

## Hoaglin Family Biography

### B08

See IA04, IF04, B01, the Silas Hoaglin, Susan Hoaglin, Willie Hoaglin, and Hoaglin Valley entries. See also Keter 1990, 1994, and Carranco and Beard 1981.

The purpose of this section is to provide an overview of the Hoaglin family information that is relevant to this study. This overview is NOT a history of the Hoaglin family—only a summary of the information, references, and other historical data collected by the author over the last 35 years.

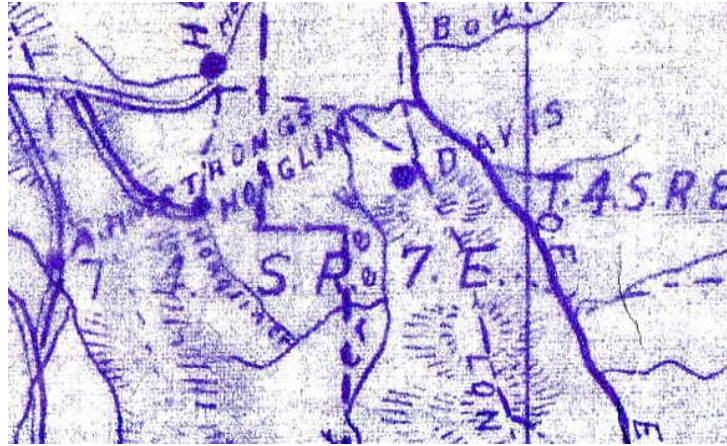
The Hoaglin family was one of the most prominent families living in southwestern Trinity County. There are descendants of the Hoaglin family still living in SWTC. Refer to the *People and Places* section for individual entries for Hoaglin family members residing within the NFERW. As noted at the Silas Hoaglin entry there are several spellings of the name Hoaglin spread across the historical literature. It is best just to realize that this is a problem.

It appears that Silas Hoaglin, who settled in Powellville (Blocksburg) well before 1880, had a brother Charles who settled in Hoaglin Valley at about the same time. Charles does not show up on the 1880 census, Claude Hoaglen (note spelling!) indicated that:

My grandfather Charles and his brother Silas, the two Hoaglen brothers, came from Ohio in a covered wagon. Silas's wife died on the route out and he had the two kids sent back to the family in Ohio. The two Hoaglens settled in Blocksburg and Hoaglin Valley. Charles moved into Covelo and then he [Silas] married a Wailaki Indian from out at the North Fork on the river, out by Kekawaka. She called herself Susan, but that wasn't her name. They had, I don't know, probably about twelve kids. They were half Indian and half white. My mother originated from Covelo. Her mother was driven into Covelo when the soldiers drove them over the mountain from Sacramento to Covelo.

Charles Hoaglin (or Hoaglen) was not listed on either the 1880 census for Long Ridge and no other documentation was found—this is likely due to the fact that he may have spent only a short time in Hoaglin Valley before moving to Covelo. This would explain the naming of the valley.

Lowden's 1903 map shows the Hoaglin place at the head of Hoaglin Creek (near the Armstrong place)—not on Long Ridge—this may very well have been the location of the Charles Hoaglin place (in the area of F10-4 on the Base Map). The location was then possibly purchased by Henry Holtorf when he moved into the valley (see entry). It is also possible that Hoaglin never filed for entry and was squatting on the land. This, however, is only a supposition.



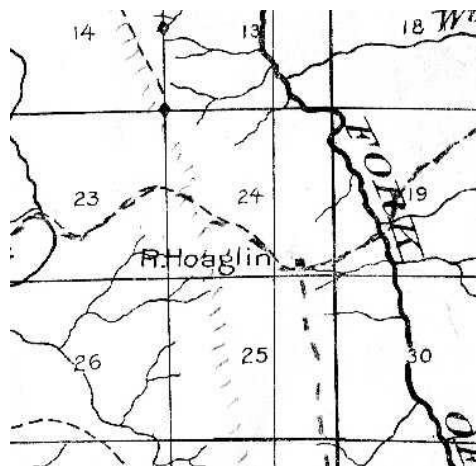
Lowden's 1903 Map.  
(A2: 01)

Garcelon (A5: ms01) indicated that:

The Hoaglin Place in Hoaglin Valley was owned by H. H. Holtorf--Louis Meyers and D. W. Osborn were also there. Meyers was the first--about 1870. The Post Office was in the south end of the valley about 1893. Holtorf was the first mail carrier; Osborn, the first Postmaster. The buildings are now gone but the orchard still stands. In 1938 Ward Pawlus had the place. He sold to Merlin Goodwin.

