

BLACKBERRY SPRINGS

In 1875 California pioneer Theron Ink began building a road from his 5,000-acre Pope Valley farm to carry his wine to St. Helena up the steep grade, through Angwin, and down the eastern slope of Napa Valley. Today, Ink Grade Road is still used by vineyards in the Howell Mountain Appellation to haul their world-famous Cabernets to market.

A brick cistern fed by spring water still sits at the edge of the 1300 Ink Grade property that once served Theron Ink's weary horses.

By the 1880's, Edwin Angwin had established a resort a few miles away, giving the town his name and a place for the wealthy to enjoy the restful pleasures of the healthy environment of spring waters, sunshine, and relaxation. Small cottages were built on surrounding properties to house vacationers with a bit less extravagance perhaps, but for the same sunny climate and natural beauty that surrounded Ink Grade.

One of the last cottages still standing is on the 1300 Ink Grade property, originally built in 1899. In 1909, Mr. Angwin's health resort was sold to the Adventist Church. Pacific Union College was built and still serves a student population today.

Long known for its Mediterranean climate, warm days and cool nights, the area's rich soils were farmed with a variety of crops including walnuts, plums, peaches, apples, apricots, and grapes. The walnut orchard on 1300 Ink Grade was planted in 1940. Currently, 3± acres are planted with the original 80-year-old walnut trees and a variety of younger fruit trees.

The natural springs that served Theron Ink so many years ago, still serve the gardens and ponds of the property today, as well as the orchard well that serves the original farmhouse, studio, guest house and adjacent buildings.



The spring fed pond, circa 1990.

A unique property feature waiting to be revitalized for swimming and fishing again.