

# Anderson Historical Society Newsletter

## August 2018

The November 2018 Newsletter contains three articles: 1) Ballou Group of Mines, 2) Addie Ballou and 3) Piety Hill Monument Keynote Speech

Note: in the October 2018 edition there was an article on the Pearson House (Willard House) in Igo. The house was shown in a lithograph in the book: Tehama County, California Illustrations published by Elliott & Moore of San Francisco in 1880. The Pearson House is in the middle of the picture. Behind the house across Conger Gulch is the town of Piety Hill.

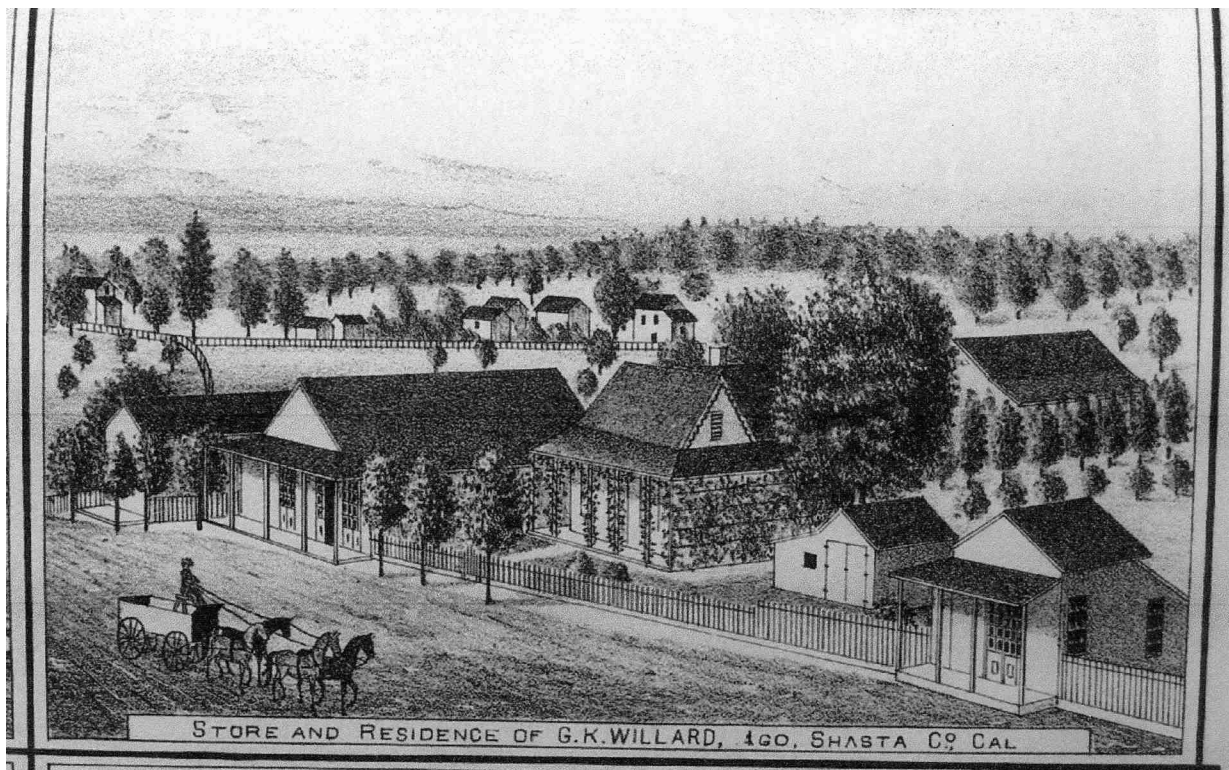


Fig Tree

On the east side of the Vietnam Memorial Bridge as it twists and turns towards Muletown Road, there is a fig tree in a little side gulch. Behind the tree is an old rock retaining wall and I always wondered what crazy miner or farmer would plant an orchard on such steep terrain. In looking for old sites, fruit trees and non-native plants are an

indication of prior habitation. It turns out that there was no crazy person behind that tree or several others further down the gulch but it is true an assumption can still make an ass out of the user.

