

## HF13

### **William E. and Ellen N. Atkinson Homestead Wade H. and Grace Atkinson Homestead**

**HF13** Map 3: T3S, R7E, S.29

There is no hard copy file for this homestead. There may be a HE on file in HR SRNF.

It appears that this tract was first settled on by William Atkinson, but after his death (see below) his son Wade Atkinson filed for entry. The homestead entry file was not available. It should be on file at HR SRNF and should help to clarify the history of this tract of land.

The property shows up as private land on the USGS 1969 Zenia 7.5' map with the location labeled as the: "Atkinson Homestead Site." Note that due to the inaccurate original GLO survey, the tract was plotted on the Base Map based on USFS maps, contemporary USGS maps, and topography. Virtually nothing remains of the original homestead; the general vicinity of the improvements is plotted on the Base Map with an "X."

When the historical site was recorded by Larry Weigel in 1979 (05-10-54-140), the tract of land was held by M. B. Richman of Studio City CA. Weigel identified the area on the tract that had been the location of the house and barn. The homestead entry record according to Weigel listed entries for Wade Atkinson in 1924 and 1928. Weigel, however, also included in the site record a copy of a survey document dated August 12, 1908 that records a corner near "Atkeson's house." This clearly dates his entry as being prior to August of 1908.

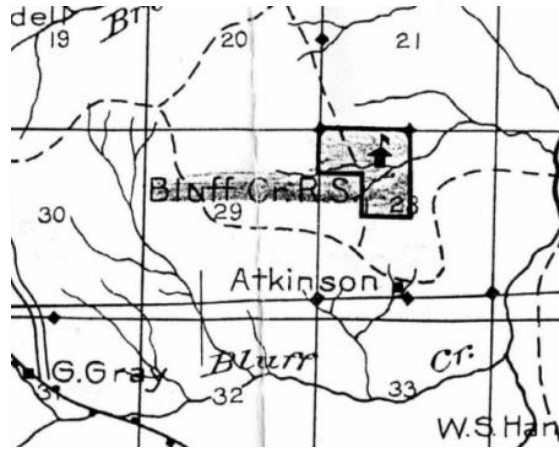
Weigel indicated that on the homestead entry form the ranger had noted a house 24' long, of wood covered with fir shakes that "contains a stove, bed, and kitchen utensils." Also, some of the stones in the original foundation remained. There were some shards of crockery, tin cans, ceramics, and some purple glass (indicating a date prior to WWI). There was also a wood burning stove manufactured by MAGEE Furnace Company of Boston, MA, dated 1878. Weigel noted that:

The stove has fittings for a 6 burner plates on top and the fire box which is on the left side is fitted for a hot water heater. The oven on the right side has a fitting for two racks.

Weigel also noted that "A trail ran SE-NW at a point 170 ft south of the site." This would have been either trail HTNF27 Spur A or HTNF29 which meet in this vicinity. Worth noting is how fast (under about 50 years) the structural remains decayed after the place was abandoned. The homestead structure shows up on the 1909 TNF map.

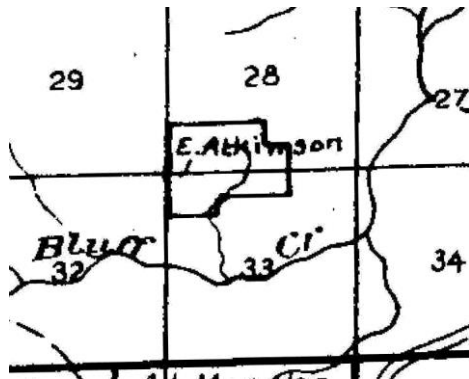
It is not clear when the Atkinson family abandoned the homestead, a note in HF08 Maude Willburn file records Ranger Gray paying "W. H. Atkeson on November 11, 1913, for 20 hours of work along with S.A. Shield on surveying the property lines for that tract. The Trinity National Forest Map 1910 shows the Atkinson Place.

