

John Rowland

Partner of William Workman



John A Rowland was born in Maryland on April 15, 1791. After traveling in the eastern United States, he moved west to Nuevo Mexico and became a naturalized Mexican citizen, where he worked as a fur trapper then ran a flour mill. His partnership with William Workman found then manufacturing liquor.

During the time this territory was changing hands between the Taos rebels and Texas, the partners decided to leave via the Santa Fe Trail and arrived in Alta California in 1841. Rowland returned to New Mexico in April 1842 to retrieve his family and returned to Los Angeles that December. In 1847 he built the first privately owned grist mill in the Los Angeles area. In addition, he owned cattle, crops, vineyards and orchards. Around 1851, Rowland and Workman received a land grant with Rowland acquiring approximately

29,000 acres. Rowland kept possession of most of his land holding in La Puente. When oil was discovered on the family land, his son William formed the Puente Oil Company.

John Rowland died on October 13, 1973 at the age of 83. The city of Rowland Heights, California is named in his honor.