The rock retaining wall was built as protection on the old road that descended to the Four-Mile Bridge crossing on Clear Creek. Most of the upper portion of the old road has been destroyed while changing the route to the Vietnam Memorial Bridge. The road made a sharp hairpin turn as it rounded the gulch and its remains are hidden behind the fig tree. As a wagon load of figs attempted to make the sharp turn it dumped the load into the gulch. Since the gulch has an intermittent water flow some of the figs took root. The figs bloom every year and every year the road maintenance folks try to destroy it. Lucky the fig has remained to puzzle drivers and hide the story of an early traffic accident.



Four Mile Bar Bridge

The bridge can be seen from the Vietnam Veteran's Bridge on Placer Road across Clear Creek. Most people call it the old Igo Bridge although the real name is the Four Mile Bar Bridge. The location was the site of the gold discovery by William C. Moon and his Native American laborers that followed P.B Reading's discovery in 1848. There are indications that there was a local road and crossing that served the later Igo Bridge Mine and Piety Hill but no indication of a bridge until 1895.

The initial bridge site leading to Piety Hill was where the Clear Creek Bridge on Clear Creek Road now stands. The public road then ran along Main Street in Horsetown and once it crossed Clear Creek it turned immediately northwest in a somewhat direct line to Piety Hill. After the population of Horsetown dwindled the bridge fell into disrepair and finally fell into Clear Creek in the early 1890s. As the economic interests had changed and center more on the Centerville to Igo route the replacement bridge was moved to Four Mile Bar in 1895.

A new structure was built, I believe in 1955, to replace the Four Mile Bar Bridge. The new bridge was simply named the Clear Creek Bridge until 2002 when the Board of Supervisors authorized the name change to the Vietnam Veteran's Bridge. The old bridge site is now a gravel injection site for the West Shasta Resource Conservation District.





Ballou Group Of Mines

At the end of Zogg Mine Road where the public road stops was the home of Roy S. Ballou. Many people in the community knew him as a supporter of local history and as a teller of tales, some tall and others earthy. Some remembered that the family, particularly Richard Ballou, still owned some of the mine sites but most people had not been on the claims in years. When Don Gilmer arranged for a meeting with Bill Rich to view some of the old mines we jumped at the occasion. Mr. Rich purchased the Ballou house site as well as some BLM land above the Ballou Claims.

The first note for the Ballou family was in the 1880 Census with Ed L. Ballou who was listed as a quartz miner age 24 living in the South Fork Mining District. Ed registered to vote on 16 June 1885. Ed was born in Wisconsin while his father was born in Vermont and his mother in Ohio. The first house was a one-room cabin with a porch built about 1880. When a larger house was needed the site was moved across the road. The current owner's house is most likely the second home dating from the middle 1880s. The 1900 Census lists the following residents under Ballou: Clarence F., Edit, Edward L., Kenneth C., Laura F., Mary V., and Roy S. The 1910 Census uses Ballou and adds Annie, Edna M., Lois S., and has Mary listed as May V. The ownership of the claims began with E.L. Ballou then passed to Mary V. Ballou then to Roy S. Ballou. There is no marriage certificate for Ed but he was married to May Vashti Wood who is often listed as Mary. Roy S. Ballou was born October 2, 1887, in California and died on April 23, 1972. Roy's wife was named Mable and they were married in March of 1942. The initial claims were broken up and divided between the survivors. All of the property remains private and access is by permission only.

