

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:_____.

The December 2018 Newsletter contains three articles: 1) Brigadier General Samuel H. Dosh of Shasta County, 2) Duckett Creek, and 3) Reagan Ditch

Doctor Flora House

Situated near the stop sign in downtown Igo the Dr. Flora house was probably built sometime after 1900. It was the home of Doctor George Flora (1864-1964) and his wife Anna Elizabeth Flora (1867-1924). Dr. Flora was born in Maryland as were his parents and moved to Igo sometime after the 1900 census. Anna was born in Pennsylvania but both parents were born in Maryland. The first record of Dr. Flora is in the 1910 census when he was 42 years of age. In the 1920 census Dr. Flora is noted as living in Anderson. The census noted he was an Alopah Physician. The term should be allopath or allopathic which was used to describe a traditional MD rather than a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine.

The house seems to be associated with a carriage house to the rear and Dr. Flora was noted for making house calls in his buggy at any place and any weather.



Plotts' House

The property was known as Rancho los Olivos and was built by William and Ruth Plotts who moved to Olinda from Whittier, California. William was an investor rather than a rancher or farmer.

The house was two stories built of field stone and cement. The first floor contained the kitchen, parlor, four bedrooms, library and office. The second floor contained a game room that ran the entire length of the building, with a retreat room on each side, one for men and one for the women.

The structure burned in the late 1930s when an inside fire caught the cedar shakes on fire. The structure was never repaired.

William and Ruth had two sons, Tom and Bob, who were active in Happy Valley affairs. The brothers donated the land for the Happy Valley Cemetery as well as the land for the Happy Valley School. The brothers inherited the Happy Valley Water Company which Bob managed until it was sold to the Clear Creek Community Service District. Tom ran the telephone company until it was sold.



Brigadier General Samuel H. Dosh of Shasta

In researching the book on Fort Reading for the Anderson Historical Society a note was found in the Adjutant General's archives that on 5 September 1858 special orders from Governor Weller were sent to Brigadier General S. H. Dash of Shasta County to raise a company of eighty men and clear the road between Weaverville

and Eureka then dissolve. Beyond that note nothing else was found about the general and it seems that Adjutant General William Chauncey Kibbe intervened raising the Kibbe Guard at Weaverville on 27 September 1858. It seemed some research was due General Dash as he was listed as a general in Shasta County.

The first thing noted was that the name had an error. In the annual reports of the State of California the name is given as Brigadier General Samuel H. Dosh who in 1858 commanded the 1st Brigade of the 6th Division of the California Militia. Using the size of the modern army, six divisions would be about 120,000 men an impossibility at the time, so more research was required. It turns out that in 1850 California divided the state into four divisions each of two brigades. Each division had a major general and each brigade a brigadier general. In 1855 the state expanded to six divisions of two brigades each. One note cites the generals had terms of two years. In 1856 the sixth division consisting of all of northern California was composed of six companies: Trinity Guards, Klamath Rangers, Coast Rangers, Mounted Coast Riflemen. The Salmon Guards and the Siskiyou Guards each with an average of about eighty men. Each company had a captain and two lieutenants. One newspaper commented that California had more generals than privates but the average was about 160 men to one general officer.

To pay for this force the law required every free, white, able-bodied male citizen of the State to perform military duty or to pay \$2 fee for nonperformance of this duty. The fee exempted the individual from duty except in case of war, insurrection, invasion, to assist the county sheriff, or a requisition of the militia. Another article noted that many county assessors did not collect the fee on a regular basis.

So we now know that Brigadier General Samuel H. Dosh was in a loosely organized militia with the title being more administrative than active troop commander but what was his history. According to grave data he was born 19 March 1827 in Virginia. He was the son of William Dosh born in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania in 1790. His father moved to Shenandoah County, Virginia by 1819 where he married Ann Swann. Samuel's father died when he was nine years old.

