

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:\_\_\_\_\_.

San Francisco Bulletin: August 27, 1856. On Sunday, August 17<sup>th</sup>, a farmer with a load of peaches, between Bell's Bridge and Monday's ranch, was robbed by two men, who were disguised, and presented a Colt's revolver. The man hesitated for a few moments, but finally concluded to pay over all the money he had, \$170, and was allowed to proceed on his way, the thieves taking an opposite direction.

San Francisco Bulletin August 27, 1856: On Sunday August 17<sup>th</sup>, the till of the bar-room at the Four Mile House, kept by a Mr. Davis, in Shasta County, was robbed of \$43 by John Barry, a deserting soldier. Barry stopped at the house and informed Mr. Davis that he had been waylaid and robbed between that place and Whisky Creek. Mr. Davis immediately started out after the supposed robbers. Soon after Mr. Davis left, Barry drew his pistol upon Mrs. Davis, and then committed the robbery. Mr. Davis succeeded in capturing Barry near Muletown.

Daily Democratic State Journal: September 16, 1856. Mining at Briggsville – We are informed that a new hydraulic company have started into the big red hill, opposite the Commercial Hotel, at Briggsville. Thus far they have been successful, having in one day washed out \$100.

Daily Globe: March 26, 1857. Street Mining – Recently, a company commenced mining in Main Street in Middletown, Shasta County, and took out in the first day's work, six ounces of gold.

Question: I've seen mail from the Gold Rush marked in large print "Via Panama" and other destinations. What do the markings mean?

Answer: With the annexation of California at the end of the Mexican-American War the United States Post Office Department made continuous efforts to provide safe and ever faster routes for mail. At first the choices were by land across the plains and desert or around Cape Horn by ship but with the Gold Rush new routes for immigrants and mail were pioneered. In the 1850s three mail routes across Central America were in existence and the Via Panama, Via Isthmus, Via Chagres, Via Nicaragua or Via Tehuantepec markings refer to these. It would take a sizable answer to sort out all the non-contract and contract routes and dates so we will keep it simple. The shortest route was the Tehuantepec route across the Isthmus of Tehuantepec in southern Mexico. The 1854 Gadsden Purchase agreement authorized the route but it was not until 1858 that the Louisiana Tehuantepec

Company received a contract to carry mail twice a month. The route proved twelve day faster but the Postmaster General decided to close the route in 1859 making the Via Tehuantepec marking extremely rare (29 examples are known to exist).

The Nicaragua route was promoted by Cornelius Vanderbilt and was used by contract and non-contract companies starting in 1847 but the route was subject to political disruptions such as the invasion of California filibuster William Walker. The completion of the Panama railroad in 1855 (note Panama was then a province of Columbia) made it the predominant route. Although Panama became the predominant mail route the jockeying for construction of a canal route continued until the turn of the century.

The December 2017 newsletter contains three articles: 1) Conger Gulch, 2) Abstract of Title Commonly Known as the Washington Section, and 3) Huling Creek.

### Conger Gulch

Conger Gulch runs along the east side of the town of Igo and on the west side of Cloverdale Road into a man-made reservoir. It is the geographical feature that separates Piety Hill from Igo. Conger Gulch and Conger Butte (now Petty Butte) were named after Williston Kingsbury Conger, an early settler of Piety Hill. In some texts he is listed as William Conger that may be due to his abbreviation of his first name as Wm. on legal documents.

Williston was the son of Enoch Conger (a chaplain during the War of 1812; born in 1792 in New York and died in 1872 in Illinois) and Ester West (born 1796 in New York and died in 1882 in Illinois). Williston was born on 6 October 1821 at Montrose, Pennsylvania. In 1847 he was operating a water-powered sawmill just north of Lakeport, Michigan. At Lakeport he married Mary Rebecca Pettis, born on 4 July 1831 in Canada. One day after his marriage on 6 October 1849, Williston left for California.

