Colin
3rd Place
3rd Grade, Oak

The History of Redwood Grove

The second you walk down the path into Redwood Grove, you feel like you're entering an amazing forest filled with plants and animals of all different types. My grandma, a 45 year resident of Los Altos, taught me the history of Redwood Grove, where my mom, brothers, and I all have shared memories of our experiences in this magical place.

It all began 20,000 years ago when people migrated across the land bridge from Asia through Alaska. From there, artifacts dating back 6,000 years ago from the Native Americans, specifically the Ohlone people, were found near the Adobe Creek. The Native Americans used Adobe Creek to fish for trout. The Spanish then turned the land into a place for cattle ranching. From there, Redwood Grove changed hands multiple times from Sara Winchester to William Wright, president of the San Jose Fruit Packing Company. The land was then passed down to Emma Wright as a wedding gift who built the historical Halsey House. Emma Halsey was also the one who planted the redwoods from saplings she picked when in Santa Cruz.

You might be wondering why I chose Redwood Grove for my essay. It's because my family and I have all attended the summer camp there. My mom remembers having a sleepover in the Halsey house, which is now closed to the public. She also made cinnamon fried dough pockets, painted with rocks from the creek, and smelled herbs from the garden. When my brother attended, he remembers playing capture the flag. I remember going in the creek to play and making rock sculptures by the boardwalk.

The history of this magical place continues through my family and me. When I attend the camp this summer I will look at the redwoods and think about their life before being brought to Redwood Grove by Emma. I really love Redwood Grove and I hope my kids will too.