Nothing could be found about his early life or immigration to California but by March 1851 he was in Sacramento associated with the newspaper industry. Samuel was noted as launching the Daily Union Newspaper but seems to have quickly sold his share for \$600 due to publication problems. Samuel is noted at the same period as being a Republican delegate to the State convention which would indicate he leaned towards anti-slavery and federal land grants. An article in the Overland Monthly states Dosh was a Democrat who broke with the party over President Buchanan's Kansas policy but the break seems to have been as early as 1851. By 1857 Samuel had reconciled with the Democratic Party.

By March of 1852 Samuel moved to the town of Shasta where along with Jacob Carr Hinckley and Archibald Skillman he launched the Shasta Courier. All three individuals were listed as publishers but Dosh was listed as editor. In November 1852 and again in June 1853 the newspaper offices burned but operations quickly reopened. In 1858 Hinckley a lawyer by trade left the operation after serving as County Judge between 1854 and 1858. Hinckley was a Republican

and was a delegate to the Republican National Convention in 1860 at Chicago. Hinckley was editor of the Shasta Republican for a short period and died in 1869.

Archibald Skillman was a printer by trade and remained with the Shasta Courier until 1867 when the newspaper was sold to John J. Conmy. After living in San Francisco a short period Archibald opened up a newspaper in Nevada.

Samuel H. Dosh was active in State affairs in addition to the newspaper. He was elected to the 8th Session of the California State Senate as a Democrat in 1857 and served only one term. There is a note that he was elected by a narrow majority of only 13 votes. Dosh initially represented Colusa and Shasta Counties but with the formation of Tehama County it fell into his jurisdiction. For a period of time Dosh was President Pro Tem.

During the same period Dosh was appointed in 1856 to the California Militia. In 1856 the commander of the 6th division was Major General Patrick H. Harris (possibly from Butte County) with Dosh as commander of the 1st Brigade at Shasta and D. D. Colton commander of the 2nd Brigade in Siskiyou County. In 1859 command of the division went to Major General John D. Cosby of Yreka while both brigade commanders were retained. In 1861 Dosh was still listed as commander of the 1st Brigade but his term was cut short by his death on 13 June 1861 at the age of thirty-four. General Dosh was buried at the Shasta Union Cemetery. Samuel's death was not listed in the Coroner's file so he probably died from natural causes.

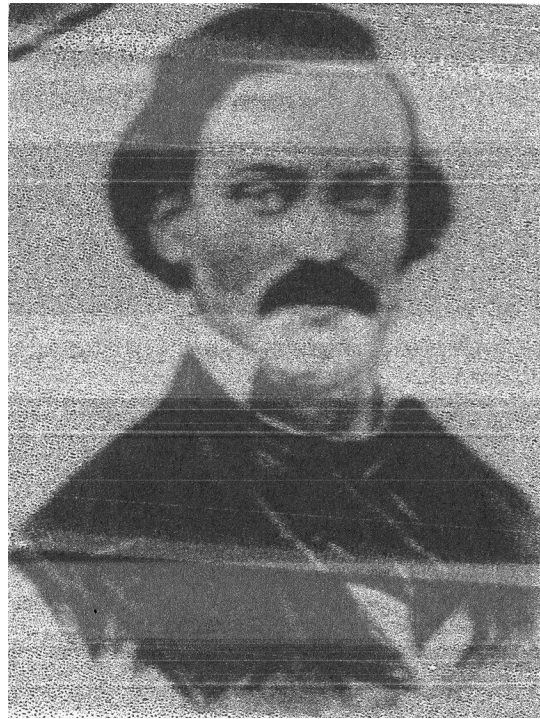
Samuel appears to have returned to Virginia in 1856 as he is noted to have married on 7 October 1856 in Shenandoah County, Virginia. Samuel's bride was Eleanor "Ella" F. Crawford born in Virginia in 1836. Ella was the daughter of prominent teacher William Crawford (born in Virginia in 1816) and his wife Sarah (born in Virginia in 1816). In the 1860 U. S. Census Samuel was listed as an editor in Shasta living with his wife Ella and a two-year old daughter Anna born in California. Samuel and Ella appear to have had a second daughter named Nellie born in 1860 or 1861.

