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Thomas Raglin and Susan Hoaglin Homestead

B01 Map 4: T3S, R7E, S 23

This parcel is classified as an IA on the Base Map but further research is needed to confirm this (for a discussion of this topic see below). What is clear is that it was settled and a patent had been issued at some time prior about 1894 (see below).

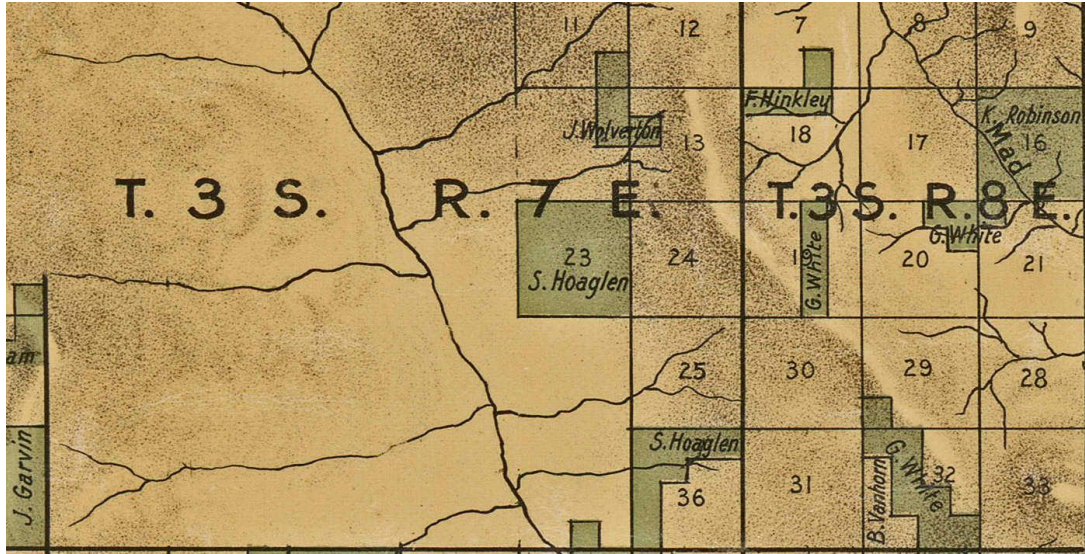
Note there are two spellings—Raglin is the correct spelling (see census listings below). He was listed as "Raglan" on the 1880 Blocksburg census but the name shows up as "Raglin" on the 1900 and 1910 census listings--hence the problem. Raglin is used here—except on geographic features like trails or on USGS and other maps that all use "Raglan." Given the inconsistency of maps and local histories, it is easier to just realize that this problem exists.

This location is identified on the 7.5 USGS minute map as Raglan Flat (it also notes a "Dry Well"). I first visited this site the fall of 1984 to record it (CA-TRI-991/H, 05-10-54-273) as it was located adjacent to a proposed timber harvest unit and road (Yellowjacket Timber Sale CRIR 05-10-293). Prior to construction of the road leading to Raglan Flat in the late 1980s the site was rarely visited by the public (except for a few hunters and cowboys), since it was necessary to hike in for about two miles from Mad River Ridge on the Raglan Trail (HTNF-18).

Lowden's map of Trinity County for 1894 (Map 1) indicates a homestead in this Section (23 T3S, R7E) as belonging to "S. Hoaglen" (Hoaglin). Interestingly, it shows the entire section as being owned by Hoaglin—compare this map to the later-dated maps below. Tom Raglin married Susan Hoaglin in 1889 when he was fifty-five. She had been previously married to Silas Hoaglin. (A3: 1880-2 Blocksburg, I316). The Silas Hoaglin family had moved back to New Mexico, and after his death, she returned to California with Thomas Raglin (see below).

It is possible that Silas Hoaglin had homesteaded this tract of land—that could explain the "S. Hoaglin" as shown on the map, but it appears more likely that it was patented under her name as an Indian allotment. (It takes several years to prove up a homestead, and the Hoaglins had lived in Powellville, and then moved to New Mexico sometime before 1887.)

