

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: Federal Currency Not Valid in Anderson! By 1861 California had been a “hard-money” state for over ten years. The mining communities used gold and silver for all economic interaction. Back East the story was different and with the onset of the Civil War the Union government was desperately trying to stabilize the economy and establish a paper currency in which people could have faith. The previous currency notes from states, banks, and private businesses were to be replaced by the Legal Tender Act of 1861 that made Federal paper currency legal tender for the payment of all debts, public and private. In California the Act was resisted to the point that in 1862 the California legislature declared it null and void. The crisis embarrassed the Union government but the need for California’s gold and silver to prosecute the Civil War counseled caution. The crisis was resolved in 1863 by the Specific Contract Act that made Federal paper currency legal in all of California.

Note: It’s the Law! 1900: “by order of the S. P. C. A. horses are to assume hats. The hats will have a conical crown with a red band and strings to tie in a coquettish bow under the cheek. It will be woven in one piece of light straw, perforated for coolness and with two openings for the ears.” Horses must have been better behaved in 1900 as I cannot keep fly masks on mine during the summer and I’m afraid the hats would quickly become snacks for my donkeys. Maybe that’s why the order dropped off the Shasta County books.

Note: Missing County! If you look at a map of northern California published between 1852 and 1874 you might notice Klamath County. The southern boundary was a line drawn eastward from the mouth of the Mad River to the crest of the Coast Range, then following the crest north to the Oregon boundary. Klamath was not one of the original twenty-seven counties. It was formed by legislative enactment on April 25, 1851 when it was separated from Trinity County. Klamath County was slowly eaten away by newly developed economic centers that desired local government. Siskiyou carved a portion from Klamath County in 1852. This was followed by the creation of Humboldt County in 1853 and Del Norte County in 1857. What was left of Klamath County became increasingly isolated and of little economic importance so on March 28, 1874 the legislature vote to dissolve the county entirely. The remaining land was acquired mainly by Siskiyou and Humboldt Counties leaving Klamath County with one claim to fame: it is the only county in California to be dissolved.

Note: Cisquion County? Many people know that Shasta County was one of the original counties founded in 1850 when our census was 378 American and European residents. The constitution allowed for the formation of additional counties as the population grew and spread. Siskiyou County was formed out of Shasta County in 1852 (Modoc County separated from them in 1874). When Tehama County was formed in 1856 Shasta County contributed the northern strip and lastly when Lassen County was formed in 1864 Shasta County contributed the largest portion. Each of these changes followed approved acts of the legislature. What is commonly forgotten is that the legislature proposed one addition change to our map. In 1852 a bill was introduced to form a separate county to be called Cisquion out of parts of Shasta County, Trinity County and the newly formed Siskiyou County. The bill made it to the floor of the legislature but was defeated. Luckily!

The July 2017 Newsletter contains three articles: 1) Local Troops Occupy Catalina Island, 2) Local Tales of Lost Treasure, and 3) a research question on Albert Cleveland Richardson.

Local Troops Occupy Catalina Island

As the fighting started in the Civil War President Lincoln called all states loyal to the Union to raise volunteer regiments for its defense. One such state that answered the call was California. Many of the troops wanted to join the fight in the East but the War Department felt the troops served a greater purpose in protecting the West after almost all federal troops were withdrawn. The flow of gold from California, Oregon and Idaho and the flow of silver from Nevada was vital for financing the war effort. California troops were tasked with protecting communications, protecting settlers from "Indian troubles," manning coastal installations from raids by the Confederate Navy, internal protection from southern sympathizers especially in Los Angeles County, and countering the Confederate Army's invasion of Arizona and New Mexico.

One such unit was the Shasta Volunteers raised from Horsetown, Whiskeytown, French Gulch, and Shasta. The unit was moved by barge from Red Bluff to Sacramento then marched to the training camp at Auburn. In October 1861, the Shasta Volunteers were mustered into federal service as Company C, 4th Infantry California Volunteers. After training they were moved to Sacramento during a flood then were ordered to Fort Walla Walla in Washington Territory. In August 1862 the company was ordered to Benicia Barracks to protect San Francisco Bay. The company was next moved to Fort Drum near Los Angeles where they became involved in an effort to "colonize" the Humboldt Indians.

The Western District Commander, General Wright (a previous commander at Fort Reading) had the difficult task of keeping peace between the Humboldt Indians and local miners and asked a number of times that the Humboldt Indians be removed to a federal reservation. With the Civil War raging General Wright selected the island of Santa Catalina as the most favorable location for a military post and reservation. With tentative approval from General Halleck in Washington, D. C., Company C, 4th Infantry, "the Shasta Volunteers" were selected to form the

occupying force. Final approval would be up to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs. The company commander of Company C, Captain West was named both the civil and military governor of the island. Prior to the war Captain West had been engaged in mining at Horsetown and was the original owner of the Washington Mine in French Gulch.