After Samuel's death in 1861 Ella was left with two young daughters. On 23 July 1864 Ella married Doctor John Milton Briceland in Shasta. John was born in 1826 in Virginia (now West Virginia) and was an 1847 graduate of Jefferson Medical College in Pennsylvania. John may have been at Shasta as early as 1852. The new blended family was not listed in the 1870 U. S. Census but in 1880 Annie (Anna) Dosh was listed as a step daughter age 22 and Nellie Dosh as a step daughter age 19. Also in the 1880 U. S. Census was Newton Briceland a son age 15 born in California and Mittie a daughter age 10 born in California. John Milton Briceland died in 1894 in Shasta and was buried in the Shasta Union Cemetery. No date of death or burial was found for Ella but she was present for the 1880 U.S. Census and not listed in the 1900 U.S. Census.

John Milton Briceland also participated in community service. In 1888 he was known to have been the County Physician and reported participated in the hanging of two criminals. John was elected to the State Assembly for the 21st Session (1875-1876) and 25th Session (1883-1884) and the State Senate for the 27th and 28th Session (1887-1890).

In 1900 Anna S. Briceland was listed as the head of the household in Shasta and born in February 1858 (probably died in San Francisco in 1923). Listed with Anna was a sister Samuella born in 1860 in California, Samuella was probably the Nellie Dosh listed in the 1880 U.S. Census, born on October 1860 in Shasta and who died in San Francisco in 1923. Also listed as a brother with Anna was Newton E. Briceland born in 1865 and working as a dentist. Newton died in San Francisco in 1910. Lastly listed with Anna was a sister Jessie born in 1870 in California (died 1947). Jessie appears to be the Mittie in the 1880 U.S. Census. The family tree in Ancestry also lists an Eleanor C. Briceland born about 1862 in California.

In 1910 Anna S. Briceland 50 was listed as the head of household in San Francisco along with Eleanor C. 48, Newton E. 45 and Jessie M. 38. No reason was found why Eleanor was absent from the 1880 U. S. Census unless she was away at school.



Samuel H. Dosh from the California Blue Book

Duckett (Ducket) Creek

Duckett Creek flows six and a half miles to join into the North Fork of Cottonwood Creek at a point two and a half miles west southwest of Ono. The creek which flows from Duckett Peak (previously Rector Peak) was first named Numhebe Creek, then Hoover Creek. To many locals the creek remains Hoover Creek regardless of name change by the County. The creek was renamed for Henry Parker Duckett who painted scenic views of Ono and the Bald Hills in the late 1890s.

Henry Parker Duckett was born in London, England on 5 May 1859. He married Georgiana Amos Duckett in England. She does not appear to have ever

come to the United States. The couple appears to have had at least two children: Henry S. born in November 1881 in India and Ralph Ernest born in 1886 in England.

The family seems to have been engaged in theatrical productions as this is the occupation listed on the ship Yucatan when it docked in New Orleans from Colon, Panama on 31 December 1890. The group contained three members: Washington Norton age 51, Mary Norton age 46 and Henry Parker Duckett age 31. Washington and Mary were relatives of Henry and were listed as U.S. Citizens. Henry was listed as English. Their luggage proclaimed their occupation when 51 bags were landed.

The group reached San Francisco in 1891 and seems to have broken up. Mary Norton is found in the 1900 Census as being born in January 1844 in England. She was living in Shingletown and her occupation was given as actress. She resided with Edward Bridge, a farmer, born in May 1862 in England and a family relative. The group included Bessie Jester born in September 1872 (listed as a sister and housekeeper), and Lena Jester born in April 1880 in California (listed as a sister and attending school). The last two members were Ralph Duckett who was listed as a farm laborer and George Duckett born in 1889 in England (listed as a cousin and student).

Henry Parker Duckett was listed on the 1900 Census as living in San Francisco. He was living with his son, Henry S. Duckett, who is listed as a baker. Henry Parker was listed as an artist. In 1921 Henry P. Duckett moved to Redding, California. At some point he must have been naturalized as he was on the voter registry in Shasta County. On the 1930 Census Mary Norton, age 80, is residing with her nephew, Henry P. Duckett (age 74) and nephew, Edward Bridge (age 70) in Redding. Henry died in Redding on March 17, 1941.

Local lore has Hoover Creek renamed for an outside artist who camped on the creek and painted "A Brook Scene in the Bald Hills," then moved on. The latter part is true but it would seem that Duckett was a local artist.



The Reagan Ditch

Ralph Hollibaugh provided the SWSHG an old lithograph titled “The Reagan Ditch, Property of James Reagan, Oak Grove Shasta County Post Office Gas Point”. The lithograph is undated but probably dates around 1880 when the census listed Reagan as selling water for mining. The Reagan property was below Gas Point on the flats of the North Fork of Cottonwood Creek (this is the old Gas Point location down toward the mouth of Crow Creek). The other picture of Reservoir No. 3 seems to be attached showing the water starting at the reservoir then running by ditch to a head gate above the valley. The water is transferred by pipe down the slope, across the valley and up the other slope. There appears to be a flume and water wheel carrying the water to the Bald Hills.

James P. Reagan, born December 1833 in Pennsylvania, was known to be an early gold miner at Bulgin Gulch and Breechesburg (Briggstown). He is first listed on the 1860 Census as a miner using the Horsetown Post Office as his address. He was noted to have some success mining in Bulgin Gulch and seems to have used the profits wisely. In the 1870 Census he is listed as having a value of \$750 and \$2000 and working in general merchandise. According to his grand- daughter Rose Josephine Drew, Reagan operated a two-story hotel in Gas Point and ran the Post Office. He was also involved in mining in the Bald Hills using Chinese labor in conjunction with William Drew. On April 12, 1871 he married Sarah Ann Nigh in Gas Point. In the 1880 Census Reagan is listed at Cottonwood below Gas Point selling water for mining. His father and mother were listed as also being born in Pennsylvania (the 1900 Census lists his father as being born in Ireland). Sarah was listed as being forty years old and born in Ohio (her parents were from New York).

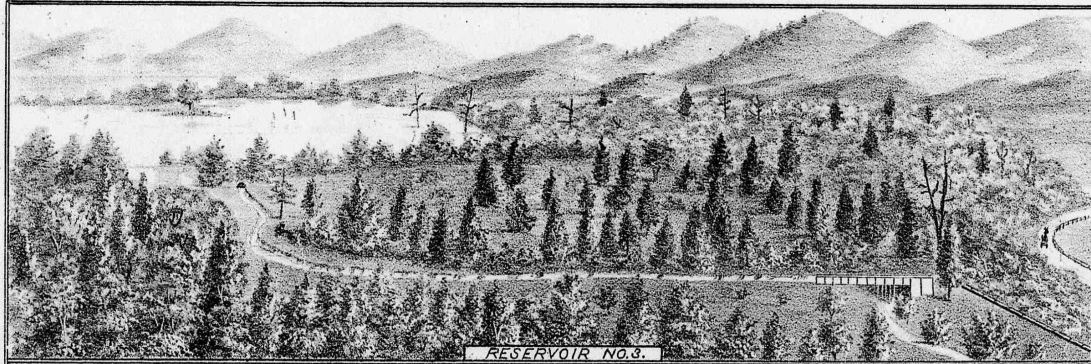
Also listed is a daughter Annie B. born in California in December 1876, and a son, James W. Reagan, born in California about 1877.

On the 1900 Census James Reagan was listed as a farmer and residing with his daughter, Annie B. and his son-in-law, Manuel D. Ricard (Rickard on the 1910 Census) who was 28 and born in California (his parents were from Portugal). Manual and Annie had a daughter named Rose (Rosa). James P. Reagan died at age 83 on April 15, 1914 and was buried in the Redding Cemetery.

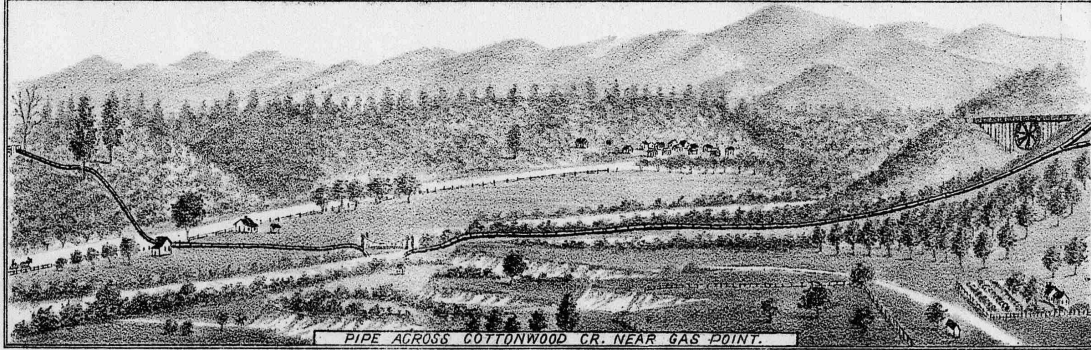
The water supply for the Reagan Ditch may have been the Watson and Roaring River Ditch which was a business partnership of James Simpson Drew and Chinese businessmen. The water was diverted from Jerusalem Creek and ran to Roaring River. The Reagan Ditch may have been an extension.

The Drew and Reagan family were related through Albert Rains who married Rose (Rosa) Ricard (Rickard)(his first wife; he later married Marie Chavez) and William Drew who married Rose Rains. James Drew was born in New Hampshire in 1833 and studied law before coming to California. In the 1870 Census he is listed as a blacksmith at Horsetown with assets of \$800. He returned to the east and returned with his two daughters according to the Shasta County Biographies but the 1880 Census lists his children as Maria age 15(died young), Mary C. age 17 (married David Baker), and Benjamin B. age 19 all born in California. In the 1880 Census James Drew is married to Nellie age 35, a Native American born in California as were her parents. Maria, Mary, and Benjamin are listed as ½ Native America. In 1888 James ("Jim") S. Drew married Isabelle ("Belle") Rains and lived on a ranch near Roaring River. Isabelle was the daughter of an early white miner, Isaac Rains, and a Bald Hill Wintu, born on April 1, 1864 in Tehama County. Isabelle had two children (Jimmie Rains born 1883 and Albert Rains born in 1886) with a Wintu father (common lore has Albert's father as Chinese). James and Isabelle were married in 1888. James is noted to having been hired to supervise Chinese laborers in the Roaring River and Bald Hills and also owned a hotel at Roaring River.

James S. Drew (1833-1910) and Isabelle Rains (1864-1947) had eight children: Lena born in 1891 (later married Earnest Taylor), Charles born in 1893, Dean born in 1895, Earl born in 1897, Fern born in 1900 (later married Leaton Foster), John born in 1901, Frank born in 1903 (later married Lillian Johnson), and William born in 1907 (later married Rose Rains nee Rickard born 1906, the first wife of Albert Rains). James and Isabelle are buried in the Tuttle Gulch Cemetery.



RESERVOIR NO. 3.



PIPE ACROSS COTTONWOOD CR. NEAR GAS POINT.

THE REAGAN DITCH, PROPERTY OF JAMES REAGAN, OAK GROVE SHASTA CO. P. O. GAS POINT.

REAGAN DITCH, OAK GROVE, CAL.