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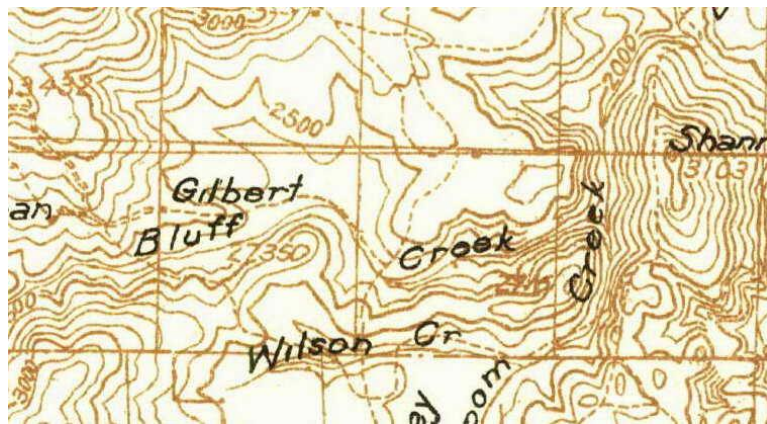
1909 TNF map showing the Atkinson homestead.  
(A2: 08a).

The tract also show up on the 1915 TNF map



(A2: 28)

The homestead improvements show up further to the south on the Section line on the resurveyed HV 1931 USGS map.



The Atkinson Place is shown near the center of the map to the east of where the two trails meet situated on the Section line.

(A2: 23)

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There was little mention of Atkinson in the historical documents that were reviewed. It appears, however, the family was struck by tragedy in 1903 when William Atkinson and three of his children starved to death—see comments below.

### Comments by local consultants

Miller papers Lillian White (A5: ms05, 1951)

On the old Atkeson [Atkinson] place two or three miles north of Hoaglin or Hettennom Valley [this is what many of the old timers called Kettenpom Valley], are buried four, I believe it is, of the Atkeson family. [This input gives credence to story below.]

Garcelon (Appendix 5: ms:01) wrote:

This is the Wade and Grace Atkinson homestead. It is located on a large flat piece of ground. Access was by the Bradburn or Doublegate trails and by a trail from Hoaglin valley. On this trail you had to cross Bluff Creek. There is a spring on the Doublegate trail called the Atkinson Spring. Wade Atkinson and three of the children starved to death here. Mrs. Atkinson and the other children were away from home visiting that winter. There was a big snow and they ran out of food. Mrs. Atkinson and three children were there about 1903. There are four graves on the site.

### Census Data

The 1900 census shows Wade as being born in 1884 making him only 15 years old at that time. Given the consultant input, it appears that in 1900 William and Ellen Atkinson and their family were living on this unsurveyed tract of land.

46	Atkinson William E	Head	W	M	Feb 1837	63	M	17
	Ellen M	Wife	W	F	Aug 1858	41	W	17
	Wade H	Son	W	M	Oct 1884	15	S	
	Luddie J	Daughter	W	F	Nov 1888	11	S	
	Gracie J	Daughter	W	F	Nov 1896	3	S	

1900 census  
(A3: 1900-4)

The 1910 census appears to support Garcelon and White as it shows Ellen Atkinson widowed with two children living on the homestead (it is on the census rolls adjacent to their neighbors Prescott and Gilman). The last column notes that she had 8 children and 3 were living.

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37	37	Atkinson Ellen	Head	F	W	51	Md	8	3
		Wade H.	Son	M	W	25	S		
		Grace J.	daughter	F	W	13	S		

1910 census  
(A3: 1900-2)

On the 1920 census only Wade Atkinson, his wife and son are listed. Given their placement on the census rolls it appears that they were still living on the homestead.

74	Atkinson, Wade H.	Head	2R	M	W	35	M		
	" Amanda	wife		F	W	28	M		
	" William E	son		M	W	1	S		

1920 census  
(A3: 1920-9)

The Atkinson family is not listed on the 1930 census. Further research will be needed to trace the history of this private tract of land after 1920.

### Site Record documentation

The following information is summarized from the site record (photos are attached to the site record).

Historic homestead set in an open meadow ringed by brush and an oak-madrone-mixed conifer woodland.

A portion of the area was planted and plowed in the 1920s.

Remains of at least 2 structures, a flower bed, foundation stones. The homestead entry notes a house and barn. The barn was 24' long, of wood, covered with fir shakes, and contains a wood stove, bed, and kitchen utensils.

[Artifacts included:] cast iron wood burning stove, bits of cookery, tin cans, miscellaneous ceramic ware, and pink tinted glass from a mug [purple glass pre WW I].

The wood burning stove was manufactured by the Magee Furnace Company of Boston, Mass. and dated 1878...The stove fittings

The land and homestead entry claim is on file at SRNF office. Listed under Wade Atkinson entries dated 1924 and 1928. There was no mention of a family burial plot on the land at that time.