

The monthly newsletter is a service to the community and our members. We welcome requests to research specific topics from the public and accept articles on local history. Please note that the Society reserves the right to accept or decline any article or material at its discretion. The Society is not responsible for the loss of or damage to any submitted material so please keep a copy for your records. Please include a note authorizing Anderson Historical Society to publish the material. We need two things from all members or those interested in local history: please be sure the Society has an updated email address and please spread the word to friends and neighbors about the Newsletter. Please contact us at:\_\_\_\_\_.

Note: Where is Wilson Indian Cemetery? It is now part of the Cottonwood Cemetery District. On June 29, 1874 Mary Wilson was buried on land owned by her husband. In 1870 Mary was listed as 33 years of age (about 1837), an Indian born in California. No tribal affiliation was found in the records. Her husband was William McClure Wilson born in Kentucky in 1829. William was living in Shasta County by 1860. In the 1870 U.S. Census Mary and William had a son George Wallace born in 1865 and given as white. In the 1880 Census George was remarried to Margaret Hightower (who was then 22) and living with them was George Wilson (age 16 and listed as Indian). On February 4, 1881, William died and was buried next to Mary and the land became known as the Wilson Indian Cemetery. Margaret Hightower remarried and moved away. Sometime after William's death the property was transferred to a Mr. Linebaugh who in 1886 when Cottonwood established a Cemetery Association donated two acres with the graves. The section was then known as the Wilson Reserve. After the transfer Shasta County utilized the Wilson Reserve to bury indigents. In 1944 the Cottonwood Cemetery Association became part of a cemetery district which included the Wilson Reserve.

Note: Swiss to the Rescue. Most people know that France, Spain and the Netherlands assisted the United States during the Revolutionary War. A few know that Thailand offered President Lincoln elephants during the Civil War and Russia actually dispatched its fleet to protect the West Coast. Who knew the Swiss made an offer to help during the Mexican American War? In 1847 an offer was made to the U. S. Consul in Basle, Switzerland to send a force of 800 trained men for service in California. The offer was that the unit would serve for the period of the conflict or a period of five or ten years afterwards for the right to settle in California as a "military colony." The offer was dropped due to the quick conclusion of the war but it is interesting to think of what might have happened if the offer had been accepted.

Note: Gold Rush Entertainment. When one thinks back on the early days of the Gold Rush most picture hard work and boredom with little to break the monotony but alcohol and gambling. The following was a tax notice for public entertainment posted in Marysville in August 1850 so maybe things were not so bleak.

For each Caravan, Menagerie or other collection of animals	\$50/day
Each circus	\$50/day

Theatre	\$20/day
Rope or wire dancing, show of wax or other figurines, slight of hand, Negro concerts, or exhibitions of any other description when not exhibited in connection with any menagerie or circus.	\$15/day

By order of the Court E. D. Wheeler, Clerk

The August 2017 Newsletter contains three articles: 1) Missing Medal, 2) Destruction along the South Fork, and 3) What's a Miner's Inch

### Missing Medal

During the period from the Spanish-American War to the end of the First World War many communities presented troops with a "welcome home medal." After World War One the practice steadily declined but one recent example was during the Persian Gulf War of 1990-1991 when Willits, California presented medals to local troops. In searching the records it seems that Redding issued a medal for the Spanish-American War but not for subsequent wars. In Rosena Giles' book, Shasta County California: a History, she reports that a medal was donated by the Native Sons of the Golden West for presentation to members of the Redding Armory, Company H, who had been ordered to duty on June 23, 1898, and sent to Camp Barrett near Oakland.

In the initial response to a call for volunteers, California organized the 1<sup>st</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, and 7<sup>th</sup> Regiments of California Volunteer Infantry, the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion California Heavy Artillery, and a signal detachment. Of these units only the 1<sup>st</sup> California Volunteer Infantry and 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of Heavy Artillery were to see active service in the Philippines.

The 8<sup>th</sup> California Volunteer Infantry Regiment was organized after a second call for volunteers. Redding's Company H appears to have been assigned to the unit. Organized at Camp Barrett in Fruitdale (now a part of Oakland) the regiment was utilized to replace units of the U.S. Regular Army for deployment overseas. The 8<sup>th</sup> was assigned to military posts along the west coast as far north as Fort Vancouver. The 8<sup>th</sup> California Volunteer Infantry was mustered out of service in February 1899 with National Guard members returning to their former units of assignment. On January 13, 1900, the Captain of Company H, W.E. Smith, distributed 22 medals and 30 more were to be distributed at a later date.

The medals were about the size of a silver dollar suspended from a bar inscribed "California." The front of the medal showed the "Goddess of California" welcoming a soldier and had the following inscription: "The people of California

welcomes \_\_\_\_\_ back from the war.” On the reverse of the medal displayed an American and California Flag.

The muster roll for Company H consisted of three commissioned officers and 106 enlisted members. The 52 awards represented less than 50% of the company; it is not known why but the 52 awards could represent volunteers or a set levy from the Adjutant General. It is also not known which of the 109 assigned personnel received the medals. The muster roll for Company H was as follows:

Capt. W.E Smith	Pvt. W. J. Oman	Pvt. W.E. Smith
1 <sup>st</sup> Lt. Jas. E. Estep	Pvt. F. J. Poole	Pvt. John W. Shorb
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. E.S. Reynolds	Pvt. G.H. Paul	Pvt. Edward G. White
1 <sup>st</sup> . Sgt. Con E. Goldberg	Pvt. D. Presenti	Pvt. Jesse N. Woodward
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sgt. Thomas Hersinger	Pvt. H. C. Rubert	Pvt. R. Anderson
Cpl. C.T. Leither	Pvt. H. J. Robertson	Pvt. M. D. Bennett
Cpl. F. A. Ragsdale	Pvt. W.G. Rowley	Pvt. F. Bein
Cpl. A. H. Martine	Pvt. A. B. Reynolds	Pvt. W. R. Barclay
Cpl. G. N. Greene	Pvt. Frank Williams	Pvt. C. Bennett
Cpl. J.A. Coulter	Pvt. Joe F. Walker	Pvt. Bliven
Cpl. George F. Wilhelm	Pvt. M. B. Ager	Pvt. R. Y. Ryan
Cpl. A. T. Bassmer	Pvt. E.M. Armstrong	Pvt. F. B. Brittin
Cpl. O. H. Bennett	Pvt. E. A. Anderson	Pvt. R. D. Bradler
Musician J. D. Graham	Pvt. G. R. Billis	Pvt. L. J. Kaiser
Pvt. R. A. Anderson	Pvt. J. W. Barnes	Pvt. J. Lanton
Pvt. William Adolph	Pvt. N. J. Cusic	Pvt. W. J. Kramer
Pvt. L. H. Anderson	Pvt. G. W. Cates	Pvt. G. Leach
Pvt. G. W. Armstrong	Pvt. F. Caldwell	Pvt. G. M. Lyons
Pvt. S. G. Camps	Pvt. G. W. Curl	Pvt. C. G. Milne
Pvt. A. J. Clements	Pvt. C. V. Goldsmith	Pvt. J. G. Miller
Pvt. C. L. Carper	Pvt. F. J. Hill	Pvt. J. W. Miller
Pvt. A. S. Conley	Pvt. W. B. Hedgerton	Pvt. A. P. McCarton
Pvt. C.T. Dawson	Pvt. G. O. Hamlin	Pvt. J. N. Major
Pvt. V. A. Davis	Pvt. W. A. Harris	Pvt. J. H. McMurphey
Pvt. F. Eckles	Pvt. A. Jolls	Pvt. H. Smith
Pvt. W. L. Edwards	Pvt. W. S. Jones	Pvt. Lewis H. Simon
Pvt. C. L Eaton	Pvt. G. C. Jenson	Pvt. David S. Skillen
Pvt. G. F. Graves	Pvt. S. F. Karsladt	Pvt. Walter H. Stone
Pvt. O. W. Grittner	Pvt. W. R. Ray	Pvt. G. C. Schroter
Pvt. E. F. Gray	Pvt. H. M. Roop	Pvt. Lewis R. Schumacher
Pvt. O. W. C. Green	Pvt. H. Remer	Pvt. Albert E. Sebring
Pvt. J. N. Grant	Pvt. L. Silver	Pvt. Jacob W. Stake
Pvt. W. F. Garner	Pvt. H. Solemonson	Pvt. Jas. F. Thompson
Pvt. T. J. Nolton	Pvt. C. R. Sammons	Pvt. Warren G. Thompson
Pvt. J. B. Nason	Pvt. G. D. Sheridan	Pvt. Frank Thompson

Company H also listed ten substitutes:

Fred Bonnicksen	Ernest V. Hartman	Clark L. Wilson
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Robert Bowmen  
Thomas E. Cantwell  
Alphonse G. W. Davis

Chas. E. Hand  
William Mickle  
George M. Taggart

Henry Zourboust

The 52 members of Company H that were activated into Federal service would have been eligible for the U.S. Army's Spanish War Service Medal.

If anyone knows of the location of one of the welcome home medals or the history of any of the members of Company H please contact the Anderson Historical Society.

### Destruction along the South Fork

Due to the Anti-Debris Act of 1884 that was aimed at stopping hydraulic mining, Igo was threatened with an economic decline. The town was saved from a slow death by a silver boom along the South Fork of Clear Creek. Silver had been discovered by Noah and J. B. Batcheler just south of the Hubbard Ranch on the South Fork of Clear Creek in 1866. The Chicago, Dubuque, Big Dyke, Big Falls, Crystal and Cincinnati Mines quickly made the South Fork Mining District the largest silver producers in California. Most of the South Fork mines also produced gold as a secondary medal.

Even through the ups and downs of silver prices, new mines were developed and Igo boomed again as a distribution point. The population living along the South Fork and Andrews Creek grew until they had their own voting precinct at Chicago. The little milling town included a school, store, boarding houses, and one can presume some businesses dedicated to social life. Most of the homes were built on the upper slopes as the small amount of flat land along the creek bottom was dedicated to quartz mills. The town was served by one winding road from Igo, so as much ore as possible was processed on site to reduce transportation costs.

Economically all was well but things were disrupted during late 1892 with the onset of one of the harshest winters in decades. Deep snow pack lasted well into spring. With the thaw came a huge landslide in the upper canyon well above most of the mines. A large section of the steep ridge blocked the upper canyon creating a small lake. With the return to mining during the summer nothing was done to remove the debris from the channel. Life simply proceeded as normal.

In June of 1892 there were heavy cloudbursts that the still saturated land could not absorb. The creek levels rose and became so violent that they dislodged the avalanche debris sending a flood of lake water, runoff, mud, rocks and trees downstream towards the unsuspecting quartz milling settlement.

As luck would have it activity was low due to the storm and the flood made such a rumbling sound in the narrow canyon that everyone fled to high ground before in struck the inhabited area. There was no loss of life but the effects on the economic viability of the settlement were devastating. The Continental Mill, Chico Mill, Moody arrastra, Wright arrastra, Hubbard arrastra, and Robinson arrastra were totally destroyed along with the only road connection to Igo. The geography that had caused most houses to be built on the upper slopes thus saving the population also increased the power of the torrent so that almost nothing on the flat

land escaped destruction. What remained of Chicago was isolated leaving the population only one option, that of self-help.

The road was rebuilt and some mining continued but not at the prior level. Some mines quickly closed due to high production costs, others closed due to lawsuits and extreme fluctuations in silver prices and demand closed most of the rest. The store was closed, the school dismantled and moved near Igo, and an exodus of miners to new booms at Harrison Gulch and other areas left the town of Chicago all but forgotten. The ripple effect also saw the saloons in Igo close, the Igo Hotel close and the stores relocate. The disaster along the South Fork started the long protracted decline of the whole area. All that is left of the boom days is the name for the Igo Elementary School students: the miners.

### What's a Miner's Inch

Everything I read about mining and agriculture in Shasta County leads at some point to a unit of measure: the miner's inch. I knew it was a measurement of water volume but nothing specific. It came about during the Gold Rush as miners began to leave the river and stream bottoms to look for gold in the surrounding hills and gulches. At first miners were restricted to working claims in the surrounding country only during rainy season and then only if they prepared holding ponds. Many understanding the extensive work necessary to resolve the problem of obtaining year-around water started banding together into cooperative groups to build ditches and flumes. Immediately the question was how to assure that each member actually received the correct amount of water. Thus the Miner's Inch was born.

As usual there were business minded individuals who decided that there was as much money to be made in water as there was in gold. Capital was collected to form ditch and fluming companies. Many bought up water rights to vast areas guaranteeing their investment to some degree. Locally we had the Clear Creek Ditch Company that operated over sixty miles of ditches and flumes with six reservoirs and seven major branches serving the rectangular area between Muletown to Mary's Lake in Redding and between Texas Springs and Horsetown. On the Igo side of Clear Creek there was the twenty-two mile long Dry Creek Tunnel and Fluming Company Ditch. Crisscrossing the county were smaller ditches such as the Bee Ditch, Andrews Ditch, and Watson Ditch. Later many were turned to agricultural use such as extending the Dry Creek Tunnel and Fluming Company Ditch on to serve Happy Valley and Anderson or the creation of the Anderson-Cottonwood Irrigation District (ACID) canal. Evidence of the old ditch systems are easily seen along Cloverdale Road in Igo or along Muletown Road.

Ditch and fluming companies sold water by the miner's inch. The term comes from the release aperture that was one square inch through which water ran for twenty-four hours. The term was rather loose as companies varied where the aperture was in relation to the bottom or location in the channel. Output could vary between 1.36 to 1.73 cubic feet per minute. A common definition was a one-inch square aperture through a two-inch plank with water six inches above the top of the

aper ture resulting in 2,274 cubic feet in twenty-four hours. The Bureau of Mines used 1.5 cubic feet per minute or 2,160 cubic feet per twenty-four hours. There was a continual struggle between water suppliers and mine customers over the costs of water. California finally settled the indefinite nature of a miner's inch with an act of the legislature in 1901 and adopted the Bureau of Mines definition of 1.5 cubic feet of water per minute for twenty-four hours. Translated a miner who purchased a miner's inch would receive exactly 2,160 cubic feet of water to work his gold claim for the day.

The measurement remains in use today particularly in stock raising and agricultural areas but it still has different meaning in different states. Colorado uses 1.56 cubic feet of water per minute while Arizona, Montana and Oregon use the California definition, The remaining western states use 1.2 cubic feet of water per minute. In short as a nation we have just about as much agreement as we had in the 1850s.