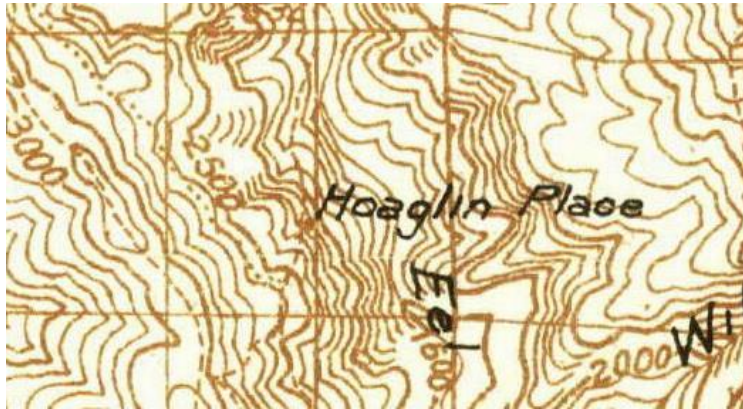
Garcelon's input would seem to support the idea that Charles Hoaglin was one of the earliest settlers in the valley—hence the valley name—but very early on moved to Covelo. See the John Holtorf entry. See also the *Kettenpom Valley Private Tracts of Land People and Places* entry. That entry includes a discussion related to the problems mapping private tracts (F10-1 to F10-11) in this area on the Base Map.

The R. Hoaglin place on Long Ridge shows up on the 1909 TNF map.



(A2: 08b)

The structure (by the "H") also shows up on the 1931 USGS HV 15' map.



(A2: 23)

There is little mention of Hoaglins in the documents reviewed. There was one reference cited below that was found in the Humboldt Room at HSU.

HSU HR TC file *Daily Evening Bulletin* 10-27-1871  
Mr. [Silas] Hoagland already owning some 3,500 sheep is in the Sacramento Valley to get 1,500 more...

After Silas Hoaglin's death, Tom Raglan married Sue Hoaglin in 1889 when he was fifty-five (A3: 1880 Blocksburg census, 1900 Census, Interview A6: I#316). It appears that the parcel of land at B01 (Raglan Flat) was owned by her at the time of their marriage.

### **Summary of an interview with Rafaella Wantt**

The following information is summarized (and lightly edited for clarity) from a larger interview with Rafaella Wantt (A5: ms04). It was posted on the (no longer active) Blocksburg web site 10/1/2002; at that time Rafaella was about 94 years old.

Contributed by: Beverley Windbigler of Blocksburg

The first time I met Rafaella Wantt was in December, 1997, at the Murphy Ranch in Blocksburg. We had been invited to lunch with June Reger and Henry Muir along with Evelyn Deike and her mother, Bess McCombs, and Johnny Branson. Rafaella and Bess were both in their 90s, and the reason for the gathering was to discuss "old times." Both women had lived in Covelo years ago. Rafaella had gone to school there and Bess had begun her teaching career there. Both ladies also had ties to Blocksburg.

The next time I saw Rafaella was at Johnny Branson's house in Blocksburg. This time he was preparing lunch while Rafaella and I sat in the living room talking into a tape recorder. Rafaella was a petite, delightful woman who

appeared much younger than her almost 94 years. She had a wonderful sense of humor and an excellent memory.

Before the white settlers "discovered" Humboldt County, there was a large Native American population already living here. In the Blocksburg area lived the Nongatls and Wailakis, and among them some of Rafaella Wantt's ancestors.

Her white grandfather, Silas Hoaglin, was one of Blocksburg's early settlers and her grandmother, Sue Hoaglin, was Wailaki. Sue's sister, Sally, married Silas' partner, Kneeland. Hoaglin had been one of Bridgeville's first settlers, but moved farther out when the area became "too crowded." They moved their operation to the Kneeland Ranch, a couple of miles north of Blocksburg.

"Our grandfather's folks were the first people who brought cattle into this country," Rafaella said.

According to a story told by George Friend in the *Humboldt Times* in 1939, the sisters were wonderful cooks. "It took about 35 Indians to run the place and it was quite a sight to see these two (women) cooking and serving the meals to the large crew," he said.

From Blocksburg, Silas Hoaglin moved his family to New Mexico where he died and was buried. According to George Friend's story, Silas' old friend, Tom Ragland [Raglin], went to New Mexico and brought the family back. They settled in Hoaglin Valley, which was named for Silas. Susie Hoaglin and her sister Sally lived in Soldier Basin at the headwaters of the Eel River and Rafaella spent time there with them. Both sisters are buried there, but Rafaella never went back to Soldier Basin after her grandmother and great aunt passed away.

One of Rafaella's aunts is buried in the Blocksburg cemetery. Her name was Ellen Hoaglin and she died at age two [?? typo] in 1879. An uncle, Charles Hoaglin, is also buried there. According to the Blocksburg cemetery records, he died from a blow to the head in 1897 at age 24.

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. 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.