Williston K. Conger was listed on the U.S. Census dated 11 November 1850 as a miner at or near Placerville, El Dorado County. He appears then to have moved to Shasta County where he is listed on the 1852 California Census along with his wife, Mary R. Conger. The data coincides with the family history that reports that Williston sent for his wife after living in California for a year.

Local history cites that Williston claimed 320 acres one half mile southeast of the mouth of the South Fork of Clear Creek but neither he or two of his primary business partners, Samuel S. Dunnell of Maine or Hayes Titus, are listed as having perfected the claim with the Government Land Office. Under the Preemption Act of 1841, 160 acres could be claimed so Williston and Titus (possibly D. Titus) may have gone together on 320 acres on the west side of Clear Creek that included Conger Gulch. In April 1853 Williston claimed dams across the South Fork and North Fork of the South Fork of Clear Creek to divert water into Dry Creek for mining. Williston was known to have built a house at Piety Hill in 1854. On the 1855 tax assessment W. K. Conger owned a house, stock, and a note on the Charles Sherman Ranch. Conger and Dunnell owned a ranch stock and a pair of oxen. Conger

and Dunnell (or Dunnells) reportedly operated the Bald Hills Hotel and ranch in the 1850s.

Williston was known to have purchased 80 acres from William Magee in March 1859 near Igo and in the 1860 tax assessment he was listed as owning 120 acres, forty shares in a water ditch, a house and various livestock. In 1862 Williston sold 80 acres and in 1863 sold four shares in the South Fork of Clear Creek Ditch to Valentine Doll. In 1864 Williston purchased land around Conger Butte (later Petty Butte) that he sold to Olonzo Engles in 1874. After C. F. Ellsworth established a water-powered sawmill on the South Fork of Clear Creek in 1859, Williston reportedly helped run the sawmill. In 1866 when the Hardscrabble Mine proposed hydraulic mining of the Piety Hill town site, Williston built the first house in the new town of Igo. The house was just to the west of Conger Gulch on what became Main Street. Until a fire in 1910 or 1911 old buildings just to the west of Conger Gulch were still called the Conger Slaughter House and stock corrals.

Williston throughout his residence in Piety Hill/Igo maintained an interest in mining especially in the South Fork Mining District. One report cited the Conger family moved to Copper City where they operated a boarding house but returned to Igo after about a year. It is known that Williston transferred his interests to the Chico and Butte County area in the early 1870s. Williston was listed in the Great Register of Butte County as a voting resident in 1872. In 1873 Williston sold his 1/5 interest in the Dubuque Mine (the other partners were Olonzo Engles, J. B. Higinbothom, P. J. Baker and S. R. Hubbard). About the same time he sold his 1/5 interest in the Detroit Mine, 1/5 interest in the Dayton Mine and 300 foot interest in the Chicago ledge to W. Butterfield. In the 1880 U. S. Census Williston and his family were residing in Chico where he listed his occupation as expressman. He appears to be associated with the Chico firm of Hammond & Conger.

Williston and Mary had six children: Charles Dwight born 1853, Kate Ester born 1855, Florence Edward (Floy Dolliver) born 1857, Jessie Ellis born 1859, Williston Kingsbury born 1864, and Frank Alton born 1875. All six children were born in California and probably the first five in Piety Hill. According to County records there was an infant son who died on December 18, 1854 (possibly Charles) and was buried in an unknown location (note the Piety Hill/Igo Cemetery was not established until 1855).

In the 1900 U. S. Census Williston and Mary were living with their daughter Kate, son Williston, and two grandchildren, Geraldine and Southerland Hubbard. Williston Kingsbury Conger died on 22 July 1900 at the age of 78.

#### Abstract of Title Commonly Known as the Washington Section

Again it may seem like dry reading to describe an Abstract of Title prepared by Carl R. Briggs Abstract & Title Company of Redding but it is written in the name of preserving local history. A collection of abstracts of title were being destroyed by a local bank and as they addressed early financial practices as well as historic figures and locations we asked for temporary access. We are not sure of the final disposition of the records but at least we have recovered some data. The property in this abstract is described as the West ½ of Section 53 and the East ½ of Section 52 of

the Rancho Buena Ventura Grant or P. B. Reading Grant. It should be noted that the 1853 survey done by William Magee for P. B. Reading's Government Land Office claim did not use the standard thirty-six sections to a township. Magee did use standard the standard measurement of 640 acres or one square mile per section. Magee seems to have numbered each section or part section in the grant beginning at Salt Creek in the North and ending around Cottonwood Creek. The location of the "section" is four miles north of P. B. Reading's homestead and about a half mile north of Adams Ferry. The section is set in from the Sacramento River about a half-mile. The area in the title is 320 acres in Section 52 and 320 acres in Section 53 for a total of 640 acres or a "section," hence the common name the "Washington Section" even though it is in two current map sections (roughly Sections 18 and 19 in Township 30 North, Range 5 West Mount Diablo Meridian).

The initial document is a land patent dated January 17, 1857 to Pearson B. Reading. The patent is a response to a petition filed by Reading to a U. S. Commissioner on February 9, 1852 applying for title to the Mexican Land Grant of Manuel Michelterno dated December 4, 1844 for six leagues. The grant is between "the creek called Lodo and the island called Sangre." The patent was in response to an Act of Congress dated 1851 that necessitated confirmation of all Spanish and Mexican land titles in the newly acquired territories following the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. The Commission granted Reading's petition on 18 December 1852 but for some reason the matter was appealed to the United States District Court that again granted the claim. The federal government had faced multiple fraudulent or inflated claims and was cooling off on converting Spanish and Mexican grants so Reading's claim was sent to the U. S. Supreme Court in Washington, D. C. for review. The Supreme Court granted the claim and the patent was recorded in Shasta County on June 19, 1857 in Book 1 of Patents on page 1.

On November 26, 1862 P. B. Reading deeded to Anna Matilda Washington the West half of Section 53 and the East half of Section 52 in consideration of \$5,000. The deed was acknowledged by J. R. Durick as County Recorder.

(Historical notes: Pierson B. Reading is listed in the patent as Pearson and both usages are common. Pierson was born in 1816 in New Jersey and first visited the area of his future grant in 1843 as a member of the Chiles-Walker Party. The group of about twenty-five, which included his life-long friend Samuel J. Hensley, had crossed the Great Plains and entered California along the Pit River and then traveled southward along the Sacramento River to Sutter's Fort. Both Hensley and Reading gained employment with General Sutter. Reading was often out with hunting and trapping parties gaining experience in the San Joaquin and Sacramento Valleys as well as lower Oregon and the Sierras into what became western Nevada. Hensley was often harvesting timber in the future area of Shasta County and floating the logs down-river to Sutter's Fort. It was Hensley who provided the map details for Reading's request for a Mexican land grant. With the Bear Flag Revolt Reading enlisted under Colonel John C. Fremont but with the appearance of regular American forces he joined the California Battalion raised by Commodore Stockton. Fremont became the battalion's commander and Reading was commissioned its Paymaster with the rank of major, a title that followed him his whole life. With the conclusion of fighting in California, Reading returned to Shasta County to improve

his ranch. When news of the gold strike at Sutter's Mill in Coloma quickly spread throughout California, Reading was one of the earliest visitors. Reading noticed the geological features at the initial gold strike were similar to the country west of his ranch. As soon as he returned to the ranch he took a large party of Native Americans out with him to prospect.

Reading's party quickly found gold at Reading's Bar on Clear Creek near what became Horsetown. William Moon soon followed and found gold deposits near what became Muletown. In a second expedition Reading prospected in what became Trinity County and again found gold at Reading's Bar near current Douglas City. After disputes with miners from Oregon who resented the use of Native Americans as "unfair" labor and who had a strong dislike of Native Americans in general due to recent conflicts in southern Oregon, Reading decided to concentrate on commercial operations. With part of his money from the gold expeditions he opened up a store in Sacramento along with Hensley and another associate from Sutter's employment, Jacob R. Snyder. The firm operated only until 1850. In 1849 Reading fitted out a unsuccessful expedition to find the mouths of the Trinity and Klamath Rivers. The expedition was blown off course in a storm and it was left to others to explore Humboldt Bay and develop routes to the northern mines from the California coast.