Prior to the order for occupation on April 20, 1863, a small quantity of gold was discovered on Santa Catalina Island. The discovery inaugurated a miniature gold rush and the formation of the San Pablo Mining District. Ultimately the strike showed little commercial value and the last claim was filed in 1865, but during the subsequent occupation miner's rights were to be an issue.

On January 1, 1864, Company C began its occupation by ordering an eviction of everyone on the island. The hue and cry raised by the miners, fishermen and ranchers was answered by threats from politicians throughout California. The Army backed down by letting everyone stay until the Indian Department took over. The occupation troops settled into harbor improvement and fort building in anticipation of the final approval. In August 1864, contrary to General Halleck's approval and initial improvements on the island, the Commissioner of Indian Affairs disapproved the plan. Company C was ordered to return to Fort Drum then moved onward to Fort Mojave and Camp Cady to protect the area around the Mojave River and the trail to Arizona. Company C remained in the desert until they were mustered out of federal service in 1866.

Following the Civil War the services of these veterans went unrecognized except by civilian organizations. Veterans that joined the GAR (Grand Army of the Republic founded in 1866) were presented membership medals (there were two chapters in Shasta County: one at Redding and one at Anderson). The War Department did not rectify the omission until 1907 when the Civil War Campaign Medal was authorized for all the California veterans who served prior to 9 April 1865 (or August 20, 1866 in Texas). Members of Company C were also authorized the Indian Service Medal in 1907 for any action against hostile Indians in which any soldier was killed or wounded between 1865 and 1866 (the actual ending date was 1891).

Local Tales of Lost Treasure

Arizona has the lost Dutchman Mine and Nevada has the Lost Bucket Mine but Shasta County has a few tales of lost treasure of our own. The first is set about 1850 when miners opened up the Arbuckle Diggings between Ono and Platina. The first party to be allowed to enter the area by the Wintu established a verbal treaty to regulate the conduct of both sides. Although the miners of the first party followed the treaty terms, they had no way of regulating other prospectors and more and more violations began to occur. Finally the Wintu resorted to force to stop their homeland from being over run. When two miners were caught in Beegum Creek, outside of the treaty area, they were killed and two large bags of nuggets were taken. The Wintu knew of the overpowering attraction of gold to the white invaders and so decided to hide the gold.

When the miners failed to return to their main camp an armed response set out to determine the cause. The bodies were found and the armed group decided to capture a number of Wintu "for questioning." The captives told of hiding the gold in a cave, inside a pool on Beegum Creek but would not give an exact location. In retaliation the captives were all killed sealing the mystery. So somewhere in the Beegum Gulch area there remains two large bags of gold nuggets for the finding.

A second tale takes place in 1850 when a Mormon wagon train on its way to Trinity County was stopped at Clear Creek by flooding. At the time the road ran from Red Bluff and approached the Clear Creek Diggings from the south in the vicinity of Briggsville then proceeded up the ridge to Middletown then Shasta. At the time there was an earthen dam just at normal water level (later the Sealtzer Dam would be built on the same site). The Mormon party was impatient to reach their destination and as the floodwaters receded they decided to attempt the crossing. The initial wagons successfully crossed but the final wagon, belonging to a Mr. Bishop, took a slightly different track and hit a hole. The wagon was flipped on its side dumping all the possessions out into the rapidly moving water. Mr. Bishop was saved only by cutting the horses' loose and abandoning the wagon.

Among the possessions on Mr. Bishop's wagon was a chest reported to contain \$40,000, much of it in Utah pioneer gold pieces, that was to buy land or gold claims. None of the gold was recovered and faded into history until in 1910 a \$10 pioneer gold piece was discovered in a dredge on lower Clear Creek. No accounting has ever been made for the other \$39,990. Large denomination California pioneer pieces now sell for \$2,500 to well over \$100,000 each, while Mormon gold pieces from Utah are worth many times more. Even at the low end of the scale it would leave about TEN MILLION DOLLARS in current value remaining to be found.

There are two other tales concerning the Lost Engle's Mine in the Arbuckle area and the Lost Frenchman's Mine in the Bald Hills so for those that want to believe, there is still a fair amount of hidden treasure locally.

Albert Cleveland Richardson

Question: I found a headstone in the garden of a rental house in Happy Valley and the landlord didn't seem interested, so I kept it so I could try and find out where it belonged. I saw the note on the Anderson Historical Society website on the Gillespie headstone and called. The information is as follows:

Son of
John and Belle Richardson
Born
October 3, 1887
Died
June 21, 1889

On the reverse it read:

It's a little grave, but O, have care
For Worldwide hopes are buried there;

How much of light, how much joy,
Is buried with our darling boy.

On the top it appears to read: Albert Cleveland.
Can you help me find this little guys resting place?

Answer: The child's name is Albert Cleveland Richardson and he was the son of John C. Richardson (1860 Iowa-1952 Alameda County) and Belle M. Richardson (1862 New York – 1923 Alameda County). Both parents are buried in Evergreen Cemetery in Alameda County. The headstone was listed as belonging in plot 64 of the Parkville Cemetery across the Sacramento from Anderson.

The Richardson family had a plot at Parkville that contained a number of Albert's relatives. Primarily these are Albert's grandfather, Daniel Carter Richardson (born in 1824 in Tennessee who passed away in 1902 and is buried in Parkville Cemetery but no plot is given), and his grandmother, Eliza Jane Patterson (born in 1833 in Illinois who passed away in 1895 and is buried in plot 67). Another son of John and Belle's, Bertie Everett (born 12-8-1883 in Shasta county and died on 2-21-1904) is buried in plot 64. Albert's aunt, Rachel Richardson (born 1860 in Iowa, who died in 1926) is buried in plot 77 with her husband, Charles Henry Rolison (born 1849 who died in 1931). Another aunt, Ann Mariah Richardson (born 1864 in Missouri who died in 1896) is buried in plot 68 with her husband, George W. Clark (born in 1852 in Illinois who died in 1934).

Family of Daniel Carter Richardson (1824 Tennessee – 1902 Shasta County, buried PARKVILLE)

Marriage #1 in 1846: Elizabeth Loyd (1815-1951; buried in Tennessee)

Children:

- 1) Reuben Bruce 1847 Tennessee, died 1921 Tehama County
- 2) Luticia 1849 Tennessee, died 1893
- 3) Hannah Frances 1850 Tennessee, died 1915 Kansas

Marriage # 2 in 1851: Eliza Jane Patterson (1833 Illinois – 1895 Shasta County, buried PARKVILLE)

Children:

- 4) Phebe 1852 - 1852
- 5) Harvey 1853 Missouri, died 1919 Oregon
- 6) Nancy 1855 Missouri, died 1856 Missouri
- 7) Mary 1858 Missouri, died 1932
- 8) John C. 1860 Iowa, died 1952 Alameda County
- 9) Rachel (Rolison) 1860 Iowa, died 1926, buried PARKVILLE
- 10) Martha Ruth (Murry) 1861 Iowa, died 1946 Oregon
- 11) William 1874 Missouri
- 12) Ann Mariah 1864 Missouri, died 1896, buried PARKVILLE
- 13) Edward 1878 Missouri, died 1958

Family of John C. Richardson (1860 Iowa – 1952 Alameda County)

Marriage # 1 1883 Sutter County: Belle M. Benjamin (born 1862 New York – died 1923 in Alameda County).

- 1) Bertie Everett 1883 Shasta County, died 1904, buried

PARKVILLE

- 2) Albert Cleveland 1887 Shasta County, died 1889,
buried PARKVILLE
- 3) Ethel M. 1890 Shasta County, died 1981 Sacramento County
- 4) Edith M. 1895 Shasta county, died 1990 Alameda County
- 5) Leola M. (Powers) 1898 Shasta County, died 1936 Alameda
County
- 6) Lilliam M. born 1898 Shasta County, died 1990 San Francisco

General history: Daniel Carter Richardson had three children by his first wife, Elizabeth Loyd, who died in 1851. In the same year he married Eliza Jane Patterson by whom he had ten children. In 1850 Daniel was a farmer in Tennessee. In the early 1850s he moved his blended family to Missouri. In 1860 Daniel was a farmer in Iowa but it seems the family returned to Missouri by 1864. In the U.S. Census of 1870 Daniel was listed as a farmer in Missouri. In 1874 Daniel registered to vote in Shasta County giving his occupation as carpenter in Parkville. In 1880 Daniel was listed as a shake maker in Shingletown. In 1900 shortly before his death he was listed as a millwright in Shingletown.

John C. Richardson moved with the family from Iowa to Missouri then Shasta County. He married Belle M. Benjamin in Sutter County in 1883. John registered to vote in Shasta County in 1885 giving his occupation as farmer at Balls Ferry. In 1900 John was listed as a farmer at Shingletown. In 1910 John and his family were living in Redding where he worked as a janitor at Shasta High School. By 1920 the family had moved to Oakland in Alameda County where John was an "all around man." John and Belle reside in Alameda County for the remainder of their lives.