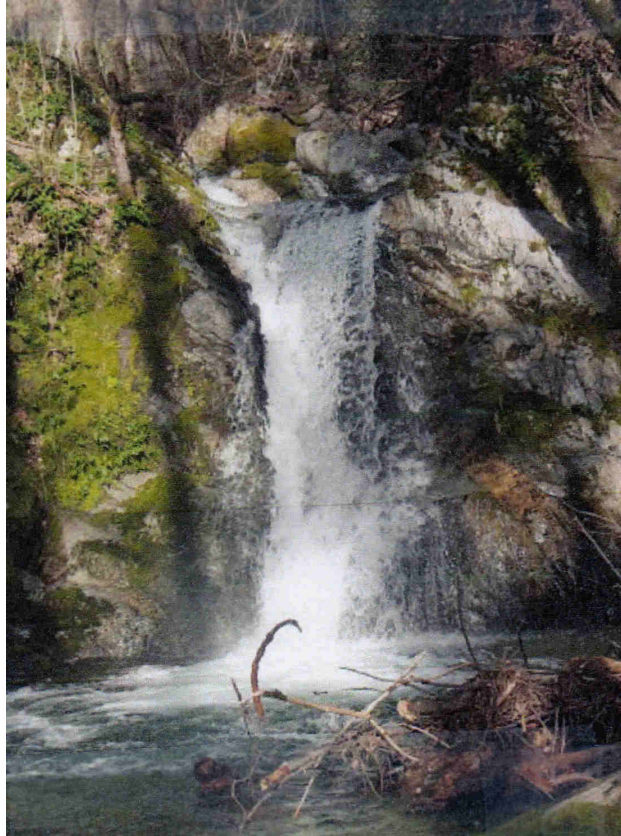
Ed. L. filed Affidavit of Labor for the following claims: Ficus et al, Great Falls Group, Hope, Manzanita et al, North Sulphide et al, Plus et al, and Wedge et al. Under Mary V. there are some changes and additions: Hope is listed et al, the Great Falls Group is listed as Falls et al, there is a note for Ficus and Fikus et al, the North Sulfide is listed as Sulfide et al, and



the Sulphide Extension et al is added. Under Roy S. Ballou three additional claims are added: Lucky Strike et al, Mountain View Quartz and Mountain View et al. From the Affidavit it seems the family actively mined to just after 1920. After that a few claims were worked by others just prior to World War II. It seems there has be little activity on the mines since 1940.







Addie Ballou

Adeline Lucia “Addie” (nee Hart) Ballou is buried in the Igo Cemetery and a notation in the county grave index cites that she had been inducted into the San Francisco Hall of Fame. As “Addie” died in San Francisco the question of her relationship to Igo initiated interest.

Adeline L. Hart was the daughter of Alexander H. Hart and Polly Eldridge. Her great-grand father, Samuel Eldridge, had served in the American Revolution in the 5<sup>th</sup>

Connecticut Regiment, clearing her way as a later member of the Daughters of the American Revolution (#47492). She was born in Chagrin Falls, Ohio on April 19, 1837. On December 25, 1854 she married Albert Darius Ballou in Harrison, Wisconsin. At the time she was seventeen but multiple citations use fifteen and cite her education as acquired at home.

Albert Darius Ballou was born in Monroe, Massachusetts on November 10, 1828. In 1852 he left New England for the frontier of Wisconsin. He settled in what quickly became the town of Harrison, Wisconsin and served as city clerk for seven years before the Civil War. The couple had five children, four of whom survived to adulthood. The first was Edward Lull Ballou born March 30, 1856. He was followed by twins in 1858: Miner Hart Ballou and Myron Hamilton Ballou who died shortly after birth. Clarence Jefferson was born in July 1860 and Evangeline Ellen was born after the Civil War in April 1866.

At the beginning of the Civil War in September 1861 Albert joined Company C, 10<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry Regiment. Albert served in the regimental hospital until the summer of 1862 when he was transferred to Huntsville, Alabama. When the Confederate Army recaptured the town, Albert volunteered to remain with the sick and wounded. Albert was paroled to a camp of prisoners awaiting exchange in Missouri. Albert was appointed the assistant surgeon for the camp. In March 1863 Albert was exchanged and rejoined the 10<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin in Murfreesboro where he was promoted to hospital steward. Albert remained with the regiment until it mustered out of service in November 1864. He had participated in the Battles of Tunnel Hill, Hoover's Gap, Peach Tree Creek, Chickamauga, Mission Ridge and the Atlanta Campaign.