In 1850 Reading visited Washington, D.C. to settle the accounts of the California Battalion but quickly returned to California to run as the Whig candidate for governor. His bid was unsuccessful and he turned his pursuits to improving transportation, introducing new horticultural products such as tobacco and cotton, and generally developing Northern California. In 1854 Reading was again in Washington, D. C. only this time it was for the Supreme Court hearing on his grant. Reading had been provided with a letter of introduction into Washington society by Lt. Richard Bland Lee, who had been stationed at the newly constructed Ft. Reading. The introduction led to Reading's marriage to Fannie Wallace Washington. (Note: this was Reading's second marriage, his first wife having died in 1842 prior to his joining the Chiles-Walker Party.) Anna Matilda was Reading's new Mother-in-Law.

In 1856 the couple returned to California and had six children: Anna Washington Reading (1857-1906), Alice Matilda Reading (1859-1939), Pierson Barton Reading (1861-1863), twins Richard Washington Reading (1863-1925) and Robert Lee Reading (1863-1918), and Fannie Collins Reading (1865-about 1888). P. B. reading died suddenly in 1868 leaving his wife and five children. Reading's daughter by his first wife, Jeanette, had been left in the care P. B. Reading's relatives in Philadelphia when he moved west. Jeanette was not listed in the 1850, 1860 or 1870 U.S. Census for Shasta County but she did have a relationship with the rest of the Reading children.

Reading's wife Fannie Wallace Washington was the daughter of Ann (given as Anna in the deed) Matilda Lee (1799-1880) and Doctor Bailey Washington, Surgeon U.S. Navy (1787-1854). Doctor Bailey Washington was the 1<sup>st</sup> cousin of President George Washington. Ann Matilda Lee was the daughter of Edward Jennings Lee a descendant of Colonel Richard Lee (Attorney General under Washington, Congressman and uncle of General Robert E. Lee).

J. R. Durick was James R. Durick who was elected as County Recorder from 1860-1862 and from 1862 to 1864.

There are many claims for the name of Bloody Island or Sangre (blood in Spanish) but the use on the Mexican Land Grant in December 1844 predates a battle along Battle Creek in 1846 involving John C. Fremont. Samuel Hensley's claim of naming the island might be valid as he was working for General Sutter cutting wood in the area. Hensley's party was attacked by a group reported to be Yana at considerable loss to themselves. Hensley identified the borders of the land grant and so provided names common to the few hunters and trappers that used the area at the time or features he named himself. It is possible that one of the few Mexican expeditions to the area may have named the features at an earlier date or used translated Yana or Wintu names much as the Moraga expedition of 1806-1808 named the Calaveras River (River of Skulls) for a battlefield left from tribal warfare or from a famine before their arrival.)

The next document in the abstract was a Petition for Probate of Will filed by Richard W. Reading showing that Ann M. Washington had died at Washington, D. C. in December 1881 leaving a will with the Registrar of Wills in Washington, D.C. The petition asked for Letters of Administration with the will annexed, be granted to Richard W. Reading as the Executor of the estate, Walter D. Davidge, did not consent to act in California and deferred in writing to the petitioner.

The heirs in the will were Fannie W. Reading, Elizabeth L. Washington, Anna L. Davidge nee Washington, deceased wife of Walter D. Davidge, and Richard B. Washington who were the children of Ann M. Washington. Additional heirs were Anna W. Reading, Alice M. Reading, Fannie C. Reading, Robert L. Reading, and Richard W. Reading, the grandchildren of Ann M. Washington. Fannie C. Reading was deceased at the time of the petition and left no husband or children. Anna L. Davidge was also deceased but left a husband and six children to inherit her portion. Attorney S. Bloom was appointed to appear for the absent heirs and consented to the appointment of Richard Reading as Administrator for the property in Shasta County. The affidavit of C. E. Cunningham, Deputy Clerk, stated that written notice was provided to W. D. Davidge. F. M. Swasey of the Free Press provided notice locally. Richard W. Reading was ordered to provide a \$2,500 bond by Superior Court Judge Edward Sweeny. William Weaver, H. K. Pettygrove and Andrew Jessen were appointed appraisers (Weaver and Pettygrove provided an appraisal of \$25,814 for personal property and the real estate).

A Decree of Settlement of Account and Final Distribution was signed by Judge Sweeny on March 22, 1902. The property was transferred to Robert L. Reading in trust for the use and benefit of Fannie W. Reading for her natural life and upon her death for use and benefit of Anna W. Reading, Alice M. Reading, Robert L. Reading and Richard W. Reading, children of said Fannie Reading to share and share alike. There was a matter of a \$4,000 lien upon the property that passed to Elizabeth L. Washington in the will but this was transferred to Anna W. Reading as owner and holder thereof. The tract was to pay the \$4,000 and 6% annual interest or it could be sold with the proceeds going to Anna and the remainder divided among the heirs. Robert L. Reading was appointed trustee. S. N. Witherow posted notice.

In November 1893 Fannie W. Reading along with her four children initiated a mortgage in consideration of \$9,985.29 to secure two promissory notes taken against the property (\$2,993 and \$6992.29). A second mortgage was taken out in

consideration of \$2,000 to secure a promissory note of \$2,000. This was followed by a release of mortgage from Reginald Fendall concerning the \$2,000 mortgage and a transfer of the \$4,000 lien from Anna to Richard W. Reading.

Robert L. Reading as trustee granted a right-of-way to the Anderson-Cottonwood Irrigation District in April 1916 for consideration of \$745.50. The right-of-way included a right to put a telephone line through the strip.

The next document is a Petition for Probate of Will filed by Nellie Clarkson Reading in October 1918. Robert Lee Reading died on October 27, 1918 in San Francisco leaving a will with the petitioner as sole devisee and executrix. Nellie who was the wife of Robert L. Reading, was represented by W. D. Tillotson. Notice of a hearing was posted by Marian Hooper of the semi-weekly Searchlight. Witnessing the will was Elizabeth Seaman and Orr M. Chenoweth of Redding. Louis L. Garrecht was appointed inheritance appraiser (the west half of Section 53 and east half of Section 52 was valued at \$32,000 and other property at \$1,960).

The next document was a Petition for Termination of the Life Estate that was filed in Superior Court. The Petition sought the termination of Fannie W. Reading's life estate and the division of the property into equal shares for Nellie Clarkson Reading, Alice M. Reading, and Richard W. Reading. S. N. Witherow as Clerk of the Superior Court posted notice and Marian Hooper of the semi-weekly Searchlight posted the newspaper notice. The Court acknowledged the life trust with Robert L. Reading as trustee. The Court further acknowledged that Anna W. Reading died in January 1906 without issue and Fannie W. Reading died in Washington, D. C. in May 1918 leaving Alice M. Reading, Robert Lee Reading and Richard Reading as her sole surviving heirs. The Court also found that Robert Lee Reading died in October 1918 leaving as heirs his wife Nellie Clarkson Reading and Eleanor Lee Reading, his daughter. The Court terminated the life estate of Fannie Reading by reason of death and divided the life estate into equal shares to Nellie Clarkson Reading, Alice M. Reading and Richard W. Reading. The order was signed by Judge J. E. Barber in April 1919. The abstract did not have the full court records.

Nellie Clarkson Reading then filed a Lis Pendens against Richard W. Reading and Alice M. Reading asking for a partition or sale of the 640 acres. The Lis Pendens (a notice of legal action filed with the deed to warn potential purchasers that the property had a legal matter pending) was filed by W. D. Tillotson as attorney for the plaintiff. Prior to the complaint filed in Superior Court, Richard W. Reading and Alice M. Reading were tenants in common on the 640 acres. Alice appointed Richard as her attorney for the hearing via a limited Power of Attorney. The Court ordered the partition of the property as follows: for Nellie Clarkson Reading beginning at the North-South centerline of Section 52 and running southward to a point 10 feet north of the 1/3 measurement thence eastward to a point 10 feet north of the 1/3 measurement on the North-South centerline of Section 53, thence northward to the northern East-West line of Section 53, thence westward to the starting point in Section 52. Richard W. Reading received the next third and Alice received the southern third. The reason for the off set in each deed was the right-of-way for the ACID Canal. The Court records were not included in the abstract.

The last document is a notice that the property of all three heirs was within the Anderson-Cottonwood Irrigation District and subject to taxes. The abstract was

covered in a wrapper that stated it was to be released by Nellie Reading or her daughter only. Nellie Reading died in 1948 and her daughter Eleanor Reading died in 1990. The abstract was probably ordered for the sale of Nellie's portion of the Washington Section and sealed to keep family problems within the family.

(Historical notes: P. B. Reading's first marriage ended with the death of his wife in 1842. No source was found that listed her given name or surname. The marriage produced a daughter Jeanette who was probably born in Mississippi or Louisiana as that is where Reading was working as a cotton-broker (one family tree cites her birth as 1842 in New Orleans). Reading while living in Vicksburg, Mississippi lost his fortune in the financial panic of 1837. He moved to New Orleans and recovered his fortune but was left bankrupt with a debt of \$60,000 due to the misdeeds of his partner in 1842. With the death of his wife and the bankruptcy Reading relocated his daughter to Philadelphia to live with relatives and joined the Chiles-Walker Party going to Mexican owned California. Later Major Reading on one of his trips to Washington, D. C. returned to Vicksburg and New Orleans to repay his debts in full. Jeanette seems to have lived at Rancho Buena Ventura at some period as she was associated with all the subsequent Reading children and married a lawyer from San Francisco named Robert Simson, also called Colonel Simpson (Robert was a captain in the Mexican American War and a Colonel in the California Militia from 1866-1868). Jeanette is not listed on the 1850, 1860 or 1870 U.S. Census for Shasta County. Jeanette and Robert had a son Leslie Simson who also remained close to the Reading family. Leslie graduated from the University of California as a mining engineer and became famous in the diamond and gold fields of Rhodesia and South Africa. During this period he also became a world-renowned big game hunter. Jeanette died in South Africa in 1910 but Leslie stayed close to the Reading family taking over the mortgage on the Washington Section when Richard ran the ranch into debt. Leslie also set up an annuity to provide for Alice Reading who remained unmarried. In 1939 Leslie took his own life at age 72 due to failing health.

When P. B. Reading died Fannie had five children under the age of eleven. She remained on the ranch until after the Hensley mortgage case when the Court ordered most of the property sold. The family returned to Washington, D. C. in 1871. Her uncle Richard Bland Lee acquired the Lee-Hopkins House in Alexandria, Virginia and deeded it to Fannie in 1874. (Note: Lt. Richard Bland Lee was the friend of P. B. Reading when he served at Ft. Reading and it was he who provided the introduction to Fannie's parents. He was the brother of Anna Lee Washington.) In 1886 Fannie sold the Lee-Hopkins House to her sister's husband, Walter Davidge and moved across the river into Washington, D. C. After the death of Anna Washington, Fannie received income from the Washington Section as well as support from Robert. Fannie died in 1918 leaving the Washington to Robert, Richard and Alice.

Anna Reading (born 1857) had a salary of her own from working at the U.S. Patent Office. She also wrote under the name of Dorsey Barton. Anna died in a train wreck in 1906 unmarried and without heirs. Fannie Collins "Nina" Reading (born 1865) died unmarried without heirs at age twenty-three prior to the distribution.

Robert Lee Reading (born 1863) graduated from Columbian College (later George Washington University) in civil engineering. Robert returned to Redding to

manage what was left of the Reading Grant. Land sales prior to the death of P. B. Reading were exempt from the Court-ordered sale but it appears some other land was also set aside for the Reading family as Robert sold 1,507 acres with the purchaser deeding back to Robert seven acres around the Reading adobe and cemetery. Robert worked as a surveyor for the U. S. Department of Interior. From 1896 to 1897 he surveyed the Crow Agency in Montana and from 1898 to 1899 he worked in the Yukon Territory in Canada. In 1899 Robert returned to Anderson to resume direct supervision of the Washington Section. Robert supported himself through surveying and engineering work. In 1904 Robert ran for County Surveyor and held the office for twelve years (1904-1916). In 1905 Robert married Nellie Clarkson (born 1866 in Virginia) and shortly afterwards had a daughter Eleanor Lee Reading. Robert designed the Redding Hall of Records and in 1906 the Redding Free Bridge (dismantled in 1956). In his later life Robert worked for the California Department of Highways. In 1914 when the Anderson-Cottonwood Irrigation District was formed Robert secured an offer of over one hundred thousand dollars for the Washington Section. Fannie rejected the offer even though the income from the property was barely sufficient to pay the ACID Canal assessment. Robert developed a brain tumor in early 1918 and died in October 1918. Robert's interest in the Washington Section passed to his wife and daughter.

After Robert's death Nellie Reading and Eleanor remained in Redding but by 1930 the family had moved to Washington, D.C. Although not explicit there seems to be family problems with the operation of the Washington Section causing Nellie to file the Lis Pendens and separate her inheritance. In 1930 Eleanor was working in Washington, D. C. as a commercial artist. In 1932 Eleanor married Robert Morris Templeton. Nellie died in 1948 and Eleanor's marriage ended in divorce in 1963. Eleanor died in 1990.

Richard Washington Reading (born 1863) was the twin brother of Robert and a mining engineer. Richard worked in mines in South Africa and South America prior to World War One. In 1917 Richard was commissioned a captain in the Army Corps of Engineers due to his experience. He served in France where he was promoted to major in 1919. Richard married Clara Gramh of Virginia in 1917. After the war the couple took up residency on the Washington Section where Richard began farming. The couple was joined by Alice Reading about 1920 but there was friction between them as Richard ran the farm into debt. Leslie Simson helped by taking over the mortgage and eventually Alice moved into Anderson. Alice had been trained as a portrait artist at the Corcoran School of Art (George Washington University) and her work can be seen at the Shasta State Park Museum. Richard died in 1925 and his wife Clara returned to Virginia where she died in 1972. Alice Reading died in 1939.

H. K. Pettygrove owned Pettygrove's Saloon and Billiard Hall in Anderson as well as operating a large prune orchard. Pettygrove was also a land developer.

Louis L. Garrecht was the Shasta County Assessor from 1922 to 1934.

Willard A. Tillotson began the practice of law in Tacoma, Washington where he was also a State Representative. From 1891 to 1893 he was the U. S. Consul to Japan and a judge on the Consular Court. Willard moved to Redding in 1896 and set up a law office where he represented many of the large mining companies. From

1906 to 1910 he served as County District Attorney and from 1914 to 1916 as a judge in Superior Court. From 1916 to 1937 Willard was the Redding city Attorney.

S.N. Witherow is Samuel Witherow who came to Shasta County in 1868 with his mother and step-father. In 1873 the family moved to Los Angeles where Samuel passed his teacher's examination. After teaching for three years in southern California, Samuel returned to Shasta County where he taught at Klotz, Sierra, Bear Creek, Parkville, Millville and Anderson. He homesteaded on Bear Creek with Joseph Darrah whom he later bought out. In 1882 Samuel married Susan Darrah. While teaching in Anderson he was appointed Deputy County Clerk under W. O. Blodgett. In 1906 he was elected County Clerk and served until his death in 1924.

