in his pack. It didn't take long before the word spread, and that little creek was soon crawling with dozens of gold-pan-wielding and sluice-box-shaking fanatics. Fred Coleman was the first, and the creek, from which the gold strike was made, starting off the Julian boom, was named for him. The Coleman Mining District was formed with Fred being duly elected recorder.

J. GREEN

He was another respected black pioneer. He worked in the Julian livery stable in the mid-1870's. A hard-working, independent man who was known for being as "honest as the day is long", it was said he was thrifty too, often lending money to needy white folks.

AMERICA NEWTON

One of Julian's most colorful characters was an ex-slave that arrived in 1872 from Independence, Missouri. Assisted by Mr. and Mrs. James Cole and family, she filed an 80-acre homestead 2 miles West of Julian. Mr. Cole built her a comfortable cabin, a two-wheeled cart and gave her a fat sleek roan horse to pull the cart. America did laundry for Julian residents and the miners using the old-time washboard and tubs, she turned out excellent work. Her irons were all heated over a grill in her fireplace.

Being illiterate, whenever necessary for business reasons, America would ask various persons to sign her name for her. She carried a two-bit piece in her handkerchief, which she carefully removed from her pocket, and pointing to the word "America" in the United States of America stamped on the coin, she would say, "write it just like that". She loved visitors but became quite hard of hearing and used a huge ear trumpet to hear the latest gossip.

The 14th Constitutional Amendment introduced in 1868, permitted America to become the proud owner of her homestead in 1891. She sold her property December 13, 1913 with the understanding she could make her home there the remainder of her life. She died of pneumonia January 12, 1917.

ALBERT AND MARGARET TULL ROBINSON

Albert, a former slave, and Margaret met and married in Julian and were outstanding cooks. They built a little bakery and restaurant. That building was eventually torn down to make way for their Robinson Hotel. In 1918 that hotel was to become the Julian Hotel, the longest continually operating hotel in Southern California. It is on Main Street and is still a charming place to stay.