Albert reenlisted in November 1864 and served as Druggist and Assistant Surgeon at a hospital in Madison, Wisconsin. At the conclusion of the war, Addie and Albert reunited and had their fifth child. Albert attended Rush Medical College in Chicago and graduated as a physician in 1870. The marriage seems to have failed after the war as Addie was relocated in San Francisco by 1870 and Albert settled in Kansas with the children.

During the Civil War Addie also offered her services to the Governor of Wisconsin and was assigned to the regimental hospital of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry Regiment. She was later commissioned by Surgeon General Wolcott and moved with the regiment to Memphis, Tennessee. She assisted in taking 255 sick soldiers to Keokuk, Iowa, returning in time to fight a terrible epidemic that had broken out in Memphis. She was affectionately called "The Little Mother" by members of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Wisconsin.

Addie remained active in the Army Nurses organization and was once its president. She was active in the Grand Army of the Republic and her attached picture shows her proudly wearing their medal. She also contributed two stories to A Bibliography of Wisconsin Participation in the War Between the States.

In 1870 Addie studied at the School of Design in San Francisco where she later established an art studio. She was an active artist in California and Australia and known for her landscapes and portraits of westerners. Addie also became known for her poetry, publishing among other work the book, Driftwood. Addie was an active author in the newspaper and journal and co-authored The Forgotten Characters of Old San Francisco. Addie became active as a suffragette and introduced a bill to allow women to be appointed as Public Notaries. After winning Addie added that title to her accomplishments by becoming a Notary Public.

On September 28, 1892 Addie applied for a pension based on her service as a nurse with the Medical Department, United States Volunteers. The pension was granted and the reason given was invalidity. The 1900 US Census still listed her as a portrait artist. Addie died in 1916 in San Francisco but the body was buried in the Igo Cemetery near her first born son, Edward Lull Ballou, who died on October 1, 1911 in Igo.

Edward Lull Ballou was born on March 30, 1856 in Clifton, Winnebago County, Wisconsin. He graduated from the Industrial University of Illinois as an assayer. Edward seems to have moved to Shasta shortly after graduating as he is listed in the 1880 US Census living at the South Fork of Clear Creek. Edward registered to vote in 1885. He married May Vashti Wood and established multiple mining interests in the South Fork Mining District.



Addie Ballou wearing the Grand Army of the Republic Membership Medal

## Piety Hill Historical Plaque Keynote Speech, 1 May 2010 by Jo L. Giessner

Piety Hill was settled in 1849 as placer miners followed gold up the side gulches of Clear Creek and discovered the ancient riverbeds that run toward Dry Creek.

The town was the first settlement west of Clear Creek in what was the Wintu heartland on a flat at the top of a hill.<sup>1</sup> A road was established between the already bustling Horsetown and Piety Hill and then on to Shasta.

There are two theories on the name Piety Hill. One is that it became Piety Hill for all the religious and political discussions of the early inhabitants and another is that Grandma McKenny named it for her hometown of Piety Hill, Michigan. For whatever reason it was named Piety Hill it seemed to attract those of a more religious bent, such as my Great Great Grandfather the Reverend William Samuel Kidder who came from England as a child to New York. He left Pittsfield, New York as a young newly ordained Baptist Minister and headed straight for Piety Hill, California. He not only came to save the human souls, but to save some gold nuggets!

The initial mining operations were placer using water from the South Fork of Clear Creek or Andrews Ditch. The Hardscrabble mine was just to the east of Piety Hill and they transitioned from placer mining to hydraulic mining as did individual miners. Hydraulic mining requires more water. Hydraulic mining also caused many human injuries or deaths as the claim banks gave way falling on the miners.

