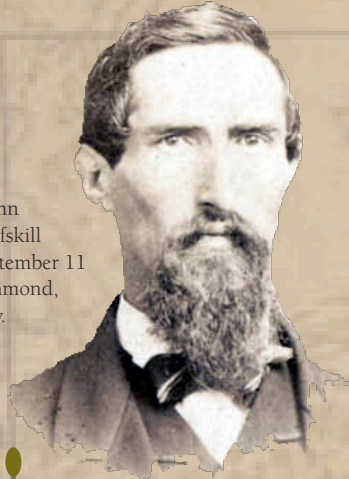


# John Wolfskill and his olives, 1804-2006

**1804** John Reid Wolfskill born September 11 near Richmond, Kentucky.



**1842** Receives 17,754-acre grant on Putah Creek, "Rio de los Putos," from Juan Batista Alvarado, Governor of Alta California, in what are now Yolo and Solano Counties.

**1861** Plants an avenue of Mission olive trees that are still harvested for UC Davis olive oil. The *Daily Alta California* marvels that the orchard he had planted in 1851 now was among "the most beautiful in the country."



**1897** Dies at the age of 92 on May 27. Remembered by the *Woodland Daily Democrat* as "one of the most remarkable men who had ever figured in the history of the state."



**1934** Daughter Frances Wolfskill Wilson dies, leaving 107 acres of the estate to UC Davis to continue her father's legacy of agricultural experimentation. Frances' will states that the avenue of olive trees planted in 1861 be preserved "as a memorial to her parents and as a symbol of peace to the great State of California."

**2005** UC Davis Division of Buildings and Grounds produces the first olive oil from Wolfskill's trees.



**1838** Arrives in Los Angeles on February 14 after years of traveling in Mexico and New Mexico. Works in vineyards and orchards owned by his brother William, who was the first commercial orange grower in California.



**1843** Plants olive trees and other crops. These first plantings began Wolfskill's 54 years of pioneering work in California agriculture, where he demonstrated that dozens of crops from throughout the world would thrive in the Sacramento Valley.

**1888** UC Professor Edward J. Wickson observes that Wolfskill's olive trees "have borne heavy crops for many years, and now have yielded most of their twigs ... to the great demand for cuttings to start olive orchards all over the state."



**1946** Professor Hudson Hartmann and John Whisler graft nearly 100 imported olive varieties to many of Wolfskill's 1861 Mission trees, creating the most diverse olive collection in North America.

**2006** Wolfskill olive oil receives a gold medal from the Los Angeles County Fair, the largest olive oil competition in the United States.