The Free Press was founded as the Republican Free Press in Redding in 1883 by Frank M. Swasey. It consolidated with the Shasta Courier at the turn of the century to become the Courier-Free Press. Frank was the son of early Shasta County pioneer Benjamin Swasey. Frank purchased the Redding Independent in 1879.

Orr Chenoweth was an attorney in Redding and served as County District Attorney from 1910 to 1918. He was a partner with C. W. Leininger in Chenoweth & Leininger.

Edward Sweeny initially was an attorney in Horsetown prior to opening a practice in Shasta. From 1901 to 1903 he was judge of the Superior Court. He chose not to run again and was appointed the Director of the U. S. Mint in San Francisco.

J. E. Barber was Joseph E. Barber an attorney and Justice of the Peace in Keswick from 1896 to 1907. He was elected judge of the Superior Court in 1909 and served until his death in 1921.

## Huling Creek

In old documents and genealogies the creek is often called Hulin or Hulin' Creek but the proper geographical term is Huling Creek. Huling Creek is a stream that runs about six miles to join the North Fork of Cottonwood Creek in Section 17, Township 30 North Range 6 West MDM near the current town of Ono. Gudde's book on geographic places has the creek first joining Eagle Creek. The creek crosses the Platina Road about midway between Igo and Ono.

The creek is named for William Huling who reportedly settled along the creek in 1851. The earliest document found was a deed of land to Peter F. Terbush dated September 1852 that his property bordered Huling and Strong's land. We know the pronunciation should be Hugh-ling as one of the Court clerks spelled it phonetically. In 1852 William Huling transferred one half interest in two quarter sections of land (360 acres) to his older brother, Samuel Huling. William Huling showed up in the 1850 U. S. Census as a farmer at Shasta in an almost unreadable entry. Neither William nor Samuel Huling were listed in the 1852 California Census.

No record was found concerning Strong and he may have moved on prior to 1852 when Samuel obtained a half interest. In July 1854 the property was still described as the Strong and Huling Ranch when Samuel sold his interest. The ranch did not show up on the 1855 tax roll under Strong or Huling. In 1859 the tax on the ranch, farming implements and smith tools was unpaid on the "Eagle Creek property of William Huling. In 1860 the debt was published and in 1861 sold to H. Clay

Stockton. Stockton was a partner with Alexander Andrews and they developed a mill at Eagle Creek and purchased various water ditches especially around Watson Gulch and Bald Hills. Stockton and Andrew developed the road from Piety Hill to Eagle Creek that became a Public Road in 1860 and ran to Bald Hills.

There was a John Strong listed in the 1860 U.S. Census born in 1830 in New York living in Horsetown and another at Millville but no data connected either to William Huling. The family history lists William Huling as dying about 1862 and that might help to explain why the ranch was sold for taxes.

It is believed that Samuel and William's father was William John Huling born in either 1770 or 1780 in Swedesboro, New Jersey (he died in Pennsylvania in 1858). William was known to have been married to Rebecca Vandyke born in 1781 but another source states that William had four sons by a second unknown wife: Harrison Huling born 1806, Eraculous R. Collum Hurling born 1808, Samuel born in Swedesboro, N. J. in 1811, and William Huling born in New Jersey in 1823. William was in Shasta County by 1850 but quickly dropped from the records reportedly dying in 1862 (William was not listed in burials in Shasta County). Samuel Huling appears about 1852 but left around 1854. Samuel appears to have moved to Humboldt County where he is believed to have married a woman named Phoebe born about 1824 in Kentucky. Samuel appears to have remained in Humboldt County until 1895 when he was admitted to the Los Angeles Veteran's Home. Samuel was listed as a private in Captain Benjamin W. Clark's Company, Iowa Mounted Volunteers (Iowa County, Michigan Territory) in 1831. He was discharged in 1832 after having served at the Battle of the Bad Axe River. On the same muster roster was Hurcanes Huling (possibly his younger brother). Samuel died in the Veteran's Home in 1896.