Water being more precious than gold or in this case to get to the gold, lead to the formation of the Dry Creek Tunnel and Pluming Company to build ditches, tunnels and flumes from the north fork of Cottonwood Creek and other creeks to the west. The twenty-two mile system was built using mostly Chinese laborers and terminated just above the Hardscrabble Mine and Piety Hill. An early 1860's visitor described the view to include a 5000-foot long flume in some places ninety feet high.

In 1866, George McPherson began the surveying of a town site that became Igo just 1/4 mile west of Piety Hill proper. This was to encourage the relocation of Piety Hill residents so that the Hardscrabble could concentrate hydraulic mining where people currently dwelled. Many moved, some stayed and the Chinese refused to budge. It turns out they were correct, as the Anti Debris Act was passed in the California Legislature and by 1880 the Hardscrabble Mine ceased operations. All that was left was a long deep hole and a steep cliff marking the end of it.

Many of the Chinese moved on to work on the continuation of the California & Oregon Railroad northward. Those that stayed grew wonderful garden produce. Most of those of European heritage spent their gold coin on land in the more fertile areas nearby and continued with agricultural operations leaving Piety Hill to become a totally Chinese town after the turn of the century.



Great, Great Grandfather Kidder remained a preacher, always dabbled in mining and bought ranching property southwest of Ono. He remained the postmaster and preacher for Piety Hill until all services transitioned to Igo.

The after chapter for Piety Hill was very important. In 1884, the water rights to the Dry Creek Tunnel and Fluming Company passed to a Mr. Hayward who had a vision for the development of Happy Valley land to the growing of fruit and olives. Former mining ditches were extended down Cloverdale Road to Anderson. In 1907, the same water rights were sold to Happy Valley Land and Water Company.

All that remains to be seen of Piety Hill today are a few basement pits, earthen reservoirs, empty ditches and mining scars. Still, it is an important part of our local history. It was one of the earliest mining camps, was a significant gold producer, and weathered the storms of transitioning mining law, human integration and relocations and water rights laws. And, as mining faded into the beautiful sunsets viewed from this hill, water trickled on down the hill to a vast development between here and the Sacramento River.

Piety Hill remains a significant historical memory and deserving of this plaque presented here today.

## PIETY HILL

THE TOWNSITE IS LOCATED NORTHWARD ALONG CLOVERDALE RD. FOR 0.7 OF A MILE. ESTABLISHED IN 1849, THE TOWN GREW QUICKLY TO 1,500 RESIDENTS, INCLUDING 600 CHINESE. CLOSEBY, THE HARDCRABBLE MINE BEGAN OPERATIONS IN 1853, SERVED BY THE DRY CREEK TUNNEL AND FLUMING CO.'S TWENTY-TWO MILE LONG DITCH CONSTRUCTED BY CHINESE LABOR. WHEN THE HARDCRABBLE'S HYDRAULIC OPERATIONS THREATENED TO DESTROY THE TOWN IN 1866, MANY WHITE RESIDENTS MOVED ACROSS CONGER GULCH TO THE NEWLY ESTABLISHED TOWN OF IGO. THE CHINESE POPULATION REMAINED ENGAGED IN BOTH MINING AND VEGETABLE GARDENING. THE TOWN WAS SAVED FROM DESTRUCTION BY THE PASSAGE OF THE ANTI-DEBRIS ACT WHICH LIMITED HYDRAULIC MINING. THE CHINESE STAYED UNTIL THE EARLY 1920'S WHEN THE LAST TWO RESIDENTS DIED. IN 1907, THE WATER RIGHTS OF THE DRY CREEK TUNNEL AND FLUMING COMPANY TRANSFERRED TO THE HAPPY VALLEY LAND AND WATER COMPANY WHICH EXTENDED THE DITCH SYSTEM PROVIDING AGRICULTURAL WATER FOR THE HAPPY VALLEY AREA. BEHIND THIS MONUMENT IS THE EXTENSION DITCH.



DEDICATED MAY 1, 2010,  
BY DND GRANGE #445,  
TRINITARIANUS CHAP. #62 ECW,  
WITH THE DEPT. OF THE INTERIOR,  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT