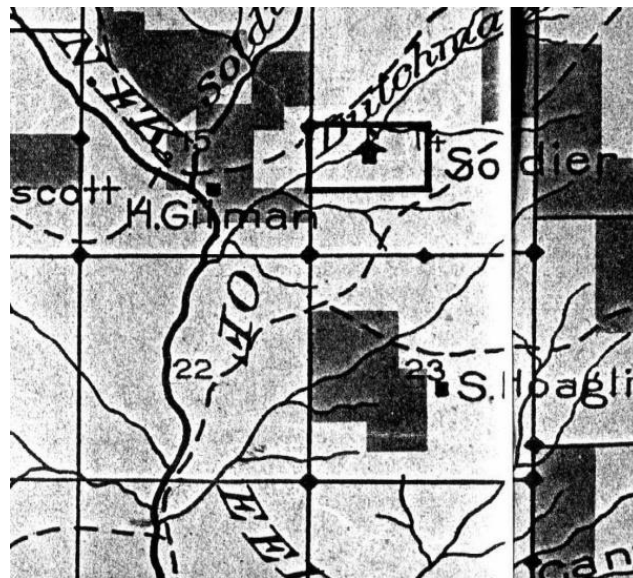
Lowden's 1894 map also shows a tract to the south in Section 36 as being owned by S. Hoaglin. No information could be found related to the disposition of that tract of land but it does not show up as private on the 1915 TNF map (A2: 28) or the 1977 SRNF map (A2: 27b). For that reason it is plotted with dashed lines on the Base Map Layer 3 based on Lowden's 1894 map.



Map 1

Note that the tract in Section 23 shows up as a 640 acre claim on Lowden's 1894 map. A tract also shows up as being owned by Hoaglin in Section 36. (Map A2: 05)

The 1907 TNF map (Map 2) shows the tract as roughly 160 acres. It is centered in the western portion of Section 23--note that a structure (possibly their house or barn) is shown in this Section as being just to the east of the entry claim. This may very well have been the result of problems with the original GLO survey.



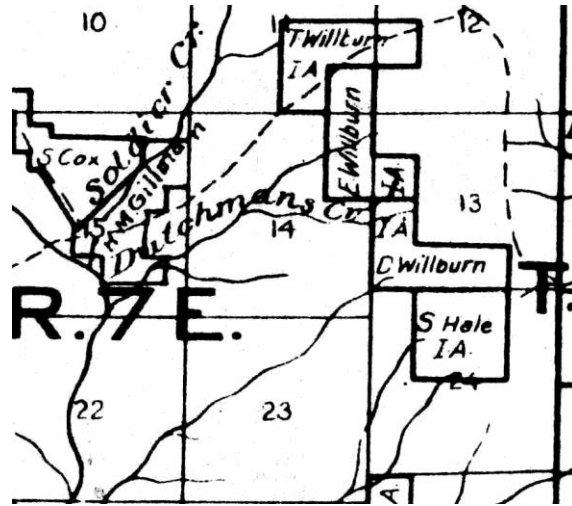
Map 2

Raglan/Hoaglin tract in 1907

Note that the trail to Raglan Flat HTNF-18 is not plotted accurately see Trails Map. (A2: 06 TNF 1907)

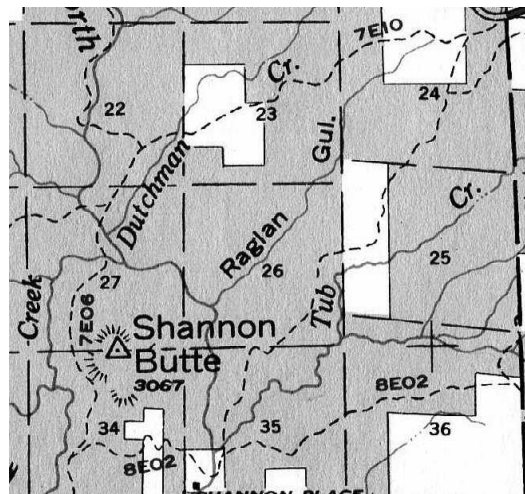
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Surprisingly, note that the Raglin place in Section 23 is not shown on the on the usually accurate 1915 TNF map in Section 23.



1915 TNF map
(A2: 28)

The 1977 SRNF map (Map 3), however, shows the parcel as still being private property. Subsequent to this date and prior to 1984 this parcel was acquired by USFS--possibly as a result of a land exchange --possibly with the Twin Harbors Timber Company--this needs to be confirmed (see SNRF Lands Department records).



Map 3

Note the route of trail HTNF-18 is plotted correctly on this map.
(A2: 21b 1977 SRNF)

Background

Given its link to some of the earliest, best known, and most documented individuals living in the NFERW during the late 19th and early 20th centuries, this is one of the more

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important historic sites in the area. There is a lot of information on Thomas Raglin and Sally Hoaglin, but it is spread across interviews, census records, etc.

Over the years I hiked into this site numerous times before roads were constructed to just east of and just to the north of the site for a timber sale. Unfortunately after construction of these haul roads, Raglan Flat was visited by numerous individuals who illegally collected many historic artifacts from the site. In one instance I was told by foresters working in the area that they personally witnessed artifacts being removed from the site--unfortunately they did not understand the federal cultural resources laws and did not report the theft of artifacts in a timely manner.

On one of my last visits (in about 2002), several areas within the site were identified that had been dug up by individuals looking for artifacts (images 9-10). The problem was noted and this information is in the site record file. By 2002 little more than a few square nails remained on Raglan Flat. Since this site is identified on USGS maps and virtually nothing remains except a few fruit trees and the well, I am providing an overview (see site description below) of the site and what was recorded in November of 1894.

Silas and Sue Hoaglin

As noted above, the parcel of land encompassing Raglan Flat was first claimed by Silas Hoaglin or Susan Hoaglin ("Hoaglen" on the map; some histories, maps, and documents also use this name—see the Hoaglin entry for more comments on this topic) sometime prior to 1894. Interviews (A5: ms04) indicate that Hoaglin left the area to move to New Mexico prior to 1887, it appears that the entry claim dates from the late 1880s—the General Allotment Act was passed in 1889. At the time of entry, it appears the tract had not yet been surveyed as the parcel shows up on Lowden's 1894 map as a 640 acre tract in Section 23. It is possible; therefore, that Hoaglin squatted on land under the Preemption Act and later purchased the tract or filed a claim under the Homestead Act of 1862 before he left for New Mexico but that is unlikely. This data may be available at the Trinity County land records office.

Silas and Susan Hoaglin (there are various appellations including Sue, Susie, and Suzan) are listed on the 1880 census for "Powellville"--later renamed Blocksburg. Silas Hoaglin was one of Blacksburg's earliest settlers and Rafaella Wantt indicated that her grandmother, Sue Hoaglin, was Wailaki (A05 ms04.).

109117	Hoaglin Silas	32 3m 07		1	Stock Farmer
	- Susan	32 3m 48		1	Keeping House
	- James B.	32 3m 22		1	At Home
	- Henry A.	32 3m 17		1	At Home
	- Robert E. L.	32 3m 15		1	At School
	- Sally A.	32 3m 12		1	At School
	- Mark P.	32 3m 8		1	At School
	- Charles	32 3m 6		1	At School
	- George	32 3m 2		1	At Home
	Seymour Alice A.	32 3m 15	Serv't	1	At School

1880 Census record Powellville (Blocksburg) For Silas and Susan Hoaglin

Again, it is not clear exactly how the Hoaglins acquired Raglan Flat, because sometime in the 1880s Silas Hoaglin moved his family to New Mexico where he died and was buried. According to George Friend, "Silas' old friend Tom Ragland (sic), went to New Mexico and brought the family back" (Rafaella Wantt A5: ms.04). On their return, they may have first settled in Blocksburg as the following property transaction is dated 1889.

The handwritten notes by an unknown researcher (I acquired the document from the TCHS in the 1980s if memory serves me correctly) contains the following information. It suggests that the Raglins were living in the Blocksburg area where the parcel discussed below was located-- T2S R5E, Sec 17.

1889- Olive Trogden bought above property from Susan Hoglin (sic) for \$1800 on 4/4/1889:

The said lots and parcels of land was conceded by deed by Hurbert L. Bower to Thomas Raglan the 14th of January 1882 and by him to the party of the first part of the deed [Susan Hoaglin]. [Brackets included in original text.] Book 30 of Deed, pages 443-446 Humboldt County Recorder.

Thomas Raglin

Thomas Raglin was among the first homesteaders to settle in this region of the NFERW with his wife Sue Hoaglin (see B08). It is not certain exactly when the Raglins settled at what is now referred to as Raglan Flat, but it appears—given the information on Silas and Sue Hoaglin--to have been after 1889—possibly the early 1890s. Thomas Raglan was born March 1834 in Missouri. He first shows up in this region on the Great Register of Humboldt County (#3298) as age 44 with no other demographic data (given his age this would have been published in about 1880). Raglin also shows up on the 1880 census living in Powellville

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Given their placement on the 1910 census rolls--taken in June of that year-- it is quite possible that they were still living part time at Raglan Flat (Raglin was 77 rather old to be living on an isolated homestead in the winter) or were spending time at Soldier Basin. On the census list they were #34 (living with their daughter and grandson) and the Gilmans (living just south of the mouth of Soldier Creek see HA11) were listed #33. Sam and Lucy Young (B03) then living in Soldier Basin were listed #35.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
34	34	Raglin Thomas	Head	M	77	M	20			
		Raglin Susan	Wife	F	65	M	20	8	7	
		Hoaglan Charley	grandson	M	5	J				
		Raglin Rosa C.	daughter	F	33	M	4	0	0	

