



The Mefford house in Capay as it appeared recently. The Lane is now closed off to the house, but it still stands on Mefford Lane, originally South Second Street. The Historic Resources Inventory of Yolo County, found at the Yolo County Archives, pegs the date as 1876, (though the family is not in agreement...) and calls it a one-story saltbox style, “an excellent pioneer example built for important pioneers Henry and Mary Mefford...Mefford was a leading pioneer carpenter and builder in the Capay area and was responsible for building many of the early pioneer homes...From 1894-97 Mefford served as the County Hospital Superintendent...and was instrumental in the early growth and development of Capay.”



Above is the street sign for Mefford Lane. Behind it is seen the Main Street of Capay—also Highway 16, between Esparto and the Capay Valley. I am told the train tracks still reside under the pavement, as the Vaca Valley-Clear Lake line between Capay and Rumsey was discontinued by the 1930s before the road through town was paved. The line continued to run freight between Esparto and Capay, but the Capay Depot that originally stood at the far west end of town was moved to its current location at the corner of Main Street and County Road 85, at a spur out to Cache Creek for gravel loading.



Above:

Henry Mefford standing. Henry would help James Neilson build his first home in Esparto in 1888—the same year the railroad arrived.



Henry Mefford loading sacks in Capay. Inset is his wife, Mary Virginia Brake, 1844-1913, who would give him 8 children. Their youngest was Clarence, who would marry Marion Martin of Woodland.