1910 Census Long Ridge
(A3: 1910-7a)

The following information was provided by a direct descendant of Susan Hoaglin: Rafaella Wantt (A5: ms04)--the exact time frame is not clear. This information needs to be further confirmed as it is not documented elsewhere in the historical record. According to Rafaella Wantt, her mother and her mother's sister Susan Raglin--who was her aunt—were both Wailaki and lived at Soldier Basin. Rafaella spent time there with them. Given her age, Rafaella probably visited the place sometime in the 1910s to early 1920s. They may very well have been the two elderly Indian women mentioned as living at Soldier Basin with Lucy and Sam Young (see B03) that are discussed below. According to her, both sisters were buried there, but Rafaella never went back to Soldier Basin after her grandmother and great aunt passed away. Again, this information could not be confirmed and no graves were noted at Soldier Basin (personal observation). It is quite possible, however, that they were missed or there was no remaining physical evidence of the graves. Without a doubt there are burials at this location dating to the prehistoric era.

It is not clear when Thomas Raglin died or exactly where he was living at the time of his death. Based on the above data, it appears that the Raglins were not living full-time at Raglan Flat in 1910 and that Raglan Flat had not been occupied on a full time basis since about 1900 or a few years earlier (see also interview A6: I#448). Artifactual evidence also points to an occupation date just prior to 1900—see the site record. See also the discussion of the ethnographic pit feature located in this vicinity discussed at Unidentified Features -- F31c.

It should also be mentioned that the Book 30 of Deeds, pages 443-446 Humboldt County Recorder, has a homestead entry for Raglin for a tract in 3S7E S 26 SE ¼ recorded in the summer of 1907. This would have been just to the south of Raglan Flat. It appears that this entry was never approved as it remained national forest land. There must be a homestead entry record on file at SRNF HR for this tract as it seems the following is quoted from it:

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Summer of 1907...80 acres of glade--remaining portion brush.
1910--6 families reside in the Township...Caution 6-7 families 5 miles SE.
...failed to find any "springs living water"streams dry up after July...lots of
oaks...only generous use was grazing.

This homestead entry mentions a date of 1910. Therefore, although this entry was not approved, it would give some credence to the fact that the Raglins were still spending at least some of their time at Raglin Flat. Further research will be needed to determine just when the Raglan Flat homestead was abandoned.

Environmental Description

Given the importance of this site, the description from the site record of the changes to the vegetation associations and their distribution in this area since the Contact Period (see Keter 1985, 1997a), is provided here.

This area is a mosaic of open grasslands (locally referred to as prairies), oak woodlands of white and black oak, scattered areas of gray pine on poor soils, and stands of Douglas-fir (mostly under 100 years old in 1985) all in complex associations. Significantly no tanoak or buckeye was noted - these are common about 2 miles to the west (on north and northeast facing slopes). Mixed in with the species listed above are areas of manzanita often on the edges of openings or mixed in with gray pine on some slopes. Raglan Flat is situated on a relatively large (for this area) ancient river terrace—fairly flat and well defined.

On the flat, Douglas-fir have invaded what appears to have been in earlier times more open country. Directly to the northeast of the site along the Raglan trail, the stand of timber is composed mainly of pole size Douglas-fir with only a very few widely scattered larger fir. The pole sized fir appear to be under 100 years old and have crowded out the oak trees that are either dying, dead but still standing, or in many cases, have already fallen to the ground and are decaying. Also, several areas have dead manzanita which the Douglas fir has crowded out. Generally, the Douglas fir trees in this area are usually concentrated in well-defined stands, many of them even age and under 100 years old.

It is probable this flat was mostly open with scattered oak about 100-150 years ago.

Within the homestead tract, the open grassland areas are still being invaded by conifers. Several openings on the flat (see site map) have conifers completely surrounding them and invading conifers (mainly fir 3' to 15' in height) encircling and reducing the size of the openings from year to year.

In summary, it appears that grasslands and oak woodlands in the area are rapidly being invaded by Douglas fir and that the lack of wildfire has played an important part in the changing vegetation patterns of this area since the contact period.

Summary of Consultant Interviews

A number of consultants had information about Tom Raglin and Sue Hoaglin and their input is summarized below.

Winston Garcelon (A5: ms01) noted that the house was "on a flat--has an old orchard--a well that is curbed with stone. It had a fireplace of earth and rock. There was an old stove--Eureka brand."

Max Rowley (A6: I#444) was told that the Raglan homestead was actually built over the well (this has not been confirmed). When Rowley visited the homestead in 1938 there were two barns on the homestead--he also indicated that there is a mound of dirt where the fireplace was. Later, at some point in time, the house burned (quite possibly on purpose by Twin Harbors). [This would explain why little remained of any lumber from the structures.]

Rafaella Wantt (A5: ms04)

According to the Rafaella Wantt her white grandfather, Silas Hoaglin, was one of Blocksburg's earliest settlers and her grandmother, Sue Hoaglin, was Wailaki. Rafaella Jane Hoaglin was born in Covelo on April 28, 1904 to George and Florence Phillips Hoaglin. Her mother's family was from the Koncow tribe of the Susanville area. Rafaella thought they had been forced to relocate in Covelo. Her father was half Indian and is listed in the 1880 Blocksburg census (see the 1880 census listing above). Rafaella was one of fifteen children. When she was a young girl she would stay with both of her grandmothers, and that is how she learned about the people in her family. At the time of this interview she was the oldest member of her family and she said if anyone wanted to know something about the family, they would come to her. She also wrote that: "Our grandfather's folks were the first people who brought cattle into this country."

Warren Cummins (A6: I#001)

I asked about the Raglin homestead. The interviewee said that Tom was an early homesteader in the area and that he and his brother Dave had played at the local dances and were related to the Rices and the Duncans.

Raglan Flat Archaeological Site Information

When I first recorded the site in 1984 there were five fruit trees (apple and plum) still growing on the flat. Four of these trees were located within 15 meters of the well. The well is the only one I have ever encountered in this area. Most people just built their houses

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close to a perennial spring or as close as possible. The well was about 3 meters deep and was carefully constructed by lining the hole with rocks.

The well was dry when the site was recorded (November 5, 1984). Given the invasion of Douglas fir into the oak woodlands as documented elsewhere (Keter 1995) it is likely that the water table in this area has been greatly reduced over the last 100 years (note there was a timber harvest unit just to the north of the flat that was logged in the late 1980s: Yellowjacket Timber Sale CRIR 05-10-293). To the northwest of the well about 50 meters was a spring area that appeared to at one time have flowed year around and was damp on a subsequent visit to the site in August (Image 4). Note that a dense stand of Douglas fir that was within a nearby timber sale unit had greatly reduced the amount of water for the spring. It is not uncommon to see homesteads in this area associated with springs that are now drying out in the summer (personal observation).

Nothing remained of the house or the barn. From interview data it appears that the house was located adjacent to the well and a barn-type structure (based on the distribution of square nails in the area see site record) was located to the northeast of the well. Among the artifacts found on the site were a few scattered cans and broken glass and some cast iron stove parts and a 7' in length cross-cut saw blade (see artifact images below).

[2017 update: Note that on one visit to the site the location of a possible barn or out-building was identified as there were numerous square and round-headed (machine-made) nails on the ground. This was located about 30-40 meters to the SE of the well—see attached hard copy site map for location. These appear to be the same size as those found on F31a and F31c. These artifacts suggest a date sometime after about 1895 when machine made nails come into use.]

The site record also notes a few standing oak fence posts and a "1.0" mile trail marker (a low post in the ground) placed by the Forest Service indicated it was one mile to the NFER. Refer to the site record for a further discussion of this site related to the environment, features, and artifacts.

*******Images of Raglan Flat*******

There are additional images in the computer file at B01 Image collection.

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Image 1

View NW from approximate location of the barn to fruit trees.
(T. Keter 1984)



Image 2

View from W edge of flat to well area and Fruit trees
(T. Keter 1985)

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Image 3
View from SW edge of flat to fruit trees.
(T. Keter 1984)



Image 4
Spring area to NW of Raglan Flat (see site map).
(T. Keter February 1985)

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Image 5
View from NW edge of Raglan Flat to east.
(T. Keter February 1985)



Image 6
Stove part
(T. Keter February 1985)

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Image 7

Stove parts, can and other artifact near the well
(T. Keter February 1985)



Image 8

View to east across Raglan Flat fruit trees right and upper center of photo. The barn was in the center-right of photo.
(T. Keter c. 2002)



Image 9
Vandal's pit digging for artifacts
(T. Keter c. 2002)



Image 10
Vandal disturbance and artifacts dug up (some of these artifacts were not on the surface).
(T. Keter c. 2002)